

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 DECEMBER 2010

Inside...

THE ULTIMATE TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION IN EUROPE

Your guide to the annual
5-day event, returning to
Harrogate this January

Featured

Fairhaven Golf Club

THIS MONTH'S
COURSE FEATURE



Graduation Day

Three beneficiaries of this year's BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme write for us



**RANSOMES
JACOBSEN**
A Textron Company

NO.1 IN THE UK FOR HIGH QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS

DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - AGRICULTURAL

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE A WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDING

- West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK and Ireland. Working together we give fantastic service and clever design.
- This allows West Country Steel Buildings to provide you, the customer with the very best, cost effective buildings designed specifically to suit your needs.
- Our success is based upon several factors. Firstly we have built up over the last 40 years a fantastic reputation around the UK for our professional and friendly service. Secondly, we have

- experienced staff for both design and construction with a proven record of accomplishment.
- From advice on location, design and planning permission through to informing you of delivery dates and when the assembly team will be at your site to erect the building. At West Country Steel Buildings we value you, the customer and enjoy giving a fantastic service from the very start of your project to handing over the keys once everything has been completed.

WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDINGS

For further information: Office: 01633 782684 Chris: 07980 818364 Rob: 07970 827085



15, High Cross Road, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9AE
 email: sales@westcountrybuildings.com
 website: www.westcountrybuildings.com



BIGGA



President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

Board of Management
Chairman – Paul Worster
Vice Chairman
Andrew Mellon
Past Chairman
Peter Todd

Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,
Ian Willett, Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobell

Chief Executive

John Pemberton
john@bigga.co.uk

Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the
British and International Golf Greenkeepers
Association Limited.

Editorial

Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum
Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801
scott@bigga.co.uk



Design

**Design and
Production Editor**
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833801
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Kirstin Black

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
kirstin@bigga.co.uk



Sales Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2010 British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Credit, where it is due

I happened to watch a bit of the England v France game on the telly last night. To be honest I was still basking in the glory of Scotland's triumph over the Faroes the previous night, but I tuned in anyway to see if the Auld Enemy could match our achievement.

Just before the start the commentator threw in the comment that there were now no issues with the Wembley pitch and that it had even coped with an American football match recently.

I didn't watch the entire match, but that as the only comment I heard about the pitch.

Now go back a few months and you would have thought the poor playing surface was a national tragedy.

There was much hand wringing, opinion - of varying degrees of expertise - was being freely spouted on every media outlet under the sun.

This ranged from gardeners and agronomists to players, managers and commentators all of whom had something valuable to offer on the matter.

The idea that the state of the pitch might influence England's 2018 World Cup bid ramped up the anxiety even more.

Indeed the column inches on the subject could have covered the playing area at Wembley several times over.

The new Desso Grassmaster pitch laid earlier this year has obviously made a huge difference, but progress would not have been made without a great deal of planning, thought and sheer hard work by recognised experts in pitch maintenance.

It is a success story but one which elicited no more than a throw away line from a match commentator and, unless I've missed it, very little comment in the same press and media

which were so quick to jump on the story when it was a negative one.

It comes back to the adage that "No news is good news", but it is a bit galling for all concerned that they come in for a pasting when the news is bad and very little in terms of positive comment when they have turned something around and done a superb job.

It is exactly the same with golf courses. The spike bars are full of people pontificating on what they perceive to be wrong, but the numbers who will seek out the staff and congratulate them when have just enjoyed a superbly presented and maintained course are very much fewer.

I can't let this column pass without saying something about BIGGA's much loved Chief Executive, John Pemberton, who has decided to move on.

Life at BIGGA will not be the same when he finally walks out of the door for the last time next April.

John still has a few miles left on the clock and I'm sure he will use them wisely. I also know that it will enable him to spend more time with his lovely wife, Judith, and, dare I say it, on the fairways, and, no doubt, in the rough, of Fulford Golf Club.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Scott MacCallum
Editor

December 2010

FEATURES

18 An environmental haven

Scott MacCallum visits Fairhaven Golf Club and meets a man whose enthusiasm for this job knows no bounds.

25 Thanks!

Three BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme Graduates talk about their careers and how they have benefited from Ransomes Jacobsen funding.

31 Turf War for invasive root Nematodes

Hilary Knight talks with Dr Colin Fleming, the world's leading authority on Nematodes.

36 Grow wild on the golf course

Linda Laxton offers a guide to planting wild flowers.

39 Harrogate Preview

What to expect and what to look out for next January.

49 Preventing winter green damage

Jim Cook reports from Norway on how greens are protected from damage.

52 Take a fresh look at the problem of worm casts on turf

Graham Paul looks at the on-going problem and gives you the opportunity to earn two BASIS points.

COURSE FEATURE
FEATURE 18

An environmental haven

Fairhaven Golf Club, in Yorkham, St James, is one of the finest to sets of golf in an area which is renowned for quality courses. With its unusual tree-lined but little characteristics it is very much one of a kind. Not only does it bring an equally strong reputation for its environmental stewardship.

Scott MacCallum travelled to the north west coast to meet a man who is seeing some real rewards for his hard work.

Fairhaven Golf Club, in Yorkham, St James, is one of the finest to sets of golf in an area which is renowned for quality courses. With its unusual tree-lined but little characteristics it is very much one of a kind. Not only does it bring an equally strong reputation for its environmental stewardship.

Scott MacCallum travelled to the north west coast to meet a man who is seeing some real rewards for his hard work.

25

31

36

Harrogate week The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

Your guide to the annual 5-day event returning to the Harrogate International Centre this January

16-20 JANUARY 2011 Harrogate International Centre North Yorkshire, HG1 5LA (UK)

39



49



52



16

REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 13 Chairman's Word
- 14 GTC
- 15 Learning and Development
- 16 Industry Update
- 17 What's Your Number
– Richard Campey
- 56 Letters
- 57 Dealer of the Month
- 60 Around the Green
- 63 Assistant Profile
- 67 Chief Executive
- 68 Membership
- 69 Diary of Events
- 70 In the Shed
- 82 Soapbox
– Sean Sullivan



The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



Greenkeeping is an Art

Artists, Ackroyd and Harvey, have been creating breath-taking works of art using British Seed Houses A26 So-Green mixture.

The award-winning duo has been creating masterpieces by utilising the light sensitivity of chlorophyll in individual blades of grass to create 'sketch like' images. They do this by projecting a large scale negative onto a canvas of grass as it grows.

Richard Brown, of British Seed Houses, commented, "We have been working with Ackroyd and Harvey for a while now, and realised early on that A26 So-Green was the perfect mixture for what they wanted. It contains our naturally occurring AberNile perennial ryegrass which has the ability to maintain a dark green

colour, even throughout the winter. It's this particular quality that allows the artists to achieve such contrast and definition in their work."

It was the simple act of leaning a ladder against a living, light-sensitive surface that was to first arouse the idea of actually using the green pigment of chlorophyll to make extraordinary photographic images in grass.

Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey recently returned from Ljubljana, Slovenia, where they exhibited their piece 'On the Field' (pictured) at the 2010 Arts Festival in the city.

The piece is an excellent example of the light manipulation technique they use to change the colour of the grass during growth.



TEN UP FOR BRAD

BIGGA's Membership Services Assistant, Brad Anderson, has recently celebrated 10 years service with the Association.

Brad was just 17 when he started as one of the two Receptionists in the then recently opened BIGGA HOUSE and he moved to the Membership Department in 2007.

His indepth knowledge of computers and technology has also been of great benefit to the Association in terms of technical support to the rest of the staff and was responsible for him picking up the nickname, "Bradget."

Brad became the fifth current member of Headquarter staff to reach the 10 year milestone and he received a digital camera to mark the occasion.



BIGGA Chief Executive to Leave

The BIGGA Board is sad to announce that after 17 years of service its Chief Executive, John Pemberton, has given notice of his intention to move on. John first joined the Association in March 1993 as its Accountant, moving up to take the reins as Chief Executive in March 2004.

“The BIGGA Board of Directors wishes to thank John for his leadership and dedication to the job over the years which has resulted in BIGGA significantly increasing in size, profile and industry positioning” commented Chairman, Paul Worster.

John will continue in his current position until the end of April 2011 and will be helping the Board with the recruitment of a suitable successor.



ROYAL ARRIVAL ON SAVILE ROW

‘Savile Row Field Day’ saw the world’s most prestigious tailoring location closed to traffic as dozens of sheep grazed in a specially laid pasture created by Inturf.

The event took place under the patronage of HRH The

Prince of Wales and was organised to publicise the benefits of wool clothing.

It attracted visitors and buyers from around the world – as well as considerable publicity in the national press.

“The turf had to be laid

during the night so we started at 11pm and worked through until 5 in the morning,” says Inturf Joint Managing Director Alex Edwards.

“As befits a project for Savile Row the turf was a tailor-made mixture of grasses including sheep fescue!”

Facing Facebook Talking Twitter

Justin Ruiz, CGCS, has been honoured with the 2010 GCSAA Leo Feser Award for his article, “Facing Facebook, talking Twitter, which appeared in the June 2010 issue of Golf Course Management magazine.

Justin is the GCSAA certified Superintendent at The Rim Golf Club in Payson, Arizona.

His article focused on the communication advantages with golfers/

members/customers that social media can provide.

The Leo Feser Award is presented annually for the best Superintendent-written article published in GCM. The award winner is selected by members of GCSAA’s Strategic

Communications Committee. Ruiz, a 12-year GCSAA member, will receive the award at the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference.

WatSave 2010 Technology Award from the ICID

Dr Keith Weatherhead and Dr Jerry Knox, of the Cranfield University’s Centre for Water Science, together with UK Irrigation Association Executive Secretary Melvyn Kay, have won the prestigious WatSave 2010 Technology Award from the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) for their research and promotion of on-farm reservoirs in the UK.

The annual ICID WatSave Awards recognise outstanding contributions to water conservation or water saving across the world.

The winning project, proposed and funded by the Environment Agency, promotes the use of on-farm reservoirs to store surplus winter water for use in drier summers. This helps protect the environment and conserves water for existing users.

The judges noted that though this was not a new technology, “its application here, by water professionals campaigning for farmers to invest in storage on their own land was worthy of award. The construction of on-farm reservoirs [in the UK] has provided the water security essential to achieve timely production of high quality food that reduces water wastage from field to plate.”



Deere Seen at the Zoo

If you could talk to the animals at Chester Zoo, they'd probably say how good the lawns and paddocks look after their John Deere machines have been at work.

The zoo currently runs a Z425 zero-turn mower, a TS Gator utility vehicle and a 2720 compact tractor, all supplied by local John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Tarvin, Chester. Horticulture & botany team leader Mark Hargreaves chose the new compact zero-turn mower after a visit to the IOG Saltex event in 2009, where he looked at about 10 different machines altogether.

"The mower is perfect for what we need, and has been an absolute godsend," he says. "We only have three hours to cut around 13 acres

of grass before the zoo opens to the public at 10am, and it saves us a lot of time. One man can cut it all in a couple of hours, even including the car parks when necessary.

"It's light and extremely manoeuvrable, especially when cutting around our newly established borders and flower beds, and we can even use it in wet grass with no problems. The mower deck also features a mulching kit that allows us to cut and drop, which saves us 25 per cent on fertilisers throughout the year."

The TS 4x2 Gator is used every morning, carrying hosepipes, landscaping materials and as a general workhorse around the

zoo. "The Gator does just about everything we ask of it, and is also a real help in getting various jobs done in time before the zoo opens each day," says Mark.

Andy McKenzie is a specialist keeper in the zoo's popular elephant house, which is the base for a John Deere 2720 29hp compact tractor equipped with a front loader and bucket.

"We use the tractor all day every day for general shifting and materials handling work. As well as cleaning out and reshaping the sand on the floor in the elephant house and out in the paddock, the tractor is also useful for towing tree branches and moving 1 tonne bags of grass for the elephants to feed on, said Andy.

Surrey Team Victorious at the Three Section Match

The annual Three Section match between Essex, Surrey and Sussex at Three Bridges Golf Club in Essex, was won by the Surrey team pictured - the first time the trophy had been retained, or won by any team outside their own county.

The day was Sponsored by Ernest Doe and Sons, Andy Turbin pictured on Jacobsen Eclipse



SALES AND MARKETING MAN IN AT KUBOTA

Kubota has appointed David Blackwood as Sales and Marketing Manager for its Tractor & Groundcare Division.

David brings with him a wealth of experience in the agricultural equipment industry, having spent the last 18 years in various technical and commercial roles for AGCO, formerly Massey Ferguson.

In previous roles he headed the group's sales and marketing operations in the Far East but will now be operating somewhat closer to home, creating and implementing Kubota Tractor & Groundcare's sales and marketing strategies in Northern Europe, working with dealers in the UK, Ireland, the Baltic and Scandinavia.

In particular he will be looking to help Kubota establish its higher horsepower tractor ranges.

Married with two children, David said, "Kubota is a global manufacturer known for its quality and reliability and I am delighted to have joined such a well-respected company.

"My role will be to continue to drive sales for Kubota's core groundcare utility and compact equipment range but to also support its move into the higher horsepower tractor market, which is where my experience will be invaluable."



Success for Writtle Student

Anthony Stockwell, who was featured in the October 2009 edition of GI for his Living the Dream article regarding his placement at The London Golf Club, has successfully graduated from Writtle College, a partnership institution of the University of Essex. Anthony received an upper second class Honours BSc degree in Sport Turf Science and Management.

Anthony found the relationship with The London Golf Club very supportive as he was able to work at weekends during the final year of his studies before taking up a full time position on the greenkeeping staff upon completion of the course.

In January 2011 Anthony, who has a firm belief that only the correct application of science and management techniques can progress the industry, has applied to start studying for a Masters degree in Professional Studies of Turfgrass Management.



New Kit for a New Centre of Excellence

The Vale Resort's newly developed Welsh Rugby Union National Centre of Excellence has recently been kitted out with a brand new fleet of Toro turf maintenance machinery.

The £4million state-of-the-art training facility is home to the Cardiff Blues rugby team as well as Cardiff City Football Club and the Welsh Football Association, and needed a top-notch fleet to mow and maintain its six international-standard practice pitches.

The WRU charged local machinery dealer Ted Hopkins Limited with selecting the right

manufacturer and machines to suit the centre's needs.

Two new Toro Reelmaster 3100-D mowers and a heavy-duty Workman HDX utility vehicle with topdresser are now hard at work at the training ground, which also features an extensive indoor training centre and the world's most advanced 3G outdoor floodlighting.

Geraint Scamel, Head Greenkeeper at the Vale Resort, which is based in Hensol, near Cardiff, said that he was delighted with the new arrivals.

"I used to use Toro many moons ago on the golf course, but we switched to another manufacturer's machinery – it's great to have Toro back.

"I'm really pleased with the mowers – they feel really robust and solid when you sit on them."

What's more, Welsh Team Manager, Alan Phillips, has given the Toro fleet the official thumbs up, commenting:

"I'm glad Geraint and the boys have got the proper equipment they need to do a top-class job."

IF YOUR ABSTRACTION LICENCE IS UP FOR RENEWAL, READ THIS MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Of approx 340 time limited abstraction licences up for renewal by March 2011 only 175 applications have been received.

"We don't want licence holders to find themselves in the situation where they do not have a current licence to abstract," said Fiona Ireland EA, Permitting Team Leader Water Resources.

"Like any business we need to plan and manage our workload and we have tried to encourage the early submission of applications but have not yet been successful. In a couple of years we will have 900 renewal applications to process and if we are going to be in a position to determine these applications in time and

allow continuing abstraction the drive to encourage early submission will be even stronger," she explained.

"In previous years we have been fairly lenient in accepting applications for renewal right up to the point of expiry and we have considered applications submitted after the expiry date of the old licence.

"This will no longer be the case and in future we will be enforcing the legislation - licence holders must get their applications to us at least three months before the old licence expires in order for us to process their applications to allow continuing abstraction while their

application is being determined (known as LEV).

If applications are not received in time we will treat it as an application for new water which may mean that details of the application would need to be advertised and if the abstraction is in an over-abstracted or over licensed catchment it is possible that it would not be renewed under the same terms and conditions as the previous licence and in some cases may even run the risk of not being renewed at all," said Fiona.

If you think you are affected then call the Permitting Support Centre on 0114 289 8340



Four New Faces at Sherriff

Sherriff Amenity has expanded its national sales team with the addition of four new Amenity Specialists.

Edward Harris takes responsibility for sales in North East England. Edward has extensive experience within the amenity industry.

He studied an HND at Myerscough College in Turf Science Golf Course management.

He has also worked as a Greenkeeper at The London Golf Club, Hanbury Manor Country Club and Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Edward also spent a couple of years in Abu Dhabi, managing football pitches for Sheik Hamdon and Sheik Mansoor.

David Chammings will be covering Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

Prior to joining Sherriff Amenity David spent 8 years working in the greenkeeping industry at Exeter

Golf Club and Ashbury Golf Club.

Chris O'Kane has been promoted from within Sherriff Amenity and is now responsible for sales in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Chris joined the company in 2008 in a sales and transport administration role.

Adam Hartley joins the company having spent the last 22 years as a Greenkeeper, the last nine of which were as Course Manager at the 27 hole West Chilmington Golf Club in West Sussex.

Adam will be covering West Sussex, Hampshire and Dorset.

"I am delighted to announce these appointments," commented Mary Pyrah, Amenity Director of Agrovista UK.

"All four are now undertaking their BASIS training, which we see as vital qualification for anyone advising the use of chemicals in the amenity industry today".



Instrata

contact

The power of three actives provides fast, *year round* curative and preventative disease control at your fingertips. Instrata is the simple one-product solution to keep *'on the shelf'*.

New Holland Stalwart Retires to the 19th Hole



New Holland is saying farewell to one of its most experienced Product Marketing Managers who has spent almost half a century in the groundcare industry.

Alan Hawes, who has worked for the company for the last 20 years, is retiring from an industry that has undergone

considerable change since he entered it as a 17 year-old.

“When I started most customers would have a tractor on every implement, and the UK industry supported about 33,000 machines. That number has now halved, and tractors have become bigger, more powerful and able to

handle a wider range of tasks. Air conditioning used to be standard as there weren't any cabs,” said Alan.

He has spent the last 10 years in charge of New Holland's 65-115HP tractors, the T4000s, TD5000, T5000s, and fruit tractors. Working on that size of machine has allowed him to travel the length and breadth of the UK and Republic of Ireland, meeting customers on local authority and sports grounds, and sites that are close to his heart – golf courses.

“We sell a lot of T4000s into golf courses and during my career I've had the chance to work with great people on some special courses.

“Obviously St Andrew's would be a highlight. To be stood in their workshops and looking across at the R&A clubhouse and golf hotel you think: It's a dream come true to be training these people on our tractors at the home of golf,” he added.

His love of tractors and machinery started when he used to sit on the wing of his father's Fordson Standard.

From there he progressed to an apprenticeship before working in multiple roles across service, sales and marketing with tractor firms. He then joined Fiat and New Holland from 1991.

Of his 48 year career, Alan said, “I've lived my dream, which started when I was with my father on the farm. I've always had the ambition to work with machinery and tractors and I've been able to do it. I've made a tremendous number of friends over the years, worked for a wonderful company in New Holland and enjoyed every minute of it. I won't retire rich, but I'll have rich memories.”

Steve Basnett, who has been working in New Holland's demonstration team across Europe, took over the role of marketing product support specialist in October.

systemic

in **One!**



Bobcat Takes Promac

Bobcat has appointed Promac Solutions Ltd as the company's new Authorised Dealer for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Promac is now responsible for the complete range of Bobcat equipment from skid-steer, compact tracked and all wheel steer loaders, excavators, telehandlers and utility vehicles to a comprehensive selection of Bobcat attachments that together deliver versatility and time-saving efficiency across a huge range of different applications.

A successful supplier of new and used plant and machinery for earthmoving, construction, demolition and recycling, Promac was formed in 2006.

Commenting on the new appointment, Grant Linton, Managing Director of Promac Solutions said:

"The addition of the Bobcat range is an excellent complement to the leading brands we represent throughout the South East which include Doosan and Montabert. Bobcat has one of the leading ranges of compact equipment with a superior range of compact loaders, mini-excavators and telehandlers."



Aeration Day

A precise and quite perfect exhibition of clean hollow-coring stole the praise at T H White's Aeration Day at Mill Ride GC, where 35 turf professionals from Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire had assembled.

Wiedenmann's GXi8 HD Terra Spike using 11 mm diameter coring tines and going 80 mm deep effortlessly aerated one of the greens in a text book display which was met with enthusiastic appreciation.

Laurence Pithie, Director of Turf Master One Consultancy, whose earlier aeration lecture session had covered all aspects from solid tining, scarifying and hollow-coring said, "The Wiedenmann GXi8 HD now overcomes the old problem of golf clubs having to purchase two machines to hollow core and deep tine greens and tees. This machine can do both quickly and cleanly with adjustable depth and using a variety of tines to suit all situations throughout the year."

The event which was BIGGA/CPD accredited had been organised by Ian Royston, area manager of TH White, Reading.



EILEEN CALLS IT A DAY

After 28 years service as liaison officer for the farming sector and greenkeeping training at Oatridge College, Eileen Barry has retired.

Eileen has seen many changes in the years that she has worked at Oatridge College.

Scotland's East Section wishes Eileen every success in the future.

Picture showing Eileen being presented with flowers and gift voucher from Tom Murray on behalf of the East Section.



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Paul Worster, gives his thoughts for the month

Change brings opportunities...

If anything has become obvious to me over the course of this past year – it is the need to embrace change. Change can be unsettling, change can be daunting, but always, always, change brings opportunities.

Opportunities to improve. Opportunities to become more efficient. Opportunities to become more prominent in the industry. Opportunities to become more effective. Time waits for no-one, and there is more than ever a pressing need for us to develop our abilities.

A single efficient unit to move the profession forward

At the moment however – it is survival of the fittest. BIGGA has a great network of volunteers; a great infrastructure on a Regional and National basis, and right now all this needs to function as a single efficient unit to move the profession forward.

The BIGGA Volunteer Board is looking closely at the organisational finances and the structure of the association – particularly HQ at BIGGA HOUSE.

We have the most terrific, purpose-built building with offices and a meeting room, but I must add that BIGGA, like many other organisations in this recession has to face the truth. Our costs are too high and our income has been dropping.

It is quite clear to me that there is not much more income in the industry at this moment. As a consequence the BIGGA Board has been examining and cutting costs wherever appropriate, to balance income and expenditure. The Board is looking at every last item of expenditure from travel expenses to the cost of meetings, from stationery to printing, and heating & lighting.

We are also looking for a new CEO. This is not something to be rushed. A job description has been drawn up along with a person specification. A parallel can be

drawn with the GCSAA who have taken considerable time and diligence in their search for a CEO and are only just beginning to initiate this despite losing Mark Woodward back in May this year.

While this is ongoing, BIGGA must not take its eye off the ball. We must press on with our mission statement which, put succinctly, is to advance the greenkeeping profession through education, training, and CPD.

We will need to help others to take these opportunities

If we are to advance the entire profession and not just a few individuals we will all need to take these advancement opportunities and make the most of them. We will need to help others to take these opportunities because BIGGA intends to always provide CPD opportunities for everyone.

We will all need to participate in local section, region and national events and we will all need to engage more fully in the wider golf industry.

Harrogate Week is a case in point. This only comes around once a year. This coming year, the show could be smaller than the last. However, with a huge effort, the 'Continue to Learn' programme will actually be bigger than ever before, to compensate.

These opportunities will not be diminished at all

This will mean that the networking opportunities – the research, the exchange of ideas, the exchange of information and problem solving – these opportunities will not be diminished at all. In fact they will be increased and all of them will be available to each and every one of us.

This year, the Board will meet the members in an 'open forum' situation. This meeting will follow immediately after the AGM when all Volunteer Board members will be

present to answer your questions about BIGGA and its future direction. I urge all members to attend. To avoid repetition of the same questions on the day may I invite you to submit written questions in advance? You can do this by emailing me at talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk. There should also be time for any questions that might occur to you at the last minute.

There will also be an opportunity for our Trade Partners to also meet the Board and to ask questions. This will take place before the Exhibition opens and is the ideal chance to build on the success that is Harrogate Week.

FREE Development Seminars for Assistant Greenkeepers

New for 2011 there will be a FREE 'Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers' (Wednesday 19th January 2011 from 2pm to 4pm). This very down-to earth and friendly seminar has been specifically devised to increase the confidence and work performance of Assistant Greenkeepers. It is a free seminar but places are limited so please make sure you or your team members register early by contacting Sami or Rachael at BIGGA HQ on 01347 833800 - Option 3.

FREE Volunteers Workshop

Also new for 2011 will be a FREE 'Volunteers Workshop' (Tuesday 18th January 2011 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm) for people who are considering helping out their local section and want to see if volunteering is for them. If you are interested you will be joining the largest membership association for greenkeepers at all levels in the world. Quite a club to be in!

The Volunteers Workshop is also for existing volunteers from the UK and around the world who want to be even better at advancing the greenkeeping profession.

In my experience volunteering can be great for your career...

(continued on page 67)

TALK TO PAUL

Please note that any member can contact the Chairman directly and privately at: talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk



Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC**

Many of us will once again start the New Year with the best intentions to get fit, diet and generally feel better about our lifestyles. However rather than discuss the 1% who will stick with their resolution let us think where we in the 99% can all set a realistic target and move towards it albeit slowly but surely.

The GTC will, as its target, be keeping employers aware of the options and various opportunities to invest in staff development and in particular their responsibilities in this area.

One key area to highlight employer legislative responsibilities is health and safety, albeit the one subject that is mocked by the media, but surely nobody can question the safety of staff and customers which has to be every employers top priority?

The following statement should really focus the mind of all employers:

“Recent accident investigations have revealed a significant weakness in employer engagement and a failure to develop an effective safety culture; in one case this resulted in enforcement action being served requiring golf club directors to attend a one day safety awareness course.

Safety culture starts at the top and cascades throughout the organisation by example and good communication. Developing a positive safety culture has considerable benefits and costs nothing!”

At a recent HSE arranged workshop in Durham every golf club in the County except one had a representative in attendance, and an apology was received from that club, all the delegates thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Greenkeepers and golf club officials working together has to be the future and this will become the model the GTC looks to promote through the Home Unions and BIGGA.

Counties and/or Regions of the

Home Unions working with the Sections and Regions of BIGGA organising short courses can only be good for the industry.

Clearly other subject areas from all aspects of greenkeeper maintenance and management not just health and safety will be addressed and promoted through the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

Whether the training is part of a formal qualification offered through a Centre or College or a half or one day workshop offered by a Quality Assured Training Provider it has to be good for the individual and the business.

The GTC has a clear remit to maintain the Occupational Standards for greenkeeping and while we will continue to ensure there are relevant Government accredited qualifications one area we are keen to see develop are short courses for greenkeepers and employers.

I often hear, “where does a newly elected Green Convenor and Chairman of Green get their training from” and we all know of the quips about how this position is the short straw or the job on the committee which nobody wants etc.

Coupled to the Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who tell me that just when their Chairman has completed their “training” they are moved on so here we go again!

Well in nearly every case there is help at hand!

Sector specific Health & Safety Guidance, wall charts, training manuals and training courses are all available.

The range of agronomic subjects and management topics are all covered through a variety of learning methods from books, on-line learning and short courses available to employers and greenkeepers.

We must all work together in these difficult times and all successful businesses highlight staff development as a key factor and the GTC is now looking to

ensure the education and training provision within the sector is at the forefront of employers’ policies and planning during the New Year.

