

“There it goes..!”



Don Wales, the nephew of multiple world speed record holder, Donald Campbell, will be at the controls of the attempt which aims to propel a lawnmower at speeds in excess of 100mph.

Project Runningblade aims to smash the current record set by Bob Cleveland from the United States of 80.792mph at Bonneville Salt Flats in 2006.

The attempt is planned to take

place at this Pendine Sands in Wales early next year and was announced at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu.

At 100mph, the machine would cover 147ft per second, covering the target mile in less than 36 seconds.

The Runningblade team has worked with Countax and is hoping to raise funds and awareness for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Wessex Heartbeat.



Apprenticeship Framework For Horticultural Businesses Approved

Lantra, has announced that a new Level 2 and a revised Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship framework for horticultural businesses have been approved by the Modern Apprenticeship Group (MAG) and are now available to use in Scotland.

Over the past year, Lantra has undertaken an extensive consultation with horticultural businesses, other industry professionals and training providers to review industry's requirements for Modern Apprenticeships and ensure they are kept relevant and

up-to-date to meet the changing needs of industry professionals. Following this review, a new Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level 5) in horticulture has been developed and the Level 3 framework (SCQF Level 6) revised.

The new Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship (SCQF Level 5) in horticulture is the first framework at this level to be made available in the environmental and land-based sector in Scotland. The new frameworks have been widely welcomed

by the horticultural industry as they meet the need identified by the industry for a Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship.

To view or download the new modern apprenticeship frameworks in horticulture, please visit <http://www.lantra.co.uk/apprenticeship-framework-documents/>. To find out more about the modern apprenticeship programme or to see the upcoming schedule of framework reviews, please visit:

www.lantra.co.uk/apprenticeships or call 0845 707 8007.



Architects Appointed by Emirates

Thomson Perrett & Lobb, the golf course architecture practice founded by five-times Open Champion, Peter Thomson, has been appointed by Emirates Golf Club to modernise its flagship Majlis Course, home of the Dubai Desert Classic.

TPL will carry out an audit of the course's bunkering as part of a wider modernisation programme, overseeing the repositioning and reconstruction of bunkers to upgrade the course for professional events, including the Dubai Desert Classic and Dubai Ladies Masters, and day-to-day club and visitor play.

Rod Bogg, Special Advisor

to Dubai Golf, who oversaw construction of Emirates Golf Club 22 years ago, said: "We selected TPL to oversee the modernisation of the Majlis Course because of its experience in designing prestige golf courses in the Middle East and its expertise in bunkering.

"Our bunkers are out of date and, due to modern equipment, out of play. Some of the players are hitting the ball 60 or 70 yards past the fairway bunkers during the Dubai Desert Classic. While that is only one week of the year, we need to ensure that the course remains the enjoyable challenge that it is for professionals and amateurs all year round."

Rod added: "We are not redesigning the course and not adding additional bunkers to the course, but we are looking at relocating, reshaping and reconstructing the bunkers we do have to bring the course up to the highest modern standards, as well as making some improvements to the aesthetics of the course." The new look course will be in play for the Dubai Desert Classic in 2011.

Pictured (from left): Andrew Goosen (TPL), Rod Bogg (Dubai Golf), Tim Lobb (TPL), Craig Haldane (Golf Course Superintendent), Chris May (General Manager, Dubai Golf)

Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

From last April the ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievances procedures applies to the workplace dispute resolution framework.

The ACAS statutory Code of Practice on discipline and grievance provides basic practical guidance to employers, employees and their representatives and sets out principles for handling disciplinary and grievance situations in the workplace.

The Code is issued under section 199 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

A failure to follow the Code does not, in itself, make a person or organisation liable to proceedings. However, employment tribunals will take the Code into account when considering relevant cases.

For full details of the Acas Code of Practice and to download a free copy, go to: www.acas.org.uk/drr

Scottish Region Conference

The 2010 BIGGA Scottish Region Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 2.

Speakers include Richard Windows and Henry Bechelet, from the STRI, and Greg Evans, Course Manager, at Ealing Golf Club.

Other speakers include Gordon McKie, Course Manager, Old Course, St. Andrews Links; Lee Strutt, Course Manager, GWest, Gleneagles, and finally, Paul Kimber, Golf Course Architect.

Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J Boyd, Regional Administrator, Tel: 0141 616 3440 or pj.boyd@btinternet.com

New Appointment

SISIS has appointment of Ewen Wilson as Export Sales Manager to replace David Harrison.

Ewen has worked for the Company for 26 years as demonstrator in Scotland and Northern Ireland and, in addition, has undertaken many demonstration trips overseas.



