

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 MARCH 2016

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trees and turf

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# Making a Mark

Golf  
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Feature

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IN PEOPLE



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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



# Whatever doesn't kill you, makes you stronger

**Now that we have reached March there must be hope that we have finally emerged from the toughest winter in 30 years... although I wouldn't bet on it.**

As I write we are waiting for another yet batch of snow to make an appearance and since December we haven't gone more than a week without some Artic-like weather making a nuisance of itself.

Following on from two successive duff summers, it is just what the game of golf needed as we struggle through a recession, Talking of which I personally don't think we've seen the worst of yet.

Sure the indicators might be that it ended in the last quarter from the country's perspective, but the consequences of the last two years will require us, as individuals, to tighten our belts and pay out more in tax and insurances for several years to come.

The knock-on of having less disposable income will have more people looking at the value they get from their golf club memberships, possibly resigning and becoming one of the increasing band of nomadic players, and so the vicious downward spiral which afflicts golf club finance continues.

No doubt over the last year Course Managers everywhere will have examined working practices and budgets and made cuts were the implications are least severe, but I'm sure many will be asked to revisit those budgets.

You would hope that golfers' expectations levels would be reset in light of restricted resources but we all know that is a faint hope of that and, anyway I don't know of any turf professional who would not fight tooth and nail to maintain the standards he or she has built up over the years.

So, as I say, someone up there obviously feels golf deserves a bit of a kicking and it's not helped by the Tiger Woods situation.

I watched his televised statement – the approach Tiger and his advisors took goes down better Stateside than over here where we are a little more cynical.

But the point I'd like to make is that several of Tiger's Blue Chip sponsors deserted him as soon as the Kiss 'n Tell stories began to appear.

However, when we have similarly high profiled footballers carrying on in near identical fashion – if the press, and those home grown Kiss 'n tell stories, are to be taken at face value – but the same vilification doesn't get heaped on them.

While as far as I'm aware, their sponsors haven't done a runner, or if they have, not in such a public manner.

Maybe it is just me but people do seem to delight in giving golf a bit of a kicking and the fact that the game's Poster Boy has fallen off his pedestal has seen giant dollops of schadenfreude descend on the game.

Anyhow it seems that golf must have walked under a ladder or broken a mirror because so much has conspired against it in the last couple of years but you can be sure that the game will bounce back.

As the old saying goes, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger"!

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**



MARCH 2010

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**COURSE FEATURE**

Longcliffe Golf Club has long been regarded as one of the best in the east Midlands, and when the job of Course Manager was advertised in Greenkeeper International in 2008 it was an attractive proposition to a number of experienced greenkeepers.

The man who got the job was Peter Sands, who had been Deputy Course Manager at West Hill Golf Club in Surrey, and since taking up the reins two years ago he has brought his own stamp to what was already an excellent golf course.

Peter arrived on the crest of Walter Cole, who had been an assistant at Longcliffe for 40 years and been responsible for nurturing the careers of many young greenkeepers who went on to become Course Managers, while, at the same time, producing a fine course. It was never going to be easy for Peter to make his mark quickly.

But that's exactly what he did. Having come from the Home Counties, where courses were kept on main greens and tees wherever possible, Peter saw no reason to change his thinking just because he happened to have moved 130 miles north.

"The very first thing I did was to get all of the winter greens and water the mats," said Peter, who started work in February 2008.

Prior to visiting Longcliffe, the club had engaged architect, Simon

never had winter greens and not seen any real damage done by frost. If the greens were so bad that damage would be done the whole course would be shut," explained Peter.

"I will get questions from members about it now and I reassure them that it's ok to play on flooded greens. The only issue there might be a problem would be the recovery after the snow, and the sudden thaw with movement on top. All the same that it is hard it's not going to cause any damage that wouldn't be irreparable in the spring."

The snow has been warmly welcomed by the club, not least by the pro shop, because members, who previously not book in the winter months because they knew Longcliffe played on temporary greens and tees, are returning and there is more revenue coming in.

Peter's successful interview could be traced to having identified similar issues to those of the experts the club had commissioned.

Ex-Woodhall Spa Course Manager and consultant, Peter Wilkey, set on the interview panel and had views on a number of issues which matched those of the successful candidate, while Peter (Sands) shows no hesitating also matched to get all of the winter greens and those of another specialist, who had looked at the course.

Prior to visiting Longcliffe, the club had engaged architect, Simon



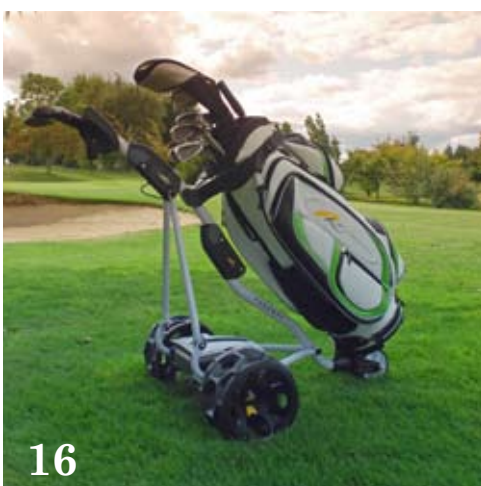




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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.



## Swiss First



The Golf Environment Organisation has recognised Golfpark Nuolen, near Zurich, Switzerland, as the first GEO Certified golf club in Switzerland. With a proud record of environmental performance, achieving GEO's award is further confirmation that both the Golfpark and Superintendent, Steven Tierney, are at the forefront

of sustainable golf course management. "It's important for modern greenkeepers to seek recognition for their management practices and publicly represent their social and environmental responsibility.

There are many awards and accolades available in the industry, but GEO

Certification is the most rigorous.

standards and we're proud to have achieved this recognition," said Steven

The GEO Certification and Verification Reports for Golfpark Nuolen can be read here: <http://www.golfenvironment.org/certification/participating-facilities/CH/143>



## A Wembley Experience

Wembley Stadium Turf Scholarship sponsors Toro and Lely UK recently presented current winner, Tom Peirce, with a plaque commemorating his achievement.

Collecting his plaque while visiting Harrogate Week, the 19-year-old from Dunstable in Bedfordshire revealed that he is relishing his six-month scholarship at the stadium. As well as experiencing pitch maintenance and renovations throughout the football season, Tom is particularly enjoying preparations for the major rugby and NFL matches also held at Wembley.

Presenting Tom with his plaque, Lely's Toro General Manager, Peter Mansfield, added, "I'm thrilled to present this plaque to Tom in recognition of his achievement. As with previous winners, Tom's time spent working at one of the world's most famous stadiums will stand him in very good stead for the future."



## NIA JOINS HEADLAND

Nia Frost has joined Headland Amenity as Sales Manager for central and southern England and Technical Support Manager, assisting Headland staff working in the field.

Nia brings a wealth of experience to this dual role having followed a degree in Environmental Biology at Bath University with over 13 years in the industry working not only in sales but also product development, an area which she is looking forward to continuing, alongside Mark Hunt, Headland's Technical Director. "I want to utilise my existing experience as well as develop new skills and working with Mark gives me the ideal opportunity to do this," she says. "Headland has a very good name in the industry."

Andy Russell, Commercial Director for the company is delighted. "Nia has just the right background and technical ability to help drive Headland forward," he said.





## Shuttle Role

When 2,500 world leaders met for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland recently, E-Z-GO Shuttles were there to transport the delegates around the convention facilities

David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen commented:

"The E-Z-GO Shuttle is the ideal people mover for an event such as this. It's emission-free at the point of use, quiet and has excellent

carrying capacity. The theme of the meeting - Rethink, Redesign, Rebuild - sums up the design principles when E-Z-GO set about producing a new golf car, some three years ago.

"The RXV was a redesign from the ground up, with new technology incorporated in a package that has changed the way people look at this type of vehicle. We're obviously delighted with our involvement with such a high-profile, world event."



## BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP WENTWORTH, MAY 20, 21, 22 23

A few volunteers still required to help Chris Kennedy and his team at The Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see the at close hand the recent extensive changes that have been made to

the even more formidable West Course over the past year.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator  
[cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Mobile 07841 948410  
 01737 819343.

## Oaklands proves to be a Winner

Over 160 attended the BIGGA London Section and Oaklands College Educational Day held at Oaklands College.

The day was opened by the Vice Principle of the college who spoke about the staff they have at Oaklands and how proud they are of them. Then there were four main speakers, including Greg Evans, from Ealing Golf Club, who spoke about his greenkeeping practices at Ealing and carried out role plays for and against cutting at 2mm. He then answered questions from the floor.

Next up was Ruth Mann, from the STRI, who gave a great overview of the latest research on sports turf diseases including Irrigation, Nozzle use and turf management. After lunch was Jayne Leyland, from Barenbrug UK, who talked about new grass types in development, heights of cut and disease and drought resistant species.

To finish the day we had Frank Newberry who in his usual way gave a colourful talk on how to be a powerful persuader. We then finished with all of our speakers taking to the stage to answer any questions. The cost of the education day which included lunch was only £10. This was great value and allowed for all levels to attend.

Matt Pledst.



## Barenbrug Visit BIGGA East Section

BIGGA East Section visited to Barenbrug Seeds factory at Falkirk recently. The trip was sponsored by Greentech.



# Tripping the Light Fantastic



Newark Golf Club Course Manager, Graeme Macdonald, is as comfortable on the dance floor as he is on the golf course having recently won the Senior UK Dance Modern Jive Championships the UK Team Championships with Nottingham at the Winter Gardens, in Western Super Mare.

"I have had a good year picking up lots of medals and trophies and I knew I was coming close to the big one when we came runners-up at the Tower Ballroom Blackpool," said Graeme.

"My dance partner and I went through quite a few rounds until we got to the final, where we danced in front of hundreds of spectators.

"I have been dancing over 12



years and regularly teach the beginners who attend at my local venues in Nottinghamshire.

"I have no intention of retiring just yet, I would like to defend them all again in 2010!" said Graeme.

## EWGA to merge with the EGU

The English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) and the English Golf Union (EGU) have agreed to take the next steps towards a potential merger which would let the country's amateur golfers speak with one voice.

The joint steering group from the two organisations has agreed five initial proposals and working groups have been set up to look in detail at key areas.

The decision on a merger will be made by the voting members of both organisations after they have received and considered the final proposal and following a period of consultation involving all members. It is hoped the vote will take place before the end of 2010.

The benefits of merger could include: the opportunity to promote golf as one game for all and to make strategic plans for the future of the sport; greater commercial power to attract sponsorship; more effective use of resources and reduced running costs.

The five proposals agreed so far are:

- A single National Governing Body for amateur golf in England. EWGA would join the EGU under a modified structure. EGU Ltd would be expanded to incorporate the activities and assets of both existing companies with a new management structure reflected in a revised Memorandum and Articles of Association. A trading name, yet to be finalised, would be adopted with the single company being styled "X" is the trading name of EGU Ltd incorporated with the EWGA.

- The headquarters would initially be at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa, with EWGA's offices in Birmingham remaining in operation for use by staff from both organisations until at least the break clause in the current lease contract in October 2012. After this the new board would review the accommodation needs of the organisation.

- The board of the single organisation would develop the strategy for the new body.

- The EGU/EWGA steering group would consider options regarding the staff organisational structure needed to deliver that strategy. It would appoint where possible from existing members of staff from both organisations.

- The new body would have one main board with executive and non-executive directors. While the final composition and role of this board will be decided by the steering group looking at the structure, voting and governance issues, it would initially have a non-executive gender balance of 6:4 men to women. The main committees would have at least two men and two women members.

The working groups have been set up to consider such key areas as legal and financial issues, golf, marketing, sponsorship and communications.

They will report back to the steering group by mid-April and the results of their work will help to shape the final proposal for a potential merger. This is expected to be published at the end of July and will be followed by roadshows in every county.

The roadshows will be open to all members of both organisations and will provide an opportunity to discuss the final proposal in detail and to ask questions.

The decision on a merger will be made by the voting members of both organisations at general meetings held on the same day, towards the end of 2010.



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# Trump International Plans Proceed

Following the Scottish Government's decision to grant outline planning permission, Trump International – Scotland has submitted its detailed masterplan for the entire site and designs for its championship golf course to Aberdeenshire Council.

The first phase of the development is the championship golf course, designed by Dr Martin Hawtree.

"The golf course follows a classic pattern of two out-and-back loops of nine holes. All 18 holes thread their way engagingly through the dunes, rising here to find views of the sea and coastline, plunging there into secluded valleys, offering a sequence of superlative topographies, landscapes, alternating between spaciousness and enclosure, then panoramic views, and the whole time a rich texture of vegetation and wild-life habitats surrounding the golf holes," said Martin.

"The golf course will lack for nothing. It will produce simply the most dramatic, stimulating, invigorating stretch of golf anywhere I have seen in my career."

The application will be determined by Formartine Area Committee later in the year.

The construction contract has been won by SOL Golf Course Construction Limited. SOL has worked on many of the world's best golf courses and is currently working on various Open Championship courses on behalf of the R&A including Royal Liverpool, Royal Lytham & St Annes, Muirfield and Royal Birkdale.

Trump International work

undertaken since December 2008 includes:

- Masterplan for the whole development
- Full details of siting, design, external appearance and landscaping for the championship golf course, including a driving range, a short game area, a putting green, turf nursery and access to the championship golf course
- Construction plans for the championship golf course
- Topographical surveys
- Plans for roads, footpaths and cycleways
- Detailed environmental assessments and an environmental management plan
- Details of all landscaping, planting and screening works
- Appointment and establishment of Ecological Clerks of Works
- Appointment and establishment of MEMAG (Menie Environmental Management Advisory Group)
- Tree surveys and plans
- Otter, badger and goose management plans
- Habitat management and enhancement plan incorporating mitigation and compensatory measures for birds, bats, invertebrates and plants
- Site water management plan
- Details of sustainable urban drainage systems for championship course
- Details of championship course landscaping works
- Archaeology scheme
- Construction method statement for the championship golf course



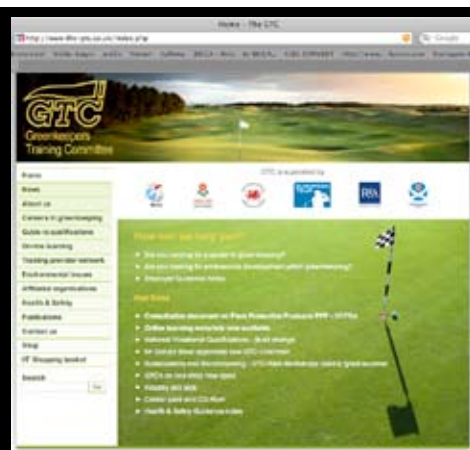
## On-line Learning Now Available from the GTC

The GTC, in association with the Virtual College, is to offer the first in what is hoped is a series of on-line learning programmes.

David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, explains how the GTC is looking to promote best practice through modern technology and we hope individuals and greenkeeping students and turf staff at our Approved Centres enjoy the new Maintain the Health of Sports Turf on-line learning option.

David added that the GTC has developed learning materials which both individuals and GTC Approved Centres can access through hard copy and CD format and clearly to make these available on-line is the way forward as they can be accessed world-wide.

All the training materials can be accessed through the GTC's website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) or for further information call 01347 838640







## CMAE Heads to Spain

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

This move reflects the growing number of CMAE members outside the UK and Ireland, and the feedback that we have received from members asking us to consider staging our business conferences

in attractive tourism destinations. The CMAE wish to encourage club managers, suppliers, owners and operators to gather in Benidorm two weeks after Easter to discuss issues affecting our industry and share solutions and ideas to allow clubs to grow and prosper.

The conference theme is "Lead your Club into the Future" and already some keynote presentations have been confirmed:

- Gregg Patterson – General Manager of

the Beach Club, Santa Monica, California and inspiring educator and presenter

- Jim Singerling – CEO of the Club Managers Association of America
- Peter Walton – CEO of the International Association of Golf Tour Operators
- Gary Firkins – PR and Media Specialist for the golf industry

For full details of the event and to register, please visit [www.cmaeurope.org](http://www.cmaeurope.org) and follow the links to the International Congress website.





# Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Paul Worster, issues a challenge

## 2010: The Year of the BIGGA Volunteer

**My year as National Chairman got off to a flying start at the AGM\* where I was delighted to get the mandate I needed to be able to build on the fine work of all my predecessors.**

The mandate I sought and got was to work (as National Chairman) with the Chief Executive, the HQ team and BIGGA's magnificent army of volunteers to build a shared vision of the best Trade Membership Association anywhere in the UK.

Whether in boom times, or a recession – the best anywhere.

Whether in our membership services or our social activities – the best anywhere.

Whether in our magazine or our website – the best anywhere.

Whether in our trade show or our CPD – the best anywhere.

Whether in our training of greenkeepers or the development of course managers - the Best Trade Membership Association anywhere.

I have stated before that our association must lead our profession forward. Currently only a relatively small minority of our members are getting the fullest benefits of membership – particularly advice, training and development.

If this low take-up of great membership services is not turned around soon we will continue to see the forward movement of only the (rightly ambitious) minority only, and not necessarily the profession as a whole.

We are not simply an Association for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers alone.

BIGGA is dedicated to enhancing the professional reputation and well-being of all golf greenkeepers, as well as assisting Groundsmen.

In my view we can only move our profession forward if (among other things) we get much greater engagement of our members at local levels.

To achieve this I believe that it is essential that, as National Chairman, I provide positive leadership and support for all our volunteers, so that they can support our members.

Volunteers. At the moment it is often the BIGGA volunteers (committee members and helpers at section, region and national level) who are getting the most from their membership of the Association.

Their selfless work for BIGGA provides them with many 'memorable membership moments' that bring them great meaning and satisfaction.

I speak as one who knows both the wonderful feeling that comes from seeing a section education day be a success, but knows also the irritation that follows the unfair criticism from someone who is keen to judge, but not necessarily to help.

If we are to take the whole profession forward at every level, we volunteers must take our work to the next level.

This 'next level' needs to accept that in a profession like ours most of our members are not known for eloquence, but still have feelings and concerns that need to be expressed and understood.

**Volunteers. At the moment it is often the BIGGA volunteers who are getting the most from their membership of the Association.**

These strong feelings are fundamental to the advancement of our profession.

If we as volunteers can recruit other volunteers, particularly those that are more typical of the majority of our members we will succeed in increasing engagement and moving the profession forward.

For example - if we can get the younger ones to help out at events - to give lifts, to greet people at the door and so on, on they will become more involved and they will be exposed to their own 'memorable membership moments'.

I have seen this first hand. My now First Assistant greenkeeper Adam Matthews, as an ordinary greenkeeper and Section member, ran a South West Section event for me, at very short notice, two years ago.

From that moment on – he blossomed into a senior member of my staff, and has now followed me onto the South West Section Committee as Secretary.

If we at National Board level can motivate those at regional level and those at regional level together with our experienced team of Regional Administrators can motivate those at local level then this association will move the profession forward.

At HQ level we have a team of professionals who can and will help volunteers to help themselves.

For example, not so long ago, as a member of the SW section committee I attended a BIGGA Seminar on 'How to Increase Attendances at Local Events' (ran actually by our very own Frank Newberry) which was short and sweet and very effective – and was a complete watershed moment for me.



## We are not simply an Association for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers alone. BIGGA is dedicated to enhancing the professional reputation and well-being of all golf greenkeepers, as well as assisting Groundsmen.

The attendance at our next local event (which was not a particularly controversial topic) had an attendance of two and a half times the previous one!

Let me move on now to the need for us all to share concerns and 'best practice'. It will assist me greatly to get support - to the members and volunteers who need it - if I get direct and speedy feedback on 1) situations of concern and 2) successes worth drawing to the attention of others. I get great feedback at Board meetings but we do not have Board meetings every week - fortunately!

To help me find out much quicker - I need you (yes you - the reader) to copy me into what you are trying to do, (or perhaps not succeeding in doing) for yourself and your fellow members, so that I can get an idea of how things are moving forward.

You can tell me directly about your 'situations and successes' by emailing me at [talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk). I stand

### Let me be clear that I also want to hear your strongly felt opinions. Without constructive criticism there can be no progress for our profession.

for openness and transparency so I will want to pass on your thoughts to others.

Please be assured that I will not stand for volunteers being openly criticised. Let us not fall into this trap. What is needed are proposals rather than put-downs.

Let me be clear that I also want to hear your strongly felt opinions. Without constructive criticism there can be no progress for our profession.

In the meantime as we move to expand our volunteer base into age groups and levels currently under-represented, particularly the younger ones, let me extend an open invitation right now to semi retired and retired greenkeepers.

Please join the volunteer force in the area that you live. You have a legacy to pass on to all our mem-

bers. If you know other retired or semi retired greenkeepers please join me in extending this invitation to them. Get them to contact me on [talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk) if you think that would help.

Now in the last few sentences of my first column as National Chairman, I want to come back to our development as an Association and the consequences for our profession.

I am optimistic that we can take this profession forward, even in a recession. I am optimistic because we 'know ourselves' much better now, we know our history and we know what we are capable of achieving.

I am optimistic because since the establishment of this association and over the past 20 plus years BIGGA members have gone on to become businessmen, educators, consultants and experts in many fields.

Our employers expect us to be excellent, and likewise we can

expect BIGGA itself, the HQ staff, the Regional Administrators and the volunteers to strive for excellence. I will certainly strive. I know I will make mistakes and I hope I will always learn from them. However, I will not stand for mediocrity in our association or in our profession.

Will you help me and all the volunteers and the HQ team to build the best Association anywhere and advance this great profession? I sincerely hope you will.

Why? Because we as an association cannot do this without your personal support - and that's the truth.

*\*Please note there was an informal 'show of hands' during the new Chairman's acceptance speech at the AGM. You can obtain a full transcript of Paul's acceptance speech by emailing: [talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk)*



## Each step seemed to take a lifetime

New Chairman Paul Worster shares the thoughts he had during the final moments before he became BIGGA National Chairman 2010.

### Isn't it funny how time seems to slow in certain situations?

**I have a vivid recollection of my many & varied thoughts at the 2010 AGM.**

**Here are a few of them taken from the moments straight after Peter Todd introduced me as National Chairman.**

I walked across the arena towards the lectern and microphones.

Each step seemed to take a lifetime.

Peter handed me the 'Chairman 2010' badge.

I noticed immediately how crisp and sparkly it was.

I had been intensely proud of my 2009 Vice Chairman badge.

But how suddenly faded and grey that now looked in comparison.

How much better this replacement was!

I glanced across at Peter and John for support - Peter already seemed five years younger - and John five years older (sorry John - and I do mean that).

