

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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### A ONE IN A MILLION TRIP

Rhys Norville reveals all  
on his trip to the States

### Overseeding... The Simple Way

THE OVERSEEDING PROGRAMME  
ADOPTED AT ROYAL PORTHCAWL

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# The earth *moved*

Golf  
Course  
Feature

GI visits a golf course built on  
the biggest land slip in Europe



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# Musings of a bored driver

**Now that the snow and the ice have disappeared and spring has arrived, travelling to work has become a great deal easier and as a result journeying minds have been much freer to roam – well, mine has been anyway on the 45 minute journey to BIGGA HOUSE each day.**

This morning I found myself thinking about colours – it might not be the brightest, but one thing I do possess is an eclectic brain. I was studying the array of differently coloured cars that were either ahead of me or coming in the other direction. York and its outskirts can be pretty busy during the rush hour so I have plenty of variety to view.

Then a thought struck me. Why do we get cars in any colour we want, but when it comes to tractors, or sports turf machinery, they only ever come in the one colour associated with the manufacturer?

In 1908 Henry Ford announced that customers could have his Model T Ford painted any colour that they wanted so long as it was black... but things have move on since then in the automotive world.

Now you can get every colour under the sun and many fancy new ones that haven't ever appeared in a rainbow.

A short surf over some of the car manufacturers' websites reveals some spectacular colours – Moondust Silver; Tango (orangey); Grenadine (reddish) Avalon (light bluey); Chilli Red; Nayara (blueish), Limina Orange and Crono Yellow, to name but a few.

Wouldn't it be great if you could order up your favourite machinery but, rather than go with the traditional colour it has always come in, decide to have your new compact tractor in

Cayman Blue or Astral Black, or chose to order your new fairway triple in Blazer Blue, Citrus (pale green) or Dacuma Grey. You could tie it in with your own golf club colours or offer a colour option to a company willing to pay sponsorship – a la Formula 1!

Ah, I hear you ask, but how would the different manufacturers be able to identify themselves if not by colour, as is the current practice?

Well, and this shows just how much I was thinking about this, they could develop badges along the lines of their road going cousins.

I'm sure they could easily come up with a range of iconic badges to match Rolls Royce's Spirit of Ecstasy, or the VW badge, so beloved of the Beastie Boys in the 1980s. Before long you'd only need to glance to the front of the machine to confirm the manufacturer of that magnificent Tungsten Blue utility vehicle or the Decuma Grey mulching mower.

As I say, these are just the musings of a bored motorist with a bit of time to kill. I'm sure there are 101 reasons why it's a daft idea – not least the chaos and consternation it would cause in paint shops throughout the industry – but, hey, if Newton hadn't let his mind wander to apples falling from trees; or Einstein hadn't started messing with  $E=mc^2$ ; or Mr Rubic not fiddled about with his cube, where on earth would we be?

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**

MAY 2010

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## The earth moved



"The golf course is built on the biggest land slip in Europe. The fact of the matter is that the sea erodes the blue lias clay, pulling it out as though it's on ball bearings."

Course Manager, David Everett

Scott MacCallum headed to the edge of Dorset to visit Lyme Regis, a town whose golf club featured in the winning picture from last year's BIGGA Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta

Picture the scene. You're in a buggy carrying out the regular early morning chores when you happen to raise your gaze and look over to a familiar corner of the course. Instead of seeing the hedge which borders the 16th hole there is nothing. A closer inspection uncovers a spectacular sight – 25 metres of the course, including fully grown trees, slowly sliding down the cliff.

Nine years on Lyme Regis Course Manager, David Everett, can still recall vividly the memory of watching part of his golf course disappear down the cliff and he can point to the trees, which are still alive and growing, half way down.

Such an event didn't come as a shock to David, however, as the beautiful course, set 500 feet above sea level and looking down on the lovely seaside town of Lyme Regis, has a bit of a history.

"The golf course is built on the biggest land slip in Europe. The fact of the matter is that the sea erodes the blue lias clay, pulling it

out as though it's on ball bearings," explained David, who has been at the club since 1986.

"That before I joined there was a massive land slip and I did wonder what on earth it'd done taking us the course but the club said it was not unusual and you'd get used to it. Throughout history they've had small land slips but also big ones as well," he said, in a matter of fact manner that demonstrates how he has come to view the situation.

That 2001 slip was particularly dramatic – the coast guard

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## Golf's Oldest and Newest Combine in New Event

PowerPlay Golf, the new two-flag version of golf, has announced plans to team up with Kingarrock, Scotland's spiritual home of hickory golf, to create a fascinating event which blends the old and the new.

The PowerPlay Golf Kingarrock Hickory Cup will be staged at the "hickory only" nine-hole Kingarrock golf course in Cupar, Fife, in June.

"While we have built a course which honours hickory golf, and although we insist that

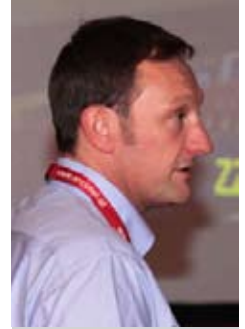
only hickory equipment and the Kingarrock ball are used, we believe we are also forward-looking in that we aim to give modern golfers a new experience," said Kingarrock Hickory Golf Owner, David Anderson.

"Both Kingarrock Hickory Golf and PowerPlay Golf are 9-hole golfing experiences, so on that simple level we are a great match," said PowerPlay Golf co-founder and ex Walker Cup Captain, Peter McEvoy OBE.

The PowerPlay Golf Kingarrock

Hickory Cup is open to anyone with a handicap. Half of everyone's entrance fee of £20 will be donated to the Erskine charity, which cares for ex-Service men and women. Prizes will include original hickory golf clubs for the top three returns.

Competitors should call Kingarrock Hickory Golf on 01334 653421 or email [michelle@kingarrock.com](mailto:michelle@kingarrock.com) to register and reserve their time for the 1st tee. Entries close on 21st May 2010 and are accepted on a 'first come – first serve' basis.



## FEGGA TALK

Campey Turf Care Systems continued its patronage of the FEGGA annual conference, in Vienna, by inviting a leading grounds manager, and Campey customer, to address delegates.

Following a series of presentations focused on golf, Chris Hague, Grounds Manager at Parken Stadium, in Denmark, shared his experiences of turf management in a multi-use stadia with FEGGA members from across Europe and representatives from other patron companies who had gathered in Vienna for the two-day event.

He explained how football fixtures for FC Copenhagen, the Danish national team and international sides are interspersed by music concerts, speedway, boxing matches and corporate events. This schedule and other factors, including regular use of the arena's retractable roof and hard surfaces to temporarily cover the playing surface, create a challenging environment for pitch management.



## SAPCA Programme for 2010

SAPCA will host a series of Sports Facility Construction Exhibition and Seminar events this year:

The Royal Armouries, Leeds: Tues, June 15; The King's Hall, Belfast: Tues, Oct 19; Twickenham Stadium, London: Tues, Nov 23

Each is a special one-day event that provides delegates with three main sources of information:

The exhibition will feature specialist providers of products and services from across the sports facility construction industry.

The event includes a series of informative and educational seminars aimed at everyone interested in sports facilities particularly those intending to build or refurbish sports and play surfaces or upgrade facilities by the inclusion of fencing, floodlighting or other related equipment.

The SAPCA Advice Resource Centre gives ready access to professional expertise provided by representatives drawn from SAPCA member companies, Sports Governing Bodies, Funding Sources and other organisations.

Attendance at the events, including any of the seminars, is free of charge. For the convenience of delegates, food and refreshments are available to purchase on a cash basis.

The full programmes and registration will be available at <http://www.sapca.org.uk> a few weeks before the event date.



## Success at Seaford College

Following the success of an Open Day at Fulford Heath GC, a second day, at Seaford College in East Sussex, was organised by R&K Kensett Ltd, in conjunction with Arun Mowers.

The agenda was a mixture of

machinery demos and talks by several experts; Simon Watson, of Syngenta; John Noyce, of Scotts; the STRI's Dr Ruth Mann on the results of the STRI trials using the Graden Contour Sand Injection and Charles Henderson, on

Organic Matter Control.

Keith Kensett spoke about Enviromist sprayers and the CDA process. Approximately 60 turf professionals from golf and cricket clubs, private schools and colleges attended.

## TERRALIFT TREATS PERMA FROST PAN

Freezing conditions over winter have sent Terrain Aeration back to Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club, in Kent, to rectify a pan layer caused by perma frost on nine of the 18 greens.

Head Greenkeeper, David Horne, who was one of the first turf managers to use the terralift machine when it arrived in the country in 1987, says that the frost affecting his older clay lined push-up greens about seven to eight inches below the surface.

"Once the thaw starts the surface softens but if you insert an 8 inch screwdriver into the turf it hits a frosted pan which isn't going to let water permeate through. You've got to find something that will get through it."

David, like greenkeepers all over the country, has had his spring maintenance programme put back because of the weather.







## Picking the Brains of a Gingerbread Man

Three final year BSc Hons turfgrass students, Paul Cook, Joshua Webber and, Matthew Byers, at Myerscough College, were charged with organising an event for the benefit of their fellow students from all disciplines and years.

Given that these students are potential future managers it's not surprising that sustainability was chosen as the theme for the day and as the college, the R&A and BIGGA are committed to actively promoting sustainable resource management all three organisations were happy to support the event.

Phillip Russell, Assistant to the Director of Golf R&A, got the day underway with his overview

of the R&A and its promotion of sustainable management. John Fry, Social Scientist and Myerscough lecturer, then gave his audience much food for thought with a piece on the Globalisation of Golf and the pressures surrounding the game today.

BIGGA's Tracey Madison delivered a membership presentation with particular reference to students. The final session of the morning was the introduction of the Gingerbread Men – a group of greenkeepers from North Wales and Cheshire with a passion for sustainable management who collude to share ideas, promote best practice and generally spread the word.

Lunch was provided to sustain

the attendees through the afternoon workshops. For these, groups were formed of mixed disciplines and study years. The groups were given different technical problems and scenarios to solve along with a gingerbread man to bounce ideas off, pick their brains on topics covering ecology, species conversion, communication and reduction of chemical and fertiliser inputs.

In case that wasn't enough there was a video quiz and a "Looking to the Future" questionnaire which was mediated at the end of the day by Dr Andy Owen, BSc Turfgrass Course Leader at Myerscough.

A huge thank you once again to everyone involved who helped make the day possible.



## FOUR NEW TRUCKS FOR BARTLETT

Bartlett Tree Experts has taken delivery of four new company trucks built by Tipmaster, each featuring an on-board 7/41G compressor from Doosan Infracore Portable Power. The trucks are based at Bartlett's offices at Manchester, Radlett, Guildford and Cheltenham.

The 7/41G portable compressor supplies compressed air at 7 bar (100 psig) and incorporates a 6 kVA generator to provide both compressed air and electrical power from the same machine. The compressed air is mainly used by Bartlett for Root Invigoration work

## Ian Mackay

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Ian (John) Mackay formerly of Sisis equipment. Looking on many years of our great friendship I can think of so many good times spent on the golf course, at seminars, Harrogate trips and holidays to name a few. I first met Ian as a young apprentice back in the early 80s when he called on our boss at the time, Archie Macmillan. We had purchased one of the first Sisis hydromains and I was the one who had to use it. My muscles are still strong to this day.

It wasn't until I became Head Greenkeeper at Renfrew that we became buddies. He taught me so many things about aeration the values of hard work and life in general I will be forever grateful.

Away from work he liked to play golf and was a member at Erskine Golf Club. I think his favourite part of the round was a vodka and tonic at the 19th. He was a family man and loved spending time with his wife, Sylvia, and son, Graham, of whom he was so proud. He was a very witty man telling his many stories and jokes which were all true. His true passion on life was his football team, Glasgow Rangers, and he was an ardent follower.

Sylvia and Graham would like to thank everyone who attended Ian's funeral it was a great strength at such a sad time.

Ian Mackay - remembered with a smile.

Fraser Ross  
Renfrew Golf Club



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# More South Atlantic Travels

Ian Gower returns from another visit to the South Atlantic

I have just come back from my second visit to the South Atlantic (see GI November 2009).

This time I managed to speak to 'Shotty' Green, the Greenkeeper at Longwood Golf Course, on St Helena, who has maintained the course for the last six years since retiring as a truck driver. He has not had any formal training and contacts the Islands Agriculture Department if he has any problems.

There are around 100 members, with a joining fee of £6, plus £2 per month. Most of the members are retired and are a mixture of ex-pats and locals.

Machinery used includes a two year old Kubota and an old 18" ride-on greens mower with a roller under the seat.

During their winter, which is equivalent to our summer, the nine fairways are cut every other week, taking three days. In the summer, the fairways are cut once a month.

One of the main problems on the island is lack of rain and the nine greens each has irrigation, but it is only possible to use it if enough water is available in the storage tank. Greens take three hours to cut and are cut once a week all year round.

When asked about other pesticides used on the golf course, Shotty said he didn't get many weeds on the greens and any that do can easily be hand weeded. Disease does not seem to be an issue although there are many potential pests. Goats can be a problem if they escape from their tethers and sometimes rabbits and feral donkeys. Because the course is an open site people have access to all of the areas and children often ride bikes across the greens.

I asked about feeding the greens and Shotty replied that fertiliser is not available on the island.

After spending a couple of days on St Helena I travelled to Ascension Island to undertake some pesticides training.

Like St Helena, Ascension is a volcanic island and much of it is wasteland of lava flows and cinder cones.

While here I visited One Boat Golf Club, the only golf facility on Ascension Island and designed in 1964 by an American – Dr Bill.

The greens, 'browns' (see photograph) are constructed of a variable layer of sand bound with recycled oil that comes from establishments from all over the island. Oil is applied every couple of months to ensure a relatively stable playing surface. The landscape around most of the island is volcanic lava without a soil layer, hence the sand and oil playing surface. Traditionally the sand is replenished from one of the islands beaches every five years. Recently though the Island Government has said that this will need to be looked into as most of the beaches are used by turtles for nesting.

It is an 18 hole, par 67 course and visitors who are used to traditional grass courses find it more difficult.

I met their part time greenkeeper, Martin Cranfield, who works on the US airbase as his main job. At any one time there are only around 1000 people resident on the island, most of them like Martin from St Helena 900 miles, or three days ship journey, away. The previous greenkeeper was 'Ghostie' Charlie Crowie, who also holds the course record of 52!

Martin told me that nine holes are brushed on Friday, nine on Saturday.

On an average week up to 50 people will play a round of golf, mainly on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The 19th hole relies on honesty – a chitty is filled in for each drink and a bill is then presented at the end of the month.



## New-look BIGGA Website Launched

The new site will be a valuable member benefit offering on-line payment facilities for membership and training fees and well as a range of easy to use features.

The Events section will display a range of National, Regional and Section events in a calendar style simple to view manner; there will be increased identity protection and password protection for those people using the Bulletin Boards, while Course Managers will have their own dedicated area on the site.

Classified Adverts will be placed on the site free of charge for an indefinite period which should help in increasing traffic.

The site is much more flexible than its predecessors and will be able to adapt to future demands placed upon it.

Take a look at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)







## SCOTTISH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The BIGGA Scottish Greenkeeping Conference was held at our customary venue, the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline.

This year the attendance was the highest ever with 180 delegates. Greenkeepers came from the far North of Scotland and delegates from as far south as Darlington.

After the usual welcome speeches we began with a presentation from Greg Evans, of Ealing Golf Club. This was Greg's first presentation in Scotland and his talk was warmly received and, importantly, initiated great debate during the Conference and lunch break.

Following Greg, we had the full weight of the STRI with Richard Windows, Jay

Dobson, Christian Spring and Henry Bechelet. The subjects from the diversity of speakers discussed the scientific approach and the new agronomy all of which was delivered in their own imitable style.

Prior to the afternoon session John Geddes, Scottish Chairman, had the very pleasant task of presenting the "The Harry Diamond Quaich" to the Student of the Year in Scotland in 2009 and the recipient this year was Richard Jenkinson, West Gleneagles. Congratulations to Richard on his well deserved award.

Then Gordon McKie, Course Manager, Old Course, St. Andrews Links, delivered a fine talk on the lead up to The Open and

the changes that are taking place for the event this year.

To finish we had Paul Kimber, Golf Course Architect, who along with Lee Strutt, Course Manager, West, Ochil Developments gave a joint presentation on the course under construction at West Gleneagles.

Paul spoke of the design and construction involved and Lee spoke about the heather regeneration and the work involved in such a project.

BIGGA Scottish Board thanks the speakers for taking the time out to present their talks and grateful thanks to the delegates who made it such a success.

*Peter J. Boyd, RA, Scotland*



# BIGGA Golf Day 2010

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# Chairman's Word

This month BIGGA Chairman Paul Worster turns his attention to young people, in the profession, and game

“If we truly wish to change things – we must start with the young in our society”. Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi. Indian Statesman (1869-1948)...

## **I recently attended the student graduation ceremony at Bridgwater College to see my son, Rob, graduate.**

Over 200 students from the University of Bournemouth (to which Bridgwater College is affiliated) were congratulated by College Patron Sir Harry Studholme – Chairman of the South West Regional Development Agency and himself a student back in the 1970s. There was a terrific sense of pride among the students, lecturers and parents. Sir Harry spoke of the importance of education and development and how the two should never really cease. “Quality learning stays forever” and “Knowledge overcomes challenge” were two quotes that really struck chords with me.

My interest also sparked back in November last year when I heard an emotive speech from Mike Darby, President of the Gloucestershire Golf Union, at the 2009 County Dinner. Mike talked about the importance of youngsters in golf clubs and how golf really needs them. He made the point that we must not write young people off, “just because they look and act differently to the established norm, and we feel challenged as a result”. He looked back to his own youth musing - “How on earth did an ex-punk rocker like me from Frampton Cotterill (close to Bristol) ever rise to become President of the County Golf Union?”

“The answer is that people believed in me – people didn’t treat me with mistrust just because I looked and sounded different – people made allowances, and gave me a chance”. “In all honesty - I’ve never looked back – and this is what we need in golf. We need to encourage the junior golfer, and not be put off or taken aback just because he perhaps doesn’t fit our perception of the ideal young person.”

I am in full agreement with Mike. Golf may not fully thrive again until it fully embraces the family and the

youngster and is no longer seen as an elite sport.

Greenkeeping is no different. We have to give our young people a chance. This profession and this Association need young people. They are our future Course Managers and Association Leaders. They have so much to give and so much energy. We must help this energy to be channelled into something really special.

We should celebrate that they think differently to the way some of us did at a similar age. They may have different values but that is all the more reason for us to engage with them fully for the benefit of our profession.

How? Well the BIGGA Board is actively considering proposals for a Regional Assistant Greenkeepers’ Day at a golf club in each Region. This special day for our youngsters would help them to be better at:

- Preparing a CV
- Climbing the career ladder
- Bullet-proofing their career with continuous professional development (CPD)

This day would give all Assistants attending:

1. The opportunity to participate in a series of activities and interviews to gain vital experience.
2. A tour of the club’s facilities and a ‘Question and Answer’ session with the Course Manager.
3. The opportunity to compete in an afternoon golf tournament.

I often hear the question: ‘Where is the next generation of Course Managers coming from?’ An Assistant Greenkeepers’ Day is perhaps part of the answer. Those of us in management positions provide the rest of the answer – we can and we must give them the opportunity to prove themselves. We have to help them on the way.

