



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme
- Mowing Difficult Areas
- Artificial Turf
- BIGGA's Photographic Competition

£5.00  
OCTOBER | 2008





# Looking for a more reliable way to manage your turfcare machinery budget?

**As times become more unsettled it is going to take more than a crystal ball to protect your business against unexpected repair bills.**

It's at times like these that the stability and protection offered by Toro Protection Plus comes into its own, smoothing out the bumps in your budget, making provision for the unexpected and freeing you to predict costs more accurately

\*Subject to satisfactory oil test on pre-owned machines

and control your budget with maximum effectiveness.

Available to customers who have always fitted genuine Toro parts, those considering a pre-owned machine, owners whose machines are at the end of their warranty\* and all new machine customers, Toro Protection Plus is the industry's most comprehensive protection policy.

**For more details, please call your local Toro dealer.**



TORO Commercial, Irrigation and Consumer Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited  
St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: [toro.info.uk@lely.com](mailto:toro.info.uk@lely.com)

TORO Commercial and Irrigation Products are distributed by Lely Ireland Limited, Kilboggin  
Nurney, Co. Kildare. Tel: 00 353 (0)45 526170 Email: [turfcaresales.ie@lely.com](mailto:turfcaresales.ie@lely.com)

[www.lely.com](http://www.lely.com) [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)



— partners in turfcare —



## BIGGA

### President

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

### Board of Management

Chairman – Kenny Mackay

Vice Chairman – Peter Todd

Past Chairman – Billy McMillan

### Board Members

Jeff Mills, Gavin Robson, Archie Dunn, Ian Willett,  
Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobell

### Chief Executive – John Pemberton

Email – john@bigga.co.uk

### Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

### Sales Manager – Rosie McGilvray

Email – rosie@bigga.co.uk

### Head of Learning & Development – Sami Collins

Email – sami@bigga.co.uk

### Membership Department – Tracey Maddison

Email – tracymaddison@bigga.co.uk

### Contact Us

Post – BIGGA House, Aldwark, A1ne, York, YO61 1UF

Email – reception@bigga.co.uk

Website – www.bigga.org.uk

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801



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

### Editorial

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

### Assistant Editor – Melissa Jones

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – melissa@bigga.co.uk

### Design

Design and Production Editor – Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – tom@bigga.co.uk

### Advertising

Sales Executive – Kirstin Smith

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833802

Email – kirstin@bigga.co.uk

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane,

Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without  
written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials  
submitted if return is requested.

No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The  
right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for  
loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association,  
and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or  
product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £47 per year,  
Europe and Eire £60. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA  
members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries  
and central government.

ISSN: 0961- 6977

© 2008 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

October 2008

## Regulars



4-8

News

9

GTC

10-11

Industry Update

12

Membership

An update on Membership matters

13

Education

Sami Collins updates us on

Learning and Development matters

14-15

Learning & Development:  
Training And Development Of Golf Course Staff  
By Stewart Brown



41

In the Shed

Greenkeeper International's Puzzle Page

45-48

Saltex New Products

50

Health & Safety Tip



51

Letters

52

News from the Chief Executive

52-59

Around the Green

66

As I See It...

National Chairman Kenny Mackay's monthly column



## Features

17

Scholarship Scheme

The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme has helped  
fund many aspiring greenkeepers through their studies,  
and aided them in fulfilling their ambitions of becoming  
fully qualified greenkeepers. By Melissa Jones



18-19

Making The 'Appliance Of Science' Simple

Scott MacCallum visited Scotts' Levington Research  
Station and learned just how much goes into producing  
the products you use on the golf course

20-22

Yorkshire's Finest Take The Honours

Scott MacCallum was lucky enough to attend the John  
Deere Team Championship at Turnberry share the  
experience with the finalists

24-27

Course Feature

Scott MacCallum visits Woburn where new Course Manager  
John Clarke has a big job on his hands

29-31

Health & Safety Series

Over the next few month's Greenkeeper International will  
be working in conjunction with vibration testing services  
Fivesquared to discuss the implications of Hand Arm  
Vibration (HAVS), Whole Body Vibration (WBV) and Noise

32-35

Picture This

Some stunning photographs caught the eye in this year's  
BIGGA Photographic Competition

37-39

Mowing Difficult Areas

By James de Havilland

42-43

Artificial Tees Winning Plaudits Across Essex

By Chris Bassett



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## Welcome



### Thanks Nick!

Sometimes a positive can come out of a negative. Perhaps a cliché, but like most clichés there is some truth to it.

That's what I feel about this year's Ryder Cup. If Europe had performed to the level expected of them the 16.5-11.5 scoreline could easily have been reversed. If that happened the Americans would have experienced four defeats in a row, three of them thumpings and the excitement levels would have dropped. Not to the same scale, of course, but it would have harked back to the days of American dominance when it was more an exhibition of great golf than a contest.

That was remedied when the rest of Europe – Seve, Bernhard et al – were brought in and the matches from '83 to 2002 became the most exciting events in all of sport, Nip and tuck, no-one could have made a fortune by predicting the outcome and that goes for the overall match score as well as the individual games.

But thanks to Nick Faldo it's levelled the playing field and it's game on again.

Right from the off, and his omission of the in-form Ryder Cup specialist, Darren Clarke, Faldo made a right pig's ear of his Captaincy. There were the photographed pairings which he described as sandwich lists; his David Brent-like speeches; his bizarre pairings – fourball specialists playing foursomes and rear-loading his singles when a fast start was required.

And what was he doing while his guys were in need of his support on the final afternoon? He was tossing cans of beer to the gallery and discussing matters with one of those men known only by one name – not Seve, Monty, Woosie, Ollie or even Tiger. Faldo was seen picking the brains of Spooky! Whatever the outcome of that particular Brain's Trust it didn't change the course of events and Europe went down with a whimper. Only General Custer could really look up to Faldo in terms of leadership.

But the good news is that when Terry Matthews and Jim McKenzie welcome the teams to Celtic Manor, it will be a much more inviting contest. America will be fired up to retain the Cup and will have Tiger Woods back in the team, while Europe will be looking to return to the form which made them dominate the early part of the Millennium. It's an exciting prospect.

One thing that does disappoint in terms of the Ryder Cup is that only those people with access to satellite television can watch the matches live. I know Sky paid for the rights to watch but it's a shame that it leaves the majority of the population to listen to the excellent Radio Five Live coverage or wait for the highlights which are on either extremely late at night or even the next day.

Golf would receive a huge popularity boost if the Ryder Cup, one of the greatest sporting events on any calendar, could be watched by golfers and non-golfers young or old.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott'.

## CRICKET GROUNDSMEN HONOURED AT LORD'S

Four groundsmen were honoured recently at the home of cricket as they each received a Cricket World & Pitchcare Cricket Groundsman of the Year Award for 2008.

The awards, now in their fifth year, recognise the hard work and high standards achieved by cricket groundsmen in the recreational game and are split into four categories – ICC Europe, educational establishment, private club and local authority.

Treble the nominations were received for this year's awards compared to last year.

The presentations were made to the winners Ian Vautier, Phillip McCormick, Les Stephens and Graeme Flett by Head ECB Pitch Advisor Chris Wood and Director of ICC Europe, Richard Holdsworth, in the presence of sponsors and invited guests. In the morning, the winners took to their Executive Box seats to watch the Cocksbur Cup Club Cricket Final between Malden Wanderers and Kibworth and enjoyed lunch at the Lord's Tavern. Unfortunately, the weather closed in during the afternoon and the match will be replayed, however, the winners were taken on a behind the scenes tour of the ground facilities by Chris Wood which was an experience of a lifetime.



## CAMPAIGN URGES INDUSTRY TO CHECK YOUR SPRAYER

The importance of well-maintained and carefully calibrated spraying equipment is being emphasised in a new campaign by the Amenity Forum.

Launched at this year's Saltex show, 'Check Your Sprayer' is aimed at everyone in the amenity sector whose job involves the spraying of pesticides.

The Amenity Forum has received sponsorship from Scotts to produce a leaflet, sticker and dedicated website to assist managers and operators in this key component of 'Best Practice'.

The leaflet and website contain essential information on how to comply with the Code of Practice including when equipment should be checked, who should check it, what training is required and what to record.

The Knapsack Operator Checklist stickers can be affixed to their sprayer where they will serve as a reminder to check the equipment each and every time it is used.

More comprehensive information is available at [www.checkyoursprayer.co.uk](http://www.checkyoursprayer.co.uk)



## SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

This year's Golf Management Competitions have recently taken place in the South West and South Wales Region. The format of the competition with clubs entering a management team which includes a member of the club's greenkeeping staff has once again proved popular, with each section event being well supported. Along with individual prizes for the members of the first, second and third placed teams the winning teams in each section received an Accupro 2000 Spreader piece of machinery for their clubs. BIGGA South West and South Wales Region would like to thank Scotts Turf Professional (UK) Ltd for their continued sponsorship of this event and the clubs for their support in hosting these days.

The winning teams from each section together with a representative from Scotts Turf Professional are pictured below.

The South West Section event was won by Chipping Sodbury Golf Club with the South Wales Section being won by Llanwern Golf Club and the South Coast by Southwood Golf Club.



Southwood GC

## GROW BRITISH TO PROTECT NATIVE SPECIES

Grow British was the message from British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs) whose 'Grow British' initiative was launched at Saltex.

"Many wild flower varieties are either imported or developed from cultivated seed stock," said BWFPs Marketing Manager, Ian Forster "and this can put our own native species under threat. I suppose the most obvious example of this is the Spanish Bluebell, which is now cross breeding with our British variety and in danger of wiping it out."

## ASKERNISH OLD COURSE ...ALIVE AND WELL

So at last, after two years' hard work by Gordon Irvine, Alan MacDonald and the team, Askernish Old Course, an Old Tom Morris masterpiece, is open.

When Gordon first saw the towering dunes, the magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean, a white shell beach running along the length of the links, the heather clad moors and rugged mountains, he declared he had found The Holy Grail. Gordon persuaded Golf Course Architect Martin Ebert, of Mackenzie and Ebert, to join him in this labour of love - and Martin charged the same fee as Old Tom did back in 1891, namely £9!

This is golf in the raw and how it used to be. Askernish is not only unique in design, but also in its environment on the internationally renowned machair, a fertile stretch of dune land supporting a wealth of rare flora and fauna.

The restoration of the 18 hole course has taken less than £100,000 and is a superb example of a truly sustainable golf course, only using local organic based seaweed fertilisers, no pesticides, or irrigation system, and all materials obtained locally. Even the ladies' tee markers are rocks gathered from the beach by Club Chairman, Ralph Thompson.

Many people have rallied round, intrigued by the romance of the project golfers have joined as life members, others have sent donations, and greenkeepers have lent their time and expertise. Elmwood College are hoping to use the course for greenkeeper training, Ransomes Jacobsen has generously contributed machinery, The Berkshire GC donated club house furniture, JHS Carpets donated a spike proof carpet for use in the new clubhouse, Maidenhead Mailing supplied all the printing, a local building company UBC donated local granite tee markers and The R&A have provided initial financial support and have since through The Golf Course Committee provided greenkeeping bursaries, and remain interested in the on going success of the project.

But this is only the beginning. The course is already attracting interest from all over the world, and the island has so many other attractions including trout and salmon fishing, wildfowling, and wonderful walking. So there is plenty to do if you visit this golfing treasure, but more help is needed to ensure the future of Askernish, and Gordon is presenting the full story at Harrogate Week 2009. Volunteers should contact Gordon Irvine, email: [omegagi@hotmail.com](mailto:omegagi@hotmail.com), and sponsors or suppliers should contact Malcolm Peake, email: [peakes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peakes@hotmail.co.uk)

Malcolm Peake



Greenkeeper Alan MacDonald and Golf Course Consultant Gordon Irvine 7th Tee Askernish.



Kenny Dalglish drives in.

## INTERNATIONAL DESIGN LECTURE

Ken Moodie, EIGCA President, was “delighted” that the EIGCA diploma students – 16 in number and from 10 countries - had the opportunity to listen to internationally renowned, Tom Doak, at this year’s Toro International Design Lecture, delivered at County Louth Golf Club, near Drogheda in Ireland.

“Tom Doak has been involved in many of the most exciting golf developments over the past few years. His minimalist approach is a welcome contrast to the mass land movements involved in some other developments,” said Ken.

Tom’s interest in the game of golf started as a boy of 10 years when he was able to play on a Geoffrey Cornish designed course called Sterling Farms, just ten minutes walk from his home, for \$1 a time.

He strongly believes in the benefits of networking and of travel. During his landscape architecture course at Cornell University he wrote letters to the best golf courses in the US, explaining that he wanted to be a golf course architect and would like to come and walk round and to take pictures. By age 20 Tom Doak had already visited and played such places as Merrion, Pine Valley and Oakmont.

After graduating he spent a year travelling in the British Isles. While in Scotland he caddied at St Andrews and gained much from his conversations with Walter Woods. His tour of the UK & Ireland covered 13,000 miles and 160 courses.

He now reckons that he has personally visited just about every great golf course in the world, gaining knowledge that he put to great use when writing “The Confidential Guide to Golf Courses” which was published in 1996. Indeed Tom was famous as a golf writer long before his skills as a golf course architect received recognition.

Tom worked for Pete Dye for three years after graduating and learned first hand about construction. He was taught how to run a bulldozer. “Now I have four or five of the best shapers who have ever lived working for me. They loved golf first and learned to drive the truck second – the other way round is harder.”

He illustrated his lecture with images from some of the great courses he has designed including Barnbougle Dunes, Tasmania; Cape Kidnappers, New Zealand; Renaissance Club at Archerfield, Scotland and the one which made him famous, Pacific Dunes Golf Club at Bandon, USA.

“Understanding construction is one of the keys to golf course architecture - that and the ability to visualise a topographical map in three dimensions, even when the land in question is covered in vegetation. Pete Dye once said, ‘Lots of people have opinions – only a few can get them on the ground’.”

Andy Brown, Toro Corporate Accounts Manager for Europe Middle East and Africa, said, “In Tom Doak we have someone who can really inspire the students to look at the whole business of golf course architecture and show them the way to go forward in their careers.

Hopefully they will get the opportunity to work occasionally on some outstanding pieces of land and to show what they can do.”



Photograph taken at County Louth shows Tom Doak (8th from left); Andy Brown of Toro (2nd from left); and Ken Moodie, EIGCA President (first on right)

## TURNER GROUNDSCAPE (CHESTER) GOLF DAY

Turner Groundscare (Chester) recently held their round of the qualifying round of this year’s John Deere Team Championship.

The event took place on August 7, at Hesketh Golf Club in Southport; the weather was glorious sunshine with 16 teams competing for the first prize of entry to the John Deere Championship event to be held at Turnberry on August 21.

The event was extremely close with the eventual winners being a team from Warrington Golf Club comprising of Paul Pearse, Duncan McPhee and Ray Bernard.

Rules and scoring were administered by BIGGA Regional Administrator, Peter Larter.

The picture (below) shows the Warrington Team being presented with the TGC Shield by Brian Spruce (Branch Manager TGC) and Kevin Pickering (Sales Manager TGC).



## NEW NORTHERN LOCAL AUTHORITY AMENITY FORUM

A group of key Local Authorities have decided to form a regional forum and become a member of the Amenity Forum.

The Northern Local Authority Amenity Forum will have a two pronged approach. First to hold local meetings to discuss specific topics relevant to the group. Second it will have representatives on the Amenity Forum to work closely with the other members and establish a strong communication between these important groups.

One of the key objectives of the Amenity Forum is ‘Best Practice’ in the use of pesticides in amenity areas.

The decision to set up the group was made at a recent meeting arranged by Calderdale MBC with managers attending from Barnsley, Bradford, Doncaster, Kirklees, North Lincs, Oldham and Wakefield authorities.



## BIGGA MIDLAND AND NORTHERN REGIONS

### Accident Reporting And Health & Safety Workshop

The Midland Region is holding a practical Accident Reporting and Health & Safety Workshop at the Bedfordshire Golf Club on Tuesday, October 21, 2008.

The Northern Region is holding the same workshop at Childwall Golf Club on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

The workshops will run from 9am to about 4pm and will involve practical exercises in groups looking at a simulated vehicle accident; health and safety hazards in the greenkeeping shed; a risk assessment on a hole and an interview with a disgruntled golf club chairman.

Attendance is open to BIGGA members and Golf Club Officials. Invitations will be sent out in September. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

For more information please contact Peter Larter, Midland and Northern Region Administrator on: 01476 550115 or email: petelarter972@aol.com.

## COURSE MANAGER WEDDING

A large number of Course Managers attended Robert Hogarth's recent wedding at Cardrona Hotel & Golf Course. Course Manager at Remedy Oak, Robert previously took on this role at Cardrona.



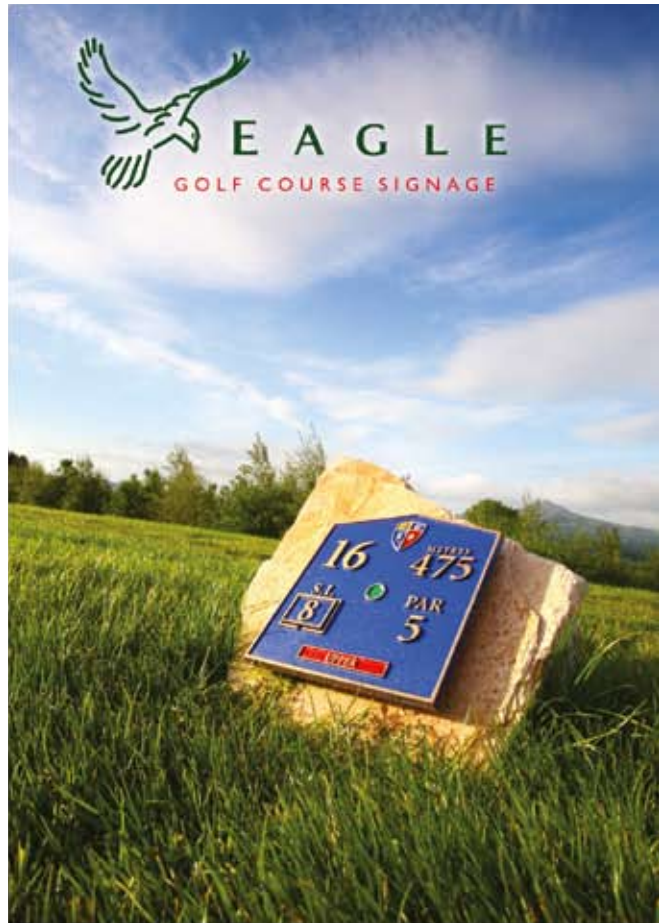
Back row L to R: Colin Noble, Hugh Morgan, Stuart Hogg, George Barr, Robert Hogarth, Paul Murphy, Ian McLeod and Ian Semple. Front row: Alec MacIndoe (left) and Donny Campbell.

## KEY ENGINE POST

Kawasaki's European engine business has been given a boost with the announcement of a key appointment within the company's re-structured Engine & Power Products Division.

Having unveiled ambitious plans to commit more resource to the development of its industrial engine business targeting original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for industrial, groundscape, turfcare and utility markets, the Japanese manufacturer has brought in experienced Horst Britze to help drive sales to record levels.

With nearly three decades of experience in the small engine sector on the import, export, sales and consultancy side, Britze is well placed to make a positive impact and is looking forward to the challenges ahead.



"WE SET EAGLE A VERY TOUGH DESIGN AND TECHNICAL BRIEF, BUT THEY CAME BACK AND GAVE US A SOLUTION THAT'S EVERY BIT AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE COURSE AND THE CLUBHOUSE."

"EAGLE REALLY DID GO THE EXTRA MILE, AND THE RESULTS ARE JUST SPECTACULAR."

PAT SMITH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GOLF, DUN LAOGHAIRE GC

Tel: +44 (0)1883 344244  
Email: [info@eagle.uk.com](mailto:info@eagle.uk.com)  
Web: [www.eagle.uk.com](http://www.eagle.uk.com)





## HARROGATE WEEK 2009

A three night bed and breakfast package at the Cairn Hotel arriving on Monday, January 19 and departing on Thursday, January 22 is available for those members from the region wishing to attend the exhibition and seminars. The rates have been held at last year's prices with a single room being £222 and a twin room (sharing) £133.50 per person.

For further information and booking of these events contact Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841948110.

BIGGA South West and South Wales region would like to thank the following patrons for their support of the region and these events: Gold Patrons - Ransomes Jacobsen Limited and Irritech Limited.

Silver Patrons - The Scotts Company, Countrywide Turf and Amenity, Vitax Limited, Avoncrop Amenity Products, W. T. and R.J. Jones and Ken White Signs.

## MIDLAND SECTION IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

Twenty greenkeepers from the length and breadth of Britain converged at Gay Hill GC last month for the third and final instalment of the BIGGA Midland Section Irrigation Workshop.

Delegates were treated to expert training in the performance of golf irrigation systems from Peter Robin of Evenproducts Ltd.

The training focused on common problems and how simple inputs can make your life easier.

The training also included a practical session where the working pressure of a greens sprinkler was measured during working conditions.

Pressure drop was also simulated to see the exact effect on coverage across the green.

The unfortunate individual measuring the flow and getting rather wet was Gay Hill GC Course Manager, Paul Woodham. The course was packed with lots of practical information which certainly asked the question "do you actually know how much water you are applying?"

Peter added "it's fair to say that most aging golf irrigation systems could operate much more effectively if the operators understand the hydraulics that are taking place, including sorting out a few common misconceptions.

"This can increase the system's uniformity and in turn can reduce the problems associated with poor-performing irrigation systems".

## CLUB HAS THE FAIR WAY AT HEART

Internationally renowned Sunningdale Golf Club has attained nationally recognised Investors in People status as part of its drive to be a centre of excellence - not just for golf but for employee satisfaction too.

The Berkshire club is famous for possessing England's finest golf course and for providing its members with the very best of traditional, discreet service. One of its tenets is that staff will anticipate and provide whatever is required - no matter how detailed the requests may be.

Sunningdale's Secretary, Stephen Toon, put the case for the club working with Investors in People to the governing Members' Committee after seeing its effectiveness at St Andrews in Scotland.

He said: "I had seen the benefits of Investors in People at St Andrews and suggested to the Committee that our service to members could be improved by following its guidelines. We found that while we had a high percentage of what was required for Investors in People, in terms of great leadership from the top and communication at the sharp end, we needed more structure across all the departments.

"We are proud of our staff retention, one of our greenkeepers retired recently after 50 years here. Long serving staff provide the continuity our members value, while newer arrivals bring with them fresh ideas, so creating the ideal combination. And, as a result of Investors in People, we have given everybody who works here a set of skills they didn't have before."



## SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SEMINAR

This year's annual seminar will once again be held at Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies on Thursday, November 20. The seminar theme is "The Disturbance Theory And The Thrill Of Real Golf" and is presented in association with STRI.

