

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 JULY 2010

## Featured Inside

### The Roar of the Dandelions

IS THE DANDELION EXPLOSION THE FIRST SIGN  
OF FALL-OUT FROM EU PESTICIDE LEGISLATION?

## Sports Turf Feature

### TESTING TIMES AT TRENT BRIDGE

We look forward to The England and  
Pakistan Test Series at Trent Bridge

# It's coming home

Golf  
Course  
Feature

With The Open set to return to the  
Old Course, we visit St Andrews for  
this month's Course Feature





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# Mistakes happen, get over it

**As I write, I have just downloaded the vuvuzela app for my phone and now truly feel part of the World Cup.**

What has really struck me, as I write five days into the World Cup, is the sheer intensity of it all and how, in many cases, that with such high highs and such low lows it can be so devastatingly counterproductive.

I'm thinking about Robert Green. One error, bad though it was, and he has been absolutely slaughtered in the media – they were even calling for him to be replaced at half time for heaven's sake.

Some of the headlines the next morning were quite extraordinary and I would hope that they were kept well out of the way of the West Ham keeper and his relatives.

“Calamity! Robert Green faces England axe after his howler hands Americans a draw”; “Hands of Clod”, are just a couple he would have read.

It really is quite ridiculous. It's not even a case of being as good as your last match. In World Cup terms you are only as good as your last save – or non-save as the case may be. He did make a quite brilliant one in the second half which saved a certain score and I'm sure there is part of him thinking if he'd let that in but saved the easy one life would have been so much quieter.

How can anyone feel confident about their job when they feel that if they make one slight error they will forever be known as “Captain Cock-Up” the “Blundering (choose anything from) keeper, journalist, greenkeeper, banker, politician...)?

If we all had to operate to a “one strike and you are out” policy we would surely all creep

into our shells and try wherever possible to stop doing anything that might result in a mistake.

When it comes to using experience and knowledge to assess a marginal situation and determine what is the best long term option, if you thought your actions were going to be double guessed by all and sundry, the inclination may be not to bother. How can you be wrong if you haven't done anything?

People must be encouraged to take decisive action – coming for that cross, changing a regime on the golf course – safe in the knowledge that you will be given time to tweak what you have done if it's not right first time, or even learn from mistakes if what has been done hasn't worked well.

Of course if, time after time the ball continues to be dropped, or guddled over the line, or oil leakages continue to occur on the golf course, action then has to be taken in terms of training – a dedicated goalkeeping coach, more practice with the new ball or a change in goalie gloves, or, in our industry, a service of all machinery, a review of day-to-day operating procedures or a BIGGA training course.

The concept that one mistake is all that is needed for the roof to fall in on someone cannot be allowed to take root, even if it means the headlines in the papers are a little more subdued.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**



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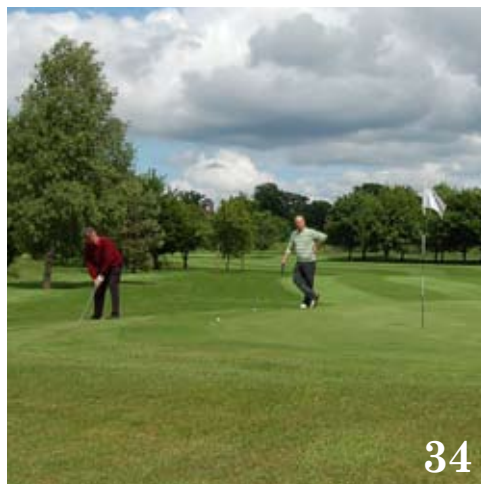


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**Cover photography**  
courtesy of *St Andrews*  
*Links Trust*



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



## VISIT TO THE 2010 COURSE AT CELTIC MANOR



In April, the last in the series of the 2010 South Wales evening lecture series saw 80 greenkeepers and groundsman visit the 2010 course at the Celtic Manor Resort.

Golf Course & Estates Manager Jim McKenzie started the tour by welcoming us to the resort and giving us a fascinating insight into the huge development process that has led to the 2010 course becoming the venue for the up coming Ryder Cup.

Following a bite to eat, we all moved up to the lodge clubhouse where Jim was joined by Chris Sealey and Mike Gash. The three guys then gave an excellent presentation about their experiences of the 2008 Ryder Cup in Valhalla where

Chris and Mike had been part of the greenkeeping support team and Jim had been as an observer.

This rounded off an excellent evening where the session was closed by Martin Townsend of the series sponsors, Countrywide Turf & Amenity, who thanked everyone for coming along to the evening and wished Jim and his team all the very best for not only the Ryder Cup but also the Wales Open.

This evening concluded the series of evening lectures which had also seen us visit the Swalec stadium in Cardiff, where Head Groundsman Keith Exton gave us an insight into the hosting of the First Test in

last summer's Ashes Series. We also visited the new racecourse at Ffos Las where we were given a full tour of the facilities by clerk of the course Tim Long before Course director David Thursfield gave us a presentation about the development of the first new race course to open in the UK for 80 years.

As always we would like to thank Martin and Peter from Countrywide Turf & Amenity for their continued sponsorship and support not only of the evening lectures but of the greenkeepers and groundsman of South Wales.

Steve Chappell, Regional Chairman

## POLICE PROTECTION FOR RARE ORCHID

Britain's rarest wild flower received police protection from thieves when it bloomed on a Lancashire golf club last month.

The Lady's Slipper orchid is a regular visitor to Silverdale Golf Course, in Carnforth, Lancashire, is the last remaining flowering plant of its kind in the wild in Britain.

It is protected by law and wildlife officers set up extra security to ensure its safety.

The plant was visited by hundreds of orchid fans every year but has been dug up and stolen twice in the past six years.

Cuttings from the plant, can be sold to collectors for up to £5,000.

The Silverdale Golf Course specimen is believed to have been planted in the 1800s, and is thought to be from central Europe.

The orchid is protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and anyone who interferes with the plant could be fined £5,000 and jailed for six months.

## Art or Science?

Ashford Manor Golf Club would like to make it clear that the photograph which appeared on page 26 of last month's Greenkeeper International, of irrigation on its golf course, has nothing to do with the article in which it was featured and that Ashford Manor has no association with Greg Evans.



# Tour to France

Mandy Caton, Sales Administrator at Campey Turf Care Systems, has completed her London to Paris cycling challenge, raising more than £4,000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Covering 300 miles over four days, she said she was swept along by the amazing camaraderie among the team of 93 riders, all with their sights firmly set on reaching the French capital.

“Although my friend, Gill, and I trained really hard for months, we felt a degree of trepidation in the days leading up to the start, but that all melted away once we got going and we focussed on completing one stage at a time,” Mandy explained.

“The whole group encouraged each other and we had a fantastic support team from Skyline, which was just as well because I needed a new tyre at one point and had two punctures to contend with!”

“As we approached the Eiffel Tower, the sun was shining and we were euphoric. I felt a huge sense of achievement, knowing that I’d been able to contribute to such an important cause and realise a personal ambition at the same time.

“I’d like to thank everyone who sponsored me for their generosity” she added. “The money raised will help fund innovative world-class research to understand how Breast Cancer develops, leading to improved diagnosis, treatment, prevention and cure.”







## Justin Rose becomes Official Ambassador

The Golf Environment Awards 2010 launched with news that Justin Rose, who went on to win the Memorial Tournament in the States a couple of weeks later, has become the official ambassador of the awards. The awards, now in their 13th year, are managed by STRI, and recognise and reward both individuals and golf courses for the time and focus they have put into environmentally sustainable management projects.

As well as receiving official recognition for the development of outstanding environmental projects, the awards also gives winners the opportunity to travel to some of the USA's world most famous golf venues, including Pine Valley and Shinnecock golf clubs.

Speaking about his new role, Justin Rose said: "I am honoured to become an

ambassador for The Golf Environment Awards. It's great that these awards are helping to promote and highlight the work that many golf clubs are performing to improve the environment and support a positive future for golf within the UK."

One of Justin's first official duties as ambassador of The Golf Environment Awards was to meet the 2009 winners at the PGA Championship at Wentworth, where Rose finished one under par for the tournament.

He added: "It was great to meet last year's winners and hear why their specific projects have been so successful. We need to do more to highlight how golf clubs can introduce their own environmental projects and shout more about the achievement and success of current schemes."

Gordon McKillop, STRI's Chief Executive said: "We are delighted that Justin Rose is supporting the awards in this way. Having the backing of a high profile figure within the golf industry is invaluable as it shows that the importance of environmental issues is recognised at the very top of the game."

He added: "We would encourage any golf club that focuses on environmental issues to enter – the winners are chosen for their dedication and enthusiasm to succeed, and not on the scale of the project or size of golf club."

The Golf Environment Awards are sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey Turf Care Systems, County Turf, Scotts, and Syngenta.

Entry to the 2010 awards is now open. Entry is free and details can be found on the new website: [www.golfenvironmentawards.com](http://www.golfenvironmentawards.com)

There are 11 awards split into three categories:

*Environmental Improvement – four awards recognising projects involving:*

*Nature Conservation Management*

*Turfgrass Management*

*Waste Management*

*Water Management*

*Environmental Achievement*

Five regional awards and one overall winner award recognising golf courses that have implemented a successful environmental management strategy, with clear objectives and targets on how this strategy will directly contribute to a better environment.

*Conservation Greenkeeper Award:*

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## BIGGA SUPPORT AT PGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again a full contingent of BIGGA members were on hand to offer support on all four days at this year's BMW PGA Championships at The Wentworth Club.

With hardly a cloud to be seen in the sky and very high temperatures the team had to take on plenty of water, in the course of their bunker raking tasks on the last two days.

Andy Haskell, from Farnham GC, was called to intervene, beyond the call of duty, when asked gently to remove a couple of friendly Adders who were basking in the hot sun beside the 9th green.

This year's event attracted record crowds who enjoyed some excellent golf on the recently revamped West Course.

Over the past year Ernie Els has changed

the contours on all the greens, made changes to many bunkers making them much more formidable, and radically changed the 18th into a fearsome closing hole worthy as the final test for the European Tours flagship event.

Chris Kennedy, above, and his team, once again, produced a superbly presented golf course, magnificently prepared, with absolutely no help from the weather since the final phase of the alterations to the course.

This year's winner was Simon Khan who holed a 20ft birdie putt which curled round the hole before toppling in on the last, to win by a stroke from Luke Donald and Fredric Andersson Hed.

*Clive Osgood  
South East Regional Administrator*



## New Role at RJ

Andy Campbell, the former BIGGA Chairman and Golf Director at Lough Erne Golf Resort, has been appointed Scotland and Ireland Regional Sales Manager - Golf for Ransomes Jacobsen.

Reporting to UK and Ireland Sales Manager, Rupert Price, Andy will be responsible for all golf-related business development, equipment sales and dealer support across his territory.

Prior to his previous position at Lough Erne he was Golf and Landscape Manager at the Duke's course in St Andrews, and before this he was Golf Course and Estate Manager at the De Vere Group's Carden Park resort in Cheshire. He has recently relocated from Enniskillen to St Andrews with his wife, Claire, and son Cameron.

Commenting on his appointment Rupert Price said: "We are delighted that Andy has come onboard as he brings a wealth of knowledge about the golf sector in Scotland and Ireland. He is the last piece in our jigsaw, which sees a refresh of our regional sales management team and demonstrates our commitment to increasing our market share across the UK and Ireland. This will be a stretch and a challenge for Andy, but I know it's one that he's really looking forward to and I am confident that he will be a real asset to the business, going forward."

Former Regional Sales Manager Ian Bridges has been appointed to the new position of Product Support Specialist, which sees him continue in his sales support role for Municipal business across Scotland and Ireland in conjunction with additional responsibilities for product demonstrations across the territory.

A squad of nine JCB Teletruk forklifts is playing a key role in preparing major stadiums that are hosting games during the World Cup.

The JCB Teletruks have been called up for general materials handling, duties during the final construction and fit-out stages of hospitality suites, and visitor facilities, in and around the six principal World Cup venues in time to welcome thousands of fans from around the world.

All of the Teletruks have been supplied by Clarklift South Africa (PTY) Ltd, the JCB Industrial dealer in South Africa.

Two of the JCB Teletruks, manufactured by JCB Utility Products at their Cheadle plant in Staffordshire, have been deployed at Soccer City, Johannesburg - the main



94,000-capacity World Cup stadium that will stage the Final.

There are also two machines working at the Durban Stadium and at Cape Town's Green Point

Stadium, while there is one machine on each site at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg, Free State Stadium at Bloemfontein and Peter Mokaba Stadium at Polokwane.

# Pesticides in Water

We are all becoming much more aware of the pending Water Framework Directive that will address water pollution.

The main goal of the Environment Agency in implementing the legislation will be to ensure that all waters (surface and ground waters) will be in a good clean condition by 2015. It is now possible to detect pesticides in water at very low concentrations (1 part per billion) and it is therefore crucial that everyone engaged in using pesticides must recognise the implications of inappropriate handling and application. Fully trained and competent spray operators know the damage a discarded foil could have on the environment if it found its way into a local watercourse. We also have various types of equipment such as shrouded booms and low drift nozzles; new packaging such as the S pac from Syngenta (minus those foils) and best practice guidelines such as the LERAP, to help eliminate the potential of pesticide spray inadvertently ending up in watercourses.

However, recent information published in the April –edition of British Wildlife magazine identifies a number of

pesticides that are still regularly found in waterbodies. These include clopyralid (used to control grassland weeds) mataldehyde (active ingredient in slug pellets) and IPU (now banned and should not be found a year after its withdrawal). In discussions with Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Turfgrass Protection at STRI, it is clear that chemicals used on a regular basis by groundsmen and greenkeepers, are also consistently being found. Chemicals like 2,4-d at 5ppm, mecoprop at 11ppm, Diuron at 10ppm, and simazine at 5ppm (figures based on average levels measured annually between 1998 and 2007). The Environment Agency has recently found 19 different chemicals (different active ingredients) at undesirable levels and this rings alarm bells to the effect that if this continues then more of the chemicals we use as part of daily working could be banned or their use restricted in the future. Moreover many of these chemicals cannot be removed through water treatment and much more emphasis needs to be given to controlling these chemicals at the source (source control).

The Environment Agency is concerned that the cocktails of pesticides being



detected are having damaging effects on aquatic flora and wildlife, with cause and effect being difficult to determine.

In writing this it does strike home to me that the untrained public are as much and probably more to blame for many of the chemicals being detected in our water courses. Although you may feel that this is outside your control, it would be worth while ensuring that the right advice is given to all of our neighbours, on a Sunday morning when their contemplating a path clearing exercise, or an additional round of slug control. Their actions like those of the untrained professionals will ultimately come back to affect us all over the course of the next few years.

For further info. please email Dr Ruth Mann at STRI - [ruth.mann@stri.co.uk](mailto:ruth.mann@stri.co.uk)

# Turf disease protection that

after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut...





## WRAP IS LOOKING FOR INDUSTRY TRAILBLAZERS!

WRAP - Waste & Resources Action Programme - is looking for BIGGA members who are using quality BSI PAS 100 compost to be the subject of case studies highlighting best practice in our industry.

The case studies will be used to illustrate how greenkeepers and grounds managers are using quality compost and explain the practical, financial and environmental benefits on offer.

BSI PAS100 compost contains a range of nutrients and minerals, including nitrogen and potassium, and is ideal for use as a topdressing, growing media constituent, soil improver or as a turf establisher and helps to boost root development and keep sports turf green and healthy.

This is a great opportunity for those keen to demonstrate their innovation and commitment to the environment, so if you have a project that's using quality compost worth shouting about, contact WRAP at [BIGGA@wrap.org.uk](mailto:BIGGA@wrap.org.uk)

## Carbendazim 'Will Continue Beyond December'

Carbendazim, the important and widely-used worm-cast suppressant product, will still be available to greenkeepers after December 2010, Barclay Crop Protection has pointed out, clarifying comments made by Jon Allbutt in last month's GI.

"Carbendazim, which we sell under the trademark Ringer, is currently under review as a Plant Protection Product," says Eric Gussin, UK area manager for Barclay.

"The outcome of this review is due at the end of the year.

"But because of the way the legislation is structured, products are given an expiry date which reflects the review date. That is why carbendazim appears to have an expiry date of December 31, 2010," he explains.

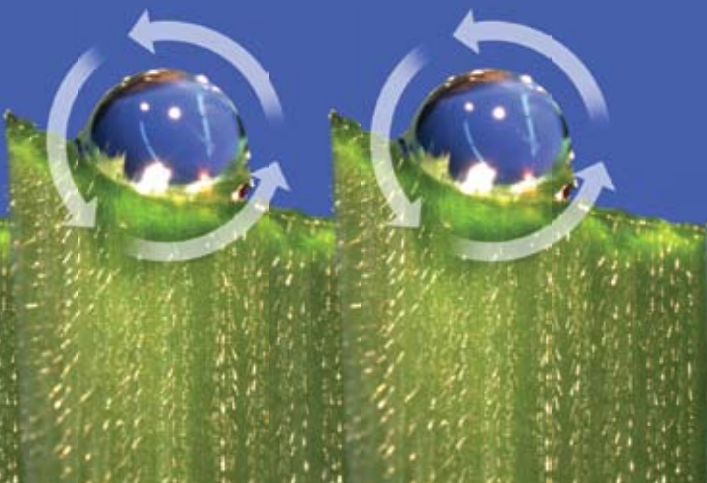
"To complicate matters, carbendazim is also being reclassified as a biocide, rather than a pesticide, so that eventually it will be subject to a different directive."

Mr Gussin says that if the transfer to the biocides directive is not completed by the date of the Annex 1 expiry, CRD (formerly PSD) will issue suitable approvals to ensure it can continue to be used for worm control.

