

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 AUGUST 2009

A Warm Welcome Awaits

**Golf
Course
Feature**

Burnham and Berrow GC,
host to the BIGGA
National Championship

Inside...

SO NEARLY A MIRACLE

BIGGA's Support Team
attends **The Open**

Featured

Preparing for a Rainy Day

Course Construction
in **Kula Lumpar**

TREE MOVING

WITH **JAMES DE HAVILLAND**





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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Well Done All Round

A well known philosopher, I believe it was Forest Gump, once said “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to ‘git’.” Well I think, following on from Turnberry this year, we should tweak that saying to, “Golf is like a box of chocolates...”

No-one could have foreseen the events of the 138th Open Championship, where there was only one thing that could have been accurately predicted – the quality and conditioning of the golf course.

Who could possibly have envisaged that Tiger Woods would miss the cut? Not Tiger, that's for sure, because one of Friday's newspapers including a breakdown of what the World Number 1 would be wearing on each of the four rounds. I did feel at the time that it was tempting fate a bit, but didn't give it another thought.

Then we had the prospect of a 59 year-old winning The Open breaking the previous age record by almost 14 years and of any Major Championship by over 11 years.

Tom Watson's opening 65 was seen as a spectacular round by one of golf's legends but probably a one-off hurrah. Two more solid rounds saw him enter Sunday a shot clear but the knowledgeable among us still felt it was beyond him. When he was still leading with three holes to play those doubters became believers.

It suddenly became probable when he sat in the middle of the final fairway needing a par to win. He struck a superb 8-iron into the final green, but unfortunately it was too well struck and skipped through the green. The up and down from the back, with no shots in hand, was very awkward – too awkward as it happened and all of a sudden the dream, and the hopes of the gallery, were dead.

What Watson did at Turnberry will never be forgotten. Even Stuart Cink admits that it will be known as Watson's Open and that he lost in a play-off shouldn't detract from the fact that a man who would be 60 six weeks later had tied first in an Open.

Among the greenkeeping fraternity it will be known as Brown's Open, as George had a swansong only a few could even dream of. After nearly 25 years at the helm the 2009 Open was George's final event – no Captain's Day or Monthly Medal to bow out on for him.

Despite the pressures he still took time to talk with the Support Team on the Wednesday evening and was a regular visitor to the BIGGA marquee.

He was justifiably proud of what he and his experienced team had achieved and everything fell right for them. The weather in the lead up was ideal and the week itself, the odd heavy shower but bright and breezy in the main, showed the course off at its very best. The aerial pictures provided by the BBC were simply amazing and the feedback from the players – even Tiger in the early part of the week – was positive without exception.

George will still be involved with Turnberry after his retirement but he will take a bucket load of memories with him from this Open alone.

Well done George. Well done Tom. Oh, and not forgetting, well done Stuart.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Greenkeepers Association Limited.

Incredible Journey Revisited



LEFT: The original run in 1959 and ABOVE: The old team celebrate their achievement 50 years on by handing over a haggis to David Jordan.

Five former students, who rode a Ransomes Matador mower non-stop from Edinburgh to London's Hyde Park in just four days, got back together recently to commemorate their epic journey.

Back in 1959, Tom Hudson, Mike Smith, Mike Savage, Hugh Tansley and John Wilson, who were students at Hatfield Technical College and former employees of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, wanted to test the reliability of small petrol engines.

So, they hatched a plot to see if they could drive a small petrol-engined mower from Edinburgh to London.

They contacted Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries, and Mark Grimwade was tasked with assisting the students.

The mower was slightly modified with a larger sump added to the 288cc Villiers engine to provide enough lubrication for the non-stop 400 mile trip.

The five left Edinburgh Castle in Easter 1959 with Tom Hudson driving the first leg and the others crammed into a Bedford Dormobile. A haggis was placed in the grass box of the mower to be presented to the Keeper of the Royal Parks in London - a Scotsman - at the end of the journey.

Four days and three nights later they rode into Hyde Park to be met by the Royal Park's staff, Ransomes management, a BBC television crew and the press.

The haggis was handed over and a ceremonial strip of Hyde Park grass was mown.

Fifty years on, Mike Smith contacted Ransomes Jacobsen who readily agreed to support the reunion.

Earlier this summer, the Operation Matador team, all now in their early 70s, arrived at the University of Hertfordshire, with a replica of the Ransomes Matador mower, complete with the original number plate and signage.

They then travelled to Hyde Park, where they re-enacted the completion of their journey by mowing a ceremonial strip of grass and presenting a haggis to the Assistant Parks Manager, David Jordan.

"We are absolutely delighted to be in a position to help the Operation Matador team celebrate their epic achievement of 50 years ago.

"It would be difficult to replicate what they achieved, even today, and it was a remarkable feat," said David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

"It says a lot about the quality of the equipment we built back then; a tradition that we carry on today.

"After 50 years, I'm delighted that all of the team are still with us; that we're still producing quality turf care equipment in Ipswich.

And we're still producing the Matador mower, albeit with some technological enhancements from the original!"



JCB MACHINE GIVES LIFT TO LIVING LONDON ART PROJECT

A JCB machine gave a lift – literally - to one of the UK's most inspirational art projects as a living monument was created in the shadow of one of London's most famous landmarks.

For 100 days, a total of 2400 people from across the UK will individually occupy the empty Fourth Plinth, in Trafalgar Square for an hour each through day and night as part of an extraordinary artwork

created by the celebrated sculptor Antony Gormley and entitled One & Other.

The JCB Loadall telescopic handler, swung into action under the gaze of London Mayor Boris Johnson, to lift the first

of those 'artworks', housewife Rachel Wardell, of Lincolnshire, six and a half metres into the air, enabling her to take the small step to becoming the first human occupant of the plinth.



RFS president John Besent, left, presents the James cup to Dr Terry Mabbett

RFS Award Winner

Forestry consultant and Greenkeeper International contributor, Dr Terry Mabbett, has been awarded the James Cup by the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) for a paper reviewing the spread of Bacterial Bleeding Canker - *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* – in the UK.

The paper, published in the RFS Quarterly Journal of Forestry (QJF) in October 2008, looked at how this aggressive form of bleeding canker is killing both white flowering and red flowering horse chestnut trees of all ages; at current research into the disease and at the lack of available control measures.

Terry who lives in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, fears that Bacterial Bleeding Canker could be as devastating for the horse chestnut as Dutch elm disease was to the English elm. He warns that local authorities, estate and woodland managers may need to consider planting alternative trees, especially amenity trees, such as walnut, in its stead.

The James Cup is presented by the RFS annually to the author of the best original article for the year in the QJF. The award was presented to Dr Mabbett at a meeting of the RFS London Division in Kew Gardens by the RFS President, John Besent.



The Scottish National Tournament

Cathkin Braes Golf Club, Thursday 11 June 2009

The 2009 Scottish National Tournament was held at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, near Glasgow.

The course sits high on the hills above the City of Glasgow and has magnificent views over the Lanarkshire valley and Glasgow. The good weather could not have been better, a lovely sunny day with just a slight breeze just to make things interesting.

With nearly 90 competitors taking part, everyone was looking forward to playing this fine moorland course. From the beginning the players were not disappointed. The course was in superb condition and Douglas McIntosh and his staff have to be congratulated on producing a first class golf course and one that the members of Cathkin can feel extremely proud.

Scoring was excellent with several fine scores being returned and of course the usual tales of woe about what could have been. Handicaps varied from three plus players in the field, right through to the maximum handicap allowed 24.

The Champion golfer for 2009 was Gordon Sangster, a member at Cathkin Braes Golf Club who, despite having put in a hard shift in the morning returned a fine 70. Gordon who is currently playing off plus 1 is the current Club Champion of Cathkin Braes. The Handicap Champion was young Elliott Gaughan, only 17 years of age, from Hags Castle Golf Club, who returned a magnificent 72 -7- 65.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and, hopefully, they will all be available to defend their trophies at the 2010 Championships at Murcar Golf Club, Aberdeen.

Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Cathkin Braes Golf Club for the courtesy and facilities afforded to the players. Thanks also to David Moir, Secretary, and the staff of the club for their assistance prior to and during the Championship.

PRIZE LIST

SGGA Challenge Cup Scratch Champion

Gordon Sangster, Cathkin Braes GC, 70

Friendship Trophy Best Nett Handicap Champion

Elliott Gaughan, Hags Castle GC, 65

Ransomes Trophy First Class

1. Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 71 (BIH);
2. William McMeiken, Turnberry Hotel, 71; 3. Kenneth Stirling, Kingsbarns, 71

Pattison Trophy Second Class

Duncan Gray, Pines GC, 67; 2. Gary Semple, St. Andrews Links, 72; 3. Jim Wilson, Langlands GC, 73 (BIH)

STRI Trophy Third Class

Gordon McKie, St. Andrews Links, 73; 2. William Kelly, Hags Castle GC, 75; 3. Kevin Cross, Williamwood GC, 77 (BIH)

Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper

Alan Patterson, St. Andrews Links, 72 (BIH)

M & M Trophy Best Assistant

Craig Wylie, Glasgow GC, 70

Souter Trophy Best Apprentice

Brian Ramsay, Glasgow GC, 75

SIGGA Trophy Best Veteran

Kenneth Mitchell, St. Andrews Links, 73

St. Mungo Trophy Team Trophy

(Best 4 net scores)
West Section Elliott Gaughan, Hags Castle GC, 65; Craig Wylie Glasgow GC, 70; Gordon Sangster, Cathkin Braes GC, 71 Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC, 72 Total = 278

Patrons/Trade

Alistair Eccles, British Seed Houses, 66

Qualifiers, National

Championship

Gordon Sangster, Club; Cathkin Braes GC
Elliott Gaughan, Club; Hags Castle GC

Peter J Boyd, Regional Administrator

John Deere Announces Biggest Ever Golf Product Launch

John Deere Golf has its customers to thank for the latest new products it is unveiling at their recent European launch.

Pointing to the vital feedback the company receives from its customers, John Deere says operator needs, along with industry experience, have guided the development of each new piece of equipment.

The 2009 line-up – John Deere Golf's largest product launch to date – also draws inspiration from earlier products, combining existing solutions with advanced innovations in engineering.

“John Deere's Feedback programme is all about listening and reacting to what our customers have to say about our products, so that we can design the right equipment with the exact features they're looking for,” said Gregg Breningmeyer, Director of Sales and Marketing for John Deere Golf.

New products include a range of mowers, cutting units and a sprayer, all of which are designed to enable operators to work efficiently and achieve a higher quality finish on golf courses and other sports turf areas.

The 2009 line-up includes:

- Quick Adjust 5 and Quick Adjust 7 cutting units
- 220e E-Cut hybrid walk-behind greens mower
- 7500e and 8500e E-Cut hybrid fairway mowers
- 8000e E-Cut hybrid fairway mower
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Wiedenmann UK and Ernest Doe Join Forces

“Keep it simple,” was the key theme for around 30 Head Greenkeepers, contractors and local authority managers who attended a workshop at Diss Golf Club, Norfolk. Hosted by Ernest Doe and Wiedenmann UK, the event featured two motivational sessions from golf course management expert, Laurence Pithie.

“All industries at the moment are under pressure to complete tasks more efficiently and more quickly. Ours is no different,” said organiser, Eddie Jack, Groundscare Sales Specialist at Ernest Doe, North Walsham.

“Laurence stressed how important it is not to over-complicate working practices, to do the basics to the very best of your ability and

not lose sight of the fundamental requirements of your business.”

Outdoor sessions included an up-close inspection of the Wiedenmann fleet of Terra Spikes. Chas Ayres, Wiedenmann UK’s Sales Manager, demonstrated many of the benefits of deep tining and decompaction that Laurence Pithie had addressed earlier and culminated his presentation with a “race against tine” - three Terra Spikes - the XD, the XF and the XP all going head-to-head in a race off using different spacings and tine lengths.

“It was a fun way to end what had been a really purposeful and enlightening workshop, said Eddie Jack.

European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd Re-accredited

European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd, based in Stirling, Scotland are pleased to announce that they have been re-accredited by the A2LA (American Association for Laboratory Accreditation) in the Geotechnical/Putting Green Materials field of testing (Certificate No. 903.01) for the seventh time. ETL have been accredited in this field since 1997 and this accreditation is now extended until April 2011.

Accreditation is a key component to the business and it ensures that ETL remain on the soil physical testing laboratories list approved by the USGA - currently, 1 of 10 such laboratories in the world to achieve this status.

The re-accreditation process is carried out every two years where an external assessor from the A2LA visits the laboratory and audits the quality management system, the premises and the staff. This constant monitoring ensures that ETL remains one of the leading sportsturf testing centres in the world.

ETL’s scope of accreditation includes analysis required for testing to the 2004 USGA Recommendations. Copies of this scope are available upon request. Information about all the laboratory services and prices can be downloaded from the new ETL website: www.etl-ltd.com.

Exclusive Agreement for Farmura

Farmura has signed an exclusive agreement with E-Nema GmbH to distribute its biological products Nema-green (Chafer Grubs) and Nemastar (Leatherjackets) in England, Scotland and Wales.

With increasing pressure on chemical usage the need for biological sustainable alternatives is going to grow in the future.

Farmura has been seeking a partner to provide these alternative products for some time and E-nema is a leader in this field. The products have been tried and tested in Europe and are being used with great success on golf courses.

Water Environment Regulations Update

The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 came into effect in April 2006 and are law. There is now less than a year to go before full compliance of this legislation is required.

Are you prepared? Here are the main parts;

The regulations come into effect in three stages:

- Where facilities that commenced after 1 April 2006, new tanks must now comply.
- Where facilities commenced before 1 April 2006, existing tanks that are at significant risk (for example, if they are located within 10 metres of any surface water or 50 metres of a borehole or well) must comply by 1 April 2008.
- All remaining existing tanks must comply by 1 April 2010.

All of the following oils are included in the regulations;

- Petrol
- Diesel
- Mineral oil
- Heating oil
- Lubricating oil
- Waste oil
- Vegetable and plant oil

The regulations apply to any kind of container which is used and stored on premises above ground, whether inside or outside a building. This includes

fixed tanks, intermediate bulk containers, drums (oil drums or similar containers used for storing oil) or mobile bowlers.

Premises covered include;

- Industrial businesses
- Commercial businesses
- Institutions (residential and non-residential)
- Farms

There are few exemptions but these include;

- Oil stored in vehicles
- The storage of oil on premises used wholly or mainly as a single private dwelling, with an oil storage capacity of less than 2,500 litres. [New or altered tanks should comply with applicable Regulations under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003.

The regulations go much further than their English counterparts and are considered more thorough. Full details of the act can be seen on the following website; www.sepa.org.uk/water/regulations/regimes/pollution_control/oil_storage.aspx

Here you will find useful links to more detailed information and advice.

www.course-care.co.uk
Tel: 0845 600 3572
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GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY DAY

Sponsored by
**Scotts (UK)
Professional**

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day sponsored for the 12th successive year by Scotts UK Professional was held at Newark Golf Club last month.

Teams from 14 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course, prepared by Course Manager, Graeme Macdonald and his staff. One or two heavy rain showers made the day more challenging, but the course stood up really well. Everyone was made to feel very welcome by all the staff and members at Newark Golf Club, and our thanks are extended to all at the Club.

The established format of four man teams playing Stableford with the best two points scores on each hole to count. The home team led by Course Manager Graeme Macdonald became the first club to win this event on home soil with 85 points; Stourbridge Golf Club was 2nd with 83 points on countback, and 3rd was Trentham Park Golf Club also with 83 points. Nearest the line on the 7th was won by Barry Gaynor, from John O'Gaunt Golf Club, (his drive was actually on the line!), and Bill Tyler, from Rothley Park Golf Club, won nearest the pin on the 17th hole. The photograph shows the winning team from Newark Golf Club receiving the trophy. From left to right: Lew White, Chairman of Green; Barre Ramsbottom, Club Captain; Graeme Macdonald, Course Manager; David Collingwood, Club Secretary, and Simon Hardcastle from Scotts.

The Midland Region of BIGGA thank Newark Golf Club for hosting the event and Scotts for their continued sponsorship.

*Peter Larter,
Midland Regional Administrator*

Rufford rootzone system used in modernisation and restoration project on Wentworth's famous West Course



Mick Higgins (left) and Jonathan Skelton (centre) of Rufford overseeing the project with Course Manager, Chris Kennedy.

Rufford's specialist rootzone system, TurfStart, is being used in the modernisation and restoration of Wentworth's West Course. Work began in June to reconstruct and modernise all 18 greens and surrounds on the West Course to a USGA specification, replacing the current poa greens with colonial bent grass.

The new greens are being constructed with TurfStart to encourage faster establishment and healthier grass.

The rootzone system is a combination of graded sand, a blend of organic amendments, Devon lignite and a controlled-release fertiliser. Supplied by Rufford from its quarry at Redhill in Surrey, the rootzone has been specially designed for the Wentworth project to full USGA specification.

In previous projects, both seed and turf grown using TurfStart has succeeded in a much faster establishment than turf grass grown using conventional construction techniques, producing a root mass up to 60%

greater and increasing the rate of ground cover by as much as 60%.

"Our TurfStart rootzone system has repeatedly proved itself in establishing healthier greens in a much shorter space of time. It lends itself perfectly to the West Course modernisation scheme and we are delighted to be part of the team assembled to deliver one of the most important projects in Wentworth's history," said Mick Higgins, Rufford's Technical Manager.

"This is something we've wanted to do for some time and I'm very pleased that the opportunity has now arisen," said Chris Kennedy, Course Manager at Wentworth Club.

"The objective is to produce a USGA specification consistent surface of the highest quality on every green on the West Course. Working closely with Ernie Els, the 7-time Champion on the West, we have reviewed each green so as to ensure that they become a fitting test for the modern day golfer while staying true to Harry Colt's original vision."



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Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Peter Todd, gives his thoughts for the month

For months I had been looking forward to going up to The Open Championship but breaking my leg in June put paid to that and I had to make do with watching the action on television and reading the sports pages in the newspaper.

However, despite not being able to tread the hallowed Turnberry turf, the course looked magnificent on television and the golf kept me glued to the TV all day on Sunday.

The final round started with so much anticipation of what might happen. Tom Watson, Ross Fisher, Lee Westwood - the crowds were eager to see one of them win and then just when all was going in Watson's favour the tide turned and Stuart Cink emerged the victor.

Listening to the BBC commentary acknowledge the work of the BIGGA Support Team and seeing George Brown in the presentation ceremony receive much deserved recognition for all his years service at Turnberry was great to hear. Well done

gear to distinguish him from the rest of the staff. According to the article, last September a tribunal agreed that the person had suffered unfair dismissal and disability discrimination and damages were awarded.

The lack of understanding shown to this disabled employee was inexcusable but in some ways I was not totally surprised. My eldest brother is registered disabled with Asperger's Syndrome and has also had to put up with ignorant behaviour at work and poorly trained management.

It is not uncommon for people with slight disabilities or learning difficulties to work in our field and the wider scope of horticulture. I have come across many people who excel at practical greenkeeping but



Welcome world-wide publicity to our industry

to George, Euan, all the greenkeeping staff and BIGGA volunteers who worked so hard to make the event such a success.

High profile events like The Open and venues such as Turnberry bring welcome world-wide publicity to our industry and can only create more interest in the game and encourage more to participate. Television coverage has such a powerful influence on the viewing public that what they see at these events shapes their perception of golf courses in general. After television, newspapers also generate images and stories that can influence the public and over the past year golf has attracted a range of articles including some less than desirable ones.

