Amenity soils have a lower diversity and number of microbes due to lower organic matter, lower oxygen levels, a tendency to rapidly go anaerobic and the regular disturbance of turf maintenance, all of which promotes a lower number of a limited range of hardy bacterial species.

So what do soil microorganisms actually do? The primary activity is to break down organic matter. An interesting aside is that thatch build up occurs when the management style means that soil microbes cannot keep on top of this breaking down.

They have the ability to degrade, mineralise and immobilise fertilisers and pesticides. They enhance plant available nutrient levels through nutrient recycling and organic matter decomposition. Other benefits include improved soil aggregation which has an influence on soil water movement and aeration. The improvements in plant health that these result in can also reduce susceptibility to disease.

**Examples of Farmura Research**

Table 1. Trial at Laverstoke Park 2014

Table 2. Trials With Usda

Table 3. Trial at Whitchurch Golf Course, South Wales

How then do we encourage soil microbes? Research from Cornell University in the USA advises the following, use manures – in the Farmura liquid organic range, such as Porthcawl and Farmsea which are formulated with manures we have an easy and convenient method of supply and application. Maintain soil moisture and oxygen levels.

This leads one to surfactants and Revolution from Antratrols which will do just that in balancing air and water. Also a balanced PH, consistent fertility by spoon feeding, good aeration and the encouragement of root development which in turn releases organic compounds that stimulate activity – in short nothing other than good greenkeeping practice.

It would be remiss not to mention microbial products - the addition of soil biology into turf, which is another way of boosting numbers. The broad range of natural bio stimulants contained in Farmura products increases the numbers of useful bacteria and fungi in the soil assisting the addition of microbial inoculants as well as stimulating the natural populations already living in the root zones. How do we know that manures or at least the Farmura manures work to build up bacteria and fungi? Apart from a track record stretching back to the 70s and the restoration of Open Championship courses a good deal of research has been carried out both in the UK and USA in different locations which has demonstrated their effectiveness in a number of areas as shown in the examples.

With the direction of travel moving evermore towards sustainability and a more balanced and natural approach the bigger picture needs to be considered and the soil and its life surely needs to be looked after just as much as the manicured turf we can see with our eyes. Not so visible but certainly as important.
### GREAT PRODUCTS…

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Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

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All rewards available in the UK and Republic of Ireland

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- IOG Conference & Awards places = 105 points
- iPad mini Pre loaded with turf applications = 120 points
- £500 BIGGA Continue to Learn vouchers = 105 points
- £800 EnviroMonitors vouchers = 120 points
- Green Trueness Tester = 120 points
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Primo Maxx contains triazole sulfonamides.
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£500 BIGGA Continue to Learn vouchers = 65 Points

£500 Lantra Awards vouchers = 65 Points
IOG Conference & Awards places
iPad Mini = 35 Points
Pre loaded with turf applications

Sign up at
**Northern**

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

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**News**

**North West**

- We would like to wish Tim Johnson, Senior Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, who married girlfriend Lisa Richardson on the 12 April the very for your future together.
- In March I was fortunate to be invited by Gordon Irvine along with Steve Oultram Course Manager of Wilmslow Golf Club, and Phil Stains Course Manager of Notts Golf Club, to work at Askernish Golf Club an original Old Tom Morris design, this was a great experience to witness Links golf at its purest form.
- We would like to remind all members that the BIGGA North West Section Facebook page is up and running. Many have liked this page and are posting already, we welcome all levels of greenkeepers to post on our page and you can use this opportunity to tell us what training or seminars you would like us to put on, or work you have or have been under taking. May I request that your contact details with BIGGA House are up to date, this is important to make sure you are kept up to date with all training and seminars.

**Cleveland**

- All quiet this month so news is a little thin on the ground!
- Congratulations must be passed on to an old dog for his recent acquisition of a new baby, for his grandson, Callum.
- You may still be able to book a place on the Bernhards Championship, 5th September, at The Chase Golf Club, the course will be closed on the 2nd September.
- Arthur, as his near name would suggest, has been known to have a love affair with a near hole for the past ten years. Arthur then hit his tee shot 80 yards past the green and onto the wall. Arthur then pulled his wedge out of the bag and played it with the flag in the way. He made a birdie. Thank you Arthur.
- Weather, allowing us to finish all those projects that were started at the end of 2013.
- Rhian became parents for the second time with the birth of their son Jack Eric on 14 April.
- Harvey and Rhian are very proud parents.
- Rhian’s father, Peter, has been very supportive.

