maintenance accuracy which highlights the value of objective measurements.

The 2013 Open at Muirfield was truly memorable. The agronomic and playing performance of the course was superb.

The course was kept as dry as was considered to be reasonably possible, resulting in the firmest and fastest Open greens in recent times. Accurate, objective measurements informed Colin Irvine in his decision making and the maintenance operations were superbly and skillfully implemented by Colin’s team of dedicated greenkeepers.

Working with the Muirfield staff for two weeks, it was abundantly clear we were working with a team of greenkeepers at the very top of their profession.

Despite the agronomic challenges presented by the hot and dry conditions, the course was universally praised.

The quality of the leaderboard reaffirmed Muirfield’s status as a superb golf course which presents its greatest challenge when played in traditional firm and fast links conditions.

Bio-inspired explosive performance

The exciting new fungicide inspired by nature. Contact* action delivers fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch along with outstanding long-lasting protection.

Visit www.greencast.co.uk for more information
Applications are now open for a place on BIGGA’s Open Support Team for the 143rd Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club next July. We require full BIGGA members to join our team behind the scenes. They will be supporting the home greenkeeping team at Hoylake by raising numbers alongside the players during the four rounds. You may also be required to complete early morning preparation work and evening divot repairing. It’s a real development opportunity from both a professional and personal point of view. You will gain an understanding of the technical preparations from the home greenkeeping team and sample the atmosphere of one of the world’s greatest golf tournaments.

You will also spend several days with greenkeepers from across the UK and the world with many remaining firm friends for years to come.

You will receive accommodation, a food allowance, daily transport to and from the course, a waterproof suit and polo shirts – all you have to do is make your way to Liverpool. The 2014 tournament proper begins on Thursday 17 July with the winner crowned on Sunday 20 July.

To apply, just fill in the application form on the opposite page and return by post to Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aire, York YO61 1UF by Friday 31 January 2014. We’ll announce the team in February and the successful applicants will then be allocated various roles within the team. Good luck!

---

| Name | | |
|------|------------------|
| Golf Club | | |
| Position | | |
| Age | BIGGA Membership Number | |
| Home address | | |
| Email Address | | |
| Mobile Number | | |
| Passport photo attached? | | |
| Waterproof measurements; waist | leg length | |
| Polo shirt measurement; chest | | |
| Are you available for the Early Morning Prep team from Monday 14th July? | Sunday final night (20th July) accommodation required? | |
| I have applied/appeared on the team at: | I am an active member of the BIGGA CPD Scheme | |
| | | |
| | I have attended three of the last five HTMEs | |
| | I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team | |
| | | |
| | I am willing to be a mini bus driver | |
| | (You must have held a full driving licence for three years and be over 25 years of age.) | |
| | I am an overseas Member | |

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members.
Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members.

Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.
To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aire, York YO61 1UF. Closing date is 31st January 2014. You will be notified in February if you have been successful.
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We require full BIGGA members to join our team behind the scenes. They will be supporting the home greenkeeping team and sample the atmosphere of one of the world’s greatest golf tournaments. You will also spend several days completing early morning preparation, raking bunkers alongside the play and evening divot repairing. You may also be required to complete some other duties within the team. Good luck!

Successful applicants will then be allocated various roles within the team. February and the successful applicants will then proceed to the UK and the world with many remaining firm friends for years to come.

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It’s a real development opportunity from both a professional and personal point of view. You will gain an understanding of the technical aspects of greenkeeping from one of the world’s premier golf clubs and development of your development. 

We need BIGGA members to apply for the support team for the 143rd Open Championship which begins on Thursday 17 July with the Open Championship Support Team at The Open in Royal Liverpool next July.

Join the BIGGA Open Support Team at The Open 2014, at Royal Liverpool for a place on BIGGA’s Open support team for three years.

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I am willing to be a mini bus driver for a food allowance, daily transport to and from the UK and the world with many remaining firm friends for years to come.

I am/have been a member of the PGA for three years and be over 25 years of age. I am an active member of the BIGGA CPD Scheme.I have attended three of the last five BTMEs. I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee. I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years. I am a member of the BIGGA Ladies team. I am a member of the BIGGA Junior team. I am a member of the BIGGA Junior team.

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Scottish News

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...

Events Coming Up

Central
With HTME taking place in January we don’t have anything arranged for the immediate future but we shall try and get something set up for around the middle/end of February and will notify members by the usual method.

News

Central
Over 40 members turned up for the seminar at Auchterarder GC on 10 December where the five speakers gave interesting presentations on a range of subjects. Our thanks to them for and to the Golf Club for the use of the facilities, a small report on the day is on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk
Please see the Newsdesk section of the magazine for a tribute to David Wilson.

