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MANAGEMENT DEBATE
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IN PEAK CONDITION

Cavendish GC is
this month's Golf
Course Feature

Onwards and Upwards

We meet three graduates of the
Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme



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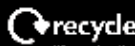
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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Environmental Care is not an Optional Extra

The latest issue of Golf Monthly has just dropped onto my desk – an excellent, often thought provoking, publication and one which is particularly close to my heart as it was as Assistant Editor back in May 1986 that I started out in the golf business. I still read it every month and this time one element in particular caught my attention.

The Golf Forum asks readers questions, and these are always keen golfers and generally club members, and this month it posed the following:

“Do golfers have duty to encourage environmentally friendly course management?”

It elicited the following from among the responses.:

“Eco-friendly options are often too expensive to implement and ultimately it is us that have to pay for it.”; “I don’t expect to go to my own club, which I already pay a sizeable sum to every year and start helping them with their environmental responsibility too.”, and “In these hard times I don’t see it being too high on any club agenda...”

A few things struck me about the answers. The first one was the belief that to be eco-friendly is a costly business and is almost a bit of an extravagance for a golf club. Well, we all know that there are many sound environmental policies and practices that don’t cost a fortune and can even bring revenue into a club – making and selling your own compost or fire wood for example, while harvesting grey water may have an initial cost but will undoubtedly make savings for the club in the longer term.

Secondly, if the guys who replied to the Golf Monthly question are at members’

clubs there is no real understanding that the environmental responsibility for the golf club is as much down to them as it is down to the people they employ at the club to carry out the work.

Basically it reaffirms the belief that golfers are interested in playing golf - period. Anything else is merely a sideshow or, worse, a damned inconvenience. How often do you get grief when you do some mid-week aeration work? Everyone knows it is for the long term benefit of the golf course, but they still complain if it happens just before their Wednesday morning bounce game.

In fairness to the club golfer, the game is a hobby, a recreational pursuit, and adding “responsibilities” on top of those they carry Monday to Friday is perhaps unfair. However the very nature of a members’ club is that each member does have a share in the club and that carries with it some responsibility.

The bottom line is that members has a duty as responsible landowners, or tenants, to carry out environmentally friendly course management and can’t run away from that just because they are only really interested in the speed of the greens, the height of the rough and the quality of the sand in the bunkers.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Greenkeeper International readers.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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The second instalment in the on going debate in preparation for Harrogate Week's much in demand Seminar of the same name.

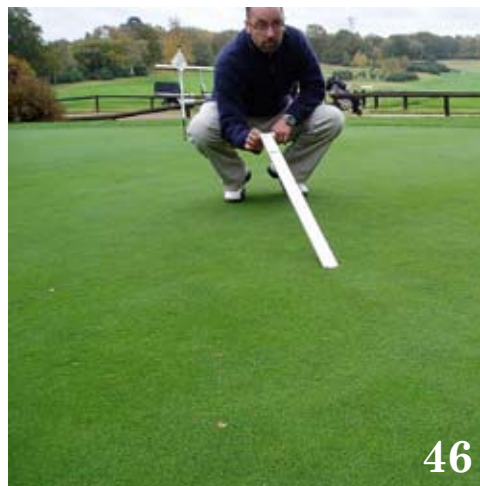


Stuart Ormondroyd, STRI Head of Turfgrass Agronomy & Assistant Director, offers some advice on improving your green surrounds

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



Gary Pearce is Club Manager of the Year

Gary Pearce, general manager of Fulford Golf Club in Yorkshire, has been named as the GCMA's 'Manager of the Year' for 2009.

The announcement was made at a gala dinner at the GCMA's national conference at the arceló Hinckley Island Hotel in Leicestershire, in front of about 250 fellow golf club managers and leading figures in the golf industry.

Gary, who has been manager of Fulford since 2005, was picked ahead of five other finalists by a panel of four independent golf club management experts, including Keith Lloyd, chief executive of the GCMA.

His prize includes a holiday for two to Rioja in Spain, where he will be given a tour of the world-famous Marqués de Cáceres winery, be dined in the directors' boardroom and be treated to a round of golf at the prestigious El Campo De Logroño.

Paul Napier, general manager

of Clandon Regis GC in Surrey, was named runner-up, and won six bottles of Champagne.

Gary pictured left, with David Sandford, National Captain of the GCMA, won the prestigious award largely due to the work he has done to restore the reputation Fulford had in the 1970s and 1980s as one of the premier golf clubs in the north of England.

Under his tenure, Gary has pushed for and overseen major capital investment projects for the course and clubhouse, with minimal disruption to members and visitors.

He then helped ensure that the club hosted numerous important championships and implemented a data capture and communications project, which resulted in Fulford seeing membership and green fee revenues hit record levels and a two-year waiting list return for 2009 – even though the country has been in a recession.



Life is Tweet

Sparrows are increasing in Islington following the planting of four green roofs on the same building in February last year.

Designed by Bere Architects as the company's London base, the building is topped by two partially wild flower meadows, one native Hazel coppice and a native Hawthorn thicket.

According to Linda Laxton, of British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs), whose specialist Norfolk nursery supplied plants for the two meadows it is the tufted and common vetch that are so important.

"These plants became infested with aphids in early spring and just as the few local house sparrows nested there, they had a ready supply of food for their chicks," she explained.

Roofs offer an almost perfect environment for the birds.

"They're undisturbed, safe from cats and the plants are attracting an ample food supply. Since the 1970s with the rise of the car many front gardens have been paved over to provide parking space, and the sparrow population in urban areas has dwindled," said Linda.

For further information on British Wild Flower Plants contact the company on Tel: 01603 716615 or visit their website at: www.wildflowers.co.uk

An Insight into Better Drainage

Geoffrey Davison, who is internationally acknowledged as an authority on sports-turf drainage is available to give winter talks on the subject.

He is happy to talk to Sections or Regions in afternoons or evenings for no fee merely travelling expenses. To discuss available dates contact Geoffrey on 01568 797024.

As much notice as possible would be appreciated.



Coming Up Trumps

On a wet and windy day our Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, arranged a walkabout around the Donald Trump development/ golf resort on the Menie Estate on the outskirts of Aberdeen prior to work starting. There were 19 Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and a good mix of members from the North East of Scotland.

On arrival we were met by Project Manager, Neil Hobday. He started by briefing the group on this “very special piece of real estate” (his words). The ground work and planning that has already gone into the project and some of the ups and downs they had encountered. He also talked about the enthusiasm Mr Trump himself has had for the project since day one.

Having donned waterproofs and woolly hats, Neil, took us for a tour of the course which lasted for two and a half hours. We started off walking past the site of the new clubhouse and on towards the 1st tee.

Neil pointed into the distance to where the 1st green will be situated and said, “Can you see what I mean about this very special piece of real estate?”

He didn’t have to say any more, at that point we could all see the layout of the 1st hole. Stunning. Construction work on this hole will comprise of a selection of tees, a green and an area of fairway, the rest will be natural links, as most of the course will be.

We then walked out to the 5th hole, the far end of the front nine, then back to the clubhouse, pointing out to our left where the second 18 hole course will be constructed, then out again up the dog leg left 10th. The site for the 10th green will be enclosed by natural links dunes. From there we set off across the area of shifting sand dunes,

where work has already started. This work involves the planting of marram grass to help stabilise the sands around the 13th hole.

Moving to the 14th tee Neil said he was relaxed and comfortable with what he was doing. He also mentioned that it was nice to show a group of greenkeepers around, rather than politicians and journalists. He felt that we understood what he was trying to get across. Again all he said was, “Gentlemen. The 14th Hole”. Facing north with the North Sea to our right over the sand dunes looking down the 14th fairway.

If you ever hit a golf ball in your life, this is the place you dream about. Neil told us that this was his and Mr Trump’s favourite hole and you can certainly see why.

We all returned to McDonald Golf Club for a welcome plate of soup and sandwiches. I think that we now believe that Mr Trump and his team will build one of the World’s Greatest Links golf courses on the North East coast of Scotland.

The visit to the Menie Golf Estate was sponsored by Kenny Liddle, from Bayer.

From Ben Brookes on behalf of John Geddes and Brian Hunter





A Loyal Customer

Cricket commentator and writer, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, an Allett mower owner and user for more than 25 years, has just taken delivery of a new model.

"I remember seeing Allett mowers cutting the outfield on a number of first-class cricket grounds," he recalled.

"Having long admired the finish produced by the machine, I was determined to have an Allett of my own and purchased in 1983 a 36in Regal with trailing seat to maintain the lawns at our former family home in Sussex."

That machine served him well until he moved recently to a house with a smaller garden.

"The Regal was a bit too big for the grass areas at our new home. I needed the ability to cut somewhat longer, tougher grass so I asked Allett for their advice," explained Chris.

The machine recommended, and subsequently purchased by Christopher, was a Buffalo 34 equipped with an 8in diameter, eight-bladed cutting cylinder.

Club Car Appoints New Dealers

Club Car has appointed Stubbings Bros as the new Club Car dealer for Isle of Wight and Isle of Man Farmers for Isle of Man.

"Club Car is continuing to grow and find areas to develop. Ensuring that we have distributors easily accessible to all areas of the country is crucial to this. We feel that the dedicated service that Stubbings Bros and Isle of Man Farmers can offer to accounts in Isle of Wight and Isle of Man respectively will ensure this is the case," commented Tony Swinnerton, Business Development Manager - UK / Eire & Benelux Region.

Club Car is the official car of many prestigious organisations including The European Tour, Ryder Cup and The US National Golf Course Owners Association.

Horticulture Examination Success



Sherriff Amenity's Tito Arana and Rebecca Turner have passed the BASIS amenity and horticulture examination.

"We strive to give our customers cutting edge technical advice, this can only be achieved by investing in the training and personal development of our staff," said Amenity Director Mark Pyrah.

"It is vital that our customers are confident in the advice we give.

For example, the use of fungicides can be an important

and expensive part of a

disease management strategy, however the choice and timing of these is absolutely critical in order to maximise the results achieved and avoid costly mistakes being made."

"I am delighted for Tito and Rebecca and we will continue to invest in high quality technical training in the future," said Mark.



Digger Donation from JCB

JCB is donating equipment worth \$250,000 to help the disaster relief effort in the city of Padang following the devastating earthquake that struck off the Indonesian island of Sumatra on 30 September.

The donation of a 20-tonne JS200 heavy excavator and a 3CX backhoe loader was offered by JCB Chairman, Sir Anthony Bamford, in response to an appeal from the Indonesian authorities for foreign aid to help the relief effort.

Sir Anthony said: "Thousands of people in West Sumatra have been

affected by this dreadful earthquake and there is a desperate need for heavy equipment to assist in the clear up operations and to help alleviate large-scale human suffering.

The excavator and backhoe loader will be put to use straight-away in Padang and will hopefully help local people to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of this awful disaster."

JCB machines also proved invaluable in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami.

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Celtic Man is Scottish Groundsman of the Year

Celtic Football Club's Head Groundsman John Hayes is the 2009 IOG Scottish Football Groundsman of the Year. He collected the award from IOG Chief Executive, Geoff Webb, and David Carson of sponsor Rigby Taylor.

It is the third time in the past four years that John has won the award, previously collecting the trophy in 2006 and 2005. In 2006 he also won the IOG's Professional Football Groundsman of the Year award.

The award is judged on criteria that includes available resources, scope of operations, presentation and housekeeping standards as well as technical knowledge – based on a shortlist drawn up by the IOG Scotland Region from a league table of pitches formulated using weekly reports from referees.



"We are now in our sixth season with our returf pitch and it is testament to all the Celtic FC groundstaff that I've been recognised by this prestigious award."

The Groundsman of the Year Award is competed for by the winners from the Scottish

Premier League as well as Divisions 1, 2 and 3.

In the Premier League, the finalists were Paul Fisk, of Aberdeen FC, and Stephen Connelly, of Hibernian FC.

The 1st Division title was won by Mark Farrell, of Greenock Morton FC, with Chris Smith, of

St Johnstone FC, runner up.

The 2nd Division award was won by David Montador, from East Fife FC, with Alex Latto, of Raith Rovers FC, as runner up.

The 3rd Division trophy was collected by Martin Gray, of Forfar FC, with Kenny Waters, of Dumbarton FC, runner up.



Triumphant Tom

Winner Tom Murray, of Ratho Park Golf Club, received the AGM Trophy, kindly donated by retired member, Jimmy Neilson, formerly of Murrayfield Golf Club.

The new Trophy will be played for annually at the East Section's AGM.



Bathgate Corporate Golf Tournament

Bathgate Corporate Golf Tournament at Mobberley Golf Club in Cheshire in September was an opportunity for BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton to meet up with representatives from Bathgate and the golf club.

From left to right. Gary

Donnison, Golf Director at Mobberley Golf Club; Mark Price, Chief Executive of Bathgate Group Limited; John Pemberton, Chief Executive of BIGGA; Roderick Walker, Chairman of Bathgate Group, and Jeremy Hobson, Co-Owner of Mobberley Golf Club.



Perfect Posture

'Some 25 members of the South West Section recently attended a half day Manual Handling safety course.

The course was delivered by Dave Bowles, Director of the HS Dept Ltd, and was aimed at increasing greenkeepers' awareness to chronic back and other muscular & skeletal injuries, caused by poor working practices.

The course was deemed by most as "extremely useful" and the Section hopes to repeat it in the future'.



Retirement

Earlier this year Neil Maltby decided that this would be his last year serving on the Sheffield Section committee. Neil has been involved in Greenkeeping and in the Sheffield Section for over 50 years and has served many roles including Chairman and President.

Neil has been a great ambassador for BIGGA over the years, he has represented our Section at many events and has been a real figurehead for the Section, attending The National Championship and BTME many times. His advice has been invaluable over the years. He has been particularly helpful to members coming on to the committee by offering them the benefit of his experience.

Neil retired from greenkeeping in 2004 where he was Head Greenkeeper at Wheatley Golf Club, Neil still enjoys playing golf at Wheatley where he is a member.

Despite his retirement from the committee, Neil will still continue to support the Section at many events

On behalf of everyone at the Sheffield Section and everyone at BIGGA headquarters I would like to thank Neil for his hard work and commitment over the past 50 years and I hope he continues to enjoy his retirement.

James Stevens

Triumph for East of England

The third Midland Region Inter Section Golf Tournament, sponsored by Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd, was held this year at Burghley Park Golf Club in October.

On a beautiful Autumn day with a light wind all players thoroughly enjoyed a course superbly prepared by Course Manager, David Salisbury, and his staff. The format was once again a three man team from each Section playing aggregate

handicap medal.

Once again the scores were close; the winning team was the East of England Section, represented by Rob Welford, Rob Bemment and Ash Cox, with a combined score of 226; 2. Midland on 231. 3. Mid Anglia on 232 and 4. East Midland on 247.

Our thanks are extended to Burghley Park for allowing us to use the course and facilities, where everyone was made to

feel very welcome by staff and members.

Also, the Midland Region would like to thank Andy Law of Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd for his continued sponsorship.

The photo shows left to right: Alan Walker, Section Chairman and Starter; Ash Cox, Rob Welford; Rob Bemment and Paul Wilkinson, Captain of Burghley Park, who presented the trophy and prizes.



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Chairman's Word

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

Over the past few weeks we have seen some wild weather conditions, particularly on the West side of the country.

Not only has this been devastating for the people going about their daily lives but will have further impacted on golf clubs income following on from the wet summers over the past three years.

The changing pattern of weather was one of the topics presented at the recent South East Regional Seminar and provided some useful food for thought. It was highlighted how over the past 40 years the number of days of frost has reduced by a third with an increase in average temperatures between October and December. At the club we have experienced daytime temperatures averaging 14.4 degrees C in October and 7.7 at night this year.

In contrast to having to deal with the problem of flooding and incessant rain on



A Flexible Approach Required

the West side of the country, the South East corner suffered from a continuous lack of rainfall this year. The amount of rain that fell in Cumbria in one day during the floods in November was similar to that recorded for eight months this year in Kent. From March to October we received only 343mm of rain against a 12 year average of 523mm at the club. As a result of this we had to postpone scarifying fairways until late September and also the overseeding work which followed on.

The unpredictability of the weather is changing many aspects of our work including the incidence of disease, the planning and timing of operations and being geared up to deal with intense rainfall patterns. When rain does come it can often fall as intense bursts that cause washouts to bunkers and course flooding.

It seems as though wherever you are in the country, time and money spent investing in ways to cope with high intensity rainfall patterns will soon be recouped in being able to resume play sooner after the rain stops. This may involve additional drainage work, reshaping areas to shed water away from putting surfaces or topdressing areas with sand. Opening up greens that are surrounded by trees that have been encroaching for years might be just what is needed to allow air movement and sunlight to aid drying.

The basics of keeping firm playing surfaces with careful management of thatch and an effective aeration programme certainly help by allowing these to dry out quicker but more is often needed if we are to be able to re-open courses quickly following these downpours.

Keeping healthy putting surfaces through good turf management practices remains the best way to combat disease but may not always be enough to eliminate all disease pressures. With the increasing temperatures being experienced in the autumn period, coupled with high humidity, having to use fungicides may still be necessary at times. However, by selecting the right active ingredient and mode of action to get on top of disease pressure at an early stage, it should be possible to minimise their use.

Having set dates/times of year when trolleys, powered trolleys and buggies can and can't be used on course doesn't work with the unpredictability of the weather. In contrast to wetter autumns, this year we allowed buggies to be used on fairways right up to the start of November.

The club has always left the judgement on these matters to the greenkeeping department to determine and so being mindful of the need to keep this revenue stream flowing as well as protect the course when making decisions, we have demonstrated that this

responsibility has not been misplaced.

When designing courses or making alterations to existing sites golf course architects need to bear in mind the changing climate in all aspects of their schemes including slopes, watershed patterns and drainage designs etc.

Capturing surface water run off in winter through a drainage system leading to a holding reservoir may well prove a worthwhile investment for many courses on the drier east side of the UK to make use of these intense rainfall patterns.

In some cases where no bore hole licences are available it may be their only viable option as when drought orders are put in place, mains water will not be available to them.

This whole subject of adapting to changes in weather patterns will continue to be a much discussed topic. Some argue that climate change and the causes of it are not just happening.

Wherever this debate leads will not alter the fact that we need to plan and manage a programme of work that has to be more flexible in its timing, respond to these climate related pressures and communicate this effectively.

**Peter Todd
National Chairman**



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

Anybody with their “ear to the ground” hears the worrying message that 2010 will be worse than 2009 for many golf clubs as even more golfers look to relinquish their membership preferring to become a casual golfer playing occasionally and on different courses.

This maybe is how today's golfer is looking at his or her pastime but we must be pleased that we still have golfers during the ongoing recession whenever and wherever they choose to play.

It is difficult to generalise the state of play for golf, as there will always be those clubs who have a loyal membership.

Equally, the increase in proprietary courses and clubs during the nineties certainly has given golfers a choice and with it the need for owners and committees to work that little bit harder to attract members, visitors and where appropriate tempt them to become members.

Retaining members is also all about maintaining the product.

For several years I have been a casual, or, as we often are referred to today, a nomad golfer, and from my own experiences, I have to say, in visiting more courses you certainly look at the “package” offered both in terms of on and off course facilities.

I also know that more and more Course Managers, as part of the management team, are aware that it is the “whole experience” offered at the golf club that has to be attractive and it is therefore so important that we look to promote training in business management within greenkeeping courses and qualifications.

We will always ensure at the very heart of greenkeeper education and training are the best agronomic principles and practices however we must continue to promote the management training courses offered both through our approved providers and BIGGA on a regional and local basis as well as during Harrogate Week.

The GTC works to ensure the range of greenkeeping qualifications all include the skills and knowledge a golf club employer would require from the greenkeeper to Course Manager but during these difficult economic times, training can often be suspended or even cancelled, which still amazes me when so much training attracts subsidies.

From a greenkeepers perspective, the options to continue to access learning in this climate has never been better with on the job, distance learning and on-line learning as well as short courses being available.

Back to the golf “experience” few will argue that any golf clubs greatest asset is its course albeit we have to acknowledge the off course facilities are also important but let us continue to focus on ensuring that “our” side of the golf experience is as good as it can be given the resources made available to the Course Manager and the green-keeping team.