**North Wales**

- David Mason, who retired from his position at Sandyhills, will have been on the course for the past 10 years.
- Emyr Price of Royal St. Davids, Harlech celebrated his 80th birthday on 8th tee the wildflower seed was sown this week.
- We are currently looking for new committee members interested then they must contact the organisers at syn.events@bigga.co.uk.
- We wish them all a good experience during their time at the Open Championship.
- Gordon Moir, the former East Section member and his team at Royal Liverpool will be hosting this year’s Open Championship.
- Thanks to Sharon and the team and it may be possible for us to stage another visit in the future for those unable to attend.

**Central**

- The Section also paid a visit to ETL in Stirling which attendees asked to supply a soil sample and Sharon Bruce and her team completely and those results should also be on the website.
- We do have some other ideas in the pipeline so please like us on Facebook.
- Best wishes to Sandy Bulloch who retired from Fereneze Golf Club on 1st August.
- We would like to wish Tim Johnson, Senior Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, who married girlfriend Lisa Richardson on the 12 April the very for your future together.
- I have known Jim for a long time and have experienced many different things, needless to say I will be glad to see him go.

**East**

- Welcome to the latest edition of the Bigga. We would like to wish you all a happy encounter with him and I just hope he is able to move on to other things quickly.
- Welcome to the latest edition of the Bigga. We would like to wish you all a happy encounter with him and I just hope he is able to move on to other things quickly.

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**Events Coming Up**

**North West**

- Summer Tournament / Hurleston Golf Club Tuesday 8 July
- North West V North Wales section cricket match Thursday 24 July
- Autumn Tournament / Ringway golf club Thursday 18 September
- AGM and Bert Cross Trophy / Wilmslow Golf Club Tuesday 11 November

**North East**

- Future north east golf dates for your diaries: 28 May Clone House, 25 June match v Cleveland, Whitley bay, 9 July Hendham, September, intersection match, Northumberland, October Alnmouth, December Bamburgh

**North Wales**

- The North Wales v South Wales match takes place at Royal St. David’s, Harlech on May 14.

**Northern**

- The Sheffield match up is an away day for us this year and they have scored a cracking course for us at Hickleton Golf Club, just off the A1 near Doncaster. It’s been reduced to an eight man team instead of twelve.
- Date is 7 August at 1pm, anyone wishing to play get in touch asap.
- Presidents day this year is at West Bradford on 18 June at 1pm.

**Sheffield**

- This year we will be doing Sheffield Section v Northern Section match on 7 August to be held at Hickleton Golf Club, so please can you let me know if you would like to take part.
- Our first competition for the year will be held at The Grange Golf Club Rotherham on May 15 tee off 1pm and it’s Invitation Day so bring along your Chairman/Captain. Cost £15 members, Trade/Guest £20
Events Coming Up

East

Next section meeting 14 May.

East Section Social night at the races on Friday 23 May, first race 6.10pm.

Willy Woods Tournament at Greenburn GC in August.

Annual Xmas Soirée in December (Venue to be confirmed).

Central

You may still be able to book a place on the Bernhardts seminar/workshop on reed grading which is being held at Ellmswood GC on 14 May, enquires to Gordon McKe.

A joint event by Everris, Jacobsen and Syngenta called Turf Science Live is taking place on Tuesday 10 June at Fairmont St Andrews although spaces are strictly limited. If anyone is interested then they must contact the organisers at syn.events@syngenta.com

News

East

The section would like to pass on good wishes to David Sked and Martin Stewart who have begun working at Muirfield GC, and good wishes also to Derek Hunter who is returning to Dalmahoy GC to take over as Course Manager, the section would also like to wish Andy Hustie all the best in his early retirement.

A big well done to Alex (Sandy) Stewart who is now in his 30th year of employment at Greenburn GC, a fair achievement these days.

The section would like to wish good luck to Craig Gilholm a former East Section member and his team at Royal Liverpool who will be hosting this years Open Championship. There are four Scots in the BRIGA Open Support Team this year and we wish them all a good experience during their time at the Open Championship.

Congratulations must be passed on to an old dog for his recent course record score (78) at Dundas Parks during their opening day comp, a nice bit of history for Stuart, not sure how long his score will last though, I am sure that will depend on the pin positions in the future, be fair now Stuart.

Another reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback asap.

