



## Welcome

### YOU'VE ALL DONE VERY WELL!

It's a month for congratulations.

Top of the list must be Bevan Tattersall, Courses Manager at the De Vere Belfry, and his team for preparing the Brabazon course for what must rank as one of the best Ryder Cup matches, not to say sporting occasions full stop, in quite some time. Bevan set up the course exactly how home team Captain, Sam Torrance, wanted it, and to that end can take some credit for the magnificent European victory. And the icing on the cake was that I didn't hear any criticism of the conditions from Curtis Strange's American team, which is even more of a tribute to Bevan.

Second on the list is Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper, at Coombe Hill GC, and the 2002 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner. Murray, whose smiling face you see on the front of this issue, is a deserving winner of the Award. It is very refreshing to see someone so open in his desire to do well. He set his mind on winning the competition and made every effort to ensure he gave himself the best possible chance.

He was the 14th winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and each year the competition demonstrates why it is the longest standing competition on the BIGGA calendar. The quality of young people coming through the ranks is growing all the time and the bar, for any potential winner, is being raised every year. That can only be good for the profession and the industry.

Next in line for a fanfare is Ian Semple, Course Manager of Old Folds Manor GC, and BIGGA's new National Golf Champion.

Ian, who also represents the South East Region on the Association's Board of Management, clinched the title at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs. It was a particularly fine achievement bearing in mind that Ian won the Gross prize last year at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale. To win any Nett prize off a handicap of 1, playing golf courses for the first time is some going. He is now looking forward to defending his title at Hollinwell and Coxmoor Golf Clubs next year.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Neil Ballingall, Golf Course Superintendent, at the new St Andrews Bay resort, on cliffs overlooking the Home of Golf, which is featured in this issue. Neil has had to set up his greenkeeping team of 25 from scratch to look after the two excellent golf courses and employ course management practices which are alien to someone who has learned the job on traditional links courses. Having been shown round the resort by Neil, he seems to have taken to it all like a duck to water - he has even done a bit of modelling, having been featured in the Resort's glossy brochure, supping a pint in hotel bar!

So to Bevan, Murray, Ian and Neil. Well done, and keep up the good work!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

To coincide with the launch of the new look BIGGA Bulletin Board we are announcing a brand new competition. To celebrate the new board which, has been redesigned in an easily used format, we are sending one of these fantastic desktop FM scan radios to the member who has written the best message on the board each month. The Bulletin Board enables greenkeeper members quick and direct communication amongst themselves and with the Association. It can be found in the greenkeeper members area of the BIGGA website at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk). Why not log in, see what's topical and make your contribution. Message of the Month winners will be announced on the Membership page of Greenkeeper International magazine each month.



## SHEFFIELD SECTION



The Sheffield Section pictured at Hickleton Golf Club where the recent Annual Competition, sponsored by Mansfield Sand, was held.

## TWO NEW FACES

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has made two new appointments.

Paul Gregory, 23, becomes Southern Area Sales Manager with responsibility for sales of all Charterhouse turf equipment and Antonio Carraro tractors in the south of England. Paul, who holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from Birmingham University, was previously a sales demonstrator for Charterhouse, and has been with the company two years.

The second new appointment is Ashleigh Harpur, who has joined as Marketing Assistant and will work closely with Charterhouse Director, Philip Threadgold. Ashleigh, 24, hails from Zimbabwe and has lived in the UK for three years. She is a graduate in Office Practice from Cambridge Tutorial College, and has strong computer skills.

"At Charterhouse Turf Machinery we pride ourselves on our enthusiastic approach, and Paul and Ashleigh have already blended extremely well with our pro-active team," said Philip.



## TED WEST



Ted West, of Broadstone GC received his retirement gifts from National Chairman, Richard Barker after 44 years in greenkeeping.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

## SURREY SECTION

The Surrey Section Bioseed Final Day played at Foxhills GC. The photo features J. Partridge and D. Goddard (runners up) K. Humphreys and O. Gates (winners). I. Sellers (Surrey Secretary), D. Murdoch (Surrey Committee/Tournament organiser), A. Freeman (Surrey Chairman) and David and John Smart from Bioseed Probiotics the Tournament sponsors.

As part of their prize K. Humphreys and O. Gates gained free entry and expenses to the National Championship. O. Gates could not make it so D. Goddard (runner up) took his place. Both D. Goddard and K. Humphreys were part of the winning South east team and also won individual prizes over the two days.



