

## SCOTLAND SITE VISIT

The BIGGA East Section Scotland, recently visited the new 9 hole driving range development at Kingsfield Linlithgow.

The Section's Chairman, Stewart Crawford, presented a plaque to Robert Arkley, Managing Director of Kingsfield, to mark the visit.



Left to right: Barrie Lewis, Tom Murray, Gordon Peebles (Tacit), Stuart Ferguson, Ben Peters, Stewart, Craig McCrorie, Joe Robertson, Peter Boyd (Regional Administrator), Peter Ormiston, Peter Cambell (STS), Jack Dalrmpie, Tom King, Jimmy Neilson, Jim Smith (Rigby Taylor), Lee Fraser and his dog Rhanna.

## WRITTLE LECTURER JUDGES PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Greg Allen, a Landscape Studies Lecturer at Writtle College, was one of seven adjudicators asked to judge last year's National British Association of Landscape Industries Awards, the industry's most prestigious event.

The Awards ceremony took place at the end of last year at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London.

The 32nd BALI National Landscape Awards were hosted by David Domoney who was joined by the special guest speaker Clive Anderson.

The event is an excellent opportunity for landscape professionals to experience the creativity and talent of the BALI members.

New specialist higher education courses in Horticulture and Landscape have been introduced at Writtle College. Starting from September 2009 the new courses include: BSc Social and Therapeutic Horticulture and BSc Green Space Management.

## PATRONS' AWARD: BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION

Our annual Patrons Award and lunch was held at the Terraces Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday, December 4.

The Chairman of the Scottish Region, John Geddes, was in charge and under his Chairmanship everything ran smoothly. This year's speaker was John Malcolm, a retired police officer, who entertained us with a fund of stories and jokes, a few at the expense of several of the guests, Regional Administrator and Hugh McLatchie included.

Once again, our thanks go to the Patrons of the Region for their continued sponsorship. Not only do they provide funding for the Patrons Award trip, but also throughout the season, they support golf outings, Sectional seminars and AGMs.

This year's winners of the Patron's Award represented a cross section of the Association, from Course Managers to Assistants, all benefiting from the trip to Harrogate. The following were at Harrogate Week 2009: Martin Lothian, Turnberry Hotel; Marshall Sloss, Beith Golf Club; Charles McDonald, Crieff Golf Club; Kenny Mitchell, St. Andrews Links; Adam Sherwood, Glencorse Golf Club; Joe Robertson, Ratho Park Golf Club; Dale Robertson, Newmachar Golf Club; Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir Golf Club; Alistair Read, Williamwood Golf Club and Callum Morrow, Drumpellier Golf Club.

Next year's lunch will be on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

BIGGA Scottish Region Patrons are: R.Aitken (Seedsmen), Alpha Plus (Scotland) Ltd, Bayer, Daval Industrial Products, The Double A Trading Company, Fairways Group Ltd,

Hamilton Bros (Eng) Ltd, Golf Finance Ltd, Greentech (Sportsturf) Ltd, Henderson Grass Machinery, Indigrow Ltd, McNab Sport Ltd, Meiklem Drainage & Groundworks, William Monks & Partners, Nairn Brown (Glasgow) Ltd, Parsaver Golf, Rigby Taylor Ltd, SGM (UK) Ltd, 3PointPower Ltd, Strachan



L to R: Marshall Sloss, Beith GC; Calum Morrow, Drumpellier GC; Alistair Read, Williamwood GC; Adam Sherwood, Glencorse GC; Dale Robertson, Newmachar GC; John Geddes, Chairman, Scottish Region; Martin Lothian, Turnberry Hotel; Kenneth Mitchell, St. Andrews Links; Charles MacDonald, Crieff GC; Joe Robertson, Ratho Park GC.

Construction & Plant Hire, Scot JCB, The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd, Souters Sports Ltd, Sports Turf Services, Tower Sport Europe Ltd, Turf Irrigation Services, Terra Firma (Scotland) Ltd, Thomas Sheriff & Coy Ltd, Thorntrees Amenity, Vitax.

Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator

## JOHN DEERE HOSTS BIGGA MIDLANDS SECTION

A group of 50 greenkeepers and Course Managers from across the Midlands, including outgoing BIGGA Chairman, Kenny Mackay, were hosted by John Deere in December; during the first ever visit by BIGGA's Midlands Section to the company's headquarters at Langar, near Nottingham.

The trip was organised by BIGGA's Regional Competitions' Secretary, Rhys Thomas, who is Course Manager of The South Staffordshire Golf Club, near Wolverhampton, at the invitation of John Deere dealer, Turner Groundscare of Erdington,

Birmingham. Product presentations were followed by a tour of the JDParts operation and John Deere's state of the art training centre before an evening buffet rounded off proceedings.

