

## 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.

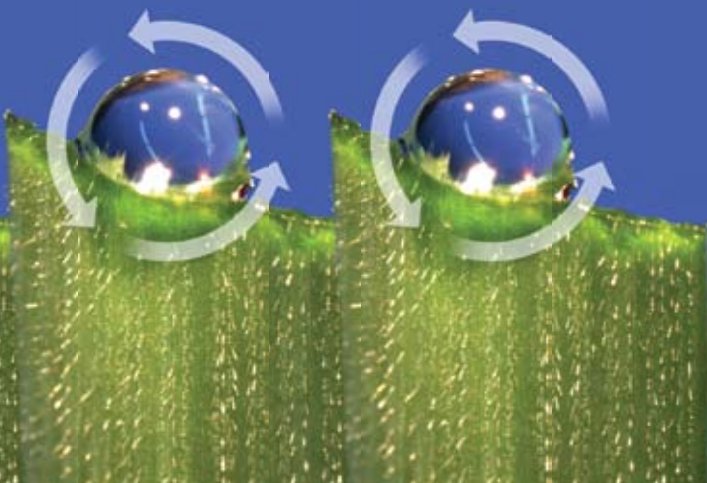
"To complicate matters, carbendazim is also being reclassified as a biocide, rather than a pesticide, so that eventually it will be subject to a different directive."

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)

# East Section Day Out

The East Section enjoyed its Spring outing at Kilspindie Golf Club in East Lothian and the prize winners are pictured here.



## “Listed Building” Status Campaign

Back in November, Greenkeeper International’s Editor made the case for the introduction of listed building style status for the country’s top historic golf courses. At the recent BMW PGA Championship Defending Champion, and World Number 8, Paul Casey, made the self same suggestion.

As reported in The Herald newspaper, Casey, who assured that he was no Luddite and welcomed progress in a sensitive way, stopped short of open criticism of a layout that hosted in its previous form the European Tour flagship event continuously since 1984 and the World Matchplay Championship from 1964 to 2007.

But he did say the changes had altered the character of the course so significantly that past records don’t mean anything any more and recounted a suggestion he made to Peter Dawson, chief executive of the R&A, when he encountered him in the clubhouse car park this week.

“The idea was that maybe we should introduce a scheme along the lines that we have with historic buildings. I mean, Ernie has that beautiful house on the 16th with the thatched roof. He owns it, but that doesn’t give him the right to paint it pink and put a tin roof on it,” he said.

The campaign is gaining momentum...

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**Editorial**  
 Communications Manager / Editor  
 Scott MacCallum  
 Tel: +44 (0)1447 833300 Fax: +44 (0)1447 833301  
 www.golfmagazine.co.uk

**Design and Production**  
 Tom Campbell  
 Tel: +44 (0)1447 833300 Fax: +44 (0)1447 833301  
 www.golfmagazine.co.uk

**Advertising**  
 Sales Executive  
 Kristine Smith  
 Tel: +44 (0)1447 833300 Fax: +44 (0)1447 833301  
 www.golfmagazine.co.uk

**Sales Executive**  
 Jill Bellamy  
 Tel: +44 (0)1447 833300 Fax: +44 (0)1447 833301  
 www.golfmagazine.co.uk

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### WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



### Listed building status needed?

**As you will see from elsewhere in this issue – and on the front cover – Wentworth is currently undergoing quite a metamorphosis.**

When Chris Kennedy kindly gave up some of his valuable time to show me around I was astounded by the extent of the changes. Some of the new work, particularly on the iconic 18th, is jaw dropping and the hole will quickly become one of the most talked about in all of golf.

The standard of the work is superb and a credit to Chris and all those involved. What they have produced is high quality, to extremely tight deadlines, all at a club where failure is not an option.

You must also take you hat off to Wentworth's owner, Richard Caring, whose uncompromising desire to create a true challenge for the modern day professional, not to mention pockets deep enough to make it happen, has to be admired.

But deep down I must admit to nagging doubts about whether a course, which could claim to be among the top four highest profile in golf, along with the Old Course, Augusta National and Pebble Beach, should be so radically altered.

If the West Course were a listed building, and not a 75 year-old Harry Colt-designed golf course, there is no way anyone could make the slightest tweaks to it, without building regulations vetoing even the most sensible of ideas. Let's face it, getting council approval for an extension to a three bed semi isn't straightforward.

But when it comes to a golf course – which in the case of Wentworth could be financially classed as a national treasure – complete transformations can be carried out with impunity.

The counter argument is, of course, that a golf course should keep up to date with the people who play the game and with developments in balls and equipment. There can't be a golf course with any history at all which hasn't been extended to some degree or another, or had bunkers moved or added, all to counter the massive distances that the likes of Abreu Queros or JB Holmes belt the ball.

Also modern day construction is generally required to extend the life of older courses – replacing old water retaining, punch up greens, which can't cope with the demands of year round play, with USGA style greens – so why not make design improvements at the same time?

But what if the work isn't done to a high standard, or a course is treated as a mere plaything of a non-golfing billionaire owner. Now this is exaggeration to make a point so don't shout at me, but what if someone decided the Road Hole on the aforementioned Old Course could be "listed" up, and the actual road hoded to incorporate a golf-themed log flume ride – at one stroke a water hazard to rival the Swilken Burn and a money making opportunity. Brilliant Or the Postage Stamp, or Royal Troon, requiring a precise shot through a windmill – better still, a giant letter box Who would be able to stop it?

Is it perhaps time that we had a Listed Building style status for our historic golf courses? It might also help to force the R&A's hand when it comes to restricting the distance that the ball flies.

Scott MacCallum  
 Editor