## HONOURED VISITOR

The STRI recently played host to the Rt. Hon Richard Caborn, Minister of Sport and MP for Sheffield Central and Jon Bauer, retired Director of Landscape Services, Sheffield City Council and a member of the STRI's Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Minister is strongly focussed on supporting sports at grass roots level and is pursuing policies which will improve sports facilities throughout schools and local communities in the UK.

The day consisted of a number of presentations from senior staff within the STRI in which they described the work they did in: Agronomy, Ecology, Sports Facility Construction, Soil Physics and Chemistry, Cultivar Testing and Pesticides and Pathology.

The Minister was very complimentary about the depth and breadth of knowledge and experience, saying that he got from us answers to questions that he had been unable to get elsewhere so far during his term of office. His only disappointment was that he had not known of the STRI's existence-earlier!

He was particularly interested in STRI's work with Sport England. Over the last few months STRI has assisted in the development of performance quality standards and a structured technical approach for the Playing Fields & Community Green Spaces Programme. The Programme is worth £31.5 million and Sport England is delivering it on behalf of the New Opportunities Fund.

Following these discussions, the Minister was taken on a tour of STRI's trial grounds.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



## SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES SEMINAR

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar, on November 20 and 21 comprises two themes - Back to Basics on Day 1 and Getting a Good Job, on Day 2.

Day 1 features papers from, Martin Ward, Simon Barnaby, Dennis Mottram, Ivor Scoones, Peter Winter and Mark Wiltshire with the second day featuring Frank Newbury giving advice on a number of topics, including, giving your CV a competitive edge; applying of the job you really want; how to do well at interview, and how to negotiate with your employer.

Cost of Day 1 is £17.50 including lunch with the second day costing a mere £5 (lunch not included).

For further information contact Paula Humphries, Regional Administrator, Tel: 01288 352194.

## ARCHERFIELD DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSES

Toro Irrigation is nearing completion of one of its most significant new UK projects - the £650,000 installation of a complete irrigation system for two traditional links courses at the ambitious new Archerfield development, near Muirfield.

Archerfield is a luxury complex comprising two championship-standard 18-hole golf courses, a 150-suite six-star hotel, 100 residential properties, 50 golf cottages and a spa.

The new Archerfield Links and Fidra Links are both 7,000 yards long, and are designed to offer hard running courses through both trees and open land, with subtle undulations.

The irrigation installation comprises 400 in number of Toro 2001 Series sprinklers for tees, 280, 760 780 Series sprinklers for greens and approaches and 800, 730 Series sprinklers for fairways. When the course is grown in, approximately 300 in number VISSO Series sprinklers will be installed on the walkways.

Ian Everard, Project Manager for development owners Caledonian Heritable, commented: "Toro offered the most cost-effective package, which on a project of this size is an important consideration.

"High quality installation is paramount, however, and Turf Irrigation Services Scotland is providing this as well as full on-site training, support and parts. I am happy with how the installation is proceeding, everything is going very smoothly."

Managing director of Turf Irrigation Services Scotland, Quentin Allardice, described some of the system's features: "All the sprinklers are controlled by Toro's PC-based Trident control system, which incorporates a number of innovative features such as VIP mapping. This is software that enables greenkeepers to view their irrigation system on screen - either the entire course or hole-by-hole."



## MAKING TRAX



TurfTrax, has appointed Paul Chadwick as Sales Executive for Northern England.

He will be responsible for an area stretching from the Wash to the Scottish Border and joins the company from Rufford Soil Technology

where he was technical sales manager for the last five years.

The move comes at a time when TurfTrax - which has offices in Bedford and Salisbury - has seen the number of new contracts double over the last two years.

The new work includes a wide range of projects working in partnership with local authorities, sports and golf clubs as well as government and private funding schemes. In addition, the company's soil scanning service - which provides an accurate status of the 'going' on racecourses - is now to be featured regularly by Channel 4 Racing.

"Turf managers and local authorities are increasingly recognising the need for better base-line data before rushing in with management programmes," said TurfTrax Sales and Marketing Director, Colin Hood.

## MOORE MOWERS LINKS WITH DJ TURFCARE

DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd has been appointed as the sole distributor for Moore Mowers.

The appointment follows an extensive exercise in market evaluation which has taken place throughout this year. The Moore Mower is a unique ride-on cylinder mower with a high tipping action operated from the driver's seat. The Mower provides a comfortable drive, reducing operator fatigue and improving mowing time by as much as 50%. It is also equipped with a front mounted quick disconnect kit which can accommodate many optional extras.

