

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 NOVEMBER 2010



Featured Inside...

Ryder Cup Exclusive

7-page special: How the 2010 Ryder Cup was *really* won

Also inside...

84 pages including: **BIGGA National Championship Review, Photographic Competition Results, Burghley Park Golf Club, BIGGA Delegation News, Jobs for the Boys,** and much more...



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John Pemberton
john@bigga.co.uk

Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

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Editorial

Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum
Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801
scott@bigga.co.uk



Design

**Design and
Production Editor**
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833801
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Kirstin Black

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
kirstin@bigga.co.uk



Sales Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



The finest greenkeeping performance of all time

When I wrote about a successful Ryder Cup in my Editorial last month I did so in advance of the match itself and based my views on what I knew and had seen of Jim McKenzie's preparations.

I did have the foresight to suggest that the weather might be the obstacle to a successful week, but certainly didn't appreciate just to what extent it would play its part.

I also didn't predict that it would be those appalling weather conditions that have given the greenkeeping profession its biggest boost for many a decade, if not ever.

Generally speaking, the lot of the greenkeeper is to toil away in the background, and work on the premise that no news is good news. An occasional bit of praise is nice - from those enlightened people who suspect that a golf course doesn't look after itself - but, as you well know, golf course comment generally carries a health warning and comes with optional hard hat!

At Celtic Manor, however, that "behind the scenes" work was carried out in front of huge soggy galleries and a worldwide television audience of many tens of millions. Had it not been executed in such an expert fashion by the 130 plus Celtic Manor and volunteer staff the Ryder Cup would almost certainly have had a different conclusion, and may have even been abandoned early.

And for a change people noticed.

To read a thread entitled "Three Cheers for the Greens Staff" on the BBC 606 Forum is a welcome first, and shows what a bit of exposure can do for greenkeeping. Admittedly it only got eight replies, but it's a start, isn't it?

In all seriousness, while there must have been times, and Jim McKenzie admitted to as

much in the Ryder Cup Special elsewhere in this magazine, when everyone involved was in the depths of despair and wondering if it was ever going to finish, it will probably go down as one of, if not *The* finest greenkeeping performance of all time.

And, let's face it, if the 2010 Ryder Cup had enjoyed perfect weather and perfect playing conditions it would have been back to the usual state of affairs of no-one noticing.

We, in the business, would have taken pride in what had been achieved and marvelled at the presentational touches and the smooth putting surfaces, but we would have retained a similar public profile to that of *The Borrowers* or the fairies who frequent the bottom of our gardens.

It is a cliché, but bears repeating nonetheless - Without greenkeepers there would be no golf.

With cut backs threatened, or being implemented, at golf clubs throughout the country, those in charge of the sharp pencil should remember as much. A poorly maintained golf course will lead to the fortunes of the golf club heading in only one direction.

On behalf of everyone involved in the sports turf industry may I say thank you to Jim and his magnificent Ryder Cup crew.

Jim, you may have done this industry one great turn.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

GI CONTENTS

A look at what's inside the magazine this month

November 2010

FEATURES

20 Ryder Cup Special... *How the Ryder Cup was won (20-25)*

Jim McKenzie talks exclusively with Scott MacCallum about the most dramatic week in golf

What a week (26-27)

A diary from a member of the Ryder Cup Volunteer Greenkeeping Support Team



28 Golf of the highest standard

How Paul Frith won the BIGGA National Championship

32 Making a lasting impression

At Burghley Park Golf Club

38 A post pesticide prognosis for turf patients and carers

By Dr Terry Mabbett



42 Snap happy

The 2010 BIGGA Photo Comp

48 The anatomy of... a rotary mulch mower



52 Jobs for the boys

Opportunities for ex-servicemen

53 Lean system for lean times

56 BIGGA delegation to USA back on

72 Servicing your most expensive asset



How the Ryder Cup was won

Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie talks exclusively with Scott MacCallum about the finest greenkeeping achievement of modern times

Jim McKenzie was in the middle of his professional life. It was Sunday morning and The Ryder Cup, the event he'd been dreaming about and playing for since 1996, was in the middle of its second big rain delay.

They weren't going to finish that day and there was no prospect of the match not going the full distance for the first time in its illustrious history.

"I was tired of all the ascenders down to the hotel and had a chat with Debbie, my wife, which cheered me up a bit and on the way back I came out of the lift and bumped into Colin Montgomerie. He said, 'Come with me, and we will see a corner and had a coffee,' revealed Jim.

"Colin said, 'The bottom line is this. We're currently two points down and if we don't play today all the matches out there will be drawn and we'll be up on six of them at the moment. If that happens we go into the Singles and two points down and we're not traditionally strong in the Singles. If we can get off the matches completed this afternoon it gives us a chance,' revealed Jim.

With that message ringing in his ears, Jim returned to his room – 66 of his own Celtic Manor staff and 77 volunteer greenkeepers – and urged them to fill their tired bodies once again for yet another monumental effort.

"I told them that I'd just spoken to Colin and that he'd asked that if there was any way we could get playing we could go down in history as the first greenkeeping crew to help win the Ryder Cup."

And that is exactly what happened. The crew worked tirelessly to make the saturated course playable for an afternoon and the players did their bit by turning their overnight boots into feet and a half day and there was no prospect of the match not going the full distance for the first time in its illustrious history.

"If we hadn't pulled it off on Sunday we would have gone into the Singles two points down and we would probably have got no more than nine points, instead of the magic 14.5."

The shift that the guys put in on that Sunday afternoon, and the Saturday night before, was absolutely astonishing – outrageous. And that Sunday afternoon turned out to be the greatest day in the history of European golf," said Jim, who is not one given to hyperbole.

Weather conditions were always the one variable, double about the 2010 Ryder Cup. The venue was custom built to cope with the demands of the third biggest sporting event in the world and no stone had been left unturned in creating a successful Cup.

However, the pressures on the worldwide golfing calendar had pushed the match into October for only the second time in its history and the South Wales weather can be notoriously fickle. And so it was.

"We had 25% of our monthly rainfall in two days – about two inches," said Jim, who did say that a White Open a few years ago had endured three inches of rain and finished within half an hour of its scheduled time.

"Colin asked if there was any way we could get playing, we could go down in history as the first greenkeeping crew to help win the Ryder Cup"

Jim McKenzie

20

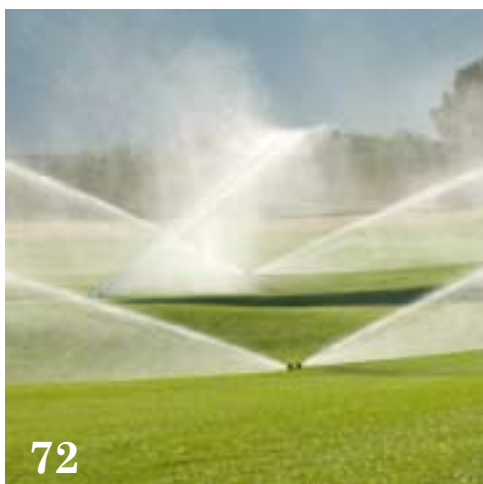




42



52



72

REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 15 Chairman's Word
- 16 GTC
- 17 L&D
- 18 Industry Update
- 19 What's Your Number
- 57 Dealer of the Month
- 60 New Products
- 61 Around the Green
- 65 Assistant Profile
- 66 Chief Executive
- 69 Diary of Events
- 70 Membership
- 75 In the Shed
- 82 Soapbox
– David Jenkins

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

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



Off and Running

Harry Jurgens, of AFT Trenchers, is taking part in a vintage car rally from Peking to Paris.

The route from China to France will take the teams more than 30 days to complete, through more than nine countries, with plenty of stops along the way. 100 cars from around the world are competing.

"We are taking part in the 4th Peking-to-Paris event that retraces the steps of 11 pioneering automobile adventurers in 1907.

"It has also presented us with an opportunity to raise awareness and hopefully funds for Parkinson's disease," said Harry, who is competing with a friend.

Class of '76

David Salisbury, Course Manager at Burghley Park Golf Club, has a huge library of old books and photographs and he has uncovered this photograph taken in 1976 of delegates at a training course at the STRI.

See if you can spot younger versions, and haircuts, of some familiar faces.



SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 COURSE OF INSTRUCTION FROM 22ND - 26TH MARCH, 1976

Back Row: S.R. Griffiths, Mefyn & District G.C.; B.C. Hatcliffe, Birmingham Parks Department; D. Tye, Longcliffe G.C.; P.W. Lehmann, Otley G.C.; A. Morton, West Byfleet G.C.; J.R.A. King, Telford Development Corp. (St. May G.C.); M. Wilcock, Stratford G.C.; N.J. Dwyer, Gris's Dyke G.C.; V.G. Suxham, Loretto School.

Middle Row: F. Fitzjohn, Porter's Park G.C.; M.G. Hawtree, Addington Court G.C.; B. Burton, Powfoot G.C.; T.M. D'Arcy, Castletroy G.C.; V.P. Holden, Warkworth G.C.; K. Almond, Mexham G.C.; P. Dods, Kingsknowe G.C.; N. Wilson, I.C.I. Fibres (Harrogate); S.P. Ellis, Bradford G.C.

Front Row: G.R. Butler, Brett Essex G.C.Ltd.; J.W. Manning, Faversham G.C.; P.J. Frank, Addington Palace G.C.; D. Salisbury, Burton-co-Trent G.C.; S.W. McClune, Coombe Wood G.C. Ltd.; P. Walshav, Silkstone G.C.; J.R. Johnson, The Ganton G.C. Ltd.; S. Hill, Rotherham Borough Council.

GI NEWSDESK
 Email your news to scott@bigga.co.uk

Moffat Man Retires

Robin McMillan retired recently after having served nearly 37 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moffat Golf Club, in Dumfriesshire.

Robin, like myself, was born and bred in Moffat and he developed an interest in golf when, as a youngster, he became a message boy for the local grocer, Mr Stewart, who was also a fine golfer and a great believer in getting youngsters involved in the sport. His method was quite novel. He expected his message boys to caddy for him in the evening, without payment, but he encouraged them to try it out for themselves. I followed Robin as Mr Stewart's message boy and it certainly worked for both of us.

It was with great pleasure that I was able to attend the celebration to mark Robin's retirement. The club and his friends had arranged a golf match and dinner in the clubhouse where a presentation was made to him for his many years of devotion to the club. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening where friends and work colleagues paid their respects and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Robin became a greenkeeper at the club where his uncle was the Head Greenkeeper (nepotism was alive and well). After four weeks his uncle decided to retire and left him as the sole Green Staff member. A daunting task at an 18 hole golf course. Robin embraced the challenge and he has

been a stalwart and a fine example of a hard working and conscientious greenkeeper who has been a credit to greenkeeping and, especially, Moffat Golf Club. Robin has always been a member of BIGGA and a great supporter of the Association.

Robin leaves Moffat in the capable hands of Mike Wilson who has been his deputy for a number of years. Mike is taking on the responsibilities of Head Greenkeeper and we wish him all the best.

Robin is looking forward to all the opportunities retirement will bring.

He is a staunch supporter of Queen of the South Football Club and will now have more time to attend the matches. Golf is also high on his agenda. We wish Robin well and hope he has a long and happy retirement.

*Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator*



PAUL AND JANE UNDERY

Paul and Jane Undery, long time PR consultants for Etesia, were presented with a momento at Saltex by Etesia's Managing Director Patrick Eves, to mark Paul and Jane's retirement.

The couple were invited to Etesia's traditional Saltex breakfast so they could meet up with their friends in the press and say goodbye.

New book for the British Standards Institute

This informative, simple, cleanly laid out book brings together all of the relevant information needed to manage the risks presented by the use of machinery. By answering the most frequently asked machinery safety questions the book offers practical health and safety solutions.

With questions featuring in a purple font and plenty of white space this A5 book would be a valuable read for anyone involved in Risk Assessment and general H&S.

The author, John Glover, is a graduate of the Institute of Occupational Safety and has practised health and safety law and safety of machinery for a number of years.



It can be obtained from the BSI, Group Headquarters, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AL www.bsigroup.com



Golf Environment Award Winners

Portmore Golf Park and James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven Golf Club, are the two main winners in the 2010 Golf Environment Awards.

Portmore, in Devon, won the Overall Achievement Award and James, the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year, and Owner/Manager of Portmore, Colin Webber, and James each win a Study Trip to the USA.

Regional Winners were: Scotland. Loch Lomond GC; Wales. Aberdovey GC; Northern England. Silloth on Solway GC and Southern England. Aldeburgh GC.

Individual Project Award winners were: Nature Conservation. Delamere Forest GC; Water Management. Maesteg GC; Waste Management. Machrihanish Dunes GC and Turfgrass Management. Royal St David's GC.



Bio-inspired

What if you had a product inspired by nature that provided targeted, selective turf disease control?

OPEN DAYS

Ransomes Jacobsen threw open the gates to its European head office and invited the UK turf industry to an Open House event over two days in late September

Over 400 guests, including many current customers, prospects, dealers and distributors, representatives from the media and local dignitaries, attended the event which provided a varied programme of activities. Industry partners including BIGGA, STRI, IOG and GEO were present as were suppliers to the sector, Scotts, Syngenta, Bernhards and Broadwood International.

The event took place in a relaxed atmosphere, somewhat similar to a country fair, with equipment displays and demonstrations, historic Ransomes equipment including the first Budding lawnmower, a working Ransomes steam engine, thrasher and ploughs, factory tours, outdoor games and a nearest the pin competition on the company's three-hole golf course.

On the following weekend a Family and Friends Day with a similar format saw 620 people invade the premises to see the array of turf maintenance equipment produced in Ipswich. A model steam railway provided rides for the children and entertainment included fete and fun-fair-type games, a



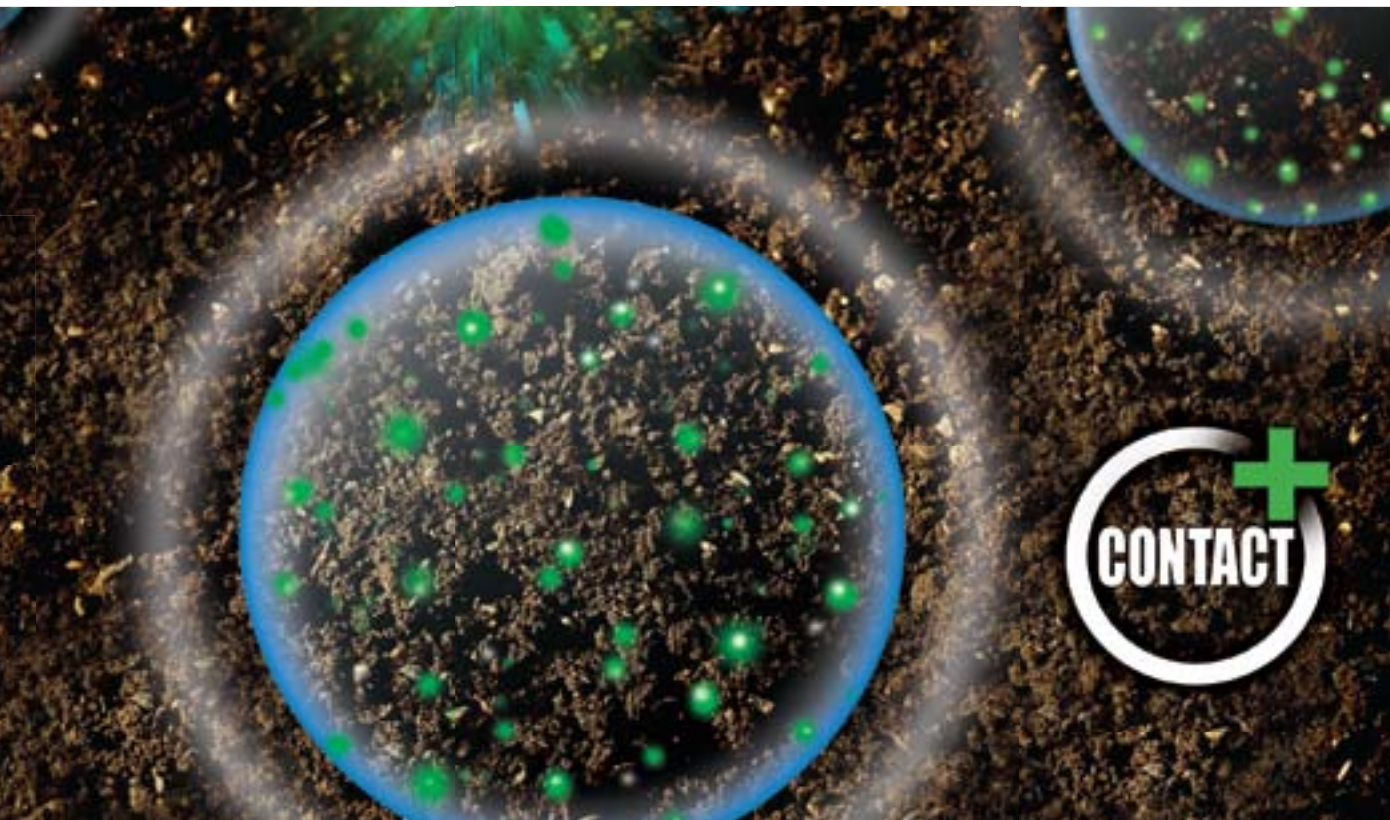
'beat the goalie competition', music from a local school band, a putting competition and a BBQ lunch. The local police and fire and rescue services were also in attendance with their latest vehicles.

Commenting on a very hectic three days, Managing Director, David Withers, said,

"It was quite a week and exceeded all expectations. We had around 430 visitors over the two industry days and 258 of those toured the manufacturing plant.

Some came from as far away as Holland and Austria. Many remarked that they had not appreciated that we produced mowing equipment on this scale, so it was pleasing to get the message across to so many.

"The Family and Friends Day was equally successful and provided the opportunity for the staff to show their loved ones where they worked and showcase how they contribute to the success of the business here in Ipswich," said David.





NORTHERN REGION INTER SECTION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The third Northern Region Inter-Section Golf Tournament, sponsored by Whitemoss ECO Supplies, was held on September 22, at Llangollen GC.

For the first time all six Sections in the Northern Region competed on a fine day on superb course prepared by Course Manager, Jez Hughes, and his staff. The format was a three man team from each Section playing Stableford with all three team members’

scores to count. The event was once again a very close run affair with the Sheffield Section just claiming victory with 108 points over the second placed North Wales team with 104 points.

The longest Drive was won by Paul Roberts from the North Wales Section and Nearest the Pin was won by Andy Peel also from the North Wales Section.

The Region thanks all teams for making the effort to play, some travelling great distances.

The Region’s thanks are also extended to Llangollen Golf Club for providing the venue and some excellent food; everyone was made to feel very welcome. Particular thanks are extended to Andy Law, Managing Director of Whitemoss ECO Supplies Ltd, for his continued sponsorship.

Photograph shows the winning Sheffield Section Team and others from left to right: Stewart Pigott, Sheffield Section; Ian Holoran, Northern Region Chairman; Jez Hughes, Course Manager; Andy Law, Whitemoss ECO Supplies); Matt Holden and Tom Strong, both Sheffield Section.

Back to the Future: The 5th European Golf Business Conference!

“Back to the Future” is the theme of the European Golf Business Conference 2010.

The fifth edition will be held in London: the first time the event been held in the UK - from November 30 To December 2.

An international group of representatives from the golf industry will gather in this city, to exchange ideas of how the game can grow, to discuss current developments of the industry and to share knowledge and information on golf course management.

More information about the programme, speakers and location can be found at the conference website:

www.conference.egcoa.eu.

Protective shield

What if you had a long-lasting protective shield against Fusarium even for the toughest winter?

Nominations Open for the Edwin Budding Award

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association is now accepting nominations for the fourth annual Edwin Budding Award.

The Award recognises those who have made significant contributions to the golf course equipment industry, including those who have excelled in the business, history, education, design, engineering and maintenance of golf course equipment.

Nominations should be sent to nominations@igcema.org and the deadline for nominations is November 26.

The winner will be presented the award in Orlando, Florida, USA during the Golf Industry Show.

RETIREMENT



After 38 years with SISIS, UK Sales Manager, Keith Vertigan, has retired.

Keith started with SISIS as Area Representative for the North West, later moving to Scotland as Manager of SISIS Scotland.

After a very successful few years there he returned to Macclesfield to become UK Sales Manager.

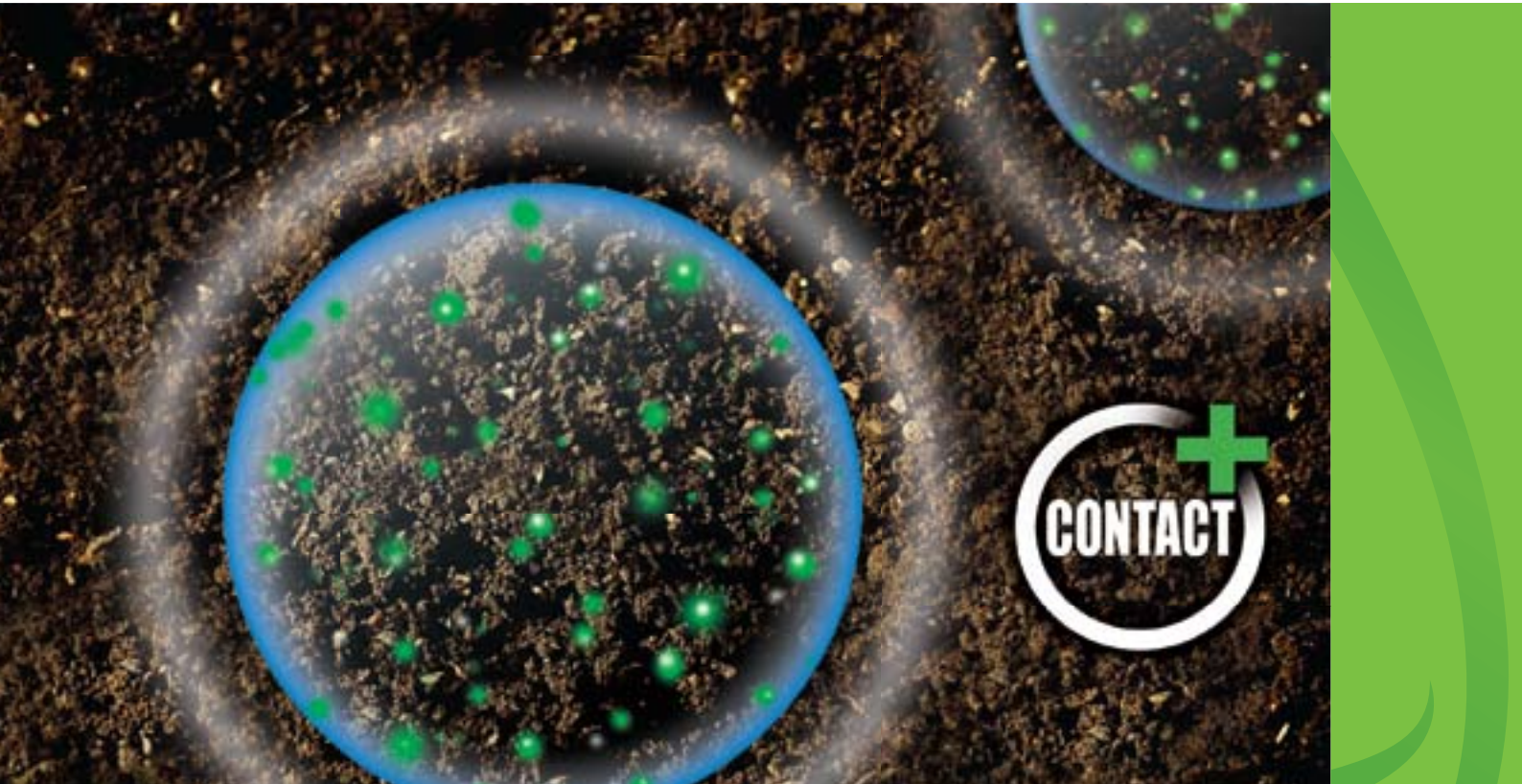
Keith was presented with vouchers so that he can add to his very extensive range of fishing equipment.

He is now hoping to spend more time relaxing at the side of a river – and hopefully catching some fish!!

SISIS new sales team is Andrew Roberts as UK Sales Manager, supported by Andrew Walker as Field Sales Manager and Douglas Boa as Sales Office Manager.

GI NEWSDESK

Email your news items and press releases to **The Editor, Scott MacCallum**, at scott@bigga.co.uk



First for Sutton Green



Sutton Green Golf Club, is one of the first clubs in the area to take delivery of the hybrid greens mower from Jacobsen, the Eclipse 322.

The diesel-electric hybrid mower was delivered recently by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, TH White Ltd of Reading.

Nathan Kim Sing is Head Greenkeeper at the club and has a team of four to help maintain the course.

"About 18 months ago we received a complaint from a neighbour in a nearby house close to one of our greens about noise from early morning mowing.

We took a reasonable approach and changed our greens mowing regime, but it is inconvenient for us as we have many early golfers, especially at weekends, and preparing the greens in that part of the course is an issue for us," he said.