While the GTC knows that there is something available for everybody whether you are an employer or greenkeeper we have to ensure all the options and opportunities are well publicised.

Please check out the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers on the GTC website, contact us direct or come and visit us on Stand C12 at the BTME Exhibition 18- 20 January.

For now please ensure your enjoy the festive season, especially New Years Eve and remember keep that resolution realistic and achievable!!

In Brief

As we move into the festive season David looks forward to a New Year and how employers as well as greenkeepers must have more education and training as their New Year Resolutions and not to give up on it days or weeks into January

The GTC is funded by:

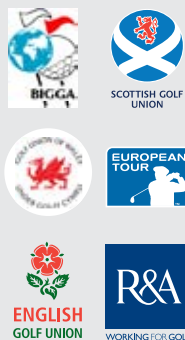


Photo by Nick Gates, Abridge GC, Essex

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development,
with an update on education issues



Santa has been on TV advertising a favourite soft drink and left me singing "The holidays are coming!". As the excitement grows for the man in red to deliver all that we're wishing for, the buzz surrounding Harrogate Week and the Continue to Learn programme is also creating a bit of stir.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week

Many of the workshops are Sold Out and there is great interest in several of the featured seminars. All this promises that the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre will be very busy – just the way we like it!

We are fortunate to be presenting a number of seminars from companies who are exhibiting at the trade show, these include:

Efficient Nutrient Technology - Vitax

Improving Turf Quality - Headland Amenity

The Future of Turf Management - Scotts

Integrated Lake and Pond Management - Sherriff Amenity

Why Electricity Generation Makes Economic Sense for Your Business - Solar Wall

Fulvic Acid the Biostimulant that Extends Early and Late Season Growth - Symbio

Fludioxonil Providing Innovative Disease Management and Application - Syngenta

Bunker Erosion: A Sustainable Solution to an Age Old Golfing

Problem - EnviroSports

Linking Fuel Savings to Reel Maintenance - Bernhard & Co

The Three Steps to Transition

- R&K Kensett

Coated Seed Delivering Species Transition on the Golf Course! - DLF/ Johnsons Seeds

Aeration on Golf Courses - Terrain Aeration

Green Up Your Greens - British Wild Flowers

Environmental Management of your Golf Course with the Latest Technology in Chemistry - Tower Sport Europe

Turf in the Sustainability Era - Lindum

Woodfuel Energy that Grows on Trees - The Forestry Commission

The New EU Water Directive and its Impact on Golf Courses - Waste 2 Water

Utilising Foliar Fertilisers to Optimize Putting Green Programming - TurfCare Group

Energy Efficient Irrigation - ITT Lowara

Further seminars are being added. Check the website for the most current information www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education.

Remember, all of the Seminars are FREE and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Ensure that you are at the Queen's Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.

Protected Habitats and Species Field Guide

As I mentioned in last month's column, the new 'On Course Field Guide to the Legislation and

The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Golden and Silver Key Sponsors.

Recognition of Protected Habitats and Species' is now available Free of Charge to all BIGGA Members. To get your copy contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3) or email education@bigga.co.uk. Your field guide will come with a divider to complete your field guide folder.

Higher Education Scholarships



The final scholarship of 2010 has been awarded to:

Greg Wellings - MSc by Research

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ransomes Jacobsen and their continued support for this worthy scheme. In 2010 we have awarded 10 Scholarships totalling just over £9,600. Ransomes Jacobsen has now invested more than £130,000 into helping over 100 BIGGA members attain higher education qualifications.



Master Greenkeeper Certificate

I am delighted to announce that we have three new Master Greenkeepers:

Stuart Yarwood MG - Lymm Golf Club, Cheshire

Alan Pierce MG - Ham Manor Golf Club, West Sussex

Alan Hess MG CGCS - Augusta Pines Golf Club, Texas, USA

My congratulations go to all three for their achievement.

Contact Details

Sami Collins
Head of L&D
sami@bigga.co.uk

Rachael Duffy
L&D Administrator
rachael@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz, Jaey Goodchild

First for Clandeboye

Clandeboye Golf Club, is the first club in Ireland to purchase the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid ride-on greens mower.

Course Manager is Terry Crawford and he is particularly impressed with the array of new features built into the mower. Commenting just after Captain's Day he said:



"I purchased this mower because of all the new features it possesses and, most of all, because it is free of hydraulic oil.

"All my staff have now experienced using the mower and are very impressed by its comfort and just how user friendly it is. It has an on board computer which allows the user to change almost anything to do with set-up; for example clip rates, cut speeds, travel speeds etc, the list goes on. This allows us greater control of how the greens can be presented according to the prevailing conditions.

"Overall the Eclipse 322 has proved to be an important asset for the golf club and is a very important piece of kit to the greenkeeping team. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is thinking of purchasing one."

Appointment

Countrywide has appointed David Howells as a member of its team of turf and amenity specialists. David will be working with greenkeepers and groundstaff throughout West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

With more than 20 years experience in the industry, David started his career as a greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club before becoming Course Manager at The Shropshire Golf Centre in Telford. A move into sales followed, with ET Breakwell's initially and then Headland Amenity as a Technical Manager, a role David developed over 10 years.

Turf and Amenity Manager, Martin Townsend is delighted with the new appointment..

"David's in depth knowledge of the industry will be of a huge benefit to our customers, He joins a growing team of dedicated and likeminded turf professionals focused on delivering first class results for greenkeepers, course managers and groundstaff throughout the UK."



SANLI PUTS ELECTRICAL POWER ON TAP

As the nights draw in, the thoughts of many amenity and grounds care professionals as well as home and estate owners invariably turn to the irritation and nuisance of power cuts caused by winter gales, ice and snow.

One way of ensuring light and warmth on the darkest of days, or nights, is by means of a portable stand-by generator

that can be moved quickly and easily to wherever emergency or back-up electrical power might be needed.

Outdoor power equipment and engine specialist, SANLI, has introduced two such generators known as the GS720 and GS2400, producing 720 watts and 2,400 watts of electrical output respectively. The GS720 model is shown left.



New Form of Turf Protection from Grassform

According to the Met Office, last winter, the UK received an average rainfall of 255mm. In addition, significant snowfall from mid-December until the end of February resulted in the ground becoming waterlogged and unstable. This year is set to be no different, with another 'white-out' predicted.

In response to this, Grassform has developed PortaPath, a temporary outdoor flooring product which protects turf and prevents soil compaction, while also benefitting from a slip resistant surface.

Mark Dunning, Company Director at Grassform, said: "PortaPath is a leading ground protection product which is particularly suitable for the winter months. It offers a reliable and cost-efficient method to providing outdoor flooring and walkways, with the advantage of being installed quickly, meaning our customers will save time and money."

For further information on the equipment and services on offer from Grassform please visit its recently launched new website www.grassform.co.uk



MESSAGE FROM MOSCOW

Golf Technology Ltd, Ransomes Jacobsen's Russian distributor based in Moscow, held a four-day greenkeeping seminar recently to showcase the latest products from the Ipswich-based manufacturer including the Jacobsen Eclipse hybrid greens mowers. Ransomes Jacobsen is a Textron Inc (NYSE: TXT) company.

Thirty-five greenkeeping staff from golf courses across Russia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine attended the event which was held at Moscow's Agricultural University and Pirogovo Golf Club. As well as product demonstrations, the seminar included presentations from renowned agronomist Dr Richard Hurley, of Rutgers University, and Jon Scott, Head of Agronomy at Nicklaus Design.

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Come in No 12!
It's Campey Turf Care's MD...

Name: Richard Campey
Company: Campey Turf Care Systems

Position: Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?

35 years and counting. We're preparing to celebrate our company's 25th anniversary in 2011.

How did you get into it?

I responded to an advertisement that SISIS placed in our local newspaper. They were looking for a service engineer but I ended up being a sales demonstrator.

What other jobs have you done?

I worked in agriculture, milking cows, and did a short stint in pharmaceutical research.

What do you like about your current job?

The variety – every day's different. It has given me the opportunity to travel the world, meet interesting people and learn as I go along.

What changes have you seen in the industry?

The quality of playing surfaces, and UK turf professionals have led the way. With regard to turf care machinery, the build quality and engineering has come on in leaps and bounds, and there's so much more to come. We're going to see manual operation giving way to electronics and remote-control. Machinery will be able to multi-task

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to take my Morgan out for a run in the countryside, and do a spot of clay pigeon shooting.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Running the North West branch of the 'Victims of VOSA' Support Group, signing copies of my published works 'Tachographs for Dummies', and joining other 'silver surfers' at night school on a 'Computers for Beginners' course, trying to type with more than my forefingers. I'm still convinced there's one button that does it all - I just haven't found it yet!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

All our customers and fellow turf professionals while I'm very fortunate to have worked with some brilliant individuals. Ko Rodenberg, inventor of the Koro TopMaker, stands out as a great man.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

With our anniversary next year, it has to be 25. It's a major milestone for me, my family and my staff.

Richard has picked David Golding of the GTC

An environmental haven



James Hutchinson examines some fungus

Scott MacCallum travelled to the north west coast to meet a man who is seeing some real rewards for his hard work



Fairhaven Golf Club, in Lytham St Annes, is one of the finest tests of golf in an area which is renowned for quality courses. With its unusual tree lined but links characteristics it is very much one of a kind, but nowadays it is forging an equally strong reputation for its environmental stewardship.

Peter Simpson is Course Manager but credit for much of the work that has been carried out on encouraging ecology on the course must go to his Assistant and Eco Co-ordinator, James Hutchinson, whose infectious enthusiasm has galvanised the entire club and seen him named as the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year, as well as him closing in on a Sports Turf Science Degree, at Myerscough College.

But it was not always so and while James was always a conscientious and dedicated worker, he didn't

begin to move forward professionally until about five years ago, ironically, when the club first entered the Golf Environment competition.

"Peter knew I was interested in the environment and asked me to go round the course with Bob Taylor and Kelly Harman, of the STRI, as they assessed the course," recalled James.

"I spent a couple of days with them but was embarrassed that when they asked me questions I didn't know any of the answers. I felt completely out of my depth.

"I decided there and then that if I wanted to progress in greenkeeping, and ultimately get a course of my own, I'd have to do something about it."

That was very much the catalyst and to say that James has upped his game since would be very much an understatement and the work that has been done on the course – mostly in spare time after the

essential course management work has been carry out – is quite awe inspiring.

"Basically I started to improve my knowledge base by keeping in touch with the guys at the STRI and



A small wet area has been created to serve the local fauna.



“We have 17 different varieties of butterfly and we are delighted that the 73% of the 100 wildlife boxes we have erected in the last five years (many of them built by members of the team) were occupied this year, and up 1% on the year before”

James Hutchinson



tion as I could from the web and from books. I now have around 20 books, most of them about nature and golf course ecology but there are also some on pure greenkeeping.”

Having well and truly caught the education bug someone then told James that he could gain a degree by distance learning and this was something he kept in the back of his mind for around a year.

“I didn’t think I’d have the right criteria to do a degree, as I was lacking academic qualifications, but I did have 18 years in greenkeeping and what I did have was Accreditation for Prior Learning so when I got in touch with Myerscough they accepted me. I was over the moon and determined to give it my best shot,” said James, who has rigidly stuck to two hours of study every evening since and has been rewarded with results consistently over the 70% mark.

James received funding for his course from the Ransomes Jacobsen BIGGA Scholarship Fund while he has also been successful in winning an R&A Scholarship, covering the final two years of his course. He is hoping to graduate in June next year.

But while he has been putting in the hours at home in front of a computer screen James, with the full encouragement and support of Peter and the rest of the team at Fairhaven, has also ensured that the golf course is now alive with flora and fauna.

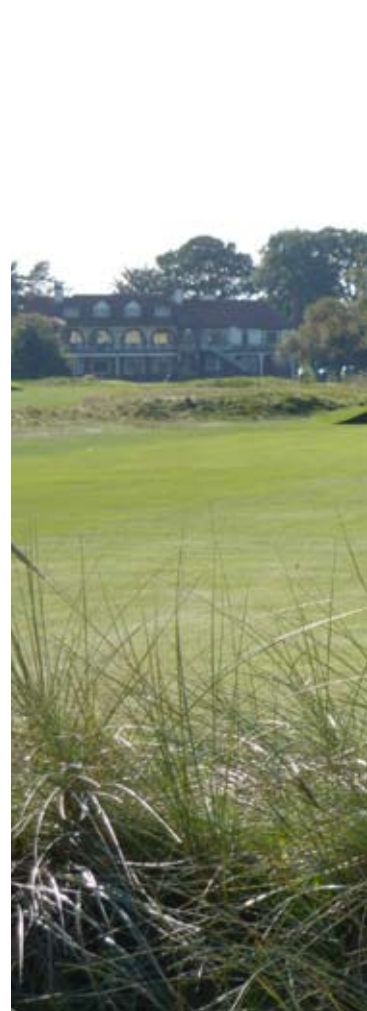
“If you had come to the course four or five years ago you would certainly have seen some wildlife but there is far, far more now. We have 17 different varieties of butterfly and we are delighted that the 73% of the 100 wildlife boxes we have erected in the last five years (many of them built by members of the team) were occupied this year, and up 1% on the year before,” he said, of the bat boxes, bee boxes, owl boxes, kestrel boxes and modified tennis balls on sticks aimed at encouraging Field Mice.

As a younger greenkeeper James didn’t push himself forward to achieve, believing that should be left to others and he actually left the profession for a couple of years around 1999 to set up his own gardening business.

“I used to do Peter’s garden for him and one day he said that one of his guys was leaving and did I want to come back. It had been driving me mad to be spending so much time on my own so my first words were ‘When can I start?’.”



The pond is part way through a three year clearance programme.



“We do most of the work after hours, staying behind in our own time or when we have a few hours left on a Friday afternoon after we’ve done everything for the weekend”

Peter Simpson

Enthusiasm bursts from every pore when James talks about the various projects being carried out on the course – a passion which carried over to his invitation to visit the course with a host of emails urging me to pay a visit.

“My aim has been to have something on every hole as well as many of the out of play areas and we have achieved that.”

Proof needed?

There is.

Creeping Willow encouragement; Heather regeneration; Woodland management – eco piles, standing timber and Rhododendron/Sycamore management; Composting of golf course waste; Wild flower Meadow creation; 100 wildlife boxes; Orchid encouragement with three types now on the course; Marram Grass introduction; Wetland recover project; Pond clearance of Canadian Pond Weed; Dune Slack development – the green staff removed all the turf by and then replaced it piece by piece; Gorse management – a five year rotation policy of coppicing down to 50-80

mil and the introduction of home grown 100-200 mil plants to the natural links areas of the course; Common Reed encouragement and finally those Field Mice habitats made from tennis balls.

James had received news of his Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year Award from the STRI Golf Environment Competition after his invitation to visit the course but before it had actually taken place, but, in truth, he had almost given up on winning this year.

“I had been told that we would receive news the week before so when Peter came flying down to me as I was on the 12th fairway with a letter from the STRI I wasn’t too hopeful. The Club had won Best Newcomer in ’07 and was Northern Winner in ’08 and ’09 and the envelope had contained a certificate.

This letter looked a bit thin but it did contain news – right at the very end – that I’d won the individual award,” said James, who can now look forward to at Study Trip to the United States, in the company of Colin Webber, whose course, Port-

more Golf Park, in Devon, won the top Award.

“We are all very proud of him and the great thing is that he’s got the other lads interested as well. It’s just snowballed and Jim has been the main instigator. Winning the prize has been a just reward for him,” said Peter, as we spoke after a course walk.

Conscious of the ever present potential criticism of spending too much time on the nature reserve element of the golf course and not enough on the playing areas Peter is keen to ensure that the environmental work is an “add on” rather than “alternative” to the regular course management.

“We do most of the work after hours, staying behind in our own time or when we have a few hours left on a Friday afternoon after we’ve done everything for the weekend. What would we do - tidy the sheds or do a couple of hours of this work?”

The cash prize that the club received for previous success in the competition has been ring fenced for environmental work and if they need to buy Marram grass the funds are already in place to do it.

The club is not standing still in the development of the golf course from a playability perspective either and it has recently been rewarded by the R&A with the World Junior Open to be held during the



A rivetted bunker



The redesign of the par-3 5th

week of the Royal Lytham Open in 2012.

“We knew we were in line for either a Final Qualifier or The World Junior Open and are absolutely delighted to have got this. It is a big event and some of the stars of tomorrow will be playing.”

Ahead of that they are currently involved in the redesign of the par-3 5th under the direction of golf course architect, Tom McKenzie.

“We are making the green more visible from the tee, but at the same time trying to keep the bunkers in play,” said Peter, whose team are doing the construction work in-house.

In keeping with ensuring a challenge for the modern day player with the modern day equipment the club’s plan in recent years has been to take the course over 7000 yards and it now stands at 7025 from the back tees.

“That’s the end of it. We are over 7000 yards so that will be the last of the winter alterations,” said Peter, who explained that the current description of the course is “Hybrid”.

“We used to be know as a tree lined links, or semi links – we’ve got revetted bunkers and most of the course is on sand – but the current name is Hybrid.”

With Fairhaven moving forward and becoming a haven for all sorts of wildlife there is one species that



INSET ABOVE: A box for catching wildlife, and a modified tennis ball on sticks aimed at encouraging Field Mice
RIGHT: The greenkeeping team

has made its home on the course which perhaps marks it out as different from most courses.

“We have nine ring-necked parakeet who live on the course and who we see quite regularly. They must have escaped from somewhere,” said James.

“They are quite aggressive to

the other birds, but we are a bit concerned about them becoming weaker through inter breeding.”

While those parakeets may have lost their way to have arrived at the North West seaside resort of Lytham St Annes the same can’t be said of James, who is now right on track and loving his job more than ever.





EAGLE

Eagle designs
and delivers
quality golf
club collateral

t +44 (0)1883 344244
f +44 (0)1883 341777
e info@eagle.uk.com
www.eagle.uk.com

A seed box that...



...will make a difference



At a special 20%
discounted rate
for all BIGGA
members.

Make sure your wealth stays
with your family after you die

WRITE A WILL

York FM Ltd (BIGGA's pension administrators) offers
the following...

- Will Writing
- Estate Planning
- Lasting Power of Attorney
- Probate Completion



Please call 01904 767377 for details
Contact Gareth Wigdahl
or Graham Carver for more information



Zero Turn articulating mowers

Patented belt-drive for easy
and low cost maintenance

Efficient and economical



See us at BTME
Hall C Stand C43

MODEL 3696
2.4M CUTTING WIDTH
FOUR ARTICULATING DECKS

Cut more. For less.

High definition mowers for a world that isn't flat
'wide-cut' productivity with 'push mower' quality

Tel: 01622 812103 Fax: 01622 815534

Email: sales@lastec.co.uk

Thanks!

The conveyor belt of those BIGGA members who have benefited from Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships just keeps on rolling and over £125,000 has been gifted to talented, ambitious people who could only move forward with assistance towards their course fees, since the scheme was launched in 2002

This month three of the recipients, at different stages of their careers, talk about their experiences and thank Ransomes Jacobsen for allowing it to happen

**RANSOMES
JACOBSEN**
A Textron Company



Paul Farrell Msc

This June I attended my graduation at Cranfield University for the MSc in Sports Surface Technology. As a beneficiary of the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Fund I would like to give a brief insight into my experience over the last two years.

Having started out in greenkeeping 28 years ago, I have always strived to gain academic qualifications to supplement my practical knowledge and experience. Beginning with City & Guilds 2-4 and then moving on to the Higher National Diploma in Turf Science at Myerscough College. Although the knowledge I had gained was certainly of great value to me in

my career, I felt that if I gained a more scientific understanding of the subjects within our industry then it would help me make more informed judgements. I had started to look at the options for higher study, at the various colleges in my area, which included BSc degrees etc, when I spotted the advert in Greenkeeper International for the MSc in Sports Surface Technology at Cranfield University. I wrote off for the information pack and found that the module format would fit well with my work schedule as these took place over the 'winter' months.

However the costs involved did prove to be a stumbling block at the time and I gave up on the idea. That is until three years later when I came across the course informa-



Paul Farrell Msc

tion at the bottom of a folder. This got me wondering again, only this time I did have some finances available, but still not enough to finance the whole course. This is when I thought of applying for the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship fund through BIGGA to see if they could help. Thankfully the response was a positive one and they did grant me the scholarship, which was a great relief as this then allowed me to complete my application for the course.

When the time came to start the course, some doubt did creep in as to whether I was up to it, after all it seemed to be a big leap from HND to MSc, as I was under no illusion of the standards that would be required in terms of work submitted and in the amount of hard work and effort that was to be needed.

Also I did chat to a past MSc student to gain an idea of what to expect, he said the experience was "like putting your n*ts in a vice and letting someone give them a good kicking for two years", although he did add it was a great experience and well worth it in the end. Surprisingly this didn't put me off, but it did give me an insight into what lay ahead, plus I had been a Head Greenkeeper for over 20 years so I already knew what that felt like anyway!

The two years that followed were tough at times, the usual highs and lows whenever you attempt anything worthwhile, however the support you get not only from the lecturers but also your peers is brilliant. Basically everything is set up to help you reach your goals, if you are prepared to work hard to achieve them.

The course was made up of eight modules, each module taken as a two week block release over two years, plus two group projects and the thesis/ individual project. The modules were varied, ranging from

subjects such as soil science to synthetic surfaces.

As mentioned an individual project/thesis was a criteria of the course. You aimed to choose a topic of original research, which seemed difficult at first – we all know from browsing the internet on greenkeeping matters the wealth of research that already exists on subjects we might be interested in.

The trick, if you are struggling, is to maybe take a subject and tackle it from a different angle if possible. Also it is important to have a genuine interest in the subject, as otherwise months of research will become a chore, which besides making you miserable, will probably reflect in the quality and end result of your thesis. The subject of my thesis was 'The Ecology of Nematodes and

• Each area was sampled and the nematode populations were identified by their feeding guilds. Each area was also tested to ascertain the levels of microbial biomass present.

• Information was gathered on soil type, the plant species present and the management strategies applied to the given areas.

• Analysis and discussion of the results took place, comparing the different turf areas.

The following is the 'abstract' taken from the thesis which consisted of over 15,000 words:

Nematodes can destroy turfgrass surfaces creating unplayable playing areas, which can have great financial impact upon stakeholders - such as owners and users of sports facilities.

Although damage caused by plant parasitic nematodes in turf is recognised as a problem.

All nematodes play an important role within soil biota, being involved in nutrient and energy cycling.

These nematodes can be identified and separated into different groups by their feeding guilds. Nematodes interact with the soil biomass and are involved at every trophic level within the soil food web.

Therefore any management practices carried out upon a turf area should consider the effects they might have on not only nematodes but also microbial biomass populations within the soil.

An investigation was undertaken to assess what effects management and soil type had upon the nematode and microbial biomass populations of nine different turf-grass areas.

The investigations also sort to ascertain if a relationship exists between nematode and microbial biomass populations within the turf areas.

The results found that there were significant differences in the nematode populations found and that different community structures exist across the different surfaces ($p < 0.05$).

Microbial biomass populations across the turf areas also showed a significant difference ($p < 0.001$).

The levels of nematodes and microbial biomass were considered in relation to the management practices carried out and soil type.

It was found that the two influenced the nematode and microbial biomass population size.

A weak positive correlation was found between the nematode and microbial biomass populations ($r = 0.58$).

However it was considered that

When the time came to start the course, some doubt did creep in as to whether I was up to it. It seemed to be a big leap from HND to MSc, and I was under no illusion of the standard required and the hard work needed"

Paul Farrell Msc

Microbial Biomass Populations in managed turf

The project was designed to determine the possible effects that turf management practices have on the dynamics of nematode communities and microbial biomass populations within different turf surfaces.

This was achieved with the following objectives –

• A selection of six different turf surfaces, four areas allocated to the playing of sport (golf, football, cricket, tennis) and two non sport surfaces (ornamental lawn, road-side verge).



this apparent relationship was more likely caused by the influence of the management practices and soil type and that the nematode and microbial biomass populations were responding in a similar way to the effects that they had upon the soil environment.

Although you may think 15,000 words is a lot, this is usually a concise version of all that you have found.

Taking on a research project, especially if for the first time can be daunting, but again the support and guidance from the lecturers is brilliant and is there throughout the process. Also you will probably find yourself having to develop new skills just to carry out the project.

My particular challenge was collecting and extracting the nematodes from the soil samples and then identifying the different nematodes by their feeding guilds under a microscope, plus the task of extracting the microbial biomass from the soil samples, along with getting to grips with the 'statistical analysis' of all the results from my investigation.

If anyone is thinking of taking on the challenge of the MSc, then one piece of advice I would give, is to ensure that you are 'PC literate' and I don't just mean how to get on 'Facebook'!

This won't help you understand the subject matter more easily, but it will help with your time management.

There is nothing more frustrating than plodding your way through computer programs when you should be doing it in two or three clicks, believe me I know. Also the nature of the Msc has now changed slightly.

Cranfield are continuing their Sports Surface Technology MSc course as a 'masters by research', which allows particular flexibility for suitably qualified part time students looking to study. Full details are available at <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/students/courses/page1823.html>

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Knights Grange sports complex for the use of their facility for my project and Dr Mark Bartlett for his support and guidance throughout the process of my thesis, also my fellow students for helping to make the whole experience an enjoyable one and of course my thanks.

Gratitude go to BIGGA and the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship fund who without their financial support my MSc would not have been possible.

Darren Anderson MG

It was August 1992, the look of disappointment on my Parents faces said it all! I had just shown them my GCSE exam results and my Father who back then was also my Course Manager, leant back on his chair at the kitchen table and said. "Well you're lucky to be in a career that you can get a education in, not all kids who have just failed their GCSE's can say that", he then followed on to say "You better stick in when you go to college for your NVQ level 2 or else"! I kept quiet as I had got away very lightly with a telling off!

It was another year before I was sent to college, the reason being, so I had good basic greenkeeping knowledge practically before I went; this was also so I had more interest in the subjects being taught to the class if I had some practical experience in them. Little did I know that this would be the start of a very long education through different stages, even becoming the 46th Master Greenkeeper in 2008 and the look of pride on my parents' faces, I think I had been officially forgiven for the GCSE exam results 16 years earlier.

Throughout my education I have been lucky enough to have a training provider, North Wales Training (NWT) who funded my NVQ levels 2,3,4 with all the extra courses like NPTC training that helps towards NVQ's. In 2001, they also paid for my HNC in Golf Course Management, I told myself this was the final qualification I was going to do, but in 2008 I decided to dust off the computer and study for my Foundation Degree in Science this was On-line and the subject was Sportsturf.

The Club was supportive in me doing another qualification as they knew they would benefit from it too, but they also wanted me to look into funding to help with the costs to keep expenditure down as with most members clubs of late.

With no more funding available from NWT and almost all the avenues of funding exhausted towards the FdSc - Online at Myerscough, it didn't look like I wouldn't get a any financial help, but then I remembered the Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship that I had read about in the GI magazine and on the website, so I enquired about a Scholarship, following on to applying and then being accepted, I presented the club with the information on funding of the on-line course, also informing them that I would not be missing work through



ABOVE: Darren Anderson MG

"I remembered the Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship that I read about in GI and on the website, so I applied and got accepted!"
Darren Anderson MG

day release with it being on-line, the Club happily granted the rest of the expenditure to pay for the remaining sum of money.

The FdSc - Online course at Myerscough was excellent and the staff headed by form tutor Dr Andy Owen were always happy to help.

