

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- Harrogate Week: Your Guide to the Annual Groundscare Event
- Environment Competition: A Holistic Approach to Success
- Important Changes to Pesticides Legislation: An Update
- Equipment Wash-Off Water Management Legislation

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The official monthly magazine of the British
& International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content,
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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £47 per
year, Europe and Eire £60. The magazine is also distributed to
BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry,
libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961– 6977

© 2007 British and International Golf Greenkeepers
Association

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Harrogate Week

Your Guide To The Annual Groundscare Event



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Welcome



Let's Sing the Praises of the Game

I listened to comedian Dom Jolly on Radio 5 Live a couple of weeks ago. He was talking about his latest book, "Letters to my Golf Club" in which he adopts the personas of a retired military man and his family and writes to genuine golf clubs making some outrageous complaints and requests.

During the interview Dom, who has recently returned to the game, explained that he loved playing golf but not the rest of what goes along with the game – the clubhouse, the membership and the "stupid clothing regulations". He said that he found it completely bizarre that you could find yourself barred for wearing shorts which were an inch too long, yet while out on the course you could go to the side of the tee and relieve yourself and that was regarded as perfectly normal.

When it's put in such stark language it is very difficult not to agree with him, and to non-golfers all it does is reinforce the stereotypical image of the game – stuffy, middleclass, sexist... those who play the game are sad cases who should be pitied not ridiculed.

But golf is a great game. The values of fair play, self governance and the etiquette, unique to golf, instils in people standards which, if they were to be carried into other aspects of daily life, would make living a much more pleasant experience for everyone.

What other sport else would an accusation of cheating see your social standing plummet to below that of the local house burglar? If a footballer steals a few yards for a throw-in or dives full length to win a penalty; or a tennis player berates an umpire; or cricketer sticks his nail under the seam or indulge in a bit of sledging, it's almost seen as part of the game and those who carry it out lauded as being "streetwise" - more so if they represent your team.

On the other hand you can virtually name and shame those golfers through history who have been discovered cheating. I'm not going to, but those who know the game would come up with a very similar list of names to mine. It is that rare and the consequences for being caught so far reaching.

Shouldn't we be shouting about golf's values from the treetops, not being almost apologetic about the fact that we play, or work within, the game?

But first those old anachronistic club rules have to be phased out.

I'm a golfing traditionalist and, if I'm honest, would hate to see chavs take over our clubs but surely if we shed some of the frankly idiotic club rules the game wouldn't suffer and it would make golf more welcoming to the non-player keen to give it a try. It wouldn't mean a drop of "standards" but might open the doors to a whole new generation of golfer.

Dom Jolly might then venture into the clubhouse in his long shorts, buy a round of sandwiches and some tea.

SUN SHINES ON WENTWORTH

This year's final of the Midland Section Greensomes Knockout Pairs competition, at Wentworth, was blessed with sunshine – A far cry from the wash out that was last year. The annual event, run by BIGGA and sponsored by Scotts, was played for the first time on the Edinburgh Course.

Ed Stant, of Penn Golf Club, and Paul Woodham, of Gay Hill Golf Club, won for the fifth consecutive year. Some healthy local rivalry was brought into play, as one of the challengers was Ed's Deputy at Penn Golf Club, Adam Jones, paired with Rhys Thomas, of South Staffordshire Golf Club. However they were no match for the champions, who pulled off a convincing win.

"We had a fantastic day," commented Ed. "What could be better than a day's golf at one of the country's finest courses? The Edinburgh is wooded, so it's quite challenging, and the greens are the fastest I have experienced in a long time. We also received great hospitality from Scotts. And of course I was delighted to be on the winning team again. Thanks to Scotts for a wonderful day."

Mark Rayner, of Scotts, said, "Another great day at Wentworth, a superb course and not a drop of rain. A big thank you to everyone involved and to Chris Kennedy for letting us play on the course during a very busy time"

MINCHINHAMPTON GOLF CLUB

Minchinhampton Golf Club mature student, Matthew Leeson Magry (left), cuts a cake and receives his completed NVQ level 2 workbook from Adam Matthews (Assessor) in the Minchinhampton greenstaff rest room. Course Manager, Paul Worster, commented "This is a real success story for the NVQ system, allowing "Big Matty" (as he is affectionately known) to complete an industry qualification, without the grind of having to attend college regularly, and sit exams. Matty has worked at Minchinhampton since leaving school and has developed into an outstanding Assistant Greenkeeper - Attaining this qualification is the recognition he deserves." Progress was overseen by Andy Lisle and Chris Pickles from Hartpury College Gloucester, and workplace assessments were carried out by Dave Rosselli, Adam, and Paul.



TRACTOR PLANT

New Holland kindly invited a group of journalists to have a snoop around their tractor plant in Jesi, Italy, recently.



The T4030, available in the UK from April 2008

Situated in the agricultural heart of the Marche region, production has grown at the Jesi tractor plant for more than 20 years since it started manufacture in 1986. Now, the 19 hectare site employs nearly 1000 staff dedicated to producing 16 ranges of crawler and all-purpose utility tractors. Jesi has created a proud history that has seen the production of more than 500,000 tractors – With the 500,000th, a TL90A, leaving the assembly line this year.

33,000 tractors are produced each year and more than 85% of Jesi's production is exported and can be found in 86 markets around the world. 150 tractors are built each day and shipped out by rail.



Melissa Toombs goes for a test drive

The tractor plant comprises of four key operational areas: driveline assembly and testing, cab assembly, painting system and final assembly, and testing. Every day two tractors are randomly selected at the end of the production and checked from the customer's viewpoint.

This month sees the UK launch of the T4040 and T4050, part of the new T4000 series, with tier 3 emission engines, which will replace the current TND/S-A models. Two further models from the T4000 series, the T4020 and T4030, will be available in the UK from April 2008.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL SEMINAR

This year's South East Regional Seminar at Hadlow College, hosted by the Kent Section, was once again well attended and delegates enjoyed an interesting and informative day listening to the day's presentations.

The theme for this year's Seminar was 'The Changing Climate' as in the Environment, Weather, Our Association, Finance and Equipment, etc.

Following a welcome by the Principal of Hadlow College, Paul Hannon, the Chairman of the South East Region, Ian Willett introduced the speakers for the morning session - Starting with John Pemberton and Billy McMillan updating us on BIGGA matters, changes in personnel at HQ and possible future developments.

Steve Isaac from The R&A gave a most interesting and thought provoking presentation on issues relating to Sustainable Golf and in the time permitted, touched on possible and perceived changes modern equipment has made on the Game of Golf.

Jason Lock then described his transition from Cricket Groundsman to Golf Greenkeeper and how he dramatically improved playing conditions at his Golf Club, instigated by a lean regime as a result of budgetary constraints. This, in turn contributing to the emergence of Fescue and Bent Grasses on his Greens.

After lunch John Noyce informed us of the extreme lengths that suppliers go to, due to legislation and present requirements, when introducing a new product.

Laurence Pithie related some of his experiences in producing high standards by efficient and effective methods at some of the many Golf Clubs he works with during the course of his work.

A Forum and General Discussion followed with all the Speakers receiving some interesting questions from the floor. Time being the restraint that stopped some interesting debate, especially on the subject of Greenkeeper Training, from going on into the night.

In conclusion Kevin Morris, the Chairman of The Kent Section, thanked everyone for their participation and to Hadlow College for looking after us so well on the day.

Next year's Seminar is to be hosted by The London Section so look out for information and please apply for places early.

Clive Osgood
South East Regional Administrator

KEEP OFF THE GRASS!

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded The British Engineering Heritage Organisation a grant of over £37,000 earlier this year, to record the sounds of rare and vintage British lawnmowers.

The grant will allow BEHO to record the sounds and photograph the machines as well as conduct some oral history interviews and create a diverse and interesting historical archive resource for all.

BEHO welcomes anyone who has any interesting artefacts and stories connected with any rare and vintage British lawnmowers.

Further information is available from: www.beho.co.uk or you can contact BEHO at: info@beho.co.uk

NEW MAN AT EGU HELM

John Petrie has been appointed Chief Executive of the EGU to succeed Paul Baxter on his retirement in February 2008. John will take up his new role at the beginning of January and will work alongside Paul to ensure a smooth handover.

Until May of this year John was General Secretary of the British Greyhound Racing Board where he developed and introduced a five-year strategic plan for the industry, which obtained support from all stakeholders. He is currently Executive Director at the Aegis Trust, which is a charity focused on the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Aged 48 and born in Bradford, John served for 18 years in the army from 1985 to 2003, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was awarded the MBE for leading a strategic planning and policy unit for international policing operations in the Balkans and the Queens Commendation for Bravery for action in East Timor. In 2000 he was given responsibility as Project Officer to organise The Queen Mother's 100th Birthday celebrations

An all-round sports fan, John has competed at national level in swimming and modern pentathlon and played representative cricket and rugby. He took up golf at the Northcliffe Golf Club in Bradford, his lowest handicap being 14.

Speaking about his appointment, John said: "I am absolutely delighted to be joining the EGU. Golf is a fantastic game and I am excited to be getting involved in the administration of the sport."

Max Kaye, Chairman of the EGU Board commented, "We are delighted that John is joining us. He brings a wealth of organisational and planning experience, is clearly skilled in diplomacy and benefits from having worked within a national sports governing body. We are sure he will bring leadership and vision to the EGU's future development and growth."

APOLOGIES

GI would like to apologise to Gordon Irvine MG for printing his email address incorrectly in last month's course feature – A Hebridean Task – The email address you should contact him on is: omegagi@hotmail.com

VIBRATION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Course Managers, Greenkeepers, Club Officials and industry representatives joined forces at the recent Noise and Vibration Seminar which was staged at Gay Hill Golf Club. Delegates were treated to a vast array of expert views on a subject which is becoming increasingly recognised as a major factor if managers are to compile risk assessments which meet their organisations policy requirements.

The day started off focusing on the legislative side. Tim Ward, HM Principal Specialist Inspector (Noise & Vibration), educated on the HSE minimum requirements placed upon organisations. Jon Allbutt, Principle Consultant - Jon Allbutt Associates, spoke of the importance of risk assessments and monitoring systems and to complete the picture, Brian Goodwin, Partner - BLM Law gave an enlightening presentation showing the gap between HSE and insurance requirements.



The views from two major manufacturers were presented by Manuel Ruiz – Product Manager for Ransomes Jacobsen and Mark Osbourne, Sales Director – Countax. Their responsibilities according to EU legislation were discussed and it was clearly evident that both manufacturers put an enormous amount of resources into noise and vibration reduction. Bert Barker, Fivesquared Noise and Vibration Management Services, presented on independent testing procedures and how to use data.

While the delegates struggled to digest far too much food thanks to lunch sponsors Ransomes Jacobsen, machines were being prepared for an afternoon demonstration on vibration testing. A Jacobsen AR3 was used to demonstrate WBV testing and although there were some teething problems with the readings in the first 10 - 15 seconds of the test, Fivesquared confirmed that after this initial period it was very, very low indeed. The hand and arm tests on items of Echo equipment also dispelled some theory

of doubling manufacturers data for determining exposure limits.

The day was rounded off with a presentation from Paul Woodham, Course Manager at Gay Hill Golf Club. Paul has been working on practical guidance for use by the manager if the industry is to meet the middle ground of HSE and insurance requirements. Gay Hill GC have used Fivesquared Ltd to assess their inventory of major WBV and HAVS equipment. A detailed risk assessment with sensible control measures enables Paul to manage and monitor employee exposure. Speaking after the event Paul said "This is still work in progress and Jon Allbutt and I are determined to work with BIGGA to provide the best range of options available for the golf manager. It would be a shame to let all of this knowledge and data get lost or not be available to others. Is it reasonably practicable for every organisation to independently assess their fleet? No, but individuals may be guided down this route depending on their insurance requirements and situation. My advice at this stage is to not get bogged down in guessing risk assessment needs. Consult if you need to, you will not be thanked for saving a penny or two if a claim is made against your employer. There is lots of information already available but we hope to use what we have learnt today to provide further practical guidance at BTME."

NEW APPOINTMENT

Robin Bell has been appointed as Joint Deputy Secretary of the International Golf Federation by Peter Dawson, Chief Executive of The R&A.

Robin, who has been a member of The R&A's Championship Department since 1998, replaces Grant Moir, who is leaving to concentrate on his expanding role at The R&A, served as Joint Deputy Secretary since 2000.

Before joining The R&A, Robin, 31, studied Law at the University of Dundee. Now an Assistant Director, his work extends across all of The R&A's championships and The Open in particular. During his tenure at The R&A, he has developed a wealth of experience in staging large-scale international events. As Joint Deputy Secretary, he will work closely with his USGA counterpart, Stephanie Parel, as the staff representatives who coordinate the staging of the World Amateur Team Championships. and will report to the IGF joint secretaries, Peter Dawson (R&A) and David Fay (USGA).



JERSEY GREENKEEPERS

Nick Lush, a Sports Turf Lecturer from Myerscough College, contacted GI recently to inform us that tutoring greenkeepers in Jersey is going from strength to strength.

Tom Day, Jack Critchley and Oliver Pennington were the first greenkeepers in Jersey to have gained NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Level 2 through the apprenticeship scheme.

“I fly over every six to eight weeks delivering work-based assessment. The lads appreciate the effort I make and flexibility it gives them and in turn adopt a very professional attitude to their studies, completing their work on time,” said an enthusiastic Nick.

“The apprenticeship scheme has gone from strength to strength, I started with just a couple of apprentices but now another assessor has had to join me as the course has been so successful - We’ve even started a fast tracker course for the over 25s, which their employers pay for.”

Tom Day, a Greenkeeper at Royal Jersey GC, completed his two-year NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Level 2 course recently.

“I wanted to do the course to improve upon my skills in the workplace. It’s also nice to be able to obtain a qualification that improves my work prospects. Royal Jersey GC funded the course and in turn, the club benefits from having better skilled, qualified greenkeepers,” said Tom.

“Nick came to see us every six weeks, in the meantime we had different work books to work from demonstrating a range of skills. We had to get witness testimonies to prove we had completed the work.”



Nick Lush, Tom Day, and Royal Jersey Course Manager, Dave Crawford

Tom commented that both Royal Jersey GC and Nick Lush were very supportive during his studies and kept pushing him to achieve.

“The course was really worthwhile, I learnt a lot. I would recommend the course to fellow Jersey greenkeepers. I’m hoping to continue my studies and enrol on Level 3 in the future.”



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HAMBURG WORLD AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inspired by watching the Elite Women race the day before, Miranda Harris, Marketing Manager for DLF Trifolium, slipped into the cold brown waters of the Binnentalster Lake in Hamburg recently to begin the Olympic Distance World Championships. Racing against 75 women from all over the world in her age group was far more daunting than anything Miranda had ever attempted in the UK and once the hooter had signalled the start of the race, she realised she was competing against some ferocious athletes.



After completing a mile long swim, then the transition to bike and finally a 10km run, Miranda's age group top position was 4th.

"I found it a really tough race and the build up really unnerved me with over 2000 competitors racing in different Age Groups," said Miranda. "Although I didn't quite make my target of 3 hours, I'm proud to have been part of the Great Britain team and its now back to the drawing board to see where I can improve for 2008." Miranda has already qualified for Vancouver World Age Group Championships.

REVISED GUIDE TO MANAGING HEALTH AND SAFETY ON GOLF COURSES

Since 1994 the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the GTC, have been working in partnership to produce resources for managing health and safety on golf courses. In November they will launch a new guide, which will combine all resources into one simple document – Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance.



The GTC approached and commissioned Health and Safety advisors, Jon Allbutt and John Davis, to review the original dated booklet and received input and feedback from the HSE, GTC representatives, employers and greenkeepers from within the GTC committees, as well as local authority Environmental Health Officers, who are responsible for the inspection and enforcement of most golf courses.

The new guide is packed with information and guidance on all aspects of golf course management including:

Education and training – Ensuring all current and new employees have the correct qualifications and they are aware of the health and safety procedures in the workplace;

The all important matter of risk assessments – Advice on how to manage risks effectively on the golf course and making sure they are all recorded in a risk assessment file for future staff training;

Occupational health – Guidance on how to deal with accidents and injuries. Making sure they don't occur again;

Priority on the course – Explaining the rules of a golf course to ensure safe play and work;

Working alone – Advice when working alone, whether it's outside normal hours, such as late duties in the evenings or working at weekends or in a remote part of the golf course, and how to identify typical control measures;

Investigating accidents and incidents – Guidance on how to investigate accidents in more detail in order to see if there is anything that can be done to reduce the risks of it happening again;

Managing events – Making sure that all health and safety requirements are in place before all events;

Emergency planning – Ensuring all Health & Safety guidelines have been put in place and that all employees are aware of the procedures and their responsibilities;

Employing volunteers – Guidance on what risk assessments must be put in place when employing volunteers, children or young people;

The safe use of work equipment – Guidance on how to safely use work equipment, which means any machinery, appliance, apparatus, tool or installation used at work, how to deal with any injuries caused by machinery and how to maintain them;

The use of pesticides – Explaining the correct conditions of use and storage of pesticides and what qualifications are required to handle them.

Included in the guide are web links to other sites where more information can be downloaded on specific subjects. Where appropriate there are also references to publications and guides by HSE and other organisations.

"The guide refers to other resources already available to employers and managers but also enhances existing documents required for effectively maintaining golf courses, such as the GTC Training Manuals; the revised GTC Training Wall chart; BIGGA/GCMA's Safety Management System and many other publications. It is directly relevant to the management of health and safety in all types of golf course businesses and sets the standard expected by the industry and the enforcers, the HSE, and local government Environmental Health Officers," said Jon Allbutt, Health and Safety advisor.

The new guide will be published on the GTC website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

HARROGATE WEEK 2008

The Scottish Region once again offers their members a subsidised package deal for Harrogate Week 2008.

The Package includes: Entry to Continue to Learn Seminars (six in total), three nights Bed & Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on 22nd, 23rd and 24th January, 2008 in the Holiday Inn (formerly Moat House Hotel). Package cost: £236, accommodation package only: £164. To obtain booking forms contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J.Boyd on: 0141 616 3440/ 07776 242120 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

INTER SECTION GOLF TOURNAMENT



The inaugural Midland Region Inter Section Golf Tournament, sponsored by Whitemoss Eco Ltd, was held at Burton on Trent GC on Thursday, November 1. Four of the Sections in the Midland Region competed for the Whitemoss Trophy on a fine autumn day on a course superbly prepared by Course Manager, Gavin Robson and his staff.

The format was a three man team from each Section playing aggregate handicap medal, all three team members to count. The Midland Section, represented by Mike Hughes, Ed Stant and Gary Cunningham, won the trophy with a net 223, 2nd East Midland on 233, 3rd East Midland on 240 and 4th Mid Anglia on 261. Our thanks are extended to Burton on Trent GC where everyone was made to feel very welcome by staff and members at the Golf Club, and to Andy Law of Whitemoss Eco Ltd for his sponsorship.

SEWARD RACES TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

Two years after selling his turf maintenance company, Mike Seward and his Enduro motorcycling team, MPS Racing have had their most successful season yet, supported by the industry.



Backed by White Horse Contractors and Inturf, the five riders have between them won two European Championships, (coming first in their class), taken first, second and third places (in respective classes) and first team in the British National Championships and finished 11th and 13th in the World Junior Championship.

Mike Seward, who now ranks fourth in Britain in the veterans class, says every rider in the team finished in the top five. "We've travelled over 20,000 miles, visited 18 different countries and used approximately 150 Michelin tyres," he commented. "None of this would have been possible without the loyalty of all our sponsors and support crew."

Anyone who would like to offer sponsorship for 2008 should contact Mike on Tel: 0780 1256767 email mick.mpsracing@btinternet.com or visit: www.mpsracing-enduro.co.uk

HARD WORK RECOGNISED

George Jones, a First Assistant from Heworth Golf Club, York, completed an NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf earlier this year, at Askham Bryan College.

Recently the College had an award ceremony, and George (50) was awarded 'Best Work-based Student on the Course' in the shape of a glass trophy, and a small cheque.

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE

Don't forget to nominate your Unsung Hero and give the greenkeeper or groundsman of your choice the chance to be recognised.

Nomination forms are available direct from Terrain Aeration. Call Lynda Green on Tel: 01449 673783 or email: terrainaeration@aol.com. The closing date for entries is December 19.

BIGGA VS COMBINED SERVICES GOLF MATCH

The 4th annual scratch golf challenge match between BIGGA and the Combined Services, which was held this year at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on October 3, produced another close match.



After the morning fourballs, the Combined Services led by three matches to two, but in the afternoon foursomes BIGGA came back strongly to win by four matches to the Combined Services one, thus winning the overall match by six matches to four. The golf throughout the day was of a very high standard indeed, with some close matches throughout the day.

Our thanks go to Dartmouth Golf & Country Club for hosting the match, and also to Course Manager Terry Farkins and his staff for the superbly presented course.

The BIGGA team was as follows: Paul Garland (Captain) and Richard Carter from Lansdown GC; Adam Bridgewater from Yelverton GC; Paul Newcombe from East Devon GC; Mark Evans from Royal North Devon GC; Mark Davies from Canford Magna GC; Robert Mabb and Dougie Owers from Weymouth GC; Jason Brooks from Torquay GC and Justin Manester from Teignmouth GC.

Congratulations to the Team and the thank you all for representing BIGGA so well.

P J Larter Match Secretary



FASHIONABLE PHRASES

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, reflects on the recent 'buzzwords' that have hit the national media and sports turf sector.

As we approach the end of another strange year for greenkeepers, let us look at some of the 'terms', which have entered our vocabulary during the last 12 months. Is there something we have missed in years gone by?

Carbon footprint – Climatic Change – Thematic Strategy – Sustainability – Disturbance Theory, to name just a few!

Since I started as an apprentice greenkeeper back in the sixties, I have seen many changes in greenkeeping and through education and training, golf course standards have improved, especially when golf clubs have supported the professional greenkeepers with the resources recommended to improve the playing surfaces.

Working with an unpredictable climate is a skill even the oldest greenkeeper had and a skill even today's best educated course managers still have to gain through experience – working with nature - so let's call it, 'Climate Change'.

This year the majority of Britain had a mild spring, a very pleasant April to really kick start the growing season, followed by the best part of four months of wet weather and a late mild autumn.

Did greenkeepers cope? Of course they did. What is in the stars for 2008? Who knows, but one thing is for sure, greenkeepers will be prepared for every eventuality.