Presentations will be made by Henry Bechelet, Richard Windows, John Lockyer, Andy Cole, and Steve Gingell from STRI and Peter Hickling, General Manager of High Post Golf Club. The morning session will be covering The Disturbance Theory with the afternoon session based on measuring the benefits of the Disturbance Theory.

Entry for BIGGA members is £20 with non-members £30. Places for the day are limited and booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the region.



## TIMES ARE CHANGING

*In this month's article David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks at how greenkeeper education has changed and the options now available...*

**It might have taken the GTC longer than we would have liked to change the traditional education providers to become more flexible with their delivery methods of courses and qualifications but it really is the kid in the sweet shop analogy now!**

Which way do I turn? So much choice!

There are still the traditional methods of day and block release courses available and for vocational (work-based) courses it is these days which are important for tutors to deliver the knowledge and agree the plan for the learner to gain the evidence to achieve the qualification.

Vocational qualifications are all about proving competence against the National Standards and the 'college for knowledge' statement is important when time off work is so important.

The skills are best taught on-the-job but at all times using the National Occupational Standards (NOS).

I am sorry but once again a timely reminder to Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers - your role in vocational courses/qualifications is key to the success of the system.

The on-going involvement of Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers or their nominated on the job trainer, has without doubt improved the skills base of hundreds of craft level greenkeepers. A bold statement but feedback again this year from Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development at BIGGA, that following the regional judging of the Toro Student of the Year competition, where a student's boss has actively been involved with the training and assessment process, the result is there for all to see.

For the non-vocational courses such as National Certificates, Advanced National Certificates and the Certificates in Higher Education including HNC/D and Foundation Degrees, this is where there has been so much development by certain colleges.

Again traditional college options are available but add to that online learning as an increasing popular pathway to gain knowledge and the move

to short courses by private providers including BIGGA is meeting employers needs as well as the personal development of the employee.

The GTC has also reviewed its traditional Approved Training Provider network and while until recent years it only included a small number of colleges, we are looking at the quality of the training provision rather than just approving say one or two colleges.

There are some excellent colleges who offer local provision and at the same time some new private companies who have excellent resources to deliver courses and we would rather them approach the GTC so we can work together to service our specialist sector with quality education and training.

The GTC will work with any organisation or company seeking to support our aims to ensure employers and greenkeepers have choice but at all times quality will be at the forefront of our criteria.

Health & Safety training is so important and between the revised HSE-GTC Guidance Notes (as shown) the wall chart and the Safety Management System developed by BIGGA and the GCMA, the information is readily available.

There are now specialist courses available to ensure golf clubs are well provided for in this crucial area of golf course maintenance and management.

Many golf clubs have improved the working conditions for their staff but we know the Environmental Officers are once again dropping in on golf clubs throughout the country so please take the opportunity to prepare for the visit using the "tools" and training available.

As the winter approaches the seminar and workshop seasons tend to take off with the Home



Unions, BIGGA, STRI et al in full swing. Keep up to date on what events are on offer and when and where.

I know modern jargon can be boring but we all must record our Continual Professional Development (CPD) whether it be a formal qualification, short course, Certificate of Competence, workshop, seminar, exhibitions etc., by now I am sure you are aware of the importance of good record keeping.

We at the GTC endeavour to keep all the events available through links from our website to the various organisations and Training Provider network so please visit [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

David can be contacted direct at [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)  
Tel: 01347 838640

GTC is supported by:





# Industry Update

## BEST EUROPEAN DISTRIBUTOR ACCOLADE

Wiedenmann UK has, for the third successive year, been awarded the accolade 'Best European Distributor' by turf and groundcare specialists, Wiedenmann.

At a reception to mark the official opening of the new worldwide HQ at Rammigen Germany, the Wiedenmann UK team scooped the coveted title for 2007.

David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's managing director said: "It's exactly 20 years since my brother Martin, my father Alistair and I attended a German trade fair where we met the Wiedenmann family embarking on the early prototypes of the famous Terra Spike deep, fast aerators. We've watched the product range expand and Wiedenmann GmbH become truly a worldwide exporter. Wiedenmann turf and groundcare machinery is now available in 48 countries, so it's particularly satisfying for our twenty dealers across the UK and Ireland to be recognised for their ongoing efforts."

## NEW PRODUCT MANAGER

Rigby Taylor has appointed Susan Murray as a Product Manager with special responsibility for developing the national sales of its range of artificial surfaces, pitch protection products, banners and flags.

Susan is a competitive lawn bowler and Scottish International.

## NEW COMPANY NAME

The Shropshire-based company formerly known as Amenity Land Services Limited has changed its name to Amenity Land Solutions Limited.

Introduced to better reflect the diverse and comprehensive range of products and services now offered to customers, the new trading name allows the business to retain its ALS acronym and logo, which has become well-known and respected over the 20 years that the company has been serving the amenity horticulture, landscaping and groundscare sectors.

To coincide with the change of name, ALS has relocated to a new and larger operations centre and warehouse facility at Units 2/3, Allscott, near Telford, less than four miles from its previous base at Long Lane, Wellington, near Telford.

## 42 YEARS SERVICE

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has announced the retirement of Publicity Manager, Lynn Hilton, after 42 years service. Many of Lynn's duties will pass to her assistant Jane Bayley.



Lynn came to Sisis as temporary PA to the Company Secretary but enjoyed it and was asked to stay on. Lynn worked in virtually every department in the company before finding her true vocation in Publicity and Marketing 38 years ago.

Asked what she will miss most, Lynn said "I have been very fortunate to have worked with such a fantastic team at Sisis, particularly Jane, and Veda Brindley who have given me the most superb support anyone could wish for and been great fun to work with. I'm not sure how I am going to manage without them."

## MJ ABBOTT ON TV

Golf course constructor MJ Abbott Limited is to feature in a television documentary for Channel 5.

'How do they make a golf course?' was commissioned by WAG-TV as part of its 'How do they do it?' series. Filming took place at Rockliffe Hall near Darlington where MJ Abbott is nearing completion of construction work on one of the longest and most challenging courses to be built in the UK in the last 10 years.

MJ Abbott's staff were joined on-site for filming by the Course Architect, Marc Westenborg, from Hawtree.

Natalia Dannenberg, Assistant Producer of the programme, explained why they'd chosen to look at golf course construction: "We have a few keen golfers on our production team and our Executive Producer suggested the title. Our researcher began to look for construction projects in the UK and contacted the British Association of Golf Course Constructors. From that contact, MJ Abbott sent us some information about the Rockliffe Hall development."

The episode of 'How do they do it?' featuring 'How do they make a golf course?' will be broadcasted at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 16 on Channel 5 and later in the year on the Discovery Channel.

## GOLD MEDAL PERFORMANCE

The Shibaura ST318 Compact Tractor was called into action recently during the Beijing Olympics, to help prepare the Olympic Stadium playing surface for the football final.

Four days prior to the final it was felt that the playing surface was far too hard for the game to go ahead and the decision was taken to aerate overnight on Tuesday, August 18. With field athletic events due to take place the next morning, swift remedial action was called for.



## KUBOTA TO REPRIS OATRIDGE ROADSHOW

Oatridge College in West Lothian has again been chosen by Kubota to launch their 2008 roadshow series, thanks to the outstanding success of a similar event two years ago.

Richard Harrison, the company's Sales and Marketing Director said: "The location and facilities are first class. We had looked at alternative sites around Scotland but decided to revisit Oatridge as it was universally accepted by the Kubota Events Team and our Scottish dealers as the best geographical location to attract the highest number of visitors."

The Kubota Live! Roadshow will be at the specialist landbased College near Broxburn on September 2 and will feature most of their range of 19 mini-excavators, from 850kg to 8 tonnes, plus ride-on mowers, tractors and the RTV 900 rough terrain vehicle. Entrance is free and it is not necessary to register. Visitors can simply turn up on the day, between 10am and 4pm.

The Kubota Live! Roadshow will move on from Oatridge to seven other locations in England and Wales, ending at Chepstow Racecourse in Monmouthshire on September 25.



## CHANCE TO BEAT THE WET WEATHER

Wimbledon Park Golf Club is prepared for wet weather after drainage work was carried out by Speedcut Contractors of Oxford.

The magnificent 18-hole course, in the shadow of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, is on clay and required drainage round more than half a dozen holes.

Under foreman Peter Little the Speedcut team used one of their Mastenbroek laser-guided trencher and pipe-layers to carry out drainage over the course of a week.

Trenches were back-filled with shingle and sand and surfaces levelled with minimal disruption to the smooth running of the busy course.



## NEW RECRUIT FOR SALES TEAM



Tycrop has welcomed Robin Lott to their turf division sales team.

"I come to this industry, most recently, from industrial equipment manufacturing and distribution, where I spent 13 years building a dealer network in Western Canada.

Pressure washers and industrial cleaning equipment sales has been very good to me, but the opportunity to work in the golf, turf and sport field industry for a respected Canadian manufacturer was something I couldn't pass up," said Robin.

## NEW TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Becker Underwood Ltd has appointed Karl Geary as Technical Sales Representative with responsibility for sales in the UK and Ireland.

Karl Geary joins Becker Underwood bringing over 10 years experience to the post. Prior to joining Becker Underwood, Karl spent the last six years working for a leading manufacturer of fertilisers and pesticides with activities in the horticultural, amenity and retail sectors and previously studied Commercial Horticulture at Writtle College.



## NEW EXPORT ROLE

Steve Elms joins Vitax Supaturf Ltd in the newly created role of Export Sales Manager.

Responsible for co-ordinating and expanding the company's export business interests, Steve, who started his career in greenkeeping in 1976, brings considerable overseas experience to the post having worked as a Course Manager in Switzerland, Denmark, Germany and the Caribbean.

Now based in his home county in South Wales, he is looking to develop his career in a field that he knows, which will still allow him to travel.

"I've known Vitax since my first days as Head Greenkeeper," he said.

"It's a well established company with a good reputation, which I'm sure I can develop further."



## NEW H&S TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED

Bedale based training specialist KNW are delighted to announce a new joint venture with Lucid Training of Sedbergh to deliver the best in Health and Safety Training.

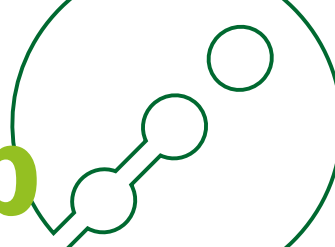
KNW established in 1997, has built its business on the core values of consistency, quality and flexibility delivering a comprehensive range of training courses throughout the UK.

The joint philosophy is to help businesses implement health and safety policies, processes and procedures so that business benefits from H&S rather than being restricted by it.



(L to R) Mike and Jean John from KNW, Andy Binstead (CMIOSH) and John Colton from Lucid Training.

# Membership



## Are you...

- Moving House?
- Moving Job?
- Changing your mobile number?
- Changing your email address?

To ensure that we have the most up to date information and that you don't miss out on your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International or information on membership benefits, make sure you contact us to let us know of any changes to your details.

### Change of Address Checklist

#### Who to Inform...

- BIGGA
- Friends, family and colleagues
- Employers
- School
- Bank, building society, pension provider
- Telephone and Internet service providers
- TV licensing
- Credit card and store card companies
- Local council regarding council tax
- Subscriptions to magazines, charities, etc.
- DVLA
- Doctors, Dentist, Opticians etc
- Gas, water, electric companies
- Satellite/Cable Company

This month BIGGA welcomes the following new members, shown on the right...

#### Scottish Region

Stuart Beacom, Central  
Iain Bellshaw, North  
Stewart Ewan, Central  
James McAulay, Central  
David Middleton, East  
Darren Selby, East  
Kevin Taylor, North

#### Northern Region

Will Bessant, North West  
Nigel Booth, Northern  
Michael Burgin, Sheffield  
Thomas Chubb, North West  
Christopher Kelly, North West  
Daniel Killen, North East  
Lance Wilde, North West  
David Williams, North West  
Liam Williams, North  
James Wormleighton, North West

#### Midland Region

Michael Bunney, East Midland  
Jamie Dunning, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Nicholas Garbett, Midland  
Vince Harrison, East Midland  
Andrew Kirk, East Midland  
Mark Lambert, Mid Anglia  
Antony Plummer, East of England  
Nicholas Spittle, Midland  
Rob Wood, East Midland

#### South East Region

Harry Burgin, East Anglia  
Rod Daniels, Surrey

Jamie Jones, Essex  
Andrew Knight, Surrey  
Scott Litchfield, Sussex  
Christopher May, London  
Matthew Perks, Sussex  
Neil Pickett, Sussex  
David Purdue, London  
Neil Rose, London  
Nicholas Turner, East Anglia  
Brian Vicker, Sussex  
James Witt, Surrey  
Matthew Woodford, London  
David Wootton, Kent

#### S West / S Wales Region

Josh Loughrey, South West  
Philip Powell, South Wales  
Ian Rees, South Wales  
Ben Unsworth, South Coast  
John Williams, South Wales

#### International

Stephen Cutt, Germany  
Matthew Dobson, USA  
David Willis, USA

#### Student

Steven Ferry, East  
James Telfer, Kent  
Dorota Cwil, Rep of Ireland

#### Corporate

Stephen Edwards, North East  
Paul Kelly, Northern  
Andrew Lloyd, Northern

## CONTACT US

By telephone - 01347 833800 (option 1 for Membership.)



**Tracey Maddison**  
Email: [traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk](mailto:traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)



**Justine De Taure**  
Email: [justine@bigga.co.uk](mailto:justine@bigga.co.uk)



**Brad Anderson**  
Email: [brad@bigga.co.uk](mailto:brad@bigga.co.uk)

Other useful telephone numbers  
(for greenkeeper members only)

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

## BIGGA's Regional Administrators



**Peter Boyd**  
**SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND**  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
Email: [pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)



**Peter Larter**  
**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
Email: [petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com)



**Clive Osgood**  
**SOUTH EAST**  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
Email: [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)



**Jane Jones**  
**SOUTH WEST & WALES**  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
Email: [janejones1@btconnect.com](mailto:janejones1@btconnect.com)



# 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...**

The countdown is on... Saltex is over and Harrogate Week is now a reality to all the staff at BIGGA House and the Learning and Development Department in particular. The biggest project of the year will start to wind up with the release of the Continue to Learn Education Programme featured in The Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week brochure and on the Harrogate Week website ([www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)).

A range of two-day, one-day and half-day workshops is included in the Continue to Learn programme along with a comprehensive list of seminar sessions. The seminars that are taking place on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 and Thursday, January 22 are FREE of charge to all visitors. Places for the seminars are available on a first come, first serve basis with our seminar rooms holding approximately 70 delegates.

#### Two-Day Workshops:

- Manage Relationships and Improve Conflict at Work
- Health and Safety
- Moving into Management
- Making Successful Presentations

#### Cost:

BIGGA Member\* £205 + VAT  
Non Member £330 + VAT  
\*BIGGA Members save 38% when booking a two-day workshop

#### One-Day Workshops:

- Basic Budgeting and Finance
- Next Steps in Budgeting and Finance
- Drainage: Theory, Practice and Realities
- Irrigation: Planning, Installation and Water Management
- Measuring Success
- Stress Awareness

#### Cost:

BIGGA Member\* £105 + VAT  
Non Member £210 + VAT  
\*BIGGA Members save 50% when booking a one-day workshop



#### Half-Day Workshops:

- Getting Started with Microsoft Excel
- Beyond the Basics Microsoft Excel
- Getting Started with Microsoft Word
- Beyond the Basics Microsoft Word
- Getting Started with Microsoft PowerPoint
- Environmental Legislation Compliance Through Best Practice
- Making the Most of Your Woodlands

- Making the Most of Your Heathlands
- Making the Most of the Links Environment
- Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop

Cost: BIGGA Member\* £50 + VAT  
Non Member £110 + VAT

\*BIGGA Members save 55% when booking a half-day workshop

**TOP TIP:** For those of you out there who are not yet a member of BIGGA it works out cheaper to become a BIGGA member before booking your workshop. Contact the Membership Department on 01347 833800 and select Option 1.

The English Golf Union and the Golf Club Managers' Association will once again be presenting their Continuing Development Seminars on Wednesday, January 21 from 9.30 am – 3.30 pm with subjects including The Changing Landscape of the Golf Business and Presenting Change to Committees and Members. The day includes Lunch hosted by the EGU and the GCMA. The cost to attend is £50 + VAT.

#### Industry Skill Sets/Job Specifications

Most of you will recognise the term 'Job Specification' rather than Industry Skill Set, but in reality, they are the same thing. They both list the tasks that a Greenkeeper, Supervisor and Manager should be able to perform. The three skill sets have been developed and agreed by industry for the industry using the National Occupational Standards.

The new specifications (or skill sets!) can be downloaded from the BIGGA Training and Development Manual - go to Hole One, select the sub-text tab and click on Job Specifications.doc. The Training and Development Manual is accessed via the members area of the BIGGA website.



# Learning & Development

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF GOLF COURSE STAFF

By Stewart Brown

**Staff are the most dynamic of all a golf club's resources. They need considerable attention from management, if they are to realise their full potential. Motivation, leadership, communication and pay are all included in the issues faced by management today.**

However, it is necessary to consider the role of training and development activities in the golf club. A question frequently raised by many is: What is the difference, if any, between 'training' and 'development'? Another is: What is the difference between 'education' and 'training'?

It will be useful to examine these three terms and compare their meanings. Principally they are as follows:

**Education** – usually intended to mean instruction in knowledge and skills designed to enable people make the most of life in work and in society generally; personal and broadly-based; focuses on knowledge acquisition.

**Training** – normally implies preparation for an occupation or for specific skills; narrower in conception than either education or development; job-oriented rather than personal.

**Development** – usually suggests a broader view of knowledge and skills acquisition than training; it is less job-oriented than career-oriented; concerned more with employee potential than with immediate skill; sees employees as adaptable resources.

Generally, education is a matter for government. Training and development, however, are matters for individual golf clubs. This article looks at how golf clubs can set about meeting their own specific internal training and development needs.

### Training and Development

The scope of training and development activities depends on club policies and strategies. Many commercial clubs carry out the minimum of staff training and development; instead preferring to invest in recruiting trained or professionally qualified staff.

However, the majority of golf clubs do have a positive policy on training and development.

The first priority is to establish the club's training and development needs. This will involve using job descriptions, employee appraisal records and other such data. Planning the training needed entails setting budgets and timetables, and deciding on objectives, content and training methods to be employed.

Implementation of plans is usually a joint affair between training specialists and their line and functional colleagues. It is important to evaluate results, so that changes to content and methods can be made, if necessary.

The benefits of systematic training include:

- Provision of pool of skilled manpower for golf club
- Improvement of existing skills
- Improvements in job performance, resulting in improvement in overall productivity
- Improved service to players
- Greater commitment of staff (ie, increased motivation)
- Increased value of individual employee's knowledge and skills
- Personal growth opportunities for employees
- Compliance with appropriate legislation such as Health and Safety



Greenkeepers must be trained to ensure their competence for Health and Safety and the achievement of golf course standards of maintenance and presentation.

### The Role of the Trainer

The role of training manager, or staff (often undertaken by the Course Manager or deputy) depends considerably on a club's style or culture. If training and development is actively encouraged, then trainers have an exciting and important role to play; the opposite is true for trainers at clubs wishing only to pay lip-service to training.

The training staff's own competence and professionalism is the other major factor in deciding what kind of role can be played. Where trainers are highly skilled, they normally enjoy a good reputation in the golf club; where they are not, reputation and effectiveness will be proportionately less.

In performing their direct training roles, training specialists are intimately concerned with (a) the identification or assessment of training needs, (b) the design, content and methods of training to be employed, and (c) the evaluation of training.

## Identifying Training Needs

A training need is any shortfall in terms of employee knowledge, understanding, skill and attitudes against what is required by the job, or the demands of golf club change. When managers conduct a comprehensive training needs' analysis in their golf club, they may seek the basic data for this process at three different levels, as follows:

**Golf club level:** Data about the golf club as a whole – e.g. its structure, services, manpower requirements, etc.

**Job level:** Data concerning jobs and activities – e.g. job descriptions, personnel specifications, on the one hand, and leadership and communication activities on the other.

**Individual level:** Data about individuals – e.g. appraisal records, personal training records, test results, notes made at counselling interviews and results of attitude surveys.



Training should be geared towards the needs of the individual and their job role

Picture Lely UK/Toro

Data obtained in this way enables training staff to draw a comprehensive picture of the areas of current, and potential, shortfall in requirements. The collection of information for a training needs' analysis is carried out by one or more of the following methods:

- Analysing recorded data relating to the golf club, jobs and to individuals
- Analysing questionnaires and attitude surveys issued to employees
- Interviewing managers and supervisors about their own or subordinates' training and development needs
- Observing job performance of individuals
- Monitoring results of group discussions relating to current work problems, etc
- Analysing self-recording diaries, etc, kept by managers, specialists and others.

Most popular of the above methods are those which utilise existing records, and those which involve interviewing managerial and supervisory staff.

One particularly important document contributing to the analysis of training needs is the appraisal form. This is the record of an employee's job performance, usually completed following an annual interview with their superior. Appraisal interviews, and the documentation which accompanies them, are the formal mechanisms by which golf clubs can assess or evaluate their human assets. In a well-managed golf club, this formal appraisal merely rounds off, in a relatively standardised way, the frequent informal appraisals carried out regularly by the club's managers as a normal part of their job.

## Planning Training

Once training needs have been identified, the Course Manager can begin the task of sorting training priorities, drawing up initial plans, costing them and submitting their draft plans for approval. Draft plans spell out the key areas for training, the numbers and categories of employees concerned, the nature of training proposed, preliminary time-tabling of training programmes and an estimate of likely costs.

Training programmes can be formal or informal, and can take place 'on-the-job' or 'off the-job'. The latter can mean in-company, or in-service, training or it can refer to externally-provided training. The table below illustrates some of the different methods of on- and off-the-job training, and indicates some of the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

Training plans are designed to encompass the following:

- a. What training is to be provided
- b. How it is to be provided
- c. When it is to be provided
- d. By whom it is to be provided
- e. Where it is to be provided
- f. At what cost it is to be provided

Resources put into training and development represent a considerable investment that needs evaluating to ensure it is being deployed wisely.



Often 'off-site' training is beneficial as staff are free of workplace distractions and can focus better on technical aspects

Picture Lely UK/Toro

## Evaluation of Training

Evaluation is part of the training control process. Methods used aim to obtain feedback about training results and to use this feedback to assess its value, to improve things where necessary. Training evaluation is firstly concerned with setting appropriate training standards. These may take the form of policies, objectives, adherence to external standards, and standards of trainer training and qualifications.

The next key point is the collection of relevant training feedback data. Finally, there is the impact on golf club goals to be considered – e.g. what has training done for profitability? This is a favourite question from top management, but is extremely difficult to evaluate because there are many other variables that impact on these goals.