Frank Moore said that he had been looking for a Company to undertake the marketing of his product for some time and was pleased to have found an aggressive and forward thinking Company in the shape of DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd.

David Jenkins said that he was delighted to have been appointed to market and sell a product which was so well engineered and gaining wide acceptance in the UK market. He felt sure that the Moore Mower would become a benchmark of excellence for future purchasers of ride-on cylinder mowers.



## IS THIS A FIRST?

Recently the marriage took place of Vera Quintas and Pedro Rebelo both of whom are Golf Course Superintendents. Vera is Superintendent of the highly acclaimed Oitavos Golf Course at Quinta da Marinha, near Lisbon while Pedro is the Superintendent of Praia Del Rei, a links course on the coast between Lisbon and Porto.

Are they the first Superintendents or Course Managers to wed, or do you know differently?

Information supplied by Peter Wisbey, Course Consultant to Oitavos Golfe



## NEW MAN AT CEBECO



Cebeco Seeds has appointed Keith Berners to the company's national sales and technical support team.

Keith joins Cebeco after ten years with Maxicrop, most recently as National Sales Manager for the retail side of the business.

From his home in Hertfordshire, Keith will assume responsibility for customers throughout the South East from Suffolk, through Hampshire and into Cambridgeshire. He will report into Cebeco's head office in Lincoln.

"We have seen continued expansion into all segments of the amenity market this year," says Cebeco Seeds Product Manager, Roger Peacock, "and Keith's significant experience in the horticultural market and in customer sales and support will prove invaluable in sustaining this growth into the next phase of our development strategy."

## TREADING GENTLY

The combination of a Charterhouse Carraro TTR6400 tractor and a 2.1 metre verti-drain, has been used, for the first time, on golf greens.

Employed by Seward Turf Maintenance over the last two winters, for mid season use on winter sports pitches, the combo treated all 19 greens, plus the putting green at Harrogate golf course, to no ill effect. Mike Seward, Managing Director for the company, explained that although this machinery has been used on the approaches and tees at Ripon City Golf Club, under normal circumstances he wouldn't bring machinery of this size onto greens.

"The client wanted us to go down to a depth of 14 to 16 inches, and to do that we needed the 2.1 verti-drain with three quarter of an inch tines," he said.

"The Carraro has the power to pull this particular piece of kit, but is about one and a half tonnes lighter than the tractor which we would usually use. It also

has a wheel width of over 20 inches, giving an overall ground pressure of 4.5 lbs per square inch."

Tony Baxby, Head Greenkeeper at Harrogate for over 24 years, explained why he instructed aeration at such an unusual depth.

"We're on clay and we're trying to break it up further down. The course is over 100 years old and 90 per cent of our greens are built on clay basins. This means that water is suspended in the greens keeping the soil temperature down in the spring, when you want it to rise quickly. The sward is shallow rooted and slow to take up feed."

"Seward did a very good job. They completed the work in under two days and upheaval on the greens was minimal. The verti-drain had rollers back and front, and 10 days later you couldn't see that they'd done it."



## YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

Pilot schemes giving the more mature greenkeeper a chance to pursue a Modern Apprenticeship have been welcomed by the GTC.

Until now, no funding was available for greenkeepers over 25 to achieve the Modern Apprenticeship, except where it came directly from an employer. Now pilot schemes in Scotland, England and Wales are giving employees who may have missed out on training another chance.

"We at the GTC will be lobbying for this to be applied nationwide. Just because someone reaches the age of 25 does not mean they should be deprived of the opportunities offered to younger people," said David Golding.

When GOSTA Training, an independent training provider based in Scotland, made the Scottish Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Sportsturf Maintenance available to older greenkeepers, the response was overwhelming.

One person to benefit was Mark Chandler from Cowglen Golf Club in Glasgow. Mark had been working in the industry for about nine years, but then took a short break. Having returned, he felt he would like to increase his own skills and knowledge now that he was a little older.

"The opportunity to return to study was given by my Course Manager, Scott Ballantyne, and although initially I was a bit apprehensive about going back to study, I agreed," said Mark.

Asked how he felt now that he had become a qualified Modern Apprentice, Mark said, "I thoroughly enjoyed my training with GOSTA and am now more confident in my daily work. I also feel that I have a more in-depth knowledge of greenkeeping.