We read about the down turn in the number of golfers and that golf clubs with waiting lists are now in the minority. With reducing budgets greenkeepers are still expected to provide the standards to attract members and visitors – No pressure there then!

The sustainable ladder, the disturbance theory, best practice, they are all over the turf press and websites. The need for saving water, the importance of aeration and the reduction of fertiliser are all tried and tested principles since Adam was a lad or Jim was an agronomist!

The European Parliament has, and will continue to debate, the use or non-use of chemicals and we all know that if in Britain, as has already happened in other EU countries, pesticides eventually disappear, greenkeepers will adapt because that is the nature of the "beast!" Oh sorry nearly forgot, let's call that the 'Thematic Strategy for the Safe Use of Pesticides!'

You would expect the GTC to promote greenkeeper education, training and qualifications because we believe these are the answers to the above issues and time has proved this to be the case.

The education process started years ago with the Greenkeeper Association evening lectures, which still prove to be successful - albeit they are not just in the winter evenings any longer! Workshops, seminars, even

golf days prove to be vital learning events. The formal City & Guilds – Scotec qualifications and courses of the sixties have become employer/greenkeeper agreed sports turf standards now branded as Vocational Qualifications, Higher qualifications and even a Masters Degree. There are also Certificates of Competence to cover legislation.

Short courses from organisations like BTLIA, STRI and SGEG with their specialist staff, are ready to assist our GTC Approved Training Providers with Health & Safety, management and environmental information when no in-house expertise is available.

The English, Scottish and Welsh Golf Unions, the R&A and of course BIGGA – Are all major organisations promoting the importance of greenkeeper training and hosting a variety of education and training events.

In 1988 the R&A produced and widely circulated 'The Way Forward' and for those of you who never got to see a copy, I would highlight one key message I thought ran through the document - For all golf organisations to look at their roles and responsibilities and improve their particular specific functions which in turn would support and assist golf club employers who were also left in no doubt they had to seriously consider changing their committee structures, to become more streamlined and effective.

During the 1990's we saw many more golf courses built following another R&A document 'The Demand for Golf' and enter the Proprietary Golf Club with a totally different outlook on the game and the customer. A more business approach to running golf courses started to ripple across golf clubs and with the Golf Club Managers Association (formerly the AGCS) and the PGA offering formal qualifications for their members, we must be able to look forward to having qualified "professionals" employed to run our golf facilities.

Qualified course managers, secretary managers, PGA professionals forming a management team at golf clubs and all working to an agreed owner/club policy?

Well, that is my letter to Father Christmas sorted, what about yours?

On behalf of the GTC may we wish you and your families a very enjoyable festive season and we hope to see many of you on our stand at BTME next year (January 22-24).

david@the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640

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SAMI COLLINS, HEAD OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDES AN UPDATE

It's unbelievable to think that Christmas and Harrogate Week are both just around the corner. I have lists galore for everything you can possibly imagine so that hopefully nothing gets forgotten!

The Continue to Learn Education Programme has been very well received and places are selling fast on the workshop programme, keeping Rachael busy processing the booking forms. We will see the welcome return of some of our best selling workshops and the introduction of new subjects that aim to ensure you are equipped to handle the management tasks expected in today's commercial environment.

An Introduction to Golf Course Design

This interactive, two-day workshop will study detailed design methods for greens, tees, bunkers, construction and irrigation. Lead by Simon Gidman and Howard Swan, delegates will prepare a nine-hole layout of a golf course and also look at one hole from their own golf course, analysing its design and how improvements could be made. One design will be selected and delegates will be given the opportunity to produce the renovated green in model form.

Environmental Management

This two-day workshop will provide a practical, holistic and interactive look at Environmental Management. Tackling areas including the development of an ecological management plan, waste management, energy efficiency and environmental legislation. Delegates will also have the opportunity to request topics to be included in the course by completing a pre-workshop questionnaire.

Health and Safety for Greenkeepers

An interactive two-day workshop designed to address current health and safety issues. It will focus on how to enhance your Health and Safety planning and recording and will identify common hazards and the issues surrounding them. A practical safety tour of the Queen's Suite and an overview of the BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System will be included.

Are Your Finances Below Par?

This one-day workshop is for Golf Course Managers, Golf Professionals and Club Managers and will explore the wider context of finance within the golf industry. The workshop will cover issues such as the impact of external forces on

financial decision making; the flow of finance; capital and revenues budgets; analysing risk and cost benefit analysis. The workshop leaders will encourage active participation and will illustrate theory with practical examples.

Managing Relationships at Work

The role of a manager is challenging enough without having to deal with conflict among members of your team. This two-day workshop will examine and help to resolve those challenging relationships that can occur in the workplace. Presented in an engaging and informal environment this is a 'must attend' workshop for all those leading and managing teams.

The Minefield of Appraisals!

Appraisals are recognised by leading management gurus as the most powerful and useful tool for managing a successful and efficient team when conducted and used in an effective manner. This one-day workshop will help delegates to understand the importance of appraisals, how to conduct them and how to use the outcomes to make a difference.

Stress Awareness Workshop

Stress can cause untold problems within the workplace. This one-day workshop will help delegates recognise stress in themselves and others and will provide a practical guide to developing skills and strategies for change.



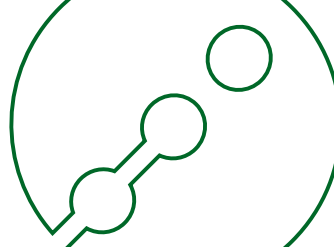
The Continue to Learn Seminar Programme The Seminar Programme commences on Tuesday 22 January 2008 and offers a wide array of subjects for all who are attending Harrogate Week. A discount scheme is in place for bookings of two or more seminars:

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To check availability for any of the Continue to Learn Workshops and Seminars contact Rachael Duffy on: 01347 833800 ext: 522.

Membership



MEMBERSHIP

VANESSA DEPRE, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDES AN UPDATE

BIGGA E-Newsletter

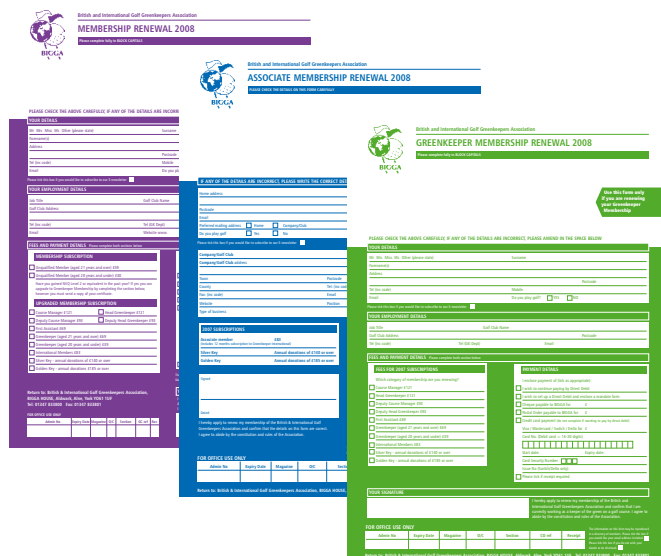
We will be launching an e-newsletter soon to keep you all up to date on BIGGA affairs.

If you would like to subscribe to our E-Newsletter just send me an email on: vanessa@bigga.co.uk with E-news as the subject.

Any suggestions concerning the content would also be appreciated.

Time's Running Away

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This is because BIGGA is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a legitimate professional body. Membership fees to such bodies are eligible for tax relief. All you need to do is get a form from us and send the completed form to your local tax office.

If you are retiring or leaving the trade, you don't have to say goodbye to your BIGGA Membership. There are many different types of memberships that BIGGA can offer you -

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RECONTOURING YOUR PROBLEM GREENS

By Tim Butler

Severe contours and slopes on golf greens are a commonly found problem, leading to limited locations for hole placement, excessive wear in certain locations on the green and frustration among many golfers.

We have all played on courses where at least one hole was almost impossible to play, with golf balls often landing nicely on the green only to roll miserably off. This problem, I have found from experience, is often apparent on older courses, which, when designed, were playable due to high mowing heights practised at the time. However mowing heights of one-tenth inch are now common and ball roll-speeds have increased dramatically.

When many older courses were built, green-speed was also not an issue. In recent years, though, the 'need for speed' has really caught on among many golfers and to be honest many greenkeepers and course managers are faced with desperate plights to maintain quality playing surfaces in situations where the hole can be located in only a very limited number of areas.

The first thought that springs to many people's minds is reconstruction, yet in reality this is not feasible for many courses. Most course managers do not have the luxury of being allowed to close particular greens for many months on end in order to facilitate complete reconstruction. And the cost is prohibitive to many in the industry.

This is where the concept of changing the contours of problem greens comes into play. The idea revolves around slightly changing the architecture of problem greens to make them more playable with less severe slopes. I realise that certain courses will not be able to change their green architecture due to historical reasons. But there will be a large number who will probably be able to slightly alter their problem greens without overly changing the character of the course.

THE PROCESS

I have come across a few golf courses that have had similar problems and decided to try this method. They include the Chevy Chase Club in the USA.

The concept starts with carrying out a detailed study of problem greens to get an understanding of the slopes on the green.

At this stage, a sportsturf agronomist with a deep knowledge of rootzone specifications needs to be brought in to get an in-depth understanding of the soil physical analysis. The agronomist needs to find out as much information as possible about the existing rootzone because some rootzone material will need to be acquired if it is decided to raise part of the green profile. It is imperative that one finds out the exact percentage of course, medium, fine, very fine, silt and clay particles that are present within the rootzone. Once this is done, the agronomist should be able to source a rootzone material or get a rootzone mix blended for the purpose. If the selection process is not carried out properly, then the project will likely turn into a failure within a few years.

Areas that are excessively high may possibly be lowered and low areas may be raised. Grade stakes are put in place to ensure that slopes and grades are delivered. Basically the turfgrass in areas that are planned to be changed should be stripped off to a depth of about a half to one inch (2). As this is being carried out, each sod strip should be numbered to



ensure that it can later be laid back exactly in the position from which it was removed (2).

Any material removed from high areas is usually kept to fill in low ones, provided that the rootzone is suitable and contains low organic matter levels and so on. It is imperative that the underlying gravel and drainage layer on the green is not disturbed during the work and extra care must be taken to keep heavy machinery off the green.

If rootzone material is added to low-lying areas, then adequate rolling or compacting is needed to minimise settling effects prior to re-installing the green sod. In some instances, courses may opt for new sod instead of the original, which is all right provided that care is taken to ensure that the thickness of sod will match in with depth allowed for on the rootzone.

Issues with differences in grass colour are often experienced when sod is imported into the course. This colour difference, likely due to nutrition, will disappear over time. Once the sod has been set in place, some shrinkage is likely and scalping from mowers should be avoided in order to keep weeds out and aid recovery.

Once the sod is in place, sand dressing is usually applied to the sod seams and good irrigation carried out. The aim is to get the sod rooting as quickly as possible, so that the green can be opened up. Once rooting

occurs, core cultivation and heavy top-dressing are often applied to open up the rootzone, reduce any compaction and promote rooting (2).

Slight settling is likely and a heavy top-dressing programme may be needed to level off the surface. Great care must be taken of remodelled areas to ensure that rooting mass increases rapidly allowing the green to re-open as quickly as possible.

RESEARCH

The first thought that might spring to many people's minds is the issue of changing the depths of the rootzone profile. Many golf greens are constructed to USGA specification with a 12in rootzone sitting on top of a gravel layer. Some may feel that lowering the high spots and raising the lower ones on their greens during the recontouring project may have an adverse effect on water movement through the rootzone.

Having said this, I would like to talk firstly about two difficulties that arise on many courses: localised dry spot (LSD), and black layer. Localised dry spot is found on all turfgrass types and rootzones, but is particularly prevalent on sand-based rootzones. LSD is caused by soil particles becoming coated with organic substances, which repel water, causing the soil to dry out and preventing rewetting (Vargas, 2006, Pers. Comm.).



This condition is naturally-occurring and I know from experience that many course managers throughout Ireland and the UK are spending a lot of money on wetting agents and cultural practices, trying to control this phenomenon. Black layer is a common problem on sand-based rootzones. Chemically, black layer is a deposit of metal sulphides, which form when hydrogen sulphide gas reacts with metal elements in the soil (1). Black layer occurs under anaerobic conditions. Research by Nektarios et al. (1999) reported that drainage in golf green rootzones is not always uniform and that, in an unsaturated rootzone, water may move laterally along the rootzone/gravel interface to lower areas in the green rather than vertically from the rootzone into the gravel layer (3). This may lead to dry areas forming at high points and saturated zones in lower areas on the green (3).

Due to this problem, research was undertaken at Michigan State University under the guidance of Professor Kevin Frank to look at the influence on water movement through the profile, of building a variable depth rootzone on a golf green. The rootzone was 8in deep in high areas and 16in in low-lying parts of the green. The green was fitted with time domain reflectometry probes to measure soil volumetric water content.

Results showed that modifying the depth of rootzone mix improved the uniformity of volumetric water content across the surface of the putting green. This shows that success can be achievable if very careful planning is given to a recontouring project. It is critical, though, that raised areas do not receive more rootzone, as this may lead to more localised dry spot issues. It is also important to remember that, during normal construction activities, a rootzone depth of at least 12in is given from low to high areas (3).

Recontouring golf greens is commonly practised with varying degrees of success. This process may help to improve the course from both a playability and management viewpoint and reduce the large expense associated with reconstruction. However, a specialist agronomist is vital to ensuring the future success of a recontouring project.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Butler is studying for a PhD degree in Turfgrass Science at both University College Dublin, Ireland, and Michigan State University, USA. Contact Tim at timmbutler@hotmail.com

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EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF

Water Management Legislation by Tim Earley

ARE YOU AWARE NEW GROUNDWATER REGULATIONS ARE NOW IN FORCE?

With the extensive list of environmental and water protection regulations, it would not be surprising, if you are unsure of what regulations are in force, how this impacts your golf course and what you need to do to ensure compliance.

As ignorance is no excuse, hopefully the following will make interesting reading. That said, this is at best a simplified overview of complex and changing legislation and does not constitute legal advice!

Environmental protection legislation was issued many years ago and has been progressively added to in the intervening period. The confusion arises in that many of the additional Acts do not replace existing legislation, but merely reinforce it. It is not therefore possible to go to one reference point.

CURRENT WATER MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

To give a flavour, the primary legislative Acts you are expected to be in compliance with include the Environment Protection Act 1990 and Water Resources Act 1991. These Acts have been regularly added to in recent times. Recent notable additions include the Environment Act 1995, the Groundwater Regulations 1998 and Water Act 2003. In addition

there are a number of European Directives in force (e.g. Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC), which everyone should be in compliance with. This list certainly makes for good bed-time reading!

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Current water management legislation is widely acknowledged as patchy and inconsistent, liable to lead to confusion. The new Europe-wide Water Framework Directive intends to resolve this by rationalising and updating existing legislation with consistent legislation for the whole of Europe. Implementation of The Water Framework Directive began in 2006, with enactment of the new legislation currently planned to start in 2009 and completion of implementation by 2015. However, in case anyone thinks they can delay doing anything until 2009, preparation of this new legislation is bringing a new emphasis and increased attention to potentially polluting activities and the current legislation in force will be actively enforced.

Summarising the current position:

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The Environment Agency require that an Environmental Risk Assessment should be undertaken for every facility regardless of size. Environmental

risk assessment and the management of risk are the bases for preventing pollution of the environment. In particular, when designing new facilities, the Environment Agency stress that emphasis should be placed on hazard prevention rather than risk management. (i.e. avoiding the problem in the first place). This requirement has taken on a new urgency following the recent wide-spread flooding.

The Environmental Risk Assessment should take account of:

Hazard Identification

Polluting materials handled (e.g. fuels, detergents, chemicals etc.)

Possible Scenarios

Consider what could go wrong (e.g. spillages, leaks, vandalism, flood).

Impact of possible Scenarios

The potential scale of the incident and environmental impact (e.g. leak, flood)

Likelihood of Scenario

Occurring How likely an incident is likely to happen (e.g. are you in a flood prone area?)

POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES

Until the Water Framework Directive is implemented, the current legislation is supported and enforced through a series of Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG's), emanating from the Groundwater regulations 1998. Twenty plus guidelines have been issued to date addressing specific activities known to cause pollution.

Several of these PPG guidelines directly impact the operational activities

of golf courses, including refuelling, chemical handling and equipment wash-off:

e.g.

PPG 2 - Fuel Oil Storage (revised Feb 2004)

PPG 7 - Refuelling Facilities (August 2004)

PPG 9 – Pesticide Handling (replaced by DEFRA Code of Practise)

PPG 13 – Vehicle Washing and Cleaning (revised July 2007)

For example, the new regulations require that washing operations must be carried out in a designated, kerbed area which drains to the foul sewer, or A CLOSED LOOP RECYCLING WASH-OFF SYSTEM MUST BE USED. If neither of these options is installed, there is a little-used third option available of installing a sealed collection tank for off-site disposal by waste disposal specialists, but this is not realistic in most cases as it becomes prohibitively expensive every time it rains!

PERSONALLY LIABLE

Regular cleaning of maintenance equipment is essential to ensure the long life of expensive equipment. In addition, chemical sprayers require washing and flushing out after applying pesticides and fungicides. This wash-off water potentially contains a range of serious contaminants, including; oil, petrol, diesel, grease, pesticides, fungicides etc.

It is now a criminal offence to allow certain substances including mineral oils, detergents and chemicals to enter surface drains, watercourses or Soakaways. If you are not complying, you are personally liable for breaking the law, with the threat of a fine of up to £20,000 and imprisonment for a serious infringement! Even if a case does not go to court, the cost of





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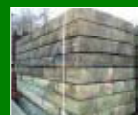


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repairing the damage still has to be met, which could be very expensive (e.g. replacing fish which have been killed).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Environmental concern is easy to understand as golf courses routinely handle quantities of 15 litres upwards of concentrated pesticide at a time when filling a chemical sprayer. The Environment Agency advise that as little as 0.5 litres of neat pesticide is sufficient to exceed the permitted limit of the whole of London's water supply! The consequences of an uncontrolled spillage are, therefore, easy to imagine.

These new regulations now strictly control the amount of contaminants in groundwater to levels that are nearly undetectable. The Environment Agency's latest detection equipment can reliably trace the source of pollution to parts per billion. If the club has failed to make proper provision and an accident occurs, the livelihood of the Head Greenkeeper and the reputation of the golf club is potentially being put at risk.

DOES AN OIL/WATER SEPARATOR COMPLY?

No, an Oil/Water separator is not adequate to handle the discharge from the golf course wash-off area, unless this discharge is to the foul. An Oil/Water Separator is designed for the settling of heavy solids and separation of free hydrocarbons, which it does very well. It does not have the technology to remove chemicals, which are routinely used by golf courses or emulsified hydrocarbons (oils) resulting from the addition of detergents during washing or using a pressure washer. It will also not treat another critical pollutant, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) which is caused by organic substances, including grass clippings washed off the equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

A major innovation to guarantee the removal of any risk of groundwater pollution from golf course maintenance activities has been introduced by a company called Waste2Water. A number of other systems are available from alternative suppliers, although Waste2Water claim the advantages of their Above-Ground system include ease of maintenance and, in the event of flooding, there is no risk of release of partially treated contaminants, which could potentially arise with gravity-fed oil water separator/underground systems.

The Environmental Activity Centre simply consists of a concrete wash pad sloping into a collection sump. On the periphery of this area, installation of as many potentially polluting storage/activity areas as possible is recommended. This includes the diesel tank, chemical store, chemical mixing tank, old oil storage etc. At the hub is the Biological Recycling Wastewater Treatment System, which takes care of spillages of oil, petrol, diesel and chemicals etc., converting them to harmless carbon dioxide and water.



CREATING YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

Creating an Environmental Centre could not be easier. This can be as simple as installing your diesel tank on the edge of the pad with the Recycling Wash-Off System installed at the heart of the operations area, often retro-fitting into an existing area to minimise the budget. The Biological Recycling System removes all contamination risks, reduces water usage by a massive 90% and tidies up one of the worst aspects of golf course maintenance. Three in one can't be bad!

If you would like further information on the Waste2Water System or a copy of the Pollution Prevention Guidelines please call. Tel 01782 373 878 / E-mail: info@waste2water.



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO PESTICIDES LEGISLATION – AN UPDATE

Jon Albutt takes some time to explain the ramifications behind the recent EU decision not to endorse an amendment which would have seen chemicals banned on all amenity areas

The EU Parliament, at its full plenary session on October 22, 2007, voted against an amendment to prohibit the use of pesticides in all public amenity areas; it also voted to adopt the, “Thematic Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Pesticide” with some minor amendments to Article 11.

Over the next months there will be a lot of work in the EU Council Committees to clarify the detail of exactly what this means to all users of pesticides for the future. Under the current timescale these changes must be in place within member states own legislative structures by the end of 2010. The UK already has in place arrangements that meet many of the proposed changes via our statutory and voluntary schemes. The most significant aspects of the new Directive are:

ARTICLE 5 - TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Define a minimum standard of training and certification for users and advisors. Restrict pesticides to professional users, who should be aware of the risks and hazards of the use of pesticides.

Since the introduction of FEPA and COPR in 1986, we have had statutory controls in place with clear guidance on the need for Certificates of Competence. Under the Voluntary Initiative we also have the National Register of Spray Operators (NRoSO) Scheme whereby certificated spray operators, and their supervisors and managers, can maintain their qualification up to date by the process of continuous professional development (CPD) – This scheme is unique to the UK. So far the uptake of the NRoSO Scheme in amenity horticulture has been very poor and although by no means certain it is likely that this type of scheme could well become a statutory requirement, we must wait to see the detail of the Directive.

SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

All new equipment will conform to environmental safety standards. All equipment in use to be inspected annually. Records to be kept for the life of the equipment.

Under the unique UK voluntary scheme the National Sprayer Testing

Scheme (NSTS) we already have a means for having our sprayers tested and certificated. However, the uptake of this scheme in amenity horticulture has also been very poor. The Amenity Forum is in discussions with NSTS to improve the scheme to take account of many amenity users who use sprayers with tank capacities under 100 litres.

PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF BUFFER ZONES FOR SPRAYING

We have the Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP) scheme for all users, that establishes buffer zones for certain types of pesticides. Information of where this scheme applies is always on the product label and all certificate holders will have learnt about this scheme as part of their training and assessments under the NPTC scheme. Those with old certificates (more than five years old) who have joined the NRoSO Scheme will also be updated on this scheme. That is why BIGGA supports the Amenity Forum initiatives and the NRoSO Scheme to ensure greenkeepers keep themselves up to date.

THE PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE AREAS

11(a) the use of pesticides shall be prohibited or restricted to the minimum necessary in all areas used by the general public or by sensitive population groups, at least in residential areas, parks, public gardens, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and playgrounds, and in the vicinity of public healthcare facilities (clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, health resorts, hospices) as well as in substantial no-spray zones including in fields around these areas, particularly, although not exclusively, to protect sensitive groups such as babies, children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions and who may be taking medication.

10.4. "Member States shall ensure that application of pesticides is

reduced as far as possible or eliminated on or along roads, railway lines, surfaces made up of permeable rock, in sloping areas or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater, or on sealed surfaces with high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems. In all these areas use of non-chemical alternatives should be promoted."

It is this proposal that is likely to impact on current UK practices, although we already have in place many arrangements whereby we are observing best practice to protect sensitive areas. We will be careful to make sure that the final details do not contain excessive and impracticable buffer, and no spray zones that would make it impossible to use pesticides in public amenity areas.

In the meantime it is essential we maintain the highest standards that we can, especially with the maintenance and use of spraying equipment and making sure that all those with a spraying certificate keep it up to date. So why not join the NRoSO www.nroso.org.uk and NSTS www.nsts.org.uk Schemes?



Use this checklist to see just how up to date you are:

- WHEN WAS THE SPRAYER LAST SERVICED AND TESTED?**
- WHEN WERE THE NOZZLES LAST 'JUGGED' AND THE PRESSURE GAUGED TESTED?**
- WHEN WERE THE CALIBRATION SHEETS LAST CHECKED FOR ACCURACY – HAVE YOU GOT ANY CALIBRATION SHEETS JON@JONALLBUTT.CO.UK FOR A FREE COPY**
- HAVE YOU GOT A COPY OF THE NEW PESTICIDES CODE OF PRACTICE – FREE ON THE WEB WWW.PESTICIDES.GOV.UK**
- WHEN DID YOU LAST UPDATE YOUR CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE – PA1/6A/2A?**
- HAVE YOU CHECKED THAT ALL YOUR SPRAY OPERATIONS COMPLY WITH THE LERAPS SCHEME?**
- IF YOU USE A CONTRACTOR IS HE A MEMBER OF NAAS AND/OR THE AMENITY ASSURED SCHEMES?**

Jon Allbutt DipSm. MIIRSM.MBPR is Principal Consultant for Jon Allbutt Associates – Consultants to the Amenity, Sports and Leisure Industry



Hobbies

Here's something you didn't know about me...



Name: Brin Bendon

Hobby: Mountaineering

Occupation: Managing Director, Vector Training Ltd

How and when did you get involved in Mountaineering?

"My Scottish father would take us on family holidays to the Highlands. However, it wasn't until I was 18, when Outward Bound introduced me to rock climbing and snow and ice mountaineering, that I knew I had the passion.

"I founded the 4C's (The Cambridge Climbing and Caving Club) with like minded people. We would go to the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District. During this period I was privileged to climb with Hamish Hamilton, who led me up Kipling's Groove. This route, had been first climbed in 1948 by A.R. Dolphin and one of my uncles who when I asked him why they had called it after Kipling, replied, "Because it was ruddyard".

"My first trip abroad was to climb the Grossglockner in the Austrian Alps which was followed by a week in the Italian Dolomites. I celebrated my 21st birthday by climbing the Matterhorn. It was these experiences together with the late David Shepherd, a friend and mentor of mine, who taught me about mountain safety and some of the more advanced techniques, that I would need for climbing in the Himalaya. A 50th birthday gift from my wife was to send me to Nepal in 1996, with leading mountaineer Tom Richardson. I have returned three times and it was with Tom I had my most memorable experience in 2002, when he led an expedition to Mera Peak in the Hinku and Hongu valleys south west of the Everest range. At 6,500 metres (21,247 ft) it was the highest mountain I had attempted."

What is it about Mountaineering that appeals to you?

"For me, the enjoyment of mountaineering is not necessarily about reaching the summit. It is as much about feeling lost in the wilderness surrounded by the beauty of snow capped mountains. I find it humbling to be among these mountains and their people, the Sherpas, who have taught me a degree of humility about our place as human beings – how insignificant we are in the face of raw nature. Whether in the Highlands the Himalaya, mountains command our respect. They remind us of our own mortality since they will be on this planet long after we are gone."

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Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club, winners of the 2008 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUCCESS

By Kelly Watson and Richard Stuttard



It doesn't seem like 12 months ago that we were last excited by the high quality of entries to the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, but results time is upon us again and the bar has been raised even further by this year's entrants and particularly by this year's winner, Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club. The day of our visit to Notts (Hollinwell) was one of the wettest of a very wet summer but despite this, the clubs ecological and environmental commitment shone through.

Hollinwell has been the Midlands regional winner in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition for the last three years and this year, through the club's continued efforts with existing initiatives and the implementation of many new ones, Hollinwell is the worthy winner of the overall prize. It is a heathland course that not only impresses through large-scale environmental and ecological projects, but also with their superb attention to detail and their huge list of smaller initiatives. The course is managed by a team of nine greenstaff, under the guidance of Philip Stain, Course Manager, and the commitment and enthusiasm of all involved at Hollinwell towards promoting aesthetically and ecologically interesting holes, while maintaining fine playing surfaces, is clear both when visiting the course and also when talking to Philip and his team. It is the enthusiasm and the backing from all levels at the club that have enabled Hollinwell to claim this year's top prize.

During 2007, scrub clearance has been carried out on the course to continue the club's heathland restoration programme and this has been hugely successful. Heather regeneration is widespread, thanks to the innovative techniques employed by the greenstaff, and heather is now becoming an integral part of the golf course. Hollinwell is unusual in having a 50-acre out of play area in the centre of their course. To keep this free of developing scrub vegetation, the club have introduced a team of grazing sheep which are successfully keeping the area free from scrub trees and bracken.

Water features are also strongly represented at Hollinwell. There are a number of well-managed ponds, including an irrigation reservoir, while the comprehensive network of dykes and ditches, which have been further extended this year, look stunning. The club recognises the need not to over manage, and have encouraged appropriate marginal plants. There are almost countless other small touches everywhere you look around the course, such as the provision of hibernacula for reptiles and snakes, the creation of nesting holes for kingfisher and sand martin, and the provision of wood piles in woodland areas to provide habitat for stag beetle and other invertebrates that feed on dead wood.

The good work at Hollinwell is not exclusive to the course. At the maintenance facility the greenstaff have put in place a fully sustainable water management system, using reedbeds to cleanse the washdown water and in the clubhouse the club have installed a wood burning boiler to meet the club's entire heating and hot water needs. This boiler will be fed from waste wood from the ongoing woodland management programme on the course, supplemented by deliveries from an outside contractor who delivers 'waste' wood to the club at no cost, rather than paying for its disposal in landfill. This is a superb "win-win" partnership that, although it has an initial start up cost, will ultimately reap both financial and environmental rewards.

Communication with members on ecological matters is of an extremely high standard and this has served the club well in enabling the progression of projects that change the look of the golf course. The club commissioned a bird survey of the course to provide members with information on what can be spotted as they play the course and this highlighted the success of the 50 nesting boxes that have been erected. A moth survey has also been carried out through a local University. The results of these surveys are posted on the club notice board, along with details of the environmental projects being undertaken at the club. This

information promotes healthy debate in the Clubhouse and maintains strong links between greenstaff, club officials and members. It is this holistic approach to environmental and ecological matters that has kept Hollinwell a contender for the title for many years and has led to it being this year's winner.

Given the high standard of entries to this year's competition, choosing regional winners was no easy task. The high number of entries and the diversity of each club's individual projects, coupled with often unique and innovative ideas, continue to make our competition visits more and more interesting and our selection process more and more difficult!



One of the many superb water features at Hollinwell



Ecology rough at Eaton Golf Club

Scottish winner, West Linton Golf Club, is located in stunning countryside in Peeblesshire in the Scottish Borders. The golf course circles a substantial area of blanket bog, which is protected from development and from agricultural improvement by the surrounding golf course. The bog area was initially retained as it was simply too wet for golfing play but is now appreciated as the outstanding visual feature of the course. The club are conscious of the need to manage and to protect the bog and have commissioned botanical surveys of the bog to help guide management. West Linton has worked closely with conservation organisations such as The Wildlife Partnership, Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre, the Scottish Golf Environment Group and their local Biodiversity Action Plan officer. The club is also very inclusive of the local community and host a glass recycling site for West Linton village and reach out to schools to encourage research projects and work experience. Internally, the club have a dedicated Environment and Energy Committee.



West Linton Golf Club

This year's Northern area winner, Eaton Golf Club, stood out for its incredible interest in the subject of ecology and environment and their desire to take the club forward. The club has an Environmental Working Group which meets regularly to discuss how the club can improve. It's not all talk though. The club has only been at its present location for 14 years and yet the ecological work carried out on the course creates an air of maturity. Deep ecology rough has been introduced in many areas of the course by the Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Clark, and his team,

aimed at providing definition to the holes and increasing the aesthetic and ecological value of out of play areas. There is also an impressive series of ditch networks which, where out of play, have been left to nature, and provide superb habitat for a wide variety of insects and small mammals.

Hedgerows also feature strongly around the course and provide an effective natural barrier and are effective wildlife corridors which facilitate the safe movement of birds and small mammals. Hedgerows are declining in the UK, with over 150,000 miles lost in the last 60 years, and Eaton, recognising the ecological value of the hedgerows, has undertaken a hedge laying programme to preserve and enhance hedges on the course. These are just a few of the measures that, coupled with best practice techniques regarding turfgrass and water management, have led to Eaton being top of the Northern region this year.

Fulford Heath Golf Club, near Birmingham, has surprised the judges by securing the Midlands region title in its first year of entry. However, this result is down to dedicated and continual work over many years by the Course Manager, Kim Blake, and his greenstaff, and significant investment by the club in 2007. The rough grasslands are the highlight of the course at Fulford Heath, where the sowing of annual seed into



Wildflowers in rough grassland at Fulford Heath



Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

rough areas has produced impressive wildflower meadows, which change colour throughout the year and provide important food for pollinators. The club is also taking part in a study, in conjunction with STRI and Syngenta, which trials several different management techniques aimed at encouraging wildflowers in golfing rough, to provide food plants for bumblebees. The results from the study will be communicated to other golf clubs to encourage the establishment of wildflowers on courses across the country. In 2007 the greenstaff put in place a comprehensive composting system that utilises organic waste from the course and from the Clubhouse, including waste cardboard and paper. The club has shown faith and foresight in purchasing a wood chipper to speed up the composting process.

The Wales and South West regional prize has been an incredibly close fought battle with the standard in this area being truly impressive. Coming out on top this year was Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Head Greenkeeper, David Ward, and his team, have utilised and promoted the coastal species they have on the course to maximise the habitat available for wildlife and, in turn, create a superbly challenging round of golf. There is not a square metre of managed turf that is not realistically required and the golf course sits harmoniously within the surrounding coastal landscape.

Gorse and heather feature strongly on the course and are managed to maintain them at the healthy stage of their lifecycles. The gorse provides superb definition and strategy to every hole and, where gorse or heather are not present, deep but fine ecology rough grassland has been allowed to develop. There are significant 'out of play' areas on the course that have been left with minimal management to promote wildlife and these areas are akin to nature reserves. This, coupled with an excellent attitude to communication, recycling, and water management (including a water harvesting scheme from maintenance buildings), made Royal Porthcawl the judges favourite in this region.

At Aldeburgh, southeast regional winner, Mark Broughton MG is an extremely knowledgeable greenkeeper who has fostered an organised and sustainable approach to improving the course. The greenstaff at Aldeburgh have begun an extensive programme of gorse removal which, when complete, will transform and rejuvenate the course. The aim is to get a more even balance between grassland and gorse on the course, to open up vistas across the course and to provide more valuable gorse habitat – The interior of large blocks of gorse is largely inactive and is



Gorse removal at Aldeburgh



Carefully sited compost bays at Fairhaven Fairhaven

inaccessible to small birds, while breaking up the gorse blocks helps regenerate the gorse and increases accessibility.

This gorse management is a massive undertaking for the greenstaff and has taken up much of the time and resources available for ecological work but the club have undertaken successful woodland management by employing a contractor who works for the price of the wood he removes. The contractor has been selectively thinning the woodlands on the course – Removing non-native trees such as sycamore and retaining native species. The course at Aldeburgh is quite likely to have supported heather in the past as some very small remnants remain and the acidic soil conditions are suitable for heather growth. Mark has sourced heather seed from a local golf course and has successfully established heather within a trial area of the course. Given this success, more trials are planned, with the aim of gradually increasing heather on the course at a sustainable pace.

Fairhaven Golf Club, near Lytham, has been awarded the best newcomer award following its very recent pledge to introduce ecological change on the course and the rapid progress made since making this commitment. The club commissioned an ecological management plan in February 2007 and has made rapid progress since then with strong commitment shown

by both the greenstaff and the club. One particularly impressive element of Fairhaven's new management policy is the appointment of James Hutchinson, Assistant Greenkeeper, as Environmental Coordinator and the setting of a separate guaranteed budget for ecology work each year. On top of this annual budget the club has promised to double any prize money received by the club in this year's competition, which amounts to quite a windfall for ecology at Fairhaven this year!

Since February, the club have removed self-seeded silver birch from mounding on the first hole, which was threatening the survival of creeping willow (a European priority species) in the wet hollows. The club have also levelled and cleared an old dumping ground and have now concentrated all hollow cores and old turves into one screened area for reuse. Grass clippings are now collected and redirected off the course into a newly constructed central composting system. The club has a lot of Rhododendron on the course, which is non-native and supports only minimal wildlife interest, and the members have approved plans to significantly reduce the amount of rhododendron, an important and difficult step with such a controversial issue.

Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course occupies a superb location on the Northumberland coast and is named after the nearby Dunstanburgh



Dunstanburgh Castle

Castle, which provides a dramatic backdrop to the course. The course is on National Trust land (the original golf course was constructed before the NT purchased the land) and is privately leased. The National Trust still have a vested interest in the management of the site and provide advice and volunteer labour to help manage the course. This is certainly appreciated by the club who rely on only two dedicated greenstaff to manage the 18-hole course.

The club has been awarded this year's special initiative prize for its efforts to encourage nesting birds on the course. This includes the restoration of grassland covered by bracken and by gorse and the reconstruction of a greenkeeper's shed from the 1900s in the same style and dimensions as the original, but with extended eaves to provide nesting space for birds and the windows have been left open to provide further nesting potential for swallows. The club plans to plant a small woodland adjacent to the reconstructed shed, at the periphery of the course, which should provide further shelter for the birds. This planting has been well thought out and will consist of deciduous trees planted in single species groupings, which mimics the dispersal pattern of trees in natural woodlands. The 2007 innovation title is well deserved by the club, who were also a very strong contender for the best newcomer prize.

Both STRI and BIGGA are grateful to the sponsors of the competition, Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts and Syngenta, who make the competition possible. The sponsors demonstrate strong commitment to the environment through their own businesses and both they, BIGGA and STRI are keen to encourage best environmental practices on golf courses. The high standard of entries in 2007, from across England, Scotland and Wales, and from clubs of diverse budgets and resources, suggests that environmental stewardship in golf is certainly on the ball.

Kelly Watson and Richard Stuttard are Ecologists at the STRI Ecology and Environment Unit



Reconstructed greenkeeping shed



Woodchipper at Fulford Heath GC



Fox hole



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GREENKEEPER TRAINING

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to

the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

Sami Collins

Head of Learning & Development

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800

Email: sami@bigga.co.uk

Website: www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB

Contact: Sam Letham

Tel: 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888

Email: sletham@elmwood.ac.uk

Web: www.elmwood.ac.uk



Information: Information: Full Time National Certificate Greenkeeping: Block Release. SVQ Level II and III Block Release and Workbased options available. SVQ IV ILM Management, HNC & HND Golf Course Management available as Full time and Online Distance Learning. Golf Course Environmental Studies, Construction and Design Management Online Learning Courses. HNC & HND Golf Facility Management. PDA for Football, Cricket Management. SVQ Level II & III Landbased Service Engineers and Golf Course Mechanics Course. BTLIA Irrigation Management Block Course Various times throughout the year. FEPA and COSHH Health & Safety Courses Available. Chainsaw, tree climbing and Rescue Techniques.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE

Rutherglen Campus,
Buchanan Drive,
Rutherglen,
Glasgow, G73 3PF



Contact: William O'Neil

Tel: 0141 272 3823

Email: woneil@langside.ac.uk

Information: SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD

50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB

Contact: Chris Bothwell

Tel: 0141 556 3999 **Fax:** 0141 556 4999

Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk



Information: SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn,
West Lothian, EH52 6NH



Contact: Steve Miller

Tel: 01506 864800 **Fax:** 01506 853373

Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk

Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

Information: Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

WALES

PENCOED

Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG



Contact: John Sullivan

Tel: 01656 302671

Email: jrsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk

Web: www.bridgend.ac.uk

Information: Courses offered at Pencoed include N.V.Q. Levels 2 & 3 Sports turf, National and Advanced National Certificates. NPTC and Lantra short courses and certification in a range of land based areas including Pesticide Application; PA1, PA2 and PA6. Tractor driving, hedge laying and dry stonewalling etc.

TRAINING PROVIDERS/ COURSES GUIDE



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

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ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR

Contact: Central Admissions

Tel: 01904 772211

Email: enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk

Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk



Information: First Diploma and National Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR

Contact: Deborah Smirfitt

Tel: Freephone 0800 0711 666

Fax: 01628 824695

Email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk Web: www.bca.ac.uk



Information: Located in the heart of the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, plus Higher National Certificate and Foundation Degree programmes. Part-time programmes include the NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. A wide transport network is provided as well as residential accommodation on-site.

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES

Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS

Contact: George Pitts

Tel: 01278 441234 Fax: 01278 444363

Email: pittsg@bridgwater.ac.uk

Web: www.bridgwater.ac.uk



Information: National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sports Turf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Note: The Certificate of Higher Education and the Foundation Degree are available as part-time options.

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Contact: Mike Dodd

Tel: 01732 850551

Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk

Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk



Information: NVQ's, Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning courses available in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf), Amenity Horticulture (Landscape) and Production Horticulture. We also offer a range of short courses for example, Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Applications. Additionally, full and part-time courses at different levels in Horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects are available.

**MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS
OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE**

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.

Contact: Learner Services
Tel: 01483 884040**Email:** mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk **Web:** www.guildford.ac.uk

Information: Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, New Level 2 Sportsturf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line distance learning, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science (subject to validation) plus various NPTC short courses including Irrigation Certificate Course, Turf Maintenance Equipment and Operation of Mowers throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.

**PLUMPTON COLLEGE**Ditchling Road, Plumpton,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE**Contact:** David Blackmur
Tel: 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071**Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk
Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE).

Information: Foundation degree in Horticulture and Garden Design, National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture.

Part time courses: NVQ Level 1. NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping, Decorative and Sportsturf, NVQ Level 3: Sportsturf. NVQ level 4. Also RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses available: FEPA spraying and chainsaw. Bespoke training following training needs analysis, (TNA).

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Billsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY

Contact: Stewart Brown
Tel: 01995 642305 **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk

Information: Myerscough College is a leading centre for Sportsturf education and training in Europe and has excellent facilities supported by industry. These include a golf course, winter games pitches, an artificial grass pitch, and extensive library, workshop and laboratory resources. Specialist machinery and equipment is used throughout the curriculum to support the development of student learning and understanding of the practical, technical and scientific aspects of their chosen course and career. Courses are available for all levels from National Certificate to an Honours Degree in Turfgrass Science. Courses are available for full-time attendance, part-time or on Online basis. Our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses are uniquely available ONLINE and have students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the American continent. Our Work based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels 2-4.

**REASEHEATH COLLEGE**

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF

Contact: Gareth Phillips or Chard Spicer
Tel: 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665**Email:** enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Information: Foundation Degree and Higher National Certificate in Golf and Sports Turf Management; National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; NVQ levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf; Apprenticeships; NPTC Qualifications.

On-site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, football and rugby pitches, Crewe Alexandra training grounds

OAKLANDS COLLEGESt Albans Smallford Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA**Contact:** Andrew Wight
Tel: 01727 737080
Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Information: Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. HNC in Sportsturf. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Short NPTC Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.

**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**Moreton Morrell Centre,
Warwick CV35 9BL**Contact:** Pat Foster
Tel: 01926 318347 **Fax:** 01926 318300
Email: Pfoster@warkscol.ac.uk

Information: Greenkeeping courses include: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 yrs full-time, 3 yrs part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 day release and work-based options, NPTC level 2 National Certificate Sports & Amenity Turf Management (1 yr full-time, 2 years part-time). A full list of horticulture, landscape design, arboriculture and floristry courses available at all levels. Short Courses include: Chainsaw Operation and Maintenance, Pesticide Application, Fences/Wooden Structures, Landscape Design, Tractor Driving, Hedgelaying and more. Warwickshire College also offer a range of land-based courses, areas include: Animal Welfare, Equine and Agriculture.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
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OR BRAD ON 01347 833800 OR
EMAIL: VANESSA@BIGGA.CO.UK

WRITTLE COLLEGE

Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR

Contact: The Registry
Tel: 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456
Email: info@writtle.ac.uk **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk

Information: SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES: Foundation Degree- Sports Turf and Golf Course Management Honours Degree- Sports Turf Science & Management Higher Certificate- Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 2 & 3- Sports Turf OTHER PROGRAMMES: BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Landscape & Amenity Management BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Business Management BSc (Hons) International Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticultural Crop Production FdSc Landscape Construction MSc/MA International Horticulture MSc Horticulture (Crop Production) MSc Postharvest Technology MA Landscape Architecture MSc Landscape Management First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma- Horticulture NVQ Level 2 & 3 Landscaping NVQ Level 2 & 3 Service Engineering (Agricultural & Groundcare Machinery) C&G Service Engineering Progression Award SHORT COURSES: NPTC Chainsaw, Health & Safety plus many more.

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP



STUDENT BENEFITS

MEMBERS HANDBOOK

A free yearly copy of this indispensable tool, enabling members to track down professional help and keep contact with contemporaries

FREE FIELD GUIDES

A set of field guides is available to every member on request. This handy guide is produced in an easy to use format and is an aid to course identification. Call 01347 833800.

