



# Greenkeeper

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*When you have finished with  
this magazine please recycle it.*



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Cover picture: Caldy Golf Club by Alan Birch

## Welcome



### Golf Gets It In The Neck Again

The world has seen a real change since I last penned an editorial. Mr Obama is reprogramming his Sat Nav so "Home" will take him to Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington and Labour won a by-election.

One thing has stubbornly stayed the same, however – the absolute pelting that golf has been taking in the media. I had a go at Miranda Richardson

a couple of months ago, and I have it on good authority that she's barely left her darkened room since, but Terence Blacker, who writes a column in The Independent, and Jeremy Clarkson, who, well, you know who he is, have now taken up the Richardson cause.

Both have climbed aboard their respective high horses in response to the Scottish Government's decision to grant Donald Trump outline planning approval for his billion pound development in Aberdeenshire.

"The majority of people do not visit the country (Scotland) in order to see a string of dreary, identical, environmentally dead golf courses, but to enjoy one of the most interesting and beautiful landscapes in Europe," spouted Terence, while Jeremy inserted his tu'pence worth in his Sunday Times column.

"As far as I'm concerned, a golf course with its random splashes of unnatural emerald green and its Rupert Bear trimmings is more of a blot on the landscape than a pig farm or a power station," said the well known eco-warrior.

While admitting that he hated to be grouped with environmentalists he did pin his colours firmly to the mast.

"... get off our bottoms and fight the good fight - not because of a butterfly or a polar bear or because we stand to make billions, but because golf courses are awful and anything Donald Trump does sits like a golden bogey on the unsullied face of a newborn child."

Savour the magnificent prose, delivered by a man who spends much of his professional life smelling petrol fumes and burning rubber on a motor racing track outside his converted aircraft hanger of a television studio.

Now, I do have some sympathy for those who believe Donald, with his army of high powered lawyers, achieved something that might be beyond the reach of lesser mortals, but I do believe that the game of golf, once again, has been left to take the rap.

As far as I'm aware much of the concern is not the golf courses but the housing and hotel development which will accompany them. However, it's not the bricks and mortar that commentators are striking out at but the much easier target of golf.

I would defy anyone not to visit Loch Lomond or Kingsbarns, or the Castle Course, or Castle Stuart, near Inverness, and not be overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of what they see. All are new, or relatively new, to the Scottish landscape and all have added so much to Scotland in so many ways. They are certainly not "dreary, identical or environmentally dead".

I would be pretty sure that whatever the concerns regarding Donald Trump's new Scottish venture, the golf courses will be one area where every possible care is taken to ensure that the natural surroundings are considered and protected and that in time the course will become an established, and much loved feature on the north east coast of the country.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## SUCCESSFUL CLUB MANAGERS AWARDED IMPORTANT NEW QUALIFICATION

Eight leading club managers have been awarded a new internationally recognised professional qualification, the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE) has announced.

The new European version of the Certified Club Manager (CCM) qualification, for more than 40 years the most important benchmark for senior club managers in North America, was awarded to senior managers from England, Scotland, Ireland and Sweden, following two days of rigorous examinations at The Lansdowne Club in London in October.

The successful candidates – John McCormack, Castle Golf Club, Dublin, Ireland; Patrick Bradshaw, Blainroe Golf Club, Wicklow, Ireland; Donal Flinn, Druids Glen Golf Resort, Wicklow, Ireland; Kevin Fish, Edinburgh Leisure, Edinburgh, Scotland; David Balden, Caledonian Club, London; Alasdair Curbbun, Brooks's Club, London; Jerry Kilby, CEO, Club Managers Association of Europe, and Jimmy Grön, Kalmar Golf Club, Kalmar, Sweden – are the first in Europe to benefit from the CCM qualification, designed to recognise the highest levels of professional competency, enabling managers to develop their careers at home and abroad. Three further candidates failed the exam, but will have the opportunity to re-sit the 200-question multiple choice and case study papers in March 2009.

"This is a tough examination," said Nigel Cartwright, CMAE Education Policy Board Chairman.

"Club Managers who gain CCM status set themselves apart as the best in the business so we congratulate these eight individuals on their outstanding achievement."

CCM examinations will take place twice a year, with March 30 and October 15 already announced as the two exam dates for 2009. CCM is open to all experienced managers with specified levels of professional experience. Candidates undertake a two-day review and examination that focuses on ten key club management disciplines, including financial, leadership, facility, and food and beverage management.

For more information about CCM and to download the registration form, visit: [www.cmaeurope.org](http://www.cmaeurope.org)

L to R: Nigel Cartwright, CMAE Education Policy Board Chairman, with successful candidates, Donal Flinn, John McCormack, Alasdair Curbbun, Jimmy Grön, David Balden and Jerry Kilby.





## TEST DRIVE

BIGGA Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, tried out the new Segway at the recent Scotsturf exhibition.

Adapted for greenkeepers it can rake, switch and hole cut, which means greenkeepers can get round 18 holes, rake the bunkers, switch the greens and change the holes for less than 4p – the price it costs to charge the Lithium battery, which runs for an amazing 24 miles.



## THE RIDE'S FREE – IF THE KEY FITS!

John Deere's new, award winning XUV Gator utility vehicle is available free for a year – if you have the right key.

Over 22,000 boxes containing a golden key are being sent out to potential Gator customers in November. Recipients are invited to visit their local John Deere dealer for a test drive and try the key in either an XUV or HPX 4x4 Gator – and if the key fits, then the Gator is theirs to drive for one year, free of charge (not including fuel, servicing or insurance).

The offer is open to anyone in the UK and Ireland, aged 18 and over. If you haven't received a golden key in the post, a key can be requested online at [www.JohnDeere.com/xuv](http://www.JohnDeere.com/xuv). This special promotion runs until 19 December 2008.



## TURF & AMENITY TEAM STRENGTHENED

Following on from its record financial results, Countrywide have announced two latest recruits to its Turf & Amenity team.

Over the last five years, Martin Townsend, Head of Turf & Amenity at Countrywide has built up the business from scratch, successfully growing it into an area which now covers London and the Home Counties, the Midlands and mid-Wales.

In addition to the five Regional Sales Managers, Martin has now strengthened his team with the addition of two new Sales Managers, Mike Foran and Sandy Pentecost.

Mike Foran has worked in the turf and amenity sector for the last 15 years. During that time he has worked for a Japanese owned multinational chemical manufacturer supplying herbicides and fungicides to the major UK amenity distributors and one of the largest UK amenity distributors supplying chemicals, grass seed and fertiliser to golf and sports clubs throughout the Midlands.

Sandy Pentecost has been greenkeeping since he left school in 1989, working for golf clubs in the Home Counties and then setting up his own business in 2002. He joins Countrywide as Sales Manager covering the Home Counties.

Mike Foran



## NORTHERN REGION INTER SECTION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Following the success of the inaugural Midland Region Inter Section Golf Tournament sponsored by Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd in 2007, the Northern Region held its own inaugural event at Rotherham Golf Club. Five of the six Sections in the Northern Region competed for the Whitemoss Trophy on a fine Autumn day on a course superbly prepared by Course Manager David Chappell and his staff. The format was a three man team from each section playing aggregate handicap medal, all three team members to count.

The event was very closely contested with the Sheffield Section claiming victory by one shot from the Northern Section, on a countback over the combined net score on the last six holes. The victory was assisted by the course knowledge of local greenkeeper Andy Unwin (5) playing with Darren Coup (Scr) and Matt Keigher (17) with a combined net score of 212. The Northern Section was 2nd also on 212; the North West Section was 3rd on 220; 4th North Wales on 222 and 5th North East on 230. Our thanks are extended to Rotherham Golf Club where everyone was made to feel very welcome by the Captain, Chairman of Green the staff and other members at the Golf Club.

Congratulations to all players who made the effort to attend the day. Particular thanks are extended to Andy Law of Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd for the much appreciated sponsorship.

The picture shows Andy Law of Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd on the right with the victorious Sheffield Section Team.



## LISTEN UP MEMBERS!

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will be taking place during Harrogate Week, Europe's largest indoor turf event that combines both elements of turf and clubhouse management, in the Queen's Suite on Wednesday, January 21 at 5.15pm.

The importance of your attendance cannot be voiced enough. As you will have read in the November issue of GI, BIGGA is to propose the inclusion of groundsman within its membership. As a full BIGGA member your vote at the AGM can make or break this proposal.

## RIGBY TAYLOR CLASSIC

A golf invitational event, 'The Rigby Taylor Classic' was held at the Trentham Golf Club at the end of August. The winner with 42 points was Sandy Casofsky, Greens Chairman at Whitefield GC, nr. Manchester. Phil Dewhurst and his North West sales team organised the event and would like to thank everyone for attending. Next year's event will be held at Childwall Golf Club, nr. Liverpool.

The winner holding the prestigious RT Classic trophy.



## UP ON THE ROOF

Golfers teed off the North West's – possibly the country's – first incredible grass-roofed restaurant recently.

Nineteen Duxbury Park in Chorley Lancashire, has been carefully designed to compliment an adjoining group of listed nineteenth century buildings while featuring the latest eco-friendly construction solutions.

The sedum, or living, roof will actually grow on top of the restaurant giving the building favourable thermal properties while being aesthetically pleasing. The new restaurant also includes European Larch cladding, which is completely renewable making it kinder to the environment.

[www.nineteenduxburypark.co.uk](http://www.nineteenduxburypark.co.uk)



## CHARTERHOUSE APPOINTMENT

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has further strengthened its commitment to synthetic turf maintenance with the appointment of leading specialist, David Rhodes, as its advisor on maintenance equipment.

Synthetic surfaces are often thought of as 'maintenance free' but as the enthusiastic response from Charterhouse's customers has already shown, using the right machinery to care for the carpet and its infill can prolong the life of the facility and offer the highest standards of play.

As a progressive, customer focused company, Charterhouse is keen to continue to develop new technologies to enable sports ground managers to get the best from the latest synthetic surfaces, and the input of David Rhodes will assist to this end.

L to R: Nick Darking, David Rhodes and Herman De Bree.



## BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP THE WENTWORTH CLUB, MAY 28-31

BIGGA are to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 28-31.

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.

## SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ATHLETES AND ASPIRING OLYMPIANS

Ransomes Jacobsen recently became the latest Suffolk business positively to encourage Suffolk's sporting stars of the future, by becoming the most recent Gold supporter of the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation.

The sole purpose of the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation, which was launched just 10 months ago, is to raise resources to support Suffolk's up and coming sportsmen and women with the costs associated with competing and training at the highest level. Conservative estimates suggest that it costs around £5,000 a year for an up and coming athlete to compete at national level.

The Foundation has quickly become established as an important source of funding and has already managed to support 25 of Suffolk's brightest prospects. The latest athlete to receive support is 14 year old golfer, Heidi Baek, who plays off a handicap of 1. Heidi is the current National under 15 Girls' champion and was in the England Girls' under 18 team that recently beat Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the home internationals, played at Panmure near Carnoustie in Scotland.

Adam Baker (left) of Suffolk Sports Aid presents David Withers with a Gold Supporters Certificate.



## IRRIGATION AT ST MELLION

Early Autumn 2008 Irritech Limited hosted a working demonstration of irrigation system installation at St Mellion Golf and Country Club, Saltash, Cornwall. Over 20 representatives from various Golf Clubs across the West Country joined Roger Davey, of Irritech, and Mike Bush, Course Manager of St Mellion, to view the design and observe installation and product demonstrations including control system operation.



## UPMINSTER GC DOES 'BLOOMING' WELL

Upminster Golf Clubs greenkeepers, led by Dougie Fernie have triumphed in the London Borough of Havering's 'In Bloom' competition this year by winning the category of Best Commercial Area.

The club were encouraged to enter by Dennis Smith, who recently retired from Rigby Taylor, who, when playing at a BIGGA Golf Day, saw what he considered an outstanding feature constructed on what had become an 'eyesore' from tipping loose bulk materials behind the 17th which is well in view of the general public as they pass by some 30 yards away along Upminster Lane, an area of high cost housing. It met lots of the criteria needed to enter such as, being a good neighbour coupled with sustainability using reclaimed railway sleepers, soil gained from other jobs on the course, stone mulch, and with the benefit of the passing public being able to enjoy.

The feature was the result of an original suggestion by Pat Ridgewell with input from various club members and the committee.

Pictured below is Dougie with the Secretary, Russell Winmill, and John Handyman receiving the award from Councillor John Clark, Mayor of Havering, at a glittering ceremony at Havering Town Hall.

As a result of the success in the Havering competition the entry went forward into the London in Bloom competition, where unfortunately it came up against entries from BAA Heathrow, The Inner Temple in The City of London and Columbia Road Flower Market in Tower Hamlets which took first, second and third respectively.

Dennis Smith  
Retired Rigby Taylor Rep.

L to R: Secretary, Russell Winmill, Councillor John Clark, Mayor of Havering, John Handyman and Dougie Fernie, Head Greenkeeper Upminster Golf Club.

*Photography. Arnold Phipps-Jones*



## APOLOGY

In our September issue of GI, we wrongly printed in our tree supplement that Adam Speight was Head Greenkeeper at Woodsome Hall Golf Club. This is not the case. To clear the matter up, Adam Speight is actually First Assistant at Otley Golf Club and Jeremy Eastwood is Head Greenkeeper at Woodsome Hall Golf Club.

Our apologies to Jeremy and Adam for this error.

An advertisement for EAGLE golf club collateral. At the top is the EAGLE logo, a stylized eagle head in blue and yellow, with the word "EAGLE" in blue capital letters below it. Underneath the logo is the tagline "Eagle designs and delivers quality golf club collateral" in yellow. Below this is contact information: a phone number "+44 (0)1883 344244", an email address "info@eagle.uk.com", and a website "www.eagle.uk.com". The main part of the advertisement is a photograph of a tall, dark brown wooden signpost for the 7th hole at Lutten Golf Course. The signpost has a black panel with a large white number "7", "PAR 4", and four colored squares with corresponding distances: white for 455m, yellow for 439m, blue for 387m, and red for 354m. The word "SAND" is written in small letters below the distances. At the bottom of the signpost is a smaller black panel with the "Lutten GOLF COURSE" logo. The signpost is set in a grassy area with trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

## SAD NEWS

Kevin Hawthorn BSc (at just 47 years old), Director of 2iC Consultants Ltd and son of Bill and Eileen Hawthorn, sadly died of Cancer in Hereford Hospital at the end of October.

Even as a child he was interested in Golf Course Irrigation - he took his first telephone enquiry when just 10 years old! - and after gaining an honours degree at Southampton University in 1981 he joined Watermation, the company founded by Bill, where he rose to become the Export Sales Director.

He had a great talent for languages being fluent in French and Portuguese and competent in Spanish, Italian and Malay. At the European Greenkeepers Convention in Bled, Slovenia he surprised everyone by giving the thank you speech to the Host Country in Slovenian. He always had a worldwide perspective and specialised in challenging convention being a good public speaker and writer of many technical articles. He could best be described as an original thinker.

After Bill sold Watermation in 1995, Kevin established his own company in Malaysia then later moved to Portugal. In 2003 he returned to the UK and joined 2iC to continue to offer his many talents to the Golf Irrigation industry. His recent jobs included the survey and design works for the new and upgraded irrigation systems at Rosslare Golf Club and Laytown & Bettystown Golf Club, the new course at Vidago in Portugal and Rogerstone GC Newport, as well as in France LeTouquet and Haredlot Courses.

He was friendly, helpful and fun to be with and will be sadly missed by his wife Alison, children Simon, Rebecca and Jamie and his Mum & Dad and two sisters and many in the Golf Maintenance Industry throughout the world.

His funeral took place at St Paul's Church Tupsley, Hereford attended by many members of the Golf Irrigation Industry as well as friends and relatives.



## MIDLAND REGION INTER SECTION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The second Midland Region Inter Section Golf Tournament, sponsored by Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd, was held this year at Northants County Golf Club. All five Sections in the Midland Region competed for the Whitemoss Trophy, and were blessed with a still and dry autumn day on a challenging course superbly prepared by Course Manager, David Low and his staff.

The format was once again a three man team from each Section playing aggregate handicap medal, all three team members to count. The event was closely fought with the East Midland Section, represented by Nick Miles, Andy de Wet and Asa English running out winners of the trophy with a net 218, 2. Mid Anglia on 222, 3. Midland on 226, 4. BB&O on 227 and 5. East of England on 228.

The Region's thanks are extended to Northants County Golf Club where everyone was made to feel very welcome by staff and members, and to Andy Law and Mike Whitehouse of Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd for the continued sponsorship.

L to R: Asa English; Nick Miles, Andy de Wet and Mike Whitehouse



## ENGLISH GOLF UNION BACKS UNSUNG HEROES

The English Golf Union has got behind Terrain Aeration's Unsung Hero Awards by stepping in to sponsor the Greenkeeping category.

Club Services Manager Paul Keeling commented on the EGU's support, "our members appreciate the dedication and effort needed to maintain a golf course and any awards that set out to recognise this have our full support."

The Unsung Hero Awards, now in their sixth year, and backed by long term sponsors Pitchcare in the groundsmanship category, are open to all greenkeepers and groundsmen active in the U.K. and nominated by anyone (excluding immediate family), connected with the industry.

Judged by representatives of BIGGA the IOG and the STRI, the winners, one greenkeeper and one groundsman will be announced during Harrogate Week and presented with framed certificates, holiday vouchers and cash prizes.

Anyone who knows a worthy Unsung Hero should download a nomination form from the Pitchcare website [www.pitchcare.com](http://www.pitchcare.com) or contact Lynda Green at Terrain Aeration Tel: 01449 673783 Email: [terrainaeration@aol.com](mailto:terrainaeration@aol.com)

L to R: STRI judge Steve Gingell, David Green (Terrain Aeration) and Pitchcare's Laurence Gale open nominations at Saltex.



## NEW GROUNDS CARE DEALER GETS STRAIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS

Bristol-based family firm, H Curtis and Sons, has marked its appointment as a Massey Ferguson grounds care dealer by securing its first professional compact tractor sale at one of the area's best-known and longest-established golf clubs.

Supplied to Long Ashton Golf Club, the 46hp MF 1547 tractor specified by Course Manager, James Braithwaite, is equipped with quick-attach front loader, air-conditioned 'Q' cab and DynaQPS transmission, the latter incorporating power shuttle and power shift functions within a 12 x 12 creep speed gearbox.

"We wanted a modern, reliable, light-treading tractor capable of operating comfortably a 1.6m deep-tine aerator on tees, greens and surrounds throughout the year," explained James.

"Although turf aeration is the tractor's primary role, it will be used extensively also for trailer work and front-end loading."



## A SEASONAL MESSAGE

In this month's GTC feature, David Golding attempts to cheer us all up with a seasonal message that is steeped in history and looks positively to the future during difficult times, including the future for the organisation he has headed since 1993.

**I hesitate to go back into the history of greenkeeper education and training, preferring to concentrate on the future, but I feel it is timely to address a question that always seems to crop up, why do we need BIGGA and the GTC?**

A fair question and one I will try to answer in as few words as possible so we can move to the future developments for our sector.

BIGGA is the professional body that represents the best interests of greenkeepers employed on golf courses.

The Association is at the very heart of everything the GTC does and there is a very close working relationship between the two organisations that now operate from the same offices at Aldwark Manor near York.

The GTC is an independent body which represents golf club employers in Britain through the Home Unions EGU/SGU/GUW, who represent all golf clubs with a membership, these in turn pay an agreed levy to the National Union on behalf of the male golfers only. From this annual levy the GTC currently receives 11.5p per male club member. The PGA European Tour has also been a great supporter of the GTC making an annual grant while not seeking a seat on the Board.

Having the employer and employee representative bodies around the same table has allowed the GTC access through all the various Government bodies to "control" greenkeeping qualifications.

It is these Government recognised qualifications that attract support funding for training and while there are still some critics of certain qualifications overall the content of both the vocational and academic awards are appropriate. This is all down to the ongoing participation of the GTC at review meetings.

From the 60's we have seen specific qualifications for greenkeeping and sports turf become recognised by the Government and this role and responsibility must be maintained.

The GTC has developed a training manual, learning materials, Health & Safety Guidance notes which are the envy of not only other sectors within the land-base industries in Britain but also throughout Europe and beyond.

So where is this leading?

The per-capita levy introduced back in 1987 commenced at 2p and twenty years on it has risen to 11.5p and while for many years the R&A match funded the levy collected by the Unions, the GTC

Board is now being told that this level of funding "is not sustainable".

Those older readers who like me battled for the golfers contribution, will well remember the R&A discussion document 'The Way Forward' which was circulated to all golf clubs in 1989, stating in the section on the GTC roles and responsibilities that "It goes without saying that the 2p levy, while a start, is a totally inadequate contribution from the golf clubs in terms of a really meaningful impact being made on greenkeeper education. There must be a continuous effort to raise this levy to a realistic figure with perhaps 50p a first target, increasing to £1".

If only Father Christmas was a golfer!

The GTC Board is facing a funding crisis as the R&A has now stopped its annual support to the core funding of the GTC, preferring to consider special projects and thereby leaving the British Home Unions and BIGGA to consider the future of the GTC.

Just like at many golf clubs the financial climate is biting for the organisations that fund GTC, but hopefully the Boards of both BIGGA and the GTC will find a solution to ensure the position I have battled hard for over many years will be maintained.

So where do we go from here?

I have watched BIGGA as an Association develop from day one and hopefully I have played some small part in the position it is in today. I will continue to support John Pemberton, the BIGGA Board and its Membership in their efforts to develop the Association further.

By stating the roles and responsibilities of the GTC it seems that the next stage is to consolidate the position of both organisations by considering the establishment of a National Centre for Sports Turf.

John and I will be discussing this opportunity further with our Boards during December and January and I trust everybody who once saw BIGGA and BIGGA House as a dream will also now agree we are capable of taking the sector to the next level.

GTC is supported by:



We intend to consult with the sector as we look at all the implications of a National Centre but below I list what is already in place.

- **Skill Sets – National Occupational Standards for: Greenkeeper – Golf Course Supervisor – Golf Course Manager.**

Representation at Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) meetings to review the above to ensure employers and learners needs are met with Government body. *Note: Funding support only allocated to industry SSC accredited qualifications.*

- **Awarding Bodies partnership – City & Guilds/NPTC & SQA**

**Development of qualifications to suit the sector from the National Occupational Standards, e.g. apprenticeship framework, vocational and academic qualifications.**

- **Approved Centres and Training Providers**

Maintain a network of approved Centres and private training providers who meet approved criteria.

The criteria are based on quality standards and an Industry – Centre/Provider partnership.

There is much more work ongoing to support the above statements and it is our intention to keep you informed via the GTC website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

Q Hotels, owners of Aldwark Manor, are seeking further discussions on the prospect of the Manor developing as a National Centre for Sports Turf and anyone that has visited BIGGA-GTC headquarters will appreciate the facilities both on the golf course and in the hotel do lend themselves for a great partnership.

Complimenting the local BIGGA section and regional events, Aldwark Manor could host courses from design, all aspects of maintenance and management skills.

In summary I believe there are exciting times ahead IF there is widespread support for this development and the GTC continues to receive funding to continue its role on behalf of all golf clubs and greenkeepers.

On behalf of Fiona and I, the GTC Chairman and the Board wish you and your families a very peaceful festive season.

**Please contact us with your views,  
David F Golding, GTC Education Director:  
david@the-gtc.co.uk  
Tel: 01347 838640.**



# Industry Update

## ASTON VILLA STAYS SHARP

Jonathan Calderwood, Grounds Manager of Aston Villa Football Club, needed a fast solution to keeping the pitch edges sharp when the new stadium surface was built two years ago.

"After the new pitch was laid the edges became flush with the rubber track surround," said Jonathan, a former IOG Groundsman of the Year, who was at the old Wembley Stadium and Wolverhampton Wanderers before joining Aston Villa five years ago.

"Using traditional edging tools up to the concrete divide would take us an hour. Then we discovered the Atom Professional Edger from DJ Turfcare - and the job now takes just five minutes."

He was so impressed that he has bought two more for the Aston Villa training ground at Bodmooor Heath.

The new training ground has three full size pitches, three goal kicking areas and a warm-up pitch. Alongside this are five full-size pitches in the old training ground, which is to become the Football Academy.

Aston Villa's Paul Mytton, Deputy Head Groundsman, with the Atom Professional Edger at the training ground.



## NEW UK DISTRIBUTOR

Rochford Garden Machinery, founded in 1982 - and operating from one of the largest purpose-built showrooms in the country - has agreed to be the UK distributor to the specialist trade for DJ Turfcare's unique range of turf and grounds management products.

Managing Director Peter Rochford, and DJ Turfcare Managing Director, David Jenkins, said the relationship will be an exciting development for marketing the range of "niche market" products.

DJ Turfcare Managing Director, David Jenkins (right)



## LELY LEADS THE WAY

With the turf maintenance machinery industry under increasing pressure to implement a nationally recognised operator's qualification, Lely UK is leading the way by introducing an in-company training initiative.

Pre-empting the possible future introduction of a forklift truck-style operator's licence, Lely UK personnel now need a City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Mowers in order to operate Toro mowers.

Lely's Toro Training Manager, Ian Sumpter, is a qualified assessor in the certificate and is leading the initiative alongside senior product specialist for the UK, Clive Pinnock. After a full day's training with Clive, operators complete a two-hour assessment with Ian.

"We felt that, as a company, we could lead the way by going over and above the minimum requirements for mower operatives," Ian explains. "At the moment, our workshop staff operate mowers every now and then, loading or demonstrating machines. Though they've had informal training, we want to maximise health and safety with the introduction of this formal training."

Having completed the first phase of training, 37 members of staff are now qualified. Ian hopes to have a total of 60 mower operatives trained by the end of 2008. Those without the certificate will no longer be able to operate Toro mowers.

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM SAVES THE DAY

Ireland's Ballyliffin Golf Club said that its new Toro Irrigation Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) system "saved the day" when a prolonged dry spell almost prevented the 2008 Irish Seniors Open from taking place.

Having been installed 15 years ago, the County Donegal club's existing system had reached the end of its useful life - in particular, crumbling pipework left the course inadequately irrigated and led to water wastage. And so General Manager, John Farren, selected Toro's state-of-the-art GDC system as a solution.

The system soon proved its worth when an unseasonable spring drought set in after installation. "We went seven weeks without rain in May," said John, "and without the new irrigation system we wouldn't have been prepared for the Irish Seniors Open in June. It saved the day and enabled us to prepare and manicure the course to the high standards required."



## SPREAD THE WORD!

“Time for a change” said Tim Merrell, Managing Director of The Grass Group. “We are now representing a number of mainline companies and I wanted our customers and suppliers to be able to see we are promoting individual brands but through a group they will know and trust.”

