

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Inside...

## Turf Set to Suffer

DR TERRY MABBETT PREDICTS SERIOUS WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS FOR TURF

## THE ONLY WAY IS UP

Hawkhurst GC, in Kent, is this month's Golf Course Feature

Featured

**TORO.**

## Student Greenkeeper of the Year

ANDREW STANGER, OF HORSFORTH GC, IS VICTORIOUS AT BIGGA HOUSE



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IN PEOPLE



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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



# A big opportunity for golf

**By the time you read this the dust will have settled on the 37th Ryder Cup and either Colin Montgomerie or Corey Pavin will be lauded as a hero.**

Weather and any other possible outside influences aside, the preparation work that Jim McKenzie and his Celtic Manor team, carried out in the years, months, weeks, days and hours prior to the Cup meant that no stone was left unturned in ensuring a successful week.

Putting that aside though, I would hope, and expect, that golf, and its overall profile will have come out of what is the third biggest sporting event on the planet - after the Olympics and the World Cup - on the up because the game is certainly in need of a boost.

It has come in for a real battering this year. Golf clubs are feeling the squeeze at the rank and file end while in the professional game Tiger Woods has been forced, by virtue of his performances both on and off the course, to hand over the crown of "Greatest Sportsman in the World" to Usain Bolt. Whether he will ever win it back is very much open to conjecture.

The perfect showcase of a thrill-packed Ryder Cup would do wonders for the game, whetting the appetite of occasional players to play more often; getting the juices flowing of young aspiring Rorys, Martins and Edoardos to take up the game, and, perhaps, cement the desire of nomad golfers into taking out a membership at a good local club and putting down some roots.

I keep coming back to the virtues of golf as a game and I am continually frustrated by the portrayal of it in certain quarters as a joke pastime, undertaken by checked trouser-wearing gin swilling old buffers.

Granted, the age profile of the game could be a little more youthful, and I do baulk at the garish colour combinations so beloved by Ian Poulter and his followers, but, in general, golf offers so much to those who take part.

At my club, it is great to see young boys and girls receiving coaching on a Saturday morning. They are all well presented, often wearing smart branded clothing (and no doubt badgering their parents for just the sort of Ian Poulter inspired clobber I so detest); well mannered and keen to learn.

And that's not just the ability to swing the club on a consistent plane and turn three shots into two around the green, it's the etiquette that teaches them how to conduct themselves in any company, and it any facet of their young lives.

Golf more than any other sport instils values into those people who play it and while we can't hide from the flaws, and should work hard to remove them, we must try and make sure that our positive pronouncements drown out the often snide comments of the critics.

Without wishing to tempt fate, having written this before the start of this year's Ryder Cup, I'd like to congratulate Jim McKenzie, his team and the many volunteer greenkeepers on a successful week.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**

OCTOBER 2010

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



## 210 Mile Trip to Paris for Charity

Agronomist Bruce Jamieson and his 16 year-old daughter, Alice, completed their sponsored 210 mile four day cycle ride from Hartley Wintney early last month.

Bruce and Alice have so far raised over £1,600 for their local St John's Church, which is hoping to build a community centre.

"I would certainly do it again, but it was hard work. On the first two days we rode for 51 and 57 miles respectively but the third day was 94 miles, many of them uphill," said Bruce, who enjoyed the 10 mile final stint into Paris and the Eiffel Tower, behind a support vehicle.

The 44 people who completed the trip raised over £40,000 for the Church but contributions can still be made at

[www.justgiving.com/Bruce-and-Alice-Jamieson](http://www.justgiving.com/Bruce-and-Alice-Jamieson)



## Man City Man Flies out to Italy



Barenbrug UK's Jayne Leyland recently took Manchester City FC's Grounds Manager, Roy Rigby, on a fact-finding visit to Italy to give him an insight into the latest research and developments in grass seed solutions for the sports turf industry.

Jayne and Roy journeyed to Landlab, in Quinto Vicentino, near Vicenza, where the independent turfgrass research centre is working on grass synergy and bio-diversity systems with Royal Barenbrug Group.

Roy and his team are charged with achieving the very best playing surfaces possible. As such, Roy is keen to use and trial cutting-edge seed solutions as a key part of his programme across the club's Eastlands stadium, Carrington training ground and Platt Lane academy sites.

And with Roy's expertise also in demand in the United Arab Emirates – where club owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan has asked him to advise on Abu Dhabi Football Club's pitches and his personal grounds – he found the Barenbrug trials being conducted at Landlab of particular interest and practical relevance.

"The level of investment at Manchester City means I am in the unique and privileged position of being able to actively seek out the latest sports turf solutions to trial and use at our grounds," said Roy.

"The Landlab visit was really useful – the water restitution and warm/cool season grasses trials will certainly benefit my work in Abu Dhabi. It's given me lots to think about in terms of uses back home too – first off, I plan to start an exciting trial with Jayne at one of our Manchester grounds next summer."

Roy Rigby, centre, with Landlab's Dr Adriano Altissimo and Barenbrug UK's Jayne Leyland on his recent trip to the Italian trials site





## Victorious at Norrie Whytock

On Thursday, 19 August, we made our way to Auchterarder Golf Club for our annual Norrie Whytock Team event for the Sections in Scotland, hosted by Bayer.

Auchterarder Golf Club was in superb condition. Our congratulations to Archie Dunn and his staff for the presentation of the course. It was a pleasure to play.