For anyone thinking of taking up this course, I cannot state enough, it's a great course but you have to be fully committed to it! It is a step up from any other qualifications I have done and I've done a few, you will have to be regimented in allocating yourself revision time, we are all different with our circumstances so how you allocate your time up is up to you, I would suggest approximately eight hours per week, and if you can get some study time off work, take it, sadly for me, I had considerably more work commitments than usual with the run up to Abergel's Centenary and grant work to be carried out after being awarded money from the Ryder Cup Legacy Fund to build Two extra practice facilities, this made it hard to allocate time for study-

ing, so all my study was done in my own time. Originally I told the club that I would not be away for day release because it was online, but I was going to give myself flexy study time, when I could go home for a afternoon when work could spare it, that never really happened and the total time I took off for study over the course was Two days. If I could go back and do it all again I would make sure I allocated time for it.

I always got my work done; it would have just been a lot easier and a lot less stressful if I had allocated time for the course.

The whole course was on-line, in fact the graduation was the first time I had been to Myerscough College and met any of the other students.

Myerscough College On-Line Learning Network (MOLLNET) was excellent; you have your own student page to receive your on-line hand outs, which I must say were to the highest standards! I'm just glad the paper I used to print the handouts was from a Sustainable Source as there was lots of it! At the end of each lecture booklet there was a list of reading material to assist you in your studying, the BIGGA lending library was a great help with the books being aimed at greenkeeping and associated subjects to golf course management, there are nearly all the books needed for revision, but remember there will be other students with the same listing as you.

The exams were also delivered in the same way, with all the information on the subject's timetable, but the Tutors always message everyone in advance just to remind the students.

The exams would become available to print 20 minutes before the start time and they are done under exam conditions according to the information given on the exam sheets, these were posted back to the college the same day with witness statements from the Secretary on the exam procedure.

I've got to where I am today through qualifications, the NVQ's I gained were specific to my job and experience at the time helping me understand greenkeeping and course management practically and academically each stage of the way.

The HNC went back to the class room teaching us subjects compared to gathering evidence and building portfolios for the NVQs

In the HNC my favourite subject was Irrigation Design/Installation and control, this came in handy at the time as the greens at Abergele were being redesigned and recon-

structed to USGA specification, along side the greens construction was the installation of a new computerised valve in head irrigation system. At the time I was the Deputy Head and the club placed me in charge of the project, half way through I was lucky enough to take over as Course Manager

On the second phase of construction the irrigation installation was not going to plan and I noticed that the company installing the system were cutting very large corners, after many site meetings with them and the rest of the project team their contract was terminated and a new company was awarded the contract to finish the installation and to rectify the corners cut, the corner cutting and using poor quality materials would of gone unnoticed if I hadn't studied the Irrigation module in the HNC and the club would have ended up with a poor quality irrigation system.

There are many great subjects in the FdSc and I find them all useful, Increasing my knowledge in disease management/ ecology and conservation etc some subjects I had already studied in my HNC like sports surface construction and Irrigation, but stating that the FdSc is a higher qualification the subjects were delivered in much more depth giving the students more knowledge about the subjects

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Withers and Ransomes Jacobsen for the funding, I would also like to thank all those involved from BIGGA in the decision to award the Scholarship to me for my FdSc in Sportsturf.

My qualifications have always helped me in my career and in turn helped Abergele G.C in its progression since I have worked there, whether it was being asked my opinion as a assistant, to making decisions as the Course Manager, one thing is for sure, with my latest edition to my portfolio I'm well equipped for the exciting new developments that are in the pipeline for Abergele Golf Club, adding another step in the clubs continues progression as it strides forward into its second century.

I hope my story from being a teenager with no qualifications to where I am today has encouraged not just young Greenkeepers but Greenkeepers of all ages to go to college, the Scholarship is open to all BIGGA members and you wont get it unless you look into it and apply, the scholarship could be the difference for a greenkeeper being granted of refused a college course by their club.

Peter Leach

What a fantastic three years, the most rewarding years of my life so far! After completing NVQ Level 3, I didn't feel ready to make the step up from Deputy to Head Greenkeeper but felt that it was vital to keep my education progressing. I decided that the on-line Foundation Degree SportsTurf provided by Myerscough College was the most suitable route for me personally and this was the best decision I have ever made.

When I started the course my aim was to do my best with the time that I had available. My results at the end of the first year were better than I expected and this gave me the encouragement to work really hard for the final two years. After nearly three years of assignments, deadlines and exams it was such a proud moment for me to attend the Graduation Ceremony at Myerscough College. It has been the biggest achievement of my life to pass with distinction and to be the winner of the BarenbrugTurfAward for 2010. This was presented for having the highest marks out of the on-line Foundation Degree Sports Turf students who graduated this summer from Myerscough College.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Ransomes Jacobsen who supports BIGGA's Higher Education Scholarship. The funding provided from this scholarship enabled me to comfortably meet the costs of the course. Thank you to my employer Exeter Golf and Country Club and John Parr the Course Manager for their flexibility and especially John for his information and advice. Also, I received fantastic help from Exeter's Mechanic, Brian Chidgey, and Robert Guntrip, from Devon Garden Machinery. I was very lucky to have the support and encouragement from my family throughout, thank you for putting up with me and getting me through the stressful times!

The prospect of studying a course on-line may seem daunting and I had reservations at first, however, the on-line delivery provided by Myerscough College is excellent. A bit like an e-mail account, each on-line student has their own page on the College Mollnet. Learning resources are sent each week to your page as well as regular messages from the college tutors. Assignments are delivered to your page and completed assignments can be handed in on the same page in the same way that an e-mail attachment would be sent. It is very user friendly and an E-Learning Team are easy to get hold of via

2010 Scholarships Awarded Winners

Jamie Blake - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

Craig Parry - SVQ Level 4 - Management

Timothy Johnson - BSc Honours in Turfgrass Science (online)

James Stevens - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

Gary Cunningham - NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf

Andrew Reason - HNC Golf Course Management (Online)

Derek Robson - Online Certificate in Turfgrass Management

Michael Boyes - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

Graeme Latto - SVQ Level 4 in Management

Greg Wellings - MSc By Research



ABOVE: Peter Leach

e-mail or the phone if any problems are encountered.

The actual Foundation Degree Sports Turf is a brilliant course as it is relevant, useful and challenging. I spent a lot of time actually on the golf course taking soil samples, identifying grasses, weeds and diseases and studying the ecology at Exeter Golf and Country Club. It is much more than being sat in front of a laptop with a textbook open.

The first year provides the essential good grounding with soil science and plant biology as the main subjects. The second and third years provide more specific modules for sports turf: Turf grass growth and development focusing on the science of the grass plant and a study of the different species; Turf grass disorders; Ecology and conservation; Sports turf machinery and their management; Construction; Irrigation systems; Surveying, planning and design.

Credit and thanks must go to Andy Owen and Stewart Brown and their team at Myerscough College for producing and delivering such a professional and excellent Sports Turf course. Such a course must be recognised within the industry for its quality, relevance and accessibility for full-time Greenkeepers.

Not only has the course dramatically improved my theoretical knowledge, it has provided me

with many other skills. For those studying on-line while working full-time, your time management and organisational skills will quickly improve. A little and often approach to studying is recommended although I found my time input had peaks and troughs corresponding with deadline dates. I recommend a good wall planner with deadlines clearly marked as this really helped my time management! It is also important to maintain a healthy work / life balance.

“It was most satisfying for me in the middle of winter, knowing that I was doing something to keep my career progressing, with the dark, cold and wet months passing more quickly”
Peter Leach

The course improves your computer skills in every manner including word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software; e-mailing, digital photography software, internet researching and I have even become good at annotating aerial photography. These computer skills were used to produce reports, presentations, policy documents, site analysis and appraisal, project planning and scheduling, critical appraisals, maintenance schedules and procurement reports for committees. These are all familiar documents to any Course Manager so I am grateful to have had the practise

at producing these in the context of golf course management and I am certain they will be invaluable to me in the future when I hope to make the progression up to Head Greenkeeper.

Completing Foundation Degree Sports Turf has given me a lot of confidence in my ability to be able to manage my own golf course as Head Greenkeeper in the future. Knowledge is not always retained (in my mind at least!) therefore I made sure that I printed off all of the college lecture notes and I purchased selected textbooks along the way meaning that I now have a wealth of resources to fall back on which is reassuring.

It was strange visiting Myerscough College for the first time this year as I have actually been attached to this College since 2003, when I started the work-based NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf), before progressing on to Level 3 and then Foundation Degree. Thank you to Myerscough College for providing me with the solid foundations for what I hope will be a long, enjoyable and successful career in greenkeeping.

A big thank you to BIGGA and the GTC for ensuring that educational opportunities are easily accessible to all who wish to learn and develop.

Whatever college or course you choose, sign up and get learning in order to continue your professional development. It was most satisfying for me in the middle of winter knowing that I was doing something to keep my career progressing forward. As well as this, it was a great distraction from the dark, cold and wet months making them pass quickly.

I would like to congratulate all who graduated this summer and to those few achieving the BSc Honours Degree, including local Devon Greenkeeper Josh Webber – well done!



Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility?

Do you want to be taken seriously as a sports turf professional?

Do you want access to a wide range of bespoke education courses?

Do you want to be part of a large network of like-minded people where shared knowledge is a key ingredient?

Do you want to be part of a progressive association that actively works to enhance the professional reputation of sports turf professionals?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions then Membership of BIGGA is for you.

Why Join BIGGA?

- Industry specific, education and training
- Greenkeeper International – BIGGA's official magazine
- Careers advice and guidance
- Regional and national events
- Sports turf industry networking
- Commitment to CPD
- Maintain standard and quality within the profession
- Dedicated members' website

Look to your future by joining BIGGA today...

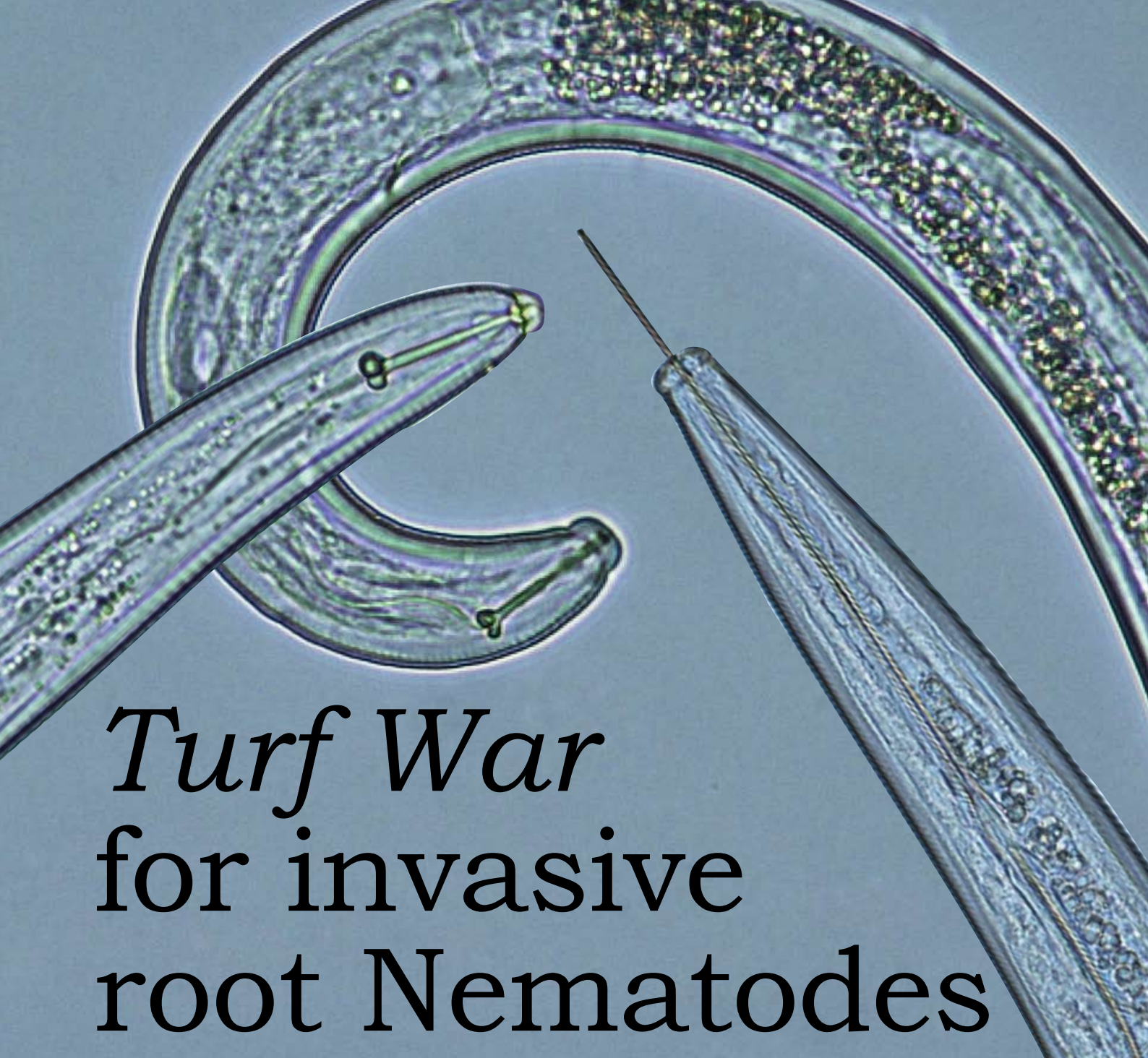
Tel: 01347 833800 select option 1,

email: membership@bigga.co.uk

visit www.bigga.org.uk



Promoting best practice in sports turf management



Turf War for invasive root Nematodes

A potent weapon is emerging in the fast moving *Turf War*.
Hilary Knight talks with Colin Fleming

Throughout the turf based leisure industry a new war is breaking out. And the enemy is the invasive and destructive parasitic root-nematode, which threatens our love of grass based sports.

Multi-million pound businesses at golf courses, football and rugby stadiums and racecourses have a lot to be concerned about. There is increasing recognition that within a few months, root systems of hallowed turf can be destroyed as the turf becomes thinned, unstable and more importantly unplayable. It's potentially a costly commercial nightmare as pitches and greens have to be re-laid.

Fortunately, there is a new and potent weapon in this recent 'Turf War'. Lead scientists at the Belfast-based Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), are examining the problem and are currently studying new methods to manage nematode outbreaks, advising key sports facilities on how to control potential damage to expensive and vital playing surfaces.

Colin Fleming, Lead Scientist from the Applied Plant Science Division with AFBI outlined the problem.

"It's a fast growing problem for our sports grounds. We estimate that 90% of all new soccer and golf courses with sand based construc-

tions are experiencing significant nematode damage. Plant parasitic nematodes are microscopic round-worms (adults are 0.5-3mm long) with most of the 4100 described species living in the soil, where they feed on plants especially their roots. The heads of plant feeding nematodes contain a hollow spear or stylet with which they pierce root cell walls and ingest the cell contents, causing the plant roots to die.

"Although nematodes have been about for some time, several key changes in modern turf grass construction and maintenance have encouraged their spread and exacerbated the problem creating a

ABOVE: microscopic images of the nematodes, clockwise: spiral nematode, stunt nematode and needle nematode



ABOVE: Root knot damage to a bermuda golf green at Raffles Golf Course, Singapore

ABOVE RIGHT: Turf chlorosis and thinning caused by *Pratylenchoides* nematode damage on a sand dressed fairway (treated on left, untreated on right)

LEFT: Another example of green damage

BELOW: Astounding close-up of subanguina galls on roots



distinctive pattern of destruction of grass root systems.

“For golf courses and sports stadiums, the more recent move to sand-based construction to help with drainage and playability, creates a perfect environment for nematodes and so has also increased their levels in the soil base.

“More and more of our well-known sports facilities are beginning to show evidence of root damage. An affected turf typically

autumn at a leading UK (Chepstow) racecourse who have had to cancel the end of their Flat Racing season due to turf instability as a result of nematode damage. This created a potential hazard to the expensive racehorses that could catch a foot on the damaged turf. Since this story came to light we have been contacted by a number of other racecourses in the UK to analyse soil samples to monitor their own courses.”

“At present our research shows that this is a world wide problem with no simple cure. Once you have plant parasitic nematodes in the soil base, it is almost impossible to eradicate them”

Colin Fleming

displays reduced vigour, wilts easily in dry conditions, responds slowly to nutrient application, becomes stunted and chlorotic and may eventually die. Ground management staff are becoming more aware of the issue where previously the condition was perhaps mistaken for a fungal infection, or ‘yellow’ or ‘takeall’ patches”

“The problem is certainly being made worse by climate change as milder winters have allowed Nematode levels to increase and hatching numbers of the juvenile worms are both higher and are occurring earlier in the season.”

“The commercial implications of this damage, have been seen this

“At present our research shows that this is a world wide problem with no simple cure. Once you have plant parasitic nematodes in the soil base, it is almost impossible to eradicate them. Research, working with a number of forward thinking turf-based sports facilities worldwide, is identifying best practice methods of managing the problem, restricting the levels of nematodes in the soil and so reducing potential damage. We are then able to offer advice to these sports facilities on the best strategies to manage the problem, backed up by regular soil testing to identify times of high level nematode hatching and grass maintenance.”



“We are also carrying out research into the commercial use of a number of natural compounds which are that are showing huge potential in treating at risk areas during hatching periods, so reducing nematodes to safer levels. Several of these environmentally safe compounds are showing tremendous promise in the ongoing fight against this commercially difficult problem.”

“The turf based leisure industry is looking closely at this new technology as it seeks environmentally sound technologies that are easy to use by grounds staff, reduce levels of nematode numbers, improve turf quality by keeping root development healthy and ultimately save the huge sums of money it would take to replace the sports turf.”

One of the forward thinking leisure facilities taking part in the AFBI research programme is the beautiful and recently constructed Lough Erne Resort in County Fermanagh. This course was constructed in 2006 using a sand based design and after 18 months to two years has shown signs of nematode damage in the greens.

Head Greenskeeper Sean Reilly, explained, “Premium courses have to deliver high playing standards that players have come to expect. If we weren’t so pro-active in tackling the problem playability would deteriorate and problems would develop. Our championship course here at Lough Erne Resort has a sand based construction which allows the course to remain in play throughout the year and this makes business sense. However it does also

place more pressure on the playing surfaces and especially the greens, where the turf can become more stressed and the native nematode problem can become more of an issue if not treated.”

“Additionally, on championship courses golf greens, the pressure from players is on to cut the sward as short as possible to increase the speed of the ball when putting, but this in itself is putting more stress on the turf which is allowing the problem to multiply.”

“We first noticed problem patches on our greens about 2 years after they were constructed in 2006 and have been working with AFBI ever since then. We take soils samples every 3 weeks sending these to the AFBI laboratories in Belfast so that they can monitor nematode levels all the time and identify the stage of the nematodes life cycle for treatment. When turf is treated during the hatching period of the cycle, it is most effective in reducing numbers by 90%.”

“AFBI help to advise on how we can best treat the problem here and we are also one of the pilot amenities to test some of the new compounds that AFBI are developing to treat the problem. The natural compounds fit well with our strict environmental policies and natural wetland areas here at the Resort and are safe to use so close to the lakeside. We have had some successes so far with some of these and despite the ongoing problems, our course has stayed in great shape for our players and we know that because we have tackled this head-on, we

ABOVE: Sean Reilly, Head Greenskeeper Lough Erne Resort and Dr Colin Fleming, principal scientist AFBI take core samples of turf for laboratory analysis of nematode presence

RIGHT: Close-up showing damage

BELOW: The darker patches show where turf has thinned as a result of nematode root damage





are winning the battle against this almost invisible enemy.”

Football stadiums are also feeling the pressure to maintain turf, as Championship Club Middlesbrough FC can testify.

Head Groundsman, Tony Bell, has been involved with sand based pitches since 2002, but had never encountered the problem of nematodes until he started to have turf problems during the 2005-2006 busy football season.

“Pitches always thin during the winter season as light levels drop, but by Christmas 2005, the pitch was deteriorating quickly, and the pitch was becoming soft under foot. Stability became a real problem even though initially, there had been no visible signs of problems. There were no yellow patches either in those early stages, but we lost over 80% grass cover by 2006 during a very busy European season.”

“Soil samples were taken and sent to the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute in Belfast and nematode damage was identified as the problem by Colin Fleming’s team. As a result we took 8 inches off the pitch surface and replaced this with a completely new soil, sand and fibre construction, but by 2007, the nematode infestations were back as before.”

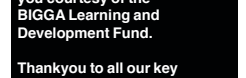
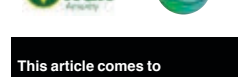
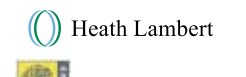
“We have been soil sampling continuously, working with AFBI for analysis of root damage and nematode hatching and following their advice for the management of the pitch. Their advice has been crucial to minimisation of damage and therefore costly repairs to the pitch. We have also been involved in trials of a number of natural compounds currently being developed by AFBI, that are showing some sign of helping to reduce the problem. It is important to concentrate on spraying these compounds to coincide with the major hatching periods of juveniles in spring, summer and

autumn, as it has shown to be difficult to catch the egg masses within the root structures themselves.”

“For the last two years we have been able to control the situation by managing and limiting the damage from nematodes by a programme of sampling to identify life cycle stages and spraying at hatching stages. We have also looked at our cutting regimes in an attempt to reduce stress on the turf, which makes it move vulnerable to nematode attack.”

“During our short maintenance period in the early summer months we also have been removing the top 10-15 millimetres of soil, which helps to get rid of the additional problem of meadow grass and algae that start to invade thinning turf areas as a result of nematode root damage. This has helped to maintain playability and has been a better commercial option than replacing the entire pitch surface every year which is an extremely costly and also lengthy process.”

“The pitch was deteriorating quickly, becoming soft under foot. We lost over 80% grass cover during a busy season”
Tony Bell, Head Groundsman
Middlesbrough FC



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.

Thank you to all our key sponsors

Dr. Colin Fleming can be reached via email address colin.fleming@afbi.gov.uk and the website for AFBI is www.afbi.gov.uk

Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

Become a key sponsor

The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key supporters means that BIGGA can continue to produce training and career aids including DVDs, CD Roms, field-guides, as well as refunds for training fees, subsidised learning and development courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800



“ I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training, so I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. A refund of my course fees has enabled me to complete my chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting, felling of small trees and my PA6 spraying certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Golden and Silver Key Companies, has done for my career. ”

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



“ The support for this fund has enabled BIGGA to enhance the value of being a member, and it has previously given many greenkeepers the opportunity to further develop their careers. As an association we owe our Golden and Silver Key sponsors a huge vote of thanks. ”

John Pemberton, Chief Executive



Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Heath Lambert



Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz, Jaey Goodchild

Grow wild on the golf course...

and put the habitat back



Linda Laxton offers a guide of what to plant where, when to plant it and the benefits that different species bring

Not so many years ago, golf courses were being attacked by ecologists as un-natural, profit obsessed, elitist wastes of green space that were endangering our natural habitats and threatening the environment with the use of unnecessary chemicals.

Since then common sense has tempered that view, aided by greenkeepers' positive attitudes to preserving wildlife and the industry's general move towards sustainability (where possible) and away from the practise of applying products in isolation, regardless of the existing soil make-up. Greenkeepers' love of nature goes without saying and goes with the job, so whether you're looking to simply encourage biodiversity in the rough or go the whole hog with

a grey water filtering system.

If I were planning to bring biodiversity to the golf course I'd start with the rough and semi-rough as they're the biggest possible areas of wildlife habitat, and I'd recommend quite robust plants that will stand golfers tramping around trying to find their balls!

Parkland/Inland Courses.

For parkland and most inland courses Knapweeds, Oxeye Daisies, Hedge Woundwort, Rosebay Willowherb, Dandelions and Buttercups will all do the job, with Foxgloves, English Bluebells, Primroses and Red Campions for shady areas. All you need to do is just clear small spaces and put them in any time from October to March. They don't

need any looking after, they will seed themselves and attract between them; Bumble Bees (Foxglove), Elephant Hawk Moths (Rosebay Willowherb) the Rosy Rustic Moth (Hedge Woundwort) and the Plain Y Moth. The larvae of the Campion Moth that lives in the Red Campion's seed heads is a valuable food source for Blue Tits and Knapweed provides nectar for bees and butterflies, while Greenfinches eat the seed. As primroses are pollinated at night they provide food for a variety of moths.

Links Courses.

Links courses will also happily play host to Harebells, Red and White Clover, Stonecrop, Marram Grass, Sea Couch Grass, Dune



MAIN ABOVE: A reedbed
INSET: A bee on a knapweed
ABOVE: Red campion

WILD FLOWER CALENDAR

January/February

– Coltsfoot

March/April

– Dog Violets, Primroses, Red Campion

May/June

– Dandelions, Buttercups, Daisies

July/Aug

– Knapweed, Oxeye Daisies, Clovers, Vetches, Birds foot Trefoil

September/October

– Hedge Woundwort, Lesser Burdock, Angelica

November/December

– Guelder Rose, Wild Clematis, Wild Privet, Woody Nightshade.



ABOVE: A cricket lands in the rough.
BELOW: Sea campion.
BOTTOM: Harebell



Fescue, Vipers Bugloss, Slender Birdsfoot and Trefoil, loved by the *Bombus subterraneus*, endangered and almost extinct bumble bee. Sheep's bit, Scabious and Sea Campion will also do well. For the three butterfly species that migrate to these shores from the Mediterranean, the Tortoiseshell, the Peacock and the Painted Lady, these plants provide the first nectar break after their long journey.

Heathland Courses

The wild flowers mentioned for general inland golf courses will survive on Heathland courses but due to the acidity of the soil there are others that will do better. Sheep's Sorrel which is the larval food plant of the Small Copper Butterfly, Harebells, Thyme and Tormentil, Gorse and Heather, which has its own special maintenance programme and is adored by bees. Meadow Pippets, Grouse and various Fritillary Butterflies love these plants.

Lakes, Ponds, Streams and Water Hazards.

If golfers are likely to be wading in to collect stray golf balls I would keep away from plants like Water lilies that could get damaged. This situation needs spiky plants that are planted, around the edge of the water. Marginals including Reeds, Irises, Ragged Robin, Purple Loosestrife, Marsh Marigolds and Bulrushes, once established will encourage dragonflies, newts, water voles, frogs and toads, and can be planted from October to March. Water Soldiers float in summer and

then sink to the bottom of the pond and live in the mud over winter. They should be 'golfer' proof but need to be planted in the spring when the water has heated up.

Grey Water Filtering

Many of our water loving marginal plants will recycle grey water from the clubhouse caused by washing-up, washing machines and showers, which you can safely re-use for irrigation.

Grey water needs to pass through plants of three different densities so you either need a long narrow pond (like a brook) or three smaller connecting ponds. Build settlement beds of re-cycled materials – crushed glass will last 10 years – and plant into it. Section one, or your first pond should contain reeds which have a good root mat and act as a physical filter. Section two should have Yellow Flag Irises, Marsh Marigolds and Bulrushes, while the third and last section needs sedges and floating plants for oxygenation.

The Lesser or Greater Pond Sedge will effectively pull anything that's left, detergent for example, out of the water and you will be able to safely re-use it for irrigation."

Golf courses are 'managed', but then so are the 'wild' heath lands of the North Yorkshire Moors and every back garden in the land. That doesn't stop them becoming important havens of biodiversity and by providing the right food source you can attract even the most endangered species and help secure their survival. As Linda Laxton says "Golf courses offer an ideal opportunity to put the habitat back."



about the author

Linda Laxton is the owner and MD of British Wild Flower Plants, 31 Main Road, Burlingham, Norfolk NR13 4TA.
www.wildflowers.co.uk
Email: office@wildflowers.co.uk
Tel: 01603 716615

Don't miss Linda's Free Fringe Seminar "Green Up Your Greens" at 12.55 – 1.25 on Wednesday January 19 during Harrogate Week.



