

ERIC KULAAS WINS EDWIN BUDDING AWARD

Eric Kulaas, Equipment Manager at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club in St. Vincent, Florida, is the second winner of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The Award was created to recognise technical professionals in the turf equipment sector whose actions have gone above and beyond the norm to help shape the golf industry into what it is today. Edwin Budding was one of those individuals who helped define golf, not as a player, but as an engineer. He designed the first cylinder mower, which has shaped golf as we know it today.

Eric was selected by a committee of industry professionals chosen by IGCEMA back in November 2008. He was presented with his award by David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, at a ceremony at Harrogate Week.

“The IGCEMA wanted to recognise individuals who demonstrate the same qualities as Edwin Budding; influence significant change in our industry above and beyond normal day-to-day work. IGCEMA has created an award for actual, measurable accomplishments, to make an accurate judgment of contributions made to the industry, and reward those contributions,” said David.



David Withers (far left) of the award sponsors, Ransomes Jacobsen, and Eric Kulaas (third from right) with representatives from IGCEMA at the presentation of the Edwin Budding Award.

AERATION RESTORES

Six thousand square metres of severely compacted turf at St. James' Park, London are on the way to recovery, following one-metre deep compressed air de-compaction treatment.

Terrain Aeration was hired to treat turf areas compacted during the Olympic Handover Concert last August.

“After the concert we were left with severe compaction in the area behind the temporary stage,” said Assistant Park Manager, David Ellis.

Terrain Aeration employed its largest terralift machine, Airforce along with the smaller lighter model, Airforce Scamper to treat the area, inserting a one-metre probe and injecting compressed air at two metre spacings on a staggered grid pattern.



EIRIAS PARK HOSTS FIRST NORTH WEST SHOW

Groundsmen and Greenkeepers from all over the North West will be converging on Eirias Park Stadium, Colwyn Bay this month (March 18) for the first one day seminar and trade show specifically organised to serve the region.

This joint, non profit making initiative by Conwy Borough Council and Vitax Amenity includes a free seminar programme with subjects ranging from

‘A Biological Approach to Pest Management in Green Flag Parks’ by Becker Underwood to ‘The Use of Selective Weed Killers and Weed Control Products’ by Vitax Amenity.

Working demonstrations of ‘line marking’, ‘spiking and slitting’ and ‘sandbanding’ will take place in the central arena, which will be encircled by trade stands representing companies and

organisations as diverse as Tacit, Sisis, Denby Plant Hire and The Welsh College of Horticulture.

The Eirias Park show is on Wednesday, March 18 at Eirias Park Stadium, Colwyn Bay from 10am to 4.30pm.

For further information on either visiting or exhibiting contact Colin Turner on Tel: 07816 849559 or: 01756 791482.

FIRST CITY AND GUILD CLASS

BIGGA Life Member, Bob Moffat, has uncovered a photograph from, he thinks, the late '60s or early '70s containing some well known personalities within the industry, who were the first to sit City and Guilds exams in Scotland.

Bob, who now lives in Hampshire, recalls the background to the C&G programme being set up.

"To the best of my memory it was one day I met a person on the 18th fairway of Cathkin Braes GC, where I was Head Greenkeeper, in the late 1960s or early 1970s. That person was Charles Crossan, Head Teacher at Woodburn House, and he asked if I had anything to do with, the then, SIGGA. I was the Secretary. The next question was would the Association be interested in training to City & Guild standard as he was very interested and would contact C&G and would come back to the Association.

"My reply was that I would bring the matter to Committee. I am pleased to say that is where

it all started," said Bob.

"Cecil George, of Lenzie GC, and myself were the first Greenkeepers to become practical examiners at Woodburn House."

Below is a photo of what Bob believes is the first class to sit C&G.

"There are many familiar faces among them, anybody recognise these people? I have some names as on the list below.

"Ronnie Bunting, Jim Grainger, Chris Kennedy, Lauchlan McGill, David McIndoe and Bill Paterson. These lads may be in the photo. The two beside Cecil are Mr Crossan and Mr Macdonald, both teachers."

Please send in any old greenkeeper pictures you may have to scott@bigga.co.uk



WINNER CHOOSES EDUCATION

Andrew Flemmings, from Filey Golf Club, was the lucky winner of a £50 voucher for BIGGA merchandise having had his ticket drawn from the hat on the Vitax Amenity stand at Harrogate Week 2009.

Andrew, whose ticket also invited him to the "Stress Relief on a US Open Course" seminar conducted for Vitax by Colin Burns, General Manager

of Winged Foot Golf Club, was delighted. "I'm going to spend the prize on a BIGGA's education course," he said.

New National BIGGA Chairman, Peter Todd did the honours while the "hat" was one of Vitax Amenity's new Supaturf Spreaders on display on the stand.

APOLOGY

Last month's article "Quality Control at Hewarth GC" unfortunately did not include contact details for the contributing companies: **Full Circle Irrigation Services**, Tel: 01423 799900 email: info@fullcircleirrigation.co.uk, and **John Deere Ltd**, Tel: 0800 085 2522 Website: www.johndeere.co.uk.
Our apologies to both companies.

