

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



KEEPING UP THE PACE

Alan Strachan, Course Manager at Royal County Down, certainly couldn't be accused of slow play after completing the London Marathon in a very impressive 3 hours, 5 minutes and 52 seconds finishing in a highly creditable 1252nd – not bad for a 42 year old running novice!

"Until last March when I started to run for the first time in 25 years I took no physical exercise at all but I really caught the bug and was soon running three to four times a week," explained Alan.

"I ran my first marathon in Dublin last October and was then asked to join the local athletics' club. Since then I've been running 70 miles a week."

Alan chose to run for "Children with Leukaemia" as the 14 year old son of John Scott, one of his visiting reps, died of the disease last October.

"I have a child of the same age and it really hit me hard. John mentioned the charity and I said I'd do something for it and that's how I came to enter the London Marathon.

"The day itself was fantastic. The sun was shining and the crowds were unbelievable. I was like running through Wembley Stadium for 26 miles. A fabulous experience and one that I hope to repeat next year."

Is Sustainability Viable?

'Is sustainable management of fine turf a viable option in the modern commercial climate,' was the subject under the microscope at a recent one-day seminar at Bridgewater College Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies. Barenbrug Research and Development Manager, Jayne Leyland, tackled this topic and explained how sustainability is already being achieved in a number of instances.

Jayne focused on how seed breeding and the continued research and development of seed mixtures can play an important role in helping create a more

sustainable approach to golf course management.

Other speakers included Richard Whyman, Burnham & Berrow GC, who talked about his experiences in introducing fescues into the sward; Paul Worster, BIGGA Vice Chairman, who tackled the subject of commercial versus environmental sustainability; Stuart Yarwood from Lymm GC and Paul Lowe of Bromborough GC covered their experience of sustainability with Laurence Pithie, outlining the details of the greens recovery programme at Oak Park GC.

Jayne Leyland (front left) pictured with her fellow speakers at the Sustainability Day held at Bridgewater College. Back row, left to right: Laurence Pithie, Stuart Yarwood Course Manager Lymm Golf Club, Paul Lowe Course Manager Bromborough Golf Club, Will Bowden Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Programme Manager, Bridgewater College. Front row left to right: Jayne Leyland, Paul Worcester Course Manager Minchinhampton Golf Club, Richard Whyman Course Manager, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS

David Krause has succeeded Ken Moodie as President of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA).

The annual meeting of EIGCA took place earlier last month in Noordwijk, Netherlands, where the annual Presidents Cup was played for over the stunning and unforgettable courses at Kennemer GC and Noordwijkse GC.

Canadian born Krause

came to Europe in 1986 and for five years worked for Robert Trent Jones Sr. He set up his own golf course design practice in Germany in 1993. He has also occasionally collaborated with Portuguese architect Jorge Santana da Silva.

David has been a member of the EIGCA Council since the merger in 2000 and served as Hon. Treasurer for a number of years.

He has been chairman of

the PR Committee for the last two years, overseeing the introduction of the e-newsletter and the development of the new website which is due to come on line shortly.

The new EIGCA Council is David Krause; Rainer Preissmann; Peter Fjallman; and Mike Wood together with newly-elected members Jeff Howes; Tom Mackenzie; and Ronan Branigan.



Ratty's Refuge Comes Home

"Ratty's Refuge", the medal winning River & Rowing Museum's Chelsea (2008) Urban Garden has been reinstated at the Museum's Thames-side home in Henley. Sponsored by British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs), the new garden, which was opened by Alan Titchmarsh on May 1, incorporates many of the original features including in the wild flower bank, the decking (now being recycled for the third time, having started life as the Museum's café terrace) and the pond, but it has grown to over five times the original size.

Ian Forster, Marketing Manager for BWFPs says that there are now four distinct areas, the pond (considerably larger than the

original), a bog garden, a shaded area and woodland. "The garden was conceived to demonstrate an urban sanctuary for the water vole (Ratty), which was, and still is being threatened by the American Mink," he explains. "As last year marked the centenary of 'Wind In The Willows' it seemed the perfect opportunity to raise public awareness."