For further education and training advice, contact your local specialist land-based college. Most offer advice, bespoke training and a range of education and training courses often leading to recognised qualifications.

### About the author

**Stewart Brown is Team Leader – Sportsturf and Mechanisation, Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston PR3 0RY**

**Tel: 01995 642305**

**Email: sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk**

**TORO**

**Count on it.**



# Hello Insignia<sup>®</sup> Goodbye fusarium!

Insignia is a highly advanced fungicide that is proven in trials and from greenkeepers' feedback to give excellent long term control against fusarium, especially when greens are at their highest risk of prolonged disease scarring.

**SPECIAL  
PROMOTION**



Order 5 x 250 grams of Insignia and receive not only excellent disease control this season, but also a **breathable waterproof jacket**  
(Only while stocks last)

- **PROVEN** - Long lasting control of many turf diseases
- **PROVEN** - Increase in sward colour and strength after application
- **PROVEN** - Excellent turf grass safety
- **PROVEN** - Rainfast in 1 hour

“ I first used Insignia in its first year on the market. It gave my greens protection from fusarium for over 6 weeks. I now apply Insignia at the beginning of every December which keeps my greens clear of fusarium well into the new year. ”

Lauchlan Millar  
Course manager - Hayling Golf Club

For more information on the benefits of Insignia and the above promotion please contact your local Vitax Amenity Distributor or contact: Vitax Amenity, Owen Street, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3DE Tel: 01530 510060 [www.vitaxamenity.co.uk](http://www.vitaxamenity.co.uk)

Insignia is a registered trademark of BASF. Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. Insignia contains Pyraclostrobin.



# SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

By *Melissa Jones*

**The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme, run in conjunction with BIGGA, has helped fund many aspiring greenkeepers through their studies, and aided them in fulfilling their ambitions of becoming fully qualified greenkeepers.**

"Ransomes Jacobsen has invested over £107,000 to support the Higher Education of BIGGA Members since 2002. This funding has been invaluable in ensuring that greenkeepers are the leaders in the sports turf industry," said Sam Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning & Development.

We at BIGGA cannot underestimate the importance of this financial support from Ransomes Jacobsen and thank the company for its continued investment in our members," added Sami.

Among those who benefited from the scheme this year was Gary Baxter. Gary has been employed by Mid Yorkshire Golf Club since November 2006 as Deputy Head Greenkeeper and will be using his money to study for an Online Sportsturf Foundation Degree with Myerscough College.

"The scholarship funding has made the degree affordable, it has helped to fund the books that are needed and the annual fees for the course," he said.

"Once the degree has been passed I hope there will be more opportunities in England or Europe to become a Head Greenkeeper," said Gary.

James Hutchinson, Assistant Greenkeeper at Fairhaven Golf Club, in Lytham, has been a BIGGA member for 17 years.

"During this time I have watched BIGGA grow to the professional Association it is today, offering advice and help to all its members," said James.

James started work at Fairhaven from 1988 until 2000 - when he left to become self-employed as a gardener of both landscape and maintenance. He found he did not enjoy this as much and missed greenkeeping, so returned to his post at Fairhaven in 2003 where he has been ever since.

"In 2007 I was given the title of Eco Coordinator and with the help of our greenkeeping team gained the award of Best Newcomer in the BIGGA Golf Environment competition, sponsored by

Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts and Syngenta - an achievement both myself and Fairhaven are proud of," enthused James.

In August of this year, James was accepted onto the Ransomes scholarship scheme,

"Without this my study may not have been possible and raising finance or funds could have been a problem - thank you BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for making this greenkeeper very happy."

The online Foundation Degree course James will be studying, covers modules such as: plant cell biology ecology conservation, business planning and the management of sports turf machinery - all of which will help him to achieve my personal aim of golf course management. The course will take place at Myerscough College, Preston, through online delivery, which will take three years to complete.

Students who had completed their studies received relevant awards for their hard work and study in late summer, thanks to this BIGGA scheme, superbly supported by Ransomes Jacobsen.

"We are now into our sixth year of sponsorship of BIGGA's Higher Education Scholarship programme and it goes from strength to strength. As a major manufacturer of turf care equipment we have a duty to support our industry sector. Anything

we can do that assists turf care professionals to improve their understanding of fine turf, while at the same time raising their profiles, can only benefit the industry as a whole. This year we have supported seven scholars, so I hope that James, Christopher, Stephen, Kerry, Steven, Gary and Lee have found their studies worthwhile and of benefit to them in their chosen careers," said David Withers, Ransomes Jacobsen's Managing Director.

BIGGA has been able to help its members follow courses of higher education by offering them a scholarship since 2002. Many greenkeepers have been able to attend N/SVQ Level 4, Higher National Certificate, Foundation Degree/HND, BSc Turf Management and MSc Sports Surface Technology courses thanks to continued sponsorship of the Scholarship Scheme by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The amount of the scholarship awarded depends on the course and the funding available. The applications are assessed on the candidate's number of years as a BIGGA member, their contribution to BIGGA and their previous training and development.

Anyone wishing to be considered for a scholarship fund should contact Sami Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning & Development on: [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)



Gary Baxter



James Hutchinson



# MAKING THE 'APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE' SIMPLE

*Scott MacCallum visited Scotts' Levington Research Station and learned just how much goes into producing the products you use on the golf course.*

**We all like things to be straight forward and get irritated when they become even a little bit complicated. For example, we love it when we switch on our computer and everything boots up perfectly, but when there is a little glitch and it doesn't work instantaneously we turn into Mr Angry, particularly if we are left hanging on a premium rate helpline.**

It's the same on the golf course. You want to put an application on the course as part of a turf management programme, or to counter a disease which may have developed, you want to know that everything is in place to enable you to do just that. You also want to know that the action you are taking is going to be effective.

The Scotts Company, a BIGGA Golden Key supporter, prides itself on using cutting-edge technology to produce effective products for use on the golf course, and making life as simple as possible for its customers.

"We only develop a product if we are sure it is going to improve on what is already available or if it's a new addition to the product portfolio, one that is going to make a real difference to the end-user" explained UK & Ireland Sales Manager, Nick Martin.

"Scotts is an extremely innovative company. We make a huge investment in research and development across the world and right here in the UK at Levington. The development of a new product can take many years, from the initial stage of identifying a need moving through the chemistry to testing and registration," he added.

Scotts was launched in 1868 when an American soldier, Orlando McLean Scott, left the Union Army and embarked on a new business venture with the mission statement, "Farmers need, and shall have, clean, weed-free fields". OM Scott made its name as one of the America's leading distributors of horse-drawn farm equipment before adding a farm seed business to its portfolio.

In 1907 Dwight Scott, his elder son, identified just how important the garden lawn would become in American culture and began offering grass seed by mail order and in 1916 the company received an order for 5,000 pounds of Kentucky Bluegrass from one of the first golf courses to open in the States – Brentwood-in-the-Pines, on Long Island, New York.

The UK business unit of Scotts Professional was formed in 1991 and is based in Ipswich. Its research station, unique to the UK, is located a few miles away in the village of Levington. It covers 7.1 hectares and boasts two 2,000 square

metre golf greens, one built to USGA guidelines and the other a traditional push up green, as well as other areas which replicate the various areas on a golf course.

"The greens aren't the best in Europe but they're not meant to be. We use them to test our plant protection products for example, to measure how effective they are at preventing and treating turf diseases. Our greens are managed and maintained in a way that enables us to test those products in natural conditions," explained Dave Steward, UK & Ireland Marketing Manager, as we strolled around the impressive facility.

"The greens are large because we split them into three and use them on a three year rotation to give the trial areas time to recover," he added.

There is also an area which has been overseeded with weeds – more expensive than high quality grass seed, would you believe – so prototype herbicides can be given a genuine challenge.

Among greenkeepers, Scotts is probably best known for its fertilisers such as Greenmaster and Sierrablen. The company is at the forefront of controlled-release fertiliser development and the key roles of its scientists is to produce coatings which react in certain ways to specific temperatures and soil conditions. The Levington soil is high quality which is great in normal circumstances,







but to ensure fertiliser trials are not distorted by a soil rich in nutrient the Trial team - there are 15 people who work at the Research Station - have stripped an area and replaced the soil with a sand mix which is virtually nutrient-free. A small garden shed to the side of one of the trial areas contains a £30,000 piece of reverse osmosis equipment which, aside from something you'd expect to find in a Tardis, lowers the electrical conductivity of the borehole water. That way, any improvements are purely down to what is being tested and not from any of the existing nutrients in the soil or water.

In addition to the turfed areas there are greenhouse areas and flowerbeds as the Station is used for the testing of Scotts' consumer and ornamental horticulture products as well as those for the turf market. Indeed, testing on plants like poinsettia and cyclamen can amplify any pros and cons of a test more than a test on a particular grass type, so there are cross over benefits to be had from trialling such an extensive portfolio at one site.

We visited the area being used to test the company's new seed range.

"We acquired the rights to the Tee to Green range and have also been developing our own varieties which originally came from Oregon. These contain salt and drought tolerant varieties. We're carrying out extensive testing in European and UK conditions and have been extremely pleased with what we have seen so far," said Nick, as he took another opportunity to study the test plots.

Scotts' product development always has the job of the end-user in mind. Greenkeepers who are under pressure to have their course looking perfect prior to a tournament and to maintain its health and appearance despite difficult winter weather conditions look to applications of iron as a useful tool. To highlight the benefits of the site, Trials Officer Roger Page, undertook a demonstration of Effect Iron, a product which was launched at Saltex the following week after four years in development. A two metre square patch

was sprayed with the promise that it would have noticeably greened up within three hours.

Not being able to resist a sneaky peak, we had a quick look 45 minutes later and there was a definite difference in the sprayed patch and the area around it. This was more pronounced when we did return after the full three hours.

Walking around the Station you can't fail to be blown away by the vivid colours and smells of some of the test plants but the experts are not distracted by this gardening explosion they are more concerned by objectively marking each plant to see how it measures up against its peers.

The investment in Levington is huge because product testing in the UK is tightly controlled by the PSD.

"All tests are carried out to the required regulatory standard so that products can be registered when required. Scotts regards compliance with legislation as a minimum requirement," explained Dave.

The trials, in addition to discovering whether Scotts is sitting on a new wonder product, also allow testing to see what application rates are optimum. Modern day pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and the like require much lower doses than their predecessors to produce the same, or significantly better results, because they used the latest, modern active ingredients in their formulation. That can only be beneficial for all.

All Scotts' development, production and operational processes are scrutinised to assess environmental impact and continually improve the company's environmental profile. Key to the structure of the process is ISO 14001, the international specification for environmental management systems which outlines the requirements for establishing an environmental policy. As well as its own corporate responsibility, Scotts is keen to promote environmental awareness among end-users and has been a key sponsor of BIGGA's Golf Environment Competition along with Ransomes Jacobsen, Syngenta and, as of this year, Golf Monthly.

"We see tremendous benefits in being involved. Looking at some of the past winners they are superb ambassadors for the game of golf in showing just how much expert conservation and environmental work goes on. There is an amazing amount of diverse wildlife on a golf course that you wouldn't get if the golf course wasn't there and managed in an environmentally-responsible manner," said Dave.

In addition to environmental impact, efficacy has been at the forefront of the minds of all leading chemical companies. With so much attention being drawn to the game of golf and European-wide restrictions on chemicals, much research goes on to provide the most effective products at the lowest application rates and often replacing older products which complied with older regulations but which have been overtaken by more advanced chemistry.

Keen to promote the responsible use of pesticides, Scotts has sponsored the Amenity Forum's 'Check Your Sprayer' campaign launched at Saltex.

"We promote integrated pest management solutions. Sometimes a chemical is not the best option. It is just one of the tools in the kit that should only be used when it's needed. That is the advice we give," explained Dave, who added that their entire sales force are BASIS and FACTS qualified to give advice.

"If you have a healthy plant it is much less susceptible to disease, so it doesn't need as much outside help."

Scotts has no doubt about the benefits of being a BIGGA Golden Key Supporter and contributing to the Learning and Development Fund.

"We've always supported education and training not just in the golf world but also in the sports and the growers side of our business. Just as our scientists are working hard to find solutions to everyday problems on the golf course, greenkeepers' learning must continue, so we're pleased to support BIGGA in its ongoing provision of training and education to the industry."





JOHN DEERE

# YORKSHIRE'S FINEST TAKE THE HONOURS

*Scott MacCallum was lucky enough to attend the John Deere Team Championship at Turnberry to share the experience with the finalists.*

FEATURE



**The 2008 John Deere Team Championship, at Turnberry Hotel, proved to be an occasion everyone lucky enough to be in attendance will remember for a very long time indeed.**

None more so than the members of the Rotherham Golf Club team, who emerged victorious on a day when the rain stayed away and the sun shone over the Ailsa course the very same course that will test the world's best at The Open Championship next July.

Rotherham, in the shape of Club Captain, Peter Smallman; Chairman of Green, Peter Daughtrey;

Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Andy Unwin, and John Deere dealer, Adrian Holroyde, of Bob Wild Grass Machinery, of Hedben Bridge, topped the leaderboard and took away the John Deere Team Championship Crystal trophy, to keep for the length of their reign, while each member of the team was presented with a pewter replica of the Open Claret jug. They also received a voucher for a round on the Ailsa's sister course – the Kintyre.

"I've never been treated so well at a golf event as we were at Turnberry and congratulations have to go to John Deere for the organisation. The tournament, the course and the hotel, everything

was just spot on. I can't think I've ever done anything in golf that betters it," said Peter Smallman.

"We knew we'd made a good score, but we didn't know it would be good enough to win the tournament. We managed an eagle at one par-5, which was probably a clincher, but we didn't know we'd won until just before the announcement was made at the presentations. It came as quite a shock to hear Rotherham's name read out," added the delighted Captain.

Rotherham's nett score of 54, 15 under par, in the modified Texas Scramble, was just one better than Kennay Golf Club, of Aberdeenshire.







Third place went to Donaghadee, from County Down – making them the top placed team from Ireland, on countback, after tying on 56 points with Bandon Golf Club, from County Cork.

For many proceedings had begun the previous day with a number of the 24 official, and five guest, teams having a practice round over the course – again the weather defied the forecasts and meant the waterproofs, so carefully packed for the event, stayed folded up in the golf bags and people were actually applying sun cream!

The opportunity to play such an iconic golf club, not long before it closed in preparation for The Open, ensured that everyone who attended felt like a winner just from teeing up and the buzz at the dinner confirmed that everyone left the course with their own personal memories and stories to tell... and retell!

I was lucky enough to play as part of the Media team superbly captained by Henry Bredin, of John Deere. The golf we produced left us in danger of losing our Olympic Funding and it would be fair to say that it was much quicker to check our scores from the bottom up on the leaderboard rather

than the top down but all four of us who played took something from the visit.

Me? Since you asked. It was the 6-iron from the hanging lie on the edge of a fairway bunker to four feet on the 18th hole during Wednesday's practice round in the company of Rob Surgey, of Burhill Golf and Leisure and Joedy Ibbotson, of John Deere. That birdie three will be remembered long after Tiger Woods is more than satisfied to make par next summer to clinch his fourth Open.

Others who deserve mentions in dispatch were David Hart, of John Deere, who single-handedly eagled the 17th for his team with a crunching drive, a superb fairway wood and deadly putt while his colleagues could only watch in admiration, and his colleague Joedy, who followed up a monumental 300 yard plus drive on the 10th during the practice round with the Nearest the Pin on the 11th during the event itself. All from a 22 handicap would you believe!

But the man who can still take on all-comers was George Brown himself, who played some great golf to take the lion's share of the money on the practice day and was still firing on all cylinders

when it counted. He also had the audience in stitches during the post dinner presentation with a well chosen selection from his back catalogue of hilarious anecdotes.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of a cheque for £7,380 by John Deere UK Managing Director Richard Johnson to BIGGA Chairman, Kenny Mackay. The figure represented £25 for each team who had entered the competition with the money going to subsidise BIGGA Learning and Development initiatives.

The evening had begun with a Nearest the Pin Challenge on the Putting green outside the hotel with one attempt each at a 100 foot, curling downhill. It was won by Shaun Sturrock, Course Manager at Betchworth Park GC, who showed great touch to get within 18 inches.

The evening ended for a few guests at least in Turnberry's legendary Whisky Bar, where the knowledgeable barman spent as much time educating his willing pupils as he did pouring. The knowledge gleaned during the early hours session surely justified the eye watering figures that appeared on so many bills later that same morning.



Richard Johnson presents Kenny Mackay with the cheque for £7,380, with the money going to subsidise BIGGA Learning and Development initiatives



# Tuesday Night is Fun Night

**Harrogate Week has a new event for 2009**, which will ensure that the evening of **Tuesday, January 20**, is one you will remember for a very long time indeed.

The Social Evening, in the Majestic Hotel, will have something for everyone - whether member or not.

Those who like a little flutter can take to the casino tables and, with chips provided by BIGGA and a prize for the person who gathers the most by the end of the evening, you won't be facing a January night in Harrogate minus your shirt!

For the more agile, there is a Bucking Rudolph - a cuddlier version of a Bucking Bull - and a Ski Machine, while there will be an array of arcade style games, some of which you won't have played since your childhood. Remember Pacman and Space Invaders? Also included are a Saloon Bar ShootOut, a Golf Challenge, Twin Driver Sega Rally, one armed bandits, Pinball machines, table football, pool table and many, many other attractions.



Oh, and if you're looking for someone to impress, there will be a couple of Las Vegas-style Showgirls wandering through the rooms. That'll make you try that little bit harder on Bucking Rudolph!

Look out for more news, including ticket prices and available food, on this great new event in forthcoming Biggazines, Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA and Harrogate Week websites. But keep the date clear in your Harrogate Week diary.

**STOP PRESS...BIGGA has negotiated a special deal with Black Sheep brewery for its Riggwelter beer to be sold at £2 per pint!**







# GOLF ON A HUGE SCALE

*Scott MacCallum visits Woburn where new Course Manager John Clarke has a big job on his hands.*

**Pay a visit to Woburn Golf Club in Bedfordshire and you will immediately be struck by the sheer scale of the operation. As one of the country's leading golf venues, it is centrally located within a unique historical setting of the Woburn Estate; home to the Dukes of Bedford for over 300 years.**

For a start there are three superb championship courses, each with their own individual characteristics. The Duke's, the Duchess' and the Marquess' have hosted prestigious European Tour, Seniors' and Ladies tournaments, as well as an array of top amateur events.

Woburn has witnessed some great golfing moments. Among those who have triumphed at

Woburn are some of the greatest names in golf:- Graham Marsh, Greg Norman, Lee Trevino, Sandy Lyle, Nick Faldo, Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, Justin Rose, Helen Alfredsson, Patty Sheehan, Liselotte Neumann, Catrin Nilsmark, Laura Davies and Karrie Webb who all have their name on the honours board. In addition, Ryder Cup hero, Ian Poulter, is the Club's Touring Professional.

It's a roll call that would be the envy of many and is all the more remarkable when you consider that the first of the courses, the Duke's, did not open until 1976 and the Marquess' in 2000. The courses are all stunningly beautiful and Woburn Assistant, Michael Cunningham, made the most of that when he won the BIGGA Golf Photography Competition with an excellent picture of the Duke's course last year.

Recently appointed Course Manager John Clarke, joined Woburn in March and was well aware of the scale of task he was taking on. However, it was the annual staff verses members match which really brought home the size of the Woburn Golf Club operation.

"I'd been used to these matches at previous clubs being eight or even twelve on each team, but at Woburn it's 44 a side, course closure with a shotgun start. It's one of the biggest matches of the year," said John, as we sat in Woburn's Morning Room, an excellent restaurant just beside the Club Reception.

The size of the greenkeeping operation would send shivers down the spine of many. John has 38 people who report to him, including Course Attendants, Gardeners, Irrigation Technicians,





Mechanics and three full teams each led by a Head Greenkeeper, and Deputy. Together they look after nearly 700 acres of prime Bedfordshire estate.

“I have maintenance bases, two miles apart and work between the two,” John explained.

“However learning the location of holes proved more difficult,” he joked.

‘If someone said they’d meet me on the 4th of the Duchess’, I’d really have to think about the best way to get there. I felt like a homing pigeon, getting around by following landmarks!’

John learned he’d got the Woburn job just around the time of the Harrogate Week earlier this year and his feet have barely touched the floor since he started work. He took the precaution of warning his friends and family before he started

that they wouldn’t be seeing much of him until winter and brings considerable expertise to Woburn. After attending Myerscough College, he attended Ohio State University and worked as an intern at Winged Foot Golf Club.

“I latterly spent nine years at Marriott Hanbury Manor, the last four as Golf & Estate Manager, and I also looked after the Director of Golf activity for six months so the role at Woburn was a fabulous opportunity,” said John.

“I needed a multiple course venue for my next step and the logistical challenges that this brings, both elements that I really enjoy about the job.”

John took time to chat with each of the Head Greenkeepers and walk their course with them before he took over officially, so had an

opportunity to discuss working practices and agree on maintenance approach and greenkeeping philosophies.

Top of that list was a vigorous aeration programme.

“Almost as soon as I started we scheduled two days of closure on each course in August for aeration,” said John.

“We are well aware of the needs of the business and the August aeration programme was thought through and planned with military precision. However, the greenkeeping team worked hard to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum and the processes are seen as a positive situation!

“In August, with the school holidays, there isn’t the same level of member rounds or corporate





business and we've got high soil temperatures and great recovery rates. We closed the Marquess' for two days and had total recovery within five days, while members could play the Duke's or the Duchess," continued John.

"When they came back to the Marquess' the following Monday the work was barely apparent, but we'd cored thousands of holes and dressed over 60 tonnes of sand into the greens. We did the same with the other two courses and the hard work has certainly paid off," he added.

"With the right levels of communication we have provided our members with the information necessary to understand our operations and gain an expectation level we can meet and exceed," John explained.

"This means we can make August aeration an annual event, scheduled in the members' fixture list. The courses will benefit greatly and the fact that there are three courses means golfer disruption is kept to a minimum," revealed John, who also added that the work had been done while August experienced six inches of rain!

Another of John's early decisions was to call in agronomist, Robert Laycock who brought in some genuine agronomic back-up.

"He'd been at Woburn about 15 years before and had some very good baseline data from then. We agreed some issues that needed to be tackled quickly, including the aeration and hollow coring and he produced a detailed report including species mix, rooting depths etc which was extremely

useful when discussing maintenance needs with the Golf Club Management."

John has always been extremely strong on communication and his team are always on hand to answer questions.

"We provide regular updates through the club newsletter and we have large plasma screens in the golf shop and reception on which we detail the work we are doing on that particular day together with the reasons why.

We also talk with the membership at every opportunity while we brief Starters, Marshals, Receptionists and everyone in the Pro Shop via e-mail every morning to ensure that we get accurate information out to the members," said John.





