AERIAL SPRAYING
...ON TIME (IF NOT ON TARGET)

OPM to be targeted by aerial spraying

Aerial spraying against OPM first forecast in April GI got underway in early May. Within hours it was headline news in The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph. Micron Sprayers confirmed aerial application would be carried out by a Robinson Helicopter equipped with Micronair AU 7050 atomisers.

The target is the 10-hectare Herridges and Broom Copse near Pangbourne (West Berkshire) to be sprayed twice with Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki, Stewart Sinape at Forestry Commission (FC) said “We know there could be OPM in the woodland environment because we found a nest last year.”

Dr Martin Warren, Chief Executive of the charity “Butterfly Conservation” said: “Blanket aerial spraying of a designated wildlife site sets a very bad precedent and is an extremely crude control mechanism – the approach is akin to using a sledgehammer to crack a nut”. We believe a far better method would be to conduct a detailed survey of the conspicuous nests and spraying them individually as they have done in other areas.”

Wind turbulence and insufficient tree canopy cover increase chances of droplets landing on non-target plants. Day oil and honeyguide both common woodland and hedgerow plants are the food plants of silver washed fritillary and white admiral, respectively. Pangbourne appears a strange choice of place to begin aerial bombardment with insecticide. After three years of ground spraying only three nests were found last year.

One surprised observer told Greenkeeper International: “BT killed maximum impact against OPM they could have closed down Richmond Park for a day to treat the area’s high OPM densities.”

This would clearly assist site protection. OPM has been successfully controlled on Richmond Golf Course (GI Jan 2012) but threats from female moths flying in to lay their eggs remain.

Dr Terry Mabbett is a disease, covering research, advisory and regulatory hoops to be jumped to apply the biological insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki (BTK). Wind turbulence and falling temperatures increase chances of droplets landing on non-target plants.

Dr R. Holland reports: “It was truly a game of two halves. During the first half, despite the heroic actions of the cat-like Rob Holland reports: “It was truly a game of two halves. During the first half, despite the heroic actions of the cat-like

well and hopefully she will continue to attend events with the industry and keep in touch with many of the members, particularly in her Region.

Jane Jones, who left her position as Regional Administrator for the South West & Wales on 31 May, was presented with a series of gifts by everyone at BISGA House to thank her for eight and a half years of sterling service. She’s intending to remain in the golf and greenkeeping industry. Everyone wishes her well and hopefully she will continue to attend events with the industry and keep in touch with many of the members, particularly in her Region.

ST ANNES OLD LINKS SOARS THANKS TO DRONE

For most Golf Clubs, like most businesses, marketing has become a key component of success and longevity. To market the Club Pro Daniel Webster and the Course Manager Stuart Hagg. It was whilst discussing the need to market the Club to a wider audience and bringing in visiting parties that Peter Barrett, a club member, suggested an innovative idea. Peter’s son Ali had been developing a helicopter drone which he had used for filming extreme sports. So why not use this same technology to film the course and allow prospective visitors to see the quality and standard of the greens and fairways before they visit?

Stuart then suggested it was not only useful for marketing, but would also enable him, as Course Manager, to gain a more holistic view of the course using the aerial perspective to track progress of the course over time and to help the development of future short and long term improvement projects.

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As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members. We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you’ve found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked on a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!

Recently we’ve focused on the terrific work of The Open support team – but this month it’s time to turn the spotlight on the members who helped out at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship.

Congratulations to those who were accepted, and to those who missed out – try again next year and hopefully your luck will be in. Similar to The Open, the team were required to take bunkers as well as early morning prep plus assisting Kenny Mackay’s existing early morning prep team for the 13 June at Largs Golf Club.

The course is enduringly popular with visitors, who return regularly year after year. The well-balanced layout offers an interesting and challenging experience to golfers across the broad spectrum of enthusiasm and ability, with positional play rather than big hitting paying dividends.

If you would like to take part either five or six days: James Briggs – Greenkeeper; East Sussex National Golf Club; Joseph Dormer – Greenkeeper; West Sussex Golf Club; Andy Haskell – Greenkeeper; Farnham Golf Club; Dan Woodcroft – Greenkeeper; Eastfield College Golf Club; Nick Hull – Greenkeeper; Shirley Park Golf Club; Nicholas Chappell – Greenkeeper, Woburn Golf & Country Club; Simon Torr – Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club; Joe Clark – Greenkeeper, Reobhampton Club; Adam Brown – Greenkeeper, Reobhampton Club; Tony Barton – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Club; Peter Comick – Greenkeeper, Weymouth Golf Club; Geoff Fenn – Course Manager, Bedford & County Golf Club.

I wanted to get more involved and enjoy doing and why?

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Cutting greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job.