BIGGA will always provide networking and skill development opportunities but BIGGA will also help Assistants to develop the key

attributes needed to advance from Assistant to Deputy Course Manager and beyond.

I know that this focus on Assistants will also contribute to the advancement of the profession because employers will see how value has been added at Assistant Greenkeeper level. There are many articulate and thoughtful young men in our profession who could probably teach us elders a thing or two – particularly about modern communications, IT and Internet use!

Interestingly – Assistant Greenkeepers have been identified as the group least likely to renew BIGGA membership after their first year. The BIGGA Board will respond to this by ensuring that what we do is as relevant as possible to their careers.

If you are an Assistant reading this – I would ask you to be patient. A career in greenkeeping is very rewarding and enjoyable - but it can take a while to progress. It can take a while to climb the ladder. There are things you can do – and there are things BIGGA can do to speed the process.

Take part in as many Section events as possible: offer to help out; offer to greet people at the door, thank people for attending at the end of the event. Volunteer for the Support at the Open Championship or BMW Championship. Enroll for the Assistants Day!

Get yourself noticed. There will be training specifically aimed at helping you to do this. You will quickly increase your knowledge and confidence. We cannot do it for you of course, and it will take some effort on your part, but it will be immensely rewarding.

Let me close with another quotation: “The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them”. Carmen Martinez. American Politician.

Finally my thanks to all who have been in touch via [talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk). Good ideas are being shared and acted upon right now as a result. More please!



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



**GTC Chairman, Donald Steel, highlights the welcome words of the new USGA Chairman who wants to make “brown the new green” and move towards a more sustainable game**

## Those leading the crusade for sustainable golf will have a fight on their hands converting the Augusta National Golf Club.

It might be easier to abolish baseball as America’s primary sport.

British greenkeepers have long held the view that The Masters sends all the wrong vibes where course preparation is concerned but they may perhaps be surprised that they have an ally in the new President of the United States Golf Association, Jim Hyler.

In a keynote address in February, he led the charge to make “brown the new green”, amplifying his message by contending “many of the standards by which we construct and maintain our courses have become, quite simply, unsustainable”.

Hyler focused principally on the environment, noting that maintenance practices that are environmentally friendly are also cost efficient, a crucial consideration for the survival of some courses in these economic times.

In a Press Release, “Back to Basics” (where have I heard that before?), he highlights the myth that a great golf course has to blind the eye with greenness.

“I believe that our definition of playability should include concepts of firm, fast, and yes, even brown, and allow the running game to flourish”.

He rightly applauded the USGA’s Green Service staff who, in the teeth of the recession, published a report last year entitled “Dollars and Sense: making it in a tough economy”.

This listed 14 different areas in which courses can be more cost-efficient, including water use.

He also referred to the USGA’s Green Section as “our best kept secret” but here his admission should have been consumed by embarrassment.

As long ago as 1977, the then National Director of the USGA

Green Section, Dr Alexander Radko wrote a scholarly article in the now sadly defunct USGA Journal that was both eye-opener and trail-blazer.

Under the banner “Green is not Great”, it punctured most emphatically many of the beliefs among golfers who are self-appointed technical experts- a large majority of those playing the game.

It was for a while compulsory reading and can be found on the GTC website. It is well worth devouring.

For the good of the soul, I hasten to quote extracts such as “Many people have the mistaken notion that the greener the grass, the healthier the turf.

Unfortunately, this notion is especially strong among golfers.

They equate dark green with good playing turf, and they often refer to it as beautifully lush turf!

Those trained in the study of turfgrass cringe at this description. To them lush means undesirable, soft, succulent, out of condition”.

Radko was critical that too often things are done for cosmetic reasons rather than because it is the best thing to do, adding:

“The pressure of membership has great bearing on the golf course management scene.

“It has spawned poa annua (annual meadow grass) oriented thinking because, in reality, that is what some memberships want.

“Poa annua, an unreliable annual grass, is considered a weed by some but a good turf cover by others”.

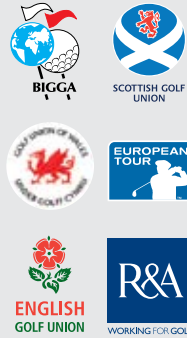
Experts all over the world agree poa annua is the most common problem in greenkeeping, shallow rooting and requiring more water and fertiliser to survive that other grasses but, as Radko went on, “the result is a forced growth of grasses that makes them uniformly greener but this does not mean the condition is better for golf.

A forced growth is not a healthy

### In Brief

The new USGA Chairman has called for a Back to Basics approach to course management and applauded the work of his own USGA Green Section. Donald Steel welcomes this approach but reveals that we have been here before.

The GTC is funded by:



one. Over-watering is one of the cardinal sins of turfgrass management”.

One of the sadder aspects of the saga is that Radko’s article was written by an American for an exclusively American readership; and yet, here 33 years later, the President of the same organisation is “preaching” as though theories on sustainability are something new although it is not the first time our governing bodies have failed to drive home powerful issues.

In 2003, Bill Campbell, former President of the USGA and former Captain of the R&A, and a universally respected figure, commented that “ongoing increases in driving yardages are indefensible and not in the game’s interests” but his influence in getting something done has been no more successful than Radko’s.

Golf has a habit of not listening to its experts but Campbell also had wise words to say in 1983 in addressing the Golf Course Superintendents of America – words that have gone largely unheeded as well- certainly over here.

“Communication is important in any endeavour, but it is crucial for golfers to develop a close relationship with their Golf Course Superintendents.

If the Club has a Green Chairman who is really effective, really trusted, and works well with the Superintendent, the club ought to keep him in that position for as long as it can”.

The formula that doesn’t work is a change of Chairman annually but now that Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers are so highly qualified, Green Committees are surplus to requirements.

Campbell believed that “the ideal solution would be one where all golfers are educated enough to appreciate the role of the Golf Course Superintendent”.

If only it were true. To read Al Radko’s article visit:

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

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# Learning & Development

Head of Learning & Development, Sami Collins, continues to tackle that huge pile of projects...

**As I alluded to in last month's article, I'm finally back in the office and working on all the projects that have been piling up on my desk since before Christmas!**



## Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate was devised and introduced in the late 1980s, with the first Certificate being awarded in 1991 to Laurence Pithie MG. Since that date the criteria of the Certificate has remained much the same with some minor alterations to try and keep it current.

At this year's Master Greenkeeper AGM, it was agreed that the time had finally come to do a full review of the Certificate, so we're now heading towards the first meeting of the Master Greenkeeper Review Panel.

The panel comprises Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Eric Foerster MG, CGCS; Walter Montross MG, CGCS and Lee Strutt MG, AGS. Eric and Walter have experience working with the GCSAA on the re-development of the Certified Golf Course Superintendent and we hope to tap into their knowledge during the review.

Andy and Lee have extensive experience working with the current Certificate and have also benefited from achieving either CGCS

designation or AGS (Accredited Golf Superintendent) awarded by the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

There's a great deal of work to do and I'll endeavour to keep you up to date with our progress.

## CPD

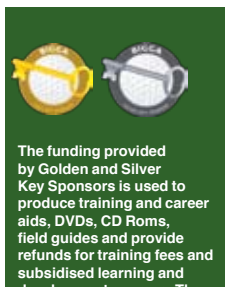
### Continuing Professional Development

Also high on the 'Projects' list is a review of the Continuing Professional Development scheme. Introduced in 2000, the CPD scheme was designed to allow members to record the training that they attended and receive an annual Certificate of Achievement or a Diploma after five years of Achievement.

Continuing Professional Development has become much more than a point counting exercise in recent years and the current system is no longer standing up to the requirements of the industry. As part of the alliance between BIGGA, GCMA and The PGA, CPD has been placed high on the agenda to help in the development and recognition of our members.

We have put together a small working party to develop ideas for a new scheme.

The working party alerted the Board of Directors in December 2009 that there would not be a 'quick fix' to the scheme and that a thorough review would take place to ensure that the final product was



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.

robust and serve the purposes of the Members.

Again, there's a great deal of work to be undertaken to deliver this project, but I'll keep you up to date with our progress.



### Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

Believe it or not, Harrogate Week 2011 is looming!

Planning has commenced on the Workshop and Seminar programme and we are also working on the development of a one-day conference for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers.

As ever, it is a massive jigsaw puzzle that has to be completed by August to ensure time for it to be written, designed and printed in time for the marketing of the event which commences in October.

Watch this space for announcements.

### Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Timothy Johnson – BSc in Turfgrass Science (Online)



### Contact Details

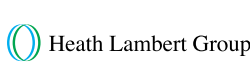
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## Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



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



## PROMOTIONS AT ABBOTTS

MJ Abbott Limited has promoted two members of its management team.

Steve Briggs joined the company as a Contracts Manager in 1995, and has worked alongside current director Nigel Wyatt to build the company's reputation in the golf market.

Mick Regan was appointed as a Construction Manager in May 2000, and then took over responsibility for the company's day-to-day

operations from Michael Abbott on his retirement in 2005.

"We are delighted that Steve and Mick have demonstrated their long-term commitment to the company by accepting promotion to Contracts Director and Operations Director respectively. We now have a superb management team in place to ensure the continuing success of the business," said Managing Director, Jonathan Abbott.



## Wipe Away Thistles with No Tears

Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) are two of just five weeds labelled 'injurious' under The Weeds Act 1959. Both are strong spreaders and competitors which invade a wide spectrum of environments in the agricultural, horticultural, forestry and amenity grassland sectors.

Thistles generally grow in isolated patches so blanket spraying with boom sprayers or knapsack sprayers is wasteful, as well as causing an unnecessarily high risk for the environment. Spot treatment is a targeted and environmentally friendly solution.

The hand-held Microwipe from Micron Sprayers, is the thistle wiping weapon of choice.

Operators walk through the field moving the Microwipe over the target area. This will deliver a lethal dose of herbicide onto and into target weed leaves. Micron also offer a vehicle mounted WeedSwiper for rapid treatment of large areas.

Ideal timing for treatment with the Microwipe is during early spring when thistles are still relatively small. Plants 'stand out' in the sward and therefore make easy targets because the grass is only just starting to grow.

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



## EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR COMPACT TRACTORS

All Massey Ferguson 1500 Series compact tractors now come as standard with an extended warranty spanning two years, or 1,200 operating hours, whichever occurs first.

Provided to customers as part of Massey Ferguson's after-sales Manager package, the extended warranty covers all of the tractor's major mechanical components against failure or breakdown.

To satisfy the extended warranty's conditions, customers must have their MF 1500 Series tractor serviced by a Massey Ferguson dealer in accordance with the specified maintenance schedule for the tractor.



## Multi Purpose Multihog



Since Multihog launched its multi-purpose utility vehicle in the autumn of 2009 the Irish manufacturer has been signing up dealers across Europe, and its first demonstration machine for the German market was delivered on St. Patrick's Day.

Fahrzeugbau Schaefer the Multihog dealer for Northern Germany hosted two open days at its premises near Hanover to show the machine's capabilities to representatives from local authorities and subcontractors as well as potential sub dealers in the area.

Director, Ruth McAdam, officially handed over the 4WD 90 Multihog to Owner, Henning Schaefer, and was on hand to evaluate initial feedback from the demonstration.

"Aside from the obvious advantages of the Multihog's versatility and all year round operational capabilities, visitors were particularly impressed with the robust build of the machine and its driver friendly features such as its easy operation and the roomy dimensions of the cab."



## TM System Moves to The Grass Group

The Grass Group has picked up the sole UK sales for Advanced Turf Technology's TMSystem, the world's only complete modular fine turf management tool. With eight individual cassettes, it is fully interchangeable between all main stream makes of triplex greens mowers and light weight fairway mowers.

John Coleman, of ATT, in announcing the tie-up, said "I'm very pleased the product line has gone to Tim Merrell and his Grass Group. We had discussions at BTME and I was impressed with his understanding of the market and his approach to business."

Tim was equally as happy by saying, "The TMSystem is a unique and an extremely well made UK product."

The TMSystem was previously sold in the UK under the TurfWorks banner, with several systems in use across a number of Golf courses. The Grass Group will also be the contact for spare parts and additional cassettes for those TurfWorks badged units.





**“The golf course is built on the biggest land slip in Europe. The fact of the matter is that the sea erodes the blue lias clay, pulling it out as though it’s on ball bearings,”**  
*Course Manager, David Everett*

**MAIN ABOVE:** The 16th hole and the glorious scenery beyond.  
**INSET LEFT:** The consequences of sea erosion.

Photography by Stuart Broom, winner of the 2009 Photographic Competition



# The earth *moved*

Scott MacCallum headed to the edge of Dorset to visit Lyme Regis, a town whose golf club featured in the winning picture from last year's BIGGA Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta

**Picture the scene. You're in a buggy carrying out the regular early morning chores when you happen to raise your gaze and look over to a familiar corner of the course. Instead of seeing the hedge which borders the 16th hole there is nothing. A closer inspection uncovers a spectacular sight – 25 metres of the course, including fully grown trees, slowly sliding down the cliff.**

Nine years on Lyme Regis Course Manager, David Everett, can still

recall vividly the memory of watching part of his golf course disappear down the cliff and he can point to the trees, which are still alive and growing, half way down.

Such an event didn't come as a shock to David, however, as the beautiful course, set 500 feet above sea level and looking down on the lovely seaside town of Lyme Regis, has a bit of a history.

"The golf course is built on the biggest land slip in Europe. The fact of the matter is that the sea erodes the blue lias clay, pulling it

out as though it's on ball bearings," explained David, who has been at the club since 1986.

"Just before I arrived there was a massive land slip and I did wonder what on earth I'd done taking on the course but the club said it was not unusual and you do get used to it. Throughout history they've had small land slips but also big ones as well," he said, in a matter of fact manner that demonstrates how he has come to view the situation.

That 2001 slip was particularly dramatic – the coast guard



ABOVE: Irrigation on the 9th green

scrambled helicopters to clear the beaches, the golf course was closed until it could be declared safe while television crews vied for the best pictures.

“As greenkeepers we’d been unaware of it when we came in on the morning and were out and about doing various duties when we happened to look out to sea and thought ‘Where’s the hedge line?’

“We went over to the cliff edge and in a couple of places as much as 25 metres had started to drop and over a period of 48 hours all that ground disappeared. We watched mature trees sliding down the cliff in situ and nine years on these trees are still growing halfway down the cliff. It was a remarkable sight,” recalled David.

But what of the day to day pressures of working on a golf course that might just fall away from beneath your feet? Well, it’s not quite like that.

“As greenkeepers we do see land beginning to fall away and slopes becoming a little more severe. Then, perhaps a couple of years

later, you start to see a couple of fissures appear – just very fine hair line cracks which you can see on the shorter turf. They eventually grow until they become as much as a metre wide, and the next stage is that they start to drop. It might be two or three inches to begin with, it might be a foot. You know then that the inevitable is going to happen and that the land will fall.

That said, it is anything but predictable.

Some areas that look like prime candidates to be the next to go still remain.

“Around 18 years ago the club took the decision to move away from one area of the cliff and relocate two holes onto the practice ground thinking that it was the most active part of the landslide. I thought it was the right decision but all that time on we could still be playing those holes. So you just never know.”

The club has spoken to eminent geologists and while they have given their best advice they have all said that you never quite know what is going to happen other than the fact

that the club is staring at the inevitable and that eventually, probably a number of decades down the line the course, in its current location will disappear.

With that in mind the club engaged Donald Steel who in addition to offering advice on some subtle changes to the course also looked at a more drastic rerouting plan should the speed of the landslide require it.

“We have the plans locked away but they involve rebuilding 11 of the greens so it would be quite a big hit for the golf club. We do have 120-130 acres wall to wall so there is room” explained David, who added that the R&A had previously given assistance in the shape of interest free loans to help fund erosion protection work.

The town is a magnet for both film buffs and fossil hunters. A hooded Meryl Streep, memorably stood on the narrow breakwater off the town’s beach in an iconic scene in *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*, while the discoveries of Mary Anning, a 19th century fossil





RIGHT: The greenkeeping team

INSET BELOW: Course Manager, David Everett

collector had already ensured that the town had another reason for people to visit. It also has World Heritage status

David has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Lyme Regis and has nothing but praise for the club's approach to progress since he joined from Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, as a 27-year old Head Greenkeeper.

"The club has been brilliant. When I came down here I was really quite ambitious and believed that I'd do five years at Lyme Regis and move on. But the club's attitude has always been progressive – in a small, affordable way – that I've been happy to stay."

David has always been a hands-on greenkeeper and that approach has gelled well with the club's desire to carry out projects cost effectively and in-house. That approach reaped real dividends when the new irrigation system was installed three years ago.

"We chose Ocmis, partly because they are a local company based just along the road and partly because they came out best in the tendering



**“When I came here I was ambitious and believed that I'd do five years and move on. But the club's attitude has always been progressive – in a small, affordable way – that I've been happy to stay”**  
*Course Manager, David Everett*

process. Chris Aplin, the MD at the time, suggested as they were particularly busy the club could save some money if we did the reinstatement work and worked alongside the two Ocmis guys.

"I had a chat with our guys and they said they were keen. It meant 12 hour days all through the winter while the work was being done – arriving in the dark and leaving in the dark – but while it was very hard, it was also satisfying, work

and a big learning curve for us. We did the work to a very high standard and were delighted with the Ocmis guys who worked to a very high standard as well.

"We knew we were inheriting it so probably went over the top but the guys really excelled themselves and the club recognised this and paid them overtime rates and gave me a bonus.

"Chris Aplin said to me afterwards that it was a pity more clubs



**“It’s not the longest course in the world but the greens are small and you have to play well to score well.”**

*Course Manager, David Everett*

couldn’t adopt the approach we’d taken as it had saved us an absolute fortune.”

As previously mentioned Lyme Regis is famous for its Officer and a Gentleman connection and for being on the Dinosaur Coast, a Mecca for fossil hunters from all over the world.

The course has a bit of links, a bit of heathland and a bit of parkland

but David likes to describe it as a clifftop course.

“It’s not the longest in the world but the greens are small and you have to play well to score well. Donald Steel said that he looked at the yardage for our 9th which is a par-4 just over 250 yards and think it should be easy but it’s a small green and well guarded by bunkers and the wind factor makes it quite a challenge,” said David, who worked closely and well with Jim Arthur, when he was the club’s agronomist.

Such is the beauty of the spot it is easy to feel that Stuart Broom, winner of the 2009 BIGGA Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta, had a head start over most of his fellow competitors and it is fair to say that Stuart’s winning picture was a very worthy winner.

“Stuart has done very well since he joined us a couple of years ago and we’re all very proud of him. He has thrown himself into the job and is interested in all aspects of the work and the golf course. He also takes an interest in BIGGA. He didn’t tell me he’d entered the competition but when he did and it won he was thrilled and we were all thrilled for him.”

David is delighted with his current team of five including himself.







# Photography Competition

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

**syngenta**

## BIGGA Calendar 2010

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

**syngenta**



"My Deputy, Peter Connett, and Simon Rattenbury have been here for 18 years and Stuart and Jamie Hughes, who arrived recently, took over from guys who had been here for over 20 years. So the club must be doing something right."

He does have concerns about expectation levels at some clubs.