"Therefore we expect to be able to continue to sell Ringer until the current expiry date of 2012," he adds.

"This clarification is very useful for greenkeepers and it is good to know that the approval holder is committed to supporting carbendazim for the future," said Jon Allbutt

stays cut...  
after cut... after cut...



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## Sandy Gammack



It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the death of our friend and Golf Club mechanic, Sandy Gammack.

Sandy was a larger than life character who after retiring at 65 started with us as a part time mechanic and then stayed for 10 years until his untimely death. Sandy was a popular member of our staff and a great person to have about the place always smiling and shouting at the staff about not greasing the machines, if you greased a machine all day it would still not have been enough for him but he

was the old school so that was just his way. He had fantastic hands on him and I am sure there was not an engine made that he could not strip down and put back together again also when he started welding anything, it was like an art to him.

He was also a big supporter of BIGGA and loved all the North Section outings and open days and also going down on the train to Saltex and Harrogate every year and meeting up with all the many trade friends and fellow greenkeepers

he had met over the years and because of his happy go lucky nature that was quite a lot. Sandy was a very well respected mechanic and a friend to many and this was evident by all the people who attended his funeral at Aberdeen Crematorium. We at Newmachar Golf Club will miss him terribly and our thoughts are with his wife, Norma, and the family at this very sad time.

*Dale Robertson  
Course Manager  
Newmachar Golf Club*

## Rigby Taylor's New 'E-Commerce is Now On-Line

A completely new e-commerce, expanded product information and interactive website has been launched by Rigby Taylor to meet the demands of an ever increasing, internet-savvy market place.

The new website features for the first time a user friendly, on-line shop that allows visitors to browse the complete range of the company's turf management products and make purchases; one

of the key site benefits is that it caters for both the full time professional and part-time turf manager with a hassle free, 'one-stop-shop' buying experience. In addition to on-line ordering, the site features full information on each product; including application rates, timing of use, pack sizes and a calculator that allows buyers to work out exactly the quantity they require.

In addition to the on-line shop and product descriptions, the site includes a unique interactive, on-line advice service that allows visitors to receive answers to technical questions.

The wealth of technical information on RT products can be viewed on-line or downloaded.

For further information log onto [www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com)









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get the work done.”**



**Jim Mackenzie**  
Director of Golf,  
Celtic Manor Resort

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With 30 dedicated full time ground staff, Jim’s team are hard at work getting the course completed on time. The M8540 has already completed

all major drainage works and has been used to top dress over 9000 hectares. The tractor is currently being used to prepare the ground for the building of the hospitality village.

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# Chairman's Word

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

To: All UK Greenkeepers and BIGGA trade partners.

From: Paul Worster, BIGGA Chairman.

Subject – Your achievements, my acknowledgements, and The Boards invitations

**Dear Colleagues,  
I am writing this month to express my admiration for the excellent work and the positive example set by so many greenkeepers who are based in the UK, and to acknowledge the essential role that the Association's trade partners play in making this possible.**

I have recently been fortunate to see the very best in UK Greenkeeping. I visited Wentworth, recently to participate in an event that rounded off the 2009 STRI Golf Environmental Awards and helped launch the 2010 Awards.

This was an event attended by the greenkeepers who featured in the 2009 awards. They were rewarded with a tour of the West Course, followed by a reception with Justin Rose. He is the figurehead for the STRI Awards. Despite being based in Florida, Justin follows British golf very closely and maintains a keen interest in the work of our greenkeepers.

As for the West Course – the work there, like everything that UK greenkeepers do, will be debated often over the years ahead, but I am very pleased to pay tribute now to the Chris Kennedy and the Wentworth team for the standard of their achievements.

The quality of the original workmanship and now the on-going maintenance, are both absolutely outstanding.

I also went to Celtic Manor recently, courtesy of a South Wales BIGGA/IOG initiative. If there are twin champions of South Wales greenkeeping, they exist in Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf Courses and Estates Manager of Celtic Manor, and Steve Chappell, South West BIGGA Regional Chairman.

These gentlemen between them, ably assisted by David Hart, South Wales Chairman of the IOG, utilised their passion for the profession, combined with their not incon-

siderable organisational skills, to navigate over 80 people around this magnificent complex which will host not only the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Rather like Wentworth – the 2010 course is an engineering marvel of modern golf course construction. Exactly like Wentworth – this marvel would not be sustainable but for the UK based Greenkeeper.

Make no mistake it is the UK Greenkeeper who stands at the heart of both these magnificent venues.

Without the UK Greenkeeper these tournaments would not be possible, added to that BIGGA provide Greenkeeping Support teams at each event.

It struck me, walking around at Wentworth, that this was something UK Greenkeepers have achieved. The expertise, the workmanship, the quality of the finished product are at the same time - outstanding - but also taken for granted.

It is taken for granted that whatever the demands, whatever the requirements, despite difficult conditions and constraints – the UK based Greenkeeper will deliver the goods every time.

For me, this is a vindication of the efforts of all those greenkeepers who involve themselves: - in training, whether it be devising, running or sponsoring training; - in leading and motivating the team; - in hard work and sacrifice, and even - in showing the sheer bloody-mindedness that is sometimes needed to inspire people to give of their best.

It is this spirit of hard work, sacrifice and perhaps bloody-mindedness that we and our trade partners will need to have in abundance in the years ahead as the UK government starts to pay off its debts by making cuts and raising taxes.

It is at times like this when the networking, the sharing, the inspiration and the education that BIGGA services and events bring to the profession, will be needed most.

In the coming years BIGGA events (particularly Harrogate Week) will also continue to be the place where we can stand together, brag a little about our work and seek 'best practice' from each other. Speaking of BIGGA events, the next Harrogate Week is only six months away.

May I invite you to put the dates 16 - 20 January 2011 in your diary now?

May I invite you to set aside the funds or start saving for Harrogate Week now before the cash is spent on something else? May I invite you to contact your local BIGGA Section to see what transport can be provided?

Even at times of recession and cutbacks Harrogate Week is acknowledged as the flagship event in the British Sports Turf Industry calendar. In 2011 there will be new features and attractions and BIGGA staff and volunteers are working hard behind the scenes already to make the 2011 Show a success.

Harrogate Week exists because the Association has the financial support of many companies in the golf sector. A number of them (Golden and Silver Key Sponsors) have together donated a significant amount of money to greenkeeper education over recent times.

These companies need to know that we appreciate their support. May I please invite you to say a kind word to our trade partners the next time you see one of them, and consider using their services? They are going through the recession and the cut backs with us and would appreciate our support.

Finally, it would be great if you could join me at the BIGGA stand at Harrogate Week 2011 to honour the efforts of UK based Greenkeepers and to acknowledge the kind contribution of our trade partners.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**Yours sincerely  
Paul Worster**



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

**The GTC has an ongoing remit to maintain the popular apprenticeship scheme, ensure all formal qualifications; both work and college-based, have the right content and are delivered by Centres in accordance with the standards.**

Over the years I believe the GTC has gained credibility from both Centre staff and also those working for the awarding bodies City & Guilds – NPTC and the Scottish Qualifications Authority and this has allowed us to have a career path based on Government-approved qualifications while encouraging colleges, private training providers and BIGGA, to continue to promote short courses.

All, of course, now referred to as CPD.

While we all have to keep ourselves up to speed to ensure we carry out our work effectively and efficiently it will become increasingly important that we record all the new skills and knowledge we acquire.

BIGGA has for some time, encouraged its members to join the Association's CPD scheme and I believe, soon, all sectors will have employer supported approved schemes.

One example of how CPD will become a legal requirement is that the GTC and BIGGA, as members of the Amenity Forum, we know that work is underway to develop a National Action Plan for the UK in relation to the EU Thematic Strategy for Pesticides.

Top priority is to have a CPD scheme for the Pesticide Application Certificates of Competence (CoC).

Any CPD scheme is voluntary and there is evidence that only the minority of people join a scheme, often the ambitious individuals who take up every opportunity to better their personal skills and knowledge.

It would seem that the most successful schemes has are easy to register on, easy to update per-

sonal records but above all have industry credibility with quality assurance again a priority.

It could be that the work with the Amenity Forum becomes the catalyst for the sector to agree principles which can be tailored for particular specialist industries.

As we look to see CPD become more of an industry requirement rather than a voluntary scheme I do hope more greenkeepers and Course Managers take the opportunity to register with the BIGGA CPD scheme.

Recently I have been touring the country hosting the second series of GTC-R&A workshops promoting the Sustainable Golf Course programme and the passion, enthusiasm and above all professionalism of Course Managers and their staff never ceases to amaze me.

What is worrying for me personally is that I remember some of today's Course Managers starting their careers as apprentices!

It is so rewarding when you see how individuals at the top of their profession have climbed the career ladder and are now passing on their skills and knowledge to their staff.

I sincerely trust the introduction of vocational qualifications in the early '90s has helped increase the skills and knowledge of so many practical greenkeepers many of whom have now have the certificate(s) for the job they love.

This has been helped by those Centres who have staff on the road and rely on the commitment of the Course Manager and Deputies to drive the work-based training programme but I just want to focus on the Course Managers development not only as an onsite trainer or assessor but the next rung up the ladder.

The GTC is involved in reviewing the Management National Occupational Standards (NOS) and the current skill sets are available on the GTC's website.

We welcome comments on the current skill sets and as part of the consultation please contribute by

## In Brief

This month David looks at how the greenkeeping sector has to ensure it continues to maintain the career ladder. Plus the increasing importance of maintaining your professional development records...

feeding in any comments you may have to us at the GTC.

In terms of the Management NOS, we currently have an N/ SVQ Level 4 qualification which will be reviewed and with the HND in Scotland and the popular Foundation Degree developed from the NOS.

There is also a major development which we need to consider and that is that some top Course Managers have either applied to become General Managers at golf clubs or have been approached by their employers to consider taking on the additional responsibility.

This is certainly where we need to consider extending the current career ladder and I appeal to these new General Managers to assist the GTC list the additional skills they have required to make them competent General Managers.

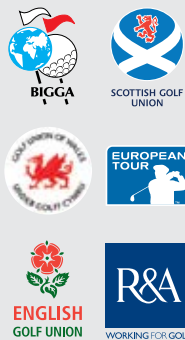
It will be those skills which can be developed into Units which could then be grouped into maybe a Level 5 or even Level 6 vocational qualification. The Units delivered as short courses eventually leading onto full qualifications.

At this point I would like to give full credit to those Course Managers who have trail blazed for the greenkeeping sector but I do know their qualifications in greenkeeping have been the very foundation for how they have progressed their careers.

We will liaise with the other bodies within golf, as it is pointless to duplicate efforts when qualifications are already developed and fit for purpose, but the GTC is committed to ensure employers can appoint suitable staff to meet their job specifications and greenkeepers can aspire to great heights....bring on the extension ladder!

**Visit the GTC website: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk), and consider contributing to the Management NOS review by contacting David direct on 01347 838640 or email your views to [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)**

The GTC is funded by:



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# Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, is set to be a busy, busy bee in the sunshine!



**In days gone by Summer was traditionally the quietest time of the year when we, here at BIGGA HOUSE, could get on with all those jobs that we had been putting off all Winter. Now, no matter what the season, we are busy, busy, busy!**

For the Learning and Development Department, Summer now heralds the planning and organisation season with projects including The Open, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Harrogate Week education programme.

Running alongside the day-to-day administration that takes place, it is the crucial period to ensure that the events taking place over the next seven months are well organised so that they will (hopefully!) run in a smooth and efficient manner.

## The BIGGA Open Support Team 2010

Part of Rachael Duffy's role is to handle the organisation of the BIGGA Open Support Team, under the management of Scott MacCallum.

The planning for such an event begins, unbelievably, almost straight after the last one has finished, if not before. Accommodation is booked at least 18 months ahead of the event.

With a team of approximately 65 people to house, feed and transport to and from the venue, it is imperative that the accommodation is as close as possible, functional and flexible.

Applications are received in January/February and team selection is done in March.

From here on in Rachael is liaising with team members to ensure that they have a uniform that fits them; that any dietary requirements are met; meals are scheduled; transportation is organised; drivers are selected; the marquee has furniture, catering and a TV; staff rotas and finally, support team ticket allocation.

Alongside the rest of the BIGGA team, Rachael is on site from 6am, returning to the accommodation at approximately 8pm and remaining on duty until around 11pm to ensure that everyone has had a meal and that they know their schedule for the next day.

All this and the smile remains in place!

Good luck goes to all on the Support Team as well as the St Andrews team for the 150th Open Championship.



## Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Regional interviews take place this month for the 37 students who have been nominated by their college tutors for the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Eight finalists will be selected to attend the National Final, held at BIGGA House, on 13 and 14 September.



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.



## Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

The jigsaw puzzle has begun! Fitting 139½ hours of education, into 40 hours, over a five-day period is a challenge to say the least, but it will all be shoehorned in and the programme will start to take shape before my very eyes. Watch this space for more information on the subjects and speakers. The final programme will be with you in October.

## CPD

The 2009/2010 CPD year ended on 30 June and barring a few stragglers we will be awarding 95 Certificate's and 3 Diploma's of Continuing Professional Development. As the CPD scheme is 10 years old this year we will, for the first time, be awarding a second Diploma of Continuing Professional Development to 7 Members (number correct at the time of writing this article).

Certificates will be sent out in the post later this month, with the Diploma's being presented at Harrogate Week 2011.



## Higher Education Scholarships Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Gary Cunningham – NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf



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Pro Plus 900 wheeled boom at St Andrews

## Gambetti Brings GPS to St Andrews

The Old Course and the Jubilee Course at St Andrews recently took delivery of two new Gambetti Pro Plus 900 sprayers, customised for their specific needs. The Links Trust was focused on purchasing a large capacity sprayer that could apply high volumes of product without compromise to forward speed and provide increased accuracy of application without being too complicated for the operator, delivered by a robust sprayer with hydraulically folding boom capable of spraying at six or eight metres.

After trialling various different types of jet the quad jets have been fitted with nozzles chosen for specific jobs. One of the most interesting requirements was to apply up to 800 litres per ha. The nozzle tips chosen for this are the Spray Systems Air Inclusion jets, capable of delivering very high water volumes, while still maintaining a relatively fine spray pattern and a high

resistant to wind drift. For more run of the mill application rates the club chose the Billericay air bubble jet; these too are very resistant to wind drift.

Maintaining a consistent boom height is all important for accurate application and on an undulating links course this can be tricky. Gambetti choose to use its newly developed contour-following wheeled boom.

Adapted from its agricultural cousins, Gambetti has fitted its SKIPPER GPS mapping and guidance system which replaces the need for adding dye or using foam markers to see which areas have already been applied and give the operator a straight line to follow while spraying. The Skipper is best mounted directly in front of the steering wheel. The operator simply presses a button to mark an "A" point and then a "B" point as he makes his first run. The Skipper displays on the screen the next parallel run he needs to make. The

computer rate controller can be linked into the Skipper so that as soon as application is started, the screen colours the treated area, giving the operator an accurate update of his progress. It can also tell him the area covered, percentage over or under applied and percentage missed.

Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews said, "We have always struggled to find a sprayer that is suitable for the many different conditions we encounter at St Andrews Links, ranging from large flat fairways to some that are severely undulating, as well as applying products with such a range of water volumes. Gambetti has worked very closely with us to customise these two sprayers for our specific requirements and they fit the bill perfectly, while the GPS system allows us to track where the operator has sprayed. Being able to record this information is simply the icing on the cake."

## Campey On The Look-Out For More Promotion Across The Globe

Campey Turf Care has signed up new dealers in several countries and are looking to encourage more companies to join them in promoting sales of Imants and KORO by Imants products around the world.

In February this year the association between Campey Turf Care Systems and Imants in the UK was consolidated further with Campey's being appointed official distributors

for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Since then interest in the Imants range of products has far exceeded expectations, particularly in light of the global recession.

New introductions such as the Imants Shockwave and Rotoknife have had a significant impact, bringing renewed enthusiasm and interest to an existing range of

equipment including Sandcat and Rotoblast. Likewise the KORO Recycling Dresser, Topdrain and Cultiroll will be promoted in new countries alongside the hugely popular KORO Topmaker which already enjoys a highly respected position in the world market of pitch renovation.

"We acknowledge the recession in principle but have approached this venture as

we would at any time; with full commitment and complete confidence in the quality of our products and services. All the early signs have been exciting and we will be building on the assurance from our existing customers and the extensive new enquiries for potential sales, to move this forward," said David Harrison, Export Sales Manager for Campey Turf Care.





Stuart Minter and Peter Leech

## NEW APPOINTMENTS AT JOHN DEERE

Peter Leech has recently been appointed Regional Training Manager for John Deere's agriculture and turf division in Europe, CIS, North Africa, Near & Middle East. He has been replaced as Customer Support Manager for the UK and Ireland by Stuart Minter.

In his new role, working from Langar, Peter will be responsible for the region's training delivery operations, including the sales branch training centres, covering the key areas of parts, sales, service and dealer development training. During his 38 years with John Deere, he has been responsible for the development of the company's award-winning apprentice technician training programmes (Ag, Parts and Turf Tech), and the industry wide LTA technician accreditation scheme. He has also been Chairman of the AEA training and education committee, and is just beginning a two-year term as President of IAgRE.

Stuart joined John Deere Limited in 1979 as a Service Trainee and Technical Instructor at the UK training centre. He was subsequently Area Service Manager and then Territory Manager for southern England before becoming division service manager for the UK and Ireland in 1986. Stuart was responsible for developing John Deere's national dealer service standards, and more recently has been closely involved with the industry wide 'Look Behind You' campaign to promote safe tractor and trailer braking. He has also been Chairman of the AEA service managers committee.