Pay Recommendations

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) feels that it would be inappropriate to recommend any form of increase for 2011 to the salary scales currently in place. In reaching its decision the Committee has taken into account the general economic climate and the impact that this has had on golf clubs throughout the UK.

The CGCS recommends rates of pay as guidelines for Clubs to follow, but is mindful that at all times they remain a matter for negotiation between the individual employer and employee. The CGCS further considers that employers should make an appropriate pay award to recognise any substantial change in responsibility, qualifications or duties carried out by their employees as well as reflecting any changes to legislation governing rates of pay. Performance issues are also an important and relevant criteria in salary negotiation.

The CGCS wishes to draw to the attention of golf clubs the impending changes in pension legislation that will come into force with effect from 2012. From this date both employers and employees may have a mandatory obligation to contribute into a Personal Pension Plan or the Government's National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). Employers should begin to look into how they will be affected and what will need to be put in place in order to comply with the legislation.

Fast knockdown

What if you had a fungicide active in leaves, thatch and soil providing contact+ activity?

Grass Roots Technology

Dean Wood Golf Club has become the first UK course where staff across all three vocational levels are completing their qualifications through the use of E-portfolio technology.

Course Manager, Chris Halkerd has not only embraced his own professional development by completing Myerscough College's NVQ level 4 Sportsturf pilot, a blended learning programme utilising ILM training mixed with innovative assessment methods and short bite sized training certificates, but has also been supporting his staff through their level 2 and 3 apprenticeship programmes using the same methodology.

"The e-portfolio sports-turf qualifications Myerscough provided for me and my staff proved time efficient, well constructed and industry specific," said Chris.

"The new way of completing work based qualifications has allowed me to develop my team of staff which in-turn has benefited the quality and standards at Dean Wood."

"The work-based team at Myerscough College have been operating the e-portfolio system over the last three years.

"Training and support is tailored to each employer and qualification and the Level 4 programme is a best practice example of this utilising ILM tuition and web-conferencing technology to support learning."

Paul McGrail, Work-based Quality Manager, said:

"The use of this assessment methodology is now fully embedded in supporting the college's national delivery model for sports turf with a plan to develop international delivery and embrace other land-based schemes."

David Golding, the GTC Education Director, added:

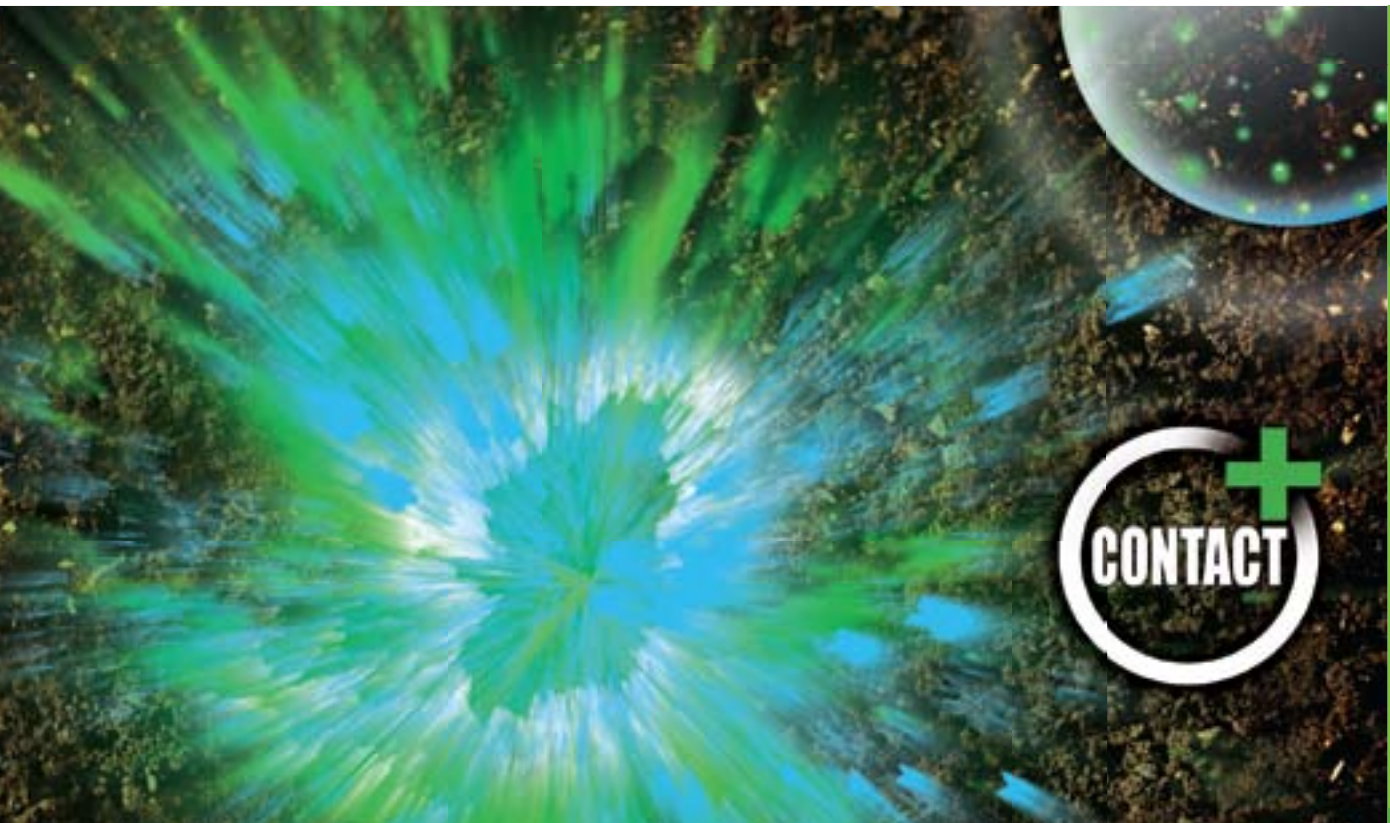
"This innovative delivery option for greenkeeping students is in line with the use of modern technology. The fact that all levels of staff at Dean Wood have enjoyed the e-portfolio experience will I am sure encourage more greenkeepers to gain formal qualifications."



Reward for Ronnie

Liberton Course Manager Ronnie McCrindle received a plaque from Chairman, Stewart Crawford, on behalf of the East Section at the Autumn Outing to the club., to recognise 40 years at the club.

"Ronnie will be retiring in two years time we wish him all the best in his retirement when it comes round. I think he deserves it," said Stewart



Open Day Joy at Druids Glen



Delegates at the recent Barenbrug and STRI Druids Glen Golf Resort open day have given glowing feedback on the event, which revealed the preliminary findings of a new trial taking place at the County Wicklow course.

Over 40 Superintendents from across Ireland attended the day to gain an insight into the Golf Green Differential Input Trial. Established in partnership with STRI, the trial is the first of its kind in Ireland and aims to determine

the influence of both standard and relaxed input maintenance regimes on grass species for golf greens.

Following a welcoming speech from Druid Glen's course Superintendent, John O'Sullivan, on why the 18-hole championship course decided to participate in the trial, Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager, Jayne Leyland, gave a presentation on the company's global breeding programme, before a series of

other informative presentations including Dr Ruth Mann who updated delegates on turfgrass protection and the methods and value of thatch reduction for overseeding and interseeding; Dr Ian McClements who spoke about the STRI Programme and Neil Pettican, Regional Sales Manager for Barenbrug, in Ireland, After lunch Graden's John Fitzpatrick, illustrated how easy it is to implement a species exchange programme with the Graden.



IAN LAVELLE

SISIS has appointed Ian Lavelle as its Area Manager for Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and Yorkshire.

Ian will be well known to many customers in the area as he has been a greenkeeper since leaving school 32 years ago.

Ian is married to Anne. He enjoys walking, snow boarding and water skiing. He also enjoys acting and writing plays and pantomimes.

GOLD FOR OULTON HALL

The Estate's team at De Vere Oulton Hall is celebrating after picking up two top horticultural Gold awards in the space of just one week. These latest awards bring the hotel's overall haul to nine consecutive gold medals for its gardens over the last three years!

After picking up a Gold Rose Award at Yorkshire in Bloom the team were further delighted to be awarded with another Gold in the Best Hotel City Wide category at Leed's in Bloom's Business in Bloom Competition.

The judge's were particularly impressed with the overall standard of bedding displays



and permanent planting at De Vere Oulton Hall, which have been maintained to the highest standard despite it being a very difficult and dry year.

Jim Brown, Golf Course, Estate and Property Manager, said: "These awards are a true testament to the hard work and

dedication of all estates team but especially our fantastic gardeners at the hotel. I would like to thank them for their continued commitment and passion towards the upkeep, maintenance and presentation of our beautiful gardens which give pleasure to so many."

Harrogate Week 2011

The Scottish Region is offering the following package for the Holiday Inn, Harrogate. The accommodation is from Monday 17 January. Three nights, Bed & Breakfast in en-suite rooms on 17th, 18th and 19th January, 2011. Cost will be £165.

To obtain a booking form for the accommodation contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on; 0141 616 3440/07776242120 or email; pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator



Chairman's Word

BIGGA Chairman Paul Worster looks at how we can respond to career challenges in the recession

Best wishes from us all, John

May I acknowledge the efforts of outgoing BIGGA CEO – John Pemberton. As our CEO since 2004, John has helped BIGGA develop into what it is today. John is wished well by all.

I recently met some terrific guys at The Berkshire for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse. Decent, grass-roots greenkeepers with whom we all identify.

Greenkeepers with a natural aptitude for their work, and who look forward to a successful career with opportunities for progression and job security.

Has advancement suddenly become more difficult?

In recent times has job advancement become more difficult, and job security become a thing of the past?

Redundancies, cost saving measures and job sharing are becoming more commonplace in the golf sector, and Greens Teams have to do more with less.

Normal levels of movement within greenkeeping have been reduced. Will this potentially stifle careers? Will greenkeepers get into a rut? How then to break the cycle?

A number I spoke to had clear ideas on how to progress.

- They were beginning to attend local BIGGA Section events
- They were beginning to volunteer for the association
- They were beginning to get themselves noticed.

My advice to anyone in a situation of insecurity and stagnation - take every possible development opportunity, and get yourself out and about.

Your competitors for good jobs are doing just that!

If advancement opportunities are limited then get trained and make your career aspirations known to others so that when a vacancy does occur you are among the best qualified.

Your current situation does not have to be a cul-de-sac – it can be a two-way street for you.

You can attend this FREE seminar

At Harrogate Week in January BIGGA is running an excellent Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers. You can attend this FREE seminar but you will need to enroll in advance.

There will be a Volunteers Workshop to help you to become a much valued volunteer. Again it is a FREE seminar but you will need to enroll in advance. BIGGA is the world's largest membership organisation for greenkeepers at all levels. If you attend, then BIGGA will be there for you - whatever your current position in the greenkeeping profession.

Greenkeepers are the prime focus of the Association

By the time this article is published, there will be some changes to the way that BIGGA does things. The BIGGA Board has been working hard to ensure that greenkeepers are the prime focus of the Association's efforts.

BIGGA Sub-Committees have been converted into Advisory Groups, each one working with a Volunteer Board Director, who through the Board and CEO supports the relevant BIGGA Head of Department. This approach empowers the Association's employees while at the same time making them more accountable to your Board.

In addition, Past Chairmen of the Association have been invited to become special advisors to the Board.

Do Greenkeepers need to broaden their horizons?

Absolutely! If we want a good career and job security we will always need to look outwards.

BIGGA intends to reach out into the wider industry and forge much closer links with the likes of the IOG, the GTC, the PGA, the GCMA, the Golf Unions and the R&A to form an alliance that will have much more clout.

Finally, this column would not be complete without me paying tribute to the efforts of the greens teams helping out at the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor.

You do not need me to describe the scene inside the Greenkeeper Facility. Incessant rain drumming on the roof and a constant and intense pressure to get the event played. What a moment for UK Greenkeeping!

Cometh the hour – Cometh the man (Jim McKenzie - Superintendent). Cometh the Support Team also – the effort needed was immense and exhausting.

For me it brought to mind lines from the famous poem – 'IF' - by Rudyard Kipling: (which I actually have pinned on my office wall)

"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same...."

Could this be a watershed moment for UK Greenkeeping?

If we apply Kipling's sentiment to conditions at the Ryder Cup: What if the weather had not been so bad? The greens team would not have been under quite the same spotlight.

Arguably, because of the conditions, the greenkeeping team turned what might have been complete disaster, into shining triumph. The fact that they responded so completely and comprehensively will be forever remembered by those who were there that week and those who watched it on TV around the world.

Could this be a watershed moment for UK Greenkeeping? I certainly think so. Well done to everyone involved and thanks from all the profession.

The inspirational poem ends:

"If you can fill the unforgiving minute, with sixty seconds worth of distance run, yours is the earth and everything that's in it, and, which is more; you'll be a man – my son"

May I add a personal word - I hope that at this time of uncertainty we greenkeepers will never give up – never back off – and never betray our principles.

Please note that any member can contact the Chairman directly and privately at: talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

As the dust settles on the European Ryder Cup team's win at Celtic Manor, please excuse the pun, those of us working within greenkeeping would never have doubted Jim McKenzie and his team's skills and ability to present the course to the standards that had been planned for months and years.

However, out of very adverse weather the spotlight well and truly fell on greenkeepers far more than anybody could have dreamed of!

Jim, himself a great supporter of greenkeeper training, quite rightly has had so much praise heaped on him and his tremendous team of in-house greenkeepers and the many volunteers for their unbelievable efforts and while extreme, it did help raise the profile of greenkeeping with Sky, BBC and the wider media all homing in on the work of greenkeepers.

It was also a pleasure to hear the First Minister of Wales and Colin Montgomerie pay tribute to Jim and his "ground staff" and greenkeepers for their work during the closing ceremony.

I was pleased to accept an invitation from the PGA to attend the Opening Ceremony and stand alongside the greenkeepers during a ceremony organised with military precision by the European Ryder Cup Committee.

What really struck me was how much closer the various factions of golf have become in recent years and maybe, just finally, greenkeeping and greenkeepers have at last earned the respect they have strived for over many years.

Unsung heroes suddenly are now being recognised as skilled knowledgeable professional members of any golf club management team and whether it is Celtic Manor or the little 9-hole golf course with one greenkeeper I believe the profession is slowly but surely receiving the respect it truly deserves.

A watershed you might say!

I would like to think that some of this recognition is down to the opportunities now available for greenkeeper education and training but there are some very informal methods of communications, which, I believe are worth considering.

All the following I know have been introduced to raise the awareness of the role of the greenkeeper and have improved the status of the Course Manager and his/her staff at the same time "educated" the golfer.

- An evening with the Course Manager often with a supporting cast of Green Convenor/ Chairman of Green and advisor or agronomist.

- A Green Party – an evening when the clubs equipment and machinery is displayed for the members to view their investments and to question the Course Manager on which machine or piece of equipment does what on the golf course.

This I remember as being a huge breakthrough for Ed McCabe, Course Manager at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club, and his great ally at the club, Arthur King, and was subsequently promoted by the English Golf Unions at a series of workshops along with the benefits of a Course Policy Document.

- Since those halcyon days technology has moved on not just in modern golf course machinery but the internet with many clubs now having their own websites.

I am sure many Course Managers have their own ways of handling members questions and answers however recently I was directed to the Royal Ashdown Golf Club's website where Chris Mitchell the Course Manager maintains a feature on; Course Manager – Frequently asked questions.

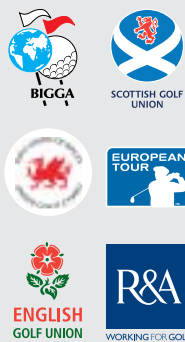
It is well worth a visit to see how Chris keeps his members updated on the work being done or about to be carried out on the course.

The following link will take you there and is provided with the kind permission of the club and Chris.

In Brief

David looks at the various ways Course Managers have adopted to raise awareness to golfers on the work of the greenkeeping staff

The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwick Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk

<http://www.royalashdown.co.uk/html/about-us/course-managers-faqs>

Clubs, both private and proprietary, now produce Newsletters and these often feature a Course News section written by the Course Manager.

- Monthly or quarterly course reports to management seem very much part of a Course Managers job role and these or a summary appear on club notice boards hopefully for members and visitors to read.

Note: To be sure members read a notice always make a spelling mistake, they are sure to tell you! This is at least a sign they have read it!

All of the above thoughts and ideas are designed to assist with the education of the golfer by the Course Manager being very proactive in explaining the work of the greenkeeping staff and how it all is tailored to meet the policies for the course as agreed by the employers.

It is also appreciated, that for some, report writing and making presentations is not one of their natural skills for some Course Managers but with the help of staff within the GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, help is at hand.

BELOW:
Scenes from the Ryder Cup



Learning & Development

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



With the smell of bonfires and fireworks in the air, we find ourselves in November. Time seems to be moving faster and faster these days, the next thing you know it will be Christmas and that only means one thing... Harrogate Week is just around the corner!



Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

Alongside the Workshops and the Turf Managers' Conference that have already been featured in this column, we will be offering an extensive programme of Seminars. Presented by an array of speakers on a wide variety of subjects there is sure to be something that whets your appetite.

Featured sessions:

- STRI – Part of the Winning Team at the World Cup
 - Ryder Cup Cymru
 - Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship
 - The West Course at Wentworth
 - Course Manager to Club Manager – The Challenges
 - Integrated Management of Dollar Spot
 - Demystification of Synthetic Sports Surfaces
 - Working on Your Own at a 9 Hole Course
- For a full list of seminars visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education/seminars.

Remember – all of the Seminars are FREE and are available on a first come, first serve basis. With this in mind, ensure that you are at the Queen's Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.



New Field Guide Launched

The On Course Field Guide to the Legislation of Protected Habitats and Species, written by Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at STRI, has been launched.

The field guide is now available to Members, free of charge by contacting the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3) or by emailing rachael@bigga.co.uk with your name and membership number.

The field guide will also be available to download via the Members Area of the BIGGA website.

The production of this guide has been made possible by the continued support of Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

Events Calendar

Have you visited the Events page of the BIGGA website?

Displaying all of the events that are going on around the country (that we've been advised of) this feature is a useful tool to use when planning your diary.

You can browse the calendar by month, by host or by using the search facility. Clicking on the event



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.

name gives you further information about the event including how many CPD credits will be awarded for attendance (if eligible).

If you have events coming up in your Section that are not listed, send us the information and we'll update the calendar. As Aleksandr the meerkat would say 'Simples!'.

Send your event information to sami@bigga.co.uk.



BIGGA Library

We have added four new books to the BIGGA Library:

- Sustainable Golf Courses – A Guide to Environmental Stewardship – Ronald G Dodson
- Turfgrass Biology, Genetics and Breeding – Michael D Calser & Ronny R Duncan
- Turf Maintenance Facility Design and Management – John Piersol, Harry V Smith
- Managing Wetlands on Golf Courses – Gary Libby, Donald F Harker, Kay Harker

Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:
Graeme Latto – SVQ Level 4 in Management



Contact Details

Sami Collins
Head of L&D
sami@bigga.co.uk

Rachael Duffy
L&D Administrator
rachael@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk

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Coming up Roses

One of the UK's emerging sporting venues is predicting a significantly more streamlined and cost-effective maintenance regime after taking delivery of new John Deere equipment.

The Rose Bowl in Southampton, home of Hampshire Cricket, has agreed a five-year preferred supplier deal with John Deere at the start of the year, which will enable The Rose Bowl to update its machinery fleet as it now moves towards gaining Test Match status in 2011, and complete a new 18-hole golf course over the next three years.

"We wanted a deal that would suit the dual needs of the club, both for the cricket and the growing golf requirement," said Grounds Manager Nigel Gray.

"The preferred supplier deal means that we can augment our current fleet with the latest

machines, giving us vital flexibility as the turf maintenance aspect here continues to grow."

Latest machines to be delivered are an 8800 TerrainCut rotary mower and an 8700 PrecisionCut fairway mower, supplied by local dealer New Forest Farm Machinery.

The 8700 is shared with the parkland golf course next door, where newly appointed Course Manager, Julian Covey, and assistants Ian Reeves and Joe Weston also use the 8800 on the semi-rough.

Under the golf club's membership requirements, the aim is to have at least nine holes always fully operational, so the coming years will require a fine balancing act between new holes being constructed and coming into play and existing holes being decommissioned.



Etesia Dealer Day Success

An Etesia dealer day held at the company's new premises in Shenington, Oxfordshire, brought together over 50 dealers to discuss such topics as the company move, the current economic climate, dealer development, training on the new Pellenc lithium battery powered range of products, and how to increase sales and enhance communication across the group.

The day provided the ideal opportunity to promote the advances and innovative technology from the company with the launch of a new electric Bahia MEE, the world's first rotary mower with integrated collector to be powered by electricity, and which will be available to buy in 2011.

Following a hog roast lunch the guests were split into four groups which then toured the new facilities including separate training centres for Pellenc and Etesia machines.

"The dealer day was a great success and followed a successful press day we held the previous day", commented Les Malin, Etesia UK's GM.

Photograph shows Richard Denny (Centre) with Patrick Vives (Left) and Les Malin (Right) of Etesia gave a truly mesmerizing presentation to dealers on selling in challenging times.

DEALERS REVITALISED BY INSPIRATIONAL TALK

The Etesia dealer day, featured above-right, also provided the ideal opportunity to revitalise dealers' thoughts in the current uncertain economic climate with a presentation from Richard Denny - Business Growth Specialist and Inspirational Business Speaker.

"In today's challenging market place and climate, we need to be more pro-active if we are going to win more business", commented Richard.

"We have all been here before. This is life. To win we have to have product knowledge and skills, but above all else we need the right attitude. Without this we can never hope to succeed. We can achieve anything in life if we really want to and selling today is all about relationships and getting on with people. People buy people and modern day selling is about asking the right questions and not talking about yourself."



Boom to the Future

Castle Stuart Golf Links, in Inverness, is using a New Holland Boomer 3050 compact tractor to help shape the future of golf in the Highlands of Scotland.

Supplied by Elgin-based New Holland Groundcare dealer Ravenhill, the four wheel drive (4WD) Boomer 3050 is one of the first to enter operation in the UK featuring continuously variable transmission

Chris Haspell, Course Manager at Castle Stuart, which opened in July 2009, said:

"We selected the Boomer as it's the most versatile compact tractor in its class"

All Boomer 3000 series models feature New Holland's factory-fitted cab, with its slim pillars and 360-degree visibility.

Chris added: "In addition to the cab, one of the most popular features on the Boomer is the EasyDrive transmission.

"The greenkeepers absolutely love it."

In addition to working around the current 18-hole championship course, the Boomer's workload is set to increase as Castle Stuart Golf Links progresses with the next stage of its development which will see a nine-hole par three course added later this year.



GREENCAST MOBILE PHONE SCREENS

Greenkeepers, students and agronomists now have the chance to win an iPod Touch, by visiting the GreenCast

Mobile website and completing a short questionnaire.

The GreenCast Mobile initiative, which is currently in a pilot phase, is looking to make some of the information from the website - www.greencast.co.uk - more accessible and easier to use as part of everyday turf management activities. The service is designed to work with iPhone, BlackBerry and web-enabled smart phones.

To take part in the project, log on to the GreenCast website and enter a mobile phone number on a designated webpage. An automated text message will be sent direct to the phone, giving a one-click link to the mobile website.

Services already available on the mobile website include a popular quick reference five-day weather summary, detailed illustrated local weather information and disease identification guides, along with links for the products that provide a solution and advice on how to use them.

All participants will be entered into the free prize draw with the chance to win an iPod Touch. The survey can be accessed direct at:

www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B7WGL6VSA

What's your number?

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

Carol Borthwick of Elmwood College

Name: Carol Borthwick
Company: Elmwood College
Position: Director of International, Golf and Student Services



How long in the industry?
28 years with Elmwood College.

How did you get into it?

Started in the horticultural Department of Elmwood when greenkeepers were taught the same curriculum as the horti students. Worked with other Colleges to help set up greenkeeper specific qualifications (late 80s.) We ran the first Full time NC Greenkeeping course in 1990.

What other jobs have you done?

I worked in a garden centre, a wholesale plant nursery. At Elmwood I worked at Ladybank GC and Gleneagles, and as a lecturer and then management of the greenkeeping, golf curriculum areas, and the Colleges 18 hole Golf Course Facility.

What do you like about your current job?

Never a dull moment! Working directly in the student support area across the College is great as I feel I can begin to make a contribution to the student experience.

What changes have you seen in the industry?

