



# HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF HARROGATE WEEK



January can be viewed in two ways. A depressing month – the festive season is over, the Christmas decorations have been taken down and packed away back up into the loft, you're more than likely on a diet after overindulging in December and all you have to look forward to in the immediate future is cold, wet, dreary weather. Or, a brand spanking New Year! – a time for new beginnings, time to make New Year's Resolutions, take up a new hobby, get fit – join the gym, enrol on a part time course, and most importantly, attend the event of the year – Harrogate Week! GI provides a glimpse of what the most important week in January has to offer.

## EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION...

The most comprehensive education programme that BIGGA has ever put together will get the brain going into overdrive this year, and it's not just of benefit to turf professionals and BIGGA members. Many other golfing and sporting bodies are involved in the week with seminars by the R&A, EGU and GCMA and many other workshops that are particularly pertinent for turf professionals from other sporting arenas.

## A GLIMPSE AT THE SEMINARS ON OFFER

### ARE YOU UP TO DATE? CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Environmental legislation is becoming more and more important in golf course maintenance and is forcing changes in chemical use and the treatment of wastewater. It is important for the golf course manager to be aware of this legislation as liability can lie with the individual as well as the club.

An unplanned ad hoc response to legislation can be expensive for the golf club, whereas knowledge of upcoming legislation allows the club to plan for future legislative changes and to implement change over a longer time period. Legislative change can also be predicted before it reaches parliament. Developing best practice ahead of legislation means that golf clubs can be prepared for legislative changes that would fundamentally affect their operations and allow them to establish long-term change.

This talk gives an overview of current and upcoming legislation affecting golf course management and discusses areas that are likely to be targeted by future legislation.

### BIGGA/GCMA SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This seminar will give an overview of the SMS and show delegates how easy the system is to use. At the core of the SMS are Risk Assessments, Risk Profiles and a Hazard File. Using a mixture of text, video, documents and hyperlinks to illustrate its message the SMS is a powerful resource that both BIGGA and the GCMA hope will be adopted by clubs to standardise Health and Safety throughout golf.

### COMPOST TEAS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP GREENS - IMPROVE PLAYING SURFACES AND CUT CHEMICAL INPUTS

Many top championship courses use compost teas as part of their management plan to reduce disease and poa annua and increase fine grasses while substantially cutting back on chemical and fertiliser inputs. Understand how this new technology can help you meet your improvement targets for greens, tees and fairways.

### DROUGHT, DRAINAGE AND CONSERVATION

Contrasting the summer drought of 2006 and the flooding of 2007, David Green will examine the role of aeration and how it can help the Turf Manager cope with these two opposites. He will then look at conservation of water in the soil, methods to improve water retention without waterlogging, rainfall replacement and just how much water is needed to maintain healthy turf and trees.

### ENGLISH GOLF UNION/GCMA



The Continuing Development Seminars are presented in association with the English Golf Union and the Golf Club Managers' Association.

This day long conference provides an opportunity for delegates to bring themselves up to date with the calculations which apply to providing club members with probably their most important golfing yardstick, their Handicap, how the EGU Course Policy Document can be adapted to suit your situation. The life expectancy of golf course components explains that all things have a lifespan and it is important to recognise

this. Footpaths, Teeing Grounds and even Greens have to be refurbished or renewed at some stage.

The development of training and education particularly since the launch of the new membership structure in March 2007 will be looked at, focusing on the benefits to the Employer and the Golf Club as well as for the GCMA member. The GCMA initiative will also be showcasing Golf Club Managers' Employment Handbook. Continuing the theme of the National Conference, held at The Belfry from 5 to 7 November 2007, Keith Lloyd's guests will expand on a number of topics previously raised. Marketing the Golf Club in this increasingly competitive leisure arena will undoubtedly be a main focus.

#### **GOLF AND TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT IN THE FUTURE. WHAT'S NEXT?**

In most parts of the world, the game of golf is changing. Areas where this is seen include: Practice range tees; short game areas; structures for computer swing analysis; new tees to add length; tree removal work for better grass growing environments (trees are bad for grass); retrofitting internal drainage into old greens; topdressing programs for greens, tees and fairways; improved and more accurate golf course irrigation; introduction of new grasses and dealing with the affects of the weather extremes most parts of the world are now experiencing.