The room was crowded - yet strangely empty.

Just me and the microphones - waiting in anticipation.

So here I go - my first speech as Chairman...





# Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

**The worldwide web has opened up to internet users so much information, it is hard to believe that for all us former apprentice greenkeepers, we struggled to access any information from our bosses not so many years ago!**

We certainly learned the skills, as that seemed to happen as a natural part of the day to day running of the golf course maintenance programme and I am sure that still is key to a Course Managers role as he/she wants a multi-skilled team around them.

How things have changed in the way all of us can access knowledge!

I know for some, the internet is still not their preferred method to gain knowledge but hopefully the GTC can cater for all with its target to make as much best practice information available.

During a recent review of the visits to the GTC website, we noted the interest from countries worldwide and the interest resulted in requests for career information from many golf developing countries which we know has resulted in international students attending British colleges to health and safety charts and guidance and our training manual with learning materials proving most popular of all.

It is hard to believe that the training manual is now over 20 years old and following regular updates has become the recognised recording document of staff skills.

The GTC is currently working with the IOG to develop a Groundsman version of the manual and this will be available shortly.

The knowledge the greenkeepers and groundsman require to maintain and supervise their various sports surfaces have been captured within learning materials and unlike yesteryear are available in the following formats, hardcopy, CD ROM and PDF.

As with the training manual, the learning materials are regularly reviewed with the most recent

updates included covering all aspects of the sustainable golf course programme.

The GTC endeavours to use all sector specialists to write the relevant chapters within the materials and you can access these from any corner of the world.

The latest addition to the learning opportunities tools is an on-line programme featuring the Maintain the Health of Sports Turf unit from the Level 2 learning materials.

This is proving popular as a modern method of learning and arguably adds an element of fun to taking in the knowledge as well as having a series of on-line tests.

The GTC network of approved training Centres and colleges all have access to the GTC's manual and learning materials and will be given the option of multiple licences for students to access the new on-line learning option.

The manual, learning materials and Health & Safety guidance booklet and wall chart are available to all readers from the open all hours website shop at:

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

Or if you prefer hardcopies or CD ROM versions contact the GTC on Tel: 01347 838640

The GTC prides itself on promoting best practice and sharing information and the accessibility to knowledge has never been better within the sports turf sector.

The GTC website includes all the information and links both to our supporters websites and other organisations where best practice information can be found.

We are aware that many Course Managers now have access to the internet within their maintenance facility and the GTC has the "tools" to help allow trainers and trainees to so much more information, all of which is used by our Centres and colleges.

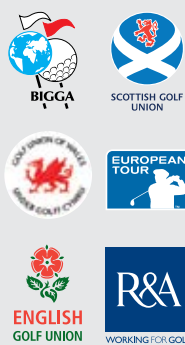
Combine the knowledge and the skills gained on the job and that is a recipe to achieve one of the new Work-based Diplomas or Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

While not wanting to detract

## In Brief

In this month's article David offers to share the GTC's learning materials with all readers including the latest learning option.

The GTC is funded by:

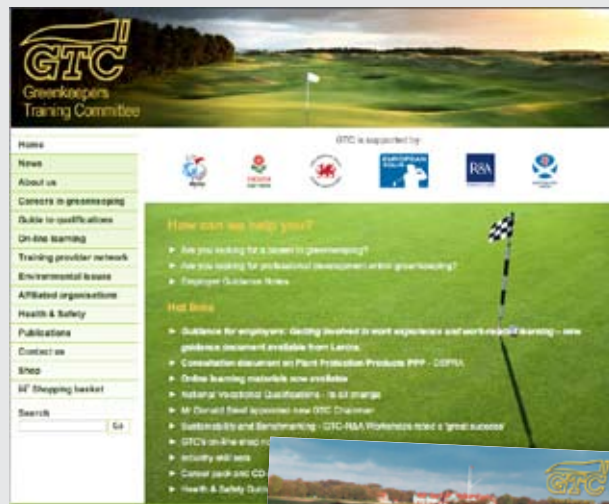


from achieving either work based or college based qualifications the fact is that so much knowledge is now available both from the written word but also from the qualified Course Managers who are keen to share their skills and knowledge.

I believe after years of aiming to establish a structure of qualifications underpinned by education courses delivered in a variety of modes we should leave no stone unturned to inform all interested parties of just what is available.

Internet in the maintenance facility on a golf course!

As an apprentice we were lucky on to have running water and electricity please tell me since the good old days conditions have improved...please?



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# Learning & Development

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



## As I write this month's column, I'm thinking back to my recent trip to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, California.

I'm missing the sunshine (especially as there is thick fog surrounding BIGGA HOUSE today!) and I'm also missing the camaraderie of all the Brits who had made the trip.

Lasting relationships are formed on these trips and you find you make some friends for life.

But it's not all about sunshine and friendship, we're there to do a job and promote the Association to a world audience as well as build relationships with our counterpart organisations, the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) and the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Association (CGSA).

We are fortunate to boast very strong links with both of these Associations and their staff.

I had a very productive meeting with two of GCSAA's staff, Shari Koehler, Director of Professional Development and Penny Mitchell, Senior Director of Certification.

We spent two hours comparing and contrasting our Professional Development schemes and the Master Greenkeeper scheme to the Certified Golf Course Superintendent scheme.

I think that we all learnt a lot about each others' schemes and it has certainly given me food for thought for the reviews that are underway for both CPD and Master Greenkeeper.

Several enquiries were fielded

regarding opportunities to advertise in Greenkeeper International and also about exhibiting at Harrogate Week.

From the conversations that I was having with these potential customers, it seems that the US-based companies are keen to break into the European market and see that BIGGA, Greenkeeper International and Harrogate Week are the keys to their success.

I returned to the office with several new members signed up, applications for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, new ideas for Continue to Learn 2011 (thanks to those who turned up to the meeting) and many photographs of covers of books taken in the GCSAA Bookstore (the wonders of a camera phone means that I didn't have to write all the titles down or bring all the books home in my suitcase – excess luggage costs would have far outweighed the cost of the trip!). Watch this space for new titles appearing in the BIGGA Library.

Two books did make the return journey with me:

*How to Conduct a Competition – USGA*

*Golf Architecture – A Worldwide Perspective (Vol 4).*

This book was a gift from Toro (and it was very heavy!)

As I sit at my desk, typing this article I am looking at the list of projects the Learning and Development Department wants to tackle this year.

At present there are 10 projects on this list, some minor, but the majority major. With the help of

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.

Rachael Duffy and the representatives who make up the Learning and Development sub-committee, we hope to bring you some new and some improved projects in 2010/2011.

## Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen



The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

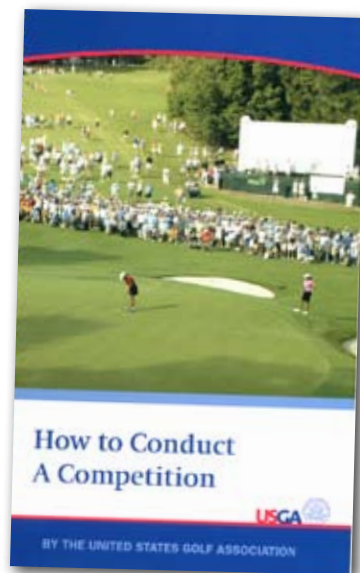
Jamie Blake – Online Foundation Degree – Sportsturf  
Craig Parry – SVQ Level 4 – Management

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## Joint Tour a Success

Attention to driver comfort is paying dividends for New Holland as the company completed a successful nationwide groundcare demonstration tour.

In partnership with Ransomes Jacobsen, New Holland toured many local councils across the UK with a T5050 tractor and Ransomes Mk4 5/7 mower, spread over several months.

New Holland T5000 series Product Specialist, Alan Hawes, said that the company has received a lot of positive feedback from the tour, which has resulted in firm orders with more in the pipeline.



## New Distributor

Limagrain UK has appointed Blade Amenity Ltd as a new distributor for their range of MM sport turf mixtures and also the Designer range grass seed mixtures for landscaping.

Blade Amenity's appointment will allow Limagrain to expand their customer base in the south east.

Limagrain UK's Craig Spooner said, "We are pleased and excited with the appointment of Blade Amenity as one of our MM grass seed distributors as more end users will now have access to mixtures like MM60 and MM25 for winter sports surfaces. Blade has built up a good customer base and we believe that by working together, we can help their customers make further improvements to their sports surfaces."

Mark Wilton, Managing Director of Blade Amenity, added, "Since 2007, Blade Amenity have been offering a wide range of turf care products to our customers, making us well established in both the golf and sports sector. Now we are distributors for the popular Limagrain MM grass seed range we've increased the options for our customers."

## New Fleet for Desert



Desert Turfcare has delivered a fleet of E-Z-GO golf cars and shuttle vehicles to the newly renovated Abu Dhabi City Golf Club, which re-opened last December.

The Abu Dhabi City Golf Club began life as the Abu Dhabi Golf & Equestrian

Club in 1976. For 22 years it was an 18-hole sand course – 9 holes, but approached from two alternative tee positions - but in 1998, it was transformed into Abu Dhabi's first all grass course.

Its nine holes were designed by British golf course designer

Ian Scott Taylor.

However, it is not just the course that has been upgraded.

The club has purchased a fleet of 25 new E-Z-GO RXV golf cars, all with GPS, and three Six Shuttles for use by members and guests.





## GRAHAM BALMOND RETIRES

Graham Balmond, latterly with Simon Tullet Machinery, has retired having forged a career spanning 43 years in the outdoor power equipment industry. Well known to many throughout the trade, Graham attended his first IOG Show at Motspur Park in 1968 and since then has only missed two exhibitions.

Perhaps best known for his time with Industrial Power Units, Graham was instrumental in establishing a dealer network for Dori and Ferris machines, having originally joined the company as Sales Manager for Acme and JLO engines.

In 1994, his wealth of sales experience led him to join Simon Tullet Machinery as Area Sales Manager covering Ireland, Wales and the south of England.

"I still intend to visit the odd exhibition and would welcome calls from friends old and new on 07502087008 or g.balmond@btinternet.com"

## New Irrigation System for Hoylake



MJ Abbott has begun the installation of a new irrigation system for the Royal Liverpool GC, at Hoylake, which has just been announced as venue for the 2014 Open.

Working with the club's irrigation consultant, Adrian Mortram from RHA/STRI Irrigation Services, they'll install new mainlines, a 550m<sup>3</sup> water storage tank, a 85m<sup>3</sup> per hour pump station, an upgraded electricity supply and borehole transfer pipework which will provide water to the greens, approaches, greens surrounds, fairways, tees, rough, walkways, practice putting greens and to the four Open Championship tented village areas.

The irrigation will be operated using the Rain Bird ICS System and will feature a Rain Bird weather station and radio remote control.



## The Challenge of Change

Andy Wood is in his first year as Course Manager of Robin Hood Golf Club in Solihull, having had the same role at Cosby Golf club, near Leicester, for seven years.

He has initiated an ambitious five year plan for the Robin Hood, and ordered a new fleet of course maintenance and service equipment worth over £300,000;

this was bought on a John Deere Credit five year finance package, following a review of his requirements with John Deere and Birmingham based dealer Turner Groundscare of Erdington.

"Basically we're aiming to become an Open qualifying venue," said Andy.

"If we can succeed in what we

want to create, it will be a fantastic golf course – and we won't need to worry about attracting new members and societies, because people will want to play here."

Photograph shows Robin Hood Golf Club Course Manager Andy Wood (left) with Russell Tomlinson, of John Deere dealer, Turner Groundscare, of Erdington.

## SPRING INTO ACTION

SISIS will be holding bowling green seminar / demonstration days during March. Register contacting the SISIS on 01625 503030 ext 232 or Email [publicity@sisis.com](mailto:publicity@sisis.com)



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# Different strokes *for different folks*

**Dr Terry Mabbett discusses the relationship between trees and turf**





PREVIOUS PAGE: Trees are important delineators for separating fairways

LEFT: Trees should not disrupt important ecosystems like the fast flowing stream shown here

BELOW: Herbicide application around trees should be carried out with specially designed shrouded sprayers (Picture courtesy Micron Sprayers)



**Articles about trees in turf invariably introduce concepts of conflict, 'survival of the fittest' and winners and losers. In reality trees and turf should be considered together, complementing each other and adding to the design, structure and environment of the golf course as a whole.**

Trees and turf clearly have varying requirements each impacting on the other at various stages in growth cycles and at different times of the day and year. Provided individual needs can be catered for without prejudicing the other 'party' there is no reason why trees and turf should not get along perfectly well together.

Trees and turf are green plants competing for the same type of resource although for how much, when required and how they secure it sets turf and trees apart from each other. Dual positive growth and development of trees and turf essentially comes down to compatibility and compromise, ensuring tree planting enhances the environment with minimum effect on turf quality which after all is the basic requirement for a good all round game of golf.

Trees and grasses are clearly 'not all things to all men'. Grass is the biggest weed enemy of foresters who spend a great deal of time and money rescuing newly planted trees from grass competition. Trees springing up as seedlings or suckers in professional turf of parks and gardens are nightmare scenarios for groundsmen.

Greenkeepers will have planted their own trees or inherited them, and providing planting pattern and

choice of species was well thought out any negative impact on turf should be minimal, and rectifiable allowing greenkeepers to focus on broad-leaved herbaceous plants which are the common enemy of turf and trees on golf courses.

**Why plant trees on golf courses**

Trees add to the golf course environment by enhancing the landscape, improving playability and broadening biodiversity. By the same token tree planting should not be carried out in environmentally sensitive areas at the expense of biodiversity.

**Some key specific functions of trees on golf courses are:**

- **Definition and delineation of the course including defining and dividing fairways, indicating the line of play and delineating out-of-bounds from playable areas.**
- **Guarding greens, providing markers for locating 'lost' balls and generally enhancing challenges presented to golfers**
- **Protecting the privacy of golf courses and providing shelterbelts and wind breaks especially in exposed locations and situations.**
- **Improving and complementing course character and aesthetics both visually and intrinsically through new and improved micro climates and ecosystems for extended biodiversity**

Overall success will ultimately depend on tree species selection and planting position. Trees are clearly planted around rather than inside main playing areas of fine and professional turf, but natural forest



Young trees like this field maple require constant care



Exposed tree roots present real dangers during mowing

trees like oak, ash, beech and lime can eventually impact both aerially and underground on greens, tees and fairway, even if planted well away from these key playing areas. Potential problems may not become reality until decades later so should be borne in mind and factored in at planting.

**Subterranean impact of trees on turf**

Calculations show 10 per cent of total tree biomass is underground as root tissue. Feeder roots of large forest tree species like oak (*Quercus* sp), common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), lime (*Tilia* sp) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) stretch many metres beyond the edge of the tree canopy. Turf adversely affected by trees is persistently weak, off colour and will develop 'dry spots' from which grass has disappeared but broad leaved weeds will grow.

Trees and grass compete for the same resources (sunlight, water and nutrients) with trees usually at an advantage in the normal course of events. Tree feeder roots will be deeper underground exploiting water and nutrients that turf grass roots cannot reach. That said trees may expose large roots at or above the soil surface having arrived there by migration, or incidentally due to soil erosion. Hard roots protruding above the surface add a potentially dangerous dimension for mowing machinery.

Another problem is suckering where tree roots bear buds which develop into shoots and eventually self-supporting trees. Suckering is not common to all trees but prevalent nevertheless in a number





LEFT: With shelter comes shade across the turf

BELOW: Smaller stature trees like the maples shown here are a popular choice



of popular amenity trees. Common lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) is a major culprit along with aspen (*Populus tremula*) and to a lesser extent common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). Several exotic species, such as false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and tree of heaven, (*Ailanthus altissima*) are notorious for suckering and should be avoided at all costs even though attractive trees.

Suckers can spring up a good distance from the tree increasing as the old tree 'fades away' and continuing to appear for many years after a tree is nominally dead. Not only are they unsightly and disruptive to turf but cause even more damage when attempts are made to physically remove them. The only effective way to eradicate sucker growth, without causing massive turf damage, is to use dedicated stump killers which contain systemically acting total herbicides used to kill woody species).

'Biggest sucker' in the tree world is the English elm (*Ulmus procera*) neutered by Dutch elm disease in the 1970's. Its suckers still appear forty years later where large elms once stood.

Continual production of suckers from fragments of root tissue left behind when trees were felled has allowed the English elm to remain as an integral part of hedgerows, and as 'poles' growing up to around 8 metres high until scythed down by Dutch elm disease carried and spread by bark beetles.

Greenkeepers faced with large trees causing damage to turf are essentially 'between a rock and a hard place'. No option is ideal and all essentially last ditch responses.

- **First is radical and severe pruning of the canopy then waiting for the root system to react and retreat accordingly**

- **Dig a trench between the tree and the at risk turf to sever the feeder roots.**

- **Fell the tree and deal with the stump in a way that causes least disruption and damage to surrounding turf.**

Best option is prevention rather than control. If a tree species has the growth and development potential to subvert turf with its root system or shade out turf under the canopy then don't plant it in the first place.

### Aerial impact of trees on turf

Aerial impact of trees is easier to assess and deal with because you can actually see what is going on. Trees may be planted to provide shelter especially on exposed golf courses, but with shelter comes shade, lower light levels reaching the turf and reduced air circulation with higher humidity and more prolonged surface wetness.

Water stress in turf caused by tree roots is well known but large spreading and dense canopied trees also add to water stress by filtering out falling rain. Turf grasses as a group do not respond well to shade and overall effect is to compromise growth rate, turf strength and grass colour. Shade reduces grass root length and density thereby decreasing tolerance to traffic wear and tear.

Experienced greenkeepers will tell you that morning sunshine is essential for turfgrass health and quality and which is difficult to achieve and maintain without it.



Lombardy poplars are tall but narrow and therefore have minimal shading impact

Shade and soil water imbalances brought about in turf by trees bring a range of 'biological baggage' not normally seen in on well drained sites and soils. This may include growth of moss, algae and a number of moisture loving broad leaved weeds, as well as a heightened threat of turf disease such as Fusarium patch (*Microdochium nivale*).

Greenkeepers need to think long and hard before planting trees around greens and tees. If shelter is the prime reason then evergreens and especially conifers including pines, firs and spruces are the obvious choice to provide shelter in winter (as well as summer), when clearly it is most needed. On upland courses with poor acid soil these conifers may be the only realistic tree planting option, but year round foliage and shelter means year round shade and higher humidity. This may prove critically damaging during mild and moist spring and autumn seasons when Fusarium patch and other moisture loving diseases are most active.

Deciduous trees in full leaf for summer months only, when light and temperature are highest, may prove positive but when effects of leaf fall are factored in a different problems may arise. Fallen leaves encourage surface-feeding and casting earthworms and aggravate problems with thatch.

Fallen leaves with a high tannin content are especially damaging because they will persist throughout winter and beyond without measurable decomposition. Such leaves include pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) and beech (*Fagus*



sylvatica) although pear (*Pyrus* sp) is the worst offender.

Better to go for trees like ash and lime with leaves that decompose and disappear quickly after fall. As a general rule best choices for turf sensitive situations are native species small in stature. Avoid species with spines and prickles such as hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and holly (*Ilex* sp). Gorse is popular for shelter around greens on highland golf courses but tends to raise humidity levels as well as being particularly unpleasant to tangle with.

### Selecting and planting trees

**Trees planted in turf should tick the following boxes:**

- **Small in stature**
- **Non-suckering**
- **Deciduous or evergreen depending on situation**
- **Fallen leaves of deciduous species to decompose quickly**
- **No prickles, thorns or spines**

Types of trees commonly seen on well-established golf courses show how greenkeepers know from experience those which can add to the course without impacting negatively on turf. Commonly seen trees include the smaller native species like field maple (*Acer campestre*), mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), as well as exotics like red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and red Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum atropurpureum*). Ash and lime are popular but are

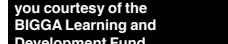
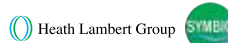
usually as smaller stature types like *Tilia cordata* (small leaved lime) and ornamental ash species. Very tall trees are normally avoided but one exception is Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra var.italica*).

Trees shoot straight up tall and narrow to give correspondingly slim shade with minimal impact on turf.

Using larger container-grown and root ball planting material, including 'standards', or smaller bare-rooted trees as 'whips' or 'feathers' is very much a 'horses for courses' choice. Larger container grown and root ball trees will establish more or less straightaway and reach the required size in a much shorter space of time. However, they are more expensive, require more disruptive planting methods and secure staking and tying adding further to costs.

Even when afforded with protection and growth encouragement from tree shelters small trees take much longer to establish and reach an adequate size. On the plus side they are cheaper to buy (and replace if they fail), cause less disruption and damage to turf at planting do not generally require staking and tying.

All newly planted trees require good routine care and maintenance including weed control, fertiliser application and of course watering especially during summer. Tree guards of appropriate height are required if the course is home to bark gnawing and foliage browsing wild mammals like rabbits and deer.



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

Thank you to all our key sponsors

### Meeting dual needs of turf and trees

Routine course maintenance, including fertilizer application, chemical weed control, irrigation and grass cutting, is when need to satisfy dual requirements of turf and trees becomes abundantly clear.

Turf fertilizer regimes are clearly inappropriate for trees in composition and dosage, while fertilizer regimes recommended for trees may scorch the turf around the base of the tree. This can be avoided by using slow release formulations.

Type and level of irrigation used on shallow rooted turf grass in summer is inappropriate for trees. Water will evaporate from the topmost layer of soil before it can reach deeper seated tree roots, while standing water may build up around the base of the tree causing physiological damage and encouraging disease. Newly-planted and establishing young trees must be watered regularly. Well established and mature trees are unlikely to require irrigation except during really severe drought. Trees tend to benefit from fewer high volume well targeted applications of water.

Situation regarding surface 'cover' on the soil immediately around trunks of large mature trees is complex and vexed. Turf grass cover close to large trees is difficult to maintain because broad leaved weeds will readily invade and take over. Mulching material (e.g. bark or gravel) or mulch structures such as mats that eliminate all growth, turf or weeds, may be used. Downside is disruption of fertilizer application and uptake by trees, which means leaving the soil bare and controlling broad leaved weeds as they appear. But weeds are a year round problem even in winter when fast growing ephemerals (flower most of the year) like chickweed, speedwells, shepherd's purse and red dead nettle quickly colonise bare ground. Best, most satisfying and neatest option is to persevere with shade tolerant turf grasses.

