QR Codes
With CPD quizzes you will see a "QR Code". These can be read by most smartphones (iPhone, BlackBerry, Android) and will take you to the online quiz. Once completed, we will add 1 Education credit to your CPD account. You can download a "QR Reader" for FREE at any of the respective App stores. Quiz: svy.mk/1hkMQpI

SOIL SAMPLING
Clean and orderly
Above all, the samples should be collected carefully and cleanly without external contamination before being amalgamated and mixed in a non-metallic container prior to bagging up and labelling.

Most laboratories provide kits and offer guidance on how best to take samples and the amount of sample required to carry out the various tests.

Conclusion
Soil analysis provides us with vital information to help us formulate our nutrition programmes. We must, however, be extremely strict with the sampling method if the results are to be trusted.

The rules of soil sampling are:
• Take 20 core samples from the selected area using an imaginary grid pattern with randomization within the grid squares
• Sample to the depth of root activity (25mm-100mm generally)
• Split the samples if needed to understand profile differences
• Be consistent in your sampling methods to allow ongoing comparisons
• Mix the samples cleanly before bagging up and sending away
• Label the samples clearly
This way you will produce a set of results that you can work with. There is little point in using results or comparing different results obtained from careless sampling.

This is one of those areas that we just need to get right. Interpreting the results is something else we need to discuss.

CPD Questions
1. What sampling pattern should we employ?
   a. Simple grid pattern
   b. Straight lines
   c. Randomised in a grid pattern
2. How many samples should you take from each area to achieve a representative sample?
   a. 1-5
   b. 5-10
   c. 20
3. What depth should you take samples from?
   a. The zone of root activity
   b. 0-100mm
   c. 100-150mm
4. Should we include or discard the thatch?
   a. Include
   b. Discard
   c. Analyse both
5. What time of year is best to take samples?
   a. Spring-summer
   b. Autumn-winter
   c. It is most important to be consistent with the time of year.
6. How frequently do we need to take samples?
   a. Depends on the situation
   b. Annually
   c. Monthly
7. How do we create the final sample for analysis?
   a. Just put the cores into the bag and send them off
   b. Retrieve the required portion of the sample and mix thoroughly before bagging up
   c. Who cares?
Tucked away on the South Oxfordshire border overlooking the banks of the River Thames is the 18 hole Caversham Heath Golf Club forming part of the 2,500 acre Mapledurham Estate. The championship length course was the first new golf course of the millennium, opening in 2000, and now boasts an impressive 550 members.

Jon Scoones, Course Manager, has been at Caversham Heath since the build and has recently taken delivery of a fleet of new John Deere machinery to maintain the grounds.

Heading the line-up is the John Deere 8800 rough cut mower and 8700 fairway mower along with four 220E walking greens mowers, a 1200A bunker rake and a Tru-Turf greens iron to complete the set.

"With membership increasing we knew it was time to reinvest in some new machinery for the club" said Jon. "There is so much kit on the market to choose from but I knew I wanted reliable machines with a good local dealer for service and support so John Deere and Farol were the obvious choice."

Robert Wytchard, Estate Manager, knows the importance of the course being right for the players. "We always want to raise the standards of the course and investing in new machinery shows our commitment to the members. The course is planning to expand to 36 holes in the future so raising our game now will pay dividends."

The 8700 PrecisionCut mower tackles the course’s fairways with its powerful diesel engine, QAV cutting units mowing an impressive 290cm in one pass. Tackling the rough is the fast and reliable 8800 TerrainCut mower with its exceptional cut quality following the ground contours.

The four 220E walk behind greens mower has fully floating heads to follow the greens curves enabling golfers enjoy a championship quality finish. The Tru-Turf roller is a relatively new machine to the market and ensures players will always have an exceptional flat green for that all important putt.

The bunkers have not been forgotten and a 1200A now tends to raking and levelling the sand with excellent coverage.