On to the event itself. After last year's momentous win the Ayrshire Section were looking to retain the trophy but this was not to be. Due to the good weather, the scoring was the best we have seen for several years with some excellent scores being returned. In third place with 100

points was the West Section. In second with a great score of 104 was the Central Section team comprising Derek Scott, Scoonie GC; Andy O'Hara, Leven Links; Tom Adams and Charlie MacDonald, both Crieff GC.

However the winner, with a total of 105 Stableford points was the team from the East comprising Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Parks; George Oliver, Murrayfield GC; Alistair Holmes, Seahouses GC, and finally Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC, who lead the way with a fine individual score of 40 points, the best of the day.

Winning Captain, Stuart Ferguson, thanked Bayer and Kenny Liddell, Scottish

representative, for their sponsorship and support. The Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, was also in attendance and endorsed Stuart's comments.

Our thanks once again, go to the Captain and Committee of Auchterarder GC for the courtesy and facilities. Thanks also to David Smith, Managing Secretary, for his assistance in organising the tournament.

We look forward to returning to Auchterarder Golf Club in 2011 and hope to see you there.

*Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator*

## GIVE NATURE A HELPING HAND

Do you want to encourage more birds onto your course? Enhancing the natural look of your property could bring in golfers who are after more than just a good playing experience.

The R&A and RSPB joint publication, "Birds and golf courses: a guide to habitat management", can help you do just that. Its 80 lavishly illustrated pages contain a wealth of guidance on managing habitat for birds and other wildlife. Links, heathland, grassland, downland and parkland courses are all covered, with advice on woodland, hedgerow, scrub and wetland management for birds.

The book was written by Keith Duff, retired Chief Scientist at English Nature,

(and an advisory member of The R&A's Golf Course Committee) and Nigel Symes, habitat management specialist at RSPB.

Peter Dawson, Chief Executive of the R&A, expressed his delight in working closely with the RSPB on this publication. "I encourage all golf clubs to think about how they can put this guidance into practice on their property."

Golf courses, if managed sympathetically, can provide a safe haven for some species of birds that were once widespread but that have declined rapidly in recent years. The R&A and its Open venues are playing their part by, for example, managing grassland rough to encourage ground nesting birds such as the Birds of Conservation Concern Red Listed skylark.



## The Course Care Cup

A popular annual event took place recently at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club. This was the 13th time that the Wessex Secretaries met the South Coast Greenkeepers to take part in this close fought contest sponsored by Course Care.

With honours even before this particular event much was at stake but, on a beautifully sunny day, the greenkeepers were successful (3½ to 1½) and presented with the trophy.

Here we see Kevan Glass, Course Manager at Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, receiving the cup from Course Care's Managing Director David Mears.



Kevan Glass as he receives Course Care Cup from David Mears.



Derek Markham presents his history of West Surrey Golf Club to the Library

## Golf Club Histories at the EIGCA Library

The EIGCA has been actively searching out the publications of golf clubs over 100 years old for the past five years for its library. These provide a valuable insight into the early years of golf and the work of pioneers such as Harry Colt, James Braid and Alister Mackenzie. This part of the collection now stands at over 400 volumes. For clubs embarking on their own history, it is a useful starting point as there is a great variety in the form and content of these books.

The 19th century was a period of extreme change throughout Europe as we moved from a rural society to an urban one. By the end of this period there emerged a new leisured class of people with money to spend. Now, golf had been played for many centuries before that but the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th saw a growth of interest in the game never seen before or since. Over 500 golf clubs were established in England alone during that period and 300 in Scotland.

The EIGCA is interested in the beginnings of these clubs. Many of them are considering renovation work to coincide with their centenary celebrations and are looking at the original layouts and their designers for information.

Based on the library of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, and substantially augmented since, initially with a grant from the R&A, the EIGCA Library collection contains the writings of many of the great masters in the field, such as Harry Colt, H N Wethered, George Thomas, as well as the works of more modern gurus like Geoff Shackelford, Robert Muir Graves and Michael Hurdzan. We have facsimile copies of many books published in the first part of the 20th century, such as *The Links* by Robert Hunter and Bernard Darwin's *Green Memories*. There are guides to courses throughout the world and many works exploring the environmental impact of golf. And we have practical guides to irrigation and greenkeeping which detail the techniques available to the industry today.

The club histories are listed in the Library's catalogue which can be viewed on the Institute's web site at [www.eigca.org/library.php](http://www.eigca.org/library.php). Non-members may borrow our books for a small fee, and are welcome to visit and view the collection. Please email me on [librarian@eigca.org](mailto:librarian@eigca.org).

*Sue Stranger, Librarian  
European Institute of Golf Course Architects.*



## CHELSEA SHOW OFF NEW STAR SIGNING

Having finished top of the Premier League last season, all eyes are on Chelsea now the new season is underway. And to keep Stamford Bridge in perfect playing condition, the stadium's Assistant Head Groundsman, Kevin Fowler, knew just what the club needed – a Toro ProCore 648 pedestrian aerator.

"I've actually been wanting this machine for years," Kevin says of the club's latest signing. "I've demoed it alongside other aerators, but it was just a matter of convincing my boss! I'm very pleased we've got it as it's a good machine that does exactly what it says on the tin."





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## Wiedenmann UK Hosts Series of Open Days



From Kerry to Kent, and from seven regional airports, Wiedenmann UK welcomed over 130 dealer representatives and prospective customers to a series of three demonstration days recently.