The main area which has been a real pleasure to see and be involved in is the professionalising of the Greenkeeping Industry. Elmwood was a key driver in the development of the Greenkeeping profession with a range of courses being developed full and part time including the Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management. I was also part of the original work group that wrote the black book and more recently the development of the European Greenkeeping Education Standards.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

When I get any (!) I try to keep up my golf although over the years that has suffered particularly. I also love walking the dog and doing a bit of running and cycling. I also enjoy some nice meals out with my partner.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I will be in the latter years of full time employment (recession and public spending review allowing!) Hopefully, however, I will still be of use to the education and/or golf industry in some way!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

I have made a huge number of friends across the whole golf industry not only in the UK but also internationally, but it is always the Greenkeeping Industry friendships that I remember most affectionately.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

12

Carol has picked Richard Campey



How the Ryder Cup was won

Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie talks exclusively with Scott MacCallum about the finest greenkeeping achievement of modern times

Jim McKenzie was in the middle of the worst day of his professional life. It was Sunday morning and The Ryder Cup, the event he'd been dreaming about and praying for since 1996, was in the middle of its second long rain delay.

Play wasn't going to finish that day and there was a prospect of the match not going the full distance for the first time in its illustrious history.

"I was in need of a lift so went down to the hotel and had a chat with Debbie, my wife, which cheered me up a bit and on the way back I came out of the lift and bumped into Colin Montgomerie. He said, 'Come with me,' and we sat in a corner and had a coffee," revealed Jim.

"Colin said, 'The bottom line is this. We're currently two points down and if we don't play today all the matches out there will be declared halved, and we're up on all six of them at the moment. If that happens we'll go into the Singles still two points down and we're not traditionally strong in the Singles. If we can get all the matches completed this afternoon it gives us a chance,'" recalled Jim.

With that message ringing in his ears Jim returned to his men – 65 of his own Celtic Manor staff and 71 volunteer greenkeepers – and urged them to lift their tired bodies once again for yet another monumental effort.

"I told them that I'd just spoken to Colin and that he's asked that if there was any way we could get play going we could go down in history as the first greenkeeping crew to help win the Ryder Cup,"

And that is exactly what happened. The crew worked tirelessly to make the saturated course playable for an afternoon start and the players did their bit by turning their overnight leads into five and a half points out of six.

"If we hadn't pulled it off on Sunday we would have gone into the Singles two points down and we

ing event in the world and no stone had been left unturned in ensuring a successful Cup.

However, the pressures on the worldwide golfing calendar had pushed the match into October for only the second time in its history and the South Wales weather can be notoriously fickle. And so it was.

"We had 55% of our monthly rainfall in two days – about two inches," said Jim, who did say that a Wales Open of a few years ago had endured three inches of rain and finished within half an hour of its scheduled time.

"Colin asked if there was any way we could get play going, we could go down in history as the first greenkeeping crew to help win the Ryder Cup"

Jim McKenzie

would probably have got no more than nine points, instead of the magic 14.5.

"The shift that the guys put in on that Sunday afternoon, and the Saturday night before, was absolutely astonishing – outrageous! And that Sunday afternoon turned out to be the greatest day in the history of European golf," said Jim, who is not one given to hyperbole.

Weather conditions were always the one nagging doubt about the 2010 Ryder Cup. The venue was custom built to cope with the demands of the third biggest sport-

Ironically, if the match had been played a week before or a week after there wouldn't have been any problems at all as the weather was just fine.

"When the volunteers arrived on the Saturday before the course was looking better than it had ever done," he recalled.

"However, we had 13 mil during Wednesday practice and could see things getting worse, but on Thursday we got fresh information from the on-site meteorologist that it wasn't just going to be wet on Friday it was going to be appallingly wet."

The European Tour had invited Gerry Byrne, Superintendent at the K Club, venue for the 2006 match, as well as Scott Fenwick, Superintendent at Gleneagles, venue for the 2014 match, as guests and, earlier in the week, Gerry had offered his successor one piece of advice.

"Gerry said that he didn't think we had enough chip bark in stock. I said, surely not we've got loads here, but Gerry was right and on Thursday night I was getting lorry loads brought in - £25,000 worth, thanks to Inscapes, the Bridgend-based contractor, who managed to source it from all over the place."

That night was probably the first time that the 130 strong army of green staff discovered what the week was to have in store for them.

"The work that the boys put in on the Friday had to be seen to be believed. Sir Terry Matthews actually came down to tell the guys that they had probably saved the Ryder Cup, and I told them that they had put the matches back on track."

Jim McKenzie

"We were up all Thursday night managing the arrival of the lorries. It wasn't quite the start to the Ryder Cup that I'd envisaged. I'd always pictured myself standing of the 1st tee for the first game," said Jim, who is now the only man in history to have managed a course for a Monday finish of a Ryder Cup.

"The work that the boys put in on the Friday had to be seen to be believed. Sir Terry Matthews actually came down to tell the guys that they had probably saved the Ryder Cup, and I told them that they had put the matches back on track."

"Blow me, if it wasn't to get worse on that Sunday!"

A month beforehand Jim was actually concerned that he'd dragooned too many volunteers and that he might struggle to find sufficient work to keep them occupied.

"We then had a night of really

bad rainfall which demolished a lot of the bunkers and I realised that I didn't have too many after all. As it turned out I couldn't have survived with even one fewer."

With multi tee starts at various times during the week deploying resources was not straightforward and Jim split his crew into 10 smaller teams who attacked the course quickly and efficiently all at the same time - each armed with squeegees, roller mops, pumps and bunker rakes.

All this time other crew members, including Jim's son, 14 year-old Elliott, and wife, Debbie, were out throwing chip bark and pushing water off fairways.

The galleries had not been allowed on to the site on the Sunday morning, some staying in their cars from 6am to noon,

to allow the clear-up work to take place.

"When they were on site they were using the cart paths which meant that we couldn't get around the site," explained Jim.

The delayed Monday finish meant those volunteer crew members with flights booked, work or family commitments had to leave, although amazingly around 55 of the 71 were able to extend their stay.

"Those who had to go were gutted to have missed Monday, and I was gutted for them, but everyone rallied round. Complete Weed Control, as a prime example. Alan Abel, one of the franchise owners in the area, cancelled all his work on the Monday and brought his staff in and they worked with the gardeners and threw on chip bark for us early in the morning," said Jim, who saw fog delay the start of the Monday for five minutes.

"I was wondering what was coming next - snow!"

The volunteers had come from far and wide and drawn from a 300 strong list of applicants.

"They were from Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, America, Holland, as well as the home nations and a significant proportion from the local area. They were all easy to motivate because they all wanted to be there. I've had emails from many of them saying that it was the greatest week of their lives."

Those who watched Jim closely during the week commented on how calm and assured he was during what was undoubtedly the most stress filled period of his life.

"There were places I could go when I was a bit down or when I wanted to punch the wall, but

there were a lot of people who were a calming influence, Guys like Billy McMillan, Russell Anderson, Angus McLeod, Robert Johnstone and Steve Chappell, the South Wales Section Secretary, who was superb. He actually organised 10 caravans for the crew and provided them complete with rooming lists, which was such a help to Nicola, who was handling our administration."

Another great source of support was Chris Kennedy, and his partner, Jill.

"Chris is the most experienced tournament host in our industry and his contribution in terms of encouragement and how to deal with the politics associated with situations like this was invaluable and could not have come from anybody else."

So having missed the opening tee shots on the Friday how much of the Ryder Cup did Jim actually witness live?

Ryder Cup Memories

"The extreme weather would test the best. What a team effort from everyone involved everyone pulled together it's not the golf I will remember but the team preparing the venue because they proved that anything and everything is possible. Well done Jim and his team you were amazing."
Billy McMillan

"Sunday, pouring with rain, message from Monty - "If the fourballs and foursomes don't get finished Europe would go into the singles two points down, so not pressure at all! The team worked brilliantly, pulled together by the atrocious weather; it would not have been played without the fantastic efforts of dedicated greenkeepers."
Chris Sealey

By day and night: The team of greenkeepers work through the night, and below, the same hole in the day...

BOTTOM: A team briefing

"I saw three shots all week and two of them were putts," he laughed, adding that he had watched Graeme McDowell's heroics on the 16th and attempted to get to the 17th only be thwarted by the massive galleries.

Instead he headed for the 18th green to join in the celebrations where he got news he'd been waiting for.

"I was told that there was room in the seating area of the Closing Ceremony for us all which was amazing.

"As we walked to the seating area from the 18th green there must have been 20,000 people all cheering and clapping the crew. There were young greenkeepers in tears. Then when we were taken into the closing ceremony we were given a standing ovation. It was an absolutely extraordinary moment for our industry," said Jim, who added that a fulsome tribute was also paid to the team

by Colin Montgomerie during the ceremony.

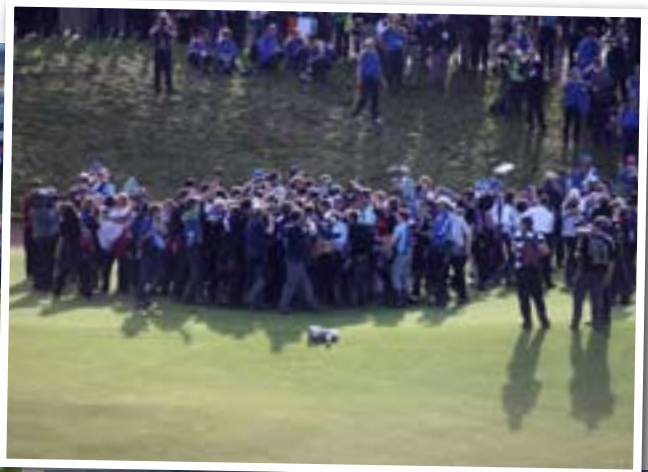
If the greenkeeping crew drew justified accolades, so did the 2010 golf course for handling everything that was thrown at it.

"I've been assessing the damage and everything inside the ropes, tees, fairways, greens is bone dry. We're really pleased with it. Even the spectator crossing points are absolutely fine, not a mark on them, which is testament to all the top dressing, drainage and sand bagging that we've done.

"But, it's the areas outside of the ropes which had taken the hit. We had a third of a million people walking on it over six days and it just acted like a big rotovator. I must admit, I've never seen anything like it.

"The police gave me a framed photograph taken from a helicopter on Friday and it looks like a desert course. Just stripes of green and everything else mud."





With the course scheduled to host the Wales Open in May, next year and the last of the structures not due to leave site until December 6 time is tight and although the Roman Road Course, has hosted the Wales Open before and could do so again, there is pressure for the 2010 course to put its best foot forward again.

“It’s going to be a combination of seeding, turfing, harrowing and rolling. No rest for the wicked, I’m afraid.”

So, a week on from that famous Monday, what were Jim’s reflections?

“The greatest highs and the greatest lows of my entire life, all in the space of four days. Friday morning and Sunday morning were extraordinary lows, and Monday afternoon, when it was all over and the guys were getting that ovation, was the greatest high of my career.”

He also had nothing but praise for his crew.

“They were working from 5am to 8pm a lot of the time in the cold and wet. We tried to keep them warm and we fed them well, but there was a lot of down time waiting for the rain to stop. It was actually very humbling to watch.”

And how close did the Ryder Cup come to not finishing with all 28 points accounted for and, possibly, a different result?

“Probably a couple of hours, possibly just an hour, because if we’d started any later on the Sunday we wouldn’t have had Saturday completed and if we hadn’t finished there was no guarantee that we would have finished on Monday.”

A lot has been written and a lot has been said about the 2010 Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor Resort but no man, outside of Captains and players, experienced it in quite the same way as Jim McKenzie.

Ryder Cup Memories

“Jim McKenzie being followed down the 18th by his 140 greenkeepers. It was at the start of the Closing Ceremony. Jim appeared and the greenkeepers saw him and joined the procession. We were escorted into the VIP area. We were all being cheered by the enormous crowd who recognised that we were the greensstaff. The noise was incredible and will live with me forever.”

Angus Macleod

“Watching the final putt on 17 from behind the crowd on the big screen, turning to walk back to the sheds and spotting Jim (McKenzie) doing his impersonation of Ski Sunday, sliding down the viewing bank to the left, and then walking with him down 18. Watching the weight of the golf world lift off his shoulders was superb.”

Colin Webber



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Ryder cup crowds follow the action; photographers surround the winner; sky view, and three course pics showing the state of the course after the tournament





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What a week

Peter Holmstrom has always dreamed of helping Europe win **the Ryder Cup**. Ideally this would be during a tournament played in front of a packed home crowd in Wales. It just so happens that some dreams do come true. Peter picks up the story...

“I have been working with Jim McKenzie, the Course Manager at Celtic Manor for over four years through my role as a Technical Sales Regional Manager with Countrywide. As a result, Jim invited me to join the 70 strong greenkeeping Support Team for the duration of the Ryder Cup. I knew it would be a special occasion and a high point in my career, but I didn’t anticipate just how memorable the whole event would be, for the players, the staff, the spectators and for Wales itself.”

Peter is a proud Welshman, Newport born and bred, and whose links with Celtic Manor go back many years:

“I am so fond of the resort anyway. I remember when construction at Celtic Manor first started, as a teenager I watched as the resort gradually took shape, and at 16 years of age I first worked at Celtic Manor as part of my schools work experience scheme.

To be invited to return to the resort 15 years later as part of a specialist team of greenkeepers was a huge honour, plus I am a massive Ryder Cup fan!”

The Support Team was divided into teams comprising of five members, and each member was allocated specific roles, including

cutting tees, bunker care, replacing divots, course maintenance and assisting with cutting greens and fairways when required. It’s not only the course itself that needs attention, but the putting and chipping green practice areas and VIP enclosures.

The team was due to work from Monday, September 27, through; preparation and practice days, the tournament itself starting on Friday October 1 and finally for the first time ever, Monday, October 4.

Peter was aware that the biggest challenge would be the weather, “If it’s wet then moving moisture off the course becomes key. The course has been prepared for the worst, for example, on the chipping and putting green practice area, which has limited irrigation, I have worked with Celtic Manor in the build up to the event by supplying a maximum moisture retention material through a 4mm screened peat and sand mixture dressed into the grass sward. Although we know how disruptive the weather might be, no one anticipated the impact the rain would eventually have on the tournament”

Peter was asked by Countrywide if he would capture his time at Celtic Manor in a daily blog to appear on the Countrywide website.

Here follows a selection of the best of that blog...



ABOVE: That’s me, mopping one of the greens, and BELOW: on a mower.



Mon 27 – Thur 30 Sep

Each day we would start work before 5am, arriving at the greenkeeping service compound to be greeted by Jim McKenzie and to be given our respective jobs. We would work until lunchtime, and then following some free time, do our jobs for the afternoon. 12 – 15 hour days were not unusual.

I was delegated the task of being in the special maintenance group for the week which means that I support the fairway cutting crew, possibly raking bunkers during the matches and any other special maintenance to be carried out on the course.

During my allocated time off, I was lucky enough to meet some golfing superstars. On the first day I went to watch Ian Poulter practice, he was accompanied by Darren Clarke, who bizarrely gave me a driver during a golf tournament 17 years ago. I reminded him of this, "Can you use it," he asked, to which I said, "No, it's too stiff."

"That's why I gave it to you in the first place," he replied!

On the Wednesday the rain came, 15mm fell in four hours. With both teams out on the course practicing the rain came down heavier and puddles were starting to form on the greens, I joined up with three other greenkeepers to remove water from various putting greens.

On Thursday, walking from the 8th to the 9th tee, I had the opportunity of a lifetime. Would I be brave enough to ask Tiger Woods for his autograph, I did and he obliged. I have his signature on the back of my identification card, and a beaming smile from ear to ear.

After lunch we were allocated the job of placing wood chip bark onto the course for players and spectators to get easier access around the wetter areas of the golf club. In convoy we headed out in club cars loaded with chip. We stopped to watch the Opening Ceremony, including the raising of the flags, introduction of the players, all accompanied by Katherine Jenkins singing.

Following this we headed out with more chip bark until it got dark, completing a 15 hour shift. Exhausted, I arrived back at the yard to see another 29 tonnes of wood chip being delivered!

Fri 1 Oct - day one of the Ryder Cup

My day began again at 5am. 45,000 spectators were on their way; heading to what would be a trying and testing day for everyone concerned.

The rain was pouring down, so only a few of us had jobs. I was to sit and wait for my call. The matches started on time but the rain was getting harder. The shout came and my colleague and I ran from our sheds to the 1st green to push the water off.

We got there just in time to see Jeff Overton, (USA team), hole his putt from off the green. As that was the last match, we headed out to the 5th to squeegee the fairway

clear of water. The weather was getting worse and we were facing a losing battle.

The second match arrived but play was suspended. We tried to clear the course at midday but to no avail.

The rain just came harder. The final shout came at 3.15 - we were to try again. I left with my "pump team" to clear water from the bunkers and push water off the greens and fairways - it was hard work. Finally, seven and a half hours later, play resumed.

It took us until nearly 7.30 to clear the rest of the course. It was a huge effort and I cannot believe, after seeing the pictures on the TV, what an achievement it was. We had a final briefing from Jim McKenzie. He was fresh from the Media Centre where an American journalist had commented that no other greenkeeping team in the world could have achieved what we had.

I have to mention my colleagues for together working so hard to pull off that miracle.

Also to the crowd who stayed throughout the day and kept us all motivated, encouraging us every time we cleared a green, a bunker or a fairway by giving us the loudest cheers, and to the gang of American Vikings who sang to us all on the 6th fairway!

Sun 3 Oct - European golf's (and greenkeeping's) finest day

Rain was falling hard again and all the talk was about how the course had never been this flooded - would this be the first Ryder Cup to be cancelled?

Overnight Europe were leading in all six matches but if play did not start by 18.43 all matches would be deemed a half and Europe would be two points down going into the singles matches.

The weather broke and at 10.30 we hit the course hole by hole pushing water off greens and fairways, pumping water out of the bunkers and raking up all the washed down sand (that evening I watched myself raking a bunker on the 18th fairway on the news!).

We all worked so hard and were absolutely shattered by the end but somehow we managed to get play started by 1.20pm - a day that would go on to be remembered as European golf's finest day!



ABOVE: Our convoy.

Mon Oct 4 - The final day

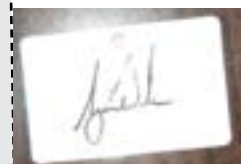
As this was the final day, everything was to be cut and presented perfectly, and despite the rainfall of the last five days, the course was immaculate.

With our work finally completed we were able to go out and watch as Europe reclaimed the Ryder Cup by a single point. We watched as the players celebrated with countless thousands of fans. As a team, we walked down the 17th fairway, crossed the bridge to the 18th green where we gathered to make our way to the closing ceremony and trophy presentation. As we walked toward the ceremony the fans recognised who we were and a clap quickly turned into a huge standing ovation.

I have never been so proud in my life. As a team, we were getting the recognition that was rightly deserved for our unbelievable achievements in making this Ryder Cup playable, for our part in the success of the European team and for raising the profile of greenkeepers and turf professionals worldwide.

This was the tournament where a small team of skilled greenkeepers became one of the most respected groups of people within the golfing world.

BELOW: Recognise this man? It's amazing how close you get to the stars!



ABOVE: Tiger's autograph

BELOW: Some of the team

To read Peters blog in full go to: www.countrywidefarmers.co.uk/celticmanorblog



Golf of the highest standard



Spectacular surroundings inspired the players in the 2010 BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse



Faced with the challenge of two of the finest inland courses in England, BIGGA's best golfers rose to the challenge, and the scores they posted over The Berkshire's illustrious Blue and Red courses were extremely impressive.

To illustrate, one handicapper John McLoughlin, of Grange Park Golf Club, in Liverpool, had to reload on the 1st on day one, had a treacherous par-3 and ran up a 5, though he played the next 17 holes in five under par for a superb 68. Despite playing the Red Course in a very respectable four over par 76 his 144 total was only good enough for third overall.

Eventual winner, Paul Frith, thought he had too much to do when a third of the way round on the second day. He was one over par playing with John, who was one under at the time.

"I reckoned I was around six shots behind but had a strong back nine, as I'd had on the opening day, and John started to drop a few shots

and I just made it," said Paul, who was Leicestershire County Captain from 1998-2001.

The scratch man who played off +2 for around six years had previously won a host of events in the Midland area including a stellar year in '93 when he won the County Championship, Amateur Championship, and County Open in a field which included pros but he sees his latest win as one of his best.

"There was a very good field with some low handicappers in it and being a National title it means a lot to me," said Paul who just edged +2 man, Laurie Tremlett, on a card play-off.

Paul was familiar with the two courses having played in The Berkshire Trophy about five or six times.

"I made the cut every time and my best finish was 11th," he said.

"I would hope to come back and defend the title next year at West Lincs Golf Club. I've not played the course before but I've heard some good reports about it.

John McPherson had more reason than most to celebrate the biggest win of his golfing career when he lifted the BIGGA Challenge Cup for Best Nett.

Twelve months before he had been competing well at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club but fell foul of a scorecard error and was disqualified from the over-all event.

His playing partner had marked him down for a 4 at the 8th when he'd actually taken 5



ABOVE: From left to right, Nick Darking, John McPherson, Paul Frith and Colin Hood. LEFT: John McLoughlin. BELOW: Laurie Tremlett

"There was a very good field with some low handicappers in it and being a National title it means a lot to me"

Paul Frith, Challenge Trophy Winner







LEFT: Darren Mitchell receives the BIGGA Challenge Bowl. ABOVE: The Berkshire Course Manager, Ian Morrison, with Paul Worster

and unfortunately he hadn't noticed when he came to sign his card.

"That was very disappointing but made me all the more hungry to do well this year at The Berkshire," explained 16 handicapper John, who works at Richmond Golf Club.

"I drove really well on the first round and then it was my putting that was great on the second," said John, who shot nett rounds of 67 and 68.

John moved south two and a half years ago having worked, and learned his golf, at Callander Golf Club, in Perthshire.

"I've paid my own entry fee both last year and this and I'll certainly be looking to defend my title next year. It really is a wonderful event and I really enjoy playing in it," he said.

John finished three shots clear of 5 handicapper, Ed Ainsworth, who followed up a solid nett 72 on the

"I've paid my own entry fee both last year and this and I'll be looking to defend my title next year. It's a wonderful event - I really enjoyed it"
John McPherson, Challenge Cup Winner

opening day with a spectacular nett 66 on the second.

Paul Davey was third with a nett 142.

Alistair Higgs clinched the Day 2 Stableford with 39 points and Darren Mitchell, won the Affiliate Prize.

The Regional Cup, played for on the opening day was won by the South East with a score of 274.

The event was well supported by sponsors Kubota and Charterhouse with Colin Hood, from the former, and Nick Darking and Richard Heywood, from the latter, on hand

to offer support to the players.

Another feature of this year's Championship was the opportunity to win a £20,000 Mini Clubman car, courtesy of Rigby Taylor.

The car was on offer for a hole-in-one at one hole on each of the two days but unfortunately, despite some gallant efforts no-one drove off in it.

BIGGA would like to thank Kubota and Charterhouse for their title sponsorship as well as hole sponsors – Toro, Burden's Golf and Turf, Pinseeker, Irritech, Tacit, Irrigation Control and Headland Amenity.

National Championship Results

BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY (Best Gross)

1. Paul Frith, 143 (Card Play-off)
2. Laurie Tremlett, 143
3. John McLoughlin 144

BIGGA CHALLENGE CUP (Best Nett)

1. John McPherson (16) 167-135
2. Ed Ainsworth (5) 148-138
3. Paul Davey (4) 150-142

BIGGA CHALLENGE PLATE (Day 2 Stableford)

Alistair Higgs, 39 pts

BIGGA CHALLENGE BOWL (Affiliate Prize)

Darren Mitchell, 158.

BIGGA REGIONAL CUP (Day 1 Four Best Regional Nett Scores)

1. South East, 274 – John McPherson, Nick Brewster, Antony Kirwan and Simon Wells
2. Northern, 289 – John McLoughlin, Ed Ainsworth, Christopher Hardwick and Rhys Butler

DAILY HANDICAP PRIZES

Day 1

- +2-5 Nick Brewster
- 6-12 Antony Kirwan
- 13-24 Simon Wells

Day 2

- +2-5 John Keenaghan
- 6-12 Steve Gunner
- 13-24 Stewart Rogers

SPECIAL PRIZES

Day 1

- Nearest the Pin Gary Burgess
- Longest Drive Andrew De Welt

Day 2

- Nearest the Pin Tim Morgan
- Longest Drive David Simpson

The Hole-in-One Prize of a Mini Clubman car sponsored by Rigby Taylor on the Blue Course (10th hole) and Red Course (16th hole) went unclaimed.