Careless use of mowers or strimmers around trees inflicts bark damage, leaving unsightly scars and paving the way for entry of bark infecting pathogenic fungi and bacteria. Likewise any use of herbicides around trees must be conducted with care, using shrouded (covered) applicators dedicated to this task. Herbicides used to control broad-leaved weeds under trees will invariably be 'total' in action which means any turf grass will also be killed.

BELOW: Felling may be the last resort if trees get too big for their location





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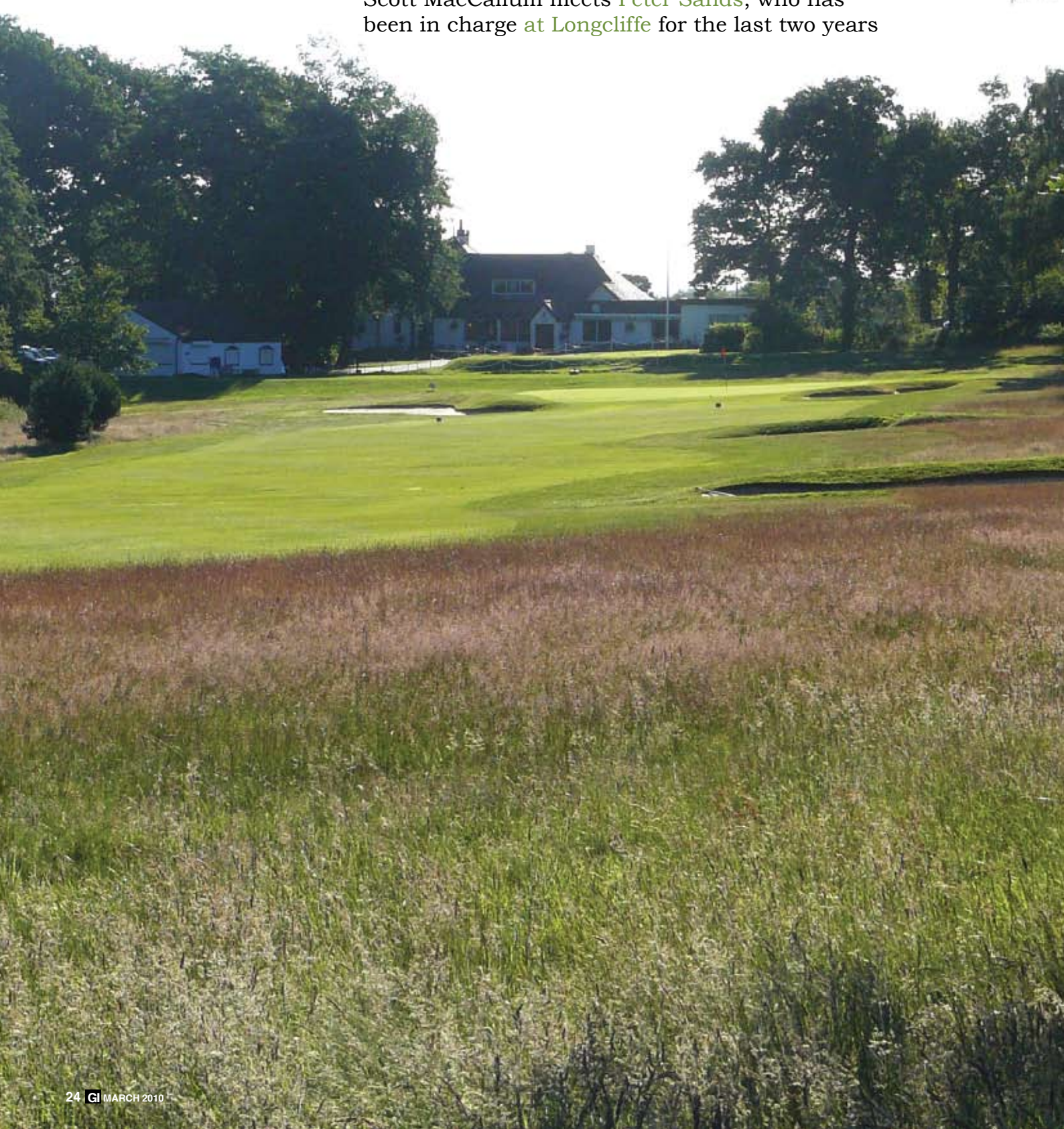
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# Making *a Mark*

Scott MacCallum meets **Peter Sands**, who has been in charge at **Longcliffe** for the last two years





**Longcliffe Golf Club has long been regarded as one of the best in the east midlands and when the job of Course Manager was advertised in Greenkeeper International in 2008 it was an attractive proposition to a number of experienced greenkeepers**

The man who got the job was Peter Sands, who had been Deputy Course Manager at West Hill Golf Club, in Surrey, and since taking up the reins two years ago he has brought his own stamp to what was already an excellent golf course.

Peter arrived on the retirement of Walter Cole, who had been an institution at Longcliffe for 46 years and been responsible for nurturing the careers of many young greenkeepers who went on to become Course Managers, while, at the same time, producing a fine course. It was never going to be easy for Peter to make his mark quickly.

But that's exactly what he did.

Having come from the Home Counties, where courses were kept on main greens and tees wherever possible Peter saw no reason to change his thinking just because he happened to have moved 130 miles north.

"The very first thing I did was to get rid of the winter greens and winter tee mats," said Peter, who started work in February 2008.

"I'd come from a course which

never had winter greens and not seen any real damage done by frost. If the greens were so bad that damage would be done the whole course would be shut," explained Peter.

"I still get questions from members about it now and I reassure them that it's ok to play on frosted greens. The only time there might be a problem would be like recently, after the snow, and the sudden thaw with movement on top. All the time that it is hard it's not going to cause any damage that wouldn't be irreparable in the spring."

The move has been warmly welcomed by the club, not least by the pro shop, because societies, who'd previously not book in the winter months because they knew Longcliffe played on temporary greens and tees, are returning and there is more revenue coming in.

Peter's success at interview could be traced to having identified similar issues to those of the experts the club had commissioned.

Ex-Woodhall Spa Course Manager and consultant, Peter Wisbey, sat on the Interview Panel and had views on a number of issues which matched those of the successful candidate, while Peter (Sands) ideas on bunkering also matched those of another specialist, who had looked at the course.

Prior to visiting Longcliffe the club had engaged architect, Simon







Gidman, to write a report and had identified the bunkering as something that needed to be improved.

“I was asked what I thought of the course and said that I thought it was great but that the bunkering could be improved upon,” said Peter, whose aim is to get the course into the Top 100 in the country.

“A lot of the bunkers were now in the wrong place and many were in need of a complete refurb and the club asked me how we should go about doing the work – how many phases etc.”

John Griesley was appointed to carry out the work and following discussions with Peter they decided on a three phase strategy with those holes where the improvements would be most dramatic coming first.”

That involved six holes and 16 bunkers, 12 of them brand new, and most of them fairway and the work, which took around eight weeks, was carried out in February and March of last year. The second phase, involving another six holes with more refurbishment work, was carried out in October of last year.

“The third phase has still to be fully agreed but we will hopefully also look at the 7th and 9th greens which are divided by only a ridge. It is one of the things that Longcliffe is known for but from a greenkeeping perspective it is tricky because there are so few pin placements on each green while health and safety is also an issue. I’ve looked at it and we can pull the 7th green back by about 30 yards and do the same with the tee so we wouldn’t lose any yardage on the hole. It would make the two holes more separate,” said Peter, who has also reintroduced rough the course.

“The course had been cut wall to wall but I’ve brought in some rough

and some carries, which hasn’t been fully appreciated by some of the lady members.”

One particularly prominent lady golfer who is a regular at the club is European Tour pro, and rising star, Melissa Reid, who uses Longcliffe’s practice facilities.

Since arriving he has also spent a lot of time examining the soil he had inherited and has worked closely with Aitkens and Scotts to improve the balance.

“I did some soil testing and put a fertiliser programme together. It just needed an extra boost as it was lacking some nutrient while I also introduced regular hollow-coring which was only done very occasionally previously,” said Peter, who revealed that the Ph had ranged from 5.5 to 6.7.

Having seen the benefits of Primo Maxx at West Hill Peter introduced it to his greens at Longcliffe.

“In the first three months of using it I found the sward definitely thickening up while I also noticed fewer grass clippings and the percentage of bents increasing,” he explained, while adding that he is planning to use Rescue in the rough to reduce the Yorkshire Fog.

He has been working to reduce the budget and has made significant savings by replacing some of the old machinery while was racking up hefty repairs costs each year.

“The first thing I bought was a Toro Pro Core but I mainly brought in Jacobsen. I’m a Jac person as I find I get value for money.

Peter spent 18 years at West Hill, 10 as Deputy working under Terry Huntley and latterly Iain Morrison, who was particularly encouraging when it came to Peter’s professional development.

“Ian pushed me to start by Higher National Certificate and made me



believe that I could be a Course Manager. I did day release at Merrist Wood and when I moved here I spoke with the College and they were more than happy for me to email them my work and go down once a month rather than every week.

Having gained the confidence to look for a Course Managership Peter spotted the Longcliffe job advertised in the magazine and immediately thought that being a heathland course and coming from a heathland course it would be worth applying. Two interviews later and the job was his.

Prior to starting he travelled north and held a half hour interview with each of the team to get to know strengths and weaknesses and explain some of ideas about moving forward.

“It helped to break the ice and made the actual start date less



Heights of Cut	
Greens	3 mil summer
	5 mil winter
Fairways	13 mil
Tees and Surrounds	12 mil





The current ridge between the 7th and 9th greens

intimidating for everyone concerned," he said.

He has an excellent relationship with this year's Longcliffe Captain, who also happens to be BIGGA Past Chairman, Richard Baker, who in his current role as Assessor for Brooksby College, assesses some of the Longcliffe staff.

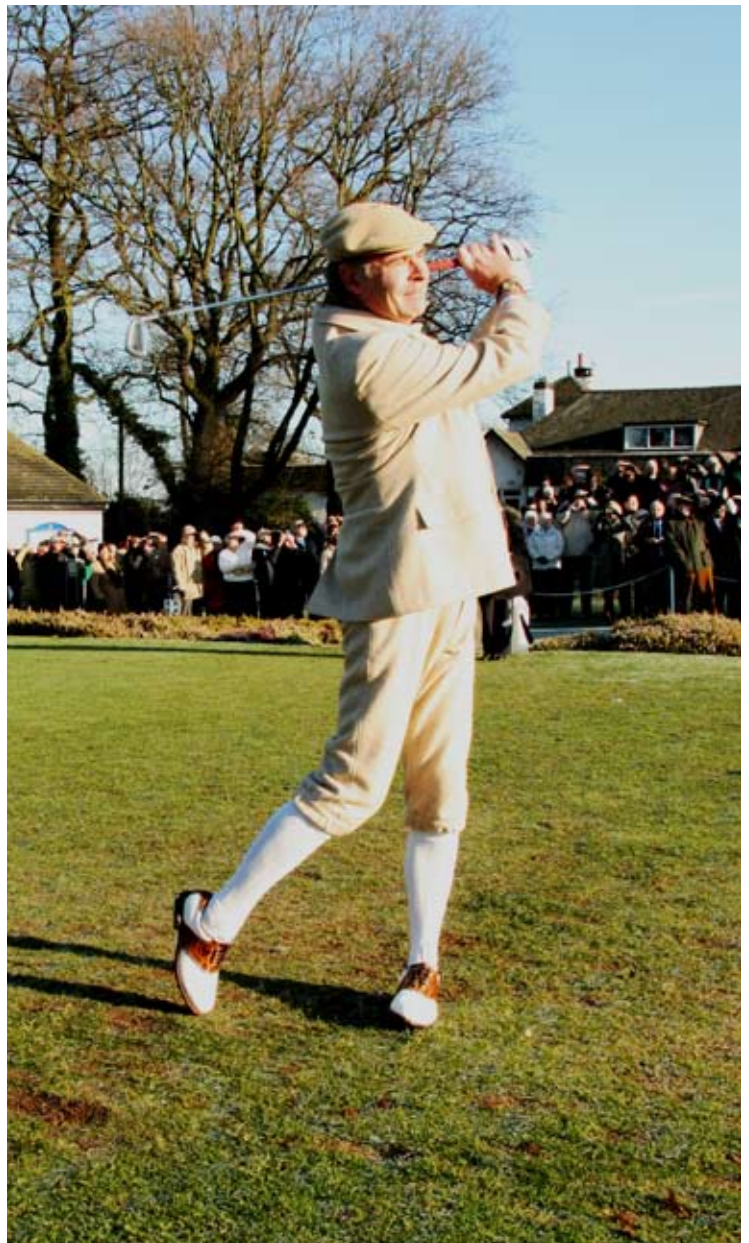
"It is nice to know that someone who knows the job – and who was on the green staff her for a while – and understands the frustrations of being a Captain is in the role. He has been very supportive."

All in all Peter has thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being in charge and admits that he has achieved more in his first two years than he had anticipated

"Such progress was only possible because they are such a good bunch of guys here who work extremely hard."



Course Manager, Peter Sands



## Longcliffe Club Captain

**Richard Barker was BIGGA Chairman in 2002 and in January he became the fifth Barker to hold the position of Captain of Longcliffe Golf Club – his father and grandfather and two grandmothers. His father and grandfather have also been Club Presidents.**

Richard drove into office, together with the Lady Captain, in suitably elegant attire on January 1, having arrived in a Bentley.

"It was a super occasion and I was delighted that my tee shot was fairly decent," said the 5 handicapper.

Richard has deliberately not got involved with the course management side of the club but has nothing but praise for the direction the club is going in.

"Since Pete was appointed the club has disbanded the Green Committee and been replaced by a Green Liaison Officer. As a former Course Manager who had 10 Chairmen of Green in 13 and a half years I think this is a very good move."

He does see some similarities between his Club Captaincy and his BIGGA Chairmanship.

"You are a figurehead at both. With BIGGA it is not your role to make changes – you are there as the figurehead for the Association for that year, and it's the same at the golf club. I'm not here to plant trees or fill in bunkers, I'm here to support the members and be a figurehead for the golf club," he explained.





# Getting the basics right

Laurence Pithie MG looks at what is required to ensure your course is as good as it can be

**During the last two decades, advances in turf technology have been considerable along with those in equipment, irrigation systems, tools and products.**

This has enabled Course Managers to maintain and present courses at a level much higher than in the past, but only when the basic fundamentals of turfgrass management have been followed.

It is important to remember that these new technologies are there to help, they are not a substitute. Golfer expectations have also increased, largely as a result of improved playing conditions and standards of presentation.

However, due to the economic woes that have affected the industry and beyond, Course Managers are now challenged with providing the

same quality but often with lower levels of resource, namely labour, equipment and materials. No-one likes to see standards fall and the key is not necessarily to work harder and for longer hours but to work smarter. There is a need to understand the key challenges faced when determining work programmes and implementing basic practices. It is all about maintaining a balance between sound agronomics verses playability.

From the Course Manager's perspective, creating a good growing environment is fundamental to the other aspects which include a healthy soil, stress free turf, sound cultural practices, adequate resources and the customer's understanding. Golfers' priorities are more likely to be firm and fast greens, all year round playability,

minimal disruption to play, minimal penal rough and good course definition and presentation. The other major part of this 'balancing' act is budget constraints, therefore all the more reason to get the basics in place and use new technologies to help achieve the desired objectives.

So what are the key fundamentals in turfgrass management? They can be split into four distinct areas, namely;

- Growing Environment
- Nutrient Supply
- Water Management
- Mowing

## **Growing Environment**

The practice of good greenkeeping is to work with the existing environ-





An open environment, ideal for healthy turf



MAIN ABOVE: Foliar feed and marker dye application

INSET ABOVE: Mowing green with brush attachment produces a finer cut quality

INSET LEFT: Light but regular top dressing is essential for thatch control

ment, not against it. Environmental aspects include sunlight, air movement, soil type, grass species and natural vegetation.

The three basic requirements for plant life are air, light and water and it is well documented that grass is a sun loving plant. Grass also accounts for 20% of all plant life on earth. Sunlight enables the turf to photosynthesise and develop energy for growth.

When turf is in deep shade, grasses have smaller leaves and less density which increases their susceptibility to wear, disease and other stresses, therefore a key requirement is to reduce shade as much as possible.

An open environment with good air movement is another critical factor since this helps to dry and cool the surface and reduces the level of humidity, which is a key factor in reducing the risk of disease attack. This, in turn, helps to reduce fungicide costs.

Since trees always win when competing for sunlight, water and nutrients, every effort needs to be made to limit their effect on and around the greens and to maximise air movement.

Soil types are diverse and will vary from course to course, ranging from clay to sand and possibly even landfill. Sandy soils dry out faster and can succumb to high heat stress and increased root damage, whereas clay soils have poor permeability, are slow to drain and easily compactable. Each needs to be managed differently but to achieve a common goal for healthy growth.

Grasses too are likely to be diverse. Each species present in a given sward is there because the environmental factors favour it to be so. If the desire is to change to a more sustainable species then it is the environment that needs to change in order for those grasses to out compete those currently present.

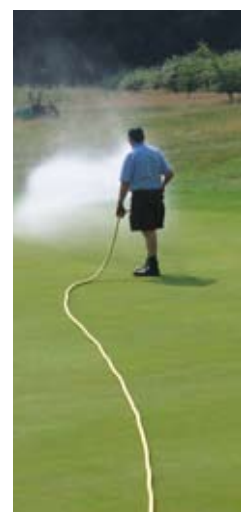
Fescues, for example, will not

flourish when fertility levels are high and drainage is poor. Therefore when contemplating any change to the more desirable species, a thorough understanding of what is involved is required and that means good planning, good communication and a fair degree of patience and understanding.

### Nutrient Supply

Plants require turf nutrients to promote healthy growth, being split into two categories of Macronutrients & Micronutrients.

The former include Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potassium, followed by Sulphur, Calcium and Magnesium whereas the latter include less well known elements such as Boron, Iron and Manganese but in minute quantities. Individual plant needs will vary depending upon grass species, soil type, mowing height & so on. Turf, just like humans require a balanced diet,



ABOVE: Hand watering dry areas to ensure even coverage





therefore knowing what is in the root-zone from analysing soil is an important factor.

Plant nutrition is all about supplying the plant with relative proportions and ratios relative to individual needs. A lack of nutrition leads to poor turf health and a lack of vigour and density of the sward. Moss, dollar spot and anthracnose can also become more prevalent where low fertility exists.

Over-feeding can be even more harmful to turf, leading to a build-up of organic matter and thatch. This has a direct and negative impact on surface quality, reduced surface drainage, shallower rooting and an increased risk of varying turf diseases.

A feeding programme based on foliar or liquid feeds and tank mixes is more effective and less expensive, using a variety of products and amendments such as seaweed extracts and humic acids.

There is no set feeding programme or amount of each nutrient to be applied since there are too many mitigating factors. Recommended amounts of NPK to be applied should act only as a guide and in line with both soil analysis and desired objectives. It is an old saying that grass does not grow on an analysis sheet but it is also foolish to ignore the facts.

### Water Management

This relates mainly to irrigation and drainage; namely the supply and removal of water to and from the playing surface. Aeration can

be added to this, since this essential cultural practice helps with the internal movement of water as well as other agronomic benefits. Water is an essential component of photosynthesis along with oxygen and sunlight.

It is used for the absorption and transportation of plant nutrients and also acts as a cooling agent by regulating temperature. Water also maintains leaves in a turgid state and if depleted then turf wilt occurs. At least 25mm is lost through evapo-transpiration when conditions become hot and dry and this amount of loss needs to be replaced by irrigation to maintain good turf health.

During prolonged spells of dry weather, good water management requires a 'hands-on' approach which means applying water by hand held hose to the dry spots, ridges and shoulders of the green. Although turf performs better when drier conditions prevail, the turf should not be put under extreme stress which can weaken the turf and lead to other agronomic problems such as dry patch. However, over-watering is a cardinal sin and results in the air space within the soil becoming filled with water, leading to a decline in root growth. Other problems such as softer surfaces, algae and thatch are then likely to follow.

Good drainage is essential for all year round playability and wear tolerance. Healthy turf cannot survive in a waterlogged soil therefore the quick and efficient movement of water through the soil and into a

ABOVE: Overseeding to enhance sward quality Royal Portlucaw.

permeable layer or drainage system is paramount to providing good growing conditions.

This also favours the more desirable grasses which in turn leads to better playing conditions and a lower maintenance requirement. Most if not all soils can be drained and on those where higher amounts of silt and clay are present, a variety of drainage practices will be required in order to improve permeability.

### Mowing

The three basic considerations for mowing are the type of mower used, sharpness of reels & blades and the height of cut being used. In principle, the lower the height of cut, the more stress that is placed on the turf since the plant has less surface area to photosynthesise, produce energy and store carbohydrates.

The shorter the plant becomes then the greater the level of input of nutrients, water and management practices that are required. It is, as stated previously, a balance between mowing height, golfer expectations and plant health. For greens mowing, key considerations are labour requirement, time and cost.

The type of grass species present and the policy objectives will also have a bearing on mowing height. Other practices such as grooming, brushing rolling and top dressing will all have a part to play in addition to mowing and it is imperative that mechanical stress such as scalping is avoided.

Much emphasis has been placed on greens speed and a faster putting speed is now judged by many as a mark of quality. However, it is trueness and smoothness that are the most important factors and a more realistic mowing height will result in less stress on the turf.

### Summary

Getting the basics right include creating a healthy growing environment both around the playing surfaces and in the soil below.

It is also about implementing a balanced feeding program, ensuring good drainage and irrigating for the benefit of the turf. Sound cultural practices of aeration and top dressing are additional to operating realistic mowing heights and frequencies of cut.

These fundamental practices need to be at the cornerstone of course policy and that modern turf technologies are there to assist in maintaining then golf course.



#### about the author

Laurence was the first greenkeeper to attain BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper Certificate in 1991 and is also a recipient of both Greenkeeper and Groundsman of the Year in 1984 and 1988 respectively. He has served the industry for 39 years, working at numerous courses throughout the UK

For further information contact Laurence W Pithie MG, Turf Master One Ltd, [www.turfmasterone.co.uk](http://www.turfmasterone.co.uk)



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# Reinventing the *Wheel*

## Part 2

Lee Manvell gives an update on the new Powakaddy wheel which BIGGA helped develop last year

**Following what was possibly the worst December and January weather since the turn of the millennium any kind of good news story for golf course owners and greenkeepers has to be celebrated.**

We reported back in October that Powakaddy had collaborated with BIGGA on the design and testing of a new winter wheel solution for electric trolleys. At the time we couldn't possibly have predicted how severe the weather would be over the winter and how vital this new product is proving not only for golf course owners and greenkeepers but also retailers and of course those hardy golf enthusiasts who wanted to play come rain, frost or snow. Granted many courses were completely closed for extended periods particularly in the run-up to Christmas and mid January but for many others Powakaddy's new winter wheel facilitated incremental green fees and ancillary revenue.