“We are also delighted to be working with Tycrop, who decided they needed a change within the UK market and were very impressed with the new structure and how we are growing and able to represent them in the UK” said Paul Trowman, General Manager of The Grass Group. “We have an excellent product range to offer our dealers and we look forward to a long successful relationship with all concerned”.

The Grass Group has been set up as a neutral platform through which we are representing Trilo, Progressive, Tycrop, Green Clipper and Pro Blades.

In terms of positioning the new strapline “professional from the ground up” we hope to encapsulate both the attitude and deliverables of the Group and our people.

## SCOTTS BUYS HUMAX

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company has recently purchased the Humax business for an undisclosed sum. Scotts Miracle-Gro plans to integrate the Humax business so that customers from commercial horticulture and gardening retail continue to receive top quality products that are fit for purpose. Scotts Miracle-Gro will be reviewing the existing Humax range of garden products in both retail and professional over the next few months. In due course the company expects to fully integrate the Scotts and Humax brands and operations.

## SHUTTLES AND PERSONNEL VEHICLES

John Wells, Estate and Golf Operations Manager at Brocket Hall, has taken delivery of a selection of E-Z-GO electric utility vehicles for housekeeping and client transportation duties around the conference and golf course complex, from local dealer Ernest Doe and Sons.

The Brocket Hall complex, set in 543 acres of mature parkland, features an international conference centre in the stately home, two 18-hole championship golf courses, the Faldo Golf Institute, Melbourne Lodge with 16 luxury bedrooms and Auberge du Lac restaurant.

## NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM

The first complete new irrigation system for tees, greens and fairways using John Deere parts is going in at Blackpool North Shore Golf Club, following the company’s move into the European golf irrigation market earlier in 2008.

John Deere is now the only worldwide manufacturer to offer irrigation, domestic and commercial grounds care equipment, utility vehicles, compact tractors and finance, all under one brand name.

Designed by consultants York Martin International of Ringwood and installed by Arden Lea Irrigation of Preston, Blackpool North Shore’s new system was arranged through John Deere dealer Balmer’s of Burnley, as part of a five year preferred supplier agreement and service contract for course machinery and irrigation equipment.

The irrigation installation will include a state of the art computer-based Aurora control system and a new water storage facility. The links-type course’s existing John Deere fleet has already been extended with the addition of a new 8700 PrecisionCut fairway mower, 8800 TerrainCut rotary mower, 2653B tees & surrounds mower, 2500E hybrid greens triple mower, two 180C and two 220C walk-behind greens mowers, bought on a John Deere Credit finance programme.

L to R: Dealer salesman Darren Barker of Balmer’s, Blackpool North Shore Golf Club captain Graham Shaw, John Deere territory manager Marcus Morris and course manager Iain Gunn with the new John Deere machines.



## THE FASTEST RISING WEB RANKINGS IN GOLF

Booking tee times is the UK’s fastest-growing online golf activity, according to new figures released recently by Online Teetimes Ltd (OTL).

The worldwide traffic ranking for the company’s internet booking engine - which powers several of the leading green fee websites in the UK - has increased by 58% in the last three months.

The success is partly due to a 106% rise in the number of golfers making online tee time bookings in the same period. OTL also reports that the number of rounds booked online in the third quarter of this year has increased by 140% compared to May-June 2008.

## SINGLE FIGURE GOLFERS TAKE ON THE PROS

What would happen if a team of single figure handicap golfers took on a team of seasoned professionals in a Ryder Cup-style head-to-head?

Now we know - thanks to Single Figure Golfer, a brand new online community for low-handicap amateurs which launches a competition ‘tour’ next March culminating in a high-profile team showdown against the Pros in October 2009.

Any golfer can join the club free of charge by registering at: [www.singlefiguregolfer.co.uk](http://www.singlefiguregolfer.co.uk), but only those with a handicap under 10 have the right to call themselves SFGs and take part in the forthcoming nationwide tour.

# Membership



## AN UPDATE FROM BIGGA'S MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

### A personal thankyou from Head of Membership Services, Tracey Maddison...

During the last two months I have been travelling the length and breadth of the country to visit as many Section AGM's as possible. I can honestly say that I have been impressed by the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment displayed by all the Section Committee Members. I would like to say a personal thank you to each of them, via this article, for making me feel very welcome and the constant effort they put in to the administration of the Section.

### Your Section Needs You

BUT they need your support. Many Sections need members to get involved at Committee level, without 'new blood' many Sections will struggle and remain reliant upon the same people to continue in these roles, sometimes doubling up the responsibilities. If you are interested or would like more information about getting involved at Section level contact your Section Secretary for more information or contact me, I'd be happy to chat with anybody who may be interested.

The Section Committee spends a lot of time organising Section golf days, education events or just plain good old social nights, this takes time to do and the sections would really appreciate as much support as possible at these events. Look out for notices on...

### "Your Pages"

The new "Your Pages" Section in the Members Area of the BIGGA Website is now up and running and ready for your Section representative to use for Section or Regional news. Log in to the Members Area with your surname and membership number, which can be found on your membership card, and select "Your Pages" from the menu down the left hand side. Then select your Section.

### Increased Pressure at Work

During my travels around the Sections I've become increasingly concerned to hear how many members are under increased pressure at work. I recently read an article in a magazine that said one in five people are stressed at work, with workload, management style and relationships at work as the top three causes of work-related stress. With the state of the nation being a hot topic then 'worrying' will, I'm sure, become a pastime for a lot of us. I noticed that when I mentioned the word 'stress' many still curled their lip and rolled their eyes as if it was a nonsense word, but believe me stress is all around us. It is not an illness in itself, but over time it can lead to ill health, such as depression or anxiety, and it is also linked to coronary heart disease.

With this in mind BIGGA are working on introducing a new membership benefit to help combat this issue. Watch this space.

Well, that's it for this month, have a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and the Membership Team look forward to meeting you at Harrogate Week.

This month BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

### Scottish Region

Andy Burnett, North  
William Forbes, North  
David Forrest, North  
Christian Landsverk, East  
Alexander Richardson, North

### Northern Region

Toby Brearley, North West  
Philip Cox, North East  
Stephen Davey, North West  
Andy Elenor, North East  
Martin Heywood, North East  
Christian Lane, North West  
Greg Lee, North East  
Ian Lockwood, North East  
Richard Webb, North East

### Midland Region

Philip Colley, Midland  
Liam Martin, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Derek Swannick, East of England  
Jamie Wade, Midland  
Jonathan Wall, Berks/Bucks & Oxon

### South East Region

Graham Baker, Sussex  
Tony Bartram, Surrey  
Scott Beadle, Kent  
Stephen Laidler, Surrey  
Richard Larkin, Kent

### S West/S Wales Region

Christopher Dafter, Devon & Cornwall  
Liam Screech, South West

### Overseas

Declan O'Hagan, Republic of Ireland  
Jack Rasmussen, Denmark

## CONTACT US

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**Brad Anderson**  
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Other useful telephone numbers  
(for greenkeeper members only)

**Personal Accident Helpline**  
02075 603013  
**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
0800 177 7891

## BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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# Learning & Development

## Key Sponsorship:

### UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF GREENKEEPERS

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING KEY SPONSORS



#### GOLDEN KEY



#### Golden Key Individual Members

JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.



#### SILVER KEY



#### Silver Key Individual Members

Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Sam Langrick.

**Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, provides a departmental update...**



Christmas is in the air and that must mean that it's nearly Harrogate Week!

Now that I'm approaching my 16th and Rachael her 8th Harrogate Week, Christmas almost pales into insignificance. With all the preparations that are underway to deliver the ever growing Continue to Learn Education Programme (and making sure that we tick off the 53 tasks that are currently on our To Do List!), the thoughts of presents, cards and wrapping paper certainly come low on the priority list in the Learning and Development Department!!

**"If you think training is expensive, try ignorance"**

As we are all aware the credit crunch is hitting us where it hurts and we are all being asked to cut back, trim our budgets and make sacrifices while ensuring that we continue to deliver our products to the same high standard. The Training budget is often the first area that feels the blow as they are slashed back to the bare minimum. When you think of the old adage "If you think training is expensive, try ignorance" it really makes you use what budget you have to its maximum. Trying to make sure that everyone gets some training to continue to keep them up to speed with what's going on in the industry, motivated in their job and to make them feel that they are a valued member of the team can be tricky - I have some solutions for you that might help relieve the burden and the budget...

#### Solution One

At Harrogate Week 2009 there are 30 FREE seminars that can be attended by any visitor to the show on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 January. These include:

Getting to Grips with Hand Arm Vibration, Benchmarking for a more Sustainable Future, Stress Relief at the US Open, EU and UK Pesticide Policy Developments, Turf Nutrition - Getting the Balance Right, Turf for a Changing Climate, Eco-Concept in Golf Course Maintenance, Balanced Programmes - From Organics to Water Management, Primo

MAXX - latest Research and Developments, One Metre Deep Aeration - When, Where and Why?, Finding Askernish, Integrated Turf Management Principles and Practice, New Chemistries to Combat Water Quality, A Starter's Guide to Tournament Preparation, Using Integrated Management to Improve Turf Quality, Introducing Velvet Bents to Your Course, From Coal to 36 Holes, Managing a Changing Climate, Online Learning, Increasing Fertiliser Use - Efficiency Through Improved Biological Strategies,

Setting the Sprayer to Hit the Target, The Future of Spraying, Compost Teas Cut Costs and Chemical Use and Using Latest Weather Information to Assist Course Management.

With all this FREE education available, can you afford not to attend Harrogate Week? For full details of the seminars listed visit:

[www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education).

#### Solution Two

Visit the Business Link Website - [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk). Business Link offers many half-day workshops, free of charge. Many of the BIGGA HQ staff have attended them, including me, and found them very useful and informative. Free training is always worth checking out.

#### Solution Three

Visit the calendar/event page on the BIGGA Website at [www.bigga.org.uk/calendar-events/](http://www.bigga.org.uk/calendar-events/). We regularly get requests from companies to advertise seminars that are offered free of charge.

I hope some of these suggestions are useful to you!

#### Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen



The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

- Darren Anderson MG
- Foundation Degree Sports Turf
- Christopher Ball
- Foundation Degree Sports Turf

# Learning & Development

## THE GREENKEEPING CYCLE

By Bruce Jamieson

**As the weather turns colder and the economic downturn begins to bite, many in the golf industry must be looking at their accounts, wondering if they can afford to continue their machinery replacement programme and purchase the chemicals needed to ensure the course emerges from winter in excellent condition next spring.**

It is important to remember that we (the older of us, anyway) have seen such slowdowns before. During 1970s there was the three-day working week, with electricity switched off during the day and street lights turned off for weeks on end.

But, interestingly, golf appears to expand after an economic downturn. For, if you consider the development of golf in Britain, expansion periods have followed recessions. So, though times will be difficult in the short-term, our industry should emerge stronger longer-term – or let's hope so, anyway.

It was during such a climate in the 1970s that Jim Arthur came to the forefront by advising a more austere approach to golf course management. His main focus was to reduce fertiliser input, reduce water application during the growing season and increase top-dressing and aeration. This might be a simplistic view of his approach to golf course management. But these were the cornerstones of his advice.

The greenkeeping fraternity was divided into two distinct groups: those for the finer grasses of bents and fescues; and those for the other, less-desirable grasses such as *Poa Annua*.

There was also a small minority who believed

that links golf was the only true type of golf and everything else was a poor second. I was one them.

In 1988 I left Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, a great links course, to join the PGA European Tour and, once promoted to Director of Agronomy, my beliefs were put to the test. Needless to say I quickly realised how wrong I was and adjusted my thinking accordingly.

Links golf is great, and is where the game, as it is played today, started. However golf is played on varying surfaces and it is important that these surfaces deliver what the player is looking for. Quite simply, if you don't deliver what the members want they will find someone else.

As knowledge of what influences the types of grasses on golf courses has increased, so too has the ability to manage and produce excellent surfaces from the various species. During the last 20-25 years the industry has grown together, with respect given to colleagues, no matter what type of courses they manage. Therefore you have to ask the question: Why has the old, divisive argument about the best grasses for golf been resurrected in recent years? The answer is simple – it is time for it to reappear.

For, if nothing else, this industry is cyclic.

For instance, during the 1930s it was common place to apply lime to golf courses with often disastrous results. The practice was abandoned, only to be reintroduced during the 60s – and abandoned again. Now guess what? Lime or liquid calcium is being recommended again today! One statement Jim Arthur was known for was: 'Ask a farmer what to do, then do the opposite'. When it comes to

lime, I agree with Jim. Practical Greenkeeping (Jim Arthur) illustrates this point (pages 67-68) if you are interested in reading further.

Lawns and Sports Greens (A J Macself), a book from the early 1930s, states: 'Lime is somewhat too loosely advocated for use on lawns. Many of the finest of grasses are indigenous to lime-free soils, and dressings of lime are calculated to injure those finer species, while encouraging the rougher kinds to grow coarse and rank.' It goes on to say: 'Few phases of horticulture have been subject to so many conflicting theories as the proper nourishment of lawn grasses.' This book was written at a time when lawns were cut either with a scythe or push-mower.

Similarly during the 50s there was also the compaction theory, where fine turf was rolled frequently, little aeration or top-dressing was implemented and nutrition was reduced. Verticutting, brushing and other disruptive practices were not recommended. Does this sound familiar?

Over the centuries golf and other sports have been threatened – for example, the games of football and golf were banned by three separate Acts of Parliament (1457 James II, 1470 James III and 1491 James IV). Only following the signing of the Treaty of Glasgow and with peace declared between England and Scotland did James IV of England begin to play golf.

Now golf and other sports are under threat again, but this time from the environmental standpoint. Many golfing bodies around the world have recognised that the environmental impact of golf course management has to be improved. However they can only recommend the correct



Picture 1



approach. It is up to each individual club to make a conscious effort and for their employees to be professionally accountable. For example, when implementing the safe storage, handling and use of pesticides. The drive for sustainable golf by the Royal and Ancient should be endorsed by every golf club throughout Europe.

Golf is a soft target when it comes to pesticide use and the environment. If pesticides were withdrawn from agriculture, food production costs would rise and yields drop – not good for any section of society. But if pesticides were removed from amenity turf, food production would be unaffected and governments could state that they had reduced the amount of pesticides being used in the environment. So it is important for our industry that everyone in it ensures that pesticide regulations are complied with.

We should not be using any chemicals that are not registered for turf. If a chemical produced for agriculture is not labelled for turf, but would be beneficial, end-users can apply for an Off Label Application Licence through the Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD). Provided correct information is supplied, and no comparable chemical exists in the amenity turf industry, a licence is usually granted. Once an Off Label Licence has been successful, the chemical can be applied legally by the whole industry, provided each user has a copy and complies with the licence. For more information go to: [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk).

The definition of a pesticide (Pesticide Safety Directorate) states: "A pesticide is any substance, preparation or organism prepared or used, among other uses, to protect plants or wood or other plant products from harmful organisms; to regulate the growth of plants; to give protection against harmful creatures; or to render such creatures harmless. The term pesticide therefore has a very broad definition which embraces herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, soil-sterilants, wood preservatives and surface biocides among others. A more complete definition and details of pesticides which fall outside the scope of the legislation is given in Regulation 3 of COPR."

Fertiliser falls under the scope of this legislation, as it is used to regulate growth, and detailed application records should be maintained.

Many problems experienced on golf courses today – such as compaction, poor aeration, over-watering and over-fertilising – have been seen in the past. Now we need to return to a more austere management regime, where the cornerstones of Jim Arthur's advice will prove significant once again. However great care must be taken to understand the individual circumstances of each course, as one solution does not fit all.

To illustrate this, despite complying with USGA Recommended Guidelines for the Construction

of Putting Greens, the picture here (see Picture 1), of a sample taken from a four-year-old green, reveals that the results of too much fertiliser and limited aeration are excessive thatch, limited root growth and poor plant health.

Conversely (see Picture 2), balanced fertility, regular aeration and irrigation to maintain plant health, results in good root growth and limited thatch build-up.

I have been fortunate to work with golf courses all over the world. This has taught me that what works here in Britain will probably not do so abroad. For example, as a matter of interest, in Iceland the climate is very harsh, the growing season much shorter and few chemicals are available for turf. Fescue appears best-suited for greens in this environment, cutting heights are maintained at approximately 5mm throughout the growing season, fertiliser inputs are minimal and compaction is not an issue as winter frost heave can raise the soils several centimetres.

Aeration work is implemented during the autumn and top-dressings applied in spring and autumn. It is fair to say that Icelandic greenkeepers work extremely hard, as they can have daylight 24 hours a day in summer and have to make the most of this limited resource. Greens can be cut several times a day just to keep on top of growth. Icelandic golf courses are managed along sustainable lines.

Meanwhile, if your golf course utilises operating leases for its machinery, ultimately you will replace your equipment every three to five years – regardless of any economic downturn. But if you own your machinery, you may now choose to extend the length of time you keep it and accept the increased maintenance costs prior to replacement. However, be mindful that this could be a false economy that leads to huge expense at a later date, let alone decreased efficiency and a deterioration in the quality of your course. So think carefully.

As a profession we have to be more environmentally aware, and ensure that we manage to enhance rather than damage the environment. As resources may become limited, perhaps now is an ideal opportunity to assess and, if necessary, adjust your management practices.

In the long-term, as long as golf courses are managed properly, provide value for money and benefit the environment, golf as a sport will be around for another 600 years or more.



Picture 2



Kelrar Golf Club, Iceland



Another view of Kelrar Golf Club, Iceland

#### **About the Author**

**Bruce Jamieson is a well-known agronomist who runs his own consultancy. He can be contacted at: 01252 844847 or go to: [www.bjgolf.co.uk](http://www.bjgolf.co.uk)**

**TORO**

**Count on it.**





# COMPETING FOR THE GREENER GOOD...

*Richard Stuttard, STRI Ecology & Environment*

**It sounds ironic, but there is a need in today's environmentally aware climate to "green" the golf club. For some golf clubs this has been a widely accepted fact for a number of years and it is the desire to give recognition to these clubs, coupled with a need to further promote this issue to others, that led to the inception of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition back in the mid 90's.**

Since then the Competition has gone from strength to strength, highlighting the increasing acknowledgement within the Industry of environmental and ecological issues and their relevance to golf.

This year has brought with it a greater number of Competition entries and an even more diverse range of initiatives. This year's overall winner, Caldly Golf Club, has stood out this year for its diverse approach to efficient, practical and sustainable golf course management.

Upon visiting Caldly there was a clear sense of unity among everyone involved, regarding the direction the club was heading and the message they wished to be sending out to the wider community. Golf Clubs, whether we like it or not, are businesses and as such they are under increasing pressure to "become more efficient", "reduce their carbon footprint" and "be kinder to the environment". These are commonly heard phrases, but they are just words, and it is action that counts. This is

perhaps where Caldly has the edge over so many other clubs. Their unity towards developing an efficient club with a low carbon footprint that is, indeed, kinder to the environment is resulting in rapid action being taken.

It seems obvious to state that a business where all contributors share a common goal will inevitably stand a greater chance of achieving its aim but this is often an inhibiting factor at many golf clubs.

Caldly provides a superb test of golf. The club has achieved the balance between playability and wildlife/aesthetic interest that gives a club the edge in what is an increasingly competitive market.









Royal St. David's GC

## The Winners...

**Overall Winner – Caldy GC**  
**Regional Winners:**  
**Scottish – Loch Lomond GC**  
**Northern – Fairhaven GC**  
**Midlands – Enville GC**

**Wales & South West**  
**– Royal St. David's GC**  
**South East – Beaconsfield GC**  
**Best New Entry in 2008**  
**– Silloth on Solway GC**  
**Special Initiative Prize**  
**– Bearwood Lakes GC**

Course Manager, Carl Crocher, and his team have a commendable dedication to their course and are clearly proud of the work they have achieved. The course supports a wide variety of habitats, from expanses of grassland, to gorse, water features and pockets of woodland, and all are managed in a manner that is appropriate to both golf and nature. A prime example is the grassland management at the club. Carl and his team have undertaken their own grassland management trials, investigating different combinations and frequencies of cutting and scarifying techniques, depending on the proximity of the grassland to play. The result is fine leaved, open grassland swards close to the playing line, working back to less frequently managed deeper swards further offline. This "compromise" between golf and nature allows the speed of golfing play to be maintained while the wildlife benefits of grasslands (wildflower development, potential for ground nesting birds, and connectivity through the site) are maintained.

Elsewhere on the course, gorse, water features and trees are all used to great effect as strategic elements while, as with the grasslands, being maintained in a healthy state for wildlife. Bird and owl boxes have been placed around the course and the team have even constructed a badger sett to provide further habitat for these creatures which are known to frequent the area.

Back at the maintenance facility the club continues to impress. A reedbed filtration system has been installed to deal with all waste washdown water (a vital consideration given increasingly stringent legislation in this area) with all water exiting the reedbed being stored and re-used. To bolster supplies for this closed loop water recycling

system, the club now harvests rainwater directly from its maintenance facility roofs – a relatively low cost and easy to implement initiative, but one that is often overlooked.

Also at the maintenance facility, staff have developed gorse and heather nurseries for later establishment out on the course and have also taken on a new skill, managing bee hives, much to the interest of many members.

I left the maintenance facility thoroughly impressed and headed up to the Clubhouse to meet the Club Secretary. Here I learnt of the Club's bid to become more energy efficient. Low energy light bulbs and motion sensors have been fitted and the Club have furthered the initiative and commissioned an energy audit for the Club. This has resulted in the production of an invaluable document highlighting all sources of energy use and wastage and prescribing methods for reducing them. Many of the suggestions will result in the Club saving considerable amounts on their energy bills. The Club are even looking into the potential of developing sustainable energy sources on site such as solar panels and wind turbines. Ultimately, the club could essentially be self sustaining!

Across the UK there have been many other exceptional entrants and deserving prize winners in the Competition. The Scottish Regional Winners, Loch Lomond Golf Club, could be forgiven for resting on its laurels given the already stunning setting within which the golf club sits. This is simply not the case however and the whole team here maintain a golf course that is true to its natural surroundings and maximises its diverse and attractive setting. On visiting the Club, David Cole, the Golf Course Superintendent, and his team, displayed a clear sense of custodianship over



the land and this is reflected in the management techniques implemented. Part of the course is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) purely for its rare and diverse lichens and the Club have embraced this and are actively promoting the presence of these rare species.

Additionally, the club has developed sophisticated monitoring techniques for all water, fertiliser and pesticide inputs to the land, and as such can deliver the minimum amounts required to keep the turf suitable for play. The local council do not currently have a recycling collection in place but this has not deterred the Club, who have come together with local businesses to develop their own recycling centre. The approach to environmental matters is very much pro-active, rather than re-active and this puts Loch Lomond in a very strong environmental position.

This year's Northern Regional Winner, Fairhaven Golf Club, stood out for the vast number of projects that are in place for promoting wildlife. The projects range greatly in their scale and it is the attention





Bearwood Lakes Golf Club – Special Initiative Prize

to detail that has impressed the most. The course itself is extremely attractive and offers a thought provoking round largely thanks to the way in which the diverse range of habitats are managed. The course is difficult to define as it incorporates links, heathland and parkland elements. This makes for an extremely diverse site and the Club maximises this diversity potential to the full. Extensive rough grasslands are afforded relaxed management, thereby allowing the influx of wildflower species; pockets of gorse and heather provide further diversity and connectivity across the site and within trees, areas of woodland and other, out of play, areas many of the Clubs smaller scale projects reside. These include large numbers of bird boxes, an owl box and even man-made habitat for harvest mouse. Greenkeeper, James Hutchinson, is in charge of ecological projects at the Club and his enthusiasm for maintaining such high environmental standards at Fairhaven Golf Club has clearly spread to all those involved at the Club including, crucially, the membership, many of

whom have had their golfing experience enhanced by the promotion of wildlife on the course.

The Midlands Regional Prize has been awarded to Enville Golf Club. Course Manager, Jonathan Wood, and his team maintain two courses that allow fairways to pass discreetly through often vast areas of wildlife rich habitat. The most striking feature here is without doubt the extensive heather areas. Impressively, the Club has its own heather trial area where a wide range of management techniques are tested to determine the most appropriate for the course. This has enabled the Club to successfully extend heather areas considerably, both for the benefit of wildlife, and the golfer. The Club are currently working with Natural England on a project to manage some of the more dense woodland blocks on the courses with a view to further promoting heather. The long term vision of the team is impressive.

Enville is also committed to improving water quality. Not only do the Club have a fully compliant water recycling system in place to deal with

contaminated washdown water, but they have also undertaken a project to clean up water entering the feature pond on the course. The ditch feeding the pond has been re-contoured to incorporate swales and reeds in order to slow water flow and allow the reeds to filter sediment and nutrients from the water. The result is the conversion of a pond formally dominated by algae, to a clear, open water body now harbouring a wide variety of wildlife.

Royal St. David's Golf Club is the recipient of the Wales and South West Regional Prize. A consistent strong performer in the Competition, Royal St. David's provides a memorable round of golf. The undulating links environment, coupled with superbly defined fairways and a keen sea breeze, makes the course a first class challenge. Course Manager, Roger Kerry, has considerable experience of managing the environment on the Harlech coast and the whole team have not only maintained, but enhanced the wildlife value of the area. Deep rough grasslands, present for many





Silloth on Solway Golf Club – Best New Entry in 2008

years on the course, have now been extended further and management has now been relaxed to further promote their value. Large scale gorse management has been undertaken in recent years and heather is becoming an important component of the site. The maintenance area has been recently updated with a new water treatment system and storage building and the Clubhouse has recently installed an energy efficient boiler and has extensive plans to further reduce their carbon footprint.

The South East Regional Prize has gone to Beaconsfield Golf Club. Beaconsfield has been a long-standing entrant to the Competition and has therefore had a keen interest in maintaining an environmentally sound golf club for a number of years. Five years after initially commissioning the production of an Ecological Management Plan for the course, Course Manager, Bill Paterson and his team, have made significant alterations to the ecological and playing characteristics of the golf course. There has been an extensive removal and replacement programme of non-native tree species with more appropriate broad-leaved species and the extent of rough grassland on the course has been increased considerably, extending further out and into the playing line thanks to a management regime that has created an open sward dominated by fine leaved grasslands, ideal for golfing play. Within the extensive woodlands, clearings have been created to assist woodland regeneration and create havens for butterflies and other insects.

Also within these clearings basking provisions have been made for the many reptiles known to frequent the course.