Golfers have and will continue to compare the condition of courses and with the current mood it is more important than ever that your course is better than the competition.

This may be easier said than done as budgets vary, along with ground conditions from club to club as do human and physical resources that are available to you. But let us remain positive, as there are already tremendously talented individuals and greenkeeping teams on many golf courses but please take up every opportunity for continual professional development, as it could be your skills and professionalism, which gives, assists your employers business.

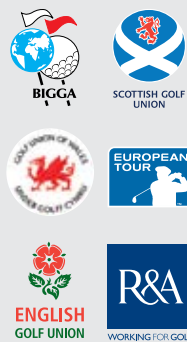
There is no better place than the annual gathering for our sector in January at Harrogate to catch up on all the latest news, products and education.

Please take a look at the education programme and I know there will be something for you which in turn will benefit your employer so don't delay plan your Continual Professional Development for 2010

In Brief

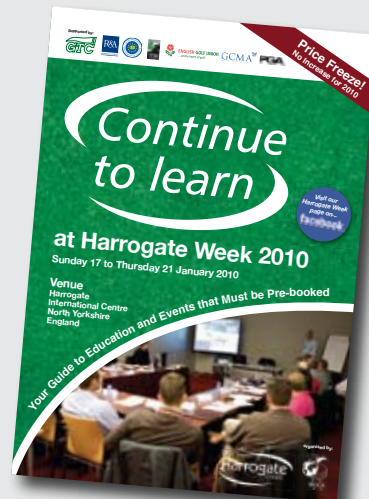
David continues to be positive as all the rumours seem to be that many golf clubs are going to have an even a tougher 2010 than 2009

The GTC is funded by:



now starting by looking at the Continue to Learn programme.

On behalf of the GTC I trust you enjoy the festive season, we can all look forward to meeting up at Harrogate in the New Year, as the greenkeeping community is still one we should all be proud to be part of.



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Learning & Development

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

All the Christmas trees and lights that have been adorning shops, bars and hotels since August are finally coming into their own, as the festive season is just around the corner – in the L&D department the Christmas shopping is done and the cards are written! The lists we're working on are all to do with Harrogate Week and making sure that Harrogate Week 2010 is a resounding success.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2010



The Fringe Sessions were introduced on to the Continue to Learn education programme in 2007 and have proved to be a very successful addition. The Fringe Sessions are presented by companies who are exhibiting at the BTME and Club-House Exhibition and by BIGGA. The sessions are open to all visitors, free of charge and on a first come first serve basis.

This year's Fringe Sessions feature subjects including:

- Enhancing the Biodiversity of the Golf Course
- How do I Choose my Wetting Agent Programme?
- Sustainable Aeration and Drainage for Golf Courses, Trees and Winter Sports Pitches
- Redevelopment of the Outfield at Headingley Carnegie Stadium
- RESCUE: Using a Selective Ryegrass Killer on Golf Courses
- The Centre Court Roof
- False Economy in Grounds Management
- Growing Turf for the West Course at Wentworth

For a full list of the Fringe Sessions please go to www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education and download the Fringe Seminars document. Further information on all of the Fringe Sessions can be accessed on the website. More events are being added – keep up to date with what's on by visiting the website regularly.

Please note: the Fringe Sessions are extremely popular – if there is a specific session you wish to attend it is advised that you turn up 10-15 minutes prior to the advertised start time.

A series of half-day workshops are also available:

- Basic Electrical System Maintenance
- Golf Club Marketing
- Water Feature Management
- Good Soil Chemistry and Biology
- Carbon Auditing, Energy and Waste
- Master Greenkeeper Certificate
- The Rules of Golf and Course Set Up for PGA Events
- SUDS and Water Harvesting
- Green Roofs and Walls

PGA Professional Development

The PGA is presenting a range of courses that are open to BIGGA members. As part of the Golf Club Management Partnership, BIGGA members will be eligible to pay the Members' price for any of the courses.

For further details please visit the PGA National Training Academy website – www.pgationaltrainingacademy.org.uk or contact Andrea Kelly on 01375 470333.



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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Master Greenkeeper

Congratulations go to John Ross, from Laleham Golf Club, in Surrey, and Eric

Foerster, from The Ironbridge Golf Course, in Colorado, USA, on achieving the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. John and Eric are the 50th and 51st greenkeepers to achieve the Certificate.



Higher Education Scholarships supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

Benjamin Brookes – HNC Golf Course Management
Kerr Hunter – On Line Foundation Degree – Sports Turf
John Maree – NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf

BIGGA Library

One new title has been added to the BIGGA Library in the last month:

Essential Soil Science, A Clear and Concise Introduction to Soil Science – Ashman and Puri

(In an effort to save costs, this book was purchased second hand and does have some passages highlighted).

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



JOHN DEERE



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; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie



Scotts Victorious at Villa

Aston Villa's Head Groundsman Jonathan Calderwood says that his Scotts iTurf programme keeps Villa Park's 98% sand pitch in top condition.

"We have great results from Scotts products and excellent technical back-up from Mark Rayner, our key account manager," says Jonathan, who oversees a team of 10 ground staff – three at Villa Park and seven at the training ground, which comprises 14 pitches.

Four of them are built to a similar high sand-based specification as the main stadium pitch.

One is an exact replica of the Villa Park pitch, complete with full Desso system, and the ground staff team mirror the treatments of the stadium surface to achieve similar results.

Even though it has none of the shade problems of Villa Park, it has identical rootzone and drainage.

"The problem with our main pitch is that water just goes straight through it," Jonathan explained.

"We put around 60 tonnes of sand on it every year which makes it even more free-draining. We have a fertiliser programme that works very well for us because it is very difficult to keep grass growing well on pure sand - we use the pop-up sprinklers constantly."

"From September to March we use a moving system of UV lights rigs which makes the pitch even drier, but does keep the grass growing," said Jonathan, who was recently voted 'Groundsman's Groundsman of the Year'.



Aerators in Demand

Long Ashton Golf Club has taken delivery of its third Wiedenmann Terra Spike deep aerator in six years.

Course Manager, Jim Braithwaite, has just welcomed the latest Terra Spike GXi6

The club has earned a first class reputation for its consistently high standard of greens and fairways and pro-active approach to preparation and maintenance.

In 2003, the club bought a Wiedenmann XP 160 specifically to deep tine the course. Six months later it was the first purchaser anywhere in the UK of Wiedenmann's Terra Spike XF, the ultra-fast aerator which revolutionised the speed of deep tine aeration.

"We have had no problems at all with either our XP, or our XF. We've used them systematically to cover the course quickly and efficiently; the XP using its deeper tines on the fairways and the soil-based greens and the XF has been used everywhere," said Jim.

Noticeably in the last year heavier and prolonged rainfall has affected some of Long Ashton's clay-based greens; two of which – the 8th and 15th - have just had new drainage installed.

After discussions with groundscape sales specialist, TH White at Knockdown, a deal was struck to part exchange the five year old XF for a GXi6.

New Role for Wembley Man

ServiceMaster Ltd has appointed former Wembley Head Groundsman Steve Welch to manage its TruGreen lawn care franchise network.

As TruGreen Network Manager Steve is tasked with helping to grow and develop the professional lawn care business further.

He comments; "I've

joined TruGreen at a really exciting time. Having made a name within the industry as a leading provider of domestic lawn care we now feel confident that we can provide an equally impressive service to other markets.

My background in the sports world will obviously be a benefit to me here in

terms of technical expertise and I am looking forward to the challenge of helping the business explore new fields."



RJ in force at Luton Hoo



Luton Hoo Hotel Golf & Spa is maintained with a selection of Ransomes Jacobsen equipment supplied by local dealer, Ernest Doe and Sons. Facilities at the five star resort include an 18-hole golf course, a magnificent spa and over 1000 acres of parkland and gardens created by Capability Brown. The Head Greenkeeper, Avon Bridges, oversaw the grow-in phase and the course opening in the spring of 2008.

He manages a team of five greenkeeping staff, but there are no bunkers on the course due to the Grade 1 listed status of the estate, making maintenance slightly less demanding. However, there is more rough than normal and it encroaches close to the greens, requiring precision placement of approach shots. To manage the rough, the greenkeeping team use a Jacobsen AR522 rotary mower.

Sittingbourne's Central Park greyhound Stadium Manager, Andy Chetram, has taken delivery of a new Massey Ferguson 1547 compact tractor.

Towing a Sisis Quadraplay frame equipped with loosening tines, grooming rake and levelling blade, the 46hp tractor helps remove paw prints from the previous race while simultaneously smoothing and firming the surface to provide the optimum conditions.

Every seven to 10 days, Andy uses the tractor with a power harrow to break up surface compaction and hard spots. A further regular task for the tractor is guiding a specialist grading blade around the track to maintain the camber necessary to help racing dogs negotiate safely the long bends at the end of each straight.

Massey on track



First Bobcat at Willmar Hire

Kidderminster-based Willmar Hire has bought the first Bobcat E32 mini-excavator in the UK. The 3.2 tonne E32 conventional tail swing mini-excavator is a completely new generation machine.

Formerly an agricultural engineering company, Willmar Hire has been hiring out plant for more than 18 years. Today, the company splits its activities between plant hire and groundworks. The hire fleet at Willmar Hire includes excavators, dumpers and a 453 skid-steer loader from Bobcat.

"We have always been impressed with the performance of excavators from Bobcat. We saw the E32 for the first time at this year's SED exhibition and I am really pleased with what it has added to our fleet of excavators," said Mark Godsall, Managing Director of Willmar Hire.

"The E32 offers so much power for its size and, as we've purchased the longer digging arm version, this gives users extra digging depth for work on structures such as septic tanks, which are a bit deeper."





In Peak Condition

Scott MacCallum meets up with Pete Smith, who has taken to life at Cavendish Golf Club, in Derbyshire, like a duck to water





Buxton's Cavendish Golf Club, deep in the heart of the wonderful Peak District National Park, in Derbyshire, is bucking the trend by increasing its membership numbers over the last two years - by around 15% - while visiting societies and casual green fees are also on the up.

It would not be too much of an exaggeration to suggest that within the membership packs issued to those new recruits, information suggesting that wellies would be of more use than soft spikes at certain times of the year!

Cavendish may be one of the most beautiful golf courses to be found anywhere, but it is also extremely wet!

"You don't expect to get Buxton Spring Water in a place that's dry, do you?" joked Course Manager, Pete Smith, who moved to Derbyshire from the cosy south two years ago to take on the challenge of a Dr Alistair McKenzie-designed course which was in need of a bit of a boost.

"The national average rainfall is between 700 and 800 ml a year. Up here we generally get around 1400 ml, which makes it about

50% above average. Coupled with that we are built on a six inch layer of peat, which sits on top of the limestone and slows any drainage, Basically we sit on water."

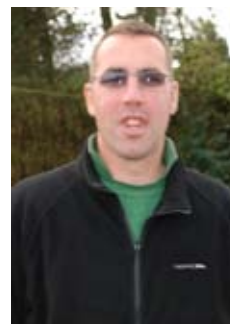
The night before my visit there had been half an inch of rain and when I arrived the course was puddling up.

"On other courses that sort of rain wouldn't have made an impact at all, but because of our soil structure and topography it is anything but an average situation," said Pete.

Not long after he started he and the Board walked out to the 14th, the course's only par-5, to look at the fairway, which was incredibly wet, and they asked him if he would drain it.

"I took one look at the soil profile, the underlying conditions, the natural fall of the site and the very flat fairway. Then I looked at the hill, one of the many the Peak District is named after, overlooking the fairway, and from which water runs on to the surface and sub surface. I told the committee that there was no point.

"To attempt to drain an entire site would be expensive and resources would be well and truly stretched, with very little end



Course Manager Pete Smith

BELOW: The Shelton System 25 after two weeks on the 6th green





ABOVE: The Course is set in fabulous Derbyshire Countryside

result, so my answer to the Board was that I'd rather work with what we'd got because, while we might be a little spongy and waterlogged, thanks to the limestone we are still firm underfoot."

Pete and his team are, however, working on improving the greens two of which have just had the Shelton System 25 installed.

"In 22 years as a greenkeeper and 10 as a Course Manager I've not seen a soil profile as saturated and heavy as that in our greens. After four dry weeks I took some of the soil and was able to squeeze it and it was still wringing with water, and this was despite an intensive vertidrainage and topdressing programme over the last two years. Changing holes on this course is a real challenge as suction makes it incredibly difficult to pull the changer out.

"By the time we've pulled the hole changer out and grabbed the cup the entire hole has shrunk inwards and is smaller than the size of the cup. That happens all the time. It's not a thatch problem, it's a moisture in the ground problem – our thatch levels are good and our grass coverage and sward density is brilliant."

The new drainage system should

help to ensure the greens are given the best chance of remaining playable.

"Every half a metre we've gone down 30cm, laying a 25ml pipe into the bottom of each line and back filling with Lytag to the surface. We've also got two or three exit drains running across the greens. We've done the 4th and the 6th, finishing just two weeks ago, and they are already showing significant signs of drying out and the puddling is disappearing," explained Pete.

"It still means that we have a very heavy soil profile between the half metre spacings but it does mean water can soak away into these drains and then through our regular vertidrainage and top dressing programme we can ameliorate the rest of the soil."

Remarkably despite appearing to be more suited to paddy fields than golf greens the grass has adapted well to its damp conditions.

"You can take cores out of our greens and see superb root development, it just proves that grass is highly adaptable to its environment and has made the most of living in a permanent perched water table.

"If the two newly drained

greens are a success the policy will be rolled out to the remaining 15 – there is one USGA green, the 9th, on the golf course, designed by member and respected golf course architect, Jonathan Gaunt.

"We will monitor them over the winter and if successful do the others in one go over next winter. Basic cost is around £2000 per green for the Shelton 25 whereas rebuilding to USGA spec would be around £30,000-£35,000 per green."

The McKenzie greens are a real feature of the course with subtle borrows and significant slopes.

"If we have them at any more than 8.5 people would walk off," said Pete.

One of the reasons why the club is attempting to make the course as playable as often as possible, are the demands of members now wanting to play year round golf.

"The older members always considered Cavendish to be a summer only golf course and any golf in the winter was seen as a bonus but younger and new members expect golf 365 days a year," he explained.

"Although we get increased revenue from more members and more play it also creates more

wear and tear and some of that revenue has to be used to keep the course open. If the new members can't play we won't retain their membership so we need to look at ways of trying to deal with the wet conditions"

With that in mind if it is recognised that the course is particularly wet, the members are happy if we open 13 holes, nine holes or even just six holes rather than close the course, just to allow some golf to be played.

"Since I've been here we aim to allow golfers to play on the main tees throughout the winter, and so long as golfers replace divots we allow them to play off the fairway without using fairway matting, and use main greens as often as possible. I think the members appreciate what we are trying to do," said Pete, who is often around the 120 plus members who play every Saturday - including the 13 hole events that are held in the winter.

Pete has been able to improve the presentation of the course despite having a full time staff of just three, including himself and three occasional staff, two of whom are purely available in the summer months.

"I'm very lucky to have a dedicated team of staff - Nick O'Meara, who is acting as my Deputy and who has been here nine years and our new trainee, and Mark Elliott.

"We also have Bob Turner, who is a member who we bring in when we need an extra pair of hands and for any special projects we've got going.

"Then there is Callum Hardy, and Tom Nadine, who are studying sports science at University and who work here during their summer holidays which coincides with our busy time."

Pete says he can run which such a small core of permanent staff because of the simple cutting regime.

"In the summer months we are able to cut all the playing surfaces in a single day, which with all the rain we get really helps keep the course well presented for those odd dry days."

Then there is the fact that the growing season is so short.

"Our fairway and rough mowers don't move for almost six months of the year!"

That said, Pete has simplified the cutting regime to make it more maintenance friendly,

"My first priority when I came here was to improve the quality of



ABOVE: The Greenkeeping Team

the playing surfaces and change cutting regimes and add definition to the course. We only have three major heights of cut - the greens; tees, fairways and collars are all cut to the same height, and then we are straight into semi rough. This has allowed us to increase definition and the golfers have started to enjoy the visual aspect of the course again while at the same time it simplifies our maintenance" said Pete, who moved north from what he affectionately calls, "Creepy Crawley" where he managed Selsdon Park GC, in Croydon.

Pete is very keen that the course blends into the stunning countryside and he has some interesting thoughts on the sustainable golf debate.

"We have 120 hectares of land within our boundaries and the idea that we should try and chase sustainability on just one hectare - the greens - doesn't work for me. I give members what they want on the greens and try to maintain the best quality surfaces, I will then try and be as sustainable as possible on the other 119 hectares. I can reduce my fertiliser input, grow areas of rough, put up bat and bird boxes, create wildlife corridors - we've got red deer on the course for the first time in years - and try and blend in with the environment which I think is true sustainability. But on one hectare of greens? What's the point."

He and his family have embraced their new life in Derbyshire and he has taken the

ribbing and endured being called "Peckham Pete" with good humour.

"People are so much more friendly here and, to be honest, I was fed up of dealing with water shortages so I moved somewhere where I will never have to worry about water shortages ever again," he said, with tongue firmly in cheek.

With the enthusiasm Pete shows for his course and his new life you can be pretty sure he won't be returning south for a while at least.



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A hand in a white shirt cuff holds a black graduation cap with a tassel against a solid blue background. The cap is tilted, and the tassel hangs down. The hand is positioned at the bottom right, reaching up towards the cap.

Onwards and Upwards

The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Fund has enabled a huge number of greenkeepers to further their careers. This month we look at three greenkeepers at different stages of their careers who have recently graduated thanks to the the funding they received from Ransomes Jacobsen

When I left school five years ago at the age of 16 to take a job on the grounds staff at Newquay Golf Club, never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined where this would take me - or what great opportunities would have come my way!

Firstly, I have been lucky enough to work on the Support teams at The Open Championships at Hoylake, Birkdale and Carnoustie. As if that wasn't exciting enough, I have also helped out at Loch Lomond during the Scottish Open.

Now incredibly, I have been offered a six-month internship at Augusta, Georgia - home of the Masters! Truthfully, I don't think that any of this would have happened for me if I hadn't kept moving forward with my education. The most recent amendment to my education portfolio was the completion of a foundation degree in turf science which I completed online while still in full time employment at Newquay Golf Club. This was made possible with the support of Newquay Golf Club and with a BIGGA Higher Scholarship, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen. I firmly believe that by continually developing your education it shows that you are worthy these opportunities. Ransome Jacobsen has recognised this and is investing in the future of the sportsturf industry.

I recently graduated and achieved a merit overall. It was a very strange experience going to the graduation as although I had spoken lots to the tutors and fellow students it was the first time I had ever met the majority of them, it was also the first time I had ever been to Myerscough College.

You may think that it would be difficult to do the course online; one of my main concerns was if I had difficulties understanding. Getting help with the course was never problematic; the tutors were always at hand via email or phone. Everyone also had access to bulletin boards for each subject that is similar to the BIGGA forums. I found this very helpful as more often than not you would find other students struggling with the same aspects and discussion would soon resolve any problems.

Generally I spent around 10 hours a week studying, however, this varied. You could work really hard and then allow yourself to have some time off so you could pretty much organise yourself to make the course accommodate your lifestyle. Although this was always a really good advantage of doing the course



Abi Crosswood is a prime example of what it is possible to achieve and where, even at a young age, a greenkeeping career can take you.

online it was still a big commitment and took up a lot of time, especially leading up to deadlines. It also takes good motivation, as you haven't got a fixed schedule of lectures like full time students and no one is really there to push you.

Details of assignments would be issued including briefs, guidelines and marking criteria's and then you could go and plan your assignment. Session booklets were regularly provided which gave an insight into different aspects concerning the subject, however further reading was also required.

The course itself was really relevant to today's greenkeeping it was absolutely packed full and it would be difficult to tell you about it all but a lot of the work could be implemented into running a course more efficiently. A lot of the assignments were actual documents that all golf courses should have as a formality. These included machine replace-

ment proposals, risk assessments, managements plans etc. It also made you extra attentive as to what actually happens on the different playing surfaces, as it was necessary to produce detailed observations of any changes or deteriorations. The course also helped to increase awareness to expenditure and budgets as one assignment for example involved noting all out goings from man power to running costs on one turf grass surface. I also found the ecology side very interesting and the course highlighted areas where this could be improved upon. More often than not areas, which could be made more environmentally friendly, would also prove more economic.