Grass seed. BSH 'Grade A' grass seed.

**You won't notice the difference now,
but you will after the Monthly Medal.**

The 'Grade A' range of grass seeds from British Seed Houses
Suitable for all applications and venues
Order online at: www.bshamenity.com
Or speak to an expert on: 01522 868 714



Turf renovation and maintenance machinery



...for a great deal call us
or visit the website

CALL - 01638 720123

VISIT - www.thegrassgroup.com

The Grass Group



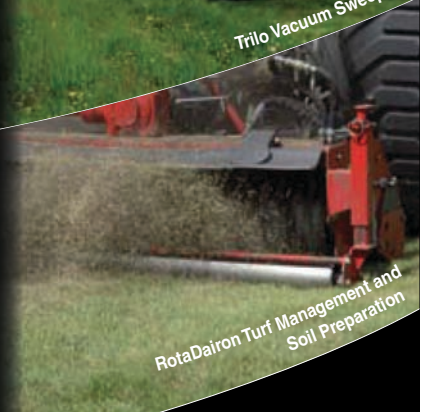
professional from the ground up



Progressive Tri-deck Rotary Mowers



Trilo Vacuum Sweepers



RotaDairon Turf Management and
Soil Preparation

Harrogate
week

The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

Your guide to the annual 5-day event returning
to the Harrogate International Centre this January

16-20 JANUARY 2011

Harrogate International Centre
North Yorkshire, HG1 5LA (UK)



Education 16-20 January 2010
Exhibition 18-20 January 2010

Supported by:





It's January, so it must be *Harrogate*

Don't miss out on your annual
Harrogate fix, says Scott MacCallum

And this year, despite the global economic situation biting hard, those who make the journey to North Yorkshire will be rewarded with an experience guaranteed to set them off on 2011 with a genuine boost.

The Continue to Learn Programme (full listings listed on the right) is superb and attracted

delegates in huge numbers while, with money short and budgets tight, companies have shown their faith in Harrogate by continuing to exhibit in solid numbers.

It says much for BIGGA's flagship event that such statements can be made, and in 2011, like every year since it first took place in 1988, it is a win-win for visitors and exhibitors alike.



Sunday 16th January

10.30 - 18.00 ... Basic Golf Mechanics Workshop.....	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
10.30 - 18.00 ... Golf Course Design	Member - £190 + VAT, Non Member - £275 + VAT
10.30 - 18.00 ... How to be an Outstanding Manager - Part 1: Setting and Managing Expectations	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
10.30 - 18.00 ... Irrigation System Design.....	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
10.30 - 18.00 ... Moving into Management	SOLD OUT
10.30 - 18.00 ... Moving with the Times	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT

Monday 17th January

09.00 - 17.00 ... Basic Budgeting and Golf Club Finance	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
09.00 - 17.00 ... Diagnostic and Problem Solving	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
09.00 - 17.00 ... Golf Course Design	Day Two
09.00 - 17.00 ... How to be an Outstanding Manager - Part 2: How to Motivate and Engage Your People	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
09.00 - 17.00 ... Moving into Management	Day Two
09.00 - 17.00 ... Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders	SOLD OUT
09.00 - 17.00 ... So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager - Five Fundamentals for Golf Course Management Success.....	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
09.00 - 17.00 ... Turf Managers' Conference.....	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT

Tuesday 18th January

09.30 - 12.30 ... Basic Electrical System Maintenance	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
09.45 - 10.15 ... Efficient Nutrient Technology	Free
09.30 - 16.45 ... Golf Club Marketing.....	Member - £95 + VAT, Non Member - £190 + VAT
09.30 - 10.00 ... Update on UK Proposals for Implementing the EU Sustainable Use Directive.....	Free
10.30 - 12.30 ... Producing a Golf Course Policy Document	Member - £30 + VAT, Non Member - £70 + VAT
10.20 - 11.20 ... STRI - Part of the Winning Team at the World Cup	Free
10.30 - 11.00 ... Wills and Estate Planning	Free
11.15 - 11.45 ... Improving Turf Quality	Free
11.35 - 12.35 ... Update from The R&A.....	Free
12.00 - 12.30 ... The Future of Turf Management.....	Free
13.15 - 13.45 ... Integrated Lake and Pond Management - Innovative Aquatic Solutions.....	Free
13.30 - 16.30 ... Introduction to Hydraulics.....	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
13.30 - 16.45 ... Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop	Free - Pre Book
13.20 - 14.20 ... Ryder Cup Cymru.....	Free
13.00 - 13.30 ... Volunteers' Workshop	Free - Pre Book
14.45 - 15.15 ... Fulvic Acid the Biostimulant that Extends Early and Late Season Growth	Free
14.35 - 15.35 ... Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship	Free
14.00 - 14.30 ... Why Electricity Generation Makes Economic Sense For Your Business.....	Free
15.30 - 16.00 ... Fludioxonil Providing Innovative Disease Management and Application.....	Free
16.00 - 17.00 ... Annual Awards Ceremony.....	Free
16.15 - 16.45 ... Bunker Erosion: A Sustainable Solution to an Age Old Golfing Problem.....	Free

Wednesday 19th January

09.30 - 13.00 ... Golf Club Management - Getting it Right in 2011. Hosted by the GCMA.....	£30 + VAT (or 2 for £50 + VAT)
09.30 - 10.00 ... Linking Fuel Savings to Reel Maintenance	Free
09.30 - 12.30 ... Protected Species and Habitat Considerations for Bees and Butterflies.....	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
09.30 - 12.30 ... The Rules of Golf and Course Set-up for PGA Events.....	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
10.25 - 10.55 ... The Three Steps to Transition	Free
10.15 - 11.15 ... The West Course at Wentworth.....	Free
11.55 - 12.25 ... Aeration on Golf Courses	Free
11.10 - 11.40 ... Coated Seed Delivering Species Transition on the Golf Course!.....	Free
11.30 - 12.30 ... Course Manager to Club Manager - The Challenge.....	Free
12.55 - 13.25 ... Green Up Your Greens	Free
13.30 - 16.30 ... Basic Greenkeeping Techniques.....	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
13.30 - 16.30 ... Carbon Auditing for Business Advantage	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
13.40 - 14.10 ... Environmental Management of your Golf Course with the Latest Technology in Chemistry	Free
13.30 - 16.30 ... Good Soil Chemistry and Biology the Answer to Practical Sustainability.....	Member - £45 + VAT, Non Member - £80 + VAT
13.15 - 14.15 ... Integrated Management of Dollar Spot	Free
14.30 - 15.30 ... Demystification of Synthetic Sports Surfaces	Free
14.00 - 16.00 ... Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers.....	Free - Pre Book
15.10 - 15.40 ... Turf in the Sustainability Era.....	Free
15.45 - 16.15 ... Working on Your Own at a 9 Hole Course	Free

Thursday 20th January

09.45 - 10.15 ... Sustainable Golf Course Maintenance; aligning golf course performance with the requirements of club members. Free	Free
09.30 - 10.00 ... Woodfuel Energy that Grows on Trees	Free
10.15 - 10.45 ... The New EU Water Framework Directive and its Impact on Golf Courses	Free
11.15 - 11.45 ... Energy Efficient Irrigation	Free
11.45 - 12.15 ... Simplified Access Control for your Golf Club	Free
11.00 - 11.30 ... Using Foliar Fertilisers to Optimise Putting Green Programming	Free

18-20 JANUARY 2011
HIC, North Yorks, HG1 5LA (UK)
9am-5pm except Thurs 9am-4pm

The ultimate turf manag exhibition in Europe



EXHIBITOR A-Z LISTINGS

Exhibitor Stand No

2 2iC Consultants Ltd C10a

A
 Abbott (MJ) Ltd A33
 Air-Seal Products Ltd M28
 Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd A36
 Amazone Ltd M3
 Amenity Technology Ltd C26
 Aquatic Solutions UK C16
 ASSA ABLOY UK M20a
 Aston Horticulture Ltd A20
 ATV World - Polaris EZ1

B
 Bailoy C42
 Bayer Environmental Science C35
 Bernhard & Co Ltd B33

Blade Amenity Ltd B10
 Blec Global A28a
 Blinder Bunker Liner C32
 Border Sports Services Ltd C3
 BIGGA C46
 British Climate Services EZ6b
 British Seed Houses A29
 British Wild Flower Plants EZ4
 Bunker Plug A23b

C
 Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd B37
 Chemsol (Global) Ltd A23a
 Coles Cheviot Trees M31
 Complete Weed Control Ltd C38
 Course Care C13
 Crocodile Golf Products M17b

D
 Delta-T Devices A24
 DENNIS M9
 Divot Bag Company (The) B8
 Double A / Tru-Turf C30
 Duchell UK Ltd B30

E
 Eagle Promotions Ltd B38a
 Ecosolve Limited M2
 Ecospray Ltd C29
 Engcon UK Ltd C1
 EnviroMonitors B2
 Envirosports Ltd EZ3
 European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd A19

F
 Farmura Ltd A17
 Flo N Go A28b

G
 Gambetti Barre UK Ltd A41a
 Garfitts International Ltd M38
 Golf Club Managers' Association C9
 GTC (The) C12
 Groundsman Industries A12

H
 Headland Amenity Ltd C25
 HumberPalmer's Fertilisers B7
 Huxley Golf C34

ement

If you work in sports turf maintenance,
don't miss out on any of this...

▶ 3 days of industry specific
exhibition, showcasing the
latest products and equipment

▶ Over 150 exhibitors covering 4
halls of over 6000 square metres

▶ Free career advice

▶ Free local Park and Ride

...and much more

▶ Free entry and a simple advance
registration process

▶ Unrivalled networking opportunities
with industry professionals

▶ 5 days of education: bespoke
workshops and free seminars

The one show to attend in 2011

To find out more and to register, log onto

www.harrogateweek.org.uk



Organised by the British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



Harrogate
week

I Indigrow LtdB32
Inscapes.....B1b
Inturf.....A37b
ITT Lowara.....A10

J Jex Silt Pumping.....A25b
Job Shop - Personal Development ZoneC22
John Greasley Ltd.....C41
Johnsons Sports SeedA18

K Kensett SportsB29

L Lastec UK Ltd.....C43
Limagrain UK.....C33
Lindum TurfB5
LS Systems Ltd.....C37

M MTS Group/Clubcar Golf Buggies.....M21
Myerscough College.....C11

N North Staffs Irrigation.....B26

O Ocmis Irrigation.....A21

P Penn State University.....C7
Pinpoint VisualisationA16a
Powakaddy InternationalB31
Progreen Weed Control Solutions....A25a
Protea MowersM10

R Rain Bird Europe SNC.....A9b
Reaseheath CollegeC17
RECO.....M15
Revaho UK Ltd.....A35
Rigby Taylor LtdC23
RuffordC40

S Scotts ProfessionalB39
Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions ...B11
Sherriff AmenityC8
Solarwall Ltd.....EZ6a
Speedcut Contractors LtdA22
Sportcrete LtdB1a
STRI.....B27

SymbioB4
Synergy / Ultraplant.....A11
SyngentaB38b

T Talbot Sports Turf.....M8
Tarmac TopsportA26
Techneat Engineering LtdC6
Terrain Aeration Services Ltd.....B9
The Grass GroupA27a
Tillers Turf Company Ltd.....A32b
True Surface by TurfliteM1
TurfCare Group Ltd.....C10b

V Verde Sports LtdC36a
Vermigrand.....EZ8
Vitax LtdA3

W Waste2Water Europe LtdB36
Wiedenmann UK.....C45

Y Yamaha Motor (UK) LtdC39



Montpellier

image courtesy of HIC



Cattleman's Association



Blues Bar

Where to eat, sleep and socialise in Harrogate...

Harrogate Week is unlike any other event. It is your chance to meet and interact with decision makers 24 hours a day. After the show closes there are endless opportunities to network in the Harrogate bars and restaurants with fellow turf professionals.

As you can imagine, Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town.

With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively nightlife along with a glamorous heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

WHERE TO EAT...

When you're feeling peckish or want to mix business with pleasure...

Alberts	Tel: 01423 568446	Bar & dining
Ali Raj	Tel: 01432 621627	Indian
B.E.D.	Tel: 01423 568600	Modern English
Bengal Spice	Tel: 01423 502610	Indian
Betty's.....	Tel: 01423 502746	Traditional English
Caramba Tapas & Bar	Tel: 01423 505300	Tapas
Cattleman's Association	Tel: 01423 561456	Tex Mex
Chez La Vie	Tel: 01423 560666	Traditional English
Damn Yankee	Tel: 01423 561424	Tex Mex
Drum and Monkey	Tel: 01423 502650	Seafood
Harrogate Brasserie.....	Tel: 01423 505041	English
Hedley's Wine Bar.....	Tel: 01423 562468	English
Horoscope.....	Tel: 01423 508144	Chinese
Joe Rigatoni.....	Tel: 01423 500071	Italian
La Tasca	Tel: 01423 566333	Tapas
Thai Elephant.....	Tel: 01423 530099	Thai
Salsa Posada	Tel: 01423 565151	Mexican
William and Victoria	Tel: 01423 506883	English

WHERE TO STAY...

Holiday Inn Harrogate, Kings Road	Tel: 0871 423 4876
Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road	Tel: 01423 500055
Studley Hotel, Swan Road	Tel: 01423 560425
Grants Hotel, Swan Road	Tel: 01423 560666
Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road.....	Tel: 0870 1688833
Crown Hotel, Crown Place	Tel: 01423 567755
Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road.....	Tel: 01423 504005
Cedar Court Hotel, Knaresborough Rd.....	Tel: 01423 858585
St George Hotel, Ripon Road.....	Tel: 01423 561431
Kimberely Hotel, Kings Road	Tel: 01423 505613
White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road	Tel: 01423 505681
Alexa House, Ripon Road	Tel: 01423 501988
Yorkshire Hotel, West Park	Tel: 01423 565071
Travelodge, The Ginnell.....	Tel: 0871 9846238
Shannon Court, Dragon Avenue	Tel: 01423 509858
Grafton, Franklin Mount	Tel: 01423 508491
Camberley, Kings Road	Tel: 01423 561618

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit:
www.reservation-highway.co.uk access code "bigga"
 or Tel: 01423 525577.

THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...

Carringtons, Station Parade	Tel: 01423 525551
The Moko Lounge, Kings Road	Tel: 01423 525862
The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street.....	Tel: 01423 520567
Odeon Cinema, East Parade.....	Tel: 0871 2244007
Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street	Tel: 01423 502116
UK Super Bowl, Tower Street	Tel: 01423 529191

How to get to Harrogate

Rail

Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station. Taxis are available outside the station and will cost around £3.50.

For further information on rail services to Harrogate contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Air

Leeds Bradford International Airport www.lbia.co.uk

Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately £18. You may wish to visit the following websites for flight information.

www.flybe.com
www.jet2.com
www.airsouthwest.com

The "Bus 2 Jet" 767 service links Leeds Bradford International Airport with Harrogate town centre. The service runs every 90 minutes between 0615 and 2245, with an average journey time of around half an hour. For further information on this service please contact Harrogate & District Travel Ltd on +44 1423 566061

Or visit www.bus2jet.com

Manchester International Airport www.manchesterairport.co.uk

Manchester International Airport is situated halfway between London and Edinburgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public Transport links are available 24 hours a day offering services to Harrogate via Leeds or York.

Coach

National Express www.nationalexpress.com

National Express is the UK's largest scheduled coach network, offering several services a day to Harrogate from all over the UK.

Car

www.theaa.com



Directions

From M1: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From M62: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the South A1(M): Leave the A1(M) at Wetherby and take the A661 to Harrogate, approximately 10 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the North A1(M): Leave A1(M) at junction 47 and take the A59 to Harrogate, approximately 8 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the East: Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the West

Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

Harrogate Town Centre Car Parks

MULTI-STOREY
Victoria, Jubilee, West Park

SURFACE LEVEL
Odeon, Park View, Montpellier Shoppers, West Park

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours.

Charges apply all days at all times (including Public Holidays)

Free parking for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles

Pay and Display parking is in operation

in most town centre streets in Harrogate.

Charges and restrictions apply on Sundays and Bank Holidays in all parking areas unless otherwise stated.

Sea

Direct Ferries www.directferries.co.uk

Direct Ferries are part of Direct Ferries Ltd, an online travel provider based in the UK offering ferry crossings to the UK from the continent. Registered agents of the ferry operators are listed on the website, they sail to 14 Countries and 54 ferry ports on over 60 routes.

North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles from Harrogate.

Park & Ride

BTME & ClubHouse provides a FREE 'Park and Ride' service from the Great Yorkshire Showground (from the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate, follow the ring road to the Great Yorkshire Showground (A661).) to Harrogate International Centre on all three days of the conference and exhibition. If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid any traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space.

The shuttle service will run at the times:

- Tuesday 20 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Wednesday 21 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Thursday 22 January 08.30 to 16.30

Harrogate week

HARROGATE WEEK 2011 PRESENTS...



THE BIGGA BEER FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2011 - 7 PM TO 10.30 PM

THE OLD SWAN HOTEL, HARROGATE
DRESS CODE: SMART/CASUAL
FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK TICKETS CONTACT
RACHEL OR ANGELA ON 01347 833800



Dark and beautifully smooth

Featuring Live Music

BORDER SPORTS SERVICES LTD



Specialist suppliers to the sportsturf industry



FERTILIZER



• QUALITY

• CONSISTENCY

• AFFORDABILITY

COME AND SEE US ON STAND C3 AT BTME



AGGREGATES



ROOTZONES



SEED



TOP DRESSING



SANDS



Border Sports Services Ltd, 41 Greenacres, Wetheral, Carlisle, CA4 8LD

For all enquiries call 01228 561982

www.mivena.nl email: bordersports@fsmail.net

Volunteers wanted



to work at The Open

The Open Championship, Royal St George's Golf Club, July 14-17, 2011

This is your opportunity to work at The Open Championship and assist the Royal St George's team with the preparation of the course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – University of Kent, in Canterbury - but after

that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 13, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only. Younger members, relatively

new to the Association, will also be actively considered.

To apply please complete this application form and send to:

Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

For further information contact Scott on: 01347 833800 or email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Support Team is February 1, 2011, and you will be notified later in the month.

Name			
.....		Yes	No
Golf Club			
.....		I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years.... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Position			
.....Age.....		I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee..... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
BIGGA Mem Number			
.....		I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme..... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Email Address			
.....		I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks..... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mobile Number			
.....		I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team..... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
I have applied for/appeared on the team at:		Applied Successful	
St Andrews, 2010 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.)..... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Turnberry, 2009 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Royal Birkdale 2008 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	I am an overseas Member..... <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Carnoustie 2007 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Hoylake, 2006 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.

Should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ as the R&A now have photographic ID for all Open Championship workers.

BE LOOKED UP IN THE ULTIMATE HANDBOOK

Advertise in the annual directory of BIGGA members



BE ONE CLICK AWAY FROM THE NEW BIGGA WEBSITE

www.bigga.org.uk

Advertise online



BE SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL SCENERY

Advertise in the 2012 BIGGA Calendar



BE SEEN BY THE BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

Advertise in GI, the monthly magazine for BIGGA members



BE PART OF BIGGA

To find out more contact us on 01347 833800



Preventing Winter Green Damage

Winter damage, aside from causing many a sleepless night, can be costly and time-consuming to repair. In preparation for a potentially harsh winter ahead, Jim Cook caught up with a man who has had a great deal of experience in dealing with such damage, but in a slightly more extreme environment

Hauger Golf Club sits 13 miles north of Oslo, in Norway. For up to five months in the year it is common for the course to be buried under three to four feet of snow, with temperatures plummeting to a numbing -35 degrees centigrade.

Course Manager, Eoin Moroney, took the job of making one of the busiest courses in Norway presentable by spring each year in 2003. Since then, some of the harshest winters ever recorded in the country have allowed him to experiment with various methods to reduce damage come the melting of the snow and ice.

Eoin spoke of the problems caused by the weather in Norway and of how tried and tested techniques used by him to combat winter damage could be applied to golf courses which endure less extreme conditions, but might suffer the same symptoms.

He began by explaining how no two winters resulted in the same kind of damage to greens, although two types were typical every year.

“One is disease where you have

an ideal environment under the snow to activate fungal habitat, where *Typhula incarnata* (grey snow mould) and *Microdochium* patch (pink snow mould) are the most common. This year was a typical example where we had severe outbreaks of grey snow mould when we had up to one metre snow cover on greens and a very mild climate under the snow. The other is ‘winterkill’ where ice sheets create a burning effect on the greens, killing off much of the grass plants in the low lying areas.”

Winterkill can also be caused by crown hydration, where ice crystal form in the crown of the plant rupturing cells; desiccation, where a plant dies after drying whilst dormant or semi-dormant; and low temperature kill, when ice crystals form at temperatures below zero degrees centigrade. The occurrence of this winterkill is unpredictable and as well as varying between different courses, can also vary across the same course.

“The surprising thing about this climate is that courses in our particular region always seem to

encounter different problems every year which maybe lie only 15 km from one another. The other amazing thing is different areas of a particular course can differ greatly from other areas. Greens at higher or lower altitudes can differ greatly. Greens and fairways with low spots or holding points will suffer more winterkill than greens with good run-off highlighting the importance of good green design.”

In preparation for winter, the amount of nitrogen and iron applied to greens was crucial.

“We always try to harden up the plant going into the winter by applying iron late on in the autumn along with applications of preventative fungicide. We have found reducing the nitrogen in the plant going into the winter is also a key to combat any fungal activity.”

Over the years, Eoin has employed a number of techniques with a view to prevent or minimise damage caused during the snow-covered months. Several have emerged as being consistently successful.

“We try to keep the surface of the green dry going into the first



Course Manager, Eoin Moroney

Eoin has employed a number of techniques with a view to prevent or minimise damage





frost period by dewing-off often. We have also invested heavily in snow removal equipment to enable us quickly to get snow removed when necessary. We often will have two 120hp tractors on the greens and tees in the winter, which is unheard of in the UK. We have also tried some trials with covering the greens going into the winter and I do have a lot of faith in this. It takes a lot of man-power though, which we do not have at this time of the season. We have also tried to install temporary extra drainage in low areas of the greens to help get rid of melt water underneath the ice at a faster rate. Spreading granular charcoal on the surface after snow removal is very useful to breakdown ice which can be anything from 1cm to 7cm thick."

Green design was vital, so as not to allow ice to form in lower areas, as was preparation.

"It is definitely about good preparation going into the winter, but it is always about timing it right to get rid of the snow. I feel the most critical aspect is at the construction stage, where the greenkeeper should be highly involved with the architects

to design greens and surrounds to cope with the problematic areas such as good drainage and run-off. If a greenkeeper hasn't got a good surface run-off, he or she is always going to be faced with an uphill battle for the future."

Seasons at Hauger are just five months long and because of long daylight hours meaning early morning and late evening play on the course, an intense working environment exists. Eoin explained how he coped with this.

"We have 24 hours of daylight in June and July and it is always a tricky task to get out in front of golfers no matter what the working hours will be. Having good planning and having a high quality of staff is definitely a bonus. Having sufficient amount of staff is always going to aid in helping get all daily tasks done. We are quite fortunate to have from 12 to 13 greenkeepers on a daily basis supplemented with a well maintained fleet of machinery. Saying that it never fails to amaze how fast grass grows and how keen the golfers are to get out in the morning and how late they want to play into the night."

"We have 24 hours of daylight in June and July and it is always a tricky task to get out in front of golfers no matter what the working hours will be"

Eoin Moroney,

Techniques for dealing with winter damage in extreme conditions differ wildly from course to course and budgets are often the deciding factor for Course Managers.

"We are running off a medium end budget and we are four full time staff including a mechanic and up to 13 in the high season. We can manage to remove snow from greens and tees where as a lower end budget course might not be able to do this and will basically leave the snow to take care of itself. Saying this, there is no right or wrong way and many Course Managers work with their own feelings and local climate. High end budget courses would have the opportunity to work with winter covers and plough snow through-

ABOVE: The course covered in ice

BELOW: Aeration work on an iced green





out the winter and some will also try to create their own micro climate by installing sub-air systems.”

After the snow has melted and damage is revealed, the task of repairing begins. Depending on a courses budget, re-turfing, either from their own nurseries or by buying from abroad may be the only option. At Hauger, turf from a small nursery compliments an over-seeding programme which is usually carried out.

“This is something that both staff and members have to be patient with. Getting quick seed establishment in the spring time is a must and with daily temperature sometimes changing from -15 at night to + 20 during the day this is often a challenging experience. The use of growing covers in the spring time is getting more and more common both to help keep up soil temperature and also to combat wind desiccation.

This is complimented with a heavy scarifying and over-seeding programme. I find that shallow hollow coring followed by drop seeding with a variety of creeping bents gives an ideal result.”

Eoin went on to further describe

how his techniques could be applied to UK golf courses and how some are specific only to his climate.

“Well bringing a 120 hp tractor onto a green is, I suppose, a definite no go. My experience over the last 10 years has certainly taught me a great deal on how not to panic in stressful situations when pressure to open the course comes from all angles.

“Learning how to re-establish greens in a 3-4 week window is certainly an experience which can be of benefit back home. Managing to create a correct bed for seed establishment along with holding soil temperature up is something which is maybe forgotten about in the UK. Hardening off the grass plant for the winter period is also a high priority, along with cutting with newly sharpened units late in the season.”

Winterkill, although more severe in climates such as Norway, can be frustrating and as Eoin said there is no right or wrong way to help prevent it. Factors such as budgets, local climates and how a course was designed in the first place come into play when considering and combating damage done.



ABOVE: Work continues and
BELOW: Snow blowing



Take a fresh look at the problem of worm casts on turf



Graham Paul offers you the opportunity of gaining some Basis points by looking at the work of the humble earthworm

Every year when autumn approaches we are reminded of the presence of those hidden creatures living beneath the soil, as our grass is once again speckled with worm casts.

The majority of earthworms are entirely beneficial to the environment and do not cause a problem for man.

However, in the same way that our human society generates a minority of troublemakers, the earthworm community beneath our lawns gives rise to a small fraction of problem-causing 'outcasts' – the worms that leave their mess on the surface! In the case of earthworms though, it's a species thing.

In the UK scientists have identified around sixty species of earthworm, but only 26 of these are indigenous to these isles and the majority do us nothing but good.

A small group of the British earthworms are known to leave casts on the surface; in fact we now believe there are just two or three species that make all the mess on our lawns, sports grounds and golf courses.

In this article I will be taking a fresh look at the earthworm, its varied habitats and the problem of worm casting on grass surfaces.

The earthworm is a segmented, annelid* worm (*from the Latin Annelus – 'little ring') belonging to the phylum Annelida, a group which also contains leeches! It has both circular and longitudinal muscles that are coordinated to achieve movement by stretch-

ing and constricting the tubular shaped body. There is a primitive blood circulatory system that consists of two main blood vessels running the length of the worm. Blood is pumped around the body by a series of 'hearts' located in the head end of the worm.

Earthworms are hermaphrodites, reproducing by mutual cross fertilisation where both partners exchange sperm for egg fertilisation. The eggs are sealed inside a special protective membrane sack secreted from the clitellum (a thickened part

Throughout the world we believe there could be as many as 5,500 different species of earthworm but we cannot be more precise as some regions do not have the resources to study soil ecology in great detail

of the body wall sometimes referred to as the saddle and usually located closer to the head than the tail). This egg parcel is often buried deep in the soil to protect the emerging juveniles from predators.