Please email your news items to the editor, Scott MacCallum: scott@bigga.co.uk

Keep on Running



Sunningdale's staff showed that they were a fit bunch by running in support of Children in Need 2009.

The run took place over two routes on the Old and New courses, starting at the clubhouse, with all runners going at the same time when a rocket was set off!

"The idea was to complete a marathon distance with all

runners doing a leg which consisted of 2.7 miles! The initially idea was to have ten runners to cover the distance but the response was so good we covered a lot more miles!" said Course Manager, Murray Long.

Runners consisted of all members of staff from the Secretary, Courses Manager, Head Greenkeepers, Assistant

Greenkeepers, General Manager and Food and Beverage servers.

"Members provided the sponsorship and the total is well above £500.

"It went so well that maybe next time we will look at expanding it to include other clubs to raise more money for this worthy cause," said Murray.

Trump Appoints Golf Course Superintendent



After more than 18 years at Carnoustie, Assistant Superintendent, Paul O'Connor, has been appointed Links Superintendent for the new Trump International Golf Links.

"Paul is highly respected and is known to be one of the best in his field. His years of training and experience at Carnoustie made him an obvious choice for this appointment. He is a very important addition to my team," said Donald Trump.

Paul was delighted by his new role.

"I enjoyed 18 years at Carnoustie and understand the high standards required of a leading championship course. I am extremely proud to be involved in the construction and development of what will be the finest links course ever built - it is a privilege to work for Mr Trump on this spectacular terrain."

Studying greenkeeping at Elmwood College in the early 90s, while working as an apprentice greenkeeper at Carnoustie, Paul quickly rose to the position of Head Greenkeeper under John Philip.

"During The 2007 Open Championship he led the greenkeeping team to prepare what was widely regarded as the best conditioned Open Venue of all time. His attention to detail, passion for the job and knowledge of links golf sets him apart; he will be a significant asset to the management team at Balmedie," said Ian McClements, of the STRI.

Paul has also advised on other international championship courses overseas, and has a golf handicap of 3.

Sheer Lunacy...

Daily Mail, Wednesday, November 25, 2009

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Now that's what you call a Flymo...



HEEHAH! They'd take far too long. A ladder? No fun at all. In New Zealand, there is only one way to trim a 10ft hedge - with a crane and a ride-on lawnmower. The driver of the mower, who did not want to be named, admitted it was not the safest method of clipping off the winter growth

Mall Foreign Service from his private hedge in Cambridge, on the North Island. But he said it was all done as a bit of a joke, as he wanted to film the stunt and put it on the internet. In the end, he couldn't find a video camera

- but went ahead anyway with a crane and a mower that belonged to his friend. The wife arrived home during the operation, and was surprisingly pleased to see her husband perched over the hedge in mid-air. "I saw the crane first and thought 'great, the hedge is getting trimmed', but I didn't

realise this was what they were planning," she said. Luckily, it took her husband just 20 minutes to tidy the hedge. And his verdict: "The mower was doing an alright job, but I reckon it would work better on a hedge that's not so spiky." Unfortunately, he also broke his hand in the process, after falling off the crane.

This man would have fallen foul of the Health and Safety executive if it had been in this country. The Daily Mail featured this unusual attempt to cut a hedge.



CAMPEY MAN

Campey Turfcare Systems has appointed David Harrison as Export Sales Manager. David is already very well known in the industry through his long career with SISIS and brings a wealth of experience and global industry knowledge to his new post.

David will be responsible for developing further growth in sales throughout the European and world markets where Campey Turfcare Systems are currently operating, as well as introducing a whole range of products into new markets in the Middle East and Asia. His appointment is also an integral part of the extension of the Imants distributorship.

“We are at a very exciting stage in the expansion plans of the company and David will play a central part in that future strategy. There is a huge challenge ahead; one that he is extremely well qualified to take on,” said Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey.

“His expertise, professionalism and dedication to the industry have been demonstrated throughout his association with the groundscare industry. We are extremely pleased that he has accepted this position and consider him a valuable and important asset to the team.”

David commented on his appointment “I am very excited to be joining the company at this time, and looking forward to the challenge of expanding the business in the export markets and establishing Campey Turfcare as a global name in the industry”.

London to Paris via Bicycle All for a Good Cause!



Mandy Caton, Sales Administrator at Campey Turf Care Systems, will face the biggest challenge of her life next Spring when she attempts to cycle from London to Paris to raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

In just four days in May, she'll cover 300 miles in the company of 70 other riders.

“I'm terrified, but excited at

the same time, I know it'll be an unforgettable experience,” said Mandy, who has been with Campeys for seven years.

