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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 JUNE 2010

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Golf
Course
Feature

Celtic Manor, home to the
2010 Ryder Cup, is this
month's Course Feature



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What a few months in store

The sporting season is now very much in full swing and hopefully, we are enjoying the long-promised weather to showcase the wonderful work of the country's sports turf professionals.

As I write, people will be taking in their first look at the new Wentworth, on the eve of the BMW PGA Championship, and Chris Kennedy and his team will hopefully be enjoying the plaudits for a supreme task, successfully completed.

Two weeks later one of Chris' protégés, Jim McKenzie, will welcome the Tour stars to Celtic Manor for the Wales Open which will give spectators, who haven't been fortunate enough to get a ticket for the Ryder Cup, the opportunity to walk the 2010 course.

Jim doesn't make things easy for himself because not only is he coping with a Wales Open and a Ryder Cup in the space of 16 weeks he is also getting married this month - right in the middle of it all. Good luck to you, Jim, and the future Mrs McKenzie. I'm sure the honeymoon will have been put on hold for a few months!

Elsewhere there is sport going on everywhere with Wimbledon, Test cricket, the World Cup, in South Africa, not to mention the European Athletic Championships, in Barcelona, and the Commonwealth Games, in Delhi.

As an avid sports fan I'm not sure if my lady wife will be too happy that some of my regular chores may be neglected because I'm glued to the much anticipated New Zealand - Slovakia clash, later this month.

It just shows how much sport can impact on society and, while it often comes with negative headlines attached, in the main there is little that can galvanise a country more than sport.

This month you can be sure there will be more English flags, hanging out of windows or attached to cars, than were seen when St George arrived home to a hero's welcome having slain his dragon.

On the subject of negative headlines, the Wembley pitch has been right up there with Lord Triesman recently. I certainly don't profess to be an expert, but I would suggest that the reason the Emirates Stadium, not too far from Wembley, doesn't suffer in the same way is because it was built with some consideration to the fact that it would be home to an area of turf; that it is used as a venue much more sparingly than Wembley and that its role as a football pitch is placed about all other commitments.

The fact that Wembley is used by so many different sports and events to satisfy commercial partners, and generate the revenue required to repay the £750 million bill it came with, may or may not be the only problem, but it certainly doesn't help.

There are many wise people working on resolving the problem and I'm sure that ultimately they will come up with a solution, even if it does mean sacrifices and compromises.

But in the meantime sit back and enjoy the feast of sport we have to look forward to over the next few months. There will be excitement, thrills, spills anticipation and the odd disappointment... and no doubt, at some stage, a penalty shootout!

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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James de Havilland looks under the bonnet of a compact tractor



COURSE FEATURE

A dream fulfilled

Jim McKenzie bought into the dream of a Welsh businessman in 1993. In October that dream becomes a reality. Scott MacCallum visited Celtic Manor to hear the story

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Back in 1993, a wealthy businessman talked passionately to a talented young greenkeeper about his vision of building a golf course. It was a tough pitch, not because the idea of building a course over the land surrounding the house where the meeting was taking place, was so outrageous, but because of the sheer scale of what he was describing.

The land, in a South Wales valley on the outskirts of Newport, was beautiful, but it had never returned to an equivalent cry of "Yes!" and had it been the swindling sound of a ball dropping four inches into a cup, but this man was talking about building European Tour venues over it. He was even talking about hosting Ryder Cup!

Some 17 years on I sat in a luxury clubhouse overlooking the magnificent golf course that in 141 days time would host the Ryder Cup, listening to that same young greenkeeper recount how he fell when he listened to Sir Terry Matthews, the owner of Celtic Manor Resort, explain his dreams for the future.

When he started to talk about golf tournaments and Ryder Cups and I thought he was absolutely nuts," said Jim McKenzie, who was in the process of considering leaving The Westworth Club, where he worked under Chris Kennedy, and heading west.

"Within an hour, though, if he'd asked me to punch my way through the wall I'd have asked him which hand he wanted me to use. He was that much of an inspirational character".

It would be fair to suggest that even Terry Matthews, and his immovable world class events and, at the beginning of October this year, the pinnacle of it all – that Ryder Cup.

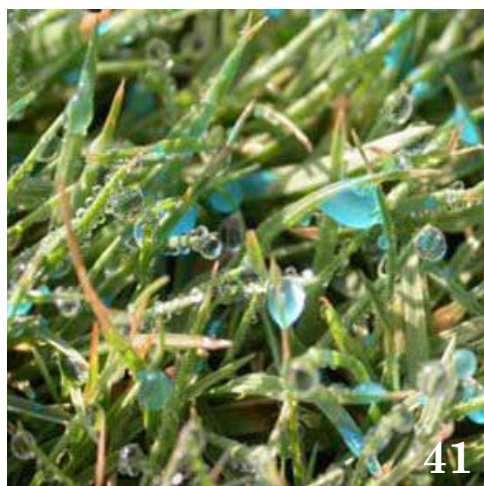
The Ryder Cup is the third largest sporting event in the world in terms of television viewers after the Olympics and the World Cup," said Jim, who is now the third longest serving employee of Celtic Manor.

As Wales will never host an Olympics or a World Cup this is as big as it gets."

All the work that has been carried out at Celtic Manor has been done with a view to hosting the Cup. The first golf course built was the Roman Road which was followed

PHOTO: 1000 Hours/Photo Bank at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, South Wales

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

John Deere Chalks Up Five Million Lawn Tractors



John Deere's five millionth lawn tractor, from the X700 Ultimate range, recently rolled off the assembly line at the Horicon, Wisconsin factory in the United States.

Production of the company's first lawn and garden tractor began at Horicon in 1963, when John Deere built 1000 units of the 110 model.

An original 110 can be seen at the Smithsonian Institution's National

Museum of American History in Washington, DC; a fully restored, working example of this pioneering lawn tractor is also on display in the foyer of John Deere's UK headquarters at Langar.

"Reaching five million lawn tractors is a major milestone for us," said Horicon factory Manager, Dan Hoffman.


"Over the last 47 years we have established a reputation for making

durable and reliable products that are now used throughout the world."

The millionth John Deere lawn tractor, a 318 model, was produced at Horicon in 1984. The second million was reached by an LX188 in 1992.

The factory achieved the 3 million mark in 1998 with the LT133 lawn tractor, and the 4 millionth machine was produced in March 2003.

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NO VACANCIES AT THE JCB ACADEMY

THE JCB Academy has opened a waiting list for places at the unique £22 million regional centre of learning after becoming fully subscribed months ahead of its September opening.

A total of 170 young people have enrolled for Year 10 and the Sixth Form places at The Academy which will help nurture the UK engineers and business leaders of the future.

The enthusiastic response of parents and students to the only learning establishment of its kind in the UK means applicants now going on a waiting list in case some of the allocated places are not taken up at the start of the inaugural term.

JCB Academy Principal, Jim Wade, said, "We are delighted that The Academy is fully subscribed and that it has proven to be so popular that there is now a waiting list for places. I am sure this kind of interest will continue in the future."

The Academy, based in the renovated historic Grade II listed Tutbury Mill, close to JCB's World Headquarters at Rocester, will welcome 120 Year 10 students (14-year-olds) who over two years will study for the new Diplomas in Engineering and Business as well as GCSEs in the core subjects of Maths, English, Sciences, a modern foreign language and ICT.

In addition 50 Year 12 Sixth Form students have been awarded places to study for Advanced Engineering and Advanced Business Diplomas. Eventually, the world-class learning facility which is the only education provider of its kind in the UK, will cater for a maximum of 540 young people.

Like other state schools, the JCB Academy is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, but as main sponsor JCB contributed 10% of the capital and donated Tutbury Mill.

Sponsors Wanted for 200 Mile Bike Ride from Hartley Whitley to Paris

Agronomist Bruce Jamieson's relentless pursuit towards physical perfection, which started with a diet of protein filled shakes and not much else in the early part of last year, has continued into 2010 with another project, one which only those mad, very fit, or both would consider undertaking.

Together with his 16 year old daughter, Alice, Bruce is taking part in a charity 200 mile sponsored bike ride from Hartley Wintney to Paris in September.

The Charity is raising money for an extension to the local St John's Church and the overall target is approximately £2,000,000.

"We would really appreciate you sponsoring us. Please think kindly of me as I have started training and the bike saddle is far too small," said Bruce

Anyone wishing to sponsor Bruce and Alice should visit www.justgiving.com/Bruce-and-Alice-Jamieson



Erewash Retiree

Graham Arnold, Course Manager at Erewash Valley, was the surprise recipient of a glass tankard at the end of the recent East Midland Section day. Graham who has been at Erewash for over 40 years retires next year and the Section felt that their visit was the ideal occasion to pay tribute to him.

As far as Graham was concerned BIGGA Past Chairman, Richard Barker, was going to give a short talk on BIGGA and the Section but very quickly it became apparent that Graham was the one and only subject of the tribute.

Richard highlighted some of the work that had been carried out on the golf course over the last four decades.



When the Circus Comes to Town...

The South Wales Spring Seminar entitled 'When the Circus Comes to Town' took place at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club in April with 45 delegates in attendance.

The day started with Huw Morgan MG giving a presentation on the restoration of the links at Ashburham GC for the return of championship golf, highlighting the importance of good communication and the use of a Course Policy Document.

This was followed by Gordon Moir, of the St. Andrews Links Trust, who gave a fascinating insight into the preparations for The Open at the Home of Golf. Richard Windows, of the STRI, then took the stage by storm and entertained us all by explaining the STRI's new programme for measuring performance which

again was truly fascinating. After an excellent lunch we were treated to a presentation by John Reynolds and a demonstration by Dan Price, of the Vertigo Drainage System.

The afternoon session was then taken by Ian Kinley, Course Manager of Royal Porthcawl, who discussed his maintenance regime for the Royal during 2009 and in particular his success with overseeding and establishing fescue into the greens. Last, but not least, Jim McKenzie from the Celtic Manor Resort gave us a great insight into the running of this incredible resort which covered not only the preparations for the 2010 Ryder Cup but also a wide range of other events including tennis tournaments, political events and various other sporting events.

The day was closed by Jonathan

Harmer, MD of the event sponsor, Farmura Environmental, who chaired a Q&A session.

Thanks go to all the speakers for their participation on the day, particularly to Gordon and Richard who had to drive down from Scotland as their flights were cancelled, and to Jim for giving up his time during this very busy year. Well done to Tracey on HQ for a great round of golf on the Wednesday and to Sami for staying awake during the seminar, it was a great have you both with us and thank you to the staff and members at Royal Porthcawl GC for allowing us to use their fantastic venue. Finally to the guys at Farmura for their continued support of the South Wales Section.

Steve Chappell



PGA Praise

Former European Tour chief Ken Schofield has hailed the standard of PGA coaching as pivotal to the success being enjoyed by many UK-based players on the world stage.

Ken delivered a glowing endorsement of the PGA's coaching programmes in the week that Northern Ireland's protégé Rory McIlroy following a brilliant victory at Quail Hollow.

McIlroy, who is coached by Bangor Golf Club PGA professional Michael Bannon in County Down, is among a clutch of top players whose games have been honed and developed with the aid of expert advice from PGA coaches.

Other well-known players include Lee Westwood who has enjoyed a long association with PGA Master Professional Pete Cowen while Open championship silver medal winner Chris Wood works with Bristol & Clifton PGA pro Paul Mitchell.

Ken paid tribute to the skills of PGA professionals during a panel discussion at the London Golf & Tennis Show which also saw a team of PGA pros deliver nearly 300 free lessons over the three days.



JOHN QUINTON JOINS RJ

John Quinton has been appointed Regional Sales Manager at Ransomes Jacobsen.

Reporting to UK and Ireland Sales Manager, Rupert Price, he will be responsible for business development, equipment sales and dealer support across his territory which includes the southwest and northwest of England and all of Wales.

For the past four years he held the position of Territory Manager West with Hayter. Prior to this he spent a year as Sales Manager

with RS Bird and three years as Machinery Manager with Glendale.

He lives in Monmouth with his wife, Victoria, and two daughters, Sophie and Emma.

"We are obviously delighted that John has joined us at this exciting time for the company.

"He joins an expanding sales operation in the UK and his experience of the turf industry will certainly add strength to our territory management team," said Rupert.

Benidorm or Bust

Jim Cook attended an eventful Club Managers' Conference in Spain

The International Congress on Club Management was this year held near Benidorm, Spain, organised by Club Manager Spain and the Club Manager's Association of Europe.

The eruption of the Icelandic volcano and subsequent airspace closures meant that alongside thousands of other stranded travellers around the world, delegates attempted to blunder home via any means possible.

On the first day of the conference, we media representatives played Bonalba golf course courtesy of our hosts, the Tourist Board of Costa Blanca. As well as enjoying a round on the well-maintained course, we also were given the chance to try out the club's new GPS systems, installed in carts.

Next day, at the conference, the CMAE Chief Executive Officer, Jerry Kilby, spoke about communication between staff.

"We must remember to have regular interactions with all members of staff. We are often guilty of forgetting the guys who rake the bunkers. They are as important as anyone as representatives of the club."

He also stated that social interaction was the key factor to a person joining a new golf club.

Gregg Patterson, General Manager of The Beach Club, in California gave two energetic performances which commanded attention. Of all the seminars in the congress, Gregg's, although delivered superbly, demonstrated most of all the cultural differences which exist between Europe and the USA.

"Building up team spirit and education comes from shared anecdote. It is the stories told afterwards that are the key thing to people learning off each other. Council staff individually. Some people may serve the food in the restaurant but not smile while

they are doing it. At the Beach Club we have a raffle, where all the staff remember all the other staff member's names for cash prizes. We have dishwashers who walk away with \$400."

Gregg made a final point.

"Use your club for more than just golf because people say they don't want to be in a club that is boring. Find out what your people want and give it to them. Members have to have a great experience. If the only thing your club has to offer is golf then you will be in trouble."

Jim Callaghan, Club Manager at Bothwell Castle GC, and CMAE Scottish Region President, spoke about the problems of golf courses run by committees.

"There are clubs going out of business because they are not run in a professional manner. If a committee makes a mistake there is no accountability, but if a manager makes a mistake; he's out."

Mike Lehmuis, Chief Operating Officer at the Congressional Country Club, in America, started a lively debate.

"I don't play golf at my club unless I absolutely have to. The last thing a player wants to see is me standing on the driving range or teeing off with my friends on an afternoon. My advice is to go and play at another club."

At which point, a Spanish Club Manager in the audience stood up.

"Here we see the social differences from the US to Spain. Many members have wanted to play with the General Manager here, so they see it as a privilege not something to be avoided. I think it is only good for staff to play on the course."

The final session looked at environmentalism on the golf course. Benjamin Warren, of the GEO, had been grounded because of the volcanic ash cloud



but sent a statement stating that only simple fine-tuning of golf clubs would be needed to turn them into environmental community assets.

Rounds of golf at La Finca and Villaitana showed the quality of presentation on these two courses.

After the conference, news of more and more flights being cancelled meant we all had to think seriously of finding another means home. News reports full of doom and gloom seemed happy to mention that the last time this volcano erupted in 1821, it lasted two years.

The general feeling of anxiety at the resort was offset by the inventive spirit people were using to find ways home over land. Some rented cars to drive to France, while others arranged a bus to take them 1,300 miles to Malmo, Sweden.

Some planned to stick it out at the resort and others virtually set up camp at Alicante airport. Unsurprisingly no-one took Gordon Brown's warship very seriously.

The prize for the most original plan must go to Simon van Boxtel of the EMS. With the necessary contacts, he managed to buy a 1995 Mitsubishi Lancer estate, with Dutch number plates, in Benidorm, and made plans to drive the 1,000 miles back to Holland.

Alongside, Lodewijk Klootwijk, Chief Executive of the European Golf Club Owners Association, Keith Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Golf Club Managers Association and Ben Evans, Editor of Golf Business Development, I jumped at this chance to make

progress towards Britain.

Taking regular breaks to stretch our legs, switch drivers, drink coffee and fill the petrol tank we made relentless progress through the rugged Spanish countryside, with its Wild West style villages dotted amidst fields of oranges and olives.

The Mediterranean Sea was always in view to our right, until darkness fell and we branched off, after Barcelona, toward the Pyrenees.

At the French border a lengthy queue of HGVs reminded us that freight carrying aircraft were grounded.

With directions printed out from Google maps, and Simon's knowledge of the route, we flew past Lyon, Dijon and Metz and entered Luxembourg at the break of day.

After an inevitable lull in spirits, these were soon raised by not only the sun but the realisation that we had nearly made it to our drop-off point in Belgium - Antwerp.

A steadily rising engine temperature caused some concerns, but after twenty hours on the road, the old Mitsubishi brought us in.

The two Dutchmen carried on to Holland as we made the relatively short train journey to Zeebrugge, where we became three of the scores of stranded travellers picking their way through midday traffic to a port designed for cars not pedestrians.

And so, by the next morning we were back on English soil feeling dazed but not unsure of what had stolen the show at this Club Managers' conference.

CONNECT at Conwy



The inaugural CONNECT (Conwy (North Wales) exhibition for clubs and trade) took place at Conwy Morfa Golf Club in April.

The two day event showcased machinery and products of many national and international brands such as Textron, John Deere, Toro and Wiedemann, these products were shown by local distributors, who have a greater insight into local needs and preferences.

The practice area was given over to hands-on demonstrations. Traders offering other services were also present at the show, with amenity companies such as Sheriff, Crocodile and many others offering a full range of their wares

St Andrews to Honour Golfing Greats

Three of the world's greatest golfers are to be honoured by Scotland's oldest university on the eve of The Open Championship at St Andrews.

Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Pdraig Harrington will be awarded Honorary Degrees by the University of St Andrews.

The University will award each of them the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* in recognition of their achievements and outstanding contributions to the game of golf.

The degrees will be conferred by University Chancellor Sir Menzies Campbell.

University Principal Dr Louise Richardson said, "Individually and collectively, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Pdraig Harrington exemplify excellence, drive and achievement at the highest levels of professional sport.

"This will be an opportunity for St Andrews and Scotland to honour their determination and achievement in the game of golf and the pursuit of excellence.

"We are absolutely delighted that they have agreed to accept these Honorary Degrees at the home of golf on the eve of the 150th anniversary of the Open Championship."

Previous recipients of Honorary Degrees from St Andrews include Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros, Gary Player, Colin Montgomerie, Nick Faldo, Peter Thomson and Peter Alliss.

All have been invited to this year's ceremony to witness their fellow professionals receive their degrees.

Among its Honorary Graduates are Bob Dylan, Benjamin Franklin, Michael Douglas and the Dalai Lama.



SUCCESSFUL UK TRIALS OF OXYGEN GENERATOR HELP GREENS THROUGH HARSH WINTER



Darren Woodward on one of the greens at Tylney Park Golf Course.

Trials of a new oxygen generator have helped bring a prestigious, Hampshire golf course through one of the hardest winters in recent memory.

Tylney Park Golf Club, 200 acres of privately owned estate at Hook near Basingstoke suffered 20 inches of snow from the end of December to the end of January followed by nearly nine inches of rain to the end of March.

“For Hampshire this was unusual to say the least,” says Course Manager Darren Woodward, who has been at the club since 2006.

“The greens have stood up very well. They’ve got a nice, dry firm surface and considering the weather we’ve had they’re not holding much water in the top ¾ to 1 inch.”

Keen to get more oxygen into his Fescue dominated USGA greens; Darren was one of the first UK turf managers to use Oxy-Rush, the new soil stimulant that increases O₂ levels accelerating the activity of beneficial microbes. He applied the product to all 18 greens at the end of April last year, following hollow coring, over seeding and

top dressing. Proof that Oxy-Rush was working came within a week of application.

“We have a monthly fertiliser programme during the growing season,” he continued. “We’d applied fertiliser in March and the greens were due another application that week, but having used Oxy-Rush we found that they didn’t need feeding for another two weeks.”