Among the full range of machinery on display was the new 8800 TerrainCut rotary roughs mower, while many visitors took the opportunity to climb behind the wheel of one of the biggest machines in the company's range – a new T Series combine harvester, equipped with the latest satellite guidance technology.

"The parts set-up was a particular highlight," said Rhys Thomas. "We were shown how parts coming from Germany and the USA are distributed throughout the UK, with a very quick turn around – John Deere's overnight delivery system is very impressive. I'd like to give particular thanks to Turner Groundscare for organising the day, and for their help in supporting our regional golf days and events in the Midlands, they've been really good to us this last year."



## SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2009 BIGGA Scottish Region Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday 3 March, 2009.

This year's speakers include Steve Isaac, Director of Golf Course Management, R&A; Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity; David MacIndoe, Course Manager, Killarney G&FC, Ireland.

Other speakers include Laurence Pithie, Group Golf Courses Manager, Crown Golf; Stuart Staples, International Technical Manager; Scotts International CV and finally, David Cole, Superintendent/Estate Manager, Loch Lomond.

Tickets cost £34, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking form will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J Boyd, Regional Administrator on Tel: 0141 616 3440 or: [pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com).

## BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP THE WENTWORTH CLUB, MAY 21-24

BIGGA is once again to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 21-24.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided.

Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to:  
*Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator,  
 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth,  
 Surrey, KT20 7QF.*

## LONDON SECTION IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

The London Section has arranged for a Irrigation Workshop to be held at Ealing Golf Club on February 25.

Independent irrigation consultants, Irritech Irrigation Ltd, will cover a comprehensive and wide range of situations regarding the installation, maintenance and repairs of irrigation systems including diagnostics of electric and controller problems, and the correct layout and spacing of sprinkler heads. There also will be plenty of time to answer any queries regarding individual problems that occur on your own systems.

The cost for the day will be £10. This will include coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, with soup and sandwiches at lunchtime.

For more information or to reserve a place please contact: Matt Plested, Section Secretary, Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator (01737 819343), or Greg Evans, Course Manager Ealing Golf Club.

The day will commence at 10am with registration from 9am.

## BOND, JAMES BOND

For 41 years, Windlesham village has been running its annual pram race.

The idea is to run through the village collecting money from the several thousand people who come to watch. The race starts at the Brickmakers Arms in Windlesham village, which borders Sunningdale Golf Club, and finishes at The Sun pub in the centre of the village, it takes place every Boxing Day and anyone can enter.

A team of eight greenkeepers from Sunningdale Golf Club took part, constructing an Aston Martin D85 (from the film Goldfinger) pram with James Bond being their theme.

95 prams took part this year – the Sunningdale lads were fortunate enough to be issued with 007 as their pram number - and in total 751 people ran, all raising money for local charities in Windlesham, such as local schools, disabled sections of local cricket and football clubs, and the local British Legion.

“The race consisted of the arduous task of pushing our pram and running to all six pubs in Windlesham, stopping at each for a pint or a short, covering a total of about four miles,” explained Murray Long, Courses & Estates Manager at Sunningdale GC. “An awards presentation by the Major was held at the final pub with prizes for categories: Best Pram, Best Engineered Pram and Fastest Pram – needless to say very few people take part in the fastest after three pints! Unfortunately we didn’t come away with any prizes but had a great time.”



Sunningdale Greenkeepers ‘License to Thrill’. L to R: Dan Turner, Chris Sherrington, Murray Long, Dan Martin, Ben Kebby, Jamie (Jaws) Wilson, Steven Richardson, Fabion (Odd Job) Maissonny.

## SCARLET AND GREEN

Scarlets RFC has moved into its new home stadium at the Parc Y Scarlets in Pemberton, Llanelli, the first UK rugby ground to feature a Fibrelastic turf pitch.

The new surface, installed by Inscapes, is maintained by Head Groundsman, Dean Gilasbey, and Assistant, Sion Bennett, with the help of a small but hard-working fleet of new John Deere machines, supplied by dealer Powercut of Carmarthen. Powercut have been John Deere dealers in South Wales for over 20 years, and as such their wealth of knowledge and high levels of service are greatly valued by customers.

The fleet includes a new TX Gator utility vehicle and 3520 compact tractor equipped with

ComfortGard cab and Galaxy low ground pressure tyres, and a one year old 2653B utility mower, all bought on John Deere Credit finance.

Dean returned to Llanelli earlier this year to oversee the installation of the Fibrelastic surface, having previously spent 13 years with the Scarlets before a three year spell working at the Ospreys Liberty Stadium in Swansea with Hewitt Sportsturf.

“I definitely believe this is the way to go as far as rugby pitches are concerned,” he said. “The reinforced construction means there is some elasticity in the surface, so there’s a better feel to the grass and overall the players get a much better experience.”