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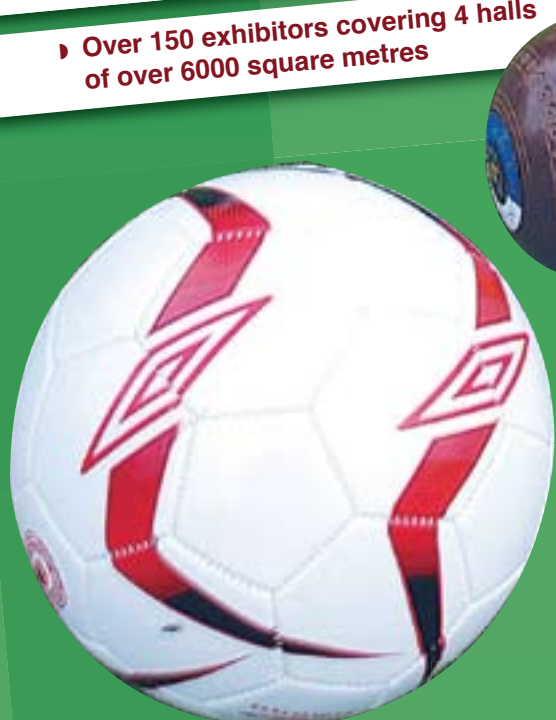
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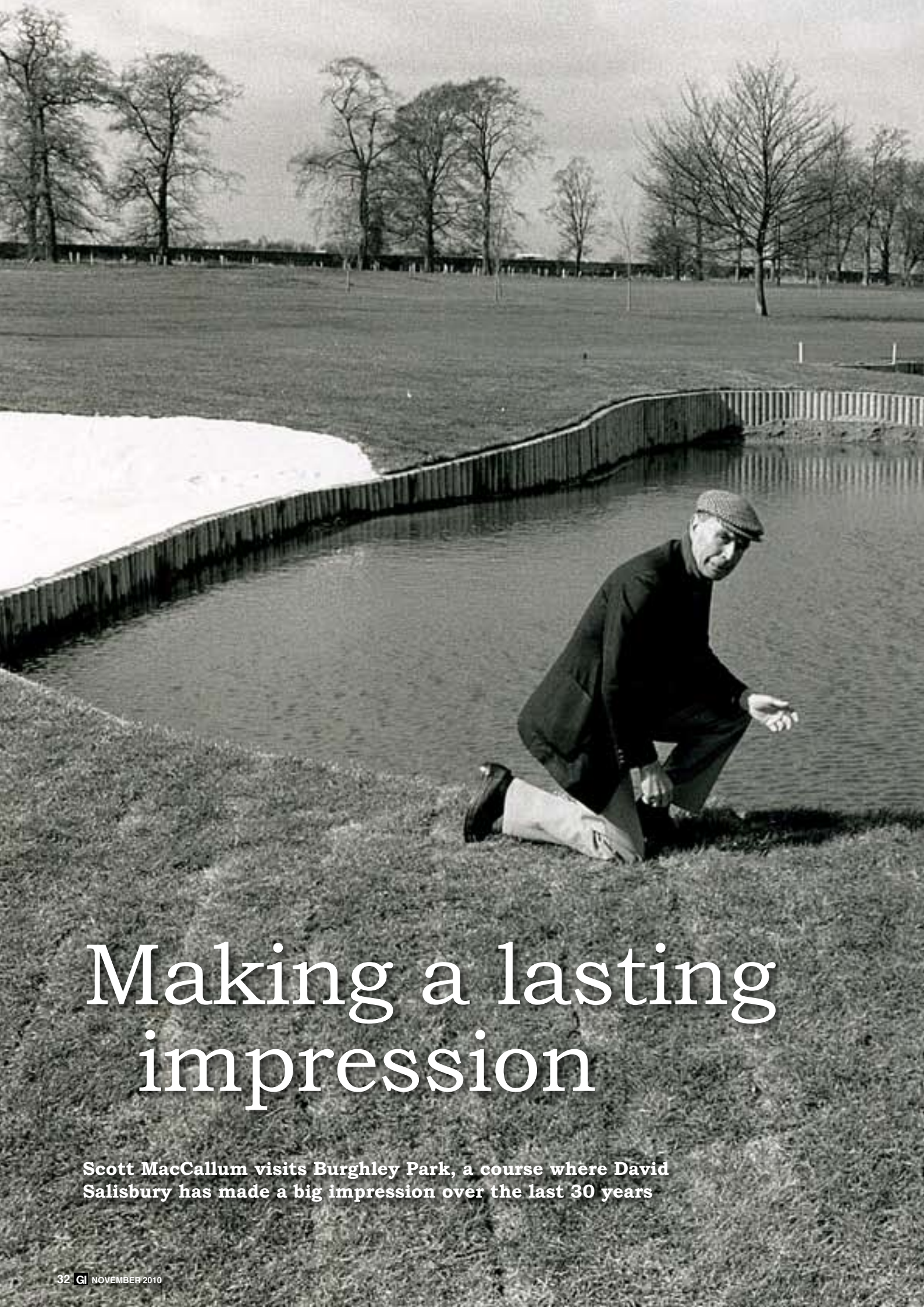
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Making a lasting impression

Scott MacCallum visits Burghley Park, a course where David Salisbury has made a big impression over the last 30 years



We are always told that first impressions count and that this is never more important than at an interview. However, it was a strange role reversal when David Salisbury turned up for his interview at Burghley Park Golf Club, in Stamford, 30 years ago.

David was dressed immaculately and looking every inch the prospective new Head Greenkeeper of the club. It was when he took a look at the golf course that his first impressions were not what he expected.

"When I drove through the gate my first thought was that some sheep had escaped from

a neighbouring field and were roaming across the course. The course was full of them," recalled David, not knowing that at that time, as part of the Burghley Estate, the golf course was used to graze sheep, and the shepherd lived in a lodge on the edge of the golf course.

Having first been interviewed by Club Chairman, Jimmy James, father of Mark, David then faced Secretary, Howard Mulligan, who concluded the meeting by taking him out onto the golf course itself.

"We walked to the 7th green, almost in a straight line from the clubhouse and Howard then

turned and said 'There you are, David. That's Burghley Park Golf Club.' I asked him if it was the front or back nine and he said it was the whole course," said David, who was at Burton Golf Club, in Derbyshire, at the time.

An aerial photograph, hanging in the clubhouse and taken in 1969, but showing a golf course not much different from the one David encountered 11 years later, confirms his memory. Other than a single copse of trees around the 3rd, 4th and 5th holes, the picture shows a triangular area containing 18 holes, no bunkers or any real discernible features whatsoever.

MAIN PHOTO: David in the early days at Burghley, and BELOW: as he is today, with his son





LEFT: How growing trees has improved the surrounding area of the pond from how it used to be (BELOW)

RIGHT PAGE: A current view of the old green which opens the article (PREVIOUS PAGE)



RIGHT: Before the club was renovated (ABOVE)



“Jimmy James said he wanted me to play golf over the course and even expected me to become a member of the club”

David Salisbury

However, three things encouraged David to feel positively about Burghley Park.

“One. Jimmy James said he wanted me to play golf over the course and even expected me to become a member of the club, which was totally different to what I’d been used to. Two. Walking to the 7th I had my head down looking at the grasses, which, perhaps because of the sheep, were excellent, bents and fescues. Three. My wife fell in love with Stamford as we drove through the town on the way to the interview.”

David was offered, and accepted, the job, and the following 30 years has seen the golf club transformed - although it does have to contend with some unusual turf maintenance issues on an annual basis brought about by being a caravan park during the Burghley Horse Trials.

The first significant step forward for the club was the permanent removal of the sheep, which finally happened in the mid 80s.

“The arrangement was that when we had a major competition the shepherd would take the sheep off the course, and remove the electric fencing a couple of days beforehand, but as we had a good relationship I gradually persuaded him to take them off earlier and earlier until it got to a week before. At this point

he accused me of wanting rid of the sheep for good. Which was true.

“As it turned out in the mid 80s Burghley had a major shake-up in its farming side and decided no longer to keep sheep or cattle.”

That opened the door to course developments although a degree of subterfuge was involved in the introduction of the club’s first bunkers.

“While the Horse Trials were on, and without discussing it with anyone, I decided to build a practice bunker on the putting green. The following Tuesday the Green Chairman called me and asked what we’d been up to and I told him. Half an hour later we were both standing beside it and he agreed that it looked good.

“I asked him if he thought we could do more of them on the golf course now that the sheep had gone and he said he reckoned it would be worth the risk. So we set about putting a bunker on each of the par-3s, moving quickly before Burghley Estate found out.”

They put in six bunkers before they were found out and received a rap on the wrist for doing it without permission. But the die had been cast and the precedent set.”

“They said that if we ever wanted to carry out work we had to tell them and since then whenever we have gone to them for permission to

BELOW: Horse trails take place next to the course





do something it hasn't been turned down."

The course now boasts 51 bunkers.

Tree planting was another part of the Burghley Park equation and with this David had an extra pair of hands he's been using ever since.

Gary Salisbury first worked at the club at the age of 5, when he joined his father for bunker raking duties at the weekend and by 8, in the mid to late 80s, he was on the club's books earning £5 per week.

"I was paid twice a year, at Christmas and in the summer, so I had money for Christmas presents and for my holidays," explained Gary, who was recently married.

Among the tasks he did carry out was tree planting and many of the established trees that now define the golf course were whips planted by young Master Salisbury.

The course now has a very established feel with holes well defined by the trees and bunkers and has benefited from the thought and attention to detail that David brought to the job including some ideas that were new to this country at the time.

An avid reader, and collector, of golf books, he studied a book illustrating the top 50 courses in the world of golf and identified that a common denominator was the careful presentation of the green

collars to include fringe rough, while most clubs in the UK were giving the same area a quick sweep with a gang mower.

"I was one of the first to use a dedicated triple to prepare these areas rather than a gang mower and the improvement in course presentation it brought was fantastic."

Another innovation introduced by David was trolley bans around the green, a traffic management tool that assisted in ensuring better quality playing surfaces.

"We employed white plastic stripes which we sunk into the ground indicating where trolleys should go and this removed some of the pressure around the edge of the green."

As we spoke the club was experiencing problems with the nasty combination of chafer grubs and badgers – the former having arrived in platoons of 200-300 per square metre and the latter having great fun scraping up the turf, often at a rate of 200 square yards a night to enjoy easy meals.

"The chafers like dry conditions, which we also want for the grasses, but we are trying to address the problem by removing the food source for the badgers by using Scotts Merit through the warmer months to eradicate them."

What marks Burghley Park out



as different, however, and offers up issues that would have many greenkeepers tearing out their hair is the Horse Trials which close the golf course for nine days, every year and which can cause some fearful damage to the course. With the course closed every September Burghley members pay a 50 week of the year membership rather than 52.

While they have been lucky with the weather most years 2008 was very much a grim exception and the problems it created were of the substantial nature.

The golf course is used as a car/caravan/mobile home park with

ABOVE: the consequences of badger damage and BELOW: chafer grubs





many “residents” having maintained the same pitch for many many years.

“Much of the damage traditionally came from children on their BMX bikes, bonfires in the trees and barbecues, but as children have got older they have become more respectful of their surroundings and been more careful – however when they start bringing their own children it will probably go back to where it was before and act like a cycle,” said David.

However, 2008 saw the Horse Trials surrounded by heavy rain, both before and during the event – one of the most prestigious on the equestrian calendar.

“The poor weather meant that many people didn’t arrive until the

“Everyone pulled together and we had to think about the situation from a business perspective and we had nine holes open for the members to play within 48 hours while we got on with making progress on the other nine.

“What we tried to do as the honest broker was to mitigate the loss factor and the damage factor. The other thing, which was critical, was from an agronomic perspective we only had a very short window to get work done. As the Horse Trials are close to the end of the season the growing season time behind them is not long.”

“We started on September 1 and the site had been cleared with all the work done by September 24. In that time we had got quotations, opened

“The back nine was basically a non-golfing area – ruts a foot deep and sludge a foot high across the fairways. Six greenkeepers stood there that morning and we could have all cried” David Salisbury

Friday and the greenkeeping team was pulling motor homes out of the mud to get them on to their pitches. After that it just rained and rained and rained,” recalled David.

When the team arrived to inspect the damage on the Monday morning following the Trials, despite the feeling of foreboding they all inevitably felt, no-one could have prepared them for what they saw.

“Basically the back nine was a non-golfing area – ruts a foot deep and sludge a foot high across the fairways. There were six greenkeepers standing there that Monday morning and we could have all cried.”

At this stage Club Manager, Stephen Last, came into his own and plotted the recovery plan, that was too large for the greenkeeping staff to handle on their own and was going to involve outside contractors.

“The first stage was to get our landlords and the Horse Trial people together to agree that ‘yes’ there was damage,” explained Stephen, as we sat in the committee room with David, Gary and the club’s Vice Captain, Dr Keith Duff, formerly Chief Scientist with English Nature, and who has just authored an R&A book on birdlife.

“That having been agreed we had to get three quotations from contractors for restoration,” explained Stephen.

a nine hole course, checked the specification with the STRI agronomists; selected the turf, managed and settled the initial claims with a third party,” said Stephen, who added that negotiations with the Burghley Estate and the Horse Trials continued after this period but were duly settled.

Ironically having laid the new turf, sourced by David from County Turf, and chosen because of its similarity to the fescue dominated turf that was there originally, they experienced a period of drought.

“It was an Indian Summer and we had to spend many man hours to keep the huge areas of turf alive. Some of them were 200 yards from the nearest watering point although we were lent a Hurdy Gurdy from the Horse Trial people, who were perhaps feeling a little guilty about the damage,” said Gary.

Since ‘08 the situation has been looked at and one of the main parking areas has been moved to another area of the golf course to spread the load. The last two Trials have also enjoyed better weather but the prospect of another wet September sends shivers down the spine of the greenkeeping staff.

However you get the idea that David would not want to be anywhere else. First impressions were one thing but David has certainly made a lasting impression at Burghley Park.



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A post pesticide prognosis for turf patients and carers

Dr Terry Mabbett continues his thesis on the future of pesticide

It's April 1st (All Fools Day) 2015 and you wake up to find the EU has banned the last remaining chemical used as a pesticide on professional turf.

Ferrous (iron) sulphate applied to turf for centuries to control moss can no longer be used for this purpose although you can still use ferrous sulphate as a fertiliser and buy the tablets from the chemist to boost your blood iron level.

Rooks and crows are watching in a re-run of the iconic 'Hitchcock Movie' [The Birds], ready to tear up your turf and devour this year's exceptionally heavy infestation of chafer grubs. Last year's autumn mists crept up early during the first week of September and unleashed a flood of Fusarium and anthracnose into the turf still stressed from summer drought.

The air [in September] was still full of dandelion parachutes from what had been the biggest country-wide infestation in living memory. Most survived the extra mild winter and are now healthy-looking dandelion rosettes spreading rapidly across the turf still threadbare from Fusarium and anthracnose infections. If this summer is a repeat of 2014, the hottest and driest on record, then it won't be long before the fairways are parched with huge

patches of drought resistant weeds taking over.

Those chemicals most sorely missed are herbicides and greenkeepers are now paying the price for others' excesses. There was always a much greater use of the same herbicides by farmers, while application to hard surfaces in the industrial sector caused fast heavy run-off of herbicide into water courses. And greenkeepers need these herbicides now more than ever before, after a series of hot dry summers to stop drought resistant turf weeds including white clover, bird's foot trefoil, yellow suckling clover, black medick, yarrow and now self-heal and cinquefoils taking over completely.

Your erstwhile 'chemical' rep, now something between a snake oil salesman and a witch doctor, has just pulled up behind the clubhouse in a green van and wearing a green jacket. Joking apart what will you do if virtually all chemical pesticides currently registered for use in managed turf disappear?

Looking back

Greenkeepers with turf 'in the blood' might recall what their grandfathers but that's not far enough back in time, because 'modern' turf





Once Himalayan balsam, the alien invasive weed shown here, gets a foothold it can only be 'shifted' by the use of chemical herbicides.

pesticides like hormone weedkillers (herbicides) were first used in the 1940's. The hormonal herbicide 2,4-D, a British discovery at Rothamsted Research Station in 1942 under the team leadership of Judah Hirsch Quastel, was first commercialised by a paint company in 1946. Not to be outdone another paint company in North America commercialised MCPA soon after.

There's not too many greenkeepers still around who can tell you what happened much before 1940. Perhaps that's because the very first turf pesticides developed just after the First World War, and used up until the Second World War and sometimes beyond, sounded like something left over from the Battle of the Somme. There was gas lime, a by-product from the manufacture of coal gas which smelled of moth balls (naphthalene) and rotten eggs (hydrogen sulphide) and used to control chafer grubs into at least the 1930's.

Biopesticides based on living organisms like friendly fungi, benign bacteria and non-naughty nematodes clearly require more exacting conditions and more time to work

And if that wasn't your particular poison then you could always consult Agatha Christie about 'arsenic and old lace' or 'sparkling cyanide' because both sodium cyanide and hydrocyanic acid were tried, tested and used at the time. Reason why initial commercialisation of hormonal weed-killers was carried out by paint companies was probably due their interest and expertise in arsenic-containing paints.

Looking forward

There's clearly no safe message or mileage in looking back chemically so the only option is to look forward biologically and culturally by homing in on all the good turf management practice developed and refined by generations of greenkeepers. The 'boffins' call this approach integrated turf management, best of all worlds (cultural, chemical and biological controls) used in combination, but not in a post pesticide world because there will be no chemicals left to integrate.

Professional turf is just what its name implies, an immaculate playing or leisure surface without bare patches, holes, bumps, weed growth

and discolouration, and when things do go wrong rapid remedial action is required. Whatever faults chemical pesticides may have they act and deliver quickly compared with biological pesticides. Biopesticides based on living organisms like friendly fungi, benign bacteria and non-naughty nematodes clearly require more exacting conditions (e.g. temperature, moisture and soil pH) and more time to work.

Turf is a perennial ecosystem and on face of things should respond to a balanced long term cultural care package without the use chemical pesticides, but will all the potentially destructive agents in turf, namely insect pests, fungal diseases and weeds, respond well enough. Answer is a qualified yes for fungal diseases and a definite no-no for insect pests and weeds.

Potential turf grass pathogens are always present in the thatch in a benign saprophytic mode, only changing up through the gears into

parasitism if conditions, including turf grass species and varieties, soil moisture and fertility, leaf surface wetness and atmospheric humidity, combine in the right way at the right time. All this can be monitored and manipulated by the greenkeeper to his/her advantage but insect pests and weeds arrive from the wider environment outside the golf course affording greenkeepers little if any control over the situation.

Turf diseases

Thatch which is the layer of dead, dying and decaying grass material at base of the sward is the source of most turf disease and its manipulation and management a key solution for disease management in the absence of chemical fungicides. Most mainstream fungal pathogens like *Microdochium nivale* (Fusarium patch) and *Colletotrichum graminicola* (anthracnose) are perpetually present in thatch as saprophytes feeding on dead grass material.

They gear up into parasitic mode in response to changing environmental conditions and turf stress, which commonly come together as late summer moves into autumn.

Thatch and root zone soil is also home for the wide range of antagonistic microbes both fungal and bacterial which compete with, consume or secrete natural chemicals to kill potential grass pathogens. Root zone microbes including mycorrhizal fungi recycle root exudates to form a physical barrier against grass root infection.

Thatch is a necessary evil that provides the cushion for turf as a playing and leisure surface. Secret of disease management is to maintain a dynamic thatch kept at a depth appropriate to turf type. A dynamic thatch ensures continual and fast recycling of nutrients for grass growth and health while avoiding high stress, especially during high traffic and wear periods. In addition it will lessen dependence on synthetic fertilizer.

Thatch degradation is accelerated and sustained using physical techniques to boost aeration while number and activity of thatch degrading microbes can be supplemented by inoculants and compost tea. Together with use

gamma HCH (lindane) and before approval of imidacloprid there was a gaping hole in the market and even bigger holes in turf.

Biopesticides based on entomopathogenic nematodes are available but being natural enemies they are by definition density dependent factors, dependent that is on the density of the insect pest host. The nematodes multiply gradually with rising numbers of chafer grubs then fall away as the insect pest population is controlled. As such they are not a fast control option. As biological control agents they generally require more exacting conditions than do chemical insecticides. For instance, ideal time for application is when the soil is already moist and soil temperature is within the 12-20°C range. They are clearly not the quickest and most appropriate option for golfing greens already being damaged by predators in late autumn and winter with an important tournament just weeks away.

It is difficult to imagine professional turf with an acceptable level of weeds if the current arsenal of

Chafer grubs historically present the worst problem not least because in the period after withdrawal of gamma HCH (lindane) and before approval of imidacloprid there was a gaping hole in the market and even bigger holes in turf

of disease resistant grass species and varieties and taking measures against those conditions conducive to disease development, by for instance removing surface moisture and reducing shade in the case of Fusarium Patch, disease management in professional turf without use of chemical fungicides becomes a feasible option. That said blemish free surfaces and 'fast fixes' will no longer be an option.

Turf pests and weeds

UK turf gets off relatively lightly from insect pests (compared with North America). Chafer grubs (*Phyllopertha horticola*) and leatherjackets (*Tipula paludosa*) are the only two of any real consequence. Direct damage with severed roots causing loose dried out turf is bad enough, but collateral damage from corvids (rooks and crows) and badgers and foxes tearing up turf to get at the grubs can prove almost terminal. Chafer grubs historically present the worst problem not least because in the period after withdrawal of

approved herbicides is taken away. Damage to turf from disease and insect pests exacerbates weed problems by creating additional niches of bare ground for germinating weed seeds to exploit. Similarly, the disappearance of chemical wormicides would lead to greater worm cast problems and create even more ideal sites for weed seed germination.

Greenkeepers already face several dedicated turf weeds with little or no suitable chemical control available. Only a small number of selective herbicide actives provide one-off control of slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) and there is essentially no selective herbicide for control of field woodrush (*Luzula campestris*).

Mycoherbicides which are biological control products based on fungal pathogens used to kill specific weed species are used elsewhere against woody weeds such as bramble (blackberry) in Australia. However, these highly specific mycoherbicides would be of little use to greenkeepers faced with anything up to a dozen completely different turf weed spe-



Dandelion (dente-de-lion) is already 'showing its teeth' in fine turf



Drought-stricken turf gives a free run to weeds like yarrow shown here



Worm casts and weeds will become two of the biggest problems in turf without the use of chemical pesticides



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund. Thank you to all our key sponsors



This stream flows pristine through a golf course then confronted by some much heavier pesticide users - it runs under railway, across an industrial estate and through miles of wheat and barley fields.

cies at the same time. Visions into the future are turf managers down 'on all fours' digging out weeds just like their great grandfathers did. But this won't work for deep tap-rooted offenders like dandelion and ragwort that produce new plants from fragments of root left in the ground. Some of the most intractable problems will result alien invasive weeds like Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.

Doesn't make sense

The more you look at EU attitudes to chemical pesticides the less it makes sense. The current conundrum around the management of surface casting earthworms and control of the mole (the main predator of earthworms) sums this up in a nutshell.

Naphthalene was traditionally used to deter moles. Turf managers would place mothballs in mole holes to deter digging and tunnelling. Moth balls are freely available and as far as I know you can still put them in the wardrobe to kill clothes moths without ending up in court.

But together with disinfectant and diesel oil (also used to deter moles) it is illegal to use moth balls because under provision of the 'Control of Pesticides Act 1986' there is no approval to use naphthalene as a deterrent against moles. But the EU still allows you to catch and kill moles using wicked looking traps and to wipe them out using phostoxin, a highly toxic gas released when aluminium phosphide tablets

deposited in mole holes react with moisture.

The long term future of carbendazim the only chemical wormicide left on the market looks less than secure. One reason is pending reclassification as a 'Biocide' which means carbendazim will eventually be subject to another directive and forced to jump through different and perhaps more difficult hoops to ensure continued use. One of these will almost certainly be environmental in nature and could include any negative impact on soil fauna including earthworms.

The main component of a mole's diet is earthworms and wherever moles are found in number and activity you can bet your bottom dollar that the soil profile is rich in earthworms. The question I often ask is does phostoxin, which is legally allowed as a soil application to control moles, have any deleterious effect on earthworms? I can't find any solid information either way but I would be surprised if it does not.

It really doesn't make sense for EU to dismantle half a century of scientific research and development that has given greenkeepers highly effective and much cleaner and safer pesticides to manage turf diseases, kill turf weeds and manage surface casting earthworms. And at the same time allow such methods to kill moles which are a protected species in some EU countries like Germany. If you can solve this conundrum and come up with a clear and logical answer then please let me know.



There will be no quick and easy solutions to this problem (chafer grubs and collateral bird damage) without chemical pesticides, especially in winter when soil temperature is too low for good biological control agent activity



Drought-stressed turf in July 2010 (southern England) with white clover and birds-foot trefoil (yellow) as far as the eye can see



1st



Snap happy

The 2010 BIGGA Photographic Competition was a huge success, writes Scott MacCallum

BIGGA's Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta, and now in its fifth year has seen the standard of pictures taken by BIGGA members steadily rise. More and more greenkeepers are aware of what constitutes a good photograph and many more carry a compact digital camera or mobile phone with a quality camera built in as a matter of course.

This year the winning entry came from regular entrant Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, who won the bragging rights in his own home as he pushed his son, Graeme, into second place, which his superb picture taken on his own course. Graeme's picture of Quail Hollow Golf Club in the United States pushed it very close though.

Third place went to Paul Hope, of High Post Golf Club, in Wiltshire, with another stunning entry.

The 2011 BIGGA calendar will comprise those three pictures plus entries from: Marek Zubert, Lewis Birch, James Hutchinson, Peter Dawson, Russell Lewis, Adam Turner, Craig Boath, Glen Kirby and David Harrison.