Darren repeated his application of Oxy-Rush in August, again following hollow coring and kept up his aeration regime – monthly solid tining with 6mm tines during the summer and 9mm tines during the winter – using Pervade penetrant five times over winter to keep excess water off his greens. David Snowden, MD of Agronomic Services, who visited Tylney Park in the middle of March, says that he personally hasn’t come across firmer, better looking greens this year.

“I took out my knife and cut a sample slice out of one of them and the soil smelt sweet. I could also see good, strong rooting. A true credit to Darren and his teams’ hard work.”



Grants Awarded to Young Athletes

Ransomes Jacobsen continues to sponsor the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation with two young Suffolk athletes, Joe Bloomfield and Keiran Clements, receiving grants to help fund their training as they progress their careers at national level.

Joe Bloomfield, a hammer thrower from Ipswich, was presented with his grant by David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

“It’s a pleasure to present Joe with his grant,” he said. “Ransomes Jacobsen are pleased to be a business supporter of the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation and in doing so play our part in helping talented young people from the county, like Joe and Keiran, to realise their sporting ambitions.”

Everyone here at the company looks forward to following their progress as they compete at national level and eventually on the international stage.”

Joe Bloomfield, 19, who is aiming to participate in the 2011 European Under 23 Championships and 2014 Commonwealth Games is ranked 2nd in Great Britain, and holds the number one spot in Scotland in the Hammer at under-20 level.

Keiran Clements, 16, is ranked first on the ‘Power of 10’ rankings in his age group for the mile.



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Chairman's Word

Chairman Paul Worster addresses an open letter of thanks to all the clubs and individuals that support BIGGA.

To: Golf Club Owners and Operators, Secretary/Managers,
Cc - Course Managers and Greenkeepers.
From: Paul Worster, BIGGA Chairman
Subject: My personal thanks

**Dear Colleagues,
I am writing to express my personal thanks to you for supporting the Association and to let you know how BIGGA can help your club. I would like a few moments to outline how we can help your greenkeepers to be the very best.**

If you pay for your greenkeepers to be members of this Association you are providing for them:

- Access to the best professional skills training and development available in Europe
- Personal Accident Cover
- Access to professionally developed, custom designed 'best practice' tools and techniques
- A modern CPD Scheme designed to promote full engagement in the Association
- Legal, Stress, and Debt Counselling Helplines for them and their families to use

In short if you pay for your greenkeepers to be members of the Association you are providing for your club a Greens Team that has the potential to be the best informed and the best educated in Europe.

Having a well trained, motivated greenkeeping team will produce for you a high standard of course maintenance and will help your golf club to achieve a reputation for fine conditioning and excellent presentation. I believe that this will make your club a more attractive option not only for potential members but also those golfers looking to play different golf courses.

BIGGA is also keen to support every club in the UK regardless of location or status

The Association is not just for Course Managers. It places exactly the same importance on every greenkeeper. BIGGA is also keen to support every club in the UK regardless of location or status.

BIGGA cannot help you to control the weather, but it can help you to react and respond to rapidly chang-

ing conditions and circumstances.

For the future, BIGGA is taking strides towards becoming the very best membership Association it can, so that your greenkeepers can also become the very best.

BIGGA's Mission Statement compels it to be at the forefront of efforts to advance the greenkeeping profession. It reads: 'BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members and in serving their needs will strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession.'

You should be able to check or validate the standards you expect of the people you employ

The Association is keen to help employers by enhancing its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme. BIGGA is keen to establish a CPD accreditation scheme that will enable you to recruit and select greenkeepers whose professional standards have been tested and recognised. Just as you personally can choose to hire a qualified and accredited gas fitter or electrician you should be able to check or validate the standards you expect of the people you employ.

Greenkeeping has always been a profession that has to be up to date, responsive and qualified. The ever changing and developing UK and European Legislation on things like pesticides; health and safety and the search for 'Best Practice' are just a few examples that clearly indicate the need for continuous professional improvement.

Lawyers, doctors and people in other professions have long been expected to have to undertake a certain number of days training and development each year to make sure their skills and knowledge stay up to date. Greenkeepers are no different.

You will be able to compare Greenkeepers' qualifications with confidence

BIGGA can and will use its leverage in the golf industry and in the 'game of golf' to help institute protocols and guidelines that will enable employers to recruit and select people with confidence at all levels in the profession from Assistant Greenkeeper to Course Manager.

In short you will be able to compare Greenkeepers qualifications with confidence because those qualifications and the status that they bring to each individual will be upgraded and updated every year.

The game of golf needs to utilise BIGGA's services like never before

In this way BIGGA will enhance its services to employers. In these recent difficult times – both economic and climatic – the game of golf has suffered badly and may continue to do so for the foreseeable future. More than ever the game needs to respond, and that response must be to provide better services to the golfing customer. To do this clubs need better and more highly skilled people. The success of the Course Manager and his team are integral to the success of the facility.

This Association wants every club in the UK to be ready to face the future with the best possible chance of expansion or consolidation, of improved courses and facilities, offered at the best possible price. BIGGA wants every club in the UK to be able to say to its immediate neighbouring population – "We belong here. We are a resource to this community. The community is welcome here. All ages, all fitness levels. Come in and be a part of it."

On behalf of the Association I again say 'Thank you'. If you want to know more about how BIGGA can help you and your club I say 'Come and join us'. Come along to a BIGGA Regional Open Day. One will be coming to a venue close by in the near future.

If you prefer to write you can contact me direct on talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk. I look forward to telling you how BIGGA can serve you better by advancing the greenkeeping profession.

***Yours faithfully,
Paul Worster.***



Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, Education Director, updates the position on formal qualifications

Regular readers will be well aware of the support the GTC has given to the Skills Agenda and the various government schemes to ensure employers and students are well catered for by various formal qualifications and courses delivered by GTC Approved Centres.

The work based and college delivered courses are still being supported by employers even during the ongoing recession with Apprenticeship registrations in our sector still on the increase.

The popularity of the on-line Foundation Degree with Course Managers and Deputies, with very busy work schedules, are still looking at their own Continual Professional Development (CPD) and this is to their credit.

Funding of courses is always a thorny subject and will in the coming months be a political football post election, especially for Higher Education fees.

The GTC's attendance and persistence at the various meetings to lobby for funding to be made available for apprentices of all ages and to be allocated to Units of qualifications is finally starting to filter through to Centres and this again will be an attractive option for employers and greenkeepers.

I know full formal qualifications are not for everybody but if employers and greenkeepers could choose, from what I call a menu of Units, from craft level to management and there are short bite-size courses available with funding support, then there will be no excuse to gather CDP. A win-win for employers, greenkeepers and the Centres plus the fact the government will see their targets of having more people on training programmes increase.

I have for many years complained that the government has been obsessed with students having to complete full qualifications and the colleges and private providers being

inspected and only funded on full qualification achievers...this has to change!

At recent Lantra SSC meetings in England and Scotland various schemes to fund initiatives which are employer led have been discussed and are top of the agenda with the government representatives and we in the land based sector particularly our Centres must be prepared to react by having short courses ready to go and this is not difficult.

Colleges and private providers have to be prepared to use Units as short courses.

From September of this year the revised NVQ's will become the Work Based Diploma in Greenkeeping and the Diploma in Golf Course Supervision.

SVQ's Levels 2 and 3 Greenkeeping will remain in Scotland and the GTC has been working with City & Guilds - NPTC and SQA, the leading Awarding Bodies for our sector, to have the GTC logo included on certificates from September.

I am pleased to confirm that an agreement has been reached with NPTC and negotiations are advanced with SQA to have the Quality Assured logo on the Work Based Diplomas and SVQ's.

This really is recognition for the GTC and its representative bodies BIGGA, the English, Scottish and Welsh Home Unions, who under the umbrella of the GTC, show how the employer representative bodies and professional body can work together to ensure the standards be can developed and reviewed to suit everybody's requirements.

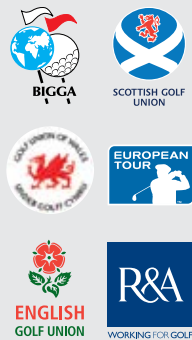
With the GTC's Quality Assured logo on the Work based qualifications we are now looking at working closer with the Awarding Bodies to ensure the qualifications are delivered by Centres to the required standards.

The GTC Quality Assured logo will become the Kite Mark of quality as we invite colleges

In Brief

This month David explains how, after many years of ensuring greenkeeping has its own set of national occupational standards, finally the industry kite mark will be included on certificates.

The GTC is funded by:



and private providers to register as Approved GTC Centres and Training Providers.

Not only Centres which offer the formal qualifications but training provider companies and individuals who offer training courses to the sector.

If Centres meet the GTC's criteria, one major benefit to them will be to use the GTC's QA logo (including supporters logo) on all of their course literature and website.

So from September we will be promoting the Quality Assured Scheme and we hope that employers and greenkeepers will welcome this initiative by the GTC to maintain quality provision.

The criteria and list of GTC Approved Centres and Training Providers will be available from the GTC and will be maintained on the website:

www.the-gtc.co.uk



Contact Details

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GTC Education Director
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david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, gives an overview of the work currently being undertaken in the L&D department



June... already! How on earth did that happen? All we need now is some warm, sunny weather and then I'll truly believe that Summer is on its way.

Continuing Professional Development

CPD

For those of you active on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme, it's that time of year that the reminder letters will land on your doormat reminding you that the CPD year is coming to a close on June 30.

With this in mind, you need to forward any outstanding CPD credit claim forms to Rachael, so that she can update your record and your CPD Certificate for 2009/2010 can be produced.

For those of you heading towards your fifth consecutive Certificate, it also means you'll be getting notification of receiving your Diploma for Continuing Professional Development.

If you have any queries regarding CPD, please contact Rachael on 01347 833800 (Option 3) or by email to rachael@bigga.co.uk.

Job Specifications

David Golding, of the GTC, and I have spent some time updating the Job Specifications for Golf Course Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager to ensure that they reflect the require-

ments of the National Occupational Standards.

The updated Specifications are now available in the Careers' section on the new BIGGA website - under Job Descriptions - and also from the online BIGGA Training and Development Manual (accessed through the Members' area of the website). A document listing all three Specifications is available within the 'Sub Text' area of Hole 1 - Trainee/Apprentice.

A Quick Guide to accessing documents from the Training and Development Manual is available on the website by going to the Education area, clicking on Resources and then on the BIGGA Training and Development Manual. The downloadable document is at the bottom of the page.

BIGGA Training and Development Manual



Supported by John Deere

Another of the projects that the L&D Department is working on is updating the information available in the Training and Development Manual. Watch this space for further updates.

Master Greenkeeper



Congratulations go to Greg Evans, Course Manager from



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.

Ealing Golf Club, who has achieved the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Greg completed his Golf Course Inspection last year and passed the final Examinations in April. Greg becomes the 52nd BIGGA Member to achieve Master Greenkeeper status.

If you would like further information on the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, please do not hesitate to contact the L&D Department.

Certified Club Manager



Congratulations go the Andy Campbell MG, CGCS who has completed the Certified Club Manager (CCM) qualification through the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE). Andy can now add the initials CCM to his name. You're going to need a bigger business card Andy!

For further information on Certified Club Manager visit the Club Managers Association of Europe page in the Qualifications area of the Education section of the website.

Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:
James Stevens - Foundation Degree in Sportsturf (Online)



Contact Details

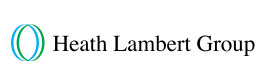
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Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG; **Silver Key Individual Members:** Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid



NEW SISIS AERATORS

SISIS Equipment has introduced two new aerators to its range of tractor mounted machinery.

The SISIS MULTISLIT 1500 has a working width of 1.5mtrs and is supplied fitted with sharpened tines with alternative slitting tines available to suit different ground conditions. The angle of the tines and spiral design of tine shaft assist penetration giving maximum underground cultivation with minimum surface disturbance.

The SISIS MULTYTINER 180 has a working width of 176cm and a maximum working depth of 100mm. There is a choice of interchangeable tines. The roller can be used for extra weight in hard conditions or raised when hollow tining. Both aerators use standard category 1, 3-point linkage for use on most compact tractors.

New Dealer

John Osman Groundcare, has been appointed by Wiedenmann UK as dealer for Mid and NW Wales

“We are really happy to be working closely with Wiedenmann UK. From Terra Spikes to turf conditioning and mowers they are recognised for leading edge design and quality which fits with what we do. The Wiedenmann range will be received well here because our customers want reliable, efficient machines,” said John Osman, Managing Director of the family-owned company.

Football Pitch Renovations End The European Demo Tour

Campey Turf Care Systems has concluded its seven week European Demo Tour, completing their final two full pitch renovations at football clubs in The Netherlands and Belgium.

The team began work at Kozzaken Boys' ground in Werkendam on April 26, stripping the surface with the Koro by Imants Topmaker. This revealed returned goalmouths suffering from extensive matting and compaction, a problem remedied by the use of the Koro by Imants Cultiroll.

Fifty guests, including groundsmen from a number of top Dutch clubs were welcomed to the venue the following day by staff from Campeys and their Dutch distributor, The Verschoor Group. Guests were invited to test the compaction in the soil

profile prior to the renovation with the Imants Penetrometer compaction meter, which revealed that it was almost impenetrable past the initial two inches.

The team headed south on Wednesday, crossing the border into Belgium to their final destination – the home ground of Belgian First Division side KVC Westerlo.

The team's training pitch, adjacent to the main stadium, was approximately 90% poa annua and severely compacted. Prior to the renovation, it proved impossible to push the Penetrometer even a short distance into the surface in some areas, even under the pressure of the operator's full body weight.

One the team's arrival back at Head Office in Macclesfield on Friday, Managing Director,

Richard Campey, made the following observations about the venues they'd visited,

“The six pitches we renovated consisted of approximately 95% poa annua brought about by the excessive use of irrigation and fertiliser and lack of regular mechanical maintenance, something we simply don't see at professional level in the UK,” said Richard.

“The tour was a significant investment for us in time, materials and manpower but we feel it's important that others have the opportunity to learn about the exceptionally high standard of renovation work carried out in the UK. Visitors to all the events were as eager to learn about the process as we were to share our knowledge.”



New Agreement Set to Increase Brand Awareness

Club Car has signed a marketing agreement with Gary Player and Black Knight International to promote the companies' respective brands throughout the world.

Under terms of the agreement, Black Knight International, will work with Club Car to introduce the company's vehicles, equipment and services at courses and real

estate developments where Black Knight is affiliated. Club Car also will develop strategies to promote the company and its golf car and utility vehicle lines through an association with the Gary Player brand.

"As Club Car strengthens its presence in international markets, our association with Black Knight International is a great

fit," said Robert McElreath, Club Car's Vice President of Global Marketing.

"We are excited to be working with Club Car especially as it moves to increase its international presence. It is quite simply a fantastic company with a team who are committed to excellence," said Marc Player, CEO of Black Knight International.

SPEEDCUT STAY ON THE PACE WITH DEEP-PROBE AERATOR



Barry Pace of Speedcut Contractors in action with the Gwazae on one of the greens

Speedcut Contractors has completed the aeration of West Chilmington Golf Club's 27 holes with its Gwazae deep-probe aerator.

The machine provides deep soil and subsoil decompaction through the injection of compressed air.

"The results have been fantastic, both on the main course and the nine-hole course. We tried Gwazae treatment on one hole back in 2006 and I was doubtful of the results at first – but that hole, which had been unplayable for half of the winter months previously, was only closed for a short time the following winter," said Course Manager, Adam Hartley.

"It has been consistently good ever since, so we took the decision to do every hole after the terrible winter we have had, not able to get on the course for several months with snow and ice."

Barry Pace, Speedcut Contracts Manager, said, "We were pleased at the results at West Chilmington and it was a delight working the Adam and his team.

"The Gwazae is proving more and more popular on golf courses, particularly those with compaction problems, as clubs start to recognise the process and its benefits."

Speedcut Contractor's tractor-trailed Gwazae, manufactured in New Zealand, decompacts soil to a depth of up to 700mm using a probe and compressed air with the added ability to inject amendments into the soil profile if required.



A dream fulfilled

Jim McKenzie bought into the dream of a Welsh businessman in 1993. In October that dream becomes a reality. Scott MacCallum visited Celtic Manor to hear the story

Back in 1993, a wealthy businessman talked passionately to a talented young greenkeeper about his vision of building a golf course. It was a tough pitch, not because the idea of building a course over the land surrounding the house where the meeting was taking place was so outrageous, but because of the sheer scale of what he was describing.

The land, in a South Wales valley on the outskirts of Newport, was beautiful, but it had never echoed to an anguished cry of “Fore!”, nor had it heard the satisfying sound of a ball dropping four inches into a cup, but this man was talking about holding European Tour events over it. He was even talking about hosting a Ryder Cup!

Some 17 years on I sat in a luxury clubhouse overlooking the magnificent golf course that in 141

days time would host the Ryder Cup, listening to that same young greenkeeper recount how he felt when he listened to Sir Terry Matthews, the owner of Celtic Manor Resort, explain his dreams for the future.

“When he started to talk about golf tournaments and Ryder Cups, I thought he was absolutely nuts,” said Jim McKenzie, who was in the process of considering leaving The Wentworth Club, where he



worked under Chris Kennedy, and heading west.

“Within an hour though, if he’d asked me to punch my way through the wall I’d have asked him which hand he wanted me to use. He was that much of an inspirational character.”

It would be fair to suggest that even Terry Matthews, and his reach for the stars philosophy, would never have envisaged what ultimately has been achieved in

the time since he sat with Jim in that house – where he’d been born incidentally - looking out at the beautiful Usk Valley.

Five golf courses, 10 Wales Opens, a superb five star hotel, two incredible clubhouses, a Golf Academy, a home for the Welsh Golf Union, innumerable world class events and, at the beginning of October this year, the pinnacle of it all – that Ryder Cup.

“The Ryder Cup is the third larg-

est sporting event in the world in terms of television viewers after the Olympics and the World Cup,” said Jim, who is now the third longest serving employee of Celtic Manor.

“As Wales will never host an Olympics or a World Cup this is as big as it gets.”

All the work that has been carried out at Celtic Manor has been done with a view to hosting the Cup. The first golf course built was the Roman Road which was followed

ABOVE: 18th on the Roman Road

Photographs in this article courtesy of The Celtic Manor resort, Newport, South Wales



2010 Ryder Cup
Captain, Colin
Montgomerie, with
Jim McKenzie

“Within an hour though, if he’d asked me to punch my way through the wall I’d have asked him which hand he wanted me to use. He was that much of an inspirational character.”

Jim McKenzie

by Wentwood Hills, over which the first five Wales Opens were played and which was originally intended to be the Ryder Cup course.

“Halfway through the bidding process it became clear that something would have to be done to alleviate the 104 metre drop that course was famous for. More land was acquired and plans for what is now the 2010 course were drawn up.”

Not content with ensuring that the 24 players would have a course worthy of the most famous team event in sport, another course, this one designed by the 2010 Ryder



Cup Captain, Colin Montgomerie, and carrying his name, was also built.

“At one stage we had between 200 and 300 contractors on site at the same time building the Montgomerie Course and remodelling bits of the Wentwood Hills course.”

It’s a quirky factoid that over a four year period – ‘04 to ‘08 - the Wales Open, which is owned and promoted by Celtic Manor was played over three different golf courses – Wentwood Hills, Roman Road and the 2010 course. Not bad for one venue.

But Jim is used to dealing with logistical problems during a career which has seen him at one stage hold the title of Director of Golf, dealing with all of the playing side of the game as well as the greenkeeping side.

He is currently Director of Golf Courses and Estates Management - as well as being an official spokesman for the Welsh Assembly on the Ryder Cup and being interviewed by media from all over the world.

The Ryder Cup bid was secured

in 2001 and originally earmarked for 2009. The postponement of the 2001 match because of 9/11 meant the rescheduling of all subsequent matches to even years.