All in all I am pleased with my result and glad I took part in the course and now really look forward to my next experience of interning at Augusta!

Paul Woodham, Course Manager of Gayhill Golf Club, explains how it is never too late to start.

How important is education? If you had asked me the same question in the mid 80's I would definitely have dodged the topic in the same way that I dodged many of my school homework assignments and nearly all GCSE revision.

I can vividly recall the Deputy Head Teacher handing me my exam results and telling me "what a waste of time" it had all been and "how disappointed I must be in myself". But back then all I could think about was getting back up to the golf club for my next game because that's what was important to me at the time.

I could not see the value of education as I would not be going on to sixth form but would be working for my father. A whole summer of golf lay ahead of me followed by an easy route to employment. The fact that I didn't really have any love for my father's trade was unimportant at that time because I still had dreams of making a living out of golf. This of course would be playing golf but little did I know that my love of the game would lead me into the green-keeping profession. Now, nearly 25 years later I have a totally different view on the value of education both academic and vocational.

Like so many others within the greenkeeping profession, I've been fortunate enough to have been taught a vast array of skills from dedicated greenkeepers and through City and Guilds college courses and many seminars, workshops and education conferences. Many of these opportunities would not have been possible without the support structure which is offered by BIGGA and GTC. Time has moved on and the City and Guilds qualifications, which I first studied, have now been replaced with NVQ's. There are many who will argue the merits of NVQ's compared to City & Guilds but the fundamental point is that they both lay the cornerstone on which careers can be built.

Greenkeeping is a fantastic profession and one in which we never stop learning. Much of this learning is of course done on the job as we continually adapt to the changing weather, technologies, requirements and many other factors. But there is also opportunity to further ourselves academically through Higher Education learning. These

opportunities have never been easier to access thanks to distance learning and scholarship support. It is often easy to think that "I'm too busy to do that" but the truth is that distance learning is there to allow us to be flexible and achieve our ambitions while holding down a full time job.

The opportunity to embark upon a higher education qualification arose following the award of a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen. Myerscough College offered the best option for me to study thanks to the distance learning option and on-line delivery of a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf. The course comprised of three years part-time study with both assignments and on-line examinations. I won't kid anyone and say that it has been an easy ride and you will only get out what you are prepared to put in. From the onset the college learning materials have been first class and these are sure to come in useful for many years to come. The tutor support has also been excellent with Andy Owen and his team easy to access over the phone or via email. Three years hard work has now paid off with the award being a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf with a distinction. Yes I see this as a personal achievement and one which my parents are immensely proud of even though my academic achievements have perhaps been 20 years a bit late. For me though, the introduction to HE study has taught me a whole new set of skills which can be applied in many situations whether it's research, report writing or just a better understanding of our complex job. The golf club for which I am Course Manager can also be safe in the knowledge that they too will reap the benefits of the study. Many of the assignments were based upon real working scenarios with the setting up of an Environmental Policy being just one example of time well spent. The experience has encouraged me not to stop there but to press on and progress to a two year BSc (hons) top-up.

If you are considering undertaking HE study I can only offer these few thoughts from experience.

- Commit yourself to at least 8 hours study per week (even more when working on assignments) and



stick to it! There is never a 'right time' to undertake higher education. Just do it, but get the support of your family first!

- Research and enjoy the assignments. There is a world of fascinating books out there many of which are available from the Bigga lending library.

- Ask for help when needed and network with other students. They will often be as confused as you but a problem shared....

- Print off and keep the learning materials. You will probably get through half a rain forest but they become the most informative set of folders you will ever own.

- Is it worth it? Most definitely yes!

Finally, I would like to congratulate the other graduates with whom I have shared the experience and special thanks to fellow students Andrew, Abi and Ed. There were times when we all wondered what the heck was going on but we did it!

Education and training are issues that BIGGA are constantly promoting and encouraging our membership to undertake from both a national and regional level.

Regional seminars covering all manner of turf related and administrative subjects are run by your regional representatives supported in part by funding from headquarters. On a national level BIGGA Education organises a comprehensive programme of training sessions and information seminars as part of BTME week in Harrogate each year and promotes ongoing training and development through the CPD scheme.

In addition to these direct actions BIGGA runs two programmes promoting greenkeepers to pursue their own education, training and personnel development through independent colleges and universities. The first is the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award which has run for over 20 years while the second significant programme that BIGGA uses to promote education among greenkeepers is the Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship, a programme providing support towards the cost of college and university fees for BIGGA members studying turf management and greenkeeping. Support from this scheme can be a huge help for what can be a tough slog when you are balancing full time work with assignments, exams and portfolios.

So, if training for and gaining a qualification, no matter which level it may be, is such a tough slog how will gaining a qualification benefit you?

Everyday we make decisions about our facility, our golf course and our team members and by understanding why we do what we do; we can make more informed decisions that may help us to get better results. Education and training has given me the opportunity to get down to the nitty-gritty and understand fundamental turf management operations and help me make informed decisions on a daily basis.

Simple operations that we take for granted like aeration, fertilising, irrigation and installing drainage can all have varying levels of success that will depend on making the right decisions about how we undertake these operations.

Why do we aerate? We aerate to maintain soil conditions that will give turf the best possible growing environment. By understanding how different soils perform in differ-



Jaey Goodchild asks the question: “Qualifications and training ...What’s in it for me?”

ent conditions we can choose when the best time to aerate is and work towards getting the most out of our sometimes very limited resources. There’s more to it than basic N-P-K when choosing a fertiliser. Understanding the components of a fertiliser and their role in plant nutrition, for example what role nitrates, ammonium compounds and urea compounds play in the nitrogen cycle, we can choose the fertiliser that will give us the results and performance we are looking for.

Learning the ‘why’, in many cases, gives us the key to understanding another related issue. Understanding how a USGA green actually functions as a perched water table system can help us to understand soil-water relationships and assist us in choosing materials and construction methods for installing drainage.

Along the way to getting to the nitty-gritty, colleges and universities give us the opportunity to open

up a whole world of resources where we can access information quickly and easily. Extensive book libraries, access to online databases from around the world and a strong network of established professionals are all fantastic sources of information that will give us, as greenkeepers, the chance to build or understanding of why we do what we do. Presenting assignments and essays, compiling portfolios and making presentations as part of our training will all develop skills that we can use regularly when communicating with our colleagues, our managers and our members. Being part of the education system is as much about developing our own skills as it is about gaining knowledge.

If nothing else, studying to gain formal qualifications of all levels in turfgrass management, gives us the skills and opportunities to find and interpret information that we can use to get the most from the resources available.

**RANSOMES
JACOBSEN**

Ransomes Jacobsen Graduates 2009

Lee Baddeley
- Myerscough College
Foundation Degree

Abi Crosswood
- Myerscough College
Online Foundation Degree in Sportsturf

Jaey Goodchild
- Cranfield Uni
MSc Sports Surface Tech

Edward Stant
- Myerscough College
On-line Foundation Degree in SC Sportsturf

Paul Woodham
- Myerscough College
Foundation Degree in Sportsturf

Dan Lightfoot
- Cranfield University
MSc Sports Turf Science

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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The Huxley Rotanet makes it quick and easy to practise your game and keep your swing in tune.

With a unique retractable design, perfect for indoor or outdoor use, the net can be set up in just two minutes. The main support tube hides an internal recoil spring that allows the net to be opened and retracted easily, making even 10 minutes of practice readily achievable and really worthwhile.

The main net is constructed from high tensile polypropylene cord, with durable reinforced target netting designed to take the impact of the hardest shots, and the optional indoor/outdoor frame means it can be used on any level surface and easily transported. The compact and lightweight design means that the Huxley Rotanet can be left in place outside after practice, protected by a waterproof cover, or removed for easy storage.

www.huxleyrotanet.com

BERNHARD'S 3000MC RANGE OF GRINDERS



Developed in response to today's economic challenges, Bernhard's is launching its new Express Dual and Anglemaster 3000 MC range of grinders.

Express Dual and Anglemaster 3000 MC grinders have the same quality as their 4000 counterparts at a price to fit a budget.

With simple electrical and

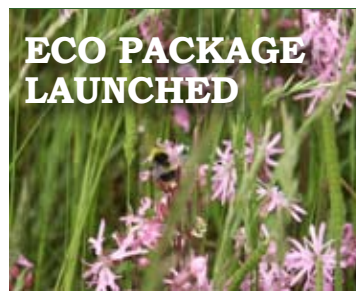
mechanical systems, the new 3000 MC machines are fast, easy to use and provide a sharp finish.

The spin grinder comes standard with a hydraulic lift table and can be fitted with Bernhard's Blade Thinning Attachment.

Accurate to within 0.001 of an inch, the bedknife grinder comes complete with auto-cue anglefinder and is now also available with auto-infeed to make the Anglemaster 3000 MC a highly efficient bedknife grinder.

www.bernhard.co.uk

ECO PACKAGE LAUNCHED



Lindum is launching a triple turf eco package to combat climate change on the golf course.

Low Maintenance Fine Turf is the first turf to incorporate Crested Hairgrass, renowned for its low maintenance qualities, slow growth habit and ability to thrive in dry, low fertility situations. Less fertiliser and mowing mean lower carbon emissions, and the ability to tolerate dry periods without intensive irrigation will be important in years when water is restricted.

Lindum Wildflower provides an instant natural meadow, which encourages biodiversity in the rough, and the 'wilder' areas of the course.

www.turf.co.uk



NEW HYBRID MOWER CUTS FAIRWAYS LIKE GREENS

Inspired by John Deere's established customer feedback programme, the 8000e E-Cut hybrid fairway mower is an industry first.

This brand new, three-wheeled, ultra-light fairway mower is mainly designed for golf course use, but is also suitable for other sports turf customers requiring a top quality finish.

The 8000e is equipped with John Deere's new 46cm QA5 cutting units, to give an overall 2.03m width of cut.

This five-gang mower allows the operator to cut fairways like greens, with a tighter stripe, excellent contour following and exceptional manoeuvrability.

In particular, the three-wheel configuration allows increased productivity around the tightest bunkers as well as larger tee areas. This design's lower ground pressure also leaves a minimal 'footprint', making the

8000e E-Cut a more productive alternative to hand mowing larger areas of fine turf, for example.

Powered by a 37hp turbocharged diesel engine, the 8000e E-Cut mower combines low noise and engine emission levels with reduced fuel consumption, due to the use of John Deere's innovative hybrid drive technology. This system, which is also featured on the new 7500e and 8500e E-Cut fairway mowers, eliminates all potential hydraulic leak points from the reel drive circuit.

The GRIP all-wheel drive traction system also comes as standard. This minimises wheel slip by sending hydraulic flow from the wheels that slip to the wheels that grip, providing the operator with excellent traction and reducing the risk of tyre marks, whether mowing up and down or side to side on slopes and hilly areas.

 www.deere.co.uk

NEW VIBRATORY ROLLER RANGE

Designed for use on the Bobcat's skid-steer loaders, compact tracked loaders, all-wheel steer loaders and telehandlers, Bobcat has launched a new range of vibratory rollers offering five different models with widths from 122 to 203 cm (48 to 80 in).

Replacing the previous 122 and 183 cm models, the new 122 cm and 185 cm models are both available in padded and smooth drum versions. In addition, a smooth shell kit is available for the padded versions of the 122 and 175 cm models.

 www.bobcat.eu



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Disease Control

A new way of thinking

Background

Sherriff Amenity, working with independent research organisations such as the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and with chemical manufacturers, have carried out extensive trials on the efficacy and compatibility of fungicide tank-mixes. This work was commissioned in order to provide new and innovative solutions to the turf disease problems experienced by our customers.

Tank-mixing

Mixing two or more products in the spray tank can be carried out to reduce the potential for disease resistance development. Certain tank-mixes can also improve the quality of the turf and reduce the time taken for the turf to recover from disease attack.

Fungicides are selected with different modes of action so that the resulting mixture will attack the target disease on two or more fronts. This makes it difficult for the pathogen to develop resistance to the treatment.

Tank-mix Packages

Data from each trial has been thoroughly assessed and analyzed. The results have helped us to develop our innovative Fungicide Packages, available exclusively through Sherriff Amenity. Please contact us to find out more.

Sherriff Amenity, Cambridge House, Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Nottingham, NG9 8AB
Tel: 0115 9390202 Fax: 0115 9398031
email: info@sherriff-amenity.com web: www.sherriff-amenity.com



Harrogate week

**Your Guide to The Largest Indoor
Turf Maintenance and Sports
Facility Exhibition in Europe**
incorporating...

**An Extensive Five Day
Education Programme**



Exhibition

Tuesday 19 January 2010
Wednesday 20 January 2010
Thursday 21 January 2010

Education

17-21 January 2010

Venue: Harrogate International Centre, North Yorkshire, England

Visit our
Harrogate Week
page on...
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...at the heart of golf





An Industry Comes Together

In a world of uncertainty it is comforting to know that some things remain solid and dependable.

Harrogate Week has held its well established place in the calendar for over 20 years and while recent years have proved more challenging it has continued to be a "must" for sports turf professionals.

This year is no different and visitors will have the opportunity to top up their knowledge base at

Europe's premier education programme – Continue to learn – while at the same time keeping abreast of the latest developments and new products launched by the some of the most innovative and creative companies around.

In recent years BIGGA has worked hard to form alliances with other like-minded bodies and the success of this policy can be seen with the number of organisations who use Harrogate Week to host

their own events. This year the R&A, the EGU, the PGA, the GTC, the BALI, the GCMA and the CMAE are all in attendance ensuring that the mix of people grows and the opportunity to share knowledge increases.

I hope that all who attend make the most of the many opportunities that are available.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Continue to Learn Programme 2010

Presented in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre, the Continue to Learn Education Programme includes a varied, comprehensive workshop and seminar programme, aimed at greenkeepers, groundsman, their supervisors, golf course managers, sports ground managers, club managers and others working in the turf industry.

It is regarded as one of the finest educational programmes to be found anywhere in the world.



Sunday 17 January

10.30 - 18.00	Practical Management of a Safety Management System (Day 1)	QS
10.30 - 18.00	Moving into Management (Day 1)	QS
10.30 - 18.00	Golf Course Design (Day 1)	QS
10.30 - 18.00	Preparing and Delivering Powerful Presentations (Day 1)	QS
10.30 - 18.00	Finance and Accounting for Golf Club Managers and Course Managers	QS
10.30 - 18.00	Irrigation: Planning, Installation and Water Management	QS
10.30 - 18.00	Emergency First Aid	QS

Monday 18 January

9.00 - 17.00	Practical Management of a Safety Management System (Day 2)	QS
9.00 - 17.00	Moving into Management (Day 2)	QS
9.00 - 17.00	Golf Course Design (Day 2)	QS
9.00 - 17.00	Preparing and Delivering Powerful Presentations (Day 2)	QS
9.00 - 17.00	Basic Golf Mechanic Workshop	QS
9.00 - 17.00	How to be an Outstanding Manager	QS
9.00 - 17.00	Drainage: Theory, Practice and Realities	QS
9.00 - 17.00	ROLO Health and Safety Course	Holiday Inn

Tuesday 19 January

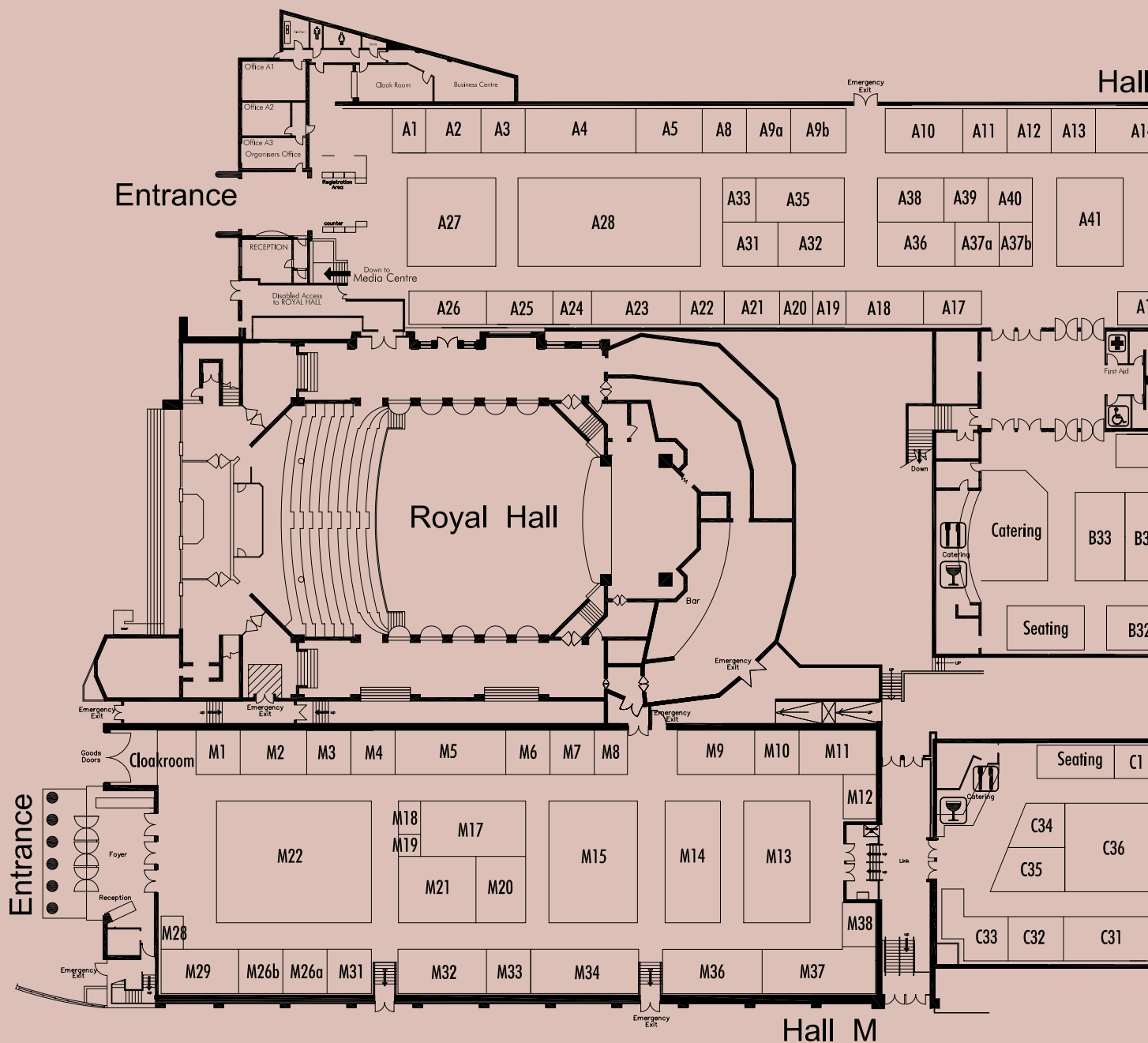
9.00 - 17.00	BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition	Halls
9.30 - 10.00	Enhancing the Biodiversity of the Golf Course	QS 3
9.30 - 12.30	Basic Electrical System Maintenance	QS 5
9.30 - 17.00	Training an Assistant and Continuing Education	QS 10
10.15 - 10.45	European Greenkeeping Passport - Your Future?	QS 3
10.30 - 11.00	How Do I choose My Wetting Agent Programme	QS 7
11.00 - 12.00	An Introduction to the CMAE and the Certified Golf Club Manager Programme	QS 3
11.15 - 11.45	Sustainable Aeration and Drainage for Golf Courses, Trees and Winter Sports Pitches	QS 7
12.00 - 12.30	Recycling	QS
12.00 - 17.00	Green Roofs and Walls	Holiday Inn
13.15 - 13.45	Sustainable Turf Management - Utilising Soil Potential with Organic Matter	QS 7
13.30 - 16.30	Golf Club Marketing (for non-marketing people)	QS 5
13.45 - 14.15	Redevelopment of the Outfield at Headingley Carnegie Stadium	QS 3
14.00 - 14.30	Nematode Management - A Developing Story	QS 7
14.30 - 15.00	Greens Construction	QS 3
14.45 - 15.15	Nutrition for Early Spring Growth	QS 7
15.15 - 15.45	Performance, Profile and Profit - Real Benefits from Environmental and Social Action	QS 3
15.30 - 16.00	45 Years of Compacts	QS
16.00 - 17.00	Awards Ceremony	QS 3
16.15 - 16.45	Rescue: Using a Selective Ryegrass Killer on Golf Courses	QS 7
19.00 - 22.30	BIGGA Social Night - Wild West Bonanza	Old Swan Hotel