After picking up the sports supplement in The Daily Telegraph on the weekend of The Open Championship and enjoying reading all the coverage I turned to the main part of the paper. Before long my eye was drawn to a headline "Autistic greenkeeper forced to wear red hat awarded £78,000". My heart sank as I read the detail which referred to an autistic person enduring constant bullying at work, including being told by the Head Greenkeeper to a wear red head

struggle sometimes with reading, writing and numeracy. More help may be needed in these areas, particularly when being trained.

All golf clubs need to make sure supervisory staff are adequately trained in personnel management, making them fully aware of the pitfalls of discrimination. The adverse publicity this club received in a national newspaper was a public relations disaster as well as a costly exercise in how not to treat staff.

Increasingly golf attracts media attention related to environmental issues, particularly land and water use. There are many good stories to tell but the media will jump at the controversial ones such as the opposition to the so-called 'Donald Trump' golf development in Scotland which attracted nationwide media coverage.

Golf clubs and greenkeepers need to be seen by the public as a good custodians of the countryside and act accordingly. Clubs will need to make more effort improving and promoting their environmental credentials to get across a positive message, highlighting factors such as good habitat management

for wildlife, water recycling schemes etc.

The Golf Environment Organisation launched its new website in May to provide knowledge and guidance on environmental issues to help industry professionals and a certification programme. It's well worth taking a look as it provides lots of ideas and pointers to assist you in your job and improve your performance in this important area.

Whenever you turn on the television you are bombarded with talk of green energy, carbon neutral, organic, climate change etc. The subject of sustainability is here to stay so the quicker we review work practices and take proactive action, the less likely we are to make the wrong decisions on the course and for golf's future.

Peter Todd
National Chairman



Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC**

The GTC has hosted seven workshops throughout England and Scotland, primarily to ensure staff working for the GTC Approved Centres and Colleges in Britain are comfortable with the promotion of the sustainable golf course programme to all greenkeeping students.

The workshops also gave representatives from The R&A the opportunity to explain why the benchmarking service was the online programme for the sector to gather much needed data from golf clubs.

All workshops were held courtesy of golf clubs which have embarked on the sustainable golf course programme and I am sure the clubs will not mind me mentioning their Course Managers as they truly have been and still are at the very heart of the programmes for best practice.

Our thanks also go the management boards, Secretaries and staff at the following clubs:

Wilmslow Golf Club, Cheshire – Course Manager Steve Oultram.
Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, Somerset – Course Manager Richard Whyman.
Glencorse Golf Club, near Edinburgh – Course Manager Ian Bell.
Temple Golf Club, Berkshire – Course Manager Martin Gunn & Deputy Course Manager Glenn Chivers.
Gog Magog Golf Club, near Cambridge – Course Manager Kerran Daly.
King's Hill Golf Club, Kent – Course Manager Duncan Kelso.
Cleveland Golf Club, North Yorkshire – Course Manager Ian Pemberton

The R&A representatives were Paul Seago and Dr Keith Duff (Advisory Members to the Golf Course Committee) and Steve Isaac, Director – Golf Course Management.

Steve, Paul and Keith explained the playing performance, environmental stewardship, economic performance and social responsibility issues facing golf course managers including why the sustainable golf programme should be considered by all golf clubs.

Following presentations by The

R&A representatives and the host Course Manager a course walk provided delegates with a first hand, realistic view on where the club were actually positioned on the sustainable ladder.

The Course Managers all gave excellent presentations and their knowledge, passion and enthusiasm really shone through out on the golf course.....thankyou gentlemen you made my job as the workshop "host" a pleasure.

On returning to the clubhouse the delegates from the GTC Centres and Course Managers discussed all issues outlined in the R&A presentation and whilst it is not possible for me to detail every discussion there were several generic messages which were raised at every workshop.

These will be discussed with The R&A and I know the following points will lead to much discussion among readers.

- A very positive message from all delegates working in the Centres was that at every opportunity from students on N/SVQ Level 2 programmes to HND (Scotland) and Foundation Degree, sustainability will be discussed with all levels of students.

- The sustainable golf course programme is far more than just maintaining golf courses in a manner that encourages the more desirable grasses.

- Water and Pesticide Directives from Europe are already starting to impact on golf and will increasingly become a challenge.

- Course Managers should never embark on implementing a sward exchange programme without first having employer support including the development of a Course Policy Document.

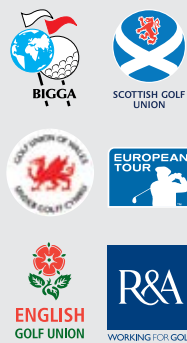
- Ongoing education and communication of the management board and members of what is involved in the sustainable programme is a MUST.

- The major golfing authorities have a significant role to play to educate golf clubs and golfers world wide e.g. The R&A, PGA European Tour, Unions, Federations.

In Brief

David reports on the recent workshops held in association with The R&A to promote the Sustainable Golf Course programme and the Benchmarking Service now available through the website: www.bestcourseforgolf.org

The GTC is funded by:



- Non-golfers whose only experience of the game is watching televised tournaments have a perception that golf is a selfish user of land and a polluter of the environment through excessive use of water, fertiliser and pesticides.

The sustainable golf course programme promotes sound environmental stewardship and attempts to address this perception.

The GTC in association with The R&A has produced learning materials to assist with the promotion of the sustainable golf course programme and these will be made available through the GTC website.

The R&A are entering partnerships with the Home Unions and Federations within Europe to have a national specific Benchmarking Service website information.

These will be accessible through www.bestcourseforgolf.org

When it comes to the rights and wrongs of sward composition there is nothing new in this area of the sustainable golf course programme, which is the essence of basic greenkeeping good practices that have been applied for many years.

However, whilst the GTC and its Approved Centres have and will continue to promote these principles to all greenkeeping students, will the golfer (the customer) be willing to live with the potential reduction in playing surface quality during the implementation of a sustainable golf course programme?

We all have to ensure we understand all aspects of the programme whilst at the same time ensuring Course Managers jobs are sustainable!

With the permission of those involved I will be posting presentations on the GTC website.

Following the very positive feedback from delegates attending the workshops, plans are already underway for further workshops and the GTC will remain at the heart of the promotion of best practices in greenkeeper education in association with its Approved Training Centres.

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Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development,
with an update on education issues



Summertime and the livin' is easy! After some terrible summers I for one am very, very happy to see the sun and feel some heat. Is it just me or does everyone seem so much happier with life?

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award

The Regional interviews for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award took place in July. My thanks go to our Regional Administrators Peter Boyd, Jane Jones, Peter Larter, Clive Osgood and to our greenkeeping representatives Archie Dunn, Les Howkins MG, Chris Sealey, Tony Smith and Richard Whyman who, alongwith the Toro representatives Nigel Lovatt, George MacDonald, Larry Pearn, John Pike and Ian Sumpter selected our eight National Finalists.

The eight Student Greenkeepers who have been selected to attend the National Finals on 13 and 14 September at BIGGA House are:

- Paul Bennett representing Merist Wood College
- Benjamin Burrill representing Askham Bryan College
- Martin Finegan representing Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
- Richard Jenkinson representing Elmwood College
- Peter Leach representing Myerscough College
- Rhys Norville representing Coleg Gwent, Usk Campus
- Oliver Pennington representing Myerscough College

Adam Wise representing Myerscough College

I'm sure you will join me in wishing all our National Finalist the very best of luck.

You Tube

Sitting at home a few weeks ago idly surfing the net, to find what I class to be the worlds funniest television adverts (for those of you who are interested it's the meerkats asking the questions 'have you seen me dancing? I mean really dancing?') I decided to search You Tube for some work related items. Having had several discussions about Dr Elaine Ingham in the past few months, I did a search and hey presto, found more than 20 short videos featuring or mentioning the lady herself. The videos clips include information on how to make organic compost, weeds, different forms of nitrogen, nutrition in food and soil biology.

I also searched for management videos using words like 'appraisal' and 'leadership' and was astounded how much information there is available (as well as a few funnies!). You Tube also features 'Channels' that you can access on a whole host of subjects and includes an open access channel from the Chartered Management Institute.

You Tube has turned out to be a very valuable resource (as well as enabling you to have a good laugh!).

Check it out at www.youtube.com.

The funding provided by Golden 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 Golden and Silver Key Sponsors.

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Learning and Development Updates

Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by
Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:
Derek Peat - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf
Greg Knight - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

BIGGA Library

Six new books have been added to the BIGGA Library in the last month:

How to work wonders – Your guide to workplace wellness
– Liggie Webb

The body language bible
– Judi James

How to win friends and influence people
– Dale Carnegie

Confidence – the art of getting whatever you want
– Dr Rob Yeung

7 Habits of highly effective people
– Stephen R Covey

The one minute manager
– Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.
Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Hamish Campbell, Neil Whitaker, Robert Maibusch.



Lloyds acquires Hunters

Lloyds of Letchworth has bought established grinding company Hunter Grinders which will now operate as a division of Lloyds

“Like Hunter Grinders Ltd we have been supplying equipment to golf and sports clubs, stadiums and parks departments for many years,” said Lloyds Managing Director, Clive Nottingham.

“Coupled with our knowledge and understanding of relief grinding from using a Hunter precision grinder for many years on our own mowers we consider it a natural synergy for the two companies.”

Existing and new customers of Hunter Grinders will now benefit from the additional support of Lloyds and Co.

Godfreys acquires Palmers Turfcare

Kent-based John Deere dealer Godfreys of Sevenoaks has bought another John Deere dealership, Palmers Turfcare.

The Palmer’s business will initially continue to operate under the same name, with all existing staff, from its premises in East Sussex.

It will also continue to be the sole supplier of John Deere’s turf equipment range in East and West Sussex.

“Both our companies have been associated with sales and service of grounds care machinery in Sussex and Kent, and with John Deere, for many years,” said Godfreys dealer principal Peter Bateman

The acquisition has the full approval of John Deere and means that Godfrey’s now offer the company’s full range of professional grounds care and domestic lawn and garden

equipment across the whole of Kent, Sussex and south-east London”

“This deal strengthens our dealership presence in the south-east of England,” said David Hart, John Deere’s Turf Equipment Division Manager.

“Both Godfreys and Palmers are established businesses with a strong focus on first class customer and product support.”

MAPLE LEAF GOLF BUYS HORTON PARK

Paul Williams, Joint Administrator and Partner at MCR, has announced the sale of Horton Park Golf & Country Club to Maple Leaf Golf, owner of both the Chichester and Hill Barn Golf Clubs in Sussex.

Maple Leaf Golf acquired Horton Park, which went into Administration in December 2008.

Peter Townson, who has been running the site on behalf of the Administrators, said: “We are delighted with the outcome.

Maple Leaf Golf is an established golf operator with an excellent track record, it was just what this business needs.”

Maple Leaf Golf acquired Chichester Golf Club, which has two 18 hole courses, a driving range and a Par 3 course, in 1999. In 2003 it acquired Hill Barn Golf Club, the 1930’s built Hawtree designed course from Worthing Borough Council.

Richard Haygarth, who will be running

the new site, said: “We are very excited about Horton Park. It is one of the best courses in the area and fits perfectly with our existing businesses.”

Plans for Horton Park include a new irrigation system for the Par 3 course, a new fleet of greenkeeping machinery, the return of buggies and a day one purchase of 20,000 range balls.

Haygarth added: “It’s a great business with excellent staff that just needs the proper investment.”



A-PLANT LAUNCHES NEW TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT GUIDE



NORTHERN AREA SALES APPOINTMENT

Crocodile Golf has appointed Jim Fox as Northern Area Sales Manager. Responsible for the North of England as well as The Midlands and Wales, Jim joins with over 22 years experience in the amenity and grass care sector and has an enviable and extensive knowledge of outdoor products and machinery.

"It is extremely refreshing to join an enthusiastic Company with such an extensive range of desirable and quality products. Everyone who has bought their replacement mower bottom blades and cylinders has been delighted with the improved performance they have brought to the golf course greens. Manufactured entirely in the United Kingdom from hot-rolled, high carbon, hardened and tempered steel, Crocodile is definitely a brand to watch out for," said Jim.

A-Plant has published a new guide to the fleet of trenchless technology equipment and services available from the company. The Guide describes the choice and applications for trenchless technology equipment available nationally from A-Plant for use in the utilities markets, covering water, gas, power and communications throughout Great Britain.

"The Guide is a valuable new information source for the trenchless technology solutions we offer nationally and will stand the test of time. Packed with full colour pictures and diagrams of products and their applications, the Guide is an authoritative and

comprehensive brochure for A-Plant trenchless technology equipment," said Ian Johnson, A-Plant's new National Business Development Manager for Trenchless Technology.

Using A-Plant's trenchless technology equipment, customers have the benefit of the most up-to-date products from the leading manufacturers for use when they need it with no downtime, supported by experienced and fully trained, specialist trenchless technology staff at A-Plant. If training is required to operate the equipment, then A-Plant can offer customers full training at the time of equipment handover.



New Sales Manager Appointed

Wiedenmann UK has appointed Paul McIldoon as Regional Sales Manager covering Ireland and Wales. Paul (36) from Portadown, Co Armagh, has an extensive and varied background in turf care including lecturing and running an organic farm.

"I've been involved selling Wiedenmann products from the dealership side for the last seven years and it seemed like a natural progression for me.

"I'll be covering both the north and south of Ireland for Wiedenmann as well as Wales - so as well as getting to know the dealers, I'll be making regular acquaintance with the ferry crossing between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire," he said.

David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's Managing Director said, "Paul is joining at a good time for us. We've new machines in the pipeline and steady interest across the Wiedenmann fleet in aerators, mowers and collectors so he has much to keep him busy.

"With Paul's arrival we've taken the opportunity to amend the Wiedenmann UK sales territories a little - Chas Ayres will still be covering the south east and south west up as far as Lincolnshire while Michael James will cover northern England and Scotland from Lincolnshire up," continues David Rae.

In his spare time Paul is a youth leader, enjoys landscaping, collecting die-cast models and spending time with his two young daughters.





A Warm Welcome Awaits

Burnham and Berrow plays host to the BIGGA National Championship in October and, as Scott MacCallum found out, it is sure to leave a lasting impression on those who attend.

The traditional Burnham & Berrow clubhouse has acted as a perfect backdrop to photographs of some of the country's finest amateur golfers holding silverware aloft.

Those who have won around the stunning Somerset links have certainly earned the plaudits as it is without doubt one of the best courses to be found anywhere.

It has hosted half a dozen English Amateur Championships and the course identified players of the quality of Sir Michael Bonalack and Warren Humphries as Champions, while the final of the 2006 English Amateur saw Ross McGowan and Oliver Fisher, both now making names for themselves on the European Tour, contesting the final.

This October, BIGGA's Champion Golfer will have similar photographs taken as Burnham and Berrow Golf Club hosts the two day event for the very first time.

This year, during the week of The Open Championship, the Tillman Trophy will be played at Burnham and as a counting event for the Amateur World Rankings it has attracted a quality field of 120 with the high handicap being scratch and the low handicap +5.

"We've got the Brabazon and the R&A Boys' Championship in

we sat in the clubhouse looking out over the 1st tee and 18th green.

And Richard certainly does have a lot of friends in the industry as he made a big impression on everyone he met during his year as BIGGA's National Chairman in 2006.

While he always has time for everyone and generally gives an impression of being a glass half full kind of guy, when it comes to his golf course, Richard has an attention to detail that a course of the quality of Burnham and Berrow desires.

To that end the work that has and is being carried out with regard to bunkering, overseeding and pest control has all contributed towards improvements being made to the course.

Burnham and Berrow has had input from three of the all-time great architects – Herbert Fowler, Harry Colt and Alister McKenzie while the more recent work has been carried out by Martin Hawtree.

The course is cut between some monster dunes with tough pot bunkering and large sloping greens. The four par-3s are particularly challenging and the last two holes, consisting of a 200 yard par-3 and a menacing par-4 445 yard closing hole, especially tough.

"We are a traditional out and back golf course – if you lose on the 10th green you've got an unhappy three mile walk back to the clubhouse –

"I'm looking forward to meeting all my friends during the week and hopefully, after the event, they'll still be my friends,"

Course Manager,
Richard Whyman.

2011, one in June and the other in August so it will be a manic year," said Course Manager, Richard Whyman.

"But that's the reason I came here in 2003. I could have stayed at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club, which I'd been at for 18 years and which I still love dearly, but I always wanted the challenge of preparing a course for large events. You might not always think it is such a good idea a week before but, hopefully, the week after you've had a real buzz and thought it was the best thing you've ever done."

It will no doubt be a similar feeling that Richard and his team will be hoping to get when they welcome the field for the BIGGA National Championship, in early October.

"I'm looking forward to meeting all my friends during the week and hopefully, after the event, they'll still be my friends," joked Richard, as

and as a result all our bunkers on the way out are south facing and they used to just fry and crumble," explained Richard.

"One of the great things about BIGGA is the networking! I was at The Open Championship at St Andrews in 2005 when I was Vice Chairman and I met Chris Watson, whom I'd never met before although he works not far from here at Sherbourne.

"He put me in touch with Andy Church of Lancashire Turf Supplies up near Birkdale and we've been using their revet turf ever since. It's been really successful. We used to keep the grass on the faces of the bunkers but now when we revet the bunkers we keep the grass off the faces and it's working well. We also have sprinklers in all the bunkers facing south," explained Richard.

The overseeding policy has also reaped its rewards with a higher

ABOVE: The dune structures at Burnham & Berrow are quite outstanding



percentage of fescue now apparent on many of the greens.

"During the growing season we overseed four greens every Monday morning. It's something we started last year and it's worked really well.

"We go across with a vertidrain then brush the seed in by hand before going over with the triple brushes. We used to do it twice a year but I believe that there is less waste doing it this way and by starting at 6am and finishing at 10am no-one knows we've been out and there is no disruption to play. Our fescue percentage has increased quite a lot especially in areas which have always struggled during dry conditions said Richard with some greens increasing by 30-40%," Richard, has also overseen a 50% cut in fertiliser and pesticide in recent years

The other area where strides



have been made in improving the course is that of pest control and it is a vindication of the decision to employ a pest controller on a full time basis.

“Go back through the old minutes of club meetings and you’ll see that rabbits have always been a huge problem at this golf club. We tried every thing from professional rabbit shooters to Joe Bloggs down the road who was ‘the best rabbit shooter ever’ but nothing worked. Our rabbits don’t sit still,” explained Richard, who added that the course is on a SSSI site with a nature reserve at the bottom end of the course.

“The new policy became possible when my deputy and ex Head Greenkeeper Mick Dodd retired it freed up some resources to employ a trainee and create a trail post of a full time pest controller. Mickey

was a real gentleman who showed me all the ins and outs of Burnham said Richard; he also thanked his immediate predecessor, Paul McDowell, who put many management controls in place which have been integrated into today’s management controls.

“It was actually the Chairman of Green’s idea to appoint someone full time to control the rabbit problem. It was a 12 month trial initially with the proviso that if the problem was sorted out we wouldn’t get rid of the post.” Peter Golledge, a trained gamekeeper, has now been with the club for three years and the improvement to the course has been dramatic. It has meant that at the bottom end of the course which was devoid of rough now has rough again

“Peter starts at 4am shooting rabbits, then has a break around 7am.



Richard, fourth from left, together with his team, are looking forward to meeting everyone in October.