"The job is getting ever more stressful. Golfers' expectations are getting more and more unrealistic, with the budgets that are around, and most clubs are running with a staff of four or five – six or seven at some clubs – and they are being asked to obtain the unobtainable.

"If clubs worked more closely with their greenkeepers I think it would improve things. I like to think that here we have a very close working relationship with the management committee. We don't have a Green Committee – the key staff are myself and my deputy, the Secretary/Manager, the Bar Manager and the Pro. The Chairman told me recently that the club pays us the correct money to do the job and that they are there to oversee and keep an eye on us. They don't pay lip service to that – they genuinely do."

Lyme Regis and its golf club is a very special part of the country, even though it seems to be disappearing bit by bit.

ABOVE: Irrigation on the 15th

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

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

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

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

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

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this

will reduce the quality of the image.

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

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

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to:

[tom@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tom@bigga.co.uk), entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2010' as the email subject header.

Alternatively post to:  
Tom Campbell, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

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

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter. Please note Syngenta will have access to the winning pictures and will credit them when and if used.

*So come on...strike a pose!*



The Integrated Turf Management programme from Scotts Professional

“ Our iTurf programme helps us produce healthy, durable courts in preparation for The Championships ”

*Eddie Seaward,  
Head Groundsman at The All  
England Lawn Tennis & Croquet  
Club, Wimbledon*

When you're preparing playing surfaces for a tournament played out in front of a television audience of millions, there's no room for compromise. An iTurf programme combining Greenmaster Pro-Lite fertilizers, Greenmaster Liquid fertilizers and Primo Maxx plant growth regulator is helping Eddie Seaward produce courts which meet the demands of a summer's intensive match play. To find out how your turf could benefit from a tailored iTurf programme, contact your Scotts Technical Advisor.

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*Growing success*





# A one in a million trip

**Toro Student Greenkeeper of the year**, Rhys Norville, made the most of his prize – an eight week study trip to the United States

**Firstly, I would like to start this article by thanking everybody who made this trip possible. Peter Mansfield and his Secretary, Christine, from Lely, have been very patient with all my questions and queries and helped to make the trip run very smoothly.**

Also, the support from the staff and members of Newport Golf Club has been second to none, especially from my Head Greenkeeper, Paul Handy, the Club Secretary, Russell Thomas, and all of team I work with.

As I sat in Heathrow airport early on Monday, January 4, it was all finally starting to come true, so much planning had gone into



the trip and the time had arrived. The extensive security checks did increase the nerves but as I boarded the plane I was nothing but excited.

After a long day of travelling I checked in at the Comfort Inn ready to attend the University the following day, and I didn't really know what I should expect. Classes started at 8am and I didn't have the slightest clue about how I was going to get to the University. Luckily for me I managed to get a ride from a fellow student who was staying at the same hotel. Arriving at class we were greeted by Dr Pat Vittum, the organiser of the Winter School course at the University of Massachusetts, as well as teaching

the Entomology course. She gave us our timetable for the week and, to all the students' delight, we had eight hours of lectures a day, five days a week, I was expecting a lot of hard work but this proved to be a lot of information to take on board.

The course was divided up into ten sections which included; Turf Grass Physiology, Turf Grass Management, Turf Grass Disease, Weeds, Entomology, Turf Grass ID, Calculations, Water Management, Golf Course Design & Irrigation and Arboriculture, for all of which we had to take exams, and for some we had to complete mini projects. These projects included growing a plot of grass from seed and conducting an ID stating what you believed the



grass species to be. Also, we had to conduct a project on a selective herbicide, listing its uses, where it could be used and where it could not and, most importantly, what it actually controlled.

My favourite topic was Turf Grass Physiology. I found this most informative as we learnt the process the plant goes through when it experiences photosynthesis and respire, so when factors reduce the plants production what can we do to continue to get the quality growth which we strive towards. It was also fun to learn about things such as the Rubisco enzyme and its role during the Calvin Cycle and how to identify disease pathogens through a microscope, so, not only could we identify the disease, but we could notice how it was spreading and how the best way was to control it.

We were also taught how to identify grubs and insects by looking at their anal slits through a microscope, which wasn't for the faint hearted. In the three years that I have been a greenkeeper I have learnt so much, but this course helped me to take my knowledge to another level as lectures went into a lot more detail.

We also received a lot of talks from various Superintendents, the highlights were definitely a talk from Bill Spence, who is the Superintendent from the Brookline Country Club, which held the 1999 Ryder Cup (the one where the Americans ran all over Olazabal's line of putt!) He stressed how important planning and communication is, not only through the staff but to members as well and how important it is to use your budget wisely. Might I add that his budget is only \$2 million. We also had an insightful talk from John Garcia, Superintendent at the Patterson County Club. He gave us a step by step account of how he went about a \$4 million revamp of his course which included 18 new tees, the conversion of his greens from push up clay to USGA spec and the removal of over 4000 trees.

The students who attended the winter school program were not all just from America. Also on the course was Wade Williams, the Australian award winner, (who had never seen snow before this trip) a Canadian, and four other Europeans. Both inside and outside of the class room we Europeans has some interesting debates about Turf Grass Management, as all the American seem to know how to do is water, feed, cut and spray. It was incredible to hear about some of the budgets from the students' home



Students enjoy a rare break

**“I have learnt so much, but this course helped me to take my knowledge to another level as lectures went into a lot more detail”**

golf courses, many of them spent more on fertilisers in a year than our whole budget at Newport.

I also learnt a lot from my other peers about how they go about tasks, it was very interesting to talk to Marek Zubert and Dorota Cwil who have been working in Ireland. They had some fascinating stories about working at the Irish Open. You can learn so much for what others have experienced. I also had the pleasure of visiting James Ricci. He is the second biggest individual lawn mower collector in the world, he showed me equipment from as long ago as the 1870's. I discovered so much about the history of the industry and it helped me to understand how we got to the equipment that we use on the golf courses today.

The novelty of staying in a hotel room for eight weeks soon wore off and I ended up following a lot of the American sport. The University of Massachusetts has its own arena which seats nearly 10,000 people for its college basketball and ice hockey teams, that is more than

my home town rugby stadium can seat! The atmosphere at the games was amazing, and it's not just the students who attend the games, fans come from all over which really surprised me, I didn't realise college sport was so big.

While I was in America the Super Bowl was taking place and it seemed as if the whole of America shuts down for Super Bowl Sunday. I was invited to stay with one of the students over the Super Bowl weekend as he was having a Super Bowl party in his basement, which had been converted into his own sports bar with memorabilia lining every single wall.

I also managed to get to Boston for a weekend where the view from the Prudential Tower was magnificent. I even had a pint in America's oldest tavern. Boston is full of some great history which I didn't really appreciate before and I also managed to sneak a tour of the Red Sox's baseball ground, Fenway Park.

My trip was split into three parts; the majority of it was spent studying at the University of Massachusetts but I also attending The Golf Industry in San Diego and the last leg of my trip was spent in Minneapolis at the Toro Headquarters. When I got to San Diego it was nice to see some familiar faces in that of Sami and John from BIGGA. Also attending the show was Richard Jenkinson who I had met at the National



#### about the author

Rhys Norville, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year in 2009, proudly displays his award (above). Rhys is an assistant Newport Golf Club.



Finals of the award so I was nice to have some British company. I was amazed at how many British people I actually met up with and managed to speak to considering it is an American show but the show was so very extraordinary.

I was overwhelmed by the size of the show which was probably four times the size of Harrogate and some of the stands were very impressive. Richard and I also managed to sneak off and visit San Diego Zoo which was striking. The Americans certainly know how to do things right.

In my final week, Wade and I travelled to Minneapolis to visit the Toro Headquarters and the factories, where we met up with Cameron Kusiek, who was the Canadian Award Winner. We arrived on the Friday night and had the weekend to ourselves. The three of us spent most of our time in the Mall of America, which is the second biggest Mall in the world. In the middle of the Mall there is a theme park with a loop the loop rollercoaster, a water ride and many other attractions. Also, in the basement is an Aquarium, which was so gigantic I didn't think anything like it could ever exist. We also managed to get downtown to watch an NBA game, which was a brilliant experience.



We were shown around the Toro Headquarters, where machinery is designed and prototypes are built and tested. The procedures which the engineers go through was remarkable and we were even able to see some of the stress test experiments which were being conducted at the time. We were also taken to the Shakopee site, where the parts and reels are produced. Again, it was extraordinary to see how things are turned from a sheet of metal and made into parts for the machines. Finally, we visited the Tomah factory where the machinery is assembled and packaged

ready from distribution. We were able to walk the lines as machines were being assembled. The staff were very friendly in answering any questions we had. It was incredible to see how the machines which we use on a daily basis are constructed from start to finish.

The whole trip has been a one in a million chance for me where I have seen so much, learnt a great deal and met some wonderful people. I am very grateful to everybody who made it happen for me and to my girlfriend, Becky, all my friends and family who supported me all the way.




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# Overseeding... *The simple way*

**Course Manager, Ian Kinley, describes the overseeding programme he adopts at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club**

**As a believer in the phrase that 'greenkeeping is as simple or as complicated as you choose to make it', it's probably not surprising that the overseeding programme that we employ could be considered as very straightforward.**

Creating the appropriate environment for the chosen grass species to survive, then introducing seed into the ground, achieving germination and subsequent seedling establishment and persistence is fairly straightforward.

The greens at Royal Porthcawl have, over recent years, been worked on appropriately to determine that the soil mechanics are considered suitable for supporting the desired fescue/bent turf that typifies a links environment. By this we mean that there is very little thatch present, no drainage issues and the natural growing environment is generally dry and infertile. With no significant amendments to the soil mechanics required it meant that the environment was set to commence a sustained overseeding programme aimed at re-establishing the fine textured wiry turf that once dominated this fine links before excessive fertiliser and irrigation applications caused an unfortunate botanical change.

To prepare the surfaces in anticipation of the overseeding operation, Primomax is applied at 0.25l/Ha to place the existing sward into regulation and thus provide any

emerging seedlings with a competitive advantage. Seed selection was a fairly straightforward process; the initial composition was poa, bent and fescue in varying quantities from green to green and the general remit was to increase the fine leaved grass content and to reduce the poa content. Obviously the reduction of poa would be achieved through sensible management practices over a sustained period; it was the increase in fine leaved grass content that we felt could be positively affected through the

high quality, pure and proven mix and also wanted to introduce as many different high quality cultivars as possible. The idea behind introducing numerous cultivars is very simple, each cultivar has its positives and negatives in terms of various stress tolerances and appearance, by introducing numerous cultivars we'll have a cultivar present that is 'top rated' in every area of seed rating. A combination of Bar Fescue and J Fescue in equal quantities was decided upon and this provides us with eight top rated cultivars of

**ABOVE: Playing characteristics reinstated**

**“Seed selection was a fairly straightforward process; the initial composition was poa, bent and fescue in varying quantities from green to green and the general remit was to increase the fine leaved grass content and to reduce the poa content”**

overseeding programme. I doubt that many would argue that in the links environment fescue is the most appropriate species and, with appropriate management, provides the characteristics that are typical of links golf.

It should be noted that the method of overseeding that was to be employed is in my opinion unsuitable for introducing bent seed anyway so there was really only one option. So fescue it was to be, as far as selecting the actual seed mix is concerned we basically desired a

chewings fescue, slender creeping red fescue and strong creeping red fescue.

Over a number of years the process of overseeding has been tinkered with until we're now fairly settled on the current process which is quick, effective and not too disruptive. Sarel rollers, hollow tining and solid tining have all been experimented with in an attempt to provide the ideal environment for the seed to be introduced into, through each of these we're essentially creating some mini



**about the author**

**Ian Kinley is the Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club**



'plant pots'. The one thing that has become apparent is that if we place seed into the ground within approx 1" of the surface, maintain moisture levels, that seed will germinate and produce seedlings. The mechanical operation that we have settled upon is solid tining using 15mm tines to a depth of approx 1" at 1.5" centres. Using the Toro Procore 648 we can solid tine a green and collar/apron in approx 30-40 minutes and this machine has transformed the operation from taking up to a fortnight using a tractor and 3 point linkage mounted aerator into being a one to two day process.

**"I decided that the spinning disk topdresser was just a bigger version of the pedestrian spreader we were hiking behind"**

I don't mind admitting the next part of the process was stumbled upon through sheer idleness! Having created as many holes as possible, we now simply broadcast seed over the surface before working the seed into the holes. Now, on a very warm day on the East coast of Scotland while sweating like a pig I decided I'd had enough of walking round in circles with the fertiliser spreader trying to apply a very exact amount of seed. The rate of seed that we were trying to apply at that time was determined by traditional overseeding rates, anyone who applies seed using a fertiliser spreader will know it takes what seems like forever to empty seven kilo of seed onto a green. I decided that the spinning disk topdresser was just a bigger version of the pedestrian spreader we were hiking behind. A full bag of seed was emptied into the hopper, the door closed down as much as possible, the conveyer belt slowed down to creeping speed and the spinners set to full tilt. After passing over the green 'topdressing' the seed onto it a look behind revealed that it had spat the entire bag onto the green in one pass, a week or so later we had to double cut that particular green every day due to the ridiculous amount of seedlings that were present! That's the reason that we now apply seed by the bag rather than the Kg, as a rough guide we'll apply two full bags of seed to a green and collar/apron (750-1000M<sup>2</sup>).



ABOVE: Astroturf dragmat

The first thing most people ask when discussing the rate of seed is 'don't you just lift most of it off with the mowers?' and the simple answer is 'No, we'll lift approx 1-2Kg off with the mowers which is minimal when we consider the amount applied'.

I believe that the method employed to work the seed into the holes is part of the reason for the significant success rate that we achieve with each overseeding operation. In the past after applying seed we've either 1) brushed- which unless it physically pushes seed into a hole it 'flicks' seed into the air giving it one more chance to find a hole, 2) drag matted- which I think may move the seed a little more than brushing but again has a tendency to 'flick' seed into the air giving it one more chance to find a hole. We use a drag mat 'sandwiched' with a piece of astroturf, the dragmat provides sufficient weight to determine that the mat will follow the contours well and maintain contact with the turf surface. The AstroTurf is not only very turf friendly [we use the same mat for working in topdressing] it 'works' the seed between the turf surface and the mat essentially meaning there is a much greater chance of the applied seed finding one of the numerous holes in the surface.

Purely for the sake of reinstating surface levels, once the seed has been worked into the holes we will generally top dress the surface and work the applied sand in using the

same AstroTurf mat. As far as the actual overseeding process is concerned finishing the operation with topdressing or not doesn't appear to have any effect on the success rate. It could I guess be argued that covering the seed in the holes with topdressing may provide some protection from the elements. To further reinstate acceptable playing characteristics we will ordinarily mow to remove any debris that is left lying on the surface and roll the surface using a Tru-turf roller to perfect surface levels. It has to be said that once complete, the roll of a ball is virtually unaffected by the overseeding operation.

Following the completion of the overseeding operation we will generally give each sprinkler a couple of turns which will apply approx 2mm of water, no real reason to do this immediately, it's probably simply a 'no time like the present' moment. Once the first irrigation application has been applied, we will apply 1mm of irrigation nightly until seedlings are evident, this will normally take between seven and 10 days. Once seedlings are evident irrigation applications are maintained at 1mm each night for approx one week and then relaxed yet maintained at sufficient frequency so as to avoid the seedlings from being allowed to dry out.

As we know the makeup of a grass seed provides the seedling with its own personal source of carbohydrates for initial establish-

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ment and this is evident in the accelerated growth rate of newly emerged seedlings which can be a problem in itself.

Following emergence, thought must be given to providing the seedlings with the necessary nutrition to enable full establishment and persistence.

In the past overseeding was performed once annually, generally in September, and any fertiliser application typically using a granular product with an analysis 4:0:8 or similar also served to 'winterise' the surfaces.

As our overseeding programme is now commencing much earlier in the season and is seeing us perform repeated operations, we must achieve seedling establishment/persistence and rapid surface recovery without creating a flush of growth that would negatively affect playing characteristics. To achieve this we utilise products that we know and trust; Farmura Potash Plus and Farmura Liquid Seaweed are both products that we use throughout the maintenance calendar and both have proven effective in maintaining turf health and vigour without any negative effect on playability.

Approx one week following seedling emergence an application of both products is made aimed at pushing the seedlings on to establishment, thereafter Potash Plus is applied at 10-20l/Ha on a regular basis.

I feel that one of the attributes of the Farmura products that we are using is that while providing the seedlings with the required nutrition for increased resistance, increased rooting, etc, these applications are also improving the overall sward health.

At the same time as the Seaweed/Potash Plus application we will generally apply Primomax at 0.25l/Ha to restrict top growth in the seedlings and favour root development and tillering.

During 2009, two greens that were significantly different botanically to the other greens received an intense overseeding programme from late June through to October. The frequency of overseeding operations determined that we repeatedly sought to establish seedlings and achieve rapid surface recovery whilst maintaining playing conditions. Obviously as a result of the numerous overseeding operations that were performed, there were seedlings at several different stages of establishment within the same green, through regular light applications of Potash Liquid



ABOVE: Surface prepared to accept seed.

Seaweed we were able to provide these seedlings with a source of nutrition that proved appropriate to see all of the newly introduced plants persist.

As was stated initially, the overseeding process that we employ is very straight forward and involves just a few simple and straightforward operations. It is an operation that has been performed repeatedly for numerous years now and has yet to fail to produce satisfactory results. Seedling persistence has been achieved each time, this I feel could be attributed to some generally sensible maintenance practices. I would also attribute a degree of the success to the fact that in the early stages of life the seedlings are being maintained at up to 1" longer than the sward into which they are introduced; this is obviously a significant competitive advantage.

The practice of overseeding is a vital aspect of what we are trying to achieve at Royal Porthcawl GC and will remain part of our annual maintenance.

There is sometimes a misconception that botanical change has to be disruptive; we've achieved numerous overseeding operations and are progressing through a process of botanical change while staging both national amateur events and professional tournaments annually.

If you've got the environment set to support the desired species, I'd encourage anyone who isn't already overseeding but desires botanical change to give it a whirl.

The satisfaction gained from seeing excessive numbers of seedlings is great and the members also appear to take a significant interest when they can see that what you're doing actually works!



LEFT: Seed worked into holes





# Financing equipment in the *tough times*

Keeping an up to date fleet of machinery can be difficult but there are ways and means

**In these tough and uncertain economic times when businesses are making long-term purchasing decisions, they are not only looking for tailor-made financing options and the lowest possible interest rates.**

More than ever they are reminded how important it is to only put their trust in a financing partner they can rely on to support them in the long-term – someone who understands their business and speaks their language.

“As a manufacturer owned

finance company we are primarily here to help customers purchase our products, rather than simply to sell them finance.

“And this is actually more important in the bad times than in the good times,” said Andreas Peppel, John Deere Credit’s European Sales and Marketing Director.

“In recent years we have found an increasing number of golf clubs worried about the rising cost of maintaining and servicing older machines are taking up replacement finance schemes,” added UK General Sales Manager

Cameron Renwick.

“Instead of buying one or two items of equipment each year for cash, a financed package deal can enhance the entire course maintenance fleet by spreading the cost over a fixed period – and another benefit is there will be an immediate improvement in the quality of finish on the golf course, something members notice straight away.”