West

Let me apologise for not submitting for the last couple of months which is due to a variety of different things, needless to say I have been busy. Congratulations to Kevin Cross on his new appointment as head man at Fereneze Golf Club, Kevin moves from Willawoord to his new position and we wish him well for the future.

I believe Ross McLeish has taken over at Cardross Golf Club having moved up from first assistant, sadly John Barr is no longer there. With regret I mention that Jim Caldwell has left his position at Sandyhills.

I have known Jim for a long time and have experienced many a happy encounter with him and I just hope he is able to move on from this and we can see him in the future at different events.

Best wishes to Sandy Bullock who retired from Fereneze Golf Club, Sandy was secretary of the west section for about 10 years and a good supporter of the section. I think all those who know would like to wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

I would like to send my best wishes to Danny Samson who has been diagnosed with an eye condition which means he is going to be off work for a considerable time, I hope you get better soon.

I will report on the spring outing at the next issue, please feel free to contact me regarding any information you may have which would be of interest to other members.

Central

We had a healthy entry for our Spring outing at Kinhorn GC where the course was in fine condition. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success, from the Greenstaff, Caterers, File Golf Trust and especially the Trade who supported us in number. The results can be found on the Central Section website.

The first round of the 2014 Pairs competition should be complete and those results should also be on the website.

The Section also paid a visit to ETL in Stirling which attendees found very informative seeing around the lab. Most of those were asked to supply a soil sample and Sharon Bruce and her team carried out various tests on what was submitted.

Thanks to Sharon and the team and it may be possible for us to stage another visit in the future for those unable to attend.

We do have some other ideas in the pipeline so please like us on Facebook or check the website to get the latest information.

North

Some members moving on… Dylan Meinzen has left Newmachar Golf Club and moved to Peterculter Golf Club. Steven Christie has left Denside Golf Club and moved to Newmachar also Simon Hoy has left Royal Aberdeen Golf Club and moved to Denside Golf Club so best wishes to them all in their new jobs.

Welcome New Members

News

BB&O

The 2013 Rigby Taylor Pairs competition final was played on Monday 8 April at Prinfield Heath GC. The winners of the competition were Caversham Heath Golf Club, who won 3 and 2.

Both teams fought a hard battle not only against the challenges of the Blue course but, with the weather as strong winds and rain played their part. Jon Soones from Caversham Heath lost his umbrella down the 3rd hole and into the stream that runs alongside, it was like an Ealing comedy watching them trying to retrieve it at one point I thought they were going to build a raft!

Carl Small from Ellborough GC on the day was also suffering from a bout of man flu, which to most would not be a problem but Carl’s false teeth were constantly coming out every time he went into a coughing fit, which for us was hilarious.

Both teams had a good day despite and I look forward to organising the 2014 competition.

Welcome New Members

Alex Millar, Course Manager, Alex Hall, Greenkeeper, Aaron Smith, Greenkeeper, Luke Mounteney, Greenkeeper, Paul Lear, Greenkeeper, Alex Smith, Greenkeeper, Konnor Saunders, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aaron Millar, Assistant Greenkeeper, Daniel Winter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Liam Nash, Assistant Greenkeeper, Charlie Beeny, Assistant Greenkeeper, James Orr, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alan Baker, Assistant Greenkeeper – all Stoke Park Golf Club,

Nick Pattison, Greenkeeper, Jacob Tanner, Assistant Greenkeeper, Daniel Winter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Liam Paul Lear, Greenkeeper, Alex Smith, Greenkeeper, Konnor Aaron Smith, Greenkeeper, Luke Mounteney, Greenkeeper, James Orr, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alan Baker, Assistant Greenkeeper – all Stoke Park Golf Club,

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Midlands: Darren Mugford, Drive towards recycling

Welcome New Members

Alex Millar, Course Manager, Alex Hall, Greenkeeper, Aaron Smith, Greenkeeper, Luke Mounteney, Greenkeeper, Paul Lear, Greenkeeper, Alex Smith, Greenkeeper, Konnor Saunders, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aaron Millar, Assistant Greenkeeper, Daniel Winter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Liam Nash, Assistant Greenkeeper, Charlie Beeny, Assistant Greenkeeper, James Orr, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alan Baker, Assistant Greenkeeper – all Stoke Park Golf Club,

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

South East

Events Coming Up

East Anglia

25 June - Rokeby Park GC
7 August - Eaton GC
2 October - Gog Masog GC (old course)
3 December - Thorpeness Hotel & Country Club - Turkey Trot & AGM
[need to double check this date and will confirm ASAP]