Much of Celtic Manor’s bid success was founded on the golfing legacy that would be left by the match. The benefits of that will be seen in Welsh golf for years to come but much of what Jim and his team have dealt with is of a more immediate nature.

“We opened a bridge in November last year which is basically to take members and guests to the new, temporary, practice ground which has been built because the existing practice ground will house the tented village.”

The scale of the Ryder Cup can be seen from the statistic that the tented village for the Wales Open requires three articulated lorries to bring in the scaffolding – the Ryder Cup needs 890 lorries!

Road ways for newly tarmaced television compounds, and throughout the site, have been built while the massive car and coach



parks will probably only be fully utilised for that one week in October.

“There is a semi permanent feel to the whole thing and we will need every one of the 141 days we have left to get everything into shape,” said Jim, who had the additional problem of dealing with a 20% staff reduction through redundancy last year as the Resort took action to preserve its long term future.

To compound matters further the annual Wales Open is still being held at the beginning of this month.

“We decided that May Day was the cut off for any significant changes we wanted to make to the course because of the Wales Open. If it hadn’t been in the calendar we could have made changes much closer to the date,” explained Jim, who has turned 2010 into an even more special year by getting married on June 20.

One problem, caused by the rapid growth and expansion of Celtic Manor, which has recently been resolved is that of the Maintenance facility which was originally built to

service the Roman Road course and its 12-16 staff.

“Towards the end we had more than 50 working out of it with three fleets of equipment and it was taking half an hour for a triple to drive to the 1st tee of the 2010 course. We went through an extraordinary number of tyres and a lot of fuel while guys were spending perhaps an hour and a half each day just travelling between the Maintenance facility and the course.”

The purchase of a farm in the middle of the 2010 course has cut that travel time to 90 seconds and provided a superb facility for machinery, aggregate, administration as well as home for three of the team.

Although completely different events the Wales Open will be used to hone some of the areas they will need for the Ryder Cup and is particularly useful when it comes to timing certain tasks.

“The Ryder Cup is three weeks later than its traditional slot, because of events which have been added to the US Tour and this adds



ABOVE: 9th green on the Roman Road
MAIN ABOVE: 14th on Twenty-ten



BELOW: 1st on the Twenty-ten

to the pressure. I don’t envy Scott (Fenwick) at Gleneagles in 2014 and I know this is why Sweden pulled their bid – it gets dark in Sweden at 6pm in October.

“Here daylight will be 7am and the 1st tee time is 7.45am. As it stands the Home Captain doesn’t have to decide if he wants to start with Foursomes or Fourballs for some time yet. If Monty goes for Fourballs a round will take about five hours and I will have a bit more breathing space to ready the course, but if he decides to go for Foursomes they will be round in four hours and at every green much earlier and my guys will have to be really, really quick,” explained Jim, while in the room behind us Europe’s newest superstar, Rory McIlroy, was taking part in a photo shoot.

“We have to assume that it is Foursomes for the sake of planning. The first game will be on the 2nd green by 8.10am so by that time I will have had to have had the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th and 14th cut and by the time they get to the 5th I’m going to have



“With supervision and mechanical support, people reading the magazine will work it out for themselves. We will have a team of around 120 working on the golf course”

Jim McKenzie

to have had the 17th cut. So it looks like we will have one huge team on the practice ground – which for the first time ever will be floodlit – and six or seven separate teams working on the golf course.”

Jim also points out that Celtic Manor is not like Wentworth where you could have 100 people working on the 4th fairway with golf on the 3rd and no-one would know.

“This is a big open site and basically they don’t want to see us and they don’t want to hear us if it can be helped.”

The Celtic Manor team is very strong with many guys having

worked on all 10 Wales Opens and been involved in the building of the golf courses.

“The three Head Greenkeepers, Gary Connell, on the 2010; Paul Davies, on the Roman Road, and Nick Vickery, on the Montgomerie, as well as Neil Shepherd, the Irrigation Technician and Cal Callaby, our Workshop Manager are all excellent. You never hear me talking about my team. They all work with me, not for me.”

The logistics and the sheer numbers involved is quite mind boggling.

“We can’t have someone cutting the 1st green then moving to the 4th because that would be too noisy and too visual by that time, and if he broke down on the 1st we’d have a real problem. We’ll have two guys cutting the 1st then going to the 9th and two guys cutting the 2nd then going to the 10th so that they can get away, and so on. Then there will be between 12 and 14 guys cutting fairways so that the fairways of the first six holes will be cut within 20 minutes, the same number cutting tees. With supervi-

sion and mechanical support people reading the magazine will work it out for themselves. We will have a team of around 120 working on the golf course.”

That additional work force will be made up of volunteers drawn in the main from golf clubs in Wales and the South West and a few trusted friends from further afield.

“The reason for this is two-fold. One, it is only fair that Welsh greenkeepers who have invested their heart and soul into the Welsh Ryder Cup can be a part of it, and two, logistically accommodation is a problem so most of the local guys will travel from home and car share wherever possible. South Wales Section Secretary, Steve Chappell, and Regional Administrator, Jane Jones, have been instrumental in pulling this together.”

Although the match itself lasts for just three days the volunteers have to report to Celtic Manor on the Saturday before – six days before a ball is struck in anger.

“They will be inducted on the Saturday with insurance issues





addressed and risk assessments carried out and we go into lockdown on the Sunday. On Monday evening the teams arrive and they start practice on Tuesday before a ticket paying gallery of 45,000.

“Monday therefore is the only opportunity we have for our volunteers to work out there and learn the ropes. It wouldn’t look professional to be teaching guys in front of the players or the galleries,” said Jim, who has struck deals with the Match’s official suppliers including Pro Quip for uniforms and has also worked closely with his own suppliers, including Toro, Bernhard’s ClubCar and the like.

Weather permitting – and while the course has proven itself to be well draining fog is an issue that can’t be so easily resolved – the work will involve some very intense period of activity followed by long periods of downtime and so arrangements have been made for table tennis, pool tables, dart boards etc.

So what will Jim be doing during the week and what will he be 2feeling?

“I’ve recently been given my schedule for the week and to be honest I’ve put a line through a lot of it. I’ll have a lot of close friends here that week so I’d like to think I’d have time with them. I’ve been fortunate to visit Ryder Cups at Valhalla, the Country Club in Boston and The Belfry and spoken to Superintendents, who have had Ryder Cups. I have also visited Augusta for The Masters, as, like us, they own and operate their own event.”

One of his abiding memories, however, was four years ago when he spent a week at K Club during last European Ryder Cup.

“Jerry (Byrne) did an incredible job at the K Club and dealt amazingly with a hurricane coming through during the week. My main memory of that week was not the match itself but an hour after it had finished. I was in the tented village and some of the players and caddies were up on stage singing Amarillo with a band. I heard a cheer and turned round to see Jerry come into the village on the back of a buggy holding the biggest bottle of champagne you’ve ever



seen. People who didn’t even know him but must have thought he was important were cheering him.”

I’m sure that on the evening of October 3 there will be two such bottles of champagne. One in the hands of Sir Terry Matthews and the other being clutched by the man he convinced to buy into his dream – Jim McKenzie.

Photography Competition 2010

BIGGA's Photographic Competition, supported by Syngenta, is back...

syngenta

Calling all budding photographers!
Are you proud of your course?
Do you catch yourself admiring it in a certain light?

The BIGGA Photographic Competition, supported by Syngenta and back for its fifth year, creates an opportunity for greenkeepers to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2011 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints, transparencies, or digitally.

Digital pictures need to be high

resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as Stuffit (www.stuffit.com) or a website such as mailbigfile.com

Also please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to:

tom@bigga.co.uk, entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2010' as the email subject header.

Alternatively post to:

Tom Campbell, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2010.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

Please note Syngenta will have access to the winning pictures and will credit them when and if used.

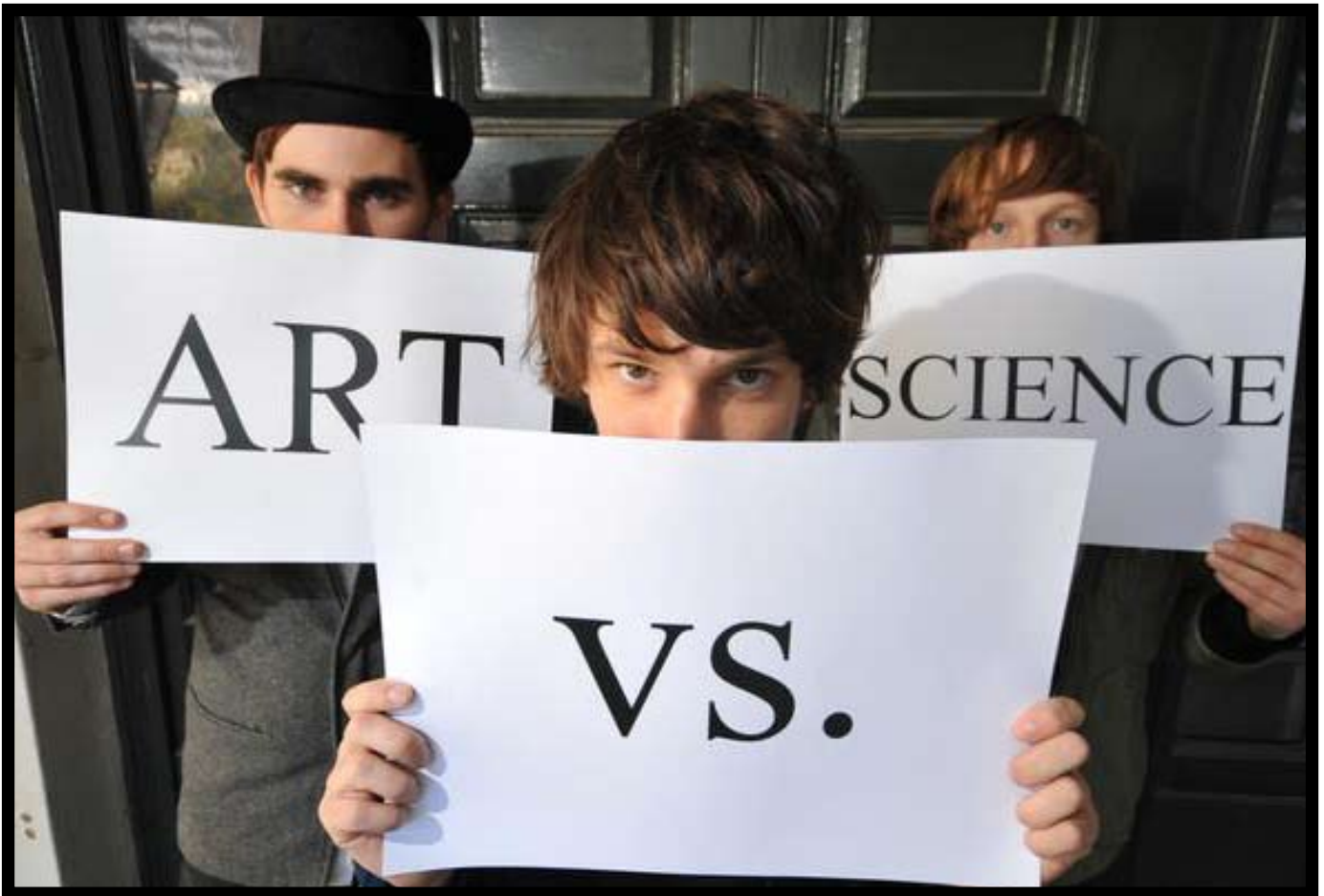


BIGGA Calendar 2010

Featuring the Top 12 Entries for the 2009 BIGGA Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta

syngenta





Greenkeeping – art or science?

Greg Evans gives an insight into his **greenkeeping philosophy** and how he goes about achieving his much talked about cutting heights

When I was a young greenkeeper coming in to the profession I was always told that you can't beat experience and that greenkeeping was a simple art.

Reduce water, don't feed and embrace the finer grasses was all that you need to do and the rest would look after itself. Oh what a dream. If only it was that simple. The problem is that we prepare these beautiful surfaces and then the golfers expect to come and play on them, compacting the hell out of them as they do. Then we have machines running all over them trying to maintain these top quality greens, so that the customers are happy. As for the weather, forget it.

If we relied on that, we would never open up the surfaces to be played on at all.

Over the years I have often thought about whether greenkeeping is scientific or just a simple art form. The traditionalists say that it's not rocket science and tell you to keep it simple, while the scientists tell you that it is anything but simple and you need to be a scientist to understand it all.

As you may have read, I have caused quite a stir over the past few seasons with my aggressive maintenance method based around a low cutting height. Over several years I have seen it work with my own eyes, but many are dissatisfied with this anecdotal evidence. They demand

facts! Hard facts, the sort that a NASA scientist would be proud of.

In my eight years as a Course Manager, I have come to the conclusion that the main reason Poa Annua has got such a bad name in this country is because it has been mismanaged and not fully understood. Colleges, Agronomists and research bodies have always preached that Poa should be eradicated from playing surfaces. Like Creeping Bent, we have been told that you need big resources and budgets to keep Poa happy. What rubbish! Like any grass, the Poa species needs a maintenance regime tailored to its needs. If it does, it will produce top quality putting surfaces.



about the author

Greg Evans is a newly qualified Master Greenkeeper. He also leads the consultancy company, Complete Golf Solutions, which provides practical advice and assistance to clubs and their greenkeepers in the golfing industry. He can be contacted on 07951 157 208 or by email at gregevans1973@hotmail.com



An automatic irrigation system



A prism gauge – used to tell the 'true' cutting height.

Height of cut? Who dictated it, Agronomists or machinery manufactures?

Have you ever wondered how we arrived at our greens cutting heights? Whether you chose two, three or even five mm as your preferred cutting height, where did this number come from? The figure is probably based on the machinery capabilities of the day. If the soil scientists had their way you would be lucky if we got in to single figures! I am able to bring my height of cut down low because modern machinery allows me to do so. The skill is then to make this new cutting height sustainable. Just like they did in days gone by. I use techniques such as summer aeration and liquid foliar feeding to help keep the plant healthy. “Where is your

evidence?” I hear you ask. With this in mind I have started to compile data on my regime, with special emphasis of the cutting heights and plant health.

The thing that was really starting to frustrate me was that I knew my method worked but was unable to prove it scientifically. I had to have a way to turn my ‘soft’ data into hard, solid, concrete factual evidence. I also wanted to make sure that every maintenance procedure was based on solid information and not just guesswork based on past practices.

The first thing I did was to ask myself some questions. For example, ‘When and why should I aerate?’ or, ‘How deep should I aerate?’ My aeration programme, like many across the country, had always been based around tradition. It would inevitably happen during the winter months, with little or no aeration in the summer. This was when I had most time available for staff to do the work and also, more importantly it would be when the golfers would ‘put up with it’. But if you look at this from an agronomic point of view, when is the grass plant under the most stress? Summer of course, when there is more traffic, less moisture

and greater disease pressure. The rootzone needs oxygen in greater quantities during this period, but like many turf managers across the country, I didn’t want to upset my customers by going out and pumping lots of holes in the greens during the playing season.

Another question concerned my irrigation inputs. ‘How much water should you irrigate with nightly to keep the plant healthy?’ Do you go to the nearest green and bang your foot on the ground to see how hard the turf is? Or do you apply five minutes per night, because the club up the road does and their greens seem good?

Historically greenkeepers have applied our automatic systems in minutes and not millimetres. This is so wrong and probably one of the main reasons why automatic systems have got a bad name in the past. Five minutes at my course could be one millimetre of water. But at the course up the road, five minutes of watering could be double that amount.

After asking myself these sorts of questions, I started to look at areas that I wanted to know more about. The three areas that I’ve listed below dictate how a green will perform in terms of ball roll, reaction and reliability.



1. Plant health

There has been a lot of negative press aimed at the 2mm cut height. The argument is that the grass plant is put under additional stress because there is less root mass and a reduced chance for the plant to photosynthesise. However, recent research from America has concluded that *Poa Annua's* biotype, Reptans, only really requires a 100mm root depth mass to grow. There's even talk of reducing the rootzone depth in a U.S. specification green from 300mm down to 100mm. This is still a long way off, but the point is that there is no added value in adding a 300mm rootzone at considerable cost, if *Poa Reptans* only requires a 100mm root depth!

There have also been studies that have concluded that *Poa Reptans* takes in 23% more Carbon than *Creeping Bentgrass*. Plus, it also has a greater shoot density. So *Reptans* seems to be photosynthesising and tillering quite rapidly. Where other plants are putting their energy into their root depth, *Reptans* channels its energy into new shoots. It's a dominator!

With these issues in mind I have based my data around the following:

- Suggested picture of data tools
- Current carrying capacity (density)
- Organic matter levels down to 100mm
- Nutrient levels – both soil and tissue analysis
- PH and CEC levels
- Disease frequency and type
- Root depth and mass
- Height of cut – Bench setting versus actual
- Stimp meter readings relating to moisture deficit and height of cut.

The aim is to see how each area is affected by a sustained low height of cut over the next few years. The plant visually looks to be improving year on year, but we would like to know how its health is being affected.

2. Infiltration

Water movement through the soil is the most important function of a rootzone. Forget grass species or thatch levels; without a good, well draining soil medium, your greens performance just won't function. Sanding and aeration are the two most vital tools in achieving a well drained soil. One of these in isolation is pointless. If you go out and punch loads of holes in a green without backfilling it with sand, after several weeks the holes will be filled in. The sand is there to prise them apart.

Sanding and aeration are the backbone to my greens performance. However, I need to make sure that what I am doing is achieving my goals. The following actions allow me to monitor these procedures:

- Infiltration tests
- Soil moisture deficits
- Irrigation calculations
- Evapo-transpiration calculations
- Sprinkler auditing
- Water quality tests

3. Compaction

Compaction is the sin to any sports surface. If soil is compacted, plant health and infiltration rates will be affected. How many of us know whether our soil is compacted or not? Simple tools such as the Penetrometer give us this information. The readings can be taken 'in house', so that when you decompact next time, you know the right depth and angle that you should be using.

To ensure that decompaction is channelled in the right area two things are measured:

- Compaction levels
- Bulk density levels

I am trying to investigate and record my results in plant health, infiltration and compaction scientifically and will continue to do so over the next few years. I have some thoughts and theories that will hopefully be proved by the collection of this data.

Over the years there have been many advances in technology, especially in machinery. But the tools that the greenkeeper uses to maintain his turf have been slow to change. The addition of measurement tools such as the prism gauge and weather stations don't devalue the turf manager's ability, but allow him to make the right call at the right time, based on facts instead of just guesswork.

I've always regarded greenkeeping as a pure skill or art. However, over the years I've seen how science has come in to our profession and improved our surfaces greatly. We all need to embrace and understand the science of greenkeeping. Each grass species has positive and negative aspects. There is no single grass type that is the answer to all our prayers, so each grass species has to be managed in a different fashion.

Based on my research I hope to provide additional information on the *Poa Annua* biotype, *Reptans*, that will allow us to maintain it more effectively in the future.



ABOVE and BELOW: A hole core in various stages

BELOW: Summer aeration – 8mm tines, followed by a sand dressing



A penetrometer

Collating data



Poa Reptans putting green surface



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Leatherjackets continue to undermine turf

Dr Terry Mabbett casts his expert eye over the leatherjacket

By definition and description professional turf is a well nourished and nurtured sward but the crisply low-cut grass shoots and leaves offer slim pickings for insect pests, because the green above-ground pristine biomass is clearly limited in scope.

But underground is an extensive dense and highly efficient fibrous root system, established over many years and active virtually year-round, collecting and pumping water and nutrients for stem and leaf growth to replace the clippings sliced off by regular mowing. Chafer grubs and leatherjackets are the two important insect pests of professional turf in the United Kingdom (UK), and both predictably target turf grass roots

Root zones of perennial grass species like fescues and bents, the key component species of UK professional turf, are ideal territory for invertebrate animals. And

logically better host plants than cereals which are essentially annual 'grasses' grown for a single season in the farmer's three to four year crop rotation on the same piece of land.