Bio: By the time you read this article, our Sprayer of the Month, Mark Brierley, will have been employed by John Deere for 25 years. He will have positioned John Deere as the major player in agriculture and turf by first considering the needs of his customers and then connecting them with the right technology.

Having a chat with Jon about how he manages the course clearly shows his knowledge and passion for greenkeeping. He said: "Staff are a key part of the course’s success. I currently have a team of five but would like to increase that to seven in the future. Training is key and I like to give the staff everything they require to do the job safely and efficiently. Some of the staff are new so are starting on NVQ 2 whilst my more experienced team members are doing management courses alongside spraying and chainsaw certificates."

Jon was happy to share information on the maintenance of the course. He explained: "The greens were originally sown with a traditional Bent/Fescue mix whilst everywhere was sown with a dwarf rye. Our aeration program is very important for the upkeep and we aerate at least once a month varying between 8mm, 10mm and 15mm solid tines and 8mm and 15mm hollow tines. Our cutting heights are 3mm greens in the summer and 4mm in the winter whilst tees, collars and approaches are 10mm, fairways 12mm, semi rough 25mm and rough 75mm all year round."
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Northern

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

Northern

Around the green

News

Cleveland

When will this awful weather stop? For all you guys that are working on heavy clay parkland sites I feel your pain! At my course, Richmond, we have been playing a balancing act between opening on a reduced course and closed.

Winter renovation work and new tee construction has been stopped dead in its tracks, looks like March and April are going to be busy catch up months! On the plus side my sheds are looking like new.

Congratulations from all the Section to Gary Fraser who has been accepted on to the FTMI for 2014.

Northern

The section mobile phone is up and running and you will have received information regarding a seminar at Cookridge. Please forward your number to 07443 643497 if you want the info on fixtures and any other news.

North East

Congratulations to

David Wilkinson Whitley Bay GC
Jack Hetherington Ponteland GC
Stuart Irwin Dunstanburgh Castle GC
Martin Woods Bedlington GC
David Thompson Hexham GC
Richard Hood Sharpley GC

Who have all been chosen from our area to be part of the open support team this year, well done guys and we look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Events Coming Up

Cleveland

We have a few events coming up and by the time of print some have passed so my apologies for repeating old news.

Spring Tournament - we still need a venue, any volunteers?
Spring Seminar at Chester le street Golf Club on 6 March. There are only 5 places left. If you want to attend please book via Sandra@bigga.co.uk

Golf match v North East section at Whiteley Bay Golf Club 25-26 June 1pm tee off, nine players needed. If you're interested please contact Penko on 07791695768

Autumn Tournament at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club 14 October 10.30 tee off. More details to follow.

Northern

Please to to finally get the Spring Comp sorted, it's on 24 April at Waterton Park in Wakerfield first tee 11am. Coffee and bacon sandwiches from 10am. I had a little recon mission there last month and was made very welcome. Fabulous golf course and very nice people so get your names down for a great day out.

North East

Spring Golf Comp at South Shields GC on 12 march tee off from 12 pm.
Also there's an education day for our section being held at Alnmouth GC on 27 march. Machine demos with Greenlay/Campeys. Check social media sites for full details.

Welcome New Members

Events Coming Up

Central

Our next event is a visit to European Turf Laboratories in Stirling on 9th April. More details will be sent out by email shortly. This will be followed on 14th April by a workshop on reel maintenance and grinding by Bernard. Numbers will be limited therefore please reply promptly when the notices go out to guarantee your place.

The Spring outing is at Kinghorn GC on 29th April. Entry forms will be with you for this by the end of March and we hope for a good turnout. For those who haven’t played Kinghorn then you are in for a pleasant surprise as it is an excellent little course.

Entries for the 2014 Pairs competition is closed and the draw for this will also be with you by the end of March.

East

Our spring outing will be taking place this year at Gatwick GC on 22nd April. We hope to see a great turnout to play this fantastic course. It is also a great educational day with a short topic discussion on the day and a great chance to network with your fellow section members, so get involved guys and we look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Movers and Shakers

East

The section would like to wish Ian Lauder (Sherriff’s Grounds) all the best in his new role within the company’s structure, and a warm welcome from the section goes to Brevn Batchwell who will now be covering the golf courses in our section.