A total of 25 machines from its fleet of turf and ground care equipment were available for testing at Wiedenmann's show field, next to its Glasgow Airport HQ.

With eight Terra Spikes lined up side by side, visitors were able to appreciate first hand how continuous product differentiation and R&D investment has enabled Wiedenmann to develop patented technology to deep aerate and decompact turf.

David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's Managing Director, told the audience:

"We are known for our Terra

Spikes aerators but increasingly customers are discovering our range of mowers, collectors, conditioning and commercial machinery.

"This is your chance to get behind the controls and see everything up close."

*Photograph shows one of eight groups at Wiedenmann's series of Open Days.*



## New Chief Executive for Links Trust

Euan Loudon, 54, who is currently Chief Executive of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, will take up the role of Chief Executive of the St Andrews Links Trust, early next year. The Trust manages and maintains the seven public golf courses in St Andrews including the Old Course and The Castle Course.

A former assistant professional golfer, he joined the army in 1974 and quickly rose through the officer ranks. He commanded the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and in his final appointment, in the rank of Major General, he was General Officer Commanding the Army's 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

In 1991, he was awarded the OBE for operational service in the Gulf as the Chief of Staff of The Desert Rats. In 2004 he was appointed CBE for operational service in Northern Ireland.

Euan said, "I feel privileged to have been appointed to such a high profile position. St Andrews Links is recognised as one of the world's finest golfing destinations and I look forward to developing that reputation even further in the years ahead."

## DUKES OF SCOTLAND HUMBLE ABOUT THE CRUMBALL VICTORY



Charterhouse Turf Machinery proved that its strong presence and longevity extend way beyond the groundcare sector when two members of the company won this year's Crumball Rally in Europe.

Dressed in kilts and driving their very own version of the famous Dukes of Hazard's 'General Lee', Richard Heywood and Curtis Allen, along with their friends, Steven McGill and Darren Ayling, blazed a trail from Boulogne to Monte Carlo via Strasbourg and Lake Como, finishing off in Nice.

However, there was more to the rally than a once-in-a-lifetime driving experience, the 'Dukes of Scotland' raised £4500 for The Scottish Society for Autism. The cash will be used to help children and teenagers at The Clippens School in Paisley who have special educational needs.





## Unsung Hero Celebrates Anniversary and Opens Eighth Awards

One of Terrain Aeration's current Unsung Heroes, Keri Jarman of Moor Park Golf and Country Club, was on hand at Saltex to help celebrate the company's 10th anniversary and open nominations for this year's awards.

Now in their eighth year, the Unsung Hero Awards are open to any Greenkeeper or Groundsman, deemed to be outstanding in his or her dedication to the industry, whether it be help and support given to colleagues, extra effort in the face of adversity or sterling, solid performance over and above the call of duty.

In other words, those who go that extra mile without any thought of reward.

The winners will be announced at Harrogate, having been judged by representatives from BIGGA, the IOG and the STRI, and will receive holiday vouchers, a framed certificate and a cheque for £200.

Nominations are invited from anyone in the industry (bar immediate family) and nomination forms will be available to download from Terrain Aeration's blogsite [www.terrainaeration.co.uk](http://www.terrainaeration.co.uk)

## Harry Diamond Remembered

The Harry Diamond Quaich was again played over the Belleisle Course, Ayr. Weatherwise, one would have thought that the Heavens had opened up and had concentrated their centre on Belleisle. Backed up by a "Gale Force" wind, sweeping down from the Cumnock Hills. The brave and fearless men, women and children were standing on their respective tees awaiting the 9am klaxon to start off this year's Harry Diamond Quaich.

Again this well supported competition had a full and overflowing entry sheet.

Considering that the Belleisle Hotel was closed due to a lack of patrons, the presentation of prizes had to be awarded at the Abbotsford Hotel, just a stone's throw away from the course.

Everyone who took part in the competition arrived there to be greeted with a free drink, and a raffle ticket for the splendid array of prizes on the table.

The whole Diamond family were involved in the arrangements of the golf and the apres Golf and the Harry Diamond Quaich was presented by Harry's wife, Jessie.

The winners were H. Russell, P. Tasker, P. Watson and A. Graham who had a remarkable score of 96 points, magnificent golf considering the weather.

The family wish to thank all who donated cheques and prizes, without which support the competition would not be possible. Also the golfers who turned out in such appalling weather are to be admired and thanked.

The whole day was a credit to Harry's memory and depicts just exactly the high esteem in which Harry was held by the Ayrshire golfers.

The presentation of prizes closed with a vote of thanks for the staff involved in running and arranging the ever successful Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich.

*Cecil George*

## DEDICATED FOLLOWERS OF PASSION



**Deputy Course Manager: Paul Dunn**  
Joined the club straight from school at the tender age of 16 in November 1970.



**Mechanic / Senior greenkeeper: Andrew Briggs**  
Joined the club in June 1985

Greenkeeping is not only a job but a passion for two members of Burnham & Berrow Golf Club's greenkeeping staff.

Deputy Course Manager, Paul Dunn, joined the club straight from school at the tender age of 16 in 1970. Mechanic/Senior greenkeeper, Andrew Briggs, joined the club in 1985.

Both have seen many changes over the years in work and machinery available, to present the wonderful links of Burnham to the highest standard.