THE GRASS IS GETTING GREENER

Harrogate Week 2009 provided the perfect opportunity for Barenbrug to catch up with one of its key customers – Perranporth Golf Club.

Perranporth was central to the development of the specialist grass seed breeder's BAR 22 all-fescue mixture after it participated in a species exchange overseeding trial in spring 2006.

Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, said that the course continues to reap the benefits of the programme Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager Jayne Leyland devised.

"Avoncrop Amenity's John Palfrey introduced me to Jayne and the team during Harrogate Week 2006,"

Seven mixtures were trialled across Perranporth's greens and tees, with the results from the mixture synergies sown leading directly to BAR 22's development, which features 30 per cent Hardtop hard fescue and a blend of Chewings and slender creeping red fescues, and boasts a superior winter green and drought tolerance.

Starting in spring, Bill is now set to overseed with the mixture he helped create in order to achieve full species exchange.

"I was very happy with the trial results. In particular, the grass held its green through the winter, which is important for golfers, and we now plan to continue the programme into the aprons and approaches," said Bill.



From left, Barenbrug's David Singleton and Jayne Leyland with Perranporth's Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, and his Deputy and brother, John Mitchell.

ON COURSE FOR GREAT THINGS

A Jack Nicklaus signature golf course – only the second in Ireland – the first Dave Pelz Golf Academy to be built in Europe, a Grade 1 listed castle, 11 acres of man-made lakes and a drainage system the length of the Grand Canyon are the central features of what is believed to be Europe's largest landscaping contract.

Killeen Castle, to the north west of Dublin, is the centrepiece of a 560-acre golf resort development that will include a five-star hotel,

championship quality golf course and 162 residential properties.

The castle, originally built in the 12th century, was once home to the Plunkett family and Earls of Fingall; in the 19th century the ninth Earl replaced it in the style of Windsor Castle, but the building was gutted by fire in 1981. It has now undergone a nine-month, multi-million dollar refurbishment by architects Michael Collins & Associates, in which 50 masons cleaned and restored every brick and stone by hand.

Maintenance of the 18 hole, 7650 yard golf course, which is due to open this spring, is already being carried out by a team of 10 greens staff led by course superintendent Mark Collins and assistant Robert Kane, using a fleet of John Deere equipment supplied by local dealer Dublin Grass Machinery (pictured). In all around 270 acres of the estate are devoted to golf, including the course and academy, which is designed to improve putting and short game skills.



Paul Dixon (centre) receiving his certificate from Sadie Chalkley, Chairman of British Hardware Federation and soon to be the first woman president of BHF Group, and BHF Group managing director Alan Hawkins.

HUNT STARTS FOR NEW TYPES OF WASTE TO BE RECYCLED

The search for additional waste materials that can be reused and recycled, rather than needlessly dumped in landfill, has been launched by the Waste Protocols Project - a joint Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) initiative.

The Project, set up in 2006 to help industry make better use of waste materials by clarifying in Quality Protocols how and when waste can be freed up from regulations and used with no further risk to the environment, has identified a range of materials that can be turned into new items rather than discarded.

To date 11 materials – including non-packaging plastics such as old drainpipes - and waste cooking

oil that can be transformed into biodiesel – have been reviewed by the project. In total this first wave of protocols, over the next 10 years, are projected to save businesses and industry more than £400 million, create a £280 million market in the materials and divert 17 million tonnes of waste from landfill.

Martin Brocklehurst, the Environment Agency's Head of Environment Protection External Programmes, said: "The Waste Protocol Project is an exciting initiative that is already making a positive impact on both industry and the environment. But we don't want to stop here. There are more types of waste that could be treated as a resource rather than rubbish and because it takes time to develop

a Quality Protocol we want to start identifying more potentially suitable materials now.

"For Quality Protocols to be effective and divert waste from landfill, reduce pressure on precious natural resources and reduce businesses' overheads in this tough economic climate, it's vital that industry bring their technical expertise to the table. We need industry's help to ensure that the waste materials with the greatest potential for recycling and reuse are selected."

Application forms can be downloaded at www.environmentagency.gov.uk/wasteprotocolsselection and, once completed, submitted to wspgroup.com before 12noon on Wednesday 8 April 2009.

THE INTEGRATION OF SPORTS TURF LANDSCAPE STAFF INTO BIGGA MEMBERSHIP



Some of the facts...

- BIGGA is a professionally managed and forward-looking organisation dedicated to the training, education and continuing professional development of all its members.
- Only groundsmen involved in the maintenance of sports turf are being considered for Full Membership.
- There are a great number of non-member greenkeepers and BIGGA will be implementing a recruitment drive in the spring.
- BIGGA is not in financial difficulty.
- The Board believes that BIGGA membership offers good value for money.
- Courtesy golf is not a right of membership and will always be at the discretion of the golf club. The inclusion of groundsmen should not adversely affect this.
- There is little likelihood of a mass joining by groundsmen thereby 'swamping' the current greenkeeper membership base.
- Greenkeepers and groundsmen have a lot that can be shared when it comes to education and training.
- BIGGA's name will not change if groundsmen are allowed to join
- Greenkeeper International can adopt a more holistic approach to sports turf.
- Trade companies are looking for a more dominant organisation to deal with in the Sports Turf sector.