He then goes out and fills in any rabbit scrapes which have occurred overnight. Later he’ll go out and check the permanent rabbit fences and our electrified rabbit fence.

“The most important thing is that the person who does the job is trustworthy as you are not always there at 4am to check that he’s out doing the job. Peter is excellent and really dedicated and we only hope that the members have long memories and recall what the course was like before we employed him,” said Richard.

Burnham would not be the course it is today without the excellence of the greenkeeping team which consists of seven including Richard and has over 96 years experience of working this wonderful links between them, with Richards Deputy Paul Dunn being the longest serving member of staff with 39 years of service followed by Andrew Briggs Mechanic/ greenkeeper on 24 years.

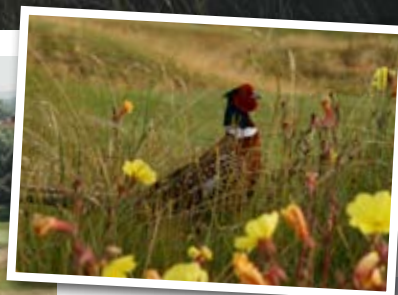
A traditional members club Burnham and Berrow 18 months ago moved with the times and scrapped the large committee structure in favour of a slimmed down five man board of management.

"I don't have Greens meetings any more but regular meetings with the Chair of Green and our Managing Secretary, Michael Blight. It's critical if you have a small board that you get the right people on it.

Board members are elected on a three year team and can be re-elected after their term of office.

The Board is very aware that the club must continue to go forward to enable Burnham to continue to be recognised as one of the finest links courses in England.

"We are really looking forward to welcoming BIGGA to Burnham and Berrow and I'm sure that those who come will meet a very warm welcome and a tough challenge on the golf course.



Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £80 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership Number

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA' value £80
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £80

Card number.....

Start Date

Expiry Date.....

Last 3 security digits

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date

Or E-mail your details to:
sandra@bigga.co.uk
 Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

Deadline for entry is 11th September 2009.



Completed entry forms should be sent to:
BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.

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So Nearly a Miracle!

Scott MacCallum, reports back from Turnberry on the work of BIGGA's Open Support Team

Had Tom Watson not struck his 8-iron to the final green quite so purely and left himself 20 feet from the hole rather than through the back, against the collar of rough, we would have been talking about the greatest sporting, not just golfing, achievement of all time.

That 8-iron left him with a tricky-ish up and down which, under the pressure of the occasion, increased the difficulty factor by quite a bit. That aside his third shot, a putt, wasn't great and the eight footer it left him to win the Championship was certainly no gimmie. Under the circumstances holing it would have taxed even the great Tiger but Watson will be disappointed by his effort – a dribbly one, reminiscent of one of mine, which didn't threaten, or even reach, the hole.

Tom's disappointment was matched by that of the gallery, who had willed him on, not just over the Sunday afternoon but on every one of the 72 holes, and although everyone there still held out some hope it was inevitable that the redoubtable Stewart Cink would prove too tough a nut to crack in the play-off.

So it proved – Cink's 2 under-par for the four play-off holes would have won against most players and certainly a nearly 60 year-old, who had dealt with the stresses of being on the upper reaches of the leaderboard since day one.

Cink played extremely well to get into the play-off, birdieing the 15th and 18th, and had it not been that he deprived Watson, and the gallery, would have been much more warmly received as Champion.

While it was "What might have been" for Watson it was very much a case of "fulfilment" for George Brown. George arrived at Turnberry in November 1985 just before the '86 Open, and over the 24 years in charge, together with his team, has built on the quality and presentation of the Ailsa Course to the extent that it was the real star of the show.

The players had nothing but praise for the course and the television pictures, particularly the aerial shots, were absolutely stunning.

George did a wonderful job and looked proud as punch as he stood on the 18th green at the presentation ceremony. As a send off it couldn't have been bettered and he retired a short later to take up a consultancy/ambassadorial role. He is succeeded by Euan Grant, who joined Turnberry in January and supported George over the last seven months.

BIGGA's marquee was a change from the norm. Instead of being positioned in the tented village alongside the Home Unions and the Stewards' Association this year it was to be found in a unit of the hospitality village. It was certainly less easy to find than usual but was

Ed Ainsworth and his young scoreboard carrier pose for a picture





George Brown talks to the Support Team during the Wednesday evening briefing

a super facility, with reception area and raised decking and the finest toilets to be found anywhere.

Guests were welcomed from all over the golfing world and enjoyed the hospitality on offer.

As usual The Open Championship provided members with memories they will keep for the rest of their lives.

The players are very good at handing out balls to those who walk around with them and there are many Support Team members who have gone home with golf balls from the top players. Some are signed and some carry identifying marks that indicate who they belonged to. Stuart Appleby's balls all carry a stamp of a bee and an apple for example while Tiger Woods' balls are all printed with his name.

The man with the honour of walking with the first match on the opening day was waved off by his colleagues as he headed to the 1st tee for the 6.30am match. He had to be called back though as he'd forgotten one thing – his rake! No names mentioned but his picture is elsewhere in this feature.

The winner was brought home on the final day by John France, of Fursticher GC, in Germany while the man who walked with Watson and raked the one bunker he found was Douglas McIntosh, of Cathkin Braes GC.

Friday was a big day in the life of Paul Jenkins, of Westridge Golf

Centre, on the Isle of Wight. A 50th birthday doesn't come along very often and Paul spent his on the 1st tee of the Open Championship sporting his 50 badge. He was presented with a card signed by the entire team, plus Ryder Cup Captain, Bernard Gallacher, who happened to be in the Hospitality Village.

Keith Kemp was minding his own business on the 18th fairway on the final round when Luke Donald gestured over. Keith looked behind him thinking Luke may have been waving to a friend in the gallery but no, it was him.. He walked over to Luke, wondering what it might be for, to be told "Walk beside me and you'll get yourself on television."

Board Member, Jeff Mills, showed a Tom Watson-like ability to defy age and drew the admiration of the younger members of the team on Saturday night in the Auchincruive College bar with his skill in the beer bottle game. The game involved keeping feet still and crawling out across the floor holding beer bottles before stretching out and placing one of the bottles as far out as possible. Then, holding the single bottle, the idea was to slide back to where you. Showing the core strength of a man half his age Jeff left most of the fellow competitors on his wake.

Many thanks to all the Support Team members who gave up their time to work at The Open.



Under the spotlight. David Harfield rakes the bunker found most during the week at the rear of the 15th on the final day after both Jim Furyk and Retief Goosen found sand



Turnberry man, Denis Tweedle, shows the Support Team how they want the bunkers raked



BIGGA Titbits

A mouse ran in front of Luke Donald as he prepared to play his second shot to the 10th and nearly up a camera man's trousers.

Information supplied by Douglas McIntosh, of Cathkin Braes Golf Club and a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

Bryce Molder's putt on the 11th green stopped on the edge of the hole and after about 20 seconds dropped in.

However the referee said that it had passed the time allowed to wait for a ball to drop and he had to make do with a par instead of a birdie.

It was an eventful day for Molder as he also hit a spectator full toss on the head and compensated the victim with one of his gloves.

Information supplied by Aaron Small, of Donaghadee Golf Club, County Down and a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

A ball spotter working on Colin Montgomerie's match was removed from inside the ropes after walking in the Ryder Cup Captain's line twice and then arguing with him when Monty confronted him.

Information supplied by Terry Crawford, of Clondeboye Golf Club, and a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

Ryo Ishikawa lost his ball on the island bunker on the 10th hole. An army of helpers converged from all angles to help find it leaving the poor BIGGA Support Team member to rake the entire bunker of footprints once the ball had been located.

Information supplied by (that poor greenkeeper) Robert Sandilands, of Elsham Golf Club and a Member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

Azuka Yano's approach to the 5th struck a lady spectator on the head and bounced over the back of the stand. A medic was called and a young spectator passed out while watching the lady being attended.

Information supplied by Oliver Pennington, of La Moye Golf Club and a Member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

An over excited spectator following the final match on the 12th hole shouted at the players in the group, stole a bin and ran off laughing.

Information supplied by Scott Gibson, of St Enodoc GC, and a Member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

Brandon Grace birdied the 13th hole after driving the 410 yard hole and two putting.

Information supplied by Philip Cooper, of Milton Abbey School, and a Member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.





ABOVE LEFT: The Support Team
 INSET LEFT: Paul Jenkins celebrated a significant milestone on the Friday.
 BELOW LEFT: An unusual sight. A promotion for a gin company created some attention
 INSET ABOVE: Dale Robertson had the honour of taking the first game on Thursday
 RIGHT: Robert Meikle leads the way on the Friday.
 BELOW: Complete Bunker Stats since 1995

	1995 St. A's	1996 Lythm	1997 Troon	1998 B'dale	1999 C'stie	2000 St. A's	2001 Lythm	2002 M'field	2003 St.G's	2004 Troon	2005 St. A's	2006 Hlake	2007 C'stie	2008 Birkdale	2009 T'berry
Bnkrs	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106	93	112	96	113	123	85
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388	393	252	352	442	472	272
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405	371	203	353	482	379	332
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149	148	100	183	189	219	172
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181	185	121	204	198	198	185
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123	1097	676	1092	1311	1268	961

Proactive disease management proves better than cure

Today's turf managers are under ever increasing pressure to deliver high quality playing surfaces all year round. Every golfer wants to putt on Augusta quality greens; every footballer to play on a Premiership pitch. Syngenta Technical Manager, Simon Watson, reports an outbreak of turf disease can ruin all the hard work put into preparing the best possible playing conditions, but proactive disease management can help preserve premium playing surfaces.

With autumn approaching, all greenkeepers will know the fear of waking up to find 'The Fus' (Fusarium Patch) has struck on a green that the previous day looked immaculate, or when summer Take-All patches continue to spread and look worse and worse every day.

The greenkeeper or groundsman is judged primarily on the quality of the surface presented; once the visible signs of disease occur and the surface starts to break down, there's precious little consideration from players for the difficult weather conditions, or the management constraints that have been imposed.

The simplest solution would be to routinely apply a broad spectrum fungicide every six to eight weeks at times of disease risk throughout the year. However, routine prophylactic treatments could rightly be called into question regarding the good stewardship of fungicides in use, and the economics of such a strategy are likely to prove prohibitive for all but the most intensively managed premium surfaces.

Protecting turf quality

That doesn't, however, make the application of a fungicide before symptoms are visible wrong, since the plant is often infected with disease for a considerable time before



about the author

Dr Simon Watson is the Syngenta Turf & Amenity Technical Manager for the UK and Ireland. He oversees the company's huge investment in turf R&D, as well as providing practical advice for greenkeepers, including the Syngenta turf website: www.greencast.co.uk

visual symptoms are seen. STRI trials have repeatedly shown that proactive disease management with fungicide applications made during periods of high risk - when disease is likely to already be developing in the leaf but before the visible signs of disease breakout - gives the most effective control and the best results for turf quality. Furthermore, Dr Ruth Mann has demonstrated that this approach can be successful in using fewer fungicide applications and at lower cost over the course of the season, compared to routine applications or treatment at the first signs of infection.

Understanding the disease pathogen life cycle will help turf managers assess the best time for



appropriate fungicide timing (Fig 1). Clearly targeting disease early to stop initial infection - preventing fungal spores from germinating and penetrating the leaf - will ensure that no visible damage occurs. Curative fungicides get to work after disease has got into the leaf, but before it has the chance to develop and cause visible damage; they cannot repair leaf tissue which is already dead due to the effects of disease, so applying them early in the disease development cycle is critical to the achievement of good results.

Once there are visible signs of attack and you are seeing blistering and lesions erupting, then fungicides with eradicant properties will be necessary to stop spore produc-

tion at this timing. At this point the preventative and curative elements of a fungicide have an essential function to protect surrounding clean leaves and to halt further spread.

The fact is that the most damaging disease pathogens are probably already present in your turf surfaces; they are just waiting for the conditions they favour in order to multiply - when the damage will be caused. The key for proactive disease management and the most effective fungicide use is to know when the conditions are right for the disease to develop and attack turf plants.

Fusarium Patch, for example, likes mild and moist conditions -

MAIN ABOVE LEFT:
Anthracnose Foliar Blight
ABOVE RIGHT:
Fusarium Close Up
BELOW RIGHT:
Take-All

Turf disease problems are on the increase:

- Earlier disease attacks
- More aggressive pathogens
- New diseases appearing
- Season long infection

being most prevalent in autumn and spring; with autumn attacks most damaging if turf is less able to grow and recover. However, a period of thundery, humid weather could cause a flare up at anytime over the summer. Irrigation could also exacerbate a problem. Anthracnose, by contrast, enjoys hot dry conditions.

If weather conditions have rumbled on at low risk levels for several days, the pathogen can still build up, even if there are no visible signs and the turf is still able to grow on apparently healthy. Just a short period of high risk weather could see infection explode. In this situation, proactive treatments ahead of the high risk periods knock down the pathogen population within the

turf and slow down its build up, ideally until after the risk conditions are past and the turf is once again safe.

Predicting risk

Today's forecasting systems for turf management are now far more sophisticated and well proven. The GreenCast disease models, have been validated for UK conditions and sports turf surfaces and are available free to turf managers and agronomists at www.greencast.co.uk.

Using localised weather and disease forecasting can enable turf managers to predict when their turf is likely to come under most intense disease pressure, and time their fungicide applications accordingly to prevent damage. Over 1500 turf managers are already signed up to GreenCast, with the five-day weather and disease forecast the most popular page, used by many on a daily basis to help with management decisions.

Some use the forecasting allied to their own 'indicator greens' - areas that tend to show up disease earlier than others and, when the symptoms are seen, trigger treatment across the course. It provides good validation and vindication that treatment was justified.

For some diseases, primarily soil borne fungi such as Take All and Fairy Ring, there is little real curative activity, so effective treatment has to take place before visible effects are seen. Application of approved fungicides when the symptoms are visible may help minimise the severity of the attack and help to limit its long-term spread, but to achieve good control turf managers need to be taking note of where Take-All patches are being seen and treating accordingly the following season.

Disease risk forecasting can again predict conditions where the pathogen will develop within the soil, enabling treatment before infection causes visible damage to turf. Although typically seen during June and July, changing weather patterns we are seeing attacks perpetuating through into September and October. These late attacks further compound the problems for turf managers, since there is little chance to reseed or aide recovery going into the winter.

Once the Take-All pathogen is in the soil, areas that suffered visible signs of disease should be treated in subsequent years if there is a medium risk of infection. But if the risk increases to high it would be judicious to treat all similarly

vulnerable areas around the course where the pathogen is likely to have spread.

One technique which has proven useful is to mark infection areas on a course map, so as to be able to treat the area if the risk increases in subsequent years. A further advance that is now readily available is to use a hand-held GPS to mark down affected spots and enable more precise monitoring and proactive preventative treatment in following seasons.

Appropriate fungicide choice

Disease risk forecasting also enables more appropriate fungicide choice. Most options are good on the most common Fusarium, but where Anthracnose, Dollar Spot or Take-All, for example, are also seen to be posing a potential risk, then selecting the right product can significantly enhance control. Turf managers also need to take into account the prevailing growing conditions, with systemic activity most appropriate when turf is actively growing - to move the fungicide within the leaf and protect new growth from infection - while contact fungicides can give good protection to leaf surfaces, as well as some with enhanced curative and eradicant activity.

The other crucial element of Integrated Turf Management (ITM) is to make conditions within the turf as inhospitable to disease pathogens as possible. Many diseases, including Fusarium Patch, thrive in the warm, damp conditions that occur within thatch; so aeration and scarification to open up the turf can significantly reduce the risk. Good drainage, removing surface moisture and allowing space so that turf can dry quickly in the morning will help.

Fertility and nutrition are also crucial to keep turf as healthy as possible and minimise impacts of disease. Strong turf is better able to withstand low levels of disease pressure and can recover faster from attacks. However, as with all cultural controls, there is the difficult balance between feeding that encourages vibrant green growth which can be more susceptible to Fusarium attack, for example, and leaving turf short of nutrients that will make it more vulnerable to Anthracnose.

Changing disease

The problems for turf managers are being further compounded by the changing nature of disease

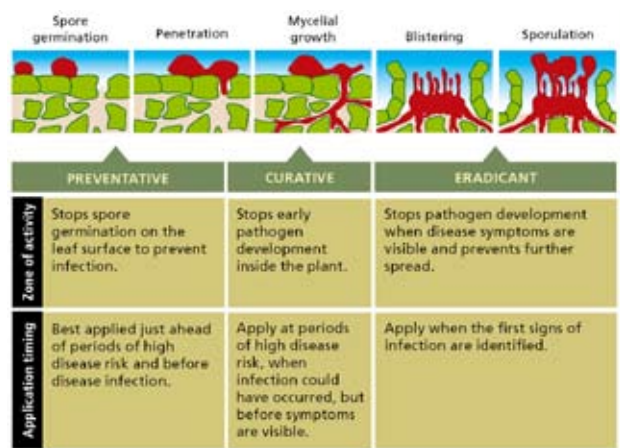


Fig 1: Foliar disease life cycles dictate the optimum time for different fungicide activity

Turf disease issues are being exacerbated by:

- Climate change
- Environmental pressures reducing options
- Player demand for ever higher quality turf

attacks. Fusarium remains the number one problem, but we are increasingly seeing high risk situations occurring through the summer with intense periods of heavy rainfall. The rising temperatures are also seeing Anthracnose infection occurring further north, along with Dollar Spot outbreaks on a wider scale. Take-All is also far more widespread, and is typically more severe and lasting for longer.

These changes in disease patterns are an ongoing process and unlikely to cause a major problem overnight, but turf managers must remain vigilant for different signs and be ready to act. It will have an effect on all the Integrated Turf Management practices that may be helping stop one disease, but exacerbating another. Stopping a pathogen at an early stage with proactive treatment is easier, and cheaper, than fighting a firebrigade action when it's out of control.

Decision support for fungicide selection

The interactive web-based decision support system - www.greencast.co.uk - provides valuable help with appropriate fungicide selection and timing of application.

GreenCast provides:

- Early warning of local disease risk - enabling preventative fungicides to be applied ahead of likely infection.
- Alerts of potential disease infection - for more effective curative product timing if an infection period has recently occurred.
- ITM disease profiles - for improved disease identification and effective eradicant product selection.

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Tree *moving*

How much and how big?

This month, **James de Havilland** offers advice on how best to move trees

Simple question: What is the largest size of tree that can be moved and transplanted and how much will it cost to do the job?

Although there will always be a degree of debate, the answer will typically depend upon a range of factors, not least being the likelihood that the moved tree will survive. So where do you start?

There will always be occasions when a tree or trees will be growing in a position where they are 'in the way'. Similarly, modern impatience will often want a tree to be established in a particular spot, with the expectation that the new arrival looks like a pretty mature tree from day one; a stand of freshly planted whips may well develop into small saplings in under ten years, but that sometimes is just not fast enough.

On golf courses, it is now common practice to move small saplings growing on one part of the course

to another. This can be to remove them to allow remodelling of an approach, tee or green. It is also handy to be able to add or replace a tree without having to wait for it to grow.

Although moving small trees with a specialist tree spade is not difficult, it follows that the job should be carried out by someone who knows what they are doing; a potential problem is attempting to transplant a tree that is too large for the tree spade used to move it. Transplanted trees will also need looking after, secure staking also proving essential.

That said, transplanting smaller trees and shrubs with a modest tree spade should be well within the abilities of course staff. A diminutive skidsteer loader mounted tree spade can be hired in for perhaps as little as £250 a week.