“It's a long way and I've never done anything like this before, but I'm determined to raise as much money as I can for the charity.

“I'm doing lots of preparation by cycling locally, going to spinning classes at the gym

and buying every sort of garment I can with gel in it!

“One of my good friends had breast cancer two years ago and is now in remission thankfully. It seems that most people you speak to know someone who has been affected by it in some way.”

To sponsor Mandy visit: www.justgiving.com/mandy-caton.



New Man for Aitkens

Aitkens Sportsturf has appointed Paul Emmanuel as an additional new technical representative for the Yorkshire area. Australian Paul has been a greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club for over six years and before that was a groundsman at two cricket clubs in the Harrogate area. He has been a regional finalist in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and has also won four titles in the Nidderdale Cricket League for best ground.

Paul's responsibilities will include extending Aitken's coverage to golf and sports clubs around Yorkshire.

“Paul will be a welcomed addition to our existing representatives to further improve our coverage and service to our customers,” said Richard Aitken, Commercial Director.

South East Seminar

The South East Regional Seminar held at the Reigate Hill Golf Club, in November, was hosted by the Surrey Section of BIGGA.

The theme for the day was The Decade Ahead. What does the next decade hold for Golf Management and Greenkeepers?

Over 90 delegates enjoyed excellent presentations given by Tracey Maddison, Head of BIGGA Membership Services; Tim Lobb, Course Architect from Thomson Perrit & Lobb; Martin Ward, Symbio; Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity; Lee Penrose, STRI Ecologist, and Laurence Pithie MG From Turf MasterOne.

The day finished with some interesting thoughts for the future during discussions in the question and answer session.

The Sussex Section is due to host the Regional Seminar in November 2010.

Head for the Sun

The CMAE is moving its AGM into Europe for the first time in its history, and partnering with Club Managers Spain, will be jointly staging the International Club Management Congress at the Villaitana Wellness Golf & Business Resort, Benidorm, Spain from 14-17 April.

This move reflects the growing number of CMAE members outside the UK and Ireland, and following feedback received from members asking the Association to consider staging business conferences in attractive tourism destinations.

The CMAE's aim is to encourage club managers, suppliers, owners and operators to gather in Benidorm two weeks after Easter to discuss issues affecting our industry and share solutions and ideas to allow clubs to grow and prosper.

The conference theme is "Lead your Club into the Future."

For full details of the event and to register, please visit the International Congress website: www.gheisagolfconsulting.es/es/infogeneral2

All Sorts of Sports



Speedcut Contractors has been busy with a wide variety of sportsturf projects – including many in the world of golf . . . but also football, rugby, cricket and racecourses.

Among the more recent golf projects have included Foxhills Golf Club and Resort in Surrey where Speedcut has been using its new BLEC laser grader to transform old tees.

And at Tandridge Golf Club in Surrey, under Contracts Manager Barry

Pace, Speedcut has reshaped and reconstructed green surrounds, tees and bunkers, following last year's major woodland clearance and construction of three water storage tanks

Also in Surrey at Lingfield Park Golf Club Speedcut has completed drainage on the 17th fairway, while at Sandmartins Golf Club, Wokingham, bunkers have been reshaped for lining with Sportcrete.

The company also carried out work at Wincanton and Market Rasen Racecourses with their new Gwazae deep probe aerator, decompacting areas of high impact around jumps. Last year Wood Bend at Market Rasen was completely remodelled to overcome an adverse camber.

At King's College School in Surrey, major pitch renovation on three football pitches was carried out and a cricket square relocated.

Directorship for Steve



Golf and Turf Machinery, the Ransomes Jacobsen dealer for Yorkshire, has appointed a well known figure from the turf industry as Sales Director.

Steve Nixon, the former Sales Manager at Bernhard & Co, joins Glen Sawyer and John Passfield on the board at the Mexborough-based company.

He will be responsible for the sales operation across the company's recently expanded territory, with particular focus on new business generation in the golf sector.

During his career at Bernhard's he spent three years at the company's facility in southern Florida and six years as UK and Ireland Sales Manager. Prior to this he spent seven years in the golf industry as greenkeeper/mechanic at golf clubs in South Yorkshire. "Steve has a great understanding of the golf market, both here in the UK and across the Atlantic in the USA. He is able to communicate at all levels and his people skills will certainly be an advantage in his new role. He will be a great asset to the business, especially as we develop in our extended territory in North Yorkshire," said Glen Sawyer.

Steve lives in Barnsley, South Yorkshire with his wife Michelle and their two children, Matthew and Emma-Louise.