Paul remembers having to use the Patterson's aerator that had no drive to the wheels. The engine only drove the drum, making turning on slopes etc very difficult. You had to make sure your assets didn't get caught! Between greens you would have to walk something the young lads can't believe.

Course Manager Richard Whyman adds that having Paul and Andrew helping to lead the rest of the club's dedicated team, makes managing course presentation for our members and guests very effective. Just as well, as the club will make history next year by holding the EGU Brabazon Trophy and the R&A Boys championships within the same year.



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**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.

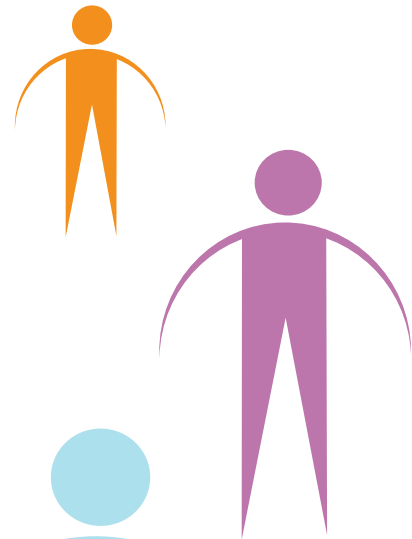
In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams, where they work together more as a team than as individuals), for some it is more appropriate to agree individual goals (see 'How to Develop an Appraisal System', and 'How to Prepare for an Appraisal'). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

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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.







# Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Paul Worster, gives his thoughts for the month

## Should we keep Harrogate Week? You decide

**Harrogate Week is unique. It is the only Groundscare event in Europe to offer its members the following combination of attractions in one place.**

An Education and Training event that has dozens of seminars to choose from ranging from one hour to two days.

An Industry Show that has all the latest products and services on display and under cover.

A social networking experience – year in and year out greenkeepers return to re-charge their batteries and enjoy the camaraderie that brings the town of Harrogate to life.

Greenkeepers from all over the globe gather at Harrogate every year. And so they should for BIGGA is the single largest Association for greenkeepers at all levels in the world.

However, all trade shows are now going through a period of upheaval. In response to this, BIGGA, the IOG, Pitchcare, the AEA and others are looking at how Harrogate Week and SALTEX can be “future-proofed” over the coming years.

*BIGGA will fight fiercely to protect and enhance its membership services.*

Starting soon the industry will be surveyed to determine exactly what is wanted – e.g. the Trade, the Member Associations, and the individual working greenkeepers and groundsmen. Rest assured however – BIGGA will fight fiercely to protect and enhance its membership services at all times.

As a member of the Association you will be surveyed. May I strongly urge you – when the survey arrives, do not ignore it. Please consider each part of it very carefully.

BIGGA is committed continuously to improving Harrogate Week. This year the event will feature even more career enhancing opportunities, ranging from a one-day ‘Fine Turf Managers’ Conference’, to a ‘Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers’, to ‘Viva Volunteers!’, a Workshop aimed at supporting industry volunteers from home and

abroad, to an ‘Enviro-zone’ where experts will be on hand to discuss projects and advise on such issues as ‘grant-aid’, carbon reductions and green energy.

I hope you will take the opportunity to visit our suppliers and manufacturers and discuss with them the latest innovations as well as the tried and tested products.

Also, take a moment to thank our supporters who have donated £1 million to the Learning and Development Fund.

I am very concerned that if we do not support our trade shows we will lose them. If we want to keep them we will need to vote with our feet and get to Harrogate Week in January.

We will need to fill out and return the surveys and show the industry what we want.

*To paraphrase that well known TV show. ‘Should we keep Harrogate Week? You decide!’*

Greenkeepers may not be able to continue to thrive in the profession without producing CPD certificates.

Much will be written about Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in the coming months and years.

To continue in the profession Greenkeepers will have to embrace CPD. It is highly likely, for example, that Pesticide Spray Operators Certificates of Competence are to become time-limited, requiring a re-sit every three years – unless the operator can prove ongoing CPD.

This ‘compulsory’ CPD exists in other professions. Just as lawyers and dentists cannot continue in their profession without attending the seminars that update their skills and awareness then pretty soon greenkeepers may not be able to continue in the profession without producing CPD certificates every year.

*BIGGA will support your advancement all the way, providing the opportunities to keep up with qualifications.*

I refer anyone in the slightest doubt about this to (for example) Jon

Allbutt’s Pesticide Update Course (12 CPD points) on the Monday of Harrogate Week 2011.

BIGGA wishes to introduce a modern, industry-recognised CPD scheme which delivers exactly the opportunities that are needed for today’s greenkeepers to thrive.

However, without your help and participation the scheme would not be as effective or as user-friendly.

If you are an Assistant, or you know an Assistant who perhaps has never attended Harrogate Week, or who perhaps has felt overwhelmed at the prospect – then make a resolution to attend Harrogate Week in 2011.

There you will find something for everyone, and equal status as far as development is concerned. CPD has never been just for Master Greenkeepers.

Now it is essential to all our careers. Essential because of the pressure of the recession. Essential if we are to advance the greenkeeping profession.

Finally, may I just say that many of us can find ourselves working on far-flung sites often without close support from peers and colleagues. BIGGA provides support if you feel you are being treated unfairly by your employer or even your colleagues. We offer impartial and relevant advice through our legal helpline.