## NEW JOB LOSSES AT JCB

JCB has announced a further 684 redundancies in the UK primarily as a result of the lack of credit available from banks to fund machine purchases and continuing low confidence. Production in the UK in the first three months of 2009 will be around 75 per cent lower than at the same time last year and an anticipated upturn in the second quarter now shows no sign of materialising.

JCB’s Staffordshire plants affected by the redundancies are: the World HQ, Rocester; JCB Heavy Products, Uttoxeter; JCB Compact Products, JCB Earthmovers and JCB Cecilly Mills Operations, Cheadle and JCB Cab Systems, Rugeley. JCB Transmissions, Wrexham and JCB Power Systems, Derbyshire are also affected.

In October GMB members voted for a shorter, 34-hour working week, a move which continues to protect a further 332 shop floor jobs. Last week - when there was no production at JCB – the company undertook its biggest-ever training initiative in its history, with more than 2,000 employees completing a programme which will result in achievement of NVQ and City and Guilds qualifications.

The latest job losses affect 593 shopfloor and 91 staff positions and are in addition to 1,000 redundancies announced since July. JCB employs around 7,900 globally, with around 4,800 in the UK. JCB has more than 4,300 employees in Staffordshire.

Why not drop us an email with any news, press releases or new product updates you have...

– Send them to **Melissa** ([melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk))



## STROLLERS MAKE MARATHON EFFORT

A group of staff from The Scotts Company and a former employee completed the New York Marathon, and in the process raised more than £10,000 for the children's charity, Whizz-Kidz.

The Scotts Strollers' day started with a 2.30am wake up to catch a 4am coach to the start line on Staten Island. After more than five hours trying to keep warm in the chilly holding area, they joined the 40,000-strong crowd of runners gathered in the mid-morning sun for the start. Carried along by the encouragement of spectators lining the route, Andrew Wilson was first across the finish line, completing the tough, undulating course in four hours 16 minutes.

Shaun Cavanagh finished in four hours 47 with David Truby and Sam Cassidy both recording a time of four hours 51. Frances Lark from Customer Services completed her first marathon supported by Regional Director Steve Squires in a time of six hours 57 minutes.

After such a tremendous effort, the team made good use of their time in the Big Apple with visits to Wall Street, the Empire State Building and Ground Zero and a helicopter ride around the Statue of Liberty.

David and Shaun happened to bump into race winner Paula Radcliffe at the top of the Empire State Building. When they asked her if she'd found the race as tough as they had, she said it depended how tough that was!



## NEW AWARDS LAUNCHED

New industry-wide annual awards that recognise the important contribution by grounds care staff to the sustainability of British sport and best-practice grounds care across a multitude of disciplines and technologies have been launched by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

The IOG Industry Awards will acknowledge the high standards achieved by a wide range of volunteer and professional grounds care skills and facilities – from grass roots to professional stadia level. The 2009 results will be announced Oscar-style at the Emirates Stadium, London, on 15 October 2009 as part of the IOG's National Conference.

Commenting on the launch, Sports Minister, Gerry Sutcliffe MP, said: "I recognise the valuable contribution which grounds staff around the country, whether volunteers or professionals, make in keeping sports facilities well maintained. Their hard work and technical knowledge helps make sport accessible to everyone and should be publicly acknowledged."

## PESTICIDES – THE FACTS

Jon Allbutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, puts his slant on the recent EU Pesticide Usage directive.

I am not surprised at the amount of debate on whether greenkeepers will have any pesticides at all to use in the future.

That, after all, was the point of the Amenity Forum's campaign over the last two years or more – to raise awareness and get our sector involved in the debate!

The EU Parliament has now voted on two Directives – The Authorisation Directive that decides what pesticides will be permitted within the EU – and the Sustainable Use Directive that sets the "rules" to protect the environment including the public or in EU speak – bystanders.

### The main points are:

- Member States will include in their legislation that users will adopt integrated approaches to pest management – this is already common practice in golf but not other amenity areas!
- Member States will establish National Action Plans – the UK already has one in operation.
- Application equipment will need to be tested except, perhaps, knapsack sprayers – we already have the NSTS scheme that can be adjusted.
- Distributors, users and advisors will have to be trained and hold a recognised qualification – we have a world class certification scheme
- There is still great concern over definitions in the Authorisation Directive that will decide on what active ingredients will be permitted within the EU – we must wait a while for clarification here. It seems clear that we are going to lose some valuable products, but it will be months before we know exactly what.
- Member States must introduce legislation to protect water – we already have the very successful LERAPS Scheme
- Member States must introduce legislation to protect vulnerable people and sensitive environmental areas. The Directive allows for prohibition or restriction. This includes all amenity areas where we are using pesticides where the public have access, there are lakes, ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas. Each Member State must consult the general public and users as part of the legislative process so your voice is vitally important. Contact BIGGA HOUSE and they will put you in touch with your representative and he will bring your views to the Forum.