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Steven Morris
Age: 26
Club: Royal O’Neoch Golf Club
Position: Greenkeeper
Nickname: ‘Big Man’
How long have you been greengreenkeeping? Nine years

What was it about the career that attracted you? Working outside, interest in maintaining sports turf areas, using machinery

If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? Snowboard instructor, or working at a ski resort in Austria

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Working tractors, changing hole positions as you can decide where it goes!

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Cutting greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job.

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?

More respect from the golfer and general recognition for what we do as greenkeepers

Hobbies? Golf, skiing/ snowboarding, cycling, hill walking, camping, working on cars

Favourite Band? Changes but at the moment Mumford and Sons

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? I follow the golfers Paul Lawrie and Darren Clarke

What is your claim to fame? None as yet
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What is your claim to fame? None as yet

ENTER THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT LARGS GOLF CLUB

The Scottish National Tournament takes place on Thursday 13 June at Largs Golf Club.

It’s a long-established private golf club with a superb 18 hole parkland course, situated in front of Rothesay Castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde with the islands of Cumbrae, Bute and Arran in the background, with Ayrshire’s Goat Fell and the ‘Sleeping Warrior’ dominating the landscape.

The course is endurance popular with visitors, who return regularly year after year. The well-balanced layout offers an interesting and challenging experience for golfers across the broad spectrum of enthusiasm and ability, with positional play rather than big hitting paying dividends.

If you would like to take part in this year’s event then please visit the tournament section of this website where the entry form is attached, and complete the form along with your entry fee payment and return to John Young, Scottish Regional Administrator at 2/F, 19 Cardwell Road, Gourock, PA19 1UQ.

If you would like to pay electronically then please contact John via his email address of johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or call him on 07776 242120 for further details.

None as yet

was chosen?

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Make yourself valuable, not vulnerable

Last month BIGGA’s Learning & Development Executive Stuart Green defined what CPD is. Now he moves on to discussing what makes good CPD and changes to the BIGGA CPD Programme.

They say doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome is the definition of madness! To put that in the context of a professional, if you are not updating and improving your knowledge, you are standing still, you will be going backwards. In this day and age, that is madness!

So what makes good CPD? Simply anything that is relevant to you, your work and your future.

The reason for having a plan is you need to know where you want to be before you can decide what you need to do.

CPD is a vast subject with scholars writing numerous papers dedicated to it. However, there is one overriding concept that needs to be maintained when carrying out CPD. That is – what’s in it for me? That’s all you need to remember. CPD is a personal journey and everything you do needs to help you towards that goal you have set. So be selective. Choose only what will get you to where you want to go.
This month Stuart Green explores how to get more from CPD and explains changes to BIGGA’s CPD Programme on page 16, and you’ll find the second and final part of Kevin Munt’s essential ‘18 hole’ guide to becoming a Golf Course Manager on page 50.

You’ll find the second and final part of Kevin Munt’s essential ‘18 explains changes to BIGGA’s CPD Programme on page 16, and 14

Asulox for 2013.

The product is now available for pre-order and can be purchased up to Sunday 18th August 2013. The Emergency Approval will allow for the product to be used up until 31st October 2013. As yet it is unknown as to whether approval will be given for next year, but at least this year there is a control solution for bracken control. Asulox, found in products such as Asulam, has been given for the use of the active ingredient Asulam in the product Asulox for 2013.

The product is now available for

EU EMERGENCY APPROVAL GIVEN FOR ASULOX® UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2013

The 2011 EU-wide ban of the active ingredient Asulam was met with great disappointment by many of those involved in bracken control. Asulam, found in products such as Asulox, has been given for the use of the active ingredient Asulam in the product Asulox for 2013.

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More Success for Thomas

Reigning Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Thomas Flannelle is celebrating again as securing a new job.

Thomas has moved on from his post at Lignale Golf Club in Leicestershire to Luffenham Heath Golf Club, a private members club in Rutland.

He said: “It's a great opportunity to advance my career at a top golf course which is due to host Open Qualifying for the next five years. I'm not going to help the team prepare for these events. Winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award certainly helped me land this position, as I was able to use the knowledge I gained in the USA and through my Level 3 studied at Wyncolls college.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lignale Golf Club for the support they had given me over the last six years. Without this help and support I would not have had the skills and knowledge to be able to win the Toro Award and to progress my career by moving to Luffenham Heath. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Lignale making some fantastic friends and unforgettable memories.”

In the meantime, thanks for all the nominations for this year’s award. We will be in touch…

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The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce the training and career development programmes, subsidised learning and training fees and to support the Management Development Scholars. Support for the Management Development Scholars, learning library, seminars, workshops, mystery homeworks and newsletters.

