THE MOWER THEY DON’T WANT YOU TO SEE.

The competition doesn’t want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens mower. They can’t match its ZERO leak points. They can’t provide individual reel control to vary cut patterns. They can’t offer programmable frequency-of-clip from an LED screen. And they can’t get anywhere near the legendary quality-of-cut from Jacobsen. Our commercial partners are all hugely committed to supporting the Association in its ambitions to provide educational and career development opportunities to its members and I am confident we will add to our provision in the future.

We also offer opportunities to widen greenkeeping experience at tournaments through Support Teams for both the Open Championship and the BMW PGA Championship.

This year we have been asked to provide a larger team at Wentworth and I’m pleased but not surprised that we have been able to find sufficient willing and able volunteers. Also this month we preview the forthcoming Open Championship to be held at Royal Liverpool and hear how Links Manager Craig Gilholm and his team have been preparing. This year the BIGGA Open Support Team was again massively oversubscribed with volunteers wanting to play their part at Hoylake.

I was saddened to learn of the passing of a stalwart of the Toro award, David Blackmur, who guided a number of overall winners through his sterling work at Plumpton College.

A real character and a hugely knowledgeable lecturer and mentor, he will be sadly missed.
The competition doesn’t want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens.

The legendary quality-of-cut you can only find on a Jacobsen mower. And they can’t do anything except hope you don’t see it. I guess we just ruined that for them, too.

ON YOUR COURSE, CALL 01473 270000

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By Royal Appointment

How Craig Gilholm is preparing for The Open at Hoylake

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Spring has sprung with a vengeance

Having spent the early part of my Chairmanship travelling widely and focusing on Association business it has been good to spend time more recently closer to home where my heart belongs – managing the course here at Chippenham.

I was honoured to attend the fantastic 2014 Future Turf Managers’ Initiative made possible by Jacobsen.

I didn’t go last year so it was my first opportunity to see at first hand what a superb event it is. It’s the ideal platform for young greenkeepers who are looking to move up through the ranks. The mentors who gave up their time were superb, and the experienced presenters – several of whom I caught at BTME – gave a series of excellent seminars. I’d like to thank the delegates, mentors, presenters and the L&D team at BIGGA House for all their efforts contributing to the success of this second event, and I hope there are many more in the future.

Lastly, I’d like to say how grateful I am to Jacobsen’s kind sponsorship, their support was once again tremendous.

Another highlight in March was the South Wales spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl.

I was particularly fascinated by the presentation the Deputy Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium, Craig Campbell gave about the challenges posed as they install a new DESSO pitch.

I also enjoyed Jason Brooks’ account of working in America, Noel MacKenzie’s ‘Drainage does work’ and Matt Greesty and Andy Lang’s seminar on using wildflower on your course.

Section events, be they educational, golf days, course walks or social/sporting fixtures, are hugely important to BIGGA and play a key role in keeping our members connected at local level.

Having a strong network of local peers has been massively important in my career, providing advice, support and a helping hand whenever I’ve needed them. It has been my pleasure to be able to return some of that help over recent years, but to this day whenever I attend a Section event I come away having gained some knowledge that can benefit me and my club.

I would love to visit all the Sections during my time as Chairman but sadly it just isn’t physically possible! However I will try and get to as many events as I can, and chatting with BIGGA members young and old at these events is a privilege.

I would encourage all members to support the events that many of our members give up their own time to organise.

Spring has finally sprung with a vengeance, which has meant lots of work for us here at Chippenham and I’m sure an extremely busy month for all of you. We’ve been getting stuck into all sorts of tasks from putting sand in bunkers to cutting fairways and firing up the irrigation system.

We’ve dropped our height of cut from 5mm to 4.5mm ahead of dropping it further to 4mm very soon to give the greens that extra pace.

We have had a problem with leatherjackets, so the article focusing on dealing with them in last month’s magazine was particularly timely.

We’ve been spraying to combat them and it seems to be doing the trick.

We’re holding an Open Event on the weekend of 17/18 May where we’ll be officially opening our new holes. The intention is to allow members to play on the first day then hopefully attract lots of visitors and potentially new members on the second.

