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Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: John Ellis

Club: Denbigh GC

Position: Greenkeeper

Age: 27

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
10 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting greens

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Cleaning the out of bounds trenches

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
Involved in the cycling or the music industry

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
My Head Greenkeeper, Dave Goodridge

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
The relationship between the golfers and the greenkeeper

8. What are your hobbies?
Cycling, gym and music

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Education and a magazine

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Carrying on greenkeeping, doing more mountain biking and hopefully winning the lottery

Textron set to travel back in time

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has stepped in to assist the organisers of a World War II Air Show, offering to prepare the airfield for the prestigious event which takes place next month.

Raydon Airfield, at Hadleigh in Suffolk, is a former wartime USAAF base that was once home to the Mustangs and Thunderbolts of the 353rd Fighter Group.

On September 4th the Raydon Wings Air Show will take place when the skies over Suffolk will once again be filled with the sound of over 30 classic wartime aircraft of yesteryear.

Textron has stepped in and offered to cut and prepare the 15-acre grass site including the maintenance of the 900 yard runway.

"Our involvement followed an appeal from the organisers and it was one that we could hardly refuse especially as the profits will be used for the benefit of local charities. We will



be preparing the runway and surrounding areas throughout the summer to ensure that Raydon

Airfield is in pristine condition for the show in September," said Peter Bell, of Textron.

John Deere set record in Ireland

Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea - that's the location of one of the most beautiful and challenging golf courses in the world.

Ranked four in Britain and seven in the world, The Royal County Down championship links course by the Irish Sea at Newcastle, Northern Ireland, was host to the prestigious British Amateur Championship at the end of May and will welcome the amateur home internationals in September.

Despite the extremes of weather during the Amateur the immaculate condition of the course was noted by players and commentators alike. This was due to the hard work of Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping staff of 15, with the help of a recently extended fleet of John Deere golf course equipment.

The course has just added two 3235A fairway mowers, three 220A walk-behind greens mowers, a Turf Gator utility vehicle and a 1200A bunker rake worth nearly £70,000 to the existing fleet of two 6x4 Gators, three more walk-behind greens mowers and a tractor mounted Aercore aerator.

This is the biggest sale of John Deere equipment to a golf course in Northern



Ireland by local dealer Johnston Gilpin & Co of Lisburn.

"We hand cut all the greens and tees with the 220A greens mowers, which is why we now have six altogether," said Alan.

The picture shows Randal McConnell, of Johnston Gilpin & Co (far right) with Course Manager, Alan Strachan (second right) and some of the staff with the Mourne Mountains in the background.

Stop press... Stop press... Stop

After over 10 years BIGGA has decided to change its logo from the distinctive world/golf ball spheres and flags, which have stood the Association in good stead, to something more appropriate for the new millennium...

No, no don't worry. The above is a joke designed to see the colour drain from the cheeks of Craig Pennycuik.

Craig, Head Greenkeeper at Winterfield GC, in Dunbar, is so delighted to be a member of BIGGA that he has had the logo tattooed on his left leg.

Unless he pulls his socks up he'll be seen as one of the Association's more committed members.

Can anyone else match Craig's devotion? Logo over a heart maybe!

