



## Three Peaks Challenge

"At 4:30am on April 24, 22 others and I started our ascent of Ben Nevis and our attempt of the 24 hour, three peak challenge," explained Ben Kebby, Assistant Greenkeeper at Sunningdale GC.

The three peaks Challenge is an accent of Ben Nevis (1,344m Scotland), Scafell Pike (978m, England) and Snowdon (1,085m, Wales) in 24 hrs. 23 people

attempted this feat in aid of Child Reach, organised through 'Eye On Africa'.

"I was one of 12 to complete the peak to peak challenge, which starts at the summit of Ben Nevis, continues on to the summit of Scafell and finishes on the summit of Snowdon in a time of 19 hours.

I was also one of 12 to complete the harder base to base challenge,

which starts at the base of Ben Nevis and finishes at the base of Snowdon in a time of 23 hours" continued Ben. "So at 4:30pm on April 25 there were 23 people having a few well earned drinks in the café at the base of Snowdon with a murmur of 'never again'!

The event was a huge success with over 5500 being raised for Child Reach...on to Kilimanjaro!

## A WARNING

John Hunter, of Wick-based Hunter Promotions, has contracted Lyme Disease and is warning others who work on, or regularly visit golf courses of the potential dangers.

Lyme Disease is an illness which can affect the skin and in some cases the nervous system, joints and other tissues. It is caused by a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi* which is transmitted through bites from certain types of ticks.

It is rare in the UK, with around 800 cases confirmed each year, but if it is not diagnosed early it can get into the blood system and cause more longer term and more serious symptoms.

The most common signs of infection is a pale pink, or reddish rash which spreads out from the site of a bite after between three and 30 days. Victims can also complain of aches and pains and feel very tired.

Unfortunately in John's case it wasn't identified early and he is coping with the consequences. However he is keen to alert others to the risk of Lyme Disease and the need to get a good and early diagnosis.



## New Boss for John Deere

John Deere recently elected Samuel R Allen (55) President, Chief Operating Officer and a member of the Board of Directors, he will also take on the role of Chief Executive Officer from August 1. Robert W Lane (59) Chairman and CEO, will serve as Chairman of the board until Allen's expected succession as Chairman.

"The Deere Board has completed an 18 month systematic process

to choose Deere's ninth Chief Executive Officer in its 172 year history," said Lane.

"The board recognizes, as I do, that Sam is a superb, smart, ethical executive, a wise and uncommonly capable leader, and someone with the proven experience and ability to effectively lead John Deere in growing a great, sustainable, global business."



Richard Johnson

## WINNER

Richard Johnson, Managing Director of John Deere Ltd, has been presented with the Michael Dwyer Memorial Prize at the Landwards Conference held recently at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester.

The Award, part of the annual Awards announced by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE), was in recognition of his continuing role establishing John Deere as one of the UK's agricultural and grounds care suppliers. Richard, was one of the first to benefit from a Work Placement Scheme when he joined John Deere from Harper Adams in 1987. Since then he has held prominent positions within the company, culminating in being appointed Managing Director in 2006.



## BMW SUPPORT TEAM WENTWORTH 2009

Glorious weather and a superbly presented golf course produced by Chris Kennedy and his green staff contributed to some very good golf that was greatly appreciated by the large crowds who were present for this year's BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

Once again a group of volunteer greenkeepers were on hand for stand-by duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather, with a full complement of over 40 available for any unforeseen circumstances and bunker

raking duties on the last two days.

Conditions were perfect for all four days so all involved were able to enjoy the occasion in the sunshine with not a single squeegee in sight!

Welcome visitors enjoying the golf and hospitality this year included Billy McMillan and John Pemberton.

At the official prize giving on the 18th green Chris Kennedy was presented with a silver salver engraved with some of the most famous names in competitive golf in recognition

of his efforts in producing a golf course worthy of hosting the European Tour flagship event over the past 20 years.

Paul Casey was the popular winner of this year's event getting birdies on the last two holes to just hold off the challenge of Ross Fisher. With this win he moved up to World Number Three and took home €750,000 for his weeks work.

**Clive Osgood**  
SE Regional Administrator



## BEST IN SHOW

Native wild flowers supplied by British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs) helped The Fenland Alchemist Garden take 'Best in Show' in the Courtyard category at this year's Chelsea held recently.