Some of the Greenkeeping Team



Course Manager, John Clarke

The Travis Perkins plc Senior Masters was held at the Duke's Course in August. While each of the courses has its own dedicated team, the Duke's had additional resources from the other courses from two weeks before the tournament, which was won by Gordon J Brand.

"We had a team of 28 preparing the Duke's and then in the afternoon they'd go off and prepare their own courses. It was a huge logistical operation but a real buzz for the team," said John, who gets out and involved wherever possible – always respecting the need to be even handed with his time over the three courses.

John is currently busy planning for the year ahead with a focus on a rolling machinery replacement programme. "Within the first three

or four weeks we were reforecasting our spend for the year and producing a 10 year rolling machinery replacement programme. It's only a forecast, but there are certain vehicles which we've used more than expected and have also performed better than expected so with that information to hand I can change our plans."

"We have a huge stock and lots of machines which do one job and we are in the process of trying to reduce the number of machines we carry on our asset register and replace them with machines which will do a variety of jobs.

This includes a rough mower which will also collect leaves for example or rather than have a sweeper, a hoover and a rough mower use something which will cover more than one base."

John is keen to develop the skills and expertise of his Head Greenkeepers and is already exposing them to budgeting. "I've got very good Head Greenkeepers and Deputies on each course and I want to ensure they have technical back-up and business knowledge to succeed."

Gary Leadbetter runs the Marquess' Course; Simon Trotter, the Duke's, and Steve Tompkins the Duchess' but John has been impressed by the entire staff who have shown a desire for hard work and to learn during his six months with the club. It is this hard work with a mix of innovation and sound traditional greenkeeping that John is positive will be key in contributing to the future of Woburn golf club.





Organised  
by BIGGA

# Harrogate Week 2009

*For the Turf Management  
and Groundscare Professional*

- The Greatest Choice of Groundscare Products and Services
- Careers Clinic with Free Advice from the Professionals
- Exhibitors Covering the Whole Industry
- Comprehensive Education Programme
- Invaluable Networking Opportunities
- Advice from Industry Experts
- New Technology on Display

Continue  
to learn

ClubHouse

BTME

20-22  
January  
2009

FREE  
Park  
& Ride



Harrogate  
week

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



# HAND ARM VIBRATION (HAVS) RAISING AWARENESS FOR GREENKEEPERS

By Herbert Barker

Over the next few months Greenkeeper International will be working in conjunction with vibration testing services Fivesquared to discuss the implications of Hand Arm Vibration (HAVS), Whole Body Vibration (WBV) and Noise.

We start the series this month with Hand Arm Vibration and the measures you can put in place to try to prevent vibration white finger.

## OVERVIEW

Hand Arm Vibration is a subject that has become 'high-profile' in recent years since the introduction of specific legislation in 2005 to control and manage vibration in the workplace.

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)' and this details the responsibilities and obligations of employers and employees to monitor and control the effects of vibration in the workplace.

## HAND ARM VIBRATION IN GOLF CLUBS

Research shows that a relatively small percentage of Golf Clubs have implemented systems for the management of vibration and taken the subject seriously for their greenkeeping staff, while others know of the legislation but have done little, sometimes due to budget constraints. Some clubs however, have decided that Hand Arm Vibration doesn't affect them and have 'shelved' any action to help protect their greenkeeping staff.

Claims have been issued and won against golf clubs for failing to protect their employees from VWF (Vibration white finger). With claims averaging £10 - £20,000 across all industries, can the greenkeeping sector afford to ignore the legislation any longer.

This article is designed to give a brief overview of the problems of HAVS and the solutions.

## WHAT IS IT?

HAVS is a widespread recognized industrial disease affecting tens of thousands of workers. It is a disorder which affects the blood vessels, nerves, muscles, and joints, of the hand, wrist, and arm. It's best known effect is vibration-induced 'white finger' (VWF)

It can be caused through the use of vibrating hand held power tools for long periods, (hours, days, weeks, or years.)

Tools and processes likely to be hazardous are numerous and include tools such as:

- Hedge Trimmers • Chain saws • Mowers
- Blowers • Strimmers
- Hammer Drills • Pistol Drills • Jigsaws
- Hand-held (or hand fed) circular saws
- Concrete Breakers • Chipping Hammers
- Vibrating Pokers
- Pedestal & Hand-held Grinders
- Rotary burring tools
- Vibratory Compactors • Scabblers
- Jigger Picks

This list is not comprehensive and where people regularly work with tools or processes such as these for prolonged periods, there is likely to be a risk of injury. It is safest to regard regular prolonged use of any high vibration tool or machine as suspect.

## HOW DO I RECOGNISE IT?

Exposure to Hand Arm Vibration can result in various symptoms collectively known as Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome, and more commonly known as 'Vibration White Finger'. The condition can affect nerves, joints, muscles, blood vessels, and connective tissues of the hand and forearm. The

symptoms may appear separately or simultaneously and usually start to occur in cold weather.

### Tingling 'Whiteness' Or Numbness In The Fingers. (Blood Vessels And Nerves)

This may not be noticeable at the end of a working day, and in mild cases may affect only the tips of the fingers. As the condition worsens, the whole finger down to the knuckles may become white. Feeling may also be lost.

Any vibrating tool, or process, which causes tingling or numbness after 5 to 10 minutes of continuous use is suspect.

### Fingers Change Colour (Blood Vessels)

With continued exposure the person may suffer periodic attacks where the fingers change colour when exposed to cold. Initially the fingers rapidly become pale and feeling is lost. This phase is followed by an intense red flush (sometimes preceded by a dusky bluish phase) signaling the return of blood circulation to the fingers and is usually accompanied by uncomfortable throbbing or pain.

### Loss Of Manual Dexterity (Nerves & Muscles)

In more severe forms; attacks may occur frequently in cold weather, not only at work, but during leisure activities, such as gardening, car washing or even watching outdoor sports; and may last up to an hour causing considerable pain and loss of manual dexterity and reduced grip strength.

### Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (Muscles And Nerves)

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome affects the nerves and muscles of the wrist and hand and can be due to conditional twisting of the wrist. It can

The Kubota logo is displayed in white on an orange rectangular background. The logo consists of the word "Kubota" in a stylized, rounded font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right.

# GL40 Series

*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.

*Visit your local dealership to arrange a test drive.*

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



**Tel: 0800 023 1111**  
**ROI Tel: 1 800 848 000**

**Email: [sales@kubota.co.uk](mailto:sales@kubota.co.uk)**

Kubota (U.K.) Limited, Dormer Road,  
Thame, Oxfordshire. OX9 3UN

be caused by Hand-Arm Vibration, or through other causes.

As the condition worsens, attacks can occur even in warm surroundings and may affect the persons sleeping habits. Pain and stiffness in the hands and joints of the wrists, elbows and shoulder can occur.

HAVS is incurable, but can be prevented or mitigated through management of the problem.

## WHO IS AT RISK?

Any person using hand held power tools on a regular basis whether a chainsaw, mower, strimmer, or blower. The associated risks remain the same.

Those whose jobs require regular frequent use of vibrating tools and equipment are most at risk. These occur in a wide range of industries, including:

- Road and railway construction/maintenance
- Concrete Products
- Construction
- Forestry/Gardening/Greenkeeping
- Foundries
- Light and heavy engineering
- Mining and quarrying
- Metal working
- Stone masonry
- Wood working
- Public services
- Public utilities

## SO, WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

The 'Control of Vibration at Work Regulations (2005)' puts an obligation on both employers and employees to assess, control and manage vibration in the workplace.

With increasing legislation concerning vibration exposure, many companies are challenged to determine which information is correct and current. This can be somewhat confusing. To successfully protect your workforce from the effects of HAVS it is vital that employers have an effective Hand Arm Vibration Management System to - Assess, Measure, Monitor, Control, and Manage any associated HAVS risks.

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

### 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 HAVS.

"Do you suffer from tingling, blanching or numbness in the fingers?"

The responses to the questionnaire will

determine the next stage which is Health Surveillance.

Potential employees should also be questioned on previous employment to ascertain previous work which may have entailed vibration from hand held power tools, and hobbies which may involve high vibration – e.g. motorcycling or DIY.

### Health Surveillance

Employers are obliged to provide Health Surveillance for any of their workforce using hand held vibrating equipment to prevent symptoms appearing or existing symptoms from becoming worse. HAVS is incurable and if no precautions are taken then symptoms will usually get worse with time.

Specialist health surveillance may be necessary for employees with symptoms, so they can be graded, on the 'Stockholm Workshop' grade, which gives an indication of the severity of nerve or vascular damage.

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

### Vibration Levels of Equipment

Sources from which employers can obtain vibration data for power tools are –

- Manufacturer's Literature
- Equipment Suppliers
- 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 tools or equipment operating under your working conditions.

Having obtained vibration levels under working conditions, employers should determine the highest vibration tools and attempt to re-design the job or process to eliminate the use of hand held power tools in these processes. This may not always be possible, but should be the long term objective.

The legislation set lower values for vibration in 2005.

### Exposure Action Value (EAV) – 2.5m/s<sup>2</sup> (metres per second squared).

Processes, tools, or equipment having vibration at this level or above must have a risk assessment; the workforce must have information or training to recognise the symptoms of HAVS; and PPE issued to mitigate the effects of vibration and cold.

Exposure Limit Value (ELV) – 5m/s<sup>2</sup> (metres per second squared).

For tools 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, or purchase new vibration

reduced equipment.

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 tool or equipment.

### Monitor, Control and Manage

If an operator uses one tool or piece of equipment per day, then monitoring and control of vibration levels becomes relatively simple. The problem occurs when operators use several tools 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 tool or equipment is 'tagged' with this information.

The operator simply has to note the number of points on the tag, and multiply by the time used (hands on – power on) to determine how many points have been used on each separate use of tools or equipment.

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 – Local authorities, public utility companies, large construction companies, and several golf greenkeeping departments.

Fivesquared is a vibration testing services company

[www.5sqd.co.uk](http://www.5sqd.co.uk)

0800 848 8052

Herbert Barker is Technical Manager







1. Marriott Meon Valley GC – Looking West, by Dean McMenemy

# PICTURE THIS

*Some stunning photographs caught the eye in the latest Photographic Competition*

**The third BIGGA Photographic Competition produced a record entry and some of the finest golf course pictures would you find anywhere.**

Rising to the top however was Dean McMenemy, of Marriott Meon Valley Hotel, who entered a body of work which could have produced several overall winners. However it was his simply stunning, Looking West, picture that stole the show with the low sun lighting up the trees surrounding a frosted green.

“The picture stood out as an absolutely outstanding piece of golf course photography,” said Alan Birch, judge and the man whose inspiration the competition was over three years ago.

“A very unusual picture but the photographer has made fantastic use of the late sunshine on the tree tops. A cracking picture,” said fellow judge and professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth.

Matthew Harris, a man who has photographed the world’s best golfers on the best courses of the world, completed the judging panel and was equally impressed by the winning entry.

“It is a stunning picture made by the way the sun lights up the trees. It’s a very deserving winner.”

Runner-up was a picture which combines great photography with great greenkeeping and was taken by Gareth Roberts, Course Manager of Hankley Common Golf Club.

The picture shows a green being cleared of dew early one morning and encapsulates exactly why so many people fall in love with a greenkeepers’ life.

Third place went to Liam Bergin, with his study of a tree on Papillion, a Colin Montgomerie-designed course in Turkey.

Nine other pictures from those submitted have been selected to make up the 2009 BIGGA

calendar. They are: Marriott Forest of Arden H&GC by Robert Rowson;

Worplesden GC, by Paul Robinson; Teeside GC by Dave Moss; Torquay GC, by Jason Brooks; Meon Valley by Dean McMenemy; Trentham Park GC by Leigh Swann; Remedy Oak GC by Lee Collier; South Essex GC by Ian Denny, and Manor House by Castle Coombe by Gian Povey.

Dean wins an Eric Hepworth print of his choice while Marriott Meon Valley Hotel will also be featured in Greenkeeper International next year. Gareth and Liam also win a smaller Hepworth print of their choice.

Thank you to everyone who entered this year’s competition. The overall standard was incredibly high and BIGGA could easily have produced a 24 month calendar based on the number of high quality pictures entered.



2. Hankley Common GC – Dewying Green, by Gareth Roberts



3. Papillion, Montgomerie (Turkey), by Liam Bergin





Marriott Forest of Arden H&GC by Robert Rowson



Manor House by Castle Coombe by Gian Povey



Remedy Oak GC by Lee Collier



Teeside GC by Dave Moss



Trentham Park GC by Leigh Swann



Worplesdon GC, by Paul Robinson





Meon Valley by Dean McMenemy



Torquay GC, by Jason Brooks



South Essex GC by Ian Denny



# Flexible Finance

...on all Turf Care Machinery\*



Limited time only finance offers  
available until 31 December 2008.

**Pay nothing for an entire  
year**

OR

**Spread the payments over  
2 years, interest free.**

**THE CHOICE IS YOURS!**  
(other finance offers available on request)

These limited time only special rate finance offers can be accessed through your local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer.

Find your nearest dealer location – telephone 01473 270000 or visit [www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)

\* 1. Finance figures quoted are indicative only and subject to fluctuations in UK money costs, however once funds are drawn down then payments are fixed throughout the term of the agreement. 2. The finance figures do not constitute an offer to provide finance which is subject to our normal credit underwriting criteria. 3. The finance packages are available to UK business users only. 4. VAT is payable on inception of the agreement on all purchase and loan agreements, including payment holiday promotions. 5. VAT is payable on rentals throughout the term of the agreement for hire or lease agreements. 6. Finance terms are available up to a maximum of 60 months, promoted terms and any alternative profiles, which are available on request from your Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, are applicable to a maximum of 75% of the RRP, or the balance financed - whichever is the lower - of the equipment subject to the promotion. 7. Written quotations are available on request. 8. Ransomes Jacobsen Finance is a trading style of ING Lease (UK) Ltd, 60 High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1NY. 9. Offer ends 31.12.2008. 10. Excludes E-Z-GO and ex-demonstration models.



Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich IP3 9TT

Tel: +44 (0)1473 270000 Fax: +44 (0)1473 276300

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

CODE: TG/10/08/FMS

**RANSOMES  
JACOBSEN**  
A Textron Company

**Driving Environmental Performance**

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd. is the first grounds care equipment manufacturer accredited to all three quality standards ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

# MOWING DIFFICULT AREAS

*When all mowing is difficult, traction is king, writes James de Havilland*

**No point reminding ourselves that we have enjoyed a wet summer. How much impact upon mowing this will have had at any given course will depend upon many factors, but one thing is clear. If a mower breaks traction on sodden turf, the damage caused goes beyond a loss in productivity.**

When specifying any new ride-on mower, be it for the greens, fairways or roughs, one area of the spec sheet it is easy to gloss over is the traction system. Those courses with a few modest undulations will no doubt opt for a machine with just 2WD, the need for an extra driven wheel or wheels seldom needing to be considered.

Add an excess of water to a course with even modest inclines, however, and it can soon show up any problems in a mower's traction department. In a 'typical' season, the odd bit of modest wheel slippage in a wet period will not show up. It is where a mower slips repeatedly over the same areas, typically because these parts of the course have simply not had a chance to dry out, that problems can arise.

A simple way around this is to alter mowing patterns. This can help reduce repeat wheelings.

This past summer has seen even this ruse run into problems. Some parts of a course will have not had any chance to dry at all, with an increased chance of more severe wheel slip regardless of mowing patterns. Close mown semi-roughs over tough terrain are also likely to be an area for concern. Even greens blessed with good drainage have posed their own sets of problems.

## GOOD TRACTION HELPS

What can help reduce problems is good traction. Even in dry conditions, a mower that controls wheelslip will have its benefits. So it can be worth going for the 'all-wheel' drive version of a mower, even on a course with just the odd modest slope to contend with.

Before moving on, some courses have in the past found the traction of 'all-wheel drive' models to be somewhat disappointing. Traction motors on every wheel does not necessarily mean traction is passed equally to each of those wheels.

In the past, a 4WD version of any given mower may well have not necessarily been a 'true' 4WD. In really simple terms, the available power would not be diverted to a wheel that has traction. The

result could be a 4WD mower actually delivering 3WD traction.

The key issue is to find out how traction is managed. Toro, Ransomes-Jacobsen and John Deere all have systems that ensure power is directed to the wheels that can benefit from it most. How the systems do this will vary depending upon models, but the aim will be the same; make sure the mower can keep going without turf damaging wheelspin.

The problem is that you do not get a mower with the extra traction you may have wanted this season for nothing. Further, this past summer has been a freak year. Why invest in new kit to cope with a problem that may not raise its head within the life cycle of the kit you may be investing in?

There is no easy answer to this, but one point is clear. If you have to mow when the going gets tough, a mower that offers the best traction will not only be better able to cope up slippery slopes but also minimise the damage caused by wheelslip.



Stocksbridge Golf Club at Deepcar in Sheffield is situated on tough, hilly terrain; so good mower traction has long been a key concern for Head Greenkeeper Jamie Hobson. "You wouldn't naturally think that a ride-on greens mower would need good grip, but getting from hole-to-hole on this course can be quite challenging. We have a three-wheel drive Jacobsen G-Plex III, which gives us the traction we require and the confidence to get around the course safely," he said.





The Jacobsen HR5111 batwing rotary mower, pictured at work at the Garnant Park Golf Club in the Brecon Beacons National Park, is typical of the current generation of mowers that are designed to match high performance mowing on the flat with the ability to tackle steep terrain. "Traction is excellent," said Golf Facilities Manager Kerry Jones. "The mower and it will climb anywhere."



Toro traction management systems include its parallel hydraulic system. This delivers full-time, bi-directional 4WD, with parallel hydraulic flow between front and rear wheels. The system is designed to deliver more than just a traction boost in difficult conditions. During a turn, the wheels are also claimed to be less liable to scuff. As with all traction systems, it is how they can help protect the turf in difficult conditions that is as important to the ability to scale slippery inclines.





John Deere GRIP all-wheel drive traction is available on the recently released 7400 and 8800 TerrainCut rotary mowers and the 7000 and 8000 Series PrecisionCut range of fairway mowers. The GRIP system reduces wheel slip by diverting oil flow from the front wheel to the opposite rear wheel. By allowing the flow to cross over to the opposite rear wheel, the system maintains traction not only while climbing straight up hills, but also on sidehills as well. The system is permanently engaged when driving forward with the PrecisionCut Fairway Mowers. This means the operator does not have to deselect 4WD, the GRIP system taking care of all aspects of traction.



# GROWING EXPECTATIONS

From Arboriculture to Weed Control  
and everything inbetween

IOG Scotsturf is the only place where you can source all of your grounds care requirements under one roof.

Meet over 100 leading suppliers from the industry who between them are offering the A-Z of groundscare, leisure and amenity supplies.

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT

- Over 100 quality exhibitors
- Live demonstrations
- New product launches
- Comprehensive seminar programme
- Live awards and presentations

## SHOW DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday 5th November

9.00am - 4.30pm

Thursday 6th November

9.00am - 4.00pm



**IOG**

**SCOTSTURF**

ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE, INGLISTON, EDINBURGH  
IOG SCOTSTURF 5 -6 NOV 2008

Co-located with



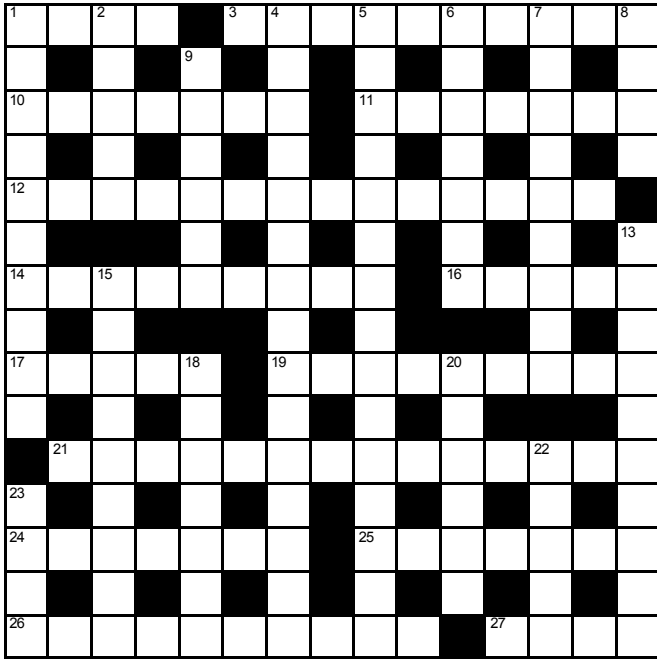
For full details and to register online visit  
[www.iogscotsturf.com](http://www.iogscotsturf.com)



# 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 Make way for pedestrians? (4)
- 3 Time's starting point? (3,4,3)
- 10 Belgian city on the river Scheldt (7)
- 11 Not equipped with weapons (7)
- 12 Futile pursuit of something unattainable (4-5,5)
- 14 In the early days of rail transport, a term for a locomotive (4,5)
- 16 Reject something with contempt (5)
- 17 Blows hard and noisily (5)
- 19 Person or situation which is potentially explosive (6-3)
- 21 Gambling game of Spanish origin (5-4,5)
- 24 Document which confers e.g. university degree (7)
- 25 Slender tower with balconies (7)
- 26 Mostly poisonous plant of the Solanum genus (10)
- 27 Dull noise of impact (4)

### Down

- 1 Literary figure such as Brendan Behan, Bertolt Brecht etc. (10)
- 2 Essential (5)
- 4 Ethical affirmation of the medical profession (11,4)
- 5 ITV's home camcorder compilation programme (5,4,6)
- 6 Indigenous Americans resettled in Oklahoma (7)
- 7 Something that disappoints after high expectations (4,5)
- 8 Put things in order (4)
- 9 Distance from start to finish (6)
- 13 Out of the blue (10)
- 15 Of clothing, made in standard size (3-3,3)
- 18 Make certain, ensure (3,2,2)
- 20 Expensive white fur obtained from type of weasel (6)
- 22 Compass point at 0 or 360 degrees (5)
- 23 Supreme god of Norse mythology (4)

## QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. Which country did cricketer Ian Redpath play for?
2. Who scored England's second goal in the 1966 World Cup Final?
3. In which sport do you have to stand behind the 'oche'?
4. In which sport would you compete for the Davis Cup?
5. American Football is played to which set of rules?
6. Venus Williams beat which player to win the Wimbledon singles title in 2007?
7. Which Briton won his first ever Grand Prix in Hungary in 2006?
8. Which jockey rode Comply or Die to Grand National success this year?
9. Which England player scored his maiden Test fifty on his home ground against New Zealand in 2008?