BIGGA LIBRARY

The BIGGA Library boasts over 650 books available to borrow for up to six weeks. The only cost is that of returning the book to HQ.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the 'Around the Green' section for contact details.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

All Members are invited to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme, which records education and training achievement. Regional training courses are offered alongside regional and national seminars and workshops.

CAR LEASING

Driving a brand new car couldn't be easier. Bigga has teamed up with Lex FreeChoice to offer an exclusive scheme, which allows you and your family members to drive the car you've always wanted at a price you can afford. Call 0800 419 930 and quote BIGGA.

CAR RENTAL

BIGGA have enrolled in National's Affinity Leisure Programme that offers members exclusive rates on car and van hire in the UK and on international car hire in over 80 countries. Ring 0870 191 6950 and quote A099084 for UK Car hire, A099085 for UK Van Hire and 8573290 for International Car Hire.

INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE

A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products. Call 01603 828255 and quote UniBG0306

BIGGA WEBSITE – WWW.BIGGA.ORG.UK

Exclusive access to the Members area of the website. Interact with other greenkeepers on the bulletin board or check out the latest recruitment vacancies in the industry.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

A monthly copy of BIGGA's award winning magazine delivered free to your door, keeping you up to date with all that's new in the industry. This publication could prove to be a valuable study tool.

JOBS ONLINE

You will find greenkeeping jobs on the BIGGA website for apprentice and assistant greenkeepers.



ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website



In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

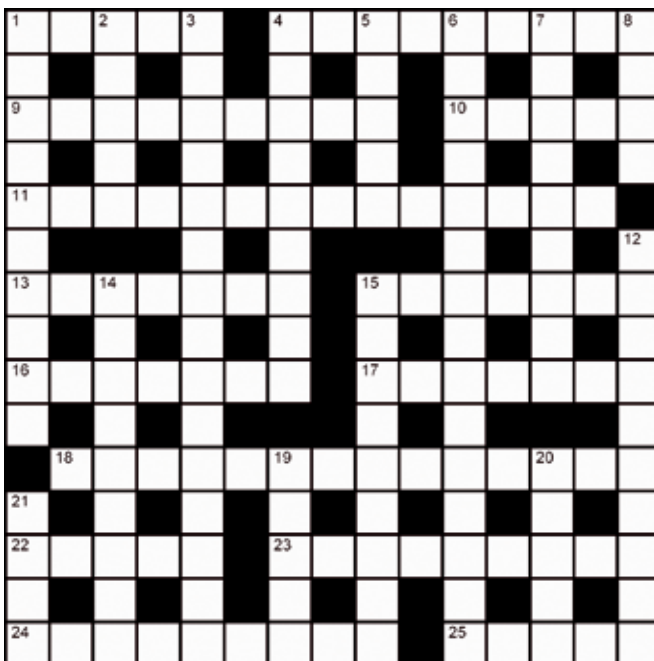
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Direction indicator (5)
- 4 Hospital department dealing with X-rays (9)
- 9 Physically or psychologically painful (9)
- 10 Pertain (to) (5)
- 11 Producer and writer of On The Hour and The Day Today (7,7)
- 13 Mottled, tawny-coated cats (7)
- 15 Strident, rowdy (7)
- 16 Deer meat used as food (7)
- 17 Mass-mailing macro virus discovered in 1999 (7)
- 18 Novel thought to be based on Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk (8,6)
- 22 Japanese verse consisting of three short lines (5)
- 23 1973 album by The Eagles (9)
- 24 Carry on despite adversity (9)
- 25 Preserved county of south west Wales (5)

DOWN

- 1 Pleasing to the eye (10)
- 2 Environment in which a person or thing is dominant (5)
- 3 Its meetings traditionally end with a rendition of Jerusalem (6,9)
- 4 Warfarin is typically used as this (3-6)
- 5 Russian country house (5)
- 6 The last novel completed by Charles Dickens (3,6,6)
- 7 Meddling, offensively intrusive (9)
- 8 Royal house whose emblem was the white rose (4)
- 12 Run-off area for out-of-control vehicles (6,4)
- 14 Cartridge belt worn over the shoulder (9)
- 15 Recall past memories (9)
- 19 Move surreptitiously; sashay (5)
- 20 Fine metal particles created by grinding etc. (5)
- 21 Cut of meat which includes part of a rib (4)

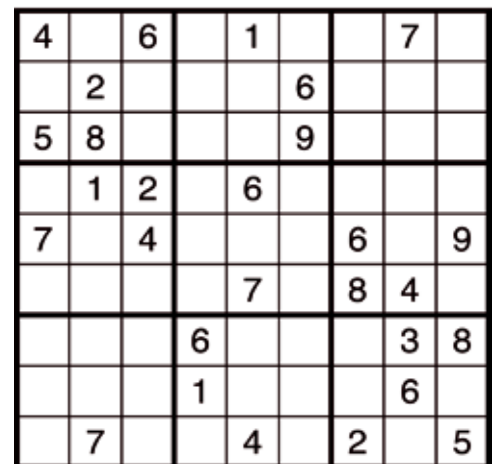


QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 What is the most popular sport in the world, played by more than 20 million people in more than 140 countries?
- 2 In what sport do players take long and short corners?
- 3 What is the number one played sport in Canada?
- 4 What is the name of the Leicester Football Club stadium?
- 5 What's the most popular sport in Thailand?
- 6 What is the highest-achievable break in snooker?
- 7 What's the top sport in the United States?
- 8 What is the most popular sport in Norway?
- 9 By what name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known?

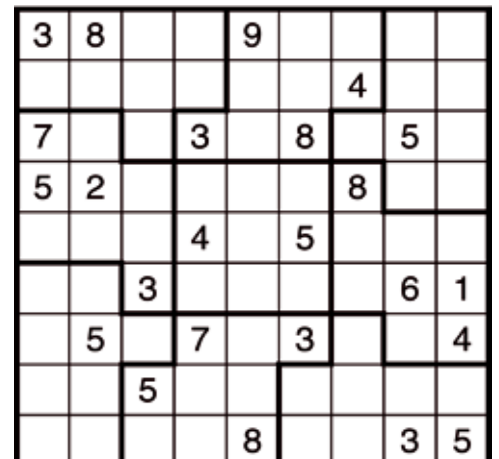
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 66

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

BIGGA'S Health & Safety series produced by Xact



If you are unfortunate enough to have an accident at your Club, the causes that led to the event should be investigated: To comply with legislation; To prevent a recurrence; To help control insured and uninsured losses; To provide full disclosure to any injured parties of the circumstances that led to the accident and also aid your insurance company in the event of a claim.

A properly conducted accident investigation will enable you to: Understand the reasons for the event; Understand the true working practices within the Club and if your procedures are being adhered to; Understand whether your existing risk assessments and control measures are suitable.

Accidents that have caused serious injury or fatalities may have to be investigated by the enforcing authorities in which case the accident scene should be left undisturbed. Otherwise when carrying out an investigation: Start the investigation ASAP; If the accident has resulted in serious injury leave the scene of the accident undisturbed until all the evidence has been gathered– unless to do so leaves the area dangerous; Take photographs of the scene if appropriate; Gather documentary evidence, as applicable; Assure all involved at the outset the objective of the internal investigation is not to apportion blame but to ensure all possible steps are taken to prevent recurrence; Aim to produce a clear, concise report which documents findings, recommendations and a suggested programme for their implementation.

The person carrying out the investigation should aim to take the following into account: Collect 'facts' NOT 'opinions'; Witnesses interviewed

MUST have been present at the time of the accident for their statements to be of value; Conditions that may have contributed to the incident should be noted; Machinery/equipment which may have been involved in/contributed to the incident should be identified and removed from service until the investigation is completed; Maintenance records should be checked whenever machinery/equipment is involved.

The accident investigation report should include the following: Details of the location of the incident within the premises together with a plan/layout of the area; Any photographs of the location or any equipment involved; Full names and addresses of witnesses along with their witness statements signed and dated by them on each page; Details of any machinery/equipment or substances involved in the incident; The investigators conclusions; A list of recommendations for preventing a recurrence.

Should the incident be subject to further investigation by the local enforcing authority or the employer's insurance assessors, the employer should ensure all employees fully co-operate with the inspector(s).

An effort must be made to investigate all accidents. There are lessons to be learned from any safety related incident. The tendency is to look for the immediate cause, rather than beyond this, and to identify other contributory factors.



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: David Green
Company: Terrain Aeration Services Ltd
Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?
"On and off for 16 years, full time for seven."

How did you get into the industry?

"When Terralift made my wife redundant and I was persuaded to take part in the buyout that resulted. The new company was desperately short of engineering knowledge - I was fortunate enough to be able to fill the gap."

What other jobs have you done?

"All sorts of jobs, from working in a food factory making pies when a student, to a PAYE wage slave."

What do you like about your current job?

"I am my own boss, I can make and implement decisions without having to play politics and be politically correct. There is great personal reward in creating a viable company from next to nothing and watching it grow."

What industry changes have you seen?

"A growth in the pressures upon sports turf resources, more matches per month, more rounds of golf and a growing demand for high quality year round playing surfaces that can stand heavy use even in winter."

"There has been a marked increase in the range/type of machinery and services available for the leisure sector as manufacturing in the UK has declined."

What do you do in your spare time?

"Play chess on the Internet."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Looking back with satisfaction at the machinery which I have continued to develop and build. Eventually I hope to be able to retire to my shed with some different (railway and electrical control) engineering matters to tax my, by then, fast diminishing little brain cells!"

Who do you consider your 'best friends' in the industry?

"Pete Britton, Phil Evans and Carol Dutton, our PR specialist. Harry Jurgens, of AFT Trenchers, whose multilingual skills amaze me and have been offered free to us at some particularly useful times. My wife, Lynda, who knows half the industry and is able to identify anyone of them by voice alone."

What is your lucky number?

"13, I was raised for 20 years at No 13 without too many disastrous consequences!"

Pick a number

"13"

David has picked Martin Ward from Symbio.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS... ARE POWER TOOLS FOR THE WORKSHOP

By James de Havilland

Rechargeable battery power tools have developed to the point where a mains corded tool is often seen as old fashioned. But are all rechargeable battery powered workshop tools equal?

Take a stroll around a big DIY superstore and the power tool section will no doubt include a selection of carry cases stuffed with all sorts of battery powered screwdrivers, circular saws, sanders, jig saws etc. Some of these kits, branded with a name you probably have never heard off, will be priced extremely competitively; how about a starting price of under £50 for a three piece kit with a couple of batteries and a charger included?

For occasional DIY operation, these kits may well be fine. For professional use, well you get what you pay for. Really cheap power tools have limitations that will include slow to charge batteries, limited battery life, low power, high weight etc. Move up to known brands to include DeWalt, Makita, Hitachi, Ryobi and Bosch and prices climb significantly. As you would expect, so does performance, longevity and overall quality.

To compare the ultra cheap DIY items with well known power tool brands, however, is a bit naughty. A cheap and wobbly powered screwdriver that retails for a few pounds will struggle to match a quality item costing perhaps £70 to £130. The challenge is to compare own brand tools from leading suppliers such as Spaldings, with the better known OEM manufacturers.

First, consider some of the arguments put forward by premium tool makers Makita. The Japanese manufacturer has been in business for 100 years, and currently has seven ISO registered production plants around the World, including in Telford; this UK facility exports 80% of its production and Makita claims it is now Britain's leading professional power tool manufacturer. The company's range currently extends to some 600 items and includes petrol and electric chainsaws, brushcutters, hedge trimmers and mowers.

Getting back to power tools, Makita can rightly claim its rechargeable battery tools now offer higher torque levels, greater impact joules, lower weight, reduced vibration risks and extended operational life than those it offered a decade ago. Battery technology has also developed. Cordless tool batteries were originally nickel cadmium NiCad types, nickel metal hydride Ni-MH coming next to offer a reduced need to discharge fully before charging. First generation Ni-Cad batteries had a 'memory' effect that meant they needed to be fully discharged before re-charging.

Modern cordless tools are now starting to be powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. These ensure a modern tool can pack a powerful punch for longer periods. Take the Makita 18v BTW251as an example. Fitted with a ½" square socket drive, this 1.7kg power wrench generates 230Nm or 170 lb-ft of torque. Typical vehicle wheel nuts are tightened to 65Nm / 48lb-ft, a crankshaft pulley typically having its retaining nut tweaked up to and 140Nm / 105 lb-ft. So a tool like this has the twist action to suit some pretty tight fasteners. The tool also generates up to 3,000 blows per minute to help free-off tight nuts. Dependent upon model, Makita impact drivers, with a ¼ inch square drive, will be priced from around £200.



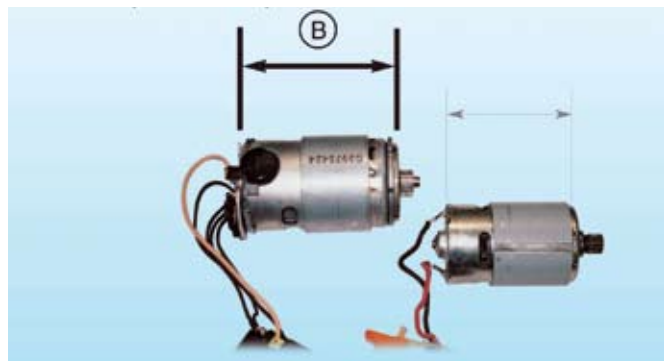
Quality brands include Hitachi, its 18 volt cordless impact drill/driver boasting a 3.0 amp hour Li-ion battery and the ability to bore through 16mm of brick, 38mm of wood and 13mm of steel. Supplied with a 43 piece drill and driver set, plus three batteries, it is price around £375.

Do a bit of shopping, and Makita prices can look a bit on the high side. But it is important to do a true like for like comparison, some less expensive alternatives not having the same battery stamina, torque ratings or features. Good battery performance counts for a lot and, with its latest Lithium-ion cells, Makita certainly seems to offer something that is above the ordinary. Also see the picture showing drill internals. Although the items pictured highlight the difference between a cheap drill that was designed to look like a Makita, the message is much the same. You get what you pay for.

Or do you? Spaldings, well known supplier of tools and other workshop goodies, champions its own Truecraft brand. Although the company sells a range of leading brand power tools, certain items, such as its Truecraft 19.2V Cordless Impact Wrench, certainly appear to offer a lot performance for the money. This particular model has a torque rating of a whopping 400Nm / 295 lb-ft and is supplied with a battery that is claimed to run for hours from a fast 1 hour charge. Price is around £230.



FEATURE



Spaldings suggest its own brand Truecraft offers a good balance between performance, quality and pricing. Its Truecraft 19.2V Cordless Impact Wrench features a 2.0 amp hour battery with sufficient capacity to cope with a lot of twist action between charges. Price around £230 for just the tool and a single Ni-MH battery.

This is a powerful bit of kit that is well respected by professional users. It helps summarise what is now offer on the cordless power tool market. As long as the really cheap stuff is avoided, a mid-price tool may be fine as long as it is backed by a good supplier. Otherwise, it can pay to stick with a well known quality brand. For those who remain to be convinced of the value of a modern cordless tool, try an impact wrench. The chances are you will end up buying one. They are truly versatile items of kit that make swapping over wheels, changing tines and general workshop 'nut twirling' an absolute breeze.

BATTERY POWER

Ni-Cad provided the first truly portable power tool driving force but had two serious limitations. A Ni-Cad cell needs to be completely flattened prior to being re-charged. If a partial charge is left in the cell before recharging, the cell will take on a 'memory' that will only charge it to a level up to the charge that was left. Charge a half charged battery, and its capacity would be reduced to around half its potential capacity thereafter. This perhaps over states the case, but there is no doubt the operational life of the battery was dependent upon good management. Disposal of Ni-Cad cells remains an environmental risk; these types should always be recycled correctly by a tool dealer.

Nickel metal hydride, Ni-MH removed this memory problem, allowing anytime charging. These types remain the most popular and for most users they will be fine. Lithium-ion chemistry is the next development stage. It builds upon the proven dependability of Ni-MH but packs the same amount of punch in a package offering a 40% reduction in weight. This has a number of advantages, including being able to put a higher amp hour and higher voltage battery into a pack that is of a similar size to a lower capacity Ni-MH alternative. Or, the same power can be generated from a lighter cell, boosting and manoeuvrability and enabling the design of a more ergonomic tool. Compared to a Ni-Cad battery, a top quality Lithium-ion cell should deliver up to four times the work cycles during its lifetime and will hold its charge for long inactive periods in storage. This is of critical importance if a tool will see extended periods between use.

Makita is keen to promote the quality of its products. The illustration above highlights the differences between a cheap 'counterfeit' drill and a Makita tool. Pointer 'A' shows the plastic gearbox used in the cheaper drill; the Makita is all-metal. Points 'B' and 'C' illustrate the difference in the size of motors. The larger of the two is the Makita unit which, in tests, proved not only more powerful but considerably more durable too.

Polybed – changing the way you'll think about drainage.



Visit us on Stand Q20 at Harrogate Week



COST EFFECTIVE • EASY INSTALLATION • SUSTAINABLE

Specifically designed and manufactured in the UK to replace existing drainage methods, Polybed can be used in a wide variety of applications including soakaways and land drainage, sports pitch and golf course repairs, bio-treatment plants, septic tanks and retaining walls.

The Polybed system comprises 3m lengths of perforated, single or twin-wall plastic pipe surrounded by a 100mm layer of lightweight, non-biodegradable recycled aggregate. The system offers an enhanced void ratio of 35% and substitutes the need to use gravel and stone.

Polybed is extremely lightweight and easy to handle and can be installed up to 4 times quicker than traditional methods, significantly reducing plant usage and soil cartaway - delivering savings in both labour and overall costs.

For further information or to request a brochure please contact us at:

 Forest Group UK
Stardens Works
Tewkesbury Road
Newent
Gloucestershire
GL18 1LG

Tel: 01531 828960
Fax: 01531 828968
Email: info@polybed.co.uk



www.polybed.co.uk



HARROGATE WEEK YOUR GUIDE TO THE ANNUAL GROUNDSCARE EVENT

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MEDIA CENTRE

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ADVICE FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS

INVALUABLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

FREE PARK AND RIDE

WWW.HARROGATEWEEK.ORG.UK





A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU

Harrogate Week has been established for 20 years and during that time has grown to become a must-see groundscape event for many satisfied visitors.

I don't know about you but I always feel the year gets going when we arrive at Harrogate. Christmas and New Year are consigned to the history books, we've had a couple of weeks to break our New Year's resolutions and we're ready to go.

Harrogate Week always sets me up for the year in a positive manner and I'm sure it's the same for the thousands of turf professionals and those involved within the groundscape industry, from all sides of the industry, who flock to the historic North Yorkshire spa town.

Harrogate Week 2008 with its regular elements of BTME, incorporating ClubHouse; the world renowned Continue to Learn programme; a Careers' Clinic, Job Shop, Internet Café, banquets, lunches and fringe events ensures that a well planned visit sets you up for the year ahead. From a training and development standpoint there isn't a workshop or seminar that doesn't include a nugget of information which might help some aspect of your professional life. The most comprehensive education programme that BIGGA has ever put together will get the brain going into overdrive, and it's not just of benefit to turf professionals and BIGGA members. Many other golfing and sporting bodies are involved in the week with seminars by the R&A, EGU and GCMA and many other workshops that are particularly pertinent for turf professionals from other sporting arenas.

Five halls packed with exhibitors representing every element of the fine turf industry should ensure plenty of assistance with those difficult purchasing decisions.



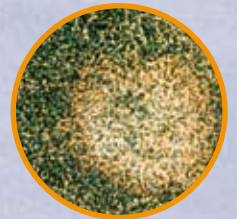
After a long day in the lecture theatres and halls where better than the restaurants and bars of Harrogate to share experiences and laughs with friends and colleagues? And it's as valuable for the Harrogate rookie as it is to the experienced campaigner. Attend Harrogate Week and you can be sure you will leave with many more friends and acquaintances than you arrived. That equates to more shared experiences and more potential solutions to groundscape problems.



NEW!

Dedicated *Speed* and Endurance

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Fusarium



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WHAT'S GOING ON AT HARROGATE WEEK 2008

WHAT WILL I SEE?

The modern face of the industry. Your only difficulty may be having enough time to take it all in! The industry's major players will be showcasing the latest equipment, technology and innovations all under one roof, many of them reserving their new product launches for the exhibition.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

Anybody that's serious about the turf management industry and club facility management. Whatever your particular interest, you'll find it covered during Harrogate Week, an event that combines both elements of turf management and clubhouse management.

WHY SHOULD I VISIT HARROGATE WEEK?

Your time is valuable, a single visit to Harrogate Week will save you hours of exhausting and frustrating research. Instead of having to make endless telephone calls or search the internet, you can meet the people you need to meet face to face. You can see the products, equipment and service providers, take away relevant literature, arrange site visits, and discover those new ideas that are the lifeblood of the turf industry and club management.

CAREERS' CLINIC

Follow in the footsteps of many greenkeepers who have used the services provided at the BIGGA Careers' Clinic to find that next job, improve your prospects in your current job or to negotiate your salary package. You will be able to book a private consultation session at the Careers' Clinic during BTME & ClubHouse at the Education Reception desk in the Queen's Suite.

THE BIGGA STAND

The BIGGA staff will be on hand to give advice and information on all Association matters. Visit the BIGGA Stand for a chat and the chance to meet all the people you only ever talk to on the telephone.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Services staff will be on hand to give you information on the different types of membership available, the benefits of being a BIGGA member, provide application forms, direct debit and tax relief forms. You can renew your BIGGA membership (no renewal form is necessary) and update your personal and golf club details. The Members Handbook will also be available to visitors to the Stand.

JOB SHOP

What does the future hold in store for you? Visit the "Job Shop" and explore the wide range of opportunities from all aspects of the industry.

MEDIA CENTRE

Meet the press, distribute press releases on your latest new products and host press briefings in a professional environment. The Media Centre is located downstairs at the front of Hall A.

EXHIBITORS' BUSINESS LOUNGE

The Exhibitors' Lounge, located downstairs alongside the Underground Food Court, is available for all exhibitors. A comfortable place is provided for you to discuss business or relax and chat with fellow exhibitors.

INTERNET CAFÉ

Keep in touch with the outside world while away from home with free internet access. Located in Hall B, the popular Internet Café sponsored by Pitchcare.com is sure to be a very busy area.