Lots of invertebrate animals feed on grass roots and thatch while only causing little if any damage to the turf, but a select few can rise to economic pest levels and threaten sports turf as a commercial playable surface. Invertebrate animal pests do not possess backbones but these two insects in particular – chafer grubs and leatherjackets – have the capacity to 'break the back' of fine professional turf with it the spirit of greenkeepers.

The larval stages (grubs) directly damage grass plants through their voracious feeding on the roots and indirectly, and usually more seriously, by attracting wild predator animals to feed on the larvae and causing penetrating collateral damage in the process. These may

be wild mammals like foxes and badgers or wild birds (especially corvids including rooks and crows), all seeking out the larvae (grubs) as food and tearing up the turf in the process.

Leatherjacket life history

Crane flies (*Tipula* sp) the Dipterous (double-winged) insects popularly known as 'Daddy Long-legs' are among the most short-lived and delicate of insects, but this doesn't stop their robust, long-lived and 'hungry' leatherjacket larval stage from becoming a serious insect pest of turf. Mass appearance of adult crane flies during the perceptibly cooling and shortening days of late August and September marks the beginning of a year-long life cycle with rapid appearance of large, long-lived, robust and damaging larvae and the complete antithesis of adult crane flies.



about the author

Dr Terry Mabbett has experience in grassland agronomy, and tree protection in forestry, horticulture and amenity. He has worked as consultant and technical writer in these fields for 20 years with a strong focus on pest, disease and weed management



Adult crane flies emerge from pupae in dew-covered turf on early autumn mornings and almost immediately lay eggs in turf. With hard winter conditions just several months away and no time to lose larvae hatch within 14 days and promptly start to feed on the grass roots. They feed at a low level through winter then step up a gear in spring, gorging on new root growth sustained through winter by autumn application of fertiliser. More fierce feeding resumes in the warmer conditions of spring on growth kick-started by spring fertiliser especially the phosphate components.

Leatherjackets continue to increase in size and voracity, cutting through turf grass roots and stem bases with sharp biting mouth parts through spring and into summer. Now approaching maturity and ready for pupation, they are 'greasy' looking, earth-coloured grubs, legless and several cm long with a tough and leathery cuticle (outer covering) and a correspondingly appropriate common name.

Leatherjackets feed on and damage grass roots through autumn and winter, but first tell tale signs of damage do not appear until spring when feeding accelerates and cumulative effects become apparent. In spite of the now warm moist conditions growth by damaged plants is sluggish and yellow patches of stressed and dying turf start to appear. Problems become painfully obvious during hot dry spells when already damaged grass is put under even more stress, dies and turns brown.

Affected turf is easy to lift having lost its firm anchorage due to extensive leatherjacket damage to the root system. Rapid weed growth in spring will take advantage of the weakened and thinner turf, and unusually large numbers of birds including corvids (crows, rooks, magpies and jays) and starlings may start to take an unhealthy interest, pecking down into the turf to secure the grubs.

Early symptoms of leatherjacket feeding and damage can be mistakenly taken for poor water relations, nutritional imbalance or even disease, but when large numbers of particular birds at key times of the year take up residence on turf this is a pretty accurate indicator of turf pests like leatherjackets and the signal for greenkeepers the signal to act quickly.

Lifting segments of the damaged turf reveals the leatherjackets but there are easier ways to locate and identify them. Soak part of the affected area with water and cover overnight with black polythene or old carpet which encourages the leatherjackets to the surface by the next morning.

Detailed examination reveals legless, segmented grubs with black retractile heads; a pair of horny jaws with two dark coloured spiracles (breathing holes), surrounded by six cone-shaped projections, on the last body segment. Leatherjacket damage is most severe on poorly drained soils and made worse by wet autumns. Any management practice that improves drainage is beneficial.

Population dynamics

Leatherjacket populations vary from year to year, with prevailing conditions at key points of the life cycle affecting numbers and resulting damage levels in turf during the following months and into the next calendar year. Climate and weather clearly impact on adult emergence, movement and egg lay in September, autumn feeding of newly hatched larvae and their ability to survive the winter and resume feeding in spring.

The same leatherjackets are important insect pests of agricultural grassland and cereal crops with the farming community keeping a watchful eye on populations from year to year. This information can prove useful to greenkeepers by giving a strong indication of what they are likely to expect. For instance in spite of the very cold winter of 2009/2010, calculated in many parts of the country as the coldest for around 30 years, SAC (Scottish Agricultural College) is predicting high numbers and significant damage from leatherjackets. And this in the coldest part of the UK.

According to SAC Ecologist Dr. Davy McCracken two-thirds of all the fields sampled harboured populations greater than 0.6 million grubs per hectare (ha), while over half were well above that at 1 mil-

“The severe winter weather will not have had any impact on reducing grub numbers. Leatherjackets are able to reduce their feeding until the soil warms up again”
Dr. Davy McCracken

lion/ha. “It means the damage and loss of yield could be serious when hungry grubs start feeding as soils warm up, said McCracken.

“Unfortunately, the severe winter weather this year will not have had any impact on reducing grub numbers,” he says.

“Leatherjackets are very resilient to cold and frost and all they do under such conditions is reduce their feeding until the soil warms up again.”

And this in spite of their shallow position in the soil where they eat the roots of grasses, cereals and other plants. SAC's annual surveys shows leatherjacket densities fluctuate from year to year, but there has been a consistently higher trend over the last 13 years linked, it is believed, to



climate change and wetter, milder autumns.

Management and control

On balance chafer grubs are generally regarded as the bigger pest problem for professional turf but that is probably because were traditionally the more difficult to control. Greenkeepers have 'always' been able to rely on the 'old' stalwart insecticide chlorpyrifos that could have been tailor-made to deal with leatherjackets.

By acting in three different ways - contact, fumigant and ingestion action - chlorpyrifos is the ideal all-round insecticide for use against most soil-borne pests as seen from its continued use after many decades worldwide in agriculture and horticulture as well as turf and amenity.

What's more chlorpyrifos resists leaching which allows it to stay in the uppermost layer of the soil to kill shallow-seated leatherjackets feeding on turf grass roots just below the soil surface.

But even the control of leatherjackets, one of the oldest, most recognised and persistently damag-

ing insect pests in the UK, cannot escape increasingly important environmental and biodiversity considerations and implications.

Leatherjacket grubs are clearly important food sources for a variety of birds but the adult crane flies or daddy long-legs are equally important food sources for bats.

When the National Trust says it was a bad year for crane flies they mean adult emergence in September was low with correspondingly reduced food available for bats.

When an agricultural or amenity survey says it will be a bad year for leatherjackets they imply widespread and heavy damage to turf, pasture grass and cereals.

That said SAC and other agricultural monitoring bodies are very mindful of the biodiversity implications of leatherjacket control with chemical pesticides.

SAC has conducted an annual survey each winter since the mid-1970s and says their latest 2009/2010 results show once again the value of such long-term surveillance and the data generated.

In addition to the risk posed to grassland leatherjackets are an

important food resource for farmland birds.

Greenkeepers should use the behaviour of birds on turf to their advantage. If species like rooks, crows and starlings are showing an unhealthy interest in the turf then it is a sure sign of ample food just beneath the soil, probably in the form of leatherjackets requiring immediate control.

Biopesticides based on nematodes which infect leatherjackets with a lethal bacterium are available. Like all natural enemies and biocontrol products they are density dependent.

This means the number and effect of the entomopathogenic nematodes will rise in response to increases in the leatherjacket (host) population, only to fall away again as leatherjacket numbers decline. They do not act as quickly as dedicated chemical insecticides and require more exacting soil conditions (temperature and moisture) for optimum activity. That said, the rate at which chemical pesticides are disappearing from the marketplace in the face of broad-front EU legislation means that biopesticides almost certainly have their 'best days' yet to come.



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Promoting best practice in sports turf management

“Hard work, learning new skills and great reward – it’s par for the course on the Ohio programme”

Intern, Joe Buckley, will be working at Pebble Beach during the US Open this month. Here he talks through his time in America and what he has learned while there

Having served my apprenticeship at Woodsome Hall Golf Club in Huddersfield, I progressed to the position of First Assistant. Coupled with my development at Woodsome, I completed my NVQ Level 3 at Askham Bryan College. It was then that I looked for a further career move.

I spoke with lecturers from the College, who told me about opportunities in States on the Ohio State Programme and I attended a presentation from Mike O’Keeffe, the Programme Manager.

I was instantly impressed with Mike’s approach and enthusiasm. It was impressed upon us that the programme was challenging, but that the rewards would be significant.

I began to exchange emails with Mike and was required to gather references and fill in various forms. I prepared a personal statement

and met with Mike during Harrogate Week. He told me that I would spend my first nine months at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY along with a fellow student – Steve Paul, from The Castle Course, at St. Andrews. The Superintendent was Jeff Corcoran.

Soon after the placement had been confirmed I handed in my notice at Woodsome Hall.

I arrived in Ohio late into a March night. Steve had already arrived and rested up for the orientation the next day, where we completed the necessary paperwork, before being shown round the campus, the football stadium and the Jack Nicklaus Museum.

Two days later we arrived in Rochester. I was met at the airport by the East/West Course Supervisor, Mike Lopresti, Mike took us straight to the course to meet Jeff who told us what we would be carrying out at Oak Hill

and asked us what we would like to achieve during our time there. We were then taken to our home for the next nine months - a two bedroom apartment in a town called Fairport, about 10 minutes from Oak Hill.

The first few weeks involved mostly clean up jobs, bringing the course back to some sort of normality after the winter snows.

The following weeks were admittedly tough; it was something of a shock to the system and set a challenging precedent for the months ahead. The greens were aerified, gradened, toppedressed and then the dryject was used. Tees and fairways on both courses were aerified and greens compounds on the East Course were also aerified.

Aerifying greens compounds was one of the toughest jobs I had ever carried out; by the time we had finished all 18 holes I was aching all over. The process involves three



pedestrian aerifiers and six people; three to operate the aerifiers and three to hold the ropes that kept them from falling in the bunkers! Put simply, we had to run around the inside of the bunkers, steering the aerifiers round the contours while pushing the aerifier up; the ropes were attached to a bar at the front of the aerifiers and the individuals holding them would stand on the flat and pull the ropes tight to help keep them from falling in the bunker.

Throughout the Summer I was involved in boom, hawk and knapsack spraying, topdressing applications, handwatering all playing surfaces including greens, took part

in fertiliser applications, carried out irrigation repairs, as well as a lot of hand mowing when it was too wet to take out the ride ons.

Once we had proven ourselves at our current courses Mike O'Keefe started trying to place us on a second course. Pebble Beach has been my favourite course since I saw the 2000 US Open, where Tiger ran away with it. With the 2010 US Open, and the chance to benefit from real tournament experience, I asked if I could be placed there. No promises were made but Mike was happy to assist.

As there was no tournament at Oak Hill, Jeff sent all turf employees to various courses to assist during tournament weeks. I was placed at Liberty National for The Barclays Open. It was the first tournament that I had worked on and I thoroughly enjoyed it; seeing what is required, the organisation that is needed to have a successful week and meeting people from the industry.

My morning assignment was mowing greens; we were in pairs and, depending on the stimp reading, the greens would either be mowed once or double cut. My afternoon job was

“At \$500 a round, and with each guest required to stay in one of the hotels, playing Pebble doesn't come cheap, but it still takes 70,000 rounds per year”



about the author

Joe Buckley, 23, is currently taking part in the Ohio State Intern Programme, and is hoping to get a placement in New Zealand, before returning to the UK

For further information on the Ohio State Intern programme link to: www.ohioprogram.org

much the same, with us shadowing the PGA agronomist around and mowing the greens that were not stimping at the required pace.

In October, Steve and I made the trip to The Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head, South Carolina, for the annual short course for the interns that year.

The course started off with a tour round Harbor Town Golf Links where we were given a guided tour by Superintendent, Jon Wright. At the end of the tour Jon brought out some clubs, a bucket of balls and let us have a shot on the par 3 17th. Out of 43 turf grass students Steve was the only one to hit the green, probably the first par 3 he'd hit all summer!



It was then that I found out that Mike had secured me an internship at Pebble Beach meaning I would be working The AT&T, US Open and The First Tee Open.

Looking back at the Oak Hill placement, I realise that Jeff invested a significant amount of time with all of the interns, setting out questions and giving mini projects such as putting together a spray programme. If, on the rare occasion, disease was spotted he would let the interns know and make a "burrito bet" - if we could find the disease he would buy us a burrito; if we couldn't, we had to buy the management team burritos! The disease was usually something trivial, such as brown patch on a fairway, but it kept us thinking and ensured we were vigilant at all times - we were usually the ones paying up, though.

Getting in so early to groom the greens that you need to wear waterproofs because the irrigation system was still running, carrying out drill and fill by hand using power drills to drill the holes and watering cans full of sand to fill the holes, calibrating fertiliser applications to the oz (which involved using a microm-

eter to set the spreader instead of just going off the letters), holding "tarps" down over the 2 pass and rough so the Kentucky Bluegrass did not get damaged from the Embark spray are examples of what we did at Oak Hill. All these things may seem over the top - they did to me when I first started - but, after being on the course, it is these things which set the course apart from others.

After flying home for Christmas I arrived at Pebble Beach just before New Year. I was picked up from the airport and taken to my new home. I would be sharing the house with Tyler McMurtrey and Bubba Wright, both of whom I would work with at Pebble.

The next day I had my drug test at Pebble Beach's Health and Wellness Center, by Pebble Beach First Assistant, Billy Hausch. Once I had been given the all clear I was taken to meet Pebble Beach Superintendent, Chris Dalhamer, and had a tour around Pebble Beach for the first time - it didn't disappoint!

Pebble Beach is the jewel in the crown of The Pebble Beach Company.



Owned by a consortium of businessmen led by Peter Ueberroth, Richard Ferris, Arnold Palmer and Clint Eastwood, it consists of four golf courses, three hotels, numerous bars and restaurants, a spa, and currently employs 1600 people.

At \$500 a round, and with each guest required to stay in one of the hotels, playing Pebble doesn't come cheap, but Pebble still takes 70,000 rounds per year.

Chris told me that I would be

starting off doing “sections”, which includes mowing greens, raking bunkers, fixing ball marks, spot watering; in its simplest form maintaining five greens compounds. My section holes were the putting green, 3, 7, 11 and 16. Mowing the 7th green for the first time was an awesome experience, it has been my screensaver for the past few years and mowing the green as the sun came up and the waves came crashing in is something I will never forget.

Shortly after I arrived, the preparations for the AT&T began; tents and stands went up, woodchip went down to form paths for player and spectators, and throughout all this the storms hit hard. Throughout January we had eight inches of rain; this meant rebanking bunkers on a daily basis, and a lot of hand mowing! At one point the storms were so intense that the waves were hitting the sea wall, crashing up in the air and then being blown by the 50mph winds onto the 17th and 18th. In order to flush the saltwater the heads

been added on the 3rd, 4th and 6th. New tees have been added on the 3rd, 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th to increase the yardage from 6828yds to 7040yds. Over 20 acres of Kikuyu grass has been removed from in play areas and replaced with rye grass.

This was done by hand by a team of four picking small spots on greens and tee compounds and outside contractors excavating larger rough areas. A programme has also been implemented to turn the rough into predominately rye so we can achieve the thick 3-5 inch rough that the USGA prefer.

In addition, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 15th (one green per year) have been rebuilt to USGA specification with sub air systems and the greenside bunkers have been altered where necessary.

Rebuilding one green per year means that those which are USGA specification dry out a lot faster than the push up greens on the course, but closing down the course isn't a

“Mowing the 7th green for the first time was an awesome experience, it has been my screensaver for the past few years and mowing the green as the sun came up and the waves came crashing in is something I will never forget”

were run on the 18th fairway and we were out with hoses on the 17th green, 18th tee and 18th green

Fortunately, though, the weather was pleasant during the week prior to the AT&T, allowing the course to dry out and be in great condition for the time of year. During the AT&T my morning job was to mow greens and rake bunkers on the back nine. After morning assignments there was breakfast for the staff and volunteers back at the shop - it was so good Bill Murray came by to grab a bite. Throughout the day, we did minor jobs and watched some golf, before returning for another meal after this we were out on the evening assignment. These were generally just minor detail works undertaking such tasks as bombing divots and fixing ball marks. Everything went well with the course looking great for the cameras and the weather held off for Dustin Johnson to retain his title with a 16 under par total.

In the years running up to the 2010 US Open all bunkers have been rebuilt to include stalok; drainage and new sand. As well as this, bunker compounds have

been added on the 3rd, 4th and 6th. New tees have been added on the 3rd, 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th to increase the yardage from 6828yds to 7040yds. Over 20 acres of Kikuyu grass has been removed from in play areas and replaced with rye grass.

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same firmness. The tests showed that the 5th and 15th approaches were softer than the rest, these were graded and topdressed to firm them up and get them up to the levels of the others. Rough is fluffed back up every time someone drives over it with a machine so there are no tyre tracks.

The course has been watched on a night by security guards from May. Tags have been placed on trees around the course and the guards have to clock in at various check



points every hour to make sure they're not sleeping on the job.

Fortunately there's a lot of experience on the staff, none more so than Jack Holt having worked three US Opens at Pebble before, he knows what the deal is and having someone with experience has been invaluable.

Working at Pebble has been a completely different experience to Oak Hill, as you would expect from a public and private course, but one that I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Despite their differences they share the same dedication to training young greenkeepers. Both Jeff and Chris always make time - sometimes sacrificing their own time - to sit down with their interns and answer any questions, and both have created a great learning environment.

Through the Ohio State Programme I have gained invaluable career and life experience and would definitely recommend it to any young greenkeeper back home.

If you are eager to learn and are willing to put in the effort, the rewards can be great. I started at a decent, smart course in Huddersfield, but had the ambition and the drive to do more.

I've learned and experienced more than I ever thought I would and through hard work and dedication I've been given the opportunity to work at one of the greatest sporting tournaments in the world, the prestigious US Open a memory, along with others, that I'll never forget.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

CHESHIRE TURF MACHINERY

Franchise(s) held

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Based at Weybourne Drive, Bredbury, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 2DN. Annual turnover of £4.5million.

Employees and size of premises

18 employees. Premises are 15,000sq ft

No. of service vans

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Brief history

The business started in Reddish, Stockport, as Cheshire Light Tractors in 1956, and at that time sold two-wheel tractors and motorised cultivators.

The company kept pace with advances in garden machinery as leading franchises were added to the portfolio.

One of these – Flymo – was to become particularly significant. Firstly, it provided a wholesaler activity to the thriving retail business.

Then in 1970 Flymo started to distribute the Toro brand to the UK giving CLT access to the golf market.

The company was acquired by Electrolux (Flymo's parent company) in 1980 and remained part of the group for 16 years before the current directors, led by Steve Halley, took the business back into private ownership in 1996 as Cheshire Turf Machinery, reflecting the focus on the professional grounds care market in the north west.



Key services

Providing customers with tailor-made solutions to their problems by offering good advice, the right machine for the job and value for money.

Specialist services

Between them, the three directors of the company have over 70 years experience of the industry and are all involved in dealing with customers on a face-to-face basis.

Has the dealership changed over time?:

Since establishing CTM almost 14 years ago, we have focused on the professional market. Without the distraction of domestic or wholesale customers we can concentrate on the core business, rather than trying to be 'all things to all men'. In 2001 we created Yorkshire Turf Machinery as a sales division covering the South Yorkshire area.

What would you like to see changed?:

We have worked hard to develop our own service staff by introducing apprentices in recent years, which has worked well for us.

However, it would be great to stimulate even more awareness of career opportunities to young people.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie OEM parts supply):

Yes we do. As well as working with regional corporate accounts such as De Vere Hotel and Marriott, we are happy to assist and see this as part of our customer care commitment.