## Ransomes Rescue the Rough

When Derek Thomson, Course Manager at The Wynyard Golf Club on the outskirts of Stockton-on-Tees, wanted to improve the condition of the rough on the 7,000 yard, par 72 Wellington course, he turned to the Jacobsen HR-9016 wide area mower supplied by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, Rickerby Ltd of Hexham. Ransomes Jacobsen is a Textron Inc. company.

The previous maintenance regime used a tractor with trailed rotary decks and took two of his greenkeeping team four days to cut the course and the driving range; now it takes just 11 hours.

"It was back in the summer of 2007 that we realised we needed to change how we maintained the longer grass on the course," he said. "The following September we had demonstrations from several manufacturers, who brought along their wide area mowers and we evaluated each of them. The 9016 proved to be the best and we took delivery in June 2008.

"The previous method using the combined tractor and trailed unit was slow and not very manoeuvrable. With the 9016 we have a very nimble machine that has reduced the eight man-days to less than two man-days, although we still require two of the team as we have a small out-front machine to tidy up along the fence line of the surrounding houses that line some of the fairways.

"We normally cut to a height of 50mm and this produces a well groomed finish, because presentation is very important here. The floating front deck helps reduce scalping and we can keep on top of the heavy summer growth, so it never gets out of hand."

## The Grass Group Unveil New Look Website

The revitalised site contains several fresh new features including a clear and easy-to-navigate product area, up to date blog/ news page and a straight forward, no hassle, email enquiry form that allows the user to request information and outline their specific requirements directly to the sales team.

Tim Merrell, MD at The Grass Group comments, "The new website will be an essential tool for groundcare professionals

wanting to browse, compare machinery specification, enquire about spare parts and seek technical support".

[www.thegrassgroup.com](http://www.thegrassgroup.com)



## NEW FROM RAIN BIRD

Rain Bird has launched GSP Services which provides technical support to Rain Bird central control users subscribing to a Global Service Plan.

A hotline provides direct access to Rain Bird irrigation experts and central control specialists.

Via remote access Rain Bird engineers can carry out maintenance, troubleshoot and backup data on your control

system. Incurring no travelling expenses, it offers a time and cost-saving alternative to an onsite visit.

In addition to technical support and remote maintenance, Rain Bird GSP subscribers benefit from computer renewal, software upgrades, etc.

To learn more about GSP visit

[www.rainbird.eu](http://www.rainbird.eu)





# Golf is coming home

Scott MacCallum catches up with two Gordons who are working hard to ensure that this month's Open is played on the perfect stage









Photography courtesy of St Andrews Links Trust

**There is something about an Open played over the Old Course.**

I've been to six, and seen some remarkable golf.

Back in 1978 I saw Jack Nicklaus finally overhaul New Zealander, Simon Owen, in the home straight; in '84, I peered over the wall at the 17th as Tom Watson stumbled and allowed Seve, complete with his iconic 18th hole celebration, to snatch victory; in '90, Nick Faldo was in his pomp and crushed Greg Norman, and the rest of the field; five years later, John Daly showed what a fine golfer he can be, and he didn't wobble as Costantino Rocca holed an amazing Valley of Sin putt on the 72nd green to force a play-

off; in 2000 Tiger Woods became the youngest player to complete the set of Majors, leaving the rest in his wake, and five years later he again showed his mastery of the Old Course.

Six Opens, each memorable and each identifying the cream of that particular era's crop.

But I'm only scratching the surface of Opens that I've been lucky enough to attend. Before my time memorable things were happening every time The Open was played on my own back yard, with legendary names such as JH Taylor, James Braid, Bobby Jones, Sam Snead, Peter Thomson and Bobby Locke all emerging triumphant.

As a greenkeeper there can be no greater privilege than to prepare the Old Course for an Open Championship and this year that honour falls

to Gordon McKie, who will be experiencing his first Open as Course Manager.

"I remember doing an Assistant Profile for Greenkeeper International about 12 years ago and the final question was 'What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?' I said that I wanted to be a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager at a top course, but this has exceeded all expectations and it's a real dream to be in charge for an Open at the best known course in the world," said Gordon, who arrived at St Andrews Links from Tain and spent a number of years working on other courses within the Links stable before becoming Old Course Course Manager three years ago.

Gordon works very closely with another Gordon, Gordon Moir, who is the St Andrews Links Trust's





new back tee that has been built for the 17th – a change to the most famous and challenging hole in all of golf.

“It was our idea, back in 2005,” revealed Gordon Moir.

“We had our usual de-brief after that Open, looking at what went well, could have done better and what we might do for future Opens. The main criticism in ‘05 was the penal rough on the right of 17 meaning most players were only hitting a 3 or 4 iron off the tee and I suggested, ‘How about we put a new tee back here and leave the rough on the right cut as semi’. It wasn’t taken up then, but I kept mentioning it and eventually Peter Dawson (R&A Chief Executive) said he was warming to the idea.

“I did say we’d need to do

**“I remember doing an Assistant Profile for GI about 12 years ago and the final question was ‘What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?’”**  
*Gordon McKie*

Director of Greenkeeping.

“I’m more involved with meetings with the R&A and working with the grandstand and scoreboard erecting teams leaving Gordon to get on with looking after the golf course. I’ve also got our other six courses to oversee as well,” said Gordon Moir, who, like Gordon McKie has risen up through the ranks at the Trust having arrived in Fife from the north-east of Scotland.

It doesn’t take a crystal ball to predict that one of the main talking points at this year’s Open will be the

it in the winter of ‘08 but it had to go through the committee process, while a couple of players were asked about it at the Dunhill Links Championship last year. When they gave their approval to the idea we got the go ahead and it was built last winter,” said Gordon Moir, who believes it will be the preferred tee unless there is a strong easterly wind.

Other course amendments, introduced since 2005 are less high profile but will have just as big an impact on how the course is played.

“We’ve made some changes to the

surrounds, cutting closer further away from the greens so the ball will roll off more easily and further away meaning some bunkers, which were previously in the rough, are now in closely mown areas so that the ball will run into them more easily,” said Gordon McKie, who is believed to be the first Course Manager to have his own Open Blog, which he hopes to continue through the week of the Championship itself - [www.standrews.org.uk/2010-Open/Blog.aspx](http://www.standrews.org.uk/2010-Open/Blog.aspx)

Another area where changes have



**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
 Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager at a top course



been made is the 4th hole which had previously involved a blind tee shot over gorse.

"They complained about the 4th in '05," explained Gordon Moir.

"We built a new back tee last time and it was 295 yards to the ridge beyond which the fairway opens up. But only 10% of the field could carry it, so 90% of the field were complaining as they didn't want to go down the narrow strip of fairway on the right because of the two bunkers in that area, even though the carry on that line is only 200 yards."

Gordon McKie added that the fairway short of the ridge had been widened and gorse removed from the mound in front of the tee and replaced with wispy fescue so that players could see the ball land.

"We've also worked on the bunker face angles to increase playability and make them a little fairer."

Since taking over the Old Course Gordon McKie has looked to work on course conditioning and has done a considerable amount of overseeding as well as slightly increasing the feed and water.

"I've overseeded all the greens with pure fescue six times in each of the last two years, and twice this year, which we can do because the greens

"When I arrived in 1991 we'd just started a policy of boxing off the clippings on the fairways and it was great because it really firmed up the fairways and got rid of the worm casts," recalled Gordon Moir, who added that the fairways were actually running faster than the greens at the '05 Open.

"But we got to the stage having done that for 15 years that we were putting nothing back into the fairways by way of nutrient and they were starting to look tired – they weren't even getting the clippings going back into them – so in consultation with Richard Windows, of the STRI, we decided to add a tiny amount of fertiliser," said Gordon McKie.

That policy reaped dividends at the turn of this year when the course was buried under ice for 30 days and the courses were closed for a month.

"I did start to perspire when Peter Dawson phoned and said he recalled Gleneagles losing all their greens in similar circumstances about 30 years ago but we took a lot of advice, including posting on the BIGGA website, and the best came from a guy who looked after Boat of Garten Golf Club whom I knew. He said that he had iced greens year in year out

## "It was a great advert for sustainable golf showing that if you have the right sort of grasses you will survive in these extreme (for the UK) conditions"

*Gordon McKie*

are so big and we can do part of them at a time," he said.

"I take on board the policy that we should manage a course with minimal fertiliser and minimal water but, at the end of the day, it needs something. My philosophy is that you look after grass the way you look after the human body and we all need food and water... as long as we get the correct amount we'll be fit and healthy.

"What we do is still very minimal. When I took over the nitrogen input was about 27 kg/Ha a year and we're just sitting on about 30 kg/Ha," said Gordon McKie, who used to be a regular on the BIGGA Open Support Team and was the man with the dramatic Jean Van de Velde match at Carnoustie in 1999.

The fairways now had around 10 kg/Ha of nitrogen on them in three of the past four years just to keep them healthy following on from a policy introduced at St Andrews around 20 years ago.

and the best thing to do was to let nature take its course," explained Gordon McKie, who added that an experiment in aerating through the ice conducted on one of the other courses confirmed the waiting was the best approach.

When the thaw arrived it showed that the fescue and bent had coped well and that a couple of greens on one of the other courses, which had a higher poa content, had suffered to a greater degree.

"It was a great advert for sustainable golf showing that if you have the right sort of grasses you will survive in these extreme (for the UK) conditions," said Gordon McKie.

This year Richard Windows, and a team from the STRI, will be on course every day producing performance management data on soil moisture, green speeds etc on behalf of the R&A.

"In the middle of each day we will look at this data and use it to base our decisions on whether we need



to give it an extra cut or irrigate a particular green a little more. It is getting much more scientific and we are guinea pigs for this as, if successful, it will be rolled out over the other Open venues. It's all about consistency and the playability of the golf course. It really is quite exciting," said Gordon McKie.

The Old Course, which has always closed every Sunday for a full day's maintenance, closed permanently until the Championship on June 19 to enable Gordon and his team to make the final presentational touches but, speaking a month and a half out both Gordons were extremely relaxed about where they were, especially as a couple of weeks of good weather had brought the course on a lot.

St Andrews is unique in that they have an extended team of greenkeepers, which may be unmatched in the world of golf with seven courses worth of experience and talent available to draw on for The Open.







“The regular team is 15 strong – large because of the sheer size of the greens on the Old Course where the six people who hand cut the greens each day each walk seven miles (the shared 5th and 13th green is over half a hectare) – and I can draw on knowledge of four other Course Managers as well as Gordon, who was a working greenkeeper, and so many others. There are guys on our team who have done seven Opens. The senior guys on my team, deputy, Jon Wood, and my three senior men, together with me have well over 100 years of experience,” said Gordon McKie, who has already booked a holiday and four days in his bed from the Tuesday after the Championship is over.

He will have around 65-70 greenkeepers working on the course during Open week with ten cutting greens.

“We are on the fourth or fifth draft of work schedules but I think one of the main issues, with such

a big team, will be to keep everyone happy during the week. The younger guys are beginning to get excited and it’s down to the senior guys to keep their feet on the ground,” said Gordon McKie, who added that it was very much a team effort and that the guys deserve all the plaudits that they get.

“It will be proud moment for me and all of my family when I’m standing beside the Champion at the presentation on the Sunday evening,” he added.

Playing a small part in the Old Course’s fabled history is a priceless honour and both Gordons are delighted to have assisted in producing what will undoubtedly be another worthy St Andrews Champion.

As for me, I’m sure I will also add another chapter to my own St Andrews Open memories.





# A QUICK GUIDE TO...

## SUMMER IRRIGATION

After two wet summers, weather experts are predicting warm, dry conditions this season with some drought in the south. But are you ready to irrigate to keep your course in perfect condition? Robert Jackson shares his top tips for choosing a new system or getting the most from your existing one.



### *Budget well*

Effective irrigation is a maintenance must, but many clubs persevere with problems. They call out Service Engineers time and again, accruing unnecessary labour costs as well as causing turf damage during hot, dry periods, until it becomes a real headache. Before you reach breaking point, weigh up the costs of growing annual service bills against budgeting for a new system. More often than not, budgeting for new costs less in the long-term compared to throwing good money after bad in the short-term.

### *Maximise efficiency and reduce waste*

Investing in a brand new system is by far the best way to maximise efficiency and reduce waste. Advanced controllers and automatic flow management programmes allow you to water in millimetres instead of time. And, while nothing beats rainfall, the latest sprinkler and nozzle technology means we're getting closer to nature in terms of uniformity and applying water precisely where you want it.

### *'Future-proof' your system*

The greatest mistake a club can make is to stump up the cash for a new system that leaves no room for expansion. A system designed to irrigate just greens is specified and costed accordingly. So if you later decide you want to expand this into a tees and fairways system it will not have the capacity to cope. You'll then be faced with

the unpleasant prospect of upgrading or replacing the mains infrastructure to cope with the additional flows and pressures. Discuss your needs with a consultant or contractor from the start in order to 'future-proof' your system. A good system will last up to 50 years if properly maintained and serviced, and should be flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs.

### *Refurbishment or Replacement?*

Refurbishment rather than wholesale replacement of your irrigation system is also an option and can be very cost-effective. If you experience a decline in performance, or your system is approaching the end of its useful life, seek expert help from a consultant or contractor.

### *Check your sprinkler nozzles*

Sprinkler nozzles are subject to wear, so adequate maintenance and periodic replacement can bring about a dramatic improvement in the overall efficiency of your system. Because they need to be replaced every few years, manufacturers are constantly updating and improving their design and function. This means new nozzles will work at the very best flow and pressure, whereas older nozzles will always become less uniform with age.

Did you know that, simply by renewing sprinkler nozzles, you can increase the efficiency of your system by up to 10% at

the right pressure and flow? With nozzles costing on average just £15 per head, this can be a highly cost-effective way of improving your system.

### *Look out for leaks and burst pipes*

During a drought, look out for tell tale signs of leaks and burst pipes. A few years ago I visited a course suffering from sprinkler performance issues; when we arrived we noticed a green stripe running right down its mainline in stark contrast to some brown areas – a great indication that there was a problem! One of the best ways to establish if you've got a burst pipe is to perform a pressure test on the mains. Switch everything off and pressurise the mains network to see how long the pressure lasts in the system. If you have a burst then you'll see the pressure drop quickly.

### *Maintenance checks*

Finally, it's no use investing in a new system or replacing component parts of an existing one if you're not performing proper maintenance. Daily and weekly checks should be a part of your routine. You should also ask your contractor to carry out an annual full system check.

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# The roar of the dandelions

Dr Terry Mabbett asks if the dandelion explosion is the first sign of fall-out from EU pesticide meddling

**It is naive to think you can build up a sophisticated programme of chemical pest control then dismantle it wholesale without disturbing the environmental equilibriums created over many decades.**

Some observers say this is root cause of the dandelion 'explosion' seen this year and blame EU's ongoing onslaught on chemical pesticides across the amenity and agriculture sectors.

Dandelion is not a dedicated weed of sports turf, like slender speedwell, so what has this got to do with golf courses? Indirectly, a lot, because as well as being a potential weed of golf greens, tees and fairways, dandelion is ubiquitous and frequent in farmers' fields, amenity grassland in parks and sports fields, on grass verges and waste ground and actually in hard surfaces.

Moreover it generates a huge seed load throughout spring and summer carried 'anywhere and everywhere' by the super-efficient, wind-energised seed dispersal mechanism. The fall-out for golf courses and greenkeepers could well be a sky-full of tiny 'parachutes' (pappas) each carrying a new dandelion plant.

## **Dandelion escapes control**

It would be ironic if first plant to escape decades of tight weed management should be the 'dear old dandelion', much loved by children for 'telling the time' and their grandmothers for making dandelion flower wine. Weeds don't come more basic than the dandelion with its nomenclature firmly established in the Norman Conquest of England. Dandelion is an old English corrup-

tion of the Norman French 'Dente de Lion' (Lion's teeth) in recognition of the sharply toothed margins of large flat rosette-forming leaves which together with long robust tap roots make dandelion a formidable turf weed.

Others say it has less to do with herbicide restriction and more to do with the tap root, enabling dandelions to survive exceptionally cold winters like 2009/2010 and gain a growth start over grass and other plants in spring. This year's exceptionally late spring, they claim, aggravated the situation by delaying amenity grass mowing and herbicide application.

Dandelion tap root is a useful organ and unusual too in the way it behaves after attempts to dig out the entire plant and also in what's inside. Dandelion tap roots contain the unusually found storage poly-





saccharide called inulin instead of commonly occurring starch. Inulin is composed of fructose sugar units instead of glucose sugar units in starch. There is some suggestion that inulin can act like an 'anti-freeze' allowing dandelions to survive exceptionally low temperatures.

Attempts to dig a dandelion out of the ground especially without a dedicated tool invariably leave pieces of tap root behind which develop into new plants. Dandelion lacks a true stem and its leaves simply sprout from positions on the taproot. Such peculiar tap root characteristics occur in other members of the plant family Asteraceae (Compositae). Ragwort behaves in exactly the same way after failed attempts to dig out the entire plant and the root tubers of Dahlia, a popular garden plant, contain inulin.

### Anti-chemical culture

The undisputed 'plague' of dandelions this spring and summer is as much due to the prevailing anti-chemical culture and the economic slowdown. You don't have to look far and hard to see how local authorities and other land management organisations are forced to cut back and economise at the expense of amenity grassland management.

EU's constant chipping away at the list of approved products on both safety and environmental grounds is clearly making its mark. Range and depth of pesticide chemistry available to amenity and agriculture is progressively eroded and restricted by EU withdrawal of specific actives or curtailing the way in which others can be used. In addition it is now becoming so expensive [in relation to potential

profits] for chemical companies to produce additional data that they may withdraw some of their own products.