Wednesday 20 January

9.00 - 17.00	BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition	Halls
8.20 - 10.30	The 2mm (or above) Debate	QS 3
9.00 - 16.30	Continuing Development Seminars (EGU, GCMA and R&A)	QS 7
9.30 - 12.30	Water Feature Management	QS 1
9.30 - 12.30	Good Soil Chemistry and Biology: The Answer to Practical Sustainability	QS 5
9.30 - 17.00	Corporate Golf and Logo Merchandise	QS 10
11.00 - 13.00	Diseases Pressure on Links Golf Courses, Fairy Rings Control and Development on Water Management	QS 3
12.00 - 17.00	SUDS and Water Harvesting	Holiday Inn
13.30 - 16.30	Carbon Auditing, Energy and Waste	QS 1
13.30 - 16.30	Master Greenkeeper Workshop	QS 5
13.45 - 14.30	Irrigation Planning and Installation - Behind the Scenes	QS 3
14.45 - 15.30	The Centre Court Roof	QS 3
16.00 - 16.30	Smart Watering for a Healthier Environment	QS 3
17.15 - 18.30	BIGGA AGM	QS 7

Thursday 21 January

9.00 - 16.00	BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition	Halls
9.30 - 10.00	STRI Transition Trials (Poa to Bent / Fescue) Plus Organic Matter Control	QS 3
9.30 - 10.15	Bunkers for the 21st Century	QS 5
9.30 - 12.30	Performance, Profile, Profit	QS 1
9.30 - 12.30	The Rules of Golf and Course Set Up for PGA Events	QS 10
9.45 - 10.15	False Economy in Grounds Management	QS 5
10.30 - 11.00	A Tree for All Reasons	QS 7
10.30 - 11.15	Bunkers for the 21st Century	QS 5
11.00 - 11.30	Growing Turf for the West Course at Wentworth	QS 3
11.15 - 11.45	The Case for Higher Education in Golf Greenkeeping	QS 7
11.45 - 12.15	Integrated Vegetation Management	QS 3
12.00 - 12.30	Sustainable Turf Management - Understanding the Benefits of Cold Process Seaweed Extract	QS 7
12.30 - 13.00	Dialing in Your Surfactant Programme for Firm, Fast and Drier Playing Surfaces	QS 3
12.45 - 13.15	Using Integrated Turf Management to improve turf quality	QS 7



Exhibitor Stand No
 2
 2iC Consultants Ltd C10a
 3 PointPower B23

A
 Abbott (MJ) Ltd A33
 AFT Trenchers Ltd B11
 Air-Eze Ltd B30
 Air-Seal Products Ltd M28
 Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd A36
 Amazone Ltd M26b
 Askham Bryan B28
 Aquadyne Sales & Marketing C3
 Aston Horticulture Ltd A20

B
 Badcock Services Ltd B27
 Bailoy C42
 BALI B38a
 Barcham Trees Plc M31
 Barenbrug UK Ltd A23

Baroness Mowers C31, C36
 Bayer Environmental Science ... C51
 Bellwood Trees A40
 Bernhard & Co Ltd B33
 Blec Global Ltd A37a
 Border Sports Services Ltd C15
 Bridgewater College C11
 BIGGA B19
 British Seed Houses A15

C
 Campey Turf Care Systems B40, B40b
 Carbon Neutral Landscapes ... M26a
 Celuplast Ltd A25
 Ceres Turf Inc A31
 Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd B37
 CL Golf C29
 Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd B29
 Club Car M21
 Coles Cheviot Trees M7
 Complete Weed Control Ltd C38
 Countax Ltd M36

Course Care C13
 Coursesaver M19
D
 DENNIS M9

E
 Eagle Promotions Ltd C50
 Ecosolve Limited M2
 Elmwood College C12
 Engcon C16a
 European Golf Machinery B10
 European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd B3
 Exhibitors Lounge C18

F
 Farmura Environmental A17
 Floratine Products Group A1

G
 Gambetti Barre UK Ltd A41
 Garfitts International Ltd M38

GCMA C9
 Golf & Turf Machinery Ltd M20
 Groundcare Products M6b
 Groundsman Industries A12
 Grundfos Pumps A9a

H
 Hardi Limited M32
 Headland Amenity Ltd C25
 Humber Palmers Fertilisers B7
 Hunter's Promotions Ltd C48
 Husqvarna M17
 Huxley Golf C34

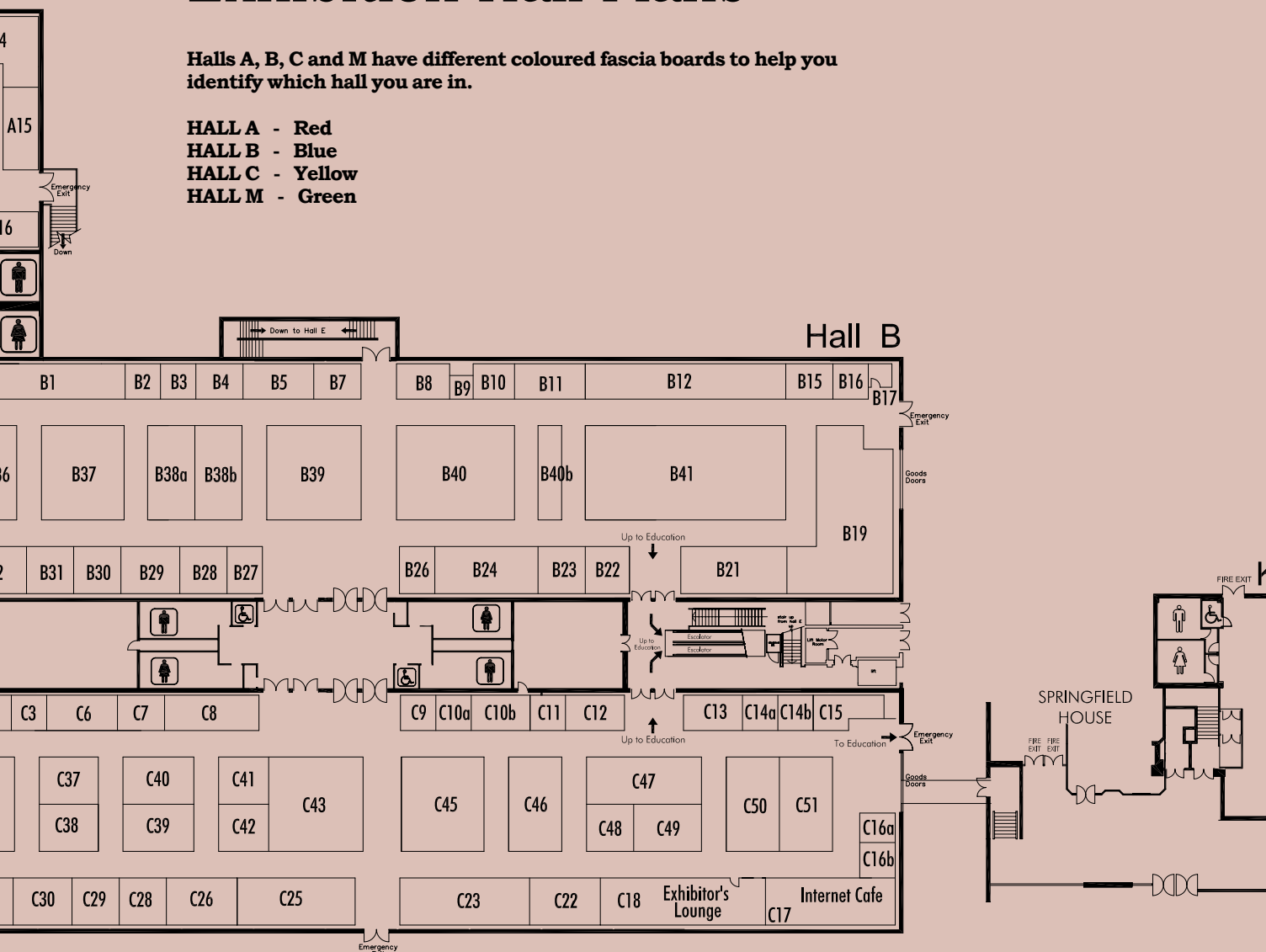
I
 Indigrow Ltd B32
 Internet Cafe C17
 Inturf A37b
 Irri-Supplies C7
 ITT Lowara A10

J
 Jex Plant UK Ltd C14a

Exhibition Hall Plans

Halls A, B, C and M have different coloured fascia boards to help you identify which hall you are in.

HALL A - Red
HALL B - Blue
HALL C - Yellow
HALL M - Green



John Deere Ltd.....B12, B21, B22, B41
 John Greasley Ltd.....C41
 Johnsons Sports Seed.....A18
 JSM DistributionM34

K
 Kensett SportsA14
 Kubota (UK) LtdC32, C35

L
 Lastec UK Ltd.....C43
 Lely Partners in TurfcareA5
 Limagrain United Kingdom.....C33
 Lindum TurfB5
 Lloyds & Co Letchworth LtdC45
 LS Systems LtdC37

M
 Massey Ferguson (AGCO) Ltd...A27
 Maxicrop UK LtdA24
 MetcheckM18
 Myerscough College.....B15

N
 New HollandM13, M37
 North Staffs Irrigation.....B26

O
 Ocmis IrrigationA21
 Orkney Seaweed Co LtdA8

P
 Parsaver GolfM12
 Penn State UniversityB16
 Phoenix Amenity Supplies.....C26
 Pinseeker LtdC22
 Powakaddy International Ltd.....B31
 Protea MowersM10
 PSD Agronomy LtdA19

R
 Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.A9b
 Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.....M22
 Reaseheath College.....C14b
 RecoM15
 Revaho UK LtdA35

Rigby Taylor Ltd.....C23
 Rufford.....C40

S
 Scotts ProfessionalB39
 Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage
 SolutionsB8
 Sherriff Amenity.....C8
 Sisis Equipment.....B24
 Speedcut Contractors Ltd.....A22
 Sportcrete LtdC46
 STRIA16
 Swan Golf DesignsB2
 SymbioB4
 Synergy / Ultraplant.....A11
 SyngentaB38b

T
 TacitB1
 Talbot Sports TurfM8
 Tarmac TopsportA26
 Techneat Engineering LtdC6
 Terrain Aeration Services LtdB9

The Grass Group (Trilo UK Ltd) .A38
 Tillers Turf Company LtdA32
 Tomlin (DW)C39
 Toro Commercial ProductsA28
 Toro IrrigationA4
 Tower Sport (Europe) LtdC47
 Tru-Turf Equipment.....C30
 True Surface by TurflineM1
 TurfCare Group LtdC10b
 Tym Tractors UKM4

V
 Verde Sports LtdC1
 Vitax Ltd.....A3

W
 Waste2Water Europe Ltd.....B36
 Wiedenmann UK Ltd.....M14

Y
 Yamaha Motor (UK) LtdC49



Montpellier

image courtesy of HIC



Cattleman's Association



Blues Bar

A GUIDE TO HARROGATE

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

As you can imagine, Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town.

With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively nightlife along with a glamorous heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

WHERE TO EAT...

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

Alberts	Tel: 01423 568446	Bar & dining
B.E.D.	Tel: 01423 568600	Modern English
Bengal Spice	Tel: 01423 502610	Indian
Betty's	Tel: 01423 502746	Traditional English
Biscaya Bay	Tel: 01423 500089	Basque French
Caramba Tapas & Bar	Tel: 01423 505300	Tapas
Cattleman's Association ..	Tel: 01423 561456	Tex Mex
Chez La Vie	Tel: 01423 560666	Traditional English
Drum and Monkey	Tel: 01423 502650	Seafood
Harrogate Brasserie	Tel: 01423 505041	English
Hedley's Wine Bar	Tel: 01423 562468	English
Horoscope	Tel: 01423 508144	Chinese
Joe Rigatoni	Tel: 01423 500071	Italian
La Tasca	Tel: 01423 566333	Tapas
Loch Fyne	Tel: 01423 533070	Seafood
Rajput	Tel: 01423 562113	Indian
Thai Elephant	Tel: 01423 530099	Thai
William and Victoria	Tel: 01423 506883	English

WHERE TO STAY...

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

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

THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...

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

HOW TO GET TO HARROGATE

Rail

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

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

Air

Leeds Bradford International Airport www.lbia.co.uk

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

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

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

Or visit www.bus2jet.com

Manchester International Airport www.manchesterairport.co.uk

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

Coach

National Express www.nationalexpress.com

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

Car

www.theaa.com

Directions

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



signposted.

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

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

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

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

From the West

Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

Harrogate Town Centre Car Parks

MULTI-STOREY
Victoria, Jubilee, West Park

SURFACE LEVEL
Odeon, Park View, Montpellier Shoppers, West Park

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours.

Charges apply all days at all times (including Public Holidays)

Free parking for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles

Pay and Display parking is in operation in most town centre streets in Harrogate.

Charges and restrictions apply on Sundays and Bank Holidays in all parking areas unless otherwise stated.

Sea

Direct Ferries www.directferries.co.uk

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

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

Park & Ride

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

The shuttle service will run at the times:

- Tuesday 20 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Wednesday 21 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Thursday 22 January 08.30 to 16.30

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British Seed Houses is the premier source for grass seed and fertilisers for your Golf Course.

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HARROGATE WEEK 2010 PRESENTS...

WILD WEST BONANZA

TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2010 - 7PM TO 10.30PM

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES...

THE OLD SWAN HOTEL, HARROGATE
DRESS CODE: SMART/CASUAL

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Low cost training for BIGGA Members

BIGGA's Learning and Development Department is constantly looking for ways to provide low cost training for BIGGA Members and BIGGA staff alike.

We have been working with a local company, YH Training, a well-established independent training provider, which has been involved in Government sponsored training since 1985. YH Training secured Train to Gain funding for six BIGGA staff to complete their NVQ qualifications in Business Administration, Team Leading and IT.

As part of the service, YH Training is able to assist BIGGA members in sourcing a range of NVQ's that could attract government funding a little or no cost to the employer.

It's easy to put off training - particularly when budgets are tight, but now there is no excuse when YH are here to help you.

Need valuable training for your staff at little or no cost?

YH can access government funding for your employees, whatever their age or prior qualifications. Your business can be streets ahead of your competitors by having staff with relevant skills and up to date qualifications.

YH Training Services has been providing training and work-based learning in Yorkshire and Humberside for over 30 years. It has successfully helped thousands of people gain NVQ and Apprenticeship qualifications, thanks to a close working relationship with local and national employers.

The company can help you secure funding and training that is available to people of all ages in the following areas:

- Customer Service
- Business Administration
- IT Computing
- Team Leading
- Management

By giving your current staff the training they need you can make your organisation even more effective, productive and competitive by addressing your skills gaps directly. There are numerous busi-

ness benefits, such as improved productivity and increased staff retention.

YH is also an approved Training Provider for Train to Gain and can access government funding for your employees, whatever their age, previous experience or qualifications. Through Train to Gain, YH can offer free training at Level 2, helping companies of all sizes train and develop their staff.

YH is accredited to deliver training in a variety of occupational areas, and our friendly team at YH can help you identify where there may be skills shortages within your workforce, recommend the most effective training and ultimately secure the future success of your business. YH's aim is to help young people, businesses and their employees invest in the right skills.

In addition to all government funded training, we can devise a cost effective solution to any other training requirements you have to aid your business profitability. By contacting YH Training Services you can find out more about the training available for your staff. The training provided will be flexible, responsive and offered at a time and place to suit your business.

Please note: YH Training is unable to attract funding for greenkeeping qualifications only for those subjects listed above.

YH on Apprenticeships

When you enrol a young person onto an Apprenticeship you will get a highly motivated and productive individual who will have an immediate and long lasting effect on your business.

Apprenticeships have been revived over the past 10 years and now Apprenticeships add even more value to businesses struggling to cope in this difficult time.

During the current economic downturn, this is one of the most important times to invest in training. Research shows that training brings an overall benefit to businesses, and is central to its future success. An Apprentice could be a cost effective way for you to ensure that you have the right skills in



place, ready for recovery.

Apprenticeships can give you a bespoke, enthusiastic workforce that can help you make your business more resilient and help you prepare for growth when recovery comes.

Apprenticeships, or Work Based Learning, are designed around the skills you need at work and cover all 'types' and levels of work. Sir Alan Sugar recently featured in a national advertising campaign talking to apprentices and witnessing the difference they are making in today's business world - because apprentices "Make Things Happen".

Apprenticeships are a valued and quality route for businesses to source the skills that they need and apprentices are helping to enhance businesses' success.

YH Training are able to source young adults who want to enter the world of apprenticeships and once the Apprentice is in work, deliver the qualification at no cost.

For further information on the qualifications and services available from YH Training please telephone 01904 666713 or email enquiries@yh-group.co.uk.

Vicki Gray, from YH Training, will be on hand on the Personal Development Zone at Harrogate Week 2010, on Wednesday, 20 January, to answer any questions you may have on the services the company is able to offer.



Green Surrounds



Raising The Standard

Stuart Ormondroyd, STRI Head of Turfgrass Agronomy & Assistant Director, offers some advice on improving your green surrounds



on how each hole should be played and there is certainly no hard and fast rule. A lack of any collar and apron at all, or a higher height of cut than would normally be the case on green surrounds, can generally be associated with limited resources or high wear, ie. basically as a means of protection. However, for playing quality reasons the trend is now more towards golf balls trickling off the putting surface to be taken down into a bunker, swale or semi-rough/rough rather than sticking on the edge. Therefore, increased maintenance is needed to develop a tighter sward that will also withstand drought and wear.

Slow down!

Surround contours should allow turning for triple mowers, ie. turning off the putting surface, and tight contouring of the green outline should be avoided. Even with smooth contours, the writer often sees scuffing and wear on immediate surround where triple mower operators have turned too fast and sharply at the end of a run. Here the general message is to slow down and take care. A switch to hand mowing can also make a big difference in terms of perimeter wear both on and off the green, particularly in the winter.

Drainage is everything

It is surprisingly common to see a putting surface built to a high standard yet the immediate surround still has the indigenous heavy clay soil. Poor drainage inevitably leads to problems with a reduction in playing quality and a change to weed or coarse grasses. Therefore, any initial construction of a new green and surround should involve soil improvements and contours to shed water more effectively both on and off the putting surface. Pipe drainage should be introduced as required, including catchwater intercept drains as needed. Add to this tree management where there is a shading issue.

Coarse grass

In terms of consistency and uniformity, coarse grass contamination in green surrounds is a big issue on all types of golf course. This can sometimes be traced back to 1960s when wear started to increase and when trade representatives often recommended perennial ryegrass as the new hard wearing grass to solve all wear issues. The result is now coarse, clumpy perennial

Playing quality and definition

For all components of green surround, the key playing quality requirements are a firm, consistent surface with a dense fine grass blemish-free sward.

Green surrounds are normally defined as areas with an intermediary height of cut between putting surface and fairway. Immediate surround usually comprises a collar encircling the putting surface of, say, one to two passes with a cylinder mower (clippings removed). At the front of the green the collar is increased in size to form an apron or foregreen.

Features such as mounds, banks, bunkers and traffic routes would fall under the classification of general surround.

Some 20 years ago green surrounds were often found to be neglected. There is nothing more frustrating for the golfer to play a pitch and run shot and either have it plug into the apron when it is expected to run on, or be deflected by a clump of daisies! However, in recent years maintenance has increased to the point where we are carrying out virtually the same programme on surrounds as putting surfaces, save for a height of cut difference for immediate surround and a reduced frequency treatment for general surround.