With the 'open tread' design inspired by lawn protection products, Powakaddy's new winter wheels very rapidly received widespread approval from greenkeepers, golf course owners, retailers and golfers. In the development phase the new winter wheel was rigorously tested by Powakaddy's design team in conjunction with a BIGGA advisory panel.

The wheel's key performance attributes, such as weight distribution, traction, turning ability and the subsequent affect on the grass blades, root damage and soil compaction were scrutinised and in all

cases the new winter wheels passed with flying colours and was ready for launch.

Terry Hale, Powakaddy's Chief Executive acknowledges the key role that Course Managers have played in the immediate impact of the new winter wheel solution. "The support of greenkeepers up and down the country has been the absolute key to the success of our winter wheels launch. Our on-course retail partners needed the buy-in from their Course Manager to be able to stock the product and I am pleased to say that the vast majority to date have embraced the concept".

Once the green staff had given the green light it then required golf retailers to stock the product at a time when they would be looking to run down stock as the year came to a close and in turn for Powakaddy electric trolley users to part with their hard earned cash for a new golf accessory.

As Simon Homer, Powakaddy's Sales Director explains, the uptake from both retailers and consumers has been extremely encouraging.

"We sold in the new wheel in limited numbers pre-Christmas to test the water and to ensure that the right process was being adhered to in terms of garnering support from individual Course Managers. The reaction was fantastic and we have some great anecdotal stories of golf professionals, faced with very low traffic coming through the door due to the weather, enjoying big demand for the wheels and giving their pre-Christmas turnover a welcome boost".

Once such retailer was Richard



ABOVE: Glenn Porter, Head of Engineering, Powakaddy.

Mudge from Staverton Park Golf Club, "We are very pleased that Powakaddy have come up with such an innovative product. At Staverton we do have trolley bans so the Winter Wheels have been a lifeline to our members as it allows them to play throughout the wet wintry conditions without damaging the course. Our Head Greenkeeper had no hesitation in giving them the thumbs up"

Probably more importantly for the long term impact of the new winter wheels as a revenue stream for golf course owners and retailers is that there hasn't appeared to be any adverse reaction from Course Managers once the winter wheels had actually been out on the course for an extended period of time with multiple users and dozens of round played in wet wintry conditions.

The usual symptoms with standard wheels would be damaged grass roots, muddy trails, compacted turf and skid marks but the open tread design, based on a principal seen in lawn protec-





tion mesh mat systems, evenly distributes the load over a smaller surface area avoiding compacting and denting.

At Haywards Heath Golf Club in West Sussex they have seen the benefits of the Winter Wheels and Andrew Smith – Senior Professional is delighted with the performance, “The new Powakaddy Winter Wheels have proven to be an invaluable asset. On soft ground the new wheel causes negligible damage. They have enabled at least 40 of our members to enjoy playing golf throughout this winter.”

With the launch period proving so successful and sales figures in the first two months well above plan Powakaddy is rolling out the winter wheels to as many golf clubs and retail partners as possible for the remainder of the winter while still being sensitive to the need for education and communication between the major stakeholders within a golf club.

As Simon Homer explains “it is imperative that the consultation

process between greenkeeper and retailer, that has been so vital to the success of our winter wheels to date, continues as consumer demand for the product increases. We have to make sure that the benefits of the product are effectively communicated to all parties so the positive impact on course conditioning is fully understood.”

With the emphasis very much on education Powakaddy has embarked on a comprehensive trade focused PR and communications campaign, including extended articles in the key golf trade press, trial sets being issued by Powakaddy Sales Managers and the production of a promotional video to visually demonstrate the key features and benefits of the winter wheels. In addition the company made its debut at the BTME show in Harrogate at the end of January to showcase the product and facilitate as many one-on-one conversations with greenkeepers as possible.

“The feedback from the BTME show was extremely encouraging



ABOVE: Andrew Smith, Senior Professional, Haywards Heath, who gave a testimonial on the Powakaddy video.

and an important element in the ongoing consultation process” commented Homer. Popularity of the winter wheels has been so high that Powakaddy now plans to extend the availability to sister brand Hill Billy trolleys later in the year.

With no ill effects on course conditioning for greenkeepers, increased traffic, rental fleet revenue and member satisfaction for golf course owners and incremental business for retailers during the slow winter months, Powakaddy’s winter wheels are certainly ticking a lot of boxes.

Ultimately the final word must go to the hard core golfers that keep this industry ticking over. For older players or players with injuries, an electric trolley is the only way they can play and for many others it is a major part of their enjoyment of the game so it is heartening to see a new product introduced that is not just marketing fluff but has tangible benefits to the end user.

Lee Manvell is Group Product Manager for Powakaddy



The third of the series, in which James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

# The anatomy of... a Hybrid Greens Mower



James de Havilland casts his eye over the new Jacobsen Eclipse 322. Another nail in the hydraulic oil drum?

Jacobsen has styled its diesel electric Eclipse 322 so it looks just like a 'conventional' diesel hydraulic machine. Operating costs should be lower due to the efficiency of the driveline.



## Step-by-step Analysis...

### Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid greens mowers



Nestling under the mower are extra batteries. These provide buffer energy to ensure instant power is always available to the mower.



Jacobsen Command Arm and steering column are both adjustable. To sit on, the Eclipse 322 feels much the same as a Jacobsen diesel hydraulic mower.



There is not a great deal to see under the engine cover, with good service access. Steering system is genuine 'fly by wire' and claimed to offer good 'feel'.



The cutting units come with a choice of options to include groomers...



... and verticutter. The Eclipse 322 is a full spec offering that happens to have diesel electric power.

**Diesel electric power is hardly new. From ships and submarines through to giant dump trucks and rail locomotives, diesel electric power has demonstrated its ability to be both reliable and economical. It is when it comes to 'shrinking' the technology, however, that the system has failed to take off. But times they are a changing...**

It is all too easy to look at the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 in isolation. It is, after all, the only ride-on greens mower to use electric motors to drive both its cutting units and traction wheels.

This eliminates the hydraulics that we have come to regard as the default transmission medium for both. It all seems pretty straightforward, so perhaps you could ask why it has taken so long to produce such a machine.

There are a host of reasons, but key among these has been a scarcity of electric motors that are right for the job. Big ships, locos and dump trucks are large enough to allow the



use of pretty hefty generators and drive motors. A diminutive greens mower has to consider both the size and weight of all its components.

In fact, Jacobsen produced the Greens King Electric for in the '90s and there are hundreds still at work. But this mower was not without drawbacks that included heavy motors and not enough power to drive groomers and roller brushes.

In 2004 the John Deere 2500E 'hybrid' greens mower helped keep interest in ride-on diesel electric power alive, the Jacobsen pedestrian Eclipse 100 electric greens having been on sale for several years. But it is in getting the right motors for both the cutting units and traction system that has to date been a stumbling block. There is then the need to develop a control system that links everything together. It is all rather more involved that it first appears.

The Eclipse 322 also eliminates the use of any hydraulics. The steering system is electrically powered, proximity sensors on the rear steering wheel providing near 'mechani-

cal' feedback so the operator 'feels' the wheel loading up as full lock is approached. This may not seem like much of a design challenge, but Jacobsen has gone to great lengths to make the Eclipse 322 drive as much like a conventional machine as possible.

Similarly, the raise lower system for the units had to be purpose developed for the mower. In place of hydraulic rams are motorised screw jacks.

In simple terms, motors take over the job of lowering and raising the units in and out of work, again eliminating any hydraulic hose runs. Everything relies upon electric power.

At this stage it is worth looking at where all the power comes from. Starting with the engine, this is a 2-cylinder liquid cooled 13.3hp Kubota diesel. Next is a 48-volt continuous generator that produces up to 5.8 kW.

This provides electric current to a 2.2 kW AC traction drive motor. As to the units, these are powered by three 0.97 kW DC motors.

Those who are less familiar with



electric power units will note the traction motor is AC, alternating current, the units driving the cutting cylinders having DC, direct current, drive. The reasoning behind all this can get complex but in very broad outline Jacobsen has selected and developed the most appropriate drive units to do the job.

AC motors tend to be favoured for traction, DC providing the fixed operating speeds that are vital to ensuring matched reel speeds for a consistent quality of cut.

**Quality of cut and reduced operating costs**

It is actually the quality of cut issue that was a key driver behind the development of the Eclipse 322. An electric motor will develop its full operating torque as soon as it gets power.

This essentially allows an electrically powered reel to run up to its cutting speed pretty much as soon as it is switched on, with any load on the system being taken care of at the same time.

Wheel rotation and reel speed are both constantly monitored to ensure frequency of cut (or clip rate)

are maintained precisely as programmed, regardless of operator skill and the influence oil temperature would have were it applicable.

Richard Comely, Ransomes Jacobsen Product Manager, suggests tests have shown the use of diesel electric power is extremely efficient too.

When compared to an all-hydraulic greens mower, average fuel consumption of the Eclipse 322 was up to 43% lower. That is a real eye opener.

To put this into context, a club running a ride-on greens mower that gets through 3,500 litres of fuel a year could reduce consumption by around 1,500 litres. With red diesel at 0.65p/litre, that is about £1,000.

The savings do not stop at fuel use either. The Eclipse 322 has no hydraulic oil or filters either. Although modern mowers can run much further between requiring a full hydraulic oil and filter change, it will still cost a couple of hundred quid to do the job when it is necessary.

It does look like a diesel electric Eclipse will have the operating cost advantage over is diesel hydraulic sibling.



**What's it like for the operator?**

Few in the UK have had the chance to actually drive the Eclipse 322 yet, but Jacobsen are keen to point out that driving this new greens mower should not be any 'different' in operation terms from an existing diesel hydraulic mower. In fact you could pretty much jump on the Eclipse and only realise it was diesel electric by the different noise it makes.

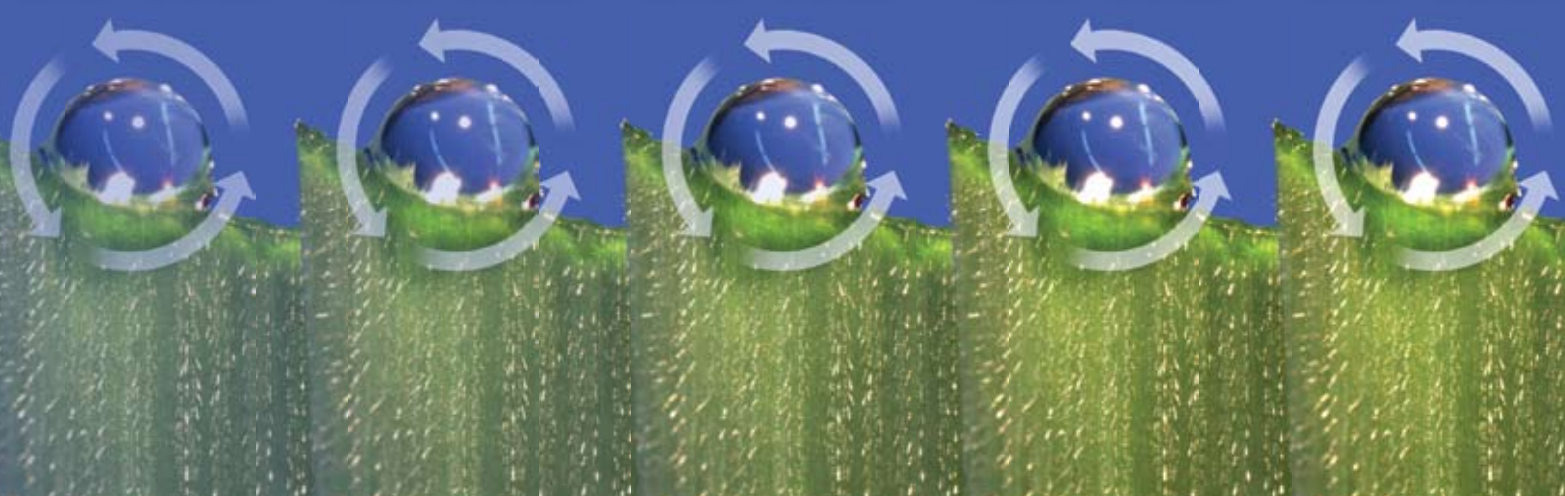
As previously mentioned, the steering system has been developed so it has a 'mechanical' feel to it, despite the fact that there is no mechanical link between the steering wheel and rear steered wheel. The joystick used to raise the units is said to operate just as it would if used to open a number of hydraulic valves too.

Without having sat on the mower and driven it, the way it reacts to the travel pedal is something that may initially feel a bit different. With hydrostatic drive, the travel pedal is just that, releasing pressure on the pedal slowing the mower. Lift off the pedal, and the mower will stop.

On the Eclipse 322, Jacobsen use the AC electric traction motor to

# Turf disease protection that

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





also control the speed of the mower. So the operator will use the travel pedal in just the same way as on a hydrostatic model. When it comes to actually stopping, the brake is automatically applied when the mower comes to a halt, automatically releasing as power is reapplied by pressing the travel pedal.

Other elements of the Eclipse are pretty much in line with existing Jacobsen ride-on greens models. The steering column tilts and the pivoting control arm, to which the main joystick and control switches are fitted, also adjust to suit.

A soft mat helps isolate the operator from any vibrations, its texture providing a degree of anti-slip; useful when climbing on and off the mower on dew laden mornings. There is also a ROPS frame and high intensity LED headlight and LED centre unit lighting.

#### Frequency of Clip and operation speeds

Those familiar with the Jacobsen Eclipse 100 pedestrian greens mower will be familiar with the Frequency of Clip, FOC, control. The FOC can be adjusted from 1.27

to 6.35mm for Eclipse 322 models fitted with the 11-blade cylinders and from 2.03 to 9.91mm for the 7-blade option. This allows the course manager to specify exactly how all 18 greens will be cut, irrespective of who is sitting in the operators seat. If the machine slows down, the cylinder speed is reduced to maintain the desired FOC, and similarly, as the machine travels quicker across the green, the cylinder speed increases pro-rata.

The desired FOC can be programmed in to any number of machines, ensuring that each and every green is cut to exactly the same specification.

The actual mowing speeds can also be set up to a maximum of 9 km/h. Again, this allows the Eclipse 322 to be set-up to suit particular demands more easily. Top transport speed, incidentally, is 14.5 km/h but even this can be adjusted down if necessary.

#### What's it like to look after?

Here we can only summarise what access is like to key elements of the mower. The rear hood flips up for access to the engine and related



ancillaries, with what appears to be good access to every day service items.

The centre cutting unit swings out for easy access for routine cleaning and maintenance too. But what really shows is a lack of clutter. It is when you take a look at a hydraulic mower alongside that you realise just how many pipes there are with this type of machine.

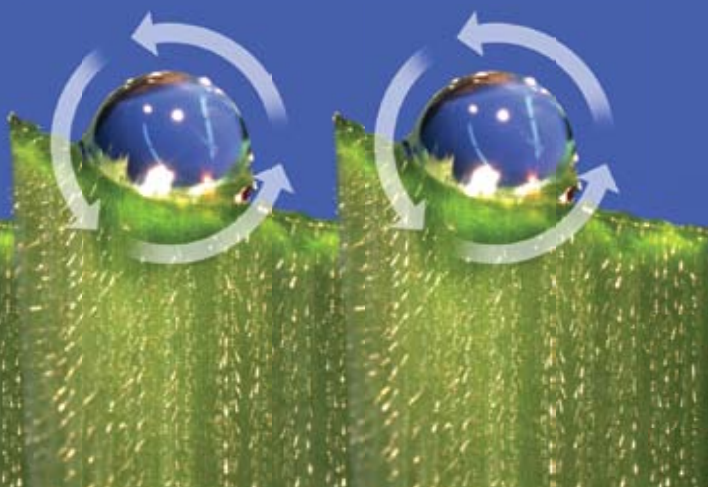
#### Summary

Everything you would expect to find on a Jacobsen ride-on greens mower is available for the Eclipse 322, including the choice of cutting systems. Classic XP cylinders, verticut units, Quick Roll attachments, spikers, a Turf Groomer, choice of roller and a powered roller brush are all present and correct.

It is this 'normality' that is perhaps lost in the 'hype' surrounding the powertrain. The Eclipse is a greens mower with well proven cutting units.

The fact that it could well be cheaper to run and easier to set up to precisely match specific demands is the icing on a very tempting cake.

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



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# The Greenkeeper and The Rules of Golf

**PGA**

Edward Johnson, **Tournament Controller for the PGA**, highlights some of the key points to consider for all greenkeepers and identifies a number of on-course rules of golf issues that are often misunderstood and applied incorrectly by many Greenkeepers up and down the country

**A greenkeeper has many roles at their own golf club. However, using the Rules of Golf to understand and implement the correct procedures for marking a golf course is not always something high on their agenda.**

## THE TEEING GROUND

The game of golf begins at the teeing ground. The Rules of Golf defines it as a rectangular area two-club lengths in depth. Therefore, when setting the tee markers, greens staff should always ensure that they are positioned at least two club-lengths forward from the

back edge of the tee. The width of the tee markers is also important to consider. It is recommended that greens staff use a minimum of six paces to allow enough room for a field of golfers to tee off from, with this being especially important on Par 3's to protect the turf on the teeing ground. Also, As Rule 11-1 states that a player may stand outside the teeing ground to play a ball within it, it is also recommended that the markers are thus set that if a player wishes to take advantage of this option, his stance will be on the same level as the ball.

Additionally, the area surrounding the teeing ground must also be considered. A golfer should be able to make an unobstructed swing even

if he tees his ball at the extremity of the two club-length area. Therefore, any trees, artificial obstructions (e.g. tee boards) or advertising banners that may obstruct the golfer when taking his stance or swing should be identified and the markers adjusted if necessary. As a reference, it is recommended that a paint spot is put down next to both tee markers in case these were moved during the course of a tournament round. This then gives players a fair chance to play from the correct position at all times and also so a greenkeeper or Official can replace the tee marker in its original position. Much emphasis is placed upon setting up the course at its full length, but accurate rules interpre-







tation should not be compromised for this to be achieved.

Although not strictly a rules of golf issue, the direction of the tees must also be considered. Although sounding obvious, a golfer will be much better prepared to play a hole if the tee is pointing straight down the fairway instead of Out of Bounds for example. The use of a "T Bar" is extremely useful for this which is simply two pieces of plastic tubing stick together in the shape of a 'T'. If the two ends of the horizontal part of the 'T' line up with the two tee markers, then the vertical part of the 'T' will always point down the middle of the Fairway and thus provide the green keeper with a perfectly square teeing ground.

Finally, left handers should never be forgotten! There is no doubt that they are in the minority, but it is important to ensure that on the teeing ground a left handed golfer is afforded the same room to manoeuvre as a right handed player. This sounds daft but it is amazing how many times this can be forgotten.

sion containing the water - not on the water line itself. All too often, stakes are installed at the bottom of banks, as close as possible to the water. However, if the course is subjected to heavy rain and the hazard overflows, the player would be entitled to a free drop if his ball has come to rest in such overflow under the 'casual water' rule. This would be far too advantageous for the player and not what the rules of golf intend!

If lines are installed, it is recommended that they are painted slightly on the inside of a stake. This means that the stake is out of the hazard and thus if the ball rolls against a stake which is then taken out of the ground by a player and creates a hole (an abnormal ground condition), the player would get free relief under rule 25-1.

If however the hole created by the removed stake was inside the water hazard, the player would be denied relief and would have to play the ball as it lies (in the hole) or take relief under the water hazard rule (Rule 26-1).



### Water Hazards & Out Of Bounds: How Should They Really Be Marked?

Unfortunately in golf, all golfers from time to time encounter water hazards and out of bounds (OB). When penalties are involved from a golf Club Championship to a big professional golf tournament with massive prize money, clear and accurate definition of both these areas are absolutely vital.

With regards to water hazards, if stakes (and in some cases, lines) are installed, the Rules of Golf advise that they should be placed as nearly as possible along the natural limits of the hazard, i.e. where the ground breaks to form the depres-

When marking water hazards, it is also important to visualise where a player would be dropping his ball after hitting his ball into water. For example, with a lateral (red) water hazard, a player is entitled to take relief within two club-lengths of the point where the ball last crossed the margin. As the player is already subjected to a one shot penalty, it would be unfair to penalise him further by expecting him to take his drop on a sloping bank, with a difficult shot ensuing. Also, should you have your stakes and lines on a slope, it will increase the chance of a ball when being dropped under the water hazard rule (Rule 26-1) to bounce or roll back into the hazard thus creating a re-drop situation.





Should the ball be unable to be replaced on this spot following the re-drop, it is more than likely that the player will end up placing on a flat part of the course as this will be the nearest point where the player's ball will stay at rest. Therefore, stakes and lines defining lateral hazards should be marked on as flat a ground as possible.

With regard to OB stakes, they should be clearly identifiable from post to post, ideally placed approximately 15 paces apart and avoiding intervening bushes and trees etc. They should also follow the natural boundary of the course ideally following as straight a line as possible.

If the stakes and/or lines were to wobble their way up a hole, the Committee (and then the greens staff) are likely to be leaving themselves open for an ear bashing from disgruntled players! For example, a golfer whose ball has unfortunately crossed such a line will naturally be upset if he has to return to the tee, whilst his playing partner who is further from the fairway, but in bounds due to poor marking, avoids penalty.

When marking water hazards and OB, it is vital that all stakes and

lines must have a logical beginning and end. Stakes and lines must also be tied in either to a wall or a fence to ensure that a player is never in doubt whether their ball is in a water hazard or Out of Bounds. Also, if lines are used, they must be painted clearly and of at least 3 inches in width to ensure that it is a clear whether a ball is in or out of the water hazard or Out of Bounds. Although somewhat time consuming, a double layer of paint is also recommended and the results will certainly be worthwhile!

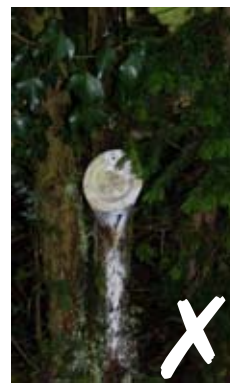
A current trend among green staff is for water hazard and OB stakes to be cemented into the ground. This obviously reduces course vandalism and theft, but from a rules perspective it can cause confusion for the player and create erroneous rulings. The rules state that stakes defining water hazards are obstructions and ideally, they should always be movable. If not, the player (a) would not be able to move the stake if interference exists, and (b) if the ball is lying in the water hazard, he would not be entitled to free relief as the stake would now become an immovable obstruction. In addition, with OB stakes, although the rule states

that a player is not entitled to move them in order to play a stroke, if the Committee wishes to redefine areas and therefore relocate them, the course would be subjected to damage by doing so.