Major customers:

Carden Park
Worsley Park – Marriott
Royal Liverpool Golf Club
Lancaster Golf Club
Pleasington Golf Club
Wilmslow Golf Club
Hallamshire Golf Club
Hallowes Golf Club
Ashbourne Golf Club
Matlock Golf Club
Rotherham Golf Club
Manchester United FC
Manchester City FC
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To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured... Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

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Fancy improving your IT skills?

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BIGGA are able to offer these practical and effective online courses at a discounted cost of £15 (+ VAT) (usually £20 + VAT) to BIGGA Members, and £30 (+ VAT) to non-members, thanks to support from the Learning and Development Fund. For further information contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 option 3.

Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.



Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

Become a key sponsor

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

To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800



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

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



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

John Pemberton, Chief Executive



Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG; **Silver Key Individual Members:** Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid

“What’s so different about how you apply nutrition?”

(And why you will deserve a wage rise)



David Snowden looks at the various methods used to apply nutrition.

The advances in spray equipment, have enabled Course Managers, and their spray technicians to apply nutrition, and other chemicals with greater accuracy, and efficiency.

Sports turf, and, in particular, high maintenance golf turf requires all the correct nutrients, in the correct forms, on a continual basis throughout the growing season.

However, there are three main areas, which will influence what you apply, when you apply it and in what form. These are - Physical, Chemical, and Microbial.

The physical aspects of the soil

are largely determined by the composition of the soil, meaning the soil physically allows for the continual movement of Nutrients, Oxygen (and CO₂), and water throughout the soil profile.

Most chemical reactions and activity in the soil take place in and around the clay particles and organic matter, so changes in the physical conditions will always affect the chemical characteristics of the soil. i.e. compaction and aeration, etc.

Microbial activity is vital in the soil, without microbes there will be no oxidation, which is essential for nitrogen conversion, and certain other fertiliser compounds to be

broken down into a solution, therefore becoming available for root up-take, if you have an adequate root system!

Healthy microbial activity is dependent upon Nutrients, Oxygen, Water, and temperature. This is a never ending process, ensuring adequate levels of nutrition, Oxygen, and water in a favourable balance.

Here is a commonsense rule of thumb to understanding nutrient application.

Soils are generally low in oxygen, cold, with a reduced root system after winter, and low sunlight in spring and autumn, reducing



microbial activity, photosynthetic process, and therefore nutrient up-take.

Here is the Catch 22. Is there any point of applying something to the soil when all the conditions are telling you not to at that specific time year?

Granular, Organic & Controlled Release Fertilisers are vital for a base feed, and specific soil amendments.

The technology in producing high quality granular products has also advanced tremendously.

But REMEMBER you still need roots, the right temperature, with good physical and microbial environment, to ensure the products are converted to a solution, and work with good efficiency. If this is not the case then the product efficacy will be compromised, and not a cost effective way of applying fertiliser, So it may be worth looking at some form of liquid application, whether it is a foliar which by-passes the growing medium completely, or a soil liquid, which can address the interim gap before granular soil applications become effective.

Soil liquid applications; They can be faster acting than granular applications, but are still temperature driven.

Good for NPK, and have a relatively quick response depending on the nitrogen source.

Let's look at the high spray vol-

umes which are designed to apply soluble, and soil liquid products to the crown and root zone area.

Spray solutions are applied under pressure, whether it's for high volume or low volume. Large orifice spray nozzles produce "rain-drop" type spray droplet most often encountered with high volume sprays. This type of droplet size does not provide maximum leaf coverage, and makes it nearly impossible for a large water droplet to stay on the leaf surface to be absorbed.

There is much more chance of run off, into the crown area, where it is designed to be used effectively by the upper root system of the plant.

You will often see written on a product label the following information.

- Apply product in 400-1000lts of water per hectare.
- Lightly water in after application.
- For higher volumes of water to secure the products into the crown; soil area. e.g. (Tee jet White 11008 VS; 2 bar 5 km/h gives 600 L/ha; Hardi white 08-110; 2 bar 5 km/h gives 620 L/h)

• If labels have EDTA, HEDTA, etc. written on them, they are forms of Chelate, these chelates are designed to protect, for example, trace elements from other elements binding them together once they come in contact with the rootzone,

they help the element stay available for longer.

Most chelating agents (EDTA, HEDTA, etc.) have a molecular size too large to be effectively absorbed by leaf tissue.

• One other reason for a product to be watered in after application is to prevent leaf burn from unwanted residue.

• These types of products are valuable for soil applications, but are far less effective for foliar applications. Do not be misled, as there is a big difference between leaf applied nutrition, and soil liquid applications.

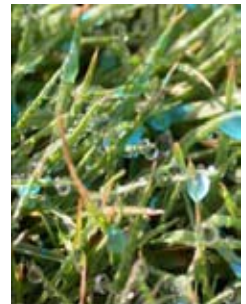
So, if a container has any of the above written on it, that product is designed for crown and root up-take, and not as a foliar applied product. Soil Liquids are an effective way of providing Nitrogen, Potassium, Organics, Seaweeds, Humic Acids, etc.

Using low volume of water is important for foliar applications.

When applied correctly foliar products provide the course manager with a high degree of control, for a much more accurate way of feeding the plant.

For a cool season grass, the best time to spray is early morning or late evening. These are the times when the stomata are open, and remember to remove any dew.

Two main points to remember when applying a foliar application.



“I believe the best management approach to maximising nutrient availability is to develop a balanced soil nutrient reservoir, supplemented by regular and strategic foliar applications of nutrients”



about the author

David Snowden
Managing Director
Agronomic Services Ltd.
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david@agronomics.co.uk

1. You must have a fine spray mist (small droplet size) to ensure as much of the product stays on the leaf for as long as possible.

2. The total spray volume should be no more than 350lts/ha, ideally 250-350lts/ha

The pH of the spray tank is also important; remember the “ideal” soil pH is around 6.5, as this is where most nutrients are available, so it makes sense to have your spray cocktail at a similar pH.

This is to secure uptake and absorption through the leaves, and will be beneficial if you are applying soil liquids.

You do not want rain or irrigation water within 3 - 4 hours after application. Otherwise the mix could be washed off the leaves.

If your water source has a pH higher than 7.0 use a pH adjuster to increase spray tank efficiency.

Spray nozzles (Tee jet blue type 11003 VS; 2 bar 5 km/h gives 283

L/ha; Hardi blue type 03-110; 3,5 bar 5 km/h gives 310 L/ha)

By applying a foliar fertiliser and certain other elements directly to the grass leaf, it increases the activity in the leaf and plant, at the same time increasing chlorophyll and thus photosynthesis, this is the most important function of the plant.

Because of this increased activity within the plant, it increases the need for water by the leaf. In turn this increases water uptake by the plants vascular system, which in turn increases the uptake of nutrients from the soil.

This shows the importance of both soil and foliar applied fertilisers. The need to maintain the balance of the correct nutrients in the soil, the use of foliar fertilizers can increase their effectiveness, and the plants efficiency at using them.

How does foliar spraying work when common perception is, that plant nutrition is a one-way movement from the roots to the leaves?

A vascular network runs through the leaf, providing the cell walls with water, and removing the food products of photosynthesis, as well as nutrients, to other parts of the plant.

In simple terms the vascular system runs from the roots up and from the leaves down, providing two ways for nutrients to be distributed to areas of the plant.

I believe that the best management approach to maximising nutrient availability is to develop a balanced soil nutrient reservoir, supplemented by regular and strategic foliar applications of nutrients. Managing nutrient levels in this manner provides for linear availability of all nutrients, and allows for precise adjustment to specific nutrient levels being delivered to the plant. It will not produce flushes of growth, which are directly related to increase in disease pressure.

Having a diverse range of application methods, will give the Course Manager far greater control, and accuracy of what is applied and when.

Foliar applications are an excellent way of correcting nutrient deficiencies, and supplying the plants with a small amount of Nitrogen, and other nutrients which are designed to help the plants get going in spring and summer, at a time when soils have the inability to supply nutrients.

Tests have shown that up to 90% of a foliar fed nutrient solution can be found in the smallest root of a plant within 60 minutes of application. A project conducted at Michigan

State University, using radio active tagged nutrients, proved that foliar feeding can be 8 to10 times more effective than soil feeding, when soil conditions are not favourable. ie. cold soils, low microbial activity, reduced root system. That is why you need a combination of foliar and granular.

Depending on the quality of product, and if it is a true solution, not a suspension, it can be immediately available in the plant. This makes them perfect for correcting nutrient deficiencies.

It is worth remembering that foliar spraying stimulates the plants to create exudates in the roots which excite microbes to work harder and thus increases nutrient uptake from the soil.

When purchasing foliar products ensure you use high quality, safe, non-toxic fertilisers from a company you trust. A lot of companies are selling fertilizers with, cheap ingredients, low nutrient concentrations, which are not designed to be taken up by the leaf.

You can use foliar products nearly any time during the year with great efficiency. It's one of the most efficient and effective methods to deliver many key nutrients.

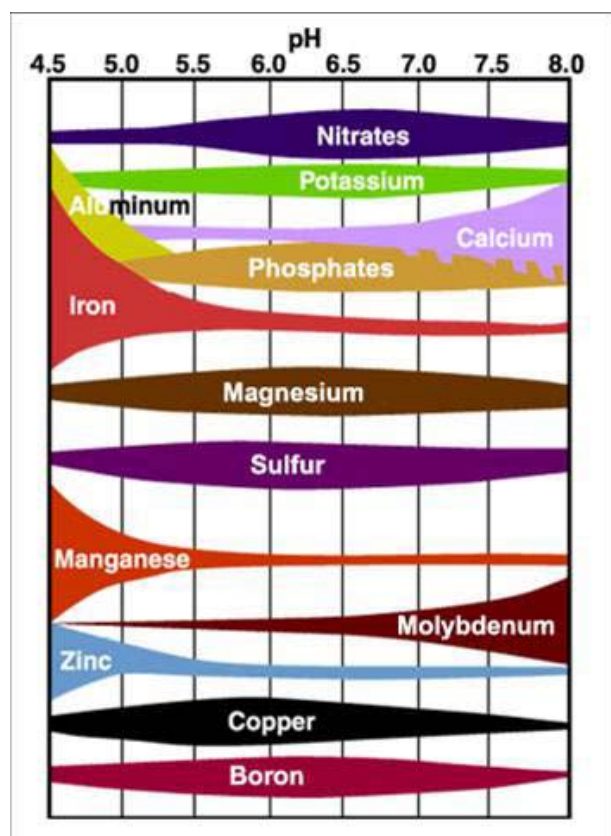
It does not substitute a granular program, rather work along side, and will improve the overall strength of the plant in periods of stress, i.e. spring, disease pressure, heat stress, nematode attack, autumn/winter prep, etc.

Soil Liquids; Are an effective way of providing liquid soil amendments, some NPK products, seaweeds, humic acids, etc. for the plants to take in by the upper root system. They are still somewhat dependant on temperature, and a healthy root system.

Granular products; Granular nutrition is the main source of NPK, and other bulk amendments to help balance the soil reserves. In order to maximize the efficiency of granular fertiliser you need a number of things to be in order; adequate soil temperature, the correct balance of Oxygen, CO₂, Water, and therefore microbial life, and a root system. If any of these are compromised then the efficiency of a granular will reduce.

So by using the correct application method, combined with the right nutrients at the appropriate time of year, this will greatly improve the percentage of nutrition the plants receive, and in the long term be much more cost effective.

Meaning all Greenkeepers & Course Managers can and should have a wage rise!



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

The anatomy of...

Kubota Grand L5740 HST Plus tractor

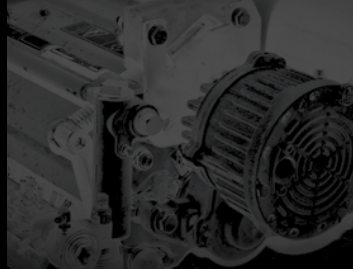


Fixed speed cruise for working precision
When Kubota introduced its Grand L40-Series tractors in early 2008, the company's all-new HST Plus transmission was a highlight feature. So what makes HST Plus different?

With HST Plus, Kubota enables the operator to precisely manage the relationship between forward speed and engine rpm using the transmissions cruise control. The aim is to offer hydrostatic ease of operation with mechanical tractor precision.

Step-by-step Analysis...

Kubota Grand L5740 HST Plus tractor



Kubota offers its HST Plus hydrostatic transmission on two Grand L40-Series tractors, the nominal 52hp L52040 and 58hp L5740. Complementing the mechanical transmission 16F/16R or 24F/16R 36hp L5040, the L5240 can be specified with or without a cab, the range topping L5740 having a cab as standard.

With the HST Plus system, the transmission can be set using the Cruise function so it in effect 'locks' to match the forward speed and engine rpm, just like it is with a mechanical drive.

This enables the transmission to be set up to offer the same repeatability as a mechanical transmission.

This enables the operator to set a fixed speed and for this then to be accurately maintained.

Kubota is not claiming this 'fixed' drive be a unique feature HST Plus.

Both the John Deere eHydro hydrostatic and New Holland EasyDrive CVT transmissions offer similar abilities.

Where Kubota feel its system has an edge is in ease of set-up. All the operator has to do is push the dash mounted Mode control to select Cruise and set the desired engine speed on the hand throttle.

The tractor speed is then set up by firstly selecting the working ratio and then using the Cruise control lever to set the forward speed.

The latter appears on the LCD display within the main dash.

"In work, most operators set the Cruise for aeration work by looking at the work done," adds Dave Roberts.

"Once the desired settings are noted, it is easy to replicate the hole spacing by setting the throttle to the right engine speed for the PTO, selecting the right ratio and then setting a Cruise speed to get exactly the desired spacing.

What is useful with the HST system is that the travel pedal can still be used to adjust the tractor's speed.

This enables the operator to raise the aerator and then speed the tractor up to make a faster turn.

The transmission will revert to Cruise when the pedal is released and the operator does not need to re-set the desired operating speed."

It is not just in this fixed Cruise mode that the HST transmission differs from a 'traditional' hydrostatic. In transport, for example, the operator can set the throttle to Auto Throttle Advance.



The Cruise Control lever is positioned next to the low, medium and high range selector. Once the desired engine speed and working ratio have been chosen, the lever is progressively eased forward to increase and then fix the forward speed.



The steering column is home to the throttle (right), H-DS control (upper left) and (below left) the Auto Throttle Advance. The latter enables the HST travel pedal to also control the throttle, matching engine speed to the tractor speed in transport.



Where Kubota's HST Plus hydrostatic cruise control differs from normal hydrostatic drive is its ability to monitor and fix the forward speed using the tractors intellipanel. The digital display above the tachometer shows selected ratio on the left, a hare or tortoise symbol in green showing the selected high low split.



The servo-controlled travel pedal allows the operator to override the Cruise Control setting when making a turn or to alter the forward speed to meet a change in terrain or conditions. Once the pedal is released, the transmission will revert back to the cruise settings.



The HST transmission response is adjusted via a rotary knob (left), a push-button key (right) switching between transmission modes. Setting the tractor up to exploit various modes is not difficult. The transmission can be worked just like a conventional hydro using just the throttle and travel pedal.



Hydro Dual Speed, H-DS, is operated via a steering column mounted lever. H-DS essential adds a high - low split which can be selected on the move. A typical use would be when using a loader, selecting 'low' for digging and 'high' when shuttling back and forth.

In outline, this marries engine and transmission speeds to the tractor forward speed. Come to a stop, and the engine speed will drop back to idle.

Depress the travel pedal, and the engine speed will pick up in relation to how far the HST travel pedal is pressed.

In addition, there is a separate "Stall guard" feature that can be selected for applications like loader work.

With a conventional hydrostatic drive, the operator can 'stall' the engine by driving into a heap and not backing off on the travel pedal as the load on the tractor increases.

This load Sensing system detects a drop in the engine speed and simply bypasses the hydrostatic pump to prevent the engine stalling.

"The operator can also choose to use the (H-DS) Hydro Dual Speed control to select a high and low ratio on the move," adds Dave Roberts.

"This is done by simply moving a steering column mounted lever. An example of how useful this can be is to consider how you work during a turn or shuffling back and forth when loading. In work and when loading into a heap, a low ratio is engaged.



"When turning or moving between loads, a faster travel speed is desirable.

"This can be done by simply using the H-DS lever to select a higher ratio".

The HST transmission has a further control that allows the operator to select how aggressively the transmission takes up drive. In outline, soft for work on fine turf, a more aggressive setting helping boost take up in transport or when using a loader.

This is again not a new idea, but setting the system up is simple.

All that is needed is a twist of a dash mounted knob.

So, Kubota is able to offer those who demand the fixed speed abilities of a mechanical transmission with all the convenience and ease of operation more typically associated with hydrostatic drive.

The downsides?

HST is not offered on many models for a start.

If you are after a sub-60hp

Kubota suggests its HST Plus transmission is well suited to loader work, a Response Control enabling the operator to adjust how quickly the transmission reacts to travel pedal movement. A Load Sensing 'stall control' can also be selected for optimised loader performance.

Raising the game for disease control





Outline Specification:
Kubota HST Plus
L5740 tractor

Engine type
E-TVCS 4cyl diesel
Max power ECE-R24 (kW/hp)
41.5/55.6
HST Plus transmission
3 range hydrostatic plus H-DS splitter
Speed range (km/h)
0-30.7 fully variable
2 and 4 wheel drive
Selectable
Guide gross weight (kg)
1920
Guide rear linkage capacity (kg)
1750
Dimensions (L : W : H) (mm)
3245 : 1470 : 2375
Minimum Turn radius (m)
3.20
Fuel tank capacity (litres)
54
Standard turf tyres (F:R)
29x12.00-15:475/65-D20
List price
£24,600

Kubota with HST you can only have it on the L5240 and L5740.

Kubota also concede the transmission does sap some engine power. Realistically, if you need a 52hp tractor it should be the more powerful 5740 that you should be looking at.

And then there is price. It is always difficult to do a comparison when there are no like for like alternatives on offer, but consider HST to carry a premium of around £3,000 over a conventional mechanical tractor and

you will not be too wide of the mark. So is HST worth it?

The answer will depend upon how you use your tractors.

But if you want a power unit that you can set to operate at a speed you want to do a job, and not be tied to the speeds dictated by the available ratios in a mechanical gearbox, HST is well worth a look.

It will also be a versatile choice, ideally suited to loader work, transport as well as operating mowers, spraying and top dressing.

Cruise control can set up to operate in conventional hydrostatic mode for mowing, with load sensing accommodating changes in terrain to keep the engine speed constant. Versatility is a key feature of modern hydrostatic and CVT drives.

Headway brings you two of the worlds most successful turf fungicide active ingredients in one package – protecting the plant inside and out, from leaf to root. Easy to use and cost effective, Headway is approved for control of key foliar and soil borne turf diseases.

The Headway combination of two powerful actives gives:

- Complimentary power of two actives
- Long lasting results
- Protects the plant as it grows
- Broad spectrum activity
- Trials have shown over eight weeks control of Fusarium



Headway protects from leaf to root

Headway is the first multi-active turf fungicide approved for the control of both foliar and soil borne diseases.



Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Ayrshire

Hey folks. Wednesday, April 27 saw 30 Greenkeepers travel to Largs Kelburn Golf Club for the Spring outing. A typical Ayrshire day greeted us with wind and rain - par for the course! Not that the wind or the rain was a worry for us hardened weather beaten boys.....A certain greenkeeper must have woken up with a sore head this morning as those pin positions were challenging to say the least! Nice one Lefty! A great day was had by all and our thanks must go to Iain and George for having the course in great condition for us. Thank you!

Results: 1st Class. 1. Ian McDonald, 36pts; 2. Robbie Macbeth, 35pts; 3. John Mair, 30pts; 4. William McMeiken, 29pts. 2nd Class. 1. Dale Norquay, 38pts; 2. Colin Murray, 32 pts; 3. Ewan Grant, 30pts; 4. Duncan Gray - 29pts. Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, 33pts.