These smaller units can move trees with a girth of up to around

200mm, the rootball diameter approaching 850mm at its widest point.

In practice, the size of tree that can be moved this way will be typically smaller than most would imagine. The key is to ensure the tree rootball is large enough to support the tree. Although this is pretty obvious, it is all too easy to underestimate just how large the rootball should be to ensure a successful transplant.

When it comes to moving larger trees, it is again possible to move these successfully as long as the job is carried out at the right time. October through to March is the best time for deciduous trees, but extreme cold and wet weather should be avoided, especially for Evergreen species, which are best moved early or late in the season.

Evergreens move well even in April when the warmer grounds allows them to re-establish before wind dries them out.

TOP RIGHT:
A good specimen tree can be easily extracted from a location where it is less likely to be appreciated. Note how the roots are not all removed by the tree spade. A transplanted tree will take a while to adjust to its new home, and must be securely staked.

BELOW TOP RIGHT:
A large tree spade makes moving trees and shrubs much easier, a large rootball being one of the keys to a successful transplant. The pictured unit is used by The Belfry.

ABOVE BOTTOM RIGHT:
Tree movement specialists have the ability to move existing trees both locally and further afield. The picture shows a 1.1m tree spade lifting a 350mm girth beech.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
The tree spade will drop the tree to be transplanted into a hole that it has first been used to open up. The waste soil will typically be returned to the hole vacated by the moved tree.

With thanks to tree moving specialist, Alastair Beddall, Practicality Brown Ltd
Tel: 01753 652 022
(www.pracbrown.co.uk)



Larger trees may also benefit from having the roots 'cut' a season prior to them being lifted. It is too easy to generalise on this subject, the best advice remaining to talk to a tree specialist.

Calling in a professional to do the job will not be cheap. As a guide, calling in a pro using a 1100mm diameter spade will cost upwards of £750; up to 15 trees may be moved a day, but a lot will depend upon distances between moves and the terrain. Staking and feeding costs at around £50 per tree should also be considered. The larger the tree, the more it will cost to move. As a very broad guide, allow £170 to move a tree of up to 350mm based on 15 trees moved in a good day. Trees above 1000mm in diameter can be moved, but expect costs to start at £2000 per tree.

Generally, rootball size and watering are the cause of any transplant failures.

The British Standard guide is that the rootball size should be 10x that of stem Diameter. This is an excellent rule of thumb although some species and soil types will adjust this either way.

To complicate matters, stem size is measured in Inches Diameter in the USA and in Centimetre Girth in Europe.

It is always better to have too large a rootball than the other way around. In most cases, the trunk girth is typically measured about a metre from ground level.

Also consider tree height. Although there are no published guidelines, it follows that a relatively fast growing and slender species, such as Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*) will perhaps demand a larger rootball than an English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) of similar transplant girth. The larger the tree, the more important it becomes to seek professional advice.

Preparing for a Rainy Day

Scott MacGregor describes life working on a course construction in Kuala Lumpur

Having grown up in St Andrews, I started my golf industry work during the construction of the Duke's course, overlooking the town where I learned many aspects of what is involved in building a golf course

After grow in, I was delighted to be given the chance to join the Duke's greenkeeping team and was eventually given responsibility for running the irrigation system. During this time I also studied Greenkeeping and Course Management, part-time at nearby Elmwood College. Then I worked for an irrigation installation contractor installing systems throughout the UK.

Later, while visiting friends in Kenya, I played several courses and spoke to some of the local staff. I was told that one course in Nairobi was about to start reconstruction and that the South African designer was looking for

a Construction Manager. I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time and was offered the job.

After several very enjoyable and interesting years in Kenya (Giraffes walking across the fairways), I was offered the same role working for a Malaysian golf course construction contractor. The move was then made to Kuala Lumpur to start the reconstruction of the Royal Selangor Golf Club.

The 45 hole Royal Selangor Golf Club is a private club based in the centre of Kuala Lumpur and is the oldest golf club in the country. It was established in 1893 by coffee planters and currently has a membership of 6000. It covers an area of 137 Ha.

Since 1998 most areas of the golf course have stunning views of the Petronas twin towers which until 2004 were the tallest building in the world at 452m. The

clubhouse is located only two km from the base of these towers.

The club regularly hosted the Malaysian Open with the last event held there in 2002. With many other new courses opening in the area and in Malaysia as a whole, the members decided a redesign was required.

Another major reason for undertaking the redesign was to alleviate the serious drainage problems experienced on the site, especially during the traditional monsoon seasons. Yearly rainfall in Malaysia averages 2500mm (4262mm fell during construction in 2006) and with the monsoon rains sometimes dropping over 100mm in less than one hour, the course would be unplayable and maintenance impossible for many hours after the rains had stopped.

The Kuala Lumpur City Council also have a six metre wide monsoon drain which runs through



INSET ABOVE TOP:
Stolons spread on the green



INSET ABOVE: Tee filling

parts of the course. The exit of this drain from the course was deliberately designed as a bottle neck so that the golf course would act as a "holding pond" during heavy rain. This was to help avoid the city and nearby roads from flooding, but was obviously not a popular situation with the members.

The result of this for the golf club was that many areas of the course were underwater, and when the storm water drained away the course would be covered in much upstream rubbish.

The request made of the Architect, was to raise the quality, playing conditions and strategies of both courses.

Prior to the reconstruction of the Royal Selangor Golf Club, the greens were Tifdwarf and the tees, fairways and roughs were Cow grass.

The new courses consist of Tifeagle (*Cynodon Dactylon*) on

the greens and Seashore Paspalum (*Paspalum Vaginatatum*) on the tees and fairways. The roughs remain Cow grass (*Paspalum Conjugatum*).

CONSTRUCTION

Work commenced in August 2005 and the programme was such that at all times the members would have 18 holes to play on. Planning on a redesign as opposed to a new build is completely different. Consideration of the members who are still playing golf within the site is obviously critical.

Delivery and storage of materials, safety for golfers and construction staff (from stray golf balls), heavy vehicle access and dust and silt control have to all be planned in an alternate way. Many a time, to keep on schedule after rain delays, work would continue under spotlights late into the night.

Greens

The greens (sizes from 371m²-910m²) were constructed to USGA specifications with 5% peat and 3% Zeolite mixed in. (Total area of greens, 2.5Ha)

Tees

3 Tees per hole were constructed either square or rectangular with subsurface drainage and 300mm of sand rootzone. (2 Ha)

Fairways

Fairways were first sod cut to retain the existing Cow grass for relaying in the roughs. Top soil was then stripped and stockpiled in suitable locations. After shaping was completed, the top soil was brought back and a 200mm compacted layer spread on the sub grade. (47Ha)

Bunkers

The bunkers, which proved the trickiest for the experienced

MAIN: The aftermath of a heavy downpour of rain on the splendid course



construction team, were to “have regular irregularities” in the faces and edges. This was to retain the feel and character of the previous bunkers. A total of 167 bunkers were built on the 36 holes. (Bunkers 2.1Ha)

The bunkers were rough shaped by Excavators, D3 dozer and Bobcat, then the regular irregularities and fine shaping would be finished by hand tools. It took several holes of shaping and reshaping before this was mastered and the architect was satisfied.

Sod and Stolon Nursery

The existing 9 hole course within the site had its Bermuda grass fairways converted to Seashore Paspalum, to be used as a nursery for sodding the surrounds of the Greens, Tees, Bunkers and lake slopes. This was intensively top dressed and fertilised after sod cutting and after approx 12-14 weeks could be sod cut again. (Nursery 4Ha)

Lakes

One existing lake was enlarged and four new lakes were excavated (Total area of new lakes 4 Ha) thus increasing the water storage capacity by 120,000,000 litres. Despite the very high annual rain-

fall, periods of drought had been experienced in the past and this additional capacity will be crucial in the future.

Earthworks

The first nine holes were constructed during the wettest period in Kuala Lumpur for 40 years so progress was frustratingly slow and most of the initial shaping had to be carried out by Excavators. During one prolonged wet period when tipper trucks could not operate we had six excavators in a line passing excavated material to fill fairway mounds.

Not the most economically way to construct but under the monsoon conditions, progress, albeit slow, had to continue.

Drainage

The subsurface drainage pipes ranged in size from 100mm perforated HDPE to 150mm - 600mm solid HDPE and reinforced concrete pipes.

All surface drainage led to 300mm greenside or 600mm fairway catch basins. Due to the very high rates of rainfall and slow discharge of water on this relatively flat site, all catch basin surrounds as well as many other areas such as landing zones etc were “sand capped”, which is

basically a network of subsurface 100mm drainage pipe installed in the sub grade soil with 200mm of tested sand laid on top.

Where budgets allow, fully sand capped courses are very common in this region.

Machinery & Staff

Machinery and staff numbers would change greatly at different times of the project, at peak times there would be:

3-4 Dozers of varying sizes (D6, D5, D4 or D3). 8 Excavators. 10 Tipper trucks. 120 General workers comprising of 30-45 Indonesian workers experienced in golf course construction and the remaining inexperienced workers were from Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines and Bangladesh.

GROW IN

Greens

The greens were grassed with an Ultra dwarf Bermuda grass, Tifeagle. This was shipped in refrigerated containers from neighbouring Thailand.

The Tifeagle would be spread on a moist root zone preferably in the late afternoon or early evening.

With some greens 900m² plus, and grass (in transit for many days and then delayed clearing



INSET ABOVE TOP: Gravel layering green

INSET ABOVE: Green cutting

MAIN: Set beside the course, are the Petronas twin towers, which until 2004 were the tallest building in the world at 452m



Customs and Agricultural inspections) being unloaded in the heat of midday, we would commence hand watering the root zone immediately as the Tifeagle hit the sand. Daily temperatures are fairly constant in Malaysia at about 33-36°C, all year round. This temperature is taken in the shade, and one particular day when a thermometer was left on a green, the temperature hit 44°C.

A Sand pro with disc harrow attachment would immediately travel over the green to insert the sprigs into the root zone.

Hand watering almost constantly would be necessary for the first few weeks. Rolling would then begin before the first cut at 8mm, usually about 15 to 18 days after the stolons were spread.

Height of cut would gradually be reduced to about 3.5mm although at the lower heights any sign of stress and the cutting height would be raised.

It is generally recognised that Tifeagle needs eight hours of full sunlight in ideal growing conditions. Kuala Lumpur, however, is located in a valley and as such had many overcast days and combined with the heavy rainfall and very high humidity (Ave 80- 90%), disease problems were never far away. There was also an annual

period of one to two months when burning to clear land across the Malacca Straits in Indonesia would cause a haze which also reduced visibility and sunlight.

Weekly heavy topdressing after the first cut, reducing to fortnightly lighter topdressings were carried out by hand.

Infestations of Army worms were also common so a granular pesticide applied occasionally with the weekly fertiliser or a curative spray was also required.

Regular slicing of the edges was required to stop the Paspalum encroaching onto the green.

Tees & Fairways

The tees and fairways were stolonised with Seashore Paspalum which was either imported from Thailand or harvested from the nursery.

The steeper slopes and swales would then have shade cloths spread over the stolons and pinned. All catch basins would have a vertical mesh barrier about 400mm high installed around them.

The mesh barrier was necessary as prior to the laying of the shade cloth and the stolons rooting, any of the regular rains could and very often did wash away a whole fairway of newly spread grass. At least this way you could collect

most of the grass from around the catch basins and spread again and again until rooting.

Heavy initial top dressings by hand then by machine, weekly fertilising for the first six weeks then fortnightly would soon give uniform coverage.

Army worms were again a problem and could destroy areas in an evening if not spotted early. Many times after spraying, on would come the rain and the process would have to be repeated.

As Paspalum is a high salt tolerant grass, diluted salt was sprayed regularly as a selective weed killer and also to keep the cow grass from encroaching at the fairway edge.

Handover to Course Superintendent

All areas had a 12 week grow in after which time they were handed back to the club. This allowed the clubs staff to start their own maintenance programs ready for reopening to the members.

I am now working in South Africa, on a Gary Player design 18 hole new build golf course estate. With an annual rainfall of only 500mm it is great to no longer worry about heavy rain regularly disrupting planning and destroying days of work.



INSET ABOVE: Bunker shaping



about the author

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Continuing Professional Development

CPD

BIGGA introduced its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for Full Members of BIGGA on 1 July 2000.

Our mission statement includes 'BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members...' and the introduction of the scheme was a step towards maintaining and enhancing the professionalism of greenkeepers.

Your questions answered:

What is Continuing Professional Development (CPD)?

CPD is a personal commitment to keeping your professional knowledge and skills up to date. Most of you are probably already doing CPD on an informal basis, but by formally recording your learning you'll show that you're actively committed to developing your career.

What are the benefits of CPD?

- Show employers that greenkeepers are true professionals
- Show current and prospective employers that you are committed to continuing your learning and development beyond a minimum level
- Update and adapt skills on a regular basis
- Record of your learning
- Provide you with the skills to cope with change
- Increase your chances of career development

What counts towards CPD?

- National, Regional and Section Events – Conferences, Workshops, Seminars
- Formal Qualifications – NVQ's, HNC, HND, Foundation Degree, MSc
- On-the-job – Training on new machinery, health and safety
- Presentations and Articles
- Online Learning
- Events run by the GCMA, CMAE, PGA and any other relevant body
- Night classes relevant to your job as a greenkeeper (IT, languages, science etc)

This list is not exhaustive; please contact the L&D Department for further details.

How do I join the BIGGA CPD Scheme?

- Complete a Registration Form available on the website www.bigga.org.uk/education
- Contact the L&D Department for a Registration Form
- Sign the CPD Register at an event (if available)

How much does it cost to join the CPD Scheme?

The CPD Scheme is Free of Charge to Full BIGGA Members thanks to the support of the Gold and Silver Key members' contributions to the Learning and Development Fund.

How many credits do I have to claim and in what time period?

To receive your Certificate of Continuing Professional Development you need to gain 10 CPD credits between 1 July and 30 June each year.

How do I claim CPD Credits?

- Sign the event register (if available)
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What do I get for my CPD Credits?

When you accumulate 10 or more Credits within the CPD Year (July 1 to June 30) you will receive a Certificate of Continuing Professional Development. If you receive 5 consecutive CPD Certificates you will receive a Diploma of Continuing Professional Development. CPD Diplomas are awarded at Harrogate Week each year.

If you have any further questions about the CPD scheme, please contact either Rachael or Sami in the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 and select Option 3.

GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

RESCUE ME!

Rescue is a new highly selective herbicide from Syngenta which removes Ryegrass and some other coarse weed grasses, while leaving fine turf grasses unaffected.

Launched at St Andrews last month Rescue is approved for the control of weed Ryegrass on all areas of the course, including greens, green surrounds, tees, fairways and roughs. The product has been extensively trialled by greenkeepers across the UK over the past two years - successfully controlling Ryegrass and other coarse grass weeds on links, heathland and parkland courses.

Syngenta UK Turf Manager, Simon Elsworth, explained that Rescue solves the previously intractable problem of invasive Ryegrass, which can ruin the consistent playability of fine turf greens and the visual appearance of fairways.

"Now they have the opportunity to quickly and effectively reduce the damaging effects of clumpy Ryegrass. Rescue is an entirely new class of selective herbicide chemistry for the turf sector, with UK golf Course Managers the first in the World to be able to use it," he said.

"The Rescue Programme has been created drawing on the



experience of on-course trials by Course Managers. They have identified the best and most reliable control can be achieved starting the Programme in the autumn, typically in September to October.

This targets actively growing weed grasses and gives time for over sown seedlings to establish," said Syngenta UK Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson.

"Programmes can also be started in the spring - from April to June - to minimise summer

growth of Ryegrass and weaken plants, making them more susceptible to a follow up autumn application.

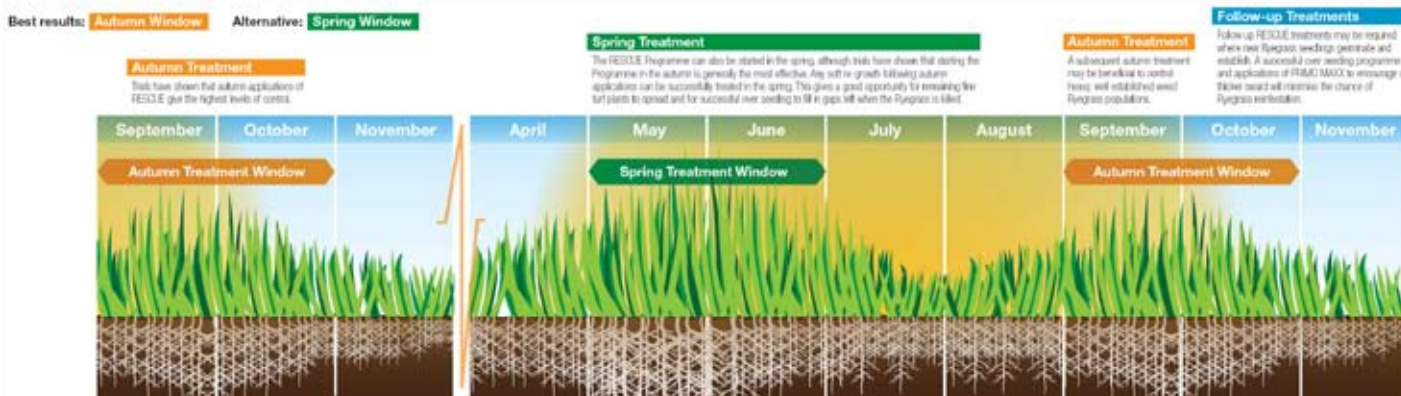
Rescue is approved for up to two applications per season, at a rate of 1 l/ha in the autumn or 1 – 1.33 l/ha in spring and can be applied by conventional golf course sprayers, pedestrian sprayers or knapsack.

To help turf managers get the best possible results with the Rescue Programme, Syngenta has produced a range of support tools and information,

including a novel Grass Identification Guide – which uniquely focuses on identifying grasses in a tightly mown sward situation typically encountered on the golf course.

Other tools include a presentation kit to help explain to the Green Committee why treatment is required and a Clubhouse poster to explain to members what they will see after treatment.

www.greencast.co.uk



NEW FROM JOHN DEERE

John Deere's new Quick Adjust (QA) cutting cylinders provide rapid height of cut adjustment from either side of the units.

This new technology allows adjustments of one thousandth of an inch to be made in just a few seconds to both sides of the rear roller simultaneously, using an electric drive 16mm wrench or socket. This effectively allows the reels on an entire fleet to be set in the time it previously took to adjust the height of cut on just one mower.

Introduced as a result of customer feedback programme the Speed Link system connects both sides of the rear roller with worm gears located on each side of the roller housings. As well as providing much quicker height of cut adjustment than has previously been possible, the worm gears ensure that the adjustment remains in place.

For equally quick and simple height of cut range adjustments, the front rollers also utilise a notch system, which ensures that the rollers are locked into place regardless of mowing conditions. Now attached to the cutting units with clips for easier removal and greater stability, the grassboxes transfer the weight of clippings to the lift arms of the mowers' traction units, so that cutting height remains unaffected.

John Deere's new 7200 PrecisionCut trim & surrounds mower features, for the first time on a triplex cylinder machine, the same patented 'Width on Demand' cutting system introduced on the company's 7400 rotary mower in 2008.