A good quality collar and apron will also define a green and enhance general presentation as well as potentially lessening the chance of poor etiquette through a golfer taking the shortest route with a trolley between the putting surface and bunker.

Increasing the size of a green

Despite the improving standard of green surrounds, issues still arise. An example would be increasing the size of a green into immediate surround, usually for additional pin position reasons. In contrast, as a result of mowing practices changing over the years the surround area can increase at the expense of green size.

If enlarging a green is contemplated, the big mistake is rapidly to reduce the height of cut in May as this will inevitably lead to scalping and potentially bare areas, often necessitating autumn re-turfing. Planning is the key here, bringing down the height of cut gradually from the winter level in half millimetre increments (two cuts between a reduction) using a hand mower. This should allow for a smooth transition without problems.

Design and drainage

As with all design, getting it right at the beginning helps maintenance thereafter and, of course, ultimately playing quality. Certainly, smooth undulating contours will allow for mowing with triple mowers and should accommodate traffic route flow and aftercare maintenance. Unfortunately, the end result can often be just the architect's vision of the golfing aspect of the hole and the visual impact only. Sharp contours will inevitably lead to scalping and having to resort to strimming/use of a Flymo and the extra time this involves.

In terms of cutting height and width of banding, this will depend

ABOVE: Ryegrass contamination affecting playing quality and presentation.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Scalping: the result of mowing out green into surround too quickly and too late.



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.
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ABOVE: The difference irrigation and wetting agent can make on apron/immediate approach.

ryegrass contrasting sharply with annual meadow-grass that now contaminates many immediate surround and walk-off areas yet, interestingly, the greens and fairways are invariably ryegrass free.

Verticutting can keep the coarse grass fined down, but eradication up until now involves plugging, patching or whole scale re-turfing and even then with limited success. Over the last two months a new herbicide called Rescue© has come onto the market with the purpose of eradicating ryegrass and leaving the other grasses intact. The initial results are very positive with an autumn treatment followed by oversowing with finer grasses.

Surface blemishes

The changing weather pattern as well as a reduction in chemical availability and period of effectiveness, means that surface blemishes such as weeds, moss and disease are an issue on green surrounds. Such blemishes are also a source of infection for the greens as well as affecting playing quality just off the putting surface. Cultural and chemical controls where required are therefore important. Interestingly, one very common problem, particularly on parkland courses, is to see disease-free greens yet with major fusarium outbreaks on the immediate surround. This is often the result of relaxing mowing heights and frequency too early in the autumn and confining brushing/switching to putting surfaces only. In this day and age we should never go by the calendar but on the prevailing conditions. So, keep to a

summer type mowing regime until we see signs of the first frost, ie. well into the autumn, so that you reduce the risk of fusarium outbreaks in collars and aprons. Applications of iron and brushing/switching in particular should always include green surrounds as well as the putting surface.

Irrigation

Irrigation has not been a major topic of conversation over the last three years but even this season the writer did see drought-stressed aprons and approaches. In these areas, try and extend treatments given to putting surfaces and collars as it is the routine work such as top dressing, aeration and a light feed that makes the difference between good and bad playing quality. In addition, ensure you include these areas in a wetting agent programme and always check irrigation coverage. Indeed, the irrigation system may need updating to include immediate approach or green pop-up heads adjusting to include surrounds.

Walk-on/walk-off areas

Many articles have been written on combating traffic route wear but the essential aspects revolve around improving soil conditions, employing mature wear resistant turf, carrying out renovation work early, ie. before Christmas, and building in an aftercare maintenance programme. In addition spreading wear through traffic control and re-contouring will be essential.

However, in certain situations where traffic routes become muddy in winter yet there is still significant grass cover, it is surprising how effective an application of medium-coarse sand followed by Verti-Draining can be. As well as stabilising the surface to walk on and improving immediate drainage for the future, this technique can also have a positive irritant effect against worms and hence worm casting. Needless to say, carry out the work early in the autumn before deterioration is noted.

In summary

All aspects of green surrounds are critical to a variety of golf shots to and around the putting surface. It is true there has been an improvement in maintenance and general condition over recent years, with also a knock-on effect in terms of presentation and definition.

Nevertheless, there are still issues arising relating to old chestnuts such as weeds and drainage. However, there are new topics that do require addressing such as fusarium in collars in the autumn and ryegrass control using the new herbicide.

The article is designed to address old and new issues so that the best end result is gained and potential problems avoided.

Whilst a great deal of attention is lavished on putting surfaces, and quite rightly so, perhaps now is a good time to look afresh at the various elements that comprise green surrounds.

After all, they are the critical link between green and fairway.

This article was written by Stuart Ormondroyd, STRI Head of Turfgrass Agronomy & Assistant Director





2mm (or Above)

Golf Greens Management Debate
BTME Wednesday 20th January 2010

Last month's Greenkeeper International issue outlined the management practices and strategies for the eight Course Managers who will be debating the effects of low mowing regimes and intensive management of golf greens.

This month the Course Managers are joined by three additional debaters who add input from other angles. Richard Windows, STRI Agronomist for Scotland and co-author of The Disturbance Theory, joins the panel along with Ken Moodie, Golf Architect and Past President of EGCAA, and Paul Seago, Head Superintendent Renaissance Club. Paul also sits on the R&A Golf Course Committee as an advisor. As we continue to set the scene for the debate, the aim of this article is to investigate the beliefs and experiences gained from differing strategies. Each member of the debate panel was asked a series of questions based upon issues associated with mowing strategies, sward composition and other management inputs. The full transcript of answers is available on line by logging on to the education page of the BIGGA website and clicking on the relevant link in the left-hand column.

Paul Woodham



1. What are the biggest challenges you face maintaining the greens you have, at this stage and in the future?

Euan Grant, Turnberry:

Successful overseeding with fescue at the appropriate times whilst being sympathetic to highly demanding golfers. Also being patient in the spring and not over managing until all the species are growing late May/early June.

Paul Lowe, Bromborough GC:

Growing expectations of green speed have become nonsensical. A few years ago, 8 ½ foot was deemed a good pace. Now 11-12ft is the norm. Trying to achieve those unrealistic speeds makes greenkeepers' lives more difficult. What the future holds is anyone's guess - I fear the worst.

Gordon Moir, St Andrews:

The current financial climate raises concerns of lower investment leading to less staff and less important maintenance. Costs of materials and equipment are increasing, and with high end courses on the television, golfers don't relate the cost of running these to their own clubs/courses. Players think greens should be fast and soft, and aeration should be left until January. Being unable to control weeds and worm-casts could be issues going forward.

2. What influence do you consider cutting heights has on the performance of UK golf greens?

Stuart Yarwood, Lymm GC:

In the short term we can make greens sing with low cutting heights and lots of reactive inputs. Fine if we are chasing promotion or short term success, but what in the longer term if the tightrope snaps. Does it matter if the greenkeeper has moved on? Someone has to pick up the pieces. When exaggerated greens speeds become the norm, how far can we push nature for the weekend medal?

If we greenkeepers chase the speed dream I question - who are we doing it for? Surely true and consistent is priority over speed. If we can provide cost effective, healthy, low input, year round, surfaces at 8-9 ft, then long term happy days!

Dan Lightfoot, Bearwood Lakes:

Lower mowing creates faster greens but this must be in conjunction with regular topdressing, aeration, and fertility to ensure plant health. The quality of products available to the Course Manager allows greens to be cut shorter while remaining healthy. The introduction of topdressing spinners, better foliar applications and quick aeration equipment allows the CM to produce tighter surfaces but

with more accurate management alongside.

Greg Evans, Ealing GC:

Absolute major influence. The number one priority in producing good greens. Golfers want fast, true greens with no excuses. This is easier on creeping bent greens, but more difficult on poa.

However, after managing both grasses, they react very similarly to an aggressive regime. If you want a fast green, cut it lower, but back it up with a good cultural plan i.e. sanding, aeration, fertility, etc.

Ken Moodie, Creative Golf Design:

The faster the green is, the greater the breaks will be. Faster greens often run more truly than slower greens but on very fast greens the ball can deviate as small imperfections (grit etc) have an impact. I believe that a speed of around 8-10 feet on the stimp is probably the optimum for summer conditions on most courses.

Green speed needs to match the contours. If there are strong slopes ultra-fast greens may become unpinnable. I believe that uniformity of green speed is more important than actual speed, so maximum green speed should be set to maintain the steepest green on the course in a playable condition.

Richard Windows, STRI:

Mowing closer increases green speed in the short term. The problem is that prolonged low mowing compromises turf health, often causing weakening and thinning.

Surely, the aim of modern green-keeping is to achieve realistic speeds (which are course specific) and bring the greens alive without cutting excessively low and compromising turf health. We should employ all treatments that positively influence green speed (rolling, top dressing, brushing etc) to deliver our target speeds without risking turf health by simply shaving the greens. The job of the greenkeeper is to monitor turf and playing qualities accurately and take a flexible attitude toward the cutting height.

3. What do you consider to be an 'acceptable and sustainable' level of pesticide use and can you see a future with or without chemical use?

Euan Grant, Turnberry:

Ideally we would not rely upon chemical control of diseases, and with seed companies working towards breeding resistant strains and greater understanding of plant biology, this could be a reality one day. However, as long as an effective IPM is in place and cultural practices utilised efficiently, there is no shame in a low dosage rate fungicide to keep the wolves at bay.

David Cole, Loch Lomond:

Managing greens to the highest quality, based on proven agronomic techniques and following an IPM approach will make it easier to succeed. Good draining and diluted turf surfaces reduce usage of pesticides and protect efficacy.

Climatic challenges and grass species dictate how much pest pressure you experience. Ensure to manage stress by daily scouting with soil and tissue testing to sustain plant nutrition. Ensure mowers are sharp, and spray at correct rates when conditions are favourable.

As regards the future - my biggest concern would be a total ban on insecticides. We can overseed bent/fescue, or creeping bent into damaged or thin turf and have some success. However, if we cannot control root-feeding insects at chronic levels, then maintaining a healthy putting surface no matter what the grass species will be near impossible.

Kenny Mackay, The Belfry:

Our market consists of corporate, along with pay and play guests who

may only play here once a year. We therefore cannot afford to have any problems on the green throughout the year. With that in mind our chemical applications run on a preventative programme on a regular basis. With different fertiliser and maintenance practices the amount of disease and pests has decreased but a world without chemicals? - I am not sure I will see it in my career.

Richard Windows, STRI:

Lovely to think we won't need chemicals to maintain high quality putting surfaces, however, this is generally unrealistic. We should aim to create high quality surfaces which are not dependent upon routine pesticide applications. This means employing IPM control strategies to reduce the likelihood of damaging attacks/infestation, enabling pesticides to be used judiciously.

4. Do you feel that there is likely to be a loss of playing performance while embarking on a species transition?

Dan Lightfoot, Bearwood Lakes:

Absolutely. Creating a situation which encourages bent or fescue grasses automatically stresses poa annua. Most clubs have a percentage of poa annua and the customer (especially the green fee payer) will not accept unsightly stress as they don't realise what is being attempted or why. In addition mowing heights will have to be raised, more overseeding and top-dressing will be needed with less regular verticutting. Short-term quality will be reduced, and an inevitable loss of playing performance clearly visible. How long this lasts will depend on the success of the transition.

Gordon Moir, St Andrews:

Most definitely, and that is where the importance of good communication with the Club Committee or Board, and members is vital. Golfers must fully understand the reasons why the Club is taking that route. I've always felt the golfing press could do more for the green-keeping industry although I realise that greenkeeping isn't "sexy" and won't sell magazines.

Greg Evans, Ealing GC:

No. Poa and bent grasses perform very well together. I am getting sections of my greens colonising with bents. If I had the budget, I would change to creeping bent and the

transition would be quicker. From my experience, Bent grass will germinate and establish happily at 2mm.

Richard Windows, STRI:

Sward composition change should not be allowed to overly-compromise playing qualities. The transition process should concentrate initially on a soil-rectification programme, which sets the right environment to favour species change. It is likely that the disruption from operations required to improve soil conditions may result in a temporary lowering of playing qualities. Great care and attention is required to minimise disruption and quickly restore playing qualities following each operation. Objective measurements of organic matter in the soil profile, will indicate the rate of progress and when the conditions are right to move forwards (onto the next phase) of sward species change.

Implementing the next phase (i.e. reducing poa - Phase 3 in DT terms) requires a high level of skill and judgement on the part of the Course Manager but we believe it is possible to achieve the transition with the minimum of inconvenience to golfers and disruption to playing quality.

5. Would your target market accept any short term drop in quality throughout a transition process?

Dan Lightfoot, Bearwood Lakes:

No! A species transition is likely to take at least three years. A member here would pay £14k over this period. No new member would pay this being told on day one the product will be less than perfect over this period, even for a long term gain. People paying this kind of money want it now, and would go elsewhere if the club undertook this kind of strategy.

Euan Grant, Turnberry:

The introduction of finer grass species into a poa dominated sward is a long term process which should only be undertaken with the full understanding of the target golfer.

Those with a variety of grass species in the sward will understand that this happens every year due to the differing temperatures at which different species start to grow.

Paul Lowe, Bromborough GC:

NO, as I said earlier, we have made a rod for our own back. DT phase one is without doubt the

most difficult and contentious part. Improving drainage, removing thatch with regular and disruptive aeration upsets everyone, removing problem trees to resolve shade etc undoubtedly creates conflict. Our communication skills will help manage this, along with the promise of better greens. Once we get to Phase two of the theory we should start seeing the playing quality improve and that all-important consistency return. My philosophy is to get out of phase one as quickly as possible and then the high-octane greenkeeping can be relaxed.

The most important factor is our customer. Within the current economic climate, no-one can afford to lose quality.

6. Would the retention of Fescue or Bent be viable in the long term without regular overseeding?

Kenny Mackay, The Belfry:

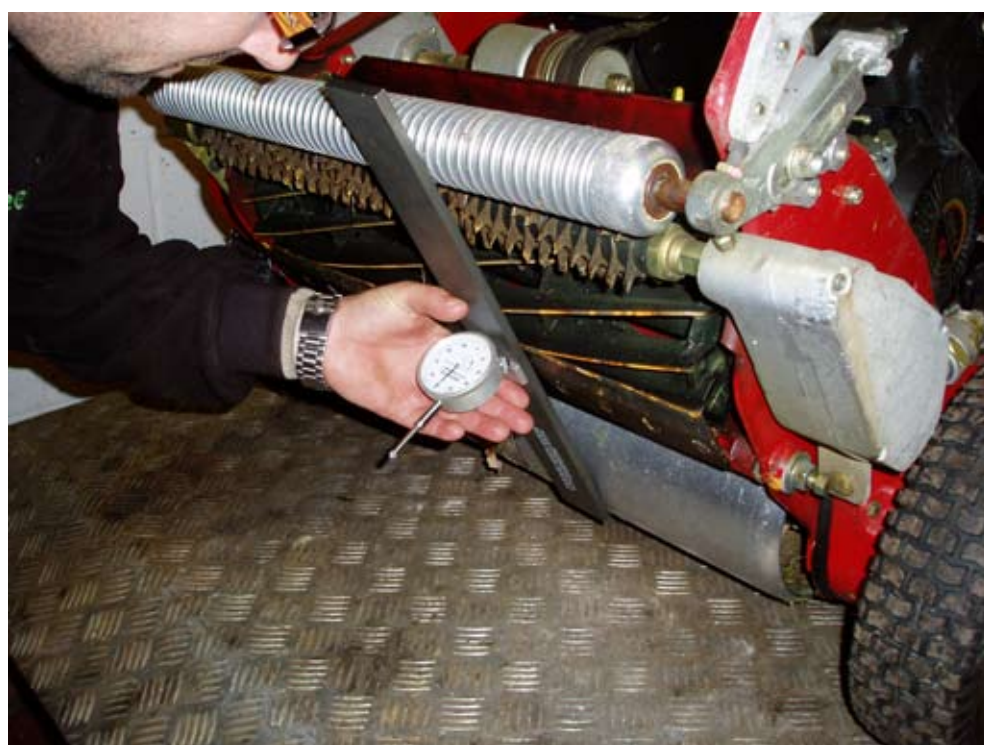
Not for me. I am a strong believer in that greenkeepers should work with what they've got. We rarely overseed our greens here - the only controls we use are fertiliser, PGR's, topdressing and aeration and the results are of the highest quality. In the last 3 to 4 years we have seen a rise in bent grass percentages in the Brabazon greens through good greenkeeping practices without overseeding. Ideal for me is to achieve a 60/40 Poa/Bent composition on the sward. Yes Poa is prone to disease and slow to start in spring but with the correct maintenance it can be a perfect putting surface throughout the year.

Stuart Yarwood, Lymm GC:

I would agree you can retain a bent or fescue dominated sward in the long term as long as you are creating the right environment for those grasses to flourish, otherwise you will speedily prove that it can be undone much quicker than it was created.

At Lymm we have changed our heathland holes from pure meadow grass to fine fescue, without hollow coring/ disturbing like crazy, just sneaked in with plenty of slitting, low feeds, and the crucial, most crucial height of cut! This factor is key to retaining bent fescue sward without overseeding! Keep it high as you dare and allow the grasses to thrive.

As far as overseeding goes, I believe if you provide the environment, the bents fescues will thrive through natural competition. The poa will not hang about if it doesn't like it, and the poa seeds produced



will not survive if you are not creating the environment for them. Overseeding can accelerate the results from natural competition in those gaps created by the weaker species.

We can accept it works the other way round, going down the ladder from Bent to Poa, nature's biggest overseeder, but not from Poa, up to bent. We can create the environment for bent/fescue seed to flourish, just as easily as we can create the environment that favours the poa seed. It is entirely our choice.

Euan Grant, Turnberry:

If a chemical were available for complete suppression of poa seedhead production then maybe, otherwise no. It is necessary to keep the fescue / bent seed populations higher and more competitive than that of the poa.

Paul Seago: Renaissance Club

Wow, where do we stop with this one. Simple answer yes, but only if you have the right conditions to begin with or are setting out long term objectives to encourage both fescue and bent, coupled with a sensible management regime aimed at their retention.

I agree that if you have a heavily played course with underlying clay and poorly drained, then trying to retain grass of any description is your number one goal.

If this is indeed the scenario then it would be pointless in overseeding with anything until the other problems had been identified and corrected.

Ken Moodie, Creative Golf Design:

This is a very good question. There is no point in pretending to be following sustainable management practices by changing the grass sward from Poa annua to fescue/bent if it cannot be sustained without regular intervention such as overseeding. When you take into account all the energy, fertiliser, pesticide and other inputs required to develop the seed you may find that they exceed the benefits to be gained on the golf course and by inference for the environment.

Richard Windows, STRI:

If maintenance programmes are directed towards fescue or bent and environmental conditions are appropriate then these species can dominate the sward without intervention. However, we believe overseeding plays an important part in maintaining bent/fescue dominant swards.

Overseeding is important to retain density, and minimise gaps from wear or disease allowing poa ingress. The extent and frequency of overseeding is dependent on levels of play, climate etc.

The process of overseeding is also important to ensure new and improved cultivars are introduced into the sward to give superior playing performance and take advantage of the constant improvements in cultivars, ie. disease and drought tolerance, shoot density etc.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



FOR BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM

The Open Championship, Old Course, St Andrews, July 15-18, 2010.

This is your opportunity to work at The Home of Golf and be available to assist the St Andrews Links Management Team with the preparation of the course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – Elm-

wood College, Cupar, - but after that transport to and from the golf course, shared accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 14, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA

members only. Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered.

To apply please complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. For further information contact Scott on: 01347 833800 or email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Support Team is February 1, 2010, and you will be notified later in the month.

Name

Yes No

Golf Club

Position

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years ☐ ☐

Age

I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee ☐ ☐

BIGGA Mem Number

I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme ☐ ☐

Email Address

I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks. ☐ ☐

Mobile Number

I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team ☐ ☐

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:

Applied Successful

Turnberry, 2009 ☐ ☐

Royal Birkdale 2008 ☐ ☐

Carnoustie 2007 ☐ ☐

Hoylake, 2006 ☐ ☐

St Andrews, 2005 ☐ ☐

I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.) ☐ ☐

I am an overseas Member ☐ ☐

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.