Payments can be made using the normal range of credit options if required, or on a tailor made repayment schedule to match individual budgets and cash flows (see right).

**ABOVE:** New Malton Golf Club, near Royston in Hertfordshire, with its recently bought fleet of new equipment.



## The normal range of finance options includes:

### Hire purchase

You pay the VAT due on the equipment at the outset and make regular fixed repayments over an agreed period. Once all repayments have been made, you become the owner of the equipment.

For tax\* purposes you are treated as the owner from the outset of the finance agreement and can therefore claim any capital allowances available.

#### *Key benefits of hire purchase:*

- Certainty that the finance agreement cannot be withdrawn as long as you continue to abide by the terms and conditions of the contract. This contrasts with bank overdrafts, which are repayable upon demand.

- The regular nature of repayments and a fixed interest rate make budgeting easier.

- A cost-effective way to fund acquisitions. Using a traditional bank overdraft to fund equipment purchases can result in a growing hard core of debt that can prove more costly to your business in the long run.

- A straightforward form of financing which leaves you in control of both the used equipment value and the claiming of capital allowances.

### Finance lease

Although you never gain ownership of the agreement, a finance lease is similar to hire purchase in that you make regular fixed repayments over an agreed period, fully paying the cost of the equipment. A key difference is that VAT is payable on each lease payment rather than paying the full VAT due on the equipment at the outset of the agreement.

At the end of the primary leasing period, a nominal 'secondary lease period' annual payment is charged for continued use of the equipment. Alternatively, you can arrange for the equipment to be sold to an unrelated third party for which you will receive the full sales proceeds.

Another key difference to the hire purchase option is that while you cannot claim capital allowances, you are able to offset the lease repayments against any taxable profit.

#### *Key benefits of finance lease (in addition to those for hire purchase):*

- Enhanced business cash flow, with the ability to spread VAT across the life of the lease agreement.

- A straightforward form of leasing which leaves you in a position to control the used equipment value.



Thetford Golf Club invested in a new machinery package worth around £175,000 in 2008. Pictured here with Course Manager Paul Gould.

### Operating lease and contract hire

Operating lease\* is different to both hire purchase and finance lease options in that you do not repay the full value of the equipment over the rental period. You enjoy lower rental payments, paying only for what you use, rather than the full cost of purchasing the equipment.

At the end of the rental period you return the equipment.

However, as with the finance lease option, VAT is payable on each rental rather than at the outset of the agreement. Although you cannot claim capital allowances, you are able to offset rental payments against any taxable profit.

#### *Additional key benefits of operating lease:*

- Enhanced business cash flow with lower payments than for hire purchase or finance lease, and the ability to spread VAT across the life of the rental agreement.

- None of the uncertainty and effort associated with re-marketing used equipment, and the opportunity to develop a more planned equipment replacement cycle;

this ensures that you can benefit earlier from the latest technology to enhance productivity.

#### *Additional key benefits of contract hire:*

- Known running costs; extending the principal of fixed interest costs, this type of agreement goes further and fixes all equipment usage and servicing costs for your business.

- Lower repair costs with preventive maintenance. Although a dealer maintenance plan will not cover the cost of repairs outside warranty, the likelihood of a major breakdown is reduced with more regularly maintained equipment.

It is also worth knowing that you can settle the contract early if required; depending on the type of agreement you have and the number of months that have lapsed, you may be given a rebate of interest for early settlement.

If you are rolling the outstanding financing into a new finance contract for the acquisition of new John Deere equipment, then you may be given additional early settlement rebates.

### Summary

When deciding which finance product will best fit your needs, and what the tax implications are to your business, do consult your tax advisor.

#### *You should bear the following points in mind:*

- With hire purchase you can claim writing down allowances against any taxable profits, but with finance and operating lease you cannot.

- With finance lease and operating lease the lessor can claim the writing down allowances.

- With a finance lease you cannot own the equipment. However, at the end of the

primary rental period you can continue using the equipment and pay a nominal secondary period rental. Alternatively you can arrange to sell the equipment for the lessor and receive a 100 per cent refund of the sales proceeds.

- With hire purchase you can offset the interest element of finance payments against taxable profits. With finance lease and operating lease you can offset the full rental against taxable profits.

- If tight cash flow or minimisation of capital employed is critical for your business, consider an operating lease or contract hire option. You only pay for what you use rather than the full cost to acquire the equipment. That means lower payments and no concerns about capital depreciation.





# Is the worm *chemical die cast?*

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at what is left to defend against worms. It's a dwindling arsenal!



**Professional sports turf has exacting requirements and none more so than control of surface casting earthworms.**

All earthworms irrespective of species and soil profile activity are normally a source of good, but three of UK's 28 native species including the largest *Lumbricus terrestris* cause havoc with surface casts. Worm casts ruin play, create slippery conditions, smother fine turf grasses and provide ideal germination sites for coarse grasses and broadleaved weeds. Weeds may arrive as windborne seed or from inside the cast, previously ingested with turf debris, fallen leaves and soil during worm burrowing and feeding. Worm casts appear remarkably resistant to weathering and were still largely intact after heavy snow cover in December 2009 and January 2010.

Killing earthworms with chemicals is an emotive subject clearly not appreciated or understood by environmentalists or the public at large, and more so now when chemical pesticides are 'on trial' in 'Brussels'.

How do you convince 'Joe Public' that killing earthworms with chemicals is acceptable when improvement in soil structure and fertility from earthworm activity is one of the first lessons in school biology?

Charles Darwin said "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organised creatures."

Their contributions to soil as a growing medium for grass include break down of organic matter into plant available nutrients and improvement of soil structure and friability through crumb formation, including aggregation of mineral fractions with humus to form soil particles.

Benefits are generated during burrowing and ingestion of plant organic matter and soil. Earthworm burrowing activity improves soil aeration, permeability and drainage as well as general overall structure, benefitting plant root systems and therefore turf establishment and maintenance.

But 'what goes into the worm must come out' as a thin-convoluted stream representing the bulk indigestible remains of the worm's diet and colloquially called a cast. The majority of earthworm species present no problem from casting which is actually beneficial because the nutrient rich casts are 'dumped' underground in worm burrows.





Surface casting species present few problems for 'run of the mill' grass swards but on fine-turf playing surfaces can cause huge operational problems and potentially most serious on golfing greens where ball roll and bounce is critical to any meaningful play. That said modern green construction and maintenance with drainage carpet and general year round pampering with surfactants and other chemicals that deter earthworm activity means tees and fairways tend to suffer more in practice. In the past greens received a high level of incidental protection when thiophanate methyl and carbendazim were widely used to control Fusarium patch and other turf diseases. Carbendazim is still on the market today but only for use as a wormicide.

### Worm caste management

Good management practice helps to minimise problems but cannot deal with worm casting cleanly and quickly. Turf industry is faced with an impossible task of convincing European Union (EU) legislators and officials, increasingly hostile to pesticide use in general, that the most universally treasured soil animal is a worthy target. This conundrum is clearly apparent in the nature of past and present chemicals used suppress surface casting. None were 'dedicated' wormicides but conveniently happened to kill worms in addition to primary use as an insecticide or fungicide.

The organo-chlorine compounds 'chlordane' and 'gamma HCH (lindane)' and the carbamate 'carbaryl',

all now redundant in any capacity on turf, were broad spectrum insecticides with potent neurotoxin properties and not surprisingly they killed earthworms too. The two most recently used wormicides, thiophanate methyl (withdrawn) and carbendazim (still on the market), are systemically acting fungicides with a chemical structure conforming to the benzimidazole or MBC (methyl benzimidazole carbamate) grouping. Their wormicidal credentials became apparent during development trials in a totally unrelated sphere, namely control of fungal disease in top fruit orchards some 35 to 40 years ago.

Both were registered for dual fungicide and wormicide use in managed turf. Thiophanate methyl has been withdrawn from any use on managed turf and carbendazim is only approved for use at a specific application rate for suppression of surface casting earthworms. The 'EU' axe still threatens carbendazim which is hardly surprising since it has the same basic chemical structure and mode of action as thiophanate methyl. Thiophanate methyl is a precursor of carbendazim which is also called MBC. When thiophanate methyl degraded it formed MBC (methyl benzimidazole carbamate) the active principal that targeted and killed earthworms.

### Fingers crossed for carbendazim

It's one thing to speculate on the future of a turf pesticide but when a key supplier expresses fears for the future you have to sit up and take



**INSET ABOVE:** Weathered worm cast on a green surround showing a high concentration of sand grains from a typical sandy well drained soil

**MAIN ABOVE:** Close up on a worm cast (Photo courtesy Bayer)

**TOP RIGHT:** Worm casts, freshly deposited (right) and slightly weathered (left) (Picture courtesy Sherriff Amenity)

**BELOW TOP RIGHT** Worm casts smeared on the green surround

**PREVIOUS SPREAD:** Spraying with carbendazim still provides the only quick clean way of suppressing surface casting earthworms (Picture courtesy Sherriff Amenity)



### about the author

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

notice. Sheriff Amenity markets carbendazim as 'Caste Off' (500g/l carbendazim) for suppression of surface casting earthworms at an application rate of 4 l/ha. The company held a 'turf technology and sustainability' seminar in December 2009 called 'Sheriff Amenity True Solutions Roadshow' where Sales Manager, Neil Pullen, spoke frankly about carbendazim. He said, "the future of carbendazim, like any approved pesticide, is uncertain. At the present time it is registered until 2013 and we are hoping to keep it on the market beyond this date."

Turf industry officials expressed concern about possible loss of carbendazim which would leave greenkeepers with few practical and economic options. BIGGA Immediate Past Chairman, Peter Todd, said many golf courses and especially those on soils with an inherently alkaline reaction would be in crisis. Neil Tuck, Technical Director of BALI (The British Association of Landscape Industries) said the carbendazim situation had simmered for years but now looked like coming to a head following an important change in the criteria used by EU to risk assess pesticides.

Carbendazim is under review by The Chemicals Regulation Directorate which is considering the active ingredient against a new set of criteria used for assessment of environmental and human risk. They include - wait for it - how harmful carbendazim is to earthworms and bees. This means future use of the only chemical approved for suppression of surface-casting earthworms hinges on whether





or not it is harmful to those very earthworms - you couldn't make it up if you tried. Nobody knows for sure what the eventual outcome for carbendazim will be, but not surprisingly the industry doesn't sound optimistic.

Be that as it may, carbendazim is still on the market and doing the job so what are the key features of its activity and continuing success. One person who knows first-hand and better than most is Sheriff Amenty's, Graham Paul, who worked for May & Baker during early development work on thiophanate methyl (precursor of carbendazim) as a top fruit fungicide. It was during these trials that an additional 'lumbricide' (wormicide) dimension to MBC activity was discovered by accident.

"In the 1970's 'Mildothane' (thiophanate methyl) was one of the best selling fungicides for use in apple orchards," said Graham, "offering good control of powdery mildew and apple scab diseases with additional activity against red spider mite." Earthworms were long known for their ability to clear fallen apple leaves from the orchard floor from autumn through to spring. But after 'Mildothane' had been used for two or three seasons researchers noticed leaf litter was not disappearing from apple orchards at the usual rate.

Further investigation showed surface feeding species were absent from the soil inside treated orchards because they had been killed by thiophanate methyl residues left on the leaves from repeated sprays throughout the growing season. Thiophanate methyl and then car-

**MAIN ABOVE:** Worm casts provide germination sites weeds and may allow establishment of weeds that are not normally found in turf like the dock seedling (Rumex) shown here

**TOP LEFT:** Worm casts still largely intact in January 2010 after a heavy covering of snow

**BELOW TOP LEFT:** Worm casts are trodden along the fairway

bendazim were subsequently developed and marketed as wormicides but unlike earlier-used chemicals such as chlordane, which killed worms by skin contact, the MBC's killed worms through ingestion.

### Getting the best from carbendazim

Graham Paul says full of understanding earthworm behaviour and mode of MBC action allows greenkeepers' to obtain the very best from carbendazim. Most effective control of surface feeding and casting species is obtained when grass clippings from the first few cuts after spraying with carbendazim can be left on the surface, so that worms can feed on them for as long as possible. Established recommended practice of boxing clippings during mowing should be carried out at all other times. Leaving grass clippings on other premium sports surfaces like cricket tables is not so much of a problem, because they are not used in early spring and autumn when worm casting is most severe. Golf courses on the other hand are used year round and for regular high profile competition golf.

Graham's advice clearly makes sense. Spray droplets alighting on the turf may stay on the leaf surface or move inside the leaf, while that running off into the soil can be absorbed by the grass roots and translocated acropetally (upwards) into the leaves. What's the point in securing active ingredient on or inside the grass leaves only to remove it soon after by mowing says Graham adding how greenkeepers may have to choose between the

worst of two evils, "wet earthworm casts smearing and spreading during play or a few very short grass clippings."

Greenkeepers should add an appropriate adjuvant (water conditioner) to the spray tank to ensure the mixture remains at the optimum pH to achieve maximum efficacy, says Graham. Carbendazim breaks down rapidly at pH of 9.0 (alkaline) recording a half life of just 12 minutes. In practical terms this means 50% of the carbendazim is rendered inactive within that 12 minute period. At pH 5 (acid) carbendazim has a half-life of 30 hours so spray mixtures buffered at this pH using a water conditioner can slow down alkaline hydrolysis. Deposits of carbendazim drying on the leaf will not suffer fast breakdown and therefore stay active to suppress surface casting earthworms.

Evidence of greenkeepers and groundsmen using carbendazim in the most efficient way should go in its favour, but EU decisions on the future of chemical pesticides are not always logical. Surface casting earthworms are clearly a big problem for greenkeepers and require pro-active control. Carbendazim is the 'last chance saloon' for pro-active chemical control of surface casting earthworms. If carbendazim goes it is difficult to see any other chemical getting through the environmental safety screen now used to risk assess pesticides, and therefore any chemical company prepared to take necessary development investment risks. Best hope for cast-free courses is that those who hold the future of carbendazim in their hands also play golf.



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

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# A QUICK GUIDE TO...

## HAND MOWING A GREEN

Members of the St Andrews Links Trust Greenkeeping Team, experts in the field, offer a few tips on Hand Mowing a Green, a skill they will be showing off to the world in July!

### *Importance*

Cutting the greens on a golf course properly with pedestrian mowers is one of the more skillful and satisfying or enjoyable jobs in greenkeeping. Doing so on greens as large as those on the Old Course where many greens can measure over 100 yards in length or you are preparing for a Tour event or an Open Championship can also be very demanding.

### *Check your mower*

Before leaving the maintenance building, check your mower is operating correctly, it is fuelled up, starts, the blades turn and that the height of cut is correct and the cutting cylinder to bottom blade is set properly.

### *Carry out a quick visual inspection*

When arriving at the green, carry out a quick visual inspection for any stones or other debris which is lying on the green that could damage the mower or the surface and remove them if required, switching worm casts may come into this category if necessary. Remove the pin.

### *Cut across the low sun*

The first thing to consider is to cut across the low sun if you can rather than into and away from it. By doing that you can use the shadow to help see your line. You should change your direction of cut every time to prevent a nap forming and this will also stop previous lines of cut confusing you!



### *Line it up*

For your first line, pick a point at the far end of the green or just beyond it and line it up with another point just behind that. Aim for these two points, never taking your eye off them and don't deviate from this projected line running from you right through the two points and beyond.

### *Take a wide turn*

At the end of the line, take a wide turn if there is room to do so. This is good practice and will give you more time to line up your next one as well as reducing wear on the apron which suffers enough from golfing traffic. From now on when cutting, you should be looking slightly ahead of your mower, (anything from between 5 and 10 yards), for your line rather than looking down at your box. You are trying to overlap your previous line by as little as 20mm so the job requires a lot of concentration and constant attention.

### *Start again*

If you do make a mistake, miss a strip or go off the straight, then you have no option but to go back to where you first went

wrong and start cutting from that section again.

### *Leave a glove or a screwdriver at the end of the line*

At St Andrews, where the grass is often dry even first thing in the morning and growth rates can be quite slow, staff often leave a glove or a screwdriver at the end of the line to help them get lined up again when they turn at the far end to come back.

### *Switch a sprinkler on*

Another tip is to switch a sprinkler on for the shortest of times, just enough to give the green a "mist". It's great when you come in and there is a heavy dew but the downside is that you don't get such a good cut.

### *The bonus?*

Hand mowing should help keep you fit because you will probably walk between 6 and 7 miles on average each time!





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

# The anatomy of...

## Imants Shockwave

Imported by Campey Turf Care Systems, the Imants Shockwave range of rotary decompactors are not designed to 'replace' deep tine aeration systems, but complement them. So how do these tools operate?





# Step-by-step Analysis... Imants Shockwave



Campey Turf Care Systems can offer the Imants Shockwave in its compact tractor friendly 100, 155 and 210 versions, with the heavy duty 220 model being sold primarily as a contractor or local authority tool.



It is difficult to see in the photograph, but the test hole dug through a Shockwave slice can show how the turf has shuffled laterally across the working width of the machine.



With its protective cover removed, the central gearbox and rotor shaft and blades can be easily seen. The forged blades wear in a manner that is designed to preserve the working depth; new blades have squared off ends.



A collapsed drain provided a handy pool of water. Running the Shockwave through the waterlogged area speedily drained the surface water away.



Simple 'before' and 'after' readings from the dial of a Campey Compaction Meter suggest the tool has certainly made it easier to push the probe into the ground.

Formerly called the Earthquake, the Imants Shockwave rotary decompressor is designed to complement existing aeration systems. It should leave a clean finish, even in less than ideal conditions.



**There is nothing complicated about a Shockwave, formally known as the Earthquake. From a central gearbox, drive passes to a shaft that drives a three-blade rotor. These blades are used to power a vertical slit in the ground at a depth of up to 250mm (or 380mm for the heavy duty 220 model) and that is it. Simple.**

Well not quite. Although mechanically straightforward, the manner in which the Shockwave works is somewhat more complex.

This is firstly down to the individual blades and secondly the manner in which the unit is operated and set up.

The aim is to complement existing systems of aeration and drainage, slicing through compacted layers that may be punctured, but not be removed with alternative approaches. This is also designed to be achieved with the minimum of surface disturbance.

The blades are made from forged steel, with a curved profile that is claimed to preserve the blades overall length as it wears.

The way in which the blade is made also helps to keep the cutting edge 'sharp'. Compare a new to a part-worn blade and the latter should have a keen edge that will cut if you are foolish enough to rub its edge with your finger.

So far, so what. Slicing channels through fine turf is hardly a new idea. Where the Shockwave differs is that the blades have a slight offset. In work, this leads to each blade shuffling the soil laterally with each pass.

Take a look at a Shockwave in action, and you can see the turf physically shuffling back and forth across the width of the unit as it moves forward. It is not a dramatic shuffle, but it is easy to spot.

This lateral movement is aimed at breaking up compaction across the width of the unit and explains why a Shockwave can complement the action of tools such as a Verti-Drain or Terra Spike. The aim is to decompact and aerate by breaking a compaction layer of layers laterally, leaving the task of punching holes through a compaction layer to alternative tools.

That said, the Shockwave can be pretty effective when working on its own. The key is to look at how deep the compaction runs. The 'smaller' Shockwave 100, 155 and 210, which have respective widths of 1.0m, 1.5m and 2.1m, will work down to a depth of between 120mm to 250mm.