Designed to maximise driver comfort and ease of use, as well as increase productivity without sacrificing quality of cut, this mower allows the operator to change cutting width on the move at the touch of a switch, without the need for

tools or additional parts.

In the narrower position, the cutting units overlap to ensure accuracy on slopes and tight turns. The wider position is ideal for larger grass areas, so that more turf can be covered in fewer passes.

The 7200 also offers the John Deere Reach System, which enables operators to shift either the front right- or left-hand decks a maximum of 38cm outside the front tyres. This allows safe trimming around bunkers, landscape features and other hazards while keeping the mower's centre of gravity in a more consistent and stable position.

Following the successful launch of the golf and turf industry's first hybrid greens mower in 2005, and in response to customer demand, John Deere is introducing the same energy-efficient technology on its new 7500e and 8500e E-Cut hybrid fairway mowers.

Based on the the PrecisionCut line of fairway mowers launched in 2008, the E-Cut mowers have a 48V electrical system that drives all five cutting units eliminates all hydraulic leak points from the reel drive circuit. This removes the potential for such leaks to cause damage to fairways and other fine turf areas, without sacrificing overall reliability, power or cut quality.

This system can also reduce fuel consumption by up to 30 percent.

There are no batteries to charge – the mowers' 37 and 43hp turbocharged diesel engines drive an alternator, which provides consistent power to drive the cutting units via electric reel motors, even when the mowers are equipped with fairway tender conditioners, groomers or power brushes.

This advanced electrical reel system allows the cutting units to be powered independently of the traction

speed, unlike hydraulic reel circuits. This means the operator is able to reduce engine rpm without slowing reel rpm or mowing speed, thus reducing sound levels while maintaining cut quality and productivity.

www.johndeere.co.uk





TORO'S AERATOR RANGE STRENGTHENED

Toro's ProCore aerator range has been strengthened thanks to The Toro Company's recent State-side purchase.

The Minneapolis-based company now owns deep-tine aeration specialist Southern

Green's acclaimed Soil Reliever range.

Established in 1993, Southern Green is considered the leading manufacturer of deep-tine aeration equipment in the US. The seven-strong

range of Soil Reliever products – previously distributed in the UK by John Shaw Machinery – is set to be relaunched over here through Toro distributor Lely as the ProCore SR Series.

Offering effective aeration

up to depths of 40cm, the SR Series of deep-tine, tractor-mounted aerators alleviate subsurface soil compaction on numerous applications.

i www.toro.com.



DUMPER REDESIGN



Wacker Neuson now offers its most compact tracked dumper - the 900 kg capacity TD9 - with a revised design and increased engine performance and functionality.

The TD9 is now powered by the new Yanmar L100N diesel engine which offers an increased output of 7.4 kW and a fuel tank with almost double the volume of the previous model. These features make the new TD9 even more efficient in handling material, with two travel speeds,

low-maintenance hydrodynamic drive and a maximum gradeability of 58% as well as a reduced sound power level.

The ergonomically designed control panel includes all the switches and levers needed to operate the TD9 as well as an hour meter which provides constant information about the working hours duration and any upcoming machine servicing requirements.

www.wackerneuson.com

VISUALLY ENHANCED LAKES

Control algae and enhance the appearance of lakes and ponds with Black Onyx

New Black Onyx from Scotts Professional is a concentrated black colourant which visually enhances water features while preventing the growth of algae when combined with a biological algae control programme.

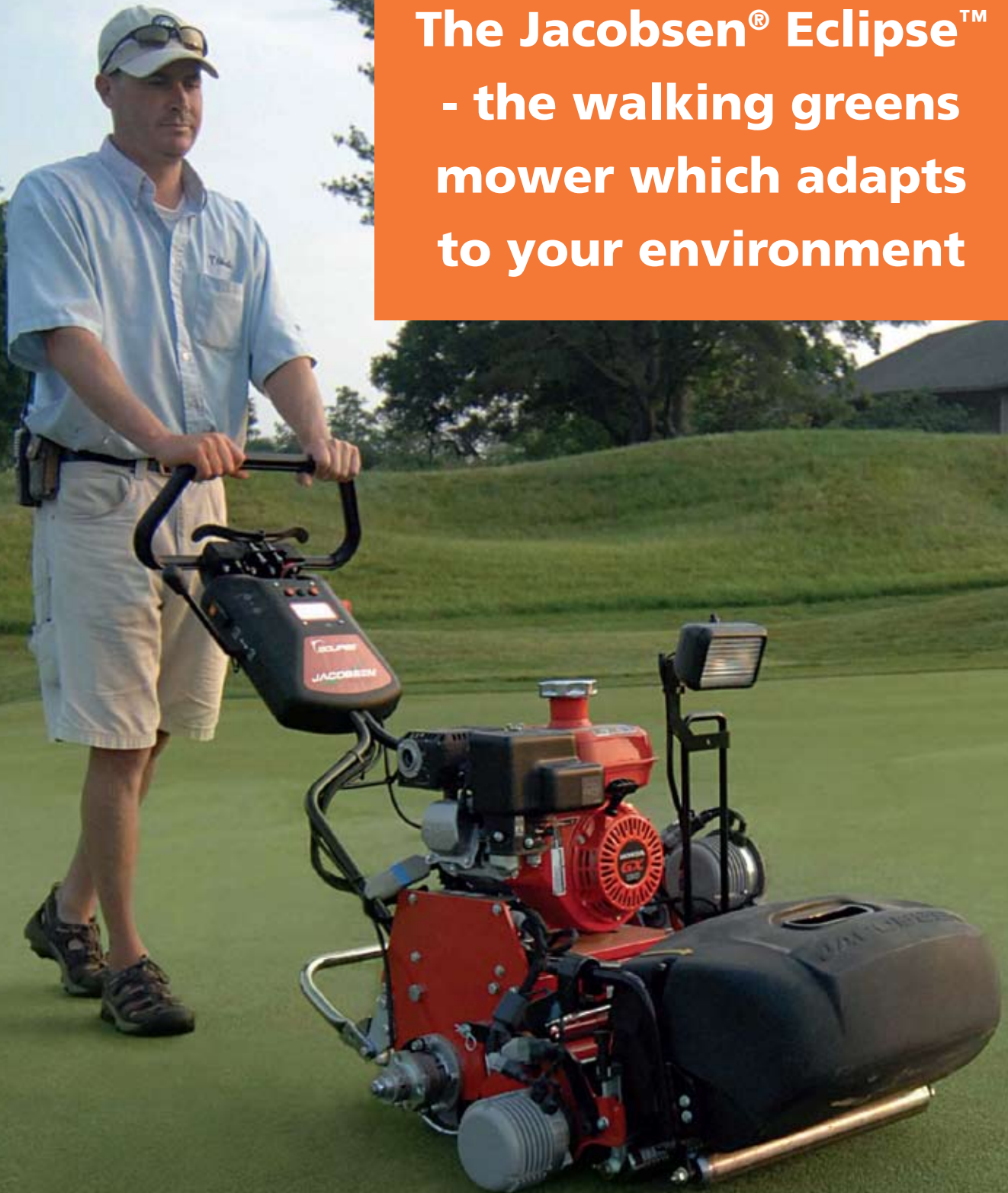
Used successfully across the USA, the product contains a concentrated blend of dry flowable colourants in a liquid or easy to use, water soluble packets.

Visually, it instantly transforms off-coloured water to a dark black colour, enhancing the reflective properties of ornamental lakes and ponds with stunning results.

It can also be a useful tool in the reduction of algae when used in conjunction with Scotts' aquatic algicide, ProCrystal, as part of an aquatic integrated pest management programme. The black pigment in Black Onyx creates a shading barrier in the top metre of water creating unfavourable conditions for the formation of algae by limiting UV light and reducing photosynthesis. This then allows for the improved competition of introduced bacteria from ProCrystal for successful biological control

www.scottspprofessional.co.uk/uk/range/172
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Soil

Chemical Analysis, Results Interpretation, Pitfalls



Highly respected agronomist, Robert Laycock, offers some excellent advice on how to make the most from the sample analysis you commission

Soils differ in their fertility. This has been known for centuries, and the fact that plants get most of their nutrients from the soil has been known since the 19th century.

Given modern analytical techniques one would think that how the soil influenced turf growth should be fairly easy to work out. Taking a soil sample and sending it off for analysis is routine for many greenkeepers. But, before you get to consider the figures in the results table, it is as well to remember that there are many things that can influence the results.

First of all there is how the sample is taken. I once visited a golf course where the greenkeeper had been applying elemental sulphur to reduce the pH of the rootzone. I took a soil sample and the analysis showed that far from being high, the pH was low.

"There must be a mistake" said the greenkeeper, "One or other analysis must be incorrect!" In fact neither was incorrect. My samples had been taken to the typical rooting depth of the golf green, about 10cm, while the earlier samples had been taken to a 30cm depth. Repeated applications of sulphur had lowered the pH near the surface of the

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1. Escritt, J. R., 1978. *The ABC of Turf Culture*. Kay & Ward.
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3. Jones, J. B. Jr. 2001. *Laboratory guide for conducting soil tests and plant analysis*. CRC Press.
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green so that my analysis showed an acidic rootzone while the pH at depth was still high. At the surface of the green the pH was even higher than my 10cm sample had shown and was adversely affecting plant growth, which was one of the reasons why I had been asked to look at the greens. When sulphur application stopped, the quality of the greens turf improved.

The samples taken need to be representative of the whole area of turf and soil should be taken from a reasonable number of places within it. Many golf greens have been in place for decades. They may have had variation within them since the

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beginning and may also have been extended with different soil materials since. Samples should be taken every few metres within the green to overcome this variation.

The time of year when the samples are taken can also affect the results. Most obviously, sampling soon after fertiliser application should be avoided.

Sample transport and storage is less important with soil samples than with plant tissue samples, such as grass clippings, with the exception that the content of soil nitrogen is related to biological activity in the soil, which is of course related to aeration and temperature. This is why nitrogen is often omitted from routine soil analyses, even though it is easy to analyse for. Useful information on turf nitrogen status is best from plant tissue or from soil analysis on a very fresh sample. Biological activity while in transit can also increase the solubility of other nutrient elements as a result of the decomposition of organic matter, further affecting the results.

The aim of extracting nutrients from soil is to mimic the action of the plant in taking nutrients from the soil solution so that the amounts available to them can be assessed by some type of spectrophotometry. The method used to extract nutrients also affects the amount extracted and thus the values in the results table.

The extent of the root system of the plant also affects how much nutrient it can absorb from the soil. Clearly a plant with an extensive root system is better able to take up nutrients than one with a poor root system.

The problem is that replicating the environment around the root hairs of a particular species of plant is very difficult. It changes from time to time and in some cases the plant can change the environment around its root hairs in order to extract a particular element. For example, grasses produce phytosiderophores (a type of amino acid) in a diurnal rhythm. Not only can they do this, but the grass plants can also identify a low level of iron in the soil solution and release more phytosiderophores to proactively extract a greater amount.

A simple chemical soil analysis would not detect that this could occur or estimate how effective it was in releasing iron to the grass plant. The presence of mycorrhizal fungi in association with the roots of some grass species also affects nutrient uptake, particularly phosphorus.

We know that the environment of the root hairs in the soil solution tends to be acidic and it is this that dissolves nutrients from the soil particles, but which extractants best replicate this? If you want to extract all the nutrients from the soil you can use a very powerful acid to totally dissolve all the organic matter, sand, silt and clay particles and analyse the resulting solution. This would tell you exactly what was in the soil but it would not tell you what was available to the turfgrass plants. Conversely, you could extract nutrients from the soil using the simplest of extractant - deionised or distilled water. Undoubtedly, some nutrients would go into solution. However, the true situation is somewhere in between these two. In fact, in an ideal world a different extractant would be used for every plant species and every single plant nutrient that one was investigating.

A review of soil potassium extractants in 1992 2 showed that 13 different soil extractants were in use to extract potassium in soil laboratories around the world. The reasons for this wide range of extractant solutions are to some extent technical, based on the range of typical soil types in the countries concerned but also on historical relationships between countries. Different extractants provide different results. This is important to greenkeepers who may be working abroad and need to interpret soil analysis results obtained locally - BIGGA is an international organisation after all!

In the USA, much research has been done on developing new soil extractant materials and a range of different extractants is used. For example, eight different extractants for phosphorus are used in the USA 3. They all produce different results, which correlate with each other to a greater or lesser extent, allowing for comparisons to be made among them.

Interestingly, it has been discovered that Coca-Cola, because of the strict rules on its manufacture, is a more reliable and stable material in some countries than local water supplies and its acid content means it can be used as an extractant for micronutrients 4 - no I don't drink it!

A common source of soil analysis for greenkeepers are the fertiliser salesmen, who use analysis results as a marketing tool. Beware of these people. If you want independent advice about money matters you should go to someone who is not trying to sell you a financial



about the author

Robert Laycock has worked in turfgrass research and agronomy for the last 35 years and specialises in golf course agronomy. Regular golf clients include The Belfry, Woburn Golf and Country Club and the London Golf Club and all the Marriott UK golf venues. He is a Chartered Biologist and a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture and a founder member of the Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists.

www.robertlaycock.co.uk

product, and so with advice about plant nutrition you should not get it from someone who is receiving a salary and possibly a commission based on the amount that they sell. They are inclined to try to sell you as much as possible. They may be nice guys, but at the end of the day they are trying to make a living.

At the end of the day, it is the interpretation of the numbers which is the important thing. I came across a case some time ago where one adviser had advised the use of acidifying materials to improve golf green performance while another adviser, advising on the same greens, advised the use of lime to reduce acidity.

In the late 1970s, when I was working at the Sports Turf Research Institute, soil analysis results, as now, would be used to decide which fertiliser should be applied to sports turf surfaces. STRI provided recipes of raw materials, including sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate, bone meal, sulphate of potash and sulphate of iron for greenkeepers to mix up into a fertiliser and apply with a carrier of screened soil or compost. A typical spring fertiliser for fine turf, described by the then Director of the STRI in 1978 had an analysis of 7.2% N: 9.1% P2O5: 4.5% K2O and 2% Fe 1.

In those days, the STRI and the late Jim Arthur held very opposing views on plant nutrition. Using the same soil analyses, STRI were still advising the use of high phosphate fertilisers on golf greens while Jim Arthur, then the R&A agronomist, took the opposite view, saying that zero phosphorus fertilisers were adequate in most situations and that only nitrogen was required for healthy turf growth on most golf greens. Mr. Arthur was dismissive about the use of soil analysis in general while the STRI used them to devise fertilisers which it is generally accepted now were too high in phosphorus.

This rather extreme situation continues today. My advice to greenkeepers is that to some extent it is not the numbers in the soil analysis results table which are important but the advice that you are being given. Various advisers, given the same soil results, could give very different advice as a result of their philosophy of agronomy or their commercial interest - or just the current agronomic fad. The important thing is to find advisers who are knowledgeable, independent and whose advice you trust, based on your experience and the experience of others who have used their services.

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A QUICK GUIDE TO...

TREE PLANTING & MOVING TREES

John Nicholson offers Ten Top Tips on Moving Trees.

Tree spades have been used since Georgian times when hedgerows would often be moved and even Capability Brown was known to be familiar with them.

The first consideration when either planting or moving a tree is whether the location you are moving the tree to is a correct one. Here is a useful check list which you should use to assess the situation however expert advice is also essential but I would of course say this! However to quote Alistair Mackenzie "perhaps the most serious mistake made by a golf committee is that they will save money by neglecting to get expert advice"

The following are therefore only guidelines for consideration:

1. Consider the location

Consider the location of planting in relation to greens, tees and fairways - light and air are essential to maintain good disease free playing surfaces. Also think about the eventual height and form of the trees to be planted, they do grow and do extend sideways as they mature!

2. Consider the trees' appropriateness to the landscape

Consider the trees' appropriateness to the landscape as ornamental trees can destroy the natural appeal of a golf course. It should not be forgotten that most of the great courses not only have a sound layout but also have a natural landscape. With the exception of Augusta I cannot think of an ornate course which receives much acclaim.

3. Consider the effect of proposed planting on the maintenance of the course.

Encroachment can cause uneven wear to tees as players will naturally favour the unimpeded line of play, often effectively reducing the size of tees.



4. Consider the impact planting may have on the strategy of the golf hole

This can remove the adventure from a risk and reward situation. Trees form a strong three dimensional hazard which can often conflict with strategic golf. How often have I seen doglegs forced by trees and when asked why you receive the answer? "Well Bill can drive this green so we stopped him!" When perhaps a pat on the back would have been more appropriate why would you want to stop a good shot being rewarded?

5. Increase sustainability and cut costs

If possible grow a tree in situ from a small size this will produce a better specimen long term and will establish quickly if the correct maintenance is employed. It is also much more cost effective. Also if possible plant coppers as the long term sustainability is improved as you are not relying on one tree.

6. Less root means less chance of survival!

If instant height is required for safety or other reasons then a tree spade may be the thing. However the temptation is always to be too greedy and move a tree which is too large, be careful to select a good strong well formed specimen. It is essential that the size of the root ball is appropriate to the size

of the tree which is to be removed, less root less chance of survival! Tree spades come in a variety of sizes ranging from 1 metre to 3 metres generally.

7. Take care!

Take care that you are not moving a tree which has been sheltered into an exposed position.

8. Plan Ahead

If possible move the tree over a three year period, severing the roots on two sides the first year then the other two the following season. This will ensure a compact root ball is created for moving in year three.

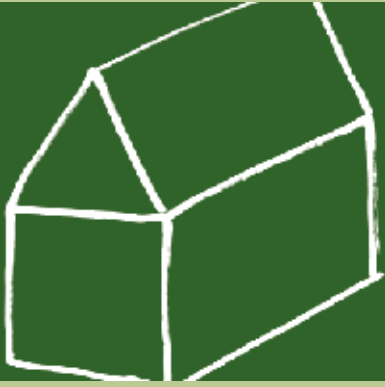
9. Ensure the tree is secured properly after planting.

Any root movement will cause inevitable death and make sure that the trees are watered the following season after planting from spring to the end of summer.

10. Keep an eye on tree health

Monitor the trees' health, looking at leaf cover and shoot extension.

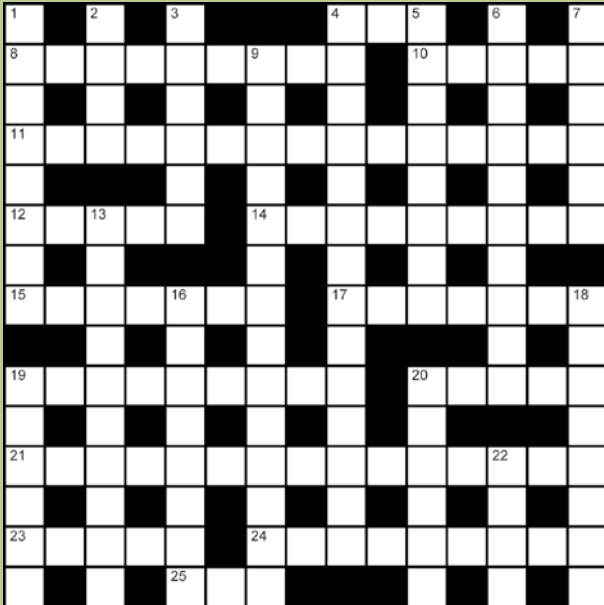
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in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors..