Judging took place in early October with Alan Birch, whose idea the competition was; Karen Roberts (no relation to Gareth and Graeme), of Syngenta, and professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth. Tom Campbell and Scott MacCallum, of BIGGA, co-ordinated the judging.

Eric was particularly impressed by the winning entries this year.

"Gareth shows a superb use of the sky. The cloud formations coming in on the left hand side are very strong. I don't know how on earth he's been able to keep the flare out of this picture because the sun is looking directly into the lens. There is a good use of composition and I like the trees on the right hand side which frame it really well," said Eric

"Graeme has shown a good use of perspective on this picture. The line of the edge of the green, which I'm presuming is a lake, on the left hand side is really fantastic and goes all the way to the bunker, turns left then all the way around the back so is leading your eye into the picture. It is framed fantastically well by the two trees both right and left. The mist is just the icing on the cake. I would love to have this in my library," he said.

"I like Paul's picture a great deal. There is a rule in photography that a subject which is the main element of the picture should be on what is called a third within the whole frame and that is where the triple mower is set on. The sun has been placed behind the trees using an established technique where, to shade the light coming into the lens, and stop flare coming into the lens. Flare on this picture would have ruined it and the tree has acted as a long lens hood."

Gareth, Graeme and Paul each win a framed print from Eric's extensive photo library.



2nd



Old Course, St Andrews, by Lewis Birch



Carnoustie Golf Links by Craig Boath



5th on the Heritage, at The London Club, by Glenn Kirby



Fairhaven GC, by James Hutchinson



St Michaels GC by Adam Turner



Mount Juliet, Republic of Ireland, by Marek Zubert

3rd



View to the 5th at South Essex Golf Centre, by Peter Dawson



Hale GC, 9th green being dewed, by Russ Lewis



Early morning sun at Crieff GC on the 9th, by David Harrison

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

The anatomy of...

A rotary mulch mower



Mulch mowing in the broader amenity and commercial sector tends to see a resurgence of interest when we enjoy a few dry summers in a row; the technique favours 'little and often' mowing and is well suited to helping to retain moisture in dry conditions. But does mulch mowing equipment now deserve wider use?

The John Deere 8800 TerrainCut mower is fitted with five individual rotary units to allow the following of ground contours. Designed to cut and mulch clippings, this type of mower is well suited to wide area mowing to include the cutting of roughs.

Anyone whose has looked at the way rotary mowing has evolved over the past few years will be struck by the increased availability of what can broadly be termed a mulch mower.

On the pedestrian rotary front, the term should really be broadened to suggest more manufacturers are offering mowers that can mulch. Dedicated mulch mowers are out-sold by '3 in 1' units that can readily switch between collection, cut and drop and mulch.

On ride-on equipment, it is increasingly likely that a modern rotary deck will be offered with a mulching kit. This can range from a simple outlet 'bung' that effectively seals the deck discharge through to a more comprehensive option that will see a different type of blade and modified baffles under the deck altering how clippings are handled. A 'proper' mulching deck is designed to do more than just contain clippings and chop them more finely. The aim is to chop and then 'blow' and evenly distribute the clippings back down into the sward to leave a clump free finish.

In other words is now established that some deck designs are better at producing a good mulch finish than others. Simply stopping clippings exiting a conventional 'cut and drop' deck does not turn it into a 'proper' mulching deck.

Another key issue is the wider adoption of rear discharge and single unit gang decks where the clippings that are left on the surface but well distributed to leave a really neat finish. Mulching decks are competing with ever improving 'conventional' rotary mowers in other words.

It of course follows that regular mowing of any description makes it easier to leave a decent finish. Fairway clippings are not routinely boxed off, the repeat slicing of clippings carried out by a sharp cylinder mower proving that a great finish can still be achieved without collection.

It is perhaps this point that is overlooked when looking at rotary mowers. How they are operated and the option of going for a deck that mulches as opposed to one that evenly distributes its clippings is not as broadly discussed as perhaps it could be. In certain circumstances, a good rear discharge deck will leave a finish that is pretty hard to tell from that left by a good mulch mower. Where a mulch deck can score, however, is in leaving a good finish on less regularly mown swards.



Understanding the basics of how a mulch mower operates can help explain why. The first point is that a mulch mower is not designed to cut grass down to the tight heights achievable with a cylinder mower or increasingly demanded of a rotary deck. The key to mulching is to leave a longer sward into which the 'recycled' clippings can be 'hidden'.

This type of sward responds well to being maintained regularly but need not mown tightly; a longer sward length can help to crowd out moss and weeds without detracting from the overall look of the turf.

There are also modern grass varieties that have a slow rate of growth, good drought and/or shade

Toro Groundsmaster 3280-D out front rotary mowers are offered with a choice of 1.57 and 1.83m wide side-discharge, rear-discharge and dedicated Guardian Recycler decks. Mulching kits for the conventional decks are increasingly popular, allowing long wet grass to be tackled early in the season, with the mulch kit allowing contained mowing later on.

A 'proper' mulching deck is designed to do more than just contain clippings and chop them more finely. The aim is to chop and then 'blow' and evenly distribute the clippings back down into the sward to leave a clump free finish

In the British Isles there remains a desire to try and tame wider grassed areas to the point where many parks have a manicured 'short lawn' finish. And long may it continue. But try to expect a mulch mower to operate within this regime and it will typically lead to disappointment.

Where a mulch mower comes in is in the mowing of more general 'amenity grass'. A good example is the turf around buildings that is not regularly walked over but that is valued for its overall appearance.

tolerance but that also prefer to be trimmed to around an inch.

Another key and vital point is that a mulch deck is designed to contain the clippings. On regularly mown amenity turf this can be a real plus, tightly contained clippings being less likely to be thrown onto paths or up against parked vehicles. The chance of debris being projected at high velocities is also important. A stone thrown against a window, or worse a third party, is an ever present hazard facing those who maintain grass in a public space.



The Jacobsen AR522 again follows the rotary 'gang' format, the ability of these machines to leave a good finish having seen their increasing acceptance in the place of a cylinder mower alternative. Regardless of mower type, a decent mulch mow can only be delivered if the unit is operated correctly.



Most current Toro one-piece rotary decks can be fitted with recycler kits. Designed from the outset to accommodate these kits, a converted deck will contain material in the same manner as the company's dedicated Guardian Recycler deck. For effective mulching, the deck needs to be well filled with material, so the operator needs to adjust the mowing speed to get the best results. Debris allowed to collect under the deck will compromise performance.



Ransomes-Jacobsen TrimTeK Decks help to illustrate that there is no definitive mulching design. The key is to match the selected mower to its task. Expect this type of deck to reduce a long, wet sward down to under inch in a single pass and the finish will be compromised.

What about mulching leaves?

A dedicated mulching deck can be used to deal with autumn leaf fall. Getting the technique to work is not difficult, but a few basic points need to be followed to get best results. The following tips relate to Toro Guardian Recycler decks, but the basics will apply to other designs.

Quick tips for a better leaf mulch

- The drier conditions, the better the mulch.
- Concentrate on mulching the leaves. Avoid trying to cut grass at the same time. This is of particular importance when working in damp conditions. Wet grass mixed with mulched leaves will be more likely to produce a 'mat' of material that will not be as readily hidden in the sward.
- When mulching a mat of wet leaves, it may be necessary to adjust the deck height and mowing speed to draw the material into the blades. If the results remain poor, wait until conditions improve.
- Keep the deck 'full'. When mulching light patches of leaves, speed up to keep the deck working.
- Keep the deck underside clean and wash off at the end of each mowing session. If the deck starts to leave clumps, check it is clean.
- Try mowing in alternate directions. An initial pass with the deck at a higher setting, followed by a second at a lower setting in a different direction can be extremely effective in difficult conditions. NOTE: To get the best from all types of mulch mowing, it is recommended that repeat mowing patterns are avoided.

Setting up the deck for mulching

- Set the front of the deck lower than the rear; aim for a nose down 'slope' of around 6mm.
- Ensure air can pass under the front of the deck, particularly so when mulching deep piles of leaves.
- Set the deck height to mulch leaves, not to mow.
- Make sure the blades are sharp and balanced.

How a mulching deck should work

A 'proper' rotary mulcher works by both re-chopping the grass to produce small clippings and to then blow them back down and into the sward. The simple act of blocking the outlet of a 'conventional' rotary mower will not do this.

This is why 'convertible' deck mulch kits will typically incorporate some form of restriction around the blade or blades to restrict the flow of clippings. A kit may also include a change of blade type or even include 'ramps' against which 'stalled' clippings can be acted upon by the top of the blade.

Regardless of design, the aim is much the same – to leave the resultant finish as free of surface clippings as possible and to speed the decomposition of those clippings. A more aggressive mulching action helps decomposition, but good containment and the ability to force clippings back into the sward is also important.

Mowing technique will also play its part; the sward to clipping ratio has to be correct. The well established rule is to cut a third of the sward length in any single pass. Try and mulch too much material in one pass and the results can be compromised.

In fact a 'conventional' rear discharge deck can leave a better finish than an incorrectly operated mulcher, particularly in wet conditions.

It is perhaps worth taking a side step when looking at mulching and to consider the whole technique as an ally as opposed to an alternative to conventional rotary mowing. Rotary mowers, particularly for ride-on commercial machines, have evolved from units designed to essential knock grass down to machines capable of producing a good finish. Mulching is a further development in rotary mower design. Those who are strong advocates of mulching suggest we all need to rethink how mowing is carried out. It is the well-understood that relatively high levels of summer rain are required to keep any sward lush and green.

Come late June and many areas will see non-irrigated turf starting to dry or even brown. It is here where a switch in early June from conventional cut and collect mowing to mulching can have a place. The returned clippings will help retain moisture and also return nutrients to the sward. As long as the regime allows the sward to be maintained to a moisture loss resistant inch or so, this and regular mulch mowing can help keep the grass greener for longer.

There is also the issue of not needing to remove clippings. Clipping disposal is a hot topic at present, so it may be that mulch mowing starts to become recognised as an alternative in regimes that currently call for cut and collect mowing. The secret is to keep an open mind and give mulch mowing a chance.

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ITT

Engineered for life

Jobs for the boys



Many wounded ex-servicemen would make superb greenkeepers, and the **On-Course Foundation** is helping to put them in touch with golf clubs, and will assist in finding them employment within the golf industry.

Scott MacCallum met one who more than deserves a chance...



ON COURSE
FOUNDATION

It has been an all too common item on our news bulletins over the last few years when we are told of another casualty from Afghanistan or are shown moving footage of the residents of Wootten Bassett paying tribute to another fallen warrior.

What is not so publicly recorded is the return home of those who are badly wounded while serving.

These include many young men and women who will never be the same again following their experiences in the service of Queen and country. Many have been permanently scarred or lost limbs yet they still have the largest part of their lives stretching ahead of them.

In response to this the On Course Foundation was formed which offers injured men and women who are retired or still serving in the military, the opportunity to play golf and/or work within the industry not just today but for many years to come.

Due to the vast improvement in technology and rehab - no longer are a number of severely injured servicemen, ex-servicemen and

women bound to their wheelchairs. With this progression, On Course provides opportunities for a number of injured service and ex-service personnel to be part of or work in the golf industry.

The charity is receiving whole hearted support from Patron, HRH The Duke of York, combining as it does his passion for the Armed Services, in which he served during the Falklands' conflict, and his love for the game of golf.

"I am delighted that we have found a way for the golfing industry as a whole to support our Armed Forces in a very positive way," said The Duke .

Alex Harrison was in the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, but attached to the Royal Anglian Regiment, when he was posted to the notorious Helmand Province, in Afghanistan, in April, 2007.

He had been there exactly one month when he was shot.

Alex had been part of a group sent to clear compounds in which the Taliaban were building tunnels and trenches when his section was ambushed and he was struck by a machine gun round from close



range as he passed the door of a small room.

"A bullet hit me through the helmet at the side of my temple and bounced off the bottom of my eye socket, forcing my eye up into my brain giving me brain damage and my eye socket filled with blood," said Alex, as we sat in his Lincoln home three and a half years on.

Remarkably, it didn't knock him out and he was able to get back to his section, but not before being struck by a piece of shrapnel in his bottom and breathing in some poisonous gas which burnt his airways.

"I had three injuries, one of them nearfatal, but although I was unable to speak as the nerves in my face had been deadened, I was able to draw a picture on the sand to show how the rooms in the compound all linked together," said Alex, who was just 19 at the time, and who was mentioned in despatches for his bravery.

He eventually succumbed to his injuries and passed out, waking up in a Birmingham hospital where he then spent six days in intensive care, another six weeks on a normal



ABOVE: The group which went to Orlando with On Course Foundation patron, Arnold Palmer

ward, before going home on sick leave.

He also spent six weeks at Headley Court, the renowned Armed Forces rehabilitation centre, where he learned to cope with the loss of an eye and his brain damage – a condition of which you now see no obvious sign.

“I sometimes have difficulty linking sentences together, and with normal things like wiring up a plug, I have to sit there longer than I would have had to before and work it out. But I’ll get there,” he said.

After his rehabilitation he was assigned to the Army Stores but being an active outdoor type, he absolutely hated the posting and sought a medical discharge.

The On Course Foundation has made it possible for people like Alex and his colleagues, many of whom may have lost limbs but who are still more active and physically able than the majority of the population, to get back on track

The founder of On Course, John Simpson who in effect has only one good leg after contracting polio at a young age, has enjoyed a glorious career in the game managing

players such as Nick Faldo, Greg Norman and Vijay Singh John took a party of eight ex and currently serving military personnel (including Alex) to Orlando earlier in the year to experience the delights of playing golf in the sunshine.

The servicemen met up with the American Wounded Warriors and also had the privilege of meeting the Foundation’s other Patron, Arnold Palmer who said, “To see that our beloved game can be used as an integral tool in the rehabilitation of soldiers from around the world fills me with great pride.”

The America trip also allowed the servicemen to develop a love for golf, while at the same time continuing their rehabilitation with a game that requires concentration, balance and patience.

“It has helped with my depth perception having gone from two eyes to one. I’m starting to get used to it now and can work out how far the club head is off the ground. It was really hard to start with though,” explained Alex.

He is currently in discussion with a local course with the aim of securing a work experience placement

on the greenkeeping staff, a career that is really exciting to him.

“I’d love to work in full time green-keeping. It would suit me down to the ground. I’m used to working outside and the early hours certainly wouldn’t worry me.”

Alex is not unusual...

There are many young men, similarly disciplined and eager, who would also make excellent green-keepers and The Poppy Factory’s Employment Scheme* is supporting wounded On Course members by proving an assisted platform into work via initial funding. This support will help Alex develop a meaningful career in the golfing industry



The guys discovered a love for golf while in America

Recruitment Opportunities?

If anyone feels that they could offer employment to one of our brave ex-servicemen please register your interest by emailing info@oncoursefoundation.com or for more information visit the On Course Foundation Website www.oncoursefoundation.com

*The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory is a charity which exists to create employment opportunities for disabled ex-Servicemen and women

Lean system for lean times

Andy Wight, Pathway Manager for Greenkeeping at Oakland's College in Hertfordshire, believes that the face of Greenkeeping is still not being pushed forward as a professional industry...

As part of my job I have the pleasure of visiting some of the best run clubs in the country and having worked in one form or another in the Sports turf or Greenkeeping industry for more than 30 years I have seen enormous changes in the quality of staff accommodation/workshops and course maintenance.

However during my travels I still see some places that do not push forward the face of Greenkeeping as a professional industry. Musing on this I was reminded of some concepts that I have studied from the automotive industry. I thought I might spare these thoughts with the readers.

Lean manufacturing is a principle that comes from the Japanese manufacturing industry. The term was first used by John Krafcik in an article, "Triumph of the Lean Production System,"

The system is known as the 5 Ss and comes from a Japanese based system.

The 5 Ss refer to

1. Sort (Seiri)
2. Simplify or Set in order (Seiton)
3. Shine (Seiso)
4. Standardise (Seiketsu)
5. Sustain (Shitsuke)

This leads to a system known as lean manufacturing. The objective of lean manufacturing is to save time and money but at the same time increase productivity and hopefully quality.

The aspects of this are to

1. Define customer need
 2. Improve processes to zero deficiency by applying the 5 Ss
 3. Reduce waste
 4. Enhance flow
- Streamlining will save money,

increase productivity and often lead to a higher quality product at the end of the process. We can look at how this process might be applied in the real world by taking a task like fairway mowing and applying the concept.

To streamline a process we would need to establish customer needs. For an example let us begin with the end user (i.e. the player) and establish the end product that has to be achieved.

You might ask yourself are my customers happy, the answer might well be yes, no one has complained, indeed everyone says the fairways are outstanding (you cross cut them at 12mm and cut them every 2nd day).

The issue here is are you offering a product that is not really sustainable in terms of costs, in addition is the product of a higher quality level than it actually needs to be to perform its role? If this is the case you are giving away both time and money.

The first step in making improvements is to establish the exact customer need (these of course can be different from wishes). The involvement of all the parties involved i.e. players, the person/s who pay the bills and the staff is vital in establishing the actual need. Block cutting fairways may increase the speed of the task and decrease labour and material input and yet give a pleasing surface and level of customer satisfaction that is almost equal to that offered before the change. If this were to be the case then a large financial saving might be made.

Improving a process to zero deficiency

This means that a task is analysed from every aspect and honed until the minimum input in labour and materials is achieved.

If we carry on with the above

example the manager will ensure staff are trained in every aspect of fairway mowing i.e. setting up the mower in the most efficient way, the most efficient routes around the course are worked out and agreed etc then time and money can be saved.

If this process is applied to every task on the course, large overall savings might be made.

Applying the 5 s to the Greenkeeper's work...

Sort

This refers to sorting and removing rubbish, clutter from the shed/office. Moving from paper based systems to PC based systems can improve work output, i.e. the less clutter the quicker things can be found. In the automotive industry equipment/materials etc that did not seem to be used were red tagged and removed from the work area into a holding area. It was often found they remained there i.e. they were surplus to needs but were kept "just in case". Removing junk frees up workspace and storage and can improve workflow rates.

Simplify

This refers to the simplification of a process, this could go back to fairway mowing, the process can be simplified by adopting a simple mowing system. Also simple things like having the spanners, grease gun etc required for setting the mower in a set place and training staff in the most efficient method of setting up the machine will all increase workflow rates.

Shine

Again if we return to fairway mowing a clean machine will make

ABOVE: An Example of Shine applied to the workplace (a neat well ordered clean rest room with no clutter which portrays a professional work ethic to visitors to the Greenkeeper's facility)
(Photo with Kind Permission of Phillip Chiverton - The Grove)



this process as they often have the best insight into how improvements can be made.

Sustain

This is the most difficult part of the concept and refers to the need to continue the process and apply it to new tasks and ensure staff and manager do not fall back into old habits.

Now the last 2 areas of the system come into play – reducing waste and enhancing flow.

These should fall out of the above i.e. if procedures are analysed and broken down savings in materials and labour should be gained.

Flow of work should also increase as staff carry out work in the most effective manner and the manager rids him/herself of that huge pile of clutter on the desk known a pending paperwork.

Now for a challenge look at one area of your operations e.g. pesticide application and apply the concepts raised so far I bet if you think hard you can make a change or two that could save some time or money.

Now imagine if you carried on with this mindset, what else could you achieve?

For those who are interested in finding out more Andy recommends the following websites and reading:

http://www.ipmonline.com/articles_on_total_productive_maintenance/leanmfg/5sphilosophy.htm

<http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Five-Ss-of-Lean&id=1301944>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lean_manufacturing

5S for Service Organizations and Offices: A Lean Look at Improvements Debashis Sarkar

Andy Wight is the Pathway Manager for Greenkeeping at Oakland's College in Hertfordshire

leaks etc easy to spot and put right before a breakdown occurs.

However the concept relates to ensuring the workplace as a whole is as clean and tidy as possible.

For example the mechanic who has all his tools in order on a wall board instead of jumbled up in an old tool box.

This should also relate to the staff area, a clean and tidy staff room will install an ethos that will allow the manager to build and improve on.

Standardise

M processes at work are standardised but managers should be able to make improvements that will save time.

i.e. standard paperwork, systems and procedures such as setting and greasing mowers

i.e. all staff carry out the work in the most efficient manner (zero deficiency).

It is vital that staff are involved in



GCMA
GOLF CLUB MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION

Safety Management System

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

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

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

Because:

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

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

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

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

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RJ International Golf Course

BIGGA delegation to USA back on



Bernhard and Company has reinstated its sponsorship of the **BIGGA Delegates' Programme** to GCSAA's Golf Industry Show (GIS)

The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 BIGGA members the opportunity to see the industry's biggest golf exhibition and education conference.

Orlando 2011 will mean over 90 BIGGA members will have benefited from this opportunity, courtesy of Bernhard.

Over the week, in addition to the full conference package, the 10 BIGGA members will visit local golf clubs, network with US Superintendents, attend educational seminars and man the BIGGA Stand during the GIS exhibition.

This year's BIGGA delegates are: Andrew Boyce; Jim Brown; Stephen Chappell; Richard Cutler; Chris Haspell; John Keenaghan; Nicholas Miles; Graham Pickin; Derek Robson and Robert Sandilands

The reinstatement was approved by Bernhard and BIGGA staff and Board Members.

After a two year hiatus, Bernhard was keen to get the BIGGA Delegates programme started again.

One of our key objectives has always been to provide the best educational opportunities in the industry, supporting the BIGGA Delegates trip to the GIS plays a large part," said Bob Buckingham, Bernhard CEO.

"The Delegates also contribute significantly to our annual customer satisfaction feedback process, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts and input. We are very pleased to reinstate the BIGGA Delegates programme in 2011."

Needless to say, the decision was greeted with cheers from past BIGGA Delegates. Andrew De Wet, Course Manager at Birstall Golf Club and 2007 BIGGA Delegate said, "I am really pleased that trip has been reinstated.

The trip to the GIS was one of the greatest learning experiences of my career." "The camaraderie between

the other delegates and the golf course visits provided me with a 'real world' education that you can't put a price on. It was simply amazing."

"We are delighted that Bernhard has reinstated the Delegation and pleased that those who felt they had missed out two years ago now have

"It is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money"

John Pemberton

the chance to take up their place," said BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton.

"It is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money in the Delegation."

Meet the 2011 Delegates...



Chris Hapsell

Chris started helping out at his local Cricket Club as a schoolboy and when he left school he went into groundsmanship full time looking after cricket, bowls, hockey, tennis and rugby pitches full time.

In 1989 Chris joined the team at Oakland's Golf and Country Club in Cheshire working with the team to build,

grow-in and open an 18-hole championship course. In 1992 he joined Richard Campey as a technician/salesman

In 1995 Chris, moved to Denmark to take the position as Course Manger at Falster Golf Club before setting up his own business CK Golf and Design - offering shaping, design and maintenance advice to many top clubs in Denmark. Chris then went on to become Greenkeeping Consultant to the Danish Golf Union.

Chris took up the position of Construction Manager at Castle Stuart in June 2006 and where he remains.



Andrew Boyce

Andrew has been involved in Golf and Sportsturf for 20 years, since leaving school and taking an apprenticeship at Bath Golf Club.

After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Lansdown Golf Clubs before

returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy.

Andrew became Course Manager in 2002.

Earlier this year Andrew decided to set up his own business - Greensward Sport Consultancy - working with golf clubs, sports associations, clubs and schools giving regular advice and guidance to Turf Managers.



Jim Brown

Jim has been the Golf Course and Estates Manager at Oulton Hall, Leeds, for five years during which time, he has led the development of the ex Leeds City Council Municipal 27 hole golf course and Grade 2 listed parkland to an excellent standard and to rightfully take its place within the De Vere portfolio of golf resorts.

Jim is also the De Vere Group Golf Course Manager and National Accounts Manager. He has managed various types of golf courses throughout his career and been involved in the construction of two commercial golf courses – he has been a Course Manager for 17 years.



Graham Pickin

Graham left school at 15 to join the Army, starting out at the junior leaders in Canterbury Kent. He eventually served two tours of Northern Ireland and was awarded the GS medal.

When he left the Army Graham trained as a tunneler/ blacksmith with British Coal and gained a C&G in engineering. When the mines closed Graham started his own business (Barnsdale Mowers) dealing in all horticultural machinery. This gave Graham the skills to seek employment at a golf course.

That was 15 years ago and after gaining an HNC in golf course management at Elmwood College and being their nominee for Toro Student of the Year award; Graham is now the Course Manager at Thornhurst Park, in Doncaster.



Steve Chappell

Steve has working in the turf grass industry in 1987 where he started as a YTS groundsman. After a year he took the chance to move into greenkeeping, accepting an assistant's position at Bath GC, before moving onto a new build course on the outskirts of Bristol. This led to Steve working for David Lloyd Leisure where he worked his way up to overseeing the three clubs owned by the company.

In 2003 Steve moved to MJ Abbotts before accepting the Course Manager's position at Neath GC. Since moving to Neath Steve has become Section Secretary for BIGGA South Wales and last year became Chairman of the South West & South Wales Region.