Forster has planted around 1,000 British wild flowers including water loving plants such as Lesser Bulrush, Marsh Marigold, Water Avenas and Yellow Flag Iris in the bog garden, Primroses, Yarrow and Jacob's Ladder in the shady area, Oxeye Daisies in sunnier areas and

our native British Bluebell in the wood. "As well as highlighting the importance of protecting our native wild life this garden has given us the opportunity to demonstrate what grows where," Forster continues, "and unlike the Chelsea design, which had to be planted to look good for the one week of the show, this is permanent. It means that we could use a much wider variety of species that will bloom right through the year."

Following the opening 'Ratty's Refuge' will be used as an educational resource to demonstrate a natural water vole habitat to visiting schools, families and special interest groups to the Museum.

INAUGURAL RANSOMES JACOBSEN TROPHY

The Golf Course at Cannington Centre hosted its inaugural Ransomes Jacobsen Trophy recently.

The event was marketed by the College as an opportunity for young aspiring golfers to get involved in an educational experience as well as compete for the trophy and prizes sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen and Titleist.

The day comprised of a morning of educational demonstrations and 'have a go' practical's that engaged the young participants and explained to them all the effort that goes in to producing a golf course for their enjoyment.

With the expert knowledge of Canningtons Head Greenkeeper Hugh Murray and support from PGA Professional Ron Macrow and Programme Manager Will Bowden, the day was a success both educationally and competitively.

The College is running a Programme Lead NVQ 2, alongside the traditional Apprentice route for the first time this year and the day was centred on encouraging potential students to see first hand the great facilities and opportunities that are available to them when they study at Cannington.

Cannington will aim to grow this event and encourage the theme of linking a career in sports turf with playing and enjoying the game.

The college wishes to thank Ransomes Jacobsen for their positive support of all the educational programmes at Cannington.

ULTIMATE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

With prices for waste falling through the floor throughout the world, one British company has created the ultimate virtuous circle – converting plastic waste into an efficient land drainage system.

Aquadyne is converted from virtually any form of plastic – silage wrap to plastic bags, wheelie bins to water bottles – into easily installed blocks of macro and micro porous cells that drain surface water from agricultural fields, sports pitches, golf courses and domestic gardens.

"Newcastle University conducted a life cycle assessment, which concluded that every 200 panels of Aquadyne saves more than two tonnes of carbon emissions," said James Arrowsmith, of Aquadyne Sales & Marketing. "The product is simple to install with minimal disturbance to the grass surface and will effectively drain up to 20 litres of water per second."





Some of the greenkeepers from the event

Greenkeeping Seminar

Eighty golf course and sports ground industry professionals from Devon and Cornwall with students from Duchy College attended a free greenkeeping seminar at Duchy College, Stoke Climsland campus recently. The event was funded by the European Social Fund to provide up to date knowledge from industry specialists.

Two key speakers Steve Gingell, Area Manager for

South West England and South Wales for Sports Turf Research Institute gave a seminar on the use of fertilisers for fine turf. The second speaker was Roger Davey, Managing Director at Irritech an independent irrigation and Consultancy Company who provided information on golf course irrigation.

The event was organised by Steve Evans, work based

assessor/lecturer at Duchy College, Stoke Climsland and has over 35 years experience in the industry. Steve commented: "We have had an amazing attendance for the event, which highlights the need for continuing professional development in the industry. I would like to thank the guest speakers for providing their time, Devon and Cornwall BIGGA and all those who attended."

RADICAL ACTION BEATS THE FUZ



A 30 year old Surrey golf club has enjoyed its first fusarium free winter following radical action by the Head Greenkeeper. Mark Pennells, of The Drift Golf Club at East Horsley, took the decision to apply over 6,000 kg of lightweight, porous, calcinated soil amendment into his 20 greens in September, and hasn't seen a sign of disease since.



John McCormack (left) with new CMAE President John Hunt.

"THE COLONEL" TAKES CHARGE AT THE CMAE

The Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE) appointed a new President at its Spring Conference at Wentworth recently.

John Hunt, Secretary of The Berkshire Golf Club, Ascot, England takes over from John McCormack of Castle Golf Club, Dublin, in the two-year role.

Lt Col Hunt, affectionately known as 'The Colonel' by CMAE members, admitted his rank and previous career as an officer in the English Army might suggest he was an old-style club manager but that he was "ahead of the game" thanks to education and networking made possible by CMAE membership.