The Competition this year has attracted a considerable number of new entrants, an encouraging sign that the message we are trying to portray is being spread. The award for Best New Entry in 2008 goes to Silloth on Solway Golf Club. Silloth is a hidden gem of a club, tucked away in the north western tip of England. This links course had, over the years become dominated by vast stands of gorse and the greenstaff faced a daunting task attempting to bring these areas back into a more manageable state. A few years down the line however the team, led by Course Manager, Brian Storey, has carried out significant work throughout much of these areas, coppicing or removing gorse in order to reduce its cover and bring the desired amount back into a favourable condition both for wildlife and for its aesthetic appeal. The course is now much more open and true to its roots and, as the project continues, it will undoubtedly get better and better. Additionally, the course supports fine leaved grasslands in addition to typical mobile sand dune vegetation. Well managed wetlands can be found in dune slack areas and the course as a whole supports an immense diversity of wildlife.

The final award, the Special Initiative Prize, goes to Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, near Wokingham, Berkshire. Bearwood Lakes is a relatively young course, constructed in the 1990's but has an air of maturity well beyond its years. Course Manager,

Daniel Lightfoot, and his team have brought about significant ecological advances at the Club in the last three years or so and the enthusiasm shown by all at the Club is commendable. The Special Initiative Prize has been awarded for the restoration of a water feature. Previously, the water in the smaller of two lakes contained elevated nutrient levels and massive algal blooms were recurrent each summer. The main source of nutrients in the lake was from the overhanging trees. The greenstaff took action to remove the trees to prevent further nutrient enrichment and also to improve light and air movement at the lake surface which has resulted in the lake becoming an attractive addition to the course, providing valuable habitat for dragonflies and damselflies. Additionally the golf course draw their irrigation water from the main lake on the site and this is constantly monitored so that the water level does not fall below a level agreed with the Environment Agency and washdown water from the maintenance area is treated and returned to the main lake to help sustain water levels.

It has been another good year for the environment and, despite the weather over the last 12 months (which could be described as "Interesting" to say the least!) and the current economic problems, it does seem that the majority of Clubs that are attempting to stand out from the crowd by embracing good environmental and ecological management techniques seem to be holding their own. Coincidence?? I'll let you draw your own conclusions...



# VOLUNTEERS WANTED...



FEATURE

## ...FOR BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM

### The Open Championship, Turnberry GC, July 16-19

This is your opportunity to work at Turnberry GC to assist Golf Course Manager and Estate Manager, George Brown, and his team with the preparation of the 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 - Auchincruive College (Scottish Agricultural College AYR) - 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 15,

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, 2009, and you will be notified later in the month.

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
|  |   | <b>Yes</b>   | <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Name</b> .....                                  |   | I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years.....  | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Golf Club</b> .....                             |   | I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Position</b> .....                              |   | I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme.....   | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Age</b> .....                                   |   | I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks.....  | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>I have applied for/appeared on the team at:</b> |   | I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | <b>Applied</b> <b>Successful</b>                  |  |   |
| Royal Birkdale 2008 .....                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 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.)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carnoustie 2007 .....                              | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   |
| Hoylake, 2006 .....                                | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | I am an overseas Member .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| St Andrews, 2005 .....                             | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   |
| Royal Troon, 2004 .....                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   |

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. Should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ as the R&A now have photographic ID for all Open Championship workers.

# TAKE A SWING AT REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

By Clive Collier



**Climate change is increasingly becoming a concern not just to governments, but to businesses and individuals. For the last two years within the UK we have experienced a lack of traditional summer weather and have instead had high winds and severe rain leading to floods in numerous areas.**

While the mild winters have benefited golf clubs, the unsettled summers have not, leading to reduced revenue and difficulties in course maintenance.

The extreme changes occurring throughout the world, such as the severe droughts in Australia, floods in India, and more frequent hurricanes are hard to ignore, and the scientific evidence from such bodies as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), The Royal Society, and the United States National Academy of Sciences, has become more consistent, leading rational people to believe that our carbon emissions are at least partly responsible for climate change.

The weather has a great impact on golf club activities, so it would make good sense for clubs to try and reduce their carbon emissions, however there are many other issues facing golf

clubs today. The downturn in the global economy and looming UK recession will undoubtedly affect income over the next year and this, coupled with high energy costs, will seemingly make it difficult for clubs to address the issue of reducing their carbon footprint.

But is that actually the case?

Being more energy efficient makes sound economic sense because using less energy lowers operating costs. From an environmental perspective, it's an effective way for clubs to cut carbon emissions and, in turn, combat climate change.

Firstly, how can a club reduce its footprint? The obvious answer is to cut the amount of energy used: most clubs have irrigation systems that use pumps to distribute the water around the course and, in some cases, to extract locally available water. There are also closed loop wash down systems that are used for recycling the run off water from pressure washing the maintenance equipment, which also use pumps.

Pumps are driven by electric motors, most of which run at maximum speed at all times whether the process requires it or not, if the speed of the motors could be adjusted inline with the required

process then savings could be made.

The solution is to fit an AC drive.

An AC Drive or Variable Speed Drive (VSD) is a device which can control the speed of an electric motor. Most conventional motors run at full speed only, but a VSD equipped unit means it can run at a variable rate. This allows the motor to drive a pump or fan at a speed appropriate to the requirements of the process.

Because energy and motor speed are exponentially related, even a relatively small reduction in speed can result in a significant energy saving. Fitting an AC Drive to a motor is an attractive cost-saving project for many businesses, as it can provide quick results and a relatively short payback period.

It is often the case when irrigation systems are installed that the pumps and motors installed are over specified for the purpose and as such waste considerable energy. When this is the case, the speed of the motor can often be reduced by 40% and thereby reduce energy consumption by 78% which relates to significant cost savings and reduction in carbon emissions.

A 20% reduction in speed provides a 50% saving in energy costs.





AC drives come in a range of sizes to suit the application

AC drives come in a range of sizes to suit the application, thereby helping to keep the cost in line with its intended purpose.

AC Drives can also dramatically reduce the energy costs of air conditioning systems; many of the larger golf clubs do have air conditioning in the club house. It is of course a requirement that we actually get a summer for a change to warrant switching on the air conditioning, but for golf clubs in the hotter climates this would substantially reduce both energy costs and carbon emissions.

Further energy savings can be made where clubs have closed loop wash down systems; these systems have air blowers fitted which run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An air blower can be replaced with a linear air pump for a relatively low cost which will result in substantial energy savings. The air blower consumes the same amount of energy as an electric fire, whereas the linear air pump consumes only the energy used by a light bulb.

There is a capital cost involved in having an AC Drive fitted to existing systems, however this is quickly paid for by the savings in energy. Furthermore the Government, being keen to

reduce emissions, has set up schemes to help businesses fund the capital cost for such energy saving devices.

The Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) scheme provides for qualifying capital expenditure. The Energy Technology List (ETL) specifies the energy-saving technologies that are included in the ECA scheme... this list includes both AC Drives and linear air pumps.

The scheme allows businesses to write off the whole cost of the equipment against taxable profits in the year of purchase. This can provide a cash flow boost and an incentive to invest in energy-saving equipment which normally carries a price premium when compared to less efficient alternatives.

The Carbon Trust is a private company set up by the Government in response to the threat of climate change. It offers advice on reducing CO2 emissions and has been set up to help businesses fund energy saving projects by means of Interest Free Loans for which payment could be off-set by savings in energy costs.

Energy-Efficiency Loans, from the Carbon Trust, are a cost effective way to replace or upgrade your existing equipment with a more energy efficient

version. Small or medium-sized businesses in England and Scotland, or all businesses in Wales that have been trading for at least 12 months, could borrow from £5,000 to £100,000. It is unsecured, interest free and repayable over a period of up to four years. There are no arrangement fees and the application process is straightforward.

So, with the quick return on investment, being able to offset the costs against profits made and the availability of interest free loans, is cost a real consideration? If a golf club is using pumps and motors, then it makes sense to reduce their running costs and thus reduce their carbon footprint.

To summarise, if a golf club is serious about reducing emissions, it is possible to do so without breaking the bank and, in the process, enjoy the ongoing advantage of reduced operating costs.

**About the Author**

*Clive Collier provides marketing expertise for Environmental Green Systems Ltd, Stoke on Trent*

**Tel: 01270 884689**  
**www.environmentalgreensystems.co.uk**



# DEDICATION'S WHAT YOU NEED

*Drax Golf Club is on the up thanks to their dedicated staff. Melissa Jones reports...*

**It all began back in 2004, when the club, part of the Sports & Social Club in Drax, North Yorkshire, put an application into the English Golf Union for a grant.**

"I'd had previous experience of applying for a grant for a rugby pitch, so when I came on board, originally as Vice Captain, I was able to help with the paperwork. They then left it to me and Denise, our Secretary, who completed the reams of paperwork it involved," explained Paul Weaver, Club Captain.

"It was the intention for internal staff to run a budget for the club to pay for the three new holes themselves," continued Paul. After doing their sums, the club realised their budget was approximately £70,000 and the estimated price for the work was nearer £400,000.

"I got on board with the sports council and persuaded them to increase the grant from £60,000 to £280,000 then £300,000. We were the first golf club, that I know of, to get a 100% grant," continued Paul.

## HOW THE GRANT WORKS

If you want to apply for a grant for your golf club, you need to fill in an application form ([www.englishgolfunion.org](http://www.englishgolfunion.org)) and send it to the English

Golf Union (EGU). The EGU will then consider the application and decide if it's a worthwhile cause. If it's considered to be a worthy application, it is then forwarded to the Sports Council who allocate a percentage of money to golf.

Once the EGU and Sports Council have approved the application, it's then the golf club's job to chat with various designers to make sure the laid down criteria, such as making sure the course is suitable for the disabled and women etc, is fulfilled within the plans - It took about two years before Drax Golf Club finally got to the point where they had everything approved and met all the criteria.

The next step is informing the council and obtaining planning permission. You have to meet the council's stipulations and give residents the opportunity to object - which in Drax's case wasn't too time-consuming and didn't rouse too many problems.

## CARRYING OUT THE JOB

"We were due to start work on the three new holes last year but we are about seven months behind our original programme because of the weather," said Paul.

The new holes came about when the club recognised that as a 9 hole golf course, the club was stagnant. "Membership and turnover had

started to drift off," explained Paul, last year we had 350 golf members which only allowed us to break even. The new holes will provide a new concept."

Cue Craig, Craig Lalley did his basic greenkeeper training at Drax GC, earning £40 a week. Since then he has worked at Heworth GC and most recently Rudding Park. Paul asked Craig to return to his roots at Drax GC earlier this year to implement his new found skills by taking on the role of Course Manager. Craig now manages three permanent staff and one seasonal worker at the club.

"I identified a gap in our staff. We didn't have anyone with the knowledge to bring on the new land. I realised that if we didn't complete it to EGU standards the risk would be that the quarter of a million pounds we were given could be drawn back, which would bankrupt the club. We needed someone with the experience, someone professional," explained Paul, "and Craig's enthusiasm for what could be was in line with that of the committee."

"I know the potential of Drax and I know the vast majority of membership. I feel if I can come in and slowly change the standard of the course. It will not only benefit the Sports & Social Club but the area in general," enthused Craig.

"I can really stamp my mark on Drax and raise the profile - Selby's best kept secret. With



350 members paying 250 the budget is not massive. I've got to manage the course with the little budget I've got."

## TIMESCALES

Craig hopes to have the 3 new holes ready for play by Spring 2009. Since he took on the role at Drax back in September, Craig has spent 75% of his time playing catch up: "I've put a fertiliser programme in place, started tree planting, drainage and digging of the paths, but am conscious that I still have a 9 hole course to look after," said Craig.

Over the past six weeks, Craig has been doing as much physical work as he can to get the new holes to a certain standard.

"I have now got the height of cut on the greens down to a good level. With regular hand dressing and overseeding, the greens have come on a great deal in a short time, and the sward has become very dense.

"The greens are in good shape coming into the winter months, so let's hope the weather is kind and that we have a good start to the season so I can get the new holes open and make Drax some much needed income."

## MEMBERSHIP

The average age of members at Drax Golf Club is quite high and Paul believes this is because people hold the preconception that a 9 hole golf course doesn't provide enough of a challenge, as the yardage isn't as long as that of an 18.

"The course does provide a challenge for members. We need to ensure we keep all ages happy with the additional three holes - a challenge for the youths but at the same time not too hard for elderly members to play, so it doesn't affect their handicap," said Paul.

"I think we will be in a stronger position once the development is finished, as we are one of the cheaper clubs to join. You don't have to fight for a tee time here and you will be able to play 13 holes of golf to a good standard. We've got the facilities here too: snooker tables, a gym, bowling, football, cricket, tennis etc," explained Craig.

"It's a transitional period and I'm going to have to work hard to get it to the standard I want. I feel I can make Drax a really good golf club which people will want to come back to year on year."

### USEFUL NUMBERS:

English Golf Union –  
01526 354500  
info@englishgolfunion.org  
www.englishgolfunion.org

Sports Council –  
020 7273 1551  
info@sportengland.org  
www.sportengland.org



The greenstaff have planted trees on the new land.



View from the new land looking across to the existing 9 hole course.



Paul Weaver Club Captain & Craig Lalley Course Manager.



# IS RELIEF GRINDING ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THE PERFECT CUT?

By Charmian Robinson

## How do you ensure that you maintain your mowing equipment in a way that ensures the best possible performance?

First you have to understand what it is your aiming to accomplish and what you are looking to prevent. The aim of every Professional Greenkeeper is to achieve a clean quality cut and in doing so prevent the grass becoming diseased. How this is achieved is a constant source of debate, but can at least be rationalised by looking at current common practise and recommendations from the leading manufacturers of professional mowing equipment.

The recommended specification for all of the major manufacturers and a number of the smaller companies includes the stipulation that cylinders (reels) and bottom blades (bedknives) are relief ground. And there are very good reasons for this as explained by Ivan Miller, Division Service Manager, of John Deere Limited.

The cylinder back relief angle on John Deere equipment is ground to remove the cross section of the blade leaving approximately 1 mm (.040"). This angle is set at 20 degrees although the industry ranges from 20-45 degrees.

"John Deere recommends relief grinding the cylinders for the following reasons," explains Ivan.

1. Relief grinding removes metal from the trailing edge of the blade forming an angle (relief angle) to reduce the contact area of the cutting edges. This reduces blade contact area resulting in less friction.
2. Ensures longer wear life.
3. Less time is required to back lap.

4. Reduces squeezing and tearing of the grass as the unit gets dull by use.

5. Provides an area for backlapping compound to be trapped to more effectively back lap cylinders.

6. Because of the relief grind it is possible, with backlapping, to true a cylinder (make it round) if a blade is .001" to .002" too high.

7. Requires less horsepower to drive the cylinder."

John Deere recommends backlapping after spin grinding to remove burrs and rough edges left from the spin grinding procedure. John Deere machines also have "on board backlapping".

"This allows the technician to regularly back lap the cutting units to 'maintain' the cutting edges. But to maintain cylinders with backlapping the blade must have relief. Backlapping does NOT replace grinding and should never be used to sharpen extremely dull or out of shape cylinders," said Ivan.

"Another advantage of applying relief to the blades is a direct saving on fuel and repair costs. These will go up when cylinders get dull or when there is no relief grind because it does take more engine horsepower to spin the cylinders and that power will wear out components sooner. With Relief ground blades less horsepower is required to drive the cylinder."

Mike Stephenson, from the Turf Division of Lely UK Ltd, also has strong arguments for their Toro professional mowers having relief ground blades, although they advocate different angles on the bottom blades in keeping with their policy of light contact rather than non-contact mowing.

"Our reasons for relief grinding are well documented," said Mike.

"We have found very strong evidence to support our belief that relief grinding is responsible for:

A reduction in wear - due to less metal to metal contact

A reduction in power requirement - due to less metal to metal contact and pinch of the cut turf between the cutting edges

Improvement in the quality of cut - due to a better, cleaner cutting action

A better after cut appearance - due to improved quality of cut

Increased recovery rate of turf - due to clean cut of the grass leaf

Reduced back lapping time - due to less contact

Improved land area resulting from backlapping - smaller contact area to lap

Permits light contact adjustment - better adjustment of contact area

Improved machine life - reduced stress on the component parts

The reason we encourage different angles on the bed knives is because the bed knife (bottom blade) front face angle aids the presentation of the leaf for cutting and changes (depending on application), according to the distance the front face is behind the cylinder centre.

Bed knife Top face angle keeps the land area to a minimum reducing power and assisting cutting edge maintenance."

Although many Head Greenkeepers now accept the value of relief grinding as the desired method for achieving the ultimate in quality of





cut and acknowledge the benefits outlined by the mower manufacturers, he also has other elements to consider such as the time taken to relief grind his units.

The perceived amount of time needed to prepare and apply a relief angle when viewed in isolation can be a deterrent to many Head Greenkeepers looking to allocate their maintenance engineers work schedule to maximise efficiency.

Ian Robson, Managing Director of Hunter Grinders Ltd, examines the variables that effect the time required to sharpen a unit and explains how relief grinding not only gives you all the elements to achieve quality of cut, but also saves time in the workshop.

### Calculating the time required to keep a cutting unit sharp

A simple basic formula has been devised to allow you to calculate this for yourself, which is described as Value A + Value B + Value C = Total Time to sharpen each unit

#### Value A

- Time required removing the cutting unit from the mower and preparing it for grinding.

#### Value B

- Time required mounting the cutting unit in the grinder, sharpening it and removing it from the grinder.

#### Value C

- Time required reassembling, setting up and refitting the cutting unit to the mower.

When you add up the variables and compare spin grinding to relief grinding, spin grinding a unit takes less time to set up and complete. So it could be argued that there are small time advantages to be gained from spin grinding only!

However, there is another extremely important Value to be added to the equation which is invariably over-looked and yet has a dramatic effect on the calculation; It is the fact that a spin and relief ground unit will stay sharp at least three times longer than a spin ground only unit and indeed some operators claim their units will stay sharp

five or six times longer when the unit has a full relief grind only. On average a spin & relief ground unit will stay sharp for approximately 12 weeks compared to a spin ground unit which will only stay sharp for approximately four weeks.

If we revisit our earlier equation we can now add the missing value which radically alters the time scale required to sharpen the units. During a typical growing season a spin ground unit will need to be sharpened on average at least six times whereas the spin and relief ground units need only be sharpened twice. Incorporating this value as the number of times the unit is sharpened per season gives the following results:

**Spin Grind only all season:** If for example the Total time per unit is 50mins x 6 grinds = 300mins

**Spin & Relief Grind all season:** If for example the Total time per unit is 60mins x 2 grinds = 120mins

Now the true picture as to how much time is required to keep your cutting units sharp is beginning to emerge.

And of course the time frame has to be multiplied by the number of cutting units you might have!

On the basis that an average working day is eight hrs, if you owned 24 cutting units and chose to spin and relief you would only spend six working days (48hrs) sharpening your units compared to 15 working days (120hrs) if you chose to spin grind only. A saving of nine days!

And of-course the figures increase proportionally for any club owning more than 24 units.

#### Further benefits of relief and spin grinding

There are occasions when a cutting unit has been damaged from contact with debris for example, or heavily coned, when it would take considerably less time to grind if it was first relief ground and then spun ground! This is because you can remove far more metal when relief grinding using coolant than you can dry spin grinding. This has a direct bearing on how heavy a cut you can take. Relief grinding without the benefit of coolant creates a build up of heat which will cause the metal to lose its hardness making it

impossible to retain a sharp edge. Also when you relief grind there is not the impacting effect on the grinding wheel which you experience when spin grinding which again reflects on how heavy a cut you can take.

### Setting Up Your Units

On the recommendation of some manufacturers such as John Deere and Jacobson, units should be set up to have no contact between the cylinder and the bed knife. Other manufacturers including Toro suggest that set up should ideally in their opinion, have very light contact between the cylinder and bed knife. Unfortunately if you only spin grind this very light contact is almost impossible to achieve. This is because the cutting land is the full width of the blade, unlike the small land which is achieved when you relief grind. This has a very undesirable effect on the bed knife because contact generates heat which in turn produces even greater contact. In other words the bed knife loses its sharpness far quicker and therefore needs to be ground more often and replaced far more frequently.

Mike Stephenson sums up by saying, "It is vital when servicing to keep the machine operating as the manufacturer intended. Therefore important consideration should be given not only to the method of grinding but also to using genuine original manufacturers parts so that the equipment is kept to the original manufacturer's specification.

And finally on whether relief grinding is really a necessary option," said Mike.

"We certainly wouldn't put an extra expensive process in the manufacturing if it wasn't a fundamental requirement."

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# ROTARY BLADE SHARPENING NEED NOT BE A GRIND

By James de Havilland

Rotary blades can be sharpened using a bench or angle grinder. Getting the job right, however, takes skill. Hurry the task and you can overheat the blade, making it more liable to damage. Get the sharpening angle wrong and you will compromise the quality of cut and almost certainly cause the mower to use more fuel.

Among the blade sharpening systems that will avoid this is the now well proven Bernhard Rotamaster 4000. Here we take a look at how it operates.

Developed from the Bernhard Rotamaster 3000 rotary blade sharpener, the 4000 model is much easier to set up for different types of blade. It also does a good job, the company fitting a 'SuperBlue' ceramic sharpening stone as standard. This is designed not only last longer than a traditional grinding stone but to also work at a lower temperature. This should ensure blade 'blueing' is eliminated.

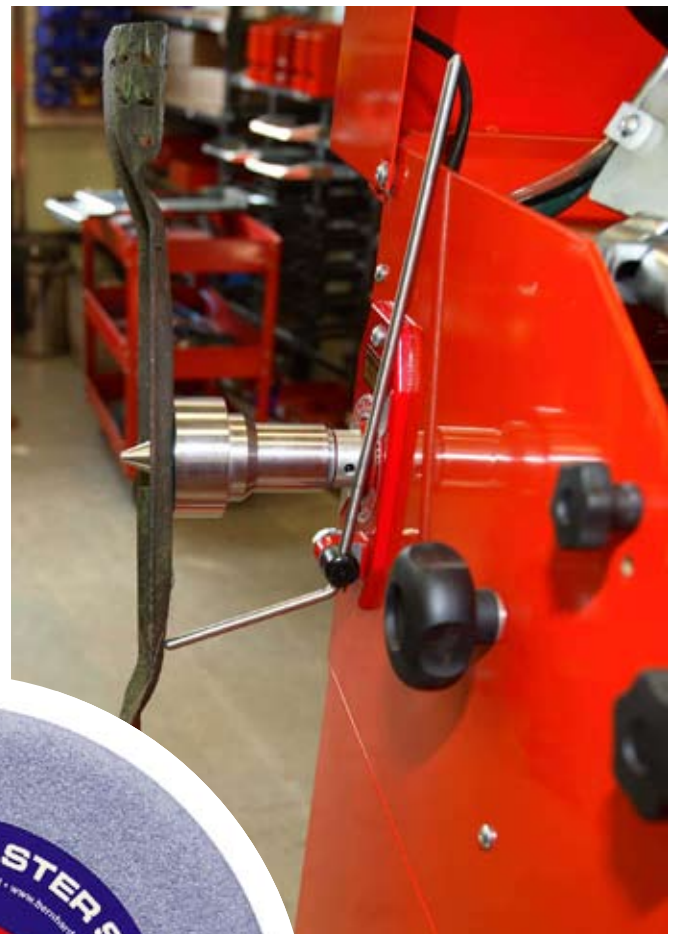
Once the Rotamaster 4000 has been set up, it will take up to 10 minutes for a really blunt and damaged blade to be properly sharpened. This will perhaps reduce to a couple of minutes if the blade has been regularly maintained.

Setting the machine to sharpen the 'light' end of the blade first enables the stop setting to be adjusted so that the heavy end has less metal removed by the time the process stops. This simple system evens up wear between the blades tips and so restores the balance.

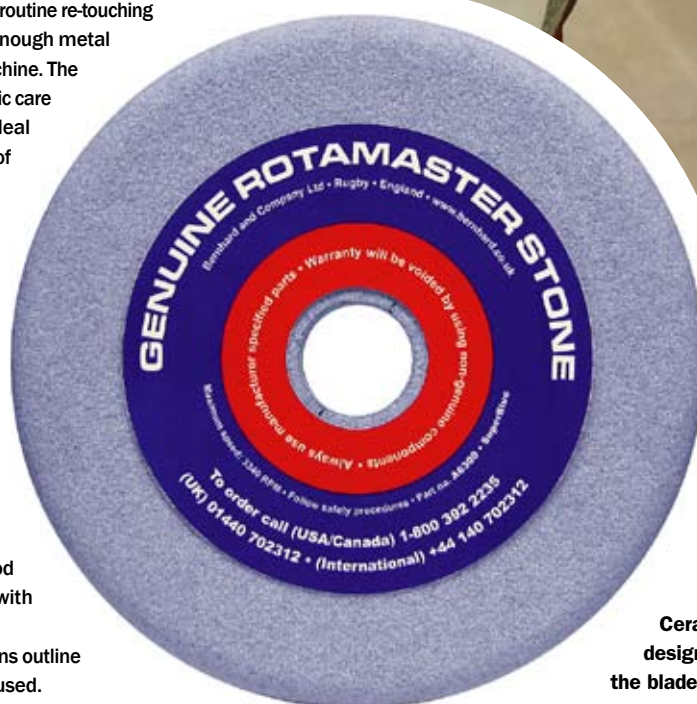
In trials, Bernhard has found routine re-touching allows a typical blade to have enough metal for 12 plus trips through the machine. The same blade receiving only periodic care will actually wear out a great deal faster. The hardness or temper of the original blade is protected by the integral cooling system and the use of a ceramic grindstone. When setting up, the aim is to ensure the blade is never allowed to blue.

The Rotamaster 4000 retails for £3,527. Sounds a tidy sum compared to an angle or bench grinder. The point is this is a precision grinding tool. A modern rotary mower can deliver a really good finish. But only when it is run with properly maintained blades.

The following picture captions outline the way the unit is set up and used.



A magnetic coupling allows the blade to be quickly checked for balance, the metal bar providing fixed datum to check blade is not bent. Dirty blade pictured should have been cleaned prior to balance check.



Ceramic SuperBlue grinding stone is designed to reduce the chance of damaging the blade by overheating it during the grind.





Rotamaster 4000 is able to accommodate most types of rotary blade, the machine's carriage incorporating a simple spring clamp with adjustable bar rest to keep it securely retained as it is sharpened.



For added security, a quick thread nut secures the blade through its central bolt hole. Note how the tip of the blade rests on a cross member. This provides support as the carriage moves back and forth. Blade sharpened light end first.



The distance the carriage travels across the face of the grind stone is set by setting manual stops. Once set for a specific blade type, this setting can be retained. Micro switches trigger the pneumatic ram powering the carriage to change direction.