Designed by Stephen Hall and Jane Besser for Giles Landscapes the garden provides the ingredients for the ancient art of alchemy as practised in the fens. Wild strawberry, Hedge Woundwort, Marjoram, Woad and Cow Parsley as well as native Columbine, Wild Parsnip and Wild Celery were all commissioned and grown at BWFPs' nursery in Norfolk.

BWFPs also supplied Birmingham City Council's Generation garden 'Credit Munch', which was awarded Silver Gilt.

LEFT: The Fenland Alchemist Garden.



Golfer at Close House  
Copyright: Close House Hotel

## Awarded Close House Contract

MJ Abbott Limited has been awarded the contract to build the new Colt Course at Close House Hotel and Golf Resort near Heddon on the Wall in Northumberland.

The championship length course, designed by lead architect Scott Macpherson, of TurnerMacpherson Golf Design, will measure in excess of 7,000 yards.

Work began on site in April and will be completed by October.

The extensive contract includes earthworks, shaping of the course, the construction of greens, tees, bunkers and lakes, the renovation of historic lakes, installation of a primary drainage system, as well as the design and installation of a fully-automated irrigation system, cultivation, seeding and landscaping.

## ANNUAL MATCH

This year's match against the GCMA was held at Strathaven Golf Club on Tuesday, May 12.

The final result was a win for BIGGA by 7½ to 1½ and once again we retained the Trophy, which the Chairman very graciously accepted and thanked his players for a superb team effort.

In the first match, Chairman John Geddes and Steve Hunter, Head Greenkeeper at Strathaven GC halved their match, this was followed by further wins for, Stuart Taylor and Brian Hillen, Archie Dunn and Jim McCormack, Robbie Murdoch and Brian Heggie, Iain Barr and Derek Wilson, Andy O'Hara and Derek Scott, Denis Tweddell and Stuart Ferguson, Brian Bolland and Scott Ballantyne, the only defeat was the pairing of Colin Shanks, from the home club, and Fraser Ross, of Renfrew GC.

Our thanks to the Captain and Board of Strathaven Golf Club, for the courtesy and facilities afforded to us.

As mentioned earlier the course was in superb condition and congratulations go to Steve Hunter and his staff for all their hard work and preparation prior to the event.

In 2010 it is our turn to host the event and we are looking at returning to Central/North Scotland for a suitable venue.

Peter J. Boyd  
Regional  
Administrator

## Professional Development

The Business Interchange programme is run by Life-long Learning UK, the sector skills council responsible for the professional development of those in the further education sector.

The programme intends on taking teachers and tutors back into the workplace in order to both update their skills and ensure that the students they subsequently deliver to local businesses are of the right level of training.

Kevin McAdams undertook a placement at The Belfry as part of his 'Work-based Assessor for Sports Turf Management' programme at Myerscough College.

Before coming to work at Myerscough College as a Sports Turf Assessor,

Kevin McAdams had over 17 years practical experience in greenkeeping. Kevin decided to undertake a Business Interchange placement at his old place of work, the Belfry Golfcourse, Sutton Coldfield. He found Business Interchange 'a really valuable opportunity to practice old skills and pick up new ones'. Over the past few years Kevin had found that he was increasingly at his desk and working less and less in the field. Always a keen outdoorsman, the placement provided Kevin with a good chance to get back in the field and muck in with the basic jobs that his students do on a regular basis.

For more information visit: [www.lluk.org/catalyst-business-interchange.htm](http://www.lluk.org/catalyst-business-interchange.htm)





Sports Turf Manager, Stewart Ward (right) instructing students at Hartpury College

## A Helping Hand

In an effort to help students in landscaping and horticulture gain experience in operating outdoor powered equipment, Etesia has offered machines under permanent loan to Hartpury College.

Sports Turf Manager, Stewart Ward and his team of seven groundsmen maintain the 800-acre campus. They work closely with college lecturers and have active involvement in the teaching sessions.

“The practical nature of our courses provides hands-on experience which is so valuable in future careers,” explained Stewart, adding that in addition to mowing skills they also teach routine care such as oil and blade changes plus general troubleshooting.