Some have suggested aminopyralid herbicide residue in farmyard manure reported several years ago may have affected herbicide application to agricultural grassland where dandelions thrive in ryegrass pastures. Aminopyralid is a hormone-based herbicide used by farmers to control deep rooted broad-leaf weeds including dandelion, ragwort and thistles in pasture.

The anti-chemical culture, created by anti-pesticide lobbies, regards chemicals as a 'dirty word' with 'brownie points' to be won by 'coming out' against their use. Amenity managers and operators are becoming increasingly 'frightened' to use chemicals and 'everyone'

(MAIN PHOTO) There are fears that reduced use of herbicide in the agricultural sector is adding to current problems with dandelions



is scrambling to get on board the biocontrol 'bandwagon'.

Golf courses and greenkeepers in particular cannot always hang around waiting for the 'right' weather and environmental conditions to arrive to apply biopesticides according to label recommendations. And then wait around some more while these density dependent biological control agents start to work. Anyone who thinks otherwise is out of touch with the practical and commercial realities of maintaining pristine golf courses.

### Opportunity knocks for dandelions

Dandelions are opportunistic weeds of turf. Seeds exploit germination sites in late summer and early autumn sports turf increasingly 'threadbare' after drought and heavy wear and tear, germinating quickly when autumn rains and early morning mists start in earnest during October. Look again in the low light conditions of January and you probably won't see the myriad of tiny weed seedlings including dandelions ready and waiting to go with the arrival of warmer spring temperatures and longer days. And go they will because come spring the under managed fairway can rapidly go from 'grass green' to 'dandelion yellow' after a few warm days in April.

Sheer speed of flowering in dandelions is phenomenal with grass verges green one day and yellow the next. As all accomplished wine makers know it is this first rush and flush of dandelion flowers in April that makes the best wine. Similarly all amenity managers, whether they are groundsman, park keepers or local authority highway managers, should realise that it also sets the scene for seed dispersal and next year's infestation. And not only for them but everybody else, including the greenkeeper on the golf course 'next door'.

Dandelion is rarely a weed problem on well tended golf greens where traditional tightness of the turf grass sward will essentially exclude this opportunistic weed. But fairways and even tees are a different matter with un-replaced divots offering an open invitation to dandelions and other 'like-minded' weeds. It is not uncommon to find otherwise well looked after tees supporting quite substantial numbers of dandelions, and other weeds like ragwort and sowthistle not normally found in fine turf, that have germinated and established quickly by taking advantage of soil exposed from 'teeing off'.

The danger from dandelions to closely cut and well groomed sports turf is the rosette of large flat leaves acting as 'light blockers' as they cover, smother and shade surrounding turf grass plants. Like many other erstwhile agricultural and garden weeds that colonise professional turf dandelions have a versatile habit. Prostrate biotypes, evolving in response to close regular mowing, lay flat on the ground so that at the leaves and the growing point, which is situated even lower, escape the mower's blades.

### Greenkeepers well armed

Dandelions have a high requirement for potassium and are therefore prominent in potassium-rich swards of ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and meadow grass (*Poa* spp). Switching to a higher bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp) and fescue (*Festuca* spp) composition with a correspondingly lower requirement for potassium keeps dandelions in check.

Physically digging out individual dandelions is another option and there are hand-tools dedicated to this task. However, it risks more infestation from pieces of tap root left in the soil while the patch of bare soil remaining is open to even more weed infestation.

Spraying with an appropriate selective herbicide will gradually kill dandelions allowing turf grass plants time to gradually re-colonise any exposed soil.

Golf courses are still well-armed against dandelions and other broadleaf weeds in turf. Most actives come within the so called 'hormonal' grouping of herbicides because their molecular configuration is similar to that of naturally occurring plant auxins. They selectively kill broadleaf weeds like dandelion in turf through hyper-stimulation of growth to cause weed 'exhaustion' and death.

This 'grouping' includes the 'old favourites' 2-4, D and MCPA with a 1940's vintage, mecoprop and dicamba developed in the 1960's and modern equivalents such as clopyralid and fluroxypyr first appearing in the 1970's and 1980's. Together with more recent herbicide active additions like diflufenican and florasulam, with completely different modes of action, turf on golf courses is for the moment at least potentially well protected against weeds.

Commercial herbicide products for selective broadleaf weed control in managed turf usually contain a mixture of active ingredients ide-









ally with different modes of action and target species spectrum. This provides more breadth and balance in weed control activity and action. Dandelion is generally recognised as one of the more resilient turf weeds. Together with other 'hard to kill' turf weeds, dandelion often requires higher, more frequent or differently timed applications (according to stage of weed plant growth and development) as per recommended on the herbicide product label.

Everything may be 'dandy' for the control of dandelions and other broad leaf weeds in turf at the moment.

However, if the EU continues to squeeze the availability and use of herbicide actives across the board, meaning less chemical weed control and more weeds in the amenity and agricultural sectors, then the story ten years down the line could be completely different.

**Dangerous dandelions**

Anyone who thinks the dandelion is not a 'dangerous' weed should ask the Japanese how British dandelion, as an alien invasive weed, is hybridising with their native dandelion. The British dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is more difficult to control than Japanese dandelions (*Taraxacum japonicum*) (called 'Kansai tampopo'), and more importantly 'crosses' with it to form hybrid plants that are essentially infertile.

Research work in Osaka's Tsurumi Ryokuchi Park showed British dandelions were 'wiping out' Japanese dandelions, although UK amenity and sports turf managers faced with Japanese Knotweed would probably argue the Japanese had got a better deal.

Anyone still not convinced about dandelions need look no further than the UK railway network where a brand new and powerful locomotive was recently 'brought to a halt' by the dandelion. In May 2010 Grand Central Trains reported a brand new train on only its second run (return trip from Kings Cross to Yorkshire) limping into Halifax Station an hour late because the filters on four of its five engines were clogged with hairy dandelion seed (pappus). Greenkeepers on golf courses alongside railways, and there are many for historical access reasons, beware.

Mention of any herbicide active is not a recommendation for its use. Users and operators should read the product label and if in doubt ask the supplier and/or manufacturer.



Prostrate dandelion biotypes lay flat on fine turf so that the growing point, leaves and sometimes even the flowers escape the mower's blades



Dandelion (top right) is not a dedicated turf weed like slender speedwell (centre)



Dandelion is an opportunistic turf weed, its seeds exploiting gaps in the sward



Turf can quickly go from 'grass green' to 'dandelion yellow' in April

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This year has seen a flush of dandelions especially in uncut amenity swards



This is the fall out for greenkeepers from the dandelion explosion in the amenity sector



Dandelion taproot can penetrate weathered tarmac



A dandelion between 'a rock and a hard place'

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# Practice makes perfect



**Two years ago Ransomes Jacobsen opened its superb three hole par-3 course in the grounds of their headquarters. Last month the Ransomes Jacobsen team clinched the annual BIGGA Charity Golf Day at Aldwark Manor, with a winning score of 83. Coincidence?**

I am pretty sure RJ's Managing Director, David Withers, will have ensured that his chosen fourball were well honed and peaked for June 14 and that the short game skills, as displayed by Messrs Campbell, Brown, Pattenden and Jones, were genuine evidence of an intensively drilled squad.

A mere point behind were the Q Hotels team and BIGGA's magazine printer, Warners, who each scored 82 with the former benefiting from a slightly better inward half.

This year the Chairman's Nominated Charity was Help for Hospices with all profits and the proceeds from the raffle going to that extremely worthy cause.

Thank you to all the companies which entered teams in this popular annual event, which has been running since 1997, as well as all those who donated prizes for the aforementioned raffle.

**INSET ABOVE:** Winning teams (left to right): 1. Ransomes Jacobsen, 2. Q Hotels 3. Warners - *photographed by BIGGA Membership Assistant and Happy Snapper, Brad Anderson*

Thanks to those who attended...



## RESULTS

- 1. Ransomes Jacobsen, 83. Andy Campbell, Nick Brown, Peter Pattenden, Stefan Jones**
- 2. Q Hotels, 82 (BIH) Andrew Cook, David Norton, Chris Cottam, Dan Greenwood**
- 3. Warners, 82. Martin Harris, Dave Chapple, Rob Asperlagh, Kevin Greenfield**

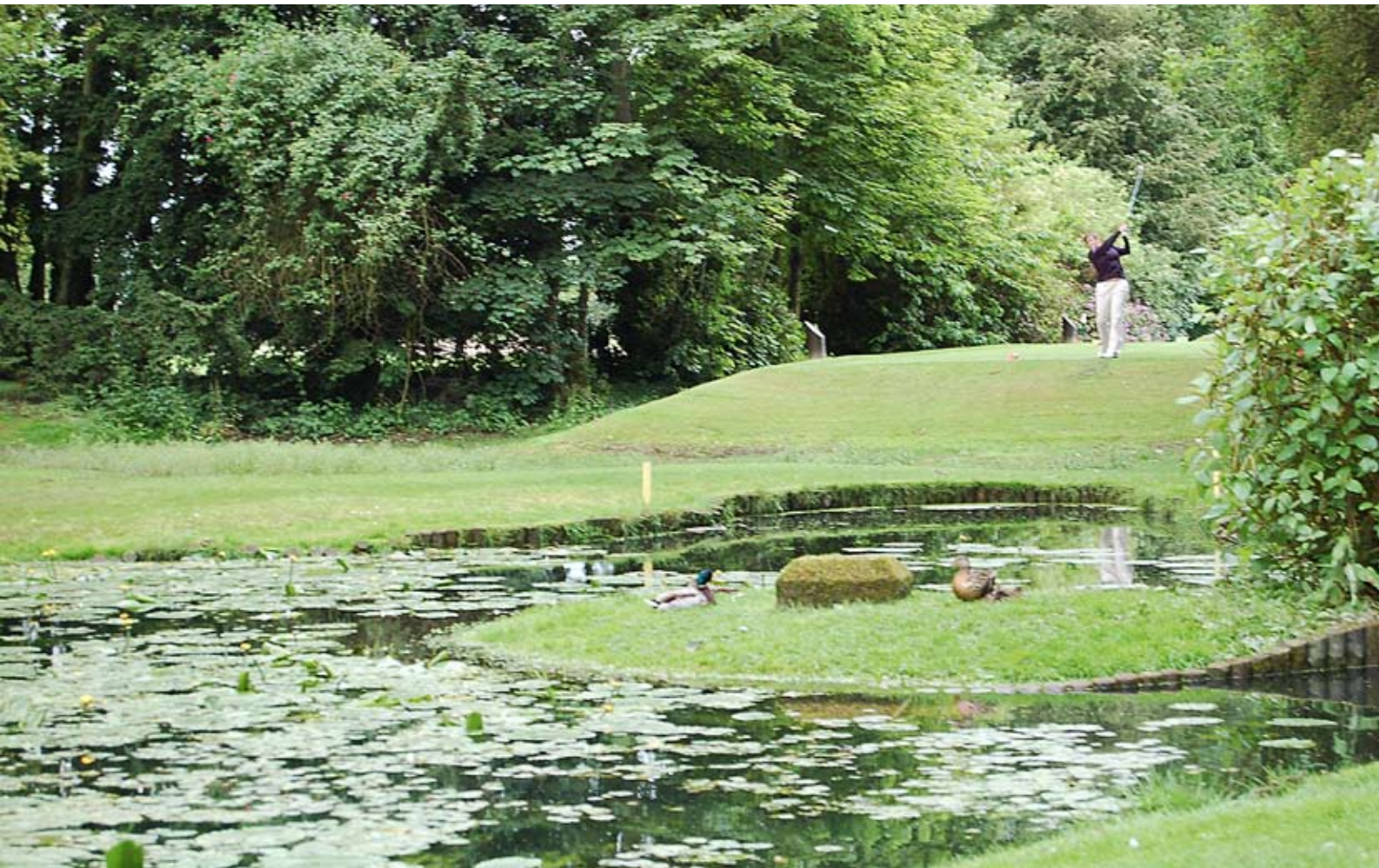
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**Practice makes picture perfect...**

Just a selection of images from BIGGA Golf Day 2010...  
Photography by Helen Fannan











# Testing times ahead for Trent Bridge

The England and Pakistan test series begins later this month at Nottingham's Trent Bridge cricket ground. Jim Cook talks to Head Groundsman, Steve Birks, to find out how things are shaping up





**Trent Bridge cricket ground in Nottingham is widely regarded as one of the finest of the sport's venues in the world and from July 29 it will host the first test of the series between England and Pakistan. With all eyes and cameras focussed on the pitch, Head Groundsman Steve Birks gives an insight into the preparation involved to create a world class test wicket.**

At Trent Bridge there are twelve wickets for first-class cricket in the

central 'square' and of these, five are used as television pitches because of their centrality in the ground as a whole. Several pitches either side of these are used for net practice. In the middle, clay accounts for 30% of the surface and because of the punishment taken during a match, the used wicket is re-seeded after every game. The outfield is built up of *Lolium perenne*, with a hint of *Poa annua*.

Due to the preparation needed for an international test match, Steve begins planning early.

"We normally plan a year in advance; we use the same wicket every year for the tests so we'll find out what test matches we've got. We played the World Cup on it last year, so after that game we seeded it all up, scarified it out and got it all ready for this year. Checked it in September again for all the levels and then top dress any little hollows out and then do the pre-season roll on it leading up to the game. We start about fifteen days before by trimming it out and then watering it and away we go."





**“If England come and win then it’s a bonus but you just try for the best pitch out there. The real troubles are from the commentators who are looking at it. Everyone will have their say, but as long as it can last four days and you can get a result at the end everybody is happy usually”**

the ground. Every blade of grass has to be spot on, with every angle covered. Plus, it puts a bit more pressure on because we’ve got five television wickets in the centre of the ground, so the more cricket we have on television, the more they have to replay on these five pitches. They look old and tired sometimes if you play maybe about four games on them. For the 20/20 matches we also have to think about marketing because you have the executive boxes behind the stands so that dictates which pitches we will use. There are certain boxes they want to sell so we’re taking a lot more into account with marketing, the cricket manager and everybody else. We normally get on well; as long as we’re pulling in the same direction we’re happy because that’s the big thing.”

And although planning as a team is important, it can also have its limitations.

“At the beginning of the season we do a plan of the pitches. I have the say normally. We show it to the cricket manager, he has a quick

Steve is never pressured into producing a wicket to suit the home team.

“You just try and produce the best possible pitch. If England come and win then it’s a bonus but you just try for the best pitch out there. The real troubles are from the commentators who are looking at it. Everyone will have their say, but as long as it can last four days and you can get a result at the end everybody is happy usually. People listen to what the commentators say and they don’t know what’s

happened in between, but you have to take it both ways; the criticism and the positive.”

With the media, executives and sponsors looking on, Steve is well aware that his work is being scrutinised from all angles.

“They have loads of cameras now. When Sky first started they had about five cameras, now for a test match they will have about twenty. One guy walking around with the roaming camera, one as the players come out of the pavilion, one on a crane and others around





look, we show it to marketing and they have a look, and we sometimes tinkle things about. But the problem with plans is that you could have all the plans in the world but then you get one cricketer who slides on the pitch because nowadays they slide all over the place. They can take a divot out and that pitch might be out for a couple of weeks while we re-seed it up, so you've got to take that into account."

Steve believes that regular interactions with turf professionals from other sports can only be beneficial.

"I go over to Notts County FC and talk to the Stadium Manager, Greg Smith, and Mark from Rigby Taylor, who used to be Head Groundsman at Derby County FC's Pride Park, so we often have a chat with people like that. I think it can really help with different ideas especially now with the grow lights. Football has been using them for quite a while now and they are just beginning to come into cricket as well. If you come into a cloudy day and you want to dry your pitch off you would think about putting them on to help dry it out a bit. And maybe pitches that have just been played on to get the grass back more quickly."

Preparing a cricket wicket, while similar in some areas to preparing a golf course is also vastly different in others.

"You need a good base to start with, with some decent grass on it and all you do is scarify it out then give it a good water. We normally have a screwdriver that we push in to about six inches to check moisture, and then we will start rolling it out. Then it is just a case of keeping an eye on it. If you get the sunshine out it helps a lot.

When you're rolling it with a two tonne roller, you're pulling the water up. All the moisture is coming out then you compact it down. So you've spent all winter growing the grass and then you kill it off by putting the two tonne roller on it. When all the moisture is out of the pitch, we stop rolling. We shave our wickets down to 5mm. The first cut on the wicket would be about 12mm, then down to 8mm, then keep it at 8mm for five or six days and then cut it down to match height about three or four days before the match, which is 5mm."

After a game it takes around three months to have the wicket back in a playable condition.

**"The outfield is built up in a similar way to golf greens but the square in the middle is 30% clay, so is completely different to prepare. Like golf greens, every wicket is different and will have its own characteristics"**

Steve sees similarities between his job and that of the Course Manager of The Open or Ryder Cup venue.

"They are very similar jobs, but ours is obviously a lot smaller. You've still got the world looking at you and you want everything spot on, that's the key. You've got the pressure of people looking and with cricket it's such a fine balance of getting it right or wrong.

"There is such a fine line of getting it overcooked, especially if you are dealing with clay, that's the difficult thing. With cricket the line is so fine. The outfield is built up in a similar way to golf greens but the square in the middle is 30% clay, so is completely different to prepare. Like golf





greens every wicket is different and will have its own characteristics.”

The club installed a new outfield last spring at a cost of £600,000 and has proven a success so far.