Earthworms evolved very early on in the history of this planet and were already hard at work when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Their very existence results in an improvement to the structure and fertility of soils that enables so many other organisms to thrive.

History records that in the reign of Cleopatra V11 (51 to 30 BC) the importance of earthworms to soil fertility was already recognised and

the export of worms from Egypt was banned on penalty of death! Charles Darwin studied the benefits of worms for over 40 years and described them as one of the most important creatures on earth.

Throughout the world we believe there could be as many as 5,500 different species of earthworm but we cannot be more precise as some regions do not have the resources to study soil ecology in great detail. Most species grow to a length of only a few centimetres, but some tropical earthworms can attain a length of

up to 3.3 m (11 ft). However, in the UK our earthworms are of a more modest size range. Ecologists have divided earthworm species into four groups (ecotypes) according to their habitat and behaviour.

The first group is the Compost earthworms that tend to live mostly above ground in piles of decomposing leaf litter or compost heaps. The breakdown of plant material by bacteria and fungi in the composting process requires moisture and generates significant amounts of heat, providing a cosy environment favoured by members of this group, not to mention a supply of readily digestible food.



Compost worms (e.g. *Eisenia veneta*) are usually bright red and have a stripy appearance.

The second ecotype is the Epigeic earthworm. This group are also inhabitants of the surface, tending not to make burrows and living on plant materials such as leaf litter. Epigeic worms (e.g. *Dendrobaena octaedra*) are red or roan in colour but unlike the Compost worms they are not stripy.

The third worm ecotype is the Endogeic earthworm; a group that live, feed and deposit their casts in burrows in the soil. Some of them can create very deep burrows and because they are rarely seen on the surface, they are usually pale coloured – grey, pink, green or blue. An example of this group is *Allobophora chlorotica*.

The final ecotype is the Anecic earthworm, and it is the members of this gang that get all the ASBO's!

They feed from above ground on leaf litter and grass clippings, which they drag down into their burrows to digest and are subsequently responsible for leaving all the muddy worm casts that spoil our

grass surfaces and outdoor sports facilities.

In our human world it is mainly juveniles and teenagers that get blamed for chewing gum deposits that mess up our streets and pavements but in the world of the Anecic earthworm it is the adults that are responsible for leaving worm cast mess on the surface.

The juveniles remain in the confines of the burrow until they mature. Two of the culprits are; the black headed worm, *Aporrectodea longa* and the lob worm, *Lumbricus terrestris*.

On balance earthworms are a valuable natural asset to our ecosystem. They are nature's farm labourers; aerating the soil, improving the crumb structure, breaking down dead plant material and recycling the nutrients back into the soil to support future crops.

While the deposition of worm casts on the surface of grassed areas would seem to be of no consequence to most other animals, it does affect the lives of a significant fraction of the human race.

With a world population approaching seven billion humans in 2010, there are a large number who regularly take part in sports played on grassed surfaces that become affected by worm casts in the autumn and spring.

These include: - over 100 million who play golf, a staggering 265 million playing soccer (FIFA statistic), 10 million rugby players, and 75 million taking part in club cricket . . . then there are bowlers, hockey, grass tennis players, schools and colleges etc., all of which add up to an estimated 800 million grass sports users worldwide.

This conservative estimate represents 11% of the population, so it seems reasonable to make a case for worm cast control.

In the past worm control chemicals containing chlordane and carbaryl had a bad reputation for damaging the ecosystem. These 'old style' worm killers worked by skin contact and had a long persistence in the soil. The result was that they could eradicate all worms from the soil with just one application.

Although very effective at dealing



with worm casts, chlordane and carbaryl had a broad spectrum of activity against many soil living creatures and micro-organisms, so they were withdrawn from sale on environmental grounds and less damaging products brought in to replace them.

Today carbendazim is the only approved active ingredient available for suppressing worm casts on managed amenity turf, although some users still have difficulty getting good control.

To improve matters we need to understand the life cycle of these casting earthworms. A worm colonised soil will have at any one time; eggs, juveniles and adult worms. Under normal conditions, only the adult worms of casting species will come to the surface to feed. Juveniles generally remain in the burrows and feed below ground.

Only when they mature will the adults emerge above ground; to feed, deposit casts and to mate with another worm.

As soon as they have mated, the eggs are released, fertilised with sperm from the other worm and sealed in a sack which is deposited at the bottom of the burrow.

When we use carbendazim we can only control those individuals that are adults at the time of treatment. A few weeks after spraying, some juveniles will start to develop into new adults and we begin to see a few casts appearing on the surface. By the time the problem has got bad enough to spray again, a whole new batch of eggs have been laid and so the worm colony survives.

available food and that will involve collecting grass clippings when mowing and removing fallen leaves from surrounding trees in the autumn. This is not always feasible on large areas such as sports pitches and golf course fairways but if it is possible to 'box' the clippings and clear away fallen leaves, this will help reduce the severity of the problem in the long term.

Starting with cultural practices, the first thing that comes to mind is to remove the source of freely available food and that will involve collecting grass clippings when mowing and removing fallen leaves from surrounding trees in the autumn

In order to get the best results with worm cast control, we need to adopt an integrated approach that includes cultural methods to discourage worm colonisation and ways to achieve the efficient use of the chemical.

Starting with cultural practices, the first thing that comes to mind is to remove the source of freely

Next, consider improving the drainage in badly infested areas. Worms need plenty of moisture to move around in so drying the ground will help to slow them up. Improving drainage is going to be a costly operation but it would bring benefits to the quality of the playing surface as well as discouraging worm casts.

Another consideration is the soil pH (acidity) – earthworms prefer a neutral or slightly alkaline soil, so in some circumstances we can discourage them by lowering the pH with careful use of acidifiers such as sulphur.

This is by no means an easy task and you would need to start off by having a soil test done and then taking professional advice from an agronomist, as the pH of the soil will also have a profound effect on the health of the turf.

Even if we chose not to manipulate the soil pH with acidifiers, we should avoid using lime or calcified seaweed on areas that have a worm casting problem.

In turf that is irrigated on a regular basis, it is worth having the pH of the water tested as this might be adding to the problem. Tap water can often have a pH in the high 7's or low 8's indicating a fair degree of alkalinity. Bore hole irrigation can have a high pH as well, particularly if the hole is drawing from chalky or limestone soils.

The second part of our integrated approach is to optimise the effectiveness of the worm killer. Carbendazim works by ingestion rather than by skin contact so we need to apply it in such a way that the worm will take the product in with its food.

This is best achieved by spraying the chemical onto the turf so that most of the droplets remain on the leaf, allowing it to dry and then cutting the grass without collection boxes so that the clippings remain on the surface for several days after treatment.

On fine turf areas such as golf greens or on bowling greens and cricket tables during the playing season, this is not always possible due to the demands of play.

For bowling and cricket then, the best time to tackle the problem is in the early autumn and early spring when these areas are not in play. On a golf green the Greenkeeper must choose a window when there are no important fixtures.

When spraying a wormkiller we should also consider adding an appropriate adjuvant to the spray tank to improve the efficacy of the product.

For example, 'Aqua Tick' is a water conditioner that creates the ideal pH environment in the spray tank, buffering it to a value of around 5.0 and preventing alkaline hydrolysis of the chemical.

Research has shown that carbendazim breaks down rapidly at pH 9.0 having a half-life of just 12 minutes.

This means that at this extreme pH, 50% of the carbendazim added to the tank will be ineffective within 12 minutes of adding it to the tank. In contrast, at a pH of 5.0 carbendazim has a half-life of 30 hours.

Alkaline hydrolysis only occurs in dilute solution so once the chemical has dried on the plant leaf it will not be rapidly broken down and so will remain available to deal with the casting worms.

Using carbendazim in this way gives us selective control of the casting species, leaving all other worms unharmed, since it is only those two or three 'Anecic' species that feed and cast on the surface.

The only other surface feeding species belong to the Epigeic ecotype and these are worms that inhabit ground with lots of cover such as long grass and hedgerows and are unlikely to be targeted by carbendazim.

In recent years we have seen the spread of a new casting worm species on golf greens and other fine turf areas. This worm is very small, measuring only 10 - 35 mm in length and has been identified as *Microscolex phosphoreus*.

Interestingly, this worm glows in the dark when disturbed, presumably to deter predators such as feeding birds.

It exudes a luminescent fluid² from the mouth and along the body wall. It is a non-indigenous species originating from temperate South America and was first recorded in Britain³ as early as 1899.

I have seen this worm infesting greens on courses in Essex and Suffolk, in one case it was living in hollow core holes that had been filled with top dressing.

It leaves miniature worm casts on the surface and unlike native species that cast mainly at night, it seems to deposit casts throughout the day.

The worrying thing from a Greenkeeper's perspective is that it is not susceptible to carbendazim.

With the exception of *Microscolex phosphoreus*, carbendazim based wormkillers such as 'Caste Off' offer a sustainable solution to the problem of casting on turf.

They only target the few species responsible for the casts, leaving all other beneficial worms unharmed. They do not persist long enough to eradicate these casting species, because it is only adults that are targeted.

Their use is restricted to a very small percentage of the landmass and this is land that is not involved in any way with food production.



SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form online at:

www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=18

Circle the correct answer(s)

1) In whose reign was the export of earthworms from Egypt banned?

- a) Hatshepsut
- b) Tutankhamun
- c) Ramesses V11
- d) CleopatraV11

2) Which of the following are earthworm ecotypes? (More than one may apply)

- a) Ectoplastic
- b) Endogeic
- c) Mesoteric
- d) Anecic

3) Earthworms are hermaphrodite, which means that they . . .

- a) live entirely alone
- b) indulge in self fertilisation
- c) reproduce by mutual cross fertilisation
- d) do not copulate

4) Which stages of the earthworm's life-cycle are susceptible to carbendazim?

- a) eggs
- b) juveniles
- c) adults
- d) adults and juveniles

5) Which active ingredients were used in the 'old style' wormkillers mentioned in this article? More than one may apply

- a) Thiophanate methyl
- b) carbaryl
- c) carbamate
- d) chlordane

6) In which part of the world is the worm *Microscolex phosphoreus* thought to originate from?

- a) South Africa
- b) South Georgia
- c) South America
- d) Southend-on-Sea

REFERENCES

1) The Earthworm Society of Great Britain – Information from their website: <http://www.earthwormsoc.org.uk/>

2) John E Wampler "The bioluminescence system of *Microscolex phosphoreus* and its similarities to those of other bioluminescent earthworms (oligochaeta)" - in *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part A: Physiology* Volume 71, Issue 4, 1982, Pages 599-604

3) Dr David T Jones & Dr Kate Entwistle, "Your help needed" - in *Pitchcare Magazine* Apr/ May 2010



Letters

Please email your notes to: scott@bigga.co.uk

Toro Student Greenkeeper of The Year Award

I have been fortunate, over the last few years to be involved in the Regional and National judging of The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

The standard of the students has improved year on year; with this years applicants being exceptional. Both at Regional and National level, judging is becoming increasingly difficult and trying to separate the candidates is very hard.

This year's finalists included Sean Borrett who chose to give up a promising career in the City to become a greenkeeper. Sean's teenage ambition was to become a professional golfer, however he followed a very different path and undertook a degree in Business and Finance that led him to a career in the City. Disillusioned with City life, Sean the decided on a career change, following his original passion for golf and decided to retrain as a greenkeeper. Sean is now Assistant at Ellesborough Golf Club in Buckinghamshire.

This Award, now in its 23rd year, offers a great opportunity to Student Greenkeepers. The quality of the candidates proves the future of the industry is in good hands.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Toro for their continuing sponsorship of this popular and important Award.

*Chris Sealey, Course Manager, Chippenham Golf Club
BIGGA Board of Directors*



Sean Borrett



Cover of the GI issue showing the winner of the award, Andrew Stanger

Best wishes

I would like to say how sad and surprised I was to learn that our Chief Executive, John Pemberton's decision to resign from his post.

John has held a senior post within the BIGGA Management for some 17 years, firstly as our accountant and number two to Neil Thomas, our first Chief Executive.

It was during my year of Chairmanship that Neil became seriously ill, 2003 was such a tragic year for his wife, Elaine, and the family, when he sadly died. Neil was our first CEO, and did a tremendous job for our Association,

That year was also a difficult time for all at H/Q especially for myself, an 'inexperienced Chairman.' It was at this time we had to find a new CEO, it was the Board's unanimous decision that John Pemberton be offered this position.

John, on a personal note, thank you for your friendship, not only to me but countless others. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you have done for our Association, especially during those, and these, difficult times, I know that I speak for all of our Members in wishing you every best wishes for the future.

*Yours Sincerely,
George Brown, Turnberry Golf Club*



Refund of fees

I work at Garforth Golf Club, in Leeds, and just wanted to take the time to thank all of the staff in the Learning and Development department along with contributions by the Gold and Silver key sponsors who have helped me with a big part payment of my course fees.

In this day and age it is very hard to gain anything and a leg up really helps. I would have waited a lot longer to do my course due to the current economical climate. It is with great pleasure that I hope it continues to support and raise the standards of the greenkeeping industry.

Kevin Moore

AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held on Wednesday January 19, 2011 at 5.15pm in the Queens Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork including the Agenda and proxy voting forms will be available on the BIGGA Website from December 20.

The meeting will be followed immediately by an Open Forum where members will have the opportunity to discuss matters of concern to them with the Board of Directors.





THE HOW TO SERIES

Download and learn

- How to conduct a one-to-one meeting
- How to conduct a team briefing
- How to prepare for an appraisal
- How to recruit the right staff
- How to write a job description

Exclusive to BIGGA members

1. 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals'

Introduction
The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning. Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top-level goals down through the organisation.

Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

1. Cascading goals
Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual in the unit has their own performance goals. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams where they work together more as a team than as individuals). For some it is more appropriate to agree individual goals (see 'How to Develop an Appraisal System', and 'How to Prepare for an Appraisal'). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

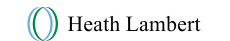
instep **BIGGA**

instep UK Ltd, Willow Bays, Newcastle Road, Brantton, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1SB
Tel: 01427 508111 Fax: 01427 508222 email: enquiries@instep.co.uk www.instep.co.uk

“How To...” guides are now available exclusively to BIGGA Members, on a range of Human Resource topics.

These short, handy guides provide practical, step by step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

To access the “How To...” guides, log on to the **BIGGA Members Area** at www.bigga.org and **click on Member Resources**.



The ‘How To...’ guides are a new benefit of BIGGA membership and are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.



DEALER OF THE MONTH

The series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

GOLF AND TURF EQUIPMENT LTD

Location and size

Based in Wokingham Berkshire covering Berkshire, Surrey and London

Employees and size of premises

30 employees 35,000 sq ft over two depots

Number of service vans

8

Brief history of company

Established in 1987, Golf and Turf Equipment have been providing grounds care machinery solutions to both commercial and domestic users throughout the South East of England, including London, Berkshire, Surrey, Our association with John Deere has been unbroken since the founding of the business and we have since grown to become one of the largest independent John Deere grounds care dealers in the UK.

Initially based at Bramshill in Hampshire, the company moved to our present base in Wokingham in 1991 and it was at this time that Golf and Turf became part of the Burdens Group, which at the time was the UK's leading distributor of John Deere agricultural machinery. Based in Lincolnshire the Burdens group also supplied the horticultural and construction industry and the partnership has allowed Golf and Turf to improve our initiative aimed at furthering customer choice and providing quality parts and service support.

Our customer base now includes many of the UK top 100 golf courses, premier ship football clubs, Local Authorities, Private Estates and National Trust Properties.



Key services offered Service facilities

Sales Parts Service

Specialist services

Contract Hire, Golf Buggy Hire, Specialist Short term and seasonal hire (eg top dressers vertidrains core collectors scarifiers debris collection chippers and many more)

How has the dealership changed?

Quite early on we noticed that our customers were faced with the difficult purchasing decision between buying new day to day mowing and maintenance equipment or specialist seasonal equipment like overseeding and vertidrains. So we decided to add the specialised seasonal equipment to our hire fleet and this has proved to be very popular with our customers and has been our biggest growth area.

Golf and Turf parts department carry over £200,000 worth of parts in stock. Also being a main dealer for John Deere, Stihl, Charterhouse and Dennis we are able to call on overnight delivery from their vast UK stock and in the case of John Deere their European and American stock too.

So with our industry best parts service you will have less down time, saving cost and inconvenience and removing the uncertainty of repair times and making planning around unfortunate breakdowns much easier.

We also stock tools, work clothing, oil, John Deere merchandise (including toys) and many more accessories related to gardening and grounds maintenance.

Franchises

John Deere, Charterhouse, Stihl, Yamaha, Major, Tru-Turf, Dennis, Scag and GreenTek,

Customers

Chelsea FC
Hampton Court Palace
RBG Kew
Royal Parks
Royal Blackheath GC
Swinley Forest Golf Club
The Crown Estate
National Trust
Bearwood Lakes GC

To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact **Scott MacCallum** with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...
Email scott@bigga.co.uk



Safety Management System



RJ International Golf Course

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, has been developed to:

- Make golf clubs safer
- Introduce best practice
- Standardise Health & Safety throughout golf
- Reduce costs for golf clubs

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

Because:

- It incorporates all your legal requirements to comply with Health & Safety Legislation
- Clubs have responsibilities
- There are penalties for not complying – up to £20,000 fine and/or course closure
- Golf clubs are hazardous places to work

The Safety Management System contains help and guidance to enable golf clubs to:

- Set a Health & Safety Policy
- List hazards and assess risks
- Plan for the future
- Introduce audit and review procedures

The Safety Management System is accessed through the Members area of the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) and the GCMA website (www.gcma.org.uk)

sponsored by



Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



North

As I write the clocks have just gone back and the daylight hours are seemingly disappearing. The Winter Leagues are starting and these are the most important competitions that some of your clubs golfers play in. It seems there are more that turn out for the Winter Fours than they do for the Summer Medals. They are religious, but they still want the course presented the best it can. It's never ending!

We held the AGM at Oldmeldrum Golf Club on October 21. It was a pay as you play day and a Stableford was agreed to keep it all fair. There weren't too many people turn up but still enough to hold an AGM and for there to be a few pounds passing between the golfers for who scored the most points on the day. The 200 Club final draw of the year was drawn and the following were the lucky winners - £100 John Geddes (FIX); £30 S. McCain, K. Strachan and N. Banner.

Thanks go to Bob O'Donnell and his staff for preparing the course as I understand that it didn't stay very dry and the last thing you probably needed in October was us lot turning up, so on behalf of the Section Bob. Thanks very much.

There is really a lot of news this month so really all I've got to say is to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year whatever you get up to, enjoy it. There are the Work's Nights out so again enjoy them. That is if you have one!

Happy greenkeeping
Ben Brookes
Murcar Links
07813889374



Central

The Section finally got its Autumn outing played on October 13 at the third attempt at a bright and breezy Downfield which was playing a massive 7,580 yards (or at least the scores suggest that). Seriously though Paul Murphy and his team had it looking great following all the rain we have had in this area over the past few months and our thanks go to them and the club for hosting us, along with the patrons for supporting the Section.

Unfortunately, due to the rescheduling we didn't have a full field but we did come close to it. Winners included the aforementioned Paul Murphy who had the best scratch and Gordon McKie, who had the best nett. Best in the 1st class was Kenny Mitchell, of St Andrews, while Derek Scott, of Scoonie, won the 2nd class. Douglas Baird, of Caird Park, won the trophy for best spring and autumn combined. A full list of prize winners is on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Following the golf we held the Section AGM where Derek Robson, of the Dukes, took over as Chairman from Gordon McKie. Bob Meikle, of Crail, is the new Vice Chairman and Gordon Moir has replaced Andy Mellon as Secretary/Treasurer. The members present thanked both Andy and Gordon McKie for what they have done for the Section over the past few years. Shaun Anderson, of Piperdam, was elected onto the committee and Stevie Wilson, of the Dukes, and Ganesh Chand, of St Andrews, were the recipients of the Patrons' Award.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to take the opportu-

nity to thank John Pemberton for all he has done for BIGGA in his 17 years working for the Association and how sorry I am to hear he is stepping down as CEO. John, all the best for the future.



West

Only a few weeks away from Christmas and the New Year, all very hard to take in considering the problems at the start of the season, it's difficult to appreciate the golfing season has gone by so quickly. I'm sure all your courses are recovering from the renovation works carried out weeks ago and are hoping for some respite from the overhead water supply which at times seems never ending, but then again we may experience a similar winter to last year, let's hope not quite so long a period of frost though.

Well, what's happened since the last article, sorry for missing the November issue guys, but I was on holiday at submission date.

Results of the Autumn Outing at Helensburgh, which was in great condition although the weather got a bit unpleasant for a spell, but cleared up to be a great day, are as follows:

Third Class. David Reid, Lenzie GC, 28 pts; 2. Ryan Brennan, Glasgow GC, 26 pts; 3. Colin Kierney, Drumpellier GC, 24 pts. Second Class. 1. Christian Carvel, East Renfrewshire GC, 39 pts; Blair Sommerville, Helensburgh GC, 37 pts; 3. Gavin Jarvis, Helensburgh GC, 34 pts. First Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes GC, 36 pts; 2. Andy Peace, Helensburgh GC, 33 pts BIH; 3. Calum Morrow, Drumpellier GC, 33 pts. Trade

prize. Gordon Howatt. Visitors' prize. Stuart Graham, Captain of Helensburgh GC. Apprentice prize. Chris Boyd, Helensburgh GC. Longest Drive. Gerry Bruen, Williamwood GC. Nearest the Pin prizes were won by Christain Carvel and Colin Kierney. The Daval Trophy winner was Christain Carvel, with 76 pts, and, last but not least, the Scratch Prize was won by Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC, 69. Gavin Jarvis and his crew have to be congratulated on the condition of the course and for all their hard work in preparing the course in such a neat and tidy manner. Thanks to the Captain and Committee for allowing us the courtesy of the course and thanks to the catering and bar staff for dealing with our needs so well.

The annual match against the Club Masters was held once again at Helensburgh on October 18 and the match finished with a victory to the greenkeepers, as usual, 3 games to 2. Thanks to all who played and especially Gavin for organising the Greenkeepers team. Well done.

The Annual General meeting, held at Hags Castle GC, on October 28 was well attended and the Section recruited some new blood on committee for a change with Gerry Bruen and Michael MacIntyre both coming on. The new Section Chairman is John Brown, from Bearsden GC, and the Vice Chairman is David McBride, from Vale of Leven GC. We wish them well in their term of office and hope all runs smoothly.

The AGM was followed by a demonstration of the new range of Toro Equipment, all of which looked excellent and this was accompanied by lunch after and a game of golf, making the day a great success and very enjoyable. Thanks to Hamilton's Brothers for the sponsorship of the day and for the display of equipment. Thanks to Hags Castle Golf Club for hosting

the event and catering for every body's needs.

The Annual dinner has been decided and the venue is the Studio/Victoria's on December 3 so I won't be able to report until the next meeting.

On a final note I will have become Chairman of the Scottish Region in early November and am delighted to be selected for this prestigious roll and will endeavour to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities, thank you all for allowing me this honour and best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Stuart Taylor
Glasgow Golf Club



East

Well the weather has turned for the worst, and golf courses are looking a bit wet to say the least.

Winter work has started on most courses, drainage and aeration I think is on most agendas for us.

On November 2 we held our Section's 24th AGM at Kingsfield Golf Centre.

Prior to the AGM, 27 delegates were treated to an intense demonstration by Jim Davidson, from Henderson's Grass Machinery, regarding the new Kubota range. I'm sure after this display Jim's mobile phone will be red hot with enquiries.

Not the best number of attendees that we have had, but as they say the show must go on. Our Chairman opened the meeting by asking all to be upstanding for one minute's silence in respect of the passing of Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper of Eyemouth GC, and Norman Wood, Head Greenkeeper of Haddington GC.

Our Chairman thanked the committee for the support that was given to him throughout the year, and to all members who gave the time to support our Section events. Hopefully we will see more members in the near future at the East Section fixtures.

He then gave a brief run down of all that he attended throughout the year. Our Secretary/Treasurer gave a very good presentation of our standing accounts and figures and was passed favourably by the members.

The Education Convener gave the members a reminder of the Section events throughout the year within our Section and also the coming events for 2010-2011 season.

Our new look Committee reads like this: Chairman, Stewart Crawford; Vice Chairman, Vacant; Secretary/Treasurer, Stuart Ferguson; Education, Tom Murray. Committee, James Neilson,

Scott Corrigan and George Oliver

Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator reported on future events inclusive of the BTME Show, Scottish Conference and golfing fixtures for the coming year.

Our Chairman talked of the way forward of the Section and closed the meeting at 11.20 am.

A quick lunch was had, thanks to the superb catering from the Arkley family. Soup was great!

Robert. I did make enquires as to who made the soup and we did manage to drag Robert away long enough from his laptop for him to be presented with a presentation plaque from the East Section Chairman.

The two Patrons' Award winners were in attendance for to pick up their awards for Harrogate. And, last but not least, Eileen Barry was presented with flowers and gift vouchers as a token of the Section's appreciation for all of her hard work and efforts within the greenkeeping training over the years.

All that was left to do was play golf for the coveted Jimmy Neilson Trophy. As I was the winner of the Trophy last year I thought I better go out and defend the title. The clouds were gathering and the winds were picking up I could see in the distance the figures waiting for me at the 1st tee.

Robert kindly let me change into my golf attire in the Ladies' changing area as there was no place else available. I gingerly crept up to the 1st tee and the heavens opened we lasted six holes and were soaked through. But there were the three players that lasted the 9 holes out of all the players and it came down to the final hole. As the story went Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, apparently had it in the bag but our runner-up from last year was in no mood to give up and judging by the worn out score cards Stuart came home the worthy winner only by a better inward half. Well done, Stuart and better luck next time Jim.

Jimmy was still waiting in the Kingsfield clubhouse to present Stuart with the Trophy.

A final thanks to the sponsors Hendersons Grass Machinery and the owner of Kingsfield Golf Centre, Robert Arkley, and his staff for the very friendly welcome.

Have a great Christmas and a good new year.

Tom Murray : 07709960163
tom.murray@rathoparkgolf-club.co.uk

Northern



North East

With little or no golf news forthcoming this month all the talk has been of the Newcastle vs Sunderland football derby, with a Nolan hat trick for the black and whites coupled with a brace for Ameobi completing the rout, it turned into a Halloween horror show for the Mackems, even the red and whites second top scorer [OG] couldn't come to the rescue this time. Fair play to the Mackem fans though even they thought it was the most entertaining and attractive derby game for years. Keep the news coming folks hopefully some golf news next time around.

As I have commented on lack of support in recent months for our golf competitions I thought I would just have a check on who we have been missing lately. The last time we had a decent turnout was at Stocksfield in 2006 where 22 people turned up to play with the host club providing three players. Unfortunately that was the last time we have seen them due to, Barry Wilson, since retired; Tony Wilson, moved away, and Roy White, who moved to Close House and is no longer a member. But they are not the only ones. We have others who used to attend on a regular basis with the likes of Newcastle Utd GC, Tynemouth, Beamish Park Hotel and others. I think since 2009 numbers have dropped really badly and yes it will be probably due to work commitments and gone are the days that golf clubs are happy to let more than one staff away for the day.

Jimmy Richardson



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and ready for your work's festive outing. We have nearly reached the end of another golf season, and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last year. Now the weather has taken a turn towards winter, we can get on with our winter greenkeeping projects, not forgetting the few leaves to move off the course. Hope to get a flyer out in the next few weeks with next year's golf fixtures, plus a date for a spring seminar.