Doing a dummy run with the carriage pushed in and out by hand is recommended. This allows the amount of travel to be fine tuned to suit the blade. Note also the adjustment incorporated for the rear blade support.



The carriage can be angled to allow the degree of blend grinding to be adjusted. This feature enables sharpening to be concentrated more at the blade tip and also reduces material removed from the blade shoulder, so retaining the blade's strength.



A simple jockey wheel can be lowered onto the blade so the grinding wheel follows a ramped profile. Simple and effective, it ensures consistent sharpening across the area to be ground.



## Fine tuning

Although it may take as long as 5 minutes to set up the machine when getting used to it, practice will see this time more than halved, even when clamping in a blade type that has not been encountered before. Once the blade is clamped in place and set to match the sharpening angle recommended by the mower manufacturer, the Rotamaster 4000 can be left to automatically sharpen the blade.



The black handle to the left is used to manually track the carriage during initial setting, the adjacent switch setting the auto track mode to the left or right according to how the blade is handed. Flow control determines the quantity of cooling water pumped to the ceramic grindstone.



An enclosure is lowered to cover the action when the blade is being sharpened, a vacuum drawing most of the waste away from the work. Water is used to cool the blade to prevent it from overheating. Ceramic grindstone claimed to virtually eliminate the chance of 'blueing'.



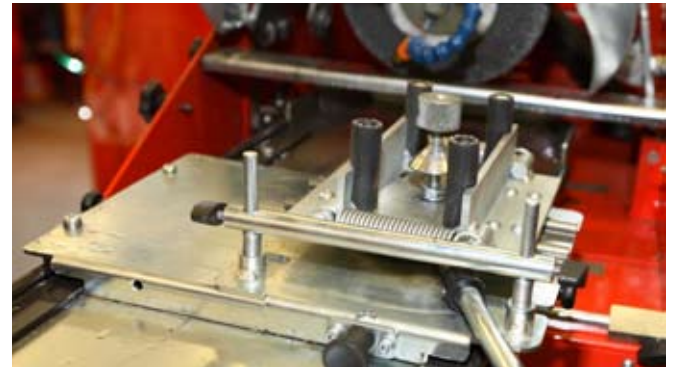
Main controls on the front panel are self-explanatory, the big red panic button stopping everything in one simple action. Thoughtful fuse position is an example of the detail that has gone into the design of the machine.

## Coping with different handed blades

The carriage has two separate positions to allow left- and right handed blades to be sharpened, the grinding wheel flipping to work on either side. The key travel settings can be retained for pairs of handed blades, but any blend grind settings will need to be re-set when switching over.



The carriage is set to the left for right-handed blades.



It is then moved over to the right for left-handed blades.



The direction of grind wheel also needs to be reversed...



...to accommodate the blade type.



Detail shot of ground blade, showing concave grind. According to Bernhard, this produces a better quality of cut. Bernhard has designed the Rotamaster 4000 so it can achieve the correct cutting angle for a specific blade.





Organised  
by BIGGA



# HARROGATE WEEK 2009

## YOUR GUIDE TO EUROPE'S LARGEST ANNUAL INDOOR TURF EXHIBITION

Harrogate Week is the launch pad start to the new season for the turf industry. Where BIGGA lead, the others follow...

- Over 200 exhibitors covering the entire industry
- A comprehensive educational programme
- The greatest choice of groundcare products and services
- Advice from industry experts
- Invaluable networking opportunities





# BIGGA'S ANNUAL GROUNDSCARE SHOW

**There is something reassuring about Harrogate Week and its place on the calendar. The final Christmas carol has been sung; the New Year welcomed into our lives and you know that before January has concluded another traditional event will have taken place, one which benefits both you as an individual and your place of work.**

Each year Harrogate Week invigorates everyone who attends. The informative and enlightening Continue to Learn workshops and seminars are

a must for anyone wishing to keep their finger on the pulse of an ever changing industry; the Halls are packed with product, new as well as the tried and tested, together with friendly, familiar faces prepared to advise on what is best for your particular circumstances and, you never know, perhaps cut you a competitive deal. Once the day is done the après show can be equally productive with hotels, bars and restaurants humming to the comforting tune of fine turf chatter.

To the newcomer Harrogate Week can be a daunting but it is something which is well worth experiencing. Advance planning is the answer –

booking your accommodation, Continue to Learn workshops and seminars, planning who you wish to visit in the Halls and, if you are concerned about not knowing anyone when you get there, checking in with your Regional Administrator or Section Secretary. You never know, you might be able to share transport to Harrogate.

Once you've been you'll be ticking off the days until the next one.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor







# EUROPE'S LARGEST INDOOR TURF EXHIBITION: HARROGATE WEEK

## Discover what's new...

Harrogate Week, Europe's largest indoor turf event that combines both elements of turf and clubhouse management, returns January 2009.

If turf management, the groundscare industry or club facility management is your chosen career path, then this is the show for you.

Over 8,500 decision makers in the turf management industry and sports club facility management attend Harrogate Week.

They come from all ends of the country to enjoy the hustle and bustle of a vibrant atmosphere. In 2008 over 400 visitors were international.

Over 200 exhibitors fill the exhibition halls in the centre of Harrogate for three days; showcasing goods and services required for turf and sports clubs. Deals are made, orders placed and new contacts established.

Harrogate Week provides the perfect opportunity to meet the industry's key players, view new products and equipment, take away literature, and discover those new ideas that are the lifeblood of the turf industry and club management.

The decision makers who attend Harrogate Week are loyal to this event and more than 50% of them attend most years.

We strive hard to bring new faces and potential customers to Harrogate each year,

culminating in the 2008 Trade Exhibition boasting over 30% of visitors being first timers.

So much more than an exhibition, Harrogate Week is packed with new and innovative ideas and has an outstanding seminar programme. With a Careers' Clinic, Job Shop, Internet Café, Business Lounge, Media Centre, AGMs, and forums running throughout the week along with Dinners, Receptions and a Social Night - it's the only place to be each January.

Harrogate Week is the launch pad start to the new season for the golf and turf industry. Where BIGGA lead, the others follow.

Admission to the Exhibition is FREE of charge to all visitors. For more information and to register today visit [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).

**Education...**

Harrogate Week is the venue for the world-renowned Continue to Learn education programme, and with over 50 educational events it has something for everybody.

The 2009 Continue to Learn education programme, supported by The Greenkeepers Training Committee, includes a varied, comprehensive workshop and seminar programme, covering specialist topics as well as more general management and administration. Aimed at greenkeepers, groundsman, their supervisors, golf course managers, sports ground managers, club managers and others working in the turf industry, a series of professional seminars highlight hot topics from all relevant sectors.

**Listen up Members...**

Be sure to visit the BIGGA Stand (B19) while at the show. BIGGA staff will be on hand to give advice and information on all Association matters. You can renew your BIGGA membership and update your details at the stand, and Membership Services staff will be available to inform you of the different types of membership available and the benefits of becoming a member.

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will be taking place in the Queen's Suite on Wednesday, January 21 at 5.15pm.

The importance of your attendance cannot be voiced enough. As you will have read in the November issue of GI, BIGGA is to propose the inclusion of groundsman within its membership. As a full BIGGA member your vote at the AGM can make or break this proposal.



**Continue to Learn Programme 2009**

| DAY                 | TIME  | COURSE   | LOCATION         |
|---------------------|-------|--|------------------|
| <b>Sunday 18</b>    |       |  |                  |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Moving into Management .....   | Queen's Suite    |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Making Successful Presentations .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Health & Safety .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Manage Relationships and Improve Conflict at Work .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Drainage: Theory, Practice and Realities .....   | Queen's Suite    |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Measuring Success.....   | Queen's Suite    |
| 10.30 - 18.00       | ..... | Basic Budgeting and Finance.....   | Queen's Suite    |
| <b>Monday 19</b>    |       |  |                  |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Moving into Management .....   | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Making Successful Presentations .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Health & Safety .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Manage Relationships and Improve Conflict at Work .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Irrigation: Planning Installation and Water Management.....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Stress Awareness.....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Next Steps in Budgeting and Finance .....  | Queen's Suite    |
| <b>Tuesday 20</b>   |       |  |                  |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | BTME & ClubHouse.....  | Exhibition Halls |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Careers Clinic.....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.30 - 12.30        | ..... | Getting Started with Microsoft Excel.....  | QS 1             |
| 10.00 - 11.00       | ..... | Opening Session & Awards Ceremony .....  | QS 3             |
| 10.15 - 10.45       | ..... | Getting to Grips with Hand Arm Vibration .....   | QS 7             |
| 11.30 - 12.00       | ..... | Benchmarking for a More Sustainable Future .....   | QS 3             |
| 12.15 - 12.45       | ..... | Stress Relief at a US Open Course.....   | QS 3             |
| 13.30 - 16.30       | ..... | Beyond the Basics Microsoft Excel .....  | QS 1             |
| 13.30 - 16.30       | ..... | Environmental Legislation Compliance Through Best Practice .....   | QS 5             |
| 13.30 - 14.45       | ..... | Master Greenkeeper Workshop Part One - Stages 1 & 2 .....  | QS 10            |
| 13.30 - 14.45       | ..... | Master Greenkeeper Workshop Part Two - Stage 3 .....   | QS 10            |
| 13.30 - 14.15       | ..... | EU and UK Pesticide Policy Developments .....  | QS 3             |
| 13.45 - 14.15       | ..... | Turf Nutrition - Getting the Balance Right.....  | QS 7             |
| 14.30 - 15.00       | ..... | Turf for a Changing Climate .....  | QS 7             |
| 14.30 - 15.10       | ..... | Travels With Terry - Machinery/Maintenance Equipment Ideas.....  | QS 3             |
| 15.15 - 15.45       | ..... | Eco-Concept in Golf Course Maintenance .....   | QS 7             |
| 16.00 - 16.30       | ..... | Balanced Programmes - From Organics To Water Management.....   | QS 7             |
| 16.15 - 16.45       | ..... | Primo MAXX - Latest Research and Developments .....  | QS 3             |
| <b>Wednesday 21</b> |       |  |                  |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | BTME & ClubHouse.....  | Exhibition Halls |
| 9.00 - 17.00        | ..... | Careers Clinic.....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.30 - 15.30        | ..... | Continuing Development Seminars .....  | QS 7             |
| 9.30 - 12.30        | ..... | Making the Most of Your Woodlands .....  | QS 5             |
| 9.30 - 12.30        | ..... | Getting Started with Microsoft Word.....   | QS 1             |
| 9.45 - 10.45        | ..... | 20 Years of Top Flight Winter Sports Maintenance .....   | QS 3             |
| 11.00 - 11.30       | ..... | One Metre Deep Aeration - When, Where and Why? .....   | QS 3             |
| 11.45 - 12.25       | ..... | Finding Askernish .....  | QS 3             |
| 13.30 - 16.30       | ..... | Making the Most of Your Heathlands.....  | QS 5             |
| 13.30 - 16.30       | ..... | Beyond the Basics Microsoft Word.....  | QS 1             |
| 13.30 - 14.15       | ..... | Integrated Turf Management Principles and Practice .....   | QS 3             |
| 14.30 - 15.00       | ..... | New Chemistries to Combat Water Quality .....  | QS 3             |
| 15.15 - 15.55       | ..... | A Starter Guide to Tournament Preparation .....  | QS 3             |
| 16.15 - 16.45       | ..... | Using Integrated Management to Improve Turf Quality.....   | QS 3             |
| 17.15 - 18.30       | ..... | BIGGA AGM .....  |                  |
| <b>Thursday 22</b>  |       |  |                  |
| 9.00 - 16.00        | ..... | BTME & ClubHouse.....  | Exhibition Halls |
| 9.00 - 16.00        | ..... | Careers Clinic.....  | Queen's Suite    |
| 9.30 - 12.30        | ..... | Making the Most of Your Links Environment.....   | QS 5             |
| 9.30 - 12.30        | ..... | Beyond the Basics Microsoft PowerPoint.....  | QS 1             |
| 9.30 - 10.00        | ..... | Introducing Velvet Bents to Your Course.....   | QS 3             |
| 9.45 - 10.15        | ..... | From Coal to 36 Holes .....  | QS 7             |
| 10.15 - 10.45       | ..... | Environmental Issues in Canadian Golf.....   | QS 3             |
| 10.30 - 11.00       | ..... | Managing a Changing Climate.....   | QS 7             |
| 11.00 - 11.30       | ..... | Online Learning.....   | QS 3             |
| 11.30 - 12.00       | ..... | Increasing Fertiliser Use - Efficiency Through Improved Biological Strategies .....                          | QS 7             |
| 11.45 - 12.15       | ..... | You Won't Believe It - Sharp Cylinders Allowed Me to Raise my Height of Cut and Increase my Greenspeed!..... | QS 3             |
| 13.00 - 13.45       | ..... | Setting the Sprayer to Hit the Target .....  | QS 3             |
| 13.15 - 13.45       | ..... | The Future of Spraying.....  | QS 7             |
| 14.00 - 14.30       | ..... | Compost Teas Help Cut Costs and Chemical Use .....   | QS 7             |
| 14.15 - 14.45       | ..... | Using Latest Weather Information to Assist Course Management .....   | QS 3             |
| 15.00 - 15.30       | ..... | The Science and Nanotechnological Advantages of MEGALEX® and UPPLAUSE® .....                                 | QS 3             |



## Harrogate week 2009 is not to be missed. Don't just take our word for it...

“ There is a saying: ‘You only get out of it what you put in’, and for me Harrogate Week is just that. I am making appointments weeks before, with trade and greenkeepers alike trying to fit everything in around all the education on offer”

Visitor Mike Gash, Deputy Course Manager at Moseley Golf Club.



“ Last year was my first time at Harrogate, (although Vitax has been exhibiting for over 15 years) and I was impressed by how busy we were, especially on the Wednesday. Needless to say, we've already booked for next year”

Exhibitor Daniel Wilkinson, Commercial Manager at Vitax Limited.

“ Tuffa UK, along with ideals UK, partnered the stand as we knew that Harrogate Week was an excellent opportunity to meet with customers both old and new, as part of our respective businesses include working together in the oil, water and petrol storage markets servicing golf courses and grounds maintenance sites. Both companies were also able to exhibit their ancillary products to the industry”

Exhibitor Mike Stone, from Tuffa UK.

“ In our usual spot and with new exhibits, we enjoyed good traffic flow. Hard work backed up with plenty of pre-show publicity and advertising helped us achieve quality leads and orders at the show and subsequently”

Exhibitor David Mears, Managing Director, of Course Care.



“ The show last year was the best Scotts has ever had at Harrogate, we were constantly busy with quality visitors throughout the three days. A surprising amount of sales leads were followed up and new business came in. It was also a good event to catch up with what is happening in our industry and meet some old friends. Hard work but enjoyable”

Exhibitor Dave Steward, Marketing Manager, at Scotts Professional.



“ Lloyds was pleased to be exhibiting again at Harrogate Week. Our increased range which now includes Topdressers, along with the addition aerators and our award winning Paladin Mower, meant an increase in space which we have booked again for 2009”

Exhibitor Clive Nottingham, Managing Director, of Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd.

### EDUCATION 18-22 January 2009

Workshops will run at the following times:

- Sunday, 10.30am until 6pm
- Monday, 9am until 5pm
- Tuesday, 9am until 5pm
- Wednesday, 9am until 5pm
- Thursday, 9am until 3.30pm

Workshop registration will be open from 10am until 10.30am on Sunday, January 18 and from 8.30am until 9am on Monday, January 19.

### EXHIBITION 20-22 January 2009

The exhibition will be open at the following times:

- Tuesday, 9am until 5pm
- Wednesday, 9am until 5pm
- Thursday, 9am until 4pm

Note for your diary...

### BIGGA Social Night

Tuesday, January 20  
at Majestic Hotel,  
7pm until 10.30pm

Fun for all! Casino tables, Vegas Showgirls, Bucking Rudolf, Saloon Bar Shoot Out, Arcade games plus much much more! Everyone welcome.

To book tickets contact Sandra or Rachael at BIGGA HOUSE on: 01347 833800 or email: [sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sandra@bigga.co.uk) [rachael@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael@bigga.co.uk)



Montpellier  
image courtesy of HIC



Cattleman's Association



Blues Bar

## A GUIDE TO HARROGATE

Harrogate Week is unlike any other event. It is your chance to meet and interact with decision makers 24 hours a day. After the show closes there are endless opportunities to network in the Harrogate bars and restaurants with turf professionals.

As you can imagine, Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town. With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively nightlife along with a glamorous heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

### WHERE TO EAT...

When you're feeling peckish or want to mix business with pleasure...

|                              |                   |                           |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Alberts.....                 | Tel: 01423 568446 | ..... Bar & dining        |
| B.E.D.....                   | Tel: 01423 568600 | ..... Modern English      |
| Bengal Spice.....            | Tel: 01423 502610 | ..... Indian              |
| Betty's.....                 | Tel: 01423 502746 | ..... Traditional English |
| Biscaya Bay.....             | Tel: 01423 500089 | ..... Basque French       |
| Bowers Bistro.....           | Tel: 01423 565806 | ..... French/English      |
| Cattleman's Association..... | Tel: 01423 561456 | ..... Tex Mex             |
| Chez La Vie.....             | Tel: 01423 560666 | ..... Traditional English |
| Drum and Monkey.....         | Tel: 01423 502650 | ..... Seafood             |
| Harrogate Brasserie.....     | Tel: 01423 505041 | ..... English             |
| Hedley's Wine Bar.....       | Tel: 01423 562468 | ..... English             |
| Horoscope.....               | Tel: 01423 508144 | ..... Chinese             |
| Joe Rigatoni.....            | Tel: 01423 500071 | ..... Italian             |
| La Tasca.....                | Tel: 01423 566333 | ..... Tapas               |
| Loch Fyne.....               | Tel: 01423 533070 | ..... Seafood             |
| Rajput.....                  | Tel: 01423 562113 | ..... Indian              |
| Thai Elephant.....           | Tel: 01423 530099 | ..... Thai                |
| William and Victoria.....    | Tel: 01423 506883 | ..... English             |

### WHERE TO STAY...

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Holiday Inn Harrogate, Kings Road.....   | Tel: 0871 423 4876 |
| Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road.....           | Tel: 01423 500055  |
| Studley Hotel, Swan Road.....            | Tel: 01423 560425  |
| Grants Hotel, Swan Road.....             | Tel: 01423 560666  |
| Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road.....          | Tel: 0870 1688833  |
| Crown Hotel, Crown Place.....            | Tel: 01423 567755  |
| Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road.....             | Tel: 01423 504005  |
| Cedar Court Hotel, Knaresborough Rd..... | Tel: 01423 858585  |
| St George Hotel, Ripon Road.....         | Tel: 01423 561431  |
| Kimberely Hotel, Kings Road.....         | Tel: 01423 505613  |
| White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road.....    | Tel: 01423 505681  |
| Alexa House, Ripon Road.....             | Tel: 01423 501988  |
| Yorkshire Hotel, West Park.....          | Tel: 01423 565071  |
| Travelodge, The Ginnell.....             | Tel: 0871 9846238  |
| Shannon Court, Dragon Avenue.....        | Tel: 01423 509858  |
| Grafton, Franklin Mount.....             | Tel: 01423 508491  |
| Camberley, Kings Road.....               | Tel: 01423 561618  |

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit:  
[www.reservation-highway.co.uk](http://www.reservation-highway.co.uk) access code "bigga"  
 or Tel: 01423 525577.

### THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Carringtons, Station Parade.....        | Tel: 01423 525551 |
| The Moko Lounge, Kings Road.....        | Tel: 01423 525862 |
| The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street..... | Tel: 01423 520567 |
| Odeon Cinema, East Parade.....          | Tel: 0871 2244007 |
| Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street.....   | Tel: 01423 502116 |
| UK Super Bowl, Tower Street.....        | Tel: 01423 529191 |



# EXHIBITORS' LIST

The table below lists who will be exhibiting at Harrogate Week 2009.

| Stand | Exhibitor   |
|-------|---|
| A 1   | Rodex Europe Ltd                                      |
| A 2   | Sub Air Systems                                       |
| A 3   | Advanced Turf Technologies                            |
| A 4   | Duncan Ross Sportsturf Drainage                       |
| A 5   | The Green Solution Ltd                                |
| A 6   | Orkney Seaweed Co Ltd                                 |
| A 7   | Tuffa UK Ltd  |
| A 8   | Ideals UK Ltd   |
| A 9   | Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.                             |
| A10   | Vitax Ltd   |
| A11   | Synergy Products Ltd                                  |
| A12   | Groundsman Industries                                 |
| A13   | Hoggs of Fife Ltd                                     |
| A14   | Kensett Sports  |
| A15   | British Seed Houses Ltd                               |
| A16   | STRI  |
| A17   | Farmura Ltd   |
| A18   | DLF Trifolium Ltd                                     |
| A19   | PSD Agronomy Ltd                                      |
| A20   | Sustane Europe Ltd                                    |
| A21   | Ocmis Irrigation                                      |
| A22   | Speedcut Contractors Ltd                              |
| A23   | Barenbrug UK Ltd                                      |
| A24   | Amenity Land Services Ltd                             |
| A25   | Rolawn Ltd  |
| A26   | Tarmac Topsport                                       |
| A27   | Massey Ferguson                                       |
| A28   | Kawasaki Motors UK                                    |
| A29   | Revaho UK Ltd   |
| A30   | Sinclair Amenity                                      |
| A31   | Irri-Supplies   |
| A32   | Tillers Turf Company Ltd                              |
| A33   | Abbott (MJ) Ltd                                       |
| A34   | ITT Lowara UK Ltd                                     |
| A35   | Novozymes Biologicals                                 |
| A36   | Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd                                |
| A37   | Inturf  |
| A38   | The Grass Group (Trilo UK Ltd)                        |
| A39   | Tonick Watering Ltd                                   |
| A40   | Bellwood Trees  |
| A41   | Gambetti Barre UK Ltd                                 |
| B 1   | Tacit   |
| B 2   | Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd                       |
| B 3   | European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd                   |
| B 4   | Symbio  |
| B 5   | Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd                                |
| B 7   | HumberPalmer's Fertilisers                            |
| B 8   | Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions                |
| B 9   | Steelmaster Products                                  |
| B10   | Dryspell Irrigation Solutions                         |
| B11   | AFT Trenchers Ltd                                     |
| B12   | Autoguide Equipment Ltd                               |
| B13   | XT1-Uzetoworld  |
| B14   | IGCEMA  |
| B15   | Myerscough College                                    |
| B17   | GCSAA   |
| B19   | British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association |
| B21   | Greenkeepers Training Committee (The)                 |
| B22   | Golf Club Managers Association                        |
| B24   | Boddingtons Ltd                                       |
| B26   | North Staffs Irrigation                               |
| B27   | Badcock Services Ltd                                  |
| B28   | Evenproducts Ltd                                      |
| B29   | Cleveland Site Safe Ltd                               |
| B30   | Indigrow Ltd  |
| B31   | FMW Distinct Ltd                                      |
| B32   | Dyofix  |
| B33   | Bernhard & Co Ltd                                     |
| B36   | Waste2Water Europe Ltd                                |
| B37   | Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd                       |
| B38   | Syngenta  |
| B39   | Scotts Company (UK) Ltd                               |
| B40   | Campey Turf Care Systems                              |
| B42   | Hydra International                                   |
| B43   | Golfdom Europe  |
| B44   | Terrain Aeration Services Ltd                         |
| B45   | Weather or Not Ltd                                    |
| B46   | Ecospray Ltd  |
| B47   | Elmwood College                                       |
| C 1   | Verde Sports Ltd                                      |
| C 3   | Greenkeeping Depot                                    |
| C 6   | Lawn Master UK Ltd                                    |
| C 8   | Sherriff Amenity                                      |
| C 9   | CL Signage  |
| C10   | Teagle Machinery Ltd                                  |
| C11   | Hunter Grinders Ltd                                   |
| C12   | Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd                              |
| C13   | Course Care   |
| C15   | Border Sports Services Ltd                            |
| C16   | ORM Professional Products Ltd                         |
| C17   | Internet Cafe   |
| C22   | Institute of Groundsmanship                           |
| C23   | Rigby Taylor Ltd                                      |
| C25   | Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd                                 |
| C26   | Headland Amenity Ltd                                  |
| C28   | Pareto Golf   |
| C29   | European Golf Machinery                               |
| C30   | Tru-Turf Equipment                                    |
| C32   | Bailoy  |
| C33   | Advanta Seeds UK Ltd                                  |
| C34   | Huxley Golf   |
| C35   | Enviropro H2O Ltd                                     |
| C36   | Kyoeisha UK Ltd                                       |
| C37   | LS Systems  |
| C38a  | Bowcom  |
| C38b  | Turf Care Group Ltd                                   |
| C39   | Tomlin (DW)   |
| C40   | Rufford   |
| C41   | John Greasley Ltd                                     |
| C42   | Par 4 Irrigation Ltd                                  |
| C43   | Lastec UK Ltd   |
| C45   | Blec Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd                     |
| C46   | Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd                            |
| C47   | Tower Sport Europe Ltd                                |
| C48   | Range Servant   |
| C50   | Eagle Promotions Ltd                                  |
| C51   | Bayer Environmental Science                           |
| M 1   | True Surface by Turflite                              |
| M 2   | Ecosolve Limited                                      |
| M 3   | Ryder (UK) Ltd  |
| M 7   | DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd                             |
| M 8   | Talbot Farm Landscapes                                |
| M 9   | DENNIS  |
| M10   | Protea Mowers   |
| M11   | Phoenix Amenity Supplies                              |
| M12   | Hydro Turf Ltd  |
| M13   | New Holland   |
| M14   | Wiedenmann UK Ltd                                     |
| M15   | Reco  |
| M17   | Husqvarna Outdoor Products                            |
| M18   | Coles Cheviot Trees                                   |
| M20   | Complete Weed Control Ltd                             |
| M21   | Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand                             |
| M22   | AEC Projects  |
| M23   | Penfold Golf Ltd                                      |
| M24   | Sports Turf Contracting                               |
| M25   | Parsaver Golf   |
| M26a  | 3 PointPower Ltd                                      |
| M27   | Actioneco UK Ltd                                      |
| M28   | Air-Seal Products Ltd                                 |
| M31   | Barcham Trees Plc                                     |
| M32   | Hardi Limited   |
| M33   | Amenity Technology Ltd                                |
| M34   | JSM Distribution                                      |
| M36   | Echo Bear Cat   |
| M37   | New Holland   |
| M38   | Garfitts International Ltd                            |

## 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](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

### Air

**Leeds Bradford International Airport**  
[www.lbia.co.uk](http://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](http://www.flybe.com)  
[www.jet2.com](http://www.jet2.com)  
[www.airsouthwest.com](http://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](http://www.bus2jet.com)

**Manchester International Airport**  
[www.manchesterairport.co.uk](http://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](http://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

[www.theaa.com](http://www.theaa.com)

### Directions

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, Park View, Montpellier Shoppers, West Park

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](http://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

BTME & ClubHouse provides a FREE 'Park and Ride' service from the Great Yorkshire Showground (from the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate, follow the ring road to the Great Yorkshire Showground (A661).) to Harrogate International Centre on all three days of the conference and exhibition. If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid any traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space.