“It takes about 25 mm of heavy rain an hour. It’s been down just over fourteen months and it’s working very well, it looks very good and we’re very pleased with it. It does take a lot more looking after though. A lot more watering, a lot more feed, but it’s in great condition. Drains are five metres apart, with gravel banding diagonal to them and it soaks everything up lovely.”

Despite the pressure of scrutiny, the one thing that causes the most problems for Steve is the natural environment.

“The weather gives me the most sleepless nights. Well it used to, but now we’ve got the Hover cover it’s not so bad.”

The Hover Cover has made life a great deal easier for sports turf professionals involved in cricket and its practicalities are obvious to see.

“It’s on or off in seconds. You’ve got sheets that are 120 ft at either side and it’s on there before the players have had time to walk off

the field. Lords had the first, Old Trafford had the second and we had the third. There are a lot of people getting them now though, because they are that good. It’s one big machine that covers the whole square.”

Although the Hover Cover is ideal for regulating the amount of moisture in a pitch, other elements bring different issues.

“You need the right weather at the right time. You need the sun to come out at the right time and it doesn’t want to be too windy when you’ve just finished watering. The wind is the worst because it dries the top out without the underneath drying out. Although one pitch may be coming along nicely, the problem is that I have four more pitches at different stages, so you’ve got to keep an eye on them all.

“It is like trying to bake a cake, with five different types of cakes in the oven so it can be difficult. It’s all about balancing and prioritising and covering some up with the sheets just to keep a bit of moisture in there.”

And sometimes, even with the best possible preparation and hard work, a bit of luck can help.

“We had a test match a few years ago where, leading up to it, nothing dried for ten days. We had cloudy weather and the paths around the ground were still wet from the morning dew seven days later. Nothing dried, but the day before the match everything changed, the wind got up, the sun came out and we managed to dry it off. You need a bit of luck in life and that game we had a bit of luck. It wasn’t the quickest pitch but it did its job.”





James de Havilland takes a closer look  
at the intricacies of current machinery

# The anatomy of...

## New Holland T4000 Series tractors with SuperSteer

**A tight turn, maybe, but how clean on fine turf?  
As tractors employed on fine turf grow in power  
and physical size, it is inevitable that there  
are downsides. Increased weight is one and the  
damage a big tractor can inflict on turf another.  
Is the New Holland SuperSteer™ system at least  
a partial solution?**

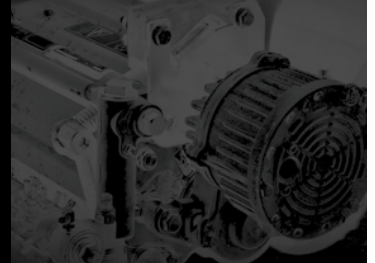


Seen from above, this early promotion shot of a New Holland TNF orchard tractor clearly shows the advantage of SuperSteer. T4000 series models are developed from the TN series and are now offered with factory fit Trelleborg low ground pressure tyres.



# Step-by-step Analysis...

New Holland T4000 Series tractors with SuperSteer



SuperSteer on the right has a pronounced effect on the agility of the tractor but the front tyres retain relatively flat contact with the ground, even at full lock.



Pictured on a lower powered Boomer compact tractor, SuperSteer is now a widely available feature on New Holland tractors. Note axle movement across the front of the tractor.



Viewed at full lock from above, note how the front wheel remains 'flat' at full lock. This is claimed by New Holland to help SuperSteer deliver a clean turn on fine turf.

**At the tail end of 1997, New Holland launched the TNF orchard tractor series in the UK. Offered in power variants of a nominal 65, 75 and 95hp, the TNF series could well have slipped by unnoticed.**

But the tractor had some standout features. These included a purpose built cab with air conditioning, electronic rear linkage control, compact dimensions and a relatively 'light' all up weight of around 2,850 kg including fuel and driver. But the real headline grabber was its SuperSteer front axle. Without brakes, this gave a TNF tractor a turn radius of just 3.3m.

By mid-1998, the tractor specialists at New Holland had been working away to find a far wider market for the TNF series, its 'orchard' designation quietly sliding in the UK. It was realised these tractors were well suited to other duties to include grounds maintenance, greens work and general amenity duties. It did not take long for the TNF to become a strong seller in these sectors.

At this point it is all too easy to go into a bit of product history and development and confuse the issue

in the process. But in brief, the TNF spawned a whole new family of tractors which essentially became known as the TND/S, with standard and SuperSteer models. Fast forward to 2010, and the TN series has now evolved into the T4000 range. These are offered in nominal 65hp, 78hp, 86hp and 97hp versions, with SuperSteer remaining a unique New Holland specification offering.

So what is SuperSteer and is it just about a tight turn?

The SuperSteer idea came from the design of the Canadian Rockies railway wagons where the bogies were designed to swing the body away from the cliff face on tight bends. In 1994 SuperSteer was originally conceived for what used to be Ford 70 and Fiat G Series from 170 to 240hp series tractors. The aim was to allow these big tractors to turn tightly in agricultural row crop work, reducing the size of headlands and thus increase crop growing area. The system worked so well it was 'scaled down', finding its way onto the TNF and subsequently virtually all tractor series in what is now the New Holland product line.



But all SuperSteer systems are not the same. On the TNF the system was linked to an extremely advanced traction management system that not only ensured optimum stability in steep terrain but also ensured the front wheels were free to turn in a tight turn with no drive once a fixed steering angle was passed. More on this later, but it is a key New Holland argument that a SuperSteer axle is less likely to mark the turf in a tight turn than a conventional four- or two-wheel drive axle.

On T4000 tractors, the front wheels on SuperSteer have a 76° turn angle. To put this into context, a 55° turn angle is considered good on a conventional driven front axle. Two-wheel drive tractors have a yet tighter turn angle, but still not as tight as SuperSteer.

This tight angle is achieved by turning the wheel hubs through 55° and swinging the axle in the direction of the turn by 21°. Look at SuperSteer in action, and you can see the axle move across the front of the tractor as it turns. This is achieved without extra rams, the rear pivot mount system of SuperSteer simply allowing the axle beam to move over as more lock is applied.

It is this lateral movement that helps to prevent the edge of the front tyres 'biting' into the ground surface, New Holland not needing to add a camber to the hub to enable the wheels to clear the body of the tractor as the lock is increased. This is further helped by the forward mounting of the axle, more of which later.

Another issue is that a conventional front four-wheel drive axle operates with a lead of 1-6 %; in other words the front wheels will turn up to 6% faster than those at the rear. When working on turf in four-wheel drive this lead can cause the front wheels to grab the turf, resulting in surface damage. To prevent this, operators should always avoid engaging drive to the front axle.

T4000 SuperSteer tractors have zero lead. So the tractor can be left in four-wheel drive. Big deal? Well on a flat surface yes. But on turf that is slippery and on a slope, all-wheel drive can help reduce the chance of surface damaging wheel slip.

So does SuperSteer work? If you compare the turn tracks made between a conventional four-wheel drive New Holland T4000 with its 55° turn angle and a SuperSteer alternative, you will see the latter actually leaves far less of an impression. So yes, SuperSteer does

appear to offer not just a tighter turn but a cleaner one too.

There are other details regarding SuperSteer and traction management. These are outlined separately.

OK, so it's manoeuvrable. But how heavy is a T4000 SuperSteer tractor?

If you take a peek at the spec sheet for a T4000 tractor, you will see a ROPS SuperSteer model will weigh in at up to 2,700kg, fuelled up and with the operator. Cab models are around 250kg heavier. Spread this load across four good turf tyres, and the tractor's foot print should be reasonable. But, of course the key to minimum compaction on a T4000 is in the type of turf tyre and its inflation pressure.

From the softest Galaxy "turf special" to the Nokian TRI 2 and Trelleborg T404 radials, which can be used as low as 6 to 10psi, the ground pressure range will be approximately within 1psi of its inflation pressure. Considering a person pushing a hand mower across the greens is reckoned to exert approx 10psi through their shoes, that is not bad.

What is often overlooked, however, is front ballast. When working with mounted kit it follows that you will typically need to put on some weight at the front of the tractor to prevent it being too light over the front.

With T4000 SuperSteer, however, the tractor has a 400mm longer wheelbase than its conventional four-wheel drive alternative.

This extra length has a noticeable impact upon the stability of the tractor with a heavy load on the rear linkage. In many cases, you may not need front weights. So the 240kg weight you save on a two-

wheel drive T4000 may actually not be an issue in the real world. As an aside, SuperSteer tractors are well suited to working front mounted PTO driven mowers; maximum front hydraulic lift capacity at the link ends is 1,275kgs.

**Summary**

New Holland SuperSteer is available on tractors developing from 45 to 250hp.

On New Holland Boomer compact tractors the Sensitrak™ control system that looks after the driveline is not as advanced as it is on the T4000; you have to manually engage two- or four-wheel drive, with drive to the front axle mechanically de-coupling when the steering angle exceeds two-thirds lock.

But in all cases the SuperSteer axle option enables tight turns to be made with a reduced risk of marking the turf.

As to the T4000 as a tractor, it comes in a variety of specifications with a choice of mechanical transmissions. These start with 16x16 Shuttle Command 30/40kph offering, topping out with a 44x16 Dual Command with creep speed options. You can also choose between mechanical or electronic rear linkage control, higher capacity MegaFlow™ hydraulics (100 lpm total flow) and... well the list goes on.

One option, however, that really does seem to be worth looking at is SuperSteer. It is only offered on New Holland models and it is one that has seen many a TNF/S tractor employed on golf courses and in amenity and groundcare applications over the years.

If you need clean, tight turns, SuperSteer is certainly worth a look.



**New Holland Trophy Cabinet**

The New Holland Super Steer and Auto 4WD system have won many awards for technical innovation and satisfied users from Machinery judges at Shows and exhibitions around the world.

- Sitevi - Supersteer & Auto 4WD system .....1997 - TNF
- EMIA Supersteer & Auto 4WD system.....1997 - TNF
- SIMA - Supersteer & Auto 4WD system .....1998 - TNF
- Agritechnica Show "Tractor of the Year" .....1998 - TNF
- FIMA - Saragoza-Supersteer & Auto 4WD System .....1998 - TNF
- AGRIBEX - Auto 4WD System .....1998 - TNF
- Royal Highland Show Supersteer & Auto 4WD system .....TNS/TNF
- Royal Agricultural Society of England, RASE G/70series .....1998
- ASAE (North America) Technical Innovation.....1999 - TNF
- Royal Agricultural Society of England, RASE .....2000 Silver
- Supersteer & Auto 4WD system front axle, TNF- TNS .....medal
- Lincolnshire Agricultural Society - .....2000 - TNS
- Supersteer & Auto 4WD system
- Royal Welsh Agricultural Society - .....2000- TNS
- Supersteer & Auto 4WD system





## SuperSteer and Traction Management

Standard equipment on the T4000 Super Steer tractors is an automatic four-wheel drive control system which is the default mode when the driver switches on the ignition. Although there is also a manual override switch for permanent 2wd or 4wd mode, the operator can in effect just let the tractor manage the system. The system employs a microprocessor to monitor axle speeds and gradient to engage the four-wheel drive system and engages only when:-

- slip on the rear wheels exceeds 5%. The system engages the four-wheel drive clutch at speeds up to 15 kph. When slip reduces four-wheel drive will disengage.

- if the steering angle is below 50° and the slip is above 5%, the four-wheel drive will stay

engaged even if the steering exceeds 50°.

- if the slip exceeds 30%, and the forward speed is less than 15 kph, four-wheel drive will be engaged even if the steering exceeds 50°.

- if the tractor is being pushed down a slope with a gradient greater than 10% by a loaded trailer, the rear wheels may break traction. This will cause the front wheels to speed up in relation to the rear. When this difference in speed reaches 15%, four-wheel drive will be engaged. When level ground is reached four-wheel drive will disengage.

- above 15 kph four-wheel drive will be temporarily disengaged.

When both brake pedals are pressed together, four-wheel drive is engaged to provide four wheel braking.

New Holland offers its T4000 series tractors with a conventional driven front axle. SuperSteer variants having a longer wheelbase which in turn could mean less ballast would be needed up front.



## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Ayrshire

Hi to you all. As I write to you I have some serious sunburn... I've certainly forgotten how hot the sun can be. Haven't seen it in that long! Remember to put the sun block on and wear a cap if possible... especially those short on top!

Hope all your courses are coming along. I'm sure it's a grass factory out there now!

I've had the water on my greens every day during this dry spell, by hand of course. Growth has started to jump now so hopefully the weather can even itself out a bit and let us catch up on the cutting side of things. Big changes have been made here at The Dumfriesshire Golf Centre since the outing we had here a couple of years ago... should get yourself down for a game sometime, Be good to see some faces from the Section.

I don't know what they put in the water in Ayrshire but there's another congratulations for Andrew Donnelly, Thistle Groundcare, and his partner, Lynn. They too are expecting a visit from the stork - family car needed now Andrew. The Section wishes you both all the best for the future!

Was good to see Mike Dooner, Thorntrees Amenity, receiving rep of the month in last month's magazine... keep up the good work, Mike!

As you receive this month's issue The Open will have been contested... it's been decided that the winner this year will be presented with the Champions' Challenge Belt to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Championship. The Challenge

Belt was retired in 1870 when Young Tom Morris won it three consecutive times. It was then replaced with what was called The Golf Champion Trophy... Better known today as the Claret Jug. I myself have been lucky enough to be part of the BIGGA Support Team this year. I'll be keeping my eyes peeled for any news worth writing about in next month's mag!

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any news within our Section. Thanks.

Until next time.

John A Mair

07500874449

[johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk)



### Central

There was a disappointing turnout for the seminar on Nitrogen fixing bacteria on May 19 by William Murphy but those who did attend heard a very interesting and educational presentation and our thanks to William, of Terralift, and Blair Young, of Aitkens, for making their time available for us. There was a much bigger crowd on the course walk of the Old Course on June 23, with over 50 greenkeepers in attendance with many BIGGA members from Sections outwith the Central one also coming along.

I hope those people who took the time to listen to Gordon McKie and me explain the preparations for the Open Championship enjoyable.

By all accounts Derek Scott is making a good recovery from his recent illness. Although he is still off work he has (allegedly) been spotted on the golf course at Slayle Hall and is currently convalescing in the Highlands so all those greenkeepers from

Newtonmore to Brora, watch out for someone in a wide wheeled hospital wheelchair on your course.

Andy O Hara is also recovery well from his recent argument with a golf ball. Apparently his nose is now straighter than ever but there is no truth in the rumour than he has changed his football alliance just because it has been a lovely colour of red and blue for the last few weeks!

Regards

Gordon Moir

### East



Summer's Here!

Well, what a change to the weather... Temps hitting the high 70s... Watering systems to the ready, grass growing again, poa seed heads slowing up greens. Are we ever happy?

A good turnout for the pest control days that were run back in the month of May at Ratho Park. All who attended enjoyed the hands on training by Pest Control Officer, Harry Lawrie. We should have no moles popping-up on our golf courses now after Harry showing us some good tips on how to catch them. We kindly thank Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Amenity Ltd, for the sponsorship of the training days.

We can run more of these pest control short training days, if required during the winter months when things slow down on our golf courses.

The committee are presently trying to put together a winter programme for the East Section. Events such as lectures, talks, site visits, hands-on workshops etc. All these things take time to put together. If any member would like to see something that

may be of interest to the Section's membership. Something that we might not have covered over the last few years, then why don't you give me a call with some ideas and our committee will look at possibly adding to our winter programme of events.

Central Section are organising a course walk on June 23 run by Gordon McKie and Gordon Moir.... around "St Andrews Old Course" venue of The Open Golf Championship, by the time you read this all the greenkeepers attending will have seen the hard work that Gordon and his team have put into the preparing the Old Course for the biggest golf show on earth.

I for one will be glued to the screen every chance that I get.

Tom Murray 07709960163



### North

I start this month off with yet another apology, the notes for last month were not in. I will pass the blame over to BIGGA again as they were sent away in plenty of time ready for the June issue. Anyway some of the news that you will read in this month will probably be a bit old but hey ho. I have put some of June's notes in this month's, as I feel they were quite important.

I begin on a sad note with the passing away of Sandy Gammack, Head Mechanic at Newmachar Golf Club. He was a well respected mechanic within the greenkeeping community in the North East. There was never a dull moment in the sheds at Newmachar, what with his singing, cursing and banging hammers off anything that got in his way. Sandy had the knack of stripping machinery down to its very last nut and bolt



and then from memory would rebuild it to his high standard. If you ever came into the sheds with one of the machines on full revs he would charge out of his workshop and you just knew he was heading for you to switch it off. He was everyone's pal and always had time for you. He would come and tell you jokes... some funny, some not so funny. His funeral took place in early May and was so well attended. Lads who had previously worked at Newmachar were there to pay their respects. Even Funky Dunky Adams, who no one had heard from since leaving the trade, turned up. He hasn't changed. Cough Cough Splutter Splutter! Greenkeepers and Trade from all over the North East turned up too. On behalf of the Section I would like to send condolences to Norma, his wife and all of his family.

On to other news now, I would like to wish Steve Sullivan, of Craigie Hill GC, all the best for a quick recovery following his recent health scare and hope he makes a speedy return to his work.

The annual trades competition has been and gone at Hazelhead GC again. George Mitchell has asked me to put the feelers out for next year's competition already. It is a scratch competition and he is looking for low handicap greenies. If you think you have what it takes to play in the trades then give George a shout on 07704851429. You could text him your details and George assures me that he will call you back or he might just let it ring once so you call him back! Only joking George. Both teams didn't do too well this year so they will be looking to improve on the second round.

Congratulations to Brian Hunter, from McDonald GC, Ellon. He has been selected to be part of the BIGGA Open Support Team at St. Andrews this year. I know he has tried before in the past and hadn't been successful, so this will make an old man very happy at last.