BIGGA AGM

5.15pm Wednesday 23 January 2008, Queen's Suite.
The BIGGA Annual General Meeting takes place in the Queen's Suite and is open to all fully paid up greenkeeper members of BIGGA. A membership card is required for entry.

MASTER GREENKEEPER AGM

Greenkeepers from around the world who have achieved Master Greenkeeper Status will gather for their Annual General Meeting.



RELAXATION ZONE

Hall Q is the place to go if you are tired or tense. Judy Holroyde is offering four therapies to restore your energy, relax your tension and revitalise you.

BANQUET

Banquet Vouchers can be exchanged for tickets on the BIGGA stand in Hall Q.

A highlight of Harrogate Week is the Banquet that takes place on Thursday 24 January in the Majestic Hotel.

A fine meal and entertainment will be the order of the evening, featuring an after dinner speech from ex British Lion, Martin Bayfield, followed by Ann Shirley with her tribute to Diana Ross.

With pre-dinner drinks available in the North Lounge from 7.00 pm, guests will be seated in the main dining room at 7.30 pm. A disco will follow the entertainment until 1am.

Admission to the Exhibition is FREE of charge to all visitors. For more information and to register today visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk.





MONTPELLIER – Courtesy of Harrogate International Centre

GI'S GUIDE TO HARROGATE

Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town. With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively night-life along with a glamorous heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

WINE & DINE

Le D2

7 Bower Road
Tel: 01423 502700

Run by the two D's – David and Dominique - Le D2 offers excellent food, freshly made using local ingredients.

Horoscope

1-3 Cheltenham Crescent
Tel: 01423 508144

Raj Put

11 Cheltenham Parade
Tel: 01423 562113

The Rajput is a family run business, specialising in regional dishes from Rajasthan, Goa, South India, Delhi, Punjab and Mumbai (Bombay).

Damn Yankee

4 Station Parade
Tel: 01423 561424

Established for over 30 years, The Damn Yankee serves freshly prepared American food – and plenty of it. Choose from homemade burgers to authentic fajitas.

Cattlemen's Association

17 Cheltenham Crescent
Tel: 01423 561456



This popular eatery is a meat lover's paradise, with steaks on the regular menu up to a huge 20oz! Vegetarian options and kids meals are also available and the restaurant has recently changed its opening hours to include lunchtimes.

Chez La Vie

92 Station Parade
Tel: 01423 568018

Chez La Vie offers a range of classical Mediterranean dishes and a wide range of wines from all over the world.

Loch Fyne

Town Centre House
Cheltenham Parade
Tel: 01423 533070

Salsa Posada

4 Mayfield Grove
Tel: 01423 565151

The Salsa Posada serves up an enjoyable authentic Mexican feast. The menu ranges from nachos to burritos and chimichangas.

The Jinnah Spice Club

The School House
Cheltenham Parade
Tel: 01423 563333

This restaurant is renowned for its exotic Asian food, using the freshest ingredients, prepared by expert chefs.

WHERE TO SOCIALISE

The Muckle's

11 West Park
Tel: 01423 858153

Muckle's is a large one room operation, comprising a bar area, restaurant and beer garden. Good quality food is served daily.

Blues Bar

4 Montpellier Parade
Tel: 01423 566881
www.bluesbar.co.uk



Two doors down from the infamous Betty's Tea Rooms, the Blues Café Bar has perhaps the most unusual stage backdrop ever – With a full size shop window providing a panoramic view of Harrogate's Montpellier Gardens and the Stray beyond. The Blues Bar has live music everyday from acts all over the world and an Egyptian restaurant for anyone looking to try something a little different.

Alberts Bar & Dining

49-51 Parliament Street
Tel: 01423 568446
www.albertsharrogate.co.uk
Open from 9.30 everyday



Alberts Bar & Dining is an amazing new bar and restaurant on Harrogate's busy Parliament Street, two minutes walk from the International Centre

The stylish venue is split over two floors, downstairs occupies an opulent, but comfortable space with chandeliers and chesterfield sofas, offering the full menu or just a few drinks in a relaxed atmosphere. Upstairs has a loft inspired feel, offering a sumptuous seasonal specials board from head chef, Clive Leyland. Alberts now offers a full breakfast menu every morning from 9.30am until 12pm, and a quick light lunch menu for only £6.50 from 12-3pm Monday to Thursday.

Montpellier

14 Montpellier Parade
Tel: 01423 817248

Montey's Rock Café

3 Corn Exchange Building
The Ginnel
Tel: 01423 526652

WHERE TO PARTY

Time Nightclub

14-18 Kings Road
Tel: 01423 531896

Carringtons

90-96 Station Parade
Tel: 01423 525551

The Moko Lounge

2 Kings Road
Tel: 01423 525862

The Viper Rooms

Royal Baths, Parliament Street
Tel: 01423 520567

THINGS TO DO

Odeon Cinema

East Parade
Tel: 0871 2244007

Harrogate Theatre

Oxford Street
Tel: 01423 502116

UK Super Bowl

Tower Street
Tel: 01423 529191

HARROGATE WEEK PROGRAMME



DAY	TIME	COURSE	LOCATION
SUNDAY 20	12 noon - 18.30	Stress Awareness Workshop	QS 7
	12 noon - 18.30	Managing the Golf Course Better	QS 6
	12 noon - 18.30	Budgeting - Making Numbers Count	QS 10
	12 noon - 18.30	Moving into Management	QS 5
	12 noon - 18.30	An Introduction to Golf Course Design	QS 3
	12 noon - 18.30	Health & Safety for Greenkeepers	QS 8
	12 noon - 18.30	Environmental Management	QS 2
	12 noon - 18.30	Managing Relationships at Work	QS 1
MONDAY 21	9.00 - 17.00	Moving into Management	QS 5
	9.00 - 17.00	An Introduction to Golf Course Design	QS 3
	9.00 - 17.00	Health & Safety for Greenkeepers	QS 8
	9.00 - 17.00	Environmental Management	QS 2
	9.00 - 17.00	Managing Relationships at Work	QS 1
	9.00 - 17.00	The Minefield of Appraisals!	QS 4
	9.00 - 17.00	Are Your Finances Below Par?	QS 10
	9.00 - 17.00	The Disturbance Theory	QS 7
TUESDAY 22	9.00 - 17.00	BTME & ClubHouse	EXHIBITION HALLS
	9.00 - 17.00	Careers Clinic	QUEEN'S SUITE
	10.15 - 10.45	Cost Effective Nutrition	QS 7
	10.30 - 12.00	Opening Session & Presentations	QS A
	11.00 - 11.30	Water Management - An American Perspective	QS 7
	11.45 - 12.15	The Worm Has Turned - The Lifecycle and Control of Native Casting Worms	QS 7
	12.30 - 13.00	Drought, Drainage & Conservation	QS 7
	13.15 - 13.45	Improvement in Fungicide/Pesticide Performances by Managing Alkaline Hydrolysis	QS 7
	13.30 - 16.30	Golf & Turfgrass Management in the Future. What's next?	QS 5
	13.30 - 14.30	Workplace Bullying: What It Is and What You Can Do About It?	QS A
	14.00 - 14.30	Golf green fertilisation in our changing climate - The implications on leaching, plant health and pathogen activity (Headland Amenity)	QS 7
	14.45 - 15.15	Golf Green Rootzone - Balancing the Pores	QS 7
	14.45 - 15.45	Preparing for the Barclays Scottish Open	QS A
	15.30 - 16.00	Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Certification Schemes	QS 7
	16.00 - 17.00	Noise and Vibration Management – A Practical Guide to Legislation, Responsibilities and Managing Exposure	QS A
	16.15 - 16.45	Tips and Tricks for Tournament Preparation (Bernhard & Co)	QS 7
WEDNESDAY 23	9.00 - 17.00	BTME & ClubHouse	EXHIBITION HALLS
	9.00 - 17.00	Careers Clinic	QUEEN'S SUITE
	9.00 - 17.00	EGU / GCMA Continuing Development Seminars	QS 7
	10.00 - 11.00	PENSIONSFORCE: Acknowledging the Message	QS A
	11.15 - 12.15	Are you Up to Date? Current Environmental Legislation	QS A
	13.00 - 14.00	Terms and Conditions of Employment – All You Need to Know!	QS A
	13.30 - 16.30	Master Greenkeeper Workshop	QS 5
	14.15 - 15.15	The Way Golf Began	QS A
	15.30 - 16.30	BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System	QS A
	17.15 - 18.30	BIGGA AGM	QS A
THURSDAY 24	9.00 - 16.00	BTME & ClubHouse	EXHIBITION HALLS
	9.00 - 16.00	Careers Clinic	QUEEN'S SUITE
	9.00 - 17.00	R&A Conference - Moving Toward Greater Sustainability – A Progress Report	QS A
	9.30 - 10.00	Turf Management Using the Latest Fertiliser Technologies	QS 7
	10.15 - 10.45	The Practical Guide to Growth Regulators	QS 7
	11.00 - 11.30	Understanding Golf Course Trees	QS 7
	11.45 - 12.15	Mix & Spray - The Cost Effective Approach to Balanced Turf Nutrition	QS 7
	12.30 - 13.00	What Do You Do With Your Worms?	QS 7
	13.15 - 13.45	Compost Teas for Championship Greens - Improve Playing Surfaces and Cut Chemical Inputs	QS 7
	14.00 - 14.30	Biotechnologies of the Future for Prevention Rather Than Curing Turfgrass Problems	QS 7
	14.45 - 15.15	4¼? What Is That All About?	QS 7

HOW TO GET TO HARROGATE

RAIL

Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station. Taxis are available outside the station and will cost around £3.50.

For further information on rail services to Harrogate contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

AIR

Leeds Bradford International Airport www.lbia.co.uk

Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately £18. You may wish to visit the following websites for flight information.

www.flybe.com | www.jet2.com | www.airsouthwest.com

The "Bus 2 Jet" 767 service links Leeds Bradford International Airport with Harrogate town centre. The service runs every 90 minutes between 0615 and 2245, with an average journey time of around half an hour. For further information on this service please contact Harrogate & District Travel Ltd on + 44 1423 566061 or visit www.bus2jet.com

Manchester International Airport www.manchesterairport.co.uk

Manchester International Airport is situated halfway between London and Edinburgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public Transport links are available 24 hours a day offering services to Harrogate via Leeds or York.

COACH

National Express www.nationalexpress.com

National Express is the UK's largest scheduled coach network, offering several services a day to Harrogate from all over the UK.

CAR

Directions www.theaa.com

From M1: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From M62: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the South A1(M): Leave the A1(M) at Wetherby and take the A661 to Harrogate, approximately 10 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the North A1(M): Leave A1(M) at junction 47 and take the A59 to Harrogate, approximately 8 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the East: Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the West: Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.



Harrogate Town Centre Car Parks

MULTI-STOREY

Victoria | Jubilee | West Park

SURFACE LEVEL

Odeon West Park | Park View | Montpellier Shoppers

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours
Charges apply all days at all times (including Public Holidays)
Free parking for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles

Pay and Display parking is in operation in most town centre streets in Harrogate. Charges and restrictions apply on Sundays and Bank Holidays in all parking areas unless otherwise stated.

SEA

Direct Ferries www.directferries.co.uk

Direct Ferries are part of Direct Ferries Ltd, an online travel provider based in the UK offering ferry crossings to the UK from the continent. Registered agents of the ferry operators are listed on the website, they sail to 14 Countries and 54 ferry ports on over 60 routes.

North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles from Harrogate.

PARK & RIDE

From the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate, follow the ring road to the Great Yorkshire Showground (A661).

EXHIBITORS' LIST

Abbott (MJ) Ltd	A32
Advanta Seeds UK Ltd	C32
AFT Trenchers Ltd	B11
Air-Seal Products Ltd	M16
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	A30
Allett Mowers	A23b
Alpha Amenity	C16
Amenity Land Services Ltd	A21
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd	C12
Askham Bryan College	Q74
Autoguide Equipment Ltd	Q41
Aztec Walkover Sprayers	Q2
Badcock Services Ltd	B25
Barcham Trees Plc	M19
Barenbrug UK Ltd	A20
Bathgate Leisure	C31
Bayer Environmental Science	C44
Bellwood Trees	A34
Bernhard & Co Ltd	B31
Blec Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd	C41a
BMS - Europe Ltd	C35
Boddingtons Ltd	B23
Border Sports Services Ltd	C15
Bowhayes Trees Ltd	Q37
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Assoc	Q69
British Seed Houses Ltd	A13
Campey Turf Care Systems	B35
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	B33a
CL Signage	C10
Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand	M25
Collier Turf Care Ltd	Q18
Complete Weed Control Ltd	K4
Countax Ltd	M24
Course Care	C13
Craftsman Quality Lockers Ltd	Q6
DENNIS	M9
DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd	M7
DLF Trifolium Ltd	A16
Dryspell Irrigation Solutions	Q16
Dunweedon Ltd	C9
Eagle Promotions Ltd	C43
Ecosolve Limited	M2
Elmwood College	Q78
Enviropro H2o Ltd	A3
Espresso Essential	Q31
European Golf Machinery	C29
European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd	B3
Farmura Ltd	A15
Fleximas	A4
Floratine Products	K3
FMW Distinct Ltd	B29
Foley United	Q28
Forest Drainage Products Ltd	Q20
Gambetti Barre UK Ltd	A35
Garfitts International Ltd	M26
GCSAA	Q80
Gem Professional	A25
	Q56

Golf Finance Ltd	Q5
Golf Recruit Ltd	Q73
Grazers Ltd	Q36
Greenkeepers Training Committee (The)	Q59
Groundsman Industries	A10
Hardi Limited	M20
Hayter Ltd	C34
Headland Amenity Ltd	C26
History of Turfcare	Q3, Q7
Hoggs of Fife Ltd	A11
Hunter Grinders Ltd	C11
Hunter's Promotions Ltd	Q33b
Husqvarna	Q26
Huxley Golf	C33
Hydro Turf Ltd	Q51
Ideals UK Ltd	A6b
Indigrow Ltd	B28
Institute of Groundsmanship	C19
Inturf	A31
IPU Group	Q14
Irri-Supplies	A26
ITT Lowara UK Ltd	M21
JK Inc Ltd	Q13
Job Shop	Q72
John Deere Limited	B15, B21, B38
John Greasley Ltd	C21
JSM Distribution	M22
Kawasaki Motors UK	C28
Ken White Signs Ltd	Q24
Kubota (UK) Ltd	B12, B22, B36
Kyoeisha UK Ltd	Q11
Lastec UK Ltd	C25, C40
Lawn Master UK Ltd	K2
Lely	M6
Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd	B5
Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd	C41b
LS Systems	A5
Mador & Partners Chartered Architects	Q22
Major Equipment Ltd	M3
Massey Ferguson	A23a
Mega Green/MultiBloom	Q34b
Melex - Lloyd Ltd	Q38
Myerscough College	Q61
New Holland	M11a
North Staffs Irrigation	B24
Novozymes Biologicals	A29
Ocmis Irrigation	A18
On Course	C17
OptimizeGolf	C39
Orkney Seaweed Co Ltd	Q21
ORM Professional Products Ltd	C22
Parsaver Golf	Q4
Pinseeker	Q27

Pro-Sport	Q34a
Protea Mowers	M10a
Pro-Tine	B30
PSD Agronomy Ltd	A17
R & K Kensett Ltd	A12
Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.	A7
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	M14, M17
Reaseheath College	Q66
Reco	M12
Revaho UK Ltd	A24
Rigby Taylor Ltd	C23
Rolawn Ltd	A22a
Rotary Lift UK	M10b
Rufford	C37
Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	B34
Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions	B8
Sheppy Fertilisers	B7
Sherriff Amenity	C8
Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd	B26
Soil Harmony	B2
Spaldings (UK) Ltd	C14
Sparsholt College	Q75
Speedcut Contractors Ltd	A19
Steelmaster Products	B9
STRI	A14
Sub Air Systems	A2
Sustane Europe Ltd	A17b
Symbio	B4
Synergy Products Ltd	A9
Syngenta	B33b
Tacit	B1
Talbot Farm Landscapes	M8
Tarmac Topsport	A22b
Techneat Eng Ltd	A1
Technology Services Group	Q57
Tenax UK Limited	C5
Terrain Aeration	B10
Tillers Turf Company Ltd	A27
Tomlin (DW)	C36
Tonick Watering Ltd	A33
Toro	M13
Toro Irrigation	M5
Tower Sport Europe	C42
Trilo (UK) Ltd	A28
True Surface by Turflite	M1
Tru-Turf Equipment	C30
Tuffa UK Ltd	A6a
Turfcare Group	Q39
Turffit Ltd	M10c
Turfmech Machinery Ltd	C20
Verde Sports Ltd	C1
Vitax Ltd	A8
Waste2Water Europe Ltd	B32
Wiedenmann UK Ltd	M11b
Writtle College	Q58
York Martin International Ltd	Q15

Trilo for turfcare



The world's No1 in Vacuum Sweepers

With 35 years' experience and a range of quality machinery, it's easy to see why Trilo is the world-leader in vacuum sweepers.

Built to an extremely high standard, the wide choice of models and numerous options available ensures you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient.

Trilo have a range of quality high specification groundcare equipment which offers the complete solution for scarifying, mowing, spreading and blowing.



BL960



BL400



SG300



TDR16

HIRE, SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

Trilo UK Ltd

Wadebridge Farm, Landwade, Exning, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7NE
Tel: (01638) 720123 Fax: (01638) 720128 www.trilo.co.uk

Call us today for a demo



BIGGA MERCHANDISE

BIGGA RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A NEW DEAL WITH CORPORATE WORKWEAR DIRECT TO SUPPLY A NEW COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF WORKWEAR GARMENTS AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT THROUGH THEIR NEW IMPROVED WEBSITE.



THE RANGE WILL NOW INCLUDE POLO SHIRTS, FLEECEs, SAFETY FOOTWEAR, GLOVES AND HIGH-VISIBILITY GARMENTS AS WELL AS AN IMPROVED RANGE OF TOP QUALITY WATERPROOF SUITS.

Save time and money by ordering direct from BIGGA HQ, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. Tel: 01347 833800. Email: enquiries@bigga.co.uk



VISIT US ON STAND Q69

HARROGATE WEEK

08 EXHIBITORS

BAYER

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE C44



Bayer Environmental Science are launching their new contact and systemic turf fungicide "Dedicate" on stand C44. Dedicate's unique nature allows the product to be applied "anytime of the year, summer or winter, whatever the weather".

Dedicate's extensive control of turf diseases includes Fusarium, Red Thread, Dollar spot, Rust with the added bonus of Anthracnose in managed turf areas.

Dedicate adds to the extensive portfolio of Bayer products which include other top selling fungicides, Chipco Green and Scorpio, Total herbicide Pistol, chafer grub and leatherjacket insecticide Merit Turf and many more.

The introduction of Merit Turf in 2006 gave the UK its first chafer control for over five years. Users are regularly receiving excellent control for up to 11 months of the year of this notorious turf pest, followed by rapid green-up of affected areas.



BERNHARD & CO LTD B31

Bernhard's has some BIG NEWS to announce at BTME in 2008. Visit Stand B31 to see what new product innovation Bernhard and Company will introduce, helping golf course maintenance teams produce the highest quality of cut with greater efficiency.

While there have been many attempts to imitate our technology over the years, Bernhard's thorough understanding of workshop realities and turf management, and its continuing R&D programme, have ensured our sharpening system remain unsurpassed.

Many people claim their company is at the cutting edge of technology, but few can justify the statement as well as Bernhard and Company.



BORDER SPORTS SERVICES LTD C15

Border Sports return this year with the range of professional fertilisers from Mivena BV, more and more turf managers are using this product line of controlled and slow release fertilisers as a major part of their feeding programme, with new analyses being launched at the show, it is a good time to come and see how this range could benefit you and your course or sportsground. New this year will be the Rufford range of dressings and rootzones, a welcome addition to the quality range of products we already offer. We look forward to welcoming you.

EAGLE PROMOTIONS LTD C43



Eagle: the best choice for your club's marketing collateral - Signage, Course Guides, Scorecards.

Throughout the UK, Ireland and Europe - Eagle is the leading producer of quality marketing collateral providing a service to over 1,500 golf clubs:

- Quality course and clubhouse signage - timber or rock, with zinc, bronze, and now our new range of polished granite tee plates to suit every style of course and clubhouse
- Innovative yardage guides - from the new Eagle Eye photographic style to traditional designs
- The widest range of scorecards - from tailor-made to off-the-shelf in 4, 6 or more large & small page formats
- Bag tags and green fee tickets - designed to project your club's branding
- EGU approved course measurement and certification.

Old Course St Andrews, Carnoustie, Loch Lomond, The Berkshire, Dun Laoghaire, Ballybunion amongst some 2000 courses worldwide supplied. Clubs like dealing with Eagle.

FARMURA LTD A15



We are pleased this year to be able to announce our partnership with Aquatrols. Their Water Management Products complement the Farmura range and bring together under one roof recognised names such as Porthcawl, Revolution, Ferrosol and Primer Select.

Between the two companies we have 80 years of experience in providing quality products to the Amenity industry. The Farmura Mix & Spray concept has proved highly successful providing courses with not only quality greens but also substantial time savings.

Come and visit us on stand A15 and discuss your individual needs with the Farmura and Aquatrols Team.

FOREST DRAINAGE PRODUCTS LTD Q20



Forest Drainage Products Ltd provides a sustainable and cost effective solution to stormwater management.

Consisting of lightweight flexible perforated piping, the Polybed product range has been specifically designed to replace existing drainage methods.

Polybed can be used in a wide variety of applications including soakaways and land drainage, sports pitch and golf course repairs, bio-treatment plants, septic tanks and retaining walls.

The system offers an enhanced void ratio of 35% and substitutes the need to use gravel and stone. Weighing very little, it is extremely easy to handle and can be installed up to 4 times quicker than traditional methods, delivering savings in both labour and overall costs.

KUBOTA (UK) LTD B12, B22, B36



Maintain the perfect golfing environment with the impressive Course Maintenance Range from renowned Japanese global manufacturer Kubota.

Meticulously engineered to exceed your demanding daily needs, the Kubota Course Maintenance Range delivers an exceptional line up of diesel out front and mid-mounted mowers, compact and utility tractors and the ultimate all terrain utility vehicle - the RTV900.