**Water Hazards: So Is It Yellow Or Red?**

It is amazing how many people get confused in the difference between a yellow water hazard and a red (lateral) water hazard. The colour chosen is not a decision to be taken lightly. How the hazard is marked will influence the players dropping options if his ball ends up in the water.

In simple terms, a water hazard is marked yellow if it is practical for a player to drop a ball behind the water, keeping the point where the ball last crossed the margin between himself and the hole. However, instances will arise, where it is not practical or even possible for a player to physically drop a ball behind. For example, a hedge or a building may border the hazard, or alternatively, the immediate dropping area comprises of thick woodland or even out of bounds. In these instances, the hazards





should be marked with red stakes or lines, thus enabling the golfer to drop the ball laterally within two club-lengths of the point where it last crossed, or if possible, on the opposite margin equidistant to the hole. If greenkeepers think about this when marking water hazards, they should always end up with a correctly marked hazard which will dramatically reduce the risk of a tricky ruling situation!

### The Putting Green – Pin Positions

When setting a golf course up, pin positions on the green are one of the hottest debated topics at a tournament or a monthly medal at a golf club. Greenkeepers should be aware that when setting a pin position, there is no law as to how far on a green the pin should be or how far from the side of the green the pin should be. However, as a rule of thumb, it is recommended that a pin position should never be less than four paces on the green from the front edge and less than three paces from the side; ie. a three on, two right pin would not be recommended as this would not only look strange on the eye but would also be deemed as being unfair to the competitor.

When setting pins, another area to consider is whether the area where the pin is to be put is close to a bunker and may be affected by the sand which lands on the putting green. Although in the Rules of Golf, sand and loose soil are only loose impediments on the putting green and thus, may only be moved on the putting green, it would look visually poor for visitors or members of the golf club to have a pin position covered with sand. If these guidelines are followed, then there should be less cause for debate in the clubhouse after play!

### Ground Under Repair (Gur)

Finally, the subject of ground under repair (GUR) tends to cause much discussion in clubhouse bars. Normally the debate is what defines an area of a golf course to be GUR and is usually sparked off by an angry golfer who had the misfortune of experiencing a particularly nasty lie in the rough!

An area of GUR should only be marked by a greenkeeper if they are certain that this area is abnormal from anywhere else on the golf course. If during a tournament, relief is given for GUR, this area must be marked by a white line immediately so that any further



balls within this area are given the same ruling as given previously. Consistency is the key in terms of the rules of golf.

However, it is worth noting that many areas of the course that are classed as GUR under the Rules of Golf need not be marked. It is often common for golf courses to be covered in white paint under the instruction of the Committee of simply just a paint happy greenkeeper... there is no need for this!

For example, casts, holes or runways made by burrowing animals or birds do not require white lines, nor does casual water, material piled for removal or any hole made by a greenkeeper. By remembering this, the greenkeeper will promote consistency in his marking of GUR and visually, the golf course will look a lot better to visitors.

In conclusion, under Rule 6-1, the player is responsible for knowing the Rules. However, if a greenkeeper pays special attention to the above pointers, his course will be presented to a highly professional standard and will fall into line with recommendations outlined in the Rules of Golf.

When playing tournament golf, a correctly marked golf course will also aid the competitor in applying the rules both fairly and consistently which at the end of the day is the desired effect for both a Committee and the player.





# Turf Professionals Talking Heads

	Question 1 <b>How have the demands on your playing surfaces increased over the last few years?</b>	Question 2 <b>What one thing (product, machine etc) has helped you meet those demands and how?</b>	Question 3 <b>What one area of your job has changed most markedly in recent times?</b>
<p><b>Name:</b> Lee Evans <b>Position:</b> Head Groundsman <b>Club:</b> Millennium Stadium</p> 	<p>Professionalism in sport has increased along with increased television coverage. The public and playing professionals demand immaculate surfaces which also play to an incredible standard and this means that we are always researching best practice and constantly striving to improve playing surface quality.</p>	<p>Artificial lighting rigs have been an amazing advance and allow me to create an artificial micro-climate which negates some of the hostile environment and allows me to provide a playing surface which benefits the stadium.</p>	<p>Artificial lighting technology has transformed the ability to maintain sports pitches in stadia. We can now provide surfaces which compliment and hopefully enhance the occasion and ultimately result in a more rewarding time for professionals and watching public.</p>
<p><b>Name:</b> David Cole <b>Position:</b> Course Manager <b>Club:</b> Loch Lomond GC</p> 	<p>Expectations for quality playing surfaces have never been higher. This is not a complaint or an excuse; it's a fact. In this economic climate customers want value for money. We set a target of trying to achieve outstanding playing surfaces every day throughout the season as we have an international membership.</p>	<p>If I had to select one thing, I would choose people. I firmly believe in surrounding yourself with like minded people who are professional, dedicated, enthusiastic, hard-working and most importantly, follow your vision. I think a good team is the biggest asset in any business.</p>	<p>Environmental management has changed for the better for all of us, not just in our work but also our home lives. Greenkeepers and club owners have a responsibility to not just manage the turf following a good IPM approach, but also to preserve and enhance the other parts of the golf course.</p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Steve Birks <b>Position:</b> Head Groundsman <b>Club:</b> Trent Bridge Cricket Ground</p> 	<p>There are a great deal more televised cricket matches, more international games, and an increase in demand on practice in the middle, which can stress the grass out. And the weather is a constant issue.</p>	<p>The Hover cover, as you can cover the whole square in five minutes, whereas before it used to take 45 minutes. We can get it on and off quickly so the game gets started again. The new outfield drains at 25 millimetres-an-hour, so this is very important for international games.</p>	<p>I have to deal with the media a lot more, as there is much more interest in the sport and in the wicket condition. Also, the way in which the weather is dealt with now is very different from past times.</p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Graham Kimpton <b>Position:</b> Grounds Manager <b>Club:</b> The Queen's Club</p> 	<p>Demands to our playing surface have increased over the last few years but the players all becoming bigger, fitter and more athletic. Not many tennis players are under 6ft 3 now. The technology of racquets and in particular shoes put extra stress on the grass surface.</p>	<p>I guess that the advance in grass breeding and technology has been a major bonus. The fine and dense varieties, particularly of Lollium Perrene.</p>	<p>The area of my job that has most changed in recent times is Health and Safety and also having to rely more on culture practices to try to 'manage' problems such as worms, as a lot of the effective products of yesteryear have been removed from use.</p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Adrian Kay <b>Position:</b> Head Groundsman <b>Club:</b> York Racecourse</p> 	<p>Expectations within the sport have risen from all quarters. Even our own expectations have increased. With more technical knowledge and improved machinery that is available, come higher standards to go hand in hand with the expectations of the end users of the course.</p>	<p>The Verti-drain. This has allowed us the means to de-compact at different depths and heave, or fissure, so to compensate for the high levels of maintenance operations and the direct nature of horses running at 40mph over the racing surface.</p>	<p>Investment and I have very fortunately been involved with forward thinking Managers and Boards within the two racecourses that I have worked for. Without this investment in machinery, drainage, irrigation and most importantly staff, plenty of these sports surfaces would not be in the condition we find them today.</p>



**Sports turf comes in many forms and each requires a very special range of skills to maintain it at its best. Compiled by Jim Cook.**

<b>Question 4</b> <b>What one thing makes your particular job different from those of other sports turf professionals?</b>	<b>Question 5</b> <b>What has been the highlight of your career to date?</b>	<b>Question 6</b> <b>Have you found that those using your sports surface are becoming more critical and demanding?</b>
<p>We have one of the most hostile conditions in the world in which to grow grass, due to the heights of the stands, the close proximity of stands to pitch and the fact that as a town centre stadium we are relatively 'boxed in'. This coupled with the fact that we have the only portable pitch in the UK.</p>	<p>Appointed at the tender age of 34, I have overseen four FA Cup finals, three Rugby Grandslams, and Rugby World Cup games. It's a real privilege to have provided surfaces for such iconic sporting occasions. Being a proud Welshman, providing the surface in 2005 which saw the first Welsh grand slam in 27 years was a personal highlight.</p>	<p>There has always been, and should always be, a quality standard requirement and failure to reach this will ultimately end in criticism. It's good to be able to have profitable conversations, with groundstaff, about how we can help the performance of all teams and ultimately give the paying public a more enjoyable experience.</p>
<p>The diversity of the role. Golf course management has evolved so much in recent years. Obviously greenkeepers need to have an in-depth knowledge of agronomy, but these days they also need to be well versed in ecology, arboriculture, wildlife and habitat management, best environmental practices, hydrology, golf course design and construction methods as well as people and business management.</p>	<p>There have been so many highlights in my career. Achieving the Golf Course Superintendent and Estate Managers position in 2008 at one of the finest golf clubs in the world has to be my greatest achievement and receiving accolades from PGA professionals, peers and members.</p>	<p>Yes, I think customers are more demanding in this competitive leisure industry. I would say that we welcome constructive criticism as it keeps us focused and inspires us to keep on improving. This does involve harder work and more hours, but together with drive and dedication this is crucial to ensure that we always have that special edge.</p>
<p>We have to work with clay and also have to work with a very fast draining outfield. I have to deal with the two extremes of soil, so water movement in the soil is most important. On two levels, one drains quickly and one holds the water. Both have their problems but that is what I have to work with.</p>	<p>It would be going to Buckingham Palace, when Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club received their championship winning medals in 2005. And also doing last year's 20/20 World Cup was a highlight.</p>	<p>Yes, definitely, because there are more games broadcast on television and a lot of people tend to listen to the commentators when they discuss the ground.</p>
<p>We are a members club, which gets transformed into a venue for a world class event. Our centre court for example has our pavilion on one side and two hard courts on the other for ten months of the year. For the championships it becomes a bowl full of 7500 seats. Three weeks later it's back to the usual layout.</p>	<p>The highlight of my career is probably passing the IOG National Diploma in Turf Culture and having Rafa Nadal come and shake my hand before he collected his trophy when he won the Aegon here at Queens.</p>	<p>Not sure if users have become more critical or demanding than in the past. I guess with so many less grass tennis courts around than in the past, the users, in particular the professionals, do not understand the idiosyncrasies of a grass court.</p>
<p>The one factor that separates horse racing from other sports is the extremes of damage following a race meeting in conditions that are not ideal. Imagine around 90, half-tonne horses running on heavy going in one day, then you repair it for the next and you have another one, two or even three days in the race meeting.</p>	<p>My first Grand National in 2000 as Head Groundsman was very special. Also being involved with the two-and-a-half million track project at York over the past three years. Winning the Neil Wyatt Flat Racecourse Groundstaff Awards for 2009 at York this year was incredible after winning the jumps division at Aintree earlier on in my career.</p>	<p>Most definitely, as more money becomes involved in any sport this ultimately brings more pressure to all involved within the sport. As with every sport, there seems to be a lot of experts who know a lot about our job and some love to air their views on television, without knowing the full facts.</p>





# Reducing Electricity Costs from your Irrigation System

Tim Hooper looks at how you can make savings to your electricity bills by cutting down on irrigation consumption

**Electricity charges are soon to increase by 25%; it was recently announced by the BBC. So then, we should be looking at how to save on our electricity consumption on irrigation systems.**

A Variable-Speed Drive Inverter (hereafter called an "inverter") will reduce electricity consumption and can make significant savings to your electricity bill. Furthermore, if your system happens to have a leak, the inverter can be set up to help minimise bursts.

An inverter when linked to a pressure sensor, controls the speed of your pump which in turn enables the pump to keep the pressure in your system at a set point, as long as the flow's required fall is within the pumps capability.

The pump or pumps in an irrigation system should be sized to operate the 'station' that has the highest flow rate (plus 10%) at a given pressure. A standard pump-starter operates the pump at full speed, drawing maximum electricity, unnecessarily for most stations and either generates unrequired pressure or passes water back to the tank via the pressure relief; this correction is done using precious electricity which could be saved.

If an inverter is fitted, on stations that require less duty from the pump, it slows the pump down. The result is that the motor draws less electricity. For example, on a tee 12.5 metres wide and 40 metres long a pump with a 7.5kW motor can draw as little as 1.6kW. A saving of 6 kW!

If you multiply this saving of 6kW at £0.47, by eighteen tees, run each tee for an average of 15 minutes per night and 100 nights a year; you would be looking at a saving of £1,250.00 per year on

your tees alone. A saving certainly worthwhile.

Inverters have additional benefit. They can help prevent bursts on leaking systems and for those Clubs which have only single phase electrics, there are inverters that operate on single phase electricity, but run three phase motors. The impact of this is that you can run a pump with a 4kW motor instead of one with a 2.2kW motor. Some sites have three pumps, each with 4kW motors, robust enough for most irrigation systems that water greens, tees and approach. It is more costly than the standard three-phase inverter, but still far cheaper than any alternative.

There are three main styles of inverter. Each one can be installed as a single or multi-pump pumping station, but all have variable functionality.

Type 1: this inverter is an integrated part of the motor as on the Grundfos CRIE pump range. These inverters are manufactured by the pump manufacturer and as a stand alone unit, offer a reasonable level of functionality. You can also fit a single or multi-pump sets to a network. This gives full remote network monitoring, fault notification and integration to the larger types of controllers. Since the inverter is an integral part of the motor, this option is normally used when new pumps are installed.

Type 2 is a motor mounted inverter: an example would be the Lowara Hydrova. The inverter is simple to install on existing systems and has most of the functions you would want. They can also be linked together in multi-pump sets.

Type 3 is a dedicated wall mounted inverter. This option is slightly more expensive, but offers

considerably more functionality and the added ability to integrate with even simple wall mounted controllers and larger PC controlled systems. The additional benefits such as the option for GSM (mobile phone) control and fault notification also offer cost benefits.

If your system has leaks, some inverters can be programmed so the ramp up (the speed the pump speeds up) on start up and the last ramp down (the speed the pump slows down) can be set to take a few minutes. This results in the mains being filled considerably slower than conventional pump starters and helps prevent water hammer.

Water hammer occurs when water travels down a pipe and then stops quickly. The energy in the water creates shock waves up and down the pipe and fittings. This results in pipe work being put under greater pressures than it was designed for and results in bursts.

Another area to consider is your controller. If your irrigation controller can only run one station at a time and your system has stations with low flows, such as tees, approaches etc. you can dramatically reduce the time the pump is run by upgrading your controller.

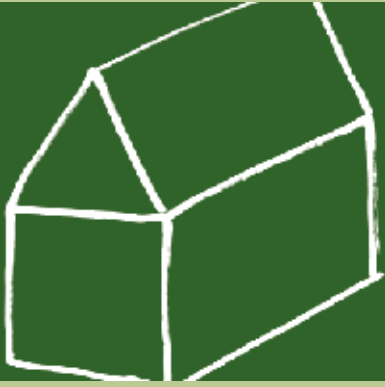
Modern controllers (even some wall mounted controllers) have the ability to run two or three stations at a time on the same cable path and so preventing the need for a rewiring. This would obviously shorten your system run time and reduce running costs.

With electricity price hikes on the way again, and Clubs becoming increasingly vigilant at curbing running and maintenance costs, you should look seriously at the inverter and controller options, if you haven't done so already.



Tim Hooper is Managing Director of TCR Irrigation, Hall Lane, Utlington, Cheshire, CW6 0JQ Visit [www.tcrirrigation.co.uk](http://www.tcrirrigation.co.uk)

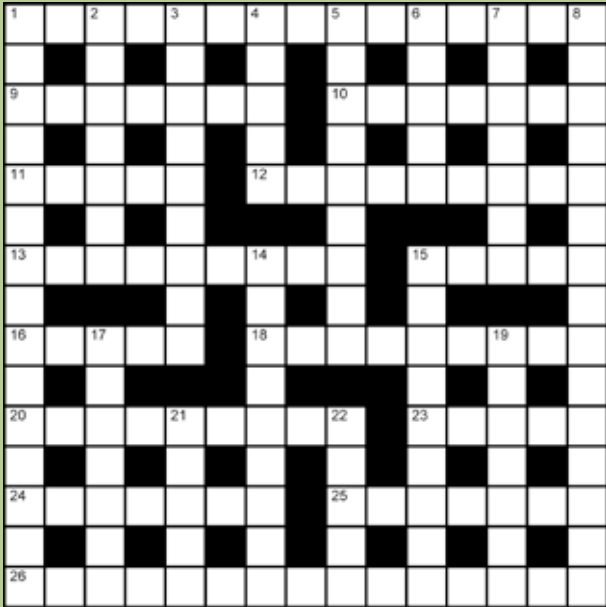




# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

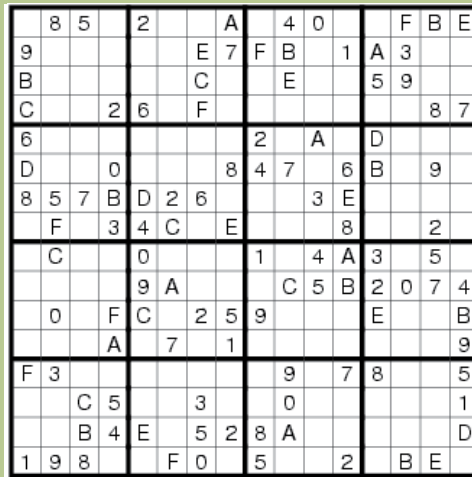
- 1 Prudent advice to keep one from poverty (5,3,4,3)
- 9 Fat (7)
- 10 The innermost membranes of an organ (7)
- 11 "Nice one, \_\_\_\_\_" - The Cockerel Chorus (5)
- 12 In addition (9)
- 13 Arboreal growth under which Isaac Newton supposedly gained inspiration (5,4)
- 15 A synthetic fabric (5)
- 16 An item of value (5)
- 18 Very high (9)
- 20 Tutor to Alexander the Great (9)
- 23 Home of The Derby (5)
- 24 In a bit (5,2)
- 25 The first was beheaded (7)
- 26 Post-Impressionist French painter (8,7)

### DOWN

- 1 Thingy (15)
- 2 Support for rider's foot (7)
- 3 Making supple (9)
- 4 800m gold medal winner at 1980 Olympics (5)
- 5 1949 film starring James Cagney as Cody Jarrett (5,4)
- 6 Saltpetre (5)
- 7 Only in name (7)
- 8 Musical featuring the song 'Edelweiss' (3,5,2,5)
- 14 Severe reprimands (9)
- 15 Classic 1922 German horror film (9)
- 17 Small dog with long, silky fur (4-3)
- 19 Surrounded by water (7)
- 21 A headless and limbless human body (5)
- 22 Surpass (5)

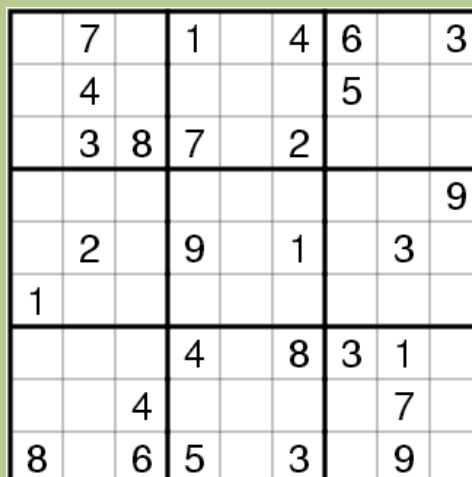
## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who are the Great White Shark; The Golden Bear and the Big Easy?
2. What was basketball star, Earvin Johnson better known as?
3. What was the nickname of tennis legend Rod Laver?
4. British Ski Jumper, Edward Edwards, was known to the British public as...
5. Eric Moussambani, a swimmer in the Sydney Olympics, was affectionately known as this.
6. Who was The Fridge?
7. Which Rugby League player was known as either Chariots or Great Balls?
8. What was former Chelsea player Ron Harris' nickname?
9. What was middle distance runner Miruts Yifter's nickname?



## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU

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

**Puzzle Answers on page 65**



## No Turning Back for Kubota



Superseding the ZD Series, is the new ZD326 zero turn mower from Kubota. The ZD326 zero turn commercial mower delivers all the power, productivity, durability and manoeuvrability demanded by professionals for day in, day out mowing applications.

Fitted with the 26hp Kubota E-TVCS (Triple Vortex Combustion System) D1005, 3 cylinder, liquid cooled diesel engine, the ZD326 has the power, torque and durability to take on the toughest mowing jobs. And it can work for longer, thanks to the 45 litre dual fuel tank and Kubota's outstanding fuel economy with low emissions, noise and vibration. The large radiator improves cooling to prevent the engine from overheating, even in the most demanding conditions, and the dual element air cleaner ensures cool clean air is delivered at all times.

[www.kubota.co.uk](http://www.kubota.co.uk)

## Hit Ragwort Early with the Weedstick



Ragwort will soon start to cover the countryside but by then it could be too late for effective and lasting control.

Attempts to dig out plants makes matters worse by generating a new plant for every fragment of the long and stubborn tap root left in the ground.

Spot-on and measured shots of herbicide applied when spring re-growth is set to start, but while plants are still sluggish and susceptible after low light and temperature conditions in winter, is required.

The Weedstick, from Micron Sprayers is easy to carry and use and allows operators to place herbicide exactly and precisely where needed, which is spot-on the flat ground-hugging rosettes of leaves.

The Weedstick is simply placed over the ragwort weed to be treated and pressed down to deliver the required dose of herbicide which is once for small plants and a second time for larger plants.

[www.micron.co.uk](http://www.micron.co.uk)

## ROBOT MOWERS



Campey Turfcare has introduced the Timan RC-750 Remote Control Brush Cutter/Slope Mower.

Where the grass is too long and the ground slopes heavily, and conventional mowers are not a safe option the Timan is the ideal alternative. Characterised by its low working height, self propelled tracks and remote control system which enables this heavy-duty flail mower to cut very long grass safely even on steep banks. With its 750mm working width and low centre of gravity the Timan RC-750 is the ultimate machine for working safely on difficult terrain and slopes of up to 58 degrees.

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





## Soil Conditioner from Inturf

Designed especially for golf and sports turf applications, TerraCottem Turf harnesses a unique combination of over 20 hydroabsorbent and nutritive components to significantly improve soil quality and water retention for healthier, more vigorous turf.