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

Greenkeeper Training



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

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

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



Sami Collins
Head of Learning & Development
BIGGA

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Contact: Steve Miller
Tel: 01506 864800 Fax: 01506 853373
Email: smiller@oatridge.ac.uk Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping; SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf (Day Release and Fast Track); NC's HNCs, SVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subject; NPTC/LANTRA short courses in Pesticides Spraying, Chainsaws, Turf Maintenance Equipment, ATVs etc; Other Specific short courses on demand.

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR
Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772211
Email: enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk
Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

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

TRAINING PROVIDERS/ COURSES GUIDE



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

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

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

BCA

Hall Place, Burchetts Green,
Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 6QR
Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695

Your local further and higher education College, serving the Thames Valley.



Located in the heart of the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training. Programmes include the National Certificate, Advanced Certificate and Advanced National Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time programmes include the NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture and RHS programmes, as well as PA1, PA2 and PA6 and various short courses. A wide transport network is provided as well as residential accommodation on-site.

DUCHY COLLEGE

Cornwall's College of the Countryside



Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB
Duchy College, Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB

Contact: Liz Clarkson
Tel: 01579 372345/07785 105087
Email: liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk
Web: www.duchy.ac.uk

Claire Bennetts
01209 722109/07824 626363
claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk

Duchy College offers Level 1, 2, & 3 Diplomas and NVQ 4 in Amenity Horticulture (inc Sports Turf), HNC Horticulture, NC and ANC Horticulture, RHS Level 2 Certificate, FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Horticulture. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses to Greenkeepers, together with workshops in Business Skills. Short legislative courses in pesticides, plant machinery, vehicles, forestry and arboriculture are also available.

EAST DURHAM COLLEGE

Houghall Campus, Durham DH1 3SG

Contact: Student Services
Tel: 0191 375 4710
Email: enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk
Web: www.eastdurham.ac.uk



Houghall campus is located to the east of Durham City bounded by the River Wear and the A177. The College has excellent resources for the provision of land-based programmes. Entry 2-L4 full and part-time programmes are offered in Arboriculture, Floristry, Horticulture, Sports-turf, Environmental Conservation, NPIC block and short courses on demand.

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Contact: Mike Dodd
Tel: 01732 850551
Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk



Work based levels 2 and 3 qualifications in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for Apprenticeship and Fee payers. We also offer a range of short courses, for example Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Application. Additionally, full and part time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and variety of other land based subjects. There is train to gain funding available subject to eligibility.



Full-time and online study

Myerscough College invites applications for Degree courses starting in September 2010.

Foundation Degree in Sportsturf

Foundation Degree Sportsturf and Golf Course Management

BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science

BSc (Hons) Sportsturf and Golf Management

R&A Bursaries available to many students



Myerscough College's Degree programmes are validated by the University of Central Lancashire

Myerscough College

MyfutureMy studiesMydegreeMyerscough

For more information call **01995 642211**
or visit **www.myerscough.ac.uk**

ENGLAND

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE



Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.
Contact Philip Mayes Tel: 07896674789
Email: pmayes@guildford.ac.uk or Andrew McEvoy
07896674786 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk .
Website: www.guildford.ac.uk.

Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, National Certificate Level 2 Sportsturf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line distance learning, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors. Also, NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management, plus throughout the year various NPTC Certificate of Competence including: Automatic Turf Irrigation, Turf Maintenance Equipment, Mowers, PA1, 6 & 2, Tractors, Trimmers and Chainsaw. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE



Mantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF
Contact: Gareth Phillips
or Chard Spicer
Tel: 01270 613236 Fax: 01270 625665
Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
Web: www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Part time, block release courses include level 2, level 3 Certificate and Diploma in work based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Green keeper). NVQ level 4 Sports turf (Distance Learning). Our work based learning group offer apprenticeships in the work place. BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture/Sports Turf option, BTEC National Diploma in Sports Performance and Facilities Management endorsed by Premier League, Football league.
Short Courses include Pesticide application (PA1/PA2/PA6) Chainsaw operation, Safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programs available on request. On site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, rugby, football pitches and Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE



Bilsborrow, Preston,
Lancashire PR3 0RY
Contact: Stewart Brown
Tel: 01995 642305
Web: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Turfgrass Science and Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels throughout the UK.

SOUTHSTAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE



Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5PH
Tel: 01785 712209
Fax: 01785 715701
Email: keith.ellis@southstaffs.ac.uk
Web: www.southstaffs.ac.uk

South Staffordshire College offers an extensive range of courses, full, part time and day release. Full time programmes include: NPTC Skills for Life, Level One, 1st Diploma, National Award. National Certificate and National Diploma. Higher Education programmes can be studied on a part time basis and include Foundation Degree and the Bsc in Horticulture. Work based learning is available at NVQ 1, NVQ 2, and NVQ 3 and South Staffordshire offers very extensive Train2Gain provision. Sports turf and green keeping can be studied to NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 level on a day release basis. The college offers a wide transport network to its learners as well as residential accommodation on site.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE



St Albans Smallford Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA

Contact: Andrew Wight
Tel: 01727 737735
Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Full time courses: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management and Horticulture. Part Times courses: WBD (NVQ) Level 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE



Sparsholt College Hampshire
(incorporating Andover College Campus)
Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 :

Contact: Registry
Telephone: 01962 797213
Email: enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk
Web: www.sparsholt.ac.uk

NVQ and Advanced Apprenticeships in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf). ND Sport – Golf Academy. Short-courses accredited by NPTC , LANTRA Or NVQ in chainsaw operation, pesticides, tree felling and clearing, arboriculture and machinery maintenance.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE



Ditchling Road, Plumpton, NR Lewes,
East Sussex, BN7 3AE

Tel: 01273 890454
Fax: 01273 890071
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Foundation Degree in Horticulture and Garden Design, Levels 2 and 3 Diploma in Horticulture
Part time Courses: Work based Diploma: Levels 1 and 2 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping. NVQ level 4. Also RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced. Short courses available. FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke training, following Training Needs Analysis. (TNA)

THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA – CAMBRIDGE CAMPUS



Landbeach Road, Milton,
Cambridgeshire CB24 6DB

Contact: Mark Ekin
Tel: 01223 860701
Email: mekin@col-westanglia.ac.uk
Website: www.cwa.ac.uk

Full time courses: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management (1 year, level 2 qualification); BTEC National Pathway in Horticulture with Sports Turf Management (1 or 2 years, level 3 qualification which includes National Award, Certificate and Diploma)
Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping); NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf); NPTC Qualifications i.e. pesticides PA1, PA6, PA2
Apprenticeships: Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping



Student Membership

Greenkeeping can offer you a career for life and a lifetime of learning

Student Membership of BIGGA (for those studying full-time)

Greenkeeping is a rewarding and challenging career choice for all ages and abilities from school leavers to those considering a career change, let BIGGA help you develop your career as a greenkeeper by becoming a Student Member.

Membership of BIGGA will provide you with: -

Greenkeeper International

The Association's much read magazine packed with up to the minute information and features providing you with valuable research and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. Delivered FREE to you door monthly.

Membership Handbook

Providing you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the

fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Handbook also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership.



Harrogate Week

Entry to a world class trade event. The Trade Exhibition has over 200 exhibitors and 8,500 visitors. There can be no better place to 'Continue to Learn' than taking part in the education programme. Students will find much that will demand their attention including seminars of specific interest. On production of your Student membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge. Not to mention the fantastic networking opportunities available throughout the whole of this week, another valuable way of learning... from those already in the industry.

On Course Field Guides

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and

read format. Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund there are five in the series: -

- Golf Course Grasses;
- Identification and uses of the main grasses found in golf course rough;
- Identification of trees and shrubs on the golf course;
- Identification of damage caused by mammals and birds;
- The major diseases and pests of fine turf.

BIGGA Lending Library

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

BIGGA Website

Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

Application Form - for an application form either download a form from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/join/membership-forms/ or contact the membership team on 01347 833800 option 1 for membership.



A QUICK GUIDE TO...

WORKSHOP COMPRESSORS

Choosing a portable, single-phase electric workshop compressor is, on the face of it, simple. Just select a unit with sufficient puff to do the job and that is it. There are design points to consider, however, and although these may not necessarily influence performance they can determine reliability and longevity.

By James de Havilland

One of the most useful items of kit within a workshop, an air compressor can be used to operate everything from rust inhibitor applicators and grease guns through to staplers and powerful hammer drills. The key to choosing the best portable machine is to select a design that can stand up to periods of intense use but not suffer when left idle for extended periods.

Establish what the compressor is needed to do. For general tyre inflation and having an air line to blast equipment clean, any mains powered unit will do the job; but to get the best compromise between price and performance key points to consider are the air receivers storage capacity, the units maximum operating pressure and all important free air delivery. Of equal importance are drive motor power and endurance rating plus the pump type.

Air Receiver Capacity

Air receiver capacity is often confused with the ability of a given compressor to do a job. More accurately, a large receiver has two main benefits:

- to extend the amount of time that the unit can supply air without the unit's pump running.
- to provide a 'buffer' of air to cope with varied air demand.

If a compressor is likely to be used for extended periods, it pays to have a larger receiver. This allows the pump and motor more time to cool between bursts of activity. For typical portable workshop

use, a 100 litre receiver capacity is a good entry point. When using a cleaning lance, a larger 200 litre receiver is better.

Maximum Air Pressure

Although important, the maximum air pressure the unit can deliver is not as critical as the free air delivery; even an entry level hobby compressor may generate air pressures of up to 8bar/118psi. Top end workshop models usually top out at 10bar/145psi.

Free Air Delivery

Still widely measured in CFM, cubic feet per minute, free air delivery is a key measure of a compressors performance. Pretty obviously, the greater the volume of air a unit can deliver, the better able it will be to keep up with a high demand for air.

To confuse matters, manufacturers may list air delivery in three ways:

- Air Displacement. This will list the pumps rated capacity, and will be higher than the maximum free air delivery.
- Maximum Free Air Delivery. This is the maximum amount of air volume the unit can actually produce.
- Free Air Delivery. This is the one to note as it is the realistic air output volume of the compressor. If only air displacement is listed, do not confuse it with free air delivery.



Portable Compressor

A rugged 6.0 CFM free air delivery portable compressor with pneumatic tyres, single phase 2.0hp motor and rugged V-twin pump. This will suit most needs. Price around £400 to £500.

Compressor Pump

As this is the heart of the machine it is an area where it pays to have a degree of background knowledge. In outline, there are numerous pump types fitted, but for a portable workshop unit the main ones will include:

- Single cylinder reed valve
- Parallel-twin cylinder reed valve
- Parallel-twin cylinder spring valve
- V-twin

Parallel-twin cylinder pumps come in two designs; single stage and dual stage. The latter have one low and one high pressure cylinder. V-twin pumps can be made from alloy, with or without cast iron cylinders, or completely from cast iron. For cooling and longevity purposes, cast iron is preferable, but this makes the pumps both heavier and more expensive.

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

East



Well Christmas is almost upon us, I hope that we have all have started our Christmas shopping to beat the mad rush.

November was our Section's AGM held at Gogarburn Golf Club in which we had 24 members in attendance, double last year's AGM numbers.

We firstly would like to thank (The Fairways Group Ltd) who kindly sponsored the day for us. Ian Bridges and Euan Thomson, from Fairways, gave a short talk on a brief history of the company and the up to date machinery they supply together with the online parts service they give to customers. All was very interesting to our audience who were very appreciative of their knowledge.

Our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, along with Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, then went on to present our Section Patrons' Award winners who were Alistair Holmes, from Seahouses GC, and Douglas Greenshields, from Eyemouth GC. Well done lads, enjoy Harrogate we look forward to reading their report.

A stop for buffet lunch then on with our AGM in which some very good points were brought to the committee's attention from the floor. As there were no office bearers stepping down from there posts for the coming year our committee stay at status quo.

The committee reads as follows: Chairman, Stewart Crawford; Vice Chairman, James Neilson; Secretary/Treasurer, Stuart Ferguson; Education, Tom Murray; Match/Handicap, Robbie Murdoch.

We then got ready for the action on this tricky 12 hole golf course! With the weather holding out for us we set off for the 1st tee. I was late on the tee but found that I was then playing a fourball. I took control and thrown the golf balls up for partners, I got lucky and drew the Head Greenkeeper, from Gogarburn, Bob Marshall a "Big Hitter" and with his local knowledge we were in with a chance of winning this one, the stakes were high at a pound a head all to play for.

We surged ahead with some great play our opponents Rigby Jim and our Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, had to concede to the better team. Thanks for the ball marker, Stuart, I will keep this for another day when you might win it back.

There were other BIGGA members who were also playing for Jimmy Neilson's Trophy that he kindly donated to the East Section to play for on AGM days. The format of the competition was Stableford over 12 holes, winner takes all.

Winner: Tom Murray, Ratho Park: 25 pts. Other Scores. S. Ferguson, Dundas Parks, 24 pts; J. Darling, Aitkens, 23; D. Greenshields, Eyemouth, 21; R. Marshall, Gogarburn, 21; A. Holmes, Seahouses, 20; R. Murdoch, Dundas Parks, 19; J. Smith, Rigby Taylor, 18; B. Hudson, Ratho Park, 15; S. Crawford, North Berwick W.L/ 14

D/Q. C. Yeaman, West Linton; K. Mail, West Linton; B. Peters, Ratho Park. They did not sign their cards.

A big thank you to Gogarburn for hosting the event and also to the Head Greenkeeper, Robert Marshall, and his green staff for presenting the golf course in excellent condition. Our Chairman brought the day to a close wishing everybody a safe journey home.

Have a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

Until next year
Tom Murray

Central



The Section held their AGM on 26 October where the turnout was slightly disappointing. A quiet affair, it was reported that the Section membership stands at 239, a decrease of eight on the previous year.

Gordon McKie was re-elected as Chairman and during his report paid thanks to Brian Heggie who is standing down from the Committee as he is taking up a new position in the south of England. Those present wished Brian all the best on his move and I am sure that is echoed from all who know him. Derek Robson was re elected as Vice Chairman and Andy Mellon as Secretary/Treasurer. The Committee remains the same with the exception of Brian standing down and his place has been taken by Charlie MacDonald, of Crieff GC. The Chairman also thanked all of the patrons for their continued support.

On the morning of the AGM, the Section held a successful training course on disciplinary procedures which again had a slightly poor attendance. Our thanks go to Jason Rudgley, of Pitchblue, who delivered this on a very professional but relaxed manner.

Unfortunately, due to the poor interest shown, the committee felt it had no option but to cancel the two day environmental course planned for Gleneagles on November 17 and 18, which was going to be staged in conjunction with the STRI and Gleneagles Hotel. The lack of support and commitment from members for any course we have

tried to stage over the past three years which would cost money has caused the committee to rethink its strategy and in future we will likely stick to only staging the free evening seminars where we can utilise particular speakers who may be coming to the area. For more formal training such as the disciplinary course, we will work in partnership with the Club Managers Association of Europe.

The Spring outing in 2010 will be held on the Eden Course at St Andrews in early April, more details of this and other matters on the website, www.biggacentralsection.co.uk

Gordon Moir

North



I hope everyone is well and you are not working too hard. The weather has taken quite a sharp drop in temperature. The winter greens haven't been used with us just yet but probably by the time you read this they'll have had their fair share of play.

Since the last news we have held our AGM. This was a golf day out at Cruden Bay GC on October 15 and was very well attended. There were 30 members there and a big thank you to Alistair and his squad for all your efforts on the day. The format for the day was a Stableford and the results are as follows:

Class 1. 1. Chris Pearson; 2. Robert Hardie; Class 2. 1. Raymond Warrender; 2. Niall Bruce.

The final 200 Club draw for the year was drawn and the results are below.

£30 winners. Stevie Frost, J.C MacIntosh and Judith Paterson. £100 winner Fraser Downy

Well done to you all. The lads at Peterculter are all expecting you to stand your hand at

Christmas, Fraser!

The Patron Award winners were also announced. This year they are Patrick Wood and Josh Lester, from Newmachar GC. Well done and I hope you enjoy your trip to BTME for the show in January. The Patron Award goes to the two people who have supported the Section the most over the past year. It involves attending the outings including the Scottish National Tournament and various seminars including the Scottish Conference in Dunfermline. You are scored on a points system and the two people with the highest amount of points win the trip to Harrogate.

Next year's outings have been decided as well with the Spring outing being held at Deeside GC on May 20 and the Autumn outing being held up at Huntly on September 16. In between these dates is June 17 - it is our Section's turn to host the Scottish National and it will take place at Murcar Links GC. Forms for the two Section outings will be sent out in plenty of time. The National forms will be available at the Spring outing.

There have been comings and goings on the North committee. Hugh McLatchie has stepped down as Chairman and has been replaced by Robert Paterson, from Royal Aberdeen. Also joining us on the committee is Ross Macrae, from Huntly, who will be helping out at Section outings and hopefully answering any queries that you may have.

That's enough of me yapping now and I suppose I should wish you and all your families a very Merry Christmas and that your staff nights out are full of the usual wit and banter. Any stories much appreciated.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links
07813889374

Northern Region



North East

On October 14 we held our Autumn golf comp for the first time at Wearside GC and what

a pleasure it was to play there. Credit has to go to Malcolm Harvey, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff, for the condition of their course - a pleasure to play on especially those true and fast greens considering it was raining and a heavy dew hanging about all over the course they putted very well as all the greenkeepers commented on them been so good.

On behalf of the Section we would like to thank Wearside for giving us the courtesy of their course and thanks also to the catering staff for the excellent meals.

The main sponsors of the day were Lloyds of Throckley, with the backing of Toro, but let's not forget our other sponsors who look after us twice a year regularly and they are as follows:- T.S.L (Terry Charlton); Rigby Taylor (Glen Baxter); Sheriff Amenity (Paul Fosten); Aitkens and Tacit. Thanks lads once again.

Now for the leading scores

RansomeCup.nett G.Morgan, Crook GC, 75-4=71 (BIH) J.S.Richardson. Salver Gross. A. McLure, Whickham, 74.

Greenlay Cup Nett 10 - 18. S.R. Pope, 91-16=75, Tyneside GC;

Ransome/Jacobsen Shield 19 - 28. P. Vinton, 105-22= 83, Heworth GC;

J. S. Richardson, 80-9=71, Hexham GC; R. Black 82-8=74, Westerhope GC; J.Gibson 77-3=74. Trade Prize. G. Baxter, nett 75, from S. Holmes, nett 83.

In all a total of only 16 people turned up pretty dismal but so was the weather, so let's hope for better turnout for 2010. Hopefully we will be playing around more courses in the Newcastle area for the next couple of years or so.

Other news about is that another greenkeeper is about to retire this December and that's Ronnie Reid, of Prudhoe GC. Have a good retirement, Ronnie, no doubt we will still see you at the Section comps.

If you remember I mentioned that Jordan Gibson, from Northumberland GC, was playing in the National Championship at Burnham & Burrow. Well he didn't win the comp. but picked up the prize for longest drive. Well done Jordan better luck next year. Well I think that's all for this month. Don't forget I

need more news to put in the reports. So if you have any let's hear from you.

James Richardson



North Wales

Season's greetings to all of North Wales Section, Christmas is soon on our doorstep and a new decade only around the corner. We've had a great day at Caldycote on November 26 in the Christmas tournament and AGM. Details of competition results and AGM will be posted in January's column.

A seminar will be held at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, on December 9, the topic being the benefits of reel grinding including a demonstration of grinding equipment the seminar will be given by Bernhards so "reel" (pardon the pun, I just couldn't resist) experts in the field of grinding. All enquiries to Jez Hughes. We're looking to run a coach to Harrogate in January but the trip will only go ahead if there are enough seats booked, this year the big suppliers are at the show and it should be a good one! All enquiries about seat availability to Jez Hughes.

Next year's tournament venues have been set up and a nice group of courses we're going to be playing or in my case visiting with Caernarfon taking the spring, Mold hosting the autumn and the Christmas tournament being held at Mile End seriously nice courses for us to enjoy there!