From demanding daily mowing operations to long-term landscaping and course development requirements, the Kubota Course Maintenance Range combines revolutionary engine design, innovative transmission technology and responsive user controls to deliver exceptional fuel efficiency, superior productivity and year round cost effective working.

LASTEC UK LTD C25, C40



Lastec UK's 721XF Articulator, an out-front version of the internationally acclaimed grass mower, has taken European golf courses by storm since its introduction last year. The 721XF, with its 11ft cutting width, is the most productive machine of its type available. Also on display this week is a selection of ride-on, zero-turn Articulators, the machines that have set a global standard for semi-rough mowers.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN LTD M14, M17



Back again with new products and additional services. Ransomes Jacobsen is delighted to be back at BTME after a year's absence. We return with a selection of products new to the show and we're introducing a new range of operator and technical training programmes offering industry recognised certification for end-users.

Showcasing on our stand will be the all-new golf car from E-Z-GO, the RVX., powered by a unique AC electric drivetrain. Also on display are the new Jacobsen Eclipse walk-behind mowers which feature either a petrol genset or a drop in battery pack providing alternate power sources.

As you would expect from one of the market leaders in turf maintenance, you'll find virtually everything for the grounds care professional on our stand.

Ransomes Jacobsen. The One-Stop Shop.

TORO M13



Toro is featuring its new machinery protection plan, Toro Protection Plus, which it says is the turf industry's most comprehensive protection against unexpected and unwanted repair bills, enabling tight control of budgets while ensuring equipment stays in peak condition.

Also on show are two new tractor-mounted aerators - the ProCore 864

and 1298 - which are highly advanced, productive, and exceptionally quiet and smooth in operation.

Toro Reelmaster 6000 series fairway mowers will also be on the Toro stand, now fitted as standard with the company's innovative DPA cutting units. Visitors can also find out about a new Operating Lease, from Lely UK, for customers who prefer the machinery hire route to outright purchase and ownership.

TORO IRRIGATION M5



Toro is launching what it says is the most advanced, durable and flexible golf sprinkler in its category - the DT Series. Many of the proven features of Toro's best-selling 800 Series sprinklers have been incorporated into the new range. These include a Dual Trajectory feature, which enables simple adjustment of the main nozzle to either 15 or 25 degrees, helping it to better withstand wind or avoid obstacles.

DT Series sprinklers come in two models - full-circle only, and full and part-circle. They have a closed case design, an indestructible stainless steel valve and removable rock screen. With fewer and more economical service parts, the new DT Series is a cost-effective and low-maintenance choice for today's greenkeeper.

TRILO (UK) LTD A28



TRILO will be showing the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper. Built to the same high quality and with many of the features of the SG400, including a brush inside the suction hood and six metre wanderhose and it only needs 35hp to power the SG300, it fits perfectly into the range. As the new Progressive mower importer for the UK, TRILO UK will have at the show for the first time, the Pro-flex 120 mower. Capable of mowing the worst in undulations without scalping, while leaving a perfect cut, it must be seen to be believed. The new TDR 15 roller mower has also proved popular, with independent wing operation and excellent contour following.

Following the success of the TRILO range of blowers, which includes the BL400 with 180 degree spout, available as a front mount unit and needing only 25hp, the BL740 for 35hp, but we will be showing the biggest blower in the market, the BL960, used and known by many. It moves a huge amount of air and can have a hydraulic reverse spout for ease of use. Come and see how we can make your job easier! Quality Always Pays!

WASTE2WATER EUROPE LTD B32

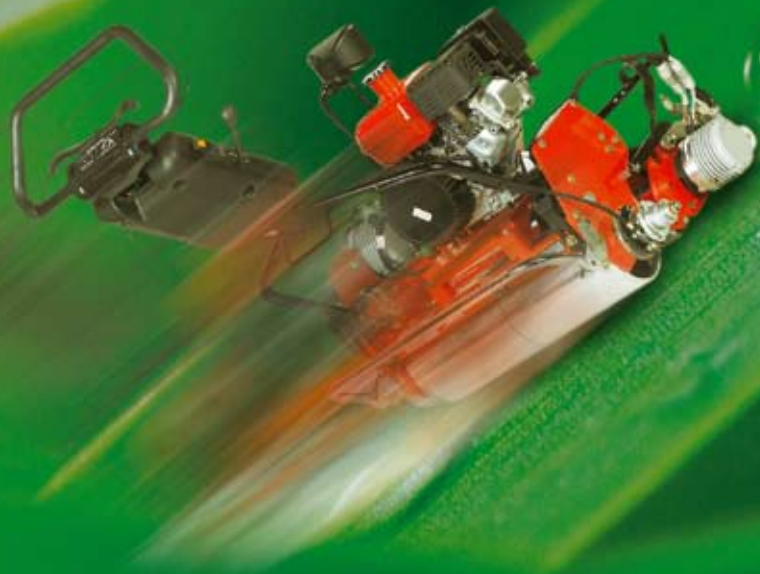


If you are considering upgrading your wash-off area to comply with the new Groundwater Regulations, make sure you call by to discuss your requirements and view one of our systems, which will be on show.

We know you've got a choice of systems, but think we've got it about right, as our systems have evolved from years of positive customer feedback. With thousands of installations worldwide our experience in wastewater treatment is second to none.

Our innovative design means you don't need to install our systems in a building or a container and, as they are above ground, you don't have to worry about possible future changes in underground storage legislation either! We look forward to seeing you!

The walking greens mower which adapts to your environment



ECLIPSE™

Jacobsen's new Eclipse series of walking greens mowers are made to adapt to any conditions, wet or dry and to any undulations on your course. An advanced control system takes variability out of the operator equation for a more consistent standard of cut every time. The adjustable cylinder speed means clip rates can be increased which gives a better quality of cut and ultimately helps in the quest to achieve faster green speeds.

The Eclipse is available with two inter-changeable power options, either a 4.6 hp Honda petrol engine or an environmentally friendly drop-in battery pack.

If speed is of the essence, call us immediately for a demonstration on 01473 270000.



Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd. Marketing GK/11/07/Ecl
West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich IP3 9TT UK
Tel: +44 (0)1473 270000 Fax: +44 (0)1473 276300
www.ransomesjacobsen.com

JACOBSEN®
A Textron Company

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

The Wentworth Club, May 22-25 2008

BIGGA are to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 22-25.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided. Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF.

The Open Championship, Royal Birkdale, July 17-20

This is your opportunity to work at Royal Birkdale GC to assist Course Manager Chris Whittle, and his team with the preparation of course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – The Lancashire Manor Hotel, Upholland nr Wigan - but after that transport to and from the golf course, shared accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 16, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only. Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered. To apply complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York, YO61 1UF. For further information contact Scott on 01347 833800 or email scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Team February 1, 2008, and you will be notified later in the month.

Name _____ Golf Club _____
 Position _____ Age _____

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:	Applied	Successful	Yes	No
Carnoustie, 2007				
Hoylake, 2006				
St Andrews, 2005				
Royal Troon, 2004				
Royal St George's, 2003				
I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years				
I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee				
I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme				
I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks.				
I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team				
I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.)				
I am an overseas Member				

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Also, subject to sufficient experienced applicants, no BIGGA member will be eligible to appear on more than three consecutive teams. A limited number of places will be made available to overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off. From this year should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ.

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

FAIRWAY MOWER

The Shibaura SR525 Fairway Mower is a compact, lightweight, five-unit mower, which delivers stability via a low centre of gravity. The width of cut at 2.5mtrs gives a uniform finish from 30mm down to 7mm. In addition the centre of the cutting unit can be moved sideways and also reversed. Options such as grass box, roof and protection net are also available.

www.shibaura.com



SUPA COMPACT OVERSEEDERS

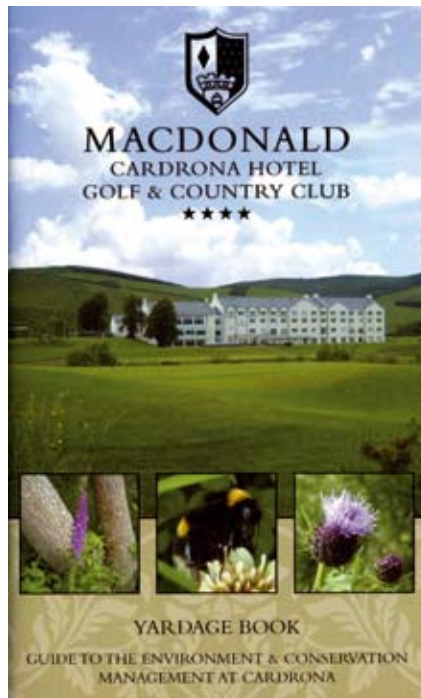
New from Campey Turfcare is a range of overseeders. These Supa Compact Vredo machines enable fine turf surfaces to be renovated quickly and effectively by providing great manoeuvrability for maximum performance. They exert very low ground pressure, minimising the risk of compacting the surface – a problem associated with larger, heavier equipment. Available with operating widths of 0.8m, 1.2m and 1.6m, they can either be mounted via the 3-point linkage of a compact tractor, or used as a trailed machine.

www.campeyturfcare.co.uk



YARDAGE BOOKLET

STRI, in conjunction with Parsaver Golf, is giving golf facilities the opportunity to record and display the environmental credentials of their course via a site-specific booklet or on-course Wildlife Interpretation Sign.



The content of the booklets or on-course signs are specific to each club and will contain the most relevant information to the site. Booklets and signs will generally include a record of the wildlife and habitats found on each hole, together with a breakdown of the positive environmental best practices undertaken.

For more information contact Lee Penrose at the STRI.

01274 565131
or Email: lee.penrose@stri.co.uk

ANOTHER CLEAN SWEEP

Trilo has launched the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper. With many of the features of the larger SG400, it fits perfectly into the expanding Trilo range. It comes with a 1.4 metre brush head, a new brush and hood design and a 5 metre wander hose as standard. It needs just 35hp to power it and with high tip it is the perfect compact solution too many situations.



PLANT & SOIL TREATMENT

Quick-Sol is a unique plant and soil treatment pioneered in the United States, distributed by Beyond International Inc, that has proven to yield extraordinary results as well as aid in the protection of the environment.



Quick-Sol is environmentally friendly, biodegradable and non-toxic and has been certified in its existing markets for organic use. Evaluations are well advanced for certification to the European equivalent standard. It can also dramatically reduce water requirements, one of our most precious resources, without affecting quality or productivity.

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Nemasys J, from Scotts, is an innovative new biological control which is proven to be highly effective at combating leatherjackets, and can be used as part of an Integrated Pest Control Programme.



Developed by Becker Underwood, Nemasys J contains the beneficial insect parasitic nematode *Steinernema feltiae* – a microscopic worm which does not feed on plant material. Nematodes are proven to be very successful in controlling a wide range of pest species in horticultural situations. Once the nematodes have been applied to the infected area they actively seek out and enter leatherjackets in the soil, killing the pest. The nematodes then reproduce inside the dead pest and release a new generation of hungry nematodes which disperse and seek out more grubs.

www.scottspprofessional.co.uk

CHIPPER/SHREDDER

Pinnacle Power Equipment has launched its 2008 model Eliet Primo Chipper/Shredder.

The Primo is a highly portable and innovative product that can fold without the use of tools and can be transported in something as small as the boot of a family car.



A 4hp Honda GC135 engine powers the 2008 production Primo. The unit can deal with material up to 1.5 in (3.8cm) in diameter, features a 60-litre collection bag and weighs just 35 kgs.

01932 788799
or visit: www.pinnaclepower.co.uk

CAPABILITIES EXTENDED

Two important new options have been introduced for Tycrop's ProPass 180 low impact broadcast top dresser, distributed in the United Kingdom and Ireland by Staffordshire firm, Turfmech Machinery Ltd.

The first is a self-contained hydraulic power pack for the towed version of the machine, enabling the ProPass 180 to be used successfully behind work vehicles or tractors with no auxiliary hydraulic system or with an external oil flow of less than 23 litres/min (5gpm).

The second new option now available from Turfmech enables the towed version of the ProPass 180 to be used successfully and safely behind Ransomes Jacobsen's Cushman Turf-Truckster work vehicle.

www.turfmech.co.uk



GOLF RANGEFINDER

SkyCaddie has launched a brand new top-of-the-range model, the stunning SG5 Pro Series.



The unveiling of the colour-screen SG5 Pro Series in time for Christmas gives golfers access to the most sought-after rangefinder in golf.

Golfers will experience a 220 x 176 resolution colour screen, automatic backlighting, 14-hours of rechargeable battery life, a mini-USB port, four-way scroll pad and a water-resistant body.

0870 112 0513
or visit: www.skycaddiegps.co.uk

OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Fresh-Air Fitness has launched a 'Golfers Pack'. Ideal for golf clubs and golf facilities, the equipment in this pack helps golfers to stretch and warm up the relevant muscle groups and joints before play and therefore helps to prevent injury.



The pack includes: Elliptical Cross-Trainer; Tai Chi Spinners; Back Massager; Hip Twister; Air Skier; Big Shoulder Wheel.

01483 608860
www.fresh-airfitness.co.uk

HYPNOSIS CURES

Missing short putts drives golfers mad with frustration! Now players who are struggling on the greens can solve their problems 'while they sleep' - through a unique new range of specialist golf hypnosis programmes.



The MP3 downloads and CDs at www.golfhypnotherapy.com are specifically targeted to manage times in a round when pressure and anxiety can wreak havoc for a golfer, and feature techniques used by young British golf sensation Ollie Fisher.

www.golfhypnotherapy.com

TURNTABLE CHIPPER

New from ECHO BearCat is the 20cm (8") Turntable Chipper.



This powerful new model is equipped with 4 reversible heat treated steel chipper blades and a 76cm (30") diameter disc, driven by a 24hp Honda, which turns the disc at a remarkable 1500rpm via triple banded belt drive.

www.countax.com



News from the Chief Executive

As the days get shorter it is hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from the end of another year with my diary already having quite a lot of entries for 2008!

I have spent a considerable amount of time out of the office in November at various meetings and BIGGA events where it was interesting and rewarding to meet members. Two of these were interview sessions for the BIGGA delegation to the Golf Industry Show in America which is sponsored by Bernhard and Co. Once again this was heavily oversubscribed and the high overall standard of entry made it difficult to select the final ten that will benefit from this experience. Bernhards have also been working with the GCSAA to select ten American Superintendents who will visit Harrogate Week in January following the very successful launch of this part of the initiative in January 2007.

The main thrust of activity at Headquarters at the moment is towards Harrogate with a steady influx of bookings for both the education and the exhibition. Communication remains a big issue and arrangements are being made for members to hold an open session with the Board during Harrogate Week. This will probably take place on Thursday 24th January however final confirmation of the time and venue will be published in the January issue of Greenkeeper International and on the website.

While putting dates in diaries members are reminded that the AGM will take place on Wednesday 23rd January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre. Copies of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007 will be sent to Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries once the current audit is complete and will also be available on the day.

This being my last column for 2007 then I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and I hope that 2008 proves to be a successful year. I know that it's getting tougher in golf and those who do not rise to the challenge will find it even harder. Your Association through its Board, Staff and Region and Section Committees are here to try to help, this we hope to achieve by providing support, education and through developing a closer working relationship with the other major bodies in the industry. I encourage any member that has a concern or suggestion regarding the running of Association to contact either myself or a member of the Board. Remember communication is a two way process!

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 23 in the Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre.



John Pemberton



SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

Well done to all the guys who made it to the Dukes for the Autumn Tournament. Many thanks to Andy Campbell and his team for the excellent hospitality. The food was fantastic and the clubhouse staff made us all very welcome. Derek Robson, the Course Manager, and his team did an excellent job presenting the course, and the improvements to ground conditions and surface quality as a result of their work are tremendous.

Derek had set the course up for a fairly stiff challenge. Not to be outdone the weather made its own contribution. Fast greens combined with fierce winds, required a skilled touch with the putter, and nerves of steel. Results were as follows: Best Scratch, David Simpson, 76 (+1) 77; Best Nett, Paul Murphy, 85 (5) 80; 1.1 Archie Dunn, 87 (7) 81; 1.2 Kenny Mitchell, 87 (5) 82; 1.3 Charlie Macdonald, 87 (4) 83; 2.1 Alexander Walker, 96 (15) 81; 2.2 Willie Caswell, 102 (12) 90; 3.3 Andy Mellon, 110 (15) 95; Trade Prize, Pat Allan, 91 (6) 85; Guest, Ray Bisset, 114 (21) 93; Longest Drive, Charlie Macdonald; Nearest the Pin, Dougie Barr; Best Nett Spring & Autumn, David Simpson.

These scores might seem high, but those who were there on the day, assured me that only they could understand how difficult the conditions were – I, was tucked up in bed recovering from my flight home from Canada. David Simpson proved to be a worthy champion, and combined with his performance at the equally challenging Panmure in the spring. was enough to win him the 2007 Combined Trophy. Well done David. David's form was to continue, going on to win the National Championship which this year was held in Scotland at Dundonald Golf course and Kilmarnock Barassie. On behalf of the Section, I would like to thank the Course Managers and staff for providing a great test of golf, and the Captains and Committees for their hospitality, also I would like to thank Kubota for their sponsorship on both days. The starter packs and refreshments at the turn were much appreciated. Thanks also go to Peter Boyd and the BIGGA staff for making sure both days ran smoothly.

As for the tournament itself, the weather on the Monday was typical Scottish weather, heavy drizzle. This didn't dampen the spirits of all who played and a great time was had by most. I say most as a friend of mine found the going tough over the two days he had 200 blows, unlucky Dougie Barr, it made my score look good. The good news is that the Scottish Region won the team prize so well done to the eight scores that counted. (I wasn't one of them) Overall the two day event was great. I'm looking forward to next year's tournament down on the south coast of England.

The AGM this year was well attended and the new committee is as follows: Chairman – Derek Scott, Vice Chairman – Alan Sharp, Secretary/Treasurer – Andrew Mellon, Past Chairman – Andy O'Hara, Board – Archie Dunn, Patron – Kevin Brunton, Trade – Jim Finlayson, Student – George Pendrich, General Committee – Gordon McKie, Brian Heggie, Gordon Moir, Derek Robson & Graham Taylor.

Over the last year we have run two successful Golf tournaments, and nine educational events. In total 255 members attended these and feedback has been very positive. We hope to continue this success into 2008, and we would like to thank all the members for supporting

Around the Green

the committee, and each other within the Section.

On behalf of the committee we would like to extend seasons greetings to all and wish them the very best for 2008.

All the best,

*Chairman: Derek Scott
Secretary: Andy Mellon*

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk 01334 658914

NORTH



The AGM was held at Peterhead Golf Club on November 1. We had 26 people turn up for the golf and the AGM, which is about normal from previous years. The Section would like to thank Peterhead GC for the hospitality and the use of the golf course. The course was in excellent condition and is a credit to Hugh and his staff.

The golf was a Stableford with the names drawn out of a hat for partners. I was lucky enough to gain a pound from the Gers fan at Kirrie because having led for most of the back nine, he took the gas at the 17th after driving to the front of the green and taking 4 more to get down.

Results: 1. Neil Kidd; 2. Stuart Gardiner; 3. Robert Patterson; 4. Steve Sullivan; 5. Ross Macrae; 6. Billy Craig; Booby prize: 1. John Geddes (BIH); 2. Douglas Lambie. 200 Club: £100 - Ben Brookes; £30 - Joyce Hardie; £30 - John Geddes; £30 - J C Mackintosh.

The weather continues to be mild through November and will ensure there is plenty of work being done around the golf courses in the Section.

The next outing for greenkeepers will be Harrogate in January. I'm sure there will be plenty of Scots at it and a few pints sunk during the week. I think I'm right in saying that Toro, Ransomes Jacobsen, John Deere and Kubota are back at it this year, which will swell the numbers.

The R&A seminar looks good again this year and should be well attended. The sustainable golf issue is an interesting topic and one which can get healthy debates going about how people go about it and how they perceive what sustainable golf course management actually involves. Deeside Golf Club has appointed Neil McLoughlin as Course Manager. He comes from the Chase Golf Club in England and started at the end of September. We wish him well in his new post and welcome him to the north Section of BIGGA.

Not much more from me this month except have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Robert Patterson
Royal Aberdeen*



EAST

I am writing this report in early November with clear blue skies outside. For anyone undertaking renovation or construction works, the weather this autumn has been absolutely perfect.

The Section AGM, with 18 in attendance, was held on October 30, at Turnhouse Golf Club. After a welcoming address by acting Chairman, Stuart Ferguson, the minutes of last year's AGM were read by Secretary, Stevie Dixon. The new committee is as follows: Chairman - Stuart Ferguson; Vice Chairman - Peter Ormiston; Secretary - Stevie Dixon; Committee - Chris Yeaman, Tom Murray, Stuart Crawford, Jimmy Neilson; Co-opted - Ronnie Frame (Trade).

The AGM main discussion point was Education with a further meeting to be held at Oatridge College on Friday, November 16 – More on this next month. A Section newsletter will be mailed to all members shortly with an additional form seeking everybody's views on how to improve the Section. A stamped addressed envelope will also be enclosed so hopefully Stevie will get a 100% return! Many thanks to Turnhouse Golf Club for the food provided and the courtesy round of golf. Congratulations to Gavin and his team for the excellent condition of the course.

The recipients of this year's Patrons Award are Gary White, from Baberton and Shaun Cunningham, from Mortonhall. They each receive a free trip to BTME which I am sure they will find both beneficial and enjoyable.

On the move this month is Matt Thomson (Oatridge Golf Course) who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Falkirk Golf Club. His former deputy, John Smith, is currently Acting Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge.

A young man who is not letting the grass grow under his feet is Sean McLean a former apprentice at Craigmiller Park. Having just completed 18 months on the Ohio State University scheme, he is now heading off to Australia where he will be working at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Until next month

Mike Dooner



NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

Well what news do we have from the Section this month? Firstly Slaley Hall are spending over £300,000 on renewing their irrigation systems on both the Hunting and Priestman's courses, work is expected to last until early March.

Having written in a recent article about Tyneside Golf Club's intention of providing new staff accommodation, I see that the foundations are now in place so I expect by the time you read this they will be sitting in a nice clean new building - Just think of it lads no old fashioned stove to huddle round, yeah there's been a few ex-Tyneside greenkeepers warming their hands over the years on that stove, me included.

Around the Green



CLEVELAND

Talking about accommodation, Northumberland GC has given the staff a temporary canteen in view of replacing the existing sheds in the near future.