Anyone who wishes any further information regarding the above should contact John Pemberton at BIGGA HOUSE.

FOCUS ON FIELD DAYS

The European Turfgrass Society has lined up an exciting and informative programme for its Field Days to be held in Valencia, Spain, on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday, April 22.

Details were confirmed at an ETS board meeting in November, hosted by Prof. Diego Gomez de Barreda, of the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia.

Taking advantage of this opportunity to meet at the Field Days, ETS members are invited to attend the ETS General Assembly, which will also take place at the April event. Further details will follow in the forthcoming members' newsletter.

And looking further ahead the programme of ETS Conferences and Field Days up to 2012 has now been confirmed: 2010 Conference: Angers - France; 2011 Field Days: Brussels - Belgium; 2012 Conference: London - UK.

For more information visit: www.turfgrasssociety.eu



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NEWS

HALLAMSHIRE OPTS FOR EXCLUSIVITY

Hallamshire Golf Club has signed a Toro agreement. The Sheffield club, which recently celebrated its centenary, had always shied away from committing to a single machinery manufacturer, but its positive experiences with its existing Toro kit convinced the committee to agree to the five-year deal.

Course Manager of 25 years, Gordon Brammah, commented: "We're a long-standing Toro user, but we've used a range of machinery in the past. I've always gone for the machine that did the job, rather than stick to a single manufacturer. But the greens staff and I have always been highly satisfied with the quality of our Toro machines and so when we decided to look at an exclusive package."

Hallamshire's new fleet includes four Greensmaster 1000s, a Greensmaster 3250-D, two Reelmaster 3100-Ds with Sidewinder, a Reelmaster 6500-D with DPA cutting units and a Groundsmaster 3500-D. Gordon says that the mowers are "doing a very good job" maintaining the 18-hole course.



From left are Lely's Jeff Anguige, Hallamshire Golf Club Director David Westaway, Course Manager Gordon Brammah, Lely's Nigel Lovatt and YTM's Tony Dodson, with the greenkeepers behind.

NATIONAL SKILLS CHALLENGE SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

The National Skills Challenge, designed to encourage youngsters to get into golf, has been shortlisted for The Sports Industry Awards 2009. The English Golf Union (EGU) and the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) worked with creative digital experts, Nemisis, to develop the online application to encourage children into the sport.

The Sport Industry Awards is Europe's largest and most prestigious commercial sport awards. The National Skills Challenge has been shortlisted for the category 'Best Promotion of Sport by a Governing Body'.

The National Skills Challenge has played a key role in a number of structured initiatives, delivered by the EGU and EWGA, that have helped junior membership of golf clubs increase by around 8,000 since 2004. County organisations are also welcoming the positive results and 26 have registered to deliver the activity locally to complement the work undertaken at national level.

REGIONAL SEMINARS

Amenity Land Solutions will be staging three half-day regional seminars in March looking at some of the future options available for complete weed control in amenity situations.

This topic is of particular and growing relevance following the passing by the European Parliament of 'The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive', which requires significant cuts to be made in pesticide use by 2010.

Among those who will benefit from attending are Local Authority staff, contractors, landscapers and others with responsibility for managing or implementing weed control in amenity areas and other open spaces.

The dates and venues for the three seminars are: Thursday, March 5: Twickenham Rugby Stadium (Obelensky Suite); Tuesday, March 10: Wolverhampton Wanderers FC's Molineux Stadium (Executive Lounge); Thursday, March 12: Manchester City FC's City of Manchester Stadium (Players Wives' Lounge). All seminars run from 10am until 1pm and will be followed by a buffet lunch. The speakers at all three seminars are: Jonathan Carr, Managing Director of Amenity Land Solutions; Paul Clifton, Bayer Environmental Science; Dr Dominic Lamb (and/or Manda Samson), Monsanto.

Those wishing to attend any of the seminars need to reserve a place by registering at: www.amenity.co.uk

OFFICIAL RANGEFINDER OF THE ENGLISH GOLF UNION

SkyCaddie has been announced as the Official Rangefinder of the English Golf Union just weeks after the organisation took the groundbreaking decision to allow distance measuring devices in all its championships in 2009.

Having put in place a three-year agreement, SkyCaddie will this year support 18 EGU Championships, provide SkyCaddie GPS units at a special rate to county players via the EGU County Coaching network and supply SkyCaddies for use by the EGU's England squads.

Jackie Hitchcock, SkyCaddie UK managing director, said: "We are delighted to be working so closely with the EGU, especially as they have such strong links to the amateur game at elite, county and club level.