The shuttle service will run at the times:  
• Tuesday 20 January 08.30 to 17.30  
• Wednesday 21 January 08.30 to 17.30  
• Thursday 22 January 08.30 to 16.30



# Kubota



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*Class leading mid horsepower range of tractors*

Spanning a range of 37-59 horsepower and packed with a whole host of new features, these state-of-the-art machines boast the most advanced technology on the market to deliver superior performance, functionality and versatility.

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[www.lastec.co.uk](http://www.lastec.co.uk)

# Come and visit...

## Eagle Promotions Ltd

Tel: 01883 344244  
Web: [www.eagle.uk.com](http://www.eagle.uk.com)  
Exhibiting: Hall C, Stand C50

Eagle designs and delivers quality marketing collateral, and is trusted by over 1,500 golf clubs to improve their presentation and branding:

- Course and clubhouse signage – timber, rock, or stone mounts, granite, zinc or bronze plaques - a comprehensive range of signage to suit every style of course and clubhouse
- Course guides – from aerial photographic styles and e-planners to traditional designs
- Scorecards – from any page, large and small formats, fully branded, sponsorship space, maps and the widest range of grids
- Membership tags and green fee tickets – designed to project your club's branding, sponsorship
- EGU-approved course measurement and certification.

Clubs prefer Eagle: come and talk to us on stand C50, or contact us on 0044 (0) 1883 344 244, or e-mail us at [info@eagle.uk.com](mailto:info@eagle.uk.com)

## Bernhard & Co Ltd

Tel: 01788 811600  
Web: [www.bernhard.co.uk](http://www.bernhard.co.uk)  
Exhibiting: Hall B, Stand B33

Bernhard & Company add to their sharpening solutions with their latest product evolution - the Express Dual and Anglemaster 4000.

Bringing advanced levels of operator safety, ease of use and productivity – the Express Dual and Anglemaster 4000 grinders are faster, quieter and even more intuitive.

Not only at the sharp end of turf maintenance, Bernhard's will show their new range of Turf vacs - the only sweepers with re-circulating air minimising dust and noise while dramatically improving pick-up performance. The range includes PTO and engine-driven blowers for clearing leaves and debris from fairways, greens and carparks.

Stop by Stand B33

## Cleveland Site Safe Ltd

Tel: 01427 752058  
Web: [www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk](http://www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk)  
Exhibiting: Hall B, Stand B29

Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd manufacture and supply a wide range of all steel, secure storage and accommodation units for chemicals, fuel, tools, equipment and personnel.

Our Sitesafe 'Apex' Modular Buildings have

proved extremely popular in recent years for applications like Greenkeepers or Groundsmans Garages and Welfare Units or Changing Rooms, Pavilions, Visitor Centres or even Children's Playschools and Youth Clubs.

Enhancing the exterior appearance of these units can be achieved by texture coating or fitting flame resistant timber cladding or brick slips with steel tiles in a range of colours to the roof. Finished with steel gutters and down spouts, these units provide a secure, long lasting, attractive and easily extendable answer to you 'on site' problems.

Please contact Irvine Weston on 01427 752 058 or John Hodgson on 01642 244 663, alternatively visit [www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk](http://www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk)

## Hunter Grinders Ltd

Tel: 01207 270316  
Web: [www.huntergrinders.com](http://www.huntergrinders.com)  
Exhibiting: Hall C, Stand C11

Eight out of nine Open Championship Courses now use a Hunter Grinder to relief grind their mowing units. The Series 5 range with its advanced technical specification has played a major part in this success. All of the major manufacturers of professional mowers produce relief ground cylinders and bottom blades. The Jupiter Series 5 ATI is the only machine that will relief and spin grind fully automatically returning cylinders and bottom blades back to the original manufacturer's specification. The ATI not only maintains the highest standards of relief and spin grinding, it is also easy to operate and saves you time, money and valuable workshop floor space. A selection of precision grinders from the Series 5 will be on display at Harrogate with the most popular model the Jupiter Series 5 ATI (Auto-indexer) centre stage.

## Lastec UK Ltd

Tel: 01622 812103  
Web: [www.lastec.com](http://www.lastec.com)  
Exhibiting: Hall C, Stand C43

Lastec's Model 3300 light weight Articulator mower, a fully articulating five-deck rotary with zero turn and a 2.4 metre (100in.) cut, makes its first appearance at BIGGA. The new model, which can fold its outer decks at the flick of a switch to reduce transport width to a mere 78in, brings the accuracy and flexibility of a nimble trim mower to the grass cutting industry at a price as low as many of the rigid deck, low resolution mowers. It is said to offer the productivity of mowers costing twice as much with a level of accuracy that is unsurpassed by any other unit on the market.

## The Grass Group (Trilo UK Ltd)

Tel: 01638 720123  
Web: [www.trilo.co.uk](http://www.trilo.co.uk)  
Exhibiting: Hall A, Stand A38

The Grass Group are the sole importers for the Trilo range of vacuum sweepers and blowers, the Progressive range of flex deck contour mowers and roller mowers, the Tycrop range of Topdressers and for Green Clipper large area mowers. The Grass Group are also suppliers of high quality replacement blades for turf harvesters, mowers and tillage equipment as well as golf course machinery wearing parts. To see how we can make your job easier please call us.

For Sales, Parts, Service and Hire contact The Grass Group on 01638 720123

## Border Sports Services Ltd

Tel: 01228 561982  
Exhibiting: Hall C, Stand C15

With rising fertilizer prices and tightening budgets there has never been a better time to shop around and investigate your options. At Border Sports we feel we have a solution to your problem, with MIVENA Fertilizers we can offer a very competitive and quality product that is rapidly gaining reputation and proving its effectiveness and efficiency in all applications.

So why not come and visit us at BTME on stand C15 to see what we can offer, we will also be displaying our nationwide range of Topdressings, Rootzones, Sand and Aggregates. We look forward to welcoming you.

## Kensett Sports

Tel: 01883 342632  
Web: [www.kensettsports.com](http://www.kensettsports.com)  
Exhibiting: Hall A, Stand A14

R&K Kensett, Surrey based sports contractors and sole importers of Graden - exhibiting the superbly successful Graden machines, including the ever popular Sand Injection.

Join us for an STRI seminar on spraying and see the STRI trialled Enviromist - the first truly environmentally friendly sprayer, on the stand.

This year's brand new addition is the revolutionary PlanetAir, capable of aerating 18 greens in under 4 hours.

Keith will answer any queries and/or problems with his wealth of knowledge. See videos of the machinery working and meet the Australian and American designers. As sports contractors ourselves, we know we can help.





Organised  
by BIGGA

To register, book education  
or find accommodation, visit  
[www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)

# Harrogate Week 2009

*For the Turf Management  
and Groundscare Professional*

Education Workshops and  
Seminars include:

- Benchmarking for the more Sustainable Future
- Turf Nutrition – Getting the Balance Right
- Next Steps in Budgeting and Finance
- Getting Started with Microsoft Excel
- Basic Budgeting and Financing
- Managing a Changing Climate

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Park  
& Ride**

**18-22  
January  
2009**



**Harrogate**  
week



## Q: What do all these clubs have in common?

St Andrews  
Carnoustie  
Turnberry  
Troon  
Muirfield  
Royal Liverpool  
Royal Lytham St Annes  
Royal St Georges



### SITESAFE

**For Golf...**

Garage - Workshop - Storage  
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Irrigation Pump Housing



Club House

For further information or to discuss your requirements please contact:  
IRVINE WESTON on Tel: 01427 752058 / Fax: 01427 754337 or

**Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd.** Riverside Works, Docks Road, Middlesbrough,  
TS3 8AT. Tel: 01642 244663 / Fax: 01642 244664  
Email: [sales@cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk](mailto:sales@cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk) Website: [www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk](http://www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk)

Harrogate Week has a new event for 2009

Non-members  
welcome

# ...The Social Night

at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

FREE Casino

FREE Games

Chips provided by BIGGA

Prize for the winner!

Ski Machine  
Pool table

Space Invaders

Bucking Rudolph

Pinball machines

Twin Driver Sega Rally

Saloon Bar ShootOut  
Pacman

One armed bandits

...plus many more.



Drinks  
Promotion

Riggwelter beer

£2 per pint!

Las Vegas-style Showgirls

All for £25  
(including meal!)

The Social Night

Tuesday 20th January 2009

(7pm until 10.30pm)

To purchase a ticket, call  
BIGGA on 01347 833800

Harrogate  
week



# ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

*Melissa Jones takes a look at the latest sportsturf gifts on the market.*

Looking for some inspiration this Christmas, look no further...

## YES! GOLF UK: Ho Ho Ho!

Yes! Golf UK suddenly announced it was planning to do absolutely nothing about the credit crunch, bypass the recession and refuse utterly to consider holding a fire sale to shift stock. After all, it's Christmas...

Instead of moaning about the fiscal squeeze, Yes! Golf is offering an irresistible Santa's list of Christmas presents for the golfers in your life, or even for yourself if you're in need of cheering up.

For details of the full range of putters visit: [www.yesgolf.co.uk](http://www.yesgolf.co.uk)

In addition there's a whole range of training aids, accessories and clothing to choose from.



slim fashion fit so make reference to the size charts to ensure you get one that you will be happy with.

The t-shirts are available from many pro shops, and online at: [www.bunker-mentality.com](http://www.bunker-mentality.com)

## BUNKER MENTALITY

Bunker Mentality (BM) is a brand for golf addicts, people with a love of the great game and those who have a different mentality. Don't forget - it's an Old Game, but it's a New Breed of Golfer. Bunker Mentality's accessories are unique Christmas gifts for golfers!

### Who's Your Caddy?

This 'Who's Your Caddy?' tee shirt, available from Bunker Mentality, is available in khaki, sky (pictured) and mocha.

BM t-shirts are all 100% combed cotton single jersey as opposed to open-end cotton, giving a softer, smoother feel to the fabric. These t-shirts have a



### Bunker Mentality Grips

Using the word famous C-thru grips, tour quality grips no less, you can now add the Bunker Mentality graphics to your favourite piece of hardware and Bunk up those clubs.

Nevermind waiting until your club needs re-gripping you can now change the look of your club as often as you change your shirt.



**Pitchmaster Repairers**

Described by Today's Golfer as the 'Ferrari' of Pitch repairers, with Bunker Graphics these Pitchmaster Repairers from Bunker Mentality are more like the HUMMER!  
 For more information visit: [www.bunker-mentality.com](http://www.bunker-mentality.com) or tel: 0115 924 1010.



**BEST IMPRESSIONS: Printed Golf Tees**

Best Impressions offer a range of both plain and printed golf tees. Their biodegradable tees offer good durability as well as being kinder to golf clubs, mowing equipment and the environment. Available in 54mm or 70mm sizes, they can also be personalised with a name or wording of your choice.

Traditional wooden tees are supplied in a variety of different colours and three different lengths.

54mm and 70mm wooden tees can be ordered plain, personalised on the shaft or with a design or initials printed on the top of the tee. You can even choose to have both!

Extra long 83mm wooden tees are available plain or with side printing only.

Tees are available from: [www.bestimpressions.co.uk](http://www.bestimpressions.co.uk)



**ONLINE GOLF: Batman & Robin Headcovers**

Online Golf are selling quirky Batman & Robin headcovers, in association with Brand Fusion Ltd - one of Europe's leading golf wholesale companies.

"Holy fine quality headcovers Batman!" Batman & Robin Headcovers are made from soft and durable toy-like plush fabric to fight crime on the fairway and offer excellent protection for your woods or driver.

Made from 100% new polyester materials, Batman and Robin headcovers give a soft toy-like plush feel while the stretchy sock easily slips over fairway woods, hybrid clubs and even oversized drivers for complete protection against physical damage

Batman and his sidekick Robin come with all their token crime fighting features, including capes, bat-belts and personal logos. As the official merchandise of DC Comics and Warner Brothers, each headcover has a label of authenticity.

Batman & Robin Headcovers are available to order now at: [www.onlinegolf.co.uk](http://www.onlinegolf.co.uk)



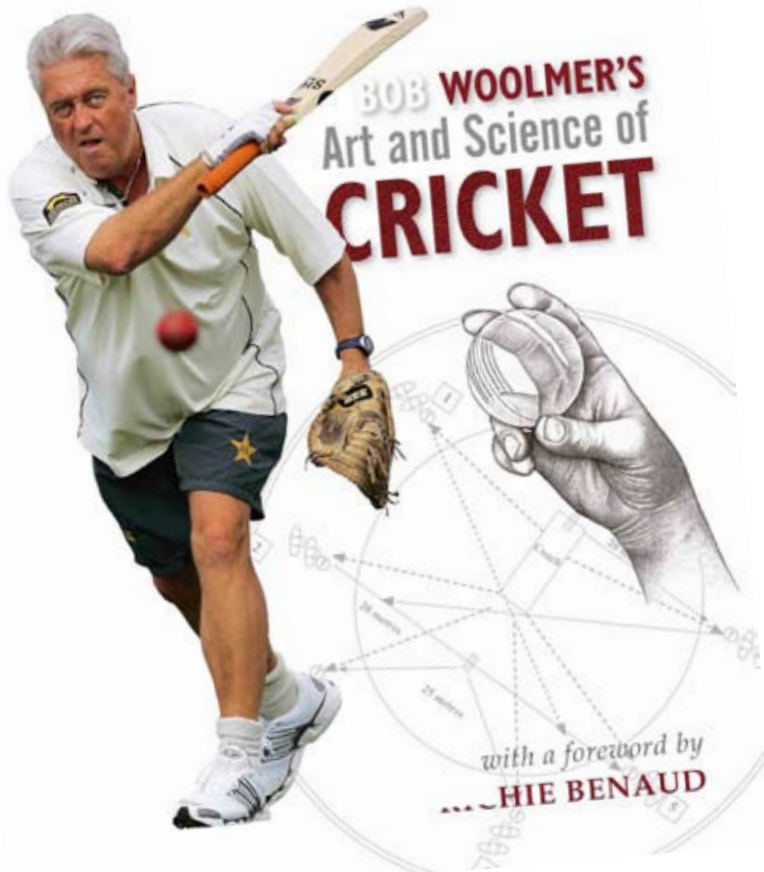


## ART AND SCIENCE OF CRICKET

Considered the most forward-thinking coach in international cricket, Bob Woolmer's tragic and untimely death at the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean dominated headlines around the globe for months. One small comfort is that he had just completed his magnum opus, a lifetime's wisdom gathered from playing and coaching cricket at the highest levels.

Bob Woolmer's Art and Science of Cricket represents the first time that a cricket coach and a sports scientist, both experts in their field, have combined their experience, insights and knowledge to create the most comprehensive book on playing and coaching cricket published to date. The book covers all the essentials such as batting, bowling and fielding but, unlike other coaching manuals, the aim of this book is to develop all-rounders who can show mental as well as technical strength.

Art and Science of Cricket is available from all good bookshops and online at Amazon and Play.

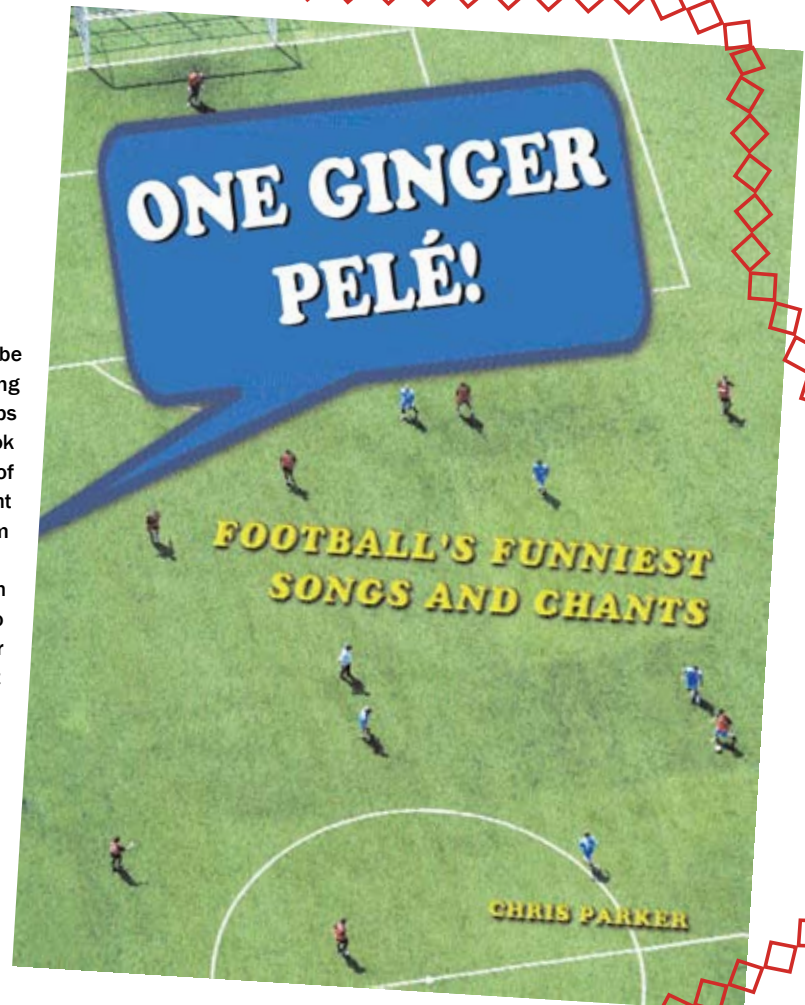


## ONE GINGER PELÉ, THERE'S ONLY ONE GINGER PELÉ!

Saturday afternoons just wouldn't be the same without hearing chants being sung from the terraces of football clubs across Britain and this hilarious new book from Chris Parker contains over 180 of the cleverest, wittiest and most downright hilarious examples of football chants from clubs all over the country.

From teams such as Windsor and Eton FC and Bishops Stortford, right through to the giants like Chelsea and Manchester United, One Ginger Pelé contains the most up-to-date chants from the English and Scottish Leagues along with the best chants to poke fun at mascots, other teams, fans and the constantly frustrating figure of the referee.

One Ginger Pele is available from all good bookshops and online at Amazon and Play.



# RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT: THE LINK HAS BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT

*Often talked about as separate subjects, Recycling and Waste Management are now inexorably linked. David Mears reports...*

**We are all aware of our “Duty of Care” with regards to waste management and that as producers of Hazardous Waste, we have to ensure it is disposed of correctly.**

So, we register and obtain a Premises Code, sign a waste management agreement, entrusting collections and disposals to a professional company and consider we have met our obligations. But, is that it? In reality there is more we can do to protect our environment and reduce costs. This is where recycling comes in.

Best practice would indicate that not only should waste management be considered but also waste minimisation and recycling. To be successful a good knowledge of waste streams and what happens to them must be the starting point.

Often when waste management contracts are set up, price is the driving factor. Best value though must be considered and the levels of service provided are important.

For example, there is little point in achieving a “keen” price if you cannot secure waste collections when you require them. This situation often affects small producers of hazardous waste; golf and sports clubs are an example. It is easy to see why collections are reduced when disposal costs are rising. In his budget speech in March 2008, the Chancellor announced that from April 1, 2008 and until at least 2010 - 2011, the landfill tax will increase by £8 per tonne each year.

The cost of transporting waste continues to rise too with fuel at such a high level and there are also consignment notes to produce. In the last 12 months my own company has taken numerous calls from golf clubs enquiring about our waste management services, often because they have been told, for example, that they cannot expect collections of waste oil unless they have 600 litres minimum. So, with escalating costs, it is incumbent upon us all then to take recycling and minimisation seriously.

Answers to the following questions will provide you with a clearer picture of the service levels to expect and how your charges may be levied. The suggestions should help you to be more environmentally aware, encourage recycling and achieve better results:

- Check with your waste service provider to see if they have recycling facilities or does much of



your waste go to landfill or incineration?

- Does your waste service provider operate the service themselves with their own trained operatives or is it sub-contracted?
- Are you provided with proper paperwork and are audit trails established?
- Are you provided with approved, correctly labelled containers and are they of the correct size and sufficient in number to ensure proper segregation of waste products? (Segregation enables efficient recycling)
- Are your containers exchanged for clean ones at each collection?
- Are you being asked to stock-pile increasingly more waste before you can expect a collection?
- What fee/s are you paying and what do you get for your money?
- Is my waste service provider able to offer advice on and collect WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006) and

/or other “one-off” specials such as redundant chemicals?

- Am I reducing bulk by crushing / compacting? (Plastic containers are a prime example and left uncrushed mean that the waste contractor would be transporting more than 95% of air for each one, adding to costs and consuming more fuel!)
- Am I throwing cardboard out or can I compost it? (Golf courses and grounds maintenance companies are ideally placed to do this as the large volumes of cardboard produced can be mixed with twigs, green waste, grass clippings, hollow tine cores etc.) PTO driven compost makers are available and can be used to build windrows. A number of courses have invested in these.
- Am I using cheap oil that needs changing frequently or can I switch to a long drain period oil and conserve natural resources?



- Is the water I use washing down machinery and vehicles going to waste and possibly polluting? Do I have to pay to have a Separator (interceptor) emptied regularly? (The installation of a washpad water recycling system would save money and reduce pollution risks)
- Can I re-use paper for printing drafts documents?
- Are all magazines and newspapers kept separate for recycling?
- Do I leave the sheds lights on when there's no one in them?
- Are engines left running unnecessarily?
- Am I recycling drinks cans, print cartridges and other items or are they going into general waste?
- Do I waste yards of thin paper wiper when one small sheet of quality wiper would suffice, reducing purchasing and disposal costs?
- Am I using effective oil only absorbents for oil spills or copious quantities of sand/other absorbent with all the messy clean up and excessive disposal costs?
- Is the waste catering oil from the clubhouse being disposed of or put to good use? Did you know that it is possible (with the correct processing plant) to turn this into BioDiesel?

Responsible Waste Management companies will recycle, as does my own, recycling over 90% of the waste we collect. One example is the many thousands of plastic containers that are processed in a huge machine that chops the product into small plastic chips that then go on to be moulded into useful rot-proof items such as fence posts, seating, sleepers etc., that can be used on golf courses and at leisure and amenity sites. Two other examples are: We recycle waste catering oil, creating BioDiesel for use in our own vehicles and metal is reclaimed from spent aerosols and filters.

The way forward for us all is to take environmental responsibilities seriously and actively seek ways to reduce waste and recycle, protecting our children's and grandchildren's inheritance. Recycling as much as we can and reducing dramatically waste going to landfill is a must. Free advice is usually available from Waste Management companies and ours is no exception. We'll guide you through the legislation and advise, at no cost, your best waste management and recycling solutions.

**About the Author**

David Mears is Joint Managing Director of Highspeed - Course Care who operate a licensed Waste Transfer Station (licence no. EAWML/65417), offering national Waste Management Services, with recycling and a range of Compost Makers, Washpad Water Recycling Systems, Long Drain Oils, Wiper, Spill Kits and more.

**Course Care**  
**Lo-call no: 0845 600 3572**  
**E-mail: info@highspeed.co.uk**  
**www.course-care.co.uk**  
**www.waste-away .org**



Course Care 5 cu mtr Compost Maker in action



Saving water with a ClearWater system at Aldwark Manor



Another container of Waste Aerosols collected for recycling





## WORKPLACE STRESS

BIGGA's Health & Safety series produced by Xact  
www.xact.uk.com



With businesses facing increasing financial pressures in the current economic climate, employees may become worried about their own jobs or others within their immediate family. The uncertainty and loss of control regarding the future may become a source of stress in certain individuals.

Other factors that can cause stress at work, known as stressors, are:

- Too little or too much work
- Bullying
- Work roles
- Management and business organisational styles
- Work life balance
- Interpersonal relationships with other work colleagues
- No control over work content and pace.
- Physical environment of the workplace

It should be recognised that stress is an essential part of life in that it can be in some cases be exhilarating e.g. when on a roller coaster or meeting a challenging deadline but also can be deflating when things do not go as we expect them to. It is only when these feelings are excessive over a period of time that it can lead to ill effects on people's health. Actions to control stressors should be taken before this occurs.



It is important to recognise that people are different in that not all people are the same and that tasks relished by some are considered to be extremely stressful by others.

It is important for employers to be vigilant for the signs of employees under stress such as:

- Sudden unusual absences
- Sudden poor time keeping
- Mood swings from previous disposition
- Employees smelling of alcohol at work
- Changes in personality
- Neglect of appearance and clothing

Stress at work for whatever reason will lead to poor performance and mistakes which will affect the business as well as having adverse effects on individual's health and possibly theirs and others safety at work.

Employers have a duty to carry out a risk assessment of their work activities that will identify if employees are being exposed to excessive stress and where required put in place control actions to eliminate or reduce this to an acceptable level.

Where the cause is external to the business or where it might be due to an uncertain future, the ability to talk these issues through with someone in confidence either within or external to the business will be of benefit in reducing the overall effect on the health of affected individuals.