Congratulations also to Brian

Williams, Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. He got married back on June 5. Well Done Brian and hope the day went by without a hitch.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that I have the Section outing results from Deeside Golf Club on May 20. What a scorcher of a day we had. The Secretary and the Scottish Chairman had to invest heavily in factor 50 sunscreen, in fact come to think of it there were quite a few guys there who would of had to get some, mentioning no names. We had a great turn out too which makes it alot more competitive.

The results are as follows: Nearest the Pin 1st. Stuart Clayton; Nearest the Pin 14th. Simon Hoy; Nearest the Pin 16th. Andrew Baillie; Guest Winner. Graham Leslie; Trade Winner. Jim Smith; Committee Winner. Ben Brookes; Veterans. 1. Jim McCormack; 2. John Geddes; Apprentice Trophy. Andrew Scott Class 3. 1. Mike Braidwood; 2. Niall Bruce; 3. Les Rae; Class 2. 1. Paul Shark; 2. Ben Brookes; 3. Jim McCormack;

Class 1. 1. Bob Hardie; 2. Neil Kidd; 3. George Paterson; Scratch. 1. Gary Tough 2. Kevin Thomson.

The 200 Club winners on the day were - Gordon Peebles, of Tacit. He was lucky enough to win two £30 prizes, Christine McKenzie, £30, and Donald Patience with the £100 top prize. Well done.

The three qualifiers for the Norrie Whittock Trophy, in August, are Robert Hardie, Paul Sharp and Mike Braidwood. They will be contacted by Dale as to when in August the competition is played.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Section on the day. It was a fantastic turnout, one of the best we've ever had. With 65 people playing and three non playing it was a very busy day. The other Sections will be envious.

That's all folks for this month, once again apologies for last month's news. As usual you

can get hold of me either on 07813889374 or on tinternet, benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk.

Ben Brookes  
Murcar Links

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well after our first glimpse of summer. I am sat here writing this article looking out on a dull grey June day, but on the plus side we did need the rain. As usual I do not have any news or gossip to report, so please if you have any please get in touch. If anyone would like to play in the annual Northern Section v the Sheffield Section on Wed, July 14 at Woolley Park please let me know. We do need a team of 12 players. That's all for this month. As usual if you have any news contact me Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Phone, 07947401278. E.Mail frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Stewart



### North East

Hello all in the North East Section. What news can I bring you this month? Well there's not a lot of news going around at the moment, it's this time of the year that is hard to write as everyone are usually flat out grafting but I do have some, mostly about people moving around.

Well let's have a look at my memos as see Close House have recruited two more staff, these been James Parker, formerly of

Blackwell Grange, and Adrian Guiry, from Millbrook, somewhere in New Zealand! If any of you members read the free magazine called Golf North East (June issue) turn to page 11 and see their signature hole the 13th from the back tee can only think of one word to describe it "Awesome". Most likely will call it something else if I get the chance to play it.

Right then more news on the membership we have three new members, firstly David Thompson, who has been at Matfen Hall for the last eight years and who has moved to Hexham; Ryan Blemmings, who has started at Consitt, and Stuart West, who has started at Bedlingtonshire. No doubt Martin will have him transferred to the Cleveland Section in due cause. Don't do it, Stuart, we need all the members we can get at our golf dos.

Now, that's the incomings how about the outgoing. Recently I got an e-mail from Steve Quince, who's been working at Parklands for a few years, telling me that he had moved to Tyifjord GC, in Norway, as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Thought it was a nice gesture to let me know instead of coming via the reps. Think that's all about movement if anyone knows of any others please let me know I have heard about another but until I get confirmation about that subject then I will tell you about it.

That's all for this month. Hope to have some news for you soon otherwise I will have to write about my holidays.

Jimmy Richardson




### Sheffield

Hello members.

Hopefully you are all keeping well and the Summer is going as planned so far. As I write these notes we have just had a glorious period of weather which I'm sure

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# Around The Green

will have helped everyone get their courses in tip top shape. Hopefully having said this I won't put a jinx on the weather (fingers crossed).

Our Annual competition will be held at Hillsborough GC on July 7. It would be nice to see as many of you there as possible. There will also be the unveiling of our Spring/Summer 2010 clothing range or the polo shirts we have had made up! We received a delivery of the shirts recently and they will be available to members for a small fee. If anyone has is interested in snapping up one of these shirts then please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Our Annual match against the Northern Section will be held on July 14, at Woolley Park. We will be putting our team together shortly and members may be contacted to see if they are interested in representing the Section. If anyone does fancy a game then once again feel free to contact me or our Competition Secretary to ask for details.

Unfortunately I don't have much more this month, all I can say is that hopefully when you read this England are preparing for the final of the World Cup. COME ON ENGLAND.

James Stevens  
Section Secretary  
07738719614  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com



## North West

Well now we are halfway through the summer and looking forward to the next golf day at Blackpool North Shore on July 7. There is still time to book a tee-time, with Phil Dewhurst. He can be contacted on: 07768180604.

The Spring tournament was well attended and a big thank you must go out to our sponsors, Cheshire Turf, Bathgate, Campeys, Tacit, Osprey Water Management and Acorn Golf Equipment. The results were as follows: 1. Eddie Ainsworth; 2. John McLauchlin; 3. Craig Morris; 4. Kevin Sweeney. The vets prize was won by Jim Grainger. The guest prize was won by Gary Potter

Nearest the Pin. Billy Merritt.

Longest Drive Simon Barker

A special mention must go out to Billy Merritt, who could not be beaten on his Nearest the Pin shot as he hit a hole-in-one, Congratulations Billy..

Not much else to report this month, hope the weather is kind to you all,

Cheers

Peter McVicar

pdmv@hotmail.co.uk  
<mailto:pdmv@hotmail.co.uk>  
(07885347818)

## Midland Region



## Mid-Anglia

The spring competition, the qualifier for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, was held at Bedford and County GC on Tuesday May 18 and the weather was just perfect. Despite clashing with another golf day, around 30 golfers contested the event which was generously sponsored by Darren Mugford, of Rigby Taylor. Thanks very much, Darren, it was very much appreciated.

In first place was P. Martin with 36 points and also Nearest the Pin. Second was C. Garnett, also with 36 points, but just missing out on countback. And in third was J. Smith on 35 points and also winning Longest Drive. So the top three cleared up between them. Trade prize was won by your's truly.

Congratulations to Geoff Fenn and his team for presenting the course in such fantastic condition. Given the late spring that we have had, it can't have been easy to get the course in such good condition. And also well done to Geoff for completing the London Marathon in just over three and a half hours - excellent going.

Our sincerest thanks also to Bedford and County Golf Club for not only entertaining us so superbly, the meal was fantastic, but for allowing us to hold our competition there at such short notice. It was really most generous and I know that all the participants were very appreciative. Well done.

By the time you read this, the Summer Tournament will

already have taken place at Stocks Golf Club and a report will follow next month. We then visit Berkhamsted GC, on October 20, for the Autumn Tournament. Ashridge GC for the Turkey Trot in December date TBC.

Please let me know if you have any requirements for training courses such as Chemical Spraying, Chainsaw Certificates or anything else you might be interested in. There is some funding available and we are looking to organise courses in the near future.

That's all folks

Craig Spooner

craig.spooner@limagrain.co.uk



## Midland

Well who was it then who broke the world speed record on a mower with a speed of 86 miles per hour? Must have been a weekend morning when mowing the greens, or should that be speed rolling, them!

The Greenkeepers vs. the President's team from Handsworth Golf Club took place on Tuesday, May 11. The course was presented beautifully as always by the Course Manager, John Hughes and his team. The President's team, Captained by Ted Mason, won by 6.5 to 1.5 for the first time since 2006. Thanks to the Greenkeepers team for their continued support of this great event which has been running for over 50 years, and of course thanks to Handsworth GC for hosting this long-running wonderful traditional match.

The first tournament of the year (unsurprisingly called Spring) event was held at Trentham Golf Club on Monday, May 17. Our thanks to Trentham and its Captain, Neil Sadler, for allowing us to play such at such a prestigious course. I have it on good authority that the course was excellently presented as by the Course Manager, Ed Stant, and his obviously super team. Well done to you all. The main prize table was sponsored by Farmura [www.farmura.com](http://www.farmura.com) please consider them for your liquid fertiliser needs etc. It may stink but it works, au natural.

The results of the day; Best Gross: Ed Stant. Nett: 1. Ed Stant. 2. John Ganley. 3. Paul Jeffries. Divisions: 1. Steve Scott. 2. Steve Thompson. 3. Clint Woodall. Trade: Paul Tanner/Crocodile. Both Ed and John qualify for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, paid for by both the Section and Region. Good luck in that gentlemen. I wonder, did our Chair change the holes by any chance? Nearest the Pins were won by: A. Jones, D. Croton, L. Swann, S. Scott. Our thanks to Sherriff Amenity, British Seed Houses and Whitemoss for their sponsorship. We must also not forget to mention our old friends Russ and Kev, from Turners, for sustenance around the course.

The Summer event is to be held at Edgbaston Golf Club on July 19 with a start time of 2pm at a cost of £25. While the official closing date has gone if you speak nicely to Gary Cunningham on 07780 953 764 he will get you in, I'm sure. Our thanks to Edgbaston for its continued support over many a decade.

This month's calendar page is sponsored by the delicious (I love cheese) Tony Cheese/Rigby Taylor. Please consider him/them for your fertiliser, pesticides and other related products: [t.cheese@rigbytalor.com](mailto:t.cheese@rigbytalor.com) or phone 07778 665506

For those requiring closing dates for the Scotts Doubles please see the Section's web page as such should be posted there.

Our new Education coordinator, Kim Blake, can be contacted on; Email: [kimfulfordheath@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kimfulfordheath@hotmail.co.uk) or Mobile: 07540 771 924. The first of Kim's "Education and Networking Meeting" was held at Fulford Heath on May 18. The event was attended by many and all enjoyed the demonstrations of both the new Eclipse 322 Triple Mower and the instant variable rate setting Turfco Top dresser.

The next meeting is to be held at South Staffs GC, on August 24, where the new Vertigo vertical drainage system will be in operation on Rhys's greens. Apparently this system bores a hole of 50mm to a depth up to five metres. Sounds interesting to me, but for further information please contact Kim on the above or Rhys, or visit the Section's website.

Sean McDade





## BB&O

Sand martins are the smallest European hirundines (martins and swallows), with dark brown upper parts and dark under wings contrasting with otherwise pale under parts divided by a distinctive dark chest bar. These Agile fliers can be seen on occasion perching themselves in and around the Sandmartins Golf Course, in Berkshire, even though numbers are on the decline, Ben Edwards has managed to re-shape some of the natural habitat in and around the walls of the sand banks and numbers are now returning and on the increase. This cracking venue was home to our first golf event this year, the BB&O Spring Cup held on May 12 and sponsored by Golf and Turf.

This challenging course with two distinct and contrasting nine holes set in parkland with lakes, water hazards and dog-legs combines a stunning "links Style" inward nine with sand banks, broom, high riveted bunkers and hazards lurking on every hole. This offered us a cracking test of golf to start the season.

The results were as follows:

1. Paul Harden, Sonning GC;
2. Joe Newman, Retired, The Berkshire Artisans and still with a playing handicap of 7;
3. Sean Borrett Ellesborough GC.

Nearest the Pin, after a Stewards' Enquiry, was Adam, King Radley College and Tony May, The Berkshire GC, with Sean Haynes, Bearwood Lakes GC, taking the Long Drive after a monster hit on the 17th hole.

A very big thank you to Sandmartins Golf Club, and proprietor Andrew Hall, for courtesy of the course and providing the Section with the use of the club facilities; to Course Manager, Ben Edwards, for ensuring a first class challenge and to all the greenkeeping and clubhouse team for the effort that was shown in giving us a day to remember.

Thanks to our main sponsor of the day, Simon Reynolds, from Golf and Turf, who provided the prizes, and ETT, Farmura and Greensman for their Nearest the Pin and Long Drive contributions.

The Summer Medal Tournament will become the qualifier for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, and be hosted by Matt Nutter, on August 26, at East Berks GC with best gross and best nett going on to represent the Section at the National Championship, which this year will be held at The Berkshire GC.

Congratulations to the Dominic Lewis family with a new addition to the clan. Robin Grace weighed in 7 pounds 15 ounces and I understand that Dominic and Granddad, Ted, are coping well under stress and doing just fine.

Finally, apologies for the lack of section news in the magazine, I can assure you all I have charged my ink well and sharpened my quill and hope to keep on scribing, so if you have any news of views, please get in contact. Talking of networking we have set up Twitter and Facebook accounts for the section. On Twitter we can be found on <http://www.twitter.com/bbgreenkeepers> and join us on facebook under the group name BB&O Golf section. These are very much in their infancy but could become great communication tools in the future.

Please email Adam King at [ajk@radley.org.uk](mailto:ajk@radley.org.uk) with your email address so that we can start to formulate a connection list.

Mark Day

## Southern Region



## South West

Firstly, I should start by mentioning that this is purely a guest slot for me – as I write this report on behalf of Adam he is probably busy packing his Union Jack printed beach towel, some sun cream and, of course, his bright pink Speedo's ready for a well deserved holiday, I'm sure!

In true 'Around the Green' style I am hoping to include the following material in this report: some talk about the weather, a mention of some golf day results and a section update including a

list of mouth watering fixtures.

Firstly, to the weather, as I write this we have just come out of an extremely cold and slow spring and have been propelled straight into a drought! Who'd be a greenkeeper? I never thought I'd ever be glued to Countryfile's weather for the week ahead hoping for rain ever again after the last few years. Good old Britain.

Our last golf day saw the re-introduction of our Greenkeeper/Amateur Tournament back in April. We had experienced 29 days without any sign of rain through the month until we turned up to play. The destination for this event was Woodlands Golf Club in Bristol.

The course was in fantastic condition and was a credit to the Green staff. The course turned out to be a great little track, very enjoyable to play. Anyone who has not played at Woodlands should definitely pay it a visit.

They have, over the past few years, undergone quite a transformation with a second 18 holes going in as well as newly constructed greens, tees, bunkers and loads and loads of water.

Well done to Tim Morgan, and

his guest, Colin Snell, who came out winners on the day with a score of 43 points.

We have got some exciting fixtures ahead of us this year and would welcome as many people as possible attending them. The confirmed fixtures are as follows: Summer Tournament; Lyme Regis Golf Club, June 23, Race night; Lansdown Racecourse, August 21, Autumn Tournament & AGM; Worlebury Golf Club, October 14 and the Christmas Tournament; Lansdown Golf Club, December 16. We have also got a match against our friends from South Wales in August (date TBC) so don't forget to get in touch with our Section Captain Wayne Vincent and make yourself available for selection.

I know that we as Greenkeepers can be subjected to a lot of added pressures and commitments that can be enforced by members' expectations and often these pressures can be escalated by the standards we set ourselves. Sometimes it can seem like we are never away from the place and we can get bogged down and frustrated by things. My personal remedy for this: Try your best to make at

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Contact Jill or Kirstin  
on 01347 83300



least one day away to a Section run golf event. Networking with fellow professionals can be such a rewarding experience as well as a great learning tool. Sometimes it can be exactly what we need, sharing frustrations and quite often finding out that we are usually all in the same boat. I strongly believe that if we can not give ourselves or the members of our staff the opportunity to play other golf courses and to meet up with other greenkeepers and enjoy a friendly, relaxed and atmospheric day away from work and supporting the industry in which we all work then there's something wrong. Please try your best to make at least one event this year; you may very well enjoy yourself!

The Section is in the process of setting its own facebook page which we hope can keep everybody even more informed as to what is happening in our Section. If you have not received it already, you may receive an e-mail with a link to our facebook page attached. If you are a user of Facebook please join. We want to use this modern tool to inform and record everything that is good in our Section – embrace the book!

If you need any further information about anything or have anything you would like to report please contact our section secretary Adam Matthews, adam.1.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

I look forward to seeing you all soon,  
Jaime Acton.



## South Coast

Hi all.

The spring tournament was played at Bramshaw golf club on May 13. This competition is played over 27 holes with the winners of two divisions going through to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, paid for by the Section. The winners were: Div. 1. Mo Bah, 54pts; Dave Harfield, 54pts; Shane Hodgkins, 52pts; Div. 2. Chris Bitten, 57pts; Alex McCombie, 53pts; Bill Ridgely, 49pts.

The longest drive went to Luke Elgie and Nearest the Pin to Mike

Lake.

Sponsor for the day was Avoncrop Amenity. Many thanks to everyone involved and particularly to Jason and his team for presenting the course in superb condition. I had the delight of laughing my way round the course in the company of Brian Wilmott, from Tacit. With the quality of golf in our team all you could do was laugh.

By the time you read this the summer tournament will be upon us at Stoneham GC on July 15, if you are not already in hurry up, Stoneham is

Not much happening around the Section at the moment, most of us praying for rain, preferably not storm force. Having said that my recent outing to Basingstoke GC found the course in outstanding condition, where Colin, I am sure, wants anything but a deluge. Well done mate the course is a credit to you!

Here at Barton, the sea is a shimmering blue, the sky larks are singing and the brave are dangling under kites, using the cliffs updraught to stay in the air. Personally I think a barbecue for the couple of mackerel I have just caught beach-casting is a much safer option. Well that is just for today, see you at the next event.

Dont forget glassy2003@hotmail.com if you want to play at Stoneham.

