

MEMORIAL GOLF DAY TO BECOME ANNUAL EVENT

Richard Campey, of Campey Turfcare Systems, was delighted to present the recently re-named Bert Cross Memorial Trophy to Peter Hogan, winner of the Bert Cross Memorial Golf Competition hosted by the North West Section of BIGGA.

A total of 41 players took part in the competition at Wilmslow Golf Club, and Peter won with a score of 39.

A keen and able golfer, Bert Cross had a long association with BIGGA, serving as Northern Regional Chairman and on the National Board of Management. He died in the same year as he was elected President of the North West Section after being its Secretary for 30 years, and it is in his honour that the President's Cup has been re-named the Bert Cross Memorial Trophy, sponsored by Campey Turfcare Systems.

"We welcome this opportunity to be able to celebrate Bert's life in this small way," said Richard.

"In memory of a valued and respected colleague and a much loved individual who devoted a huge effort to his charitable interests as well as contributing significantly to the golfing industry."

Bert and wife, Marie, were dedicated to helping over 270 orphans, all living with either AIDS or HIV, at the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia, making regular trips to deliver clothes and much needed medical supplies. Marie has since completed a

particularly poignant trip, where she spread some of Bert's ashes at the orphanage.

Chris Sheehan, current North West Section Secretary said: "We'd like to thank both Richard Campey and Wilmslow Golf Club. It's our intention to hold this event every year and a suggestion has been put forward that we can use it to continue fundraising for the Kasisi Orphanage in the future. The competition will be open to all greenkeepers, anyone who knew Bert and who enjoys playing golf."

Sometimes fact can be stranger than fiction - the day before the competition was played, Chris Sheehan received an email out of the blue from golf photographer Alan Birch. He had been sorting archive pics and had stumbled across one which he thought might interest him. It was a picture taken at Carnoustie in 1999, of Chris Sheehan, Billy Merritt (NW Section Treasurer), Steve Oultram (Course Manager of Wilmslow GC) and Bert Cross. They were all at Carnoustie for the Open offering tournament support.

The timing was uncanny but very apt. Chris took the picture to Wilmslow the next day to show the others who were all going to be playing on the day.

"I'm not usually superstitious, but it did make the hairs on the back of my neck stand up and we all agreed that Bert was at the event in spirit if not in body," said Chris.



Richard Campey, of Campey Turfcare Systems, presents The Bert Cross Memorial Trophy to Peter Hogan, winner of the inaugural Bert Cross Memorial Golf Competition, sponsored by Campey Turfcare Systems.

MIDLAND SECTION EDUCATION

The Midland Section education event held at Sandwell Park last month was well supported with over 50 delegates attending.

The event entitled 'Sustainable Future - The Need for Change' was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and was a follow on event from last years STRI Sustainable Management seminar.

Delegates were treated to expert presentations from Kate Entwistle, Turf Disease Centre, talking about disease identification and the importance of setting economic thresholds for disease, Andy Cole, STRI, focusing on sustainable management and benchmarking assessments and finally Ben Taylor, Bernhard and Company, on the importance of unit maintenance and the role it plays in reducing disease risk and nutrient loss.

A special thank you goes to Ben for donating a turf macroscope which was drawn as a prize for one of the Warwickshire College students. A thank you also goes out to Gary Armstrong, Warwickshire College, for bringing the students and supporting the event.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Sherriff Amenity has announced the appointment of Ronnie Frame as an Amenity Specialist.

Ronnie, who joins Sherriff Amenity with over 31 years experience of working within the amenity industry, will be responsible for developing the company's business in east and central Scotland.



Ronnie Frame

NEW CHAIRMAN

The FEGGA AGM saw a new Chairman elected following a two year term with Gorazd Nastran at the helm.

Stig Persson, from Sweden, was elected during the FEGGA annual Conference held in Copenhagen, and will initially serve for a two year period.

Stig, who many will know, brings a wealth of experience and will serve as a great ambassador of FEGGA.