Prudhoe GC has recently been busy working on their 16th hole ending up by replacing the soil, drainage and having all the work done in two weeks.

I expect that Terry Charlton no doubt will be providing transport to Harrogate once again, so I hope I will see you all there in January.

One other thing I would like to mention, is that myself and the committee would like to thank the companies who have sponsored us so well this year in both the spring and autumn competitions, although we had poor turn-outs for them both we appreciate your commitment to the Section. We are thinking of changing the day of play next year to a Wednesday and if that fails maybe an afternoon tee-off time maybe more suitable rather than having to take the full day off.

Jimmy Richardson

The Autumn Tournament was held at City of Newcastle Golf Club on Tuesday, October 2. A very good turnout saw 18 greenkeepers playing a course that was in excellent condition. Barry Walker and his staff should be justifiably proud – Thanks lads. The Stableford Competition was won by Ian Stewart, Seaton Carew GC, with 39 points. John Talbot, Middlesbrough GC, was second with 33 points, just pipping Adrian Partridge, Sunderland AFC, who finished with 32. Dave Bell, a Newcastle supporter, was again the winner of the Wooden Spoon. To save Dave winning the spoon outright I promise to play in the next tournament to prevent a Bell hat-trick! Simon Holmes, of Lloyd Limited won the Trade prize with 36 points. If I was his boss I would be wondering if he was spending too much time golfing and not enough selling! The Longest Drive was belted by Adrian Partridge and Alistair Whitby (suspiciously another Lloyd's Sales Manager) won the Nearest the Pin. Every player won a prize. Well done to you all.

Many thanks go to City of Newcastle Golf Club for their courtesy, wonderful food and a great course. Finally, the section would like to thank Rickerbys and Textron for sponsoring the day. Alistair McRoberts and David Common attended on the day and we were very grateful for their support. Other trade members who provided prizes were Aitkens, Alpha Amenity, Border Sports, Rigby Taylor and Turfcare Specialists. Thank you all.

The Section AGM was held at Teesside Golf Club on Tuesday, November 6. There was such a high attendance that we had to share agendas. Nice to see! Tony Mears, of Dinsdale Spa, was elected as our new Chairman taking over from Tony Smith. We must thank 'Smiffy' for all his hard work in the past and wish 'Big Tone' good luck in his new post. Kevin Scarce, Bedale GC, was elected as our new Vice Chairman. Tony Burge, of Richmond GC, was appointed as Golf Day Assistant to help Pembo at outings. Ali Whitby 'volunteered' to become Social Assistant, drumming up support for social, educational and golfing events. Thanks to Pembo for his work as Secretary over the past year.

Tony Burge will stand down from his position of Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club, at the end of this year. His semi retirement is due to health problems, he's unable to keep warm during the winter months. His plans are to winter in Southern Europe and cut the rolling Richmond fairways during the English summer. Tony described his fairway cutting role as being 'a nogger'. This is a new one on me Tony but we all wish you well with your new lifestyle. Anthony (Titch) McGeough will take over as Head Greenkeeper on January 1, 2008 with Ian Leversutch moving up to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. It's great to see that some clubs have enough confidence in their own staff to appoint from within.

It was good to see Terry Harrison, Head Greenkeeper of Blackwell Grange Golf Club, at the AGM. He took over as head man in May after Neil Bursey emigrated to Canada. All of Terry's staff have been made members of BIGGA by the club. Welcome to the Section lads.

Future events are a) the TSL Quiz at Mount Oswald Golf Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 5 and b) Bring A Bottle Golf Day at Cleveland Golf Club on Tuesday, December 11 teeing off at 10.30am. Every member playing will receive a prize again but remember a bottle of decent stuff

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– No Lambrini you tight beggars. Thanks go to Pete Marshall, of Tacit, for sponsoring the day!

Please send your 'non-refundable' £5 deposit for the meal to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8QR. Numbers are limited so please book early to save disappointment.

All the best for the festive season to all Section members and their families.

Terry 'El Prez' Charlton



SHEFFIELD

Last news of the year and unfortunately we don't have a lot again! Congratulations go to Lewis Birch (23), from Abbeydale Golf Club, who recently came runner up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition - Well done Lewis, glad to see the Sheffield Section doing well again. Lewis won an expenses paid trip to Harrogate Week 2008. Carry on the good work Lewis!

Finally may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Lax



MIDLAND – EAST MIDLANDS

The Annual Rigby Taylor, East Midlands Vs Midlands Section, took place at Edgbaston GC on October 16. The morning foursomes competition was evenly matched but the East Midland Section came into their own during the Singles in the afternoon, with the East Midlands Section eventually winning 9 1/2 5 1/2 to retain the trophy again. Our thanks go to Mark Robinson, from Rigby Taylor, for organising the day and helping to pick the winning team.

East Midlands Section AGM Tournament took place at Birstall GC on Thursday, November 1 and was a Texas Scramble Format with 32 entries on the day. The winners of the day were A. Bindley, C Chamberlain and C. Webb with a net score of 58.4; 2. N. Miles, S. Banks and T. Allard (first time he has won anything since hook a duck) with a net score of 61.2; 3. A. Porter, D. Smith and M. Marvell with a net score of 62.3. Our thanks go to Nigel Colley, Course Manager, and his staff for a fantastic day and an exceptionally presented course. The AGM took place after the golf and Andy De Wet and Nigel Colley were elected onto the Committee to replace the retiring Nigel White and Stuart Raybould. Our thanks from the committee to both of you for your service over the past year. The Christmas Tournament is taking place at Longcliffe GC on Thursday, December 13 - Teeing off between 10am and 12 midday. If anyone has not received an entry form please call Secretary, Dan Rodgers on: 07745 227224. Another 5-a-side football evening is planned at Loughborough College the week before Harrogate, if anyone is interested in playing please contact Dan on the above number.

Dan Rodgers



MIDLAND

It is with great sadness I report that our old friend Mr E.Thomas, has passed away. Eric was born 5/2/1932. He spent two years greenkeeping at Boldmere before moving to Sutton Coldfield GC on 13/9/1971 until 25/5/1984. He then spent 11 years at The Belfry before taking early retirement aged 63.

Upon retirement he returned to Sutton as a part time gardener/handyman and also occasionally helped the greenstaff on the course when necessary. This was from 9/1/1995 until his death on 1/11/2007. Eric was a big supporter of BIGGA during his working life, mainly under the old name of BGGA. Eric was Section Treasurer for approximately 16 years and a committee member for many years before that. Most of the modern greenkeepers will remember Eric for bringing together the greenkeepers team that played an annual match vs a Presidents team at Handsworth GC every May. Eric was always there, supporting his team - Despite the fact we usually lost!

Many older members might also remember Eric for helping organise the annual dinner dance that took place for many years in Sutton, where up to 170 people would attend. Our most sincere sympathies to Eric's family and friends, you shall be sorely missed Sir.

Inaugural Midland Region Trophy - November 1 saw the first ever Regional Trophy, held between the five Sections in the Region. Teams of three, all scores to count, medal play!

Needless to say the Midland Section won with a score of 223; 2. East of England, 233; 3. East Midlands, 240; 4. Mid Anglia, 261. The BB&O Section could not field a side. The event was held at Burton GC. The course was in magnificent condition, the quickest greens I have ever played in November by quite a distance! Well done Gavin, etc. Thanks to Whitemoss and Andy Law for sponsoring the event. Nearest the Pin was won by M. Hughes - 40 inches!

The Midland Section Team for next year will comprise of one committee member, and the nett and gross aggregate winners during the year's Section tournaments.

Our annual Midland v East Midland match was held at Edgbaston GC. Unfortunately we came second again; however, as usual the match was conducted in the best of spirits. Our thanks to Edgbaston GC for their kind hospitality and to Rigby Taylor/T.Cheese for organising and sponsoring the event. I'm looking forward to next year's match.

My thanks to our Chairman for the above, wishing you all a great Christmas.

Sean McDade

Education and training has been very busy over the past few weeks with the staging of the Noise and Vibration Management Seminar at Gay Hill GC, the Irrigation Workshop at The Belfry and the 360° Excavator Training course again back at Gay Hill. We have been sounded out about a pesticides training update course and a practical machinery maintenance and reel technology course. Please let me know if you are interested

Around the Green

in attending either event. You can contact me on: 07880 734197 or email me at paul@ghgc.org.uk. You may well have some valuable input into the design of the content. As if you need any reminders Harrogate Week is just around the corner and Sami and her team are once again providing a fantastic range of education subjects. Please support BIGGA and make a difference to our profession!

*Paul Woodham
Course Manager, Gay Hill GC*



EAST OF ENGLAND

Well, lads and lasses, this is my last Around the Green Notes. Three years of reading my drivel is enough for anyone! The new bard will take over in January, but I will keep you guessing as to who it is.

Now onto the news. Both the AGM and the Texas Scramble were held at Ashby Decoy with a great turnout. Results were as follows: 1. R. Portess, I. Collett, J. Hewson, C. Wilkinson; 2. G. MacDonald, P. Fell, P. Larter, B. Robinson; 3. R. Moody, S. Hopkins, S. Clayton, M. Smith; Longest Drive – R. Bemment; Nearest the Pin – I. Collett.

The AGM followed the golf, which passed with no major issues. A couple of changes to the committee – L. Howkins, is our new Vice Chairman, G. Salisbury, is our Website Editor, and G. Cooper replaces S. Clayton as Trade Rep. The main concerns raised were a lack of communication, which will be addressed next year. Our thanks go to Ashby Decoy for the course and the catering. Both of which were excellent.

I would also like to thank all the sponsors this year, you have done us proud. Rigby Taylor, Toro, Colliers, Mansfield Sands, Wurths, Banks Amenitt, John Deere, LMS – I'd like to invite you all for a drink at the George Hotel in Harrogate at 2pm on Tuesday, January 22.

Finally all that remains for me to say is have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Allan Walker



BERKS/BUCKS & OXON

I recently had the pleasure of attending the IOG Scotsturf Exhibition in the wonderful city of Edinburgh, and enjoyed meeting a few old faces and joining in with a liberal lashing of wine as is often customary in these parts as is to douse the Haggis with a "wee splash of whisky sauce", which, with true Scottish understatement, is whisky neat.

After the meal, it was time to pretend you were a true connoisseur and compare notes on the wonderful selection of malts that adorn the top shelf of the bar. Believe me; I adorned nothing but a true hangover.

Joe Newman has retired from The Downshire GC in Berkshire after many

happy years serving the club as Head Greenkeeper. Joe started his career at New Forrest GC in Hampshire, he then moved to Maidenhead GC to take a position as Assistant Golf Professional followed by Ferndown GC in Hampshire and in 1972 Joe started at Downshire GC.

Joe has played scratch golf for many years around the Section and still regularly carves up the links at Maidenhead GC with his old playing buddy Gordon Payne. Joe, from everyone, we wish you a great retirement and look forward to your presence at the section golf days in the future. Joe can be contacted through John Batt on: 01344 421 954. Congratulations to John Batt on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper of The Downshire GC.

On October 31, the Section hosted an educational seminar at Newbury & Crookham GC in Berkshire. Over 80 people attended the event to share in greenkeeping knowledge and take in the trials, tribulations and experiences of Gerry Byrne from the K Club, David MacIndoe from Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, Ian McMillan from Walton Heath GC and Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity. A big thank you to Alec MacIndoe for organising a fantastic line up of speakers and Newbury & Crookham GC for the venue and excellent hospitality.

Finally, a big thank you to all the speakers who gave up their free time, travelled long and hard over the Irish Sea and M25 to ensure a fantastic and memorable day was had by all. Alec, can't wait to get the next event underway, so if you happen to get a call asking for your services from a mild mannered Irishman with a West of Scotland accent mixed with a Newbury dialect, don't mistake it for one of those sales calls from afar. Keep listening.

If you have any news or views the Section website to remember is: bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk.

This year has flown by with great support from the Section for all the events planned throughout 2007 and we hope to plan more superb venues and days out for 2008.

On that note the section committee thank you for all your support and wish you a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

*Mark Day
mark.day@tacticgolf.com*



MID ANGLIA

The autumn meeting was sponsored by Seoul Nassau and our thanks go to Rob Catlin and Dave Murphy for providing the prizes. Berkhamsted GC were equally generous for hosting us and our sincere thanks go to them and the catering staff for making us welcome and looking after us so well. Thanks also to the guys from the trade for the raffle prizes.

Despite heavy rain the previous night, the golfers enjoyed a fantastic sunny October day in which to play a golf course, produced by Gerald Bruce and his team, which was more than a match for the weather, superb!



Local knowledge was obviously vital as Gerald Bruce took the honours with 36 points after countback from Paul Crouch, St Neots GC. Oly Browning, Stocks GC, came in third with 34 points, A. Butler won Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin was Gerald Bruce.

After the golf, the Section held the AGM and John Gubb, the Bedfordshire GC, was elected as new Chairman. For those of you that are unacquainted with John, he is easy to recognise as the wet suit, fins and aqualung are a bit of a give away. The rain from the previous night had flooded poor John's sheds out yet again.

The golf day was well supported by both greenkeepers and the trade and it was nice to see so many old friends. It would be great to see some new faces, as well as the old ones, at the golf meetings next year and if you haven't been before or if it is a while since you played, then come and join us as you will be most welcome.

I can't believe it's that time of year again but best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Well, that's it this month, short and simple – just like me! If anybody has any Section news then please contact me at the address below.

craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk 07769 740 314



SOUTH EAST – SURREY

When you read this I will have just returned from four weeks holiday in Australia and I will be suffering from post holiday blues. Please be considerate when I call for I will want you all to listen to my tales of daring do and show you photos of shark wrestling and how to get a free kangaroo meal simply by scraping it of the road. And, lastly, do not ask to see my Didgeri Doo, it is a personal problem and something I prefer to keep hidden.

If you missed my report last month, and all of you did due to circumstances beyond my control - I did not write one. I will, therefore, bring you up to date with news from around the county and beyond.

The only golf event that has taken place since my last jottings was a three way competition between Surrey, Essex and Sussex at Colne Valley GC, situated on the border of Essex and Suffolk, on September 19. Some of you may have heard rumours spread by a person from Worthing that the number of points I scored was below expectations. Well, I will admit to a slightly under par round, but may I remind you that anything said by a person from Worthing should always be taken with a pinch of salt, or any other organic fertiliser he may try to sell you. Surrey came 3rd, Sussex 2nd and Essex won the day, partly due to the superb play of one ex-Surrey member, the infamous Douglas Iolanthe Fernie, known to a few intimate friends as Wee Dougie.

Kevin Day should by now be recovering from a replacement hip operation, and we all wish him well and to please keep all the gory details to himself.

Michael Sawicki, who at this very moment is in Oz, will return to his new position at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill GC, as General Manager. Congratulations Mike and may all your problems be member shaped.

Surrey 4, Sussex 1. The result of the fourth football match between Surrey and Sussex played at Three Bridges FC, on October 25. I was unable to play due to a bout of cowardice after seeing previous struggles and gladly gave up my place to John Ross. Many thanks to Three Bridges FC for providing a venue in excellent condition. The following is a report of the match, supplied by one of the great Surrey footballers, Dave Langhiem, whose prowess on the pitch has always impressed – Just ask the person from Worthing.

Surrey's Andy Dennis scored the first goal, after only one minute's play. Ten minutes into play and tragedy - John Ross, defrocked from his usual referees black number and kitted out in Surrey's colours playing a Beckham position, suddenly froze - Groin strain had struck and he limped from the field. Sussex equalised but a determined Surrey would not be beaten and scored another two goals with the fourth being blasted home only five minutes from the final whistle. Andy Dennis got a second goal, Craig Martin also scored one, as did Lee Ringer from Foxhills.

Please remember to attend the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood GC, on December 13, and bring with you nominations for Chairman.

Brian Willmott



KENT

Hi Guys, I can't believe how quickly this year has gone, can you?! Here I am already writing my last report of the year for Kent Section which would normally mean that we are freezing our bits off out on our golf courses at the moment, yet here we are (in mid-November) with the grass growing as strongly as ever and warm, winter sunshine! Can't get enough of that global warming eh?

For those of you that weren't able to attend the Regional Seminar hosted by us at Hadlow College, I can tell you you missed out on a great day with a multitude of greenkeepers from all over the south east enjoying the feast of knowledge heaped on them by a very varied array of speakers. Thanks to the many that came for making it such a good, interactive affair, especially during the open forum at the end of the proceedings! Thanks to Hadlow College for hosting the day and to John Millen and Clive Osgood for doing much of the organisational legwork.

Fixtures for 2008 are now booked and these will be posted to all of you very soon. If you haven't received one by the New Year please leave a message on our webpage. We have arranged five (yes five!) golf days for next year at some really great venues so make notes in your diaries as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Many thanks to all of you who have attended any of our events this year for making it such a memorable year and to all our sponsors for making it all possible. On behalf of the Kent committee I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a successful 2008.

Rob Holland



Around the Green

LONDON



Well another year has flown by and a new one is on the horizon.

Firstly just a few reminders, this year's final golf day will be the Scotts Trophy (aka the turkey trot) to be held at Porters Park on December 12, following the golf will be the AGM, as for the format of the golf itself it will again be a team of three Texas scramble. Places are running out fast so please contact me, Aaron, on: 07966 247 913 and book your place.

2008 fixtures: The AT Oliver Trophy, Northwood GC on April 10, The Rigby Taylor Trophy, Hendon GC on August 6 and the Scotts Trophy (aka the Turkey Trot) at Porters Park on December 11 - The above info will also be available on the London Section's website as from mid December.

Also to watch out for, is the Avoncrop Amenity Knockout Tournament new for 2008. All info for this will again be posted on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the following for their ongoing support throughout the year, Avoncrop Amenity, Banks Amenity, AT Olivers, Gem Professional, Seoul Nassau Golf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Rainbird, Scotts and Turner Groundscare.

And finally I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Aaron Percival

EAST ANGLIAN



I'm going to get writers cramp at this rate - Two in three weeks. I mustn't complain - no news is bad news.

Bury St Edmunds (I didn't know he was dead!) was the venue for the happy wanderers on October 3. It has been a few years since we were there. They've put new roads in and all sorts, but we all got there in the end.

The Greenkeeper, Captain Shield was at stake and duly won by Martin Mison and Vince Walsh with 67 points. The rest of the results were as follows: 0-9 Handicap 1. Mark Henderson, 38pts; 2. Norman Fenwick, 37pts; 3. Peter Howard, 36 pts. 10-18 Handicap 1. Asa Barber, 33pts; 2. Martin Brightwell, 32pts; 3. Chris Gurton, 32pts. 19-28 Handicap 1. Martin Mison, 32pts; 2. John Morley-Small, 31pts; 3. Andrew Baker, 30pts. G&T Section 1. Edward 'The Consultant' Clarkson, 40pts; 2. Ian Benn, 39pts; 3. Mark Keyssel, 36pts. Nearest the Pin - Chris Gurton; Longest Drive - Jamie Gill. The loo seat was won by Tomo for taking his dog on the course. He parked by the 'no dog' sign - should have gone to Specsavers! Prizes were presented by Vince Walsh the Club Captain. The course was in good nick thanks to Steve Millard and his crew. Thankfully the greens were not as quick as the putting green, it frightened the life out of me. The grub was handsome and the hospitality was second to none.

Our Trade mates came up trumps yet again. Our main sponsors Toro

and the following can all take a bow: Bartram Mowers, Textron, Tacit, Rigby Taylor, CMW, Sisis, A & K Supplies, Midlube, Collier Turf Care, Aitkens, Scotts, Earnest Doe, Ben Burgess, Sherriff (of Nottingham), Toro, Tomlinson Ground Care, Consultant Clarkson, Headland, Atterton & Ellis and Lely UK.

Thank you once again Bury St Edmunds Golf Club for a super day out. And finally, a message for Brian - "Nil Desperadum Illegitimi"

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

This month's news is very brief, as the only thing that has gone on in the Section this month was the English Golf Union, Golf Services Roadshow at Colne Valley Golf Club. Supported by John Deere and with the following speakers from the STRI - Bob Taylor, Swan Golf Designs - William Swan, Crown Golf - Laurence Pithie MG, Writtle College - Nigel Beckford, Agronomist - David Rhodes and John Deere gave a machine demonstration and talk on there products.

Attended by very few greenkeepers but quite a few golf club representatives and a few students, the day was interesting, the afternoon session was conducted out on golf course with the Bob Taylor and David Rhodes splitting the group in two for an hour each, talking on different aspects of golfcourse management and ecology.

The next news will be of the Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM at Orsett Golf Club.

Arnold Phipps-Jones highwoods.photographic@virgin.net
01206-852.353
www.essexbigga.co.uk

SOUTH WEST - SOUTH WALES



Congratulations from the Regional Board to Stuart Ross, from Cradoc Golf Club, and Richard Oakley, from Erlestoke Golf Club, for reaching the finals of the Toro Student Of The Year Competition. Well done to both of you!

SOUTH WEST



A touch of fog greeted competitors for the Autumn Tournament at Minchinhampton back in mid-October. One of those annoying days "when it was okay just down the road" but on our particular hilltop you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. Now I don't know about your courses, but we have a well-used public footpath running right across five different fairways, so we have little choice but to suspend play during thick fog. As the tee-off time approached, the fog started to get patchy and lift, and then fall again. My pre-match warm-up comprised of running up and down stairs and out onto the course like a complete idiot - first of all my bacon roll went missing (probably cold) and then someone drank



my coffee (even though I'd sneezed in it) – not surprisingly when we did eventually tee off, I wasn't in the best frame of mind.

However, I think it's fair to say the day was a huge success, and thanks very much for the nice comments about the Evening Course. I actually thought it was outstanding for the time of year so my personal thanks to Dave, Adam, and all our staff who always put in so much. For those who are interested, the cutting height on the greens was 3mm and the greens were also vibro-rolled. The Stimpmeter was around ten foot-six. As regards to fertiliser we only granular feed in the spring, otherwise monthly light top-dressings, and applications of liquid N plus Primo-Maxx sometimes bulked with liquid seaweed. The greens are Bent \Poa with the bent increasing through regular overseeding.

The winners were: 1. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge GC, 39pts on count-back; 2. Wayne Vincent, Cotswold Hills GC, 39 pts; 3. Allan Smith, Long Ashton GC, 38 pts.