Tony Gadd



## South Wales

Sorry Guys and Gals but I don't have a lot to report on this month. The spring tournament was held at Trefloyne GC back at the end of May. However, I don't have the result of the golf at the time of writing. I do know however, that it was played in beautiful weather and the course was in very good condition, which was a credit to Gareth Knight and his hard working staff. Also the running buffet was excellent and so were the prizes which were provided by David Goldstone, of Tower Sport Europe. So thank you David for your continued support. Also thank you to Gareth and everyone at Trefloyne for their hospitality, and to Steve

Chappell for all his hard work in organising the event.

This month also sees the return of the Scotts Golf Management Trophy. This is an excellent event in which teams of club officials plus a member of green staff play in a golf competition, which this year is being held at Morrision GC. If you haven't already received an invite then please contact Steve Chappell.

Well done to Jim McKenzie and his staff on a successful Wales Open last month. The course looked great and the rain held off. Let's hope for more of the same in October!

That's it for now. The weather hasn't been great so far for turf managers during 2010. Let's hope that July brings back some sort of normality, whatever that is!

OK, the World Cup is about to start! I hope that by the time you read this that England are back home! Nothing against them, but I know that win, lose or draw, I'm going to see Wayne Rooney's face and Steven Gerrard's £5 haircut all over my TV screen! Maybe I'll go and sit in a darkened room for a month!

Ceri Richards  
07831 168645



## Devon and Cornwall

Message from the Duchy!

"On April 21 Level 2 and 3 Duchy College students travelled to Burnham and Berrow Golf Club at the kind invitation of Richard Whyman, Course Manager, and the golf club for an Industry Visit.

Richard provided information on the history of the club and the many historic and future developments. He explained the management programme that he had implemented to encourage fescues in the greens through over-seeding and Sustainable Management resulting in reduced costs and a high standard of playing surface.

The afternoon course walk allowed students the chance to see the results of these techniques first hand. The students thanked Steve Evans, Richard Whyman and Burnham and Berrow Golf Club for organising

the visit. Thanks also to Billy Mitchell for attending and supporting the visit.

Many of you will already know through the "greenkeeper grapevine" that Steve Evans has left Duchy College and his job role as Greenkeeper Tutor and Assessor to return to greenkeeping. Greenkeeping was always Steve's very great passion and the paperwork required by the college was not! For my part this is a very great loss to the college and to me. Steve, the rest of the team and I worked really well together and he was always 100% committed to greenkeeper training. The College and I wish Steve the best in his new job role at Ashbury Hotel and Golf Club. The College is currently seeking a replacement and will be advertising nationally but if there is anyone out there please let me know. Ron Skinner, 01579 372220."

A very successful Evening Course Walk took place on Tuesday, June 1 at Perranporth Golf Club. With 14 members in attendance, Billy Mitchell, Course Manager led the course walk around this fantastic and natural links course. Billy, was heavily involved in trial work for the "Rescue" herbicide and now with the full backing of the management committee, has started a full programme across all the greens.

George Pitts  
Section Secretary  
Bigga Devon & Cornwall  
07929 754401  
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



## Kent

As our corner of this fantastic country basks in summer sunshine and multitudes of golfers flock to our courses, the never ending Winter we endured seems a world away. As I write this the whole country appears to have been caught up in a wave of patriotism seldom ever seen as our national team mount their latest attempt to bring home the World Cup in South Africa. I only hope they are still in the competition by the time you read this!

Management at golf courses up and down the land have



been dreading this World Cup as many of their regular golfers will have chosen to forego their usual golfing exploits in favour of watching football for a month. This obviously will impact on club finances (as well as the viewers' marriages) and it has been interesting to see how some clubs have tried to diversify their marketing in order to attract as many golfers as possible in order to soften the blow. Here, at Birchwood, we have painted huge St. Georges crosses on lawns outside the clubhouse (see website) and hung flags from every available post and pillar so our players can see how committed we are to their golf and football demands. It certainly seems to be generating interest locally if nothing else!

The next Kent Section golf day is only round the corner so try to get some practice in between the football matches (as you can probably tell, I would never make it as a marriage guidance expert). Our happy group of golfers shall be travelling to the North Kent coast to play Herne Bay Golf Club on July 27 (perhaps you can drop the family off at the beach first!). This is our third outing this year and the days just seem to keep getting better. It has been nice to welcome several new people to our events this year and I'd like to thank everyone for making these days so enjoyable and to all our sponsors for helping to subsidise the costs of putting on our various activities.

Nothing more to add this month but please check out our webpage for more regular news, results, player handicaps and sponsors. I hope to see as many of you as possible on the 27th at Herne Bay where we can all indulge ourselves in a day of golf by the seaside and musing over where it all went wrong for England's football team!

Best of British  
Rob Holland

[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## Surrey

Thursday June 3. Welcome to the third summer of 2010 and goodbye, I hope, to the fourth winter. My central heating has been on and off so many times this year I have now decided that as June is now here, come hell or high water, the thing stays off until November. Today the weather is glorious and although I know you are all desperate to see the rain you will have to wait until after the weekend because for Brian it is on with the shorts and with bucket and spade in hand it's back to Ventnor for a short break on the good old Isle of Wight while leaving our new controllers, David and Nick, to look after the mainland and the world.

Tim Watts is congratulated on 40 years continuous service at Puttenham GC and I apologise for not putting this in last month's edition. This means that I should have reported this month that Tim is to be congratulated on 40 years continuous service plus several months and having known Tim for 20 years plus several months I am delighted to do so now.

Mark Harvey is daddy of the month and his father, Bill, a long suffering member, sorry that should read long serving member at Epsom GC - where Mark is Head Greenkeeper - is grandfather of the month. Mark's partner, Diana Cook, is mother of the month and their baby girl Alissa, born May 19, weighed in at 7lb 2.5ozs and is just pleased to be here.

With no other news it just leaves me to let you all know that I've recently booked my August holiday and St Peter Port on the Isle of Guernsey is to be the main subject of interest in the October edition.

Brian Willmott



**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

**As I sit seeking inspiration for my July column I ask myself where the first six months of 2010 have gone. It's hard to believe that the Open is only a couple of weeks away when memories of a spectacular finish to last year's tournament at Turnberry are still relatively fresh in my mind.**

My hopes are pinned on a British winner, the game needs the lift that this would bring and it would be nice to see the UK get behind its hopefuls in a similar, though perhaps not quite as flamboyant, way to that demonstrated in football for the World Cup.

As you will read elsewhere in this edition of Greenkeeper International the annual BIGGA Charity Golf Day was a great success and thanks go to Q Hotels for courtesy of the course. A thank you also to those teams that entered and without whom the event would not have taken place, congratulations go to the team from Ransomes Jacobsen who were the overall winners. As always the day provided a useful opportunity for BIGGA staff, greenkeeper Members and industry representatives to network in an informal atmosphere.

The early indications for the Association's results for the financial year just finished (30th June) are positive and should produce a moderate surplus, the budget for 2010/2011 is not quite as good though and so much depends on Harrogate in particular. The bookings to date are reasonably good with 74 exhibitors confirmed and a significant number of others who say that are not yet in a position to commit. If you look at the plans on [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) you will see that we have reconfigured the four main exhibition halls and BIGGA will itself take a more prominent position. A new initiative for 2011 is to develop the environmental side of the golf club and we will be creating a zone dedicated to related products and services. If any members have contacts for potential exhibitors then please pass on details to Sue in the office, she is already working on a number of leads but a few more would always be helpful.

Finally I would like to congratulate Cecil George who is to be presented with the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. For many Cecil is noted for his regular contribution to BIGGA's AGM or perhaps his past involvement with the BIGGA Open Support Team but his real claim to fame comes from the many, many years of dedication to the development of education in greenkeeping and the promotion of the job as a career. Spend time in his company and you will soon discover his passion for greenkeeping and greenkeepers and how his wisdom, knowledge and experience has touched and influenced so many people over the years. As I sit and write this it is hoped that arrangements can be made to present the award at the Open which would be a fitting opportunity.

**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

## Around The Green

Please send your notes to Scott MacCallum by the 5th of the month. Email: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)





# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

## BIGGA Membership Cards

BIGGA introduced photographs on their membership cards quite a few years ago, particularly for Full Members of the Association; this is for ID purposes particularly when seeking courtesy golf.

If you or a colleague is wishing to submit an application to join BIGGA don't let submitting a photograph be a barrier.

We will accept all kinds of photographs, from holiday snaps to general photographs; as long as the photograph clearly shows the applicant and we can scan the photograph from the head and shoulders. No glasses or hats please.

Don't forget you can even use your mobile telephone, of course only if your mobile has a camera feature!

Once you have taken a head and shoulders shot download to a computer and email us the photograph using your membership number and name as the file name for the photograph.

If you do not include a photograph with your application or advise us that you are sending us one then you may get your form returned to you.

If you would like some advice on sending us a photograph as an attachment or via your mobile phone (if your mobile supports this) contact Brad in the Membership Department.

## Logging on to the BIGGA Website

We've recently changed the way members access the BIGGA members' area. To log on to the new BIGGA Website members now need a password.

To improve security BIGGA members now log on to the website with their membership number and password created by the member.

If you previously used your membership number and surname you will need to create your own password and activate your account.

Select 'Don't have a password?' from the home page, next to the Log In button and follow the instructions. You will need a valid email address.

The website is an ongoing project and we will be looking to improve this on an ongoing basis, introducing enhanced features and new pages full of useful information. If you have any suggestions on what may be beneficial to include on the website let us know.

## Personal Finance Planning

Devising a personal budget is probably more important than ever right now.

A budget done correctly is the most precise tool for analysing your finances imaginable. It answers two key questions....

- Do I spend more than I earn?
- What can I afford to spend?

If you need help and advice on budget planning then members can contact the helpline, free of charge, see the reverse of your membership card for the contact number.

This is a confidential service provided to BIGGA full members as part of their membership.



## Follow us on Facebook

Search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association then join the BIGGA Group.



### 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

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Scott Clark, North  
John Keller, North  
Scott Macnicol, Central  
Andrew McDowall, West  
Barry O'Donnell, West  
Richard Sharp, North  
Alexander Watson, Central  
Michael Williamson, Central

### Northern Region

William Almond, North West  
Alan Birch, North West  
James Curry, North East  
Nigel Green, North Wales  
Jonathon McGeachie, Northern  
Stephen McLoughlin, North West  
Clive Roberts, North Wales  
Luke Stone, North East  
David Thompson, North East  
Adam Wittchell, North Wales

### Midland Region

Peter Allam, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Martin Allen, East Midland  
James Brindley, East Midland  
Charlie Burke, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Michael Green, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Matthew Hallam, East Midland  
Kris Hobson, Midland  
Carl Holland, Midland  
Anthony Hough, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Robert Mills, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Jean Paul Bowers, East of England  
Louis Smith, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Roger Stillwell, East Midland  
Stephen White, East Midland

### South East Region

Craig Ayton, Surrey  
David Bell, Kent  
Robert Brown, Surrey  
Steve Fidler, London  
Hugh McCusker, Surrey  
Craig Open, Kent  
Iain Tong, Kent  
Kevin Treagus, Sussex

### S West/S Wales Region

Jamal Ali, South Wales  
Andrew Frost, South Coast  
Robert Hamley, Devon&Cornwall  
Tom Hayward, South West  
Stephen Patrick, South Coast  
Natalie Swanson, South Coast



## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Legal Assistance 0800 177 7891  
Personal Accident Insurance 0207 560 3013  
Stress Helpline 0800 174 319  
Debt Helpline 0800 174 319





# Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>JULY</b>			
Wednesday July 7th	North West Section Event	Blackpool North Shore Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or 07840 706738
Wednesday July 7th	East Midlands Section Event	Rothley Park Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
Wednesday July 7th	Sheffield Section Event	Hillsborough Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Wednesday July 14th	Northern Section v's Sheffield Section Event	Woolley Park Golf Club	Frank Stewart at 07947 401278 or James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Thursday July 15th	East of England Section Event	Tydd St Giles Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922
Thursday July 15th	South Coast Section Event	Stoneham Golf Club	Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633
Thursday July 15th – Sunday July 18th	The Open Championship	St Andrews, Scotland	<a href="http://www.opengolf.com/">http://www.opengolf.com/</a>
Wednesday July 21st	London Section Event	Muswell Hill Golf Club	Matt Plested at matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk or 07818 410333
Tuesday July 27th	Kent Section Event	Herne Bay Golf Club	Rob Holland at grassyars@hotmail.com or 07870 118793
Tuesday July 27th	South West Section – Scotts Management	Marlborough Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Thursday July 29th – Sunday August 1st	Ricoh Women's British Open	The Royal Birkdale Golf Club	<a href="http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com">http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com</a>
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Thursday August 5th	Sussex Section Event	Haywards Heath Golf Club	Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573
Wednesday August 11th	East Anglia Section Event	Eaton Golf Club, Norwich	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398
Thursday August 12th	Essex Section Event	Benton Hall Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrogers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398
Thursday August 19th (To be confirmed, subject to change)	Central Section Event	Auchterarder Golf Club. Norrie Whytock Trophy	Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602
Saturday August 21st	South West Section Race Night	Lansdown Racecourse	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Thursday August 26th	BB&O Section Event	The East Berkshire Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Monday September 13th	Sheffield Section Event	Silkstone Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Wednesday September 22nd	East of England Section Event	Lincoln Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922
Tuesday September 28th	Sussex Section Event	Copthorne Golf Club	Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573



# What's your Number?

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

Mike King of Vitax gets 10/10 questions right in this month's What's Your Number...



**1. What is your position within the company?**

Sales and Marketing Manager

**2. How long have you been in the industry?**

30 years

**3. How did you get into it?**

Working for a distributor on their busy trade counter

**4. What other jobs have you done?**

I did have 3 years in a sales office before I did go on the road doing sales jobs in Horticulture and Amenity.

**5. What do you like about your current job?**

Having a chance to meet people and help move our industry forward.

**6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**

Better education within our industry especial in the turf sector.

**7. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Football coaching, fishing with my son and playing golf poorly.

**8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**

Still playing golf poorly.

**9. Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**

My customers

**10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?**

7

# Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

If he's not larging it up with film stars and rock stars, Jack can be found at 4.30am out on the greens, raking along to the Stone Roses...

**Name:** Jack Fairman

**Age:** 32

**Golf Club:** Boston Golf Club

**Position:** Assistant

**Nickname:** Unprintable!

**How long have you been greenkeeping?**

7 years

**What was it about the career that attracted you?**

Working in the great outdoors

**If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?**

A rock star

**Which task do you enjoy and why?**

Cutting greens at the weekend, middle of the summer at 4.30am

**Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**

Pruning trees. It's a seemingly never ending task

**What one thing other than a pay rise would improve the greenkeepers lot?**

Humane removal of all week day golfers.

**Hobbies?**

Poker, football, golf.

**Favourite Band?**

The Stone Roses

**Which team do you support?**

Newcastle United

**What is your claim to fame?**

I was invited to the world premier of the Jackass Movie and spent 12 hours getting wasted with the cast of the film and Dave Grohl from The Foo Fighters!



# GI

## NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

GI New Products will soon be making a comeback! Please email your press releases and photography to: [tom@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tom@bigga.co.uk)



# 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.**

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](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)**  
**Website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)**

## SCOTLAND

### ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cooper, Fife, KY15 4JB  
Contact: [Wroberts@elmwood.ac.uk](mailto: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.

### LANGSIDE COLLEGE

Rutherglen Campus,  
Buchanan Drive,  
Rutherglen,  
Glasgow, G73 3PF



Contact: William O'Neil  
Tel: 0141 272 3823  
Email: [woneil@langside.ac.uk](mailto:woneil@langside.ac.uk)

SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND, Full time and part time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:smiller@oatridge.ac.uk) Web: [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk)

Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping; SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Day and Block 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 subject; 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

National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture (with Sportsturf route) Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



#### BCA

Hall Place, Burchetts Green,  
 Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 6QR  
 Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695

*Your local further and higher education College, serving the Thames Valley.*

Located in the heart of the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training. Programmes include the National Certificate, Advanced Certificate and Advanced National Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time programmes include the NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture and RHS programmes, as well as PA1, PA2 and PA6 and various short courses. A wide transport network is provided as well as residential accommodation on-site.

### 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](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

#### DUCHY COLLEGE

Cornwall's College of the Countryside



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](mailto:liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk)  
 Web: [www.duchy.ac.uk](http://www.duchy.ac.uk)

Claire Bennetts  
 01209 722109/07824 626363  
[claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk](mailto:claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk)

Duchy College offers Level 1, 2, & 3 Diplomas and NVQ 4 in Amenity Horticulture (inc Sports Turf), HNC Horticulture, NC and ANC Horticulture, RHS Level 2 Certificate, 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.



### Full-time and online study

Myerscough College invites applications for Degree courses starting in September 2010.

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 studies Mydegree Myerscough

For more information call **01995 642211**  
 or visit [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk)

#### EAST DURHAM COLLEGE

Houghall Campus, Durham DH1 3SG



Contact: Student Services  
 Tel: 0191 375 4710  
 Email: [enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk)  
 Web: [www.eastdurham.ac.uk](http://www.eastdurham.ac.uk)

Houghall campus is located to the east of Durham City bounded by the River Wear and the A177. The College has excellent resources for the provision of land-based programmes. Entry 2-L4 full and part-time programmes are offered in Arboriculture, Floristry, Horticulture, Sports-turf, Environmental Conservation, NPTC block and short courses on demand.

#### HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL



Contact: Mike Dodd  
 Tel: 01732 850551  
 Email: [enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk)  
 Website: [www.hadlow.ac.uk](http://www.hadlow.ac.uk)

Work based levels 2 and 3 qualifications in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for Apprenticeship and Fee payers. We also offer a range of short courses, for example Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Application. Additionally, full and part time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and variety of other land based subjects. There is train to gain funding available subject to eligibility.