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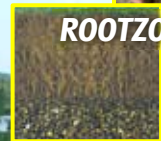
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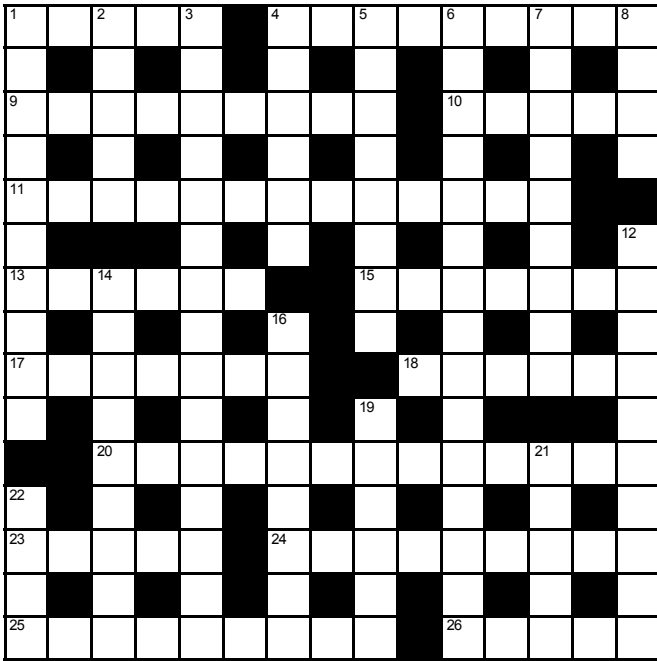




# In the Shed

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 Devastation, ruinous damage (5)
- 4 (Sometimes gradually) stop communicating with someone (4,5)
- 9 Preserve made from pulp and rind of citrus fruit (9)
- 10 Side to side measurement (5)
- 11 Experimental; based on experience rather than theory (5-3-5)
- 13 Stuck-up, snooty (6)
- 15 An act which backfires, affecting the perpetrator instead of the intended recipient (3,4)
- 17 Long-running BBC documentary series launched in 1964 (7)
- 18 Person who suffers through circumstance or trickery (6)
- 20 Herb which is also known as autumn crocus or naked lady (6,7)
- 23 Former planet - designated a minor planet in 2006 (5)
- 24 Central American republic, capital Managua (9)
- 25 Procession of cars (9)
- 26 Strangely, curiously (5)

### Down

- 1 BBC Radio 4 programme hosted by the late John Peel (4,6)
- 2 Italian composer of the opera Rigoletto (5)
- 3 Perennial French singer (of Armenian parents) born 1924 (7,8)
- 4 Discovered; memorised (6)
- 5 Internal supporting structure which gives a body or item its overall shape (8)
- 6 1974 disaster movie centred on a San Francisco skyscraper (8,7)
- 7 On the ground - considered as a hindrance (9)
- 8 Ditch with retaining wall, designed to mark a boundary without defacing the landscape (2-2)
- 12 Simple (10)
- 14 US film company which has the oldest surviving Hollywood logo (9)
- 16 Chronic inability to sleep (8)
- 19 Power of faculty and reason (6)
- 21 Fixed and inflexible (5)
- 22 Unwanted email (4)

## QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. What jockey first captained a team on the programme 'A Question of Sport'?
2. What is Moscow's most famous football club?
3. How many Israeli athletes were killed at the Munich Olympics?
4. How many ways are there of being out in cricket?
5. How many players are there in a field hockey game?
6. Who was Britain's 1972 Olympic pentathlon golden girl?
7. What racecourse stages 'The Lincoln'?
8. What sporting event was the subject of a Dennis Waterman film?
9. What Grand Prix Formula 1 car had six wheels?

## MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 5 | 0 | 8 | D | 6 |   |   | 7 | 9 | B |
| 1 | 4 |   |   |   |   | B | 7 | A | 8 | 3 | C |   |
|   |   |   | 9 | 6 | C |   |   |   | 0 |   |   | A |
|   |   | 0 | F |   |   | 4 | 9 | 5 | C |   |   | 3 |
|   | F | 7 | B | D | 6 |   |   |   |   | 2 | C | 4 |
| 8 | 3 |   |   | 9 | C | 7 |   |   |   | E | 6 |   |
| D |   |   |   | E | 0 | C |   |   |   | B | 8 | 7 |
|   |   |   | 1 | 3 | A | 4 | 8 |   |   |   | 5 | F |
| 7 | 1 |   | A | 4 |   | 8 | B | E |   |   |   |   |
| C | 9 | 4 |   |   | E | F | 6 |   |   |   |   | 0 |
|   | 5 | B |   |   | D | 4 | 2 |   |   | 3 |   | 1 |
| E | A | F |   |   |   |   | D | 1 | C | 2 |   | 8 |
|   | 7 |   |   | B | A | 3 | E |   |   | 1 | 9 |   |
| 5 |   |   | E |   |   |   | 0 | F | 8 |   |   |   |
|   | 1 |   | D | 7 | 0 | 9 | 3 |   |   |   | B | C |
| 4 | D | A |   |   |   | 6 | B | 9 | 7 | E |   |   |

## SUDOKU

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 6 |   | 1 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 8 | 6 |
| 9 |   |   |   |   |   | 7 |   | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 3 |
|   |   |   | 1 | 9 |   | 2 | 6 |   |
| 4 |   |   |   | 6 |   | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 1 | 6 |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 4 |   |   |

IN THE SHED ANSWERS  
can be found on page 76



# Hobbies

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



**Name:** Mark Kelsall  
**Club:** Rotherham GC  
**Position:** First Assistant  
**Hobby:** Painting

Mark has been a greenkeeper for 24 year's and a BIGGA member for 20.

**How and when did you get into painting?**

"I am a self taught artist but have always been interested in drawing and painting since I was at school in the 80's."

**What medium do you like to paint in?**

"I mostly paint in acrylic but sometimes oils."

**Apart from painting golf courses, what are your favourite subject matters?**

"My subject matter spans lots of different genres from abstract, to surrealism, to landscapes."



3rd green in spring, Rotherham Golf Club.

HOBBIES

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# DISEASE CONTROL BY NUMBERS

By Dr Karl Danneberger



**Dr Karl Danneberger, of Ohio State University, believes a better understanding of the dynamics of turf disease populations, and how they interact with environmental conditions, could enable greenkeepers to achieve better results with Integrated Turf Management programmes.**

Turf managers need to get a handle on the complexities of population dynamics to better understand the risk of disease attack, and how they might reduce the regularity and the severity of future attacks.

The basis is that any population will grow faster when there is (a) a large number to start with and (b) conditions are more conducive to development. In the early 19th century, socio-economist, Thomas Malthus, put forward radical models of population growth, introducing the theory of exponential growth (see fig 1), and the catastrophic consequences that would occur when population numbers exceeded the carrying capacity of the natural resources.

While Malthusian theories primarily relate to human population growth, they are directly applicable to disease development in turf. The principle of exponential growth demonstrates that, from a very low population, disease only starts to increase slowly – 2; 4; 8; 16; 32...etc. Once you get to bigger numbers, however, exponential growth of the same sequence really starts to take off – 8192; 16,384; 32,768; 65,536...etc. This potential for growth can be magnified by a huge factor for turf diseases, with the presence

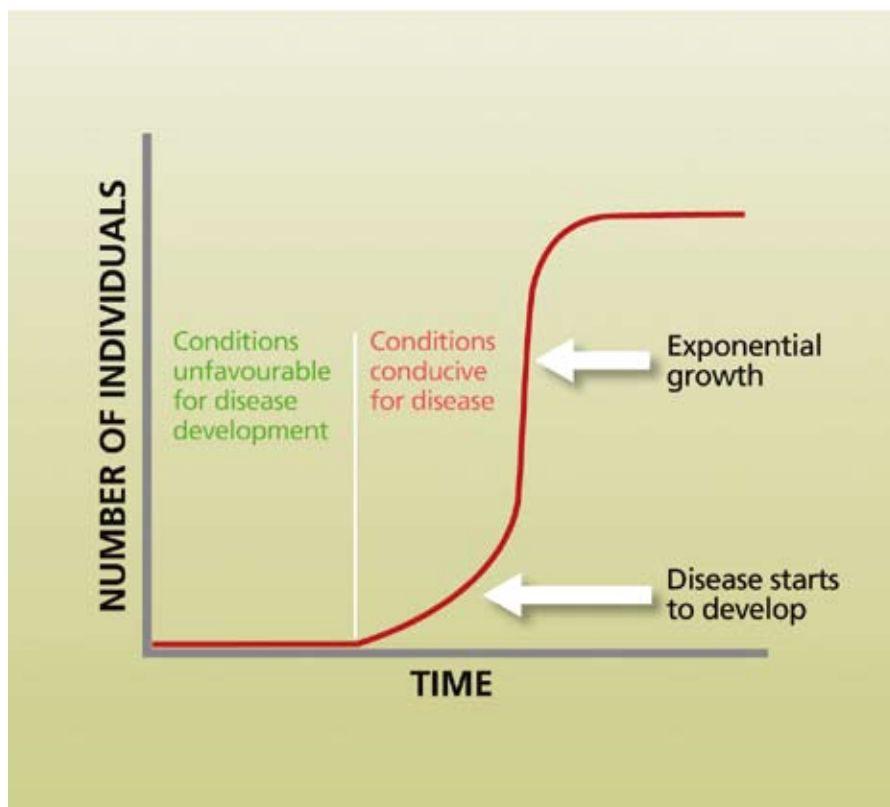


Fig 1. When turf disease populations build to a critical point, any conditions conducive to disease will see exponential growth with serious results.

of millions of spores within the turf just waiting for the right conditions to germinate.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The speed at which disease goes through its development and multiplication is dictated by the prevailing environmental conditions, including temperature, humidity and the state of the turf as a host for infection. Periods of warm, moist conditions conducive to Fusarium, for example, will see disease move from the invisible latent phase, to the full blown infection much faster and develop quicker - especially on any lush, soft growth where the pathogen thrives.

The Malthusian theory prophesied that when population growth outstripped the natural resources numbers would reach a ceiling, which is just as true with turf disease – resulting in severe damage and turf die back. Investigations have shown turf can withstand a degree of disease presence, particularly when it is actively growing

and replacing any damaged leaf.

The risk is that if conditions turn especially favourable to disease, or the turf comes under any stress that weakens its resources, the potential for the disease to develop rapidly can cause severe damage to the playing surface.

## INHOSPITABLE CONDITIONS

The answer is for turf managers to adopt a two-pronged approach. Firstly, to reduce the level of background disease inoculum within the turf sward and, secondly, for turf managers to make conditions as inhospitable to disease as possible, and hence slow down any development. If you can shift the disease growth curve to the right (see fig. 2) the appearance of visible symptoms may be delayed. In fact, if in that time conditions become less favourable for disease, a severe outbreak may be avoided. It also gives greater flexibility in timing to get a preventative fungicide applied to counter the risk.



Factors such as removing thatch, improving drainage and aeration, growing less susceptible cultivars and tailoring fertiliser inputs accurately are all elements of Integrated Turf Management (ITM) that will discourage disease from developing. Adjusting mowing height and using growth regulators to minimise effects of drought and heavy play also have a significant role in reducing stress on the plant its susceptibility to infection.

In an ideal world, this approach could keep disease down to levels where it causes no visible problems. In the reality of modern turf management, the changing climate and the demands of players, however, there are times when conditions will enable infection to break out.

### RISK CALCULATION

The challenge for turf managers is knowing when the risk is high and what measures they can take to alleviate the disease pressure. Weather is a key factor in the risk calculation. But turf managers also need to be aware of the specific conditions and stress points that will make their own turf more susceptible to disease.

If you know when disease is likely to attack, then a well timed preventative fungicide will both reduce any existing pathogen in the sward – which is the first major step in knocking back development of the disease – and physically prevent spores germinating.

If you can get the turf through the high risk period until conditions conducive to disease subside, then turf can remain healthy and maintain quality far more effectively.

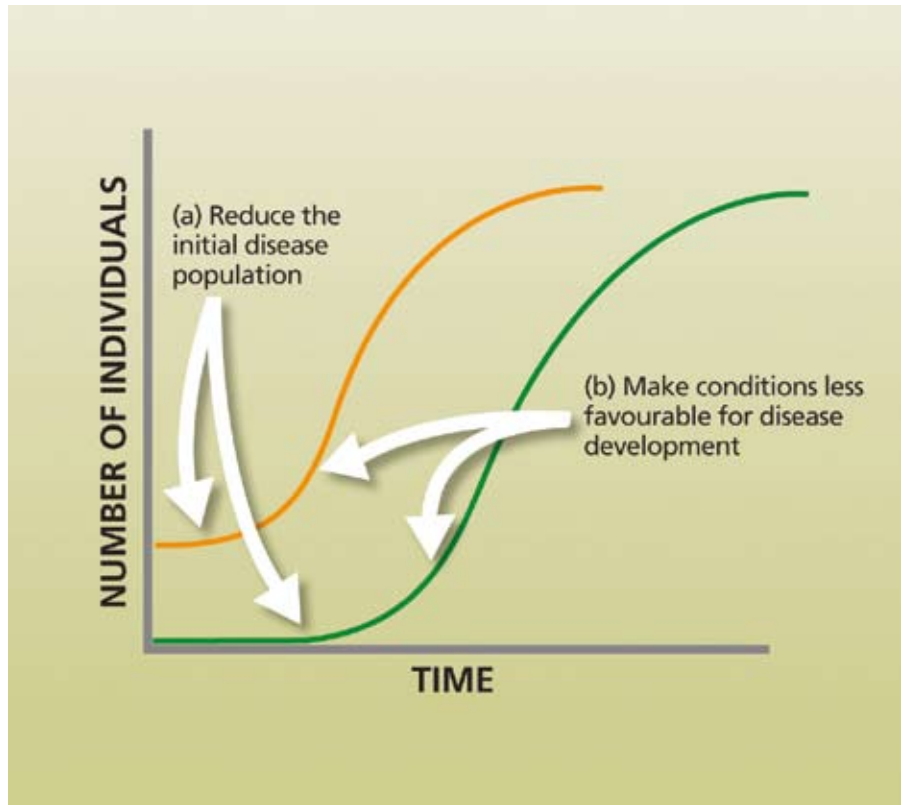
But, if the visible signs of disease have broken out during an attack, it will leave a huge legacy of spores and latent infection in plants, which will be poised to flare up again if conditions allow. Turf managers cannot afford to sit back and relax when risk periods have passed; a curative fungicide may prove invaluable in reducing the level of inoculum within the turf to limit further attacks. And it's the time when all action concentrates on the ITM measures that could reduce the risk of infection breaking out again.

### GREENCAST AID IN PREDICTING RISK

“Being able to spot periods of high disease risk in time to take action is key to maintaining the highest turf quality,” said Simon Elsworth, of Syngenta.

STRI trials have consistently shown the best results in turf quality are achieved from fungicide application when disease spores have landed on the leaf, but before any symptoms are visible. Well timed curative fungicides at the end of a protracted period of disease risk can also successfully reduce the level of inoculum remaining in the turf and minimise the risk of outbreaks flaring up again so quickly (see fig 3).

The web based turf disease forecasting service, [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) provides five day advance warning of local disease risks, based on UK disease models and impending weather conditions. Armed with this information, combined

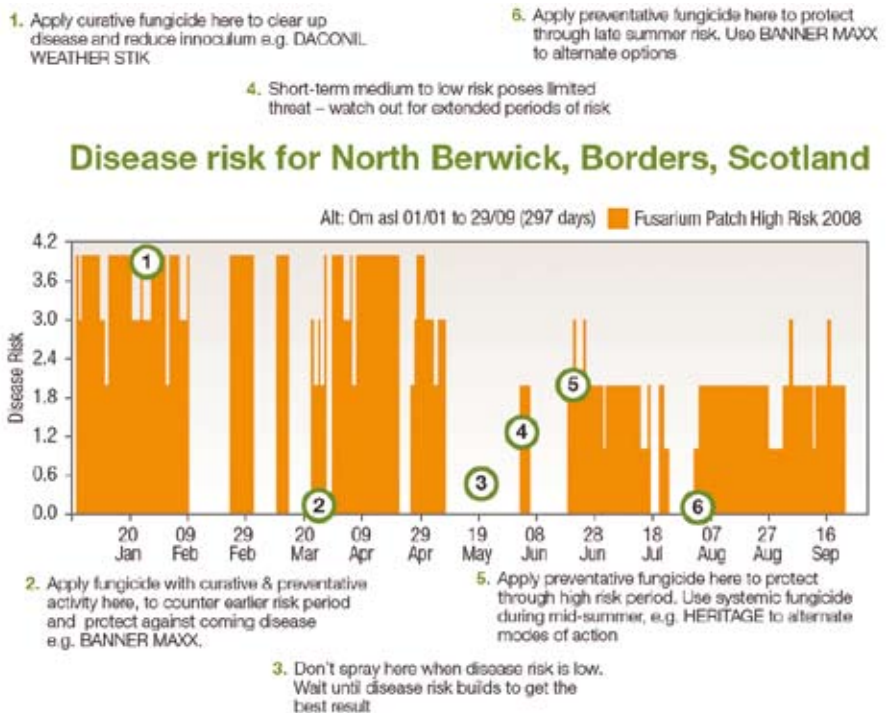


with their own knowledge and experience, turf managers can assess the local risk and time their fungicide applications accordingly.

The STRI trials have shown that using an ITM programme, along with Heritage fungicide applications timed solely according to GreenCast forecast of infection risk, can maintain better turf quality from a reduced number of fungicide applications over the course of the season, compared to routine or curative applications when disease damage has already occurred.

Fig 2 (above)  
Reducing initial levels of disease present in the turf and changing environmental conditions to be less favourable for disease can delay the outbreak of any infection.

Fig 3 (below)  
Turf managers can use GreenCast disease risk forecasts and information on previous disease attacks to formulate the best fungicide programme to protect turf quality.





# Whats your Number?

**Name:** Stephen Fell  
**Company:** Lindum Turf  
**Position:** Managing Director



**How long have you been in the industry?**  
"24 years."

**How did you get into it?**  
"On a Nuffield Scholarship visit to New Zealand and Australia in 1984, I met someone who was growing turf on a poor sandy soil and making a great job of marketing it. We decided to have a go."

**What other jobs have you done?**  
"I qualified as a Chartered Surveyor involved in rural land management and farm buildings in County Durham, managed a farm in France before coming back to manage a large agricultural estate in Kent."

**What do you like about your current job?**  
"The challenges being thrown up by a changing economic and physical climate, the interesting people I meet, and working with our dedicated and loyal team."

**What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**  
"Improved grass varieties, greater understanding of soil science and plant nutrition, and the move to mechanised turf harvesting."

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
"Gardening, walking, shooting."

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**  
"Watching one of my children growing the business and enjoying the privilege of living on a farm in Yorkshire."

**Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**  
"Some of my most loyal customers."

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**  
"7."

**Pick a number**  
"14."

*Stephen has picked Simon Taylor, from British Seed Houses, to take part in next month's feature.*



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# New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



## ENHANCED TELESCOPIC HANDLER RANGE

Bobcat has completed an engineering and design programme that has introduced new features in all twelve of the company's telehandler models. Powered by Tier III diesel engines, the range of Bobcat telehandlers covers maximum lifting heights from 5.2 to 17.4 metres.

Bobcat® telescopic handlers are designed on common platforms, with the main components and control points situated in the same place on every model to simplify maintenance operations. The telehandler enhancement programme has therefore been holistic in nature, with improvements in every area of the machines. Among the new features is a substantial reduction in operating noise including a reduction of 8 dBA when steering.

 [www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com)

## MID-DUTY WORKMAN UTILITY VEHICLES

Toro's latest launch is the Workman MD Series, an advance on the specialist turfcare machinery manufacturer's popular mid-duty utility vehicle design in the form of two dynamic new models – the Workman MD and MDX.

Set to replace the existing Workman 1100 and 1200 mid-duty models, Toro claim that the new MD and MDX machines offer unrivalled ride comfort as well as improved performance for the ultimate operator experience.

 [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)  
00 353 (0)45 526170.



## STAND ON MOWERS

Ariens has launched the new Pro-Stance 'stand on' mowers.

Fitted with either a 34" fixed deck or a fully floating 48" deck, these mowers offer the ideal choice for those looking for a commercial mower with a compact frame size. Both machines are supplied with a standard mulching kit, with rear and side discharge options available.

 08450 773 773  
[www.partsdepotuk.com](http://www.partsdepotuk.com)



## COMPACT TRACK LOADER

The Terex PT-30 is the company's most compact rubber track loader. At only 48 inches wide, the PT-30 is sized to work in confined spaces, yet productive enough to replace an entire crew of hand labour.

The PT-30 is one of three new Terex PT Series Compact Track Loaders that range from 33.7hp to 80.5hp.

 [www.terex.co.uk](http://www.terex.co.uk)  
01698 503051.



## MUCK TRUCK CLEAN UP

The Muck-truck is a four wheel drive pedestrian micro dumper that can be fitted with a variety of accessories to increase the productivity of the product.

The airflow of the vacuum attachment has been improved to increase the suction and therefore the collecting ability, also, the emptying operation has been simplified and made more efficient.

 [www.mucktruck.com](http://www.mucktruck.com)  
0845 838 5480.



### ONE COOL CAT

Greenkeepers and groundsman now have a new implement to improve drainage and aeration on greens, tees and approaches – the Imants Sandcat from Campey Turf Care.

Matched to a 30hp tractor, the Sandcat pads lightly over the turf, with 21 blades of 8mm thickness penetrating the sward to 150mm deep at 150mm centres. Sand can be applied from the 500 litre hopper into the slits to improve drainage and enhance the rootzone quality.

[www.campeyturfcare.com](http://www.campeyturfcare.com)  
01260 224568.

### NEW SPRAYER

New from DMMP is the Earthway Ev-n-Spred pedestrian sprayer. With two models, one garden retail and one commercial sprayer, they are ideal for fine turf and sportsturf situations.

0845 643 9776



### INTERCHANGEABLE UNITS

Lloyds of Letchworth recently launched the Lloyds-Maredo Greensmower Turfcare System which is designed for ride-on equipment. The new range of interchangeable greens maintenance units have been designed and manufactured to fit all major makes of triplex greens mowers.

01462 683031  
[www.lloydsandco.com](http://www.lloydsandco.com)



### BLOWERS BREEZE IN

Clearing litter and leaves has become a breeze, now that the new STIHL handheld blowers and vacuum shredders have swept in this season.

Included in the range are four new professional class models (BG 86/85 C-E and SH 86/86 C-E) said to deliver significantly low vibrations and reduced fuel consumption, along with a simplified four-step starting system.

[www.stihl.com](http://www.stihl.com)

### NEW ADDITIONS

Major Equipment Ltd has developed two new models to join its Rollermower range.

The new Major 11000GR and 15000GR Rollermowers come equipped with an innovative four point pivot system to ensure constant contact with the undulating ground.

01524 850501  
[www.major-equipment.com](http://www.major-equipment.com)



### TURF TROOPER IN FLAMES

The new Turf Trooper triple mower from Autoguide is about to set the market on fire, with its new flaming livery.

A quiet low revving 13hp Briggs & Stratton engine powers the mower driving three 7in diameter six bladed cylinders and the hydrostatic drive, ensuring sizzling and precise operation.

01380 850885  
[www.autoguide.co.uk](http://www.autoguide.co.uk)



### CHAINSAWS FOR EVERYDAY USERS

STIHL has introduced three new compact chainsaws – the new MS 171, 181 and 211 chainsaws all benefit from the latest technological developments, making them eco-friendly and efficient in use as well as powerful, comfortable and easy to handle.

[www.stihl.com](http://www.stihl.com)



### EX SERIES COMPACT TRACTORS

Ruston's Engineering has launched its new series of Kioti Compact tractors.

The EX series sits between the existing CK and DK range, offering machines in 35,40, 45 and 50hp, either in ROPS or with a luxury factory fitted cab. Matching front loaders and backhoes are also available.

01480 455151  
[www.reco.co.uk](http://www.reco.co.uk)



# IT'S ALWAYS BUZZING IN IPSWICH



Scott MacCallum visits Ransomes Jacobsen's Headquarters, in Ipswich, to chat with Managing Director, David Withers.



## Scott MacCallum visits Ransomes Jacobsen's Headquarters, in Ipswich, to chat with Managing Director, David Withers.

There is always buzz when you visit Ransomes Jacobsen's Ipswich Headquarters and this occasion, visiting the company to write a Golden Key profile, was no exception.

Even before I'd got through the front door I heard my name being called out by a group of greenkeepers, who'd spotted me in the car park. As soon as I had stepped into the foyer there was Managing Director, David Withers, chatting with someone beside the Reception Desk, eager to greet me. Once I'd signed in and was following David to his office I bumped into UK Sales Manager, Rupert Price, deep in conversation with someone, in the corridor.

"We have a target to bring 1000 visitors to Ipswich each year, show them around and give them a flavour for Ransomes Jacobsen," explained David.

Last year they achieved a very laudable 920.

"It helps us to build relationships with our existing customers and, hopefully through what we can show them here, encourage others to become customers."

is very difficult to change him.

"We know we make good machinery and I'm sure the other companies believe they make good

machinery too. Let's face it, it all works, so the real differences come in after sales, the quality of the dealership and the relationships that have been built up."

Two of those dealers were already on site – White's and Doe's – each hosting groups, while there was also a party of Danish greenkeepers on another tour. As I say, it's a busy place.

"I don't think you would find a greenkeeper changing brands for his greens mowers straight away, as they all know that they are judged by their greens, but you might just be able to convert them to a tractors or a rough mower. It's good just to give them a chance to visit us and see what we do."

It also gives visitors the opportunity to see the latest acquisition to the Ransomes Jacobsen stable of attractions – the superb three hole par-3 golf course, which was opened by the Mayor of Ipswich, in October.

Relationships are exceedingly important on all levels at Ransomes Jacobsen. There is a 1% turnover rate per annum on staff, excluding retirements, while the annual length of stay for the 200 shop floor staff, and 340 in total, is 25 years.

"It's great to have the continuity of employment because we have vast experience on the factory floor, while our sales staff, including Nigel Church, Alan Prickett and Rupert Price, are all extremely well known and respected within the industry."

It's great to see a genuine manufacturing plant

still prospering in the UK and David, although he has done it many, many times – the previous day, for example, he'd taken round the Ipswich Town FC ground staff - is genuinely enthusiastic about taking me around the plant and showing off what Ransomes Jacobsen is best known for – producing grass cutting machinery.

The first thing that struck me from my previous tour, which must have been about four or five years before, was the airiness and brightness of the factory.

"We're just coming to the end of a five year restructuring programme, part of which was to paint the ceiling white and lay new cushioned flooring throughout the building.

"We've noticed a significant drop off in the number of back complaints we've had since the flooring has gone down. It's only a couple of millimetres thick but the cushioning has obviously helped and with fewer days lost to bad backs it has had some benefits said David, who, judging by the chat as we moved through the building, knows most on the shop floor by name.

One of the main aims of the restructuring was to improve the production work flow.

"The assembly lines had run sideways and not long ways which wasn't the most efficient, as we kept having to move partially completed machinery around the shop floor.

The assembly lines were, therefore moved to run long ways down the building, starting with the





RJ International, the new three hole golf course

paint shop, moving onto the assembly line, with the cutting units fitted at the end. The welding and pressing areas were also sited to reduce unnecessary movement around the shop floor.

“It was a bit like doing a Rubic Cube to move everything around. We had to slide some sections into temporary areas until their new location had been completed and it was a really complicated procedure all round.”

The restructuring freed up 35,000 square feet of factory space which became the Customer Care area, and allowed room for the £4 million worth of spare parts which are carried.

Indeed, the most delicate move was parts because if it didn't go smoothly the customers would surely notice.

“We tackled this at night, moving around 200 parts a time, and it all went extremely smoothly. In fact, one dealer was worried about the effects of the move and was delighted when we told him that we'd actually finished the entire move the previous night.”