Well done boys! Keep it up for the Autumn outing at Dumfries & County.

A big thank you must also go to Derek Wilson, Peter Boyd and Jim Paton for the running of the day. A lot of work is put in by these guys for our section which is greatly appreciated! Thanks gents.

News has filtered through the industry about Mr Gordon Peebles. Gordon has recently become the proud owner of a senior bus pass... like to see him ditch the old Tacit van & go on a bus...lol.

Also Mr George Brown has been spotted hitting a ball in anger again after an operation to get a new knee. Hats off to you

George, glad your getting back into the swing of things!

I hope all your courses are coming along and things are going well. If not, you know where I am. Any news big or small don't hesitate to contact me. johnmair982@btinternet.com & 07500874449

John Mair



East

This month's report starts with our Spring Outing to Kilspindie Golf Course.

Our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, welcomed everyone to Kilspindie on Tuesday, April 13. Notable attendees were, our Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, and, ever present, our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. Thank you both for supporting the Section.

List of prize winners: Scratch Winner. Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC, 70 gross. 1st Class. 1. Mark Pagan, Eyemouth GC, 76 nett; 2. Keith Burgon, Goswick GC, 69 nett. 2nd Class. 1. Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC, 65 nett;

2. Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Park GC, 67 nett. Trade Winner. Gray McCandles, Rigby Taylor, 64 nett BIH. Best Nett. Tom Murray, Ratho Park GC, 67 nett. Veterans' Prize. George Aitchison, Duns GC, 70 nett; Guest Prize. Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 61 nett. Longest Drive. David Greenshields, Barenbrug. Nearest the Pin. Jim Darling, Aitkens Seedsman Ltd.

Well done to our two Course Rangers, Jimmy Neilson and Jack Dalrymple, for making sure that we all kept a steady pace round the golf course and helping out with any stray golf balls to be found those was the ones which stayed on dry ground.

Our Chairman thanked Paul Casley, General Manager, for having the East Section at this great venue, and the Head Greenkeeper, John Arbuckle, and staff for the excellent condition of his golf course.

The Chairman thanked all the patrons for their continued support and wished everyone a safe journey home, hoping to see all at the Summer Outing - the Willie Woods, at Gullane GC

Until next month

Tom Murray



Central

Hands up, I got well caught out last month saying how good the Stan Zontek/USGA seminar was when in the end it had to be cancelled because of the volcanic ash situation. Unfortunately they were stuck in the States but as I write they are busy trying to reschedule for September so watch this space. Saying that, as I write this at the beginning of May, Irish and some Scottish airports are shut again which can have a huge impact on Scottish tourism and as a result financial implications for a lot of golf clubs.

Luckily I was much more accurate predicting the winners of the Spring outing and got them all correct! Well done to Kevin Muir and his staff for getting the course so good following the recent floods he had to cope with. Things are well under way on the Old Course in preparation for The Open. A number of stands are already up and the tents begin to go up towards the end of May. The Central section has organised a Course Walk with Gordon McKie and me on June 23. Meet at the Jubilee greenkeeping sheds at 4pm, and members from other Sections are also welcome.

Gordon Moir

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying the spring sunshine. The first golf event of the new season was a great success. The event was held at Sandmoor GC, played on a fine sunny day, on a superb playing surface. On behalf of the Section I would like to pass on our thanks to John and his staff, and everyone connected with the golf club.

The competition was a medal off the white tees. Winner of the Scratch Cup. T Gerrard. Div 1. 1. A. Court; 2. N. Coultish; 3. A. Baxter. Div 2. 1. J. Watts; 2. A. Holroyde; 3. N. Booth. Div 3. 1. G. Street; 2. B. Knowles-Jackson; 3. P Colley. The winner of the trade prize was G. Potter; 2. I. Collett. Our thanks also go to Tito, and Sherriff Amenity, for their sponsorship. If anyone has got a trophy to be played for at future events, would they please try to get them to a member of the committee before the event. As usual if you have any news or gossip PLEASE pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Tel. 07947401278.

Frank Stewart



North East

Well it's that time again already for Section news. What have we got this month? Funny enough the phone did ring this time, in fact, several times. Doesn't news travel fast via

mobile what a wonderful invention. Anyway let's get down to the nitty gritty. On April 21 we had our Spring competition at the City of Newcastle GC. A couple of records were broken there. Firstly I believe that it's the first time we have had a competition there – I certainly cannot remember playing there in recent years. Secondly, it was the first time that I had actually won a Spring event - the best nett, and, thirdly, it was the worst turnout ever for either Spring or Autumn comp.

In fact, very embarrassing, to the point that an apology was made to the club and the steward for lack of support. What do we have to do? We have changed the day, changed the teeing off time to an afternoon maybe we should change the month. By the way, only seven people bothered to turn up with only one or two regulars missing. I'm just looking through my comp. file. We have averaged 15 players since 2008, the last time we had over 20 playing was in 2006 at Stocksfield and the largest field was at Matfen Hall in 2004 with 30 persons playing. My how times have changed. Mind you we have lost a few members on the way to other Sections and different professions. Anyway let's get to the results.

Best nett J.S. Richardson 79-8-71 (T.S.L. Trophy) Hexham GC; Best gross J. Gibson 74 Salver, Northumberland GC; G. Brown, 73, Wooler GC

S. R. Pope, 75, Tyneside GC; R. Black, 77, Westerhope GC; R. Reid 80 Prudoe GC; G. Lee no return.

My thanks to the City of Newcastle Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their course and to Barry Walker Head Greenkeeper and his staff for presenting a course in tip top condition as all who played agreed. Considering the winter and dry spring we have had it's a credit to you Barry.

Lastly, to our sponsors on the day, T.S.L. (Terry Charlton); Rigby Taylor (Glen Baxter); Tacit (Peter Marshall). Thanks lads.

Right what else do we have? Yes more moving around. First Craig Parkinson, formally of Matfen Hall, has moved back to working as a greenkeeper at Slaley Hall and Aidan Love has moved from Loch Lomond to Close House. Good luck to the both of you in your new jobs.

Now only one item left. At a recent regional meeting I was asked if we would consider having the Golf Management

Trophy in our Section. This is a four man team event - Captain, Secretary, Green Chairman and either Head Greenkeeper or member of his staff. Somehow this would have been a good competition to have a few years ago but now I don't think so considering the turnouts we have had and it's likely to be held in the summer so it might be a good idea to pass it on to another Section to consider.

Well that's the lot for another month.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

I know I say this every month but I really do hope that when you read this we will have finally had a decent spell of nice weather. It seems that the most things have been against us at the start of 2010, im sure though that everyone is working hard and remaining positive to get through this difficult time.

Our Spring competition was held at an excellently presented Chesterfield G.C.

Mark and his staff provided us all with an excellent course to play on the day, thanks must also go to the catering staff who also provided us with an excellent meal to finish of a good day. I would also like to say a massive thankyou to Pro turf for once again sponsoring our Spring event.

The results: 1. T. Strong 40 pts; 2. D. Coop 38 pts; 3. L. Davies 36 pts; Trade T. Dodson

Personally I would like to thank Andy Bunting for continually giving me news to fill my column. Andy has recently taken over at Kenwick Park G.C which is near Louth. Good luck Andy we all hope it goes well for you.

On the section front we are in the first stages of planning this Winters lecture programme. Im sure you will agree that these events provide a vital part of our Learning and Development. This years events are being carefully planned by your Committee so that everyone will find them beneficial.

Thats all from me this month. I hope June goes well for you all and I will speak to you again in July.

James Stevens



Cleveland

Hi everyone, hope you are all fit and well. How bizzare is the weather?. Its just so cold at the moment as i write this piece, second week in may and still got winter long Johns on! Very little growth on the greens, up to a week without any rain at times and a frost forecast for tonight. Not exactly as most of us would like it i am sure but none the less, the show must go on.

A little bit of news for you this month as follows. Congratulations to James Parker and his wife Sarah on the arrival of a new baby boy. Oscar arrived on Saturday 24th April i am told, all fit and well. Secondly, James has landed a new job at Close House, he will be leaving Blackwell Grange and starts on the 10th May. Well done

On Wednesday 21st April a seminar/workshop was held at Llyods of Bishop Auckland and the subject was Cutting Technology and After Cut Appearance, as well as operator safety and fault finding on ride on equipment. The event was organised by Alister Whitby and was presented by Ian Sumpter of Toro. It was a very good day and im sure those who attended came away a bit more wiser. Well i did, but that doesnt really take much doing!! Dinner and refreshments were provided by Llyods. There was also a talk for the Cleveland section held at Billingham golf club in the evening. Thanks to Lloyds, Alister and Ian Sumpter for putting on the event.

That is it for now, no more news to report,

Any news
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North Wales

Well at least we have got a reasonable column for you this month. To start the spring tournament golf day took place at Caernarfon Golf Club on April 28 and on a beautiful, if rather windy day 24 of North Wales'

best took to the really well managed turf. I believe all, including myself, were very pleased with the course that Martin Roberts, Charlie Land and co. provided for us. Well done, we were all exceedingly grateful to you and your preparation of the course.

A big thank you also has to go to the catering for the quality (and quantity) of the food provided on the day. It's not very often we are given the choice of four main courses and four desserts, Andy Acorn nearly tried all the desserts, he, I believe, got as far as three but had to give up to help me and Terry Adamson work out the scorecards. I feel I must point out that I'm sure we normally have a better turnout at the Spring tournament and I'm afraid anyone who didn't go because of travel concerns really missed out on an excellent day.

Results of the day were: 1. Paul Stanley, 36 pts; 2. Nigel Green, 32 pts; 3. Rhys Butler, 29 pts. Best gross also went to Rhys Butler with a score of 76. Best guest went to J. Richards, with 31 points, and best trade went to John Mooney, with 30 points. Paul Stanley and Rhys Butler now qualify for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, at The Berkshire later this year. The CONNECT trade show at Conwy golf club seemed to be a success with local suppliers showing big brands and what was even better it was hands-on with demos on the practice area. A big thank you has to go to Dave Lewis, and all at Conwy, for holding hopefully the first of many years of this event. Pictures of the golf day and the CONNECT event now available to view on facebook group north Wales bigga. In local news we send our thoughts to the friends, family and colleagues of Les Gower, of Penmaenmawr Golf Club, who died in tragic circumstances on April 27. Les had been in greenkeeping for 35 years.

Gareth "Bronco" Williams, of Portmerion, was on television in a silent hero show on s4c where he and his wife, Janet, were treated for their selflessness in giving over 100 foster children a welcome place to stay in their time in fostering. Well done, Bronco, perhaps Portmerion will be known for you being on television instead of The Prisoner.

Well I think that's about it all the best until next month

Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187

Midland



East Anglia

Purdis Heath had the dubious honour of being the first venue for the motley crew of the 2010 season. Norman Fenwick had the task of getting the course in some sort of order following a severe winter and a spring that didn't turn up. Norman and the crew did a very good job.

It would seem the winter break did some good for the trophy hunters as the scores will show. Half of the winning scores were 40 points or more. The real golfers scored the usual amount 20 – 30.

The 'who's who' of our section are as follows:- 0 – 9 Handicap
1. Nick Brewster, 43 pts; 2. Peter (I'm retired) Howard, 38 pts BIH; 3. Mark Henderson, 38 pts. 10 – 18 Handicap. 1. Mark Clements, 41 pts BIH; 2. Tony Thacker, 41 pts; 3. Jonathan Smart, 37 pts. 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers 1. Roy Britton, 40 pts; 2. Paul Ashcroft, 38 pts; 3. Graham Broughton, 36 pts. G&Ts. 1. Lewis Blois, 43 pts; 2. Reg Claydon, 40 pts; 3. Chris Cushnahan, 38 pts. Nearest the Pin. 10th Steve Millard, 15th Nick Brewster. Longest Drive. 7th Ben Wallace, 17th Glen Rayfield

The recipient of our brand new loo seat was Lewis Blois. Although he scored the most points, he also managed to hit the clubhouse on the 18th. Said he hit the road and it bounced – Yeah Right! Hero to Zero in one afternoon!

All the prizes were presented by Neil Ellis, Club Manager.

The day was sponsored by Bartram Mowers/Textron and well supported by:- Aitkens, John Deere, Headland, Rigby Taylor, Bailey's of Norfolk, Sheriff, Collier Turf Care, Mike Lish (Stumpbusters), Tomlinson, Tacit, Doe's.

I am sure that the 70+ who turned up had a good day – Thank you Purdis Heath once again.

You might like this one. Secretary asks greenkeeper to read an article from a magazine about fast greens, "Is the author a greenkeeper or agronomist?"

asks the greenkeeper. "No, he's actually a merchant banker by profession, but a very good golfer, his name is Warrington Smyth" said the Secretary. (Put a 'Y' in Smith and he's an expert – thinks the greenkeeper). After four cups of tea and three Chelsea buns he's read all about cutting greens to within 1mm of their life and using vibrating rollers every other day and three times on Mother's Day, usual squit. Secretary returns, "What do you think?" he asks. "You're right about one" thing replies the greenkeeper, "He is definitely a merchant banker!"

Mick Lathrope



Midland

Well what can we talk about this month then? Fishing, not again Mac (not Paddy Bill!). Perhaps the opportunities that our fine profession can, and does, offer us. I cite the great accomplishment of one of our long standing members, Dave Gibbons, Deputy at Little Aston G.C, Four years ago he and John Ganley asked me to join them in undertaking a Foundation Degree so that the course could be run. Unfortunately my then boss prevented me from undertaking such. However Dave was able to complete his foundation and then continued with a B.Sc. HON's in Turf Grass Science. He, by his own admission, was not academically interested at school or indeed talented in such. Yet greenkeeping stimulated his wish to study further and improve his skills and understanding of this exacting science and art. Dave would like to thank Andrew Boristion and Little Aston for their support of him while completing his Degree.

It shows what can be achieved, and the levels available but we all must start at the beginning and work our way through to the level we wish. Our Section offers many courses, and indeed is open to putting-on what is wanted and required. Please contact our newly-appointed Education Coordinator, Kim Blake, with you thoughts for any education and training needs: 07540 771 924.

Many years ago I use to play

the Bromsgrove Golf Centre with two of my best friends on a weekly basis. They were always flabbergasted on a Sunday morning that I had been to work prior to our morning tee off time. I always found the course to be in great condition and enjoyed such every time. It was only nine holes then, but such has now become a full 18. Ted Evans has over the last 19 years been the Head Greenkeeper and instrumental in its success and development. Ted is now retiring and perusing his passion for golf, Angling (good form), and to do all of those jobs his wife has been waiting to be done. Pauline, keep him busy lass (sorry Ted). From the directors and the Section, enjoy your well deserved retirement mate. Ted's successor is Mark Cunningham and all the best to you in your new position. Well done Mark on your new post.

Now just a reminder, our summer tournament is to be held at the lovely venue of Edgbaston GC on July 19, start time: 2pm, at a cost of £25. Please get your entries into Gary ASAP to avoid disappointment. What a great venue.

Now we come to our wonderful sponsors of our superb calendar for this month. Such being our old friend's North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for all of your irrigation and drainage requirements. Please see their web page on: www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

Until next month. Cheers.

Sean McDade



Mid-Anglia

Apologies for no Section report last month, I had to move home office and everything was packed up! Upcoming golf tournaments are at Stocks GC on Monday June 14 with a barbecue and smart casual dress code. Berkhamsted GC is on October 20 and Ashridge GC will be the venue for the Turkey Trot. The first tournament will have been held at Bedford and County Golf Club by the time this goes to press so look out for the report next month.

Not much news this month but no doubt everyone is getting

geared up for the kick off to the World Cup. The schedule looks pretty good so hopefully you won't need to change hours/shifts etc, you have just got to watch how much alcohol you consume if you are on an early. Failing that, you could always ask an Irish, Welsh or Scottish colleague to stand in for you. I shouldn't be so smug as I am sure at some point we will manage to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory or fail to negotiate a penalty shoot out. Maybe I need to trace my family history so that I may discover a long lost Spanish/Brazilian/German relative so that I have a fall back position. Oh well, the anticipation is great, we could still win it at this moment in time!

Craig Spooner

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East of England

Apologies for the lack on notes in the last magazine, the timing to get them in was all a bit hectic for me.

April began with getting the golf course ready for the first big open event of the year. This was followed by greens hollow coring and topdressing. The course then had to be prepared for its first ever Pro-Am just two and a half weeks later. Conveniently timed in the midst of all this was the safe arrival of our second child, the beautiful Violet Lily Beverly, who arrived safe and well on April 10.

The weather continues to baffle all at the moment with temperatures up near 20 degrees a few weeks ago, yet this morning there was a "white over" frost! However while many are crying out for steady temperatures to get the grass growing, Here at the Immingham grass factory we have been growing steadily for weeks and this cooler spell is being welcomed to slow the growth down.

By the time this is read our first golf day of the season will have been and gone, hopefully all will have been well at Newark Golf Club. A full report will be here next time.

As I write, Gordon Brown has just resigned and David

Cameron is about to take over running the country. It will be interesting what the effects this new government will have on the country and how it will hopefully help the golf business somewhere down the line.

All the best for summer.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

South East



Surrey

Thursday May 6. We should all be voting today so will one Party win outright or will David, Nick and Gordon be playing Deal or No Deal with each other to form a Hung Parliament? If hung, it is a bit like television's Masterchef, with three cooks inventing a menu or, in our Leaders' case, inventing a manifesto.

Three Leaders, one being told you are not staying and leaving the other two to cook a new menu, and not the books, as in the same old way. Of course, by the time you read this all will be decided and so will our fate for the next five years.

Golf at Laleham on April 27 was a fun Texas Scramble followed by a running buffet. Thanks to John Ross and his merry men for being game enough to have such an event so early in the year when growth has been so slow, due to the cold and dry conditions. My team (Willmott's Bankers) played a steady game but could not get anywhere near "Christie's Cockerels", who took first prize. Dave Guy's team were runners up. Dave did tell me the team's name but modesty forbids me from repeating it here. Longest Drive was hit by Wayne Sewell and Nearest the Pin was struck by Gary Rowe.

Baby of the Month, Jude Galloway, 8 lbs. 4 oz was delivered to Donna and Lee Blackburn, Blackmoor GC, on February 8. Congratulations to both mother and father and the stork for being on time.

Jason Hunt was missing from his usual team (Christie's Cockerels) at Laleham because he was getting married to Melissa Brady, in Orlando, on April 20, followed by a honeymoon in St.

Lucia. Due to the volcano dust Jason and Melissa were delayed but are by now a happily married couple.

Wednesday May 5. Golf again and this time Burhill GC was the venue. Excellent and with greens so slick and borrows so difficult to read, Ron Christie's gross 75 was easily enough to win the scratch prize. The nett competition was won by Gary Pitfield, 71, second place Roger Glazier, 74 and Paul Bacon again 74 on countback. National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, qualifiers are Gary Pitfield and Wayne Sewell. Longest Drive winner, Rob Surgey and Nearest the Pin, Stewart Clayton. Next competition is the Cresta Cup, June 15, at Hoebridge GC.

Remember, there is space available in the July edition for any news, views or humorous happenings. Please let me know, or my holiday memoirs will start re-appearing. You have been warned.

Brian Willmott



Kent

Now that the spring has finally arrived, all seems well again in the world of golf.

Tiger Woods is back on the scene, albeit with his (proverbial) tail tucked firmly between his legs. Warmer weather has also returned after an all too long stay of absence and my golf clubs have actually seen the light of day! Indeed, my first round for several months saw me hitting the woods better than ever, but I had terrible trouble getting out of them! And my irons found the water hazards so regularly that I'm thinking of getting my ball retriever re-gripped.