In other news, Jeremy Hughes, of Vale of Llangollen, reaches a milestone birthday this month, finding it hard to believe that life really does start at 40. Oswestry Golf Club had a famous visitor earlier this year, when Sugar Ray Leonard played the course. Gareth Woosnam offered him to spar a round or two but luckily for Gareth the only round Sugar Ray was interested in was a round of golf.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this last 12 months of around the greens this is what this column is all about, sharing our news with each other, we may not meet

often but we are all North Wales Greenkeepers.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year..

Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com
07756001187

Johnny Evans
Johnny.evans@tesco.net



Sheffield

We once again have reached the end of the year and the time for the festivities to begin.

I hope that the year has been a successful one for you all despite the difficulties we have all faced in this economic slump! Let's hope for an upturn in 2010.

On the Section front I would like to thank all the committee members for all their hard work over the last 12 months. It takes a great deal of effort to the run the Section and without a hard working committee it would be impossible. I would also like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support and help in enabling us to run golf and lecture events.

The results of the Christmas competition held at Rotherham GC will be in the January issue.

Unfortunately that is all from me this month. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

James Stevens
jimmy.jams20@hotmail.com

Midland Region



Midland

I bet you that Scott MacCallum (G.I.Editor) could not believe that I actually sent in last month's notes on time as such is as rare as hens teeth. Thus I was not able to report the result of our long running annual match against the East Midland Section played at Trentham Park. Such was for the fifth year running a loss to our team, obviously we spent too much

Around The Green

time working! Our thanks to T.Cheese/Rigby Taylor for their continued support of this long running event, and a well done to Course Manager, G. Cunningham and L. Swann (Dep.) and the team for providing such a lovely course. Looking forward to next year's battle, gentlemen. However, one of our players did break the golden rule of etiquette by having his phone on during his match, apologies were made and reason given. Such being that the player was awaiting notification of the arrival of his first granddaughters following a testing pregnancy. Thankfully all has gone well and Howard is now to be known as the very proud "Grandfather Middlebrook" Congratulations to all mate. Did you get discount on two Moses Baskets?

Our Autumn event was held at Burton On Trent GC. The course was presented wonderfully by the fine efforts of Course Manager G. Robson and his ever suffering team. I just wish that your YTS had been a little more adventurous with the pin positions! Our thanks to Burton for affording us the use of their course and the very fine welcome "a welcome on the mat indeed".

The winners of the day were: 1. L. Swann; 2. R. Beacham; 3. E. Stant; 4. P. Mills; 5. M. Hughes; 6. G. Robson.

Our thanks to Campey Turf Care for the sponsorship of the main prize table. Kev and Rob/Turners gave us their usual banter at the Halfway House, and both Farmura and Sherrieff Amenity sponsored the four N.T.P.'s such going to: P. Woodham, S. Mucklow, J. Ganley and D. Clues.

Once again our thanks to Burton G.C. for their hospitality and for affording us the use of their fine Club House for our AGM.

On the point of the AGM, such will be minuted and delivered for approval next year. However, as a point of reference I shall now deliver that as stated at such by myself.

"I have been the Section's Secretary for eight years and would like to thank those that have given me information for Around The Green. However, over the last 18 months I have not been able to attend any Section meetings and Andy Smith has kindly filled in for me by taking

the minutes. Which means that realistically Andy has served as the Section's Secretary and is indeed such.

To this end, I feel that he should now be recognised as the Section's Secretary. Andy has asked me to continue writing "Around The Green" so as to lower his workload, to which I am happy to do. Such of course means a change of post to myself, such being your new "Events Reporter" - No real change then! So please continue to supply me with you news for Around the Green. I thank Andy for taking over the roll and wish him every success as your new Secretary. I hope that you shall service Andy with the same generous complements and support as I have fondly received.

Just one very important thing remaining, our calendar sponsors for this month are T.H. Whites. Please consider them for your machinery purchases and maintenance requirements.

www.thwhitesgrasscare.co.uk

Wishing all a Merry Christmas.

Sean McDade



East of England

Hello all.

Firstly, it has been pointed out to me that I forgot to thank our sponsor for our July golf day at Boston West. The sponsor for the day was Toro and their dealer Chris Sellars. Many thanks to Nigel Lovatt, Chris and Toro for their support on the day and their continued support of the Section. My apologies.

September 23 was our annual fixture against the Secretaries' Association. This year the match was played at Boston Golf Club. Many thanks to Bruce and his team for the fine presentation of the course and all the staff at Boston for making us so welcome before and afterwards. In a turnaround from the previous few years the match was won by the secretaries 5.5 to 2.5.

October 14 was our annual Midland Region Inter Section Match. The match was played at Burghley Park Golf Club and many thanks go to Dave and

his team for the condition of the course and all the staff for making everyone so welcome. Also thanks to the sponsor of the event, Simon Banks. This year we were represented by Rob Bemment, of Immingham Golf Club, and Rob Welford and Ash Cox, of Cleethorpes Golf Club. There must be something in the northern air as our three triumphed in the competition for the first time since it was begun a few years ago.

Following this on October 15 was our annual AGM and golf, this year held at RAF Cottesmore. Many thanks to Steve Hopkins for downing tools on his Harrier Jump Jet to get the course in excellent condition for us and also to the staff in the "Officers Mess" for making us so welcome during the day. Also thanks to Mansfield Sands and Alan Martin for sponsoring the day. On the day the golf was won by Gary Salisbury, with Steve Hopkins second and Ash Cox third.

Our final Golf day of the year will be at Seacroft on Thursday, December 17, teeing off at 10am. A nice warm calm dry day has been booked, however Skegness at Christmas could be a bit wild, so come prepared! This day is a Pairs' Competition drawn on the day. However, this year if you want to you will be allowed to bring your own golfing partner along with you for the day. This event is our Christmas bring and win, were everyone is asked to bring along a present worth no more than £10 and they will all go into a draw so everyone will leave with something.

It has been a very enjoyable season of golf played on some excellent courses some of which we have been to before and some new venues. I think all the fixtures are now booked for 2010 however if anyone would like to put themselves forward as a venue for 2011 then speak to Bruce or Allan. We have seen a number of new faces this year as well as the regulars. It would be nice if we could get more people to come along to our golf days next year, however it is appreciated that it is not always possible, especially in difficult times.

All that remains now, amazingly, is for me to wish everyone Happy Christmas and all the best for 2010.

Many thanks

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club
steveimmingham@aol.com
www.eastofenglandbigga.com

South West and South Wales Region



South Coast

Hello and welcome to December's Around the Green, and thank you Mr Hogarth for the dynamic introduction last month. It's funny how some nicknames just stick. Robert has already explained what has been happening at committee level, so I won't bore you, however by the time you read this, you should have received your entry form for the Turkey Trot which will be held at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9.

Please could you return them as soon as possible to Kevin Glass, his address is: Kevin Glass, Keepers Cottage, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club

Sway Road, Brockenhurst, Hants, SO42 7SG. Tel: 01590622643

We hope that going back to this entry form system will encourage people back to our golfing days and to be a bit more organised ourselves. This should mean a start sheet will get to everybody who is playing. So finally please come and support our day!

On the golfing front may I take this opportunity in thanking every body concerned with the National Championship held at Burnham and Berrow in October. It was a fantastic tournament and the turn out was excellent. Congratulations to Derek McJanet, from Matlock Golf Club who produced two brilliant rounds of golf. Also a big thank you to Richard Whyman and his team for producing such an excellent course.

A great day out was had by all as the South Coast team took on the South West boys at Chippenham Golf Club. On what was a glorious day we managed to lose the match by three games to two games it was

a closely contested match with an outstanding contribution by Chris Bitten who managed to win his match all on his own. My thanks go to Chippenham golf club for courtesy of the course, the catering staff for an excellent meal and finally Chris Sealey and his team for producing such a great golf course.

On the Groundsman front I had the unexpected pleasure of being invited to Aston Villa Football Club for their match against Chelsea on October 17, which included a tour of the stadium and a good look at the pitch. I must say that the quality of the playing surface was outstanding - shame Chelsea couldn't play on it. We lost the game 2-1, but joking apart the quality of playing surfaces around the country is testament I think to how far we have come in the industry. Twenty years ago you struggled to find grass on a football pitch. Especially in the winter!

I would just like to thank Alan Warner and Garry Worrell, of Sports Equipment, for inviting me to Villa Park and to all the Grounds staff, who I think do a tremendous job.

On that note it just leaves me to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Next month's guest columnist will be Fred Deamon, of Alton Golf Club. So from Agadoo, or even Cooperman!! Many Thanks

Phil "Joe" Cooper



South Wales

Hope you are all well.

Firstly I'd like to report on the recent Autumn competition and Section AGM which was held at Southerndown GC. The AGM passed off peacefully with Julian Bartlett Jones acting as MC. Main points of interest were that Gareth Knight, Head Greenkeeper, Trefloyn Golf Club, was voted on as Chairman of the Section, Paul Handy, Head Greenkeeper Newport GC, was voted on as Vice Chairman and Tony Horne, Inscapes, becomes Section President following the resignation of Henry Stead. Good luck to you all in your new roles and a special thanks to Henry for all his hard work that

he did for the Section during a tough time for him personally. Henry you are a top man!

The golf teed off at 1.30pm in beautiful sunshine and the competitors were treated to a golf course that was in sublime condition and was a credit to Head Greenkeeper, Andrew Mannion, and his staff. The course was tough but fair and only punished bad shots (which is why I spent more time in the bushes than Ron Davies.) Results were as follows:

1. Darryl Bray, Morriston; 2. Iain Grant, Brynhill; 3. Leigh Davies, Morriston.

Longest drive was won by Darryl Bray

Nearest the Pin was won by Andrew Hatcher, Coed Y Mwster.

Trade/Guest prize was won by Majid Maher, Captain, Southerndown GC.

At dinner we were treated to a superb meal, followed by the prize giving. We were given an update on the preparations for next year's Ryder cup by Celtic Manor's Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie. Jim also asked that if anyone was interested in a once-in-a-lifetime chance of being part of the Greenkeepers Support Team for the Ryder Cup and hadn't already put his/her name down then please let Steve Chappell know and he will forward your name to Jim. A list of successful applicants will be produced in the spring.

Jim also informed us of the unwelcome news that the start times of the Ryder Cup have been brought forward from 8.15 am to 7.45 am. Sunrise is at 6.45am. So things will be pretty tight!

Thanks go to Southerndown Golf Club for allowing us the use of the course and the club's facilities; to Andrew Mannion and his team presenting the course in such a superb condition, to club Captain Majid Maher for attending; to Jim McKenzie for coming along to talk to us; to Gwyn, the Steward and the catering staff for the superb meal and hospitality; to Steve Chappell for organising the event; to Jane Jones our Regional Administrator for joining us for the day, and finally to Jon and Ben Morgan, of Keith Morgan Mowers, for sponsoring the day and for the great prizes. Thanks again for your support.

On October 7, 22 people attended the Syngenta/Scotts



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

The recent spate of heavy rainfall and the subsequent flash flooding does make you wonder what the future holds for us as far as any climate change goes.

Perhaps I'm getting old but years ago I do not remember such events happening with such regularity, then again maybe my memory is just not what it used to be! I sympathise with those victims of the floods who have lost homes, businesses and worst and saddest of all, their life. All too often we take what we have for granted and still want more, perhaps we should stop more often and spare a thought for others.

In the office it's full steam ahead with plans for Harrogate and bookings continue to come in for exhibition space. As I write we have only a limited amount of space still available and hopefully by January this will have been sold. The workshops and seminars are receiving a great deal of interest and the whole event is shaping up to be the morale booster that we all need. The Golf Club Management Partnership (the alliance between BIGGA, GCMA and the PGA) continues to move forward and through regular meetings we are identifying areas of potential collaboration, in due course we will be in a position to release more detailed information. I attended the recent GCMA Conference and was hearted by the support that they had from their membership but also by the interaction between all the bodies represented.

Looking forward we are working on an update to our Business Plan and are preparing budget projections beyond 2010. As we all know the golf industry is changing and it is difficult to predict just how this will affect the Association. One thing we do know is that from here on it is going to be harder to make ends meet as budgets throughout the industry continue to be cut. The prospect of a General Election next year does nothing to boost the country's optimism for early signs of 'green shoots of recovery' but it is important that we remain positive and look for solutions. When I look at prize money such as that recently picked up by Lee Westwood in Dubai I wonder how long, if ever, it will be before the golfing industry realises that more funding is needed at our end of the game. Despite their best endeavours both BIGGA and the GTC struggle to balance the books but without these organisations where would the future of greenkeeping and golf courses be? I look forward to debating some of these points at the meeting of Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries that is to be held at BIGGA HOUSE at the end of November.

On the bright side it will soon be Christmas, we will pass the shortest day and can start looking forward to shrugging off any feelings of Seasonal Affective Disorder that we may have! Since this is my last column of 2009 I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that 2010 proves to be a healthy and successful year for one and all.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Rescue seminar at Ashburnham GC. Interesting talks were given by Nick Martin, of Scotts, and Dr Simon Watson, of Syngenta, on the new Rescue product for the control of Ryegrass in turf. Lunch followed (I can certainly recommend the curry!) and then a course walk where Huw Morgan MG, Course Manager at Ashburnham, showed us areas that had already been treated. Results were impressive. Particularly on Yorkshire fog. The big talking point however was the badger damage on the course. Some areas of rough were decimated with badgers digging up areas looking for chafer grubs. Huw is really gutted by the damage and the fact that he can do little about it. As you know Huw, I have been in this business a long time and from my extensive knowledge and experience I know only one sure way to stop badgers digging up a golf course.....Confiscate their spades!

Joking aside, a big thanks to Huw for helping to organise the event, to Nick Martin, from Scotts, and to Dr Watson, from Syngenta, for giving their presentations and to Ashburnham GC for the use of their facilities and great hospitality.

Later that afternoon/evening The South Wales branch of the IOG organised an evening lecture at the new Cardiff City stadium, home to the Bluebirds (and also some veteran rugby team who also wear blue.) Head Groundsman, Phil Williams, did a 'walk and talk' on the pitch then gave a talk with the aid a video of the pitch construction from start to finish. A good turnout of Groundsmen and Greenkeepers were treated to an excellent talk and a very enjoyable evening.

The RT Matchplay Trophy now, and at the time of writing I heard that Darryl Bray/ Leigh Davies recently beat the Newport team of Mark Wilshire/ Mark Anderson to reach the final which was played at Tenby on Friday November 13. A full report in next month's Around the Green.

Darryl Jones, of Glynneath Golf Club, spoke to me recently about a possible 'Jolly Boys Outing' to either Swansea or Cardiff on International day. Not sure whether this involves a few glasses of Pimms and some cucumber sandwiches while watching the rucker or a great

day/night/morning on the lash! All interested parties can have a chat with Darryl at the Christmas comp at P & K. Talking of which...

The Christmas competition will be held at Pyle and Kenfig GC, on Friday, December 11. You should have received an invite in the post. If not then please contact Steve Chappell. The day will again be sponsored by Vitax and Joe Crawley, UK and Europe Sales Manager for Vitax should be in attendance, so thanks in advance to them. Please bring a prize for the usual short but sweet raffle.

Hope you all have a great Christmas and prosperous new year!

Ceri Richards



South West

Hi everyone, well this is my first Section letter. So here goes.....Firstly I'd like to introduce myself to you. As many of you may already know I work at Minchinhampton Golf Club and have done for the last seven years, being first assistant for the last two. During this time I've been taking part in most Section events. But hey, that's even about me for now, I'll have enough time to bore you all about my stories in due time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the new 2010 BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster the very best for his year. A message from all the guys at Minch.

Just recently there was a manual handling course. This took place at Cotswold Hill G.C and Bath G.C. Dave Bowles, who works for the health and safety department, took the courses. I attended the one at Cotswold Hills with Wayne Vincent and his guys. The morning was very useful; it was full of ways to lift items and solutions on how to avoid lifting unnecessary. Most importantly remember - "Bend your knees and not your back".

Bunkers, let's talk about them for one moment. Almost everywhere you go they are talked about (second only to greens, of course). Though I bet bunkers could be taking up as much of your time. Just think of the jobs we have to do on them, raking,

fixing washout, topping them up, edging and if you're working at Minchinhampton, include using the sandstorm. What a machine that is. For those of you who are unaware of it, it's used to sift the sand, removing the stones and any other unwanted material that has contaminated them over the years. Yes the machine works, the sand left behind is almost as good as new. Richard Louisson, Head greenkeeper at Cirencester Golf Club kindly showed a number of us from Minchinhampton (which included our Green Chairman, Stuart Massion) around his course. Richard shared with us his experience from renovating his bunkers. At Cirencester they are changing all their bunkers "in house". They are changing from having high faces to now having grass faces with flat bases. These bunkers looked fantastic, and what's better the cost and they are much easier to maintain of them are kept to a minimum. Richard many thanks for showing us around, and I must say your course (and bunkers) looked in great condition!

Recently the South West played its Section match against the South Coast. A huge thanks to Chippenham Golf Club and Chris Sealey (with his staff). Chippenham stepped in at the last minute to host the fixture. Although the South West won the fixture three matches to two, I do feel as though Chris Bittin, South Coast Secretary could have had just as an enjoyable afternoon than the winning captain Wayne Vincent. Chris played on his own against Wayne and Co-captain Paul Garland in this "now famous" match, winning 2 & 1.

Harrogate Week is not that far away from us now. The Region has a coach going up, which is at the same cost as last year. There is also a sponsored place which is free. If you would like the opportunity to have this free place please send a letter to Chris Sealey, at Chippenham Golf Club, stating what you would hope to gain with your visit to Harrogate.

Guys, please feel free to contact me with any news/information you would like to share with everyone else. I wouldn't want this to become a report telling you about the day to day running at Minch. I look forward to

hearing from you all. My e-mail addressed is Adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

Adam Matthews

South East Region



East Anglia

Newmarket Golf Club was the venue for our ecstatic Band of Brothers and Claire. We had to restrict the numbers to 68 - yes restrict to 68. I do hope other people read this because we must be the biggest and best run Section in the country.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, or should I say racecourse, we had a smashing day. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Rob and his team. I don't know what he did to the 1st or 16th greens, but whatever it was, it worked.

As usual the glory boys were back in town.

0 - 9 Handicap: 1. Norman Fenwick 34 pts. 2. Mark Henderson 34 pts. 3. Ben Wallis 34 pts. 10 - 18 Handicap

1. Aser Barber 33 pts. 2. Glen Rayfield 31 pts. 3. Brian Lemon 30 pts.

19 - 28 Handicap
1. Richard Mitchell 31 pts.
2. Adrian Goode 30 pts.
3. John Morley-Smith 29 pts.
Guests: 1. Chris Pearson 35 pts. 2. Phil Armitage 34 pts.

Trade: 1. Mark Keyser 39 pts. 2. Andrew Kirley 35 pts.

Nearest the pin on the 3rd - Mark Henderson. Nearest the pin on the 12th - Nick Ashman. Nearest the pin on the 14th - Bohan Penywort

Longest drive was Ben Wallis. Unfortunately, Rob Boyce put the yellow tees where the white ones should be, therefore, was the only candidate for the loose seat which he gratefully accepted. He is the last name on the seat - it is now full, figuratively speaking!

The main sponsors of the day were Tomlinson Ground Care. The other trade members who have supported us admirably over the years are as follows:- Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Ben Burgess, Tacit, Textron, John Deere, Hayter, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Toro, Collier Turfcare, Leyley, Baileys, Sherriff, Vitax

and Earnest Doe.

All the prizes were presented by Dave Tyres, the Club Captain, and we thank Newmarket Golf Club for their hospitality. A truly memorable day.

Mick Lathrope



Kent

So here it is Merry Christmas!

At the time of writing this report our annual extravaganza of Turkey Trot and AGM at Birchwood Park is yet to come but eagerly anticipated by a remarkable number of early entrants. I shall take that as a compliment, Thank you.

One of the items that will have been discussed at the AGM, which was highlighted in a separate letter sent to all of you with the agenda, was a notification that we are actively seeking persons to help us organise educational events and training courses for you all wherever demand exists. I sincerely hope that we are able to find a willing soul, as providing relevant and current training for you all is one of the fundamentals of each Section remit.