## 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.

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

## SUDOKU

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

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





# ARTIFICIAL TEES WINNING PLAUDITS ACROSS ESSEX

**Maintaining tees and driving practice areas all year round to a high standard is an increasing problem faced by greenkeepers and course managers up and down the country. This problem is now being tackled head on by a number of golf clubs across Essex who have decided on a synthetic solution to their problem. Chris Bassett recently visited three golf clubs in Essex to find out how this problem is being solved.**

Members and visitors to Rochford Hundred, Ballards Gore and Cannons Brook golf courses in Essex, are now benefiting from a major upgrading of their winter tees following the installation of over 40 tees, all supplied by Kent firm Active Leisure Contracts.

The first course in the region to have Active Leisure's Tee Turf installed some four years ago was Rochford Hundred Golf Club. Rochford Hundred is definitely a unique club in more than one way. The term 'hundred' was an area to raise 100 men in case of strife, but this is not the complete definition. In King Edgar's reign in 973AD, areas of land were divided into 'hundreds' consisting of several villages controlled by 100 men.

In 1896 the club moved from Southchurch to the meadows of Rochford Hall. In 1924 James Braid and J.H.Taylor, together with the renowned golf course architect Frederick Hawtree were invited to redesign the course. Additional land was then obtained raising the acreage to 98 and the end result is largely the course that is played on today – 6,300 yards from the white tee's compared with the previous 4,010 yards.

The decision to have artificial tees installed came from Course Manager, David Rand, who was intrigued by the idea of having a low maintenance tee option during the winter allowing players to play all year round.

"We've learnt as we've gone along" commented

David, "We've had no problems with the flat tees but the raised tees have sunk a little as they have been built with railway sleepers surrounding the area, but that was nothing to do with the mat itself, just how we built the platform."

David continued: "As long as you maintain them – fill them up with infill from time to time, ensure that they are regularly brushed and treat the occasional weed, then they are absolutely fine."

David currently has eight artificial tees and if he could, would have a full 18 installed. "I'm not quite sure on the actual life span of the tees, but they seem absolutely fine after four years – in fact they just get better the longer they've been here! If we could, I'd like to have all 18 holes with the artificial tee. It would certainly lighten the load on our natural tees during the winter and help keep all holes open during the wetter months."

It was in fact the success of this course that led to the nearby Ballards Gore club installing the same system. Ballards Gore Golf Club is an 18 hole course situated two miles from Rochford and is set in 100 acres of Essex countryside. Being one of the longest courses in Essex, 6974 yards with a par of 73, the course offers a truly impressionable and challenging game of golf. The club, now 18 years old, was recently bought by Julian Innell and a huge investment made in upgrading all aspects of the course.

One major problem faced by the club is that the course was built on a clay soil so drainage has always been poor during the wetter months making it difficult to keep tees open all year round. "We wanted to give golfers as good a surface as they could possibly play off throughout the year – both in the dry summer months and in the wet winter months" commented Iain Evans, the Club Secretary.

The decision was made to install artificial tees for all 18 holes giving full coverage on the course

and keeping members playing all year round. The first artificial tee was installed in January 2007, with the completion of installations in October the same year. Members then started playing off them from November 2007 in their entirety once they had had some time to 'settle in'.

"We wanted to give golfers the opportunity to play all year round which wasn't possible with natural tees" continued Iain, "we looked at the different products available, but it wasn't until we spoke to some local clubs who had already installed the TeeTurf some time ago and then invited us to their club to look at how their tees were performing that we decided that TeeTurf was the right option for us. We then contacted ALC who were local to us and very informative."

General feedback from both the greenkeepers and players has been very positive. The greenkeepers time is now concentrated on making sure that the rest of the course is in tip-top condition as no high maintenance of the tees is needed. The only maintenance needed is to make sure that infill levels of sand and rubber crumb are kept topped-up and to ensure that no weeds are growing within the surface. "The feedback that we've received back from our members is that the new tees are great. They accept tee pegs and also allow balls to be played directly off the surface. The mat actually reacts very similar to that of a natural tee if you take a divot. However, members have said that they prefer playing on them once they have been 'worn in' slightly which only takes a little time for the fibres to flatten off" commented Iain.

The last course visited was Canons Brook. Situated within 112 acres of mature rolling countryside, the 18 hole, 6769 yard, par 73 championship course makes excellent use of the surrounding landscape and its numerous natural and man-made hazards and beautiful features. Designed by the legendary Sir Henry Cotton, whose





philosophy was to create a championship course with very little rough, but incorporating many bunkers and large undulating greens and matured over 40 years, it presents a truly engaging golf experience with lots of variety.

Mark Paxton, the Course Manager, first became aware of the artificial tees at Dyrham Park Golf Club where he previously worked before becoming Course Manager at Canons Brook. Dyrham Park had installed a similar product from Huxley Golf to Active Leisure's TeeTurf. When Mark became Course Manager at Canons Brook and the need for artificial tees arose, he instantly thought back to his days at Dyrham Park. He made some enquiries and then looked around at similar products. After coming across TeeTurf, he contacted Active Leisure Contracts for a sample and finding the price more competitive to other suppliers, the decision was made after funding from the club via its members was made.

"We made the tees raised where possible" commented Mark "This reduces debris being brought onto them by machine wheels, grass clippings etc. It's also easier to level them up rather than putting them into the ground which isn't level. Some tees have been positioned in front of the natural tees as you couldn't have a raised 'box. For example, our 15th hole tee has been sunk into the ground so there is no obstruction to golfers. Where we can build frames and have raised tees, we have. Aesthetically, the raised tees look better although it is cheaper to set them into the ground."

Used when the weather conditions become cooler, slowing down the grass growth and therefore unable to repair, the artificial tees come into their own. "Ideally, because the artificial tees are so good, golfers can come off the natural tees while the tee grass is still growing and that then gives them enough time to start to regenerate before the winter. What happened in the past was that

we left players playing on the natural tees as long as we could which was obviously damaging the grass during the wetter months, causing us to be unable to repair the divots. Come spring when the weather starts to improve, we carried out our renovation programme and the tees just didn't have enough time to recover. The beauty about using the Tee Turf is that we ensure players come off the natural tees earlier while there is still growth which gives the greenkeepers more time to make sure the perfect tee is ready for spring."

Before the club had TeeTurf, the greenkeepers would make sure that golfers used a traditional winter tee 1m x 1m in size. Players didn't like playing off them, so inevitably they wouldn't be used and left on the natural tees as long as possible which gave the club problems with renovation works later on.

"That was one reason why I changed all the short holes first as they take the most wear with divots being knocked out. Players come off the natural tees and use the artificial ones first. We've kept the artificial tees as close to the yardage as possible so there is no disadvantage using them. The idea is once we've installed artificial tees at all the holes, we'd have a measured new course for the winter months, a new course that players can still run competitions on all year round."

Normally as soon as players come off the natural tees, the competitions are finished for the year, as the previous winter tees shortened the yardage of the course by around 100 yards. This has seen approximately 60 new members joining the club during the winter.

"We get a lot of positive comments from the players that they love playing on them as they can continue to play golf during the wetter winter months. Because of the success that we've had, it's my idea to have a full 18 artificial tees."

Active Leisure Contracts have seen a significant increase in sales of all weather tees over the last

few years. "TeeTurf offers a solution to courses that suffer with heavy or wet conditions that would normally mean closure during the wetter months" says Andrew Baylis, MD of ALC, "maintenance costs will also be reduced while still providing a tee which is popular with players."

While some companies continue to sell artificial turf as a 'no maintenance' alternative to natural turf, this is not strictly true. Yes they are low maintenance, but that's not exactly no maintenance is it? Mark Paxton explains: "We've never had any problems with the actual TeeTurf material or with the tee 'pulling up' once it has been down - in fact, the longer it has been down, the better it seems to get. The only maintenance that we have to carry out is that we ensure that the infill is always topped up. We also get a problem with weeds on some of the tees which are positioned close to the natural tees which are irrigated. Obviously, grass clippings get on to the tee and because they are moist, it's ideal breeding conditions. We've started to use a product called 'Casoron G' from Scotts Professional which is a granule residual weed killer. We just spread the granules all over the tee which kills all of the grass off."

Available material only or installed in sizes to suit most requirements, TeeTurf is designed for permanent installations allowing all year round use, as a replacement to natural tees in shaded and wet locations or as a seasonal alternative to grass tees to help spread wear and tear and reduce maintenance costs.

For further information, please contact:  
01474 364 320  
or visit [www.teeturf.com](http://www.teeturf.com)



# Fix the odds in your favour

The demands being placed on today's greenkeepers and groundstaff are greater than ever.

And so you need products and support you can depend on. Products that take away the guesswork and deliver consistent results.

At Rufford, we don't leave construction and maintenance materials to chance. Our product range has evolved from the extensive research and development work of an in-house laboratory that's part of the USGA Proficiency Testing Programme.



[www.rufford.com](http://www.rufford.com)  
[sales@rufford.com](mailto:sales@rufford.com) or 0845 357 3030

rootzones, top dressings, bunker sands, sands, divot mixes, screened soils, gravels, tree soils, play sands, environmental products



**Close, but not quite the part!**

London-based Marilyn lookalike, Suzie.

## Only genuine Toro filters will give the performance you've come to expect.

Many lookalike air and oil filters fail to meet Toro standards for form, fit and function.

So get one that's not quite the part, and you'll be replacing it early and often. It could even damage your Toro equipment and affect machine performance.

It's how we design and make our filters - with quality materials and advanced technology - that makes them superior to lookalike parts.

Now with our competitive prices and 24-hour delivery service - straight to your door, if you wish - there's absolutely no need for imitations anymore.

Afterall, you didn't compromise when you chose your Toro. So give it the care it deserves.

And remember, no one can look after your Toro better than your local, specialist Toro dealer or service centre. So contact yours today.

For your copy of the new Toro Performance Parts Catalogue, call 01480 226845 now.



**TORO**

TORO Commercial, Irrigation and Consumer Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: [toro.parts.uk@lely.com](mailto:toro.parts.uk@lely.com)  
TORO Commercial and Irrigation Products are distributed by Lely Ireland Limited, Kilboggin Nurney, Co. Kildare. Tel: 00 353 (0)45 526170 Email: [turfcaresales.ie@lely.com](mailto:turfcaresales.ie@lely.com)  
[www.lely.com](http://www.lely.com) [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)



partners in turfcare

# Saltex New Products

## DESTROYS ALGAE

New product, Bioaktiv, manufactured in Germany was developed some 14 years ago by the collaboration of a homoeopathist and an engineer who invented a device which generates high oscillations in a chamber (accumulator) which causes the oxygen in the chamber to be separated and transferred to calcium place under the chamber.

When introduced into ponds and lakes through a medium of fresh water, Bioaktiv provides oxygen and energy at the bottom of the pond or lake and revitalises the water thus clearing it of algae and simple weed.

**i** 0116 2592590  
email: ewibio@tiscali.co.uk

## NEW HYDROSEEDERS

New to the UK are two hydroseeders from RMB Hydroseeding.

A 3000 litre skid mounted machine and a 1200 litre compact steel tank hydroseeder will compliment the companies existing fleet.

**i** 01453 511365  
visit: [www.hydroseeding.co.uk](http://www.hydroseeding.co.uk)

## COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has launched the Verti-Top Vac, offering groundsmen a new, cost effective solution for cleaning and maintaining sand and rubber infill synthetic sports surfaces. A unique vacuum system removes even fine particles, giving a cleaner, safer surface.

**i** 01428 661222  
[www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk](http://www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk)



## VERTICUTTING NEEDS REDUCED

New to the Campey Turfcare range is the Turfworks GreensTriplex Brush.

Daily brushing of greens increases smoothness for a true ball roll, while reducing grain and the need for frequent verticutting. The fully adjustable brush head can be set to a 'lock position' which allows normal triplex use without removing the brush, and its synthetic bristles resist wear and environmental degradation. Durable steel construction and powder coat to the frame makes for longer life.

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



## NEW COMPACT TRACTORS

Tractors remain at the heart of New Holland's expertise, and a new series of compacts will take centre stage at Saltex. The Boomer series is in the 21-45hp bracket that New Holland has made its own with high tech features and renowned reliability, and the latest additions will enhance that reputation.

**i** 01268 292183  
[www.newholland.com](http://www.newholland.com)

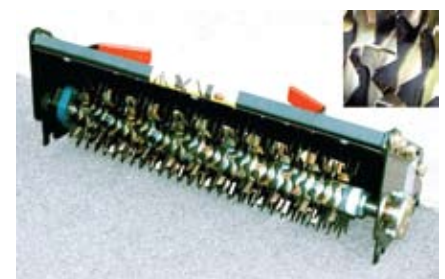


## WEAR RATE AND DOWNTIME CUT

Allett Mowers is now using tungsten carbide tipped blades on three of the interchangeable cartridge heads available for the Allett C20, C24 and C34 machines.

The blades are being fitted as standard to the powered scarifier and verticutter heads offered for the three Allett C-Range models and also to the powered groomer unit available as an option on the 10-bladed cutting unit for C20 and C24 mowers and for the 20in and 24in Allett Tournament fine-cut mowers.

**i** [www.allett.co.uk](http://www.allett.co.uk)





# Saltex New Products

## LINE MARKING PAINT REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT

Vitax Amenity introduces Supa Stadia Echo, a highly concentrated, long lasting line-marking paint, previously only available to selected export customers.

Supa Stadia Echo has a free flowing formulation, which means that it can be used with high water volumes, but its highly concentrated form saves the use of oil for both transportation and container production.

Designed to deliver SupaStadia Echo is the new Topline Xcel Line Marker, a unique machine, which allows turf managers to change their paint dilution on the move.

**i** 01530 510060  
[www.vitax.co.uk](http://www.vitax.co.uk)



## SURFACE CLEANER AND MOSS DETERRENT

Cleanmax, a hard surface cleaner and moss deterrent, is a blend of organic acids and surfactants that loosen deposits acting as a safe cleaner for all types of hard surfaces. Apply using spraying equipment when no rain is expected and should be allowed to dry thoroughly. If there is significant moss cover the area may need to be brushed, hosed or pressure washed to remove dead vegetative matter after a couple of days.

**i** [www.avoncrop-amenity.com](http://www.avoncrop-amenity.com)  
[www.aitkens.co.uk](http://www.aitkens.co.uk)

## NEW TUFFA PRODUCTS SAVE FUEL AND RISK

Petrol and diesel are too valuable to waste through poor handling and storage. On top of that clearing up spills is costly and could run foul of environmental regulations. Tuffa has launched new products to keep oil under control.

Storing or moving petrol, or diesel, for small vehicles, or uses like mowers, is often a problem. Filling cans and carrying them in cars or vans is not safe and can invalidate insurance cover. The new Tuffa Petrol Caddy 200 litre steel banded and fireproofed tank meets this problem.

For larger storage the Easi-fill fuel station range, in capacities from 1350 litres to 15,000 litres, gives users complete control over dispensing and filling.

**i** 08707 567700  
[www.tuffa.co.uk](http://www.tuffa.co.uk)



## MULCHING MOWER

Tracmaster has launched the BCS Professional Mulching mower. The 80cm Mulching Deck offers outstanding performance and is the ideal machine for heavy-duty cutting and clearing tasks on even the most difficult terrain. For safety and ease of operation, the machine offers an automatic blade brake and two pivoting castor wheels at the front which can be easily retracted.

**i** [www.tracmaster.co.uk](http://www.tracmaster.co.uk)  
01444 247689

## WET WALKING SURFACES CAUSE NASTY INJURIES

Gripclad provides a hardwearing long term solutions to golf clubs to help eliminate the risk of slipping on sleepers, footbridges, viewing platforms, bunker steps, gangways, walkways, ramps and even the mower foot plates.

Gripclad's anti-slip material includes the new high grade aluminium oxide aggregate for extra durable surfaces and longer product life. It is resistant to metal and rubber spikes, oil, grease, frost, chemicals, impact, and all weathers.

It can be fixed down onto wood, concrete, metal, marble, terrazzo, vinyl, rubber or open grate etc and one important point, it offers peace of mind.

**i** [www.gripclad.com](http://www.gripclad.com)



## THE HIRE SUPPLY COMPANY

The Hire Supply Company has launched two innovative new grounds care products – the unique Hawk 13hp Stump Grinder and the Barreto Tracked Trencher.

The Barreto tracked trencher is the smallest dedicated tracked trencher currently on the market. It gives more traction, lower ground pressure and provides extra steerability, which is ideal for the wet UK climate.

At 30" wide, the Hawk stump grinder is narrower than HSC's previous models. In addition, its engine is at an offset angle to the blade, which allows the machine to dig in deeper without tipping the engine to such an angle so that it starves of oil and seizes.

**i** [www.thehiresupplycompany.co.uk](http://www.thehiresupplycompany.co.uk)

**NEW RENTAL ADDED**

In a continuing purchasing drive as Liebherr-Rental Limited grows and augments its versatile and specialist rental fleet, the company has now added a Seppi 150 BMS Mulcher from distributors Lamberhurst Engineering.

The Seppi 150 BMS is a well-proven excavator attachment designed for fast and efficient brush clearance in forestry plantations, road and rail embankments and, in fact, anywhere that requires thick undergrowth to be removed. It is the largest in a range of three attachments with a cutting width of 1500mm and features a fixed knife rotor.

**i** 08456 121 141  
www.lameng.com



**NEW RANGE**

Stihl has launched an extensive new range of chainsaws, brushcutters and groundscares tools along with new products and innovations at Saltex this year. New products include innovative chainsaws and grass trimmers, professional class leaf blowers and vacuums plus an enhanced choice of hedge trimmers introduced earlier this year. From the Group's Viking brand, exciting developments include a new range of lawn tractors arriving next year, plus more rotary rollers and a new addition to its professional lawn mower range.

**i** www.stihl.co.uk  
0800 137574



**NEW PRODUCT TRIO**

DJ Turfcare has launched three new products. The Turfsaver is a new machine from the U.S. that de-thatches and overseeds (or fertilises) in one compact unit ideal for contractors and groundsmen.

Recovery is from Viano's organic range of fertilisers and restores damaged turf for the winter months, containing Humifirst – derived from organic manure – and magnesium for maintaining grass colour. New to the UK from Belgium.

The third launch is the Elephant's Trunk hedgetrimmer from Belgium, set to transform the working day of contract gardeners and groundstaff.

**i** 01483 200976  
www.djturfcare.co.uk



**GOOD THINGS COME IN FOUR**

Italian creator Brogi Loriani has developed a new head with four chains, exclusively sold in the United Kingdom by Lamberhurst Engineering.

The Brogio 4 was created following the many requests of professional operators who wanted to cut and crush shrubs with a larger diameter than 1.5cm, who up until now were working with blades and other accessories.

**i** 08456 121 141  
www.brogio.co.uk



**NEW WOODCHIPPER**

Bobcat has launched the new 8B Woodchipper attachment for the company's skid-steer, compact tracked and all-wheel steer loader ranges. The new 8B Woodchipper provides a simple method for reducing wood waste and grinds branches and other tree components, reducing their volume by a factor of 10 to 1.

**i** www.bobcat.com





# Saltex New Products

## NEW PRODUCT HAS TOTAL EFFECT

Scotts Professional launched a new liquid iron. Effect Iron FE, the latest addition to the widely-used Greenmaster Liquids range, is suitable for use in golf, sports and lawn care.

Developed over three years of testing, the blend of complexed and chelated irons works rapidly providing genuine, plant-derived green-up within three hours. It also hardens and protects each blade of grass from within the plant without promoting excessive growth.

**i** 0871 220 5353  
[www.scottspprofessional.co.uk](http://www.scottspprofessional.co.uk)

## REMOTE TREATS THE PARTS THAT OTHERS CANNOT REACH

Terrain Aeration has launched the new Remote Terralift machine, the lightest, smallest most manoeuvrable member of the Airforce fleet to date.

Pedestrian operated, 60 cms wide and weighing in at just 80 kilos, the Remote Terralift can be carried up steps, turned around tight corners and taken through the narrowest entrances with ease.

**i** 01449 673783  
[www.terrainaeration.co.uk](http://www.terrainaeration.co.uk)

## OUT FRONT MOWER

As the pressure increases on contractors to reduce costs year on year, JCB launches its first ever out front mower – the FM30 – to reduce costs and improve performance on a wide variety of mowing applications.

Purpose built for specialist grounds maintenance applications, it is rugged, productive and extremely versatile. Powered by a low vibration, low noise and low emission engine the new mower is cost effective, reliable and provides day long comfort for the operator to enhance productivity.

**i** [www.jcb.com](http://www.jcb.com)

More Saltex products will be featured next month

## DIVOT BAG

The Divot Bag is a simple solution to help keep fairways in top class condition and clubs across the world are realising the benefits. The divot Bag is provided by the club and sand buckets are placed at the first tee. Players fill their divot bag with a mix of sand and seed with the view to fill divots as they play.

The divot Bag comes in a range of colours and can be personalised with the club logo printed on the front.

**i** 07500957711  
[www.divotbag.com](http://www.divotbag.com)

## NEW RANGE

A new range of STIHL handheld leaf blowers and vacuums were launched at Saltex this year.

The new '86 class' models feature no less than four of the companies latest technologies: a new engine with stratified scavenging, new long-life air filter system, new anti-vibration system and new simplified starting system – all designed to make work easier, more efficient and more economical too.

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

## LARGEST BEAR CAT CHIPPER

The launch of the largest Bear Cat Chipper, the CH1238DH, was celebrated at this year's Saltex. Bear Cat dealers were keen to see the new 30.5cm (12") chipper in action, as well as catching up with ECHO staff on new products planned for 2009.

The new chipper is capable of reducing wood up to a diameter of 30.5cm (12") to fine chips using four, reversible, heat-treated steel chipper blades.

**i** [www.echo.com](http://www.echo.com)



Bear Car 30cm Chipper



Out front mower

# Trilo for turfcare



Trilo have a range of quality high specification groundcare equipment which offers the complete solution for scarifying, mowing, spreading and blowing. Built to an extremely high standard, the wide choice of models and numerous options available ensures you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient. With 35 years' experience and a range of quality machinery, it's easy to see why Trilo is the world-leader in vacuum sweepers.



SG700



SDR65



PRO-FLEX



TDR15

HIRE, SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

**Trilo UK Ltd**

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

Call us today for a demo



*Online jobs go to*

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

For instant online advertising please contact

**Kirstin on 01347 833 832**

Part month £300

Full month £500

The website is updated regularly with new vacancies

*Get online now!*



## HUMAN RESOURCES

BIGGA's Management Support series produced by Xact  
www.xact.uk.com



### YOUR SKIN AND WORK

Your skin is sometimes considered as the largest organ in your body. It performs a wide variety of tasks;

- As a physical barrier to the outside world, protecting you from bumps and abrasions
- As a barrier against infection
- Preventing water loss from the body
- Controlling the body temperature through sweat glands.