Nick Miles

Nick went to Reaseheath College and gained an HND in golf course management. He left college in 1997 and started greenkeeping at Hellidon Lakes. He then moved to Whittlebury Park in 1998.

In 2003 Nick was appointed Course Manager at Market Harborough GC, an 18-hole course established in 1898. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midland BIGGA Section. He is also the Deputy Regional representative on the BIGGA Board of Directors.



Rob Sandiland

Rob has been in Greenkeeping for over 12 years, spending the last three as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper. In the near future he is keen to make the step up to Head Greenkeeper, so the educational opportunities offered by the

trip to Rob are

For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenkeeping from his BSc. in Rural Resource Management.



Derek Robson

Course Manager at The Dukes St Andrews, Derek completed his apprenticeship at Lochmaben Golf Club before travelling to the US on the Ohio State intern programme - working in both Michigan and Florida. He then went on to work in New Zealand and Germany before joining Chris Kennedy at Wentworth for four

years, before moving to The Dukes.

In 2009 Derek was awarded Manager of the year at The Old Course Hotel Golf Resort and Spa. He is currently studying the 2-year certificate in turfgrass management online from Penn State University. Derek took over as BIGGA Central Section chairman in October 2010.



John Keenaghan

John is Head Greenkeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a parkland-style course on the outskirts of Bristol.

Born in Bristol, John has been married for 25 years with two teenage children. His eldest son has followed him into the greenkeeping profession.

After 17 years as a self employed builder, John finally found his true niche in life and wouldn't want any other job than greenkeeping!

Hobbies include golf (handicap of 5) rugby, cooking, travelling and socialising.



Richard Cutler

Richard has been a Greenkeeper for almost 20 years. Starting his career in his native Scotland, he has worked on traditional links courses at Arbroath GC and Montrose.

Since 2008, Richard has lived and worked at La Moye Golf Club in Jersey. One of the very few downsides to living there is the lack of networking opportunities available. Chris regards networking with industry peers to be vital for both his golf course and his personal on-going development.

DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

STEWART PLANT SALES GROUND CARE

Location and size

Headed up by Richard Green based at their Glasgow Headquarters, the business has grown substantially over the past three years.

Employees and size of premises

The company provides comprehensive service and parts support with 65 mobile service engineers based at ten depots covering the country from Lancashire to the Shetland Isles.

Brief History of Company

Stewart Plant Sales is part of the Scot JCB (Holdings) group, a specialist machinery distribution company with over 50 years experience supplying equipment to the construction, industrial, agriculture and groundcare markets.



Franchises

The company supplies compact tractors, tractor powered mowers, blowers, vacuum collectors, renovators and utility vehicles from industry leading manufacturers TYM, Progressive, Trilo, Rota Dairon, Bomford, Stihl, Thwaites and JCB

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 website: www.westcountrybuildings.com



New T-Max Tractor slots into the McCormick Four-cylinder Range

The new 92hp McCormick T-Max tractor bridges the price and specification of the lower spec McCormick C-Max and the more generously kitted CX XtraShift, while offering an alternative to the CX Synchro Low Profile package.

On farm or turf tyres the 92hp us similar in appearance to the 74hp to 92hp C-Max tractors, but has a newly developed transmission with more gears, a tougher rear axle with planetary rather than spur gear speed reduction and more responsive lower link draft control sensing in place of a top link system.

www.argotracors.com



The new T100-Max (shown here) offers more transmission speeds, a power shuttle, hydraulic control of the pto and front axle drive, and a telescopic pick-up hitch. The implement lift is manually operated, as on the C-Max, but with lower link draft sensing.

RAPID-ADJUST TECHNOLOGY FROM RAIN BIRD

More than ever before, golf courses need irrigation technology that provides top performance, water-efficiency, versatility and value.

Rain Bird's new Full and Part Circle 751 Golf Rotors, featuring Rapid-Adjust Technology and Memory Arc.

These new rotors offer simple, top-adjustable rotation settings that retain

the memory of their part-circle arc setting when shifting between full- and part-circle operations.

They are designed to offer quick adjustments for the life of the rotor with just a turn of a screw.

As a result, the rotors allow the user to increase or decrease the watering area with a simple twist of the wrist.

However, it's not necessary to completely replace an existing Rain Bird rotor in order to enjoy the benefits of the new 751 model. Courses with older Rain Bird rotors currently installed can integrate the 751's Rapid-Adjust Technology.

www.rainbird.eu/golfcourseirrigation



MAKE LIGHT WORK OF LEAF CLEARANCE THIS AUTUMN

The Imants RotoBlast from Campey Turf Care Systems, is a tractor-mounted blower designed to move leaves, grass clippings, thatch, litter and other unwanted surface debris from turfed areas, pathways and car parks.

Attached to the 3-point linkage, the RotoBlast is mounted on a wheeled chassis to allow contour following whilst maintaining a constant nozzle height above the ground. The wheels can be inverted to revert to a fully-mounted option if required.

www.campeyturfcare.com



Swing for the Saints

Fertilis Swing, a new fertiliser from British Seed Houses, is proving to be a God-send to the Saints.

Andy Gray, Head Groundsman at League 1 side Southampton FC, tried it for the first time at the start of the season, and has been highly impressed with the results.

Around 40 fixtures take place at Britannia Road each year, so pitch renovation is an important task to provide a top quality playing surface that will keep performing throughout the season.

Fertiliser plays an essential role in getting the new seeds off to a good start, but this year, Andy wanted to try a different product.

www.britishseedhouses.com

THE X-WAM ARRIVES...



The X-WAM is the widest Trimax roller mower available, offering a huge 10.5 m (34' 2") cut width which can then fold up to 2.48m (8' 2") to be easily transported behind a tractor to different locations.

The X-WAM can be bought as a complete unit or as an attachment for

those customers who already own a Trimax Pegasus 6.10m (20') roller mower.

Bob Sievwright, company owner, says "the X-WAM is going to save money by enabling the customer to use one tractor, one mower and one employee to achieve the same productivity as two of each".

The X-WAM has the potential to cut 33 acres per hour and has the ability to zero turn at the end of each row without having to lift any of the mower decks.

[01933 652235](tel:01933652235)

[email: info@trimaxmowers.co.uk](mailto:info@trimaxmowers.co.uk)

Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



East

Before I start my report I'm saddened to hear of the passing of Norman Wood Head Greenkeeper of Haddington GC East Lothian. He will be sadly missed by all. Our thoughts go to Norman's family in sad times like this.

Well, the golfing season is almost over and the winter work begins on the golf courses for the next season. The golf seasons are going quicker every year for me.

Budgets are at a low for winter programmes but we can look for work that will not cost much money, just hard work. We all need to look at what will keep our green staff busy this winter. Tree work renovating bunkers and pathways etc..., refurbishing and repairs that can be done in-house. If we look hard I'm sure we can find work.

We have just moved into our new greenkeeping premises. It's only taken about 10 years to get what we wanted, but we got there eventually. Perseverance and patience has paid of in the end. (Never give up).

Our Section Autumn golf outing to Liberton GC on Thursday, September 23 was a wash out. The rain just kept on and on and on.....The Course Manager, Ronnie McCrindle, and his green staff tried in vain to keep the course playable for the greenkeepers.

Lead by our Chairman who started off the proceedings followed by our Secretary in the next group of mad golfers, but the weather had the last say and the golf was a none starter. When they got dried off and the Chair-

man managed to find his way to the dining room, after giving the resident "Big Spider" the slip..... he said that was chasing him all over the Liberton clubhouse.

We sat down earlier than usual for our evening meal, thanks to the catering staff for adjusting their timetable.

Our Chairman thanked Liberton GC and all who attended the day along with the trade who donated some nice prizes for our raffle. Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator gave a brief talk on what is happening in and around the Sections.

The patrons award winners are Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC and George Oliver, Murrayfield GC. Congratulations guys. We look forward to reading your thoughts of the Harrogate trip..... Enjoy. They will both be presented with their awards at our AGM on November 2 at Kingsfield GC, Linlithgow. We hope to see a good turn out there, it's certainly well worth the visit.

The golf format for "The Jimmy Neilson Trophy" is Stableford, and there is no cost for members of BIGGA. Our sponsors for the day are Hendersons Grass Machinery, from Haddington. A thank you to Graham Miller and Jim Davidson, from Henderson's for the sponsorship of East Section BIGGA AGM.

Our winter and spring programme for the East Section is still being put together and members will be notified of dates and venues for these events soon.

Already we have dates and venues for our golf in 2011. Our Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, has been very busy with this.

Well done, a brilliant Ryder Cup. And a big well Done to all the green staff who were involved at Celtic Manor Ryder Cup. A monumental task in keeping the course playable as possible under extreme weather conditions.

Well done to all involved. You

did greenkeeping proud guys.

Until next Month

Tom Murray (07709960163)



Ayrshire

Hi all. Hope you all well and things are going as planned for the winter ahead. Here's hoping it's not as bad as last year!

Some of you may have heard through the grape vine that I have moved on from my post as Head Greenkeeper at The Dumfriesshire Golf Centre. Well that news is correct.

An opportunity arose for me to go back to Ayrshire and that pull was far to strong for me to turn down. I will be working for a company in Prestwick called Pro Lawn, Out with the greenkeeping world but working in the domestic market. I would like to take this chance to thank all at The Dumfriesshire Golf Centre for the opportunity that was given to me, I really enjoyed my time there and wish everyone involved all the best for the future.

A little bundle of joy was born into the Grant family back on July 9 this year. Baby girl, Tully Amelia. Euan Grant and his wife have their hands full now with that their fourth child! I know Euan is more a rugby man, but you're only one off a 5-a-side football team now. From all of us in the Section we wish you all well for the future.

On Friday, September 24, Ayrshire hosted the annual match against the North Down Greenkeepers. The venue was Prestwick St Nicholas, where as always the course was in excellent condition, praise and thanks to John McLaughlin and his staff. Also thanks to everyone at the clubhouse for looking after us so well. Lastly a

big thank you to the committee and members allowing us the privilege of playing their course.

Onto the match and unfortunately despite home advantage and the fact our opponents don't play much links golf, Ayrshire lost the match 3.5 to 1.5. The sole point coming in the last game, which was in fact an Irish/Scots combination. I would like to take some of the credit but it was James who played a blinder and I'm sure he got some serious stick for the rest of the weekend.

The match whether home or away is always something to anticipate after a long hard golfing season and we look forward to trying to get our hands on the trophy next year, which if can be organised may take on a European flavour by playing at Denis's course in Germany, I'll keep you posted. George Morrison, Largs Golf Club.

A huge thank you to George for submitting the report on the Irish match. Oh and well done to the Irish boys!

Next month's mag will have the results of the autumn outing which was held and Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club. As usual I ask for your continued help in keeping me in the loop of any news coming up or anything that's already happened in our Section. Let's use this as an opportunity!

I see some of the other Sections have a facebook site set up, was wondering if that may interest any of you social networkers out there? Let me know and we can look into it further.

Thanks guys, I look forward to hearing from you.

John Mair

Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk

07500874449



Central

The great Scottish summer continues, not only did we have to cancel the autumn golf meeting at Downfield once, but we have to cancel the re-arranged day as well because of torrential rain on both days (at least 1.25mm I heard) leaving the golf course flooded. By the time you read this, it will have hopefully been play as it was re-scheduled for October 13 (if it's not snowing) and will be followed by the Section AGM.

All the winners and details of the meeting should be on the website by now www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Congratulations to Innes Knight, Sandy Reid and Gordon McKie for a successful Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and also to Jim McKenzie and his team for producing a course in great shape for the Ryder Cup under near impossible conditions.

Gordon Moir



North

Hopefully the weather this month isn't that severe that your courses are struggling to open. The Ryder Cup has been and gone and unfortunately the weather wreaked havoc with the course over the duration of the competition. The Europeans won in the end and in Monty's closing speech he gave a 'big up' for the 110 greenkeepers who were working on the course. 110? Imagine what your courses would look like if you had 110 greenies working for you. The guys working there showed great determination to get the event played. Well done to all those down at Celtic Manor, Bring on Gleneagles in 2014!

A similar occurrence happened to us at our annual Autumn outing at Huntly in September. The heavens opened a couple of days prior to the event which didn't do the course any good at all. But full credit to Ross Macrae and Dennis Grant, - the only two greenkeepers who work there - who managed to get the course open for play on the

Thursday. What a great turn out for the North Section. We had nearly 50 playing members turn up for the outing, a record for the Autumn jolly!

The results are as follows:

Nearest the Pin Winners. Ben Brookes, Simon Hoy and Paul Sharp

Sweep Winners. David Middleton, Stuart Clayton, Ewan Little, Bill Harvey

Guest Winner. Bill Harvey, Vice Captain, Huntly GC, Trade: Stuart Clayton, Scotlube.

Committee Winner. Robert Patterson. Veterans: Brian Cocker and Brian Hunter

Apprentice Trophy. Ewan Little

Class 3, 1. Dale Robertson; 2. Mark Angus; 3. John Geddes

Class 2, 1. David Middleton; 2. Paul Sharp 3. Greg Paterson

Class 1, 1. Derek Green; 2. Richard Sharp; 3. Robert Paterson

Scratch, 1. Dennis Grant; 2. Gary Tough

David Middleton won the Mark Main Memorial Trophy. This was decided over the two outings of the year and David had the best total of his nett scores. A combined total of 135 won it. Well done you bandit! The 200 Club was also drawn and the results are as follows:

£30 winners - Jo O'Neill, Stewart McBain, Diane Johnston £100 winner was Bradley Wood. Incidentally, his ticket was picked out by his boss, Dougal Duguid, who in turn proceeded to clear the bandit out of £260. So all in all it was a good day for the boys from Westhill.

Paul Sharp, from Peterculter GC, was chuffed with himself because he hit a fairway! Hughie McLatchie had a minus three inch drive. Nevermind. Brian Hunter, 13 at one hole, but he didn't NR! When I won the Nearest the Hole I didn't tell you I three putted from four feet awesome golf and to top the day off everyone commented on the new form of disease that was found on the 15th green! A new type of take all has been found. This is called Take All Apron. When someone cuts into the apron while they are cutting the greens. Step forward George Mitchell who was in helping out his mate, Ross. Some mate you are George, cutting into your pal's apron! I said I would put it in although I nearly forgot! All in all it was a good day and our AGM this year was at Oldmeldrum on October 21, so there isn't any news in this issue.

Finally, this month someone

on the move. Josh Lester who has been Patrick Wood's Deputy on Swailend, Newmachar. Has recently got the Head Greenkeepers job at Longside. Well done Josh and the staff at Newmachar I'm sure will miss you!

Not a lot else to report this month. Sorry. If anyone does have any info, let me know on 07813889374 or on internet benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern



North Wales

Winter is well and truly here, with Halloween gone and bonfire night on our doorstep. I have heard the long range weather forecasters have predicted another hard winter to come, so perhaps this year we should live up to the old standard that our building work should be put to bed before the Christmas break.

I have to put right an oversight in a previous column; I forgot to thank Jason Moody, and Amenity Technology, for sponsoring the North Wales/North West grudge match, oh sorry! I meant golf day, thank you for your support.

The Northern Region Inter Section tournament took place at the Vale of Llangollen golf club on September 22 with all six Sections entering a team and with a competitive field taking to the course on a lovely day for golf the results came in as so: 1. Sheffield Section, 108 pts; 2. North Wales, (a creditable) 104 pts; 3. North East, 97 pts; 4th Northern, 93 pts; 5. North West, 87 pts, and finally Cleveland, 85 pts.

We have to thank Jeremy Hughes and team for presenting a course that was praised by all the competitors, the catering/bar staff for their hearty food and hospitality and also Andy Law, and Whitemoss, for sponsoring the day. Thank you all very much.

We've been busy because we also held the Autumn Tournament at Mold GC on September 30 and with 50 attendees, 48 of whom were playing on what seemed like the only dry day of

that week, it was as always on our tournaments, a great day's golf. The format for the day was a better ball Stableford and the results where: 1. Carl Crocher and John Mooney, 43 pts; 2. Stuart Yarwood and Ian Quirk, 42 pts; 3. Simon Whitley and Paul Stanley, 41 ps and finally, 4. 40 pts where Callum Roberts and Kevin Muldoon. Nearest the Pin went to Jason Moody and John Mooney. We have to thank Colin Jones and team for the beautifully presented course; all the players rated the course very highly, also a big thank you has to go to the bar/catering staff who were very friendly and efficient. Thank you, your patience and hospitality shone on our day.

The Christmas Tournament and AGM is now close; the venue for this year's tournament is Mile End GC and courses near the border always prove popular.

Jez Hughes will now be taking tee time bookings remember to book early, as the Christmas golf day always fills up quickly.

All the best until next month,
Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. Having spent a week in sunny Majorca, it was nice to come back to the monsoon season. On September 29 we held our Autumn Tournament at Bradford GC. The Section would like to thank the committee for granting courtesy of the course, and the staff for looking after us so well. A special thanks go to Dave and his team for presenting such a good course on a horrible day. The results for the day were: Div 1. 1. A. Baxter; 2. T. Gerrard; 3. N. Coultish. Div 2. 1. A. Holroyde; 2. N. Booth; 3. R. Smith. Div 3. 1. E. Newsham; 2. J. Baxter; 3. K. Christie. The Trade Prize went to our sponsor's Scotts own Ed Carter. Nearest the Pins, 3rd. R. Pull, 12th. F. Stewart. Our thanks go to everyone for taking part. The Section also held the AGM at Bradford G.C. which was attended by 24 greenkeeper members. The committee was re-elected to serve another year.

On the news front congratulations to Bradford G.C. Head

Around The Green

Greenkeeper, D. Thackeray, on being presented with a memento for 25 years' service. Our best wishes go to Dave and his wife on the birth of their baby, which was due on the 29th - our golf day. Christmas golf this year is to be held at Halifax GC, Ogden on December 8. First tee 10am. So please book early for the golf and Christmas dinner. As usual any news or gossip please get in touch Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Tel. 07947401278, email: frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Hope to see you all at Christmas.

Frank Stewart



North East

Well we have had a great start to the autumn. Nothing but rain then more rain. Thought there couldn't be any more up there to spoil our day for the autumn comp, but I was wrong.

I woke up on October 6 thought "Hey no rain! Great start to the day. But alas that was only for a short time what a day we are going to have. Well that was confirmed when I got a phone call from Tommy Harrison saying that the course is flooded could I get in touch with everyone telling them not to bother as we'd be on temporary greens on most of the course. Sorry Tommy I said, I couldn't do that because we never know who will turn up on the day.

So off we went down to Gosforth GC hoping that the weather would change and it certainly did, yes we played on about 11 winter greens and seven normal ones but unfortunately only the usual number turned up, being a paltry eight people, but credit must go to the Head Greenkeeper, Tommy Harrison and his staff, for getting the course even open. Thanks lads, because I honestly didn't know when we would be able to play another day. That's never happened before. All I can say is that we have been very lucky in the past.

Now getting to the scores; Best Nett Ransomes Cup R. Reid, 8, best gross J. Gibson, Northumberland GC, 73. Greenlay Cup G. Brown, Wooler GC, 69, Ransomes Shield S.R.

Pope, Tyneside GC, J. Storey, Alnmouth GC, 72 nett, J/S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 72 nett J. Moutrie, Hexham GC, 75 nett and G. Batson, Alnmouth GC, had a NR.

I would like to thank TSL, Allan Morton], and Rigby Taylor, Glen Baxter, for their prizes for not only this competition, but the Spring one as well and, of course, the golf club giving us the courtesy and not forgetting the caterers, because that was some meal.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Hello all, I hope you are all keeping well.

I'm sure that the few who attended our Autumn competition at Silkstone GC had a fantastic day. I would like to thank Mick and his staff for having us and producing a fantastic course for us to grace. I would also like to thank Glenn Sawyer, from Golf and Turf Machinery, for sponsoring the day. The results are as follows:

1. S. Pickering, 39 pts - congratulations Steve; 2. S. Pigott, 36 pts - They must be getting some golf in at Grange Park; 3rd A. Whittington 36 pts; Trade. R. Latham 38 pts.

Congratulations to all our winners and all those who attended.

Having completed our three main competitions we had three winners that we could put forward for the Inter Region Competition which this year was held at Llangollen GC. Our three winners were T. Strong, M. Holden and S. Pigott (Steve couldn't make it on the day). I am more pleased to inform you that did our team not only make the long trip but they came back winners. Well done, lads.

I'm sure by the time you all read this article you will have been given details on our first lecture and I will have announced our second one for later in the Winter, as I keep saying if anyone has any ideas or there is anything they would like to do then let me know and it can be considered. I hope to see many of you at our Lectures.

We have recently purchased a

new Section laptop and printer. It was decided that we needed a more up to date laptop which gave us more scope for moving things forward. The old laptop has been handed on to the Competition Secretary.

Finally I would like to congratulate Andy Riley on his recent hole-in-one at Wortley GC. Sources have said that it was the most awesome shot they had ever seen. When news of this spread my phone was inundated with calls from Monty asking who this guy was and if he was available for an upcoming competition he was involved in. Unfortunately Andy's club wouldn't allow him the time off and the rest is history as they say.

On that note I will leave you and we will catch up again in December

James Stevens
Section Secretary

Midland



East Midland

Hello all

Well what do I write about this month? I know, worms! Yes we all get them and don't they make a mess? Did you realise that the average worm will..... Don't be silly, I'm not going to talk about worms! Firstly though and, if you haven't already found out, congratulations to Paul Frith, of Birstall GC, with rounds of 72 and 71, our Cat 1 representative is now BIGGA National Champ. He takes over the crown from Derek McJannet, so next year we need to make it three in a row for the East Midlands Section!

As for the other representative, let's just say that I had a 75 in round one and the thought of being in contention led to a England cricket style mid order collapse, (mainly through holes 6,7,8 and 9) where approximately 28 shots were run up!

The Headland Pairs is into the final stages. This year's final is to be contested by Paul Frith and partner Nigel Colley, against Ian Hurst and Paul Kendal, results hopefully in the next update. Hopefully you will all have seen Greg Skinner's efforts to organise an excavator training

day. The info is on the education pages on the website, this course is a great opportunity to brush up skills and gain an award of competency which will settle the nerves of committees and insurance men alike. We hope you will be able to come along.

Not much personal news from the Section. However, I am hearing from further away that there are some terrible stories of Course Managers and staff being made redundant due to the ongoing tightening of spending, which is having a knock on effect with people's club memberships etc.

I can only see the situation getting worse before it gets better and as we move into winter I wish all of you the best and hope that we are able to work with our clubs to find solutions, and with each other to help ourselves through any difficult times that arise.

Kind regards
Pete Smith



Midland

Well here we are yet again trying to compile this month's notes with nothing more than the thanks to our sponsors and promotion of golfing events. Nothing new there then!

This month's kind sponsor of the calendar page are our new friends Turfmech, based in Staffordshire. They can be contacted on: 01889 271 503, for all your machinery requirements. I must admit that the sweeper featured at Pyle & Kenfig GC in the calendar picture is doing a fine job, and, of course, the chaps being very industrious.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Christmas event. Cost £33, full English Breakfast, 18 holes around Woburn no less, and a three course meal, with a main prize table as sponsored by Tacit. Come on what more do you want! Don't forget we also run a "Bring a prize and take a prize" for all. It is Christmas after all. Please make sure that your prize is to the value of £7 or above.

If you want more give me more!

Sean McDade

South East



Kent

Every two years an event occurs which is of such mind-blowing magnitude that its reverberations are felt for long afterwards by all who were privileged enough to witness it. While I appreciate my wife's recent endeavours I am, of course, talking about the Celtic Manor Ryder Cup.

Ever since some infamous US staged events where a slightly over-exuberant, highly partisan crowd took the gloss off what should be the greatest showpiece the sport we know, love and strive for, there is always a certain amount of trepidation as to how the home crowd would try to influence the game in front of them.

Fortunately, at Celtic Manor, the crowd were the perfect accompaniment to a feast of glorious golf. Even the typical Welsh weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the assembled (or the viewers watching patiently at home as Cliff Richard wasn't invited). And wave after wave of rainstorm seemed to take the organisers by surprise and threaten to wreak havoc with the event and the course. The players were all imperious, however, and even though the US players hadn't done their research on the weather they should expect at that time of year and had to send out for heavy duty rainwear, the rain didn't dampen their supreme ardor.

From the start the players mesmerised the galleries with their talent. I suppose one of the few surprises was that the numbers one and two in the world were outplayed not only by the European combatants but also their superb rookie colleagues who seemed to thrive in the team event.

In the end, what a finish! After four days of ebb and flow on the scoreboard to all come down to the final game played between two great players was something that just could never be scripted. The Europeans emerging victorious

amid scenes of genuine, joyous celebrations.

One shining star of the event was of course the Celtic Manor 2010 Resort. Superbly presented for the spectacle and, despite the constant rain, the main playing surfaces never relinquished their perfect finishes to the storms that swamped them. Well done to Jim McKenzie and all involved in the preparations for the tournament.