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

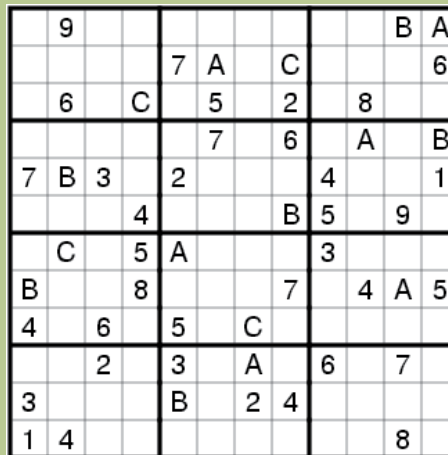
- 4 Temporary craze (3)
- 8 Large public exhibition also called Expo (5,4)
- 10 Main artery of the heart (5)
- 11 Shallow-fried dish of leftovers (6,3,6)
- 12 Administer, give out in portions (5)
- 14 In golf, a shot which is also called an ace (4,2,3)
- 15 Force which is instrumental in (often social) change (7)
- 17 Kenya's capital (7)
- 19 Sperm whale secretion once widely used in perfumes (9)
- 20 Japanese raw fish dish (5)
- 21 French underwater explorer, co-developer of the aqua-lung (7,8)
- 23 Unpolluted (5)
- 24 Clumsy, lacking in refinement (9)
- 25 Soluble substance used for staining or colouring (3)

DOWN

- 1 Of a product, carrying the label of the store which sells it (3-5)
- 2 Thick, wormlike larva (4)
- 3 A block of less than 100 shares (3,3)
- 4 Cartoon character whose catchphrase was based on the Brylcreem slogan "A little dab'll do ya!" (4,10)
- 5 Rum and lime juice cocktail (8)
- 6 1986 album and single by Cyndi Lauper (4,6)
- 7 Girls' magazine published from 1964-1993 (6)
- 9 Creator of detectives Hercule Poirot and Jane Marple (6,8)
- 13 In US football, a position behind the defense (10)
- 16 John P ---, writer of the Mr Moto spy novels (8)
- 18 Wickedness, injustice (8)
- 19 Wretched, worthless (6)
- 20 Group of elements comprising a unified whole (6)
- 22 Online auction company which owns PayPal and Skype (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Stuart Cink won The Open at Turnberry last month but who are the other winners of Turnberry Opens.
2. Name the three teams who were promoted from the Championship to the Premiership this year.
3. Name the coach of the 2009 British and Irish Lions.
4. In which sport do you start the game with a "Throw Up"?
5. London is hosting the Olympics in 2012 but in which two other years did the city host the Games?
6. How many racecourses are there in the UK 41, 51 or 61?
7. When was the only occasion that the Open Championship was held in Northern Ireland and who won?
8. How many separate pieces of wood are there on a cricket pitch at any one time?
9. Who was the commentator who uttered the words "They think it's all over. It is now"?



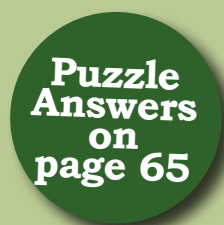
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SUDOKU

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



Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Ayrshire

Hello all, Hope you've all enjoyed the recent good weather and hopefully it has continued through 'Open week'. At time of writing Roger Federer has just outlasted the courageous Andy Roddick and the '09 Claret Jug holder is two weeks away.

Having worked at Turnberry for seven years, it seems we've been preparing for ages and it is exciting now to think the moment is upon us! I'm sure if the weather obliges that all involved that week will have had an enjoyable time and a worthy winner will have been found. I'll try to give a better account after the dust has settled.

Cathkin Braes GC hosted the Scottish National Tournament on June 11. Over 80 Greenkeepers played the well presented course in glorious sunshine. Willie McMeikan (Turnberry) took second in the First Class and Duncan Gray (Pines) was so confident of retaining his Second Class Trophy, he left it on his mantlepiece! Well done to those Ayrshire boys and to the Greens Staff at Cathkin for an immaculate course.

Warm sunshine greeted over two dozen greenkeepers for a walk round the Ailsa Course on July 1. George Brown took us through the first six holes and relayed the thinking behind the changes to the course and passed on some of his beliefs gained over 50+ years in the profession. Thereafter, Head Greenkeeper, Martin Lothian and

I endeavoured to answer any queries.

Everyone seemed impressed

with what could be achieved if you kept the golfers off the course for eight months! Seriously though, it was great to catch up with some familiar faces and also to meet some new ones who had travelled considerable distances in most cases to be there. Truly dedicated greenkeepers who all have a great deal of pride in their profession. Only wished there'd been more time afterwards to shoot the breeze.

Congratulations to my friend and colleague Kenny Morgan and his fiancée, Aileen, on the birth of their first child, a little girl named Mirren.

That's all for now, any constructive criticism or "atta boys" to denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or 07939 104701.



West

Welcome to this month's report. It's great to see some better weather for a change watering greens and fairways turning brown. I apologise for the lack of reports over the last couple of months, which has been due to family illness.

During May the Greenkeepers played the Secretaries in our annual match at Strathaven Golf Club. The result on the day was a resounding win for the greenkeepers seven and a half to one and a half. Well done to the greenkeepers who played on the day and better luck next year to the secretaries. My own two ball was the only team to be beaten on the day. Hopefully I can keep my place for 2010.

The course was in first class condition for so early in the season so many congratulations to the green staff, also to the catering staff for the first class service and standard of food.

Our spring meeting was held at Caldwell Golf Club on a glorious sunny day, there were 38 members in attendance the scores on the day were:

Scratch- Alastair Reed 74
1st Class 1. Gavin Jarvis 36pts
2. Drew McKechnie 35pts
3. Scott Ballantyne 34pts.

2nd Class 1. Sandy Brawley 39pts
2. Fraser Ross 36pts
3. Barry McCulloch 34pts

3rd Class. Michael Maxton 37pts
2. Kevin Cross 36pts
3. James McLean 36pts

Apprentice prize Brian Ramsey 28pts, Trade prize Stuart Clayton, Scotlube, 35pts
Visitors' prize Ryan Brenan, 12pts

Congratulations to all the prize winners, also many thanks to the Captain of Caldwell Golf Club for giving us courtesy of the course; to Kenny Morrison, Club Manager, for all his help and to Paul McNair and his team for having the course in fantastic condition.

Also to the catering staff the food was fantastic especially the fish and chips better than you get in the chip shop.

Our Scottish National Tournament was held over Cathkin Braes Golf Club once again the sun was out for the 90 players in attendance, the course was in great condition many congratulations to Douglas McIntosh and his team.

As I said earlier on in the year we plan to arrange some seminars towards the end of the year dates will be made available as soon as possible.

Fraser Ross 079703660355
Karen.ross@tesco.net



North

Hope all is well and that every-

one is keeping busy. You can't complain about the weather we've had recently although having said that it has begun to cool down a bit in the last few days.

This is a true story honest, it will make you laugh! John Geddes from MacDonald Golf Club, Ellon, recently attended a match versus the Secretaries' Association, at Strathaven Golf Club. While driving back home, John's companion saw a deer emerge from a wooded area at the side of the road, bounding straight for them. John's companion panicked and shouted "John... Deer", John thought his companion was going to strike up a conversation about Green's Machines and never saw the deer. Unfortunately seconds later the said deer ended up on John's front bumper. What are the chances of that? Thankfully both John and his companion, James McCormack, were not injured. However, if anyone is looking for some cheap venison you know who to ask.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at Cathkin Braes GC and four members from our Section travelled down the night before as you do. They ended up at Hamilton races and the aforementioned James McCormack showed the other guys the ropes. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves but any tips that James gave them didn't come in so they were pretty skint for the next day's golf.

Speaking of outings we have our own Autumn outing courtesy of Alyth GC. Hopefully there will be a good turn out for Brian Cocker, he has been a great supporter of the Section over the years and it would be good if we could show our appreciation with a healthy turn out. We are looking forward to it.

Stu Addison, from Meldrum House GC, has become a dad. Congratulations on behalf of the Section His new baby girl, Hannah Louise, weighed in at

8lbs 7ozs and both mother and baby are doing well.

Wee Davie Merchant, from Murcar Links GC, recently got married to the love of his life, Stacey. Congratulations from the Section. It was a good do with lads from both Murcar and Royal Aberdeen attending so there was plenty of banter between both squads!

That's really all there is this month, short and sweet. If anyone does have any news or funny stories then drop me a line, I'll try and put it into words whatever it is. Cheers

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links
07813889374



Central

Congratulations to George Brown and the team for a great Open and everyone in the Central Section wishes both George all the best for his future and Euan Grant, his successor, the same. I'm sure we'll still see and hear of George for a few years yet despite him being put out to (green and stripey) grass!

The main focus of the report this month is the education events the Section is running for you, the members. We really need your support for these to be a success as we cannot afford to run them at a loss, therefore if we cannot get adequate names we will have to pull the plug on them. We appreciate times are tough on the economic front but we have secured subsidies from the BIGGA education fund and the cost of attending these events have been dramatically reduced from what people would normally have to pay. Training is often the first thing to be shelved when money is tight but the most successful companies don't take that view and realise the long term benefit providing good education to their staff brings.

We have training on how to conduct investigations and disciplinary meetings in October on the morning of the AGM, a two day environmental course in November and how to carry out staff appraisals in December.

Full details are on the website www.biggacentralsection.com <<http://www.biggacentralsection.com/> Please support us

and make the events a success by enrolling for these classes now.

Gordon Moir

Northern Region

North Wales

I'm sitting in front of this silly computer hoping that it doesn't freeze and I lose my article for the THIRD TIME! So far, so good.

This month is the height of our season with our courses facing a daily barrage of visiting parties, members' competitions and juniors trying to fit 12 months of fixtures into the school holidays.

The annual North Wales/North West match took place at Bolton Golf Club in June and on an excellent course North Wales reclaimed the trophy they lost last year (YES!). Congratulations to all the golfers who played so well, also a big thank you has to go to Bolton Golf Club for providing such a fantastic course, food and facilities.

Terry Adamson has asked me to let you know that he will be running another pest control course in the autumn, I went on the last one and very informative it is too! Anyone interested in signing up for the one day course please contact Terry.

In local news, Ian Farrall, Paul Gator and Carl Crocher of Caldry Golf Club entered a team for the Wirral Bikeathon and raised over £300 for Leukaemia Research. Carl's son, Max, replaced one of his staff who had to drop out at the last minute, with 28 miles covered.

Paul Gator's wife gave birth to their second daughter in June. Mother, Janet, and Isabel are doing fine.

Stuart Mason, Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club, got married in May in St Hilary's Church, Llanrhos, Llandudno followed by a reception at The Quay Hotel and Spa, Deganwy.

That's about it for this month, please keep putting your news in to me it's a real pleasure to know that you do read this stuff and don't just shove it straight in to the recycling bin.

ALL THE BEST UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

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Sheffield

Hello again everyone, my apologies for the lack of news in last month's magazine, things caught up with me a little and I was a bit late sending them.

I shall and try and redeem myself in this month's edition. On the Section front everything is running as smooth as possible, things are a little quite at this time of the year as everyone is really busy. Over the next couple of months I will be organising speakers for our winter lectures and will be finalising some other dates for Section events. Everyone will be informed of these events later in the year.

The Section has held two golf events up to now this year, firstly I would like to thank our two sponsors so far this year, Pro Turf and Mansfield Sand. A massive thanks go to all our sponsors for their continued support of the Section. Secondly I would like to thank both sets of greenkeepers at Hallowes and Lees Hall for providing us with superb conditions to play in.

Results: Hallowes G.C 1. I. Whitehead, 36pts; 2. S. Dye, 36pts; 3. R. Jones, 35pts; Trade. M. Brear 29 pts.

Sponsor - Pro Turf

Lees Hall G.C. Gross. R. Jones, 68; Nett. S. Pickering, 88; 3. J. STEVENS 72- Well done Jim! Trade. I. Benn 66

Sponsor - Mansfield Sand

That is all from me this month. Once again if anyone one has any news for me please don't hesitate in contacting me. Hope you all have a good August, I certainly will if Wednesday pick up three points against Barnsley in the first game.

J. Stevens
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com



Northern

As I am sitting down to write this month's report we are just getting to the end of the hottest heatwave we have had for years - a massive 32 degrees!! The Government has given us

warnings that we must stay out of the sun because of the heat but is it just me or does anybody else think that 32 is just a nice summers day? Some places in the world got up to 56 degrees on the same day. Now that is hot. So let's stop moaning about the weather we have and just get on with the job! Rant over.

July 1 was the date for this year's Presidents Day Tournament at Branshaw Golf Club. The turn out of just 20 players was a huge disappointment for what turned out to be a fantastic day in the sun.

The winners on the day were: Div 1. 1. R Harris; 2. S. Mason; D. Collins. Div 2. President's Trophy - A. Baxter. 1. A. Holroyde; S. Trowsdale; 3. R Smith. Div 3. 1. J Baxter; 2. P. Colley; D. Cockburn. Trade. 1. A. Martin; 2. I. Collet. Nearest the Pins. R. Harris and S. Mason

A huge thank you must go to Ed and his team and every body at Branshaw for the fantastic course and warm welcome we received. Thank you also to Bob Wild Grass Machinery for their continued support and sponsorship if the President's Tournament.

The next event on the calendar is Invitation Day which will be held at Howley Hall Golf Club on Tuesday, August 25 and is a 9.30 start. Can I please remind you all to get your names and payment in as soon as possible.

If you have any news you wish to share with the Section then please get in touch.

Adam Speight
07739 319060

Midland Region



Midland

What's this I hear? The quiet unassuming gentle Phil Nixon is off on a gambling spree to the capital of decadence, Las Vegas. By God the wages at Penn must have improved somewhat since Millsy took over, or has the club's budget suddenly gone up! Oh, the reason for the vacation is that Phil is getting married by Elvis to Rachael on the 28th. Congratulations to you both and good luck for the future my friend. "I'm all shook up".

Our summer event was held

at one of my old haunts, Harborne G.C. I must congratulate J. Gilchrist and his fine team on the wonderful condition of the course. It hasn't been that good since 1999! The other players and I all greatly enjoyed the whole day, and a huge thanks to Harborne G.C. and to the fine company of its elected dignitary, Mr.R.Waddington, (time has only slightly mellowed you sir). The results of the day were; Best Gross: M. Hughes. Nett; 1. M. Cutler. 2. J. Gilchrist. 3. M. Hughes. 4. Slim Kid/R. Beacham. 5. A. Brougham. 6. R. Thomas. Our thanks to British Seed House for their generous sponsorship of the main prize table. To give us mere mortals a fighting chance at a prize longest drive has now been replaced with all par-3's N.T.Pers which is sponsored by our old friends N.Tyler/Sherriff Amenity. The winners being; D.Unerhill, P.Mills, and H.Middlebrook(on the toughest par-3 I've ever come across). Well done to all and once again thanks Jim and team and of course my old friend Harborne G.C. Congratulations sexy bhoy Steve on your vernal new arrival, Ruby.

Now, I hear that the local greengrocers to Myerscough College are rather worried regarding their sales of apples, such being due to the fact that P. Woodham has now passed his Foundation Degree with distinctions and has also been awarded the "Barenburg Award" as the top teacher's pet/turfgrass student. Also our humble Chairman, Ed, has also graduated in the same course with distinctions, but missed out on teacher's pet. I know you tried, Ed, never mind. Congratulations to you both, it's about time you both became educated.

As many of you know we have a slight irritation regarding one of this year's calendar photos, but let us leave them where they lay. It is wonderfully refreshing that this month's sponsor's; North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. have embraced the photo of the extremes that we all have to deal with good humour, and such also depicts the value of both good irrigation and drainage services. Please consider them for your water needs; www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk <http://www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk/>.

And finally, the Section would

like to wish all the very best to Melissa Jones (Assist Ed GI) who is leaving HQ to have a little one. Good luck, lass.

Sean McDade



Mid-Anglia

Not much news for you this month I'm afraid, but golf calendar is as follows:- Mid-Herts GC host us in the Autumn on October 7th and we go to John O'Gaunt GC in December for the Turkey Trot.

If you, or your staff, are interested in participating in any courses or training programmes, please contact Gerald, at Berkhamsted GC, to enquire further. There is quite often funding available and if not already catered for, special training/courses can be arranged.

If anyone has an item of interest, news or information that they would like to put into this column please contact me as all contributions are welcome.

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Craig Spooner



BB&O

What a Gem! Oakland Park GC in all its green splendour was a fantastic venue for The Gem Summer Rose Bowl Tournament held on June 24. Oakland Park located in South Bucks is a privately owned family business with 18 holes set in pleasantly undulating parkland on the edge of the Chilterns, with a combination of outstanding beauty and designed by the highly acclaimed Jonathan Gaunt, provided an excellent golfing experience.

After a few olives and a pink gin, Clive Parnell, from Gem Professional, presented the prizes to the winners

The results were as follows. In 3rd place was Adam King with 36 points, in 2nd was Joe Drummond 37 points and in 1st place Ben the Bandit Griffins

with 42 points.

Nearest the Pin, Dave Searles and Stewart Clayton, Longest Drive, Paul Hedger and Clive Parnell and James Wilkinson pinching the Nearest the Pin in 2.

Thank you to Oakland Park GC for courtesy of the course and the excellent traditional home made menu served by the Oakland catering department. The course was in tip top condition and credit to Dominic Lewis and all the Oakland green staff for their efforts in preparing the course which was much appreciated by all.

Chris Slimm, from Harleyford GC, has just joined the first time dad club, his partner, Nicki, has just given birth to first child, Isla, Mother and daughter are doing very well.

On the Harleyford G.C. front, I was sent a photo of a Kangaroo roaming the golf course, Yes I say, roaming the golf course was a Kangaroo, and according to Simon Marsh this is no hoax, the wee little beastie is no bother at all but no one knows how or when he arrived, a likely story I hear you say, a likely story, I just keep saying that! But it's true! Likely story.

Simon Marsh has been hard at work and has organised two educational days out, first we have a day at DLF Trifolium who are the largest and fastest growing grass seed company in the UK, DLF have over 100 years experience in plant breeding and seed production and we have a chance to visit there manufacturing facilities by way of a guided tour. Cost for the day will be £ 5.00 and will include lunch and refreshments, details will be on the website soon, numbers will be limited; date for this will be on October 7.

On November 25, TH White has organised a day out to Ransomes Ipswich in Suffolk. Ransomes Jacobsen manufactures an extensive range of turf maintenance equipment and utility vehicles to meet the needs of today's grounds care professionals.

Ransomes have a state of the art manufacturing facility where we will be given a guided tour of the factory with a fascinating insight to the production of various machines.

The company also have a new 3 hole testing facility, Created over two hectares of heath land

and scrub, each green and teeing areas has been constructed with different profiles and grass types including fescue, fescue and bent and creeping bent - an example of what can be achieved on a small parcel of land.

Please book early for this as numbers will be limited; cost will be £5 and will include transport from T.H.White with lunch and refreshments.

Just a quick reminder, as you are reading this article, have you forgotten that on August 13 at Donnington Valley GC the Autumn Invitational Team Event is about to take place, so a last minute entry may be available, get in touch if you can make it.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the section and forthcoming events you only have to check out bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day

mark.day@tacitgolf.co.uk



South East

East Anglia

Apologies for not having Notes in recently but there was a problem at HQ's end.

Nearly 60 souls played (I use the term loosely) Rookery Park Golf Club, in April. Unfortunately, I was not there, but I have it from a reliable source (if you can call someone with a star spangled belt reliable) that the course was in excellent condition thanks to Mall Henderson and his crew.