Contact Details

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Paul Jenkins, Justin Cheung
Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton,
Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild,
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn

Nick Gray

Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann,
Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers
Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison
MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas

Gold Key Individual Members:

Silver Key Individual Members:

The Back Nine on page 66 also had an educational angle with tips on effective social media use
Types of CPD

CPD can be divided into two categories - formal and informal. Formal CPD is professional qualifications such as NVQs, work-based diplomas, HNCs, foundation degrees and degrees or skills qualifications such as certificates of competence like PAs and Chainsaw courses. These need to be updated regularly to ensure the licence is maintained. For PAs, I would recommend joining the NASoR or National Amenity Sprayer Operator Register.

Informal CPD is more difficult to quantify, but it is still essential to your growth and personal development. It can be many things. It may be something you have never thought could be CPD such as volunteering. This could be at a golf event, as a sports coach, helping out at a scout group or being on the committee of your local allotment society - been there and done the last one.

What has this got to do with greenkeeping, I hear you cry? Everything, according to major studies conducted by the Carnegie Foundation, Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Their research showed that to be successful at home or work your technical skills will only cover 15% of the knowledge you need. The other 85% will be people skills and self-knowledge.

Therefore, investing in understanding ourselves, others and having the ability to adapt to different behavioural characteristics of others, is the basis of personal and career success.

By investing your time in informal CPD activities, as mentioned above, you are in fact developing those people skills. If you’ve been a sports coach, you are the motivator, the organizer or the counselor. Or if you are on a local committee, you will be learning the skills of communication and managing meetings. All these skills are vital, but are generally overlooked as opportunities for learning.

The Next Question…

I have discussed what CPD is and the types of CPD you can do. The next question is “What do I do with it?” Many of you will already be registered on BIGGA’s CPD programme and, after reading these articles, I hope many more of you choose to sign up.

The BIGGA CPD Programme has been running for 13 years and has now been reviewed. Due to the changing nature of our work environments, the review highlighted the need for the Programme to have greater flexibility in what could be claimed for and the period for claims.

Therefore, BIGGA’s CPD Programme is going to change from 1 July 2013. All members on the current Programme will be informed, during June, how they will cross over onto the new structure.

The most significant change is the move to a three-year cycle. This was a fundamental requirement to a flexible system, especially when there may be periods when CPD isn’t an option, such as redundancy or starting a family.

1. On 1 July 2013, the BIGGA CPD Programme will change from an annual to a rolling three-year Programme.

2. Membership numbers will now be used instead of CPD numbers.

3. Credits will move from half a point to 1 point per hour of education.

4. A member must gain a minimum of 60 CPD credits within a three-year period.

5. There will be more options to obtain credits.

6. Between 1-59 credits, a member will be a CPD Active Member of BIGGA.

7. Once 60 credits have been achieved, they will become a CPD Approved Member of BIGGA.

8. The member will be recognised with a CPD Approved certificate, with the year achieved, recognition in GI, the website, the Handbook and a discount on BIGGA’s education opportunities.

9. All CPD credits will be recorded in a Lifetime Transcript (continuous credits forever) and Milestones will be recognised and awarded for achievement of 180 credits and at increments of 180 after that.

Categories of Credits

To allow better understanding of CPD and to provide a fair and transparent credit system, credits have been divided into different categories for members to claim for.

In the meantime, it’s worth remembering that one educational hour = one credit.

• Professional credits (max 10 credits) - Association questionnaires; section & region committee work, Advisory Panels

• Networking credits (max 10 credits) - exhibition attendance, section meetings, tournament support teams

• Education credits (min 30 credits) - education event attendance; presenting workshops and seminars; sports turf qualifications; management qualifications; short courses;

If you feel that you have gained valuable knowledge to aid and further your development, then submit a Personal Learning Statement. In future articles, I will outline credit values for professional and skills qualifications and how to fill in a Personal Learning Statement. CPD is yours, plan it, do it, own it, think about it!

Registration forms can be found at: www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development

Certificate of competence; writing magazine articles; book reviews.

• Personal learning credits (max 15 credits) - Those activities that aren’t automatically eligible for credits or do not fit the educational requirements of the CPD Programme may be claimed if the you complete a Personal Learning Statement. Within this, you must identify what you learnt, how it has changed you or your work and how you will use this knowledge to improve and develop in the future.

Some of the credit categories have minimum and maximum levels. So, for example, you could claim for attendance at a golf day as a Networking credit. However, these will be limited to 3 credits per CPD cycle. It’s a bit like weight watchers, you can have loads of education credits (vegetables) but are limited in the Networking and Professional credits (junk food). Credit claims are not limited to what is suggested here. If you feel that you have gained valuable knowledge to aid and further your development, then submit a Personal Learning Statement. In future articles, I will outline credit values for professional and skills qualifications and how to fill in a Personal Learning Statement.
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CPD is yours, plan it, do it, own it, think about it!
But Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds at The Wentworth Club, was confident that the late start to his tournament preparations wouldn’t prevent his greens providing a true challenge for the world’s best golfers.

