



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 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.

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



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

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





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