#### **GOLF GREEN FERTILISATION IN OUR CHANGING CLIMATE - THE IMPLICATIONS ON LEACHING, PLANT HEALTH AND PATHOGEN ACTIVITY**

Mark Hunt examines the relationship between fertilisation and the changing climatic conditions over the past 5-10 years. In particular the talk will cover two areas. The first section looks at the consequences of different types of fertilisation during mild, wet winter conditions in terms of plant health, disease encouragement and leaching of nutrients. The second section looks at fertilisation during hot periods of weather, plant stress and pathogen activity, in particular nematodes.

#### **MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE WORKSHOP**

Discover how you can become one of tomorrow's Master Greenkeepers at this half-day workshop. The workshop will provide delegates with an in-depth understanding of the standards and expectations of both the golf course inspection and the examination stages of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. It will offer helpful tips and hints and will give delegates the opportunity to ask questions and discuss each of the stages in detail. This workshop is a must for all future Master Greenkeepers.

#### **NOISE AND VIBRATION MANAGEMENT – A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LEGISLATION, RESPONSIBILITIES AND MANAGING EXPOSURE**

This seminar will give practical guidance on the issue of vibration and noise management with reference to the BIGGA Midlands Section 'Vibration and Noise Workshop' where industry experts gathered to discuss how to use information and structure risk assessments and monitoring and control methods. Noise and vibration tests were carried out on hand operated and ride-on equipment in the working environment of a golf course. Data was then compared to manufacturer's values and advice offered on control measures, exposure limits and compiling records.

#### **PREPARING FOR THE BARCLAYS SCOTTISH OPEN**

This seminar will examine the planning that goes into presenting the Barclays Scottish Open that is held at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Looking at the history of the tournament, the preparations, course set up, infrastructure, contractor management and post tournament care.

#### **THE R&A CONFERENCE, MOVING TOWARD GREATER SUSTAINABILITY – A PROGRESS REPORT**

The R&A Golf Course Committee held its first meeting in St Andrews in May 2002. Its main objective is to promote sustainable course development and management through the implementation of best

practice. The launch of the [bestcourseforgolf.org](http://bestcourseforgolf.org) website in February 2004 has provided a focus for The R&A and a number of projects have been established to support the site.

This day long conference provides an opportunity for The R&A to outline the progress made toward its goal and provide an update on priority projects, with well qualified speakers introducing a wide range of associated issues for discussion.

#### **THE WAY GOLF BEGAN**

Is it possible to create a modern day golf course working entirely with the existing vegetation and landforms?

This seminar will deal with the issue from concept to reality and the processes of golf course construction within the constraints of SSSI legislation.

#### **TIPS AND TRICKS FOR TOURNAMENT PREPARATION**

Starting to feel like you are in the hot seat? It must be tournament time...time to deliver extraordinary (and stressful) turf conditions. This seminar will focus on mower preparation and its relevance to tournament play. There are several areas that will surprise and delight turf managers who are faced with the daunting task of keeping up with the ever increasing demands for tournament play. Discover the relationship between mower preparation and superb playing conditions. Specifically, increased green speed, maintained quality and consistency, resilience and resistance to accumulated stress and overall turf appearance. Share in the lesser known tips and tricks used by leading golf courses around the world during preparation for their own major tournaments.

#### **HARROGATE WEEK ONLINE**

Five halls packed with exhibitors representing every element of the fine turf industry should ensure plenty of assistance with those difficult purchasing decisions during the week, however, should you wish to do some swatting before the event, the Harrogate Week website is a valuable source of information. It is divided into easily accessible parts designed to enable every user to get the most from the site.

Enter [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) into your browser to be greeted with our home page. Click on the large arrow on the home page to enter the virtual exhibition halls. Here you will find the layout of the stands, information on who is exhibiting in each stand space, their stand number and a link onto the exhibitor's website.



The Visitor page is full of practical information to help make your journey to Harrogate, along with your stay during Harrogate Week, a pleasurable experience.

The Exhibitors page offers a Really Useful Product Guide that allows you to locate the suppliers of the many products and services on display during Harrogate Week. Search for the product or service online and visit the exhibitor's stand to see the item and talk to the supplier.

There's a lot more to the website. Have a good look around and if you like what you see, help your friends and colleagues to get a slice of the action too by encouraging them to visit the Harrogate Week website which is available for all to view.