Central to this new formulation's is the addition of zeolite, a natural volcanic mineral that helps increase soil fertility and water retention. Zeolite is renowned for its high Cation Exchange Capacity, the ion exchange between the soil and soil solution that represents the soil's ability to hold onto nutrients and prevent them from leaching beyond the roots. The inclusion of 42% zeolite with a CEC range of 150 to 180meq/100g, together with 31% high-CEC hydroabsorbent copolymers, ensures the CEC levels of soil treated with TerraCottem Turf are far higher than normal.

It also includes humic acid, an addition that has a positive affect on soil structure, water retention capacity, drought-stress resistance, plant element-absorption and microbiological activity.

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



## New Golf Irrigation Software

V3.00 aims to make programming and operating GTI irrigation systems simpler, quicker and more cost-effective and efficient, plus is Windows Vista and 7 compatible.

Bailoy Products launched its next-generation Gemini-Trident Irrigation (GTI) software at Harrogate Week.

Boasting an array of new features and a fresh new look, the designer and manufacturer of this golf irrigation system says that GTI V3.00 is the first stepping-stone in a series of upgrades to keep GTI software up to date and give greenkeepers greater control and flexibility.

The software is compatibility with Windows Vista and Windows 7. Current users, however, can rest assured that V3.00 and its successors will be fully back-compatible with existing GTI controllers and decoders, in keeping with Bailoy's commitment to providing customers with a cost-effective product.

The two systems – Gemini and Trident – couple a computerised central control system with decoder field hardware for effective and economic irrigation. Suitable for both new-build and retrofit golf projects as well as sports and amenity turf applications, GTI's state-of-the-art management and maintenance system ensures today's greenkeepers and groundsmen can make optimum use of every last drop of this precious and costly resource.

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



## BTME LAUNCH FOR NEW 25HP COMPACT TRACTOR FROM MASSEY FERGUSON

Rated at 25hp, the new MF 1525H compact tractor made its European debut on the Massey Ferguson stand (no. A27 at Harrogate Week).

Replacing the 22hp MF 1523H in Massey Ferguson's 1500 Series compact tractor line-up, the MF 1525H features a number of key enhancements over its predecessor. These include important upgrades to the engine, transmission, hydraulics and driver platform, all designed to make the MF 1525H a formidable contender in the sub-30hp compact tractor class.

Powered by a new three-cylinder diesel engine developing 25hp at 2,600 rpm, the MF 1525H has been given a larger 28 litre fuel tank, enabling operations to continue for longer without having to refuel.

Drivers of the MF 1525H will find a spacious, semi-flat operating platform offering enhanced comfort and control layout for improved efficiency and performance.

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



## Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Central

Congratulations from everyone in the Section to Andy Mellon on being elected Vice Chairman of BIGGA. All on the committee realise this will be the start of a busy period for him and the hunt is on to find a replacement Sec/Treasurer for the end of this year. Committee member Donald Gardener, from Scoonie GC, braved the chilly waters of the Firth of Forth off Leven on Boxing Day for a sponsored swim and raised over £1,000 for the children's cancer charity, Sergeant. Well done to Donald who at the time of writing this will be swimming again off St Andrews on Valentine's Day. Twelve greenkeepers attended an excellent training day on managing performance which was held at Ladybank GC, January 29. Organised by the CMAE, this was the first of what we hope will be an ongoing series of events where members of both Associations can benefit from attending joint training seminars that are appropriate to Greenkeepers and Club Managers alike. This follows an agreement at National level between some of the different organisations in the industry and we would encourage CMAE, GCMA, and PGA members to attend some of our upcoming events arranged for the following months.

At Elmwood on Wed. March 17, Kenny Liddle, of Bayercrop Sciences, will talk on the future of pesticides and on Tues. April 27, Stan Zontek, of the USGA, and John Kaminski, of Penn State, will talk on winter damage to turf. Both talks will be at the

training room at the golf course and begin at 7pm, lasting for an hour approx. Details will be on the website [www.biggacentral-section.org.uk](http://www.biggacentral-section.org.uk) and members should shortly be getting their entry form for the spring outing which will be held at St Andrews on Tuesday, April 6, over the Eden Course. Numbers are restricted slightly so return your entry form quickly to guarantee a place.

Gordon Moir



### Ayrshire

Hello everyone, hope you've managed to get some of your winter projects completed around the freezing weather conditions we've experienced this Winter. Hopefully this indicates a hot Summer to come, or is that a bit optimistic?

The Spring Outing is to be played at Largs Kelburn on Tuesday, April 27, with the Scottish National being contested over Murcar GC on June 17.

I was saddened to hear that Ian McKay had passed away recently after what I believe to be complications from an illness. Ian was a regular attendee at our Section events when he worked in the trade and I had the good fortune to play a few rounds with him at these events. Ian was a gentleman, a great character and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Ian's family and friends at this sad time.

As you are reading this I will have started my new job in Germany, at a lovely course up in the mountains, east of Cologne. At time of writing they have 40cm of snow lying so maybe I'll have a little time to settle in before the snow clears and the hard work begins!

Don't worry though I'm sure they'll be queueing up to take over this reporting lark. I believe there may already be one willing to step into the breach, eh Johnny boy?

Any news or comments please don't send to me! but if you want to say Hello or "What chu doin ya crazy fool!" then send it to [denis.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denis.t@hotmail.co.uk)

Auf wiedersehen, bis spater!  
Denis Tweddell



### North

As I am writing this month's article the snow seems to have relented and we can all get on with our respective winter programmes. If you do have a sizeable workload to complete then hopefully you won't be held up any more.

I feel sorry though for Muir Ross, at Ballindalloch Golf Club. The first time the snow made an appearance, there was so much snow lying on his machinery shed roof that it brought down the whole lot. Luckily there was nobody in there at the time it happened. That's little consolation to him and the club. I hope that everything works out for you and that you get back on your feet again and that there's not too much damage.

On the staffing side of the Section, David Stephen has made the step up to Deputy Head over at Kintore Golf Club. He has moved from Meldrum House Golf Club. Kenny has assured me that you will be sorely missed by him and the rest of the lads, there.

By the time you read this article the Scottish Conference in Dunfermline will of passed us by and a report will follow in next months edition. It is very well supported so hopefully

the North Section had a good attendance.

Not a lot else to report in these Winter months so hopefully I'll some more news for you next month.

Ben Brookes  
07813889374



### West

What a difference a month makes or at least I'm hoping that's the case as in the months of December, January and early February when I prepare this we've had only three weeks of weather and ground conditions which would allow course work to be tackled. At least the trees are all trimmed and wooded areas are looking the best they've ever been but pity help the guys with no tree work, those sheds must be so well organised by now and the machines in tip top condition.

Well what's been happening over the peace other than my home club burning down I would say not a lot, I would extend my regards to East Kilbride Golf Club at this time with all the hassle and problems a situation like this could cause. East Kilbride have over recent years held various events for the Section and we hope everything runs as smoothly as it can in these circumstances.

Just to let members know the Spring outing will be held at Lanark Golf Club on April 29 and the Autumn venue will be Helensburgh on September 2, both of which we have played in the past, but are excellent venues and should be a joy to play if past experience is anything to go by.

All those people at Harrogate in January should have enjoyed a great show with plenty of



equipment exhibited and a variety of other distributors showing their wares. I thought the exhibition was first class and was able to obtain all the information I needed, even seeing a few things never viewed before. Can I extend my thanks to those people who helped make my trip enjoyable Scott, Jim, Mark, Neil, Stuart, Gerry, Brian, David, and, finally, Suz, Looking forward to that bowls exhibition game from you and Scott though.

Can I extended my congratulations from the Section to Chris Yeaman the newly appointed Course manager at Royal Burgess Golf Club who started on March 1. I hope he enjoys his new challenge. Chris moves from West Linton Golf Club, a course which was always in good condition, so best of luck.

It is with great regret that I announce the death of Ian Mackay who died last month. A great supporter of the Section over the years. Ian was known as Mr Sisis and attended all the outings for more years than I can remember. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

The fixture list for 2010 will soon be on your doors allowing you plenty of time to plan for the season's activities. We thank Aitkens for the continued support in this area.

Finally, if members have any information for me please do not hesitate to contact me on 0141-942-5554, or mobile 07790823914, or by e-mail at [st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk).

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hope you are all well, and ready to start your spring work programmes now that we can see the grass again. Hope everyone had a good and informative Harrogate Week, and, hopefully, found a bargain.

In mid December we held our Christmas Golf Tournament, at Ilkley Golf Club, everyone had a great day out. Our thanks go to Duncan and his team for

presenting such a good course despite being under Water the previous week. Thanks must also go to the event sponsors, County Mowers & Toro.

By the time this goes to print we should have a finalised list of this year's events in the post to you. We will be holding a regional seminar in March. It will be limited to the first 45 applicants so get you names down as soon as possible.

The Golf events will again be £20 to enter payable one week in advance of the event, payment to the Secretary or any committee member.

Any news or gossip please contact me, Frank Stewart on 07947 401278 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY.

John Watts



### Cleveland

Hello everyone, hope you are all fit and well. I can't believe how fast time goes by, it doesn't seem a month ago since I was last writing the newsletter. We will all have our fertiliser spreaders and mowers at the ready before we know it. Or is that just wishful thinking.

Harrogate has been and gone, hope you all had a good time and enjoyed the show. I thought the show was fairly quiet compared to previous years, maybe a sign of the current economic climate with golf clubs expenditure limited, and the fact that the snow just cleared perhaps meant staff were staying on their courses getting work under way.

None the less, it was yet again extremely well run by the staff at BIGGA. I am pleased that Mr Graham, of Bishop, managed to stay conscious this year after a few beers. Well done Phil! Once again, Terry Charlton put on his bus, so thanks Terry for your continued support.

On January 21, Ian Pemberton, Ian Holoran, Bob Lawton and I attended the funeral of the late John Gregory. The service was a fitting tribute and also very moving. There were others in attendance from the turf profession.

Other news as follows. Dave Cuthbertson, and the lads at

Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club, would like to thank, and wish all the best, to Adam McFarlane, who is leaving the team to join his lady in Canada at the end of the month. This leaves a position for a trainee at Rockcliffe starting in March.

Before I forget, the autumn golf tournament will be held at Rockcliffe Hall on Wednesday, October 13. The fee will be £30 for golf and a meal. Although this is more expensive than the usual £15, let's not forget that Rockcliffe Hall is one of Europe's longest courses and is a championship standard golf venue, that normally costs £95 per round. I predict this to be a highly demanded day so book early. Further details will follow in the coming months. **BE AWARE THOUGH, BIGGA MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE SHOWN AND YOU MUST BE A MEMBER.**

Spring Tournament, Seaton Carew Golf Club, Tuesday, March 23. Tee Off 10am 'til 11am

A big thank you to the Secretary, Tony, and his lads for inviting us to host the spring tournament on their lovely course, I know I say this for all the golf events but they are really popular with entries being turned away so it is in your interest to get your place reserved ASAP. Lloyds has kindly offered its continued support and will be providing the prizes for the day. The cost is again £15 to include bacon bun on arrival and a two course meal. Send cheques made payable Cleveland BIGGA Section and send to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 8QR or pay Alistair in cash if he is calling in to see you. No entries on the day. Members only BIGGA CARDS REQUIRED ON THE DAY

Cutting Technology and After Cut Appearance, Wednesday, April 2 17.30pm, Teesside Golf Club. With the help of Alistair, from Lloyds, we have been able to acquire the expert knowledge of Ian Sumpter, Lely's National Training Manager, to give us enlightenment on all principles and factors that affect clip, unit configuration and after cut appearance.

Any news, contact Kev on 07921817857 or [kevscarce@aol.com](mailto:kevscarce@aol.com)

Kevin Scarce



### North Wales

Here we go with the days finally lengthening now, all we need is some heat to follow to kick start our turf into some meaningful growth. We'll all be preparing for our spring maintenance programmes to get underway now, so the longer days and hopefully some heat would help us enormously with that I think we've all had enough of dithering in sub-zero temperatures this last winter.

The seminar that took place at Eaton Golf Club on February 23 was very well attended and thankfully the speakers were all very engaging with varied, interesting topics that kept our attention all day. I do have to apologise to anyone that wanted to hear the drug awareness part of the day as advertised in this column last month, due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to have that talk in this seminar but we are hoping to have an autumn seminar with that and other subjects later in the year. We have to thank Eaton Golf Club for the use of their facilities, the lovely catering and warm welcome that was extended to us all.

The spring tournament takes place this year at Caernarfon Golf Club a new venue to me and well worth a visit or so I've been reliably informed.

As ever do appear to be slightly lacking in local news but feel free to contact me if you have any news to pass on to the rest of the Section.

All the best until next month.

Pete Maybury [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com) 07756001187



### Sheffield

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all finally getting over those winter blues and are getting ready for the challenges of a new season.

As some of you may know Andy Bunting has had a career change and has bought the



lease on Popa's bar. in Anderby Creek, which is near Mablethorpe. If any of you are in the area Andy would love to see you for a drink or two. Good luck Andy from everyone in the Sheffield Section.

Our Spring lecture will be held at Rotherham GC on March 11. The speaker will be Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at the All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon). I hope that many of you will attend what will be a very interesting afternoon listening to how Eddie goes about preparing Championship tennis courts.

We have also organised a Machine Maintenance-Workshop Management Aay in association with Golf and Turf Machinery. This will be held at Hallamshire GC. You will all receive more information about this day closer to the time.

We are in the process of producing a Section polo shirt. It was discussed at the AGM that we haven't got a team uniform when playing in golf matches against other Sections. The committee has decided that it would be best if we made these shirts available to all members for a small fee which will be decided when we have been given a full quotation. We are in the process of getting a shirt printed for members to look at and give their views.

It was discussed at our last committee meeting at the possibility of having a Dinner dance/Presentation evening. Many of you should have received a letter giving more details on this. If you could please let me, or Ian Whitehead, know if you are interested so we can decide whether or not we should press forward with the idea.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events. If you require any more information on the above events or have any other issues please dont hesitate to contact me.

James Stevens  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
07738719614

## Section Notes

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

## Midland



## East of England

Belated Happy New Year to all.

Apologies for the lack of writings in the last couple of months, a lack of things to say in December and then the general craziness of Christmas and the weather subsequently meant I didn't get things written on time. Did I also mention I was having new windows put in my house!

At the time of writing this all the snow seems to have disappeared, the temperatures have returned to around about normal and regular winter service has been resumed. While the snow is always nice to look at, the novelty wears off after a while and the reality of the problems it is causing to the course and the finances of the club become stronger.

The beginning of the recent cold spell came way back on December 17, the day the East of England Section hosted its annual Christmas Event at Seacroft, in sunny Skegness. The sight of two of their greenkeepers working near the 1st tee dressed as arctic explorers set the tone for the day. However, 30 brave players donned as many layers as possible and set off on the downwind front 9. The sight of a LMS support wagon sporting a steaming hot vat of tomato soup behind the 9th green is something that most of us will never forget. Manned by LMS guys, Dave Hampshire and Steve Canner, a good 15 minutes was spent there by everybody before they turned into the wind to attack the back 9. It was then that the hail showers arrived! These showers made it impossible to look up and see where you were walking let alone leave you any ability to hit a golf ball. It is also a hindrance to putting when your ball collects so much hail on it that it arrives at the hole bigger than the hole itself! Bravely everyone struggled on and no-one walked in and "no man was left behind"! I would like to add that the showers in the clubhouse felt like they

had liquid magma coming out of them which certainly helped everybody thaw out.

Many thanks go to Seacroft for being an excellent host and providing a great meal for us, also to Tim and his staff for the excellent condition of the golf course. Thanks also to our sponsors, Lawn Mower Services Ransomes Jacobsen dealers, of Lincoln, for providing the soup along with a generous prize table. Your continued support is much appreciated.

The golf on the day was won by Ian Collett, of Rigby Taylor, and Gordon Street, from Selby Golf Club, with an amazing score. Second place went to Gary Salisbury, Burghley Park GC, and Steve Smedley, Mansfield Sands, and third place were Matt Smith, Cleethorpes GC, and Ian Benn, Greensman. Longest walk went to Bruce Hicks and R. Giller, Boston GC, who both received a leftover tin of soup!

The end of January also signals the passing of a regular on the January calendar, BTME at Harrogate. Despite the best efforts of the weather to scupper this years event, congratulations need to go to all involved at BIGGA and beyond for putting on another excellent show and education opportunity, and for all the companies who attended this years show. There was a buzz around all the Halls as, for the first time, every greenkeeper had something to say about the big topic of the moment, and I am not talking about 2mm, or anything to do with that, but how much snow they had had, how they had coped with it and how long places had been closed for.

As far as our Section goes, many thanks to all our sponsors who turned up to our drinks reception as a thank you for all their efforts and continued support. At our committee meeting, Graeme Macdonald was voted in as the new Vice Chairman, with all other committee positions remaining the same. A final thank you goes to Gary Cooper, STG Amenity Supplies, for his continued sponsorship of the two night stay for the two greenkeepers contributing to the Section throughout the year.

In an effort to attract more members to our golf days this year, we have reduced the number of fixtures and changed

the calendar round slightly. The first two events combined will be National Championship qualifiers, so attendance is a must for anyone interested in playing in this event this year. They will be held at Grimsby Golf Club and Tydd St Giles Golf Club, in May and July, respectively. Our big match vs the Trade section will be held at the start of September at Torksey. Hopefully a better date and a central venue will encourage more players to what is always an entertaining day out. Our AGM will again be in October, this year at Louth Golf Club and that will be followed by our ever popular Christmas Bring and Win fixture, this year at Sleaford Golf Club. All dates and times are still to be finalised and a fixture card will be sent out to everyone in due course. Many thanks to all golf clubs for allowing us courtesy of their courses and to all our sponsors for the upcoming season. If you have never been before please come along and support us, you will be made to feel very welcome and an enjoyable day is guaranteed.

Our Winter Seminar is being put together for March this year to be held at Newark Golf Club. An exact date will be sent out by letter in due course. Full details are yet to be confirmed, however there will be presentations on irrigation; construction materials, topdressing and where it comes from; and greens construction in warmer climes! Your support for this event will be much appreciated.

Roll on the spring!

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club. [steveimmingham@aol.com](mailto:steveimmingham@aol.com)



## East Midlands

Hello Everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the unpredictable English weather. For those of you who attended Harrogate Week I hope you all had a good time and saw as much of the show as possible before the sweet whisperings of Wetherspoons and Charlie's lured you away!

Shows like Harrogate are of great importance to our industry, It gives many aspiring green-



keepers a chance to see what a fantastic industry we work in and if you put your heart and soul into it you can get so much in return.

A highlight for me was the 2mm Debate, it just goes to show the passion that can be created among men. My family and friends thought I was nuts when I said I was looking forward to sitting in a debate about the height at which you mow grass! Respect must go to all who sat on the Debate panel, being prepared to put themselves into such a public forum to talk about a topic that has caused the biggest debate within greenkeeping for many years.

All members of the Section should have by now received their fixture card for 2010. There is one small change to the printed details, the spring and summer tournaments are now both Stableford competitions rather than Medals! We look forward to seeing plenty of new faces as well as the older ones at the events this year. Hopefully by the time you read this you should have received the entry form for the pairs competition this year. I would encourage as many of you as possible to enter this, it is a great way to play some different courses and meet new people. If anybody wants to play but is struggling to find a partner then please get in touch as I'm sure we can sort something out.

At the latest East Midlands committee meeting, some great ideas for education days and social nights were discussed so keep your ear to the ground for them. Everyone on the committee would like to make sure that it is doing everything possible for its members, we can only provide a successful section if you, the members get involved. Please get in touch with either Andy de Wet or myself with ideas of what you would like to see in happen in your Section. It can be anything and all ideas welcome.

biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com

Matt Wormald

## Section Notes

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



## South West and South Wales

### South Coast

Hello and welcome to all the South Coast members. This is new to me, writing my first around the green report, as the committee are now taking it in turns to put pen to paper. So here goes!

No-one has passed on any news to me from my fellow greenkeepers or trade in our Section so that's a good start. I will just try and bore you myself.

Here at the Army Golf Club we are near completion of a new irrigation system to greens, tees and approaches complete with new tanks, pump house and control system. This project was long overdue and I'm looking forward to having a reliable management tool in place for the spring/summer, at a approx cost of £270,000.

Also under construction is a new greens complex on our 10th hole with an additional five new bunkers, making the hole more challenging, however with the course just thawing out from 8" snow cover at time of writing I wonder if it will ever be finished.

We are also undertaking a woodland management programme with selective removal of trees and scrub around greens and tees. It's surprising how quickly the woodland invades areas, blocking out much needed light and air movement.

Just returned from good old Harrogate where, under the current financial climate, I thought the exhibition passed off well. It was good to meet up with distant friends again.

I attended the big "2mm Debate" on the Wednesday morning with excitement expecting a good debate and discussion session but, my oh my, what a waste of time it turned out to be because it's all down to "Site Specific" as we were told on many occasions. Do we really care what someone else's greens run at on the Stimp, or what Height of Cut they use. No we manage our course to the needs of the business and to our own

"Site Specific". Enough said.

Now moving on to Wetherspoons, where do I begin.....

As you read this March is upon us thank goodness, and now we wait for temperatures to slowly rise so we can begin to think about our maintenance regime for this time of year hoping that the easterly winds we sometimes suffer do not appear and put things back. At the end of the day Mother Nature dictates to us what we can do.

If anyone has any news or interesting stories, or if your moving on then please contact your committee so that it can be included in the monthly round-up sometimes news doesn't travel as fast as you think.

Fred, from Alton GC, is next month's guest journalist so give him a call, all the best for the forthcoming year,

Phil Wentworth.



## Devon and Cornwall

Unfortunately I am starting with some sad news. The following is a quote from Ron Skinner, Duchy College. "It is with a great degree of sadness that I have to report to Devon and Cornwall Section members that John Baker, Duchy College, died on January 27 after a long illness. John was well known to many greenkeepers as the "pesticide man" who carried out many NPTC Pesticides Assessments. In many private conversations with John, an extremely pragmatic and practical man, he reported to me, which clubs had good facilities and equipment, and which had less good and the associated "horror and comedy stories". We know who and where you are! Before John's sudden and early retirement due to his illness he worked closely with the greenkeeper industry in Devon and Cornwall and the Duchy greenkeeper team to ensure GTC Centre Approval and local training opportunities for greenkeepers in the area. Our thoughts are with his family. Ron Skinner, Steve Evans, Brian Summers, Terry Farkins and Duchy College.