Thanks to Sponsors

East

The section would like to thank all who attended BTME 2014, and well done all who took the time to attend the Seminars. It was a great show again this year and well done all who were involved in setting it up, and thanks to the Patrons etc. and companies who attended for your support with this event.

Welcome New Members

Events Coming Up
Mid Anglia
By the time you read this the Mid Anglia section will have held an Educational Seminar at Bedford & County GC on March 5. Our thanks go to Geoff Penn, Course Manager for hosting and organizing the event for which we are all very grateful. Our thanks also to all the speakers who gave up their time to attend. I am sure it will hopefully lead to more events like this in the section in the future.

Mid Anglia
We are still finalising golf day venues for 2014 so will get the information out as soon as all are confirmed.

News
BB&O
Updated info for the section:
Chairman - Adam King
Secretary - Matthew Nutter
Honorary President - Mid Arowndom
Education - Frank Newberry
Treasurer - Ted Lewis
General Committee - Dom Lewis, David Lyons. Gareth Acteson, James Moore. Matt Wharton, Matt Smith

Mid Anglia
It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of two greenkeepers from our section. Robert (Bob) Goodwin, a BB&G Life Member and former Head Greenkeeper at Ashridge GC, and Ray Turvey, former Head Greenkeeper at Millbrook GC. Our thoughts are with their friends and families at this time and both will be sadly missed by all in the greenkeeping industry.

Thanks to Sponsors
Mid Anglia
Thanks to Everris for sponsoring the Educational Seminar at Bedford.

Also, a massive thanks goes to our Sponsors of the section for 2014, they are...

We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Bedminster Golf Club are also sponser our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year. Once again your support means a lot and please consider these matchfunds for your requirements for coming months and beyond into 2014.

If you feel you may be interested in sponsoring Mid Anglia Section in 2014 please contact a committee member for details.

Welcome New Members
Carl Kilchhert, Greenkeeper, Lincoln Golf Club, Adam Baldwin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Tewkesbury Park Hotel & GC

Your notes
Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we’ve refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos to in your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) your section correspondent or your section correspondent or Matt Wharton, Matt Smith.

South East

Events Coming Up
Essex
March 13 sees a talk on your soil analysis by Henry Beechett - I'm told he is very good!! At the end of march/early April we have a talk on Greater London Golf & Country Club on Monday 12 May, 12.45 tee off and is £22 which includes Bacon roll on arrival, 3 course dinner, great prizes…

South East - Welcome New Members

Spring Comp & National Championships Qualifier: 25 April, Seaford GC, tees from 12pm. Individual Stableford/ Medal, £15.

Essex Section Away Day: 24 June, Knole Park Golf, tees 3pm, 4 ball, 2 best to count. Lunch served before golf, no meal after. £15.

Regional Administrator Clive Osgood is on the lookout for greenkeepers to assist on the bunker raking team for the BMW PGA Tournament held in May this year, 6 day commitment if you are able. Contact Clive on 07784 948410.

Roger Tydeman is now the new Regional Representative for the Surrey section. Roger takes over from Ashley Allpress and is now our voice at Regional level.Asherley is the new section secretary - 07779 283525. Golf Day entry fees will remain the same for 2014 at £25.00 and £30.00 on the day.

Essex
25 members took advantage of the trip to Barenbrug at Bury St Edmunds last month with talks from Neil Pettican and Andy Sadler and a factory walk. Our thanks to Barenbrug for such an interesting day and to Ben Scrivener and Craig Bradely (Collier Turf Care) for organising the event.

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Suffolk
We are pleased to welcome Phil Helman to the Suffolk section and would like to wish him all the best in his new role. Captain John Deacon is a Master Greenkeeper who previously worked at Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire. Phil will take over the management of both the Down course and the Park course at Goodwood and starts in the centenary year of the beautiful Braid designed Downs course. You’re in for some stuning views Phil.