One recent innovation on the shop floor is the yellow painted “master copies” of machines which sit alongside the assembly lines.

“They give the workers something to use as a reference if they are not 100% sure about a component. They can give it a hands-on test on how it fits and how it should look once it has been fitted. We're currently fitting them onto to rigs so that they can be spun around making the underside as visible as the top,” said David, who believes a company never stands still – it's either on an upward or a downward spiral.

“We were on a downward spiral in the late 90s and early noughties following the merger of Ransomes and Jacobsen while the upward spiral has been in place for the last five or six years.”

The assembly lines allow for individual specifications to machines to be carried out as the line rolls forward and often green Ransomes kit and orange Jacobsen kit is worked on at the same time.

“Each piece is clearly labelled at the start so the assembler knows what bespoke elements are required on that particular machine.”

It was also extremely interesting to see the trolley system which operates and which eliminates the need for much of the paperwork you'd expect to see in a fully functioning factory.

A trolley is filled with parts and goes to the person who is going to be fitting that particular part. When the trolley is empty it goes back to where the part is made and refilled.

“The pace of production is dictated by how many trolleys we have in place. The more we have in operation the faster the rate of production and if we want to slow down we just remove some of trolleys. They are a little like the oil that makes the factory operate,” said David, as we walked past the party of Danish-based greenkeepers staring intently at a particular production process.

Once the factory tour was complete the Danes, and the other two parties, enjoyed some lunch before testing some of completed machinery on the RJ International, the new three hole golf course, which opened recently. The culmination of the visit is a game around the course where one over par 10 is still the score to beat.

“We are going to put all the scores on the website to create a bit of interest,” revealed David, who claims the number of rounds he has had could still be counted on the fingers of one hand.

“We are really proud of our course and, while I've take a bit of ribbing about having our own course, it has some really practical benefits for us. For example we can have customers and potential customers test kit in authentic conditions – we have different rootzones and grasses on each green to give ourselves as many options as possible.”

The course is maintained by young greenkeeper, Rory Ferguson, who spends one day a week at Writtle College, and the rest of the time on the course, revelling in being one of the few greenkeepers who doesn't have to worry about where his next piece of kit is going to come from.

“He likes his machinery. I think he'd be lost without an engine,” joked David.

The newly-developed piece of land also includes a superb decked terrace overlooking the golf course for staff to enjoy their lunches in the summer and a training football pitch.

“Ipswich Town Manager, Jim Magilton, was here for the opening and he's going to bring his first team squad over to train on the pitch and then have a game of golf. It keeps the interest level for the players and gives our staff something different to look forward to,” he said.

Ransomes Jacobsen has had a longstanding relationship with BIGGA and been a Golden Key Supporter of the Association for a number of years.

“Again it's about relationships and we have done a great deal to foster the relationship we have with BIGGA and its members over the years and are pleased to have been able to help so many,” said David.

The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships, which were introduced in 2002, have given financial assistance to a total of 92 BIGGA members to complete higher education courses while the company also donated generously to the production costs of the Safety Management System which was launched in 2007.

You can be sure that the Ipswich HQ will continue to buzz as David has a cunning plan to ensure many medium and long term projects are done.

“In many places it's these plans that are overlooked but I believe if you timetable an occasion every year it gives a deadline to meet and you can hang other jobs on the back of that occasion.

“For example we had Sir Bobby Robson open our new offices four years ago; we had the opening of our new parts department two years ago; our 175th birthday celebrations in 2007 and our new golf course opening earlier this year.”

It certainly promotes the buzz and a “Can do” attitude to working at Ransomes Jacobsen.



# WHOLE BODY VIBRATION (WBV): RAISING AWARENESS FOR GREENKEEPERS

By Herbert Barker

Over the past few months GI has been working in conjunction with vibration testing services Fivesquared to discuss the implications of Hand Arm Vibration (HAVS), Noise Awareness and Whole Body Vibration (WBV). WBV is the final article in the series.

## Overview

In 2002, the European Commission introduced legislation 'harmonising' vibration levels in the workplace for all member states, and gave each state three years to bring it in to effect. The UK 'version' became law in 2005 as the 'Control of Vibration at Work Regulations (2005)' which details the responsibilities and obligations of employers to monitor and control the effects of vibration in the workplace.

## Whole Body Vibration in Golf Clubs

Our research shows that a relatively small number of golf clubs have implemented control measures for Whole Body Vibration management in their Golf Club.

We have found that some Greenkeeping staff use Ride-On equipment for periods of four or five hours on a daily basis, this may be using the latest equipment available, the majority of which should have vibration reduction measures built in, but some are using old types of machinery over rough ground in some instances for long periods of their working day. Some golf clubs have

decided that the regulations don't affect their club or indeed the staff who use the equipment and have 'shelved' any action to control vibration in their workplace.

## What is WBV?

Whole Body Vibration is a widespread recognised industrial problem affecting many workers, in many industries, but particularly in construction, agriculture, forestry, grounds maintenance, and transport, where vibration exposure from use of vehicles or plant in these industries, is regular, prolonged and frequent. It is a disorder which can affect the lower back, spine, and possibly the neck and shoulders. It has been associated with these disorders, but may not be the whole cause, as the symptoms can be due to other causes associated with posture, and manual handling.

Some vehicles and plant likely to cause or aggravate back problems and involve exposure to high levels of WBV are:

- Off road vehicle · Tractors and farm vehicles · Ride-on greenkeeping vehicles
- Heavy construction/maintenance vehicles and plant · Excavators, loading shovels, road rollers
- Quarrying vehicles and plant · Helicopters · Fast boats · Railway vehicles (especially old rolling stock)
- Large static machines, used in compaction, hammering or punching.

This list is by no means comprehensive and where people regularly work with vehicles and plant such as these for prolonged periods, there is likely to be a risk of exposure to high levels of

WBV. It is safest to regard regular prolonged use of any high vibration vehicle or plant as suspect, particularly if such devices produce (or are subject to) frequent shocks and/or jolts.

## How do I recognise it?

WBV occurs when a person's body is supported on a vibrating surface. This is most likely when sitting on the seat of a moving vehicle, or operating vibrating machinery. Standing, while operating machinery designed for such an operator stance, can also produce WBV in the operator. Prolonged exposure to WBV can affect the lower back, spine, and possibly the neck and shoulders.

## WBV can be caused by:

- The movement of the wheels or tracks of a vehicle, crossing an uneven or rough surface. If the driver experiences shocks or jolts, or is thrown around in the cab by such terrain, this will contribute significantly to the levels of WBV.
- Using mobile machines to excavate holes or trenches in the ground.
- Using mobile machines to load materials (e.g. sand) into lorries.
- The rotation of helicopter rotor blades, causing high WBV levels to be transmitted through the airframe into the seats.
- Boats travelling fast across rough seas.
- Railway vehicles (especially old rolling stock)
- The operation of large static compaction, hammering, or punching machines, such as



hammer drills and mobile crushers.

Lower back pain may be caused by prolonged exposure to WBV from the above sources, but there can be other possible contributing factors, such as:

- Poor posture while driving or operating plant.
- Sitting for long periods without being able to change position.
- Poorly placed controls which require the driver/operator to stretch or twist to operate them, or driving over rough ground while checking over the shoulder on the operation of attached equipment.
- Manual lifting and carrying of heavy or awkward objects, especially if this is combined with the effects of WBV from driving or operating vehicles or plant.
- Repeatedly climbing into or jumping out of high or difficult access vehicle cabs.

All the above factors (including WBV) can separately cause back pain. The risk will be increased, however, where a person is exposed to two or more factors together.

WBV can be prevented or mitigated through management of the problem.

### Who is at risk?

Any workers seated or standing on a mobile vehicle on a regular or frequent basis, especially if this involves travelling over uneven surfaces, are most at risk.

These occur in a wide range of industries, including: • Road and railway construction/maintenance • Construction • Forestry/Gardening/Greenkeeping • Foundries • Light and heavy engineering • Mining and quarrying • Metal working • Public services • Public utilities

### What can I do about it?

The challenge is to determine which information is correct and current. This can be somewhat confusing. Successfully to protect your workforce from the effects of WBV it is vital that employers have an effective Whole Body Vibration Management System to - Assess, Measure, Monitor, Control, and Manage any associated WBV risks.

Employers are obliged to provide information and training for employees to ensure knowledge of health risks, health monitoring, vibration management systems, safe use of equipment, and awareness of problems associated with WBV.

### Assess

The first stage is assessment – “Do I have a problem?”

This can be achieved with a simple questionnaire asking the present workforce whether they are suffering from any of the symptoms of WBV, and the prevalence of lower back pain occurring in the workforce.

The responses to the questionnaire will determine what to do next, as there is no specific appropriate Health Surveillance for WBV as the

symptoms displayed can be caused by other factors. However, employers can use informal health monitoring to regularly check on reports of back pain etc. to identify possible risks from WBV, manual handling, or driver posture.

Potential employees should also be questioned on previous employment to ascertain previous work which may have entailed vibration from vehicles driven over rough ground, and hobbies which may involve high vibration – e.g. motorsports.

### Health Surveillance

There is no specific appropriate Health Surveillance for WBV.

Regular check ups may be necessary to monitor employees suffering lower back pain symptoms.

### Vibration Levels of Equipment

Sources from which employers can obtain vibration data for vehicles are – Manufacturer’s Literature, Equipment Suppliers, Internet databases, Research Organisations, Trade Associations, HSE, Vibration Consultants.

### Measurements in the workplace

Of these, the most accurate tends to be Measurement in the workplace, which gives vibration levels for YOUR machines or equipment operating under YOUR working conditions.

Having obtained vibration levels under working conditions, employers should determine the highest vibration machines and attempt to re-design the job or process to eliminate the use of high vibration machines in these processes. This may prove to be practically impossible, as there are few examples of other methods of work that eliminate or reduce exposure to WBV.

The legislation set lower values for Whole Body Vibration in 2005.

### Daily Exposure Action Value (EAV) – 0.5m/s<sup>2</sup> (metres per second squared).

Vehicles or processes having vibration at this level or above must have a risk assessment; the workforce must have information or training to recognise the symptoms of WBV; and PPE issued to mitigate the effects of vibration and cold. No PPE is specifically available to combat the effects from WBV. However, any PPE that provides protection from inclement weather conditions (i.e. keeps the wearer warm and dry) will assist in combating any effects of vibration exposure.

### Daily Exposure Limit Value (ELV) – 1.5m/s<sup>2</sup> (metres per second squared).

For vehicles or equipment having vibration at this level or above (which have an economic life) employers should attempt to reduce the vibration levels to below

the ELV, by fitting any appropriate anti-vibration fittings, suspension seating, or purchase new

vibration reduced vehicles or equipment.

### Vibration Dose Values

A slightly different action level known as the Vibration Dose Value (VDV) can also be used. This measures the sum of WBV exposure to jolts and shocks. The daily exposure action level for VDV is 9.1 m/s<sup>1.75</sup>. The VDV daily exposure limit value is 21 m/s<sup>1.75</sup>.

Although Vibration Dose Value (VDV) measurements are not compulsory in the calculations of the Daily Vibration Exposure, they can be used in conjunction with the Daily Exposure values to assess any remedial action necessary to any vehicle.

Vibration Dose Values (VDV) are more sensitive to the effects of instantaneous shocks or jolts and, (if compulsory) could potentially indicate extremely limited use for a particular vehicle, or make it commercially impractical to use the vehicle.

They are, however, useful to prioritise action for vehicles exceeding the VDV Action levels, even though these vehicles may not exceed the Daily Exposure action levels.

Where vibration levels are still above the ELV after vibration reduction measures have been implemented, then the only other option is to reduce the time each person uses the vehicle or equipment.

### Monitor, Control and Manage

If an operator uses one vehicle per day, then monitoring and control of vibration levels becomes relatively simple. The problem occurs when operators use several vehicles for shorter periods than allowed by the vibration levels measured. Each ‘burst’ of vibration has to be added to ensure the operator is not exceeding his/her daily vibration level.

There are several methods in use but the simplest is a system whereby vibration values can be converted into ‘points’ (using suitable formulae) and the vehicle is ‘tagged’ with this information.

The operator simply has to note the number of points on the tag, and multiply by the time used (driver seated – engine on) to determine how many points have been used on each separate use of vehicles.

There is a ‘daily’ maximum number of points, and as long as this is not exceeded, then the operator will not exceed his daily vibration level.

This is an effective, real time, management system, in use by many of Fivesquared’s clients including – Local authorities, public utility companies, large construction companies, and many golf greenkeeping departments.

#### About the author

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## News from the Chief Executive

The suggestion by the Board that Full Membership should be opened up to Sports Turf Groundsmen seems to have sparked off a very mixed debate, but that should come as no surprise to anyone! There does however appear to be some confusion over the Association's motives for making such proposals and I will try to explain the rationale behind the move:

1. The discussions between BIGGA and the IOG during 2007 (ultimately terminated by the IOG) identified a great synergy between greenkeepers and groundsmen. Today greenkeepers can join the IOG as Full members why should BIGGA not afford the same privilege to suitably qualified groundsmen?

2. BIGGA will be putting a recruitment campaign into place to try to enrol further greenkeeper members but why should it not also market its services and the benefits of membership to groundsmen?

3. BIGGA is not setting out to 'wage war' on the IOG it is merely hoping to increase the available choice of professional representative bodies for sports turf employees. There are a great number of such employees who do not belong to either organisation - because they see no value in membership or because they are currently not entitled to join.

4. BIGGA has had a positive influence on the development and accreditation of the greenkeeping modules of sports turf qualifications through its active membership of the GTC. This has been achieved thanks to the close working relationship that exists between employer and employee, resulting in successful consultation with the awarding bodies. A process that is ongoing.

5. A great deal of the success in greenkeeper training is transferable directly into the rest of the sports turf industry. Why should BIGGA, and the GTC, not try to capitalise on this?

6. BIGGA, like so many other businesses, is suffering from the current downturn in the economic climate but it is not in financial trouble and it did make a surplus in the last financial year. If really necessary savings could be made but this would inevitably lead to a reduction in standards. A greater number of members would help improve financial stability, create better buying power, should attract better trade support and could help the Association win more official grant aid.

7. The sports turf industry is fragmented and BIGGA, working with the GTC framework, the awarding bodies and the training providers is in pole position to develop a National Centre for Sports Turf at Aldwark.

8. Courtesy golf is a privilege extended to BIGGA members so that they may improve their greenkeeping experience by playing other courses. It is not a right of membership, although I will be asking clubs to look more favourably at this through my connections within the GCMA and the Home Unions. The inclusion of groundsmen within BIGGA membership should not jeopardise these relationships and clubs will have the option to refuse groundsmen the same privilege. Membership cards will clearly distinguish greenkeepers from groundsmen by virtue of their job title and employer details.

My space is limited but I would like to clarify one point that seems to be misunderstood. BIGGA is governed by a Board that is made up of greenkeepers, with one exception (Mark Dobell - Guardian and the Finance Director of the R&A). The Board sets the policy that is administered by the Staff, headed up by myself, all of whom are accountable for their actions. I, in turn, am accountable to the Board. Contrary to popular belief the Association is therefore run by greenkeepers for the benefit of its members and not by the staff for their own ends!

The draft proposals for a change to the Constitution have been circulated for the purpose of consultation and will not be implemented without the overwhelming consent of members.



### SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

The Central Section held their AGM at Elmwood on October 27, when Gordon McKie, of St Andrews Links, was elected as Chairman and Derek Robson, of the Dukes Course, was elected Vice Chairman. Also elected to the Committee were Donald Gardner, of Scoonie GC, and Bob Meikle, of Craill Golfing Society. Andy Mellon remains as Secretary/Treasurer. Andy O'Hara has stood down as immediate Past Chairman and been re-elected to the Committee. Graeme Taylor and Alan Sharp, who has left the area, have both stood down from the Committee and we thank them for their help over the years, although Graeme will continue to administer the website on our behalf.

Those present heard that Kenny Mitchell, of St Andrews Links, and Charlie MacDonald, of Crieff, were the recipients of the Patrons Award for the Section and that the Spring Outing in 2009 will be held at Scotsraig GC. The question was asked "How much golf will Derek Scott be able to play now he no longer has the distraction of being Chairman?" Answers on a postcard to...

Prior to the AGM, Martin Heywood, of Quadrop, gave an informative presentation on the benefits of good quality irrigation water and the problems that can be encountered by using unsuitable water. The Quadrop system has been used in many areas other than golf course irrigation and is a very simple, safe and effective way of reducing bi carbonates, reducing ph and reducing surface tension among other benefits. Both Kingsbarns Golf Links and The Castle Course, along with Dunbar and Longniddry have been using the system for the past couple of seasons with great results.

The website: [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) has been quiet over the summer with everyone being busy, so let's try and pick it up again. We have been trying to drip feed information onto it on a regular basis to try and keep it fresh. It's unfortunate that a lot of this is about St Andrews Links but unless others supply us with the info, there's not a lot we can do so if you have something you think will be of interest to others then pop it in an email to Andy Mellon, Gordon McKie or myself.

A number of members from Clubs in the North East Fife area attended a three-day workshop over consecutive Fridays on Risk Assessment training. An important aspect of health and safety procedure, the course conducted by Pitchblue International, took those present through practical examples of identifying hazards and writing up risk assessments as well as covering current health and safety regulations. With a grant from the BIGGA Education fund, the course cost £125 per person and if there was enough interest from others in the Section then I am sure we could stage another one in a more central area in February. Again, please contact your committee to let us know.

This course might be quite appropriate because through October we have had visits from the Environmental Health Officers for NE Fife to carry out very comprehensive inspections of our operations and procedures at all three greenkeeping facilities at St Andrews Links. This is the beginning of them working their way through all golf clubs in the area so be aware.

On behalf of everyone on the Committee, have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and may all your problems be birdies.

Gordon Moir





## EAST

I write this report in early November with no let up to the wet and windy weather and with our first snowfall already in late October; we could be faced with a long winter ahead.

The Section AGM was held on Thursday, October 30, at Dundas Park, prior to which a lecture on the sustainable approach to golf course management was given by Gary Smith of Scott's. Our thanks go to Gary for his time, and for sharing with us some of his knowledge and expertise. During the AGM Chairman, Stewart Ferguson, accepted the resignation of Secretary, Stevie Dixon, and committee member Peter Ormiston. The Section owes a debt of gratitude to both Stevie and Peter for their efforts over the years. The new committee is as follows: Chairman - Stewart Crawford, Vice Chairman - Jimmy Neilson, Secretary - Stewart Ferguson, Education Officer - Tom Murray, Match Secretary - Robbie Murdoch.

The new committee are in the process of organising a calendar of events, the first of which is a site visit to Kingsfield Golf Centre near Linlithgow on December 9. After a seven year absence, Thorntrees Amenity returned to Scotsturf. We arrived with few expectations, regarding it as flag waving exercise. While it would be wrong to say our industry is not suffering from the credit crunch, I felt most people at the show including stallholders and visitors were remarkably upbeat. The exhibitors I spoke to all reported a steady flow of interest during the two day show.

On a personal note, rumours circulating the Lothians of my imminent retirement are wide of the mark, unfortunately I have a few years to go before that day arrives!

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would to wish you all the compliments of the season.

Until next month  
Mike Dooner



## NORTH

I start this month's newsletter by wishing all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas. It's that time of year when we have the traditional Christmas night out. From my experience I always tend to write the following day off. I'm sure there are a few of you out there that can relate to that. Drop me a line and let me know what kind of night you have, if you have one at all. Not every employer is as generous as the next though.

The weather has taken a turn for the worse. The hard frosts and the sprinklings of snow have already started. The winter greens will have been cut ready for the frosty mornings, tees moved forward etc. Hopefully all your winter programmes will be in full swing too.

The AGM that was arranged for October 29, at Meldrum House Golf Club, was cancelled due to a snow blizzard. A new date has been arranged for November 20 but the results of the day's golf will be printed in the next edition.

The local area of Aberdeenshire has just learned that Trump International have been given the go ahead. Personally I think the area will benefit, what

with other golf ventures being given the go ahead recently. Paul Lawrie has been given the green light for his project as has Jack Nicklaus for his development at the Ury Estate, near Stonehaven. The proposed re development of Hazelhead will also add to what is already a strong industry in The North of Scotland, long may it continue! The guys that must be panicking are the Head Greenkeepers, wondering whether or not their staff will be applying for the positions that will become available at these venues. Let me know what you think?

One thing I did miss out from last month's newsletter was the results of the 200 Club draw from Kirriemuir. The results are as follows: Neil Sadler £30; D Chisholm £30; Moira Beaton £30, and S Davidson £100.

It was made even better with the fact that Neil Sadler had just bought that ticket. Well done Neil. You can't win it if you haven't got a ticket.

You may have noticed that I have been waffling a wee bit this month. This is due to the lack of news in the area. Let me know if you think of anything I could include in the next edition else I could be blethering on again, sorry.

Ben Brookes  
Murcar Links  
07813889374



## WEST

Welcome to this month's report, wet weather and leaves falling everywhere – it's great autumn has arrived.

This year's AGM was held at Renfrew Golf Club with approximately 40 in attendance. Gary Smith, Technical Representative from the Scott's company, carried out a first class Seminar on trends on nutrient programmes and updates on Primo Max. I would like to thank Gary as the talks were first class with everyone passing on good comments, also for sponsoring the day's events, as lunch was laid on with 9 holes of golf.

I would like to thank the Captain and committee for allowing us use of the clubhouse and courtesy of the course.

There were several issues discussed on the day that will be brought up at our next committee meeting.

Douglas Macintosh has finished his term in office as Chairman. Well done to Dougie on the work he has carried out over the past two years. Our new Chairman is Brain Hillan, from Drumpelie Golf Club. Gavin Jarvis is staying on as Secretary and I will be staying on as Education Convenor.

I would like to thank all committee members for their hard work throughout the 2008 season, as a lot of work goes unnoticed.

There will be two or three new members coming on to help and things should be in shape for early next year.

Monday, November 3, was the date for our annual team match against the stewards it was a cold and frosty morning at Douglas Park Golf Club, a fierce match was fought with the score set at 3.5 each, the stewards retained the trophy as they won the previous year, I would like to congratulate my team and hopefully next year with a little more fine tuning we will retain the cup.

Many thanks to Drew McKechnie and his staff for the good condition of the course this late on in the season and to the committee for allowing us courtesy of the Course.

Like many others I attended Scotsturf and was very disappointed as the show seemed very quiet, this was to be the general opinion across the



# Around the Green

body of the hall. I don't know what the way forward is but it must be possible to spruce it up a bit.

A couple of notes for the diary: Harrogate 2009 - the Scottish package will be from Monday 19 to Thursday 22 January, please get in contact with Peter Boyd for more details: 01416163440.

The Scottish Conference will be held at Dunfermline College during March, dates will be given in next month's report.

Hopefully the snow is just round the corner; see you next month.

Fraser Ross  
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## NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

On October 8 we played our annual Autumn Competition at Burgham Park - this being the first time that we have played there since the opening in the mid-90s. What a pleasure to play there. "Outstanding" was the verdict by everyone who turned up on the day, huge greens, generous fairways, hardly any rough to talk about not that you need any as the trees planted all those years ago came into their own, should you hit a stray shot and it had to be stray. Off the white markers the course measured 6,800yds, you knew then that the scores were going to be high and we were not disappointed, it should be pointed out that there were blue markers further behind on most tees thank goodness we didn't play off them.

Congratulations to Head Greenkeeper, Eddy Crozier, and his small team on the remarkable condition of their course - considering all the rain we have had in recent weeks, all the greenkeepers remarked on the greens as the best they had played on this year and not forgetting the catering staff for, not only a great meal but the first class service, no doubt in our minds a very friendly golf club. I hope it's not too long before we return there in the near future.

Many thanks to the sponsors on the day: Ransomes Jacobsen, Turf Spec Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Shorts, and Greenlay, many thanks to you all once again.

The leading scores are as follows: Best Gross (salver) J. Gibson, Northumberland GC, 78pts; Best Nett (Ransomes Cup) J. S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 75pts; Best Nett (Greenlay Cup) S. R. Pope, Tyneside GC, 79pts; Best Nett (Fewsters Shield) M. Hastry, Heworth GC, 79pts; K. Shotton, Alnmouth Village GC, 79pts; M. McKenna, Hexham GC, 79pts.

The Fewsters Shield from next year will be changed to the Ransomes Jacobsen Shield.

Well it's that time of the year when greenkeepers are trying to better their education in greenkeeping by attending various courses. One such member is Michael McKenna, of Hexham Golf Club, who has started working on a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Management online through Myerscough College for the next three years.

And finally no doubt Terry Charlton will be putting on a coach to take people down to Harrogate Weel, in January - so thanks again Terry and congratulations to Terry's sidekick, Alan Morton, on his recent marriage. Hope you enjoyed your little ride on a pulley from the Baltic - I think everyone on the telly managed not to do a bad bit of advertising with those sweaters.

Jimmy Richardson



## SHEFFIELD

Hello everyone. As we come to the end of another year, it is time again for us all to reflect on the year that has passed. It has once again been a difficult year for us greenkeepers to maintain the standards we strive for. Though I am sure that we have once again achieved our goals. Hopefully 2009 will prove to be a better year for us all.

Looking forward to the New Year as a Section, we will have a lecture for the early part of the year and an event for the spring. We will make sure these dates are confirmed early in the year so members can be informed ASAP.

We are also looking to get a website up and running next year as we believe it will be a valuable tool for us to move the Section forward. If anyone has any queries about this or any suggestions about the information posted on the website then please feel free to contact me.

We have once again had a good year as a Section and anyone who has attended any of our events will agree that they are fantastic days. Hopefully we will see a few fresh new faces in 2009.

I hope all who attended the Christmas competition at Worksop GC had a fantastic day and thank you for your support. I would also like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support over the past year.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and see you all in 2009.

James Stevens  
Section Secretary  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com



## NORTH WALES

December already - where has the year gone? 2009 is on our doorstep with new challenges and opportunities, who knows, the possibilities could be endless!

The autumn tournament took place on October 8, at Upton Golf Club, and with the sun shining down on the beautifully set course it was a great day for golf, and the excellent catering and warm hospitality of the clubhouse the day was one to remember.

We need to send our thanks to Justin Cheung and staff and also the clubhouse staff for the hard work put in for our enjoyment.

Results are as follows: 1. Ian Murphy, Leasowe GC, 43pts; 2. Dave Hird, Leasowe GC, 36pts; 3. Haydon Jones, Chirk Golf Club, 35pts; 4. Charlie Land, St Deiniol Golf Club, 35pts.

The results and report on the Christmas tournament will be in next month's column.

The Section will run a coach to Harrogate next month with the usual pick-up points anyone needing further information or to book seats please get in touch with Jeremy Hughes.