Sorry there is no news or gossip this month which just leaves me to wish all our members and their families a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

As usual any news or gossip please contact me, at 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob 07947401278, email, frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Stewart



North Wales

The season of goodwill and peace to all men beckons us in; the shortest day is only a few weeks away and also is the VAT rise so make sure your orders are in before the price hike in January! After listening in some detail to the recent public spending review I can't help wondering if it will affect our finances at our clubs, I know some of the visiting parties at my golf club are based within the public sector, does that mean we lose those parties and the funds that come with them? I hope not.

The Christmas tournament and AGM took place at Mile End Golf Club on December 1 but due to the date I have to put the column in for printing I'm not be able to give a review of the day or results until next month. We hope to run a coach to Harrogate again in January probably on the Wednesday of BTME week, the coach will only run if we get enough "bums on seats" so if you or anyone connected with greenkeeping or clubhouse are

Around The Green

interested in taking up a seat please contact Jeremy Hughes or Carl Crocher as soon as possible and with seats on this trip free to members and only a nominal fee to non-members it's a real bargain in these hard times!

In local news I have recently found out that Colin Jones of Mold golf club and in Colin's words "his other half" are expecting their fourth child in April. Best of luck from us all on the forthcoming event.

I think that's about it for this month and this year, so season's greetings to you all I hope to hear more from you next year.

Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com
telephone 07756001187



North West

Now December is with us, we look back on all that has happened in the past 12 months.

On a golfing front, the competitions were as follows:

The summer tournament was held at Blackpool North Shore Golf Club, the competition was won by Brian Turner. The greens were very fast so many thanks to Iain Gunn and his staff for the wonderful condition of the course and to the staff in the clubhouse for looking after us so well.

The autumn tournament took place at Bolton Old Links. The sun shone on us, the winner was Kevin Sweeney. Bolton Old has magnificent views from the top and is a credit to Steve Helmsley and his staff. Thanks Steve for a great day.

Two other events happening in our Region were the Rigby Taylor Classic, held at Wilmslow. This was won by Ian Kirwan, of Widnes GC, and the BIGGA Whitelaw Bowl held at Penrith GC. The winner of this event escapes me at the moment, only kidding Phil. With a massive 40 pts Phil Dewhurst, from Rigby Taylor, was awarded the trophy.

As this is the last edition for 2010 may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from all the committee in the NW

Please feel free to contact us on pdmv@hotmail.co.uk or

phone 07885347818 or even leave a post on the North West's very own facebook page.

Good tidings to all,
Peter McVicar



Sheffield

Hello everyone,

I hope you all have almost finished your shopping and are ready for the festivities to begin, as I write this at the beginning of November, I know that when this is published I will not have even given shopping a second thought. I hope those that are close to me are prepared for panic buy presents again this year.

I'm sure all who attended the Christmas competition at Lindrick GC will have had a good day; the results will be in next month's magazine.

I don't know if any of you are aware but Ron Ullathorne, a former Section Committee member, who did a great amount of work for our Section has recently had a new hip fitted. I hear that Ron is recovering well and I'm sure you will all agree that it will be good to see Ron back attending Section events soon.

Once again the pay recommendations haven't done us any favours in getting a rise for 2011 - hopefully some golf club Treasurers will take pity on us.

Unfortunately that's all I have this month. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and it's a better New Year for us all.

James Stevens
Jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com
07738719614



Cleveland

Hi everyone, hope you're all ok, fit and well.

Firstly, a big well done to Peter Hibkiss, of Blackwell Grange GC for achieving an NPTC Level 2 Diploma. I believe Peter achieved this a few months' ago, but I didn't get any news in because

on one thing and another.

The Autumn Golf Day took place at the new Rockcliffe Hall GC on October 13 and was sponsored by Rigby Taylor under close guidance from the wonderful Jamie Applegarth. So a big thanks to Jamie and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event.

I was unable to be there this year but I am told that the course was in great condition. Congratulations and thanks to Dave, Pete and all the rest of the greens staff for providing an excellent course. It was a great opportunity to play what is sure to be a course that will hold our events in the future so a big thank you to all who were involved in setting up the day and for Rockcliffe Hall GC and their staff for allowing us to play and making it a great day.

The results were as follows:

1. Dave Cuthbertson, 39pts (Must have been home advantage!);
2. Ian Stuart, 33pts;
3. Garry Frazer, 31pts;
4. Ollie Shepard, 30pts;
5. Danny Simpson, 29pts;
6. Ian Dunnerbie, 28pts;
8. Graham Regan, 27pts;
8. Ian Holoran, 26pts;
9. Tracey Maddison (Better back 9) 24pts;
10. Alan Reid, 24pts.

Nearest the Pin was won by Dave Cuthbertson, Longest Drive was won by Baz Walker. Best par 3s was won by Dave Cuthbertson. Finally, the "Shortest Drive" booby prize was won by Ian Pemberton.

The golf was followed by a lovely meal.

Bottles and prizes were also provided, in no particular order, from, Blade Amenity, Lloyd Ltd, Boxer Chemicals, Greenlay, Sisis, Aitkens, Border Sports, Claytons and Pinseeker. Thanks to all of the above for their continual support of the Cleveland Section during the golf events.

Finally, thanks as usual to Ian Pemberton for his efforts in planning and organising the golf days, and carrying out numerous tasks during the day. Also thanks to anyone who pitched in to help out on the day.

The Cleveland Section AGM would have been and gone by the time you read this news letter, I will provide info on the meeting next time.

Terry Charlton's Annual Quiz against the boys from the IOG will be taking place at Mount Oswald GC on December 9. I am told the start time is 7pm. This quiz has been branded as the true Clash of the Titans, and is

set to put the Nigel Benn v Chris Eubank clashes to shame. So come along and get your thinking caps on and support this great event and get one over on the groundsmen.

The annual "Bring a Bottle" golf event at Cleveland Golf Club will take place on December 15. You must arrive for 9.15am sharp. The cost is £15 for golf and if the past is anything to go by, a great meal in the clubhouse afterwards. Participants must bring a wrapped bottle along as a prize as per usual. There will be no cash payment on the day. Payments must be made up front and cheques made payable to Ian Pemberton can be posted to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 8QR and Ian can be contacted on 07791695768.

This is a great day, and early booking is recommended as the previous years have been very popular. It's also a good opportunity for us "Parkland, meadow grass loving lads" to see what all the fuss is about on those alien fescue greens!

The spring tournament will be held at Middlesbrough (Brass Castle) Golf Club on April 5, 2011. More info will follow prior to the event but be sure to get in early as I am sure it will be a popular one.

Last bit of news is from me. Just to say that I got married to my girlfriend of 11 years, Selena, on September 4. We had a great day and a fab honeymoon.

That's all for now
Any news
Kevin Scarce 07921817857
kevscarce@aol.com

Midland



Midland

Our Autumn tournament was held at the lovely venue that is Beau Desert Golf Club and our greatest of thanks to them for allowing us the day.

The course was as expected in tip top condition in its entirety as prepared by C.M. Steve Mucklow and his obviously expert team.

Very well done folks. The main prize table was sponsored by Campey Turf

Care, our thanks to them. The results of the day were: Best Gross; Mike Hughes. Nett; 1. Vince Gilroy. 2. Simon White. 3. Richard Beacham. Division winners; 1. Wayne Banner. 2. Rhys Thomas. 3. Paul Jefferies. Trade; Tony Cheese. N.T.P. Vince Gilroy, Keith Swan, Leigh Swann, and Steve Mucklow, sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, White Moss, and British Seed Houses.

For more years than I care to remember the Midland Section has played an annual match against the East Midland Section, this year being no exception. Such was played at Stanton-on-the-Wolds Golf Club on October 14. After a good morning session the Midlands took a slender one point lead into the afternoon singles, 3 points to 2. Unfortunately we could not hold on, and lost by the narrowest margin of 7 to 8. I now know how the Americans must have felt at Celtic Manor! Many thanks to Tony Cheese and Rigby Taylor for their hospitality, which was second to none as always. Come on boys, if we continue to keep being beaten each year we'll end up known as the Silver Salver Section!

Now for an apology for a clanger in last month's Notes. I stated that the Christmas event at Woburn is to be sponsored by Tacit when in fact such is to be by Crocodile Golf. However Tacit has for many years sponsored our Christmas event and the Section thanks them for such. And the Section's thanks to Crocodile Golf for this year's main prize table, and looking forward to reporting on the results next month. Sorry for any confusion to all.

This month's calendar page is of the Wrekin Golf Club and the Wrekin Hill can be seen on the distant left of the picture. As we all know "you must go around the Wrekin" however each year a charity run is organised to go over such. To avoid going "Around the Houses" for your top dressings etc please see this month's calendar sponsors Whitmosse: www.whitmosseco.co.uk <<http://www.whitmosseco.co.uk/>> or call Mike Whitehouse on: 07795 395 669.

And finally a few words from our Section Secretary, Andy Smith:

Mike Firman Retires-Olton

Golf Club 1980-2010.

The end of the year sees the retirement of Mike Firman, Course Manager of Olton Golf Club, a position he has held for 30 years. Mike followed his father Bill into greenkeeping at Harbourne Golf Club before going on to manage Shirley Golf Club and then Edgbaston, and then taking on the helm at Olton. I (Andy) served my apprenticeship under Mike becoming his Deputy, which set me on my way in greenkeeping. Mike was an excellent teacher in the art of greenkeeping and a course manager ahead of his time. The lessons I learnt from him have stood me and many other a greenkeeper in good stead to this day. Our thanks. Mike you are always welcome to pop-in for a brew anytime at Shirley and I'm sure that the rest of the section join me in wishing you and your lovely wife, Jan, a well earned retirement together.

My thanks to Andy, Rhys, and Ed for the above.

Wishing all a merry Christmas.

Sean McDade



East of England

Hello all.

Apologies for the lack of an article in the last magazine, no excuses, it completely slipped my mind. However, when the entire future of your golf club is hanging by a thread then these things happen. I am pleased to say that through the overwhelming support and generosity of our small membership the short to mid-term future of the place is secure and with a lot of hard work so to will be the long term future.

Anyway, plenty to report this month. Firstly the eagerly anticipated Greenkeepers vs Trade match took place on September 22, at Lincoln Golf Club, Torksey. This year the Trade managed to turn out a full team, however despite that the Greenkeepers came away with a satisfying 4 - 2 victory. Many thanks go to all the staff at Torksey, especially Adi and his greenstaff for producing a course in excellent condition despite the fact the greens had

been hollow cored only two days previous. Thanks also to the sponsor for the day, Tony Kvedaras of Independent Turfcare Solutions. The medals look great by the way!

Our annual golf and AGM took place on October 14, at Louth Golf Club. A disappointing turnout for the day, however, those who did play enjoyed a course in excellent condition and excellent hospitality from the clubhouse. Many thanks also to LMS for sponsoring the day. The winners were as follows, longest drive - Ian Collett; Nearest the Pin - Russ Moody; 3rd - Robin Portess, Russ Moody; 2nd - Ian Collett, Ian Benn; 1st Rob Bemment, Phil Wilkinson.

On October 21, our team of Rob Bemment, Rob Welford and Ash Cox defended their Midland Region Inter-Section Championship at Frilford Heath. They did this in style and once again came away victorious. Well done.

Our next golf day is the Christmas Bring and Win at Sleaford Golf Club on Thursday, December 16. Tee off at 11am. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

All that is left to say is all the best for Christmas and the New Year (that has come around quickly!)

Hope everyone can make it to Harrogate.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



East Midlands

After a few quiet months the Section has been a hive of activity this month, so with space limited I will get on! First was the annual Midlands vs East Midlands match played at Stanton on the Wolds GC. This match has been likened to the Ryder cup - only BIGGA! Sorry! With the East Midlands recording four consecutive victories the midlands came eager to set the record straight, and after winning the morning fourballs were in pole position. However, a spirited fight back in the afternoon singles saw the contest come down to the last match played by yours truly, let's just say a nervy last hole

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Alex Clarricoates
Age: 18
Club: Newark GC
Position: Assistant
Nickname: Clarrijackets/Lightning



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Two years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working outside, seeing wildlife, learning how to maintain courses and free golf!

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

A full time golfer

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Construction because it is more hands on and it makes a change from cutting.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

Raking bunkers because it takes forever.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

More golfing

7. Hobbies?

Golf and football

8. Favourite Band?

S Club 7

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Nottingham Forest

10. What is your claim to fame?

Played football at Grantham Town football stadium

Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

To receive a questionnaire, email scott@bigga.co.uk

Around The Green

saw the East midlands retain the trophy 8-7. Thanks to Dan Branson and his team at Stanton for his efforts on the course, it was in fantastic condition.

The Autumn competition at Hinckley and AGM followed a week later, the format was three man teams, the competition was sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, British Seed Houses, Boughton Loam and Tacit. Although wayward off the tee I saw enough off the course to say it was in excellent condition and a good day was had by all. The winners were the team of Nigel Colley, Craig Watt, and Gary Thurman with a score of 76 points. Other winners were Nigel Colley (nearest the pin in two) Carl Chamberlain (nearest the pin) and Lee Wenlock (longest drive).

At the AGM, after two years current Chairman Nick Miles stepped down, he will remain on the committee as regional representative, and he is sincerely thanked for all his hard work as Chairman. As a result I was appointed Section Chairman, and in replacement to Nigel Colley, who had stepped down earlier in the year, Greg Skinner was appointed Vice Chairman. Andy de Wet continues as Section Secretary and Treasurer, with myself and Greg Skinner continuing to organise training and write the magazine articles, finally Carl Chamberlain will remain as trade representative.

Finally you will soon be having invites for the Christmas competition to be played at The Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club (formally known as Cotgrave Place), this is a great event and there should be a guest speaker, so come along and support your Section.

Regards to all
Pete Smith

South West and South Wales



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all! Now we are fully in to our season of events. Our November meeting was held at Porthpean Golf Club near St Austell, Cornwall, on Thursday, November 4. A relatively new

18 hole course, born from the vision of the previous landowner, farmer. The whole of the back nine has views across St Austell Bay and the Clubhouse has fantastic position looking across the bay too. The 18 hole course is maintained by two staff, Andrew Prouse, Head Greenkeeper, and David Daw, First Assistant. The Golf course was in great condition and very well presented. It is a popular course in the area with 100 new members joining this year. The Course is testament to the dedication, passion and commitment of both Andrew and David, both of whom regularly attend our BIGGA meetings within the Section. To back this up, 60 attendees enjoyed a fantastic day with approximately 40 attending a course walk led by Andrew, who gave a very interesting and eye-opening account of the trials and tribulations of maintaining a golf course at this end of the market, with few and at times no resources to work with! I know Andrew was very nervous and apprehensive leading up to the day, but all those who attended said that Andrew gave a very real and professional account of himself on the course walk. Well done Andrew!

The rest of us played golf with the format for the day being Individual Stableford playing for the Toro Cup, supplied by DGM and Toro. The winner on the day was none other than David Daw, Porthpean GC, with 41pts, much ribbing followed! In second was Anthony James (Jacko), Killiow GC, with 39pts, and in third was "yours truly" with 34pts. Longest Drive on the 6th was won by Gordon Tamblin, Mullion GC. Nearest the Pin on the 11th was won by Kevin Pitts, Fingle Glen.

Many thanks to our sponsors for the day, "Scotts" and "Devon Garden Machinery", for their support and for supplying the prizes. After lunch, Tim Fell, Managing Director of Tillers Turf, gave a very interesting Educational presentation on "Large-scale commercial turf production". Tim talked about the scale of the processes needed to produce the volume, variety and quality of turf required. Tim also touched on some of the projects they have been involved in including supplying to Wentworth for their recent redevelopment and projects in the Far East.

Thanks to Tim for making the long trip from Lincoln to Cornwall and for a very interesting presentation. Once again, thanks to Porthpean Golf Club for their kind hospitality and in particular Andrew and David for all their hard work. Thank you for a fantastic day!

Our next meeting will be our "Christmas meeting" at Saunton Golf Club, North Devon. The day will consist of Golf or a Course walk, followed by a three course Christmas lunch and after dinner entertainment. If you haven't already contacted me to secure your place, then please do so soon as it is anticipated to be a very popular meeting.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



South West

What a great time we had at Worlebury GC for our Section's AGM. The course was in fantastic condition, a great credit to Jaime Acton and all his staff Paul Garland will hopefully remember to bring everything with him next time, forgetting your trousers for the evening and having to wear your golfing ones isn't the best look.....but on a more serious note, it was brilliant to see so many of you attend, thanks people!

The prizes were as followed, nearest the pin at the 2nd Allen Smith and at the 12th Simon Rattenbury. The overall winners, 3. Ed "The Duck" Parsloe, 39 pts; 2. Allen Smith, 42 pts and after count back our winner was, Stuart Broom. Well done guys. While on the subject of golf days, Lansdown is our next stopping point, Thursday, December 16. See you all there!

I would just like to bring to your attention some training course that will be made available to you very soon. Tractor spraying, Chainsaw and Excavator training courses are what you guys are asking for. Dates and venues are yet to be arranged, this will determine interest from yourselves (you tell us when you want and where you want it and we'll do our best to ensure this happens). Also Laurence Pithie would like to invite you to his

workshops. A workshop titled BUDGETING & PLANNING, this would be made available to you, again a date and venue would be organised around you guys.

As I continue to talk about education, Harrogate Week is almost with us. Looking through the manual, it looks as though we have a brilliant range of courses this time. Harrogate Week is extremely important to our industry. Ensure you show your support this year by doing your very best to attend. By attending in January will ensure we get to go the following year and the year after and again the year after that.....

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grows as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, its time you were, ask more for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

As 2010 comes to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you guys for all your help and support throughout the year. I can only do what I do because you guys allow me to, I hope that we can continue this for 2011. As an industry, we really have had an amazing year!

Something that I would like to add in each news letter is a little joke, however I need your help with this because I'm not the greatest with jokes, "Golf..... the only time it's acceptable for a man to hold an iron." Remember, your turn next month!

Keep talking to me, keep telling what you're thinking, what you what.....and we'll do it for you.

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
Adam Matthews
07732503855



South Wales

Hi Everyone

First, a report on recent activities in the section:

On Thursday, October 14 the Section's Autumn golf meeting was held at Brynhill Golf Club. A good turnout found the course in excellent condition, which was a credit to Iain Grant and his staff. The only let down that day

was the weather, which was cold and overcast. The results of the golfing action were as follows: 1. John Bevan, Cradoc, 36pts; 2. Jamie Probert, Pontardawe, 35pts; 3. Mel Leach, Glynhir GC, 33pts. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Douglas; Longest Drive. Jamie Probert. Trade prize: Peter Lacey. Farmura Environmental, 38pts

Our thanks go out to Brynhill Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, to Iain Grant and his team for presenting a great golf course, to the caterers for an excellent meal and to club captain for helping to present the prizes provided by the day's sponsors, David Evans, of DEAL Machinery, local agents for Ransomes Jacobsen. A big thank you to them.

Also held at this event was the Section AGM. It was a quiet affair, apart from Steve Chappell's 'Bob Flemming from The Fast Show' type coughing fit! I think it was the infamous 'Celtic Cough' that inflicted so many of those who worked at the Ryder Cup! As a result Chairman, Paul Handy, stepped in and not only chaired the AGM, but also acted as MC for the evening as well. And a fine job you did as well Paul! The only news of note to come from the AGM being the voting on to committee of Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl, and Gareth Knight, of Trefloyne GC, replacing Julian Bartlett Jones, as Regional Board Member.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay tournament was held at Trefloyne GC on October. As you know, it has been a different format this year with 4 teams of two qualifying for the final. First, the semis were held with Andrew Roach/Gareth Knight and Darryl Jones/Steve Chappell winning their respective matches. Then the final was held in the afternoon with Andrew and Gareth winning a closely fought contest which was finally settled on the 17th. Darryl Jones won the Nearest the Pin competition and Rob Williams won Longest Drive. All were then treated to the tremendous hospitality that Trefloyne provides courtesy of the guys from Rigby Taylor. So thanks to Trefloyne GC for hosting the event and to Rigby Taylor for agreeing to sponsor the event again this year.

Now some sad news. I just heard that two well known people from the turf industry have recently passed away.

Firstly, Don Chillery, who was formerly Head Greenkeeper at both Caerphilly GC and finally Radyr GC before retiring to Cardigan in the '90s. Don was also a sales representative for Fisons a long time ago. I met Don on a few occasions and he was a consummate professional and a gentleman to boot!

I also learned of the death of Bill Hardiman MBE. Bill was Head Groundsman at the old Arms Park and a keen and loyal IOG man, becoming vice President for the South Wales Section. Like Don, Bill was a gentleman who always had time for people. He was also proud of his Valleys roots and was Head Groundsman of the cricket pitch at Pontypridd park many moons ago! Our condolences go out to their families as they will be sadly missed.

I have also just heard that Iain Grant's mother passed away recently, so our condolences to Iain and his family.

The Christmas Competition will be held on Thursday, December 16, at Royal Porthcawl GC. Tee off time is 10.30am. Invites should be with you by now. Cost of the day is £20. If you haven't had one and wish to attend the please give Steve Chappell a ring as it's a great chance to play a top links course, and have a Christmas dinner and all for £20!

Also, I believe that the Section is planning to send a fact finding delegation to Porthcawl town in the evening in the hope of sampling the many types of beverage that can be purchased at the local taverns and to sample the food from various exotic countries such as China, India and Turkey. Ask for details.

Spare a thought also for Dean Thomas, Head Greenkeeper at Pennard GC, where some of the greens and tees were vandalised recently. Dean has just had some soil tests back from the STRI and have shown Glyphosate and a small amount of Paraquat in the samples. Dean has already done a valiant job of overseeding recently and some of the local clubs, Langland Bay and Morriston, have kindly loaned them some germination sheets. So good luck Dean, I'm sure that greenkeepers everywhere will sympathise with your situation.

Good luck to Mark Wilshire, currently of Newport GC, who is soon to become Head Greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle GC.

Well done Mark!

Finally, I have said some cruel remarks about my beautiful wife, Donna, in recent columns. So let me just say that she is a wonderful wife and she has just brought me a bacon roll! Good thing that I heard her walking up the stairs, as I was wrapping her Christmas present at the time. Good thing ironing boards fit easily under beds!

That's all for now! Have a great Christmas and a prosperous new year! Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda!

Ceri Richards



South Coast

Good Day Fellow Greenkeepers.

As I sit and write this, we have just had 40 mm of rain in the last 48 hours,

a lovely welcome back from a week in South Africa as a Guest of Ransomes Jacobsen, one of the best EDUCATIONAL trips of my life with the temperature topping 32 degrees.

Lovely!

The Autumn outing was played in terrific sunshine over Broadstone Golf Club, the golf course was in fantastic shape a real credit to Ade Archer and his staff. I had the pleasure of playing with Ade and Colin Hutt on the day and all I will say is Ade don't give up the day job to become a caddie.

A big thank you to all at Broadstone from the Section who helped make for a great day especially the Captain and Council who allowed us courtesy of your excellent golf course. And not forgetting our sponsor for the day Rigby Taylor.

We had a great turn out for this day with over 45 members taking part the results were as follows:

Cat. 0-14. 1. T. Gadd, 36pts; 2. T. Crouch, 35pts; C. Pardley, 34pts. Cat. 15-28 1. A. Smith 35pts, 2. S. Justice, 34pts; 3. C. Hutt, 34pts,

Two's B. Davies and S. Ridland

We held the Section AGM after the golf and a number of topics were discussed

Tony advised the meeting that there was a place on the committee for anyone interested

there were no takers at the time, but the offer still stands if anybody out there is interested we would love to hear from you just contact anyone of the committee and we will get back to you.

A great deal of discussion then took place on the future of our golf days and how we can get the numbers up. The committee were given a lot of ideas but again if any of you guys have any specific thoughts on how we can improve your day any get more people along we would love to hear from you.

I would like to welcome Rob Willis and Tom Baker to Remedy, joining me from Canford Magna and Dudsbury Golf Clubs respectively good luck guys. If you know of any others on the move please let me know and I will tell the Section.

On a sad note our long serving treasurer, Fred Deaman, has been made redundant after his club, Alton Golf Club, shut their doors and ceased trading. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Fred the very best of luck in the future whatever path you choose to follow.

Just a quick reminder for the Turkey Trot at Barton on December 13, see you there.

Robert Hogarth

07879 424737

robert@remedyoak.com

South East



East Anglia

An overcast day with an autumnal feel greeted the happy wanderers, about fifty in number to Saffron Walden. A bacon roll and a cup of coffee was all that was needed to set them off into the great unknown. It must be about ten years or more since we were last there and it was nice to be back.

Just how nice it was, was reflected in the scores which are as follows:- 0 - 9 Handicap 1. Matt Gill, 40pts; 2. James Burton, 37pts; 3. Richard Southall, 35pts. 10-18 Handicap. 1. Glen Rayfield, 36pts; 2. David Farmer, 35pts; 3. Ben Pearson, 31pts. 19-28 handicap. (Only seven entrants so prizes for first two only) 1. Adrian Goode, 39pts;

Around The Green

2. Andy Baker, 32pts. Guest & Trade. 1. J. Wright, 37pts; 2. D. Duffell, 36pts. Longest Drive: Mike Buck. Nearest the Pin. Steve Coona. Loo Seat Recipient.

Edward Clarkson was running over his own clubs in the car park; (ouch!)

The Captain and Greenkeeper Shield was won by Mike Buck and J Wright with 70 points.

Runners up were David Farmer and D. Duffell with 68 points.

The day was sponsored by Lely UK.

Other prizes were from Ben Burgess, Tomlinson Ground Care, Symbio, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Scotts, Baileys of Norfolk, Headland, Tacit, Sheriff, Collier Turf Care, CMW and Ransomes Jacobsen.

Prizes were presented by Nick Baker, Club Captain.

The course was presented by Ray Goodshal and his team in very fine shape – (the course that is).

We must also thank Clive Osgood, our BIGGA representative, for showing up. He never misses (unlike me) – Well done Clive.

The food was lovely, so thank you Saffron Walden; see you in 10 years.

It's the big one next:- Thorpe-ness Turkey Trot –December 15– be there. Due to the recession and the price of Christmas puddings, the cost of the day will be £30 and it's not buy one get one free!

Mick Lathrope



Kent

I can't believe we've come to the end of another year. This has, without doubt, been one of the most difficult years from a business point of view. What with the much talked about global recession which has affected everything not being bad enough, we were also hit by several weeks of snow at the start of the year compounding the financial burden to breaking point for many. I suppose England's failure to turn up for the World Cup in South Africa minimised the expected lean period on our courses during the summer but we were still on the back foot for much of the season.

Unfortunately, a number of clubs have succumbed to the weight of the financial responsibilities and we can only wish that their employees are able to find work quickly and that the clubs eventually find buyers.

I don't want this column to be too downbeat, however, as we are coming up to Christmas after all. By the time you read this, we shall have just played our Turkey Trot and held our AGM at Birchwood. At the time of writing, there are quite a lot of applicants to join us on the day so I hope you all enjoyed it! We have a full events programme booked up for next year and a couple of changes with a summer pairs knockout tournament and a 'Golfer of the Year' trophy for all to contend. Please see website for all the details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal sponsors for the very generous support they have provided us this year. Especially in the light of the business climate highlighted at the start of this piece. Their contribution to this section enables us to not only attend a number of courses a year at a subsidised rate, but also helps provide an education programme to be proud of. Thank you to all and I shall be writing to you all again soon!