*Get in touch.*

I would urge any member to get in touch as quickly as possible should difficulties arise.

It can be very lonely at times, and this brings me back to the networking and support that BIGGA can offer.

*BIGGA has the systems in place for you to get up-to-date advice and support.*

Let me also assure you that your volunteer Board of Directors has the vision and the determination not to shrink from difficult decisions if they are in the best interests of our members and the best interests of the greenkeeping profession.

#### Contact Details

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



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

**The GTC is aware that many of the readers of this column are often the greenkeepers who, with the odd exception, are convinced that there is no substitute for having an educated, trained and preferably qualified greenstaff to maintain and manage the golf course. However...**

For many years greenkeepers, mainly through their own Association, have asked for better support from the Home Unions and other golfing organisations including the R&A, GCMA, PGA and PGA European Tour to help spread the word to the golfer on the important role and work of the Course Manager and his/her greenkeeping team contribution to the game of golf.

In recent years we have seen real progress and the GTC Board with its representative bodies, the Home Unions and BIGGA are determined to make every effort to "educate the golfer".

We now have annual seminars and workshops hosted by the Home Unions on behalf of the clubs they represent and more often than not include some aspect of greenkeeper education on the programme.

The GTC has representatives from the Unions on both its Board and Technical Committee and this has assisted tremendously in "spreading the word" and in addition to the seminars and workshops the GTC has now been offered the opportunity to write articles in the Home Unions widely distributed newsletters.

The English Golf Union has proposed that six articles be written by leading Course Managers to explain, "A Year in the Life of a Golf Course" which is hopefully just the start of an ongoing campaign to inform golfers of the work that is carried out to all areas of the golf course at various times of the year.

The Scottish and Welsh Home Unions are also considering including similar articles in their

publications, which is excellent news for greenkeepers.

All three British Home Unions have Golf Services Committees, which are very active in promoting all aspects of greenkeeper training.

A couple of examples of their ongoing support to promote greenkeeper training are the Welsh Golf Union's grant to its affiliated clubs registering a trainee at a GTC approved Centre and the Scottish Golf Union's development of Case Studies showing best practices aligned to the Sustainable golf course programme.

There is now some excellent information available on the websites of all the representative bodies on the GTC - visit [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) and click on the respective logos.

We also should acknowledge the support, through a special project, The R&A has given to the GTC primarily to promote the Sustainable golf course and Benchmarking to our Centre turf staff but this years series of workshops also included representatives from the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA).

Never has it been more important that all golfing bodies work together to not only promote greenkeeper training to maintain good sustainable playing surfaces but also to assist the many golf clubs who are struggling in the economic climate.

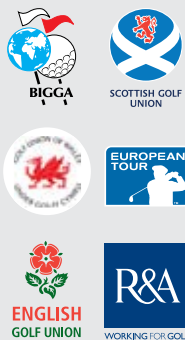
The ongoing reports from the Home Unions that many private clubs memberships are still in decline and the nomad golfers are increasing has led the GTC to appeal to golf clubs to consider donating a green fee to the work of the GTC on behalf of the casual player enjoying their facilities.

The letter to clubs from GTC Chairman, Donald Steel, can be viewed on the GTC website and any reader who feels they or their employers can assist the GTC,

## In Brief

David explains how there is real progress in raising the awareness to the "golfer" that many of the day to day routine maintenance programmes being carried out by the greenkeepers are not designed to annoy the golfer but in fact are all aimed at improving the playing surfaces for as many days of the year as possible.

The GTC is funded by:



please feel free to download the letter and form.

All contributions will assist the GTC to continue its vital work for the game.

The most recent initiative from the GTC is the launch of its Quality Assured Scheme.

One of the most important roles of the GTC is to direct both employers and greenkeeper students to those Centres and Training Providers who offer qualifications and courses in accordance with the National Standards for greenkeeping.

I make no apology in asking readers once again to look out for the GTC's Quality Assured logo on literature and websites of those Centres and Providers who have met the criteria - see below.

For further information on any matters relating to greenkeeper education, training and qualifications contact the GTC direct: Tel 01347 838640 or email: [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)



For the most up to date list of Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers visit the GTC website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

There are many Centres, colleges and training providers up and down the country who offer turf courses and qualifications; however the GTC will continue to promote only those who have gained the QA assured status.

## Contact Details

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# Learning & Development

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

**October means dark nights, pumpkins and trick or treat. With Harrogate Week approaching, you'll be in for a treat!**

 **Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011**

The Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011 programme is now available. BIGGA members should have received a copy with this magazine.

With a combination of two day, one day and half day workshops, supplemented by a series of free seminars, Continue to Learn 2011 will deliver almost 150 hours of education over five days. We have worked hard to ensure that there is something for everyone and for the first time we will be presenting a Turf Managers' Conference.

*We have been able to reduce the cost of the workshops and conference thanks to the support of the Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.*

The workshop programme will include:

**Two-day workshops:**

Golf Course Design  
Moving into Management

**One-day workshops:**

Basic Golf Mechanics Workshop  
How to be an Outstanding Manager – Part 1  
How to be an Outstanding Manager – Part 2  
Irrigation System Design  
Moving With The Times  
Diagnostic and Problem Solving  
Basic Budgeting and Golf Club Finance

So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager

Pesticide Update  
Golf Club Marketing

**Nine half-day workshops:**

Basic Electrical System Maintenance  
Producing a Golf Course Policy Document  
Volunteer's Workshop  
Introduction to Hydraulics  
Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop  
The Rules of Golf and Course Set Up for PGA Events  
Protected Species and Habitats for Bumblebees and Butterflies  
Basic Greenkeeping Techniques  
Carbon Auditing for Business Advantage  
Good Soil Chemistry and Biology  
Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers  
Golf Club Management – Getting it Right in 2011 presented by the GCMA


All of the workshops can be booked online via the Harrogate Week website or by contacting the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 and select Option 3.