Essex

Wednesday May 21 is the next date for your diary. Stock Brook Manor Golf & Country Club is the venue, Stableford is the game and it’s also the National Qualifier. 620 Members, 625 Guests. Entries to Antony Kirwan by May 15 please.
Contact Antony antz16@btinternet.com or antony.kirwan@playgolfchester.com

News

East Anglia

Golf day held at Sheringham Golf Club 17th April. Results:
0-10: 1 Darren Abbs 34 (on count back) 2 Graham Hurren 34
11-18: 1 George Butters 37, 2 Nick Howes 33
19-28: 1 David Driver 31, 2 Andy Baker 28
Trade & guest: 1 Neal Milton 35, 2 Terry Mills 32
Longest drive: Darren Abbs
Nearest pin: Brian Lindores
For those who asked, the toilet seat went to me (Andy Baker) for getting the start time wrong earlier in the week!

Essex

This season has got off to a good start; our Spring Trophy meeting at The Essex Golf & Country Club went off well with 26 players in the stableford competition.
Competitions Secretary Antony Kirwan has worked out a new handicapping system for this year, the basis of which and the new rules are posted on the sections website.

The results are:
1 Liam Springett 35pts, 2 Ross Sturridge 33 c/b, 3 Dougie Ferrie 33

Thanks to sponsors

East Anglia

Main sponsor and halfway house Ben Burgess. Other sponsors: Atkins, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Ernest Doe & son, Bertsam Mowers. Eversis

Essex

A warm welcome to the sponsors who have joined us so far this season: Avoncrop Amenity Products, Baileys of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, CMW Equipment Holdings Ltd, Coller Turf Care, Daylinka, Ernset Doe & Sons, Eversis, GM Ancestry, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Paynes Turf, Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation, P’Tuckwell Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Swan Golf Designs, Tact, Troy Farm Systems, Turf (UK)
Their support not only helps with our golf days, but also helps improve our education program, of which I hope to have more information next month.
My contact details: 07894 831609 or essexbigga@talktalk.net plus there is more information on our section website www.essexbigga.co.uk

Welcome New Members


Welcome New Members (International)

Paul Walsh, International Greenkeeper, Villa Tatiana SA Switzerland.

A new look

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

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle [steve.castle@bigga.co.uk] by the 10th of each month.
Events Coming Up

South Wales

Please contact Darryl Jones our match captain to participate in both up and coming matches v north at Royal St Davids on 14 May and the region section match at Chippenham GC Thursday 29 May (87867 317951). Royal Porthcawl will host an irrigation road show on Tuesday 10 June at 9am and a course walk at 2.30pm regarding the course setup for the up and coming Seniors Open, plenty of opportunity to ask questions to Mr Kinley.

South Coast

We have a match against the Wessex secretaries at Broadstone Golf Club on 4 June. If you would like to put your name forward for the ten man team, please contact Tony Gadd at greenkeeperbosgc@gmail.com.

The summer tournament will be held at Knighton Heath Golf Club on 3 July, more details next month.

South West

By now everyone should have their fixture cards for the year, if not please drop me an email and I will ensure you receive one. Here is a quick rundown of this year’s fixtures.

29 May Inter-Section Match at Chippenham GC. Team event including South West, Secretaries, South Wales & South Coast. We would love to have a few new faces in the team for this super competitive event, please get in touch with Adam Matthews if you’d like to represent our section.

19 June Summer Tournament at Farrington GC. Qualifier for BGGA National Championship 9 October AGM at Saltford GC.

17 December Christmas Tournament at Cirencester GC. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at these events, please mark them in your diary to ensure you are free.

20 August sees the return of Club Management Trophy kindly sponsored by Everris, get your team together a great day at Chipping Sodbury GC.

The South West Section knock-out competition is underway, thanks to Joe Curtis for organising this league, keep an eye out for the results and to see who are the sharpest two-ball in the section!

News

South Wales

The Section would like to wish Scot Williams all the best in his role as Head Greenkeeper at Tenby GC.

Andrew Burgess of Trefloyne GC is taking part in the Iron Man Wales 2014. Such a difficult event with a challenging bike ride and run course, also Tenby north beach being one of the most iconic settings for an iron man swim anywhere in the world. He’s trying to achieve his goal of £1000 for charity. If you would like to make a donation the link is: http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndrewBurgessMW2014

We had a brilliant turn out for our spring seminar, our thanks to all the speakers, very interesting and thought provoking topics and excellent demonstrations from iTurf and Campey Turfcare.