Stig paid tribute to the leadership of Gorazd during the last two years and acknowledged the work that Gorazd had done in representing the European greenkeeping industry, not just during the last two years as Chairman, but also for his six years on the board.

The AGM also saw Goncalo Carneiro, from Portugal, take on the role of Vice Chairman, a role that Goncalo will embrace.

FEGGA also elected three new board members, Kamil Pecenka, from the Czech Republic; Michael McFeely, from the Rep. of Ireland, and Olafur Thor Agustsson, from Iceland.

The conference brought together some 44 organisations from Europe and beyond with an agenda filled with many of the pertinent subjects challenging the golf industry today.

Held at two venues this year; this first day was held at the wonderful and unique setting of Copenhagen Golf Club, where the delegates were treated to a tour of the golf course following a busy seminar schedule.

The second day was held at the Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel, which provided excellent facilities for the formalities of the seminar day, along with other meetings coming under the umbrella of the FEGGA Conference.

The main theme was centred around Sustainability, and where better to discuss the big theme, than in Denmark and more so at the Copenhagen Golf Club, which is a wonderful site, but at the same time very challenging in terms of the overall maintenance of the golf course

The delegates also enjoyed the FEGGA Scholarship Students presentations, sharing their valuable experiences and proving that we have some very good people coming into our industry today.

The final part of the Conference was a selection of group sessions, based on subjects that organisations felt were important to them and would help either in dealing with the current climate or focusing on their future needs to progress as organisations.

TOP RANKING IN 'BEST COMPANY' LIST

IPU Group has been placed 48th in the Sunday Times 'Best Small Companies to Work For' list released recently, and awarded a two star rating as part of the 'Best Companies' Accreditation scheme in the UK - which measures the company's engagement with employees.

The Sunday Times national listing is the sixth annual review of companies with no fewer than 565 small companies seeking a place on the 'elite' 100 list. This year 34,295 employees were surveyed, making it one of the most comprehensive studies of workplace opinion and employee engagement measuring key factors such as

leadership, my manager, personal growth, well-being, my team, giving something back, my company and fair deal.

The award is particularly special as it coincides with the company celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009. Roy Beebee originally started the family business in 1959 (father of the current Managing Director Robert Beebee) when it began importing JLO engines for the Go-Kart market.

The 'Best Company' award was presented to Andrew Whitehouse and David Caddick at a prestigious ceremony in London on Wednesday 28 January 2009.



L to R: Andrew Whitehouse, BSC Divisional Director and David Caddick, Engine Starting Divisional Director collect the 'Best Company' award.

MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

Since launching an innovative credit crunching golf membership scheme this Spring Rudding Park, in Harrogate, has sold over 80 memberships. The scheme, developed to offer members real value for money, ensures there are no wasted membership fees or costly hidden charges - you only pay for as much golf as you play.

The membership is the first of its kind in the North of England and costs from just £250 per year. New members pay an annual subscription

of £150 and then purchase credits which are redeemed against rounds of golf on Rudding Park's 18-hole Hawtree Course or six-hole Repton Short Course - the number of credits spent depends upon the time of day and the course selected. For example, a Peak round on the Hawtree Course costs 10 credits whereas an Off Peak round on Repton Short Course is just one credit. The price of credits starts from £100 for 60, but the more you buy, the greater the saving.

ELMWOOD STUDENTS ON COURSE AT THE BELFRY

Students studying Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management at Elmwood College have been successful in securing summer placements at the Belfry Golf Club, West Midlands.

The students had to complete a selection process with students from Ireland, Germany and China being selected to spend six weeks at this prestigious venue.

The students will work with the Club's Greenkeeping team – led by BIGGA Past Chairman, Kenny Mackay - throughout the placement period, which will help them build on the knowledge and

skills they developed at Elmwood.

Stuart Mackie, Course Tutor for HNC Golf Course Management, said, "I'm very excited that the students have been given these placements. The students show the multicultural mix of students who chose to study golf related subjects at Elmwood."

