



Welcome

SHARING A GOOGLE PAGE

It's always nice to know who your neighbours are. With a few minutes to spare, amid the hectic activity which always accompanies the run up to Harrogate Week I thought I'd check out Google and see where BIGGA ranked on it and with which other websites we shared a page.

It was pleasing to discover that under BIGGA we ranked in the top two places, with the main – soon to be relaunched! - British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association site, and the second which takes you directly to the BIGGA Greenkeeper International pages on the site.

Just below our two is an intriguing site called BIGGAFISH.com, which when visited proves to be no more than a single page with the word BIGGA above a black leaping fish on a mustard coloured background with the words "Coming Soon". We'll wait with baited breath. Gettit!

After BIGGAFISH comes the BIGGA Central Section site, again a good result for them, followed by a site called biggabush.co.uk. Now, it's not what you might think but instead I believe it's a music orientated site and the home page invites you to sign up to their mailing list.

Welcome to BIGGA comes next and you'd be entitled to expect another way into your favourite Association's website. Nope. BIGGA is a Jamaican soft drink – "I'm a Jamaican and I drink no soft drink. I drink bigga" is the phrase which hits you on the home page!

Sirdar Bigga – Sirdar Yarn UK is next which offers you a fabulous choice of knitting yarn for any jumpers or scarves you might want to run up during the cold winter months ahead.

Then up pops The Official J Bigga Website – J Bigga Music Videos which offers downloads and spoof videos etc. Definitely attracting the younger end of the surfing market, it's a busy site produced in America.

Bigga Giggas "specialises in the new, extremely large sample instruments made possible by streaming samplers such as GigaStudio Tascam, Kontakt Native Instruments and HALion Steinberg." I think that means that they sell machines which produced sampled music, but I could be wrong.

The final website on the page is designed to sell the "Notorious B.I.G – Bigga Than Life DVD. A profile, it says, of larger-than-life West Coast rapper and 1995 Billboard rap artist of the year, Christopher Wallace, (a.k.a. "The Notorious B.I.G." and "Biggie Smalls"),

So there you have it. Happily we come out top when you type BIGGA into Google but you certainly wouldn't be able to predict whom we'd share a page with – fishing, music, Jamaican soft drinks, yarn and electronic musical instruments. It's a strange old world out there right enough. Or, at least it is, if you have the word Bigga attached to you in some way.

So keep logging on to make sure we remain at Number 1 and I'm sure the new BIGGA site, when it's launched at Harrogate, will have plenty to keep you interested and coming back.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

DLF TRIFOLIUM SUPPLIES ROYAL LIVERPOOL

After a hugely successful Open Craig Gilholm, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool GC, selected varieties from DLF Trifolium for repair and renovation work.

Craig saw the opportunity to introduce more fine fescues, which have stood up to severe drought and heavy foot damage throughout the Open competition. Much of the course had recovered naturally and Craig supported the view that fescue dominated areas were far more resilient than many people believed.

The cultivars were selected for fineness of leaf, shoot density, disease resistance and their natural ability to survive drought and low nutrient inputs. Musica and Carioca chewing fescue combined with Cezanne slender creeping red fescue, featured heavily in the mixtures. Craig

selected the Johnsons J Fescue and Aitkens Blade 4 mixtures for use throughout the course.

Craig stated, "We have been very pleased by the establishment of the mixtures throughout the course and the fact that we are continuing to increase the fine fescue component of the sward."



ROLAWN LAUNCH TEESSIDE INITIATIVE



(L to R) Cedric McMillan (Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director) and David Anderson (Joseph Parr's Managing Director)

Rolawn, Europe's largest turf grower and leading topsoil supplier, have formed a business partnership with Joseph Parr (Middlesbrough) Ltd, Teesside's leading independent builder's merchant. Under the new arrangement, Parr's will act as a key distributor for Rolawn covering the Teesside region.

Cedric McMillan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director commented "The association between the two companies is ideal as we share the same principles of quality and service". David Anderson, Joseph Parr's Managing Director added "We believe the partnership will provide customers with the key benefit of being able to source materials from a single local supplier".

SPRAYING BOOKS NOW EVEN BETTER

BCPC (British Crop Production Council) has revised and fully updated its best selling sprayer operator books.

Field Scale Spraying (formerly Boom & Fruit Sprayers Handbook) and Small Scale Spraying (formerly Hand-Held & Amenity Sprayers Handbook) now include up-to-the minute guidance on such important topics as nozzle selection, equipment choice, safe working practices, calibration and much more.

The Field Scale book is clearly focused on the needs of operators using boom sprayers in arable crops, grassland and field vegetables or large air-assisted sprayers associated with fruit and horticultural spraying. Small Scale Spraying covers a

multitude of sectors where hand-held equipment or small amenity boom sprayers are employed including parks, golf courses, forestry and gardens, pavements and other hard surfaces, nurseries and glasshouses.

The books have a new editor, mechanisation expert Bill Basford. "At the end of the day safe and effective spraying comes down to the skill and expertise of sprayer operators," he says. "Whether you're new to spraying and yet to obtain your Certificate of Competence or an 'old hand', I think you should find these new books helpful."

For more information visit the BCPC website at: www.bcpc.org/bookshop.