So fingers crossed for more good weather.

Chris
National Chairman, Chris Sealey, gives his thoughts for the month

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**MY FTMI 2014**

Kevin Glazier, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, was one of the delegates on the Future Turf Managers’ Initiative 2014 at Ransomes Jacobsen’s Ipswich HQ. Here’s his report on a “fantastic” week...

On 25 March, the candidates made their journeys from England and Scotland and descended on Ipswich. A tour of the factory was first on the agenda which was a real eye opener for all.

The majority of us take machines for granted when we start work at 6am in the morning, however the attention to detail when a machine is being built is incredible to see from a nut to a cylinder.

Jacobsen have three hole golf course on site which is kept to a high standard by Jamie Hughes – the greens are immaculate. We had the opportunity to play the par three course, and the winner was Gregor MacKinnon from Turnberry with a score of one under par. The day concluded with each delegate completing an ‘ice breaker’ task, dinner and networking which was put into practice followed later in the morning with ‘Building a CV’ as we split into small groups to complete a presentation on ‘Topic of your Choice’ and we were given the opportunity to present on ‘Maximising Performance and Minimising Stress’ which we were all lucky to listen to before he flew back to the States. Frank clearly feels passionately about the subject and was able to present evidence to support his beliefs.

Later in the afternoon, we enjoyed a seminar from one of the mentors, Steve Chappell. Steve is the Head Greenkeeper of the PGA Course at Gleneagles which will be hosting the 2014 Ryder Cup. Steve discussed his career to date and spoke about the volunteering opportunities at tournaments. The evening was completed by dinner and an open forum with Mike Sawicki. After two intense days the pace continued on the final morning with ‘Building a Budget’. This was presented by Lee Strutt MG. Candidates were introduced to budgeting, how to formulate a budget and coatings to create their own budgets using Excel. The week was brought to an end by David Bancroft-Turner, who gave a presentation on dealing with club politics. This helped to identify politics in the workplace, how to manage them more effectively, provided tips and suggestions to improve performance and also introduce us to the four different political ‘animals’.

For me, being selected for the PTMI was an honour and one that I would strongly recommend to any greenkeeper to apply for. Everyone on the course shares the dream of becoming a Course Manager and the PTMI showed many aspects which you don’t think about necessarily when doing the day job.

As one mentor said, being a Course Manager is 10% greenkeeping and 90% managing. All the seminars were beneficial and highly interesting, but if had to pick highlights I would go for Lee Strutt’s, David Bancroft-Turner’s and Steve Chappell’s. Throughout my career I have been told that networking is a great way to learn, meet fellow greenkeepers and get yourself known around the industry. To speak to 20 other candidates and five mentors was fascinating as you can discuss aspects of the job you wouldn’t normally discuss. The PTMI has made me focus more on what I want from greenkeeping - become a Course Manager.

The skills I have taken away will improve the knowledge and experience I’ve taken from Gavin KinSELLA MG at Royal Mid Surrey.

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To conclude this was a fantastic opportunity and one I would like to thank BIGGA and Jacobsen for hosting.

**WALTER HELPS GRADUATES CELEBRATE TURF DIPLOMAS**

BIGGA Life Member Walter Woods helped a dozen graduates celebrate their diplomas in turf maintenance at the home of golf.

Walter served as Superintendent for the St Andrews Links Trust for 21 years, and was on hand as the 12 graduates from WINSTONuniversity passed their six-month course.

The trip to St Andrews topped off six months of a unique education for golf course and club managers at the university, which is based in Germany and focuses on teaching all manner of disciplines in the turf industry.

During the trip to Scotland the group gained new insights in the maintenance of world class courses like the Duke’s Course and the links of Kingsbarns.

On the way to Scotland the group visited the headquarters of Ransomes Jacobsen in Ipswich where they received first hand information on the turf care equipment of one of the world’s leading manufacturers.

One of the graduates, Frank Ahern, said: “We not only learnt about turf and resource management but also gained a solid background in the economics and strategic marketing of golf courses.”