More seminars will be added to the programme and can be found on the official Harrogate Week website, [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).



**Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2010**

The eight finalists for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award arrived on Sunday 12



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.

September for the National Finals. Following a relaxed dinner that evening, the finalists were put through their paces on Monday by the four judges, Bruce Jamieson from Toro; Nigel Lovatt from Lely UK; Chris Sealey, Chairman of BIGGA's Learning and Development Sub Committee and me.

They underwent a 45-minute interview and had to complete an assignment on the 1st, 17th and 18th holes of Aldwark Manor Golf Course.

Competition was intense and all of the finalists performed to a very high standard making it a very difficult decision for the judges.

After much deliberation the decision was made and the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year was awarded to:

Andrew Stanger, from Horsforth Golf Club, and representing Askham Bryan College.

Andrew will be attending the Winter Turf School at the University of Massachusetts commencing in January 2011.


Congratulations go to Andrew and also to his course tutor, Steve Prinn, who wins a trip to the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida.

The runners-up, who win a trip to Harrogate Week 2011, were:

Sebastian Cavilla, from The Manor House Golf Club, representing Bridgewater College, Cannington Centre

Sean Borrett, from Ellesborough Golf Club, representing Myer-scough College

Our congratulations go to all of the finalists.



**Contact Details**

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## Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



**Golden Key Individual Members:** Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey  
**Silver Key Individual Members:** Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz



## Six of the Best for Bearwood Lakes

Bearwood Lakes at Sindlesham, near Wokingham, has recently upgraded its mower fleet with six new John Deere machines from local dealer Golf & Turf Equipment.

They include three 2500E hybrid greens mowers, two 7700 PrecisionCut fairway mowers and an 8800 TerrainCut rotary semi-roughs mower. All the cylinder mowers are equipped with John Deere's

new Quick Adjust QA5 or QA7 cutting units, which are described as "awesome" by Master Greenkeeper Daniel Lightfoot, who has been Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes for the past five years.

"We have run John Deere tractors and Gator utility vehicles for a number of years, and the QA cutting units were a big factor in persuading us to change to the new mowers after I first saw them being demonstrated

at The Berkshire and at BTME/Harrogate Week," said Daniel.

"We like to change the cutting heights to suit ground conditions each day, if possible, and these new units allow us to do them all in just a few minutes, they really save a lot of time.

They stay on cut really well too, and all the greens staff like using the machines, which are very comfortable with very good controls.

## E-Z-GO SUPPORT WOMEN'S RUGBY

E-Z-GO supported the recent Women's Rugby World Cup which took place at the Surrey Sports Park, providing a fleet of electric shuttles and an ambulance vehicle for use at the tournament.

All of the preliminary round games were played at the Surrey Sports Park with the semi-finals and final taking place at Twickenham's Stoop stadium, the home to Harlequins RFU.

New Zealand beat England 13-10 in a thrilling final, watched

by a crowd of almost 14,000.

E-Z-GO provided a fleet of 10 electric RXV 2+2 shuttles, which can be used for transporting up to four people or, with the rear seats folded, converted in an instant to a two-seater with a load platform for carrying a wide range of items and equipment. The company also provided a mini-ambulance, complete with stretcher and emergency equipment, in case of injury to the players or spectator illness.







## Lewis Blois Joins Scotts

Scotts Professional has appointed Lewis Blois as Technical Area Sales Manager for the East Midlands and East of England. He's no stranger to the turf industry or to Scotts' products, having joined from Sherriff Amenity where he was Amenity Representative for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

A keen semi-professional footballer with Norwich United, Lewis is looking forward to working with the Scotts Turf & Amenity Team to provide advice and product support for the company's extensive range of fertilizers, control products and grass seeds. Scotts Professional's Business Manager for the UK and Ireland, Richard Walton, said: "I am delighted that Lewis has joined the team.

"His enthusiasm for the industry is abundant and he'll provide superb technical and sales support to our valued customers and distributors."



The dedicated turf management advice website for the UK and Ireland, GreenCast, now provides information on wind speed in easy to use miles per hour, instead of metres per second. Greenkeepers and sprayer operators had highlighted traditional assessments and spray records called for details in MPH, rather than the metric equivalent.

GreenCast Project Manager, Karen Roberts, reports wind speed is a crucial factor in identifying opportunities to spray, as well as assessing drying conditions that will influence irrigation and other turf management operations.

## Sign of the Times

As a direct 'sign of the times', JSM Distribution has seen a huge increase in enquiries for the hire of their Sand Storm screening system.

Principally aimed at the renovation of golf course bunkers, the Sand Storm can also handle other materials that may benefit from a screening process. Vibrating screens on the Sand Storm work to remove debris such as leaves, twigs, needles, weeds, stone and clay particles. The screens will also trap silt deposits on their surface, allowing for wash off and removal. The process remixes the sand particles and 'fluffs' it to a like new condition.

