



Congratulations to IPU

L - R: Richard Casey - Managing Editor of The Sunday Times
 Jenny Craddock - Sales Office Manager of IPU Group
 Robert Beebee - Group Managing Director of IPU Group

The Best Small Companies 2010 two star accreditation status has been awarded to ground care equipment company, IPU Group, for the second year running, in recognition of excellence in the workplace.

Best Companies, in conjunction with The Sunday Times, established the accreditation award scheme based on staff feedback and employee engagement as an integral part of a company's success and growth.

The accreditation scheme features a star style system with companies awarded one star for first class, two stars for outstanding and three stars for extraordinary performance.

A total of 571 organisations from the private and public sectors applied for Best Small Companies accreditation this year and IPU Group was the highest placed manufacturing company, appearing at number 50 in The Sunday Times list.

"We are really excited to have received two star accreditation in both the 2009 and 2010 Best Small Companies lists, and it's particularly pleasing to pick up this latest award while we are celebrating 50 years in business," said Robert Beebee, IPU Group Managing Director.

"Having a fully engaged and motivated team is vital to the service we are able to offer our customers and the continued success of our company."



Eddie Simms

Eddie Simms, the founder of Par 4 Irrigation Ltd, died suddenly on February aged 73, Eddie founded the company, based at Ripon, North Yorkshire, in 1981 and oversaw its development in becoming one of the leading Irrigation companies in the North of England.

He retired in 2002 but retained his interest in the Irrigation business and was a well respected figure in the local golfing community, playing his last round just two days before his death.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and is survived by his children Emma, Claire and Mark.

BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP AT WENTWORTH ON MAY 20, 21, 22 23

A few volunteers still required to help Chris Kennedy and his team at The Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see the at close hand the recent extensive changes that have been made to

the even more formidable West Course over the past year.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator
 cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk .

Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

NEWSDESK

Please email your news items and press releases to **Scott MacCallum, (Editor).**

scott@bigga.co.uk



EAST OF ENGLAND ORDER OF MERIT WINNER CROWNED

At the East of England sponsors drinks reception at BTME '10 Rob Bemment of Immingham Golf Club was crowned winner of the Greenkeepers' Order of Merit. This is made up from the scores posted from the Section's four individual golf events played last summer. Once again the blazer prize was sponsored by Bank's Amenity Products.

Rob (left) is pictured receiving his blazer from Simon Banks (right). Many thanks to Simon for his continued sponsorship of this event.

Airline for Golfers

The world's first airline dedicated to golfers will take off later this month with a range of routes connecting some of Scotland and Ireland's most spectacular courses.

Golf Links Express, an offshoot of the Loch Lomond Seaplanes, is due to ferry golfers on a number of routes between Prestwick, Lough Earne golf resort in Ireland, Machrinhanish Dunes in Kintyre, Loch Lomond and Machrie on the island of Islay.

The new service will open up some of the finest and most remote courses to time-pressed enthusiasts from around the world and will operate out of Prestwick Airport providing instant links to remote course for thousands of foreign golfers who travel to Ayrshire every year.

Hours of travelling between some of the country's most spectacular golf destinations will be reduced to minutes by the amphibious on-demand service.

"We've already had bookings from golfers as far a field as the US, Scandinavia and Ireland," said David West, founder of both Loch Lomond Seaplanes and Golf Links Express.

"Prestwick International Airport already welcomes tens of thousands of golfers every year but many rarely venture further than Ayrshire because of the travel time by road. Now they can access some of the best links courses."

BIGGA Charity Golf Day Monday, June 14, at Aldwark Manor



Following the success of last year's BIGGA Golf Day, £911.41 was donated to The Asperger's Society. The event is to be held again this year with the profits to be donated equally between Help the Hospices and the Cotswold Care Hospice.

The day will be very informal, giving BIGGA the opportunity to promote a strong relationship between greenkeeper and trade members, while at the same time enabling everyone to enjoy a competitive, yet friendly, game of golf.

The programme for the day will follow the successful format of previous years:

- Bacon sandwich, tea or coffee from 10.30am
- Shotgun start from 12 noon
- Teams of 4 entered in competition over 18 holes, best 2 count on each hole
- Halfway House refreshments
- Two course Buffet Meal with complimentary drink
- Team prizes
- Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin individual prizes

The entry fee per team is £300 + VAT. With the offer being made first to those, like yourself, who entered a team last year. If you would like to participate please confirm to my assistant, Sandra Raper (Tel: 01347 833800) or by Email to sandra@bigga.co.uk.