Duchy College were host to two workshops run by Bernhard's a leading supplier of cylinder grinders, and supported by Toro.

On January 27 the Workshop, led by Ben Taylor, Training Manager at Bernhard's, provided technical information to the Level 2 groups on the importance of correct sharpening of mowing equipment to benefit sward quality, appearance, disease resistance, reduced fertiliser requirements and fuel efficiencies, and reduced machinery repair costs. Ben followed his presentation with a demonstration of the specialist grinding equipment and the set up of the cylinder mower to ensure quality of cut.

The Advanced Workshop, on January 28, to the Level 3 Greenkeeper group and an audience of BIGGA members, reviewed the above points. It carried out trials to demonstrate these issues using a mower incorrectly set up and the same mower correctly set up. The trials took place on the playing fields, removing and weighing the cuttings, measuring fuel efficiency and assessing quality of cut. The Level 3 Greenkeeper group have recorded the results and have been offered the opportunity to publish these in trade magazines with the successful candidate being provided with a prize by Bernhard's.

Ben commented that the STRI had provided research to support his company's claims regarding the improvements in the quality of turf appearance and that sports turf managers were required to meet ever rising standards of turf presentation.

Ron Skinner, Duchy College, considered that the workshops had provided specialist and up to date technical information to support the main syllabus. He was especially grateful to the support from the greenkeeper attendee's, Bernhard's, Toro and the many Duchy staff who supported the event.

Congratulations to Jeff Mills and Justin Austin on achieving their CPD Accreditation certificates. The Certificates are awarded to those who collect 10 CPD points or more per year for five consecutive years. Both Jeff and Justin were present at the Harrogate Awards Ceremony to receive their certificates.

Due to poor weather, our

meeting at Newquay, scheduled for January 10, had to be cancelled. We are hoping to schedule this meeting again for next year. Although Andrew Dunstan, Course Manager, Newquay was very disappointed, I know he had enough on his plate with the arrival of his newly born daughter "Neeve", born on Christmas day! Congratulations Andrew from all the section.

The next meeting will be at Mullion Golf Club, Cornwall. The usual format of Golf or a Course walk, followed by an educational presentation by "Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research at Rigby Taylor. Gordon Tambllyn, Course Manager, Mullion, has been a regular attendee at BIGGA meetings and it would be great to see good numbers at this meeting in order to support him and the Section. Please contact me if you are interested in attending the meeting or if you have any enquiries or information you would like me to include in these notes.

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



## South Wales

Hi Everyone  
Firstly an apology. In February's edition of "Around the Green" I commented about the talk given by Swalec Stadium Head Groundsman Keith Exton, at Taff's Well Rugby Club, organised by the IOG and congratulated Keith on a fine talk. As you know, the talk was cancelled due to the snow and the only explanation I can give as to my glowing report is that I must have dreamed the whole thing!

I know it's sad that, where as I used to dream about exciting things - the one where Katherine Jenkins and Charlotte Church heard me singing in the bath and decided I needed singing lessons and insisted on joining me in the tub was one of my faves. I now dream about attending IOG evening lectures! It only goes to show, you should never take our weather for granted!

Anyway, back to the Section. On the education front there are a few events that I would like to bring to your attention.

Firstly, on Wednesday March 10, Complete Weed Control has organised an education seminar at Burghill Golf Club, Herefordshire. The theme of the day is Fertiliser and Pesticide Application. If you would like to attend then please give Alan Abel a ring. It should be a good day. Oh, by the way Alan, thank you on behalf of the Section for sponsoring the fixtures cards this year. We are truly grateful.

Next, on March 17, we have the evening meeting at Ffos Las Racecourse with a talk and tour given by Mr Tim Long, Clerk Of The Course. Meeting starts at 5.30, I believe, so if you would like to attend then please give Steve Chappell a ring.

Next month's details will be given about the Section's Spring Seminar which is to be held at Royal Porthcawl GC.

A get well soon message now to my dear friend, Julian Bartlett Jones, Course Manager at Dinas Powys GC who recently broke his arm after slipping in the snow while negotiating the treacherous walk from the clubhouse to his maintenance units (sheds). Now I know what your thinking! But Julian swears he hadn't been in the bar and that the only reason he smelled of drink was because while lying in the snow, he was rescued by a trained St Bernard with one of those little barrels around his neck. I thought it had brandy in it and not Strongbow, but there you go! Anyway, he ended up getting plastered at the local hospital. Seriously, I hope you have a speedy recovery.

Another date for your diary is the annual IOG Dinner at Taffs Well RFC on Friday, April 23. Rumour has it that a certain Graham Cox, a very good singer and who has probably worked at more golf clubs than Henry Stead even, will be providing the entertainment! It's always a very good occasion. Please ring for details.

And finally, congratulations to Peter Lacey for winning the Mumbles Tidiest Garden Competition. Peter has spent a lot of time there recently and the prize is just reward for his efforts. The centrepiece of the garden is a 4ft 10" gnome that he sculpted himself. Asked where he got his

inspiration, Peter said, "I just asked Gerald Orme to stand there holding a fishing rod for a few hours!"

Or did I just dream that last bit?

Don't forget, any news will be gratefully received.

Ceri Richards  
07831 168645



## South West

I hope you all had an enjoyable week in Harrogate, I know the guys from Minch did! During Harrogate Week Matthew Worster, from Minchinhampton, was invited to the awards dinner. Matt had won an award for golf course environment 2009 with STRI.

The other Wednesday while the guys were at Harrogate, I remember waking up in the morning to some pretty large snowflakes falling. I live in Stroud which is at the bottom of the hill, we didn't have any settled on the floor yet. On the way to work, I normally pick Will Harris up (our mechanic). Will lives half way up the hill. I had spoken to Will just before I left, he said it wasn't too bad just yet. At the time he was right. I got to Will safely and we set on our way, only about 50 yards up the road and climbing a couple of hundred feet the snow become heavier MUCH heavier! The car started to slide and we looked at each other and said "What the hell are we doing this for". While going up the hill I remember passing a car that had crashed into a brand new Saab, gutted! When at the top, we had to pull over, we just weren't getting anywhere and if we were it wasn't safely. During this time the traffic started to pick up. Will and I decided to watch some of the traffic before setting off again. People are crazy in the snow.....You should have seen this coach trying to get up the hill. It got itself stuck just on the bend taking up both sides of the road. A couple of landys tried to pull it up but had no luck. The driver of the coach gave it another go, a couple of minutes with full throttle and plenty of sliding he managed to free him-

self, I really have never seen a coach go up a hill sideways, with just its back end dragging along the grass bank. Watching the rest of the traffic go up and down the hill was just as entertaining, it later took me an hour to get home, and normally all it takes me about 10 minutes. When I got there I went back to bed, I thought I'll start this day again a little later!

Now that Harrogate Week is behind us, I hope that the bad weather has finished showing its face. What a truly awful winter we have had. Not only has it prevented us from golf course projects, it's prevented me from having any football (me without football on a Saturday = unhappy bunny!). I went through a period during December and January of only having two games in eight weeks, this now means I'm a busy man in February and March with rearrangements, nine fixtures in February in fact.

You'll remember our raffle we had at our Christmas Golfing day, a donation was made to "Help for Heroes" for £421, and this was the money collected from the raffle at Taunton & Pickering. Nice work Nobby!

People, our fixtures for 2010 will be with you shortly, we have some fantastic venues in place this year, and the greenkeeper amateur is also back. Im sure your make every effort to attend as many as possible, I look forward to seeing you all this year.

Remember, that you could forward any information/stories that you would like to be feeding into our Section's column. Please feel free to drop me an e-mail or even a phone call. I look forward to hearing from anyone.

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

Adam Matthews

## South East Region



## Kent

As I write this report in early February we are being hit being another bout of heavy snow compounding all the recent problems of travel, closed



courses and further loss of much needed revenue. Unfortunately, it was for those very reasons, which prevented my trip to Harrogate this year. I hope those of you who were able to justify making the journey found the show as useful and educational as it normally is.

The weather has played havoc with my preparations for the first outing of the year for our contingent of stalwarts to Prince's Golf Club on March 10. Personally, I haven't hit a ball since November last year so playing Prince's, which I hear is a course that demands accuracy, could be a tad tricky! Looking forward immensely to the day anyway and hopefully by then the conditions will have abated enough for another memorable day.

One piece of good news this month is the announcement of the birth of baby, Charlie. Congratulations to his very proud parents, Dan and Helen Jones.

Many thanks to all of the companies too who are still supporting us with sponsorship despite the lean times. A full list of all these noteworthy firms is displayed on our website. [www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)

Don't forget you can contact me with any news, views, events or anything else you would like to see on these pages or on the website.

Sorry it's a short one this month. Must be the weather! (That's what I tell the wife anyway!)

Best of British  
Rob Holland  
07843 410755



## London

Hello everyone,

Well another month has past. I am writing this having just got back from Harrogate. What a great week we had. It was great to see how many London Section members attended. The show like normal was very good with some interesting products on show. The educational seminars and workshops I attended were fantastic. BIGGA should be very proud of the standard of workshops they put on. I came

back feeling very motivated by the whole week. My staff that attended the week said they really enjoyed the experience and we are booked in for next year already.

We held an education day at Oaklands College on Feb 18 with over 137 attendees! That's got to be a record. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Wight for organising a great day for us. I think everyone enjoyed it.

Let us know your feedback! We, the committee, and Andy Wight are thinking this should be an annual event. Is the time of year good for you? What about the Cost? Any speakers you would like to hear or what topics you would like covered?

Here is a reminder of fixtures coming up in the Section- The spring tournament, May 20, at Ealing Golf Club! Greg Evans is the greenkeepers' answer to Marmite, but this is your chance to play on the greens and experience what many golfers in the area are doing for just £20 including meals! This tournament is getting full already with a second list of entries for other section members. Remember to get your names in now so you don't miss out.

Remember this is also the National qualifier. The first and second place winners will get their expenses paid trip to the National Championship at The Berkshire.

The Summer Tournament will be held on July 21, at Muswell Hill Golf Club. We will have a BBQ after the golf with golf dress welcome all day, so no need for your shirt and tie!

The Turkey Trot will be held at Wyke Green Golf Club on December 2. This will be another great day and a chance to play in a team event!

Please if you have any questions or suggestions on the Section please contact us.

You can call or use the web site [www.biggalondonsection.co.uk](http://www.biggalondonsection.co.uk).

Matt Plested  
07818410333

## Section Notes

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



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## Surrey

Sorry for the non-appearance on Notes in the February magazine but there was a problem at HQ which I've spoken to Scott about.

January 4 2010. Minus 6 degrees centigrade, so brass monkeys beware for the ice-age cometh, although I still have reports that the ancient order of mad golfers is still playing in frost, snow and freezing conditions. With stimpmeter readings from 0 to 20 feet in length and 20 to 30 feet in height, these curious near-members of the human race continue to wander from temporary hole to temporary hole, hoping beyond hope that the green keepers have cleared the snow from the back 9 greens.

I wonder what the weather is like now that you are reading this in February 2010? Is it still freezing, as predicted, by our knowledgeable experts in the forecasting world, or has global warming returned. I hope so, for my heating bills have gone through the roof and I need you all this month to spend, spend, spend and forget about the so-called credit crunch.

Thank you Ashford Manor GC for your tremendous welcome and hospitality on December 9 and for allowing 60+ greenkeepers courtesy of your course. We had a fabulous day that included hot and delicious soup half way round and a turkey dinner that was exceptional. The back tees and long par fours were not a problem for me but for many players of shorter length it must have been difficult. But it was not that difficult for the winning team of Ron Christie, Jason Hunt, Jim Russell and Roger Tydeman. Runners up from Rotherhampton GC were Andy Foulds, Andy Hall, Andy Doulton and Jamie Cushing. Nearest the Pin, Gregory Richardson - Longest Drive, Ron Christie.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next golf day which will be the Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath GC in March.

Sunday, February 7. I think it is time for me to re-enter the political arena but I have decided

that my party's name, on this occasion, should reflect what we all feel about our present MPs. 'BALLS' or Brian Against Lawful Larceny and Skulduggery. My party, if we can raise the necessary funding, will bring the politicians' expenses rules into general use so that we can all participate in helping ourselves to the UK's seemingly bottomless expenses pot. Of course, the rules and regulations that have proved so generous to the current lot must be changed so that only the most deserving of me, sorry I mean us, can collect the rewards which honesty, hard work and greed can justify. Hopefully, when I am elected, these new watertight rules will not yet have been resolved and my claim for my second home on the Isle of Wight will be passed without a second glance. All donations to 'BALLS' should be sent to my Political Manager Mr Douglas Iolanthe Fernie, care of the Fat Ox public house in Upminster.

But now, until fame and fortune are bestowed upon me it's DADDIES and MUMMIES of the Month. Congratulations to Alan Johnston, Epsom GC, and his partner, Nina, who said hello to their son Seth, 7lb 11ozs, on December 18. And congratulations to Charlotte and Mark Pennels, Drift GC, whose daughter, Isabella Georgina, 8lbs 14ozs was delivered in the early hours of February 2.

Surrey Section's golfing programme for 2010 is as follows and I am sure that you will join with me in thanking our secretary Mr William Ronald Christie for arranging such an interesting list of new and in one case stultifying venues. March 5, Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath GC; April 27, Spring team event at Laleham National GC; May 5; National qualifier at Burhill GC, winner of the Southern England Environmental Award; June 15, Summer tournament at Hoebridge GC; August 16, The McMillan Tankard, at Sunningdale GC; October 14; Surrey v Sussex v Essex, at Three Rivers GC Essex; November 2, England v Scotland, at Hankley Common GC, and December 7; Turkey Trot, at Guildford GC.

The Surrey Bowl knock out competition will be organised again this year by Roger Tydeman, Croham Hurst GC, and entry forms will be posted or

emailed soon.

Your committee met at Desert Springs GC, in Spain, on January 27. As an all expenses paid break the committee would like to thank you all for your generous if unknown benevolence. Just a joke, it was held as usual at Epsom GC for which we thank them for allowing us to meet there. We have a target to arrange three educational courses this year so please take a regular look at the website for updates. To encourage new young members under the age of 20 the Section will pay for their BIGGA membership in the first year. To see if you qualify refer to the Surrey Section website. The venue for our next meeting, on February 25 is a secret but flight tickets have been booked. Many thanks from your committee.

Sadly I report the sudden death of John Beaumont. John, deputy at Tyrrells Wood GC, also worked as course manager at Pырford and Hampton Court Palace GCs. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

Brian Willmott



## Essex

I have plenty to report this month with our first committee meeting, a new website, plus a new arrival.

Firstly the new arrival. Congratulations go to our Chairman, Mark Stopps, and his wife, Katie, on the arrival on January 13, of Evie. She weighed in at 9lbs.3ozs, mother and baby doing well and Mark's not doing to bad either.

So due to Mark's good news, our first committee meeting was held back until January 26. I must say it was one of the best I have ever attended. It was very productive and we have some good ideas for the coming year. Watch this space.

Version 3 of our website is up and running. Though, only in a beta state, at the moment (that is, as I write this), things could well change over the next few weeks. There should be more to come about the site over the next few months. I would like to have your participation on this one though, with some mem-

bers tips and such like, I'm also looking into the possibility of a member's only section, which will require a login, this could contain a members forum and other information for members of our section only? I have to check things out with our Software Company and Internet Service Provider to see if this is possible, so I will hold this one until next month.

Golf dates at last for this season are as follows:-

South Essex. Tuesday, April 27. Smart Casual Dress. 12.30pm start time, One tee Start; Channels. Tuesday, June 22 Smart Casual Dress. 12noon start time, Two tee Start; Boyce Hill. Thursday, August 12. Jacket & Tie, Please. 12noon start time, Two tee Start. Benton Hall. Wednesday, September 29. Smart Casual Dress. 11.30am start time, Two tee Start.

Triangular Match. Thursday, October 14. Smart Casual Dress. TBA

The Essex, AGM. Team event. Wednesday December 2. Jacket & Tie, Please. 10am, Shotgun Start.

The Triangular event in October is picked from players who play consistently in our golf days throughout the season and who are available to play on the day. We are the hosts this year.

The annual Knockout competition is about to get underway, if you are interested in playing, choose your partner and sign up. The winners go to the National Championships in 2011. We have decided that whoever wins, qualifies to go to the Nationals. So if in future it's a member-trade team mix both the winners go from now on. The only stipulation we have is that there has to be at least one greenkeeper member in the team, we do not allow two trade members to play as a team. The rules will be amended and placed on our website.

The entry forms will be on their way to you all very soon, as will this year's calendar, Tom is working on it as I write this and hopefully it will be completed shortly and dispatched.

Plans are to hold an Education day out, somewhere! Paul O'Kane is working on a venue and he will be getting touch with you as soon as he has finalised the arrangements and venue. It is then planned to hold an Essex



Seminar later in the year; this is later than we first planned, as we did not want to clash with the seminar being held by the London Section in February.

If you have any news for this magazine or the website please contact me by email: [essex-bigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essex-bigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Officer.



## East Anglia

Thorpeness Golf Club – 10 December 2009

Another 10 years and a bit gone then. Doesn't time fly, then again, maybe not! Hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year – if you can remember it, you didn't.

The Annual CMW sponsored Turkey Trot took place way back in December and what a cracker (excuse the pun) it was. A full field of 120 players took part on a fantastic course on a fantastic day.

The AGM took place before the meal started – this was to prevent any 'escapees'. It nearly worked; it just meant that some stayed upstairs instead of attending the meeting downstairs. May I humbly suggest the meeting is held near the bar next time!

As usual the Chairman's report was informative, the Treasurer's report added up and the Secretary's report was short and to the point (like me). The Committee was voted in on bloc, the meeting nearly lasted 10 minutes and that included the queen's – sorry Captain's speech given by Steve Lucock, and a round of applause.

We all raced back up the stairs in two seconds flat to re-claim our beer and seats ready for our well earned and beautifully prepared Christmas dinner.

After the silly hats and whistles came the prize giving. They were many and varied so don't go to sleep just yet! The Purdis 'A' Team came first with 54.3 – second was Lemon Squeeze (sounds like a pop group) with 55.1 – third was Roy Brittain's team with 56.1 and fourth were the Thorpeness 'A' team with 56.4.

Now comes the nearest and

longest and closest:-

Nearest the Pin on: 2nd Sponsored by Aitkens, Alan Elliot; 7th Sponsored by Bartram Mowers, David Hart; 10th Sponsored by Ernest Doe, Keith Titchell; 16th Sponsored by Tomlinson Groundcare, David Chiles.

Nearest the Pin in two: 6th Sponsored by Spearhead, Peter Howard; 11th Sponsored by Spearhead – Stuart Edge

Nearest the White line: 5th Sponsored by Baileys, James Burton

Longest drive: 14th Trade – Sponsored by BIGGAE/A – Mark Keysell; 13th Guest – Sponsored by BIGGA E/A – Alan Belton

Longest drive – Greenkeepers: 0-14 H/cap Sponsored by Lely UK, Robert Whiting; 15-21 H/cap Sponsored by Lely UK, Mark Broughton; 22-28 H/cap Sponsored by Lely UK, Mark Barber

The President presented Peter Howard with Ernie Hart's port for services to Greenkeeping on Peter's retirement. Well done mate. Who was it that put holly leaves in the raffle tickets (made Ian jump anyway).

Colin, our President, read out a letter from the BBC (Big Bobby Chesham), our Vice President, which was quite emotional and we wish Bob a speedy recovery from his pruning exploits and look forward to seeing him in the New Year.

The Loo Seat was presented to Ian Willett, for winning it the most times over the years, by Brian Lindors A colourful speech followed as is fitting with a Loo Seat.

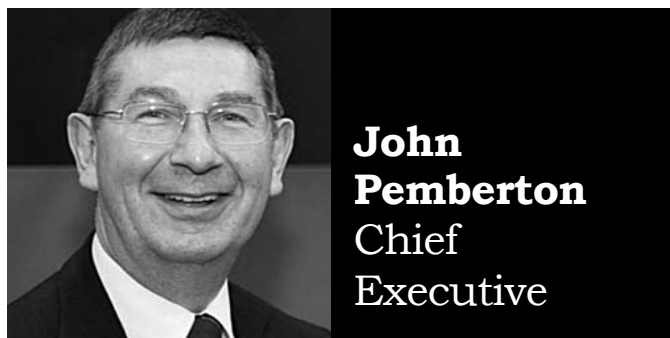
Meanwhile, back on the course, two buggies were spotted being driven by two young Greenkeepers about half an inch from a green! Please have the culprits shot before they breed.

Our thanks to the main sponsors of the day who were CMW and also to all our very loyal and generous trade members who are as follows:- Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Ben Burgess, Tacit, Textron, John Deere, Hayter, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Toro, Collier Turfcare, Leyley, Baileys, Sheriff and Earnest Doe.

We look forward to 2010 when we shall be at Saffron Walden, Purdis Heath, Eaton, Diss and Thorpeness.

Thanks again Thorpeness for a truly great day.

Mick Lathrope



Golf is a game steeped in tradition with a culture that is slow to change, but change it must if it is to succeed in the coming decades. We are all too well aware that gone are the days of lengthy waiting lists and golf clubs today are waking up to the fact that they need to become more commercially minded, more family orientated and more relaxed in their attitude towards dress code in the club house. Time, the state of the economy and changing lifestyles are all having an impact on the finances of clubs as more and more golfers move from club membership, adopting in many cases a policy of 'Pay and Play'.

Historically centred around greenkeeping, BIGGA is heavily reliant upon commercial revenue and now finds itself a victim of the changes in maintenance spending patterns as a consequence of diminished club budgets. 2009 was a challenge to us all, for some clubs it proved to be a better year than originally anticipated but nevertheless a year that I, for one, am glad is behind us.

What of 2010? Looking specifically at golf then I see another year of uncertainty and dwindling club memberships, another year of struggling to balance the books, another year of working harder and smarter to stand still. One of the Association's dilemmas is "How do we get all golfers to contribute towards the development and delivery of greenkeeper education in order to retain and recruit players through improved, environmentally and ecologically responsible, sports turf maintenance practices?"

Having said all of that I am delighted with the outcome of this year's Harrogate Week. We continue to get positive feedback from both exhibitors and visitors and the significant number of stands that have already been re-booked, some with increased space, is an indication of its success. The Staff Team at BIGGA HOUSE now have the job of putting together plans for January 2011 and part of the development of the Learning and Development programme will be the introduction of a one day 'High Level' conference. The absence of the major manufacturers next year will be a big blow to the financial success of the event however the Sales Team are looking at alternatives and are tasked with attracting new exhibitors that are relevant to the show. Let's also not forget that the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) is not just about a handful of key players, it's also essential that the many dozens of small to medium sized companies, many of whom have attended year after year, are equally, if not a more essential part of the success story.