More than 60 club managers from across Europe, including representatives from Italy, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Ireland, as well as from around the United Kingdom, attended the two-day event at Surrey's Wentworth Club. Among the topics discussed was the impact of the economic crisis and solutions club managers could implement, with input from partners Premium Credit, Jonas Software, E-Z-GO and Colt Mackenzie McNair.

Members were also given an exclusive first glimpse of the new-look CMAE website, with new resources and information for visitors and for CMAE Members: www.cmaeurope.org



Notice to All Members of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

As you should be aware, on 21st January 2009, the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) passed a resolution at its Annual General Meeting approving the conversion of BIGGA into a company limited by guarantee and authorising the Board of Management (the Current Board) to undertake such actions as are appropriate to facilitate such conversion.

The rationale behind the proposed conversion is set out below in the section headed 'Why convert to a company limited by guarantee?' as well as the practical implications of such conversion for you as a member of BIGGA (in the section headed 'What does conversion mean for you?').

The Current Board has already set up a new company limited by guarantee – the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited (BIGGA Limited) – the first members of which are the members of the existing Board of Management of BIGGA. It proposes to use BIGGA Limited to facilitate the conversion. A copy of BIGGA Limited's memorandum and articles of association (i.e. its objects and its constitution) is available on the BIGGA web site or upon request from Headquarters.

It is intended that with effect from 1st July 2009 (the Effective Date) all of BIGGA's assets, undertaking and business will be transferred to BIGGA Limited and BIGGA Limited will operate under a set of rules which effectively replicates BIGGA's current constitution.

In conjunction with the conversion to a company limited by guarantee, we need your written consent for you to become a member of BIGGA Limited and to this end you will receive an application form in the post.

Please would you complete and sign the form and return it to Headquarters in the envelope supplied, to arrive no later than 30th June 2009 (Return Date).

We strongly recommend that you read the remaining paragraphs of this notice, in particular the section headed: *What does conversion mean for you?*

Please note that if you do not return your completed application form for membership of BIGGA Limited by the Return Date:

- You will continue to be a member of BIGGA; however, as outlined below, with effect from the Effective Date, all of the benefits of membership of BIGGA and associated administration will be provided by BIGGA Limited; and
- When your annual membership subscription next becomes due for renewal, the receipt by BIGGA from you of a completed subscription renewal form and/or subscription monies will be deemed to constitute an application from you for membership of BIGGA Limited. Accordingly you will be entered on the register of members of BIGGA Limited with effect from the date of renewal of your subscription.

We propose to take the following additional steps over the course of the next four weeks, with a view to implementing the proposed conversion with effect from the Effective Date:

1. Adopt a new 'rule book' for the organisation and management of BIGGA Limited, which will be adopted pursuant to BIGGA Limited's articles of association and will effectively replicate the existing constitution of BIGGA;
2. Transfer to BIGGA Limited all of the assets and undertaking of BIGGA, with the exception of the subscriptions

of members who have not opted to become members of BIGGA Limited by way of a written agreement between BIGGA and BIGGA Limited;

3. Register as members of BIGGA Limited all members of BIGGA who have opted to become members of the limited company; and

4. Put in place arrangements whereby all services to members of BIGGA (whether or not they have opted to become members of BIGGA Limited) will be provided by BIGGA Limited on and with effect from the Effective Date.

It is intended that BIGGA (ie the business in existence before conversion to a limited company) will automatically dissolve upon expiry of the last deadline for renewal of current membership subscriptions, since at that point it will have no assets and no members.

Why convert to a company limited by guarantee?

Like many unincorporated associations, the Current Board has decided to convert BIGGA to a company limited by guarantee because it considers that such a structure will be advantageous to the association.

The principal advantage of conversion to a limited company will be that the association will have its own legal identity, distinct from that of the individual members of its Board of Management. This will allow it to enter into contracts in its own name, rather than in the name of individual members of the Board of Management, and it will also allow it to hold title to land and other assets in its own name.

It will also mean that BIGGA Limited, rather than individual members of the Board of Management, will be liable for fulfilling any contracts to which BIGGA Limited is a party, as

well as any negligence and/or breach of statutory duties.

What does conversion mean for you?

Your rights as a member of BIGGA Limited will be set out in the memorandum and articles of association of the company, as well as BIGGA Limited's 'rule book', as amended from time to time.