A Lovely Memory



Chris Spurden, right, gave up a promising greenkeeping career when 12 years ago his dad, David, Head Greenkeeper at Ganton, was tragically killed when they were both part of a group was out shooting rabbits on the golf course in the dead of night.

Instead Chris opted to join the fire service, but he did want to retain one link with his previous life.

Before his death, his dad's 1950s personal Atco mower had stopped working and he had spent ages tinkering with it, trying to get it back in action before he retired.

Such was its sentimental value Chris sent it off for repair, even though the company stopped making the parts. Now, 12 years later, mower and owner have finally been reunited.

The task of repairing the mower fell to John

Adamson, left, of FG Adamson & Son, based near Hull, who had been a personal friend of David.

"The problem was getting hold of bits for it because it is a 60-year-old machine. But Chris's late father was not only a good customer but a great friend," said John, who spent a great deal of time looking for parts from written off machines

"We basically salvaged bits from people's cast-offs. The company which made the engines had gone bust. Everything you wanted for the machine has been obsolete since the 1960s."

So now, thanks to the dedicated efforts, Chris will be able to think about his father every time he cuts his own lawn.

Picture courtesy of The Yorkshire Post, taken by Gerard Binks

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT: MURCAR GOLF CLUB, ABERDEEN ON THURSDAY JUNE 17

The 2010 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Murcar Golf Club, Aberdeen, on Thursday, June 17, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £25 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, two course evening meal sweep 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 8 June, 2010.

Please make cheques payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

If you have an email address please enter it on the space provided on the entry form. The draw will be posted on the BIGGA Website.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

D&C Seminar

In February 70 greenkeepers from across Devon and Cornwall attended the second seminar jointly organised by Duchy College.

The theme was aimed at developing the audiences understanding of greenkeeper management techniques and the resultant impact on golf and sports turf playing surfaces. In the morning session Steve Gingell, Regional Area Manager for the STRI, took the attendees through the principles of the "Disturbance Theory".

Steve presented a detailed case outlining the balance and implications between turf maintenance operations and their results on named turf grass genera and species with their own individual and specific preferred growing and habitat requirements.

The afternoon speakers developed this theme through taking a detailed look at the soils, root zone and growing conditions needed by grasses.

Andrew Turnbull, from Allturf Management, explained the function of sugars and carbohydrates within the plant and the consequences to the grass plant and the soil life in his lecture titled "Carbohydrates/ The Brix of Life".

Mark Atkins, from Soil Harmony, in his talk titled "Life Beneath Your Feet" developed this theme further emphasising the symbiotic relationship between the turf grass plant and the soil life.

Colin Webber, Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Section, commented that he was really pleased that BIGGA and Duchy College were able to work together and present at a local venue such an important and up to date message to sports turf managers regarding the holistic approach he considered essential to the future of the industry.

An understanding by turf managers of the soil life as well as the physical and chemical aspects of soils is well overdue.

South East Region Annual Gentlemen's Dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club

After a severe early morning frost competitors at this years Annual Gentlemen's Day at Walton Heath Golf had the pleasure of some almost warm sunshine after the long cold winter.

This year members and their guests enjoyed the challenge of the New Course at Walton Heath superbly set up by Ian McMillan and his team.

Highlight of the golf was an outstanding round with a gross score of 68 by Ron Christie to win the Ray Day Memorial Trophy.

The three hole start enabled all to finish in good time and sit down to an early dinner.

Following an excellent meal the Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club Stephen Hutton presented the prizes to the winning competitors.

George Barr thanked the Host Club for, as always, making us so welcome on the day.

The evening was conclude by the humour of guest speaker George Newman.

The South East Region of BIGGA is most grateful to the following companies for their most generous sponsorship of this event:-

- AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS
- BLADE AMENITY
- CMW
- ERNEST DOE AND SONS
- HARPER & EDDE
- HEADLAND AMENITY PRODUCTS
- JSM
- RIGBY TAYLOR
- TACIT GOLF EQUIPMENT
- SISIS



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NEW POWERS TO "PUNISH" POLLUTERS

The UK Environment Agency has recently been given new powers to punish polluters without applying to the Courts first, as was previously the case.

It is anticipated that these additional powers will increase the flexibility of the Agency, enabling it to become more proactive in monitoring and dealing with miscreants. The Agency will now be able to force establishments to clean up any environmental damage they cause, order the cessation of environmentally damaging operations and impose fines, without the need to seek the authority of the Courts.

The new powers contain a number of proposals, including a new maximum civil penalty of £250,000.