We will continue to strive to give every exhibitor, regardless of size, good value for money and I encourage you, the Members, to support those that support your Association whether at Harrogate or elsewhere throughout the year.

Finally, how are those New Year resolutions going? I am already behind with mine, the poor weather and too much time at work have put paid to the golf practise and the diet's not looking too good either. Oh well, there is still time to make amends!

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*Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.*







# Diary of Events

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

## March

### Wednesday, March 10.

The Kent Section has arranged a golf event to be held at Princes Golf Club.

Contact Rob Holland at:  
grassyars@hotmail.com

### Wednesday, March 10.

In conjunction with Complete Weed Control the South Wales Section have organised a Fertiliser and Herbicide Open Day. To be held at Burghill Valley Golf Club from 9.30am until approximately 2.30pm.

Please contact Alan Abel on 07836286001 to register for this interesting day.

### Thursday, March 11.

The Sheffield Section has organised an afternoon with Eddie Seaward from the All England Law Tennis Association, at Rotherham Golf Club starting at 1pm. Anyone requiring further Details contact James Stevens

Jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
or telephone 07738 719614.

### Wednesday, March 17.

The Devon and Cornwall Section has arranged a golf event to be held at Mullion Golf Club. Contact George Pitts at:  
gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com

### Wednesday, March 17.

Site visit to Ffos Las Racecourse, Carmarthenshire. A chance to have a look around only the 3rd racecourse to be built in the UK in 80 years in the company of Clerk of the Course Mr. Tim Long and managing director David Thursfield. Ffos Las is located near Kidwelly and the visit starts at 5:30pm.

Arranged by the South Wales Section in conjunction with the IOG South Wales Branch and is sponsored by Countrywide Turf & Amenity.

Contact Steve Chappell at  
chappell124@hotmail.co.uk

### Tuesday, March 23.

The Cleveland Section's Spring Tournament will be held at Seaton Carew Golf Club from 10am.

Contact Ian Pemberton (Pembo) on 07791 695768.

### Thursday, March 25.

Midland Region Seminar, to be held at Shirley Golf Club, Solihull, Birmingham. The subject for the day is "The Next Decade".

Contact Peter Larter at  
Petelarter972@aol.com  
or telephone 07866 366966.

## April

### Thursday, April 8

Northern Region Seminar to be held at Penrith Golf Club, Penrith, Cumbria. The subject for the day is "The Next Decade".

Contact Peter Larter at  
Petelarter972@aol.com  
or telephone 07866 366966.

### Tuesday, April 13.

The East Section of Scotland's Golf Spring Meeting hosted by Kilsplindie Golf Club.

Contact Stuart Ferguson  
at stuferg@btinternet.com  
or 07961 630553.

### Wednesday, April 14.

Site visit to 2010 Ryder Cup Course at the Celtic Manor Resort. Director of Golf Courses & Estates Management Jim McKenzie will be showing us around the first golf course to be purpose built to host the Ryder Cup. Following the tour there will be a presentation, when Jim will be joined by Chris Sealy to discuss the Ryder Cup at Valhalla in 2008.

Arranged by the South Wales Section, in conjunction with the IOG South Wales Branch, and is sponsored by Countrywide Turf & Amenity. Contact Steve Chappell at  
chappell124@hotmail.co.uk.

### Wednesday, April 14.

The East Midlands Section has arranged a golf event to be held at Erewash Valley Golf Club.

Contact Andy de Wet at  
biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com

### Wednesday, April 21.

The Cleveland Section has arranged an evening event on Correct Blade Setting and Maintenance of your machines.

Contact Ian Pemberton (Pembo)  
on 07791 695768.

### Wednesday, April 21.

The North East Section Spring Competition is to be played at the City of Newcastle Golf Club.

Contact Jimmy Richardson  
jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com

### Wednesday, April 28.

The North Wales Sections Spring Tournament is to be held at Caernarfon Golf Club. Contact Jeremy Hughes at:  
jezpro69@aol.com.

### Date to be advised.

The Sheffield Section has organised a Machine Maintenance - Workshop Management day, in association with Golf and Turf Machinery, at the Hallamshire Golf Club. Time and date to be confirmed but anyone requiring further Details contact:

James Stevens  
Jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
or telephone 07738 719614.

**More dates  
for your diary  
next month**





# Membership

Tracey Maddison provides a membership benefits update on some core benefits and services BIGGA provides its members

## BIGGA Membership Benefits Update

### Education, Learning and Development

Greenkeeper International (GI) is BIGGA's official magazine, representing views and presenting articles from top greenkeepers and groundsman throughout the country. As part of membership a copy is sent to all members directly to their door on a monthly basis.

Learning and Development is available to BIGGA members through the twenty-six sections located around the UK. Although each section operates independently if a member wishes to attend a seminar or course in another section just contact the local section secretary. A full list of events is now available in GI each month and a contact list is available on the BIGGA website. These events are also an excellent way to consult, exchange and compare work related issues with colleagues in your own industry.

### Legal Assistance Helpline

During 2009 an average of 70 members per month contacted the legal assistance helpline for advice on various legal matters. The average call duration was almost 10 minutes per call and employment matters were the most common topic discussed.

Full Members of the Association can take advantage of legal advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, arranged by Arc Legal Assistance. The protection is not just limited to supporting you, as Arc is on hand to make sure you and your family gets the best and most relevant protection you all need.

Not only can the legal assistance helpline offer advice on employment issues, consumer problems and personal injury cases but they can also give guidance on any personal legal matter, including will writing, moving home, matrimonial issues or discuss any motor offence cases.

Access to unlimited telephone legal advice is included as part of the service and the BIGGA scheme

also offers a reassuring benefit of covering the costs of arranging representation in Employment Tribunals and possibly internal disciplinary hearings with your employer. In addition, cover can extend to include legal costs incurred to deal with a consumer dispute and to pursue a personal injury claim.

There are many advantages of the BIGGA scheme over other telephone legal helplines, for example, the BIGGA scheme is available 24/7 on a freephone telephone number (within the UK) and there is somebody on the other end of the telephone to help immediately, no messages and call backs necessary.

### Personal Accident Insurance Scheme

During 2009 over £13,000 was paid out by BIGGA insurers to BIGGA members who were unfortunate enough to have had an accident which caused them to be off work, but were fortunate enough to be aware of the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme and were able to claim payments while they were off work.

### Stress and Debt Assistance Helpline

Both these helplines were introduced in 2009. Both available 24/7 these helplines offer a confidential, professional telephone counselling service which can help proactively manage stress at work or at home by providing immediate emotional support, advice and practical information and advice on a debt issue.

During 2009 over 20 members contacted these helplines to seek advice and guidance on a stress or debt related issue.

For a full list of benefits and services offered to BIGGA members visit the BIGGA website [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk), or if you have any suggestions for membership benefits contact the membership department.

Being a member of BIGGA provides access to a whole host of useful, interesting and important information to help you in your role in sports turf management.



### Contact Details

Tracey Maddison  
[traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk](mailto:traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)

Brad Anderson  
[brad@bigga.co.uk](mailto:brad@bigga.co.uk)

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Mobile: 07776 242120  
[pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

#### Northern & Midland

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
[petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com)

#### South East

Clive Osgood  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
[cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)

#### South West & Wales

Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
[janejones1@btconnect.com](mailto:janejones1@btconnect.com)



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



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### Welcome to New Members

For more information on new members log in to the Members Area of the BIGGA website:

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

...and select 'Welcome New Members' from the Menu on the left hand side.

### This month BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

#### Scotland

Peter Casbolt, Ayrshire  
Grant Frogley, Central  
Ross Glendinning, East  
Kevin Lewis, Central  
Lukas Mati, Central  
Andrew McGarry, West  
Inzer Price Gendron, Central  
Stephen Robertson, Central  
Alan Walter, Ayrshire

#### Northern Region

Tahir Albert, North West  
Paul Barrow, North West  
Tom Beardsworth, Northern  
Steve Bowes, Northern  
Phillip Dodds, Northern  
Ian Hamilton, North East  
Martin Ishmael, North West  
Richard Ishmael, North West  
Gareth Kendal, North West  
Liam McKendry, Northern  
Steven Nixon, Sheffield  
Jon Scruton, Northern  
Joe Tiplady, Northern  
Mark Turner, North West  
Jonathon Wilkin, North West

#### Midland Region

Ricky Amos, Mid Anglia  
Peter Buckley, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Matthew Hardman, Midland  
Jason Higgins, Mid Anglia  
Simon Reardon, East Midland  
Roger Smith, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Mike Tipping, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Jordon Tromans, Midland  
Sam Voss, East Midland

#### South East Region

Mark Barber, East Anglia  
Sam Hoggett, Surrey  
Matthew Webb, Surrey

#### S West/S Wales Region

Richard Bailey, Devon & Cornwall  
Geoffrey Price, Devon & Cornwall  
Kevin Tigg, South Coast  
Daniel Townsend, Devon & Cornwall  
Rob Worster, South West

#### International Member

Challe Antoine, Denmark  
Leslie Cain, Belgium  
Caralynn Cullen, Canada  
Cameron Kusiek, Canada  
Cathal Sexton, Republic of Ireland



# Assistant Profile

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

Red Devil, Mike, wants to be a Firefighter, and when he's not watching Man United play, he enjoys repairing cars!



**Name:** Mike Stewart  
**Age:** 44  
**Club:** The Tytherington Club  
**Position:** First Assistant  
**Nickname:** "Stumpy"

- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**  
28 years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**  
Outdoor Life
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**  
A Firefighter
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**  
Cutting holes and setting a good test of golf.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**  
None.
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**  
People having a greater understanding of what we actually do.
- 7. Hobbies?**  
Golf, car repairs and walking
- 8. Favourite Band?**  
Beautiful South
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**  
Man United
- 10. What is your claim to fame?**  
Appeared in various golf related magazines

# What's your number?

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

Bill Hawthorn of 2iC comes under the spotlight



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

I am the founder of 2iC Consultants and also a Director

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

Since 1964 when I became the General Manager of BOIL.

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

I was an engineer at The Harland Engineering Company and Wright Rain was one of our clients. I used to design hydraulic and electrical systems for Jack Wright. One day Jack offered me a job and he said he had secured the distribution rights for Toro popups. He wanted me to find a market for them. I proposed golf and developed an electrical automated system. The first course to have one was Handsworth.

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

I was the founder of Watermation, (which I ran for 25 years), who developed the first practical two-wire irrigation control system and the first hand held remote control. I was also one of the founders of EGGA.

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

The opportunity and freedom to be a creative engineer over a wide range of challenges. Nothing gives me more pleasure than being called in to solve a problem.

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

The move from irrigation being seen as an ad hoc affair to properly designed systems incorporating advanced technology.

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

I am a very active member of Cranleigh Baptist Church. I also project managed building a new church.

**8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Hopefully still alive and active!**

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

Greenkeepers. It has been a pleasure to work in an industry where everyone is so pleasant and friendly.

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

Well I'm not really one who thinks of luck as such. I am more with "The harder you work the luckier you get" philosophy. I was born on Friday the 13th! so I guess that number will do.

**11. Pick a number.** 15

*Bill has picked Maarten de Vroom from Greentoi*

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We are looking for enthusiastic, motivated and experienced individuals to join the existing greenkeeping team in maintaining this exciting development. There are currently two vacancies with an immediate start and two further vacancies for later in the year.

The successful candidates will desirably have the following qualifications and skills:

- Qualified to NVQ 2 or equivalent
- P.A. 1, 2 & 6 Spraying Certificates
- Minimum of 2 years relevant experience
- Good team player
- Knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations
- Knowledge of irrigation systems
- Ability to produce and maintain high standards of work
- Other relevant qualifications i.e. chainsaw certificate, would be advantageous

This is an excellent opportunity for any individual to experience growing a new championship golf course. Salary negotiable depending on experience.

### Benefits:

Uniform provided; meals whilst on duty; car parking; free golf membership, discounted hotel and restaurant rates. No live-in accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Jane Klotz, HR Manager  
Close House Hotel and Golf  
Heddon on the Wall, Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE15 0HT  
Tel. No. 01661 852255  
Email: [jane.klotz@closehouse.co.uk](mailto:jane.klotz@closehouse.co.uk) [www.closehouse.co.uk](http://www.closehouse.co.uk)

Closing date for applications for immediate start no later than 19th March 2010  
Closing date for later start by 5th April 2010



## Technical Sales Managers

- 1) Northern England
- 2) South East England

To continue our growth in the U.K. turf and amenity market we are seeking professional salespeople.

The successful applicants will be able to support and develop sales of our quality products to both existing and new customers, contribute to new product development and work closely with other industry professionals. They will have experience in the turf or amenity sectors and be highly motivated with exceptional communication skills.

Applications are welcomed from people who wish to be part of a dynamic, rapidly growing company that can contribute to our existing close team of sales professionals as well as acting on their own initiative.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The positions available offer a quality company car and other benefits after a successful qualifying period. To discuss this opportunity in confidence, please contact us by 23rd March 2010.



Andy Russell, Sales & Marketing Director  
Headland Amenity Ltd,

1010 Cambourne Business Park,  
Cambourne, Cambs CB23 6DP

Email: [andy.russell@headlandamenity.com](mailto:andy.russell@headlandamenity.com)

Telephone: 01223 597834 Fax: 01223 598052

Or apply by post or email including your full C.V.



### Irrigation Service Engineer required for expanding Service/ Maintenance Company.

Applicants will need a clean driving license & must be self motivating, hard working & prepared to work long hours.

A good knowledge of Hunter, Toro & Rainbird Irrigation Products is a necessity.

The accepted applicant can expect a good hourly rate of pay with additional benefits.

Please apply by sending your C.V. to:

Topturf Irrigation (Service) Limited  
Units E4 & E5  
Rudford Industrial Estate  
Ford  
Nr. Arundel  
West Sussex  
BN18 0BD



West Linton Golf Club was established in 1890 and is widely recognised as a high quality course, hosting regional and national events.  
The Club requires a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will

- Hold appropriate greenkeeping qualifications as well as experience in a similar position
- Be capable of leading, motivating and managing our experienced green keeping team
- Be able to prepare and manage an annual budget, and capital projects
- Have flair and vision, as well as awareness of the requirements of a busy course for members and visitors

An attractive remuneration package, which may include accommodation, will be offered.

Application form and additional information available from John Johnson, Club Secretary, West Linton Golf Club, Medwyn Road, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN. Closing date for applications is 22nd March 2010  
Tel: 01968 660970  
E: [secretarywlgc@btinternet.com](mailto:secretarywlgc@btinternet.com)



# Turf & Amenity Technical Area Sales Managers (2 vacancies)



THE **Scotts Miracle-Gro**  
COMPANY

## Scotts Professional UK & Ireland seeks two Turf & Amenity Technical Area Sales Managers to expand its operations in Southern England.

Scotts Global Professional is a worldwide leading division of The Scotts Miracle Gro Company and is active in Ornamental Horticulture, Professional Turf & Amenity and Specialty Agriculture with subsidiaries in all continents. The Professional UK & Ireland Division is market leader in providing branded technical nutrition, plant protection and growing media solutions to end-users in its core Turf & Amenity and Ornamental Horticulture markets.

You know our brands – they include Sierrablen Plus, Sierraform, Greenmaster and Sportsmaster.

What you may not realize is the strength of the business behind them.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company is the world's largest horticultural company with products for both the home and garden and professional markets. We are a global \$3billion company and we continue to grow.

The UK Turf & Amenity business now seeks two Technical Area Sales Managers to expand its operations

further in Southern England. You will take responsibility for maximizing the sales effort for the growth of Scotts Professional products in the Turf and Amenity market in your designated area.

### Key Responsibilities, Tasks and Activities

- Manage, develop and implement annual sales action plans within your sales area
- Increase sales by aggressively pursuing opportunities
- Provide sales support and technical advice to distributors and end-users
- Maintain and strengthen excellent customer relationships
- Fully utilise SAP Customer Relations Management Tool
- Identify and develop new customers

### Education, Experience, Skills and Knowledge

- Proven success in a technical sales role is essential
- An industry-recognized qualification is advantageous (e.g. BSc in Turf & Amenity / BASIS / FACTS)

- Technical understanding of the nature of our product range and the Turf & Amenity market
- You'll be self-motivated, show high initiative and drive to achieve business results and objectives
- A professional approach to business with good communication and presentation skills
- Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills
- A good team player

### In return, we offer a substantial benefits package including:

- A competitive salary, company car, company bonus and 26 days annual leave
- A contributory pension scheme
- Subsidized private medical and dental insurance
- Excellent development and career opportunities within a global professional business

For more information you can contact:  
**Stephen Squires, Business Director, Professional UK & Ireland. Tel +44 1473 201100 or Harry Vandenberg, HR Manager, Scotts Professional: Tel +31 418 655 700.**

To apply, please send your résumé and a covering letter by email to [harry.vandenberg@scotts.com](mailto:harry.vandenberg@scotts.com) to reach us no later than 26/03/2010. For more information about working at Scotts visit [www.lovethegarden.com/careers/](http://www.lovethegarden.com/careers/)

**SierrablenPlus** **Greenmaster** **sierraform** **GT** **H<sub>2</sub>Pro** **Praxys** **Jewel**



## in the shed answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus and Ernie Els
2. Magic
3. The Rocket
4. Eddie the Eagle
5. Eric the Eel
6. William Perry
7. Martin Offiah
8. Chopper
9. Yifter the Shifter

### CROSSWORD

W	A	S	T	E	N	O	T	W	A	N	T	N	O	T
H	T	M	V	H	I	O	H							
A	D	I	P	O	S	E		I	N	T	I	M	A	E
T	R	L	T	T	R	I	S							
C	Y	R	I	L	T	H	E	R	E	U	N	T	O	
H	U	I		H		A								
A	P	P	L	E	T	R	E	E		N	Y	L	O	N
M		N		O	A		O							
A	S	S	E	T		A	L	T	I	S	S	I	M	O
C		H		S			F		N					
A	R	I	S	T	O	T	L	E		E	P	S	O	M
L	H	O		I		X	R		U					
L	A	T	E	R	O	N		C	H	A	R	L	E	S
I	Z	S		G		E	T		A					
T	O	U	L	O	U	S	E	L	A	U	T	R	E	C

### MONSTER SUDOKO

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

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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



# On the Soapbox

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

## People talk about grass roots greenkeeping but what about the grass tips of Greenkeeping, equipment technicians are the very people who have the responsibility of keeping grass tips cleanly cut?

It was good to read the Chairman's column in last May's edition of Greenkeeper International; what Peter Todd said was very true:

"The work involved in maintaining golf course equipment properly, demands the skills and experience of trained staff together with an adequately equipped workshop. Many clubs rely on dealers and outside help whilst some see in house facilities as essential to the smooth running of their operation. Whatever is appropriate."

But it also raises the question where do trained workshop staff come from?

I come from inside the industry starting as a greenkeeper in 1987 at horticultural college and then moving on to the workshop and attending agricultural engineering college, finally becoming the Workshop Manager here at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, which I believe to be a near perfect apprenticeship for the trade.

So why do many technicians come from the car trade or agricultural workshops with only a few from within the industry itself? Is this from lack of career awareness?

Personally I think it is, after doing some research into the subject I could not find anywhere where Golf Course Machinery Technician was offered as a career path or very little mention of Equipment Technician at all.

The technician, who plays a key role in golf course preparation and presentation, some would say, is as important as the Course Manager, ensuring accurate machine set up and quality of cut. Equipment Managers, Technicians and Greenkeepers who carry out machinery maintenance are estimated to number only 300 or 400 in the UK, (a small number compared to the US) and are required to carry out machinery maintenance to a very high standard.

With many clubs experiencing reduced members and visitors, they cannot justify employing full time technicians, so many golf clubs operate with Greenkeepers, Deputies and Course Manager's carrying out machinery maintenance on a part time basis with dealership support, with that in mind the number of people doing so is far greater than full time staff, this works well

for many clubs and they achieve excellent results especially as some of them have no formal mechanical training.

With so many untrained "mechanics" in the industry how can they increase their knowledge? By talking to each other, of course, but how? You may think it's not that easy considering that I don't even know the Equipment Technician's name at Woburn Golf Club 45 minutes down the road, but recently I have had many communications with Patrick Callaby, at Celtic Manor Resort; Chris Minton, at The Belfry, and Stephen Tucker, at the Ritz-Carlton in Bradenton, Florida. All are members of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association ([www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org)).

Oh no you may think, yet another Association, but just wait and consider this, we all encounter technical problems on a regular basis and sometimes have little opportunity to talk to anybody that may be able to add constructive input to solve the problem.

usually an OEM representative or engineer who can answer the question immediately, it's not very often that end users get the opportunity to speak to a manufacturer virtually face to face.

IGCEMA is dedicated to expanding the education, enhancing the professionalism and improving the image of the Golf Course Equipment Managers and Turf Equipment Technician worldwide.

Supported by various manufacturers in the turf care industry, IGCEMA membership is free to join and strives to be an association where members and industry alike can learn from each other,

There is no reason why every golf club, dealer and manufacturer in the country should not have a member of IGCEMA within its staff.

So next time you're at a BIGGA meeting, training day or golf day tell your colleagues there about IGCEMA and encourage them to join.

## Where do we come from? (Workshop technicians that is)

But what about if someone in Spain, Australia or just down the road has experienced the same fault, well this is where IGCEMA comes into its own, you make a post regarding the fault, describing what happens and when, it may just be the case that Jo Bloggs from outer God knows where has just fixed the very same fault on his machine for the zero cost of joining the Association.

That's right, joining (IGCEMA) costs nothing and is simple to do online, just click on [www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org) and you can start supporting its aims, learn from other members and contribute to its pool of knowledge.

But that's not all the association can offer. Since its inception in 2006 many of the turf industries machinery manufacturers have joined the association to help support it financially and to offer educational web casts.

A web cast is a live presentation from anywhere in the world, presented by a variety of different people offering Slides, videos and literature which can be viewed on any pc while you are in your workshop or at home, one of the biggest advantages of this is that questions can be directed to the presenter,



In this article, Stuart takes the opportunity to make the case for the unsung heroes of the industry.

Stuart Hall, Director of the IGCEMA and Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club  
IGCEMA Board Member 2010  
[stuart.hall@igcema.org](mailto:stuart.hall@igcema.org)

*Stuart Hall*

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





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