West
First of all, I wish everybody a Happy New Year. I will start with a meeting set up by John Young, chaired by myself to look into possible changes with golf events in the Scottish region. The idea is to try and encourage more participation and revamp certain tournaments all section secretaries were in attendance along with the administrator and Scottish chairman. Proposals are being developed which will be put forward to the Scottish Board for approval before any alterations are carried out.
On 24 October the West section held its AGM at Haggs Castle Golf Club, 26 people attended and they were treated to a couple of talks, one by Alastair Eccles of British Seed Houses, and the other by Gary Smith of Sherriff Amenity thanks to them and to all who attended. Thanks to Haggs Castle for hosting the event and most of all to the new recruits on the West section committee, Ronnie Miles as Vice Chairman, Bruce Cruickshanks and Kerr Rowan, it’s nice to see new blood.

Some training days took place recently, which appear to have been well attended. Firstly STRI organised 4 days of workshops at Loch Lomond of which I had a couple of guys attend and they thought they were excellent. The subjects covered were pests and diseases, turf management, construction, and turf science, so well done STRI and long may they continue.

Nested was the course walk over Loch Lomond, the two people I sent came back full of praise for the course, the organisation, the facilities, and the quality of the staff information, it just goes to show what can be achieved with the correct resources and knowledge. Loch Lomond is to be congratulated, many thanks to David Cole and Peter Haggarty for their help on the day and David McBride for arranging everything.

The Christmas night out was held at Qui Italia on 22 November courtesy of Gerry Brunn our Chairman. Most people left at a respectable time only a few diehards stayed until the end, no names mentioned. Next year we will try a different venue to keep things lively.

I had a few staff members take part in the Movember campaign. Next year you might get a couple of other willing helpers considering it all goes to a charity prostate cancer. My staff members were Craig McLean, Gerard Broadley, and Bryan Ramsay.

Congratulations to Bryan Ramsey on winning the Patrons award. The award is given for supporting the section events over the years both at outings and educational days; I was privileged to be asked to the Patrons award dinner held at Glenegies Hotel on 5 December. Well done to John Young for organising the event and thanks to Scott Fenswick for his talk on preparations for the Ryder Cup next year, Glenegies proved to be an excellent location.

On a sad note may I pass on my condolences to all those at Scotblade after hearing about the death of Stewart Clayton, Stewart was a great supporter of the Scottish region attending as many events as he could throughout the country so it was very sad to hear of his passing, our thoughts go with all his family and company members.

I would also like to mention the passing of Andy Wills who worked with Nairn Brown; Andy delivered machines for 10 years with the company but sadly passed away suddenly after a heart failure. Our condolences go to all those at Nairn Brown and his wife at this very difficult time.

Finally can I say best wishes to Atkickers on successfully completing 50 years in the business, long may they continue serving the country with their needs and I hope you have another 50 prosperous years.

Best wishes to all for the new season, and remember to check out the West section’s blog.
Events Coming Up

North East
Course walk arranged at Rockcliffe on February 14 check Facebook and Twitter pages for full details.

North Wales
There still may be spaces left for the coach to HTME on 22 January, please contact me asap if you are interested in booking a seat.

News

Cleveland
A bit of catching up in the news department as it’s been a while since the last update so here goes, the Bolshoy potash mine trip went well and the guys who went down are a lot braver than me! Remember these trips can be organised as often as we want it’s just the numbers that are limited. So if you fancy it give Pembo a ring on 07791 695768. Olly Shepard is in the news again. He has recently started a new job as a fish farming coach - good luck Olly.

News around the clubs: Mount Oswald Golf Club has closed but they’ve bought Hallgarth Hall, Darlington. Rockcliffe held the English Senior Open and will be returning on 29 – 31 August 2014. The section AGM was held at Teeside Golf Club on 21 November. Kevin Scourie was guest speaker and presented an overview of the online management systems available on the market. One major outcome was the appointment of Barry Walker as the new chairman. Kevin has stepped down due to work commitments.

The annual Richmond Ryder Cup challenge against the club pros took place and my team comprehensively beat the pros for the second time in three years, a 10-6 win, and I recorded my first round of golf in a long while with a 5 and 4 win over the club pro! Roll on next year! Thanks to the guys who attended the golf days and your support over the year. We try as always to deliver a great day out for us all and have a good fixture list to look forward to for 2014.

For next season we will be getting a mobile phone for the section so we can send text messages, reminders for golf days and any other section held functions to your mobiles send me your number and I’ll add you.