Much education comes by way of effective communication. This is something we have recently improved significantly by launching a re-vamped website at www.kentgreenkeepers.com I am on a very steep learning curve on running websites so please excuse the odd area that requires improvement. I wanted to get something out on the net as quickly as possible in order to facilitate direct interaction. More will follow and on a regular basis.

One thing that is a priority for me on the webpage is an area where we recognise the invaluable generosity of our sponsors. At the moment we have listed who they are but I shall, when I learn how, provide a link via their logos to their individual websites. Meantime, thanks to all of them for their support and patience! I sincerely hope you will be able to provide similar support for us next year.

Please understand that this is your website. I really do want your input regarding news and pictures. Given the right regular

information I think we can make it relevant, useful and entertaining.

Lastly, it is Christmas time and the end of another year so I won't go on but I would just like to say to our regular attendees, on behalf of Kev and me, thank you all very much for your support this year. The reason we continue doing what we do is because we regularly thoroughly enjoy your company at our events. You will have received your extraordinarily good fixture list for 2010 by now if you were at the AGM and I hope you're looking forward to these events as much as I am. Full details are also on the website so please make a note in your diaries. We do endeavour not to make our events infringe on the valuable work that we all carry out on our own courses by requesting first tee times at our host courses for as late as possible in order that we can fulfil our responsibilities.

If there is anything more we can do for you, please contact us via the website or on the phone, but, again, thanks for a great year and the very Best of British for 2010.

Have a good 'un
Rob Holland



Essex

This month's news is extremely short I'm afraid.

I have heard on the grape vine that Roland Hughes, Course Manager at Forrester Park Golf Club, has been ill and has spent some time in hospital, I understand he is home now and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The New Chairman and Committee will have been elected and the Christmas bash at Orsett GC will be over by the time you read this. I will have all the news and results by the next issue.

Have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

If you do have any news for the website or for GK International, please contact me on 07764 862 337 or via email essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

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Harrogate
week

Dates for your diary

18-20 January 2011
24-26 January 2012
22-24 January 2013



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Harrogate Week 2010

BTME and Clubhouse Exhibitions - Tuesday 19 - Thursday 21, January, 2010

Visit the Membership Services Team on the BIGGA Stand

Come and chat with us on the BIGGA Stand, renew your membership, bring your colleague along to join or simply receive advice and guidance to help you get the most out of your membership.

Remember all members receive a one-year subscription to Greenkeeper International. Look out on the BIGGA website for membership offers at the Show.

Don't miss the BIGGA Social Night - Wild West Bonanza, The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate

Join us on Tuesday 19, January 2010, from 7pm and be transported into the wild and woolly past of the American Wild West.

Try your hand at poker and replicate Wild Bill Hickok's legendary Dead Man's Hand, a pair of aces and a pair of eights, all black, but beware he was shot dead holding this hand!

The BIGGA Western Saloon offers a Saloon Bar Shootout, Tin Can Alley and the infamous Bucking Bronco, with plenty of arcade game machines and eight luxury full size casino tables this promises to be a wild west night than even Jesse James would not forget!

Tickets are only £25 (+VAT) each which includes a reception drink, two course meal, entertainment, chips for the casino tables and FREE use of all the arcade machines and side stalls and if you are lucky a visit from the tequila shot girls!

Tickets are selling quickly so ring 01347 833800 for yours now!

Save money if you pay for your own BIGGA membership!

Are you one of the 31% of BIGGA members who pay for their own membership subscriptions? If the

answer is 'yes', then you can claim tax relief on your annual membership subscription.

When you can get tax relief for professional fees and subscriptions

The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website states that if an employee pays for their own professional fees and subscriptions then they may be able to reduce their tax bill by getting tax relief on any professional fees and subscriptions they pay.

If you are working as a

a) greenkeeper, a groundsman or are involved in the fine turf industry, and

b) you are a member of BIGGA and

c) pay for your own annual membership subscription

then you may be able to deduct the cost of the membership subscription from your taxable income and reduce the amount of tax you pay. The HMRC recognise that membership of BIGGA is helpful to your job and BIGGA's activities are relevant to your work.

BIGGA have been approved by the HM Customs and Excise and we appear on their approved list <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/list3/list3.htm>

It is possible for a person to go back several years to get tax relief.

How to get tax relief

BIGGA produce an easy to complete 'Tax Relief Claim Form' for members to fill in and send to their local tax office, instructions are clearly given on the form but your membership team are always here to help if you have any queries.

Download a form from the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk select 'Members' from the options across the top, select 'Tax Relief Forms' from the menu on the left, here you can download the form. Or contact a member of the Membership Team at BIGGA HQ to send you a copy.

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South West & Wales

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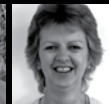
Peter Boyd



Peter Larter



Clive Osgood



Jane Jones

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scottish Region

Ian Carr, North
Simon Gunning, West
Aiden Love, Ayrshire
Anke Perplies, Central
Sindre van den Brink, North

Northern Region

Ashley Brear, Northern
Christopher Green, Northern
Will Holmes, Northern
William Price, North Wales
Stephen Yorke, Northern

Midland Region

Christian Brain, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Stefan Carter, East Midland
Dean Gregory, Mid Anglia
Lewis Mattheole, Mid Anglia
John Merriman, Mid Anglia
Jonathan Taylor, Midland
Peter Tuckett, Berks/Bucks & Oxon

South East Region

Jake Boardman, Surrey
Bob Carrick, East Anglia
James Ellis, Kent
Jamie Faulkner, Surrey
Andrew Gill, Surrey
John Hockley, Surrey
Nick Hollin, Surrey
Mark Hollingsworth, Essex
Patrick Kidd, Surrey
Craig Marshall, East Anglia
Michael Pointer, Surrey
Aaron Robertson, Surrey
Jamie Sedgewick, Surrey
Alan Walker, Essex
Robert Watkins, Surrey
Ryan Watt, Surrey

SW/SW Region

Jacob Armal, South West
Ian Clarke, South Coast
Greg O'Reilly, Devon&Cornwall
Simon Stait, South Coast
Mik Wells, South Coast
Craig Williams, Devon&Cornwall
Craig Williamson, South Coast
James Wright, South West

Northern Ireland

Ross Burns

International

Justin Ruiz, USA

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319

Assistant Profile

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

Fairweather greenkeeper Ben is an avid Gers fan and is waiting for this magazine to come out to enjoy his greatest claim to fame!



Name : Ben Peters
Age : 20
Club : Ratho Park Golf Club
Position : Assistant Greenkeeper

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Three years at Ratho and one year full time at Oatridge college.

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Enjoyed working outdoors.

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

In the Army.

4. Which task do you most enjoy?

Hand cutting greens, leaves a good finish.

5. Which task do you least enjoy?

Strimming bunkers.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise- would improve the greenkeeper's lot?

Less rain and more sunshine for working in.

7. Hobbies?

Going to the gym, running, watching football, socialising.

8. Favourite band?

Kings of Leon, David Guetta, Black Eyed Peas.

9. Which team do you support?

Glasgow Rangers.

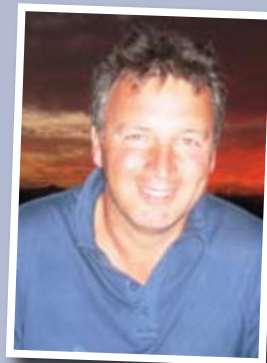
10. What is your claim to fame?

Being in the Greenkeeper International Magazine!

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Nigel Wyatt of MJ Abbott comes under the spotlight



1. What is your position within the company?

Contracts Director, MJ Abbott Limited

2. How long have you been in the industry?

31 years

3. How did you get into it?

I left school at 16 and started working for Mike Abbott. It was the lure of all that machinery! After a year I attended courses at Lackham College in Chippenham with the view to becoming a farm manager. On completion Mike was keen to get me back. The rest, as they say, is history!

4. What other jobs have you done?

I worked on my father's farm and delivered milk. We used to bottle our own milk. I still have some glass milk bottles with my grandfather's name on them, ET Wyatt & Sons.

5. What do you like about your current job?

I relish a challenge and every project we're involved in poses its own challenges. I like the variety of work, travelling and visiting interesting places, and meeting people.

6. What changes have you seen in the industry?

We work with the agricultural community in the South West but our staff work across the UK and overseas. The industry has become tightly regulated and from H&S safeguards to being CHAS registered, there's a lot more to being a good contractor now. Tools and machinery have come in that enable us to do a better job. When this hasn't happened, our workshop has built or modified kit.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time?

I get out and ride my motorbike, an Aprilia RSVR Factory - it's fast! Equally enjoyable is a Saturday morning visit to the local butcher...on my retro scooter...very Jamie Oliver!

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I'd love to have a smallholding, a Range Rover and a Porsche! Dreams aside, I'll probably still be at MJ Abbott!

9. Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

I've made many friends but without doubt, my wife.

10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?

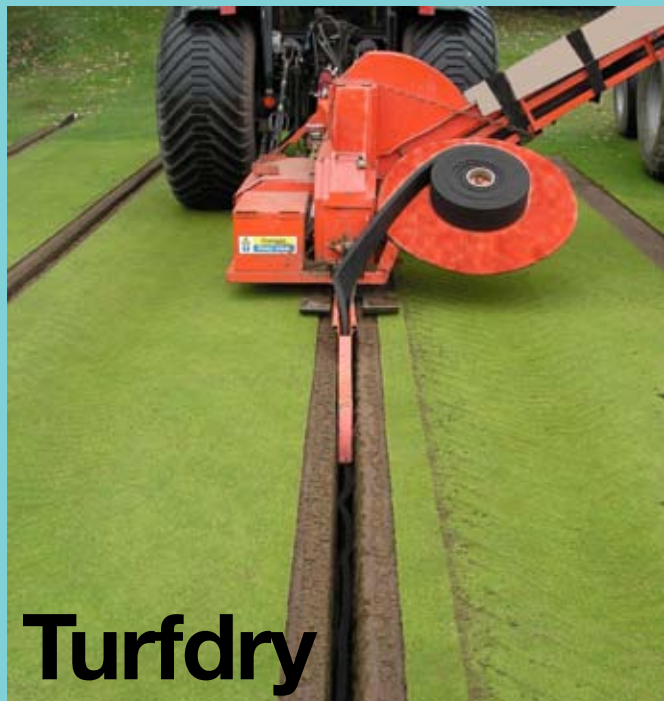
Anything over a million!

11. Pick a number.

48

Nigel has picked Tim Webb of Tacit

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Turfdry operates throughout the UK from its base in Derbyshire. Most projects carried out by the firm are on a design and construct basis, with completed contracts in 2009 ranging in value from £5,000 to over £250,000.

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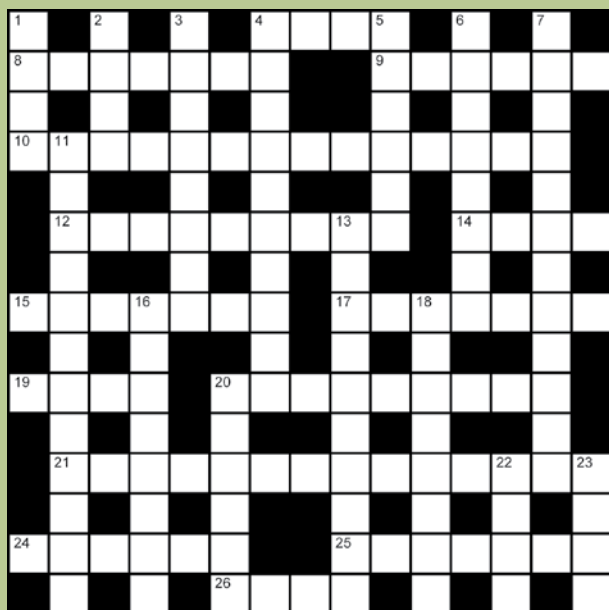
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in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 4 Long narrative work (4)
- 8 Celestial point at which day and night are the same length (7)
- 9 Public speaker (6)
- 10 Planet designer in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (14)
- 12 Savagery (9)
- 14 Ill-mannered, aggressive person (4)
- 15 Item of property given as part payment for new one (5-2)
- 17 Cumbersome, inelegant (7)
- 19 Nickname for cocaine based on its appearance as white powder (4)
- 20 Ambulance (slang) (4,5)
- 21 "A bit of the other" (4,4,6)
- 24 Not in accordance with fact (6)
- 25 Visionary, idealistic (7)
- 26 Flowerless plants typical of damp areas (4)

Down

- 1 Street whose residential buildings were originally stables (4)
- 2 Insect between larva and adult stages (4)
- 3 Precarious, not firm (8)
- 4 Joie de vivre (10)
- 5 Having a high price; resulting in sacrifice (6)
- 6 "Reactive programming" usually applied to spreadsheet software (8)
- 7 Capital of Haiti (4-2-6)
- 11 Convoluted, maze-like (12)
- 13 Deliberately disloyal (10)
- 16 Moving from a higher to lower position (8)
- 18 Indonesian volcanic island between Java and Sumatra (8)
- 20 Condition of chaos (6)
- 22 Frozen rain pellets (4)
- 23 Crosspiece forming step of ladder (4)

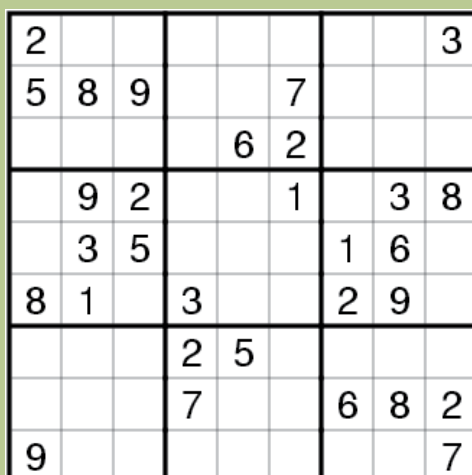
QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who was the Blackburn forward who transferred to Manchester City at the start of this season?
2. Which female athlete won the 100 metres, 200 metres and anchored the American 400 metre relay team to gold in the 1960 Rome Olympics?
3. Which football team formation is named after a piece of foliage brought out at this time of year?
4. Who won the US Women's Open in 1997?
5. What does the fifth day in the song 12 Days of Christmas and the Olympics got in common?
6. What is the name of Stephen Hunt's brother who used to played with him at Reading?
7. Which lake in the middle of Hyde Park is traditionally the venue for a Christmas Day swim?
8. Which Christmas related destination is an anagram of DALPLAN?
9. What was the name of the Simpson's greyhound?



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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

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Puzzle Answers on page 69

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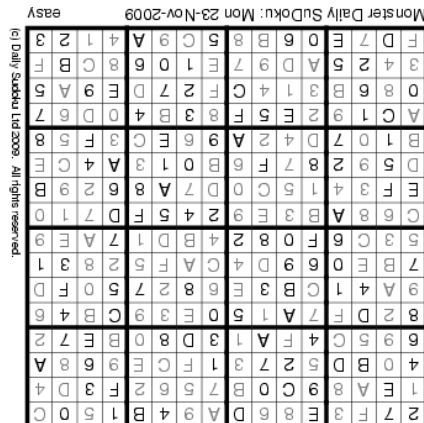
QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Roque Santa Cruz
2. Wilma Rudolph
3. Christmas Tree
4. Alison Nicholas
5. Five gold rings
6. Noel
7. The Serpentine
8. Lapland
9. Santa's Little Helper

CROSSWORD



MONSTER SUDOKU



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU





On the Soapbox

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

One Saturday morning back in October I had Just returned from the golf club. As usual I suspected that the course was probably in reasonably good nick but all I saw as I went round were the things which could be better - the curse of the Course Manager.

Never mind, get the wet socks off and put the kettle on, the world will seem a better place after that.

My 20-year-old daughter looked chirpy and well after another night on the town (I vaguely remember when I could do that) and with a good-morning smile handed me my post and a cup of tea.

The BIGGA mag and a cup of tea on a Saturday morning, what could be better?

I tore off the polythene to tip out the bump.

Ah, what's this? Continue To Learn education programme 2010.

Anything new and different? Is Frank on? God bless Frank.

I skim through. Ah ha! - Wednesday morning 8.20 to 10.30, 2mm mowing, fescue/bent et al.

We are invited to discuss and debate the merits of 2mm and 5mm mowing and 'the issues involved to succeed with each'. 'To succeed with each?' My heart sinks. I ask myself, 'What is there left to debate?' This seems to be self indulgence of the highest order.

The news puts me in something of a dilemma. At a time when all industries are seeking to minimise global damage for the sake of our children's future, should we as a profession be hosting a debate which suggests that we might wish to consider mowing even lower?

I am all for free speech and defend the right of any greenkeeper to maintain their course as they see fit but for any practice which could have far-reaching consequences for our profession I would want some time-tested theories and scientific back up before we legitimise it at our national conference.

Professional seedsmen, agronomists, architects and constructors stipulate and deliver to golf course greens, fescue and bent seed or turf.

Professional greenkeepers are employed to develop these into mature golf greens consisting of the aforementioned perennial sportsturf grasses - 'simples' as meerkat might say.

Research and past history clearly show that low mowing will strongly favour annual

meadowgrass over fescue/bent. If we are to deliver our remit as professional greenkeepers and provide greens based on perennial sportsturf grasses, the real art of greenkeeping, what is there to debate?

For an agronomic debate you need two reasonably sound scientific theories backed up by evidence.

We seem to be 50% short.

Now I know that professionalism has taken a bit of a dive these days, with the 'Hand of Henri' and In Eduardo's case, quite literally, as he did his dying swan act in the Celtic penalty box, but surely professional greenkeepers should not need to be debating the merits of 2mm mowing.

The thought that we should contemplate heading into the next decade on the basis of ultra low-mown swards, with all their attendant high cost, high maintenance, high input, high irrigation and pesticide requirement is hardly the socially responsible thing to do and gives a very false impression of the environmentally aware state of the British

same today not like back in my day when we had The Beatles versus The Rolling Stones.

At last I have a debate and as she points out 'As children are the product of their parents, if you win the debate you have failed as a parent'.

She has got me there. I console myself with the thought that while I may sometimes fail in my struggle to convert poa greens to fescue/bent, I have obviously not failed as a parent. The student has outwitted the teacher. That is as it should be, I have done a good job.

Roll on the football tonight and the weekly debate about divers and professionalism. The odd diver might win the game for his team occasionally but give me Ryan Giggs any day.

There's a fescue/bent man if ever I saw one.

*'And if you tolerate this
Then your children will be next
Will be next, will be next, will be next'*

Should we tolerate this?

greenkeeping profession today. Why are we debating it? The logic escapes me.

The noble profession of greenkeeping is the sound practice of preparing perennial sportsturf grasses for the game of golf.

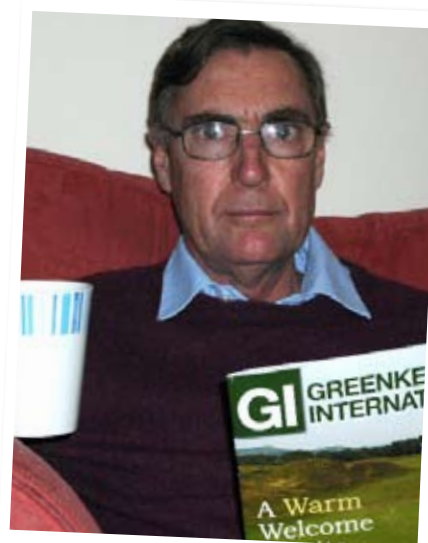
The act of routine mowing at 2mm constitutes the stressing out of perennial sportsturf grasses in favour of a weedgrass, a bastardisation of the profession. What's to debate?

Ah well, the tea was refreshing and my feet have warmed up. The wife has fed the rabbits and we are off to do the weekly at Tesco's.

As usual, I will point out all the cheap items that taste just as good and she, the professional shopper, will tell me to read the label and see just how much salt, sugar and fat I would be pouring in to me and my daughter's bodies and what the eventual outcome would be.

She is right of course. I don't bother to debate the point. There is only one side to the argument and that does not constitute a debate.

I lure my daughter over to the array of CDs and tell her that they all sound the



Course Manager and BIGGA Member

Kerran Daly

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