Eliminating settling and compaction as well as cleaning away unwelcome contamination the Sand Storm can dramatically improve the playing characteristics of the bunker and reduce the need for major sand replacement or renovation programmes where bunker contamination is a headache.

Sales Manager, David Timms said, "It is not surprising in the current financial squeeze that many organisations are considering hire rather than the purchase of capital equipment. However, the huge interest in the Sand Storm indicates that this cost concern doesn't affect just machinery but all materials and practices. A lot more clubs are now becoming interested in the renovation results they can achieve recycling their existing material, rather than replacing. In the past we have treated hire in a rather ad hoc fashion, but as a result of the upturn in enquires this summer we are now organising ourselves to be able to hire the units on a national basis'.

The Sand Storm is available from JSM Distribution and hire rates start from £350 (+ vat) per week, plus delivery.. Lo-Call 0845 026 0064.



## What's your number?

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

### Shona Garner comes under the spotlight

**Name:** Shona Garner

**Company:** Shona Garner Coaching Services Ltd

**Position:** Director

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

7 years

**How did you get into it?**

In the latter years of my career I'd often hankered after trying my hand at starting out on my own, doing what I love – so seven years ago – took the plunge!

**What other jobs have you done?**

Bit of a mixed bag really! Major career choices were teaching, which I did for 17 years. Then I moved into the pharmaceutical industry. But I've also picked carnations in Jersey; done voluntary work on a wild-life reserve in Namibia and sung semi-professionally in a band!

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

I love seeing people grow! Have an endless fascination for psychology; what makes us tick; what makes some humans more "successful" or fulfilled or happy than others – and get a huge buzz from seeing those managers I work with on workshops or 1-1 develop, grow their potential and make a difference!

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

Every industry faces change – it's the only constant! And how people deal with it is what makes the difference between organisations which thrive and those which flounder.

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

I love walking, yoga and my step class! Great way to burn off frustration and stress! And, sad to say – I love reading psychology books or books about management!

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

Watching sunsets in some warm sunny clime, with an on-line business I can run from anywhere and more volunteer work.

**Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?**

Sami Collins and Rachael Duffy. They have great enthusiasm, positivity and energy! I love being around people who make you feel better!

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

Mmmm! Don't have one. I think we create our own luck!

*Shona has picked no. 13, Carol Borthwick of Elmwood College*







# Living the dream



Scott MacCallum meets the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

**Back in 1997 a 12 year-old schoolboy explained to his Careers Advisor that he loved cutting grass and really would like a job that paid him to do just that.**

The Advisor suggested that he think about greenkeeping and recommended that he check out the internet to find out more. When he did, the first thing he came across was a report on the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in Greenkeeper International.

If young Andrew Stanger had been keen to cut grass for a living prior to that the realisation that you could also win prizes and make a proper career out of it set a rocket under his ambitions and 13 years later he has emulated 1997 winner, Steve Nixon, and become the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to bits," said Andrew.

"Before I got to Aldwark Manor I'd read about all the other finalists in the magazine and realised just how tough a competition it would be.

"It was very intimidating and when the runners-up names were read out, and it was win or bust, I looked across at the others and saw a number of potential winners sitting there. When my name was read out I could hardly move."

While Andrew was shocked to win, it would have come as no surprise to anyone who has come across him during the last five years.

Since then he has achieved his NVQ Level 2 in six months; worked at Liberty National Golf Club, in New York, as part of the Ohio State University Intern programme; worked at Augusta National for a period including the 2009 Masters, and was snapped up as Course

Manager of Horsforth Golf Club, in Leeds, on his return to the UK.

Andrew can trace his passion right back to the age of five when he used to join his dad at weekends as he worked at Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club.

"I used to stand on the back of his roller and go round and round for hours. I was just fascinated by the stripes, the grass clippings, the smell of petrol... everything."

He got his first job selling lottery tickets at Halifax Rugby Club when he was just seven and started working on gardens when he was not much older.

Wetherby every night after school and I'd get changed and have my sandwiches in the car on the way. Ultimately though, I didn't fancy the life of a professional footballer and turned down the offer to stay with the academy."

Having done well at school, and looking to make his greenkeeping dream a reality, Andrew was accepted for the turfgrass science degree at Myerscough College, but left after a couple of months.

"I'd never been on a ride-on machine, or even been on a golf course, and it didn't feel right. The course content was brilliant but

**"When I was 14 I got a job at a stables. It was a big stately home and the owner asked me if I could make it a full day and work on the gardens in the afternoon. I was there for six years and I always used to leave the lawns until last because that was my favourite bit"**

**Andrew Stanger**

"When I was 14 I got a job at a stables. It was a big stately home and the owner asked me if I could make it a full day and work on the gardens in the afternoon. I was there for six years and I always used to leave the lawns until last because that was my favourite bit.

"I just thought then that if someone would pay me to cut grass every day I'd do it."

All this time Andrew was combining his gardening with school and football – he was a member of the Leeds United Academy and played alongside future England player, James Milner.

"My dad used to drive me from Halifax to the training ground in

I was with guys who all had golf course experience and I felt that I was sitting on my backside getting money from my parents which just wasn't me."

Returning home he put together a CV and sent it out to 50 clubs within an hour of his home. One of them, Calverley GC, invited him over for a chat and he met Course Manager, Clive Walton, who immediately offered him a job, starting the following day.