As with other parts of the body it is important to ensure that your skin is kept healthy otherwise it cannot perform the actions it is meant to and hence protect your overall health.

When the skin is damaged by chemicals or work related issues it shows various symptoms and a breakdown of its protective actions will occur, leading to itchiness, pain, infections and possibly disease.

The most common work related skin disease is contact dermatitis from either being in contact with chemicals, oils or constant immersion in water and detergents. Symptoms can develop up to 48hrs after being in contact with the materials. It is not infectious and cannot be passed from one person to another.

Symptoms can include:

- Redness
- Itching
- Swelling
- Blistering
- Flaking and cracking of the skin

The damaged skin is painful and is then more easily attacked by chemicals and infectious organisms.

Some individuals can develop allergic dermatitis from substances handled in the workplace e.g. the metals nickel and chromium which can be found in work equipment, cement and some of the cutting fluids which are used in sawing and drilling components.

Allergic reactions can occur instantaneously on exposure to certain substance or they may take years to build up. Substances handled on a daily basis without any effect may suddenly produce an adverse skin reaction. Once sensitised any further contact will produce an immediate reaction and in many cases these will grow in severity the more often exposure occurs. Some individuals eventually have to give up their chosen profession due to the allergic response being so strong following exposure to even minute amounts of the material they are allergic to.

Employers and managers of premises should brief their staff on the hazards of dermatitis and encourage self skin examination of vulnerable areas e.g. hands, forearms and areas which may come into contact with materials. Particular attention should be paid to items of jewellery e.g. rings, where chemicals may be trapped under the item and remain in contact with the skin over a longer period of time.

The HSE recommends steps to reduce the incidence of skin damage at work, APC.

**Avoid** – Can you use something less harmful, use it less often, or introduce controls to keep the skin away from the hazard

**Protect** – Issue protective equipment such as gloves.  
Provide washing facilities, mild skin cleansing creams, drying facilities of paper towels or hot air hand driers.  
Wash your hands before eating and drinking. Hands should be washed before and after wearing gloves

Where extensive wet work or handling of solvents is carried out, moisturise the skin often during the day, at least at the start and end of the working day.

**Check** – Workers should check their skin on a regular basis. Problems spotted early can generally be more easily cured and will lead to less pain and suffering.

Seek medical advice if you have any concerns regarding skin condition

Dermatitis will almost always require medical help to heal up. Topical creams and protecting the skin from further contact will be required to enable the skin to regain its normal state. Thereafter, as stated, greater care will be required to prevent a recurrence.

Occupational dermatitis is a reportable disease under Reporting of Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, RIDDOR. Failure to report is a criminal act and can lead to prosecution and fines.

## THE REAL AIR FORCE



The new heavy duty, low decibel series of **AgriMetal** blowers feature aluminium impellers to produce superior air velocity from less horsepower. Air direction is hydraulically controlled from the tractor seat with models to suit tractors from 16-45 HP.

See the real air force at work,  
book your demo soon.



**AgriMetal**

Tel: 0845 026 0064  
www.jsmd.co.uk

# Letters

## Dear BIGGA

This is a short ode that my good friend John Small put together for my greenstaff, John is my Greens Convenor, he read it out to us at our Captain's Day Breakfast, he usually would tell a joke but this year he had a poem. John loves golf and the course, he's one of the good guys, and during this wet year in Northern Ireland we need them all.

**Terry Crawford  
Clandeboye GC**

## ODE (AND OWED) TO THE GREENKEEPER

All over the world greens staff labour and toil  
To conjure perfection from sand grass and soil  
They should be receiving due reward and praise  
For producing great surfaces, sward just like baize  
But the real of it is that despite their devotion  
It is plain that some critics don't have a notion  
Of the effort applied, so they're able to say  
"Now wasn't the course in fair order today?"

You'd wonder how they can be quite so crass  
Do they think it is elves manicuring the grass?  
They golf away happy, impressed with that feat  
Since the wee mites keep keeping it perfectly neat  
But the truth must come out, it does bear correction  
Neither elves nor good fairies have any connection  
With creating the beauty and all that they ask  
It's the Greens Team who simply get on with that task

They're the ones out there working in rain hail or blow  
Cutting, digging, sweeping, grubbing, although  
Some members get edgy, indignantly ruffled  
If the sound of the mowers isn't totally muffled  
And the sensitive players can't bear any noise  
So when with pure viciousness one of the boys  
Wipes the trickling sweat from off his hot brow  
And shatters the silence...now here comes a row!  
Before dusk they're writing a long wordy letter  
Saying he/she would play colossally better  
If the greens work and cutting was all changed around  
So that others could be put off by the sound!

Next up are our experts, so clever, so sage  
Two toots in the bar and they rail rant and rage  
It is boundless, amazing, just how much they know  
About drainage and tining and making grass grow  
No matter its March and the winter's been tough  
It's a total disgrace that the course looks so rough  
You'd wonder how "Fit for Purpose" they'd be  
Lying out there all night with the temp minus three!  
Yet on the rare days they've played well and won  
The Course Manager's lauded, a favourite son  
But soon they return to their topping and hacking  
Crying "Discipline! Punishment! Sacking!"

Now this note is one Convenor's way  
Of raising a smile, while going on to say  
That even the moaners and the over-smart

Must really and honestly know in their heart  
That fighting the elements pests and disease  
Is something that cannot be coped with with ease  
And even the cynic who it seems can't be sated  
Can surely not fail to be thrilled and elated  
When they step on the first tee, the sun shining bright  
And stretching before them, a wonderful sight  
No nagging computer and no traffic's roar  
God's in his heaven! All nature cries "Fore"!

To the Greens Team for all of your work and the way  
That the course is prepared for us every day  
This ode highlights the praise and respect that is due  
And closes with an honest and mighty "Thank You"!

## ROYAL BIRKDALE

The 2008 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale GC was a very memorable experience for me, one that I will never forget. I was privileged to have been selected to be a member of the BIGGA support team. Everyone I met throughout the week, from BIGGA staff to fellow Course Managers (GC Supt's) were very friendly and hospitable towards myself and my family which made my experience even more special. Conversations during the week and over drinks in the evenings with fellow "bloats" were very enjoyable as well as informative as we talked about maintenance practice and life in Europe as well as Hawaii. It became obvious to me that regardless of Course Managers working in the UK, USA or elsewhere around this world we all share a common bond and interest to share ideas and support each other.

I have been a volunteer for the Masters Tournament for the past nine years and Augusta National GC is no doubt a very beautiful and special venue. Royal Birkdale GC and other Open venues on the other hand also have a very special beauty of its own. It may sound crazy but I actually enjoyed the first day of the Open Championship with the rain, wind and cold conditions as well as the extremely windy Saturday round. I realize that type of inclement weather can be typical playing conditions for The Open, one that tests the skills and determination of the players. I know it tested me but throughout the Open Championship I stood tall, tried to do my task as expected and carried my rake in proper position (as instructed by Paul Jenkins) every step of the way.

Thank you again Rachael, Scott and countless others for making us feel at home and I look forward to you coming over the visit us in Hawaii one day!

**With warmest regards, cheers and aloha,  
Curtis Kono  
Oahu Country Club  
Hawaii**

Please email your letters to  
Scott MacCallum, [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
or Melissa Jones, [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk)  
or post to:  
BIGGA House,  
Aldwark Manor,  
Alne, York YO61 1UF





## News from the Chief Executive

Following a recent audit by Yorkshire and Humberside Assessment Limited I am pleased to be able to report that BIGGA has been judged as achieving the required standard in order to be deemed an Investor in People. This is an award that the Association has held continuously since 1999 and it recognises the commitment by a business to staff development, financial and operational planning, efficiency, communication and management.

The performance of the organisation is regularly reviewed to ensure that it continues to meet the very demanding standards set by the awarding body. Being an Investor in People not only demonstrates to the outside world that you have achieved a certain standard but it also can help when applying for Government and other related training funding.

In the office, planning for Harrogate Week 2009 is demanding more and more of everyone's time. I sometimes think that it is overlooked that this major event in the diary of the turf industry is organised completely in-house by the staff at BIGGA HOUSE, thereby maximising efficiency and profitability.

Despite the absence next January of some of the larger manufacturers, there remains a positive approach by the rest of the industry and already most of the planned space is already sold. The educational programme has been increased in both number of hours available and the range of subjects. The Association recognises the need to help with member's costs and has therefore taken the unprecedented step of offering the greatest part of the educational seminars free of charge.

Next January also sees another move away from tradition in so far as there will not be a banquet on the Thursday evening. New for next year will be a Social Night on Tuesday that will take place in the Majestic Hotel and will consist of a Casino, a variety of high-tech games machines together with a buffet meal. Where required gaming chips and tokens will be provided and there will be a prize for the person that accumulates the highest value. It is designed to be a night of fun, entertainment and social interaction where you can meet old friends and make new ones in a relaxed atmosphere. Once again the price has been kept down to a minimum to make the event affordable.

Full details will be promoted through Greenkeeper International and on the BIGGA web site however anyone requiring more information can contact any member of Headquarters staff.

Harrogate Week is a vital part of the income stream of the Association and relies upon the support of both exhibitors and visitors for its success. This event provides you, the Member, with the opportunity to support YOUR Association as well as you being able to experience some valuable education.

A team from HQ recently attended Dunbar Golf Club to support the testimonial golf day for Graeme Wood who tragically suffered a severe stroke at the beginning of 2007. The day was a huge success but just as importantly it demonstrated the fellowship that exists within the industry. I have recently been made aware that Colin Denny has suffered further health problems since I last met him at The Open and that Lars-Goran Bange, Chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association, is seriously ill following a stroke last week. I wish them both a speedy recovery. Welfare of members is a vital part of BIGGA's agenda and we continuously review how this can be improved. I am always open to suggestions as long as they are reasonable and achievable!

Finally it is nice to have a day when it has not rained and I hope that your courses are drying out thereby allowing you to get some vital work done before we slip into winter. It is noticeable how the days are getting shorter and I wonder where this year has gone. I must be getting old!



### SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

The Central Section had a great day out at Dunblane New GC on September 4 for their Autumn Outing.

It was held in glorious sunshine on a course presented in excellent condition by Chris Pearson and his team despite the appalling weather we have had in this part of the country through August. Our sincere thanks to all at Dunblane for making us so welcome and to our Patrons for their support.

There were 40 golfers competing for the trophies on the day and the winners are as follows: Best Scratch, Kenny Mitchell, of St Andrews Links, Kenny also won the Spring and Autumn combined nett prize. Kevin Brunton, of Greentech, matched Kenny's score of 72 to win the Trade Prize. Best Nett on the day was Christie Mackenzie of the host club with 73 - 5 = 68. Archie Dunn, of Auchterarder, won best handicap in the first class with a 69 and Gordon McKie, of St Andrews Links, won best handicap in the second class with a 68.

The Section AGM will be held at Elmwood on Monday, October 27, where we will also have a speaker, Martin Heywood, of Aquadrop, talking about irrigation water quality and how you can improve it. The details will be on the website nearer the time: [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

The website has been quiet through the summer but hopefully it will pick up again now that the season is coming to a close.

Gordon Moir



### NORTH

Firstly this month may I congratulate Philip Don, from Kemnay GC, and his team of Neil Bremner, Martin Patterson and Raymond Warrender. They won the recent qualifying competition at Kintore GC for the John Deere Team Championships. This enabled them to take part in the UK Finals at Turnberry. They finished a fantastic second out of the 27 regional qualifiers. Well done lads but I could only think that Raymond was there to provide the team with a higher handicap and to make up the numbers. That said, though, on behalf of the Section well done.

I can't get away this month without mentioning I have become a dad for the second time. My wife, Susan, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Ava, on August 17. I thought that having one child was hard work but two! I wouldn't swap it for the world.

I also have to congratulate the father-in-law too, Brian Hunter. He is a



greenkeeper at McDonald GC, Ellon, and according to his workmates he has had a grin on his face for the past three weeks. That must be the first thing that I've done to put a smile on his face since Aidan was born!

One man on the move recently is Kevin Peace. He was formerly the Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. He has left this post to take up the Area Sales Managers position at Alpha Plus Machinery. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish you all the best Kevin and hope that you have many a good year at Alpha.

The Norrie Whittock Trophy was played recently at Auchterarder. The North Section sent a team down and ended up finishing a creditable second. Well done to the West Section, who won the trophy. The team fell four points short of the West - unlucky. I did hear though Warren that you would of been better staying at home and learning how to tie your tie for the next outing at Kirriemuir.

I finish this month's news with the sad passing away of John Flint (Flinty). He was the Head Greenkeeper at Hazelhead GC in Aberdeen. He was Vice Chairman of the North Section in 1987/98 and then on to the Chairman's job the following year.

That's all for this month, I did say in the last report that the results from Kirriemuir would be in this edition but I got carried away and ahead of myself, sorry. I promise they'll be in the next one.

Ben Brookes



### EAST

Once again the weather is the main topic of conversation and for all the wrong reasons. The South of Scotland has been deluged with non-stop rain throughout August and the early part of September. When is it going to stop? I hear you all groan!

Surprisingly, as the falling rainfall figures will testify, the North East of the country has escaped relatively unscathed: Berwick GC, August 197mm, September 1-10, 70mm; West Linton GC, August 258mm, September 1-10, 84mm; Letham Grange GC, August 171mm, September 1-10, 27mm; Royal Aberdeen GC, August 120mm, September 1-10, 35mm.

The above figures were courtesy of Messrs. Thompson, Yeaman, Tough and Paterson respectively. Due to the appalling weather Stevie Dixon took the sensible decision of cancelling the autumn outing which was to be held on September 9 at Kingsknowe. It has been rescheduled at West Linton GC on October 9.

This has resulted in the Willie Woods competition being moved to a later date, which at the time of writing, has still to be confirmed.

The annual Chris Yeaman Junior Charity Tournament was held on Saturday, August 23 with many greenkeepers and members of the trade in attendance.

Over the years approximately £30,000 has been raised and donated to hospital based charities. Once again, the Yeaman family would like to thank everyone who contributed to make the event such a success.

A few weeks ago I received a call at home from a lady, whose husband is the greenkeeper at Newcastleton. In answer to her question, the dates

for Scotsturf this year are Wednesday 5 and Thursday, November 6. I trust her husband enjoys the show and she enjoys her shopping trip!

On Thursday, September 10 I attended a lecture organised by the Central Section at Elmwood Golf Course. The speaker was Stanley J Kostka from Aquatrols, who gave a very informative talk on Soil Surfactants. I do not plan on stealing Gordon Moir's thunder by reporting on the lecture however, I was impressed by the organisation of the evening, led by the ever enthusiastic Andy Mellon and by the presence of a number of younger greenkeepers from the surrounding courses. They, as a Section, are setting a benchmark for the rest of us to follow.

Finally, as most of you know, I'm off to Crete on October 10, so I would be grateful if any news could be forwarded to me before this date so that I can prepare the November report.

Until next month,  
Mike Dooner



### NORTHERN REGION - NORTH WEST

Another wet August finishes and another wet September starts. I am getting suicidal with the weather as I am sure every other greenkeeper is. We held our Autumn Tournament at Davenport GC yesterday and what started as a great day, with the sun shining, quickly ending up with the rain arriving.

This did not put off our enjoyment of an excellent course, very well maintained by Frank Swift and his lads and many thanks to the committee of Davenport GC for allowing us courtesy of the course also to Elaine in the office, Bob the steward and indeed everyone who was so friendly and really went out of their way to make our day so enjoyable.

So to the results: Best Nett - Allan Donlevy; 2nd Best Nett - Tommy Lyons; Best Gross - Paul Pearce. The Aggregate Cup was won by Dave McEvoy. The Vets was also won by Dave and the Guest Prize was won by David Snowden. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin sponsored by Bathgates was won by Paul Pearce and Craig Morris.

The next event is the Bert Cross Memorial Trophy and AGM to be held at Wilmslow GC on December 4. Please book early as this event is very popular and also remember to bring a bottle to the value of £5 so everyone goes home with a prize.

Billy Merritt is the man to book with and he can be found at The Lodge, Beacon Park GC, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU.

Billy can be contacted on: 07985175825.

I can be contacted on: 0151 2894625  
or my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan





# Around the Green



## NORTH

Is it just me or is anybody else sick of the weather? Constant rain and no sunshine for weeks on end. This year has turned out to be a testing one for all of us. Let's just hope we have a dry autumn.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the sudden death of Alan Lofthouse. Alan was a great friend to many members of the Section and will be missed by us all. Alan started his long career at Moortown before moving to Ilkley GC to become First Assistant. From Ilkley, Alan moved on to become Head Greenkeeper of Branshaw, before heading south for a long stint at Saffron Walden. He moved back north to take the reins at Fixby, where he worked until his retirement. Our thoughts are with his family and close friends.

Shipley GC was the venue for the 2008 Invitation Day Competition, on August 21. As you may guess the weather in the week running up to the event was atrocious and all the praise in the world must go to Nigel and his team for producing a fantastic course in extremely difficult conditions. The overall winner on the day was Alan Baxter and his partner, with a score of 49 points, which included nine 3s and a 2 which isn't bad I suppose. Well done to all the other winners on the day. A special thank you to Mike Brear and the Rigby Taylor company for the sponsorship of the day.

The next event on the calendar is Winter Golf and AGM, at Halifax GC. The date and time have now been confirmed as Thursday, December 11, with first tee off at 10am. If you fancy playing on the day I need your name and payment at least a week beforehand. I'm sure as some of you will be partaking in a few beverages after (as well as during) the golf. If anyone is interested in sharing a minibus please get in touch ASAP and we can try and arrange something.

Adam Speight  
07739 319060



## CLEVELAND

Sorry about the lack of news over the last few months but there hasn't been much to report apart from the flamin' weather. The grass has never stopped growing even on the links courses. The greens staff at these clubs now know what it's like to work a full 12 months. Eh, Pembo?

Anyway just a few dates to put in your diary of the forthcoming events in the next few months: Our Section AGM will take place on Tuesday, November 4 at 7pm - venue Teesside GC. Following the meeting, which only lasted 25

minutes last year, David Snowdon will be presenting another lecture, this time on 'Wetting agents Uses and Abuses'.

David has already given the Section a talk on foliar feeds that was an excellent evening enjoyed by all and rounded off with steak pie and chips.

Please attend in your numbers as we will open the evening with the AGM, last year's only lasted 25 minutes.

David allows interaction from the audience, so if it is half as good as the foliar feed one it will be a good evening. Refreshments will be served (Pie and Chips last year, lads!) Miss it - miss out.

Pembo has arranged another 'Bring A Bottle Xmas Day Out' at Cleveland GC on Wednesday, December 3 with tee off times between 10.30 and 11.30. There is a maximum of 30 places so please book early. Please ring Pembo on: 07791 695768 to reserve your place. Did you miss out last year? The day was well attended; the weather gorgeous and we all enjoyed it. It will only cost £1.0 again this year and a wrapped bottle of something alcoholic, you will be fed and able to enjoy the team format that we played last year. It was a breath of fresh air and even the busiest people should be able to get the time off. The day will again be sponsored by Peter Marshall and Tacit and the bottles will be plentiful!

Finally, I would like to wish Tom Fenwick all the best after leaving South Moor GC. Tom worked at 'The Moor' for over 20 years and was rewarded with an Honorary Membership. Well done to SMGC for appreciating Tom's loyal service. He has moved out of greenkeeping and now works for a local sportsground contractor.

Any news to El Prez on 07831 214879  
Terry Charlton



## SHEFFIELD

Greetings to all and welcome to my first Around the Green.

Firstly, I would like to thank John Lax for his service on the Sheffield Section committee, as unfortunately he will be leaving the committee at the AGM. John has recently left Worksop GC after 20 years service to start a new career. On behalf of everyone at the Section I would like to wish John all the best in the future, and hope that we still see him at Section events.

I am sure that you will all want to make my job as easy as possible while I write these notes, so if anyone has any news that they would like in the Section notes then please feel free to contact me.

The Sections Autumn Competition was held at Hallamsire GC, on September 8.

I am sure everyone who played will agree that the day was a great success despite the previous weekends terrible weather conditions.

I would like to thank Hallamshire GC for hosting the day. A big thank you goes to Gordon and his wonderful staff for providing an excellent course. Thanks also go to Glenn Sawyer from Golf and Turf machinery for sponsoring the day and providing an excellent prize table.

The results from the day are as follows:

1. Darren Coop, 36pts - congratulations Darren;
2. Andy Unwin, 35pts;
3. Tony Boyd, 34pts; Guest prize - Tom Strong, 35pts; Nearest the Pin on



the 12th was won by me with a glorious iron shot! And on the 17th by Mark Robinson.

Congratulations also to Tony Boyd who recently became Club Champion at HicKelton GC, Tony shot two rounds of 72 on the par 71 course. Well done Tony.

On the committee front we are busy organising lecture/event days for the coming months, we have several days lined up and are just awaiting confirmation. Members will be informed on these days closer to the time. If any members have any ideas of what they want to see on these days again please feel free to contact me.

Finally, our President Neil Maltby has recently had a hernia operation. I would like to wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back to full fitness soon.

J. Stevens  
Section Secretary  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
07738719614



### NORTH WALES

Halleluiah you have no idea of the hassle I've had putting this month's column together, computers are really useful until they go wrong! What a kerfuffle!

The Autumn Competition and AGM take place at Upton GC on October 8 hopefully this column before will hit your doorstep before then, if not I hope you enjoyed the day and stayed to make any points at the AGM.

How did you get on with the August and September flush, I know the grass on my course was growing so fast it had stretch marks! Now the grass has slowed down we can concentrate on starting our winter upgrade work (something to keep us warm anyway).

Now in local news, Emyr Price, of Royal St Davids, Harlech, has helped raise money for Cancer Research by doing the three peaks challenge on June 23 and 24 in memory of a great friend and member of Royal St Davids, Jim Rees. Emyr did this walk with Jim's sons and friends, achieving a fantastic £36,000 for Cancer Research.

Anyone who has been to Section seminars will know Duncan McGilvray. I hear he married BIGGA's own Rosie Hancher (or should I say McGilvray now).

Last, but not least, congratulations go to Jeremy Hughes and his wife Jayne on the birth of their third daughter Mackenzie Lauren on August 30 weighing in at a bonnie 8lb 2oz.

Pete Maybury  
petemayb66@aol.com

Johnny Evans  
Johnny. Evans @tesco.net



### MIDLAND REGION - MIDLANDS

There are a number of you out there that have had the unfortunate pleasure of knowing John Wilkes, who worked at both Fulford Heath and Harborne before being enticed to Scotland by the womanly charms of a wee lassie in Falkirk. Julie is now his wee hen as they tied the knot in August. As the best man I was in fear that I would have to wear a kilt (what with my two bits of string!), but luckily I didn't have to, but I did have a hanky for John's "hayfever!" All the very best to you both for the future from your old friends, the Midland Section.