Nearly as high profile was our most recent outing to another of Kent's fine courses on our late summer golf day. The venue and the prospect of playing with Kent's finest had attracted guests from Sussex and Surrey. They helped contribute to a great turn out at Duncan Kelso's immaculate King's Hill Golf Course. Even the weather was on our side as this usually windy location had decided to have one of its few benign days. Vic Maynard, of Ernest Doe, made a very welcome return with his refreshments and saw the players off at the first with a drink and a smile to start the round off. Kev and I were joined on our round by the undeniable golfing talents of Darren Burton, of North Foreland. Despite threatening to bring him down to our level pretty much all the way round, he gave us a sound education into how the game should be played. Well done mate.

As I said, a great course and great company as ever. Thanks to Barry Bradshaw and the greenkeeping team on a job well done and to the caterers for the meal.

Results as follows: 1. Tim Maynard, Wildernesne, 39 pts; 2. Darren Burton, North Foreland, 37 pts; 3. Gary Branchett, Tenterden, 37 pts. Nearest the Pin was won by Mark Roach and Longest Drive by Ben Smith.

Many thanks to Brian Willmott, and Tacit, for donating prizes on the day.

Lastly, don't forget November 25 is the date for the highlight of the year. Yes, it's the Turkey Trot time again to be staged at Birchwood Park. Previous attendees know how much fun we have at this event and this year should be no different. Please see web page for times, current handicaps and all other relevant information. As ever, this event shall include

our AGM. We aim to start the meeting after the meal which will be about 6.30pm. If you have any issues you would like discussed or would like to stand for any official position on the committee please let us know so we can add any such matters to the agenda.

Hope to see as many of you as possible on the day.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

Friday October 1. The Surrey Bowl Final, played at Foxhills GC on September 28 was a terrific match between two quality golfing teams. Jason Hunt and Tom Relf were up against Kevin Boxall and Phil Rowlands and after eight holes the score was all square. The teams had 12 gross birdies between them with the match being decided on the 16th green. Jason and Tom were victorious and were presented with the prize money and cup by Richard Faulkner, of ETT, who sponsored the whole event.

Many thanks to them and they have agreed to continue sponsorship next year. The Surrey committee would like to thank Dave Wyborn and Foxhills GC for allowing us to use their excellent golf course.

While the above teams were playing their first nine holes, I partnered Richard on the nine hole par 3 course against Roger Tydeman and John Ross. Richard, a PGA professional, helped me on some holes, eight holes comes to mind, but my birdie on the 9th put the final nail in our opponents' coffin and victory was ours.

I know I may have disappointed many of you by cutting short details of my holiday in Guernsey in last month's edition but hopefully news of my holiday in the Isle of Wight during September will compensate. The weather was excellent, I wore shorts and we walked the coastal paths, the other part of the we being 'her indoors'. We played crazy golf, ate, drank and cruised home on the Wight ferry.

Ten young assistant green-

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

With a reputation for following indie rock'n'roll bands such as The Killers and Kasabian, it may be a surprise to some that his claim to fame is actually appearing in a magazine called ...Greenkeeper International!

Name:
Daniel Simpson
Age:
24
Club:
Rockcliffe Hall
Position:
Qualified Assistant



- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**
Five and a half years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**
Involved in golf and working outside
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**
Teaching professional golf
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**
Hand cutting greens to give a great aesthetic value.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**
Divoting and sowing fairways as I'm useless at it!
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**
A promotion
- 7. Hobbies?** Playing golf
- 8. Favourite Band?**
Kings of Leon, The Killers, Kasabian and The Beatles
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**
Newcastle United
- 10. What is your claim to fame?** Appearing in Greenkeeper International!

keepers from various Surrey golf clubs have taken advantage of a seminar arranged by this Section on October 6 at Surrey Downs. Many thanks to Gavin Kyle, who in conjunction with Nigel Church and William Carr have arranged the seminar to include machinery pre-start checks and basic setting up of cutting units. The attending greenkeepers will receive CPD points for participating.

Paul (Grandad) Weston phoned to inform me that his son, Michael, Course Manager at Omeda GC and partner, Lisa, took delivery of their new son, Jaden,, 6lbs. 2 oz. on September 17. Congratulations also to Elain Kelly, ex assistant greenkeeper to her father, Robin Smith, at Limpsfield Chart GC and Elain's husband, Rupert, on the birth of their first son, Flynn Seth 8 lbs. 9 oz., on August 6.

Welcome to Surrey to Mark Hastry, Heworth GC, who has taken over from Roger Tydeman as Course Manager at Croham Hurst GC. Also we welcome Ben Edwards, now Course Manager at West Hill GC. Ben, who takes over from Ian Morrison, was Course Manager, at Sandmartins GC.

Please remember that our AGM takes place after the Turkey Trot at Guildford GC on December 7.

Brian Willmott



Essex

What a busy month we've had the IOG Saltex Show, our Autumn Trophy meeting at Benton Hall G&CC, and the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse at The Berkshire, all attended by at least some of our Section.

The Autumn Trophy

Here we go again for the fourth Essex BIGGA Golf Day of the year, with a strong field of 40 at Benton Hall G&CC.

After much uncertainty about the day's forecast, we were blessed with a dry and calm day (apart from the early holes), near perfect conditions for a golf and that was confirmed with some fantastic scoring! The overall winner of the Autumn Trophy and entry to the 2011 National

Championship with an outrageous score of 47 pts was Steve Cousins, from Orsett GC, a fine round of golf that even included a blob!

Moving on with the other prizes for the day, Cat 2. 1. Malcolm Smith, Channels, 41pts; 2. Mark Stopps, Bentley, 39pts; 3. Sam Cook, Colchester, 36pts. Cat 1. 1. Richard Dunmow, Channels, 39pts; 2. Andy Cracknell, Orsett, 36pts, 3. Antony Kirwan, Lexden Wood, 34pts. Trade Winner. Mark Keysall, Rigby Taylor. 30pts Guest. Steve Crosdale, 39pts.

Nearest the Pin on the 6th was won also by Steve Crosdale and the 16th was won by Sam Cook, from Colchester GC.

It was a great day, and everyone enjoyed themselves, a massive thanks for Benton Hall for allowing us to use their facility. Also a massive thanks to Adrian Mountain, and his greenkeeping team, for a well prepared and presented golf course. And, last but by no means least, a big thanks must go out to their bar and kitchen staff for looking after us so well.

The BIGGA National Championship at The Berkshire, was attended by the following: Stuart Rogers, Barry Mann, Andy Cracknell, Tom Bownes, Antony Kirwan, Steve Cousins, Dougie Fernie, and Ben Scrivener. I understand that Antony Kirwan was in the prizes on the first day winning his category and also a trophy, and Stuart Rogers won his category on the second day. Well done to all the guys and I hope they enjoyed the experience.

The Essex Section AGM and Team Golf Event meeting is on Thursday, December 2 at The Essex Golf & Country Club, entries close on November 30, no late entries will be excepted. Two BIGGA Section members in a team of four please, individual entries will be teamed up. Cost per team, £65 = £17.50 each.

The following positions on the committee are due for renewal.

Chairman, plus an Education Officer (due to the resignation of Paul O'Kane). The Committee wish to thank Paul for all the hard work he has put in on the Section's behalf over the past couple of years.

Nominations for the position of Chairman and Education officer should be with our Chairman Mark Stopps at mark@bentleygolfclub.com no

later than Monday, November 15 please.

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

South West and South Wales



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

On Wednesday, October 6 the Section held its AGM at Stover GC. The day began with the obligatory bacon butties, followed by Golf or a Course Walk, lunch and then the meeting. The day was attended by 36 members and guests, which considering the time of year, was a strong attendance.

Jason Hampton, Course Manager, lead the course walk on this highly regarded, 18 hole members golf club. Both golfers and course walkers enjoyed bright sunshine on what was a glorious day. The golf format for the day was individual Stableford playing for the "Don Hunt" Trophy. Don worked in the industry for many years and was a strong supporter of BIGGA. He even took on the mantle of Section Administrator when it proved difficult to find a member to fill the role. It was a fitting day to remember Don. Prizes for the day were sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity and WBB Minerals. Many thanks to John Palfrey for organising and presenting the prizes and thanks for the sponsors continuing support of the Section. Ricky Worral, Dartmouth GC, took the first prize with a score of 38pts; Ashley Millar, Churston GC, was second with 34pts and third was Gary Tuckett with 34pts. Nearest the Pin prize went to Ashley Millar and the Longest Drive to Gary Tuckett.

The AGM went well with a few changes to the Committee. Rob Guntrip, DGM, stands down as President and Jerry Cole, Greenways, too, both as trade members. Two new trade members coming on to the committee will be Lee Kirk, MST, and Steve

Dommett, DGM. Many thanks to both Rob and Jerry for all there dedicated hard work and support whilst on committee. Tim Wakeham, Rigby Taylor, has been elected as President. Graeme Gallimore, Launceston, is also standing down and will be replaced by Mike Bush, St Mellion. Again, thanks to Graeme for all his hard work while on committee and in particular all the work he has put towards the education and training events organised by the Section. Steve Harris, Ashbury, now takes on the Treasurer duties. Thanks too to Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator, who attended and gave a report of progress within the Region and nationally. Many thanks to all the members who attended and supported the AGM.

It was another very successful event with many thanks to Jason and his team for presenting a wonderful course and to all the staff at Stover GC for their hospitality.

News from Duchy College.

Roger White, who has recently joined the Greenkeeping and Horticulture Team at Stoke, took new and old greenkeeper and horticultural students to IOG Saltex at Windsor. Not the usual "Induction Day to college life" that most new students will have experienced and it didn't rain!

Duchy College has recently struck an exciting deal with Toro and have obtained a Toro 5400D cutting machine on a free permanent loan basis. This piece of kit will help us dramatically to improve the quality of the sports pitches on site and can also be used by golf and green keeping students to demonstrate machinery operation and servicing. We would like to pass on our appreciation to Rob Guntrip, of Devon Garden Machinery, and John Pike, from Lely, for supporting the college and we look forward to building on the success of this relationship in the future, Joe Jones, Duchy Campus Manager, Jimmy Horrell, Workshop Manager, was also keen to thank DGM for the de-commissioned engines they supplied and the cutting units used to support the students. Thank you to Bill Pile and Steve Evans who over the years started the discussions and subsequent support from Toro and DGM, and the support below.

Dave Chamblings who com-

pleted his Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture (SportsTurf) green-keeping qualifications through Duchy College has recently been appointed the Regional Representative for Sherriff Amenity and is responsible for the Devon, Cornwall and Somerset areas. Dave was a greenkeeper at Ashbury Hotel and Golf Club for eight years and then for one year at Exeter Golf and Country Club. While attending Duchy College Dave was sponsored by the Training Agency and the Devon and Cornwall BIGGA Section to attend Harrogate Week

Further Dave has recently become new father, so congratulations to him on many levels.

Ron Skinner

All future events are now posted on the website and listed in the GI magazine. Please contact me if there is any news you would like to be included in these "Around the greens" notes. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

George Pitts

Section Secretary

07929 754401

gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



South Coast

Hi all,

As I write this the sun is shining again, the torrential rain that hindered the Ryder cup has moved away along with the spectators that turned the spectacular 2010 Course into a mud bath. My heart goes out to all who are involved in putting it right!

The South Coast Section played the annual match against the South West Section, at Sherbourne GC, which resulted in another resounding win for the South West, four games to one. Our only winners were Joe Cooper, playing with James Stewart, so well done to them. The course was in outstanding condition a credit to Chris Watson and his team. The greenkeeping standards were very high with all the work put in during late summer paying off handsomely. A pleasure indeed to play! Huxley Golf UK was our sponsor for the day, great to welcome them back into the Section. Memories go back

to some amazing days out at Arlesford GC when Huxley was manufacturing machines and put on demo/golf days. Long may the company's support continue.

The Section committee met at the end of September to discuss fixtures for next year along with subjects for our next seminar, which will be covered in a later issue. Golf fixtures are Liphook for the spring; Brokenhurst Manor in the summer and Waterlooville for the Autumn of 2011. Fixture cards will be printed in due course. Great venues, so plan to be there!

Here at Barton on the sunny south coast Autumn maintenance has dominated the work load over the last week or so. Usual picture, when you plan to Graden it rains, core and clear up, it rains, top dress, yes it rained and what happened when all the work was finally complete, the sun comes out with expected temperatures in the low 20's. Oh, how I love greenkeeping.

Next month it's over to Robert Hogarth who will give the results of the Autumn tournament from Broadstone. The next golfing fixture will be the Turkey trot here at Barton on December 13 where golf, raffle, wind, rain and freezing temperatures will all be on offer.

Tony Gadd.



South West

Well it's that time of year, the start of October.....what do we have to look forward to now. Many things if you think about it really. Halloween is just around the corner (thou I reckon some you are still dressed up from last year)!

But more importantly the Ryder Cup is with us at the moment, and from the looks of it the guys at Celtic Manor have done the most fantastic job ever. The course looks amazing. With around nine years in the making it all comes down this week's play. Everything is in order, the team are picked, the course is the most amazing condition and the spectators are driving their way through the gates.... All this to be ruined by the most awful weather this year. My God



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

By the time you read this it will be old news that I have given the Board six months notice of my intention to leave BIGGA. I have agreed with the Board that I will continue to give the Association my fullest attention until the end of April next year, during which time I will also help them with the recruitment process to find a suitable successor.

This has not been an easy decision to make, especially in the current economic climate when BIGGA is facing some serious challenges and I will use my experience and knowledge to assist the Board and the Staff in whatever way I can. I have no plans after April and will wait to see what opportunities arise in due course. I am not the sort of person to give up work altogether and will be looking for something to keep the grey matter ticking over, even if only on an ad hoc basis.

I first joined the Association in March 1993 as its Accountant, moving up to take the reins as Chief Executive in March 2004. I have enjoyed many years of helping BIGGA grow into an organisation that is widely respected in the golf industry as well as breaking new ground into sports turf management generally. Greenkeeping as a career, and greenkeepers as professionals, have come a long way, even in my relatively short experience of the industry. I think that a great many people, both members and non-members, often overlook this.

BIGGA exists to bring together like-minded people who share a common vocation and to help them maximise their potential through education. In raising individual standards of competency you raise the standard of the finished product, in our case the golf course or perhaps another form of sports turf surface. It's not unique and it is the fundamental principle behind a great number of professional associations.

However, like all such bodies, BIGGA needs a stable financial base and in the current climate this is where it runs into difficulty. The erratic attendance of exhibitors at Harrogate coupled with a decline in advertising over recent years brings its challenges and there is no doubt that the economy in golf is slowly worsening. Please don't get me wrong, BIGGA is not in dire financial trouble but it is being hit by the downturn in the economy and it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver the expected standard of service.

I understand that research suggests that the number of rounds of golf being played has remained fairly consistent over recent years and its just that people are adopting an approach of pay-and-play rather than going down the membership route. With a drift away from club membership more and more bodies are looking at how they can address their own funding issues by having a greater financial contribution to the game by the golfer, especially the group so commonly dubbed as the 'Nomad' golfer. Saying it is easy; doing something about it is the difficult part!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

didn't it ever rain on that Friday. I wish I could have gone myself - second thoughts I think I had a pretty great seat in my living room, and more importantly I was one of the dry ones! Picture this - Super Sunday, Chelsea v Arsenal and the Ryder Cup, using the split screen feature with sky Sports, arm chair reclined feet up, this really is a happy day in my house. With all the Singles having to go out on the Monday, and the score set the way it was, it really did having the makings of a great finish on it. Great job done by Monty and his team, but we all know who the real winning was. All the staff involved in preparing the course, and that's a fact!

After the impressive 6-0 victory Wayne's team had against the Welsh Section, the pressure was against him to take on the South Coast Section and come away with a similar result. This is when I was drafted into the team (he really was under pressure now.....). The Section travelled to Sherborne GC. For many of us this was a fair distance, a great credit to each one of us for making the time and effort! Back to the golf, South Coast were pretty fired up this year, having not won this match for a number of years. The course looked FANTASTIC, I felt I could have been Celtic Manor itself, and the views the course had to offer, well let's just say it was a very enjoyable walk (winning 5&4 helped a little mind you). The day got even better with an overall victory 4-1 - not a white wash this time, but still rather impressive. Wayne "Montgomery" Vincent has done it again, another unbeaten year. Guys, next year please offer your services to join in and play in a section match. It can be very difficult to find a team and not only that time consuming ringing around everyone, in 2011 pick up the phone and say "Wayne, I'll play for you this time".

Guys, we have dates that you might be interested in, Chainsaw course - 3-4 and 17-18, both in November. This is for four people to attend each. A brush cutting course is also available, a date will follow for this. Please contact myself to get yourself booked in. If you have anything else that you would like to do please get in contact and we can help arrange this, also funding could also be made possible.

Speak to you all soon, remember people your stories would also be welcome.

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



South Wales

Hi everyone! Sut Mae?

Wales, it is said, has over 600 castles, a legacy of when the Normans who, having beaten the English in one day in 1066, took a further 200 years to subdue the Welsh. These castles are now tourist attractions. Many lie in ruins, just like the intentions of those who did not want Wales to host the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Given the history of our proud nation, did they really think that we would not succeed?

The Celtic Manor literally moved mountains to host the event, and when the predicted bad weather turned up on the Friday and Sunday and was even worse than expected, the Green staff at The Celtic Manor, aided by over 70 volunteers from our Section, the South West, Devon and Cornwall and further afield, worked tirelessly to ensure that the competition was the complete success that it turned out to be.

Starting work at 5am and working 15 hour shifts, the Green staff worked extremely hard to remove surface water from the greens, draining, re-distributing sand and re-raking wet bunkers and spreading wood chip on spectator pathways.

Even this monumental effort though, could not stop the competition from moving into an unprecedented fourth day. But what a day!

Wonderful sunshine that set off the spectacular views of the Usk Valley and then a tremendous, nail biting finale, where Team Europe finally emerged victorious.

It is now the day after the event. I bought both the Daily Mirror and The Western Mail to see what take the press had on the event. There was no mention of the rain, only delight in the victory and praise for the Green staff and the course, both from the Europeans and

the Americans. In particular it was reported that Director Of Golf, Jim McKenzie hardly slept that weekend. I think it was for longer than that even!

Three things caught my eye in the Western Mail: Hero of the week: Course Director Jim McKenzie and his army of 110 Greenkeepers for saving the entire event.

Villain of the week: The US Tour for staging the Fed EX Cup the previous weekend, forcing this to be the latest ever Ryder Cup (Wales was bathed in sunshine on that weekend!) And finally Photo of the Week: Tiger Woods apparently eyeing up Katherine Jenkins on stage at the opening ceremony. You'll have to fight me for her, Tiger!

Anyway, a big "Well Done" to you Jim and your staff on behalf of the Section for producing a spectacular golf course under such difficult conditions and also could you thank Sir Terry Matthews on behalf of the Section for coming back to his birth place and making it all possible!

Also thank you to Steve Chappell, Section Secretary, for organising the small fleet of

caravans that were used as temporary accommodation for the volunteers over the weekend. A tremendous effort

Oh! I nearly forgot! Well done to Colin Montgomerie and his team for a stunning victory!

I know that I started this column with some patriotic comments, but that's the way I feel today.

Proud to be Welsh, proud of my friends in the Section for all their hard work and proud to have been a greenkeeper myself.

I tried to contact some of the guys today but many were in bed, unable to move! I am sure that when they recover they will look back with pride on an experience that they will never forget.

If you were a volunteer at the 2010 Ryder Cup and wish to relay your (printable) experiences via this column then feel free to contact me on the number and e mail address below and I will add it to next month's Around The Green.

Regards
Ceri Richards
07831 168645
celticceri@aol.com

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Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
NOVEMBER			
Tuesday November 2nd	East Scotland Section AGM	Kingsfield Golf Centre	Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or mobile 07961 630553
Wednesday 3rd – Thursday 4th	IoG Scotsturf	Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh	http://www.scotsturf.com/
Wednesday November 3rd	BB&O Autumn Section Event	Deanwood Park Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158
Wednesday November 3rd	South East Regional Conference	Plumpton College	Clive Osgood at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk or 01737 819343
Thursday November 4th	Devon & Cornwall Section Toro Cup	Porthpean Golf Club	George Pitts at gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com or 07929 754401
Wednesday November 10th	IOG West Yorkshire/Leeds Branch Event	Cleckheaton Sports Centre	Rod Heyhoe at rodheyhoe@talktalk.net or mobile 07748 653639
Monday 15th November	Tournament Turf Workshops	Fire – Elmwood Golf Club Training Facility	Presented by Bernhard & Syngenta. Contact Catherine McEwan (Bernhard & Co) 01788 811600 or email Catherine.mcewan@bernhard.co.uk
Tuesday 16th November	Tournament Turf Workshops	Manchester – Marriot Worsley Park Golf Club	Presented by Bernhard & Syngenta. Contact Catherine McEwan (Bernhard & Co) 01788 811600 or email Catherine.mcewan@bernhard.co.uk
Wednesday 17th November	Tournament Turf Workshops	Bedfordshire – Luton Hoo Golf and Hotel	Presented by Bernhard & Syngenta. Contact Catherine McEwan (Bernhard & Co) 01788 811600 or email Catherine.mcewan@bernhard.co.uk
Thursday 18th November	Tournament Turf Workshops	West Midlands – Robin Hood Golf Club	Presented by Bernhard & Syngenta. Contact Catherine McEwan (Bernhard & Co) 01788 811600 or email Catherine.mcewan@bernhard.co.uk
Friday 19th November	Tournament Turf Workshops	Kent – Wildernesse Golf Club	Presented by Bernhard & Syngenta. Contact Catherine McEwan (Bernhard & Co) 01788 811600 or email Catherine.mcewan@bernhard.co.uk
Friday November 19th	South West and South Wales Regional Conference	Cannington Centre for Landbased Studies	Jane Jones at janejones1@btconnect.com or mobile 07841 948110
Monday November 29th	Sheffield Section Event	Lindrick Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
DECEMBER			
Wednesday December 1st	North Wales Section Event and AGM	Mile End Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 07876 776265
Thursday December 2nd	North West Section AGM & Bert Cross Trophy	Wilmslow Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604
Tuesday December 7th	Surrey Section AGM	Guildford Golf Club	Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 07778 170077
Thursday December 9th	East Midlands Section Christmas Tournament	Cotgrave Place Golf and Country Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
Wednesday December 15th	East Anglia Section Event	Thorpeness Golf Club	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or 07929 205398
Wednesday 15th December	Mid Anglia Section Event	Ashridge Golf Club	Gerald Bruce at Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk or 07774 921606
Thursday December 16th	East of England Section Event	Sleaford Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 569158



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

The Membership Benefit that Pays

No one knows how beneficial BIGGA membership is to technical, career and personal development better than BIGGA members.

If you are a member of BIGGA, you already recognise the benefits that are offered from a dedicated sports turf professional body. If you know somebody who shares our common vision and would benefit from being a member of BIGGA then why not recommend him or her for BIGGA membership?

Help your Association grow by sharing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join. Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.

A vital and growing BIGGA means greater recognition of the sports turf professional, improved educational and networking opportunities for all members and the advancement of sports turf maintenance worldwide.

Tips on Recruiting New Members

- Invite a prospective member to attend a Section Golf Day or Education event to experience first-hand the professional benefits of BIGGA Membership
- Start a discussion about BIGGA membership, mentioning all the benefits and services that BIGGA provide
- Tell them why you are a member and what you get from it (show your enthusiasm)
- Show them a copy of Greenkeeper International
- Discuss the relaunched BIGGA website with the benefit of the bulletin boards within the Members' area

Ways to recruit new members

1. You can simply provide the BIGGA membership department with your colleagues name and contact information and we can send them a membership information pack.
2. You can print membership applications from the BIGGA website

or receive some from the office and hand them one directly.

3. You can direct them to the application form on the BIGGA website.

Continue to Learn 2011

With the launch of the Continue to Learn programme for 2011 in last months Greenkeeper International we have been experiencing lots of interest and bookings.

This year we have introduced the Turf Managers' Conference, we have also kept the very popular How to be an Outstanding Manager Workshop, Part 1 is Setting and Managing Expectations and Part 2 is How to Motivate and Engage Your People (this is very popular so if you want a place book quick!).

This year we have also included a Volunteers Workshop, this is for any BIGGA member who is currently a volunteer or is thinking about volunteering on section, region or national committees, it will hopefully give you a better understanding on what is involved.

For those looking at their own personal finances we have a free seminar on Wills and Estate Planning (Tuesday, January 18), now it may not be a sexy subject but writing a will is so important today. Take half an hour out of your day to listen to an expert highlight the importance of making a Will.

We are pleased to include a free seminar for the development of Assistant Greenkeepers (Wednesday, January 19, 2-4pm), this will be a highly interactive workshop devised for Assistants to learn about key skills in workplace communication and team working tips.

As we all gear up to face unprecedented financial turmoil the need for greenkeepers and other sports turf professionals to get together to plan the way ahead is more vital than ever. Conferences and Exhibitions such as Harrogate Week are a very cost effective way of learning new tricks and testing your own ideas.

For those Golf Clubs who cut off opportunities for their greenkeepers development could, in the end, find this detrimental to their golf course.