The Section passes on its best wishes for a speedy recovery to Gary Barnfield, of Oswestry Golf Club, who was seriously injured earlier this





year, also we would like to wish Don Pemberton good luck as he has left greenkeeping to try work pastures anew.

All that is left now is for me to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Pete Maybury  
petemayb66@aol.com

Johnny Evans  
Johnny. Evans @tesco.net



### MIDLAND REGION - EAST MIDLAND

Hi folks. I'd like to start with an apology for the lack of notes from the Section over the past couple of months. A restructuring of the committee unfortunately caused one or two things to be overlooked. I'll try to briefly outline what has been going on in the Section during the late summer.

During September, with the kind help from Lely/Toro and Andy Humble, a visit to Wembley Stadium was undertaken by 50 greenkeepers from the Section. All who attended had a brilliant day and our thanks go out to Andy Humble for sponsoring the trip.

The annual Midlands vs East Midlands match, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, took place on October 10, at Keddlestone Park. Another resounding victory 10 – 5 to the East Midlands was the result at the end of an excellent day. Well done to Dave Leatherland and his team for the condition of the course. The qualifying criteria to be considered for selection next year is that players must play in both the Spring and Summer tournaments to be given the first option on playing. Selection will then work downwards from there.

On October 31 the AGM Tournament was held at Staverton Park GC. Numbers for the event were on the disappointing side with only six non committee or trade members attending, however, everyone that played had an excellent time and the course was in superb condition – especially considering it was covered in snow the day before. Congratulations go to Ken Barber and his team for their hard work on the course. The winning team on the day was Glyn Buckby, Andrew de Wet and Simon Banks with a nett score of 62.9. Many thanks go to Stewart Jeffs and Vitax Ltd for their sponsorship of the event.

Nick Miles, Asa English and Andrew de Wet represented the East Midlands Section in the second Inter Regional tournament on November 6 at Northants County GC. An excellent day was had during tough conditions and the team scored a very credible score of 218 to win by 4 shots – here's to a successful defence next year.

Our Christmas Tournament will be played on Thursday, December 11, at Glen Gorse GC – again sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The cost for the day will be £15 for greenkeepers and £25 for trade and associate, including a three-course meal. If any of you are reading this before the day and haven't signed up then please get in touch on the number below for a tee time.

There were a couple of changes in committee positions at the AGM. Tim Allard stood down as Chairman and was replaced by Nick Miles. Thanks Tim for all you have done for the committee over the years. Nigel Colley took over as Vice Chairman and Andrew de Wet officially took over the Secretary and Treasurer's role after doing it on a temporary basis for the previous three months.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our new Chairman Nick Miles on being selected to be part of the Bernhard's delegation to the GCSAA show in New Orleans in January 2009. I'm sure you'll have an excellent time and we look forward to the presentation at one of next year's events!

If anyone wants to get in contact regarding any news, ideas for golf days, education or anything else to do with the section then please contact me by:

email: [biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com](mailto:biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com)  
or on: 07730 713895.

Andy de Wet



### MIDLANDS

The Scotts Doubles Final was contested between Steve Harvey and partner Neil Smith of Wharton Park and Terry Cheese and partner Phil Nixon of Walsall GC and Penn GC respectively. The final took place on the famous West Course at Wentworth on Thursday, October 23. After a splendid start, including four birdies in the first seven holes, the pairing from Wharton Park found themselves three up at the turn. After some scintillating golf, and some missed short putts, the match was over at the 16th, with Steve and Neil winning 3&2, and taking the trophy for the first time. All finalists will have their handicaps reduced for next year's Doubles Competition! Thanks as always to Chris Kennedy and the Wentworth Club for hosting our flagship event of the year, and of course to The Scotts Company and Nia Frost for their continued sponsorship of the event.

The Committee Cup was held at The Belfry this year, around the maturing PGA course on Tuesday, October 14. After checking the rules, the winner was Richard Beacham from Wrekin GC on 33pts from Ed Stant on a countback that went to the last six holes of the front nine! Thanks to Kenny McKay and The Belfry for allowing us use of the course, which we all thought was in great condition and much enjoyed.

Both trophies will be presented at the Christmas Tournament at South Staffs Golf Club on Wednesday, December 3.

As can be seen on this month's calendar page, our Section is perhaps one of the leaders in providing invaluable on-the-job education courses that not only improve ones skills in a practical manner but also provides the tools to prevent future health and safety problems - that I'm sure we are all so aware of from both a moral and legal sense. Our thanks to Gay Hill Golf Club and Paul Woodham in particular for supporting/running many of these invaluable events. Please see our website for all future upcoming events: [www.biggamidlandsection.com](http://www.biggamidlandsection.com) This month's calendar page is kindly sponsored by T.H.White. For your Ransomes/Jacobsen needs please email: [www.grassredditch@thwhite.co.uk](mailto:www.grassredditch@thwhite.co.uk)

Now, last month I rather prematurely wished you all a Merry Christmas. I have not been premature since being born some two months early, 41 years ago at a weight of 2lb2oz, I've caught Roach heaver. However, I now weigh almost as much as my last Salmon of 14lb2oz, for you purest fly fishers out there, on the dry, 9ft #4 and then released to spawn. Christmas came early for me, and I look forward to its kinder.

Once again, wishing all a Very Merry Christmas.

Sean McDade



# Around the Green



## EAST OF ENGLAND

Hello all. It's the beginning of November as I write this, it has spent the last two days pouring with rain and the golf course is covered in puddles. Couple that with the first frost in October that I have ever known, and a covering of hail one morning, and you could say it has been an interesting start to the winter. The last two winters have remained warm and dry until at least Christmas so we will see what winter 2008/9 has in store for us all.

Our Christmas Golf Day is being held at Holme Hall Golf Club, in Scunthorpe, on Monday, December 8. Tee off is at 10:30am however, arrive early for coffee and bacon buns. Our Christmas "bring and win" draw will also take place, so bring along a wrapped present of about £10 in value, put it on the table and then see what you go home with!

I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year, eat and drink plenty and generally have a good time. Currently at our house we have a room stacked full of toys ready to be wrapped and then unwrapped by our son, Archie, on his first Christmas Day. I am sure the wrapping paper will prove more attractive than the toys inside!

All the best

Steve Beverly  
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www.eastofenglandbigga.com



## BERKS/BUCKS & OXON

It is with great sadness that I have to report the tragic loss of Peter Carter who passed away after suffering a stroke and deteriorated within a few days from the onset of a blocked artery.

Since leaving school Peter worked in all aspects of the grass care industry and I first met him when he started his greenkeeping career at Southfield GC, as a young and enthusiastic member of the team.

Peter worked his way up the ladder and attained the position as Head Greenkeeper at Southfield GC, then with a new hat found a passion for machinery before moving onto sales for the Big Mower Co covering the Buckinghamshire area.

Peter then joined and represented T.H.White covering the Berkshire and North Hampshire area and had just started to forge a successful sales career when he was tragically struck down.

For those of you that met Peter, you will remember him as the "Big Fella" who was always "Full of Beans". Peter was a real character, with total commitment and enthusiasm that always filled the room with laughter and brought a huge smile to all who knew him.

Peter passed away at the age of 28 on November 3 and leaves his wife,

Cass, and daughter, Taylor, he will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all who had the pleasure of his company and worked alongside him.

Peter Carter R.I.P.

The BB&O welcomes Lawrence McCrory, from Mentmore Golf Club, who has started his first step up the ladder as Head Greenkeeper, at Bicester Golf Club, also joining him as "The Best Man for the Job" is Ian Robins who after 10 years at Ellesborough Golf Club. will take the challenging position as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Wishing you both a great start on a road that will lead to fulfilling your ambitions within your greenkeeping careers.

We have had good turnouts at all our Section events which were well supported and long may it continue into 2009, Thank you to all the trade suppliers who endorsed the golf days throughout the year which included Gem, Browns, T.H.White, Turner Groundcare, Burdens, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Greentech, Avoncrop, Headland, Sheriff, Banks and E.T.T., hope I have not left anyone out.

Harrogate Week will soon be upon us, I hope many of you are able to take the time to visit the delights of Yorkshire, until then I look forward to seeing you all in the new year, in the meantime if you have any news or views you might think useful to the Section please e mail me at mark.day@tacitgolf.com

Wishing you all a Great Xmas and New Year.

Mark Day



## MID-ANGLIA

Well there you go, another year has nearly gone and as you read this, Christmas is just around the corner. As I write this, way back at the end of October, there have already been several quite hard frosts and it makes me wonder if we are due for a really cold winter. The thought of which would not be quite so bad if a really decent summer were to follow.

The other climate that is very topical at the moment is the financial one. It remains to be seen how far widespread the effects will be. Unemployment and house repossessions are the real worry and it seems a little unfair how the lending institutions can go cap in hand to the Government to get bailed out and then pull the plug so quickly on people who are struggling to pay their mortgage. Some good things may be coming out of the situation, already fuel and food prices are cheaper and mortgage rates look to be heading lower. If we all stick together and plead poverty maybe we can fool the government and retail industry to keep taxes and prices low.

Rather than give the banks, who can't lend it responsibly, bail out money wouldn't it have been better to pay all of our mortgages off. Thereby cutting out the incompetent bankers and enabling us all to have much more disposable cash to spend and prop up the economy. It sounds good to me, I wonder if it was viable. If you see any desperate investment bankers outside the window of a high-rise building, don't forget to shout "JUMP!" Check out <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=UC31Oudc5Bg> for Bremner, Bird and Fortunes very prophetic sketch from the nineties. Anyway, rant over and seriously, let's all hope that when it comes round to renewing golf club memberships the economy is looking in better shape.

Now back to golf and the Autumn Tournament at Mentmore Golf Club. Well done to Danny James and his team for producing an excellent course that was enjoyed by the 30 strong field. Also, sincere thanks to Mentmore





Golf Club for hosting the day and making us feel so welcome. Dave Murphy and Rob Catlin, of Pareto Golf, were the generous sponsors of the day and big thanks to you both.

Results: 1. Myles Wood, Berkhamsted GC, 39pts; Nearest the pin – Myles Wood; 2. Paul Crouch, St Neots GC, 37pts; 3. Dan Hodkin (on countback), Knebworth GC, 37pts. Longest Drive - Jonathon Smith, South Beds GC. (Tom, you're obviously not working him hard enough beforehand.) Finally, thanks again to all the trade members for supporting the day.

Please don't forget the First Aid courses and Spraying courses that are being organised throughout the winter months. There are still some places available for the courses mentioned in this article last month. If you are interested in attending please contact Gerald Bruce at Berkhamsted Golf Club for further details. Finally, any contributions to this article would be most welcome, rants included! Have a Merry Christmas and I will write to you again in the New Year.

Craig Spooner  
craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk



### SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Thursday, November 6. Did you know that Napoleon Bonaparte suffered from severe hemorrhoids and that this may have contributed in his defeat at Trafalgar? I didn't until my last holiday (September) on the island of Elba. Elba, situated off the North Western coast of Italy, was warm, hilly, has a mountain reached by a unique cable system and was the 10 month exile home of poor old Bony after his defeat. Did you know that the way to kill an octopus is to bite it on the head? I didn't until I went on a guided walk with Elba's answer to Ray Mears. Fortunately he didn't cook it for us on the beach but took it home for his supper, as he believed that as he caught it why make us suffer. I would confirm that visiting Elba is not a cure for sufferers of the farmer Giles but definitely as a cure for those contemplating the murder of an octopus.

While I was away the now annual golf contest between Surrey, Sussex and Essex was fought on the slopes of the South Downs at the Dyke GC. The Surrey Captain, Ronald Augustus Christie, praised the quality of the course, manicured to a fine degree by David Ansell and reported that after a hard battle against the opposition and the elements, Sussex erupted as winners followed by Surrey and last year's winners Essex demoted to third place.

Twelve good Englishmen traveled, on November 5, to Hankley Common GC, to meet a Scottish team bent on revenge as England had retained the cup after four years of the contest finishing in a draw. This year, however, would put a stop to this unsatisfactory and inconclusive end to the match, for if it was a draw again, the last match would continue in an exciting play off. Exciting it would have been had England not spoil the fun by beating Scotland four games to two.

In his victory speech, after an excellent lunch, Tony Bremer reminded all present that Scotland had still not won the trophy this century while John Ross, Captain of the runners up, reminded all present that it was Roger Tydeman's birthday on November 18 and that if anyone could guess Roger's age, Roger would buy them all a drink at the Turkey trot on December 11. He will be two score years and 10 but don't tell him I told you.

Lewis Hamilton, Formula 1 champion, had better beware for if he ever

races against Surrey Section's world championship racing driver he may come off second best. Yes, Steve Basher Bush, Mechanic at St Georges Hill GC, is the 2008 world lawn mower racing champion (group 2) and his 24" Atco lawn mower with trailer seat can reach speeds in excess of quite fast. The championships venue at Reservoir Dip, Billingshurst may not attract the same crowds and excitement of the Formula 1 Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos, but for Steve and his family the thrills and the glory were just as good. For a photo of our hero give me a stamped address envelope with a tenner inside, marked Basher.

A sad ending to this month's report and I am sure you will all join with me in sending our condolences to Nigel Weller, North Downs GC, and his family for his wife passed away in October after a long illness.

Brian Willmott



### KENT

Hi guys. Firstly, I hope all of you who attended the recent Turkey Trot at Birchwood Park thoroughly enjoyed yourselves. I shall do a full results listing in next months magazine in case any of you can't remember who won! As was said at the AGM, another five events are scheduled for 2009 and we are always pleased to welcome new faces as well as our hardcore regulars to any of the dates.

Our website has been vastly improved recently thanks to the dedication of Danny Stunt, of Chislehurst Golf Club. We really want to make this a fun place to visit as well as getting your usual info from regarding Kent Section news so please send in some contributions from your clubs. We will all be having staff parties over the next month so get some pictures of the greenstaff having fun and send them to Dan at the address below.

A couple of thank you'd to finish on. Firstly, to my guys at Birchwood for another great year on the course. It's nice to look forward to going to work. Secondly, to everyone who has attended our golf days this year, it has been an absolute pleasure organising golf days for such a great bunch of people. And, last but by no means least, to our sponsors who have made everything we do on the Kent Section possible. We proudly display their individual logos on our website in recognition of what they provide us.

Sorry for the short report but off Christmas shopping now (via the pub!).

Merry Christmas one and all. Best of British  
Rob Holland  
kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



### EAST ANGLIAN

The East Anglians drifted inland to Cambridge in October to visit an old friend. Gog Magog Golf Club was the venue and Lyndon was the 'old' friend. The course was marvelous thanks to Kieran Daly and his team. One of his



# Around the Green

team, Chris to be precise, five putted the 14th (well if he can do it). He was rewarded with the loo seat for his efforts. Lyndon had not changed much, must be 12 years since we were there last, and he's still Welsh.

The antics of the day were performed by the few and Mr John Bruce-Ball, the club captain, presented the spoils. They are as follows:

0 – 9 Handicap: 1. Mark Henderson, 41pts; 2. Alan Elliot (Arthur), 38pts; 3. Ben Wallis, 36pts. 10 – 18 Handicap: 1. John Coote, 45pts (winner of the Toro Trophy and Shield); 2. Glen Rayfield, 35pts; 3. David Farmer, 34pts. 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers: 1. Adrian Goode, 34pts; 2. Pat Swinn, 34pts; 3. Roy Britton, 31pts. G & T's: 1. Brian Lyndores, 42pts; 2. Sean Payne, 39pts, 3. Bob Tawell, 39pts. Longest drive was won by John Coote. Nearest the pin was Gordon Hogg. The loo seat was mentioned earlier (five putts!) The Greenkeeper/Captain Shield was won by Mike Virley and his Captain, Sean Payne, with 75 pts.

Well done everyone. One day I'll write my own name in dispatches – probably for the loo seat (again).

The main sponsors of the day were Lely UK Toro. Our other trusty trade members were in support as usual. They were Symbio, Headland, Vitax, Aitkens, SISIS, Earnest Doe's, Bartram Mowers, Monro Sport, Consultant Clarkson, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Ben Burgess, Baileys and Tomlinson Ground Care.

Thanks again to Gog Magog Golf Club for a super day. The meal and catering staff were also on the ball and we hope it's not 12 years 'til next time. Lyndon will still be Welsh, just a bit older.

Mick Lathrope



## ESSEX

Unfortunately due to the time of the year there is not much to report this month.

Paul O'Kane, our education officer, has been working on a morning seminar we hope to have in mid to late February, we have not yet finalised a venue or the speakers, but we will be posting the information on the website and in the next issue of the magazine, as soon as we have a more clear indication of who and where. It is proposed that we will have three good speakers and include a brunch. Please watch out for more information.

Last Friday, November 7, I was lucky enough to be invited by Dennis Smith to attend the Havering "in Bloom" awards, in Romford, at which Upminster Golf Club received an award for a Garden on section of their course. (See the news pages of this magazine for a full write up.)

Fourball Matchplay Final. On a still November morning the final of the Essex Section Matchplay Final was played at Thorndon Park Golf Club. Between Mark Stopps/Mark Keysell and Antony Kirwan/Don Clark.

The golf over the front nine was as expected of a final, not many holes exchanged and at the end of the ninth hole the match was all square.

As soon as they reached the back nine the game sparked to life with Stopps/Keysell winning the tenth, followed by a great birdie 2 by Keysell at the short 12th hole, halved at 13 with birdies from Keysell and Kirwan, Kirwan took 14, but Keysell made another birdie at 15, to take the match 2 up in their favour. The 16th was halved and a birdie by Clark took the match down the 18th, but a solid par at the last by Stopps claimed the match by 1 hole.

Congratulations go to Mark Stopps and mark Keysell who claimed this year's title.

A massive thanks to Rob George and his team, at Thorndon and for the clubs hospitality.

Our Christmas Golf Day and AGM at The Essex Golf Club, to be held on December 4, will be a thing of the past when you read this. I will include the results in the next magazine early in the New Year.

We are just coming up to the end of our first year of joint sponsorship of the Section and the committee would like to thank all of our sponsors for there support over the past year:

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To all of you, both members and sponsors, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and all of us on the committee hope to see you for our seminar in February and then for the five golf days that follow through the year.

Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites with up to date information and other things.

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
essexbigga@talktalk.net  
01206-852.353/07764-862.337

[www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk)



## SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

Seasonal Greetings to everyone – exactly where did this year go? Still – looking on the bright side, at least Christmas will soon be over. Please try to support the Section Christmas Meeting at Weston Super Mare on December 18. Golf on one of the best links courses around, bacon rolls before golf, a full Christmas meal after, and one of Nobby's raffles – what more could we ask for? Invites are largely by email – so please watch your inbox and ask your Secretary as these will go to the clubs, and watch the BIGGA Bulletin Boards (The Open Forum) for details. Please try to get used to this because this is the way that invites will go out in the future.

Thanks to everyone who supported the "Bunker Masterclass" at Burnham & Berrow back in October. This was actually requested by a Section member who wanted some help with his bunkers. It was very gratifying, after all the organisation to see some 65 people in the audience. Well done.

For those who missed it, the afternoon was opened by Chris Wood, fresh from 8th place in the (Madrid?) Open giving us a clear picture of how the Pros regard bunkers, and the enormous variations from area to area in Europe and the contrast with the USA. He also shared with us his Open Championship experience from Royal Birkdale and not surprisingly, as it turns out, that walk up the 72nd with Ian Poulter was not for those of a nervous disposition.

Mick Higgins, of Rufford Sibelco, gave valuable information on the selection of proper sands, and actually ended up as IT guru for the day after my laptop had a hissy fit (it worked perfectly well in the shed before I left, but when we got to Burnham would it work? No.) Thanks again Mick.





Russell Talley, Architect from Hawtree Ltd, was actually able to name 25 different types of bunker - from a "Cop Bunker" (in vogue years ago at Wentworth etc) right through to the modern "Stadium Bunker". (This month's prize for the person who can name the other 23.)

Richard Whyman gave us perfect and enthusiastic instruction on how successfully to revet a bunker, and discussed his run up to the England Boys event in 2011.

Laurence Pithie, of the Crown Group, was the final speaker with samples of his huge arsenal of digi-pics from around the world. He gave good detail of how to determine when to rebuild bunkers, and an indication of how long bunkers are likely to last. Interesting point that - most members would be certain that bunkers are static, and there forever - whereas the reality is that bunkers have a finite life and need renovation and attention just like anything else.

An analysis of man hours shows that bunkers can take as much time, if not more, to maintain as greens.

We made a point of inviting Captains, Lady Captains and Club Officials to help get across the difficulties faced on a daily basis by greenkeepers in preparing bunkers for play. I really do hope it has helped.

Please feel free to suggest any further topics you would like to see. There is the possibility of further excavator safety training, and now also operator training for complete novices in the New Year - please let me know if you're interested.

Courtesy of our Patronage Partners, there is a sponsored place at Harrogate on the coach - please send in a letter to Chris Sealey explaining why you would be deserving of consideration and what you would hope to gain from attending.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Paul Worster  
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk  
01453 837355.



## DEVON & CORNWALL

Our meeting and AGM in October took place on a very pleasant day at the wonderful St Mellion complex where, to say the least, there's 'a bit going on'. Attendance as you can imagine was high with 63 either playing golf or on the course walk. Thanks as per usual to our sponsors.

The golf (individual Stableford) for the Don Hunt trophy was played on the front nine of each course which made it quite unique and very enjoyable.

The results were: 1. Tony Hersey, Stover GC, 36pts; 2. John Welsford HGK, Warren GC, 35pt; 3. Chris Ralph, Hele Park, 32pts. Longest Drive was won by Adam Bridgewater, Yelverton GC, one of our Devon county players; and Nearest the Pin on the par 3 was won by myself.

Thanks to Mike 'bushy' Bush Course Manager for putting up with us for the day, and to him and his staff for providing us with 18 holes in wonderful condition. When you consider all the other work, course redesigning etc that is going on at present and the recent wet spell we've had it's a real credit to them!

Thank you to all the hotel staff for their hospitality and for the use of their venue, and the catering staff for the lovely meal they provided.

Before the AGM we had a draw for an all expenses paid trip (paid for by the Section) to Harrogate for a young greenkeeper or someone new to greenkeeping next January which was won by Pete Standen, Course Manager, from Sidmouth Golf Club.

The AGM took place after the meal and the prize giving's with pretty much everybody in attendance.

Justin Austin, our Chairman, opened the meeting and passed over to Rob Guntrip, our President, who gave a summary of the past 12 months and by thanking all the committee for all their efforts and hard work over this period.

The minutes of the last AGM were then read and duly passed. Andy Parker CM Crediton Golf Club was voted on to the committee with Steve Evans standing down on rotation.

Any other business was taken and the chairman then gave an overall summary and the meeting was closed.

Finally just to remind everybody our Christmas meeting this year is at Bude Golf club where the entertainment will be provided by 'Tank Sherman'!

Jerry Cole  
07764 224582  
greenwaysjrc@aol.com

### Section Notes -

Can all notes be emailed to: [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk) by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500

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# In the Shed

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD

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### ANSWERS:

- |                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Willie Carson | 6. Mary Peters                  |
| 2. Dynamo Moscow | 7. Doncaster                    |
| 3. Eleven        | 8. The first football World Cup |
| 4. 10            | 9. The Tyrell                   |
| 5. 22            |                                 |

### MONSTER SUDOKO

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| 9 | F | 5 | 7 | B | D | 6 | 8 | 1 | E | 0 | A | 3 | 2 | C | 4 |
| 8 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | C | 5 | 7 | F | B | A | E | 6 | D |
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| 2 | 6 | 1 | E | D | 7 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | F | A | B | C |
| 4 | D | A | 3 | 8 | C | F | 6 | B | 1 | 9 | 7 | E | 5 | 0 | 2 |

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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| 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
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| 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 |

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# Chairman's Column

## DOESN'T TIME FLY...

As you read this we will only be a few weeks away from Christmas and I cannot believe this year has passed so quickly, although previous Chairmen told me it would, you never quite imagine it going as fast as it does.

I have firmly enjoyed the last 11 months and would not have swapped the role for anything. Although it has been hectic at times I felt I was in a privileged position to take on the role because of the resources I have at my disposal here at The Belfry.

Talking about that subject I have seen a poor take up in the new nominations procedure to elect a new BIGGA Vice Chairman after some of the criticism we received last year on the process. I see a lot of local people at the forums talking about issues but it would be even better to see people putting themselves forward and electing for the role. We have put a job description out to the Regions and Section for the role of Chairman for the full period, so please have a read and get in touch with your Region to review it, we have put a little less commitment on the 'have-to-dos'; so talk to your clubs and see if you can increase your chances of securing the role, it's all about making a difference and contributing to the Association for the good of the greenkeeping profession.

The Board recommendations for the proposal to allow groundsman to benefit from full membership is up for discussion prior to the AGM at Harrogate - looking at the forum on the members' website there is quite a difference of opinion which is what we were trying to achieve, and see what people want to do for this motion. I for one think this is a positive move, going forward for our Association however, if there is resistance within our membership then that's all well and good and we will move forward in the necessary direction. At the end of the day we are members of an organisation and it is members who will have their final say on this.

On another front there is a big initiative on the new membership structures to target some of the big clubs on group membership as well as individuals. As we all know there is a lot of potential in the UK to increase our membership. Something we need to look into. I think there are around 12-15,000 greenkeepers in the UK and only 6500 members! It shows us there is a long way to go to get people on board but I think we have got the people in place and the structure now to take this forward, with Tracey Maddison, the new Membership Manager, working with the Regional Administrators attending conferences and golf days to help retain our members and to spread the word for new members. I know this is probably not the right time for people thinking about asking clubs to pay for a membership or pay for themselves, but if you look at it as an opportunity to increase their education and management skills it helps keep themselves at the forefront of a clubs progression, especially through the hard times it might just be the thing that keeps you ahead of the game, although it is not great at the moment in the economic climate, but joining the Association might just be the best thing to do for yourself and your club. If you are not sure, why not come to Harrogate and experience it for yourself?

I attended a couple of conferences in the autumn. Firstly, the Icelandic Greenkeeping & Grounds Association in Reykjavik, where they had a two day conference and a trade show. There were around 80 attendees and for such a small country showing such a passion to learn more about our industry was fantastic.



I then went to Berlin for the Golf Business Conference and again there was a huge turnout of 200 plus attendees. It was nice to see Ken Schofield - former Chief Executive of the PGA European Tour, receiving an award for his services to golf. How ironic that was then in the same week that saw the start of the Race to Dubai, the new initiative from the European Tour for the 2009 professional golf season.

I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all at Harrogate in 2009.

Best wishes.



**Kenny Mackay**  
Chairman

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