I would also like to say farewell and good luck to our Association's Chief Executive, Mr John Pemberton, who has tirelessly fought the cause of the downtrodden greenkeepers for a very long time. He leaves some very big shoes to fill.

Lastly, on behalf of Kev Morris and myself, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Best of British one and all,
Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

Tuesday November 2. Han-kley Common GC was excellent today and welcomed again the annual England v Scotland Golf Extravaganza. I had not been selected, but a late English cancellation meant that Tony Bremer, the English Captain, had little option but to phone me yesterday and beg me to play.

With no hesitation, I willingly agreed but it was not my day and my indifferent golf did not help my playing partner, Adie Locke. We lost our match to our very competent opponents, Steve Holmes and Posh Jim Russell. The Scottish team won 4 and 2 and many congratulations to them for winning the Shield for the first time this century. John Ross made the speech on behalf of Scotland and as his accent had no hint of a Gaelic lilt, his expletives and ungentlemanly hand gestures were well understood by all. Tony Bremer's speech on behalf of England on the other hand was dignified in defeat and any indecorous reference to Haggis Eaters and Bagpipe Players was merely friendly banter.

Thursday October 14. Three Rivers GC, in Essex, was the venue for the Surrey v Sussex v Essex annual Three Section golf match. I am pleased to report that Surrey were victorious, Essex were runners up and Sussex, the team for which I played, came third. Next year it is unlikely that I will be available to play in team events, so please don't ask as my clubs are now resident in the Solent after falling off the Isle of Wight ferry.

Sunday November 8 - 5 pm. and just back from a long weekend with all the family in Studland Bay, Dorset. Yesterday, Saturday, was sunny, windless and the perfect weather for a long country walk through the local boggy heathland, then on to Studland Bay beach for the last mile home. The Naturist beach section seemed empty of sun-worshippers until the last 50 yards, and then we saw him lying in all his glory and oblivious to all onlookers. He was an older man and aptly described by my son-in-law as 'all under-carriage and no gun'. He was not there the next day, for the temperature had dropped some 10 degrees, too cold even for the bravest of the brave.

Brian Willmott



Essex

This month has flown by; I have attended a Regional and National Board meeting and been away for a week's photographic

holiday in Istanbul. Flying out of Stansted in late October the leaves on the trees were a lovely shade of green, returning just one week later and they had turned to the beautiful autumn colors that we all love to see but hate at the same time, as it now means we have a lot of clearing up to do.

As this year draws to a close, our Chairman, Mark Stopps, committee and members of the Essex Section would like to thank the sponsors of our Section for the support and help that has been received from them this year.

The following companies have supported the section over the past year.

Advantage Environmental, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Billericay Farm Services, Blade Amenity, B.M.S. Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph), CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, Fieldfare Amenity, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Grasshopper Horticultural Ltd, Headland Amenity Products, Limagrain UK, Old Forge Mowers, Prime Irrigation, Rainbird, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts Professional, Tey Farm Services, P. Tuckwell Ltd, Writtle College.

We have all had a busy time at work this past month the Section's Knockout Trophy final, plus the Triangular Match against Sussex and Surrey.

Ten members from our Section joined with ten each from Sussex and Surrey to play the annual Triangular.

Held this year in our Section, the match over 18 holes at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, it was hard fought affair with Sussex coming out on top with a score of 252 from Essex with 278 and Surrey a little further back with 289. Nearest the Pins were Gary Ogilvie (Sussex) 9th hole and Kevin Boxall (Surrey) 16th Hole, Longest Drive on the 3rd Kevin Boxall. The match was run off at a fast pace with everyone back in the club in 3.50 minutes, damp conditions on a cold day, with the course in autumn condition greeted the players (images on the website).

Our thanks to Ernest Doe & Sons and to Andy Turbin for sponsoring the day, Andy also played for our team and then presented the prizes after the fine meal put on by the club. Our thanks for the courtesy of

the course go to Terry Peachey the owner of Three Rivers and to the club house and greens staff for looking after us so well.

The London Club was the venue for the Knockout final between Ray Clark, Channels, & Jon Selwood, Avoncrop, and their opponents, Dougie Fernie & Bill Maynard, Upminster GC. Due to Ray being unable to attend at the last moment, Jon unfortunately had to play the match on his own.

Played on the International Course at the London Club, the match was played off in fine but cool weather, with the course in a nice condition, there were some nice but tough Par 3s, with some other very stunning holes and the course was well appointed with water hazards. Jon reported that Dougie played his socks off with long irons and fairway woods peppering the flag at every opportunity.

Jon managed to hold his own up until the 11th but then it slowly slipped away in the final few holes, too lose to Dougie and Bill by 5 & 4. Well done to both teams for getting through to the final and well done to Dougie and Bill for a fine win.

The Essex Section wishes to thank Peter Todd for arranging the match and the London Club for there kind hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Our Chairman has been a busy boy over the past weeks, totally changing the 14th hole at Bentley Golf Club, he's removed that tree which has caused so many of us problems over the years and adding another problem by enhancing and enlarging the pond to the left of the green. Then adding mounds to the rear of the green and extending a ditch to the right of the approach. I for one look forward to seeing the new style hole in the near future.

Last month Geoff Smith, Course Manager at Abridge Golf Club, successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for charity, well done to him and I hope to have a full report in a coming issue of this magazine.

Bad weather has hit the South East as I write this, with wind and rain driving the temperature down. Looks like we are in for a long hard winter this year.

Please look out for a new look website in the early part of January, hopefully I will have time over the Christmas period to get some work done on it and make

some more changes and add some more features.

Next month's report will be of the Winter Team Event and AGM which by the time you read this will have just past.

If you have any news for the website or for GK International please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail essex-bigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

Chairman's Word (continued from page 13)

...You have lots of opportunities to meet new people and helping to organise events and influencing outcomes can look very good on your CV. It can make you more promotable. It can help you to have more influence over the way the association is run at local, regional, national and international level.

Again it is a free seminar but places are limited so please make sure you register early by contacting Sami or Rachael at BIGGA HQ or download, complete and send off the booking form. Both these free seminars will be hosted by conference favourite Frank Newberry whose 'Moving into Management' Workshop on 16th and 17th January 2011 has already sold out nearly three months in advance.

Silence is unlikely to advance this great profession

In the meantime – to quote a well-known supermarket – 'Every little Helps'. May I ask you to contact your local BIGGA official and tell him or her just what is on your mind? Perhaps you have some ideas they can use to boost local participation. Perhaps you could give them some feedback on what they have been doing. Perhaps you could give the Board some feedback. Perhaps you could give me some feedback. Whatever is on your mind please say it - rather than be silent. Silence is unlikely to advance this great profession!

In the meantime – have a great Christmas and New Year. I'll be writing again in January which will be my last posting in the magazine as your Chairman. 2010 may have been difficult - let's make 2011 a better year. I am hoping for better results and better progress for our profession – much better.

Paul Worster



**John
Pemberton**
Chief
Executive

December already and as the calendar marches on our sights in the office fix not just on Christmas, but also on BIGGA's annual event at Harrogate in January. This year is no different to any other in that respect, the pressure is on the Sales Team to sell the last few remaining stands and we are all eagerly watching the numbers rise on the bookings for the education and social programme.

Meanwhile the daily life in BIGGA HOUSE must continue, Membership Renewals and Applications to be processed, a magazine to write and design, advertising to sell, numbers to be crunched, papers to be pushed around, emails to be dealt with. While the turnover may be relatively small compared to some businesses it often surprises me when I stop and think about things, just how much work goes into making the Association function. The diversity of activities is what makes the Association tick.

Times may be difficult in this country in general, and let's make no mistake BIGGA is feeling the effect of the recession, but it is by no means in financial trouble. Having read a recent posting on the Bulletin Board it seems that the end is nigh. Not so believe you me. The profit for the year to the end of June 2010 was after all a profit and not a loss. This year so far we are ahead of budget, so more good news. Let's celebrate our successes and look at what we have built BIGGA into rather than dwell on the downturn and get depressed.

That's not to say that we should be over confident and ignore the trials and tribulations that we all face in 2011. Next year will be tough, there is no doubt about it in my mind, and BIGGA will need to do some careful strategic planning in order to maintain the current level of service to its Membership and the Industry.

As we head towards the end of 2010 I would like to personally thank the Staff at BIGGA HOUSE (and let's not forget that this includes the four Regional Administrators) for all the help and support that they have given me during the year.

We have faced many challenges together and come through all the stronger for it and their dedication to the advancement of the Association is only equalled by the efforts of the volunteers within the Sections, Regions and the National Board, without whom BIGGA would not be where it is today, at the forefront of a very specialist industry and a role model for others.

My remaining time with BIGGA is slowly being counted down but I assure members that I will continue to strive to ensure its success. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and may Good Luck and Good Fortune come your way in 2011.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) 2011

Important dates for your diary – Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 January 2011.

It will soon be here (where has this year gone?)...Europe's largest turf management exhibition.

Be one of 6,000 valuable visitors to descend on the pretty town of Harrogate, that is 6,000 individuals who all have one thing in common - a passion for turf.

Join visitors from around the world to attend an education event, which many industries can only envy and an exhibition packed with experts showcasing the latest turf care technologies.

New for 2011

- Turf Managers' Conference, promising to attract Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from far and wide.
- A specifically devised development seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers where key skills required for workplace communication and team working are high on the agenda.
- The NEW Envirozone, from rain water to harvesting to power optimisation, this new exhibition area promises to showcase the very latest green developments.
- Enhanced Personal Development Zone (PD Zone) providing an invaluable resource for any sports turf professional who is looking to gain careers advice or inspiration. Featuring experts in the field of greenkeeping, careers assistance and consultancy there is a wealth of specialist advice available throughout the three days.
- More FREE seminars on offer.

Whatever your reason for visiting BTME 2011, you will be guaranteed one thing – you will expand your network. This is a brilliant opportunity to sound out the minds of those who have already been there, gained the experience and been at the face of the good and the bad in the industry, pick their brains, there is no point in re-inventing the wheel!

To steal the title of a well-known BBC1 TV Show – it is the ONE SHOW to attend in 2011 and with FREE entry and a simple advance registration process, it is easy. Register at www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

Don't forget to stop by the BIGGA Stand (Hall C Stand 46) and have a chat with the BIGGA Staff. We would welcome any feedback you have on membership issues, learning and development in fact anything you want to give feedback on! Or just stop by to say 'hello'.

We will have the facility to renew membership, take applications from new members wishing to join and where necessary issue membership cards. Come along and see what's on offer in 2011.

The BIGGA Social Night – Tuesday, January 18

For the last two years the social night has been 'great fun', 'entertaining' and 'worthwhile' according to those who have already experienced them and 2011 plans to be no different with the theme being a beer festival.

This will take place at the Old Swan Hotel on Tuesday, January 18 2011 starting at 7pm until 10.30pm. The evening will provide a great opportunity to sample local beers and catch up with friends and industry colleagues, whilst listening to live music and filling up on the hot buffet meal! Tickets are now on sale (£25 + VAT per ticket), contact the office 01347 833800 to ensure your ticket to a fabulous enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Past Articles

Personal Finance Planning – GI July 2010; How to Guides... – GI September 2010; Membership renewal online – GI October 2010; Continue to Learn 2011 – GI November 2010.

Follow us on Facebook

Search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association then join the BIGGA Group.

BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

Scotland

Rhys Davies, Central
 Bryan Grieve, Central
 Steve McRae, North
 Chris Watson, North
 Northern Region
 John Bevan, North Wales
 Arran Jackson, North West
 Martin Lee, North Wales
 Brian Morris, North West
 Barry Wright, North Wales
 Midland Region
 Nicholas Burman, Mid Anglia
 Lucas Davis, East Midland
 Nick Jones, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
 Laurie Owen, Mid Anglia
 Max Sullivan, Midland
 Alan Wright, Berks/Bucks & Oxon

South East Region

Darren Breen, London
 Liam Close, East Anglia
 Phillip Copsey, Kent
 Jason Cox, Sussex
 Charles Goble, London
 Billy Maynard, Essex
 Ian Plummer, Sussex
 Steven Smith, Kent
 Sean Whipp, Surrey

South West/South Wales Region

Richard Japes, Devon & Cornwall
 Matthew Mackenzie, South West
 Daniel Robinson, South Coast
 Drew Van Der Niet, South Coast
 James Yeates, South West
 International
 Alan Neale, Spain

For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.

Finally

Help your Association grow by sharing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join.

Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the BIGGA Staff.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your input, feedback, help and encouragement but mostly for your support, thank you and here's to 2011.



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk
 Brad Anderson
brad@bigga.co.uk
 Tel: 01347 833800
 (option 1 for Membership)

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd
 Tel: 0141 616 3440
 Mobile: 07776 242120
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Northern & Midland

Peter Larter
 Tel: 01476 550115
 Mobile: 07866 366966
petelarter972@aol.com

South East

Clive Osgood
 Tel: 01737 819343
 Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

South West & Wales

Jane Jones
 Tel: 01454 270850
 Mobile: 07841 948110
janejones1@btconnect.com



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
 02075 603013
 Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
 0800 177 7891
 Greenkeepers Support Services
 0800 174 319
 Debt Counselling Helpline
 0800 174319



Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
DECEMBER			
Wednesday December 1st	North Wales Section Event and AGM	Mile End Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 07876 776265
Wednesday December 1st	Bring Life Back to Your Soil	Ratho Park Golf Club, Edinburgh	Polly at Symbio at polly@symbio.co.uk or 01428 685762
Thursday December 2nd	North West Section AGM & Bert Cross Trophy	Wilmslow Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604
Thursday December 2nd	Bring Life Back to Your Soil	Dinsdale Spa Golf Club, Darlington	Polly at Symbio at polly@symbio.co.uk or 01428 685762
Thursday December 2nd	Bring Life Back to Your Soil	Laverstoke Laboratory, Overton, Hamps	Polly at Symbio at polly@symbio.co.uk or 01428 685762
Tuesday December 7th	Surrey Section AGM	Guildford Golf Club	Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 07778 170077
Wednesday December 8th	BB&O Section Turkey Trot and AGM	Oxfordshire Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119
Wednesday December 8th	Bring Life Back to Your Soil	Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, London	Polly at Symbio at polly@symbio.co.uk or 01428 685762
Thursday December 9th	East Midlands Section Christmas Tournament	Cotgrave Place Golf and Country Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
Thursday December 9th	Terry Charlton's Christmas Quiz – Cleveland Section	Mount Oswald Golf Club	Ian Pemberton at ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk or 07791 695768
Thursday December 9th	Bring Life Back to Your Soil	Hadley Wood Golf Club, Barnet, Herts	Polly at Symbio at polly@symbio.co.uk or 01428 685762
Wednesday December 15th	East Anglia Section Turkey Trot & AGM	Thorpeness Golf Club	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or 07929 205398
Wednesday December 15th	Cleveland Section – Bring a Bottle Golf Day	Cleveland Golf Club	Ian Pemberton at ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk or 07791 695768
Wednesday December 15th	Mid Anglia Christmas Meeting	Ashridge Golf Club	Gerald Bruce at Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk or 07774 921606
Thursday December 16th	East of England Section Event	Sleaford Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 569158
Thursday December 16th	South West Section Christmas Event	Lansdown Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or 07732 503855
JANUARY 2011			
		Harrogate Week	
The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe			
Sunday 16th to Thursday 20th January	Continue to Learn, Harrogate	Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate	Rachael Duffy at Rachael@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800 or book places at www.bigga.org.uk/events and select Jan 2011 from the browse events calendar.
Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th	BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Harrogate	Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate	Register to attend at www.harrogateweek.org.uk and select REGISTER NOW! From the options on the left hand side.

HARROGATE WEEK 2011 PRESENTS...

THE BIGGA BEER FESTIVAL



TUESDAY 18TH
JANUARY 2011
7 PM TO 10.30 PM

THE OLD SWAN HOTEL,
HARROGATE
DRESS CODE: SMART/CASUAL



FOR MORE INFO OR
TO BOOK TICKETS
CONTACT RACHEL
OR ANGELA ON
01347 833800

Featuring Live Music

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
Scotland	1 March 2011	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440
North	To be announced	To be announced	Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115
Midlands	To be announced	To be announced	Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115

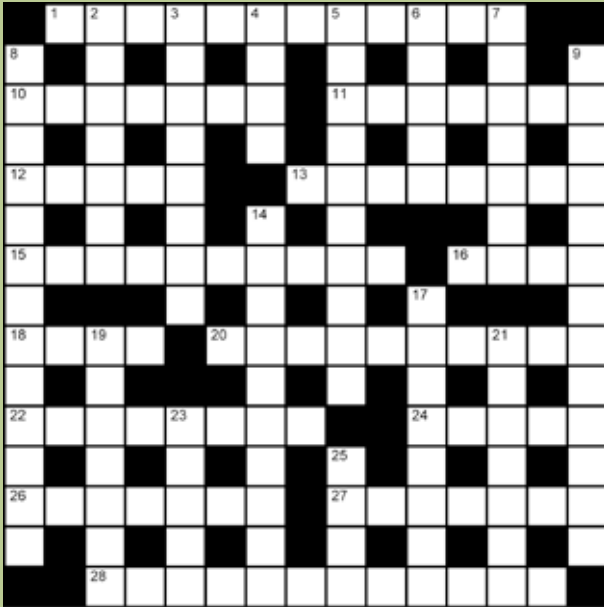




in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Friends actor (7,5)
- 10 Disgusting (7)
- 11 Natural, usually outdoor detox treatment (3,4)
- 12 Disney's The Little Mermaid (5)
- 13 Fresh out the box (5-3)
- 15 A task undertaken at the request of another (10)
- 16 Name of David Beckham's third child (4)
- 18 Snoozes (4)
- 20 The smallest country in Central America (2,8)
- 22 The key addictive additive in cigarettes (8)
- 24 Renee ____, Thomas Crown Affair actress (5)
- 26 Japanese paper-folding art (7)
- 27 TTFN (7)
- 28 Leading actor of the TV series Hornblower (4,8)

DOWN

- 2 The Baggy Greens (7)
- 3 The study of God and divinity (8)
- 4 All time (4)
- 5 A small, fluffy type of dog (10)
- 6 Naturally occurring radioactive gas (5)
- 7 A wisher and a wantor (7)
- 8 Actor who played Prince Edmund Plantagenet in The Black Adder (5,8)
- 9 1939 film featuring the song Follow the Yellow Brick Road (3,6,2,2)
- 14 Putting in (10)
- 17 On the next page (8)
- 19 Composer of Turandot and Tosca (7)
- 21 Wished (7)
- 23 A decorated coronet, typically worn by females (5)
- 25 Yellowy-brown colour, similar to beige (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Who's Who?

1. Who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer?
2. Who is the England Cricket Coach?
3. Who is Director General of the BBC?
4. Who is the Poet Laureate?
5. Who is Chief Executive of the European Tour?
6. Who is President of UEFA?
7. Who is General Secretary of the TUC?
8. Who is The Stig?
9. Who is the Mayor of London?



C	7		4	6		B	5	A
					4	7	8	
		B		2			7	1
		C			B	1		8
	B	2					A	7
	9				7	6		4
	4			1	3			5
7	5						8	C
	8				5	9		6
		9	A			B		3
			6	5	9			
3	2	C				A	6	9
								1

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

		1		9		8	4	3
					4			
9							7	8
4	5	9		1		3		
	8						2	
		1		3		9	6	4
7	3							6
				8				
	9	5	7		2		4	

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers on page 81



BIGGA Student Membership

Greenkeeping can offer you a career for life and a lifetime of learning

Student Membership of BIGGA (for those studying full-time)

Greenkeeping is a rewarding and challenging career choice for all ages and abilities from school leavers to those considering a career change, let BIGGA help you develop your career as a greenkeeper by becoming a Student Member.

Membership of BIGGA will provide you with: -

Greenkeeper International

The Association's much read magazine packed with up to the minute information and features providing you with valuable research and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. Delivered FREE to you door monthly.

Membership Handbook

Providing you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and

the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Handbook also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership.



Harrogate Week

Entry to a world class trade event. The Trade Exhibition has over 200 exhibitors and 8,500 visitors. There can be no better place to 'Continue to Learn' than taking part in the education programme. Students will find much that will demand their attention including seminars of specific interest. On production of your Student membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge. Not to mention the fantastic networking opportunities available throughout the whole of this week, another valuable way of learning... from those already in the industry.

On Course Field Guides

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and read format. Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA

Education and Development Fund there are five in the series: -

- Golf Course Grasses;
- Identification and uses of the main grasses found in golf course rough;
- Identification of trees and shrubs on the golf course;
- Identification of damage caused by mammals and birds;
- The major diseases and pests of fine turf.

BIGGA Lending Library

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

BIGGA Website

Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

Application Form - for an application form either download a form from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/join/membership-forms/ or contact the membership team on 01347 833800 option 1 for membership.



Greenkeeper Training



A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.



Sami Collins
Head of Learning & Development
BIGGA

Tel: 01347 833800

Email: sami@bigga.co.uk

Website: www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cooper, Fife, KY15 4JB
Contact: wroberts@elmwood.ac.uk



Full-time and Part-time National Certificate Greenkeeping. Block release/fast track and workbased learning options for SVQ Level 2 and Level 3. ILM Level 3 & 4 Management. HNC and HND Golf Course Management available both online/ distance learning and full-time/ part-time options. HNC/HND Golf Facility Management. Sportsturf Courses available. SVQ Level 2 & 3 in Landbased Service Engineering and Golf Course Mechanics Courses. Abrasive Wheel, BTLIA/NPTC Irrigation Course, Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Spraying and Noroso Certification/Courses.

TRAINING PROVIDERS/ COURSES GUIDE



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

GOSTA TRAINING LTD

50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB



Contact: Chris Bothwell
Tel: 0141 556 3999 Fax: 0141 556 4999
Email: learn gostatraining.co.uk

SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November-March. Distance learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn,
West Lothian, EH52 6NH



Contact: Steve Miller
Tel: 01506 864800 Fax: 01506 853373
Email: smiller@oatridge.ac.uk Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping; SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Day Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf (Day Release and Fast Track); NC's HNCs, SVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects; NPTC/LANTRA short courses in Pesticides Spraying, Chainsaws, Turf Maintenance Equipment, ATVs etc; Other specific short courses on demand.

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR
 Contact: Central admissions Tel: 01904 772211
 Email: enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk
 Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Extended Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture.
 Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Sports
 Surface Management, Horticulture, Landscape and Garden
 Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time.
Block release courses: WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping
 WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Groundsman Sportsturf Maintenance.
Short courses: FEPA spraying, irrigation, chainsaw and
 brushcutter courses.

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Tel: 0500 551434
 E-mail: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
 Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk



City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3
 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for
 apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses,
 such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide
 Application.

Additionally full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree
 level) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based
 subjects.

DUCHY COLLEGE

Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall,
 PL17 8PB
 Duchy College, Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall,
 TR14 0AB



Contact: Liz Clarkson
 Tel: 01579 372345/07785 105087
 Email liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk
 Web: www.duchy.ac.uk

Claire Bennetts
 01209 722109/07824 626363
claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk

Duchy College offers Level 1, 2, & 3 Diplomas and NVQ 4 in Amenity Horticulture
 (inc Sports Turf), Centre based L2 and L3 Diplomas in Horticulture (also
 Sustainable Horticulture), RHS Level 2, FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons)
 Horticulture. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses
 to Greenkeepers, together with workshops in Business Skills. Short legislative
 courses in pesticides, plant machinery, vehicles, forestry and arboriculture are
 also available.

MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE



Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.
 Contact: Philip Mayes - Tel: 07896 674789,
 Email: pmayes@guildford.ac.uk
 or Andrew McEvoy - Tel: 07896 674786,
 Email: amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk
 Website: www.merristwood.ac.uk

Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Apprenticeships and Non Apprenticeships
 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, National
 Certificate Level 2 Sportsturf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3
 Sportsturf on-line distance learning, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf Apprenticeships
 day release. Also, NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management, plus throughout the
 year various NPTC Certificate of Competence courses including: Automatic Turf
 Irrigation, Turf Maintenance Equipment, Mowers, FEPA PA1, 6 & 2, Tractors,
 Brushcutters and Strimmers. Please contact us for up-to-date qualifications and
 advice on courses and funding. Open days are held regularly at the Campus.



Full-time and online study

Myerscough College invites applications for Degree
 courses starting in September 2011

- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf
- Foundation Degree Sportsturf and Golf Course Management
- BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science
- BSc (Hons) Sportsturf and Golf Management

R&A Bursaries available to many students



Myerscough College's
 Degree programmes are
 validated by the University
 of Central Lancashire



Myerscough
 College

MyfutureMy studiesMydegreeMyerscough

For more information call **01995 642211**
 or visit www.myerscough.ac.uk

WE CAN MAKE YOUR GRASS GROW GREENER!

At Bridgwater College we offer innovative work-based Sports Turf Management training at Levels 2 and 3, delivered primarily 'on the job' and assessed at your workplace. This training is supported by our superb golf course facility at Cannington, near Bridgwater, and by a range of Horticulture courses and certificates of competence that is unrivalled in the South West and can benefit employees and employers alike.

To find out more please call Mark Wallington or Helen Goodland on 01278 655105 or contact via email at wallingtonm@bridgwater.ac.uk.



www.bridgwater.ac.uk

ENGLAND

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE
 Bilsborrow, Preston,
 Lancashire PR3 0RY
 Contact: Stewart Brown
 Tel: 01995 642305
 Web: www.myerscough.ac.uk




Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Turfgrass Science and Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels throughout the UK.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE
 Mantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF
 Contact: Gareth Phillips
 or Chard Spicer
 Tel: 01270 613236 Fax:01270 625665
 Email:enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
 Web:www.reaseheath.ac.uk



Part time, block release courses include level 2, level 3 Certificate and Diploma in work based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Green keeper). NVQ level 4 Sports turf (Distance Learning). Our work based learning group offer apprenticeships in the work place. BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture/Sports Turf option, BTEC National Diploma in Sports Performance and Facilities Management endorsed by Premier League, Football league.
 Short Courses include Pesticide application (PA1/PA2/PA6) Chainsaw operation, Safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programs available on request. On site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, rugby, football pitches and Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE
 St Albans Smallford Campus,
 Hatfield Road, St Albans,
 Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA
 Contact: Andrew Wight
 Tel: 01727 737735
 Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
 Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk



Full time courses: City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma options in Greenkeeping/Sports turf and Horticulture.
 Work Based learning- Level 2 and 3 Diploma in Greenkeeping and Apprenticeship routes.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE
 Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5PH
 Tel:01785 712209
 Fax: 01785 715701
 Email: keith.ellis@southstaffs.ac.uk
 Web:www.southstaffs.ac.uk



South Staffordshire College offers an extensive range of courses, full, part time and day release. Full time programmes include; NPTC Skills for Life, Level One, 1st Diploma, National Award. National Certificate and National Diploma. Higher Education programmes can be studied on a part time basis and include Foundation Degree and the Bsc in Horticulture. Work based learning is available at NVQ 1, NVQ 2, and NVQ 3 and South Staffordshire offers very extensive Train2Gain provision. Sports turf and green keeping can be studied to NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 level on a day release basis. The college offers a wide transport network to its learners as well as residential accommodation on site.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE
 Ditchling Road, Plumpton, NR Lewes,
 East Sussex, BN7 3AE



Tel: 01273 890454
 Fax: 01273 890071
 Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
 Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Foundation Degree: Garden Design. Levels 2 and 3, Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: Work based Diploma: Level 1 and Level 2: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping and Horticulture. Parks, Gardens and Greenspace. Also RHS Level 2. Short courses available. FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke Training, following Training Needs Analysis (TNA).