Gavin Jones, from Ireland, who has secured one of the placement places added, "This is a great opportunity for me, when I started my NC course I could never believe for one moment that I would be carrying out my placement at the Belfry."



Left to Right are students: Duoshan Wa, Gavin Jones, Rui Wang, Wang Hui, Lukas Boettcher & Jun Zhi Cao.



A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Andrew Simm, Deputy Course Manager at Sandiway Golf Club in Cheshire, celebrated 20 years at the club at the end of March.

The remarkable element is that in all those 20 years he had not had one day off though sickness. To mark the achievement Club Captain, Simon La Frenais, presented Andrew with a limited edition print of the club's 11th hole.

"I'm sure there have been times when he would have liked to have turned over and pulled the duvet over his head but he has always come in. He shows real professionalism and a desire not to let anyone down," said Course Manager, Brian Turner.

PARTS TRAINING ON COURSE FOR SUCCESS

John Deere's Parts Tech training programme is now well into its second year, with applications being invited for enrolment on the next course starting in September 2009.

Launched by John Deere in partnership with Brooksby Melton College in 2007, Parts Tech is a specialist-training programme for aspiring parts apprentices. It is run on similar lines to the Ag Tech and Turf Tech apprentice engineering technician programmes.

The 12-month Parts Tech training programme combines distance learning, work-based assessments and four one-week training blocks at Brooksby Melton College and at John Deere's Training Centre at Langar.

NEW GUIDELINES ON ROLLING CRICKET PITCHES

New guidelines launched recently by Cranfield University and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) could save over 700,000 hours of cricket pitch preparation time across the UK through more effective use of rollers.

The findings are a result of four years of research by Cranfield's Centre for Sports Surface Technology commissioned by the ECB, which aims to develop a scientific understanding of the rolling of cricket pitches in order to optimise pitch preparation. The research marks a significant shift from current practice and understanding in cricket.

Chris Wood, Pitches Consultant, England and Wales Cricket Board, said: "This is research that I'm pleased to say will go a long way to dispel

the myths and legends and instill sound and economical rolling practices for the production of quality pitches across all levels of cricket."

Working with ECB and the IOG over 100 ground staff across England and Wales were consulted throughout the research process to identify the scope for improvement. Results demonstrated that in first class cricket, the number of roller passes over the pitch ranged from 5 to 280, allowing plenty of scope for optimisation.

The guidelines, aimed at both professional and volunteer ground staff, are available to download from the Cranfield website at www.cranfield.ac.uk/sas/sst/rolling or from the ECB website at www.ecb.co.uk/rolling

SCOTTISH EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2009

The annual education conference took place on Tuesday, March 3 at Carnegie College, Dunfermline.

This year the conference was well attended with 161 delegates attending from every corner of the region. In the absence of our Regional Administrator it was Central Section Committee who took on the role of registering all delegates on arrival.

When the educational seminars got underway it was Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity who started proceedings with a very informative talk on sustainability looking at management practices on the golf course.

Stuart Staples from Scott's followed on with a talk on the subject of integrated management to improve turf quality, which again was very informative.

Before lunch Steve Isaac from the R&A continued the sustainability theme with an interesting overview on sustainability at home and abroad and the importance of being more sustainable in the uncertain future.

After a very good lunch, which we must thank all at Carnegie College for we were treated to three afternoon talks from three greenkeepers from both home and abroad. Laurence Pithie from Crown Golf spoke on managing more effectively the golf course operations, which is something I am sure we will all be more aware of as we move into more uncertain times globally.

David MacIndoe from Killarney followed on with his presentation on a challenging form of greenkeeping with some interesting challenges that David has had to deal with in the past as well as what lies ahead in the future.

The day was rounded off by David Cole from Loch Lomond who briefed us on the development and implementation of a management plan on the Wee Bonnie Banks!

Big thanks to all speakers for taking the time out to present to the region, very much appreciated. We must thank Peter Boyd for putting together a fantastic array of speakers and also his daughter Karen for finalising arrangements in his absence.

