



## 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 Clondon 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](http://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.

## 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 reurf 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 Moberley 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 Moberley 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 Moberley Golf Club.



Dave Bowles finding "just the right position"...

## 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.