### So it is not all bad news is it?

The next and hopefully final stage in the process is for the Council of Ministers to approve the detail for implementation; this will provide more clarification for each Member State and also set a timetable for implementation. The timetable is usually within two years of the issuing of the final documentation – this is likely to mean that we will have our new UK Regulations around the end of 2011.

I will be monitoring developments carefully and expect to have the detailed documentation in March/April.

In the meantime if it vital for our industry sector to continue to make our views known to our professional bodies who in their turn must make their views known all the way up to Ministers!





Gary Gray of GD Environmental, npower's Ian Fox and Russell Phillips of The Celtic Manor Resort survey the ash being used to build the new practice ground for The Ryder Cup.

## GREEN SOLUTION FOR RYDER CUP BUILD

Green issues in golf normally revolve around the quality of the putting surfaces but The Celtic Manor Resort has hit upon an environmentally friendly way of building its new practice ground for The Ryder Cup in 2010.

With the facility sitting in the flood plain just over the River Usk from the first tee of the Twenty Ten course; there was a need to raise the level of the land before grassing over the driving range.

Instead of laying expensive primary aggregate with the associated cost to the environment of excavation and transportation, Celtic Manor has teamed up with energy supplier RWE npower, which has provided over 150,000 tonnes of pulverised fuel ash from its Aberthaw Power Station, near Barry.

The ash is an inert by-product of burning coal to generate electricity and, once compacted, forms an ideal material for construction purposes like this one. Also housing a substantial television compound, the new practice ground area completes a £16m redevelopment at Celtic Manor which also saw the new Twenty Ten course and clubhouse open in 2007.

The Celtic Manor Resort and The European Tour are already committed to making The 2010 Ryder Cup one of golf's most environmentally sustainable events. Indigenous grasses, plants and wildlife have returned to the new Twenty Ten course since its conversion from intensive farmland, and irrigation on all three courses at Celtic Manor is 100% self-sustained from the lakes and a purpose-built reservoir.

## TRAINING PROGRAMME EXPANDED FOR 2009

Following a request from the PGA, STRI have created three new one day training programmes for Golf Pros, Managers and Directors of Golf Facilities, to assist with their professional development requirements.

The courses are recommended in the PGA's CPD Professional Programme for 2009 and each completed course will be credited with 25 CPD points.

All three courses are scheduled for March 2009 at STRI in Bingley and cost £156 plus VAT: 3 March 2009, 'The Business of the Environment' Golf Course Ecology; 4 March 2009, 'Why Better Grass Means Better Golf' Golf Course Management; 5 March 2009, 'Golf Course Architecture Past and Present' Golf Course Design.

Following the success of last year's first FACTS (Fertiliser Advisers Certificate and Training Scheme) Turf certified training course, held at STRI, coupled with the pressure on employers in the industry to keep up with growing legislation a record 5 day FACTS Turf course, with exams, is running from 16-20 February 2009 at Bingley. A must for anyone advising on fertilisers and their application.

Having recently been awarded, Approved Provider Status, STRI is currently the only approved BASIS provider delivering a programme specifically tailored to suit the requirements of the Turf Industry.

To meet the needs of employers, who have a statutory obligation to ensure anyone involved in the sale, advice or supply of plant protection products holds a certificate of competence, and following on from the success of the 2008 courses, Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Turfgrass Protection at STRI, has organised another two weeks course plus exam for 2009. BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity Horticulture) Turf Module: Week One, 14-18 September 2009; Week Two, 5-9 September 2009; Exam, 19-20 September 2009.

For further info please visit [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk)

## NEW QUALITY MANAGER

David Lamb has joined Ransomes Jacobsen, the Ipswich-based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, as Quality Manager. Reporting to Malcolm Parkinson, Operations Director, he will be responsible for all quality matters relating to the production, manufacturing and design processes within the organisation.

David joins the company from the Seat Division of Johnson Controls.



## SPRAY WITHIN THE LAW

With the safe use of pesticides being very much in the spotlight, it is now vital that advisers, farmers and growers have access to the most up-to-date information on pesticide use in agriculture, horticulture, pest control, forestry and amenity.

The 22nd edition of The UK Pesticide Guide, is now available and is also accessible online at [www.plantprotection.co.uk](http://www.plantprotection.co.uk). It features over 1,300

products including 250 product replacements and introductions since the last edition, plus five new actives, as well as several novel mixtures of existing actives.

The online version, [www.plantprotection.co.uk](http://www.plantprotection.co.uk), which was launched at the beginning of 2008 has been positively received by customers.

For further information and to subscribe to the online version log onto: [www.plantprotection.co.uk](http://www.plantprotection.co.uk)