Results

Cleveland
The Autumn tournament at Sharpley Springs Golf Club was played and I would just like to take this opportunity to say what a wonderfully presented course it is. The greens were excellent and a credit to Richie Hood and his staff. I hope we get the chance to play there again.

Div 1: 1 Paul Walton 34 pts, 2 Martin Wood 34, 3 Paul Legg 32. Div 2: 1 Ben McGreal 40, 2 Tony Bell 37, 3 Liam Atkinson 31. Div 3: 1 Ian Pemberton 34, 2 Liam Dover 31, 3 Daniel Egan 27.

Trade winner: Jamie Applegarth 30 pts. Longest drive Phil “the beast from bishop” Graham. Nearest the pins Paul Legg, Liam Atkinson and Ian Pemberton.

North East
Dunstanborough Castle Bring a bottle winter comp. Firstly thanks must go to Stuart Ineson and his team, who must be the youngest set of greenkeepers in the country! They set the course up fabulously for this event.

Results: Cat 1 S Cram on count back from D Wilkinson. Cat 2 G Baxter. Cat 3 J Thorpe. Well done to D Wilkinson who had a hole in one on the 4th. Thanks also from myself and Olver to Ian Pemberton (secretary Cleveland section) for the invite to play their section’s bring a bottle, would be nice to see both sections working closely together next year.

North Wales
The results of the Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool, Hoylake are: 1 Michael Hughes, John Corbett, Peter Lacey and Miles Todd 82 pts, 2 Craig Gilhamb, Jim Croston, Carl Crocher and Andrew Cornes 81, 3 Alan Legg, Liam Atkinson and Ian Pemberton.

Thanks to Sponsors

Cleveland
Big thank you to the Autumn tournament’s sponsor Kevin Diamond of GREENLAY and all the other prize sponsors Anesty Technology, TSL, Bigg Taylor and Atkins.

North East
For the winter bring a bottle comp – Greenlay for sponsoring the food. Ramside Course walk – Roger Shaw Course Manager for his time and expertise during the walk. Sheriff Anenity for the after course walk fertiliser presentation and Michael McKeena for his insight into warm season grasses and his experiences of maintenance practices in Dubai and USA.

New Members

Guy Webster, Greenkeeper, Hallgarth Golf and Country Club, Shane Donald, Greenkeeper, St Annes Old Links GC, Steve Swindell, Greenkeeper, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, David Thornton, Greenkeeper, Tunshill GC Ltd, James Crum, Trainer Greenkeeper, Skelby Hall GC (De Vere), Gareth Tibbets, Trainer Greenkeeper, Rhuddlan GC.
Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia

Many thanks to Mark Silk and Working Turf for their sponsorship of the main prize table at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December. Thanks also to Whitewoods, Sherriffs, Global Sales and Countrywide who provided nearest the pin prizes. Thanks also to all the trade reps who provided raffle prizes. The half way house was provided by Farols, many thanks to Kev Pugh for the refreshments which were greatly received, as always!

Finally, our biggest thanks to John Hammond, our President who gets there early at every tournament despite coming from Cheshire. John writes out the cards for the day, does the starting on the tee and regularly brings a raffle prize. He rarely gets a mention so it’s about time he did.

Well done John, you are a fabulous addition to our section and long may it continue.

This is our seventh year of production of the Section’s excellent Calendar, our thanks to all sponsors over the years, and indeed this year’s. I feel this year’s is our best to date, to which credit goes to Rhys Thomas almost solely.

This month’s calendar page is sponsored by ESD Waste2Water. Please consider them for your wash-off/cleaning systems. Email: info@waste2water.com.

A happy New Year to all.

New Members


Kris Hunt, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia section and long may it continue.

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmzam, Avoncrop Amenity, Antech Amenity, Tuckwells Machinery, Vaasgro Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has helped us run successfully in 2013.

Bank Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements for the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...

Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the annual pilgrimage to HTME in Harrogate. Hopefully many from the section will attend as it’s always good to catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

News

East of England

It is with great sadness we learned of the passing of Stewart Clayton from Midhube last month after a long battle with illness.

He was well known within the section as an avid golfer and excellent supporter and he will be truly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

Results

Midland

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December with 26 playing golf.

The course was in fantastic condition, and a real credit to competition secretary Rhys Thomas and his highly skilled team, for the presentation of the course on what was a very pleasant winter’s day.

Well done Rhys and a big thank you to your Club, especially the Captain, Ashley Cox who joined us for dinner. Results of the day were: 1 N Tyler & S Banks 40pts, 2 J Fox & H Middlebrook 40, 3 R Thomas & A Lane 39, 4 C Woodall & C Allen 39.