A fantastic turn out for our Spring Cup At Penrard Golf Club course in great shape, visibility very poor with the fog, made golf tricky but a great day had by all. Results:

1 A Roach, 2 Tracey Maddison, 3 Big D & nearest the pin on the 15th. Best Trade: H Morgan. Thanks to Tracey Harvey for the sweets on the course nice touch, and thanks to the club for hosting the event.

South Coast

We have had a reorganisation on the committee. For the long service to the south coast section Tony Gadd has been offered the role as president and I am happy to report that Tony has taken the position.

Chairman: Robert Hogarth; Vice chairman: Jaime Acton Secretary/ Franchise: Alex McConville; Education: Jaime Acton/ Kevan Glass; Golf events: Alan Magee/ Joe Cooper; Communication: John Worrall; Around The Greens: Alan Magie; Meet and greet at events: Chris Bitten; Committee member: Phil Woolworth.

If you are not receiving emails about events as they come up in our section can you please email Alex McConville at southcoastsecretary@gmail.com so he can update the database. I must apologise to Tracey Harvey as I called her by another name at the spring tournament!

The spring tournament was held at Highcliff Castle Golf Club on 15 April. We would like to thank Highcliff Castle for allowing us to hold the Chalky White Memorial Cup at the club. Also thanks goes to Mike and all his staff for all their hard work presenting the golf course.

Results:
Overview winner of the Chalky White Cup: Kevan Glass;
Division 1: 1 A Magie 31pts; 2, R White 30, 3 L Elgie 29; Division 2: 1 K Glass 39, 2 M Caustewright 36, 3 B Blair 35; Nearest the pin: B Blair;
Longest drive: R Hyder. Winners of each division qualify for entry to the national tournament.

South West

As always there are opportunities for training. Paul Worster is at the ready so whatever your training needs may be drop Paul a line.

If anyone on your team is not receiving Section emails please ask them to contact me to supply their addresses @goodchild@bowood.org.

Thanks to sponsors

South Coast

Thanks go to Avoncrop for sponsoring the day at Highcliff Castle.

South West

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Sportsmark, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve and T H White for their invaluable support. Also, welcome to Indigrow who have offered their much valued support as a section patron, thanks Nick and Richard.

Welcome New Members

Steven Stopforth, Greenkeeper, Enmore Park GC
Be BIGGA’s number one

How you can enter the BIGGA National Championship, kindly sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at Liphook Golf Club, Hampshire on 6-7 October. You can win £500 worth of vouchers.

Hotels nearby include Champneys Forest Mere, Old Thorns Manor Hotel, The Georgian House Hotel.

Fill in the form below to book your spot...

**BIGGA National Championship 2014**, Liphook Golf Club, October 6-7 • Entry Form

Please select the relevant category:

- [ ] Full Member
- [ ] Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £90 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

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Deadline for entry is 5th September 2014.

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.
BEAT BUNKER PROBLEMS IN NO TIME

The new Mantis BunkerMaster has received high praise from greenkeepers using it to resolve perennial bunker problems.

Ten years after the launch of the first Mantis 2 stroke BunkerMaster, the new more powerful 4 stroke model will prove to be a very cost effective solution to any course looking to raise the standard of its bunker preparation.

While bunkers cover only one to two percent of the total area of the golf course they can take up to as much as 25% of the available resources to maintain.

You want to get bunkers back into shape as fast as possible after bad weather, heavy play and during general bunker maintenance, preparing them to the highest standards.

The BunkerMaster's 2.5cc engine has the torque to spin the spring tines at 200 rpm, yet it is lightweight and offers a low cost solution to fast redistribution of the sand. It lifts and aerates the top 30mm of sand without digging in and it is designed to work away from the operator for maximum control.

All of which means you have a fast and efficient answer to loosening and dressing the sand, ready for final top dressing using conventional tools.

The light weight of the BunkerMaster also means you can work in tight edges and along banks.

Overall, what is most impressive about the BunkerMaster is the sheer speed of bunker preparation you can achieve, especially after heavy rain.

Removing moss and thatch from awkward banks is another benefit, with sixty spring pick-lets letting you dig hatch a 15" (38cm) swathe at a single pass and the minimum of effort.

Lightweight they may be but these little machines have proved themselves to be tough and built to last. The long-life precision worm gear and drive shaft transmission are all enclosed in a robust aluminium casing while the Subaru engine also has its own rugged housing.