"Appraisals had just taken place with the staff and we had already identified that the way forward for Mark would be to undertake the SVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf Maintenance. The opportunity of funding

being made available to pay for this was a great bonus and an offer not to be missed," he added.

Two greenkeepers from Ralston Golf Club in Glasgow also used the opportunity to further their own development. Gary Divers is the Head Greenkeeper at the club and had wanted to undertake his SVQ Level 3 for the past four years.

"This had been prevented due to the Club's limited training budget and both the Club and myself were delighted when Scottish Enterprise agreed to fund the training," said Gary.

Gary also enrolled Stephen Boyle, an assistant greenkeeper at the Club. Stephen completed his SVQ Level 2 three years ago and had started to think he would not progress any further.

"At first I was worried that I might not have the ability to complete the qualification. However, support and guidance was provided throughout the entire course and this made it a lot easier," said Stephen.

## WASTE2WATER SAVES THE DAY AT LILLEY BROOK GOLF CLUB

I was stuck by a potential disaster recently. Thieves attempted to steal the red diesel from the 2,500 litre tank. The tank has wire security fencing around it and a concrete bund to retain the diesel in the event of the tank failing. However, no-one envisaged that the tap at the bottom of the tank would be ripped off, which is what happened. To make matters worse our maintenance facilities are situated at the top of the sloping golf club car park and only 100 metres from a stream that feeds Lilleybrook.

Fortunately, we had recently installed a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System.

The system is installed with a specially designed concrete wash area which slopes into a central collection sump and is 100% recycling which means that once something is on the wash pad it stays there, avoiding any risk of contamination of the surroundings.

The system has been superb to date doing everything claimed of it. However, I never dreamt we were going to test it with a massive contamination overload so quickly, if ever!

We arrived on the Monday to find the diesel tank empty. The thieves had clearly used the tap on the diesel tank as a leverage point to attempt to open the

security caging and gain access to the diesel stored in the tank. What they had not bargained for though was the tap shearing off allowing the contents to spew out uncontrolled. In theory the concrete bund should have retained the diesel, but, in practise, due to the pressure of the volume of diesel in the tank a percentage of the diesel overshot the bunding. Fortunately, we had sited the diesel tank on the edge of the new wash pad, as recommended, and the escaping diesel collected in the central sump, which was then pumped into the treatment system.

We immediately called the suppliers for advice and they soon arrived to check the system. The results were encouraging. There was very little sign of diesel in the system – the microbes were working well converting it to Carbon Dioxide and Water. Very impressive!

We had escaped a major incident without any pollution and avoided the massive costs and disruption that would have been inevitable. We are delighted with the system and strongly recommend that all golf clubs plan to install this type of system as part of their Health & Safety policy. Some people are luckier than others, but I believe you make your own luck.

Paul Jenkins, Course Manager.

## WAYNE'S NEW WORLD



The Sportsturf team at Myerscough College near Preston welcomed a new addition to teaching staff last month.

Wayne Roberts, a practising Greenkeeper for the past 17 years, joined the College after directly making an impression on the Principal

of Myerscough College, Professor John Moverley, who was well aware of his expertise in the field of Sportsturf.

After gaining experience of Greenkeeping in Australia and Europe, Wayne studied HND Sportsturf and Golf Course Management at Myerscough (now the new Foundation Degree). Shortly after graduating, Wayne embarked on his teaching career at Warwickshire College, where he was instrumental in developing Sportsturf training provision for the past three years.

Wayne, who sits on the Training and Education Committee of the Institute of Groundsmanship, will be involved in the delivery of subjects across the Sportsturf curriculum, as well as taking a lead role in developing new initiatives in Myerscough's Sportsturf portfolio.

"Throughout my experience as a Greenkeeper I've always had the end goal of teaching in sight. I find it very rewarding to be able to use my experience in the industry to help the careers of my students," said Wayne.

## ALL TOOLED UP

Longhirst Hall Golf Course has recently taken delivery of new turf maintenance equipment from Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

The delivery has resulted in a turf maintenance fleet that is the envy of many clubs in the north east of England.

Course Manager Graham Chambers now boasts a fleet that includes three Ransomes Super Certes pedestrian mowers, an electric Jacobsen E-Plex and two Jacobsen G-Plex II's for greens mowing, four T-Plex tees mowers, a Fairway 305 and 405, a Ransomes Frontline 938 and two Jacobsen AR250 rotary mowers for the semi-rough, as well as seven E-Z-GO Workhorse golf utility vehicles and a fleet of 11 electric golf cars.