Now, our old friends at Turner Groundscare are organising a trip to John Deere's UK Headquarters at Langar, Nottingham, in November. The tour will include an incite into their parts department and maintenance service facilities, and of course demonstrations of their extensive machinery inventory. If numbers are sufficient then a coach will be provided with a number of convenient pick-up/drop-off points, a nice spread will also be provided. Please contact either Rob Page on: 07714523128 or Kev Pugh on: 07714523125 to book your place. Please remember such is fully sponsored by Turner's (FREE) and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

What a band of brothers are featured on this month's calendar page, last year's Midland Section team who played against the East Midlands. Both the annual match and this month's calendar page are kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor/Tony Cheese. For your fertiliser and pesticide needs email: t.cheese@rigbytaylor.com

And finally, congratulations to Andy Brougham on gaining the position as Deputy at Trentham. Now it falls upon you to look after our Chairman Ed, tall order but one I am sure you are up to it Andy.

Right that's me; I'm off for 16 days of fly fishing now.

Sean McDade



### EAST OF ENGLAND

So it's October, another season over again. Hopefully everybody's autumn maintenance programmes went according to plan and everything has recovered well.

We all now start to think about winter renovation projects and new construction work. At Immingham we hope to continue drainage improvements, re-new bunker sand and continue to install new pathways, all subject to having the money to do so obviously.

If anyone has any interesting winter projects going on and would like to share them with everyone then let me know.

Our most recent golf day was our Greenkeepers vs Trade match held at Immingham. Unfortunately I am writing this with my tail between my legs;





# Around the Green

because after all the bragging by myself, our team captain and other team members about how easily we would win, we lost! OK we did play with a man down which did not help, but we all hold our hands up and say you can have the trophy, but we will be back for it next year!

The match went down to the last hole of the last game with Les Howkins taking on Peter Larter and Ian James all by himself. Unfortunately some stunning approach play from the trade pair meant Les was not able to capitalise on his valiant efforts.

Immingham was in excellent condition for the match, even if I do say so myself. I would like to thank all my staff for the hard work they put in leading up to the fixture and also throughout the season. Things did not go according to plan on the morning of the competition, heavy rain both the day before and that morning left many greens with puddles on. However, the sun came out in time for play and dried everything out for us. We also had a hydraulic oil leak on the greensmower on one of the greens. The first one for two years and what a morning for it to happen! Typically the leaking pipe was not in an easy place to remove, however we were able to get it off and went on a mercy dash to our local hydraulic pipe dealers to repair it. We finally finished cutting the greens in pouring rain at about 12 o'clock.

Our next fixture is on October 2 at Belton Park. This is where our annual Section AGM will take place. Details will be with everyone soon.

Steve Beverly  
Steveimmingham@aol.com  
www.eastofenglandbigga.com



## BERKS/BUCKS & OXON

August! What a month in our calendar. This so called summer is becoming a distant memory, with wet unpredictable weather the only thing to mention and a Russian winter to look forward to, let's hope we get at least some respite before the nights really start to draw in.

A warm welcome awaited the 50 or so Section members for the BBO Autumn Invitational which took place at Newbury & Crookham GC. A club with golfing history dating back to 1873 to which competitors still play for possibly the oldest trophies in English golf and each I am sure all with a fascinating tale to tell. The amicable Irishman provided us with a memorable test of golf to the delight of all who played.

The results were as follows: 1. Peter Pan and Richard Davis, Berkshire GC; 2. Alec Macindoe and Keith Lawson, Newbury & Crookham GC; 3. Dave Pussycat Lyons and John Bowness, Deanwood Park GC; Nearest the Pin - Robert Hogarth, Remedy Oak GC and Longest Drive - Calum Taylor, Blue Mountain GC, with Carl Small winning the John Deere Putting Competition and Clive Parnell and Gary Taite winning the all important trade prize.

Thanks to Newbury & Crookham GC for courtesy of the course and all the catering and bar staff who provided hospitality ensuring our every need was met, Alec Macindoe and all his green staff for the huge effort throughout the day in preparing first class playing conditions that made for a great day out. Thanks to Ian Richardson, from Headland, for sponsoring this event and Jon Beck for laying on the burgers at the halfway hut.

Thanks to James Moore, from Burdens, who supplied us with tee pegs, golf balls and towel on the first tee to accompany us around the course in our quest to win the day and hopefully not lose the balls on the first strike.

Alistair Higgs is a new man after looking after the interests of Calum's bottom for several years at Blue Mountain GC. He has finally secured his first position as Head Greenkeeper at Donnington Valley GC. Well done and best of luck for the future.

Gerrard's Cross GC has made the local headlines as actor John Nettles and film crew arrived to film a scene for *Midsummer Murders* which will be later screened this year on BBC television, filming took place around the greenkeepers' sheds, while actors were filmed on Lee's oldest redundant but usable National Cutter as it roamed aimlessly up and down the 1st hole cutting everything in its path. I won't spoil the plot but did Lady Penelope have a steamy moment with the Head Greenkeeper? You will just have to wait and see.

On November 20 the Annual AGM and Turkey Trot will be held at Frilford Heath GC. so please pencil this date in your diary and send in your forms early for this event

Greenkeeper Ian Warrender, who knows every hollow and borrow on North Oxford GC has retired after 41 years at the club. Ian, 65, started working on golf courses in his native Scotland more than 50 years ago and moved south with his father, who was also a greenkeeper, tending the greens at several clubs before working at North Oxford.

After his going away party, where he was presented with a cheque, he said: "I do not intend to quit just because time has caught up with me. I shall continue with my interests."

With an all-consuming passion for wildlife he is continuing to improve the habitat of waterfowl on the course and is also looking after the clubhouse gardens.

From all the members in the BB&O have a great retirement.

The section website is alive and kicking, so if you have any news or views, give it a hit! [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

Mark Day  
mark.day@tacticgolf.com



## SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Friday, September 5. All members of the Surrey Section wish to send their condolences to Jack and Rita McMillan and their family on the sad news relating to their daughter, Heather, whose funeral was held on Tuesday, September 2.

The McMillan Tankard, our Annual Tournament at Sunningdale GC, was played for on Monday, September 1. The new course was in wonderful condition but playing off the white tees with a strong wind the course showed its teeth and only the very best golf would produce a reasonable score. Personally, had I not had the disadvantage of tennis elbow my score would most certainly have been better. However my playing partners, after a slow start, finished in fine fashion and although not in the prizes Douglas Iolanthe Fernie stormed home with 29pts and John, his Chairman of Green



playing off 5, had 18 pts on the back nine.

The really good players - I don't like the word lucky - were Greg Richardson, winner with 34pts. 2nd on count back, Peter Oliver, 33pts; 3. Mark Davis, 33pts; 4th a new Surrey member, Les Howkins, Course Manager at Richmond GC, 33pts. The really, really unlucky golfer was Tom Relf whose score of 15pts would have won him the wooden spoon if we had one. Many thanks to Murray Long and his team for producing, as always, an excellent venue and thanks to the Sunningdale Artisans for the use of their club house and fine wines.

The result of the next golf day at Richmond on September 18 will appear in the November edition of this very magazine.

Mark Raisbeck, Course Manager at Cranleigh GC, is offering a prize to any greenkeeper who can explain to his wife, Liz, who gave birth to their fourth baby on July 16, why he has gone into hiding until their newborn, Jonathan James, 8lb 6ozs, reaches maturity - congratulations to both mum and dad.

The final of the Surrey Bowl knockout competition, sponsored by ETT, was played on Tuesday, September 8, between Gareth Roberts and Paul Bacon, from Hankley Common GC, and Kevin Boxall and James Lowe, from Guildford GC. The venue as in previous years was Foxhills GC and the winners after a very tight contest in very wet conditions were Kevin and James.

The Surrey Health and Safety seminar will now be held at Reigate Hill GC, on October 13, and all will be welcome. Please contact Clive Osgood for details or visit the Surrey Section website: [www.surrey-bigga.co.uk](http://www.surrey-bigga.co.uk)

Beware thieves are about in Surrey so make sure your equipment is safely locked away and protected or they will call one dark and lonely night and leave your sheds empty.

Also beware steps after entering hotel rooms or you may, like yours truly, end up with radiator ear. Radiator ear occurs after falling down said step and splitting your ear on the radiator, having 15 stitches and minor concussion. The inevitable scar is available to see by appointment, as is bedpost foot.

Apologies to Matthew Lawrence and Mrs Lawrence for incorrectly reporting incorrect information.

Brian Willmott



## SUSSEX

With such a poor (or should I say pour) summer, Sussex was indeed fortunate that the sun shone at Piltdown GC for our Annual Team Shield. The Chairman, Rob Hudson, summed it up in with Grace before the meal saying "We thank you for the weather but not for the heather." John Shepherd had prepared the course brilliantly but when that heather grabbed your balls they stayed grabbed!

The day was sponsored by Blade Amenity, represented on this occasion by David Haskell who although taking part failed to trouble the scorers - I know that is a cricket expression but it sums up David's golf superbly. It was nice to see that Brian Willmott took time off from his course studies on 'How to write humorous articles for Greenkeeper International' to bring his team of mercenaries from Surrey on a pot hunting expedition. Joking apart, it is always good to see the Surrey contingent visiting Sussex, especially when they don't win!

The winners of the day were newcomers to Sussex Golf Days and were

from Boars Head GC with a great score of 77 pts, 2nd were 'Team Farrington' and 3rd were Jon Hill and his team from Cooden Beach.

The next fixture on the Sussex Agenda is to be held at the Dyke GC and is a three cornered match between Essex, Surrey, and Sussex.



## KENT

Hi guys. Firstly I shall not be mentioning the weather!

Secondly, this month a massive vote of thanks to David Wood, from Hever GC, who, after several years, has chosen to step down from his position of Kent Section Secretary to concentrate on his many other commitments. David was a big part of the revival of our Section when it lost its way four years ago and restoring it to its current, healthy status.

We thank David for his endeavours and I shall be standing in his secretarial role. On the subject of positions on the Kent committee our AGM will follow our annual Turkey Trot event at Birchwood Park on November 24 where all positions are up for grabs to all attendees. I believe all the current committee are quite happy in their respective roles but if any of you wish to join us or, indeed, take over then please let us know. If you have any major issues you wish to be raised on the night please remember that, constitutionally, you are obliged to submit your questions in writing prior to the event.

Those of you at last year's AGM will remember it as an unforgettable experience as Kev Morris rattled through the formalities in record time in his own inimitable manner to enable the assembled masses to get on with more serious business! Please remember to get your entry forms in ASAP to what promises to be a great day out. More details on the golfing side of things in next month's column.

Best of British guys  
Rob Holland



## EAST ANGLIA

Walderingfield Heath GC - August 12: Our slightly smaller, but perfectly formed band of brothers, and Claire, found their way to Walderingfield Heath GC. If you have never played it, you must as it is lovely. Mind you, most of us who did go didn't play it either, but that's another story!

It was in superb order thanks to Keith Titchell and the crew. It has been several years since I've been there and the transformation is outstanding, especially now that the portacabins have gone.

The few that did actually play did rather well. There are always "the few" who get lucky, and here they are: 0 - 9 Handicap: 1. Nick Brewster,





# Around the Green

38pts; 2. Peter Howard, 36pts; 3. Mike Verley, 36pts. 10 – 18 Handicap: 1. Ian (Lucky) Willett, 38pts; 3. Richard Hurn (Nodzy), 33pts; 3. Neil Worger, 31pts. 19 – 28 Handicap: 1. Steve Freestone, 41pts (He must have trod in something); 2. Pat Swinn, 32pts; 3. Keith Titchell, 31pts. G & T's: 1. John Humphries, 40pts; 2. Mark Keysell – who also won the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin – black cat's I think!

The winner of the infamous loo seat was the legend among us, Bob Chesham. He actually hit something – it was a bus. Typical, he waits all day for one and then 'takes it out'.

The prizes were presented by the Walderingfield Captain, Les Sharp. Nice tie by the way, where can I get one please?

The main sponsors were Tomlinson Ground Care and our loyal trade guests are as follows: Baileys of Norfolk; Aitkens; SISIS; Bartram Mowers; John Deere; Ben Burgess; Textron; Tomlinson Ground Care;; Tacit; Rigby Taylor; Collier Turf Care and Atterton & Ellis.

Thank you once again Walderingfield for a great day.

Mick Lathrope



## ESSEX

Our Autumn Stableford, at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, went off without a hitch, the day was warm with some sun and only about three minutes of rain. Although only 26 players took to the 1st tee, all who played said that they had enjoyed the day and I was proud of the way my staff produced the course. Hard work and attention to detail from them all had the course at a good standard. The reason for such a low entry was that a few of the guys had a maintenance week, and then holidays and meetings took in a few more. They missed a good one.

The results are as follows: 1:1 Sam Anderson, 40pts, Three Rivers Golf & Country Club; 2.1 Tony Barker, 38pts, North Weald GC; 3.1 Roland Hughes, 37pts, Forrester Park Golf & TC; 4.1 Nick Gates, 36pts, Abridge GC; Guest Prize: Steve Crosdale, 35pts, Back/9; Trade Prize: Neil Peachey, 38pts, P Tuckwell Ltd; Longest Drive: Nick Gates; Nearest the Pin: Dominic Rogers.

By the time you receive this news the Winter Stableford, at the Bently GC, will be over and the National Championship will be upon us.

Qualifiers for the, National Championship at East Sussex National from our Section are as follows: Knockout Winners 2007: Roland Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC, Jammie Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC. Spring Tournament Qualifiers: Adam Millward, Orsett GC and Daniel Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC. Summer Trophy Qualifiers: Dominic Rogers, Warley Park GC: Antony Kirwan, Lexdon Wood GC. Autumn Tournament Qualifiers: Sam Anderson, Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Tony Barker, North Weald GC.

Good luck to all the lads in the event.

On the education front, Paul is hoping to run a morning seminar in late January early February. This he hopes will consist of three to four speakers from different parts of the country speaking for a maximum of 40 minutes, with a brunch included. Cost at the moment is being considered. Non-Association members will be welcome. Details of date and time will be

coming shortly, so watch this space.

The time for our AGM and Christmas tournament is fast approaching, the team format is the same as last year, two BIGGA members per team, so start getting your four together.

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.

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

Please contact me at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)  
or call me on  
01206852353 – 07764862337

Arnold Phipps-Jones



## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

Writing this with yet more rain lashing against the window, and have just returned from the Secretary's office after cancelling the Club Championship. What a season.

More congratulations to the Section Team, ably captained by Wayne Vincent and Paul Garland, who thrashed the South Coast team by four matches to one at Remedy Oak. Having played (and lost heavily) in the match myself, I was very impressed with the work that has gone on at Remedy, and can confirm that it is thoroughly deserving of its reputation as being on the verge of the top 100 courses.

A very good day out, and thanks very much to the South Coast for arranging the match at such a prestigious, yet friendly club. We were made very welcome, both for the match and the meal afterwards – all round a very good day.

I am very pleased to announce that next year's game, while not being played at Remedy, is being played at a course in our area which is just as prestigious and challenging. This week's prize will be awarded to the first greenkeeper to correctly identify it.

Looking forward now to the AGM on October 9 at Marlborough. Please come along and make a difference to your Section. The Committee are always open to ideas, but if you disagree with anything that's going on, why not stand, and really make a difference.

One of the major issues in the coming year will be attendance at Section events. So do please come along, and if you'd like to invite a club official to come and see what we're about, please do so.

There is a seminar on Bunker maintenance and renovation which will take place on October 30 at The Bristol GC. This will feature, among others, Laurence Pithie and Richard Whyman talking about different styles of bunker, construction, renovation and maintenance, and hopefully a well-known Professional Golfer talking about how he hopes to find a bunker when he walks into it. Do please keep an eye on the website for some further advertising, and details will be circulated round to your Secretary's office.

Excavator Safety Training will be on-going with hopefully a day down at



Farrington Gurney in early December. Please do register an interest – for those of us that do regularly use an excavator, being certificated is a must. Interestingly, completing this course earlier this year has enabled me to make a case for actually purchasing an excavator here at Minch, which is something we've been after for a few years. Do give me a call if you'd like to attend, or if you'd like a course in your neck of the woods.

The final event of the year is likely to be a Frank Newberry inspired seminar with the theme of "Keeping your Club Competitive" – very relevant in today's uncertain economic climes. Again, please watch the website Bulletin Boards for further details, and invitations will be circulated via your Secretary's office.

Finally, we are working on our communication (with the help of Frank Newberry). Please send me an email, so that I can begin to build a database to assist with communication. Letters in the post are too onerous for part-time officials such as Nobby and myself – email is the way forward – with your help.

Next year's fixtures are nearly complete – watch this space for a comprehensive list.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk  
01453 837355



### SOUTH COAST

Hi all. This is my first monthly report taking over from Joe Crawley who did a first class job.

As I write this we at Andover GC have been hollow coring and top dressing during the very wet first week of September - as you can imagine with only two greenkeepers it was a slow process unlike the larger golf clubs that have more members of staff! But I'm not complaining, I'm used to it, my season went very well how did yours?

Last month's committee meeting went well unlike the annual match v the South West Section which didn't. Resulting in a big away win for them (don't let this happen again)

Thanks go to all at Remedy Oak for making it easy for the away team!

The Autumn Tournament is on October 9 at Salisbury & South Wilts so contact Kevin Glass at: glassy2003@hotmail.com or: 07859053054.

During the last committee meeting it was discussed of some interest in going to Gurnsey for next year's Spring Tournament if you are interested in this option then email and let me know at: chrismaggisturgess@tiscali.co.uk  
Hope you all have a trouble free autumn until next month.

Chris Sturgess

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

**The Articulator®**  
The ONLY High-Definition Mowers on the Market

Fits most outfront tractor units  
Folds to 1.9 metres for transport  
35hp PTO required  
Cutting Width 2.5 metres

New 100 Series Articulator for JCB

LASTEC (UK) LTD

Tel: 01622 812 103 Fax: 01622 815 534  
[www.lastec.co.uk](http://www.lastec.co.uk)

**BIGGA's Regional Administrators**

**Peter Boyd**  
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
Email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

**Peter Larter**  
NORTHERN & MIDLAND  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
Email: petelarter972@aol.com

**Clive Osgood**  
SOUTH EAST  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
Email: cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

**Jane Jones**  
SOUTH WEST & WALES  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
Email: janejones1@btconnect.com





# In the Shed

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD

M	A	C	A	W		R	A	P	I	D	F	I	R	E
U		H		I		E		A		I		N		N
C	O	A	T	S	O	F	A	R	M	S		S	O	L
K		P		H		L		O		C		P		I
	G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D	S	O	B	E	R	S
M		T		U		X		I		M		C		T
I	C	I	C	L	E		V	E	R	B	A	T	I	M
L		T		F		D		O		R		E		
L	I	N	C	H	P	I	N		O	B	R	I	E	N
I		A		I		L		C		U		G		T
M	A	S	O	N	D	I	X	O	N	L	I	N	E	
E		T		K		G		F		A		O		V
T	E	A		I	R	R	E	F	U	T	A	B	L	E
R		S		N		E		I		E		L		A
E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N		D	W	E	L	L

### ANSWERS:

1. Australia
2. Martin Peters
3. Darts
4. Tennis
5. Harvard
6. Martin Bartoli
7. Jenson Button
8. Timmy Murphy
9. Stuart Broad

### MONSTER SUDOKO

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

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

### AERATION

**HYDROJECT**  
AERATION AND CHEMICAL  
INJECTION SERVICE  
(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)  
**KEITH DRIVER**  
(SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)  
Tel: 01273 679994 Mobile: 07958 532008  
124 Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6DB

### Aeration UK

NATIONWIDE SERVICE  
TEL: 01656 740425 OR 07882 011513  
HYDROJECT 18 GREENS £395  
HOLLOW CORING FROM £595  
30 YEARS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE  
FOR ALL YOUR AERATION NEEDS.

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)  
and check out the  
latest chat  
from the  
greenkeeping  
industry



### AGRONOMIST

## PJA

- Agronomy
- All greenkeeping matters
- Course improvements
- Staff training and recruitment
- Budget forecasting
- Design and project management

Peter Jones Associates Ltd  
Tel: 01525 280573  
[www.pja-golf.co.uk](http://www.pja-golf.co.uk)

### ALL WEATHER SURFACES

*Huxley Golf*  
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



For top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns, all professionally planned, designed and installed, please phone: 01962 733222, email: [sales@huxleygolf.co.uk](mailto:sales@huxleygolf.co.uk) or visit: [www.huxleygolf.com](http://www.huxleygolf.com)

### ARTIFICIAL GRASS



All types of artificial grass  
From £7.00 a sq metre

IDEAL FOR  
PATHWAYS • CART PATHS  
TEE BEDS • FAIRWAYS ETC  
(UK delivery service)

0845 22 11 345  
[www.grasstrader.co.uk](http://www.grasstrader.co.uk)



**VERDE SPORTS LIMITED**  
Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE TURF  
Sand & Rubber Filled Artificial Grass  
- Allows you to tee up from any position
- PATHWAYS  
Spike Resistant Verdeturf & Super Verdegrass
- TEES  
Driving Mats & Various Options
- PUTTING  
Adventure Golf, Mini Golf & Putting Greens  
Chorley, Lancashire, PR6 8SW  
[www.verdesports.com](http://www.verdesports.com) [www.artificialgrass.org.uk](http://www.artificialgrass.org.uk)  
email: [sales@verdesports.com](mailto:sales@verdesports.com)  
Please call for samples & information

To advertise within  
Greenkeeper International

please contact Kirstin on

01347 833 832

or email

[kirstin@bigga.co.uk](mailto:kirstin@bigga.co.uk)

Advertising rates:

1/4 page - £570

1/2 page - £790

Full page - £1500

# BUYERS' GUIDE



**SOUTHWEST GREENS**  
Synthetic Golf Solutions

*Tour Standard Greens  
Quality Tee Lines & Boxes  
Low Maintenance  
Price Guarantee*



**NICKLAUS**  
DESIGN

0845 0949603 07760 255920  
darren@southwestgreens.co.uk

## CONSTRUCTION




- GOLF COURSE & SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION
- RENOVATION & MAINTENANCE
- IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
- LAND DRAINAGE SCHEMES
- WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

## DRAINAGE

**Traditional drainage and Lytag banding of greens and fairways**



North Staffs IRRIGATION

Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

## DRAINAGE

**PHILIP DIXON**  
Contractors Ltd Est. 1978  
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

**Golf Course • Sportsfield**  
Drainage • Construction • Renovation  
Slitting/Banding • Vertidrain  
Groundbreaker • Sand Master  
Topdressing • Overseeding  
Spraying • Cultivation

**Tel: 01772 877289**  
Fax: 01772 877479 (Preston, Lancs)  
www.dixon-drainage.co.uk

## AGRONOMY

**B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd**

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: Bruce Jamieson  
Forth House, Bracknell Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8QP  
Telephone: 01252 844847  
Email: bruce.jamieson@btconnect.com www.bigga.co.uk



Construction • Remodelling  
Water Features

Tel: 01604 468908  
Fax: 01604 474853  
www.deltagolf2000.co.uk

180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 7TA

**SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS LTD**

**SPORTSTURF**

Construction  
Drainage  
Renovation  
Sandslitting

Contact: Kevin Smith  
OXFORD 01865 331479

## GRASS PROTECTION

**TurfTrac**  
Course Protector

A portable playing surface for turf protection during adverse ground conditions. Ideal for enabling play during winter months.