A unique centrifugal clutch gives the operator complete control and there is sealed electronic ignition plus a convenient engine cut-off switch on the handle.

At the end of the day, the light weight and compact shape make the BunkerMaster easy to pop into the back of your own van and drive away. A unique centrifugal clutch gives the operator complete control and there is sealed electronic ignition plus a convenient engine cut-off switch on the handle.

GALLEON IS A TOP REGENERATING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

A spreading perennial ryegrass exclusive to Germinal Seeds in the UK has been hailed for its drought recovery qualities in research trials. The regenerative growth qualities of Galleon were demonstrated when it bettred two other competitor brands in a trial at Devon's Ilfracombe University.

Galleon was developed as a hardwearing variety of perennial ryegrass with exceptional recovery due to its spreading growth habit. This fine-leaved variety also exhibits high resistance to insects and disease attack due to its high endophile levels.

The highly rated variety, was evaluated in the trial against two recent ryegrass blends marketed heavily for their spreading characteristics – RPR and Natural Knit. It was found to repair the divots faster and maintained active growth late into the autumn.

Richard Brown, amenity sales manager at Germinal Seeds GB, said: “We have great faith in Galleon’s qualities and are delighted but not surprised at how well it has done in this research study.”

NATIONAL GOLF MONTH LAUNCHED

A closest to the pin shoot-out by Liz Young and Holly Atkinson of the Ladies European Tour marked the Official Launch of National Golf Month at the Playgolf Centre, Northwick Park. The launch was well attended by Golf Industry members and the press who gathered to see Doug Poole (Director of National Golf Month) speak passionately about growing the game of golf and how National Golf Month aims to achieve this.

“National Golf Month (NGM) – a British Golf Industry initiative. It is an amazing event where all the leading golf companies and associations are joining together to increase the numbers playing golf. Support for National Golf Month has been seen all the major Golf Unions and Associations, Golf Clubs, Driving Ranges, Golf Manufacturers and PGA Professionals sign up to work together to reverse the trend and get more players on course to enjoy the game.”

Barry Shipman has been working in the garden and grounds team at the university for over 40 years and was recently promoted to garden and grounds supervisor. He now has a team of nine gardeners to assist with the upkeep of the facility which is roughly a third of Durham city and also includes the botanical gardens.

When purchasing new equipment, Barry discusses matters with the horticultural officer to see what machines are suitable and could make the life of their operators easier which include noise, vibrations etc. Barry and his team like to keep the grass short and presentable at all times, which over the last year has been very testing, but as he explains, has been made easier with the range of ride-on and pedestrian mowers he discovered over 15 years ago.

“We have an excellent relationship with our local machinery dealer, Lloyds, who are very knowledgeable and they recommended Etesia to us when we were looking for a mower which we could use in the wet and capable of being able to cut and collect or cut and drop,” explained Barry.

“The Etesia mowers have really come into their own in the past 12 months because they have been so good at cutting and collecting in the wet weather we’ve experienced. We have mobile grass cutting teams and the new Duocut models have been popular with them because they are very light for people to lift on and off vans, ideal for12 months because they have been so good at cutting and collecting in the wet weather we’ve experienced. We have mobile grass cutting teams and the new Duocut models have been popular with them because they are very light for people to lift on and off vans, ideal for cut and drop,” explained Barry. We have mobile grass cutting teams and the new Duocut models have been popular with them because they are very light for people to lift on and off vans, ideal for cut and drop.”

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A range of Etesia mowers, including two new Duocut RMHB 46cm pedestrian mowers, are helping to maintain the green space areas surrounding and including Durham University - the UK’s third oldest university.

Durham University has a unique estate, which includes 63 listed buildings and also owns and manages the World Heritage Site in partnership with Durham Cathedral. The University's ownership of the World Heritage site includes Durham Castle, Palace Green, and the surrounding buildings including the historic Cosin's library.

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“If the fact that we can cut, collect or cut and drop using the same machine because it saves us so much time. We order three new machines per year, which simply replace the oldest ones and so the cycle continues.

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“The new range of Duocut 46cm mowers are extremely versatile, and are capable of mowing with or without collection in all conditions, or allowing high-quality mulching. And they do all of this with no need for an accessory – you just place the removable insert under the deck if you choose to mulch, making them very operator-friendly. Excellent mowing results are achieved because the grass is very finely ‘brushed’, even if it is long and wet.