Thanks to Sponsors
Kent
Many thanks to all our sponsors. We are proud to promote your businesses through our webpage.

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

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Education - Frank Newbery
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General Committee - Dom Lewis, David Lyons. Gareth Acteson, Honorary President - Sid Arrowsmith

Correction

Steve Castle

A number of alterations have been made to the article below:

1. ‘We will be visiting the most famous golf club in the South of England’ should be ‘We will be visiting the most famous golf club in the South of England’.

2. The website address for the tournament should be ‘www.golfatbawtrypark.com’.

3. The date of the tournament should be ‘15th May’.

Sponsors

Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia

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South East

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Around The Green

Events Coming Up

South Wales

On Thursday 13 March we will play our first match at Pennard GC, 10 tee times have been booked for 1pm start, hopefully the waterproofs won’t be needed. Royal Porthcawl GC will host our popular Spring Seminar with a very interesting lineup on Tuesday 8 April from 9am-3pm. Speakers are: Noel MacKenzie, Sports Turf Consulting, Construction work. Matt Cresty, Limagrain UK, and Andy Laing, Course Manager at Gaudet Lunce GC, Wildflower Seeds. Craig Campbell, Deputy Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium, building the new pitch. Kate Entwistle Turf Diseases & Plant health. Karl Parry, Evertts & Former Course Manager @ Denbigh Castle GC, The Parry Meter.

South Coast

South Coast Section Spring Tournament is at Highcliff Castle Golf Club at midday on Tuesday 15 April. Please note change of venue. £20 entry which includes bacon roll and evening meal, contact Kevan Glass for more details.

South West

This year’s event calendar is coming together nicely with most venues and dates confirmed. We will be providing all section members and patrons with a fixture card which is going to press as we speak but in the meantime here are the early ones: 24 April: Am/Am at Enmore Park Golf Club 29 May: Inter-Section Match at Chippenham Golf Club 19 June: Bannmer Tournament at Farrington Golf Club

News

South Wales

Craddock GC have appointed Robin Cheney as Head Greenkeeper, congratulations Robin and good luck in your new position. Congratulations also go to Gareth Hardisty of Burghill Valley GC on being selected as an intern on the Ohio exchange programme. The club and everyone in our region are very proud of you, good luck.

Last month saw the passing of Henry Fry after a brief illness aged 84. Henry was appointed to the Greenkeeping staff at Clyne GC in 1958, becoming Head Greenkeeper in 1962 and gave 32 years dedicated service, until his retirement in December 1994. During this time he was heavily involved within the Greenkeeping profession and served as Section Secretary and chairman for our Welsh branch. He was a well known figure in the industry and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

South West

We had a brilliant turnout this month for a presentation by James Brafthwaite, Course Manager at Long Ashton Golf Club, with over fifty in attendance. James discussed the recent greens reconstruction project at the club and feedback from attendees has been fantastic.

Many thanks James.

Finally, a welcome to new South West Section member Stuart Bowman from Thornbury Golf Centre.

Results

South Wales

Better late than never the results from our Christmas competition at PkK, the course was in excellent condition, well done to Paul Johnson and his staff. 1 Big D, Stuart Ross, Gareth Hardisty, Gerry Tunball with a score of 58. 2 Jim MacKenzie, Peter Lacey & James White score 60.7.

Thanks to Sponsors

South West

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countryside, Farmura, Ecosolve, T H White and Sportmark for their invaluable support.

Welcome New Members

Stuart Bowman, Course Manager, Thornbury Golf Centre, Jon Day, Head Greenkeeper, Lanhydrock Golf Club, Gareth Jones, Assistant Greenkeeper, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

Welcome New International Members


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Your notes

Your notes

Experts in Safety

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Suitable for conveying water to lawns, hedges and public amenities. Used extensively in horticulture, agriculture and public amenities. Temperature Range: -15°C to +60°C.