**TurfTrac**  
Complete Protection from Tee to Green

Turf Trac Ltd  
11 South Loanhead, Lime Kilns Dunfermline, Fife KY11 3LB  
Tel: 07966 862725  
info@turftac.co.uk • www.turftac.co.uk

## ANTI - SLIP



**NO MORE SLIPPING ON SLEEPERS!**  
Extremely Tough GRP Antislip Product, Resistant to All Weathers, Corrosion, Frost, All Spikes, Impact, Wear & Tear

www.gripclad.co.uk  
Email: enquiries@gripclad.co.uk  
Tel: 023 8040 4952  
Fax: 023 8040 2563

*John Greasley* Specialists in Golf Course Construction

**JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED**  
"Ashford House" • 1154 Melton Road Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766  
Mobile: 07836 553899  
Fax: 0116 269 6866



**Golf Course Drainage**  
Survey / Design / Installation / Greens / Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses  
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417  
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com

www.turfdry.com

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**TIME TO TALK**  
www.bigga.org.uk

## CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR



FAMOUS SCOTTISH GREENKEEPER WEAR

Europe's Leading Suppliers of Clothing & Footwear for Professional Greenkeepers

CONTACT US FOR FREE CATALOGUE  
Tel. 01334 653733 Fax. 01334 653553  
sales@hoggs.co.uk  
Online Store Opening Soon



**EDUCATION**  
18 - 22 January 2009

**EXHIBITION**  
20 - 22 January 2009

www.harrogateweek.org.uk



**Duncan Ross LTD**  
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE

Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems  
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding  
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrain : Topdressing : Overseeding

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs WN6 9DT  
01257 255321 / 01257 255327  
office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk  
www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

## GRINDERS



**HUNTER GRINDERS**  
CUTTING EDGE PIONEERS

Tel: 01207 270 316  
email: admin@huntergrinders.com  
www.huntergrinders.com



# BUYERS' GUIDE

BUYERS GUIDE

## IRRIGATION

**AUTOFLOW SYSTEMS LTD**



The independent choice for irrigation:  
DESIGN : SUPPLY : INSTALLATION

Tel: 01603 759701  
sales@autoflowsystems.co.uk

**PAR 4 IRRIGATION LTD**

Independent Professional Irrigation, Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens

- Design/Advice
- New Installations
- Contracting
- Supply & Sales
- Servicing
- Service Contracts
- System Upgrades
- PC Systems

Tel. 01765 602175 or 01765 690598  
Fax 01765 603488  
Email: sales@par4.co.uk  
www.par4.co.uk

**TORO** Area Dealer

Design  
Installation  
Service

Irrigation supplies

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSirrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

**TORO** **Hunter**

## LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS

**LINERS**



Liners for lakes, ponds and storage lagoons from the UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998  
E-mail: sales@geosynthetic.co.uk  
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

**ADVERTISE HERE**

from as little as **£250** for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**, full colour, please call **Kirstin on 01347 833 832** or email **kirstin@bigga.co.uk**

**OAKDALE**



**T&G IRRIGATION**

Phone: 01427 874200  
Fax: 01427 875333

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**TIME TO TALK**  
www.bigga.org.uk

## PUMPS

**ITT Lowara**

Lowara Quality Pumps & Variable Speed Drives.

T: 01297 630230  
F: 01297 630270  
E: lowaraukenquiries@itt.com  
www.lowara.co.uk

Engineered for life

**Topturf**

Irrigation Specialists in:  
Design, Supply, Installation & Service Support.

Offering Toro, Hunter, Rainbird products and Otterbine Aeration Fountains.

0870 8720081  
www.ttirrigation.co.uk  
Toro & Otterbine Contractor of the year 2006

**TORO** **OTTERBINE**

To advertise within Greenkeeper International please contact Kirstin on **01347 833 832** or email **kirstin@bigga.co.uk**

Advertising rates:  
1/4 page - £570  
1/2 page - £790  
Full page - £1500

**Harrogate week**

**EDUCATION**  
18 - 22 January 2009

**EXHIBITION**  
20 - 22 January 2009

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

## RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on grass as top dressing has been granted a PATENT in the UK and Ireland under Number EP0788301B1

**TEBBUTT ASSO. ARE THE LICENSEES** with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso.  
on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644  
e-mail: tebbuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk  
www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk

**Harrogate week**

**EDUCATION**  
18 - 22 January 2009

**EXHIBITION**  
20 - 22 January 2009

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

**TORO** Irrigation

**NO NEED TO SPLASH OUT**

Call Lely: 01480 226858 or email: irrigation.uk@lely.com  
www.toro.com

## IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

**irritech limited**

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:  
**01823 690216**  
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

**ADVERTISE HERE**

from as little as **£250** for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**, full colour, please call **Kirstin on 01347 833 832** or email **kirstin@bigga.co.uk**

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**TIME TO TALK**  
www.bigga.org.uk

**SHAPERS**

**GREENS AND TEES CONSTRUCTION LTD**

SHAPER/PROJECT MANAGER

MICHAEL "FRED" GREEN

Tel: 07739-463397

www.greensandtees.co.uk

info@greensandtees.co.uk

**SURVEYING & MAPPING**



Tel: 01788 546093  
mail@rgisurveys.com

GPS Surveying  
3D Visualisation/Mapping  
GIS Data Capture  
Stroke Saver Compilation  
Location of Underground Services  
www.rgisurveys.com

**TOP DRESSINGS**

*Banks Amenity Products Ltd.*

**FENDRESS™ TOP DRESSINGS & ROOTZONES.**  
DRESSINGS FOR FAIRWAYS AND TEES.  
SCREENED FENSOL, LOAM & TOPSOIL.  
BUNKER SAND & PATHWAY MATERIALS.  
**01858 464346 / 433003**  
www.banksamenity.co.uk

**Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd**

Suppliers of high quality granular charcoal for over 200 years

- Use one of the oldest products known to man to treat black layer
- Prevent thatch build up
- Improve drainage and rootzone
- Totally organic product
- Large stock levels of all grades
- Delivery anywhere in mainland UK within 3-4 days

Tel: 01433 620003  
Fax: 01433 620388



**Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches**

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR  
Tel: **01771 653777**  
email: sales@lovie.co.uk  
**www.lovie.co.uk**

**TREE MOVING**

**Garstang Golf Club**

**TREE MOVING SERVICES**

Call John on:  
**07718 782146**

**TURF**



20 years of golf turf experience  
5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance, Wildflower Turf, and new Low Maintenance turf  
Tel: 01904 448675  
www.turf.co.uk

**TURF**

**GroundCare Direct at P.I Limited**

"Looking for Quality Pre-owned or End of Lease Machinery?"

For quality, inspected and serviced machinery, tailor-made to your requirements, look no further than P.I Limited. From a one-off purchase to a full package of machinery, P.I Limited offers a complete buyers service with specialist impartial advice. Contact us today and see how we can help.

Finance & Lease Arranged  
Part Exchange Considered  
European-Wide Delivery

01635 551665  
sales@pilimited.co.uk  
www.pilimited.co.uk

**VERTIDRAINING HIRE**

**PETER MANNINGTON**



**Professional Verti-Drain and Earthquaking Contractor**

Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service  
Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211  
or Mobile 07850 612061  
1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Ethingam, East Sussex TN11 7GA

**VERTIDRAINING HIRE**

**NATIONWIDE VERTIDRAIN HIRE**

SELF OPERATED OR WITH OPERATOR

**TRACTOR WITH 1.6m £500 PER WEEK**

**TRACTOR WITH 2m £700 PER WEEK**

**TEL: 01522 869100**

**www.countygrass.co.uk**

**Green Farm Turf**

For landscape and leisure

1.6 – 2.6m Vertidrainning

1.0 – 1.5m Earthquaking

Big roll turf supply/installation

Sand spreading and seeding

Call: Mark 07838 369910

or Chris 07825 329283

Email: mark@greenfarmturf.co.uk

Website: www.greenfarmturf.co.uk

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT**

**Hydrotech Solutions**

- Golf Machinery Wash Water Treatment
- Positive Filtration – Non-Biological
- 200 + Systems Installed Worldwide
- Simple, Low Cost Installation
- Low Running Costs

**Tel: 01925 758099**

Fax: 01925 757519

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

Email: [info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk](mailto:info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk)



**Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses**

**Rootzone Turf for Greens**

Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.

Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds, Approaches and Fairways**

Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

**NEW for 2008/9**

Turf for bunker revetting and bunker lining.  
Tees supplied and laid, with optional laser grading.

**Tel: 01652 678 000**  
**www.tillersturf.co.uk**

**WORTH DRAINING**

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M  
2M & 1.5M GROUNDBREAKER FOR HIRE  
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING  
TOP DRESSING • SPRAYING  
Distance no object  
Tel/Fax: 01476 550266  
Mobile: 07855 431120  
Email: [worthdraining@talktalk.net](mailto:worthdraining@talktalk.net)  
[www.worth-draining.com](http://www.worth-draining.com)

**WELCH TURFCRAFT LTD**  
[www.welchseeds.co.uk](http://www.welchseeds.co.uk)

**Vertidrainning for Scotland!**

Also BLEC Groundbreaker and Overseeding

Contact: Douglas Welch

Tel: 01382 532139

Mobile: 07702 078646

Fountainbrae, Lorne St, Monifieth, Dundee DD5 4DU

**Waste2Water**

**BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS**

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel: 01782 373 878

Fax: 01782 373 763

E-mail: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com)

Web: [www.waste2water.com](http://www.waste2water.com)

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



## Craibstone Golf Centre

require

### Assitant Greenkeeper

Applicants should have NVQ Level 2

Be enthusiastic and motivated

PA1 - PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates advantageous but not essential

*Applicants in writing with CV to:*

**Robert Hardie, Head Greenkeeper, Craibstone Golf Centre  
Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen  
AB21 9YA**

### HEAD MECHANIC

We are seeking a mature qualified person to take on this prominent role in developing the Course Maintenance Team. Working alongside the Course Superintendent to promote a professional attitude to machinery management, this position will entail maintaining our large fleet of maintenance machinery to the highest standards. The position is a key one within a large team. Dealer approved training and qualifications will be provided. PC experience and record keeping are an advantage.

No accommodation is provided, although help shall be given to find suitable accommodation. The salary shall be in the region of 38,000GBP for the successful candidate. The package shall include a pension and other benefits.

Applications in writing enclosing a current CV and marking your application "Confidential" to [ianross@c2i.net](mailto:ianross@c2i.net) or to: Ian Ross, Miklagard Golf AS, Postboks 87, 2041 Klofta.

### Experienced Greenkeeper Wanted

Must have NVQ Level 2 and at least 2 years experience.

Work in a friendly atmosphere on a superbly maintained Golf Course. Excellent rates of pay.

Send an application form and CV to:

**Andy Ross, Course Manager, Richings Park Golf Club, North Park, Iver, Bucks SL0 9DL  
Or email [info@richingspark.co.uk](mailto:info@richingspark.co.uk)**



**Trethorne Golf Club,  
Launceston, Cornwall**

Trethorne Golf Club is a well established 18-hole proprietary club, situated on the Cornwall / Devon border near to the town of Launceston.

### Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants should possess, or be working towards, NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, and have a minimum of two years experience in golf course maintenance.

Spraying, chainsaw and first aid certificates would be an advantage.

For the successful candidate, an opportunity also exists for an involvement with the construction and development of a new 27-hole property in Plymouth.

The position offers a competitive remuneration package, dependant upon the level of experience.

*Closing Date 31st October 2008*

Please apply, in writing, with full CV to:

**Mr Justin Austin, Course Manager, Trethorne Golf Club,  
Kennards House, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8QE**

e-mail: [justin@trethornegolfclub.com](mailto:justin@trethornegolfclub.com) [www.trethornegolfclub.com](http://www.trethornegolfclub.com)



## THE ROYAL DUBLIN GOLF CLUB

*Has a vacancy for a*

### DEPUTY LINKS SUPERINTENDENT

The successful applicant will be a highly motivated and ambitious individual, with:

- Good leadership and man management skills;
- All the relevant qualifications; and
- Experience working as a Greenkeeper in a Links environment is desirable.

*Applications by 24th October 2008*

*To:*

**Paddy Teeling  
Links Superintendent  
The Royal Dublin Golf Club  
North Bull Island Nature Reserve  
Dollymount  
Dublin 3**



## STRI TURFGRASS AGRONOMIST

*Based in South East England*

STRI is the leading independent turfgrass research and consultancy organisation in the UK. Our network of advisors visit over 2,000 golf and sports facilities each year. As a result of continued growth, we require an advisor to maintain, develop and expand our consultancy in South East England covering mainly Sussex, Kent and South London.

Excellent communication and report writing skills are essential, as well as a willingness to undertake occasional lectures and contributions to publications. Good organisational and administrative skills are also needed. Applicants should have a degree in plant or soil related science plus experience of sports turf management and an interest in sport would be a distinct advantage.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applicants are welcome to discuss the job with Steve Gingell, Area Manager for Southern England Tel: 01392 834949.

For further details please contact

**Carol Doherty at STRI, St Ives Estate,  
Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU.  
Tel: 01274 565131 Fax: 01274 561891  
e-mail [sharon.towler@stri.co.uk](mailto:sharon.towler@stri.co.uk)**

*Closing date 31 October 2008.*



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





## SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

### Requires Assistant Greenkeepers

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

Applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a World Top 50 golf club, host of the Open Championship International Final Qualifying – Europe 2009, 2010 & 2011 and the Senior Open Championship in 2009.

### Apprentice Greenkeepers Opportunities exist for Apprentices

If interested, please send a CV and cover letter to:

Mandy Gale, P.A. to the Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club,  
Ridgemoor Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR  
mandyg@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for Applications: 31st October 2008



### The Hurlingham Club is a prestigious private members' Club situated on the banks of the River Thames SW London.

Outdoor sports facilities include 30 grass tennis courts, a cricket ground, summer putting greens, a winter pitch and putt golf course and over 1 hectare of fine turf surfaces consisting of 10 croquet lawns and 2 bowling greens.

A vacancy has arisen for a **Grounds Supervisor** who will be predominantly responsible for the maintenance of the croquet and bowls surfaces as well as some involvement in all other areas.

The ideal candidate will have relevant previous experience in a Supervisory role and appropriate technical knowledge of fine turf management to a very high standard.

Applications should be sent to:

The Grounds Manager, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London SW6 3PR  
The closing date for applications is 31st October 2008

## THE HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB Deputy Course Manager

Enthusiastic and committed person required to join a dedicated team of professionals at one of Hertfordshire's most exciting venues.

*Applicants will require*

- Minimum NVQ3 or equivalent
- Spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Sound knowledge of computerised Irrigation systems
- Good Supervisory and Leadership Skills
- Knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations

Apply in writing with CV, by 31/10/08 to  
Peter Blackaby, Course Manager

The Hertfordshire Golf and Country Club, Broxbournebury mansion,  
White Stubbs Lane, Broxbourne, Herts EN10 7PY  
E-mail hertfordshire-greens@crowne-golf.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

# It's all about drive



## The Grove, Hertfordshire

At the heart of the UK's largest family-owned hotel group, we're deeply committed to friendly, sincere service – and as far from an impersonal corporate organisation as you can imagine. As an employer, we'll always go the extra mile to make you happy and help you pursue your goals, giving you all the skills to provide outstanding service to guests at our five star Hertfordshire hotel, set amid 300 stunning acres of parkland and woodland.

### Spray Technician/Senior Greenkeeper

Under the supervision of the Golf Course Manager, you will perform chemical applications on the Golf Course and Estate and apply fertilisers to all turf areas.

In this senior dual position, you will be responsible for reviewing and adhering to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and maintaining all applications of pesticides to comply with COSHH regulations. You will also be responsible for assisting the Golf Course Management team

in maintaining and managing the golf course and its colleagues. The compilation of preliminary reports of pesticide usage, stock control and fertiliser applications for the Golf Course Manager will also be a requirement of this role.

In recognition of your ability, we offer an excellent salary and benefits package, including childcare facilities as well as opportunities for professional development. If you are ready to rise to the challenge, please visit our website at [www.thegrove.co.uk](http://www.thegrove.co.uk) or email [recruitment@thegrove.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@thegrove.co.uk) for more information.

THE GROVE

Top 100 UK Golf Courses – Golf World 2006



THE GROVE 2006



# Chairman's Column

## WEATHER WOES

As I put pen to paper I can tell you that the rain proves to be my greatest challenge yet. The MET office declared that Warwickshire was the wettest county for August, and I feel we will take the prize for September too as we have had over 100mm up to the 15th.

The decisions that face any golf Course Manager in these conditions are harsh and not without consequence, the ripple effects for our retail departments and the resort in general, with loss of revenue has a major impact. I feel for all the disappointed golfers we have had to turn away here but on a professional level there is no doubt in my mind that the weather is rendering many courses unplayable, including ours. My Vice Chairman, Peter Todd, of the London Club, said in an article this year that his place in normal years is drier than Damascus. Can we have some of that up here, Peter?

Preparing and planning for a televised event like the Quinn Insurance British Masters can take so much out of everyone involved. The team effort is massive and logistically takes much planning. I want to thank all my team for the effort so far, and considering the sheer drenching they have had, literally from dawn 'till dusk some days, I think they can be happy with the final results.

My role as Chairman took me to the Toro Greenkeeper of the Year final on Monday, September 15, it was a diversion from 'tournament mode' and the evening went well with Matthew Wormald, of Luffenham Heath, winning. It was nice to see him again after he volunteered at our tournament last year. I knew he was going to be a future star. Also, I would like to congratulate all the finalists and talking to them at dinner they all had a great experience at Aldwark despite it being a little nerve wracking.

My diary dates and meetings for October as Chairman take me to the quarterly Board Meeting and the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and held at East Sussex. I'm looking forward to meeting up with some of the guys who are regulars at the National Championship. I think it will be a tough test of golf and hopefully they will have had better weather in the run up that we have had. I have no doubt that Scott Litchfield, the Course Manager, will have it in great shape. There is also the Ray Day Memorial golf day the next day at East Sussex and there will be team from BIGGA HQ representing us there. That same day I will be attending the opening of Ransomes Jacobson's new golf course in Ipswich...

You find me now writing just after the British Masters for which we had 20 volunteers from throughout the industry from as far afield as Finland and Spain as well as a UK contingent. It had been a busy week in the build up to the opening day - double shot gun Pro Am - and as you know these events are never as smooth as first planned. And as usual, the weather interfered with our arrangements, although we expected it to be the rain it was in actual fact the fog. It gave us some major complications and delays.

For the first time in my experience since 1997, it's the first tournament that hasn't kept to the daily schedule and it was an eye opener for me and



everyone else involved. We came through it very well and credit to the greenkeeping staff who did a great job through the hardest conditions. From build up through to tournament it had been incredible this year, and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts and time. The scoring was great and the course, and particularly the greens stood up to the test well - we got pleasing reports from all round which is fantastic.

We have had some great final day pairings with Michael Campbell and Lee Westwood. But in the end as you know it was Gonzalo Fdez-Castano who challenged Lee Westwood for his title, with a nail biting play-off playing the 18th hole three times in order to win the Quinn Insurance British Masters 2008. A great finish!

**Kenny Mackay**  
Chairman



**Your next issue of GI will be with you by November 14th**  
**Visit our website for a full archive of BIGGA magazine issues at [www.bigga.co.uk](http://www.bigga.co.uk)**



## Banner MAXX®. It's FAST, very FAST.

Banner MAXX® is an exceptional new broad-spectrum fungicide from Syngenta and it is fast – really fast.

Banner MAXX features an entirely new chemistry with a three-way action to prevent, cure and eradicate fungal pathogens with a single application. Syngenta's unique MAXX formulation is gentle and safe on even the finest grasses, moving up with new growth to keep both new and old leaves protected from infection. It's easy to mix and apply using boom or knapsack sprayers and, once mixed, remains stable in the tank.

Used on its own, or combined in a programme with other Syngenta fungicides like Heritage and Daconil Turf, as part of an Integrated Turf Management plan, Banner MAXX is the fastest way of getting your turf into shape.



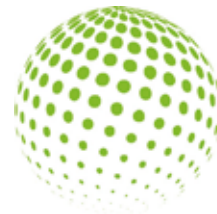
Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd., CPC4 Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge. CB21 5XE.

Website: [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) & [www.greencast.ie](http://www.greencast.ie) Technical Enquiries: 0800 169 6058 Email: [customer.services@syngenta.com](mailto:customer.services@syngenta.com)

Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Scotts Professional, Tel: 0871 220 5353 Email: [prof.sales@scotts.com](mailto:prof.sales@scotts.com)

BANNER MAXX® contains propiconazole (MAPP 13167, PCS 02715). BANNER MAXX® is a registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. **Always read the label. Use pesticides safely.** © Syngenta 2008





**SGC**<sup>TM</sup>  
Senior Golf Construction



“SGC’s quality of work and professionalism is exceptional, they achieve perfect results every time. I would have no hesitation in recommending SGC for all your tee renovations”

Craig Gilholm, Course Manager, Royal Liverpool

“SGC are very professional - the finish achieved was beyond our expectations ”

Gareth Roberts, Course Manager, Hankley Common

	Timescale	MATERIALS USED	ACCURACY OF FINISH
<b>LEVEL BY HAND</b>	2-4 WEEKS	60 – 100 TONS	+/- 50mm
<b>SGC LASER TEE RENOVATION</b>	½ - 1 DAY	5– 10 TONS	+/-5mm

## Laser Tee Renovation

Our state-of-the-art laser grading technology is the most advanced system in the UK; the advanced grading system lets us achieve perfect surfaces for tees. Projects can range in size and complexity; from laser grading your existing soil-based tees to full USGA construction.

- Saves thousands on construction of new tees
- Eliminates the guess-work with levelling tees
- Laser levelling allows 100% use of the tee surface
- Special rates for multiple bookings

## Big Roll Turf Installation

Our state of the art big roll turf installation equipment has been imported from the USA and is unique to this country. It allows us to use rolls of up to 35 square metres, which measure 1.2 metres in width by 29 metres in length.

- Fewer joins means quicker establishment
- Superior finish compared with small roll
- Ideal for laser graded tees

Contact: Stephen Senior, Tel: 07752989863  
Email: stephen@seniorgolfconstruction.com

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