Arnold Palmer watches a member of the Welsh Development Squad playing from the Huxley Golf All-Weather Tee surfaces at Celtic Manor

## GOLFING LEGEND OPENS SHORT GAME ACADEMY

The Celtic Manor Resort Golf Academy has become the Wales National Centre of Excellence following the launch of its new short game practice area.

The new facility was officially unveiled recently in the presence of golfing

legend Arnold Palmer.

The new short game practice area features three Huxley All-Weather Golf Greens and three large Huxley All-Weather Practice Tees enabling the facility to be used throughout the year in almost any weather.



## AGE OLD ART RECAPTURED

Greenkeepers at Mold Golf Club in Pantymwyn have been reviving the Iron Age art of dry stone walling as part of a special project to help celebrate the Club's centenary.

An ancient 285 metre dry stone wall, which formed the original boundary for the course when it was just nine holes, had fallen into a dangerous state of disrepair and was in urgent need of attention.

The Club's four enterprising greenkeepers enrolled on a course at Llysfas College where they trained with a professional dry

stone-waller on Moel Arthur.

Head Greenkeeper, Colin Jones, said: “We started on the wall in the winter and worked around our normal greenkeeping tasks and the general up-keep of the course.

Club Captain Martyn Scholes said: “Feedback from the members and locals who can see the wall from the road, has been brilliant and I would like to thank all concerned for their tremendous efforts.”

A commemorative centenary plaque has been attached to the wall to acknowledge its completion.



## Grassfelt Greens Leeds City Centre

Shoppers and workers in the busy Round Foundry area of Leeds can enjoy real grass beneath their feet this summer following the opening of a temporary green space.

Wonderwood, opened in Holbeck Urban Village recently, (the brain child of artist/architects Amenity Space and The Culture Company) is an experiment, which has transformed land earmarked for future development into a temporary, urban inspired woodland clearing.

Two hundred sq metres of Lindum's Grassfelt, the company's patented strong soil-less turf growing in a felt made from recycled British textiles forms the base of the design, which includes children's play areas, tree sculptures, murals and deck chairs.

“Wonderwood has been designed to sit in, play in, lunch in or host a range of outdoor activities,” said Stephen. “Remembering how grass transformed the atmosphere in Trafalgar Square when it was laid for only two days we're sure that the sward, over a period of months will weave its magic in Leeds.”



Golf students at Gloucestershire's Hartpury College honing their putting skills on the new synthetic green supplied and installed by Southwest Greens to Nicklaus Design standards

## NICKLAUS DESIGN GREEN GETS HIGH MARKS AT COLLEGE

Budding PGA professionals studying golf at Hartpury College are developing their putting skills on a tournament-quality synthetic green supplied and installed by Southwest Greens to Nicklaus Design specifications and standards.

The new all-weather green is the latest addition to the College's golf academy and is being used by students working towards a BTEC National Diploma in Sport, specifically the Performance and Excellence in Golf module which involves

two years' full-time study at the college, which is located near Gloucester.

Many of the students will go on to further golf studies at universities or at the PGA's National Training Academy.

One aspect of the new green

of particular importance to Hartpury College's resident PGA-qualified coaches was the creation of subtle slopes, borrows and contours within the putting surface to produce a realistic and testing challenge for students.

## New Team in Place



BIGGA has a new accountancy team in place. In recent weeks Steve Wragg and Angela Wilson have arrived at BIGGA HOUSE to replace departing staff and both have settled in quickly.

Accountant, Steve (40), is a York man who spent ten years in accountancy practice before joining a Construction Company where he also acted as accountant for rugby league team, York City Knights.

A keen cricketer he opens both batting and bowling for York Vale League team, Ben Johnson, while his long hitting of a golf ball since joining BIGGA has already drawn a few gasps. Keeping it on the short stuff is an issue though!

"I'm looking forward to working for BIGGA. From what I've seen

already it is a ready good industry to be involved with," said Steve, who is married to Sue with two children Louis (5) and Pippa (2).

Accounts Assistant, Angela, was born in Bridlington and brought up in York. She spent 16 years with the RSPCA, as volunteer, Veterinary Nurse and Assistant Manager at the York Kennels before a career change saw her move into accountancy. Prior to BIGGA she was working for a plumbing importer.

A keen walker and gardener Angela and partner, Paul, have two dogs - a Border Collie, called Oliver and a Lurcher, called Ralph

"I really enjoy the working environment at BIGGA," said Angela.