“We were in a far from ideal position, but I wasn’t unduly concerned,” he confirms. “Our greens overwintered well, due largely to two applications of SierraformGT K-Step 6-0-27+2MgO+TE with low Nitrogen and high Potassium to harden the turf and bring it through the winter stresses.”

Kenny used a combination of two wetting agents to help him achieve a level of firmness in his greens that will challenge the ball striking of the professionals competing in the Volvo PGA Championship.

To maintain the desired level of surface firmness, he managed the soil moisture content in the upper profile with Qualibra, which provides deep and even distribution through the profile, and Hi.Pro Maximise, which aids the quick penetration of irrigation water and rainfall through the profile on the run-up to, and during a tournament.

“On a recent course visit, we checked that moisture levels and firmness were progressing towards our tournament targets and were consistent across each green,” explains Henry Bechelet, Technical Manager for Everris. “We took Clegg hammer and Theta moisture probe readings at the end of April and during May and the results were as we’d hoped – 110-120 gravities on the Clegg at 15-18% moisture in the top 60mm of the profile.”

“Choosing an Everris iTurf programme is about more than the products we use. It’s about producing the playing qualities that top-flight sport demands from our surfaces.”

Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds, The Wentworth Club

Patience. Not an easy virtue to possess when temperatures are only just reaching double figures weeks before a major tournament.

Sierraform® GT
Qualibra®
H2Pro®

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“Choosing an Everris iTurf programme is about more than the products we use. It’s about producing the playing qualities that top-flight sport demands from our surfaces.”

Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds, The Wentworth Club

Patience. Not an easy virtue to possess when temperatures are only just reaching double figures weeks before a major tournament.

Sierraform® GT
Qualibra®
H2Pro®

But Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds at The Wentworth Club, was confident that the late start to his tournament preparations wouldn’t prevent his greens providing a true challenge for the world’s best golfers.

“We were in a far from ideal position, but I wasn’t unduly concerned,” he confirms. “Our greens overwintered well, due largely to two applications of SierraformGT K-Step 6-0-27+2MgO+TE with low Nitrogen and high Potassium to harden the turf and bring it through the winter stresses.”

Kenny used a combination of two wetting agents to help him achieve a level of firmness in his greens that will challenge the ball striking of the professionals competing in the Volvo PGA Championship.

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Sierraform GT
Qualibra Wetting agent
H2Pro

“I by managing the turf with an integrated approach, measuring the effects and recording the data, we work together to achieve the conditions needed to test the best players in the world.”

To discover what an iTurf integrated turf management programme can do for you, contact your Everris Technical Area Sales Manager or visit www.everris.co.uk.
Is in-house care key to equipment longevity?

In the recent GI survey, you told us you wanted to see machinery in action on BIGGA members’ courses. So, we sent James de Haviland to Heythrop Park to discover how they care for their machinery.

Although you would not know it from its mature setting and well-established greens and tees, the 7,100 yard golf course at Heythrop Park Resort, near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire only opened in April 2010.

Part of an estate that covers over 400 acres, the course is maintained with a fleet of Toro mowers. Phil Helman MG, Estate Manager, was brought in to oversee construction, grow-in and ultimately set up the maintenance structure for the new course.

“Choosing one manufacturer to supply all the mowers was down to more than just securing a good finance deal”, he explained. “I wanted to get to know one supplier and supporting dealer well enough to minimise the number of calls I would have to make when I needed replacement parts or ran into a problem.

“We tried all the key makes and models of mower and settled on Toro because the company offered models that suited our particular needs. This doesn’t mean I have ruled out buying from another manufacturer or even that the Toro kit we use is the best. It is just the complete fleet met our needs and we have been extremely pleased with the equipment’s dependability and performance in the four years it has been with us.”

Of course, a key to reliability is ensuring it’s properly maintained, set up and cared for. A critical element is having good in-house workshop facilities and a mechanic to keep everything in order – which Heythrop have in the shape of Dave Capes. Phil admits this is not something all golf courses could justify but he suggests it makes practical and financial sense.

Toro has honoured the two-year warranty it set out when the mower fleet was purchased, Lely UK having been satisfied that Heythrop could indeed maintain the mowers to a standard that would enable it to meet any warranty claim.

“We purchased additional warranty on all the Toro mowers as it seemed a good idea,” Phil says. “As it turned out we had just the odd minor issue. But we wanted to buy peace of mind. As it now stands, the mowers have all completed four years and we hope to keep them for two further years once the HP fees

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