Report by Gordon McKie, Chairman Central Section

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2009 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, Glasgow on Thursday, June 11 by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £22, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes. (Apprentice fee £12.). Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Golf outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Tuesday 2nd June, 2009.

Please make cheques payable to BIGGA Scottish Region. The draw will be posted on the BIGGA website: www.bigga.org.uk

*Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator*

YOUNG TALENT ON SOME OF THE OLDEST LINKS

The creams of world's best young golfers will be heading to Scotland in May to take part in the prestigious US Kids Golf European Championships.

More than 400 players from some 30 nations will be competing in the event which has emerged as Europe's premier junior tournament to showcase the next generation of golfing stars.

The event – to be held across five of Scotland's historic golf courses in East Lothian in May - sees boys and girls split into different gender and age categories in order to compete for the title of US Kids Golf European champion.

The top finishers in each category will then compete in the Van Horn Cup – a showpiece event, modelled on the Ryder Cup, where the best European players are pitted against the top non-Europe golfers. The top five finishers in each age and gender group also automatically receive an invitation to the US Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst Golf Club, North Carolina, in August.

The tournament is jointly organised by Wee Wonders Limited and US Kids Golf Foundation who are committed to growing the game among children and families across the globe.

The 2009 European Championships will be played between May 26-28, 2009 on five courses in East Lothian - Gullane No. 2, Gullane No. 3, Craigielaw Golf Club, Kilspindie Golf Club and Luffness New Golf Club. The Van Horn Cup is played on May 29 at Gullane No. 1.

SUPPLY AGREEMENT

Sherriff Amenity is delighted to announce that an agreement has been signed with De Vere Hotel & Leisure to become the sole supplier of chemical, fertiliser and grass seed to their golf courses nationwide.

De Vere Hotel & Leisure is committed to giving their customers a unique experience on some of the most stunning championship courses across the UK.

BIGGA GOLF DAY 2009

BIGGA's annual golf day will take place on Monday, June 15 at Aldwark Manor Golf Club, near York. A great opportunity to have some fun and network in a relaxed environment, the day will kick off at 10.30am with coffee and a bacon roll. At midday there will be a shotgun start with stableford play. A reception drink and two-course meal will be served at 5.30pm and presentations and a raffle shall take place at 6.30pm.

Companies currently sponsoring the event are: The GTC, Q Hotels, Hunters Grinders, Heath Lambert, New Holland, Rigby Taylor, John Deere, Dyofix, Barenbrug, Scotts and Destination Harrogate.

For more information and to book your teams place contact Sandra Raper at BIGGA HQ on: 01347 833800.

FOOTBALL CRAZY

A bit of Saturday morning fun between Ayrshire greenkeepers and West of Scotland greenkeepers ended three each after a hard fought come back by the West. There were obviously a few gents still playing a decent level of football as well as a few, including the referee, who were

not. A good turn out, however, ensured a fair competition at Ayr hockey and cricket club and the refreshments went down deservedly well afterwards.

Thanks to the organisers and bring on the return.



ELMWOOD STUDENT HAS DESIGNS ON CANADA

Germany to Canada via an NC Greenkeeping course at Elmwood College in Scotland is a long way to travel, but this is exactly the route that Anke Perplies, a National Certificate in Greenkeeping student has taken in her pursuit to take up a position in the greenkeeping industry.

Anke, a talented landscape designer in Germany, decided to retrain into the growing golf industry and secured a place on the NC Greenkeeping programme at Elmwood College. "In Germany, Elmwood College is a very well known and respected institution for greenkeeping education, so the opportunity to study here was very exciting," said Anke

She has secured a work placement at Deer Ridge Golf Club, in Canada, as part of her work placement commitments. Here she will join other applicants from across the USA on their internship programme, developing her skills and knowledge that she developed at Elmwood.

Geoff Brereton, her Course Tutor, said: "This is a great opportunity for Anke to not only develop her skills but also her career at a high profile course in Canada. This is an excellent placement for Anke and supports the other placements around the world that are annually taken up by Elmwood's NC students."