I have never been one to go overboard on practising, however, and the distinct lack of input on my part certainly showed at our second golf day of the year. The venue was the majestic Wildernesse Golf Club for our National Qualifier and despite some iffy weather prevailing leading up to this event, the clouds parted and the sun shone down on Kent's finest as we made our way to Mark Todd's great course.

On what was polling day for our new National Government, our members decided to vote with their feet and take up nearly all the available slots that Wildernesse had offered us. Kev did his best to organise the start sheet, prizes, bacon rolls and score cards and, despite many of us offering moral support, steam was billowing from his ears soon into his day's duties. Kev was also charged with being official photographer on the 1st tee and took action shots of everyone as they started their rounds. Vic, from Ernest Doe's, also made a welcome return with his junior snack wagon loaded with fizz pop and candy bars. Unfortunately for most, Kev's new hi-def camera exposed the effects of what eating too many candy bars can result in around the waistline area. Pictures should be online by now on our website. If you would like yours removed, and you are willing to make a donation to my favourite charity, give us a call!

Although, as I've said, the standard of golf was not great on my part, we had a great time at Wildernesse. Larry Pearman gave us the laugh of the day when he asked us to keep an eye on his ball when attempting to play a shot 12 inches behind a pond then proceeding to drill it under the water three feet in front of him!

The course was in pristine condition as ever and it was interesting to talk to Lee Relf, Mark's deputy at Wildernesse and (once) owner of an extremely dodgy handicap, about the changes that have been instigated at the club on all the woodland areas. Our group certainly took full advantage of getting a close look of pretty much every tree on the course as one duff drive after another headed straight for the lumber yard! At the end of our round came a great meal and we would like to thank everyone at Wildernesse for a fantastic day. Local knowledge played a big part in the results as you'll see: 1. Mark Todd, Wildernesse; 2. Steve Gunner, Wildernesse; 3. Malcolm Gofkin, Hadlow College. Trade Prize was won by Neil Pullen who also achieved the Longest Drive

In a couple of weeks we'll be posting an application form for our next event at Herne Bay so please get your entries in early to secure your place as our increasingly popular group visit

the North Kent coast. Before that I'm sure we'll all be glued to our tellys watching England's latest attempt to win the World Cup (for the first time since West Ham won it). So enjoy your work, your golf, pray for an England victory and fly the flag for our team.

COME ON ENGLAND!

All the best

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Essex

The Spring Trophy at South Essex Golf Club went off like a dream. The nice warm weather that greeted us on our arrival made the day even more enjoyable and the forecasted rain stayed away.

Our thanks go to South Essex Golf Club for a day that ran smoothly, the food and hospitality was excellent and the course was in a condition that the staff should be proud of. Our thanks to Peter Dawson and his team. The full results are on our website but the main winners of the day were as follows: Spring Trophy Winner. Anthony Kirwan, 41 pts Division 1 (0-15 handicap). 1. Ray Clark, 35 pts; 2. Dominic Rodgers, 34 pts; 3. Stewart Rogers, 32 pts (count back). Division 2 (15-18 handicap). 1. Dougie Fernie, 37 pts; 2. Mark Stopps, 36 pts; 3. Sam Anderson, 35 pts. Trade. 1. Neil Peachy, 36 pts; 2. Mick Fance, 31 pts (count back); 3. Ian Denny, 31 pts. Guests. 1. James Tuckwell, 43 pts; 2. Barry Larcombe, 40 pts; 3. James Lilly, 36 pts. Nearest the Pin. Stewart Rogers and Simon Barber.

An improved prize list and raffle prizes, with a first prize worth winning, rounded the day off nicely and our thanks once again go to all that helped make it an enjoyable event. We intend to follow the same format of prizes and raffle for all our events this year.

The website continues to improve with pictures from our first golf day, a small number of pictures from the BMW at Wentworth. A full list of results from the Spring Trophy, the Order of Merit so far, plus the Knockout Draw and job section.

This this month brings us the

Around The Green

Summer Trophy, June 22, which is being played at Channels Golf Club. It's a Blind Pairs competition with the pairing drawn after play has finished so that makes it good fun and gives you a chance of winning even if your round was not up to scratch. Plus we are having a Bar-B-Q afterwards so get your entries in and come and have a great day. There are also three stabs at getting to the National later this year with the blind pairs and overall winner receiving a place.

Book early as it looks like it will be well attended and you would not want to miss out on this one.

The following month July 20. P. Tuckwell Ltd are holding the Tuckwell Golf Team Challenge to be held at Bentley Golf Club, you should all be getting an entry form through the post very shortly if you have not yet had one. Details from Neil Peachey.

Please note that inadvertently the following Sponsors were left out of our fixture list: BMS Products Ltd, contact Matthew Corbould - 07973-155.408 and Blade Amenity, contact Richard Lewis - 07715-588.861 we apologise for any inconvenience.

If you have any news for the website or for GI please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Office

South West and South Wales



South Coast

Hello everyone and welcome to the South Coast Around the Green. It seemed like a good idea in late 2009 to share the writing of these articles between the committee but as I've left it to the last minute I'm not so sure now, but here goes.

We are currently constructing a facebook page, so look under bigga south coast and join the group - get involved.

We will have had our first golf outing at Bramshaw Golf Club by the time you read this so the results will be in next month's magazine.

At Moors Valley we have put

in a planning application for the construction of another nine holes and a new clubhouse, so if successful, it looks like we will be busy, sorry, busier for a while.

That's all the news I have for now, Tony Gadd is your columnist next month so if you have any news, give him a call.

All the best for the rest of the season or as an old guy I worked with in Scotland used to say "Never weaken, don't let the ----- grind you down".

Ian Noble
Moors Valley Golf Course



South Wales

Hi Everyone

I regret that I have to start this column with some bad news. My old colleague and friend from my days at Mountain Ash Golf Club, Andrew Matthews, lost his long battle with cancer and died on April 17, just short of his 40th birthday. Andrew worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at the club for 20 years and I can honestly say that he was a pleasure to work with.

We both had a similar taste in music, Andrew used to tape some of his Cd's for me (What with me being too tight to buy them myself!). He could sometimes be late for work, even though he only lived 50 yards from the sheds! Andrew leaves behind a son, Christian, who was probably the tallest person at the funeral, and who wore a Liverpool shirt to the service to honour his dad's devotion to Liverpool FC and who often took the trip up the motorway to watch his beloved reds. Condolences also to his dad, Geoff, who was Secretary at Mount for many years, and all his family, including his uncle Bernard, Head Greenkeeper at Tredegar and Rhumney GC. Rest in peace mate!

News from the Section now. On Wednesday, April 14, around 80 people attended The Celtic Manor Resort as part of the Section's series of evening lectures. It was a very interesting night with Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie, giving the gathering of Greenkeepers and Groundsmen an insight into the preparations for the big event (No, not Jim's forthcoming

wedding! Though good luck and best wishes to Debbie and Jim for that.) No, The Ryder Cup, the third biggest sporting event in the world, and it's coming to Wales! It was a great night and a great way to round off what has been an excellent series of winter evening lectures. Thanks to Jim, Chris Sealey and Martin Nash for their presentations. Also to The Celtic Manor Resort for their hospitality, and finally to Martin Townsend and Peter Holstrom, of Countrywide, for their continued sponsorship of this Section via the evening lectures. May I take this opportunity to assure all companies that sponsor this Section that they will never be taken for granted and that all will be thanked at both Section meetings and in this column.

The Spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl GC was a big success, with over 40 attendees. There were some really informative presentations on preparing courses for major tournaments given by some excellent speakers. So a big thank you from the section to Huw Morgan MG, Richard Windows of STRI. Gordon Moir, of St Andrews Links Trust; Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl, and Jim McKenzie, of The Celtic Manor Resort. Also thanks to Steve Chappell for all his hard work in organising the event; to John Reynolds for demonstrating the Verti Go drainage system on the putting green; to Royal Porthcawl GC for hosting the event and providing an excellent lunch and finally to Jonathan Harmer, David Binks and Peter Lacey, of Farmura Environmental, for sponsoring the day. Gerald Orme sent his apologies as he was unable to make along the event.

The following night saw the return of the IOG Dinner and Dance which was held at Taff's Well RFC. A large attendance, including a 'Fact Finding' delegation from our Section, were treated to a lovely meal and an exciting raffle. There was then a performance by Graham Cox, or 'The Singing Greenkeeper' as he is known locally. Graham thrilled many (and startled some) with his singing, and I have to say that his rendition of 'Danny Boy' and 'Nessum Dorma' were truly memorable.

Good Luck to Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl GC, in preparation for the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open which is being staged there this month and

also to Huw Morgan MG of Ashburnham GC who are staging The Welsh PGA Open, also this month.

Have a great June!
Ceri Richards 07831 168645



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all. It's our quiet time so no events to report. The next event will be the Summer meeting at St Mellion on Tuesday, June 15. There will be a Golf Match between Devon and Cornwall. If you prefer, Mike Bush, Courses Manager, will be leading a Course Walk, showing off all the new redevelopments on both courses and facilities. This will be followed by presentations and a BBQ on the terrace. Those who haven't already put their name down, please let me know asap, as I'm sure it is going to be very popular.

One of our stalwart members, Buster Lewer, has retired at the age of 65. Buster is very well known in the Section and has supported many BIGGA events since moving to the region. Buster was Head Greenkeeper at Dainton Park, Devon, having been appointed at the very start of its construction back in September 1991. Coming from Wells GC with a strong recommendation from Nigel Pring, Oake Manor, who had worked with Dainton's owner David Wood, he has worked tirelessly to grow and mature Dainton Park to become one of Devon's most popular clubs. Inheriting an "Arable desert", Buster has helped plant 20,000 trees and install up to 5,000 Railway sleepers as well as a period of endless stone picking, all in-house. David Wood described Buster as having a tremendous work ethic, second to none. The whole Section wishes Buster every happiness in his retirement and we still hope to see you at future events. Also, best wishes and every success to Alan Potter in taking over as Head Greenkeeper at Dainton Park.

Again, any notes, stories or events you would like me to include, please let me know.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
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South West

Hi people, hope all is well! You'll all remember me talking about a new set of workshops, that I'm sure will become available to you all, these being the work of Lawrence Pithie. In the South West the first workshop took place at Minchinhampton New course. This workshop was titled "Planning & Budgeting". It covered all aspects of the golf course a manager would need to take into account, from leadership skills to making your budgets in all the areas on and off the course. I attended the workshop myself and have to say how great it was and I'm sure that it will only help me to better my career (as it would for anyone who attends I'm sure).

This month we also reintroduced our Section's greenkeeper amateur. This was held at Woodlands Golf Club. At Woodlands they have 36 holes and we had the pleasure of playing the "signature course". It's just a shame that we played in heavy showers, although this did not affect a great day enjoyed by all. Woodlands is mainly a pay and play golf, this is clear to see that it is set up this way. With little rough and fewer bunkers and a huge fleet of golfing buggies, it makes for an enjoyable round of golf for all levels. This is by no means a criticism, far from it, David Knight (the owner of Woodlands golf club) has done a fantastic job in achieving such a popular venue for golfers in Bristol. I had the pleasure of partnering with Kyle Knight, playing alongside Chris Sealey and his Greens Chairman, Pete Schrader, I can only say that the weather on the day was more consistent than our golf, but we still had an enjoyable day, cheers guys.

The results for the greenkeeper amateur are as follows: 1. Tim

Morgan & Colin Snell, 44pts; 2. Simon Pearce & Mike McGarr, 43pts; 3. Roger Neale & Kieran Hector, 41pts. The Nearest the Pins were won by Tim Morgan, at the 15th, and Mike McGarr, at the 17th. It was great to see a rather impressive turn out for this event. Great stuff guys!

Remember that our next golfing day is at Lyme Regis, on June 23. Lyme Regis was featured in last month's Greenkeeper International, (read it, it's pretty impressive). Set on edge of Dorset, built on the biggest land slip in Europe. This will be our Summer tournament and as always a place for the National Championship is available to the winner. This year National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, will be played at the Berkshire.

For those of you that don't know, but I'm a football referee in my spare time. On the bank holiday Monday I had a trip to Luton Town v York City, in the blue square premier play off second leg. This fixture really was the most amazing experience I've had on a football pitch. In front of just under 10,000 screaming fans, the noise, the atmosphere.....everything was just amazing! The ground is set up so the crowd are right on top of you. The noise just echoed. I remember walking under the tunnel and onto the pitch and it just hit you, I had the hairs on the back of my neck standing on ends. I can't really comment on the game too much (nor the afterwards... as it went by before I knew it. You go the whole season wondering, is this really worth it, so much time, so much travelling, sometimes working with people who just hate referees...yes it's worth it, every minute of it. More of this please!

Look forward to hearing from you guys.

Adam Matthews
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855



John Pemberton Chief Executive

More and more I see the term 'One show' being bandied about in relation to BTME and SALTEX, almost as if it is a foregone conclusion that the two events are going to merge.

The reality is that a number (as yet to be quantified) of companies are finding the current market place in turf management difficult and are therefore looking at ways of spending less, while at the same time trying to raise product awareness.

Pitchcare, wishing to broker a solution to the exhibition debate, invited exhibitors from BTME and SALTEX to a meeting at the NEC in March so that concerns by 'the Trade' could be aired. I hasten to point out that I had a senior member of the BIGGA staff attend merely to listen to what was being debated and not as a measure of support. Following the meeting I have had representations by a number of companies that were deeply concerned about the direction the meeting took and are not at all in support of the proposals made on the day. There remains a great deal of support for the status quo and I do not go along with the claim that there is an overwhelming support for a single show.

The industry is divided I admit but in some ways that is the nature of the industry. Everyone is looking for something different and as I keep on saying there is no one solution that will suit all. I know from my own research that the major manufacturers (often colloquially referred to as 'the Big Boys') would like to see one show but they are settled into a pattern of alternate years and are not pushing the issue. BIGGA and the IOG have been invited, somewhat under duress, to attend a meeting with this anonymous group styled 'the Trade' to listen to their concerns and discuss the options, although I understand that we are going to be presented with the option of moving towards one show or 'the Trade' will abandon thoughts of attending BTME and SALTEX and form its own new event. We have agreed to meet 'the Trade' and a date has been set for late July.

In the meanwhile plans continue as normal for Harrogate Week 2011. There are already a significant number of stands sold and if at any time you wish to see who is attending then visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk where there is a floor plan. The site can also be accessed from the home page of BIGGA's main website.

Bigger and better things are in the pipeline on the education front, building on the success of the event earlier this year with some high profile international speakers already booked. The full programme will be available in due course but it is guaranteed to contain something for everyone.

A word of caution to those companies that think it is clever not to book a stand but prefer to mix with the visitors and sneak sales talks in at every opportunity. That is not playing the game fairly and we will not hesitate to ask anyone caught doing this to leave.

One show or two shows it really does not count for anything if the visitors do not attend with their enquiries or cheque books. Over the years BIGGA has done a tremendous amount of work for the greenkeeping profession which has helped improve the status of the job and the quality of facilities. Has BIGGA really got it that wrong or do we need a wake up call to the members, their non member colleagues AND their employers about the consequences of holding back support?

Around The Green

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



The National Championship 2010

at The Berkshire Golf Club

The BIGGA National Championship 2010 is back again this Autumn; taking place at The Berkshire GC on the Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th of October. To play at the event, please fill in the form below...



Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £95 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Mobile

E-mail.....

Membership Number

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA' value £95
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £95

Card number

Start Date

Expiry Date.....

Last 3 security digits.....

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date

Or E-mail your details to: **sandra@bigga.co.uk**
Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return E-mail.

Deadline for entry is 31 August 2010.

Completed entry forms should be sent to:
BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion. The player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup. Affiliate members will compete for the BIGGA Challenge Bowl.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from a minimum of 4 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.





Diary of Events

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

More upcoming dates can be found at www.bigga.org.uk
Just click on events

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
JUNE			
Thursday June 3rd	South West Section Event – Match v's Secretaries	Dainton Park Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Wednesday June 9th	North Wales Section V's North West Section Golf Match	Carden Park Golf Club (De Vere)	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 01978 860109 Mob: 07876 776265
Monday June 14th	BIGGA Annual Golf Day	Aldwark Manor Golf and Country Club	Sandra Raper at Sandra@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800
Tuesday June 15th	Surrey Section – Cresta Cup	Hoebridge Golf Club, Old Woking	Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 020 864 43061
Tuesday June 15th	Devon v Cornwall Golf Match and Course Walk followed by BBQ	St Mellion International, Cornwall	George Pitts at gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com or 07929 754401
Thursday June 17th	Scottish National Tournament	Murcar Golf Club	Peter Boyd at p.j.boyd@btinternet.com or 0141 616 3440
Thursday June 17th	East Anglia Section Event	Diss Golf Club	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398
Tuesday June 22nd	Essex Section Event	Boyce Hill Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrogers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398
Wednesday June 23rd	Central Section Event	Old Course, St Andrews, Course Walk start 4pm	Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602
Wednesday June 23rd	South West Section Summer Tournament	Lyme Regis Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Wednesday June 30th	Northern Section Event	Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club	Frank Stewart at 07947 401278
Wednesday June 30th	Midland Region Golf Management Trophy	Erewash Valley Golf Club	Peter Larter at petelarter972@aol.com or 07866 366966
JULY			
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	http://www.opengolf.com/
Wednesday July 21st	London Section Event	Muswell Hill Golf Club	Matt Pledsted at matt.pledsted@hotmail.co.uk or 07818 410333
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	http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com/



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

BIGGA Website It's here.....the new BIGGA website has arrived!

Look out for the redesigned BIGGA website, it's packed with new features, improved navigation, new content and enhanced design. The website includes an improved security login and members will soon have the facility to make online payments including membership renewals.



Section Events – Why attend a Section event?

Last month Sami Collins and I were invited down to the South Wales Spring Seminar held at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

What a great day this was, well done to Steve Chappell and the Section for organising a very informative day.

The title of the day was 'When the Circus Comes to Town', an intriguing title which involved Huw Morgan, Course Manager at Ashburnham Golf Club; Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping, St Andrews Links Trust; Richard Windows, STRI; Ian Kinley, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, and Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf Courses and Estates Management at Celtic Manor Resort.

All of these speakers provided the audience with a very interesting insight into the preparation for, management during and recovery from a top golfing event.

I was invited to play Royal Porthcawl Golf Club the day before, thank you to Ian Kinley and his team, the course was in fabulous condition and the weather was perfect.

I found myself in what I can only describe as a dream three ball; I was in the esteem company of Jim MacKenzie and Gordon Moir (thanks Gordon for the pot bunker lesson!).

At one point I found myself stepping back and listening to them both chat about the trials, tribulations and the pride of being

involved at the highest level of running two of the most prestigious golf tournaments to be held this year!

It then occurred to me that here I was playing golf and chatting with two guys who, arguably are at the top of the career ladder, but were, with respect, two regular guys chatting about their families and jobs and had a passion for the same thing, managing a golf course!

I realised then what a special professional membership association BIGGA is, there are no real airs and graces, these guys are prepared to chat to all members and share advice and experiences at all levels, Section, Regional and National.

So, the moral of the story.....

You never know who you are going to meet and what you are going to learn at a Section event, so why not go along to one?

I guarantee you will always be made to feel very welcome and find somebody who you have something in common with.

facebook

BIGGA is now on Facebook

With over 350 million users worldwide we didn't want to be left behind.

If you have a Facebook profile why not search for us by typing in the search field British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and join the BIGGA Group.