As a member of BIGGA Limited, you will enjoy all of the benefits you currently enjoy as a member of BIGGA. The only practical difference between the two forms of membership from your perspective will be that, as a member of a company limited by guarantee, and for a period of one year following cessation of your membership of the limited company, you will have limited personal liability (up to a maximum amount of £1) for any outstanding debts of BIGGA Limited, but only if BIGGA Limited is wound up and a contribution is needed to enable its debts to be paid.

As a member of BIGGA Limited, you will be entitled to withdraw from the limited company by giving at least seven clear days' notice to BIGGA Limited. Your membership of BIGGA Limited will not be transferable and will cease in the event of any one of the following being applicable: (i) death, (ii) if your membership fee has not been paid, (iii) if your circumstances change and you no longer qualify to be a member or (iv) as a result of disciplinary action taken against you by BIGGA Limited.

If you have any queries on the contents of this notice or require further information then please do not hesitate to contact the Chief Executive, John Pemberton, either by post at the Headquarters' address or by email (john@bigga.co.uk).

**Peter Todd
Chairman**



First Sowings at Cropvale

Specialist grass seed breeder Barenbrug has seen the first of its amenity trial plots sown at its UK amenity research site at Cropvale in Worcestershire.

Barenbrug UK's research and development manager Jayne Leyland and UK production manager Andrew Sadler (pictured) were both on hand to scrutinise the plots.

Synergy of mixtures is one of the key areas for study, and the first sowing includes 11 new mixture formulations, which the company will be comparing with its existing BAR range.

Dealer Network Strengthened

Kubota has further strengthened its UK dealer network with the appointment of Rod Gaskin (Farm Equipment) Ltd as a Kubota tractor and groundcare dealer for North Hampshire and West Sussex.

Rod Gaskin Ltd offers the complete Kubota range of ride-on mowers, for domestic and professional use; tractors from 12-128hp, and four variants of the RTV900 all-terrain utility vehicle.

Gaskin's founder and managing director, Rod Gaskin said: "Kubota is a franchise I have always wanted and when the opportunity came up I jumped at it. I am impressed with the quality of Kubota machines, which slot in perfectly alongside the other leading equipment brands we supply, and also with the outstanding level of support provided by Kubota."



Hugh Knowles (left) and Rob Surgey, Senior Course Manager at Burhill Golf Club, Surrey, surveying the successful heather regeneration project at Burhill, part of the group's environment policy and action plan.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY INTRODUCED

Burhill Golf and Leisure Limited has introduced an environment policy designed to enrich the environments of its 10 courses and promote sound, sustainable management of its facilities.

The policy, which demonstrates a high degree of environmental awareness and quality, covers all aspects of on and off-course operations and sets out clear guidelines on the management of water, habitat and waste, as well as introducing an action plan to reduce the group's energy consumption by 15% within six months.

Among the initiatives already underway at the group's three golf clubs and seven pay-and-play golf centres are a heather restoration project at Burhill Golf Club; ornithological surveys and the

addition of bird boxes at Abbey Hill Golf Centre, Milton Keynes; a new reservoir at Hoebridge Golf Centre, Surrey; waste water recycling for machinery wash down at Burhill Golf Club, Wycombe Heights Golf Centre and Abbey Hill Golf Centre; plus integrated supplier plans to reduce packaging and haulage.

An immediate energy reduction plan was put in place at the beginning of 2009 with energy audits being carried out at all 10 facilities, resulting in boiler efficiency improvements, new insulation of heating systems and roof spaces, overnight charging of electric buggies, complete re-lamping of internal and external lighting with energy efficient bulbs, plus the introduction of 'motion detector' light switches.

GOLFERS DRIVE FORE BRAKE

To help raise awareness of the 3,000 people killed every single year on UK roads, Brake is appealing to golfers to 'Drive fore Brake' and organise a charity golf day through their golf club or company.

The appeal, promoted by Brake, aims to raise awareness of crashes in the golfing community and their families.

A horrifying 87 people are killed and seriously injured on UK roads every day. The vast majority of these deaths and serious injuries are a result of dangerous or careless driving and could have been avoided. Brake believes the best way to tackle this is to educate drivers on how they can look after their own and other people's safety. By linking with Brake, we hope golfers will take on board the importance of driving safely.

The funds raised through the appeal will be directed to Brake's support services, including education of all road users and the charity's Brakecare division; supporting people bereaved or seriously injured through road crashes.

For more information contact: 01484 530085 or email: hmervill@brake.org.uk