If the compaction runs deeper, the

larger 220 model will work at depths of between 200mm to 380mm. This larger unit is built to the same design as the narrower machines but is physically a lot larger. To get an idea of the difference between a Shockwave 210 and 220, consider their respective weights of 680kg and 1270kg.

The 220 is more typically seen as a contractor tool, with a guide tractor requirement of 80hp to 120hp, with Campey Turf Care suggesting a larger, heavy tractor is better able to cope with the machine when working ground with hidden debris such as large stones and other 'rubbish'. More on this later.

The 'smaller' Shockwave models can be used on tractors ranging in power from around 28hp for the 100 and up to 60hp for the 210. Operating speeds for all models can be varied between 0.5km/h to 2.5km/hr depending upon operating depth, soil conditions and levels of surface disturbance.

### Setting up

Once the depth of compaction has been established by digging a few test holes, the Shockwave depth can be set by adjusting the rear depth roller. A pair of gas struts help make this a simple job. The machine then needs to be lowered in to work, and set to run level via the tractor top link.

Once up and running, the quality of work and finish should be checked, matching the tractor's forward speed to the work done.

The rotor blades may draw up clods when they are new, a good run to burnish them typically improving the quality of work.

It is worth bearing this in mind when having a demonstration, a brand new machine needing chance to settle down before it leaves a clean finish.

Initial set up is this simple, but it pays to follow the machine and to check the set depth is delivering the required results. The simplest approach is to use a simple probe, testing how easy it is to push through the soil both before and after the passage of the machine.

### Underground debris

Tine aeration equipment has evolved to the point where most designs can cope with a degree of hidden sub-surface debris. But hit a suggestion of large stones and some machines may develop problems.

The Shockwave is designed so the smaller stones are either pushed

aside or even sliced through. If the stone or other obstruction will not yield to the blade, the rotary action will lift the unit up and over the obstruction.

According to Campey Turf Care, the Shockwave 220 has been used in projects to aerate local authority sports fields built in the 1950s and 1960s over demolished houses and factories. In some cases, the 'top soil' was a thin layer over broken up concrete and rubble. According to the company, the Shockwave did its job.

If the rotors do meet an object that will not allow the unit to slice through or force the machine out of the ground, the tractor and Shockwave transmission are protected via a torque-limiting clutch on the PTO. Once triggered, the clutch will reset once the obstruction has been cleared.

### Temporary slit drains?

During its demonstration for GI, a Shockwave was operated on a fairway that had a broken drain with a resultant damp patch.

Running the Shockwave from a ditch to the area where water was puddled on the surface demonstrated how the slits could be used to provide surface drainage.

The surface puddle drained away nicely. Not a solution but an effective temporary fix.

### Maintenance

Look for grease points on the 'smaller' Shockwave models, and you will find two – both on the PTO shaft.

The larger Shockwave 220 has a pair of grease points on the rear depth roller, but that is it.

Key maintenance checks will be the PTO shaft and the torque limiting clutch plus a periodic blade check.

Apart from keeping the unit clean and perhaps applying an anti-rust coat to the blades for units that will be parked out of action for a while, this is it.

### Summary

A Shockwave is one of those tools that can be a useful aid to relieving compaction over wider areas where surface disturbance needs to be minimised.

Relatively fast and capable of working in less than ideal conditions, the Shockwave should prove easy to operate and look after. Most important of all it appears to do a good job.



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# Communications Talking Heads

	1. How important is it for you to be able to communicate with staff out on the course?	2. How do you keep in touch with staff during the day? Are they asked to call in on a regular basis if lone working?
<p><b>Name: Stuart Greenwood</b>  <b>Position: Course Manager</b>  <b>Club: North Berwick Golf Club</b></p> 	<p>Very important; right down to seeing if everyone is ok and checking there are no problems. Communication is something that has been almost forgotten about up to now and the subject of health and safety has brought it more to the fore than ever before.</p>	<p>I would be out on the course whenever I can be, and my two Deputies usually are and they're keeping in touch with staff on a very regular basis. I tend to discourage lone working wherever possible because of various reasons, but there are situations when it can't be avoided.</p>
<p><b>Name: Steve Mason</b>  <b>Position: Course Manager</b>  <b>Club: Stocks Golf Club</b></p> 	<p>It is very important to be able to communicate with staff on the course and also works the other way too, such as breakdowns and damage to the course.</p>	<p>When the lads are given their duties, they get that certain task completed and come back to the sheds for extra jobs to be completed. If I didn't think they were capable of working alone, they wouldn't be out there by themselves.</p>
<p><b>Name: Dan McGrath</b>  <b>Position: Course Manager</b>  <b>Club: North Foreland Golf Club</b></p> 	<p>Communication with the team is the most vital aspect in the success department, running efficiently and professionally. We are in a highly competitive market and any time saved by means of constructive communication is both a labour and money saving.</p>	<p>We have been using Entel two-way radios for the last five years and they have proved very reliable. They are a licence-free radio and give excellent coverage. The team communicate constantly throughout the day and are always in sight of each other on this exposed, open site. The radio use also covers the company in its policy of working alone.</p>
<p><b>Name: Peter McVicar</b>  <b>Position: Course Manager</b>  <b>Club: Hesketh Golf Club</b></p> 	<p>It is very important for us to communicate with staff out on the golf course. The need for regular contact is there as new priorities may arise at anytime.</p>	<p>With regards to lone working, all members of staff are asked to communicate with other staff members every hour. This year will see the addition of a course marshal, however, and this policy will be removed.</p>
<p><b>Name: Phil Wentworth</b>  <b>Position: Course Manager</b>  <b>Club: The Army Club</b></p> 	<p>Communication with all the staff is essential. It enables me to keep track of progress with the planned work and to inform staff of any changes I might make to improve the operation with regard to perhaps members and society play.</p>	<p>I generally, through observation, keep track of my staff's work schedule throughout the day to monitor progress and to deal with any problems that might arise. It helps to let them know also the position of golfers especially if you have members and a society using both starting points at the first and tenth holes.</p>



**Jim Cook returns with another Talking Heads feature, this month asking five Course Managers for their views on communications in and around the golf club**

<p><b>3. Have you encountered any situation where having a communications system or indeed the lack of one was highlighted?</b></p>	<p><b>4. Do you have a club system or do you rely on the staff's own phones? What is the network coverage like at your club?</b></p>	<p><b>5. What would the ideal system be and how do you think this could impact on the condition of the playing surface?</b></p>
<p>We have had an injury to a golfer out on the course so having a communication system then was important to the green staff to be able to report it. It has happened on a couple of occasions so having a mobile phone was important.</p>	<p>We do have a radio system installed, but normally we rely on the staff's own mobile phones to communicate if any problem arises and the network coverage at the club is very good. We do discourage the use of phones in the clubhouse and around the course though, so only in emergency. Radios are a bit bulky and heavy.</p>	<p>The ideal system would be for everyone to have a mobile phone, to answer report or communicate, but the last thing you would want was for everyone to be ringing each other regularly and not doing what they're meant to be doing. I don't see it as having a great impact on the condition of the course.</p>
<p>Yes, before we had a new irrigation system installed, our old system was constantly breaking down, by the way of leaks, so our walkie-talkies were a godsend to communicate out on the course and the pump-house and the main shed at the same time, this saved so much wasted downtime.</p>	<p>We have a Kenwood radio system, plus a new keypad controller for the irrigation that allows us to put the water on any area that is looking dry on the Greens, tees and approaches. My lads also carry phones, just in case of emergency. The Orange network works well; all the others are intermittent.</p>	<p>I think our present system works really well and wouldn't change it at this moment in time. My lads all know to keep an eye out for each other too and also to see what else needs to be done as they complete their tasks, therefore keeping the course in the best possible condition.</p>
<p>Having a high percentage of senior members we have had the odd occasion where a golfer has fallen ill while playing. The first member of staff on the scene is generally a member of the green staff. We have called in to the clubhouse on many occasions for assistance and this would not have been viable without our radios.</p>	<p>The carrying of mobiles is seen as vital, as a radio cannot obviously dial for emergency services should they need to be deployed. Coverage is good, but we can occasionally go into the Belgian mobile network with our location on the north-east coast of Kent.</p>	<p>The system we have here works very well and the efficiency of the in house communication and professionalism is for all to see in the presentation of the two courses. So for us at this moment in time, carrying both radios and mobiles has proved successful on this site.</p>
<p>During the summer of 2008 a member collapsed on the course. With the help of staff mobile telephones the call for emergency services and the arrival of a first aider probably kept the gentleman alive.</p>	<p>We at Hesketh Golf Club rely on staff mobile phones. We tried radios, but the ones delivered had poor coverage. Perhaps we will look at improved ones in the near future.</p>	<p>I think that our current system works well as it is, but perhaps the club should reimburse staff for work calls however.</p>
<p>I think it is essential that communication is used and I prefer the use of mobile phones to a radio system purely because of being able to connect the emergency services if required. This has happened on several occasions when dealing with heart attack casualties and fractures occurring out on the course.</p>	<p>Originally we used radios to communicate between staff, office and course marshal but now all the staff use their own mobiles for keeping in touch, which suits them and at no cost to the club either. Network coverage is very good out on the course but one member of staff sometimes has difficulty getting a signal at our maintenance facility.</p>	<p>I think the way forward is with mobile phones unless your network coverage is poor. I believe communication is important among staff and particularly to keep the membership and committees informed of the work programme. This will in turn lead to a better working relationship with everyone at the club by hopefully producing a better golf course overall.</p>



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As a qualified Horticulturalist, Mike Dooner has been involved in the industry in some form or another, since leaving school in 1969. In the late 1970's to early 1980's, he operated his own landscape business in Vancouver BC before returning to the UK in 1982. Prior to commencing his present business, he was employed as Contracts Parks Manager with Wycombe District Council until 1992 when he returned to Scotland and worked for a competitor in the Fine Turf Industry as a self employed agent.

In December 1995 he set up Thorntrees Landscapes trading initially on a Sole Trader basis. In the early days the company operated with a single salesman Mike himself, and a part time office administrator. In 1998 they purchased their current premises at Newtown which includes offices and storage facilities all under the one roof.

Towards the end of 2001 they formed the Limited Company dropping the 'Landscapes' and incorporating the much more appropriate 'Amenity' into the name.

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# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### East

I start my report for this month with reminders of the harsh winter that we have all experienced. Certainly the worst winter that I can ever remember. On the east Lothian coastline some of the courses have been hit with what could be termed as a "mini tsunami"! Coastal erosion has lead to some golf holes being partially washed away.

Let's hope the summer makes up for it.

By the time you read this report our Spring meeting at Kilspindie GC will be history, June edition of GI will reveal all of the scores.

At the beginning of May we are running a Pest Control event (No not how to get rid of some complaining golfers), but mole trapping and vermin control over two days. This event is kindly sponsored by Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Amenity. If you are registered 1.5 credit points are awarded for event.

Our Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, is on the lookout for old SIGGA East Section memorabilia ie photographs, letters, stories, trophies .medals etc. If you have anything of interest please contact Stuart.

People on the move are David Kelly, formally my apprentice at Ratho Park and presently at Marriott Dalmahoy. who is moving on to pastures green where he will take up the new post in Holland on a new Colin Montgomerie 36 hole design complex. We wish David every success for the future.

Other people on the move are Graham Bryce, who held the position of greenkeeping lecturer at Oatridge College. Graham will be a big miss from Oatridge

College as he offered a lot of his knowledge to up and coming young greenkeepers . Graham being from a greenkeeping background who previously worked alongside Andrew Mellon at Elmwood. Graham is moving on to teach at Myerscough College. We wish him all the best.

Still with Oatridge College this lady needs no introduction to our greenkeeping Industry.

Eileen Barry is calling it a day after 28 years as Oatridge College Liaison Officer. So many success stories have come out of the greenkeeping world and a lot of this is down to Eileen's hard work and enthusiasm.

I am only one of many greenkeepers who would like to thank Eileen for the honesty, professionalism and dedication that she has shown throughout the years and wish her all the best for the future.

Tom Murray



### Central

As I write this I hope we are coming to the end of one of the worst winters most of us in the industry can remember, four months of snow, ice, rain and wind have kept courses closed with little or no income making it a difficult time for everyone. The inland courses such as Crieff, Auchterarder and Gleneagles have been open for as little as 10 days since mid December, with a second fall of snow in March meaning some were still closed into April. Trees down, disease scars and ice damage have affected many courses while others, despite the snow cover, appear to have come through virtually unscathed.

It was an appropriate time for Stan Zontek and friends to give a presentation on winter damage at Elmwood on April 27

which was very well attended. The coastal courses suffered as well with exceptional storms at the end of March combining one of the highest tides of the past 50 years with strong North East winds to leave many places damaged. Crail, Kingsbarns and others all lost a piece of the coastline to the sea. or else had part of the beach washed up and deposited on a fairway along with tree trunks stones etc and similar stories can be heard from Aberdeen to the borders.

At St Andrews, a sea wall on the Eden Estuary just beyond the boundary of the Eden course was washed away flooding three holes on the Eden and three on the Strathtyrum course every time the tide came in, while the Swilcan burst its banks and sea water spilled onto the 1st green and fairway of the Old Course. Fortunately the damage appears to just be discolouration to the grass where the water sat for a period although silt deposits on the Eden fairways from the neighbouring fields may yet prove more troublesome.

Our next education evening is on May 19 at Elmwood Training Room at 6.30pm when Rex Kimberly, of Terralift, will talk on nitrogen fixing bacteria. Rex is an experienced speaker and I am sure it will be an entertaining evening as well as informative. Meanwhile Gordon McKie has started a blog on the Links trust website [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk) on the preparations for the Open Championship.

Main winners at the Spring outing are as follows: Best Scratch, Allan Patterson, The Castle Course - 71

Best Hcp. Dougie Barr, Caird Park - 67 nett. Section 1, Archie Dunn, Auchterarder - 68 nett Section 2, Derek Scott, Scoonie - 70 nett. Trade prize - Kenny Hunter of Fairways. Guest prize - Mike Horkan, Property Manager at St Andrews Links Full results are on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Gordon Moir



### West

The sun is shinning as I sit and write this article which makes a slight difference from the recent rain and snow, so spring has sprung eventually, and growth will be sprouting from all areas to fill in the damage caused by the snow mould attack in February/March. What a winter that was, let's hope we get a good summer to cheer everybody up for a change.

Only a couple of things to mention as March was a fairly quite month.

The West Section was recently represented at a charity event in aid Bernardo's Children's Home by our present and past Chairmen and myself playing over the Duke's Course in St Andrews but sadly we didn't live up to expectations. The course was in great condition for the time of year and the event was well organised by the students at Elmwood College. The eventual winners were Turnberry on 84 Stableford points.

Please remember that the Scottish National event to be held at Murcar will be on June 17.

A report on the spring outing at Lanark GC will be given next month, and I will include the STRI talk on wetting agents which is being held at Loch Lomond on April 20.

I would like to extend best wishes to Gordon Kerr, of Marr Hall, as his course is now ready for play and opened last month (April). The Section hopes everything went well on the day and we wish him and his staff all the best for the future.

May I also extend the Section's best wishes for the future to Denis Tweddell who started his new position as Course Man-



ager in Germany. Let's hope the language problems aren't too great and you benefited from all those night class lessons.

Brian Hillan is trying to organise football as a couple of challenges have been issued by other Sections, so those people interested should contact him on his mobile 07721610160 or on e-mail [brian@hillan69.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:brian@hillan69.fsnet.co.uk).

Finally, a couple of items to cover, firstly, Gavin Jarvis, our Section Secretary is compiling a list of all e-mail addresses and would like as many people as possible to contact him with their details, his number is 07725363715.

The second item relates to all members news matters, please contact me for interesting items worth a mention in the magazine, weddings, births, sponsored runs etc, or anything of note contact 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or my e-mail [st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk).

Until next month  
Stuart Taylor



## Ayrshire

A very busy period is upon us again and with a little warmth now creeping into the ground & our old friend the rain we are sure to be kept on our toes!

I wonder how the Masters last month has affected our club members? Will their expectations still be as high after the winter we had?...Course they will! So we greenkeepers must continue to provide quality surfaces so early on in the season. Keep up the good work lads! We will get it right one day eh!

A congratulations is due to George Morrison, of Largs Kelburn GC. George and Maggie are expecting a little visit from the stork sometime in July. Won't be spending as much time on the old Land Rover now, George! We wish you both and your little bundle of joy all the best when the time comes.

Remember guys this is your Section news, So any news, Any goss, Anything you would like to be seen in the mag let me know.

John Mair.  
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07500874449



## North

Where do I start this month? The weather is up to its old tricks again. While I was sunning myself in Tenerife with the family the snow decided to make a return in the Easter holidays. Shame. It didn't last too long though and it was only here for a day. I think though further North it was still hanging around a couple of weeks later.

Hopefully your season is under way, I'm sure many of you are still putting the final touches to your Winter programmes. I know next door at Royal Aberdeen they have been very busy. They have added another eight bunkers to their course (as if it's not difficult enough!) and they have extended the blue tee at the 4th to a 464 yard par-4. If you don't already know they are holding the Walker Cup next year and these improvements are for this competition. I'm sure there will be further alterations before the tournament begins.

Richard Mullen, of Meldrum House GC, is a proud new dad again. His wife gave birth to another girl, Cara, who was born on April 2 weighing in at 8lbs 1oz. Congratulations and we hope both mother and baby are doing well.

Richard 'Dicky' Pirie, my old work mate at Newmachar, has become a granda for the first time. His daughter, Debbie, gave birth to baby, Chloe, weighing in at 7lbs 2oz. She must be nearly as big as you mate. Hope they're doing well and I'm sure you'll soon be called on for some babysitting duties.

Also at Newmachar the Head Mechanic, Sandy Gammack, has been in hospital recently and just to let you know that all your friends and work colleagues are thinking of you. Hopefully you'll have plenty of banter with the hospital staff and I'm sure you'll have a garage set up in the car park ready to fix their cars!

There is a new man in charge at Letham Grange. Keith Law has been placed in charge on a trial basis. Hopefully this goes well for you, Keith, and good luck with all your efforts in keeping Letham a great course to visit and play.

In next month's issue I shall have all the runners and riders

and who won what at Deeside GC.

That's all for this month guys, as usual if you do have any news give me a shout on 07813889374.

Ben Brookes  
Murcar Links

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. The committee are sorry to say we had to cancel the Spring Seminar, due to a poor response from the membership and one of the speakers was unexpectedly taken ill. I am, however, pleased to report he is now making a full recovery. A big thanks to all who did expressed an interest in the seminar, hopefully we will be able to reorganise it at a later date. The date & time has been set for our Autumn golf tournament & AGM, September 29, first tee 10 am. Sorry there is no more news, I hope by the time you are reading this I will have seen lots of you at the spring golf tournament. If you have any news or gossip PLEASE pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Phone 07947 401278

Frank Stewart



### North Wales

This time of year we can look forward to the grass flushing more than the toilet at an continents' convention, but at least now is the time to bang in some overtime to bring us up-to-date with the Bank Manager after such a savings draining winter.

We now have a facebook group called "North Wales B.I.G.G.A" so if you're on facebook you can find Section events listed there and also space to chat to other group members.