## ENGLAND

### MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE



Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.  
Contact Philip Mayes Tel: 07896674789  
Email: pmayes@guildford.ac.uk or Andrew McEvoy  
07896674786 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk .  
Website: www.guildford.ac.uk.

Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 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, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors. Also, NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management, plus throughout the year various NPTC Certificate of Competence including: Automatic Turf Irrigation, Turf Maintenance Equipment, Mowers, PA1, 6 & 2, Tractors, Trimmers and Chainsaw. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.

### 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.

### 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.

### SOUTHSTAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

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.

### 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: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management and Horticulture. Part Times courses: WBD (NVQ) Level 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping

### SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

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(incorporating Andover College Campus)  
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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.

### PLUMPTON COLLEGE



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Tel: 01273 890454  
Fax: 01273 890071  
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk  
Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk

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### THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA – CAMBRIDGE CAMPUS

Landbeach Road, Milton,  
Cambridgeshire CB24 6DB

The College  
of West Anglia 

Contact: Mark Ekin  
Tel: 01223 860701  
Email: mekin@col-westanglia.ac.uk  
Website: www.cwa.ac.uk

Full time courses: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management (1 year, level 2 qualification); BTEC National Pathway in Horticulture with Sports Turf Management (1 or 2 years, level 3 qualification which includes National Award, Certificate and Diploma)  
Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping); NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf); NPTC Qualifications i.e. pesticides PA1, PA6, PA2  
Apprenticeships: Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping



# DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

## FAIRWAYS (GM) LTD

### Location and size

Glasgow, Kinross, Aberdeen and Inverness, and a sub depot at Eccles). Turnover objective for 2010 is around £8million

### Employees and size of premises

32 people split into sales 6, parts 4, service 16, accounts and MD 3, admin 3. The business operates from 5 locations with premises totalling 28,800 sq ft.

### Number of service vans

14 service vans stocked with fast moving parts. Our vans are equipped with all necessary special tooling and have a bench, vice and power tools to facilitate on site engineering.

### Brief History of Company

Fairways (GM) together with its sister companies Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd and Fairways Sportsgrounds Ltd constitute the Fairways group. Our construction company Fairways Sportsgrounds Ltd can trace its roots back to 1919 when the business was established by John Stutt who went on to build many golf courses with Braid and Mackenzie Ross. In 1991 Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd was established and now promotes a wide range of Wiedenmann products through dealers covering the UK and Ireland. In 2004 Fairways (GM) Ltd became Ransomes Jacobsen's Scottish dealer.

Initially based at Inchinnan and at Kinross on the east side of the country it was soon apparent that local service points were required and Inverness and Aberdeen depots were established. More recently a small service and grinding centre based in the Scottish Borders was opened.

We are currently building new premises at Kinross opening in November, which will enable us to expand our customer support in line with forecast sales growth.

### Key services offered

New and used machinery sales, parts supply, servicing, maintenance contracts, spot and long term hire and breakdown response and warranty work. We also tailor supply proposals to meet the individual needs of the customer; this includes initiatives covering finance, servicing and support.



### How has the dealership changed over the years?

In November 2004 we started our business from a clean sheet of paper; this has meant constant investment and change to meet the needs of the growing business. Our employees are our biggest asset and in line with our continuous improvement policy we have developed core values to ensure that our people develop and deliver on our promises. Manufacturers are bringing machines to market that are hi-tech using advanced technologies in hybrid drive systems and we will continue to provide high levels of training to all of our employees to ensure that our customers get the most from their investment.

### What would you like to see changed?

It would have been nice to see Scotland at the World Cup, maybe next time! We would like to see an intensive international marketing campaign launched to position the UK as the number one choice for the international golf tourist. We would like more promotion promoting of golf among juniors.

**To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured, writing no more than 450 words and including a decent photograph... Email [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)**

### Franchise(s) held

Ransomes Jacobsen (incl. EZGO, Turfco, Ryan, Cushman, Iseki and Smithco), Wiedenmann, Gambetti and Kawasaki

### Major Customers

All customers are important, a cross section from our customer list includes:

- The Roxburghe Hotel and Golf Course
- Hamilton Golf Club
- Newmacher Golf Club
- Peterhead Golf Club
- Newburgh Golf Club
- Hilton Park Golf Club
- Royal Troon Golf Club
- Castle Stuart Golf Club
- SRU Murrayfield
- Whitekirk Golf Club
- Douglas Park Golf Club
- Inverness Golf Club

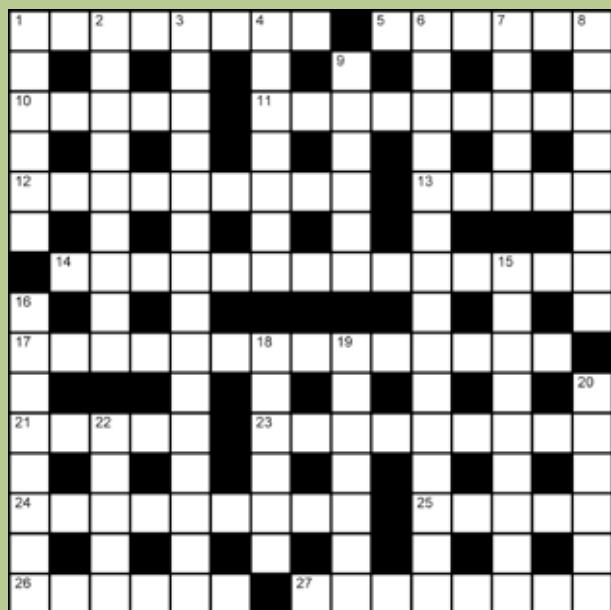




# in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors..

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Fire-starter (8)
- 5 Zany or impulsive (6)
- 10 Musical written by Tim Rice, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (5)
- 11 The \_\_\_ Guards, the senior regiment of the Guards Division (9)
- 12 In religion, a place between heaven and hell (9)
- 13 The third rock from the sun (5)
- 14 Top 10 hit for The Ordinary Boys (4,4,2,4)
- 17 The first English language writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (7,7)
- 21 Listlessness or boredom (5)
- 23 The largest city in British Columbia (9)
- 24 Approaches (5,4)
- 25 Repeat (5)
- 26 Young, affluent professional with a fashionable lifestyle (6)
- 27 Body of water surrounding the Isle of Man (5,3)

### DOWN

- 1 Take up an offer (6)
- 2 An obscenity (5,4)
- 3 German actress, star of Roman Polanski's Tess (9,6)
- 4 Italian international footballer of the 1990s - Giuseppe \_\_\_ (7)
- 6 A semi-autobiographical novel by Ernest Hemingway (1,8,2,4)
- 7 An official maker of public announcements (5)
- 8 Leverage or influence (8)
- 9 RL Stevenson's 'good' doctor (6)
- 15 Eaters of meat and plants (9)
- 16 A non-competitive sporting event (8)
- 18 Jonathan \_\_\_\_, rugby league and union international (6)
- 19 A disregarder of information (7)
- 20 Skulls (6)
- 22 US Civil Rights organisation (5)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

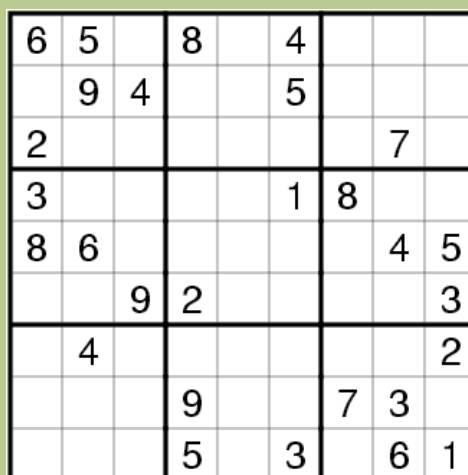
## St Andrews Open

1. Who won the very first Open at St Andrews in 1973?
2. Tiger Woods won the 2005 St Andrews Open by five shots but two came second?
3. Which two players in the modern era have won more than one Open over the Old Course?
4. Who says he doesn't think about his missed 72nd hole putt in which would have won him the 1970 Open more than once every few minutes?
5. Which winner's nickname was "Champagne"?
6. Which Japanese player took a nine having found the Road Hole Bunker in 1984?
7. Who took an 8 on the same hole having found the same bunker in 2000 when sitting in runners-up spot?
8. By how many shots did Tiger Woods win the 2000 Open on his way to completing the set of Major Championships?
9. Who was the last Australian to win an Open at St Andrews?



## 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.



## 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 65**



# BUYERS' GUIDE

Photo courtesy of Rudding Park  
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.



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Greasley is currently engaged on the West-East link main being installed around North Manchester by United Utilities and Murphy Pipelines. Having completed the enabling works to ensure 18 holes remain in play during the pipeline installation at Ashton-in-Makerfield, Bury, Ellesmere and Stand Golf Clubs, work is now focused on the final reinstatement post pipeline installation. Works include extensive drainage totalling over 13,000 Linear M, Green/tee/fairway/bunker construction with rootzone amelioration to fairways and re-turfing work in excess of 70,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Many bunker refurbishment projects were carried out last winter including East Berkshire Golf Club, with the final holes due to be completed this autumn. At Longcliffe Golf Club the second phase of a three stage project was completed. More work was carried out at Farnham Park Golf Club and Panshanger Golf Complex where works are phased over a number of years. At Tylney Park new bunkers and tees were constructed together with an extensive new lake on the first hole which has greatly enhanced this opening hole.

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- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- CONSTRUCTION
- DE SILTING
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Photo courtesy of Rudding Park  
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Ex-demo 2007 machine, 130 hours and in immaculate condition

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Ex demo Imants Shockwave 2.10m Used of our own demos / exhibitions.

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# Recruitment

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established 1889

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Applications with a full CV should be sent to:  
The Captain, Ranfurly Castle Golf Club, Golf Course Road,  
Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire PA11 3HN

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.  
Closing date for applications is – 20th July 2010

### Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire

#### GREENKEEPER & TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

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## WEST BYFLEET GOLF CLUB

### Appointment of a Head Greenkeeper

Following the retirement of our Head Greenkeeper in December 2010 after 34 successful years, an exciting opportunity arises for the right candidate to lead our highly motivated greenkeeping team. The club now seeks applications for this position, which becomes vacant on 18th December, 2010.

West Byfleet is a private members club with 600 playing members. The club enjoys good financial stability.

The course was designed and built in 1906 and has been described by Neil Coles as a "fine example of a Surrey heathland course" having eighteen delightful individual holes, presented in excellent condition. It is regarded as a good test of golf.

The club has a reputation as being friendly and well run, with a tradition of long service from its staff.

Reporting to the Green Committee and the General Manager, the successful candidate will require the following skills and qualifications:

- Qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent with spraying and chainsaw certificates.
- Lead, motivate and develop a team of qualified greenkeepers.
- Be fully conversant with Health & Safety and Environmental legislation and be able to implement all relevant legislation.
- The ability to plan construction projects and execute them in-house or via the supervision of external contractors.
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and course management policy document.
- Manage and maintain the course machinery and automated irrigation system.
- Prepare and implement training plans to meet the needs of the existing staff.
- A dedication to high standard of presentation.
- Use and manage Information Technology confidently, being familiar with Microsoft office and email.

Salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate who will be required to work flexibly, including weekends. Accommodation can be provided. All applications will be treated in confidence.

Please apply in writing with full c.v. and covering letter, stating present salary and salary expectations to Ian Attoe, General Manager, or by email:

secretary@wbgc.co.uk  
Tel: 01932 343433

West Byfleet Golf Club  
Sheerwater Road  
West Byfleet  
Surrey KT14 6AA

Closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday, 6th August 2010



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## in the shed answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Tom Kidd
2. Colin Montgomerie
3. Jack Nicklaus (1970 & '78) and Tiger Woods (2000 & 2005)
4. Doug Sanders
5. Tony Lema
6. Tommy Nakajima
7. David Duval
8. Eight
9. Kel Nagle in 1960

### CROSSWORD

A	R	S	O	N	I	S	T	M	A	D	C	A	P
C	W	A	I	J	F	R	U						
C	H	E	S	S	G	R	E	N	A	D	I	E	R
E	A	T	N	K	R	E	C						
P	U	R	G	A	T	O	R	Y	E	A	R	T	H
T	W	S	R	L	W	A							
B	O	Y	S	W	I	L	L	B	E	B	O	Y	S
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D	R	A	W	S	N	E	A	R	R	E	R	U	N
L	C	K	S	E	M	E	I						
Y	U	P	P	I	E	I	R	I	S	H	S	E	A

### MONSTER SUDOKO

	1	C	B	D		4		5	E	A		F	6
	F			2				9	0	1	4	7	3
E				F		6				4		D	
						B	5					9	
		5		C	B	2	D	1	F		0	8	E
	0	8	F	7	5					6	2	C	1
B	6				F	7	5						
		1	6	0	D							4	
E								F	2	9		8	
				8	9	4						0	F
6	F	1	3					A	0	B	9	D	
0	2	9	B	4	C	F	D	6			7		
		9					E	5					
	3	9					A		7				0
A	7	D	E	F	2			8			3		
8	4	C	D	7		9	2	E	A	5			

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

6	5	7	8	3	4	1	2	9
1	9	4	7	2	5	3	8	6
2	3	8	6	1	9	5	7	4
3	2	5	4	6	1	8	9	7
8	6	1	3	9	7	2	4	5
4	7	9	2	5	8	6	1	3
7	4	3	1	8	6	9	5	2
5	1	6	9	4	2	7	3	8
9	8	2	5	7	3	4	6	1





# On the Soapbox

A vehicle for letting people within the industry express their point of view

## What I would expect from my Course Manager, and what he should expect from me.

Sadly, there are still too many clubs who see the Course Manager as an underling, rather than a skilled manager.

The reason often derives from the dated, but not unusual view of the Course Manager as the humble keeper of the green, who does little more than cut grass and rake bunkers. It can equally, however, be the fault of a well-educated, competent Course Manager who has poor communication skills.

Whatever the reason it is a mistake not to use the expertise and knowledge of this specialist senior employee. At forward thinking clubs the Course Manager is invited to attend strategic meetings.

This has twofold benefits as it offers the Course Manager a wider insight into club issues, as well as giving decision makers the opportunity to understand a little of the intricacies of course management.

Furthermore, it aids rapport and builds confidence in the Course Manager, whom board members may not have the opportunity to meet on a regular basis. The club committee knows what to expect from its other officers, but the performance of the Course Manager is not always so clearly appreciated.

It may be worth listing the different skills required by today's Course Managers; Personnel Manager, Acquisitions Manager, Financial Manager, Administrator, Agronomist, Machinery Manager, Irrigation and Water Manager, Health and Safety Manager, Estate Manager, Communicator and Golfer.

Should the golf club expect all these skills from their Course Manager? Well, yes, because the job is to provide the members with a golf course that day-to-day, is challenging, optimises playing quality, is economically sound, and works responsibly in its natural environment.

Course Managers must also understand the wider picture: the business of golf, the club's long term objectives and programmes, they must also keep up with technology and legislation if they are going to contribute fully to the management team.

Sometimes the Course Manager may have to lead the club management in areas in which it has no knowledge or expertise. Water has become the big issue. Is it for instance responsible for the Course Manager to recommend installing fairway irrigation? In even the hottest summers it will probably be required for only two or

three months, if you're fairway grass needs water you probably have the wrong sort of grass. This can be corrected agronomically at minimal cost over a few years, rather than through irrigation, which could cost in the region of £300,000.

If irrigation is used irresponsibly it will alter the character of the course, and change the quality of the sward, encouraging the growth of disease prone and drought sensitive grasses.

Moreover, it is likely that water availability for golf courses will become either reduced or in some areas prohibited.

This happened in the Surrey area only a few years ago, where golf courses had a total irrigation ban for three months.

Fairways may lose colour, in extreme weather, but they won't die, and surely golf is more fun in these conditions?

This was epitomised by the excellence of Hoylake's sustainable golf course in the 2006 Open Championship. A tribute from Tiger Woods said it all, "With the golf course

This is detrimental to reaching even the most basic objectives. Compounding this is the puzzling notion that a committee, after employing the best qualified person to manage the clubs most important asset, then has the right to over-ride even the least important decisions.

This has to be the most contentious aspect of the job for any professional course manager.

So there we have both sides of the problem. Golf clubs with a lack of continuity through ever changing committee personnel and short term policies have a bleak future and their golf courses will suffer because of inconsistent management.

For a club like my home club temple with a course policy document in place, and continuity established the route to maximising the golf courses potential is clear. A holistic style of management has evolved which will give the golfer a multi-sensory experience, which can be appreciated for 365 days a year.

## What I would expect from my Course Manager, and what he should expect from me...

being this fast, it lent itself to just amazing creativity. This is the way it all started and how I think it should be played."

It may also be useful here to look at what the Course Manager can expect from the decision makers. First comes the golf course, is it maximising its full potential, can it be played to the philosophy of its architects design, does it work in harmony with its environment?

If any one of the answers is no, is it because the Course Managers advice is being ignored, or is it because these issues have not been brought to the attention of the committee?

If not, why not?

Is it because the Course Manager feels misunderstood, or perhaps undervalued, is his/her work hampered by internal politics, members personal agendas or egos?

All of these issues lead to a lack of direction and continuity, and obstruct the course manager in producing a well managed golf course. This scenario is frustrating, and more importantly unprofessional. The Course Manager often has to put up with persistent meddling in policy making from ever changing committees.



Malcolm Peake has been a long term Chairman of Green at Temple Golf Club and has also been described as a Course Consultant. He is the author of *Confessions of a Chairman of Green* and *A Natural Course for Golf* which are both available through the STRI.

Malcolm Peake

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International



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