East of England

Events Coming Up

South Wales - Fixture cards will be sent out soon confirming events for 2014. Remember to attend BTME.

Results

South Wales - Results for our Christmas meet at Pyle & Kenfig GC will be shown next month.

News

South Wales - Thanks to all the speakers at the regional conference covering many topics a very informative day.

New Members

Kyle Trewin, Trainee Greenkeeper, Players Club (The), Tristan Moon, Greenkeeper, St Mellion Hotel GC&CC, Timothy Fry, Trainee Greenkeeper, Macour House Golf Club at Castle Coombe.
South East

Events Coming Up

Kent

A full fixture list for 2014 is now online at www.kentgreenkeepers.com and on our Kent Greenkeepers Facebook page. We start in March with a trip to the Holy Grail of courses in this country. We shall be making our pilgrimage to Royal St Georges on 11 March so advise us early if you wish to attend this limited numbers event.

East Anglia

The AGM went well. Colin just needs someone to take over future responsibilities and Ian needs some suggestions from us to organise a seminar – ie education management, ecology, anything you’re interested in. Please let Ian know.

Pause for thought - did you know that light travels faster than sound, which is why someone can appear bright until they open their mouth? No comment.

Kent

At the AGM not much changed. Ken and I shall be continuing in our roles of Chairman and Secretary but Anthony Stockwell of Hadlow College has joined our committee as an educational spokesperson.

We were honoured to be able to make a donation of £280 raised from our very generous colleagues to the ‘Smiley Steps’ charity which supports Tim Maynard’s young son who has cerebral palsy.

Tim and his wife were extremely appreciative of this gesture. Thank you all.

We were extremely saddened to hear the news that one of our original, most loyal sponsors and regular event attendees, Stewart Clayton of Greenman had passed on. Stewart was not only a supporter of our section, he was a good friend to us who will be missed by all and had the good fortune to meet him.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

London

The tournament was followed by the AGM and this went smoothly with Matt Pledsted containing as Chairman and a fine committee to support him.

Essex

This year’s golf events, dates to follow: March – The Essex, June – Stock Brook The Country Club, August – The Warren, September – Colchester Golf Club, December – TBA.

Surrey

The biggest event every year is always ISME. If you have not been to this event you will have you head in the sand, great time to set goals and kick start further education programmes.

Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner to be held on March 7th.

News

Sussex

Firstly, a Happy New Year to everyone. A very good turnout of 72 attended the Turkey Trot on at Worthing Golf Club. The course as always was in immaculate condition. Thanks to George and his team for presenting this prestigious course so well for the competition, well done all.

Everyone was very well looked after throughout the whole day and the golf was followed by a lovely meal in the clubhouse. 5 December saw the section’s AGM, held again this year at the Dyke Golf Club. The business of the meeting had proceeded, as is now the custom, by 9 holes of golf. Although the strong wind brought an unpleasant chill to the day, the course was in spectacular condition and the closing screens rewarded players with stunning views. Many thanks to Dyke Golf Club for the golf, the courtesies and vast quantities of refreshments.

The election of officers is as follows: Chairman, Rob Hardcastle, Vice Chairman, Michael McLean, Secretary, Register of the Assessor, Pete Smith, Committee Members, Tony Wooley, Eric Green, Dave Allen, Representative, Chris Humphrey. Thanks and appreciation was given to last years committee for all their work over the past year.

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**London**
The committee are keen to know of any training required by section members, so please contact John Wells with your ideas j.wells1@sky.com. We are due to run 2 afternoons in February, one at the start of the month and one at the end, details to follow.

Our main Educational day of the year is at Oaklands WGC on 18 February commencing 11.30pm. There are four speakers: Rob Philips Course Manager Sandy Layedge GC [under-budget], Jon Lockyear, Peter Judge, Course Manager Rushmore GC, Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a smooth with Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a featured speaker. We are due to run 2 afternoons in February, one at the start of the month and one at the end, details to follow.

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**Suffolk**
Saturday March 22nd – Miles Copland at mostwelcome@talktalk.net

**Essex**

**South East**

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or else to Around the Green...

**Ken**
News
Always was in immaculate condition. Thanks to George and his team attended the Turkey Trot on at Worthing Golf Club. The course as goals and kick start further education programmes.

Please contact Adam McColl on 07886 513975 or email adammccoll@.

Day not to miss and great value for money!

Philips Course Manager Sandy Lodge GC [under-budget], Jon Lockyear com. We are due to run 2 afternoons in February, one at the start of the month and one at the end, details to follow.