I hope everyone who went to Caernarfon Golf Club for the Spring tournament enjoyed themselves, at time of going to print, I'm afraid I cannot give any write up about the day

until next month but there will be results and if I remember to take the camera, pictures on our new facebook group. Likewise hopefully you will be able to see pictures of the CONNECT days that took place at Conwy Golf Club recently.

Pete Maybury  
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07756001187



### North East

Well what news do we have his month as usual the phone hasn't stopped ringing with info! I think not. But, surprise surprise, I do have some news. Looks like there's going to be lots of movement around the Section as Close House, Hexham and Matfen Hall have all been advertising for staff.

Right, here goes. David Thompson, who has worked at Matfen for the last eight years has taken over from Michael McKenna at Hexham. As you all know Michael has gone up to Loch Lomond. James Leighton, who has been working at the prestigious Wentworth GC for the last 18 months, has started at Close House. Kevin Wright, who was at Slaley, has also moved to Close House as well and I believe that a Mr J. Saunders, who worked at Gosforth GC, has moved to Matfen Hall. Let's hope that's the last of moves for a while. I recently heard that the Priestman course at Slaley Hall is going to be altering all of its bunkers in the next few weeks or I should say months, the way weather has been. I hope that it picks up pretty damn quick as I thought we have had a bad winter but with Slaley being a lot higher they had their fair share of snow.

Another bit of news recently read about was that The Northumberland GC has been chosen to hold the regional qualifying for The Open in 2013. I know it seems along way off but doesn't time fly these days. So well done to Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Proudlock, and his staff they must be doing something right as not every golf club get that chance to host a qualifier for The Open.

And last, but not least, I was talking to Steve Pope and he was showing me a magazine that he

# Around The Green

still had way back in 1984. My God how has that changed over the years, seeing is believing. Anyway we were reminiscence on all the Regional and National competitions there were in those days no doubt only the older greenkeepers will remember them lets see if any other members and Sections can here goes Marshall Concessionaires, Iseki, Hayter, Jacobsen, Kubota Golf Challenge and the Ransome International which was played as The National Greenkeepers Competition, plus over three years on a point basis so the top three players would represent England against other countries around the world. Sadly we don't have anymore competitions like that these days but I suppose it's down to money. All I can say on that matter thanks to all those Jimmy Richardson



## North West

So then Easter has come and gone and we here in the North West have just had our first tournament, obviously, I'm writing this in advance so let's just say thanks to all the new faces at the event it was great to see it well supported. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend as I had already booked a round at Turnberry, which couldn't be cancelled.

I am writing this at the beginning of April, the 8th to be exact. I've just returned home from the Northern Region Seminar at Penrith Golf Club, the topic being "The next decade". Peter Larter had put together a great programme of speakers. The morning started with Tracey Maddison talking about how CPD was developing and how BIGGA was advancing with relationships with GCMA and the PGA, to name but two, following Tracey was Laurence Pithie, (who I remember getting his MGC when I was a young 16yr old at Cannington College, (he's aged better than me)). Laurence talked about getting the basics right when it comes to greenkeeping, I had brought along my Deputy, Sec/Manager and Greens Convener to the event, the latter being very impressed with Laurence, hopefully in the not too distant future

we will have some of Laurence's workshops in the NW. Richard Minton followed next talking about the sustainable use of Pesticides, there were many thought provoking comments about current and future legislations. After lunch Bob Taylor, from the STRI, talked about developing a competitive, the amount of information that man can get across in 45 minutes is unbelievable - topics ranged from rough to trees, from ponds to dead-wood and from sustainability master planning to Hemi-views, all very interesting and I for one will be contacting Bob in the near future to Hemi-view Hesketh or something like that. The final speaker of the day was Tim Lobb, from Thompson Perritt and Lobb Golf Design, Tim gave a detailed insight on the workings of golf course architecture past and present. While not just talking about his own company Tim showed how an architect goes about tackling golf course changes taking into consideration all the factors affected by the redesign, again another very interesting talk ending a very good day, the four of us travelling the 80 miles back to Hesketh had plenty to talk about and all found the day worthwhile. Again thanks to Peter for setting up the seminar and also the setting at Penrith was excellent, the course looked great and the cleaner who ordered our Bacon rolls early in the morning was a star. Och well, I've probably talked too much now, hope all goes well for the coming month...

Peter McVicar  
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pdmv@hotmail.co.uk



## Cleveland

Hi all, not got much news to report this time around. Hope you are all well and rearing to go for this season.

On Thursday, February 25 at Teesside Golf Club, Baz and Ally held their annual quiz. The night was great success and was well put together as always. Thanks to Baz and Ally for their hard work.

Congratulations to Phil Hargrave and his wife, Suzanne on

the arrival of their son, Finlay, on Sunday, April 4. Many sleepless nights for you now, Phil.

Congratulations to Richard Pybus, at Blackwell, who has been promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. James Parker, also from Blackwell, has been invited to join the BIGGA Support team this year for The Open at St Andrews. This follows working at the BMW PGA Championship and the European Open last year 2009, well done to you both.

Our spring tournament was held at Seaton Carew Golf Club on March 23. The event was very well attended and the main sponsor of the day was Lloyd of Bishop Auckland, represented by Alister Whitby, so thanks for your continual support. Other sponsors included, in no particular order, Boxer Chemicals, Tacit, Turfcare and Northern Lubricants.

Results. Category 1. 1. Ian Stuart, 41pts; 2. Dave Cuthbertson, 35pts; 3. Danny Simpson, 35 pts on countback. Category 2. 1. John Talbot, 35pts; 2. Ian Holoran, 34pts; 3. James Parker 34pts, on countback. Category 3. 1. Ian "The Bandit" Pemberton, 35pts; 2. Kev Scarce, no points because I had to retire due to an extremely serious thumb injury.

A ball hit hit me on the thumb and needless to say I received zero sympathy for my wound. Anyway on with the rest of the prizes, Nearest the pin was won by Gary Frazer, Longest Drive Ian Stewart, best par 3s Ian Stewart, and finally best par 5s was won by Danny Simpson.

All in all it was a great day and was well attended. Thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Tony, and his staff the course was in great condition, and a big thank you to Seaton Carew Golf Club for having us on the course and a big thanks to the catering staff and clubhouse staff for a nice meal and making us all feel very welcome. The day was also attended by Peter Larter, BIGGA Regional Administrator and Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership Services. It was nice to have you both.

Thanks also to Ian Pemberton for once again organising the golf day and organising the prizes.

Final congratulations must go to Newcastle United FC on their promotion back to the Premier League, they can now enjoy a short stay back in the top league with the big clubs such as Sun-

derland!

P.S I'm not a Sunderland fan. Any news, or verbal abuse after the last section, kevscarce@aol.com or 07921817857



## Sheffield

I hope everyone is now finally settling into the new season and that we are all working in glorious sunshine.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Grinding/Workshop management day due to lack of interest. I must apologise to those who wanted to attend and we shall be trying to reorganise the day later on in the year. Thanks to Golf and Turf Machinery for their help trying to organise this day.

Our first Golf match of the season will be upon us shortly hopefully you will all have received your invitations and will be dusting the clubs off. You will all be receiving Our 2010 fixture card soon but hear is a list of the competitions and venues for the year.

Annual Competition- Hillsborough GC, July 7. Autumn Competition- Silkstone GC September 13. Sheffield vs Northern match- Wooley Park, July 14. Christmas Competition- Lindrick GC, November 29.

It would be nice to see as many of you as possible at these competitions. I must also remind everyone that we must adhere to the dress code at all our events the dress code will be on the invitation to all events.

James Stevens  
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07738719614

## Midland Region



## East Midlands

Hi everyone, I hope you are all enjoying the warming weather. I am happy to report that we have some news for the East Midlands Section. There is a PGA Seniors Tour event to be held at



Stapleford Park on May 12, 13 and 14. Matthew Edge is looking for volunteers to help prepare the course. There will be many of the old favourites playing so will be a good experience for all who attend. If you are interested in helping Matthew out, then please contact him on 07989 356 145. Everyone by now should have their pair's fixtures; it is shaping up to be a good year this year with some new courses in the competition. Once again if anybody has any news then please contact either myself or Andy de Wet.

Matthew Wormald



## Midland

Firstly this month I would like to apologise for the lack of notes for both February and March of this year, such was composed and emailed to H.Q. but unfortunately they did not receive such, for some unfathomable reason! "It's only milk". However, there is, of course, the cream that our Section is so reliant upon, such being the kind sponsorship of our many golf and educational events, and of course our wonderful calendar. My greatest apologies must go to those kind calendar page sponsors who were featured in the missed publications. Such being: January's page, Abbey Mowers, please consider them for your machinery needs, especially regarding Toro products [www.abbeymowers.co.uk](http://www.abbeymowers.co.uk). February's page, Turner Groundscare, also for your machinery requirements, particularly John Deere machines [www.turnergroundscare.co.uk](http://www.turnergroundscare.co.uk). And March's page, Matt Gresty/Professional Amenity Grass Seed (specialist). Please email Matt for all of your seed requirements on [matthew.gresty@limagrains.co.uk](mailto:matthew.gresty@limagrains.co.uk). For those interested in the two missing back instalments, such can be found on our Section's website; [www.biggamidlandsection.com](http://www.biggamidlandsection.com).

Our fixtures for the fore coming season are; Spring: Trentham Golf Club, May 17 (late entries will be accepted due to the above cited, please call Gary: 07780-953-764 to book your place). Summer: Edgbas-

ton Golf Club, July 19. Autumn: Beau Desert Golf Club, October 7. Christmas: Woburn Golf Club, December 2. Our thanks to these most generous Clubs for affording us such opportunity to play what can only be described as four delicious venues straight out of the top draw. Also thanks to Rhys for yet again instigating and organising such. With such wonderful courses on offer I hope that you will support our Section by attending these both enjoyable and networking educational days with the added bonus of maybe wining one of the many great prizes on offer as provided by our many generous sponsors. Talking of sponsors, our thanks to Burrows Grass Machinery for this month's calendar page. For your Ransomes and Jacobsen sales, service and spares please call: 0870-242-6952.

It is with great happiness that I can report that two of our members have had a visit from the old stork, and I don't mean margarine.

Firstly, Mark Cutler, of Edgbaston, and his lovely wife, Sara, with a bouncing baby girl, Lucy. Well there goes your golf, Mark. Secondly, our Chair, Ed Stant, and his ever suffering wife, Tracey, (sorry I got it wrong last time lass) have had a big lipped (not my words) crackling girl, Jemima. Ed you look nothing like Jagger, your belly's too big for a start, and as it's your second your golf is already out of the window (is that the round one!). Seriously though, welcome to the world, Lucy and Jemima, and congratulations to their proud parents.

And finally, just time to remind all to get their entries for this year's Scotts Doubles Knockout Competition in by the spring tournament, where the draw will as usual be conducted. I do suspect that us mere mortals will stand a greater chance this year as the dynamic partnership that has almost dominated this event for many years has been forced to split. So please get your entries in and support this long running popular event. With the final being the wonderful prize of playing at Wentworth and as a guest of our fine sponsors for the day by Scots such is surely £6 well invested

Sorry for reiteration,  
Sean McDade.

## South West and South Wales Region



### South Coast

To begin with I have to mention that South Coast Section Spring Comp is fast approaching and that the info will be sent to all Section members very soon. Just a reminder that the winners on the day gain automatic entry to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Redexim, later in the year.

The venue is the beautiful and picturesque Bramshaw GC, on Thursday May 13, (I'm sure Jason and his team are looking forward to it!). We will be playing 9 holes on the challenging Forest course before lunch; then 18 holes on the Manor followed by dinner and presentation, the price yet to be confirmed will be around the £22 mark. I'm hoping we manage to get the excellent support we had at the Turkey Trot.

With no other news to pass on, if your ready for your sleep at tea break then continue reading as I'm going to tell you a bit about life at Brockenhurst Manor during this seemingly endless winter.

After the continuous rain of November, the freezing temperatures and ice of December, and the snow in January, it gave me a chance to embark (excuse the pun) on our much needed Woodland Management programme, although the majority of the work is hopefully going to be carried out by tree specialists, John Nicholson Associates. We have spent many frozen hours clearing around greens and tees to improve air circulation and sunlight, the feedback from members has been encouraging, especially as we now have some stunning views of the New Forest, while standing on some tees instead of the previous walls of holly and very little light.

I did manage to unintentionally find a way to get the green staff back into shape after the festive period, when we had a rogue herd of new forest ponies

demolishing my garden fence and roaming around the golf course to seek pastures new. The horses must of thought it was Christmas...well it was! So with the help of some of members we did eventually manage to turn them out in the torrential rain, but at the expense of some serious damage to the greens and some tired and fed up green staff.

On a personal note. I attended a two day presentation skills workshop at BTME, I had the pleasure of the company of the then BIGGA Chairman elect-Paul Worster; Stuart, from St Annes Old Links, and Alec, from Newbury/Crookham. We spent a lot the time learning and putting together presentations and we found out a bit about each other through them. Sorry guys you had to listen to me talk about the famous Rams (Derby County FC) for five minutes. Oh yeah, Mr Chairman, I will get my revenge on you one day...you know what I mean eh! Joking aside best wishes during your time in office, Paul.

Back at BMGC due to more heavy rain this week our Maintenance Week has been cancelled.. more headaches....I'm sure things will improve soon and by the time your reading this it will be too warm for us and the grass will be going mad. I wish you all a great season ahead.

Kevan Glass



### South Wales

Hope you are all well.

I will start off by bringing you a report on two recent evening events that were organised by our Section and the South Wales branch of the IOG.

First was a trip to The Swalec Stadium for the rearranged talk by Keith Exton, Head Groundsman at the ground. Keith gave a very good presentation entitled 'In at the deep end' on the work carried out at the ground in preparation for the Ashes test. There then followed a Q&A session with some searching questions from the attendees, then guests were treated to a lovely buffet. Thanks to Keith for his excellent presentation, to the South Wales IOG for organising

the rearranged event, to everybody (about 20) who turned up and to Peter Holstrom and Countrywide for sponsoring the event.

Next was the visit to Ffos Las Racecourse, where about 30 people braved the inclement weather to enjoy an interesting evening in the company of Mr Tim Long, Clerk Of The Course, who gave us an informative guided tour of the course and all its state-of-the-art facilities. A great evening was rounded off with a powerpoint presentation on the construction of the course and then a nice buffet! Thanks again to the IOG and Countrywide for their organisation and support for this event and to Tim and Alwyn Morgan, Head Groundsman, and everyone at Ffos Las for their hospitality.

The Section's first golf day of the year will take place at Trefloyne GC on Friday, May 21, and is once again sponsored by Tower Sport Europe, so thanks in advance to them for their continued support. Tee off is at 1.30pm. The schedule for the day will be different this year in that there will be a running buffet so you don't have to wait a long time for your meal if you happen to be one of the first out. Also there will be a 'smart casual' dress code. So if you have been asking for these changes in routine then please support the idea with your presence! It's up to you!

Also, this event has been scheduled for a Friday, so that it could be turned into a social event with people having a night out in Tenby with the possibility of discounted accommodation at Trefloyne. You are more than welcome to bring your loved one too if you wish (or failing that, the wife!) Again, it sounds like a great idea, but needs participation. So if you are interested then please give Steve Chappell a ring.

That's it for this month! By the time you've read this then hopefully either Cardiff City or the Swans will be in The Premiership, and some of their fans, if they meet in the play-offs, will not be in jail! The mighty Scarlets, however, will be out of the Heineken Cup for next season and will instead be playing some 'pop and crisps' cup! Never mind, at least (after a recent visit to The Liberty Stadium) our fans can sing and are not too busy eating prawn sandwiches!

Anyway, here's to an enjoyable and stress free growing season for you all!

Ceri Richards  
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## Devon and Cornwall

March's Meeting at Mullion Golf Course down on the Lizard peninsula was a great success. 40 members made the trip to Mullion, which for many was a long trip. It was worth every mile though, as Gordon Tamblyn, Course Manager, had the course in superb condition. On a dry but windy day (apparently just a breeze for Mullion) the course played extremely well and the views from the bottom holes were outstanding. 25 members joined Gordon on an extremely interesting Course Walk. We all met back at the very friendly and accommodating Clubhouse for what was a very welcome lunch. The Carvery and desert was plentiful, leaving 40 very satisfied customers. After lunch, Brian Robinson, Rigby Taylor, Director of Grass Seed Research, gave a fascinating and in-depth insight into grass seed research and in what direction the industry is being lead. Enthesis was placed on reducing inputs and improving carbon footprints and how it will play a huge part in the future management of amenity areas. Many thanks to Brian for making the long trip and for giving such an enthusiastic and thought provoking presentation.

The Golf format for the day was individual Stableford with prizes sponsored by Bayer. In first place was Mike Ellis, Lake View GC, with 35 pts, second was Andrew Dunstan, Newquay GC, with 32 pts and third was Tim Ellis, Mullion GC, with 31 pts. There were 2x Longest drives and 2x Nearest the pin. One set sponsored by Farmura and the other very kindly sponsored by Gordon Tamblyn, Mullion GC. Longest drive on the 4th and Nearest the pin on the 16th was won by Keith Kemp (West Cornwall), Nearest the pin on the 11th was won by Des Bickle (Bigbury) and Longest drive on the 18th was won by Shaun

Warren (Staddon Heights). Well done to all and many thanks to all the sponsors.

The next meeting for us will be the "Devon v Cornwall" Match on the 15th June at St Mellion International. More details to follow.

Good luck to everyone for the season.

George Pitts  
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gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



## South West

Hello everyone, I trust you're all well. I'm sure you'll all agree when I say how great the weather has been the last week or so... (I do hope it remains while you read this) After the winter we had, this weather is the least we deserve, if you ask me a little bit of the Caribbean sun would be just fine.

As with most of you, I'm sure, we've just started to spread a little bit of the magic stuff to help everything grow, this always seems like a pretty good idea at the time only to realise we have a four day weekend just around the corner. Mind you it'll still be there on the Tuesday so, I do hope you all have/had an enjoyable Easter bank holiday!

Just recently I received a very nice e-mail from Ian Hugglestone. Ian been an Associate Member with BIGGA for four years now, and comments on the great times he's had during this time. Last year Ian took a break from work. However this summer he would like to offer his services and maybe help out on a golf course with you (this would be within the Bristol area). With such a busy time of year coming up, I'm sure some of you may need every little help you can get on the golf course. Please contact me if you may have an interest in his services.

I'll be honest with you this month people, I am a little short of things to write about (this is where I ask for your thoughts/stories or even a little light banter that you may like to share with us).

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

## South East Region



### Kent

As life slowly returns to our courses after the longest winter ever an increasingly smile seems to be re-appearing on the faces of Course Managers I meet, who are all relieved to be out there cutting grass again.

It's amazing the difference 12 months can make. In previous years my watering system was being used on a regular basis at this time as the summer season began. This year has seen a return to more traditional seasonal weather pattern forcing the retreat of the global warming brigade and their preachings of doom and gloom. There's always a bright side eh!

Not much to tell you about this month. By the time you read this we would probably have played our National qualifying tournament at Wildernesse on May 6. Full report on all the day's events to appear in this column next month.