The scores are as follows:-

0 - 9 Handicap 1. Joe Simpson, 36 pts on countback; 2. G. Hurren, 36 pts; 3. Ben Wallis, 35 pts 10 - 18 Handicap 1. Jamie Gill, 36 pts; 2. Mark Clements, 32 pts; 3. Asa Barber, 31 pts. 19 - 28 Handicap 1. Richard Mitchell, 30 pts; 2. Andrew Baker, 29 pts; 3. Keith Titchell, 28 pts. G & T's (ice & a slice) 1. Sean Payne, 38 pts; 2. David Lord, 35 pts

There were several nearest the pins, as follows:- 4th Sponsored by Baileys of Norfolk - Mark Clements; 9th Sponsored by

Bartram Mowers – David Lord (sand wedge); 14th Sponsored by Spearhead – Norman Fenwick.

There were also several longest drives as follows:- 5th Sponsored by Baileys – Ben Wallis (2 iron for safety); 7th Sponsored by Bartrams – Matthew Gill (down wind); 18th Sponsored by Spearhead – Norman Fenwick.

Our thanks again to Rookery Park Captain, David Wright, and Secretary, Richard Jones. Our main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. The cavalry, as always, were: Baileys of Norfolk, Aitkens, SISIS, Sherriff, Spearhead, Virtax, Ben Burgess, Ernest Doe's, Tacit and Rigby Taylor. Thank you all. If, however, I have missed someone out, please let me know.

PS. There was no mention of a loo seat, so I guess you all behaved yourselves! In the absence of a loo seat however, I did notice there were a lot of 'nil' returns but Rob Boyce had the courage to put his card in with 8 points on it, so I think he should get a medal for bravery and he should be an inspiration for all you chickens. Well done Rob for soldering on in the face of adversity.

A mere 70 souls descended upon Thetford Golf Club. A bit showery, (I'm talking about the weather) but a terrific day, on a lovely course. Well presented as ever by Paul Gould and his team.

Some people, as always, played just that bit better than me and collected the silverware as follows:-

- 0 – 9 Handicap:
- 1st Alan Elliott 35 points
- 2nd Alan Carter 34 points – Good to see him back.
- 3rd Michael Buck 34 points
- 10 – 18 Handicap:
- 1st Richard Plummer 31 points
- 2nd Glen Rayfield 30 points
- 3rd Mark Broughton 30 points
- 19 – 28 Handicap:
- 1st Ray Goodsall 31 points
- 2nd Andy Baker 29 points
- 3rd Steve Freestone 29 points
- Longest drive – 13th – Mark Keysell – Sponsored by Spearhead.
- Longest drive – 18th – Gavin Merrison – Sponsored by Baileys.
- Nearest the pin – 3rd – Roy Britton – Sponsored by Spearhead.
- Nearest the pin – 16th – Guy Baker – Sponsored by Baileys.

The main sponsors for the day

were:- Ernest Doe & Son.

The support team as always were: Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Tacit, Ben Burgess (Newmarket & Norwich), Tomlinson Groundcare, Baileys of Norfolk, Spearhead Turf, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff, Symbio, Collier Turf Care, Hayter, Force Limogran and Bury Turf Care.

After a brief discussion (20 seconds) the 'Loo Seat' was awarded to Ian for crashing his buggy. Apparently he got off it, played his shot and there it was – gone – hit nearest tree.

There was one other nominee put up by someone who shall remain nameless (but he is a lemon!) He suggested that Paul Gould (Head Honcho Thetford) should get the seat for putting the pins in the wrong place. How can you give the host a loo seat after presenting a course like that? I thought they were mates!

Thanks to Club Captain, Martin Engwell, for making the speech and Andy Turbin, of Ernest Doe, for presenting the prizes.

Thank you Thetford for a lovely day.

Mick Lathrope



Surrey

Monday, July 7. After months of reading, reviewing, price-checking, mind-changing and utter confusion, I have, you will be astonished to hear, chosen and booked the holiday for myself and she who must be obeyed. Only time will tell if my decision to go cruising on the Baltic is the right choice, for now there is no turning back, the deposit has been paid and therefore my fate to meet Fred Olsen Line's equivalent of Captain Pugwash, Master Bates and Seaman Staines is sealed. A paragraph in the November report, icebergs permitting.

Congratulations to Robert Summers for completing 40 years in Surrey Greenkeeping at Kingswood GC, RAC Golf and Country Club and Epsom GC. Robert admitted that he must

hold the record for care of equipment, for, similar to Trigger and his broom, in all those years he has only had one rake.

Eddy Oliver has broken a club record at Liphook GC, the details of which I do not know but I am sure that when you see him at the next golf day, he will be glad to fill you in, many, many times.

Baby of the month is Emily Heather Allpress 7lbs 6ozs, born on Friday July 3 at 6.05 am. Emily and her mother, Nicole, are both well and are looking forward to seeing Ashley, the proud husband and father, as soon as he stops emailing the news to everybody in the universe. His shouts of "we've only gone and done it" will echo around the course at West Surrey GC for months to come. Congratulations to you all from all Surrey members.

Brian Willmott



Sussex

The Sussex Section enjoyed a wonderful days golf for its Spring event at Pyecombe Golf Club. The rain held off until the last players were in but the top of the Sussex Downs on a windy day can provide really testing conditions for golf.

The day was sponsored by John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd and Steve Vogles was of course there to present the prizes. Pyecombe is situated in spectacular downlands and Course Manager, Simon Wells, had provided the Section with a golf course in wonderful condition in keeping with the surroundings. His efforts, I should add, were matched by the Catering Staff at the evening meal! Before the evening meal the Section remembered Derek Coomber, a stalwart of the Sussex Section and of BIGGA, who had recently passed away.

The winner of the best gross score was Laurie Tremlett with Glen Pollard and Duncan Hayes in second and third places. The best nett score was won by Rob Hudson with Eric Green and Darren Mitchell taking the minor places. The Longest Drive was won by Laurie Tremlett and

Nearest the Pin by Gary Ogilvie. Laurie and Rob, the two winners also won free entry in to the BIGGA National Championship, to be held at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club, in October.

The next event for the Sussex Section will be held at East Brighton Golf Club on August 6.

Derek Farrington



Kent

As the much needed rain comes down in flowing torrents in this part of the world restoring some colour to our green and pleasant courses, we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief as the recent hot and dry spell had certainly started to take its toll on our non-irrigated areas! At least the fine weather has brought the golfers flocking back to our courses though. A very welcome sight in these difficult times.

One course that has definitely not suffered is The London Club which I have had the pleasure of playing today. Indeed, the course was still in its tip-top condition following its recent staging of The European Open which was a hugely successful event producing a worthy champion yet again. The tees, rough, bunkers and greens were all perfectly presented and a joy to play on. The only comment I can make on the too narrow (for me!) fairways was that they looked great from a distance! Think I'll stick to yellow tees in future! A very praiseworthy effort from our esteemed National Chairman, Peter Todd and his trusty right-hand man Glenn Kirby. Incidentally, both these gentleman are the subject of further news. Firstly, many congratulations to Glenn and his other half on the birth of his daughter, Cerys. I know he was hoping to take some time to make the most of these precious early stages of baby's development but, unfortunately, Peter has managed to break his leg while vaulting a fence meaning poor old Glenn has double the workload and half the required sleep! Get well soon, Peter and well done and thanks to Glenn

for a great test of golf today.

Meanwhile, the Kent Section year continues and another great event under our belts at the superb Tenterden Golf Club. Set deep in the heartland of rural Kentish countryside this great course provided the perfect venue for our ardent travellers.

An early arrival for most was rewarded by Vic Maynard regaling us with tales of his birthday the previous week and what he had been bought by his colleagues as a present. This publication is far too up market for me to divulge the intimacy of said gift but suffice to say that it sounded like the perfect travelling companion for a sales rep on his lonely nights in a Travelodge! Vic was soon down at the first tee, however, to get us started with his usual array of suitable refreshments ensuring this well attended event was enjoyed by all.

Gary Branchett and his stalwart team had certainly saved some of the most challenging pin positions for us resulting in local knowledge being the deciding factor in the results table. 1. Gary Branchett, 41 pts; 2. Matt Gray, 34pts; 3. Wayne Syers 33 points Nearest Pin - Duncan Kelso

Somehow during the barrage of laughter that seemed to be had by all one of our founder members, John "Old Man" Fullager, managed to bag himself a hole-in-one at the 5th.

There was some disagreement about how many trees the ball struck before eventually finding the cup but it said "One" on the card and that's all that matters, eh mate! It honestly couldn't happen to a nicer bloke. Well done, mate.

My group were treated to Kev Morris's Heath Robinson-like ideas for the next series of Dragon's Den. Fuelled by Vic's plentiful scotch, Kev's inventive mind went into overdrive and expect to see a twin-sim phone, golf club carrying pushchairs and non-chafing, string golf shorts on a high street near you soon!

After our round, a hearty meal ensued to which we were very grateful to all at Tenterden Golf Club and, indeed, for all their hospitality throughout the day. Well done to Gary Branchett for the condition of the course and to his lovely daughter who joined us in the evening!

Many thanks also to several supporting trade companies for prizes on the day. They were, Headland Amenity, Tacit, T. Parker, Scotts and Ernest Doe's.

These days just keep getting better. Don't miss out on our next event in September at Redlubits. It's going to be a cracker!

Best of British
Rob Holland



South West

June 24th saw the first full Section event of the year with the Summer Tournament. This was played at Kingsdown Golf Club in perfect weather conditions, and on a perfect golf course. Mark Ford and his team did us proud on a tidy golf course with firm fast greens, generous fairways, (but rather punishing rough if you don't mind my saying so Mark - I like my rough well cut-back!) Thanks very much to Kingsdown Golf Club for their hospitality for the day and thanks to all competitors who made the day such a success.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, in particular Josh Loughrey, from Wrag Barn, who shot a gross 71 off scratch to qualify for the National Championship at Burnham & Berrow in October. Thanks also to the Patronage Partners who attended the Dinner and prizegiving.

1. Jon Jarvis, Lansdown, nett 71; 2. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge, 72. 3. Jordan Mein, Taunton & Pickeridge, 72. Qualifier Josh Loughrey, Wrag Barn, 71 gross.

Unfortunately neither Chris Sealey nor myself were able to stay for the presentation etc, so many thanks to Nobby (again...) for officiating so well. In the meantime, Chris and I were travelling "up north" to Hoylake for a Farmura-sponsored seminar covering the latest research on dry patch and fairy rings. The links at Hoylake (or Royal Liverpool to give its correct title) were in sublime condition with 30 yard wide fairways and a single

cut of semi-rough either side, and then jungle type rough. Bunkers were immaculately revetted pits with turf faces up to six feet in height. Awesome and scary at the same time.

The seminar was very interesting with a series of top speakers from both the UK and overseas. Dr Mike Findanza, Agronomist, and Dr Joe Kostka, from Aquatrols. Both highly regarded experts in their fields, and neither one to walk past a fairy ring without stopping to take a picture. Couple these with Steve Isaac, of the R&A, and Dr Ruth Mann, from the STRI, and you have wall-to-wall experts. Our thanks to Farmura for laying on such an interesting day at such a notable venue. If all goes according to plan - these gentlemen will be back in the UK for the Cannington Seminar in November.

I was pressed into service at National Board level at the beginning of June when the news came though that Peter Todd had unfortunately broken his leg. I chaired the Board Meeting, the EGM & Groundsman vote, and introduced the Neil Thomas Golf Day (where a lot of money was raised for Peter's nominated "Aspergers Syndrome" charity). I sat down on the Monday evening at about 6.30, with the intention of having a few quiet moments to skim through the minutes of the previous Board meeting, ahead of the 8.30am start on the Tuesday morning. I was still at it at 11.30pm before calling it a night.

As I think I said last time - if anyone thinks serving on the BIGGA Board is some kind of a "jolly" - forget it right now. I would just like to pass on my best wishes to Peter - he does such a lot of work for the Association behind the scenes, while all the time handling a big job at a big club.

Back in the Section - the training courses on Manual Handling, Safe use of tractor plus attachments, Excavator Safety Training are coming around fast. Full details will be circulated soon by email, and this will go into club offices also. The joint BIGGA GCMA seminar at the Kendleshire on September 30 is also fast approaching so watch for further details.

Finally, John Keenaghan is looking forward to playing host to the EGU English County

Finals September 25 - 27 at Chipping Sodbury. This is the only club in Gloucestershire ever to have staged this event so John is - in his own words - "really up for it". John would like to have the reassurance of a support team to help with the course - if anyone can spare a little time and is interested to see how a major Amateur event runs, please give John a call on 07779479869.

Any news from your areas would be gratefully received.

Paul Worster.

paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



Devon and Cornwall

Our summer meeting took place on June 18 at Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club where the second annual match between Devon & Cornwall was contested. Thanks to Symbio and Sports Metal represented by Neil Carter and Richard Japes for their sponsorship for the day.

The match took place on the championship course and was very keenly contested with Cornwall eventually winning five games to three. There was also an individual Stableford competition within the match which was won by Nick Olds, from West Cornwall, with 41pts, winning on countback from Simon Sanders, from Woodbury, with Brian Ridgeway, from Fingle Glen, third with 38pts. Nearest the Pin on the 3rd was won by Nick Olds, on the 18th won by Dan Townsend. Nearest the pin in two on the 13th was claimed by Matt Richards and the longest drive on the 14th won by Rob Cook, well done to all.

Thank you to Woodbury Park and its owner Robin Hawkins for their wonderful hospitality for the day, and to the catering staff for the splendid meal. Thanks also to Ian Chenery, Course Manager, Simon Sanders his assistant, and the rest of the team for the use of there wonderful course.

The presentation and prize giving took place after the meal with the Devon Captain, George Pitts, congratulating joint Corn-

wall Captains, Scott Gibson & Keith Kemp, on their success. Well done to Cornwall!
Jerry Cole



South Wales

Hi Everyone, Hope you are all well. First of all the Spring Tournament, which was held at Langland Bay GC. The weather once again threatened but after a few holes, the rain subsided, the sun came out and showed the course in all it's glory.

Results were: First: Darryl Jones (Glynneath GC) 36pts. Second: Ian Harwood (Langland Bay GC) 31 pts (21 on back nine!) Third: Darryl Bray (Morrison GC) 29pts. Nearest the pin: Wayne Benger (Glynhir GC.) Longest Drive: Peter Holstrom.

Trade/Guest Prize: Alan Phillips (Captain, Langland Bay.)

Thanks to Langland Bay GC for agreeing to hold the event and for the excellent evening meal. Also to Jim Jenkins, Course Manager, Ian Harwood and the rest of the Greenkeeping team for presenting the course superbly under difficult conditions. They had to have been without Ian for a while as he must have been practicing his golf! And I'm glad the day went well for Jim as it might just make up for his team getting relegated from the premiership last season!

Also a big Thank you to David Goldstone and Peter Lacey of Tower Chemicals for sponsoring the day. David was a bit unlucky in that his power caddy broke

down and he wasn't able to continue after the third hole. Rumour has it that that it didn't break down and it was just a case of David not wanting to play in the rain. I m sure that's not true! Anyway, thanks guys! Our golf days would be very difficult without sponsorship.

Back to the R.T Matchplay Tournament (The Road To Tenby) and the draw for the latest round was as follows: 1. Mark Wilshire/Mark Anderton V Tony Horne/Martyn David. . Steve Lloyd/Mark Wells V Paul Handy/Rhys Norville. 3. Rhys McDonagh/Gary Humphries V Merrion Griffiths/Glyn Jones. 4. Andy Roach/Gareth Knight V Darryl Bray/Leigh Davies or James White/Wayne Benger. Results will be printed in next months around the green.

On Thursday 13th of August, St Pierre Golf and Country Club once again plays host to the match between the South West Section and the South Wales Section(or Wurzels v The Taffs!) The South Wales

Section are keen to bring the cup back to Wales after losing last years match, although technically, it stayed in Steve Chappell's office as we didn't trust the South West to bring it back!

The match will be played on the revamped Mathen course and prizes will again be sponsored by my best mates Scotts UK Professional. The South Wales Team shirts will again be sponsored by James Rees of Inscapes.

I predict that the South Wales team will win and that the South West team will moan about paying the Severn Bridge toll! They dont mind paying for Magsners though! Joking aside, I m sure it's going to be a great day!

Ceri Richards



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Having just returned from The Open at Turnberry it was pleasing to see George Brown and his team get the recognition that they deserve for the magnificent presentation of the course. What a superb way to finish a career and I wish George good luck in his semi-retirement. I say semi because as many of you will be aware, George will continue his connection with the facility in an ambassadorial role. Euan Grant is his very worthy successor and is, I am sure, looking forward to taking over the reins.

The newly formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited commenced trading on July 1, taking over from its unincorporated predecessor. I wish to reinforce the message that this will in no way adversely affect members or the benefit of being a member and merely puts the Association on a proper business structure that will allow it to own assets and contracts in its own right rather than by proxy or through Trustees.

Contrary to belief by a small minority, who see this move as a panic measure for protection, the Association is not in dire financial trouble. Yes times are hard and yes we have had to make three jobs at Headquarters redundant, but we are managing the business and we are in control of the finances. BIGGA is no different to the vast majority of businesses today that are feeling the effect of the downturn in the world economy but the Board and Management are looking at developing new initiatives that will strengthen the business and that should present new opportunities.

One such initiative is the formation of an alliance with the PGA and the GCMA in order to develop and promote education and best practice in respect of golf club management. The three Associations will look at how they can also share resources and build on membership benefits through a unified approach to exhibitions, lifelong learning, suppliers, sponsors and funding agencies.

I am pleased to report that the annual golf day at Aldwark produced a surplus of £911 that has been donated to the Chairman's charity that is The National Autistic Society, with the particular reference towards aid with Asperger's Syndrome. I would like to once again thank Q Hotels for the courtesy of the course and a prize, Destination Harrogate for their prizes and the many sponsors of teas without whom the day would not have been viable.

As we move gradually into the second half of the year I wonder what has happened to the hot summer that the weather experts predicted earlier in the year!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

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Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

BIGGA is now a Limited Company

During the last few weeks the membership department have received telephone calls from some members who are concerned about the conversion to a limited company and were under the misunderstanding that BIGGA were in some sort of financial difficulty. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that BIGGA is not in any financial difficulty, the decision to convert BIGGA to a company limited by guarantee was taken by the Board as it considered that such a structure would be advantageous to the Association. Some advantages of BIGGA Limited: -

- The Association will have its own legal identity, allowing BIGGA Limited to enter into contracts under the name of BIGGA Limited rather than under individual names.
- BIGGA Limited will be liable for fulfilling any contracts to which BIGGA Limited is a party rather than individual members of the Board.
- Members have limited personal liability (up to a maximum amount of £1) for any outstanding debts should BIGGA Limited cease to trade and a contribution is needed to enable its debts to be paid, rather than unlimited liability as previously.

If you have not yet returned your application to transfer to BIGGA Limited please return this as soon as possible, even though it is past the deadline stated on the letter we can still accept the forms.

If you want more information refer back to your June issue of Greenkeeper International and on page 9 is a full notice regarding conversion to a limited company.

BIGGA – A professional body for sports turf professionals

We are pleased to welcome applications for full membership from sports turf professionals, who are employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility, who work not only on golf courses,

but football, cricket, rugby, tennis, bowling greens, hockey and horse racing (to mention only a few of the other key turf related sports).