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- 100 metre coil: 4T4313, 4T4319, 4T4325

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Welcome New International Members


Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...
The STRI has been around a long time; we were actually established way back in 1929 (even before David’s time!), and have a long heritage within the golf industry. We have a very strong tradition of engaging with the more formal qualifications. Carolyn Beadsmoore, Head of Sales and Marketing at STRI, explained why they are now so heavily involved with this aspect of the training.

As an apprentice greenkeeper in the 60s, David Golding remembers when a visit to STRI was the only real education an apprentice received before the colleges became involved with the more formal qualifications. Carolyn Beadsmoore, Head of Sales and Marketing at STRI, explained why they are now so heavily involved with these qualifications.

The STRI training is an integral part of many golf clubs’ education, with the aim of passing on best practice throughout the golf industry and helping clubs achieve the best sports surfaces they can.

By the 1990s, STRI had established a reputation as the leading company in Europe for providing advice and research on new products and techniques for managing sports turf, not just for golf, but for all types of sports surfaces and amenity grass areas. And as our knowledge grew we established structured training courses for greenkeepers, groundsman and Chairman of Green and committees.

We believe a lot of our success comes directly from the focus and expertise of the STRI research team, based at our extensive research facilities in Bingley, West Yorkshire. The team are as dedicated now as they were eighty years ago to establish new and better ways of producing high-quality sports surfaces across the globe.

The knowledge base from STRI’s expertise of the STRI research team, along with years of practical experience from our advisory team, is what makes our training so current and valuable for the industry.

The last two decades have seen rapid growth within STRI: we currently have 75 staff, delivering our range of services across an international client base of around 2,100 sports clubs and facilities each year, including 810 golf clubs. STRI is proud to work alongside FIFA, as their strategic partner for pitch development and management, and UEFA, as their official pitch consultants and The R&A, as their official agronomists.

We are now offering specialist advice and expertise for all natural and artificial sports surfaces across the globe, and in 2013 we opened our Australian research centre and office. The knowledge and expertise of our research and advisory teams are now shared through our tailored training courses for all types of turf professionals across the world.

Our courses are structured to give practical and realistic advice on developing and managing sports surfaces and developing an individual’s expertise, no matter what level of experience.

We provide different methods of training through workshops, seminars, practical demonstrations and open forum discussions, as well as our annual STRI Research event in Bingley. We are often asked to create bespoke training courses to suit a team’s needs and work closely with clubs to make sure the learning we deliver is relevant and useful for their team and individual greenkeepers.

We offer standard and bespoke training courses across the UK for:
- Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers
- Greenkeeping Staff
- Groundsman Staff
- Parks & Grounds Managers
- Chairman of Green/Green Curators
- Club Secretaries, Managers & Committee Members
- BASIS & PACTS for Turf Professionals

Each training course is developed and delivered by experienced staff, all with vast experience within the sports turf industry and their specialist fields. Our advisors have comprehensive knowledge on the latest research, techniques and products used to achieve quality sports surfaces and turf.

Each of our courses is reviewed annually and features real-life examples of golf courses that have seen improvements over the last few years.

Our standard courses are structured over four days, with separate modules developed for each subject area, giving individuals the flexibility and choice of selecting the topics and days they are interested in. Our Chairman of Greens courses are run as a one-day course, providing an overview of course management and the benefits that can be seen from specific maintenance operations.

Following feedback from sports clubs and clients, we now offer regional training courses each year, across the UK and Ireland; this has helped our clients to reduce travel costs and eliminate additional costs for accommodation.

Our training is quality assured by industry bodies and associations, including the GTC, with certificate of achievements presented for each training module. Individual BASIS and CPD credits are also awarded for completing STRI training modules.

Each year we receive very positive feedback on our STRI training, with 100% of individuals saying they would recommend our training to others.

And when we get quotes like the following which we received from a greenkeeper who attended last year’s training, it makes us feel very proud to be supporting the industry through our education: “I found the four-day course an absolute inspiration. The content covered everything one would possibly need to know as a greenkeeper. The experts were very engaging.”