I would like to thank Neil Metcalf, and his team at Royal St. George's, for his hospitality a couple of weeks ago when a group of us were given the privilege of the freedom of his immaculate course. Neil's chat with us beforehand (despite the noise from the skip lorry!) was a great insight into what goes into maintaining such a prestigious venue. Even though we only had a walk round the course, the incredible level of difficulty players face from the back tees was off the scale. Thanks also to Glenn Kirby for his efforts in organising the day.

Like I said, just a short one this month but please check our webpage now it is being updated regularly. We have now added a forum, which I would really appreciate your comments, stories, experiences etc. on.

Back to cutting grass now.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com





## Surrey

May 6, its official, by now you could have voted for my new political party 'BALLS' and given me a retirement present that will keep me in luxury for many years to come. My Political Manager, wee Dougie, has assured me that his recent fact finding mission to Trinidad was two weeks of non stop hard work and should we win he has chosen his and my beach-side second home in a convenient position only 12 hours from Westminster. Please remember our slogan 'You play ball with us and we'll supply the referee'.

Darcey Eve Rowe will be almost four months old this month and wondering why your's truly did not mention her birth, 7lb 13ozs, on January 16 in an earlier edition. My excuse is that the information given to me by daddy Gary, Banstead Downs GC, was put in the wrong pocket and was retrieved only just before the offending piece of clothing visited the washing machine. Apologies to mummy Elaine, baby Darcey, and daddy, Gary. Had I left this news any longer Darcey could have read the paragraph all by herself.

My first kick boxing bout went well and that the cut to my forehead is healing well. My opponent was not so lucky as the cuts she received cannot be repaired and her tights were a complete right off. Sorry, of course, I don't mean that her tights came off, I mean, oh you know what I mean. What I really mean is don't trip and head butt a window frame it hurts.

Still, no holidays booked and few ideas so please when I next call have some holiday destinations ready for my perusal and a subscription to 'BALLS' the party that looks after number one.

Brian Willmott



## Essex

By the time you get to read this, the first of our golf days will

be over. Well done to the winners and I hope you all enjoyed the day at South Essex Golf Club. Results will be posted next month.

I mentioned last month that I would be giving you a full list of our sponsors for the 2010 season, the underlined are the new sponsors who have joined us this year they are as follows:-

Advantage-Environmental; Billericay Farm Services; BMS; Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph); Old Forge Mowers; Avoncrop Amenity Products; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; Fieldfare Amenity; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Grasshopper (Horticultural) Ltd; Headland Amenity Products; Limagrain UK; Prime Irrigation Ltd; Rain-bird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Scotts Professional; Tey Farm Systems; P, Tuckwell Ltd and Writtle College. All their contact details are on our website. We welcome them all to our Section and thank them for their support.

I hope you all like the new look website?

It would be nice to have any constructive comments on the site, as it is there for your information and not just for me to play with in my free moments.

Our next golf day is Tuesday, June 22, at Channels Golf Club there is a new format for the day and a Bar-B-Q afterwards. It should be fun so put it on your list of things to do, £15 entry fee, which is real good, value for a day's golf and the meal after. We all look forward to seeing you there.

April 27 Spring Trophy at South Essex GC; June 22, Summer Trophy at Channels GC; July 13, Essex Greenkeepers v Captains of Essex at Romford GC (Invitation); July 20, The Tuckwell Golf Team Championship at Bentley GC. (Invitation); August 12, Essex Trophy at Boyce Hill GC; September 29 Autumn Trophy at Benton Hall Golf & Country Club; October 14, The Doe's Triangular, Essex/ Sussex/Surrey at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club (Invitation); December 2 AGM and Team Event at The Essex Golf & Country Club

Mobile 07764-862.337 or [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Officer & Webmaster



**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

By the time you read this we should have launched the updated and much improved BIGGA website that incorporates many new features including a payment gateway, a calendar of local and national events, an improved Classified Adverts section and improved log-on security. Take time to explore the site and take advantage of the wealth of information that is available, all designed to help keep you in touch with the industry, improve your knowledge base or do your job more effectively.

One of the next measures that is currently being investigated is a web based Continuing Professional Development (CPD) software package that will enable Members to manage key elements of their CPD registration and, hopefully, the Membership Database. CPD is an important part of career development and we live in a world where qualifications are an essential building block towards that next job.

One of the Association's objectives is to raise professional standards through education and Members need to take on board the fact that experience alone will not be sufficient in the future. If you have not registered with Sami or Rachael at HQ for CPD then I ask "Why not?". More and more it will become a dominant feature of a great many career opportunities and the Association is looking at the feasibility of incorporating CPD into its membership structure.

If you are unsure of what CPD is or how it can help you progress then I suggest that you take a look at the following web site which is part of the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development: [www.cipd.co.uk/cpd/aboutcpd/whatiscpd.htm](http://www.cipd.co.uk/cpd/aboutcpd/whatiscpd.htm)

I continue to be amazed at the total apathy that some people seem to demonstrate and wonder to what they aspire. Many are often quick to be critical of the success of others or complain that life has dealt them a poor hand of cards but rarely do they do something about helping themselves. It's true that we cannot all achieve that top job but we can all do better, we can all raise our self-esteem and confidence through learning. The golf industry is going through some very testing times and I think that the economy in general is far from close to picking itself up off the floor. A General Election this month will, in my opinion, only add to the country's problems with no clear and effective outcome. For all our sakes I hope I am proven to be wrong.

On a more positive note I am pleased to announce that Rigby Taylor have offered to sponsor a Hole-in-One prize of a car at this year's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, in October.

If you want more details of the event then contact Sandra at HQ but be warned that available places are going quickly.

We have now completed three quarters of our new financial year and I am pleased to report that we are ahead of budget and should end the year with a small surplus, a very different result to the one that we anticipated. This has been achieved through a combination of careful control of expenditure and improved revenue. We are now working on the budgets for 2010/11 which will be a more problematic year.

Finally I would like to wish Kirstin at HQ and her husband, Andy, many, many years of happiness together following their marriage on April 23rd.



# Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility?

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Do you want to be part of a progressive association that actively works to enhance the professional reputation of sports turf professionals?

*If you answered YES to any of the above questions then Membership of BIGGA is for you.*

## Why Join BIGGA?

- Industry specific, education and training
- Greenkeeper International – BIGGA's official magazine
- Careers advice and guidance
- Regional and national events
- Sports turf industry networking
- Commitment to CPD
- Maintain standard and quality within the profession
- Dedicated members' website

*Look to your future by joining BIGGA today...*

Tel: 01347 833800 select option 1,

email: [membership@bigga.co.uk](mailto:membership@bigga.co.uk)

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



**Promoting best practice in sports turf management**





# Diary of Events

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

## MAY

*Tuesday May 4th*  
BIGGA v's GCMA Golf Match  
Montrose Golf Links  
Peter Boyd at p.j.boyd@btinternet.com or 0141 616 3440

*Wednesday May 5th*  
Surrey Section Spring Tournament  
Burhill Golf Club  
Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 020 864 43061

*Thursday May 6th*  
Kent Section Event  
Wilderness Golf Club  
Rob Holland at grassyars@hotmail.com or 07778 921606

*Wednesday May 12th*  
Berks/Bucks/Oxon Section Event  
Sandmartins Golf Club  
Adam King at ajk@radley.org or 07778 569158

*Thursday May 13th*  
South Coast Section Event  
Bramshall Golf Club  
Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633

*Monday May 17th*  
Midland Section Event  
Trentham Golf Club  
Andrew Smith at andysmith-ace@hotmail.co.uk or 01676 530114

*Tuesday May 18th*  
Mid Anglia Section Event  
Bedford & County Golf Club  
Gerald Bruce at Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk or 07774 921606

*Thursday May 20th*  
North Section Spring Tournament  
Deeside Golf Club  
Dale Robertson at daleturnberry@aol.com or 01651 863002  
London Section Event  
Ealing Golf Club  
Matt Pledsted at matt.pledsted@hotmail.co.uk or 07818 410333

*Thursday May 20th -  
Sunday May 23rd*  
The PGA BMW Championship  
West Course, Wentworth Club  
European Tour

*Tuesday May 25th*  
Sussex Section Spring Meeting  
Littlehampton Golf Club  
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

*Thursday May 27th*  
East of England Section Event  
Newark Golf Club Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922

## JUNE

*Wednesday June 9th*  
North Wales Section V's North West Section Golf Match  
Carden Park Golf Club (De Vere)  
Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 01978 860109  
Mob: 07876 776265

*Monday June 14th*  
BIGGA Annual Golf Day  
Aldwark Manor Golf and Country Club  
Sandra Raper at Sandra@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800

*Tuesday June 15th*  
Surrey Section - Cresta Cup  
Hoebridge Golf Club, Old Woking  
Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 020 864 43061

*Thursday June 17th*  
Scottish National Tournament  
Murcar Golf Club  
Peter Boyd at p.j.boyd@btinternet.com or 0141 616 3440  
East Anglia Section Event  
Diss Golf Club  
Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398

*Tuesday June 22nd*  
Essex Section Event  
Boyce Hill Golf Club  
Dominic Rodgers at domrodgers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398

*Wednesday June 23rd*  
Central Section Event  
Old Course, St Andrews,  
Course Walk start 4pm  
Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602

*Wednesday June 30th*  
Northern Section Event  
Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club  
Frank Stewart at 07947 401278  
Midland Region Golf Management Trophy  
Erewash Valley Golf Club  
Peter Larter at petelarter972@aol.com or 07866 366966

## JULY

*Wednesday July 7th*  
North West Section Event  
Blackpool North Shore Golf Club  
Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or 07840 706738  
East Midlands Section Event  
Rothley Park Golf Club  
Andrew de Wet at biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895  
Northern Section v's Sheffield Section Event  
Woolley Park Golf Club  
Frank Stewart at 07947 401278 or James Stevens at jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614

*Thursday July 15th*  
East of England Section Event  
Tydd St Giles Golf Club  
Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922  
South Coast Section Event  
Stoneham Golf Club  
Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633

*Thursday July 15th -  
Sunday July 18th*  
The Open Championship  
St Andrews, Scotland  
http://www.opengolf.com/

*Wednesday July 21st*  
London Section Event  
Muswell Hill Golf Club

Matt Pledsted at matt.pledsted@hotmail.co.uk or 07818 410333

*Thursday July 29th -  
Sunday August 1st*  
Ricoch Women's British Open  
The Royal Birkdale Golf Club  
http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com/

## AUGUST

*Thursday August 5th*  
Sussex Section Event  
Haywards Heath Golf Club  
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

*Wednesday August 11th*  
East Anglia Section Event  
Eaton Golf Club, Norwich  
Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398

*Thursday August 12th*  
Essex Section Event  
Benton Hall Golf Club  
Dominic Rodgers at domrodgers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398

*Thursday August 19th*  
(TBC, subject to change)  
Central Section Event  
Auchterarder Golf Club. Norrie Whytock Trophy  
Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602

## SEPTEMBER

*Wednesday September 22nd*  
East of England Section Event  
Lincoln Golf Club Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922

*Tuesday September 28th*  
Sussex Section Event  
Cophorne Golf Club  
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

**More dates  
for your diary  
next month**





# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership Services, gives an overview of what a professional membership body is

## With 23 years experience BIGGA has learnt a thing or two about running a membership Association.

While it's not easy trying to keep 6,000 individuals happy, and we are not that naive to think that we can, we'd like to think that we can provide something of interest for every member whether proactive or passive. As a membership Association we are more than just a society or a club where 'members' can subscribe to a website or a newsletter, we are about providing our members with a wealth of opportunities which will help them retain and develop their professional development and promote best practice in sports turf management.

In the past BIGGA has quite often been referred to as a Trade Association (TA) but a TA is commonly made up of companies rather than individuals. A good example of a TA is the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association (FEGGA) which has 21 Greenkeeping Associations, in Europe, as members.

BIGGA offers members the opportunity to take part in a CPD scheme, provides education events, training courses and training tools and as membership categories are linked to a minimum qualification BIGGA are classified as a professional association (more commonly known as a professional body or membership body). We are not too dissimilar in our operations to the Chartered Management Institute, Institute of Leadership & Management or even the Association of Accounting Technicians. Regardless of the industry the one attribute we all have in common is that we are all professional membership bodies.

### Secretariat

Membership bodies usually have a secretariat, a permanent administrative office that can handle various administration tasks. The secretariat works closely with the membership to make sure it is providing the services and benefits the members want.

### Welcome to this month's 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.

### Scottish

Stephen Andrew, North  
Neil Campbell, North  
Andrew Connor, East  
Ray Crawford, Central  
Steven, Dalg, North  
Val Graham, West  
Gary Harkin, West  
Markus Klausmann, East  
Ross Mitchell, North  
William Spark, North  
Aden Speed, Central  
Gavin Taylor, Central  
Ryan Woolfries, West  
Richard Young, East

### Northern Region

Colin Brown, Northern  
Sam Cassidy, Northern  
Martin Corner, Cleveland  
Simon Hardcastle, Northern  
Mark McEvoy, Northern  
Nick McKenna, Northern  
Alan Purves, Northern  
Graeme Regan, Northern  
Richard Wing, Sheffield

### Midland Region

Mark Allard, East Midland  
Ken Barber, East Midland  
Simon Barnaby, Midland  
Robert Crocker, Mid Anglia  
Colin Crowther, East Midland  
Niall Edmond, Mid Anglia  
Graham Fullager, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Matthew Gibson, East Midland  
Stephen Gilford, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Robert Gull, Midland  
Andy Gurney, East Midland  
Greg Holden, East Midland  
Glen Howard, East Midland  
Simon Keeble, Midland  
Russell Morton, Midland  
Wendy Robinson, East Midland  
David Senior, East Midland  
John Shiel, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Colin Turner, East Midland

Anthony Wilkes, Midland  
Daniel Wilkinson, East Midland  
David Williams, Mid Anglia

### S East Region

Steven Adams, Essex  
Chas Ares, Surrey  
Edward Baker, Essex  
Calum Chinchin, Surrey  
Richard Fry, Essex  
Peter Harsum, Sussex  
Abbie Holland, Sussex  
Jamie Honeyman, Kent  
Scott Horsburgh, Surrey  
Elliot Lloyd, London  
Martin Maytum, Kent  
Roger Mills, Sussex  
George Pickett, Surrey  
Stephen Squires, East Anglia  
Lee Stephens, Essex  
Richard Stillwell, Sussex  
Nicholas Thompson, Essex  
Liam Webb, Surrey

### S West/S Wales Region

Mark Davies, Devon & Cornwall  
Adam Edwards, South Coast  
Kevin Farrell, South Coast  
Andrew Grabham, South West  
John Hazell, South Coast  
Simon Kendall, South West  
Richard, Le Moignan, South Coast  
David Melvyn Leech, South Wales  
Neville Wright, Devon & Cornwall

### Overseas

Shane Buckley, Republic of Ireland  
Colum Cawley, Republic of Ireland  
Hubert Cooke, Republic of Ireland  
Steven Crowley, Republic of Ireland  
Liam Curtin, Republic of Ireland  
Timothy Dennehy, Republic of Ireland  
Finian Doonan, Republic of Ireland  
David Finn, Republic of Ireland  
Peter Hannon, Republic of Ireland  
Graham Harris, Republic of Ireland  
Fintan Kirwan, Republic of Ireland  
Ronan MacCarthy, Republic of Ireland  
John McBride, Republic of Ireland  
Sean McDonagh, Republic of Ireland  
Liam Mooney, Republic of Ireland  
Breandan O Gairbhi, Republic of Ireland  
Kevin O'Dwyer, Republic of Ireland  
Kevin O'Neill, Republic of Ireland  
Tony Rappeneau, Republic of Ireland  
Paul Rourke, Republic of Ireland  
Ian Wiseman, Republic of Ireland  
Graham MacNiven, Germany  
Miguel Vidaor, Spain  
Simeon Liljenberg, Sweden  
Nasran Gorazd, Slovenia  
James O'Brien, USA  
Frank Zamazal, USA

### BIGGA Website

It's on its way.....the new BIGGA website!

Look out for the redesigned BIGGA website, it's packed with new features, improved navigation, new content and enhanced design.

The website will also include improved security log in for members and the facility to make online payments including membership renewal.



### Contact Details

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

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

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)

### Regional Offices

#### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd  
Tel: 01416 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
[pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

#### Northern & Midland

Peter Larler  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
[petelarler972@aol.com](mailto:petelarler972@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 Larler



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline  
02075 603013  
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance  
0800 177 7891  
Greenkeepers Support Services  
0800 174 319  
Debt Counselling Helpline  
0800 174319



# Assistant Profile

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

Jennifer Aniston will no doubt soon be receiving a bunch of flowers all the way from Scotland...

**Name:** Colin Kearney  
**Age:** 25  
**Club:** Drumpellier GC  
**Position:** First Assistant  
**Nickname:** "Sumo"



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**

9 years – feels like 30

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

I am an outdoor person who likes the fresh air and enjoys golf

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**

Rich! A racing driver but probably, more likely, a joiner

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**

I like cutting the semi rough and getting a tan in the sun while listening to the radio

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

Hand mowing greens as it leaves you tired for the rest of the day

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**

Free membership of the golf course

**7. Hobbies?**

Football, golf and snooker... oh, and beer.

**8. Favourite Band?**

The Rolling Stones would have to top the list

**9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**

The number one team in Glasgow... Partick Thistle. No, only kidding. Glasgow Celtic (‘mon the Hoops)

**10. What is your claim to fame?**

Not got one as yet but hoping to date Jennifer Aniston some time soon

# What's your Number?

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

Nick Darking, of Charterhouse Turf Machinery, comes under the spotlight



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

UK Sales Manager

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

I joined Charterhouse in 1989, so 21yrs

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

In truth a visit to the job centre.

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

Removal man when I left school and fitting kitchens, oh and a few months on a golf course.

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

I love sport and always have so visiting any sporting venue is a bonus, not to mention some of the characters you meet, I'm also very lucky to work with a great team of people at Redexim Charterhouse.

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

The level of professionalism within the trade, and the education available to greenkeepers and groundsmen alike.

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

Spare time! Hmm... I have a ten year old daughter so she keeps me busy, but I do love a game of golf.

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

With a 5 at the beginning of my age instead of a 4.

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

Got some great friends in the industry, but will always have a soft spot for the original team at Charterhouse, 20 years ago.


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

Any order number given to me, still get a buzz from them

**11. Pick a number.** 23

*Nick has picked Mike Coleman of Fuchsia Exhibition & Conference Services*

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# Looking ahead...

Ed Philips discusses new latest Pesticide initiatives with Jon Allbutt

## Two days before the General Election on May 6, industry consultation closed on a raft of proposed EU regulations to become law next year.

Less trumpeted than the fateful date when Britain voted, May 4 nevertheless marked another stepping stone along the way to controlling what plant protection chemicals the sport and amenity sector can apply and how it manages them.

The new government has the task of overseeing the progress of the measures – uninvitingly dubbed Pesticides and the Environment – A Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products and Strategy Action Plans.

Although pesticides particularly have continued to be withdrawn steadily over the last few years, June 14, 2011 marks the date when these regulations come into force across all EU member states.

“To keep things on track, we are expecting the next stage to be a public consultation period on the draft regulations to begin in autumn 2010,” says Jon Allbutt,

“But the actual timing will only be set when the new Minister takes up his or her post.”