An application form and guidelines for membership can be downloaded from the BIGGA website, by entering www.bigga.org.uk into your search engine, click on 'Join' across the top bar, all the information you need to join, or renew your membership, can be found here.

BIGGA Membership Numbers on the increase

We are pleased to report that the slight downturn experienced in membership numbers has been halted and we are steadily back on the increase. We have received a lot of enquiries from past members who are wishing to re-join. Remember if you have been a member of BIGGA before, normally, there is no need to complete a new application form and go through the new application procedure, if your membership lapsed during the last 24 months, and you are still on our system, you can complete a renewal form and we can re-join you usually within a week of receiving your form.

BIGGA Membership Benefit of the Month

All Full members of BIGGA, and their partners, have access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to a legal helpline, where any personal legal matter can be discussed with a trained professional legal advisor.

If you need to ring the freephone number (0800 0177 7891 – this can also be found on the reverse of your membership card), remember to say that you are a member of the BIGGA Legal Expenses Scheme and have your membership number to hand.

As your Association continues to move forward remember those immortal words of George Bernard Shaw.....

“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”



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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

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Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scottish Region

Craig Cunningham, West
Scott Downie, Central
Elliot Gaughan, West
Richard Jenkinson, Central
Ryan Morrison, West
Calum Stewart, North
Steven Wood, North

Northern Region

Daniel Blenkinsop, Northern
Jack Bryson, Northern
Graham Green, Northern
Christopher Morris, North West
Gary Parr, Northern
Kevin Paterson, North West
James Rawsthorne, North West
Thomas Scott, North West
Tom Strong, Sheffield
Alan Underwood, North East
Tom Wood, Northern

Midland Region

Duncan Bagshaw, Midland
Stuart Bailey, Midland
Oliver Boys, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Thomas Chester, Midland
Lee Cooper, East Midland
Nicholas Harding, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Terence Martin, Midland
Lee Mitchell, East Midland
Liam Perry, Mid Anglia
Gary Simpson, Midland
Robert Stillie, Mid Anglia
Lee Wenlock, East Midland
Paul Williams, Midland

South East Region

Brian Allen, East Anglia
Jamie Finch, East Anglia
Timothy Goffin, Sussex
Louis Hulford, Surrey
Nick Lamb, East Anglia
Elliott May, Surrey
Darren Mitchell, Sussex
Jacob Morris, Surrey
Sam Nunn, East Anglia
Nicholas Plowright, Sussex
Greg Savidge, Sussex
Charlie Sparks, Essex
Peter Staples, East Anglia
Dave Turner, Essex
Kimberley Yeldham, Essex

South West/South Wales Region

Lewis Andrews, South West
Robert Gean, South Wales
Paul Hazell, South Coast
Carl Holmes, Devon & Cornwall
Christopher Rawlings, South West

Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Self confessed Gooner, Matt Le Brun, works at Ely City Golf Club! He likes a night out with the lads, wants some better equipment for work, and to cap it all he claims he managed his third ever hole-in-one recently...



Name: Matt Le Brun

Age: 21

Club: Ely City Golf Club

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Nickname: Rodzilla

How long have you been greenkeeping?

Just over 3 years

What was it about the career that attracted you?

Being involved in golf and having the opportunity to travel within the job

If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

Professional golfer (as I am always beating my brother who is an assistant pro at our club)

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Hand cutting tees as I enjoy seeing the finished product and golfers always comment on them

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

Changing holes as I always end up doing it with the deputy head (ha ha!!)

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

Having the best equipment for the job

What are your favourite hobbies?

Golf, football and a night out with the lads

And your favourite band?

Haven't really got a favourite but currently listening to Eminem's new album

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Arsenal, I was raised as a Gooner

What is your claim to fame?

Just got my third hole in one at the weekend

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“ I wish to thank the team at BIGGA for their help and advice in placing our advert on the BIGGA website. The good response to the advert will allow us to employ someone who we feel is ideally suited for the job.”

Tony Hawes, Course Manager, Potters Bar Golf Club

Letters



Please email your notes to: scott@bigga.co.uk

Letters & Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
before the 12th
of the month

PROVIDING SATISFACTION ON A BUDGET

Dear BIGGA

Chances are you have concerns about the current economic climate - but what's this got to do with maintaining your playing surface?

It is estimated that 40-60% of the overall cost of operating a typical golf course facility is related to turf maintenance. As a facility offering a natural playing surface, this may seem a reasonable balance and justifiable to you as Greenkeeper or Course Manager. You can't attract regular golfers without good quality greens, tees and fairways can you? In the current economic climate, that may not be your reaction if you're the owner trying to maintain revenue.

The ultimate natural playing surface is, however, the aim of every Greenkeeper. On an unlimited budget, life is certainly easier, but most Greenkeepers are working to a given budget and a surface requiring continual improvement. Recent weather conditions have stressed grass even more with heavy rainfall last summer, and rootzones stripped of vital nutrients in the autumn. Then the low winter temperatures and snow came to deplete grass carbohydrate reserves resulting in severe thinning of many fairways and greens.

Balancing the books, while maintaining a quality playing surface, has never been harder. It depends greatly on the Greenkeeper's relationship with club committees for them to understand what hurdles have to be overcome to deliver playability and visual appearance expectations. It also depends on the Greenkeepers' appreciation of budgetary restraints.

In the last 18 months just about every cost in managing a course has increased, whether they be machinery equipment and repairs, fungicides, fertilisers, seed, irrigation or increased environmental and health & safety issues that courses are required to operate under to meet regulatory compliance. Then add in the prospect of reduced cash flow down to more golfers operating on pay and play rather than the annual subscriptions and is it any wonder that turf management expenses costs are becoming an easy target for making immediate savings? On paper it looks like the sensible thing to do, but can you really afford to cut back on some of the essential inputs?

Greenkeepers and Course Managers are between a rock and a hard place trying to maintain member satisfaction in the playability of the course, whilst appeasing the secretaries by operating on a reduced budget. For sure, you'll have to make the budget go further, and look at ways to make savings. But it needn't be all doom and gloom. Somewhere there's a compromise, and some real opportunities exist for Greenkeepers and course owners to take a close look at their grounds management. So ask yourself the following questions:

"How can we become more efficient?"

"How can we produce a playing surface requiring fewer inputs, whilst maintaining quality?"

"How can we promote the environmental benefits to the local community and paying members?"

"How do we effectively communicate to members that changes in maintenance and playing surface are for the long term good of the club?"

We could start with playing the old 'sustainable' card, a buzz word in golf over the last couple of years, but does it actually mean anything? Your course is only sustainable if members don't vote with their feet. No members, no fees, no course-simple. So forget the sustainable trend. Instead you should assess your current grass regime consumables - Fungicides, Fertilisers and Seed.

Naturally as a seed company we are going to recommend regular overseeding programmes. It really is the way to introduce more efficient species and cultivars to your course. Without grass, you haven't got a course therefore the grass you maintain is the single most important material in your toolbox. Seed in real terms has not increased in price in the last 15 years so is not so much an issue. But it's the amount of the other constituents your mixture requires that consumes your budget and makes seed selection crucial. There are now cultivars that have improved wear tolerance, more disease resistance and reduced cutting frequency, all offering potential for saving money. Furthermore, those species requiring fewer nutrients lend themselves to meeting a club's environmental aims and removing the conditions that actually sustain predominantly annual meadow grass greens. Cutting frequency is also influenced greatly by the choice of cultivar. How often do we actually need to cut fairways? Daily cutting is not uncommon, but is it essential? Communication to members to reduce the expectation of close mown fairways is required however grass cultivars with high scores for slow re-growth can save up to 50% on mowing costs.

British Seed Houses have Grade 'A' mixtures especially formulated for Golf Course Greens, Fairways and Roughs - from A5, an all Perennial Ryegrass mixture, through to A27, an entirely All-Fescue one. However, Velvet bent grasses will produce the smoothest, truest, fastest putting surface a golfer will ever play. This is because velvet bent grass has the finest leaf texture and highest shoot density of all the fine turf grasses available to the UK Greenkeeper.

The plant requires very little nutrient input (as low as 25kg/ha N per annum is acceptable and anything over 100 is not necessary) which, combined with extremely high shoot density, also helps to limit *Poa annua* infestations. Velvets can also tolerate dry conditions and, on the flipside, there has also been a noticeable resilience to the wetter conditions recently experienced. Disease resistance is also an exceptional trait of the species, the highest of most commercial bents.

Most Greenkeepers work within a very tight window to complete renovation work and allow new seed to establish - they must get it right first time. Young seedlings are vulnerable and regular applications of soluble high salinity fertiliser can kill the emerging shoots, not only a waste of good seed, but costly too. In contrast, the use of a low salt BSH Floranid slow release fertiliser delivers a steady feed of the essential nutrients. Floranid can also provide a cost saving throughout the season by having to make fewer applications than soluble types. All in all they create healthy growth, less susceptible to disease, and therefore requiring less fungicide.

Simon Taylor
British Seed Houses

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

On Behalf of all at The London Club we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved in the course preparations for the 2009 European Open. The pressure of a changing week was reduced a great deal by the help and quality of all the volunteers that travelled from all areas of the UK, giving up their own time to be part of what was again a very successful event. It was a pleasure working with you all, and hope that you all got as much out of the whole experience as we did. Once again a very big thank you, and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Ben Adams and Mark Bell

FEEDBACK ON NEW FEATURE

Dear BIGGA

Your new feature 'Candid in Camera' gives Course Managers the opportunity to come clean with their darkest thoughts without fear of exposure. Not surprisingly, the first instalment unearthed a charming specimen who describes his biggest problem as his staff and who elected not to stick up for them because he had a mortgage to pay. Presumably he was unconcerned about the mortgage of the "really nice bloke" whom he casually fired of his own volition with no pressure to do so from the club. He described himself as a manager rather than a shop steward but surely the best course managers combine elements of both disciplines? In my experience, managers who regard their biggest problem as their staff would be well advised to start by taking a good look at themselves. This bloke has got the staff he deserves.

Mick Travis

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

I would like to thank the Learning and Development department at BIGGA, as well as David Withers and all at Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, who have provided their time and funding for my Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science and Management.

My Continuation of personal development and the step to higher education would not have been possible without Ransomes Jacobsen's kind generosity. I look forward to notifying you of my progress along the way.

Thank you once again for providing me with this opportunity.

**Greg Knight,
Assistant Greenkeeper, Abridge Golf Club**

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HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICH

Dear BIGGA

Looking out of my window, at 6am, to a dreadful miserable morning, my thoughts were of a wet days golf at Belleisle. I should have had more forethought. Ayr Belleisle is a good hour's drive from Henzie, and with the extremities of weather we get in Scotland, expecting the same weather 40 miles away, "and at the coast", is nearly asking for a miracle. Arriving at Belleisle, at 8.15am for the usual Shot Gun start at 9.00am, the weather had improved to the extent, that the golfers milling around before going to their respective tees, were more intent in covering their golf clubs than themselves. The Diamond Family were all in evidence, attending to the organisation of the usual Stableford Competition.

All the young Diamond Girls were assisting, to keep everyone on the move and in getting the Golfers to their allocated Teeing Ground, before the sounding of the starting horn. Another exceptional and pleasant days Golf, with golfers, young, medium and old, "some very old", remarking how much they looked forward to this day in particular.

The Après Golf took the same format as in past years, with free beer and a free raffle ticket given to all who played that day. I have to remark on the prizes presented at the raffle, not the usual bottle of wine, or a couple of golf balls - two nights at a hotel for two, bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky, an expensive wall clock and others, too numerous to mention. As usual, all Harry's family took part in the presentation, his daughters were to the fore, as were his Grandchildren, in the organisation of the whole event, Harry's two brothers, Hugh and Campbell, handled the prizes to the deserving winners. The Quaich was presented by Harry's wife, Jessie. Again exceptional scoring by the winners J. Dickson, B Ablatt, and M. Owens, who turned a remarkable 95 points. The Diamond Family, extend their thanks to all who participate in the Quaich, and a special debt of gratitude to the donors, or cash, cheques, and prizes, which is the backbone of any well organised Golf Competition. Another successful and enjoyable day to the Memory of and exceptional Greenkeeper and dear Friend, Harry Diamond.

Cecil George, Lenzie

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FORMAL MEETINGS - PART THREE: The Role of the Companion

In the previous two articles in this series we covered what happens during a disciplinary meeting and what happens when a formal grievance has been raised.

In this final article in this series we now turn our attention to the role of the Companion.

Role of the Companion

Staff have the right to be accompanied at any of the 3 types of meetings detailed below:

- Formal disciplinary meetings
- Formal grievance hearings
- Appeal meetings

Who is allowed to 'accompany' at these types of meetings?

- A work colleague
- An accredited trade union representative (an employee does not need to be a member of a trade union to have a union representative present. If a union representative is accompanying then they will be asked to provide proof that they are either employed by the trade union or accredited by the trade union to attend such meetings in the capacity of companion)

These are the only 2 categories of people allowed to accompany (unless company rules and procedures allows for any other category of person to attend)

If someone wishes you to accompany them then they will need to ask you. You are not obliged to attend as a companion and you cannot be forced to attend as a companion.

Your employer can reject who attends as a companion if:

- The person does not come into the categories detailed above
- The company feels that the companion's presence would prejudice the hearing
- The company can reject a request if the companion is from a remote geographical site when someone suitable and willing is available on site

If the chosen companion is not available on the scheduled date of the meeting, then the employee can ask for a postponement of up to 5 days in order for the chosen companion to attend.

What is the role of the companion at such meetings?

The companion can play an important role at such meetings:

- The companion can take notes
- They are at the meeting to provide the employee with support
- The companion can ask questions of the meeting
- The companion should be given the opportunity to address the meeting on the employee's behalf
- However, if a question is asked directly of the employee, the companion cannot respond on the employee's behalf
- If the employee does not wish the companion to speak then the employee can ask for this
- The companion and the employee can ask for a short break to speak privately
- The employee can have a short time with their companion prior to the meeting in order to prepare for the meeting
- The companion cannot prevent the employer from explaining their case

When is a companion not allowed to attend?

When a meeting is an informal discussion/chat, where the meeting is merely an investigatory meeting or where the meeting is a counselling session.



intheshed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Tom Watson (77), Greg Norman (86) and Nick Price (94)
2. Wolves, Birmingham, Burnley.
3. Ian McGeechan 4. Shinty
5. 1908 and 1948 6. 61
7. 1951 by Max Faulkner at Royal Portrush
8. 12. Six stumps four balls and two bats
9. Kenneth Wolstenholme

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J	A	C	Q	U	E	S	C	O	U
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C	8	5	1	4	7	9	6	2	A	3	B
7	B	3	9	2	8	5	A	4	6	C	1
6	2	A	4	C	3	1	B	5	7	9	8
2	C	1	5	A	4	8	9	3	B	6	7
B	3	9	8	1	2	6	7	C	4	A	5
4	A	6	7	5	B	C	3	8	2	1	9
9	5	2	B	3	C	A	8	6	1	7	4
3	7	8	6	B	1	2	4	A	9	5	C
1	4	C	A	6	9	7	5	B	3	8	2

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

Daily SuDoku: Wed 22-Jul-2009 hard



On the Soapbox

A new vehicle for people within the industry to express their viewpoint

'Me, I'm just a lawn mower you can tell me by the way I walk'. A line from the lyrics of a Genesis track from the album 'Selling England by the Pound' or is it how we portray ourselves to our employers and therefore if so 'selling ourselves short of the pound' we deserve!

Following on slightly from Paul Lowe's Soap Box along the lines of complaints received and the pressure that we are all under to provide a surface for our clients to play and enjoy, I do feel that at times we are our own worst enemy with a slight persecution complex. Often on blogs or in conversation it crops up that 'Once again NO praise for the course maintenance team' or 'how hard done by' we are. But do we really market ourselves in the best way? Love them, loathe them, admire them like their principles or not, the 'Gingerbread' men have got the right approach with the major word in our and any industry.... COMMUNICATION.

Could it be that perhaps our talents fall short when communicating with our employers, members or general public? Often viewed as 'grasscutters' or 'environmental enemies' by the un-educated public; how many are prepared to discuss carefully, answer questions and hold forums to help explain problems on the course or plans of the future. But that's the Green Chairman's job I hear you say! No, it's ours - the relaying of messages can get totally confused or fragmented and fabricated leading to further problems. The Head Greenkeeper who stands and communicates with members/visitors/public is actually one in a powerful position with the chance to control the situation.

Is the reason that through the media and seminars the harping on of various theories creates a feeling of inadequacies and the constant pressure of perfection makes some feel failures if not achieving that state of perfection? Perhaps, perhaps not. It is important that education is a high priority but at the same time we should remember that it is 'horses for courses' and all views, opinions and recognition of resources be respected. I have personally met many colleagues who do not discuss their own views for fear of ridicule.

The art of public speaking is often neglected but the use of it highly powerful displaying confidence and intelligence rather than scuttling off to the far end of the course or dark corner of the sheds to avoid

confrontation. The education of the members should not be viewed as confrontation but of the chance to create a new friend and ally. I accept that there are those who want to be confrontational or don't want to know the truth but remember stay calm and precise and the situation remains under control.

As individuals we can only control our own micro domain and as such any further help required can be found from our biggest ally.....Our neighbours and fellow greenkeepers (Perhaps like the Gingerbread group). On a national scale I do believe we are poorly represented by our own bodies/associations as, although many opportunities are created through educational seminars, national media are not used to the greatest advantage possible!

As we eagerly wait the spectacle of The Open on the BBC, the coverage is an ideal opportunity for the golfing public to be educated about the difficulties experienced and the role of the 'Grasscutter', Environmentalist, PublicRelationofficer, scientist, artist, and agronomist, botanist, and pathologist entomologist etc.etc.

Me, I'm just a lawn mower, you can tell me by the way I walk

The views of the Professional golfer (Ken Brown) portray an excellent view of the playing difficulties and the rules official on hand for the rules to be explained to the public yet NO representation from the greenkeeping world to answer the awkward question of why do the greenkeepers always get in the way? etc. We rely on the answers of Peter Alliss and co to fight our corner surely this is not right!

During the 1980s the agricultural world was viewed as 'grant receiving wasters' and had little standing with the public but after much behind the scenes work and with such programmes nature watch and country file and others, the farming community, rightly so, are now respected and viewed as countryside rangers.

Imagine a series on mainstream TV that promoted our industry as guardians of the countryside rather than chemical happy eco destroyers. Showing the differences between a links, parkland, heathland, moorland golf courses. The fauna and flora available on the different courses the problems experienced on a seasonal basis. Not necessarily going in

deep about all our mechanical maintenance but it could actually help with the question of 'why the golf club down the road does this that and the other compared to us?'

The 'Augusta Syndrome' is often accompanied with the members discussing the programme about the preparation of the course yet the only programme prior to OUR own Major is about past winners and who's who, Not about the course preparation. The general public do not appreciate that the preparation to hosting The Open takes years, not just the month before.

The fact that the course is aimed to peak for the tournament and that the clearing up and restoration takes time afterwards is never considered!

Do we really have representation with the golfing bodies, such as the EGU, SGU, R&A, or is it that we 'accept their donations' and then allow them to govern us?

To summarise, individually we can help ourselves by improving communication but at the same time let's see the associations promoting our cause outside the industry.



Mike Davie
Head Greenkeeper
Hazel Grove Golf Club

Mike Davie

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