Thanks very much to Minchinhampton New for hosting, and thanks to Stuart and Sara for the excellent meal afterwards. By the way – Nearest the Pin went to yours truly on the 5th hole after a scruffy second shot from a divot went surprisingly close, and Adam Matthews on the 10th with a beautifully struck iron shot over the water. Finally Nobby, only kidding about the sneeze.

37 members attended the AGM afterwards, and virtually all committee members continued for 2008. I would like to pay tribute to them all, but particularly Chris Sealey and Nobby Knight, who are unendingly enthusiastic and without whom we would struggle. Mark Haring stepped down as Education Officer and will be replaced at the first full committee meeting. Team Captain, Wayne "McClaren" Vincent, who in a moment of clarity admitted that if he'd been managing the Columbian National football team, he'd have been shot by now, was provided with coaching staff and technical backup in the form of Paul Garland. Paul comes onto the Committee as Team Vice Captain replacing John Richards. Welcome Paul, and thanks very much for your support. Thanks were also paid to our Patronage Partners - Avoncrop Amenity, Vitax, Irritech, Tower Sport Europe, B.S. Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Countrywide, and M.J. Abbott. An all-expenses (within reason) paid place at Harrogate week is also available via the Patronage Scheme – please write to Nobby Knight and tell him why you wish to attend, and what you hope to gain. The best entry wins the trip. The address is: 17, St Mary's Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, BA14 7PG.

I also attended the EGU roadshow at Burnham & Berrow recently. It was very nice to see the day so well supported with a very interesting series of lectures. However, it was a great shame that bad weather intervened, and we were unable to get out on the course to see the extensive dune-reclamation project. We are down there again for the Christmas Tournament on December 12 and Richard Whyman is leading a course walk. Please get in touch with Nobby Knight ASAP should you wish to attend.

Bridgwater College recently hosted another one-day training course – This time on machinery maintenance. These days are open to all, and this one provided fascinating insights into what makes golf course machinery tick, safety in the workplace, fault-finding, and financing new purchases. Other one-day courses in this series are: 07.01.2008 – Golf Course Presentation; 27.02.2008 – Manage Oneself; 26.3.2008 – Create

Grassed & Planted Areas. Contact George Pitts at Bridgwater College on 01278 655144 or 07929 754401 or email: pittsg@bridgwatercollege.ac.uk to discuss content and times etc.

I look forward to seeing you all at Burnham & Berrow. By the way, if anyone's been having difficulty with sending me email – I'm being besieged by spammers at the moment – dozens of daily unsolicited mails along the lines of online banking (not wanted), insider stock market trading (not interested), various personal enhancements (not needed), so please persevere.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk
07768 394593



SOUTH COAST

Once again the South Coast Section was blessed with wonderful weather for the latest Golf Tournament held at North Hants GC on October 23. The course was in excellent condition and was very well presented, many congratulations to Mark Openshaw and his team for setting up a great golf course for the day. The format was Stableford full handicap and the winners were as follows: 1. Paul Cooper, 36 pts; 2. Jamie Pender, 34 pts; 3. Joe Newman, 31 pts; The Longest Drive – Colin Hutt (obviously three shredded wheat that morning!); Nearest the Pin – Shane Hodgkins. Well done lads and thank you to everybody else who played on the day. We pay much thanks to Rigby Taylor, the sponsors for the day. Gratitude to Mike Ring & Dave Rogers. The hospitality from the staff at North Hants GC was superb. The food and drink was top class and particular thanks must go to Steward, James Kinnear, and to Chef, Mick Ogden.

The Section's AGM was held after the days play. Phil Wentworth, our Deputy Chairman, ran the meeting as unfortunately our Chairman, Tony Gadd, was unable to attend. The meeting flowed very well, with presentations from Chris Bitten, the Secretary, Chairman's Report from Phil Wentworth and Treasurers report by Fred Demon. The major topic of conversation was the planning and format for the 2008 Section Seminar. Chris Bitten reported that he had a very poor response to his survey in regard of ideas etc for the seminar. The response was zero! Joe Crawley responded saying do we take the lack of response as an endorsement for the current format? Ed McCabe agreed the format was fine but perhaps we should look at local greenkeepers presenting. This did have some agreement. It was decided to continue work on the seminar for 2008 based on the current format - watch this space for further details. This leads me on to say that if you have any further ideas on subjects for the seminar or any other news regarding the Section for the Around the Green article please give me a call on the number below.

Chris Sturgess presented his Tournament Organiser's report and announced his standing down from the position and the Committee. I'm sure you will all agree with me that Chris has done a sterling job in this position. It is a very hard job, time consuming, frustrating organising the late entrants, late payments, no payments etc. So well done mate, we all really appreciate your efforts and wish you and Maggie all the very best for the future. So, the new Tournament Organiser is Kevan Glass. Please contact Kevan from now on for booking and payment of Golf Days at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on mobile 07859 053054 or

Around the Green



on e-mail: glassy2003@hotmail.com.

The next Golf Day, if you get this issue before, is the Turkey Trot at Barton-On-Sea GC on December 5. If you read this after, those who played I'm sure had a good day.

That just leaves me to say, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year from both myself and the Committee. Oh, and by the way, at last I have moved house, yippee! All the best to you all and speak to you in the New Year.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200



DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first autumn meeting was held at Elfordleigh GC in October. With the grass still growing strong and the good old Royal Mail on strike, it was a miracle we got anyone to turn up! However, this is the Devon and Cornwall Section we're talking about and after a few late evenings spent on the phone, we had golfers from all parts of both counties to turn up and support our Section.

The day was sponsored by Roffeys and members played for the D.O.Hunt Trophy. As you all know, Don Hunt passed away in May and his wife Liz was invited to present the trophy to the winner, Lloyd Overy, from Ashbury GC. A BIGGA plaque was presented to Head Greenkeeper, Will Hutchinson, for hosting a Section event and we hope he will give it pride of place in the Club House.

We would like to thank Roffeys for their continued support and also the bar staff and catering team for looking after our needs during the day. I would also like to thank Head Greenkeeper, Will Hutchinson and his team, for presenting the course in excellent condition, and finally to our special guest, Liz Hunt. The Section presented Liz with a cut glass decanter and glasses for all her work in helping run the Devon and Cornwall Section over the years.

The AGM followed the festivities with a few changes to the committee. Yours truly stood down as Chairman and was replaced by Justin Austin, from Trethorne GC. I'm sure Justin will do a super job and I wish him the best of luck. Colin Webber is the new Vice Chairman and also Regional Board Member. Colin's experience will stand us in good stead and I also wish him the best of luck in his new roles. The other roles were taken by: Abi Crosswood, Newquay Golf Club - Secretary; Graham Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club - Chairman of Education; Jeff Mills, Taunton and Pickering - Regional and National Board Representative. I think that covers things pretty much. If I've missed anything out, please accept my apologies.

Dates for your diaries: Tuesday, December 11 - Christmas Meeting - Okehampton GC; Wednesday, January 9 2008 - West Cornwall GC; January 20-24 - BTME Show, Harrogate; Wednesday, February 13 - Tavistock GC; Wednesday, March 5 - Spring Workshop based on Sustainability - Fingle Glen GC; Wednesday, March 12 - Royal North Devon GC.

Steve Evans

SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody, I hope you are all enjoying this Indian summer we are having at the moment, although we could do with a bit of frost to kill some of the disease.

On with my first report and it's off to West Monmouth GC on Wednesday, October 10 for our autumn Golf Day, information is limited as I was unable to attend. The day was sponsored by Keith Morgan Mowers - A big thank you to John and Ben for their continued support, thank you to West Mon GC for the use of their course, the greenstaff for their hard work and the bar and catering staff for their hospitality and fine food.

On to the winners, in first place winning the K.M.M Trophy was our own wonder boy, Rhys Madonagh with 44 points - Well done Rhys. In second place with 35 points (on back nine) was Gerry Humphries both Garry and Rhys are at Llanwern GC. In third place, also on 35 points, was Emyr Nickels Inco. Best Trade was won by Peter Holstrum on 42 points - Well done to everyone of you.

Owing to the circumstances the AGM will now be held at the Christmas fixture on December 7 at the Pyle and Kenfig GC. Please try to attend.

My next report is on the Rigby Taylor Match Play finals played over The Royal Porthcawl GC on November 1. The finalists were Rhys Mcdonagh and Garry Humphries, Llanwern GC, v Andy Roach and Mickey, Haverford West GC. The match was close for the first 9 holes but on the back nine youth prevailed and Rhys and Garry emerged as the winners by 5&3. Well done to both pairs for getting to the finals and to Rhys and Garry because after three years of making the finals they have finally won the Rose bowl well done boys!

Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued support and to David Carvey, Roy Barker and Peter Griffiths for a very enjoyable day and evening. Last but not least thanks to Royal Porthcawl for allowing us to hold the event over their fantastic course and of course all the staff inside and out for their hard work and to all of you who did not make it this year better luck next year!

Henry Stead 07889792190

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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Section Notes - Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

In accordance with the Constitution –

General Meetings 12 a) “Notice of resolutions to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the Chief Executive in writing not less that 40 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting which shall be circulated to the membership not less than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

The following proposal has been lodged and will be raised at the AGM to be held in the Queens Suite of Harrogate International Centre at 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 23, 2008

“That the Association puts aside a sum of money with the intention of purchasing land, laying out a golf course and building a clubhouse which will also serve as BIGGA Headquarters.”



SCOTTISH GOLF ENVIRONMENT GROUP

I write in reference to a letter from Tom Murray of Ratho Park Golf Club, regarding the funding of SGEG.

I am afraid that Mr Murray is mistaken in his assertion that the Scottish Golf Union has cut back its funding of SGEG. The reality is that funding from the environmental sector and Scottish Government has been cut drastically, meaning that the Board had to take the very difficult decision not to renew Elspeth Coult’s contract.

We are only too aware of the excellent work that Elspeth did and she will be missed. However, we retain a firm commitment to an ongoing environmental service to Scottish golf clubs and to retaining our two excellent advisors.

In addition to the funding from the SGU, the SGEG Board is very grateful to the R&A Golf Course Committee for its ongoing commitment to this vital environmental service for golf in Scotland.

*Colin Wood
Chairman SGEG*

PASTURES NEW

Hi, my name is John Davenport and I am a member of the North West Section.

I’ve been Head Greenkeeper at Turton Golf Club in Bolton for 10 years now, but will be moving to pastures new in the New Year.

I will be going from a semi-moorland course set in 127 acres to Dunnerholme Golf Club near the Lake District, a links course with 138 acres of land.

A unique opportunity and hopefully a better quality of life!

I would be ecstatic if you could post this in your next issue of Greenkeeper International.

*Yours kindly
John Davenport*

**BIGGA HQ TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS
A REMINDER...**

As you should already be aware, BIGGA HQ recently had a new telephone system fitted. When you phone the usual number: 01347 833800, it will ask if you know the extension of the person you would like to speak to. For reference, the extensions of BIGGA staff are printed below (you can also find these on our website – www.bigga.org.uk):

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Rosie Hancher , Sales Manager	518
Marie Whyld , Design & Production Editor (currently on maternity leave)	513
Vanessa Depre , Membership Services Officer	511
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In the Shed

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- 6 155
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SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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The Aphrodite Hills Golf Club is seeking an outstanding individual to manage the 18-hole championship standard golf course,

Golf Course Superintendent

We are currently looking for a candidate:

- With a minimum of 4 years experience as a Superintendent /Course Manager, including Tournament experience.
- A highly motivated individual with a proven record in man-management skills and the ability to drive the very best from a team.
- Ability to manage resources effectively within budgetary controls.
- All relevant agronomy skills including water management and computerized irrigation systems expertise.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Highly computer literate in Word and Excel.

The remuneration package will be according to the seniority and demands of the position.

Please send your CV by 15th December, 2007 for the attention of:
Antigoni Pavlou
Human Resource Manager
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RECRUITMENT

Balmoral Golf Club

Belfast

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF

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Founded in 1914, Balmoral Golf Club is a long established private members club with a mature 18 hole parkland course.

The club has embarked on a £1.2m redevelopment programme encompassing the creation of 18 new Penn A4 U.S.G.A. standard greens, new tee areas, bunkering and water features.

THE ROLE

To manage all aspects of the Golf Course and greenkeeping staff and to exercise strict budgetary control in conjunction with club management. To plan and implement course work schedules and improvements within a four year course policy plan. To maintain the course to the highest level of presentation. For the duration of the re-development programme, to liaise with the course designer and contractors

THE PERSON

Applicants must possess all recognised greenkeeping qualifications up to management level including pesticide handling and must have a sound knowledge of all current Health & Safety legislation. A comprehensive working knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems is also required. Good communication skills are essential. Experience of maintaining a course on a clay soil would be advantageous.

Salary and benefits will be by negotiation depending on experience and qualifications.

Please apply, in writing, with full C.V. by 04/01/2008 to the Personnel Department, Balmoral Golf Club, 518 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GX.



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Closing date for application: Friday 4 January 2008

If you feel you have the necessary experience, skills and enthusiasm to succeed in this challenging role, and want to have some fun, please send your CV to: Martin Townsend, Manager, Countrywide Turf & Amenity, Countrywide Farmers PLC, Defford, Earls Croome, Worcestershire WR8 9DF www.countrywidefarmers.co.uk



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The 2 successful applicants will have a sound knowledge of greenkeeping, as well as qualifications to a minimum NVQ level 2 or equivalent.

**For an application form please contact Vicky Smith,
Gainsborough Golf Club, Belt Road,
Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 1PZ.
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HEAD GREENKEEPER

VENUE: HOWLEY HALL GOLF CLUB

A private members club established in 1900 and situated in Morley, West Yorkshire Howley Hall is a busy members club, popular with visitors and golfing societies and offers an 18 hole par 71 Parkland course.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, hands on, enthusiastic, motivated and hardworking Head Greenkeeper to lead and manage a dedicated team.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the course and its continuing development and is expected to have the following qualifications and skills:-

- Qualified to NVQ level 3/4 or equivalent to HND Golf Course
- Management/Master Greenkeeper PA1, PA2, PA6 Spraying Certificates
- Be able to develop and implement a course management plan
- Understand Health & Safety and Environmental Management issues
- Have considerable experience in working on Parkland courses
- Knowledge of irrigation systems
- Proven leadership and motivational skills
- Ideally already is a Head Greenkeeper looking for a new challenge or an experienced assistant Greenkeeper with ambition

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please apply with full CV and current salary to:
Mr D Jones, The General Manager/Secretary, Howley Hall Golf Club, Scotchman Lane, Morley, West Yorkshire, LS27 0NX

Closing date: 21st December 2007

RECRUITMENT



LOSBY GOLF CLUB



Norway's leading golf facility invites applicants for the following positions

COURSE MANAGER

The correct applicant will be fully qualified to the highest levels and have experience in managing a quality facility, has worked with bent grass greens (USGA build/spec) and has knowledge and skills to manage these grasses in the climate we are located in. In short:-

- A minimum of five years experience as a Course Manager/ Head • Greenkeeper, including Tournament experience at a high level
- A highly motivated individual with a proven record in man-management skills and the ability motivate the staff to deliver their full potential
- Financial awareness to plan strategically.
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Deadline 20.12.07

SEASONAL GREENKEEPER

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Deadline 30.01.08

Applicants should apply in writing with a current CV stating references and other relevant information to:-

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- Will be enthusiastic, reliable and able to use own initiative.
 - Proven ability to lead and motivate staff.
- Excellent communication skills, together with knowledge of IT.
 - Expert knowledge of irrigation systems and machinery.
- Ability to manage resources effectively within budgetary controls.
- Knowledge of all relevant and current Health and Safety and other statutory legislation.

Closing date for applications 31st December 2007

Please apply for an application form and outline job description to: Mrs M Stewart, Secretary, Montrose Golf Links Limited, Traill Drive, MONTROSE, Angus, Scotland, DD10 8SW or by e-mail to Secretary@montroselinks.co.uk



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Mechanic

Based either Hildenborough, Kent or East Grinstead, West Sussex

The right candidate must possess skills and experience in mechanics. An agricultural or horticultural background would be desirable but not essential. You will be responsible for working on the maintenance of the golf course equipment across two sites and the general health and safety of the workshops.

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Excellent career opportunities have arisen to join our expanding team.

We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

The ideal candidate should:

- Have the ability to manage the golf course and its staff in the absence of the head greenkeeper.
- Have a minimum of 6 years experience.
- Have a strong work ethic.
- Be highly self motivated with the ability to motivate others.
- Hold all relevant spraying certificates.
- Accommodation may be available with this position.

Assistant Greenkeepers

Successful candidates should:

- Have a minimum of 3 years experience.
- Have a strong work ethic.
- Be used to working to and producing high standards on the golf course.
- Be able to work on their own or as part of a team
- Shared accommodation may be available with these positions.

All applications should be sent to the course manager via e-mail at applications@pgasweden.com



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SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

Require

Assistant Greenkeepers

- Minimum 3 years golf course experience
- Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent preferred
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6

Applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a World Top 50 golf club, host of the Open Championship International: Final Qualifying - Europe, 2008 & 2009; the RICOH Women's British Open 2008 and the Senior Open Championship in 2009.

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Volunteers are invited to assist in the RICOH Women's British Open Tournament from Monday 28th July 2008 until Sunday 3rd August 2008.

This is a great opportunity to work on a world renowned heathland golf course and gain valuable Tournament experience.

If interested, please send a CV and cover letter to:
Julie Watts, P.A. to the Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club,
Ridgemoor Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR
juliew@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for Applications 31st December 2007



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Please email or send a full C.V. together with an application letter for the attention of Tim Webb - tim@tacitgolf.com

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Closing date 11th January 2008

Interviews will be held in Harrogate in January 2008

COURSE MANAGER

Required by
Tidworth Garrison Golf Club

Tidworth Garrison Golf Club founded in 1908 seeks a Course Manager of proven ability to lead and manage the maintenance of "Wiltshire's Hidden Gem" re-designed by Donald Steel.

- Minimum of 5 years golf experience.
- Qualified to NVQ3 standard or equivalent.
 - Spraying Certificates PA 1, 2 & 6
- Working knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations.
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications.
 - Accommodation may be available.

Tidworth Garrison Golf Club is a chalk down land golf course with excellent drainage throughout the year and will be celebrating its "Centenary Year" in 2008.

Please reply in writing by 31st January with a CV to:

Richard Moan, Secretary/Manager,
Tidworth Garrison GC, Bulford Road,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, SP9 7AF

Tel: 01980 842301

Email: tidworthgolfclub@btconnect.com

AUTUMN LEAVES

Don't you just love the autumn, as we blow, rake, vac and do just about anything you can imagine with leaves at Tyrrells Wood, I can't but stop sometimes and just enjoy the explosion of colours, it looks absolutely amazing this year. We have had a good run with clearing the course up from a golden carpet of splendour that golfers so hate as it gobbles their balls never to be seen again.

That reminds me of a time as a wee boy, laying turf during a job on the course and, with some glee, I had been working on a chain gang kinda line with my brothers. I stopped to have a look at what we had achieved, only to be on the receiving end of a timely reminder to get back to my toil and that I would have plenty of time to look at the grass when I was cutting.

One of the pleasures of greenkeeping, I think, is the ever-changing seasons. They provide a huge contribution to making the golfing and greenkeeping experience what it is, here in the UK. Just as you have had enough of one seasonal feast then another comes along and lifts your mood, charges your batteries and enthuses us all for the next. To quote Scott's column last month, 'It's not such a bad life being a greenkeeper.'

With that in mind, we've arrived at that time of year which allows us to take onboard some education. This month I've been to both the southeast and BB&O Section seminars. Both were fantastic with some great papers on offer. I was able to meet lots of members, and see some who I had not seen for quite a while. I was delighted to be part of both days and, of course, share some valuable education opportunities on offer to us all. The speakers gave an impressive insight into greenkeeping as they see it and shared with us some of their experiences gained over the years - Having won over the elements of weather and some very tight deadlines, it was a wonderful experience for me to be part of. Well done to all those speakers that gave of their time to enlighten us all. I wish I was able to quantify the feeling I have when I am in the company of fellow greenkeepers. I have tried over the years to do just that and struggled to pin it down other than to conclude this thought - It's an absolute pleasure to be in their company and share their



views experiences, there is an overriding bond that makes us all the stronger for sharing our time together.

Linking me nicely onto thinking about the soon to be with us Harrogate week, now would be a good time for you to start thinking about booking a visit to your show. There is so much education on offer, with a diversity that would be of interest to anyone involved in the fine turf industry. So with a full programme of events, the chance to mix it with individuals involved within the game of golf and a trade show that can boast everything that is just about required in the turf industry, it's surely not an event to be missed.

I would like to ask you in sharing with me the achievements of others during that week as those that have worked hard to make their life a little better with continued qualifications and reached new levels of attaining a recognition of their peers and association from the education opportunities afforded to us all today. Let's together make all the hard work and commitments they and their families have made for in some cases many years all the more special when they receive a well earned milestone in their own and clubs development as they should be applauded and are for us all a shining light for what can be achieved.

I recently attended my son's graduation. That's a first for me and it made me feel, as you can imagine (old I hear you thinking) a warm glow of pride. We are not a rich family and like many sometimes struggle with demands of paying bills, so it makes it all the more pleasurable for me to congratulate Lewis on his hard work over the past few years and to say I am the proudest father around would be to underestimate his achievements in gaining his new found qualifications. I also have to report that having a daughter of 15 is not as bad as first thought as she has now passed that hellish shaky bridge and is becoming quite a young lady in the process.

As for the twilight of my term as Chairman - Well, as I said at the beginning of the year, I was keen to meet with and share the views of you, the members. To this end and having travelled many miles doing just that, I have to say there are some very special people that work on your behalf up and down the country which have impressed me with their hard work and dedication for the well being of you all. They arrange open forums, educational seminars and opportunities to get you all to a venue to share time together. It's a thankless task sometimes and it might be a game of golf or some in-house training for you and your staff. But this you should know, without their passion, hard work, (that you sometimes feel free to criticise) we would all be the poorer I'm sure. So to those stalwarts within our Association, and I mean those that have had the courage, wisdom and passion to make a difference - Namely your Section committees, your Section Secretaries, your Chairman and section officials. They all have my heart felt congratulations because without these people working on our behalf we would not have a fraction of the job security and benefits derived from being part of a vibrant living Association. Next month will be my last opportunity to wind up my year in terms of highs and lows so I will stop now and say just this to finish - I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas. Take time to enjoy yourselves during the festive season, as a family we all get together at this time of year and I can assure you that that is always a greenkeeping feast and a half.

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