As former Chairman of the Amenity Forum Jon helped spearhead consultation with the UK Government and the European Parliament over several years to the point where the Forum was the principal body representing the sector and putting across the wishes of end users, such as greenkeepers and sportsground contractors

Although now independent, he was the Forum's representative at UK and EU levels in talks set up to allow the industry to provide feedback on the proposed changes.

“The Forum is now automatically included in consultations,” Jon adds.

“We're beginning to have more input in discussions, which we hope will mean the government begins to gain a greater understanding of what we want as an industry.”

Despite the turmoil of a sector in transition as it prepares for the onset of new legislation, Jon insists that the changes will not affect the UK as significantly as other member states.

“It'll be a question of making adaptations to the existing rules; the impact here will be much less. The sustainable use regulations particularly will have minimal implications.”

For some time, the Forum has promoted the idea of a self-policing system for the UK, which focuses on handling plant protection chemicals in a sustainable way. That modus operandi has given us a head start on most EU states,” Jon argues.

Essentially, much of the new body of legislation is merely laying in law practices and restrictions that are already in place.

It's not all plain sailing, however, with changes in training set to see the most significant implications for the sector, he predicts.

“The impact on operators will be relatively

small as the UK already has very good regulations. It is changes to certification that will cut deep.”

“There are planned changes to Pa1Pa2, a certificate currently used for knapsack and boom sprayer applications. At present, it's a certificate for life but due to the introduction and success of the NRoSO Scheme, that will alter,” Jon adds.

It is proposed that users will have to update certification either through professional development (CPD) schemes via their employers, or every three years be required to resit examinations to regain their certificate.

“It will be dependent on the size of the organisation as to which will have a better cost benefit,” he explains.

Large organisations will find it easier to update three yearly on the whole but if you're a self-employed contractor and not a member of a larger organisation, the CPD scheme might be difficult as you will not know how long staff will stay, so costs could mount up. It does though highlight the importance of belonging to your professional organisation, BIGGA for example, as certification can often be funded through it.”

With further chemicals set to be withdrawn under the sustainable use regulations, Jon stressed the need for UK markets and more importantly government to help move forward a more sustainable approach to reducing pesticides use.

“A good greenkeeper will try everything he can to control weeds before he looks at using any pesticides. They are a last resort. The new EU regulations will require the new Government to undertake research and initiatives to ensure that the UK culture of sustainable use is continued,” he insists before warning:

“It needs to decide a course of action quickly. As yet, no research has been done by any UK Government. We have no history in this country of looking into green approaches to reducing pesticides.”

Under the regulations, the UK will have five years to demonstrate that it is conducting research into green alternatives.

“So far, all the good work the industry has done to maintain sustainability as been done through our own voluntary initiatives, which was born out of previous governments proposing a tax for those that use pesticides. Taxation is not a solution to the problem and it's time some serious research was conducted,” says Jon..

Most of the research quoted and used by the UK amenity sector has been completed in central Europe, with Holland conducting the bulk of it.

“To date, DEFRA have only put up some £60,000 into researching alternatives,” he reveals.

Stepping aside sustainable use, the most immediate effects on the UK will be substances no longer permitted to be used.

It is illegal under current and future EU law to store or use any pesticide that has been withdrawn, so a programme of effective communication about what chemicals can and cannot be applied is essential. “Ignorance is no defence in the eyes of the law,” Jon states.

“Good professionals should have no reason to dispose of pesticides as they should only need to buy what they need, not to store any.

“Carbendazim is to be withdrawn this December and is an important and widely used product for worm control by greenkeepers. By now, alternatives should have already been looked at, and the product phased out ready for the deadline.”

Proposed changes to the maintenance of small and large machinery under the new regulations have caused some concern, he continues, with issues of safety potentially at odds with proposals.

Conflict between EU and the UK amenity sector is a new thing but the

Amendments to regulations governing equipment testing could set the EU and the UK amenity sector on a collision course, Allbutt fears. Under current law, large sprayers require an MOT while hand-held sprayers fall outside the code because of the “prohibitively high cost” of testing them. Regular maintenance is still required under law, however.

In contrast, the latest EU proposals will entirely exempt small sprayers from testing. “It's always been too expensive to MOT small sprayers, and in some cases it's often more cost effective to simply throw them away,” argues Jon. “We're still debating what we believe the best approach for smaller sprayers will be, as their use is a major element for amenity.

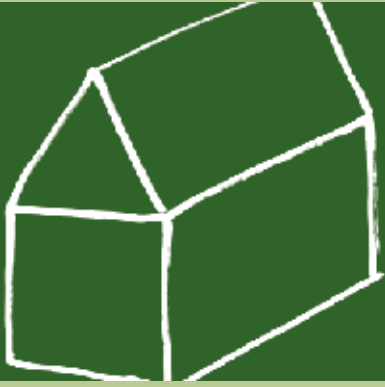
“We favour a voluntary approach to testing but ultimately we believe there should be some scheme in place to ensure testing is undertaken,” he insists.

“Small sprayers tend not to be as well maintained as larger ones, so we believe it's vital to have something in law that will mean people can't just avoid doing it.”

Calibration is another issue that he believes the UK amenity sector in general doesn't do well enough and has voiced his concern about its potential repercussions in law.

“Everyone admits to having learnt about calibration but they tend not to apply it after passing the tests. The important questions end users need to ask themselves is, how do I apply pesticides correctly and am I doing it at the legal rate?”

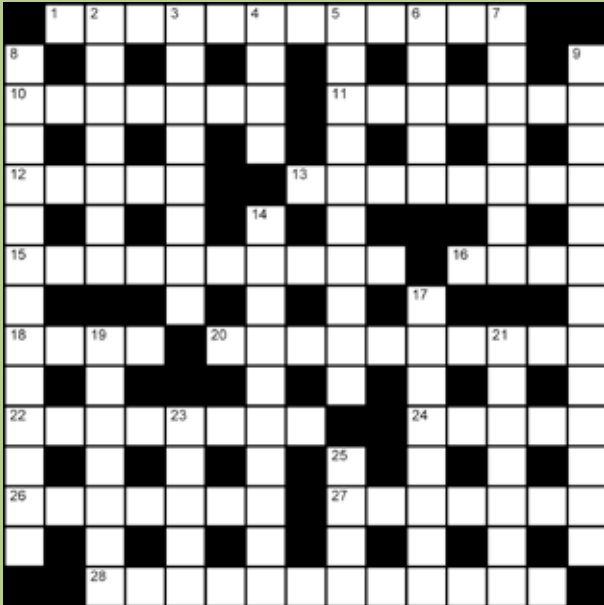
“Calibration is a highly technical process and pesticides application has to be an accurate method. Too much or too little and the effectiveness of the pesticide is put at risk. Calibration sheets can be sent out free either from me, from BIGGA or the GTC (Greenkeeper Training Committee), so there is no excuse for not doing it,” Jon cautions.



# intheshed

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Novel, also known as 'The Modern Prometheus' (12)
- 10 US rapper, real name O'Shea Jackson (3,4)
- 11 The 19th US state admitted to the Union (7)
- 12 Less restrained (5)
- 13 Christian \_\_\_\_, former Fighting Talk presenter on 5Live (8)
- 15 Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during WWII (10)
- 16 Let it stand (Latin) (4)
- 18 A duelling sword (4)
- 20 Exposed (3,2,1,4)
- 22 Chinese puzzle game (3-5)
- 24 Increase (3,2)
- 26 Endure or suffer (7)
- 27 Expanded as if by internal pressure (7)
- 28 Collection of ancient morality tales for children (6,6)

### DOWN

- 2 Short, close-fitting jackets (7)
- 3 Elementary particle with a minuscule but nonzero mass (8)
- 4 'East of \_\_\_\_' by John Steinbeck (4)
- 5 Alert (8,2)
- 6 Peter \_\_\_\_, 2002 World Snooker champion (5)
- 7 Within the shortest distance or interval in space or time (7)
- 8 Operetta by Johann Strauss II, translated as 'The Bat' (3,10)
- 9 'Phiz' to Dickens' 'Boz' (6,1,6)
- 14 Small number of people whose opinions are gathered by researchers (5,5)
- 17 An underground, often labyrinthine passageway (8)
- 19 The spiny anteater (7)
- 21 Yield to one's desires (7)
- 23 Man-eating mythical monsters (5)
- 25 British comedy-drama on Channel 4, 2001-2004 (2,2)

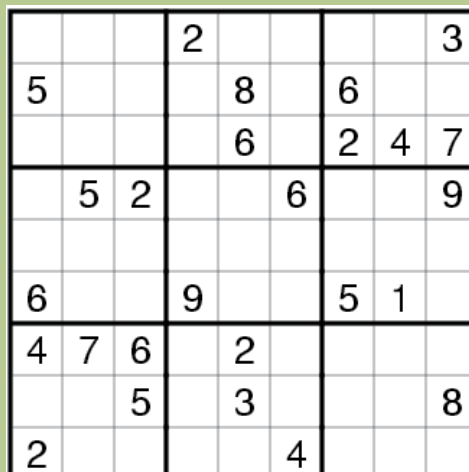
## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - The month of May

1. Who took Tiger Woods, at the peak of his powers at the time, all the way to a play-off in the 2000 USPGA Championship?
2. Name the English born long jumper who represented Italy in the latter half of her career.
3. Who was the boxer who defeated Ricky Hatton in Las Vegas in December 2007?
4. From which club did Manchester United buy centre half David May in 1994?
5. Which County team did English cricketer, Peter May, play for 1950 to 1963?
6. Which English footballer was born on May 2, 1975, and shares his birthday with Engelbert Humperdinck?
7. In which county is Maywood Golf Club? Essex, Somerset or Derbyshire?
8. The BMW International Open is played in at the end of May every year, over which, recently remodelled course, is it played?
9. Misty May-Treanor is an American two time Olympic Gold medallist. In what event?



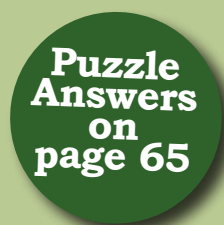
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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.



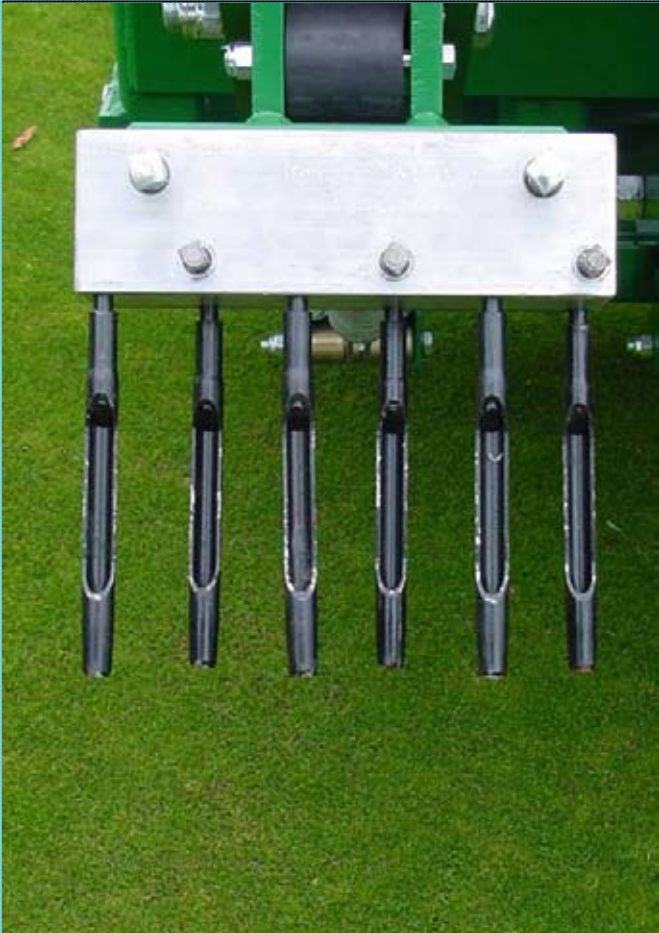
## SUDOKU

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





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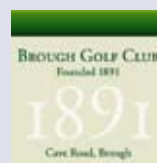
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The vacancy arises due to the planned retirement in 2012 of our long serving Course Manager. Although this is two years away, we are conscious of the time required to find the right person to fill the role and are prepared to appoint well in advance of the due date, even if this results in a significant overlap.

The successful candidate will be capable of organising, motivating and managing the green-keeping team and will work closely with the Committee and Director of Golf to bring a high standard of presentation and quality to the course. Candidates will ideally possess all relevant green keeping qualifications, including NVQ level 3, or equivalent, have spraying certificates (PA1, PA2 and PA6), will have a history of success in a similar environment and will:

- Be able to implement Health and Safety and other relevant legislation
- Understand and assist in the preparation of an annual budget and manage the agreed budget
- Motivate, manage and supervise the green-keeping team
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**Applications in writing including a full CV to:**

**Director of Golf, Brough Golf Club, Cave Road, Brough East Yorkshire, HU15 1HB**  
e-mail: [gt@brough-golfclub.co.uk](mailto:gt@brough-golfclub.co.uk) Website: [www.brough-golfclub.co.uk](http://www.brough-golfclub.co.uk)



## Gerrards Cross Golf Club

Requires an Assistant Greenkeeper



Founded in 1922, Gerrards Cross Golf Club is an 18 hole private member's Club situated in the South Buckinghamshire countryside. The Club would like to recruit an enthusiastic, reliable and experienced Assistant Greenkeeper to join the existing team in maintaining the course to the highest standards. Candidates should ideally have at least 2 years experience and be qualified at NVQ 2 or above. Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Applications should be made in writing with an up to date CV to:

**Lee Robinson, Head Greenkeeper, Gerrards Cross Golf Club, Chalfont Park, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 0QA**

Or by e-mail to: [secretary@gxgolf.co.uk](mailto:secretary@gxgolf.co.uk)

**Closing date 30th May 2010**



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## WOKING GOLF CLUB

**Woking Golf Club is a private members club founded in 1893 and is the oldest of Surrey's heathland courses.**

### COURSE MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER

The Club is looking to recruit a highly motivated individual who is skilled and experienced in professional groundcare machinery.

Applicants must be self supervising and well organized with the ability to work on a wide range of turfcare equipment.

Hours of work :- 40 per week on a rota system (which will involve weekend working).

Benefits include: - Competitive salary, 20 days holiday, uniform, company pension scheme and bonus scheme

Please apply in writing enclosing a c.v. to  
**The Head Greenkeeper, Woking Golf Club,  
Pond Road, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey GU22 0JZ.**

Closing date for applications is 31st May 2010.







# On the Soapbox

A vehicle for letting people within the industry express their point of view, this month with golf enthusiast, Lorne Smith

**It is only natural that club golfers are influenced by golf as depicted on the television, where the emphasis is on long driving, slow play and fast putting surfaces for professional players.**

The problems arise when they want the 'Augusta syndrome', or similar, at their home course.

Fine Golf is a campaign that seeks to raise the profile of the 'traditional classic game' in golf course design and upkeep in comparison with 'lush, target golf' and encourages club members to support their local greenkeepers in following sustainable principles of the kind advocated by Jim Arthur.

How we came to launch the website.

Some 45 years ago, Frank Pennink's *Golfer's Companion* helped me choose which golf courses to play in the Dublin area while planning a week's golf holiday. Being a champion golfer and renowned Course Architect, Pennink knew what he was talking about. It subsequently took me 40 more years to play all 128 of the finest courses across the British Isles and Ireland recommended in his book.

As an ordinary golfer, I was also lucky to come across Jim Arthur's book *Practical Greenkeeping* which provided the key to what these courses, by the sea, on heathland, moorland and downland, had that made them the finest and most enjoyable. I realised it is the firm, dry, fine turf on these courses.

I run an Executive Search consultancy to earn my crust but in 2008 the market fell off a cliff. In the spare time I now had, I decided to launch the website as an update to Pennink's book and to promote Jim Arthur's sustainable methods.

One defining aspect of Fine Golf is its 'Joy to be Alive' feeling.

The British Isles is lucky to have a heritage of the finest golf courses in the world, because our climate allows fine grasses to flourish on areas of poor soil that were not wanted for agriculture.

There are about 2,800 golf courses in the UK and Ireland and some 200 of them can be defined as 'fine'. These are identified by geographical area on finegolf and I have played 175 of them so far.

It is simply not possible to rank courses scientifically and so we have developed the concept of a 'joy to be alive' Fine Golf factor to indicate the level of delight they give.

The costly 'lush, target' game is under pressure

'Lush, target golf' was initially promoted

in the UK by the likes of the quadruple Open Champion, Bobby Locke, from South Africa, in the 1960s/70s (although he was pretty good at the scuttle stuff on firm ground, and was clever enough to adapt his own game to lush American conditions) he suggested that British professional golfers needed to learn how to shoot for the pin, not just the green, in order to beat the Americans. As a result, over-watered greens became the fashion.

However, the real growth era for 'lush, target golf' was in the 1980s/90s during the golf course construction boom when the big, bulldozered, internationally designed courses appeared on ground chosen primarily for commercial reasons near large conurbations rather than for its grasses and natural drainage.

Many tour professionals prefer to play on 'lush target' courses with their predictability of bounce, while commercial television loves the drama of 'signature' holes over water. But as Jim Arthur said "Since when did golf become a water sport?"

The characteristic features of these courses, with their 'pudding' greens in the colder months, are the excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides with consequent pollution, the overuse of water and their enormous maintenance budgets. They do not fit these recessionary times nor the best future for our fine game when the vast majority of ordinary golfers would prefer to play on the likes of courses as listed on the site if given the chance.

[www.finegolf.co.uk](http://www.finegolf.co.uk) is part of the re-emergence of the Fine Golf trend.

Today there is a discernible trend back towards Fine Golf

Examples of this are:

1. Everywhere golf clubs are looking to reduce costs and develop sustainable practices.
2. The R&A has invested heavily in the website [www.bestcourseforgolf.org](http://www.bestcourseforgolf.org)
3. The USGA has created a new tool to measure turf firmness;
4. The traditional greenkeeping Gingerbread movement is expanding;
5. New course developments, like Castle Stuart, The Renaissance and Menei (Trump), all elected to put down fine grasses, as does the new hotel-owned Spey Valley;
6. New regulations on clubhead grooves, promotes the fine game.

Greenkeepers are a vital element in the trend back to fine golf.

Greenkeepers have to satisfy their

customers and we all know that among a membership Club of 500 there can be 500 expert "agronomists"! The ability of Course Managers to communicate coherently through the mediums of newsletters, a page on the Club website and in front of a meeting of members is crucial.

Fine Golf looks to give support and build the confidence of course managers in standing up and fighting for what they know is best long term, which is not necessarily the same as that promoted by television golf, due to those courses being prepared exclusively for that event with little expense spared and should be described as such to avoid misunderstandings.

The site is entirely independent and supported by all progressive golf people and organisations that want to see traditional, classic golf regain its historical importance.

*What can you do?*

Become a friend of Fine Golf, register on the home page of [www.finegolf.co.uk](http://www.finegolf.co.uk) to receive our free newsletter to let you know when new reviews and articles are published and pass on the news to your friends.

## The campaign for Fine Golf welcomes your support



Lorne Smith is a golf enthusiast who has set up his own website promoting Fine Golf

*Lorne Smith*

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

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