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Brad Anderson
brad@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)

For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.

Scotland

Brian Gallagher, Ayrshire
James Strange, Central
James Taylor, North

Northern Region

Stephen Cotgreave, North West
Callum Edwards, North Wales
Ben McGrattan, North East
Ian Nichols, North West

Midland Region

Andre Arthur, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Christian Fowler, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Darren James, Midland
David Jones, Midland
Christopher Lambert, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Victor Richardson, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Adam Shoesmith, Midland
John Spence, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Liam Tomkins, Mid Anglia
Sean Wallace, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Christian Wilkinson, Midland

South East Region

Jamie Abel, Essex
Gavin Chase, Surrey
Daniel Gunn, Surrey
Joshua Thorley, Surrey
Sam Turner, Surrey
Andrew West, Surrey

South West/South Wales Region

Luke Albers, South West
Joseph Kelly, South Coast

International

Robert Collins, Spain
Thomas Jones, USA
Graham Ross, Spain

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd
Tel: 0141 616 3440
Mobile: 07776 242120
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Northern & Midland

Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07866 366966
petelar972@aol.com

South East

Clive Osgood
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

South West & Wales

Jane Jones
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
janejones1@btconnect.com



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

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BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Conference

This year's conference is on Friday November 19 at Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies. The theme for the conference is "Changing Times".

The day will begin with a presentation entitled "The Effects Of Climate Change" and given by Felicity Liggins from the Metrological Office, Exeter.

This will be followed by Simon Watson or Rod Burke from Syngenta speaking on "The Changing Face Of Disease"

The final presentations in the morning will be made by Rhys Norville, Toro Student Of The Year 2009 and Matthew Worster, Conservation Greenkeeper of The Year

2009 both telling us about their "Experiences In The USA"

The afternoon session commences with Peter Todd, Course Manager at The London Golf Club who will be speaking on "A Modern Approach " and he will be followed by Dan Duffy, Head Groundsman at The Liberty Stadium, Swansea and Groundsman of The Year.

His presentation is "A Pitch For All Occasions" and this will give an insight into the diverse requirements of stadium today.

Entry for BIGGA members is £20 with non members £30. A reduced rate of £20 for a non member is offered if accompanied by a BIGGA member.

Places for the day are limited and booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers / Course Managers in the region.

Anyone requiring further information or a booking form please contact Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on:

01454 270850
or mobile 07841948110.

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
Scotland	1 March 2011	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	<i>Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440</i>
North	To be announced	To be announced	<i>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</i>
Midlands	To be announced	To be announced	<i>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</i>
South East	3 November 2010	Plumpton College	<i>Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator, 01737 819343</i>
South West and South Wales	19 November 2010	Cannington College	<i>Jane Jones, Regional Administrator, 01454 270850</i>



Servicing your most expensive asset

Don't catch a chill this winter, by cutting corners on a proper shutdown of your irrigation system, cautions Jim Fairclough

Last winter's extreme cold snap caught many Course Managers and golf clubs off guard. Having delayed or decided against the recommended winter shutdown procedures to protect their irrigation systems against the cold and frost, many clubs paid the price with costly damage to sprinklers, pipework and pumps.

When system can cost up to a million pounds, heeding the advice of manufacturers and contractors can save maintenance headaches next season and enhance the operational lifetime of one of the biggest outlays on the course.

"With budgets under pressure and a predicted milder winter on its way, the temptation may have been to once again delay the October shutdown to late November or even December, or – worse – skip shutdown altogether," says Lely UK's Toro Irrigation Manager, Robert Jackson,

"But my message is simple – don't! The truth is, during even the mildest of winters, if you don't take essential irrigation shutdown precautions it is merely luck if your system doesn't suffer."

Now is the time, therefore, to start planning, preparing for and performing irrigation system winter shutdown procedures, adds Robert.

Follow the manufacturer's advice by turning to your irrigation contractor and/or consultant to do this

professionally and successfully, he advises.

Attempting to drain or depressurise your system yourself could be asking for trouble, he cautions.

"If you are unsure of the procedure or are unsuccessful, you could put your system – or the health and safety of yourself and your colleagues – at risk."

The contractor will depressurise the system and use a compressor to remove the water – ensuring that water will not be left to expand in pipes, pumps and other components when it freezes, "the main cause of damage", said Robert.

"That's why it's essential to do this work in October or November before the frost sets in – December is too late. As we learned to our cost last year, no one is safe from the UK's increasingly unpredictable and adverse weather conditions."

Golf clubs in coastal locations have thought themselves "immune" to winter irrigation system damage but last year several of his major links course customers – "who had fortunately taken our recommended shutdown advice" – found themselves under a heap of snow.

Inclement weather can affect new or existing systems, so the advice remains essentially similar. But an old irrigation set-up can become too problematic to continue in use any longer, as an East of England course discovered.

Glen Lodge Bawburgh Golf Club



in Norfolk was the first course in the UK to feature a complete, fully working John Deere irrigation system, which was officially commissioned at the end of April 2009.

The system covers the club's existing 18-hole course and an additional new nine new holes.

More than a year later and the decision to invest in new irrigation is reaping maintenance as well as environmental dividends.

"With budgets under pressure and a predicted milder winter on its way, the temptation may be to delay or – worse – skip shutdown"
Robert Jackson (inset)

"What with the expansion of the course, as well as taking over responsibility for maintaining the driving range, we thought investing in a new irrigation system made the most sense," explains course manager Mike Ward.

"We were having problems with our old irrigation controller. We often didn't know a problem existed until parts of the course dried out, or faults were signalled – but we didn't know where to find them in the system."

Existing pipework on the 18-hole course was upgraded with new solenoid valves, sprinkler heads and decoders, plus a new Aurora control box mounted in the greenkeepers'



shed and an outdoor pedestal controller, each of which can control the other as required.

The system now irrigates all the tees, approaches and greens, some fairways where necessary, and the club's five gardens. It even controls a fountain with lights situated in a lake by the 18th hole.

Ward is able to operate, interrogate and programme the entire system from anywhere in the world by radio control or via the Internet using a computer or mobile phone, as well as save water using the Aurora controller.

An evapotranspiration (ET) meter linked to the system calculates the amount of water needed for irrigation based on prevailing weather conditions and rainfall, to prevent over- or underwatering. The Aurora controller also provides programming to the second rather than the minute, which can lead to large water savings over a season.

"This also saves on electricity usage, and long-term wear on the sprinkler heads and pumps," said Mike.

"Agronomists love it too, because if you're not overwatering you avoid the build-up of disease.

"I can run multiple programmes, turn individual heads on and off on different parts of the course, and turn individual programmes on and off as required while leaving others running – the whole system's extremely flexible."

This year Mike added a rain bucket to the system. Sitting next to the ET meter, it delivers increased accuracy, he reports, as it compares actual rainfall against evaporation, and can switch the system off if necessary.

"In 2009 we ended up utilising only about a quarter of our normal water usage in what was a very dry summer, during which we went eight weeks without rain," added Mike, who identifies several reasons for the savings. The ET meter linked to the system is adjusting the rate all the time and I can also use my iPhone to make adjustments while I'm out on the course, based on what I'm seeing, without having to go back to manually operate the controller all the time."

Ward usually uses his iPhone for on-course control, as it's "easier, quicker and has a better range than the radio", he notes. "You can also see what you're operating by name rather than having to carry a separate list of decoder numbers when using the radio.

"I can log in, find the heads I want to control, make the settings and log off quicker than with other phones. The iPhone also tells you when the system's about to come on, whereas the radio doesn't."

This year marked a first for Mike in another way. "It was the first time I've ever started up the irrigation system and not had any electrical faults to worry about.



"With our previous system, we often had to put in at least 35 new decoders at the start of the season. This time round, we simply turned on the new system, everything fired up perfectly and there were no faults."

Some clubs, particularly council-run ones and smaller enterprises, may blanch when service contracts are mentioned but the sense of them is clear to see, says Jon Jinks, Director of Osprey Water Management, who specialise in installing and maintaining irrigation systems.

"Avoiding a frozen system is a key priority as winter comes on," he stressed.

"Under a service contract, we would drain the system then undertake a commissioning in the spring, refilling with water and checking there are no leaks, that sprinkler heads turn correctly and deliver the correct amount of water in the correct arc and in an even pattern. As irrigation systems are closed, leaks can be detected if pressure levels fluctuate."

Clubs that decide to forego servicing and do not drain their system run the risk of a costly outcome.

"Pumps are made in cast iron and can split if temperatures fall low enough," Jon added.

"My first thought then would be to ensure a thermostatic heater was installed in the pump house, which comes on when temperatures reach a critically low level."



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Exclusive to BIGGA members

1. 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals'

Introduction
The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning. Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top-level goals down through the organisation.

Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

1. Cascading goals
Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual in the unit has their own performance goals. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

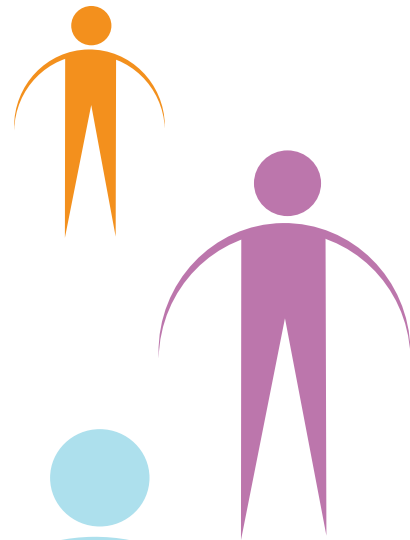
In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams where they work together more as a team than as individuals). For some it is more appropriate to agree individual goals (see 'How to Develop an Appraisal System', and 'How to Prepare for an Appraisal'). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

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“How To...” guides are now available exclusively to BIGGA Members, on a range of Human Resource topics.

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To access the “How To...” guides, log on to the **BIGGA Members Area** at www.bigga.org and **click on Member Resources**.



The 'How To...' guides are a new benefit of BIGGA membership and are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

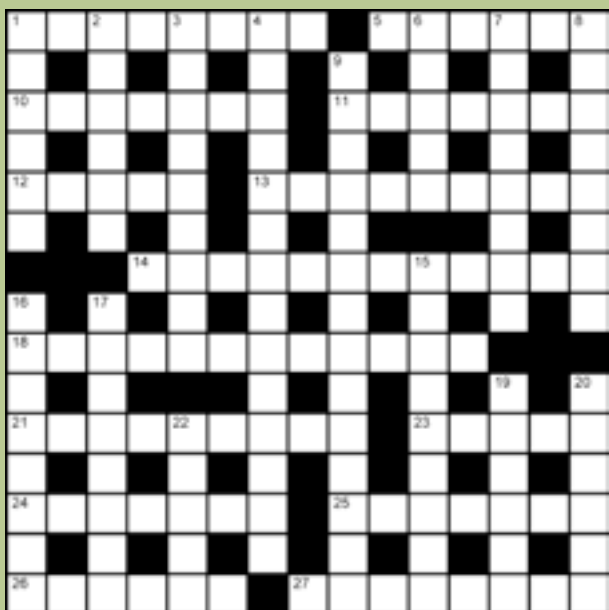




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 A two-person, open palmed celebratory hand slap (4-4)
- 5 Loose items of clothing worn over the shoulders (6)
- 10 Chorus (7)
- 11 Artist, creator of The Vitruvian Man (2,5)
- 12 The first shot of most cue sports (5)
- 13 Holey Swiss cheese, typically favoured by cartoon mice (9)
- 14 The area surrounding the flag on a golf hole (7,5)
- 18 Artificat key to deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics (7,5)
- 21 National symbol of the USA (4,5)
- 23 An antipodean, arboreal, marsupial herbivore (5)
- 24 Unchanging and enduring (7)
- 25 Make inoperative (7)
- 26 Old Testament Queen of Persia (6)
- 27 One from the ancient city of Assur in Mesopotamia (8)

- 1 As a result of this (6)
- 2 Affectionate term for the boss (6)
- 3 German city, home of the Commerzbank Tower (9)
- 4 Dutch artist, painter of The Potato Eaters (7,3,4)
- 6 A place of safety, especially for ships (5)
- 7 Capital city of Namibia (8)
- 8 Kenyan unit of currency (8)
- 9 1970s/80s band responsible for Kings of the Wild Frontier (4,3,3,4)
- 15 Jerry's dance partner in Anchors Aweigh (4,5)
- 16 Card game played with a board and scoring pegs (8)
- 17 Composer of sacred songs or hymns (8)
- 19 French Polynesian island (6)
- 20 A deep gorge (6)
- 22 Heskey or Zola? (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - *Greatest of All Times*

1. In what year was the epic World Snooker Final between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis?
2. Name the two players who battled out the longest match of all time at Wimbledon this year?
3. To the nearest 15 minutes how long did it last?
4. Name the two teams who fought out the greatest European Cup final at Hampden in 1960.
5. What was Ian Botham's second innings score in the famous 1981 Headingley Ashes Test Match – to the nearest 15 runs?
6. Who scored the fondly recalled try – famously commentated on by Cliff Morgan - in the greatest rugby match of all time – Barbarians v All Blacks, in Cardiff, in 1973?
7. In which year was the "Duel in the Sun" Open Championship played at Turnberry - and who was the duel between?
8. Which film was inspired by Eric Liddell's win in the 1924 Olympic 400 metres final?
9. What was the name of the racehorse which won the 1973 Belmont Stakes, the American Triple crown, in a record time?



MONSTER SUDOKU

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



SUDOKU

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

Puzzle Answers on page 81

BUYERS' GUIDE



Speedcut treatment for top golf courses

Speedcut Contractors work across all sportsturf sectors, from construction to drainage and renovation – and they have a wealth of golf course experience gained during more than 30 years in business.

Recent golf course projects have included Sundridge Park Golf Club, Kent, where Speedcut has been reshaping and recontouring tees and bunkers, while at Castle Royal Golf Club in Berkshire the company dredged and lined a large lake.

At Blue Mountain Golf Club in Berkshire, Speedcut reconstructed two tees that were affected by heavy snow last winter while at Chislehurst Golf Club in Kent the company installed green surrounds drainage and Gwazae-aerated half the greens in preparation for the winter.

Speedcut's laser-leveller for renovating tees has been in action at golf clubs across the country – including Foxhills Golf Club and Resort in Surrey where they have completely renovated several tees. At Foxhills they have also installed full drainage systems on fairways and sandlit greens over the last three years.

Its Gwazae aerator (for relieving areas of compaction) has been heavily used on golf courses (and racecourses) across the UK. At West Chilmington Golf Club, West Sussex, all the greens were treated with the Gwazae aerator during the early spring. Results were described as “outstanding” by Course Manager Adam Hartley.

At Piltown Golf Club in East Sussex, Speedcut has built a new ladies tee at the 18th and a new green, as well as recontouring around the men's tee and building six other new tees, including a winter tee at the 9th.

And at the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club paths round the clubhouse have been resurfaced with a special rubberised non-slip surface.

Other major projects this year have included the re-building of Exeter City FC's stadium pitch, the construction of new football pitches for Rowley Lane Sports Association in Barnet, North London, and the construction of football pitches and a cricket square for Futures Community College at Southend-on-Sea.

Details: 01865 331479.

www.speedcutcontractors.co.uk

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Photo courtesy of Ridding Park
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

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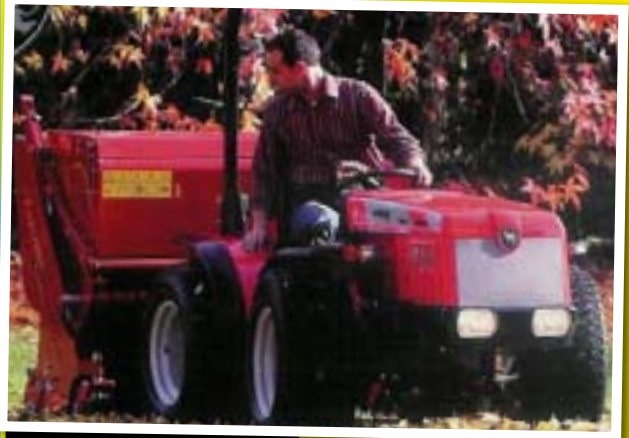
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The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal, written and spoken communication skills, educated to A-Level/Degree standard, IT literate and have a solid understanding of turf related industries.

The position will require considerable amounts of travel, with the inevitable time spent away from home for extended periods. Language skills will be regarded as highly desirable, but not essential.

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Erewash Valley Golf Club GENERAL MANAGER



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Reporting to the Chairman of the Management Committee, the General Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day operational aspects of the club, with the authority to manage and develop a professional team, ensuring that an efficient and cost effective service is delivered for the members.

The ideal candidate should have proven management experience with the skills to manage the day-to-day operations and be able to demonstrate:

- An appreciation of the traditional values of a private members golf club.
- A track record of success in management at a senior level with outstanding organisational, motivational and interpersonal skills.
- Marketing strengths to focus on membership recruitment and membership retention.
- Proven business skills with the financial acumen to set/manage budgets and prepare financial reports.
- Experience in Employment Law and Health & Safety Legislation would also be beneficial.
- Commercial awareness, which is essential to maximise business development opportunities to make best use of the recently modernised clubhouse facilities.
- Self-supporting IT skills, ideally including experience of golf club database packages and financial software.
- A flexible approach to working hours.

Applications, which should include a full CV, will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be directed to: The Chairman, Erewash Valley Golf Club, Golf Club Road, Stanton-by-Dale, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 4QR, or via email to: secretary@erewashvalley.co.uk

The closing date for applications is 20 August 2010.

Technical Sales Manager

South East England

(Kent, Surrey, Sussex, S.London)

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The successful applicant will be able to support and develop sales of our quality products to both existing and new customers, contribute to new product development and work closely with other industry professionals.

They will have experience in the turf or amenity sectors and be highly motivated with exceptional communication skills.

Applications are invited from people who wish to be part of a dynamic, rapidly growing company and can contribute to our existing close team of Technical Area Managers as well as acting on their own initiative.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The position offers a quality company car and other benefits after a successful qualifying period. Applications by post or email should include a full C.V. and be sent to;



**Andy Russell, Sales & Marketing Director
Headland Amenity Ltd,**
1010 Cambourne Business Park,
Cambourne, Cambs CB23 6DP
Email: andy.russell@headlandamenity.com
Telephone: 01223 597834

Closing date: 19th November 2010



Golf Course Manager/Head Green-keeper

East Brighton Golf Club invites applications for the position of Course Manager/Head Green-keeper.

East Brighton is an 18 hole private members club, formed in 1893 and redesigned by James Braid in 1908. The course is nestled in spectacular down-land countryside with breathtaking coastal views and is located just 2 miles from the city centre of Brighton.

Built on chalk, the course is playable throughout the year without the necessity of temporary greens or tees.

Applications are invited from those who are:

- Qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent.
- A team player able to mentor others.
- Enthusiastic and a committed person, with a hands-on approach to green-keeping and green-keeping management.
- Possesses an eye for detail, with the ability to control and manage a budget in line with the business requirement.
- Hold appropriate first aid, pesticide and preferably chainsaw certificates.
- Fully conversant with up to date Health and Safety regulations.
- Appreciate the need for flexible working hours and will have the necessary skills to manage, lead, and develop the existing team of green-keeping staff to deliver and maintain the full potential of this excellent down-land course.

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

Requests for an Application Pack including a Person Specification should be sent to: The General Manager, East Brighton Golf Club, Roedean Road, Brighton BN2 5RA or by e-mail to: george@ebgc.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 22nd November 2010.

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1. 1985
2. John Isner and Nicolas Mahut
3. 11 hours and five minutes
4. Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt (Real won 7-3)
5. 149 Not Out
6. Gareth Edwards
7. 1977. Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus
8. Chariots of Fire
9. Secretariat

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H	I	G	H	F	I	V	E	S	H	A	W	L	S	
E	A	R	I	A	A	I	H							
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9	A	6	8	0	7	4	5	E	B	3	1	0	2	C	F
0	2	C	1	B	6	E	F	5	9	8	4	A	7	0	3
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7	D	E	F	8	0	9	3	2	C	A	6	B	4	5	1
8	B	A	7	5	2	6	0	3	F	1	E	C	9	4	0
6	3	D	9	C	E	A	8	4	8	0	5	F	1	7	2
5	4	0	2	F	1	7	8	9	A	D	C	E	B	3	6
C	1	F	E	8	3	0	4	6	2	8	7	5	D	A	8
B	F	4	3	7	5	8	1	C	0	E	9	8	A	2	D
A	7	2	5	E	D	3	0	1	6	4	F	9	C	8	B
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E	0	9	D	4	A	C	6	8	7	2	B	1	3	F	5
D	C	5	6	3	9	2	A	B	E	F	8	7	0	1	4
F	E	7	0	1	8	B	C	D	4	9	2	3	5	6	A
3	9	1	4	0	F	D	E	7	5	6	A	2	8	B	C
2	8	B	A	6	4	5	7	0	1	C	3	D	F	9	E

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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



On the Soapbox

A vehicle for letting people within the industry express their point of view

I have been in this industry for more than 35 years and during that time have met countless greenkeepers at clubs, which are now facing increasing competition, and having to maintain the highest possible standards if they are to retain and attract new members.

In the early days it was a battle to get greenkeepers and groundsmen the recognition they deserved, but all that is changing – and that is largely thanks to the work of organisations like BIGGA and the IOG through their excellent training and education programmes.

We have come so far, but there is still a way to go. For today's turf managers, industry qualifications, keeping up to date with health and safety regulations, presentation expertise and management skills are now part of everyday life.

Machinery has certainly become far more sophisticated and is one of the key advances within the industry. As a result, the responsibility of the greenkeeper and groundsman has been dramatically increased with even a relatively medium-sized club having equipment which can add up to more than £200,000 in value.

There has also been a significant shift in the range of machinery each club will hold.

Thirty-five years ago it was quite common for fairways to be cut with gangs of mowers pulled by tractors. The idea of specialist fairway mowers was laughed at. Now they are the norm and clubs can spend more than £35,000 on a fairway mower. And where standards are at their highest, some clubs box-off the grass clippings.

Suppliers recognise the necessity for really good products and the need for demonstrations, training and follow-up contact with their customers.

On-site trials and tests with practical demonstrations are vital – as clubs are making a significant investment in equipment and want to try them out in their own surroundings to ensure they perform well and meet their individual needs.

A machine has to 'do what it says on the tin'. Facing tougher economic times, machinery companies recognise that it is not always possible for a club to make an outright purchase and are looking to offer a variety of business options – from no-interest payment deals to hire and leasing.

And after the sale, or lease, has been agreed the follow-up in service and spare parts for the equipment has got to be

exemplary. In this way we can secure repeat business.

Industry exhibitions. As manufacturers and suppliers we value our two main trade shows – BTME and IOG SALTEX – very highly. They are both at significant times of the year – with very different markets.

An outdoor show like SALTEX in September has a very wide remit for grounds managers with an extensive range of exhibitors taking part including those offering play equipment, nursery stock and heavy digging gear – with a demo area for all types of machinery, from chainsaws to trenchers.

But BTME in January is pitched just right for the sports turf market. Exhibitors and visitors can make an event of it, in a friendly environment, catching up with old colleagues in Harrogate to discuss the industry they love and the trials and delights of greenkeeping.

This business of large exhibitors deciding to do one show every other year is okay for them – but smaller companies want to do every single one as it is their lifeblood.

They have to be seen constantly by potential customers, and the contacts made at shows are vital for their survival.

I don't think the time will come when the shows will merge. And, in my opinion, that would not be to the advantage of either organisation – or the trade and visitors.

No one has to exhibit or attend, but those who want to, can. I think it would be unfortunate if this choice was removed. I appreciate that the expense of shows can be very significant but we as exhibitors have to evaluate what it costs against the value of orders taken at the show or subsequently.

By exhibiting there is also the added benefit of keeping up with existing customers and contacts, as well as meeting and greeting prospective customers.

Each show has its own particular place in the scheme of things and in the calendar they are important events for the sports and amenity industry.

The way forward Although we have tough economic times ahead we must plan for the future and always be prepared to go that extra mile for our customers. That goes not only for machinery and product suppliers but for golf clubs themselves.

The days of golf clubs being run by the old pals' brigade have virtually disappeared and hard-nosed business people are keeping business coming into golf clubs in a variety of ways – from encouraging youngsters and families, catering for events and offering pay-and-play visitors genuine deals.

Innovative ideas and new ways of thinking will need to be introduced to keep the golf industry moving forward.

In Germany one golf course holds annual summer camps for more than 1,000 youngsters who spend their holiday learning to play golf – using the course's facilities, and hopefully becoming future players and members.

Golf clubs here must look at every opportunity to encourage the next generation of members – and keep their current membership happy, to make sure numbers do not dwindle when the annual subscription request comes round.

Times are changing and we must all change with them to survive.

Tough times ahead but we must invest in the future



David Jenkins, Managing Director of DJ Turfcare, founded Charterhouse in 1980 and was responsible for introducing the Verti-Drain to the UK. David founded DJ Turfcare in 2000, a company providing a range of niche products to golf, sports and amenity managers.
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David Jenkins

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

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