Ian Butcher, the English director of WINSTONuniversity added: “Proof of how much our graduates are sought after is demonstrated by the fact that all the graduates are now working in the industry. At present the application process is open for the second course at WINSTONUniversity starting in October. Hubertus von Treuenfeld, CEO of WINSTONUniversity, said: “The demand is already very high. Since we can only accept 20 students per course we are in a very comfortable situation where we can choose the best applicants. This being said I like to stress that we do not want to deter anyone to apply for the new semester which will start in October 2014 and run until the end of March 2015.”

**BIGGA AND EVERRIS PARTNERSHIP**

BIGGA are delighted to announce the launch of our latest Partnership as we join forces with Everra. Announced last month, we’ve created a series of new packages designed to improve your recognition given to our supporters.

Everra bring strong links with Everris for many years, who are well known across the turf industry for developing technology advanced fertilizers, nutritional programs, and plant protection products.

This Partnership has been on course since the 1st semester which will continue throughout the year.

Everra have provided an extensive breadth of products and practices develop and evolve, our partnership and the launch of Turf Rewards offer all greenkeepers the opportunity to develop their own knowledge and expertise both on and off the golf course.”
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We had an early start on the Wednesday, with Lorna Sheldon giving a detailed presentation on writing a CV which made us all realise how important CV’s really are. Lorna then spoke about all aspects of interview techniques. Effective communication strategies followed later in the morning which was put into practice as we split into small groups to complete a presentation on ‘your dream job’. The session was led by Sam Evans from Oakland Park Golf Club who spoke about replacing Sam Allardyce at West Ham United. Dr Frank Rossi then returned to complete a presentation on ‘Maximising Performance and Minimising Stress’ which we were all lucky to listen to before he flew back to the States. Frank clearly feels passionately about the subject and was able to present evidence to support his beliefs.

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**On a Roll in Switzerland**

By using the technique of Koroing, Course Manager Richie McGlynn of Blumisberg Golf Club, Switzerland, has kept the course fully open during extensive changes.

Blumisberg member Richie joined the club in 2011. He found that the fairways in particular had severe problems relating to compaction, excessive thatch and a dominant poa sward, resulting in issues such as dry patch, dieback and chafer grub infestation. So he began the first stage of an ambitious ten-year project to remove all the fairways without closing any holes. Various renovation practices were considered to achieve this, culminating in the decision to strip the existing turf off the worst areas, decompact the ground and reseed with a new grass mixture.

Richie looked to other sports for inspiration. Knowing how professional groundsman in other sports achieved rapid pitch renovation, he wanted to know if the same method could be applied to golf fairways.

The Koro Field TopMaker is a heavy-duty field top maker. Richie bought a Koro Field TopMaker 1500 complete with digging rotor, an Imants GMI, and a Dakota 550 trailer. The GMI (Northern white cedar) trees had been imported from France. At least two Northern white cedar trees had been planted in a nursery and a Renfrewshire Park. The GMI (Northern white cedar) at a Scottish Cemetery and on Thuja occidentalis (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana) at a Scottish cypress (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana) at Balloch Country Park Estate in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, including Yorkshire and Devon, in 2011. But with no public utterances from FC or Fera during the whole of 2012 and 2013 (just a website mention in passing of one outbreak in South Wales and one in Sussex) it would appear P. lateralis is no longer considered to be a problem. P. lateralis may have disappeared from the radar screen but with a spore dissemination potential equivalent to Phytophthora ramorum, and a history of air-borne spread in France, it has certainly not gone away. What has disappeared in UK plant health authorities’ earlier concern and consideration for an aggressive and lethal disease of conifer species vital to the landscape, amenity and garden sectors.

*Management guidance has been effectively downgraded. FC now says suspected cases should only be reported to them if they involve a number of trees on a public site such as a park or churchyard, on the basis that large numbers of visitors will pose a higher risk of spreading the disease. For suspected cases in private gardens (and presumably golf courses) owners are told to consult a reputable arborist, leaving the arborist to decide on and organise safe disposal and...*