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(option 1 for Membership)

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petelarter972@aol.com

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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

Colin Berry, Ayrshire;
Christopher Boyd, West
David Braid, Central; Mike Braidwood, North
Iain Cameron, Ayrshire
Keith Donald, North; George Gunnell, West
Darren Henderson, Central
Ross Hodge, Ayrshire; Philip Pelham, North
Ross Prowse, East; James Sharp, Central
Gordon Smith, East; Blair Somerville, West;
Brian Toall, East

Northern Region

Gary Anderson, Northern
Ryan Blemings, North East
Kevin Burke, Cleveland; Alan Connor, Northern
Mark Davies, North West
Ryan Finch, North West
Christopher Harding, North West
James Heap, Northern
Christopher Lewis, North West
Nicholas Raine, North East
Graeme Sanders, Northern
Ken Ward, Northern; Stuart West, North East
Phillip Young, Northern

Midland Region

David Anslow, Midland
Andrew Barker, East of England
Michael Barnes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Jon Brownsell, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
James Burberry, East Midland
Mark Elliot, East Midland
Gavin Hackley, Midland
Steven Hardy, Midland
Billy Hayes, East Midland
Christian Houghton, East Midland
Stewart Jeffs, East of England
Tom Mapes, Mid Anglia
Brett Moggridge, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Gary Moore, Mid Anglia
Andrew Rafferty, Midland
Daniel Robinson, Midland
Lyndon Shaw, Midland
Brian Steele, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Paul Trafford, Midland; John Walshaw, Midland
Ian Whiteley, Midland
Oliver Woodcock, Mid Anglia

S East Region

Darren Baker, Essex; Paul Barry, London
Joseph Blake, Surrey; David Burrows, Sussex
Ashley Churchill, Surrey
Richard Hill, Surrey; Jack Medlicott, Surrey
Andrew Nye, Surrey; James Rattenbury, Essex
Scott Roberts, Surrey; Michael Taylor, Surrey
Stephen Thompson, Essex; Tom Wear, Kent
Richard Wood, Essex

S West/S Wales Region

Sean Bennett, Devon & Cornwall
Benjamin Bishop, South Coast
Sebastian Cavilla, South West
Andrew Day, South West
Joseph Frampton, South Wales
Daniel James Cornish, South Coast
Kevin Sturney, South Coast
Gareth Thomas, South Coast

Northern Ireland

Peter Roberts

Overseas

Bradley Anderson, USA
James Graham Prusa, USA

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

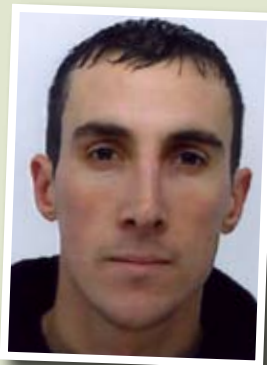
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Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319

Assistant Profile

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

Senõr Fluffy knows how to look after himself and enjoys throwing himself out of planes!



Name: Paul Healy

Age: 27

Club: Worlebury GC

Position: First Assistant

Nickname: Senor Fluffy (Thanks to Frank Newberry!)

How long have you been in greenkeeping?

11 years.

What was it about the career that attracted you?

I liked the idea of working outdoors.

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

I've always liked the idea of being a sky diving instructor.

Which task do you enjoy doing and why?

I've always enjoyed mowing fairways, particularly before a big event.

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

I've never enjoyed vertidrainning fairways. It can be a long and boring job.

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

As a single man I'd have to say some slightly younger, female members!

Hobbies?

I enjoy golf, sky diving, kick boxing and long distance running.

Favourite Band?

I don't have a favourite band but Michael Jackson is a legend in my eyes.

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Not a big fan of team games. I prefer my more dangerous sports!

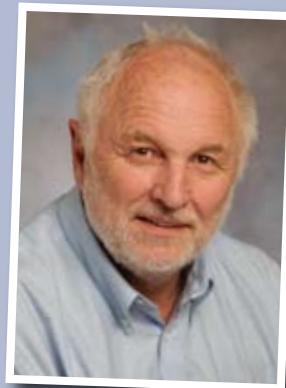
What is your claim to fame?

I once held a couple of kick boxing titles here in the south west and, as a result, appeared in some fighting magazines.

What's your Number?

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

Mike Coleman of Fuschia Exhibition & Conference Services comes under the spotlight



What is your position within the company?

I founded Fuchsia Exhibition & Conference Services and have been Chairman/Managing Director. I am handing over to my son, Nick, but will remain as Chairman.

How long have you been in the industry?

I became involved with SALTEX when it first moved to Windsor and BTME from the first exhibition in what is now Hall A!

How did you get into it?

By chance, we were doing PR for a company when their stand builder did a midnight flit - we stepped in.

What other jobs have you done?

I demonstrated Land Rovers in Trinidad; joined the British South Africa Police, in Rhodesia. I launched newspapers in Buckinghamshire; was Group Production Controller for Haymarket Publishing and Publisher.

What do you like about your current job?

Not knowing what the next call or e-mail is going to bring.

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

Cutting a wheat field with a scythe; asking the operator to connect me, cutting grass with a Royal Enfield Mower. A lot has changed.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Member of a drama group, Chair of the Friends of my Church, 18 years as Chair of Govenors of local Primary School, also sailing a 37ft Bavaria out of the Canaries.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Hopefully sailing more and I might give up a lot of the physical side of exhibitions.

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

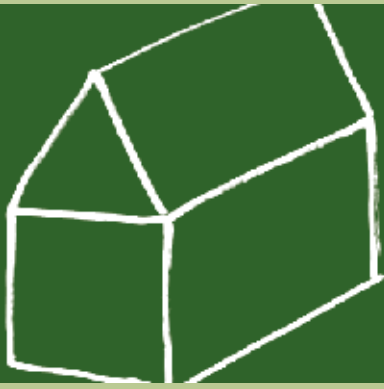
I am not a great believer in 'best friends' or classifying friendship by degrees.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? . 7.

Always has been. As I get nearer to the big 70 I would like it to remain so.

Pick a number. 21

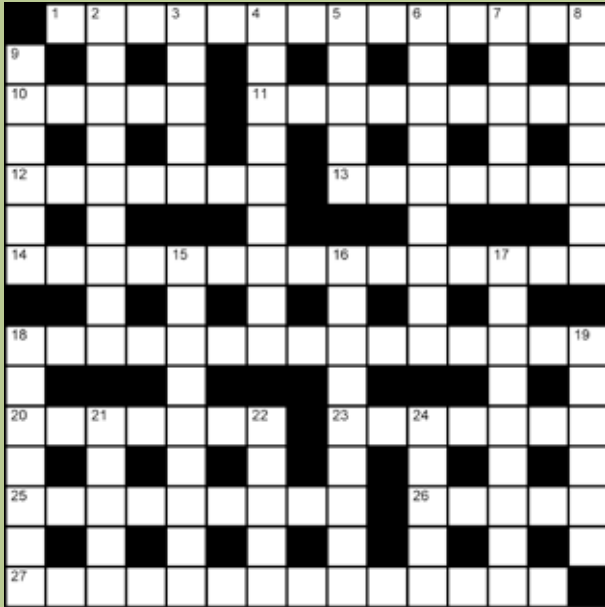
*You've chosen...
Mike King of Vitax!*



in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Type of festive song (9,5)
- 10 Edible according to the principles of Islamic law (5)
- 11 Play featuring Eliza Doolittle and Professor Henry Higgins (9)
- 12 Rocks and minerals used primarily in the making of steel (4,3)
- 13 South American river (7)
- 14 The first words spoken by God (3,5,2,5)
- 18 Bust, waist and hip measurements (5,10)
- 20 Chooses (7)
- 23 One not seeking payment for his services (7)
- 25 Voice of the people (Latin) (3,6)
- 26 To urge (5)
- 27 As used by the foul-mouthed and blasphemous (6,8)

DOWN

- 2 Instrument used to reflect the sun's rays in a constant direction (9)
- 3 Traditional dwelling of the Inuit (5)

- 4 1984 film starring Val Kilmer in his first feature film role (3,6)
- 5 In relation to those originally from Angeln, Germany (5)
- 6 Collar bones (9)
- 7 Name of the hamster in 2008's Bolt (5)
- 8 Method of restarting the game in rugby union not used in rugby league (4-3)
- 9 High-pitched and piercing (6)
- 15 Coin worth two shillings and sixpence (4,5)
- 16 A military unit, usually commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel (9)
- 17 The first to experience an experimental procedure (6,3)
- 18 Face to face (3-1-3)
- 19 Move text across or down a computer screen (6)
- 21 Egyptian city built on the ancient city of Thebes (5)
- 22 The head bone (5)
- 24 A farewell remark (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ World Cup Mania

1. Against which team did David Platt score a famous last minute goal to enable England to progress to the quarter finals in the 1990 World Cup?
2. Name the goalkeeper who was widely held to have cost England their place in the semi finals of the World Cup after the holders had gone 2-0 up against West Germany.
3. In the same World Cup which player scored in every game on the way to his country's victory?
4. Who scored England's goal in the Maradona's famous Hand of God game in 1986?
5. What was the final score in the Scotland-Holland 1978 match which featured Archie Gemmill's famous goal
6. On what exact date did England win the 1966 World Cup.
7. Against whom was Gazza playing when he famously burst into tears?
8. Who won the very first World Cup?
9. Excluding Penalty Shoot-Outs what is the greatest number of goals a World Cup winning team has scored in a final?

		B	9	5	8	6
	6	C	A		5	B
	1	4		6	3	9
		A		3	9	
		3			C	1
2				7	A	4
8			B	7		A
C	1	7			9	
			1	A	5	
	3	9	7		1	C
B	C		8	3	1	
1	4	9	2	A		

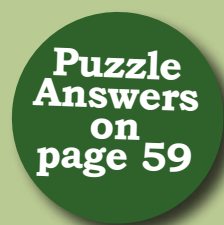
	9		1			
	1	8	6	2	7	5
5				7		3
2		9	7			
6			3	2		1
				9	8	2
1			4			5
	4	5		1	8	6
				3		1

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.





Safety Management System

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

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

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Because:

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

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

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

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

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in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Belgium
2. Peter Bonetti
3. Brazil's Jairzinho
4. Gary Lineker
5. 3-2 to Scotland
6. July 11
7. West Germany
8. Uruguay
9. Five, Brazil 5-2 Sweden in 1958

CROSSWORD



MONSTER SUDOKU

Monster Daily Sudoku: Wed 19-May-2010 medium

1	7	4	8	9	6	2	C	A	B	5	3
B	6	C	2	A	8	5	3	7	1	4	9
A	3	5	9	7	4	B	1	8	C	6	2
3	B	2	6	1	A	9	8	5	4	7	C
C	1	A	7	3	5	6	4	9	2	B	8
8	4	9	5	B	7	C	2	6	3	A	1
5	2	8	1	6	C	7	A	B	9	3	4
6	9	7	3	8	2	4	B	C	A	1	5
4	C	B	A	5	1	3	9	2	6	8	7
2	5	1	C	4	B	8	6	3	7	9	A
9	8	6	4	C	3	A	7	1	5	2	B
7	A	3	B	2	9	1	5	4	8	C	6

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Squiggly Daily Sudoku: Wed 19-May-2010 easy

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

BUYERS' GUIDE



Irritech Limited

Irritech Limited is an independent irrigation consultancy practice specialising in existing irrigation system appraisal/evaluation, and new irrigation system design.

Irritech operates throughout the UK, Europe, and the middle East working with existing golf courses who need advice regarding irrigation upgrades or new golf courses who are seeking to install an irrigation system.

A full irrigation system appraisal and evaluation covers all aspects of system operation from watering sourcing and storage, through to sprinkler uniformity and system efficiency, enabling the client to pinpoint areas of concern and implement changes to improve operation and fine turf quality.

Recent projects include St Mellion Golf & Country Club, The Berkshire Golf Club, Aintree Racecourse, and Liphook Golf Club (where all aspects of irrigation system operation including borehole prognosis/water storage reservoir design have been undertaken to ensure a bespoke solution for the Client).

The role of an independent irrigation consultant is to allow the Client to procure the correct products for the golf club through a fair and even tender process; using a specification provided by the consultant, the Client can go to the 'market place' and achieve like for like competitive pricing.

Irritech is an established practice (approximately 9 years old) that have offered tailored designs and appraisal packages to over 350 Clients, improving irrigation system operation and in many cases reducing operating costs, for example Wildernesse Golf Club which has procured a borehole and 600m³ water storage tank to supplement their mains water supply - this in the event of a hosepipe ban will act as an insurance policy, protecting the Club's investment in the fine turf areas for many years to come.

Irritech can be contacted on:-
Tel: +44 (0)1823 690216
Email: info@irritechlimited.co.uk

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Photo courtesy of Rudding Park
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16 - 20 January 2011

EXHIBITION

18 - 20 January 2011

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Recruitment



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An exciting opportunity has arisen for the role of Course Manager at our picturesque parkland course overlooking the Severn Estuary.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the continuing development of the course and its recently laid sand based greens.

You will require to be suitably qualified with the experience to assume responsibility for the management of the club's course and practice areas.

Accommodation may be available

Please apply with c.v. and covering letter to:

The Secretary, by email: - secretary@clevedongolfclub.co.uk or to
Clevedon Golf Club, Castle Road, Clevedon, BS21 7AA.

Closing date: June 30th 2010



Royal Cromer Golf Club invites applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

Royal Cromer is a Private Members Club founded in 1888 with the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, being the Club's first Patron. The "challenging," cliff-top, 18-hole course lays between Cromer and Overstrand. Originally developed by old Tom Morris, the course was later improved by James Braid and more recently by Donald Steel.

Due to the impending retirement of the current Head Greenkeeper, the Club is seeking to appoint an experienced Head Greenkeeper to deliver the high course standards members and visitors currently enjoy.

Reporting to the Greens Committee and the Secretary/Manager, the successful candidate will require the following skills and qualifications:

- Qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent and spraying certificates PA1/2/6
- Full knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental legislation
- A comprehensive knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
- The ability to communicate, work alongside, motivate and lead an established green-keeping team
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan
- A sound understanding of the needs and interests of members and visitors
- Experience and/or knowledge of coastal golf courses

Salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.

Please apply in writing no later than 30th June 2010 including a full C.V., stating present salary and salary expectations to:

**Secretary/Manager, Royal Cromer Golf Club, 145 Overstrand Road,
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Set in acres of rolling countryside, Duchy College, Stoke Climsland is looking to appoint someone with a passion for amenity horticulture and green keeping to inspire learners of different ages, experience and capability.

This will be a key role in developing our apprenticeship/work based learning provision and will principally service golf clubs in Devon and East Cornwall.

The successful candidate will have experience within the industry and demonstrate an enthusiasm for the subject that will captivate learners. A relevant level 3 qualification is essential and the successful applicant must hold or be willing to work towards a teaching and assessing qualification. Access to a car and a driving licence is essential.

For an application pack and more information on the above roles please visit: www.cornwall.ac.uk/jobs or contact the HR Recruitment team on 01209 617637.

Closing date: Friday 18th June 2010



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- Have a comprehensive knowledge of current Health & Safety regulations and environmental issues and be able to implement all relevant legislation.
- Manage all aspects of the course and clubhouse surroundings to the highest standards (including preparation, presentation, maintenance and improvements).
- Understand and assist in the preparation of an annual budget, manage the agreed budget and contribute to the preparation of longer-term capital expenditure plans.
- Have a proven record in leadership and man management skills to motivate, manage and lead the greenkeeping team.
- Have excellent communication and negotiation skills.
- Be computer literate, able to use email & software such as Microsoft Word & Excel.
- Prepare and implement a plan for the establishment of a sustainable environmentally friendly course.
- Prepare and implement training plans to meet the needs of the existing staff.
- Manage and maintain the course machinery and automated irrigation system.
- Be able to demonstrate a knowledge of construction methods to carry out general improvements to the parkland golf course.
- Plan and implement large scale improvement projects, managing contractors where required.

A competitive package is available, dependent on qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Ian Phipps, Chairman of Greens, Olton Golf Club, Mirfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1JH

Alternatively by email to IanPhp@aol.com

Closing Date for applications is 16th July 2010 with first interviews to be conducted in the week commencing 16th August.

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Ideally you will possess Assessor's award A1 or D32/D33, have a minimum of a Level 3 Horticulture qualification with Sportsturf or Greenkeeping specialism and have recent industrial experience. Ability to travel is essential.

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Knowledge of the fine turf and amenity industry, along with industry recognised qualifications, would be advantageous but not essential as full training will be given.

This role also offers an excellent package including company car, contributory pension scheme and 25 days holiday plus Bank Holidays per annum.

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On the Soapbox

GTC Chairman, Donald Steel, takes to the soapbox and looks at how greenkeepers learn and keep updating their knowledge

It has long been open to wonder whether Club golfers are aware of the annual contribution they pay to the coffers of their County and National Unions.

Even more doubtful is whether they know how it is spent.

The major proportion is directed at causes from which they derive no benefit but there is one glorious exception.

It lies in the support they lend to The Greenkeepers Training Committee which has brought about a transformation in the way our golf courses are prepared and presented.

All of a sudden, everyone is a winner.

In 25 years, the standard and quality of the greenkeepers' art has improved to a point where, in many cases, results are little short of perfection.

At the same time, the standing of greenkeepers in the golfing world has risen accordingly.

There are several explanations but none more deserving of praise than the education received both from the GTC and the respected band of Course Managers who set such an excellent practical example.

All golfing administrative bodies exist to promote the playing of the game but, without our golf courses, there would be no game.

Courses are a Club's priceless asset, the sole reason for bringing us together. They are the fount of our inspiration and enjoyment but, as standards rise, so, too, do expectations. Golfers have always had plenty to say (much in ignorance) on conditions they confront but, as they travel more, and see more on television, most no longer tolerate less than the best.

Not long ago, greenkeeping was more of a job than a calling. Workers were often agricultural recruits on a basic wage, operating from headquarters that were little more than barns and sheds.

Head Greenkeepers invariably had long experience and were undoubtedly men of the soil although they were often reluctant to share their secrets and many took them to their graves.

In consequence, those under them learned as best they could but they weren't frightened of hard toil. Those used to the technical age might shudder at the thought of cutting greens with push-mowers and walking between holes, raking bunkers on the way.

It is unquestionable that, in addition to organised training, course conditioning has been revolutionised by the ability of modern mowers to cut grass as low as conceivably sensible together with new (or replacement) strains of grasses that allow impeccable playing surfaces.

It bears out five time Open Champion, Peter Thomson's, contention that greenkeeping is the art of keeping grass down rather than getting it to grow. Not that all the mechanisation has replaced the need for long hours.

The daily schedule during a European Tour event that I attended last year consisted of cutting greens before and after play, being on hand in case heavy rain necessitated emergency measures and maintaining a 24-hour vigil that for some meant sleeping on the premises.

Normal routine at any Club in summer involves getting ahead of the golfers and casting a wary eye over the small items that make the difference between mediocrity and excellence.

The need for better education dates back to the urging of one or two notable individuals in the 1970s and 1980s and to awareness of golf course architects who felt there was no point building fine new courses if there weren't enough qualified green keepers to look after them.

This led to the establishment of the GTC whose Technical Committee compiled a syllabus for lecturers at chosen Colleges to dispense. By that means, young greenkeepers, attending the courses, had new recognised qualifications by the end of them.

These became more and more important as passports to jobs, an increasing number of young men and women setting out their stall in making greenkeeping a career.

Clubs can put forward their own candidates for little more than a registration fee or the initiative can come from the individuals themselves.

However, nowadays lecturers from the colleges make things easier by visiting the Clubs to impart knowledge or students can study from the internet in their own greenkeeping complexes.

Without conveying the impression that

greenkeeping is a mystic art, the industry has become more complex.

The principles are the same. It is the way of implementing them that is different. Co-operation and camaraderie is more evident, showing itself, for instance, in the voluntary efforts of neighbouring support teams who assist with on course work, including bunker raking and divoting during a major tournament.

There is a greater pooling of knowledge in road shows, conventions and exhibitions to highlight the shop window but the main aim is to please the golfer.

One look at any golf course is enough to reveal whether it is tended with love and care.

The same impression is apparent on entering any house or hotel but at least golfers can identify that it is all being directed at them and that their money is being well spent.

It would be cheap at twice the price.

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Donald Steel is Chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee

Donald Steel

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

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