Our main Educational day of the year is at Oaklands WGC on 18 February commencing 11.30pm. There are four speakers: Rob Philips Course Manager Sandy Layedge GC [under-budget], Jon Lockyear, Peter Judge, Course Manager Rushmore GC, Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a smooth with Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a featured speaker. We are due to run 2 afternoons in February, one at the start of the month and one at the end, details to follow.

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This year’s golf events, dates to follow: March – The Essex, June – Stock Brook The Country Club, August – Warren, September – Colchester Golf Club, December – TBA.

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The biggest event every year is always HTME. If you have not been to this event you will have wasted your year in 2014, great time to set goals and kick start further education programmes.

Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner to be held on March 7.

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BERNARD TRAINING HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH CPD

This month, David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, has invited Bernhard & Co, a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider and a wonderful global supporter of greenkeeper education and training for many years, to update readers on their passion for training to support their products.

We talked to Ben Taylor, Technical Training Manager of Bernhard Grinders, to find out more about his role and how it can benefit greenkeepers.

Ben spends most of his year flying around the world, training people on how to use their grinders correctly, but also on how they can get the most out of them.

Fortunately he loves his job. He said that everyone he teaches, including well-seasoned teachers, put their hands up at the end of the training session, when he asks if everyone has learned something new.

He said, “Some people are really surprised to find they’ve learnt as much as they have – but in every industry and profession people continue to train, be they pilots or salesmen, nurses or greenkeepers. We all need to keep fresh and up-to-date, and we all need reminding of best practice. I would not be alarmist if I said that 80% of people who have grinders don’t know, and learn and benefit from training on how to get the most out of their grinders.

“They also, without exception, say how much they enjoy training alongside other groundsmen and greenkeepers. It gives them all confidence to admit what they don’t know, and learn and benefit from each other, as well as learn from me.”

Alongside the college and on-site training and workshops, the Bernhard factory-based training programme is growing by the month and they have had over 100 people through the doors in the first year of opening the centre.

The programme is open to anyone. At the next session they have one delegate coming from Dubai, but regularly get people from all over the UK, Ireland and Europe.

Ben added: “A lot of people want proper factory-based training, and one of the most valuable things about it is getting to see the machines being put together and talking to the people who built them.

“You’d be amazed at how much everyone learns from talking to the men who build their actual machines. Our factory staff are all very experienced engineers and mechanics – they know more about the grinders and the fine tuning of grinders than anyone I know – so to talk to them and see the machines being engineered all helps the process of understanding.

“It has been invaluable working alongside the GTC to build a regular biannual programme with their Quality Assured Centres, including colleges up and down the country, from the most basic Level 2, setting up mowers and grinders, to practical, hands-on instruction for Level 3 students.

“Around this, the GTC’s QA Centres are acting as local venues for training workshops and with their strategic locations across the country, this is ideal for local course managers, groundsmen and greenkeepers to attend.

“Bernhard loan the machinery and supply expert training while the centres offer their classrooms. BIGGA and the GTC run the continued education standards programme, and what they hope to do together is promote best practice, better turf and better maintained, sharper cutting mowers.

“If everyone leaves these sessions feeling that they’d never thought about or been given credibility to.

“Many delegates attending a training workshop do feel we are offering a valuable service to both today’s and the next generation of greenkeepers.”

Ben concluded “Other ‘quiet’ benefits with these training sessions and workshops are the invaluable relationships that are built up between the GTC’s QA Centres, colleges, industry, student and manufacturer”.

Contact Details

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The GTC will be at BTME, Stand B29, and we look forward to discussing your education and training requirements. Our independent advice helps you whether you are a greenkeeper, golf club employer, committee volunteer or manager.

Contact details on future training workshops:

Catherine McEwan
Tel: 01758 811 600 Email: catherine.mcewan@bernhard.co.uk

The GTC will be at BTME, Stand B29, and we look forward to discussing your education and training requirements. Our independent advice helps you whether you are a greenkeeper, golf club employer, committee volunteer or manager.

Bernhard & Co will be attending BTME and you can find them on Stand B44.

”The students, some of whom haven’t attended a formal training course for many years, comment on how this specialist workshop has opened their eyes to something they’d never thought about or given credibility to.

“Many delegates attending a training workshop do feel we are offering a valuable service to both today’s and the next generation of greenkeepers.”

Ben concluded “Other ‘quiet’ benefits with these training sessions and workshops are the invaluable relationships that are built up between the GTC’s QA Centres, colleges, industry, student and manufacturer”.

Happy New Year from all at The GTC.

Bernhard & Co will be attending BTME and you can find them on Stand B44.