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE
 Sparsholt College Hampshire
 (incorporating Andover College Campus)
 Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2



Contact: Registry
 Telephone: 01962 797213
 Email: enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk
 Web: www.sparsholt.ac.uk

NVQ and Advanced Apprenticeships in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf). ND Sport – Golf Academy. Short-courses accredited by NPTC , LANTRA Or NVQ in chainsaw operation, pesticides, tree felling and clearing, arboriculture and machinery maintenance.

**BE SEEN
 HERE**

To advertise or to be listed in the next edition of Greenkeeper Training, contact us on 01347 833800

Greenkeeper Training




BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.



BUYERS' GUIDE



Huxley All-Weather tee at Corhampton Golf Club

NEW GENERATION HUXLEY TURF SOLVES WINTER TEE PROBLEMS

Huxley Golf, PGA Official Supplier of all-weather golf surfaces, reports that sales of its new Huxley Premier Tee Turf 2 (PTT2) all-weather tee turf are continuing at record levels.

"Huxley PTT2 takes a normal tee peg anywhere in the pile (even the very long tee pegs for large-headed Drivers), so it's ideal for use as an alternative or winter tee and it's also been a great success on ranges and practice tees, such as at St Andrews and many other top courses," said Director Paul Huxley

"The new synthetic yarn we use won't fade, so it looks great anywhere – even in the shade under trees where natural grass won't grow. Huxley PTT2 tee turf requires no irrigation, mowing or aeration and the special fibres do not need any infill for support. This means that regular maintenance is absolutely minimal, one of our key R&D objectives when introducing this new Huxley turf," explained Paul.

To solve your winter tee or practice ground problems, find out about Huxley Golf's new PTT2 tee turf. Huxley Golf has specialist distributors throughout the UK and Ireland and also in many other countries. The company can install or give advice to customers about self installation.

For full information and latest list of Huxley PTT2 users contact Huxley Golf:
Tel: 01962 733222
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com

BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

AERATION

GENUINE PARTS & TINES

The **SOIL RELIEVER**



Deep Aeration - Pure & Simple

OLD & NEW MODELS

Tel: 0845 026 0064

PARTS@JSMD.CO.UK



TOPTURF IRRIGATION IS THE LEADING DEALER INSTALLER & SERVICING AGENT FOR OTTERBINE BAREBO AERATION EQUIPMENT 2006, 2007 & 2008

Call us on 0044 (0) 870 8720081
www.ttirrigation.co.uk

AERATION

Harrogate week

EDUCATION

16 - 20 January 2011

EXHIBITION

18 - 20 January 2011

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

ALL WEATHER SURFACES

Huxley Golf

PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



Huxley Practice Tee at St Andrews Links

Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222

sales@huxleygolf.co.uk

www.huxleygolf.com



To advertise within
Greenkeeper International

please contact **Kirstin** on
01347 833 832

or email

kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Advertising rates:

1/4 page - £570

1/2 page - £790

Full page - £1500

ARTIFICIAL GRASS



All-Weather Surfaces For Your Golf Club

- * Pathways
- * Tees
- * Putting Greens
- * Golf Mats
- * Fairway Mats
- * Accessories

Ensure the course is playable all year round



Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066
Email: sales@verdesports.com

www.verdesports.com

ANTI-SLIP

Harrogate week

EDUCATION

16 - 20 January 2011

EXHIBITION

18 - 20 January 2011

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

sportcrete



The Bunker Specialists

- New Build • Remodelling
- Renovation • Lining

Give us your worst bunkers and we'll make them your best

Tel: 01773 741100

www.sportcrete.com

CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR



Greenkeeper Wear

www.gkwear.co.uk

Shop Online

25% Discount for BIGGA Members - Register Now
FOR FREE CATALOGUE
Phone 01334 653733

CONSTRUCTION

Lakeland
Specialist Earthworks Ltd

Golf Course Construction
Remodelling & Alterations
Water Engineering

info@lakelandearthworks.com
www.lakelandearthworks.com

01400 251605
07900693705



Construction • Remodelling
Water Features

Tel: 01604 468908

Fax: 01604 474853

www.deltagolf2000.co.uk

180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe,
Northampton NN2 7TA



Photo courtesy of Ridding Park
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

JOHN GREASLEY LTD
Specialists in Golf Course Construction

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



DRAINAGE

Traditional
drainage and
Lyttag banding
of greens and fairways

North Staffs
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706

E: NSIrrigation@aol.com

www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

Scotland Based

**Meiklem Drainage
Contractors Ltd**

Sportsturf Drainage
Specialists

Golf Courses - Sportsfields
Drainage * Construction
* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:

T: 01383 830217

M: 07808 897 300

E: Meiklem@btopenworld.com

**SPEEDCUT
CONTRACTORS LTD**

SPORTSTURF

Construction
Drainage
Renovation
Sandslitting

Contact: Kevin Smith

OXFORD 01865 331479



Duncan Ross LTD
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE

Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrain : Topdressing : Overseeding

If it's drainage, it has to be Duncan Ross!

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 9DT

01257 255321

office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk
www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

DRAINAGE



Golf Course Drainage

Survey / Design / Installation / Greens /
Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com

www.turfdry.com

Philip Dixon Contractors Ltd

Established 1978

Sportsturf Drainage Specialist

Drainage • Construction • Renovation



Slitting • Banding • Maintenance

Tel 01772 877289 (Preston, Lancs)

Email: info@dixon drainage.co.uk

www.dixon drainage.co.uk

MJABBOTT
LIMITED



■ GOLF COURSE & SPORTSGROUND
CONSTRUCTION

■ RENOVATION & MAINTENANCE

■ IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

■ LAND DRAINAGE SCHEMES

■ WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Tel. 01722 716361

www.mjabbott.co.uk

FINANCE & LEASING

2010 Machinery Finance

No Deposit

Payments from April 2010

Golf Finance

New and used equipment

Call today for a quote

01620 890200

Golf Finance Ltd

4 Church Road

North Berwick

EH39 5NP

All finance subject to status licensed credit brokers
Written detail on request.

BUYERS' GUIDE

HEDGES / TREES



Mature Hedge Suppliers

- Hedging, Topiary, Ornamental Trees.
- Nationwide planting service.
- Highest quality plants available.
- Expert horticulturists.

Call, Steve Moul or Mark Jones
Tel: 01491 826 925
Mob: 07764 405 335
www.hedgeworx.co.uk
info@hedgeworx.co.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



IRRIGATION



Design & installation of irrigation systems for all sportsturf & landscaping projects.

Phone: 01427 874200
Fax: 01427 875333

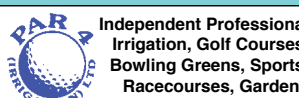


LEADING THE WAY IN IRRIGATION

- DESIGN
- INSTALLATION
- SERVICING

FOR GOLF COURSES, STADIA, RACECOURSES, BOWLING GREENS, PRIVATE GARDENS & LAKES.

Please call 0870 8720081
www.ttirrigation.co.uk



Independent Professional Irrigation, Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens

- Design/Advice
- New Installations
- Contracting
- Supply & Sales
- Servicing
- Service Contracts
- System Upgrades
- PC Systems

Tel. 01765 602175 or 01765 690598
Fax 01765 603488

Email: sales@par4.co.uk
www.par4.co.uk



IRRIGATION

The TAS TRIMMER
SPRINKLER HEAD MAINTENANCE
AND SAFETY MADE EASY
from £23 +VAT

All popular
sprinkler,
valve box
& marker
sizes



www.jsmd.co.uk
tel. 0845 026 0064



Design
Installation
Service
Irrigation supplies

North Staffs
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSirrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk



Supply-Service
Design-Install

01829 731391
www.tcirrigation.co.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk
and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



TORO Irrigation

LIQUID ASSET MANAGEMENT

Call Lely: 01480 226848 or
email: irrigation.uk@lely.com

www.toro.com

IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

irritech limited

Independent Irrigation Consultants

- Specialising in:-
- Existing system evaluation
 - System design & upgrade
 - Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:
01823 690216
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS



Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

We'll seal your lake – empty or full



Top 5 facts about ESS-13

- 52 years of proven effectiveness
- designed to be permanent
- more cost effective than pvc liners
- can be used on an empty or full pond
- guaranteed results

Tel: 01773 741100
www.seepagecontrol.com

MACHINERY WANTED

Invicta Groundcare Equipment Ltd

We specialise in the purchase of all used groundcare equipment

We are looking to purchase single items to large fleets nationwide

Contact: Steve Dyne
Tel No: 01474 874 120
Mobile: 07815 528 130
Email: invictagroundcare@live.com

Look at the latest...

Second Hand Machinery ...for sale

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

MACHINERY FOR SALE

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Kirstin on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on grass as top dressing has been granted a PATENT in the UK and Ireland under Number EP0788301B1

TEBBUTT ASSO. ARE THE LICENSEES with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso. on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644 e-mail: tebuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk
www.tebuttassociates.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Kirstin on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

TOP DRESSINGS



Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR
Tel: 01771 653777

email: sales@lovie.co.uk
www.lovie.co.uk

TOP DRESSINGS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.

FOR ALL YOUR BULK SUPPLIES
NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES

01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd

Suppliers of high quality
granular charcoal for over 200 years

- Use one of the oldest products known to man to treat black layer
- Prevent thatch build up
- Improve drainage and rootzone
- Totally organic product
- Large stock levels of all grades
- Delivery anywhere in mainland UK within 3-4 days

Tel: 01433 620003
Fax: 01433 620388



TURF

 **Lindum**
taking grass a step further

20 years of golf turf experience
5 golf grades including high bent
Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for
stabilisation/drought tolerance,
Wildflower Turf,
and new Low Maintenance turf

Tel: 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

 **Tillers Turf**
growers of fine turf

**Specialist Growers of
Turf for Golf Courses**

Rootzone Turf for Greens
Grown on USGA rootzone,
top-dressed throughout the year,
and mown at 6mm.
Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds,
Approaches and Fairways**
Various mixtures including
ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue,
and bent/fescue grown
on sandy loam topsoil.

NEW for 2010/2011
Turf for bunker retvetting
and bunker lining.
Tees supplied and laid, with
optional laser grading.

Tel: 01652 678 000
www.tillersturf.co.uk

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

NATIONWIDE VERTIDRAIN HIRE

SELF OPERATED
OR WITH OPERATOR

TRACTOR WITH 1.6m
£500 PER WEEK

TRACTOR WITH 2m
£700 PER WEEK

TEL: 01522 869100

www.countygrass.co.uk

WORTH DRAINING

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M
2M & 1.5M GROUNDBREAKER FOR HIRE
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING
TOP DRESSING • SPRAYING
Distance no object

Tel/Fax: 01476 550266
Mobile: 07855 431120
Email: worthdraining@talktalk.net
www.worthdraining.com

WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

Hydrotech Solutions

- Golf Machinery Wash Water Treatment
- Positive Filtration – Non-Biological
- 200 + Systems Installed Worldwide
- Simple, Low Cost Installation
- Low Running Costs

Tel: 01925 758099

Fax: 01925 757519

www.grassgrabber.com

Email: info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk

Waste2Water

BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel: 01782 373 878

Fax: 01782 373 763

E-mail: info@waste2water.com

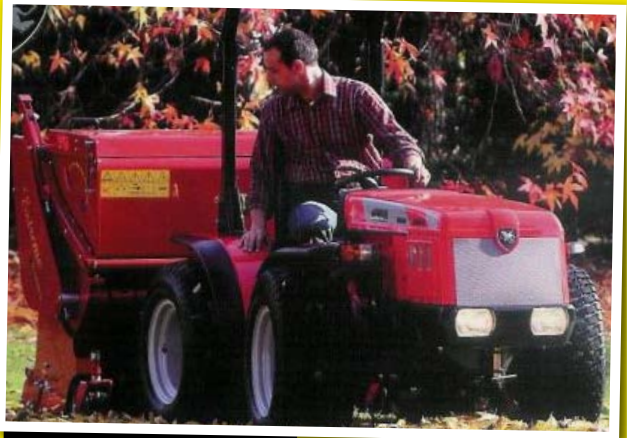
Web: www.waste2water.com

USED MACHINERY

Visit the Classified section of the
new BIGGA website for full details
of machinery for sale...

www.bigga.org.uk/classified

Here's a selection...



Carraro Tigre 3200 Tractor

X show model, like new.
26hp Yanmar engine,
Selectable 2-4wd.
Power steering, 540 &
Ground speed PTO.
3 point linkage, Turf
tyres, folding roll bar.

4 wheel drive tractor
Four Cylinder 43 Horse
Power Engine
Low Ground Pressure
Turf tyres worn more but
still good
Serviced regularly

Wiedenmann Finishing Mower - £5,990 + VAT

16ft Triplex Finishing
Mower
As New

Trilo SU40 vacuum unit £2,500

Near new Trilo vacuum
unit. Attached to a rigid
trailer. 11hp honda engine
Excellent condition

Imants Shockwave 1.55mtr - ex demo - £8950 + VAT

Ex demo Shockwave
1.5mtr . Used for our own
demos / shows.

Forklift For Tractor 3 point, New

Brand New linkage
mounted fork lift. Lift
height 2300cm. 1200Kg
capacity. Hydraulic
top link. Fold up tines.
Category 2. Brand New
& Unused.

Kuhn BKE250

2.5m Flail Mower
Fixed Headstock
NEW

Kubota L4200

1998 Kubota L4200
Used on a Golf Course
4940 Hours

Recruitment

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Attersee-Traunsee Golf Club require an experienced Head Greenkeeper from 1st March 2011. This 18 hole members' course is situated midway between Salzburg and Linz in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Large lakes and mountains are a 10 minute drive and provide superb facilities for outdoor activities.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Experienced and qualified to an appropriate level.
The ability to communicate in German to a good standard.
Have the ability to lead, organise, motivate and develop a teamwork attitude within the staff. Possess an eye for detail with the ability to manage/control a budget.



REWARDS

The opportunity to raise a good quality parkland course, with top class practice facilities, to a higher level.

To work in an area where good quality work is recognised and valued.
To live in a region with excellent quality of lifestyle.

The salary is negotiable but will be in line with BIGGA salary scales. There is no accommodation but assistance with relocation costs will be considered.

Initial interviews will be in the UK and all applications (including CV) should be sent online to aw@atterseegolf.at by 31st December.
Visit our website at www.atterseegolf.at

Randaberg Golfklubb, Norway Greenkeeper

Randaberg Golf Klubb is a friendly 9 hole private members club with 630 members. Opened in 1999 it is a links type course 15km north of central Stavanger. The club is looking for a hands on Greenkeeper with machine maintenance, irrigation and spraying experience to join the team.

The Greenkeeper with help from a part time assistant would be responsible for the general upkeep and development of the Golf Course. This is a fantastic opportunity for a forward thinking, enthusiastic individual. The ability to plan your own and your assistants work schedules, and work to agreed budget is essential. You will have a flexible working hours. This position is seasonal with a 9 month contract each year. A competitive salary will be offered. There is excellent accommodation available.

Interviews will be held in Dundee in December 2010, being able to start at the beginning of March 2011.

For further details, please contact Fraser Mudie at fmudie@hotmail.com or Telephone 0755 2732996 www.randaberg-golf.no

The Diamond Country Club, Austria, is looking to recruit various positions for the opening of season 2011 (March 1st)

Applications are open for the positions of:

Deputy Head Greenkeeper Irrigation technician Mechanic and Greenkeepers

The Diamond Country Club, host this year to the 2010 Austrian open is looking to expand and strengthen its existing team. Under new ownership the 27 hole complex and John Carnegie Golf Academy aims to maintain, develop and improve its facilities with an ongoing expansion project for the following years. Applicants will be accommodated close to the golf course as part of their 9 month seasonal package. The Ability to work within a team and as an individual is key to these positions. Spraying and chainsaw qualifications with experience on all machines types will be seen highly in your favour.

Applicants will be highly self motivated, competent in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, punctual and reliable.

Please contact, stating which position is of interest to you:

Head Greenkeeper, Russell Ellingworth at cedricruss@hotmail.com

Applications are open until December 31st

Qualified Full Time Greenkeeper – Epsom, Surrey

Maple Leaf Golf, owner/operator of Chichester and Hill Barn Golf Clubs is looking for a highly motivated, greenkeeper to join the team.

An exciting opportunity exists to join our team of dedicated professionals who have already significantly improved the course and facilities at Horton Park. A new team member is needed to assist with the remodeling of the first three holes and to build on the impressive improvement in the facilities since Maple Leaf Golf took over in 2009. We are looking for a level 2 qualified greenkeeper with a minimum of two years experience and who preferably holds all relevant spraying certificates. However, consideration will be given to candidates with less experience who can show a real 'can do' attitude.

Contact Wendy Wright for a Job Specification and Application Form on 0208 393 8400 or email wendy@hortonparkgolf.com
Alternatively, full details are available at www.hortonparkgolf.com

Closing date for applications is Monday 13th December.



MAKE A SPLASH

WITH

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Oaklands College is located in the historic city of St Albans, set in the heart of the Hertfordshire countryside yet only half an hour from London.

We are moving forward on a path towards achieving 'outstanding' status and welcome those professionals who want to develop their skills with us and truly unlock their potential.

NVQ Assessor – Horticulture (Sportsturf/Greenkeeping)

37 hours per week

Salary range £22,776 to £28,050 per annum

Do you have a passion for horticulture in general and sportsturf/greenkeeping in particular and working in the industry?

Do you have commitment to educational values?

We are looking for an assessor to advise and support candidates through the assessment process from entry point to external verification. The successful candidate will also have experience of increasing the number of students within this curriculum area or be able to demonstrate strong links with the sportsturf industry.

Ideally you will possess Assessor's award A1 or D32/D33, have a minimum of a Level 3 Horticulture qualification with Sportsturf or Greenkeeping specialism and have recent industrial experience. Ability to travel is essential.

For full details of this role, application forms and information on working at Oaklands College, please visit our website: www.oaklands.ac.uk

For further information please email: liz.moore@oaklands.ac.uk

Closing date:
31st December 2010



TORO

PRODUCT SPECIALIST After Sales Support

Lely UK is the exclusive distributor in the UK for the world-leading Toro range of professional turf maintenance machinery and irrigation products, consumer lawnmowers and garden accessories.

We are looking to recruit a Product Specialist to manage the technical after sales support activities of our dealers and service centres, monitoring product performance and liaising with corporate account customers to ensure first-class after sales support.

The successful applicant will have a formal qualification in an engineering subject, a practical background with knowledge of workshop best practice and a full understanding of mobile equipment, electrical/hydraulic systems, engines and transmissions. Candidates should also have good communication skills and be proficient in Microsoft Office and Windows.

The position requires travel around southern England and you may be expected to work from home depending on your current location.

In return we offer a competitive package including company car and pension.

If you have the qualities we are looking for, please apply with CV to Sharon Saunders at the address below, or email ssaunders@lely.com

Closing date for applications:
Wednesday, 15 December

Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St. Neots, Cambs. PE19 1QH
Tel: 01480 226800 Email: ssaunders@lely.com



— partners in turfcare —

LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN...

www.bigga.org.uk/careers

THE WEBSITE IS UPDATED REGULARLY WITH NEW VACANCIES, SO DON'T DELAY, A NEW JOB IS ONLY A CLICK AWAY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTIN BLACK ON 01347 833 832 OR EMAIL kirstin@bigga.co.uk



in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. George Osborne
2. Andy Flower
3. Mark Thompson
4. Carol Ann Duffy
5. George O'Grady CBE
6. Michel Platini
7. John Monks
8. Ben Collins
9. Boris Johnson

CROSSWORD

M	A	T	T	H	E	W	P	E	R	R	Y	
R	U	H	V	O	A	E	T					
O	B	S	C	E	N	E	M	U	D	B	A	T
W	S	O	R	E	O	R	E					
A	R	I	E	L		B	R	A	N	D	N	E
N	E	O	I	A		E						
A	S	S	I	G	N	M	E	N	T	C	R	U
T	Y	P	I	O		A						
K	I	P	S	E	L	S	A	L	V	A	D	O
I	U	A	N	E	E	D						
N	I	C	O	T	I	N	E	R	S	S	O	
S	O	R	I	T	E	L	I	F				
O	R	I	G	A	M	I	C	H	E	E	R	I
N	R	N	R	A	E	Z						
I	O	A	N	G	R	U	F	F	U	D	D	

MONSTER SUDOKO

C	7	8	4	6	1	3	B	5	9	A	2
1	2	6	5	9	A	4	7	8	C	3	B
9	A	B	3	8	2	C	5	7	1	6	4
4	5	C	7	A	B	1	9	3	2	8	6
6	B	2	8	3	C	5	4	9	A	1	7
A	9	3	1	2	8	7	6	C	B	4	5
2	4	A	C	1	3	6	8	B	7	5	9
7	6	5	9	B	4	A	2	1	8	C	3
3	8	1	B	7	5	9	C	4	6	2	A
5	C	9	A	4	6	B	1	2	3	7	8
8	1	7	6	5	9	2	3	A	4	B	C
B	3	4	2	C	7	8	A	6	5	9	1

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

6	1	7	9	2	8	4	3	5
5	2	8	3	4	7	6	1	9
9	4	3	6	5	1	2	7	8
4	5	9	2	1	6	3	8	7
3	8	6	4	7	9	5	2	1
2	7	1	8	3	5	9	6	4
7	3	2	1	9	4	8	5	6
1	6	4	5	8	3	7	9	2
8	9	5	7	6	2	1	4	3

Monster Daily SuDoku: Mon 22-Nov-2010 very hard

Daily SuDoku: Mon 22-Nov-2010 hard



On the Soapbox

A vehicle for letting people within the industry express their point of view

You say Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, I say Superintendent but is that the only difference between the British and Americans with regards to golf course maintenance?

Let's start with semantics. Even though both countries speak English there are differences that make communication difficult. Certain words, phrases, and slang expressions that are used in the forum, articles etc sometime make it hard to understand. So how did sward become lawn, pitch become sportsfield? Other golf course words such as trolley and buggy instead pull cart and golf cart are also puzzling. Then there is the word to describe irresponsible golfers, my new favorite word from the UK by the way, is numpty - the British knucklehead.

One phrase that we commonly use is "Height of Cut" or HOC and I guess it is fair to say the Americans are responsible for the problems associated with low HOC's.

Over time Superintendents have developed maintenance practices that produce incredibly low HOC's. Because of competition between clubs in the large metro areas for new members, Superintendents have been conditioned to push the limits.

I am not saying you are not mowing at low HOC's, some of you are. But the heights mentioned are those that were attained in the early 80's.

In the UK the HGK tries to hold the line at a slightly higher or moderately higher HOC than the American Superintendent. My view is that it is a budgetary issue and also a traditional greenkeeping practice that I find brilliant. With the traditional designs and styles of club management there is a resistance to "go low" or even vary how the course is presented. American courses and Superintendents don't have that sense of tradition.

While I do prefer the "traditional" style of greenkeeping I have strayed off the path from time to time. If I need to make a point about who should determine what is right from the course, I have cut low and I mean shamefully low and after a few weeks of six hour rounds we return to sensible HOC's and I have proven my point.

While I am talking about me, I have a different attitude about the golf industry than everyone else. You may be in a service industry and provide course conditions for your members' enjoyment, but my boss is the golf course and I provide conditions that suit the course, and hope the golfers enjoy

it. In my opinion the members are objects to be worked around and problems to be solved. I bet you're wondering how I haven't been fired.

You, I'm referring to everyone on the east side of the Atlantic, only see what's on TV where there is a Tour event going on. Those events are almost always in large metro areas and are set up to test the very best players. The majority of the courses, in the US, have course conditions and budgets just like the UK. We, I am referring to everyone on the west side of the Atlantic, have medium to small budgets, decade old technology, and doctors, lawyers, and farmers bosses just like you.

As far as maintenance practices are concerned, it's basically the same on both sides of the Atlantic/pond we fertilize/fertilise, water, grow and mow.

Yes it's true that Americans use more fertilizer and water than you, but that is changing as the industry is becoming more globally responsible.

But the reason for the extra use is that we have to in order to overcome the wear and tear from golf carts/buggies. American golfers very seldom walk anywhere! The fact that British golfers will walk the course is a trait I admire.

And just as amazing to the British that we use too much chemicals and water, it is amazing to the Americans that the British will allow play on frost covered grass. When polled I could find no one who would say that they allow play on frost. It didn't matter whether it was public/pay and play golf or a country club we don't allow play on frost. It doesn't make sense to spend the time, effort, and money to get the course in the best possible shape and then allow play to set you back. Here in the States, depending on the region we are in, some courses will shut down entirely for the winter.

The last difference that I'll highlight is the way Government regulations are imposed on the UK courses. You guys have to bring in independent consultants or assessors in order to document everything you do. Take chainsaws, you bring in an expert and have training, then have a test and the employees get a certificate to prove they are competent

and it is another financial burden. If I have someone needs to use a chainsaw, I teach them myself. Maybe takes 20 minutes, then I watch them for a few more minutes and if they don't cut off a limb they are good to go.

The regulations you have to have in order to cross a road are comical. The financial burden in order to be "street legal" is absurd.

A three second run across a road doesn't warrant the licensing fees and the extra cost of road diesel. I can run my tractors three miles down the road to access my river pumps, without fear of getting fined.

No matter what the distance that separates the UK from the US, and the differences in the same language, and differences in regulations imposed on us by outside agencies, we have the same goals.

We all get up early and go to work with the intent of providing the best possible golf course with what we have to work with.

You say tomato...



Sean Sullivan, CGCS
The Briarwood
Billings Montana, USA

Sean Sullivan

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

Superior efficiency rules the water.

Think about ITT.

Introducing the Lowara Pumps

e-SV™ Series:

energy efficient, economical
and easy-to-install stainless steel
multi-stage pumps.

Powerful, intelligent and constantly in motion, not just adapting to their surroundings, but dominating them. Like sharks, e-SV pumps are tough, efficient and built to last. Thanks to a unique combination of new hydraulic design and higher efficiency motor, the e-SV delivers lower overall life-cycle costs and superior efficiency compared to most pumps available today.

- Optimized hydraulic design results in superior boosting performance, efficiency and NPSHr levels.
- All stainless-steel construction.
- Expanded line of pump sizes for wide range of applications.
- Patented i-ALERT™ monitor continuously measures vibration to support optimum performance. Available on pumps 7,5kW and above.
- New design eliminates need to remove motor, reducing repair time by up to 50 percent.

Now there's more than one way to
rule the water.

Find out more at www.lowara.co.uk



WRAS
APPROVED
PRODUCT

 **LOWARA**

Lowara UK Limited

Millwey Rise Industrial Estate, Axminster, Devon EX13 5HU

Tel: 01297 630230 • Fax: 01297 630270

e-mail: lowarauk.marketing@itt.com • <http://www.lowara.co.uk>



ITT

Engineered for life

www.lowara.co.uk

The Jacobsen Eclipse 322

the only 100% hydraulic-free greens mower available ... anywhere!

Other 'hybrids' still use hydraulic motors for propulsion, so when we say no hydraulics, we mean it. Traction, reel drive and lift/lower operations are all electrically driven using either a small petrol or diesel engine running a 48 volt generator. And now there's an all-electric version using a battery pack. It's stealth quiet and ideal for greens close to housing or hotel rooms.

For greener operation on your greens, less maintenance and lower operating costs, it has to be the Jacobsen Eclipse 322.

By the way, did we mention ...
no hydraulics.



www.ransomesjacobsen.com

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd

West Road, Ipswich, IP3 9TT UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1473 270000
Web: www.ransomesjacobsen.com

Code: GKI/12/10/E322

JACOBSEN
A Textron Company

Driving Environmental Performance