Several recent contamination incidents and the rigid response of the Environment Agency include:

- Sidcot School was fined a total of £17,000 in August 2009. Heating oil escaped from a corroded underground pipe, connecting two oil storage tanks to the school's boilers.
- The Chairman and Treasurer of an unnamed golf club were recently prosecuted after an underground pipe from a fuel storage

tank was punctured, causing more than 1,500 litres of oil to leak into a nearby water-course. They were charged with a criminal offence and could have faced imprisonment of up to two years. This case went to the Court of Appeal, which held that it was right that the two officers should be prosecuted, however, it used its discretion to acquit the pair.

By their very nature, golf course maintenance operational activities can cause pollution. Activities including equipment refuelling, chemical handling and equipment wash-off all pose a significant potential pollution risk, so it is very important controls are in place to minimise this risk.

It is a criminal offence to allow certain substances including mineral oils, detergents and chemicals to enter surface drains, watercourses or Soakaways, causing groundwater pollution.

As the golf club case highlighted above re-enforces, if you not are complying, you are personally liable for breaking the law, with the threat of a substantial civil penalty and or criminal fine and imprisonment for a serious infringement.

NEW CORNISH DISTRIBUTOR FOR LINDUM

Lindum Turf has appointed Contec Landscape as the company's sole distributor in Cornwall.

Contec, run by the established partnership of Steve and Rob Furse has been supplying landscapers in the region with hard and soft landscaping materials since 1989 and Lindum's turf since 2005.

"Up until now we've left our options open but we haven't found another turf grower who can provide the consistency of both quality and service that we need," said Steve Furse.

Lindum's MD Stephen Fell said that Contec Landscape has been steadily building up its business, and put a lot of work into promoting Lindum.

"Steve and Rob are already doing a good job selling our specialist lawn and bowling green products and are ideally placed to develop the golf market in their area," he said.

For further information contact Lindum on Tel: 01904 448675.
Or visit their website at: www.turf.co.uk



Grinding Workshop for Greenkeepers and Groundsmen

A group of greenkeepers and groundsmen were recently treated to a free workshop. The topic of discussion was to be the performance of mowers and their cutting units.

The workshop was presented by Bernhards, using a Toro fairway mower that had been provided courtesy of Devon Garden Machinery.

The trial began in the machinery workshop, examining the performance of some cutting units on a mower that had been set up with blunt blades which had contact with the bottom blade. Then we compared them with the some other cutting units that had been re-ground and set up to have a very light contact between cylinder reel and bottom blade.

Firstly we appraised the mower that had been set up with a heavy contact, tight to the bottom blade. Then we proceeded to dip the fuel tank and measure the amount of fuel recording evidence to later quantify fuel economy.

The group then headed off to one of the college football pitches to view the mower cutting one half of the pitch. With the damp Cornish weather setting in the pitch was mown and timed. The mower had its boxes on so that we could measure the volume of grass mown from each cut. The clippings were placed in a bag and then weighed.

The results recorded from the mower set up with a heavy contact were as follows:

- 25 kilos of grass clippings measured from the boxes (wet)
- it took 13 minutes and 2 seconds to mow
- 2.4 litres of fuel were consumed (calculated by refilling the fuel tank to 60 litres and measuring the volume that went back in)

The clippings were then viewed under a macro scope and appeared yellowy in colour at the tip where the cut had been made, and also visible was a serrated edge proving the poor cutting action.

The group was then given a grinding demonstration using the Anglemaster Bedknife Grinder, and then the Express Duel Reel Grinder. All five units were then ground to the manufacturer's recommendations. The fuel levels were checked to guarantee the same amount of fuel as before when the first cut commenced. It was then back up to the football pitch to view the other half being cut, luckily by this time the weather conditions had improved. We went through the same process as earlier in the day, except with the mower re-ground and set up with a light contact.

The results for the second test are as follows:

- 21 kilos of grass clippings measured from the boxes. (the less weight could be due to a drier cut meaning less moisture in the grass leaf)
- it took 12 minutes and 52 seconds
- 1.5 litres of fuel was consumed
- Once viewed under the microscope the cut appeared a lot cleaner

So we learnt that a sharp mower with less contact performs better because it gives a cleaner cut that leads to a healthier plant promoting a less disease prone sward. The mower took 10 seconds less than earlier in the day probably because of less contact from the cylinder blades to bedknife making the engine work harder.

This probably lead to the most significant finding which was the amount of fuel consumed, 33% less than in test one.

In the current climate of high fuel prices it goes to show how much more economic a sharp and correctly set up mower can be, not to mention the benefit in agronomics terms!

This was a thoroughly enjoyable day from which everybody took something away, so a big thank you must go to Duchy College, Bernhard Grinders and Devon Garden Machinery.

Gavin Moore, of Launceston Golf Club