With Calverley short of staff Andrew was in at the deep end and loved it.

"I pestered Clive all the time about the job. I think he enjoyed it and he trained me by the book, no short



cuts. After two years they sent me to Askham Bryan College to do my NVQ 2," he said.

Having been trained in advance by Clive, he sailed through in just six months and picked up the College's Student of the Year prize.

"I thought Steve Prinn, the Head of Turf at the College, was amazing. He'd come in without notes and reel off information and facts. I couldn't believe that he knew so much and it showed me that I had a mountain to climb."

Andrew had already applied to the Ohio State Intern programme, putting himself under pressure to achieve his NVQ within in the timescale, and it was while he was working in a pub, something he did on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays, that he got a call from Mike O'Keefe, asking him how New York sounded and offering to send him to Liberty National Golf Club for six months.

"It sounded brilliant, although I was terrified. I checked the club out on the website and, at that time, it was the most expensive course ever built, costing, I believe, \$250 million and laid out on an old toxic wasteland using rubble from the Twin Towers," said Andrew, who handed in his notice to Calverley, got his visa and, within a couple of weeks, was off.

Andrew's enthusiasm and drive soon caught the attention of the Liberty National Superintendent, Greg James.

"I said yes to everything and never took a day off. I was spraying greens within a week, rolling greens and lapping it all up. I'd often be there on my own at weekends carrying out the greens check and reporting back to Greg," said Andrew.

felt I'd got the Golden Ticket but, again, I was terrified."

As before he threw himself into it and, keen not to allow home sickness to kick in, immersed himself in work, even swapping with guys from the sister squad so that he could work every weekend.

"We'd start at 4am and I knew I wouldn't finish until at least 5pm, but would often work until 7, 8 or 9.

**"The attention to detail was incredible and it never ends. Once, early on, I went back and said I'm done and they said, 'what do you mean you're done?' By the end I knew every inch of my holes!"**  
**Andrew Stanger**

After just two months Greg asked him where he would be going after New York and Andrew explained that it very much depended on the feedback and how well Greg would say that he'd done.

"He told me that he had friends at Augusta National and that I might like to think about going down there. I said I didn't need to think about it and sent my CV down to Superintendent, Brad Owen, I then had a three hour telephone interview and after an intense process was told that I'd got the position. I

They got the picture pretty quickly that this kid was keen, and a bit nuts!

"I spent the first two weeks with the Bunker Technician and was then put on the Hole Care team initially being responsible for holes 8 and 9 but within a couple of weeks the prize holes of 11 and 12 on Amen Corner became available and they said that they thought I'd be good down there and did I fancy it?"

So Andrew spent the rest of his time at Augusta solely responsible



for two of the most famous and spectacular holes in golf making sure they were in perfect condition before and during the 2009 Masters.

“The attention to detail was incredible and it never ends. Once, early on, I went back and said I’m done and they said, ‘what do you mean you’re done?’

“They took me back and said what about this bit, and what about that bit. I got the idea pretty quickly. By the end I knew every inch of my holes,” he said, revealing that during Masters week itself he worked 115 hours alone.

Andrew’s visaran out the day after the Masters finished and although Greg and Brad both offered him jobs he’d already decided to return home.

It wasn’t long before he was snapped up. His old boss at Calverley, Clive, rang him to say that he’d been contacted by Horsforth Golf Club about taking over for three weeks as the Course Manager had been badly injured in a car accident.

“He said he couldn’t do it but had told them that I’d do it. I must admit that I wasn’t sure that I could, but I was still brimming with confidence from my time in America and went along.

“All the guys were older than me bar one and I hadn’t had much people management experience but I felt that as it was only for three weeks and I was capable of keeping the place tidy and mown.”

That three weeks became three months and then, with the returning Course Manager due to retire earlier this year he was offered the job on a full time basis from June and at the Final he had been doing the job for two and a half months.

The club is right behind Andrew and know that it is unlikely that he’ll be with them for 40 years like the previous head.

“I’ve told them that I’ve still got a lot to prove and many goals in my career but right now Horsforth will get my full attention for as long as I’m there.

“I believe that given the right resources I can present a very well maintained golf course. I’m not bothered about the money or the club’s name on my shirt, it is about pushing myself as far as I can go. I’ve got a long way to go, but I believe I can do it.”

Thirteen years on Andrew is now that young greenkeeper on the front cover of the magazine and there could be no better role model or advert for the greenkeeping profession.



**ABOVE:** Andrew Stanger (central) won the Award and an eight week trip to the United States where he will undertake a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts and visit the GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show, in Orlando, and Toro’s Californian Headquarters.

Runners-up were Sebastian Cavilla (above left) of The Manor House H & GC, and Sean Borrett (above right) of Ellesborough GC, who win all expenses paid trips to Harrogate and the Continue to Learn programme next January.

The other finalists were Robert Mills, of Sunningdale GC; Craig Boath, of Carnoustie Links; Gavin Moore, of Launceston GC; Tom Hayward, of Frome GC and Stephen Thompson, of Bearsted GC.

**RIGHT:** The finalists celebrate a strike when out bowling in York, the evening of the awards day





# The only way *is up*

Scott MacCallum visits a golf club which so nearly went out of existence but which is now well on the road to recovery





One of this country's most profound philosophers, I believe her name to be Yazz, once said, "The Only Way is Up!" It is a positive message, to be sure, and one which Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent, has been using as a mantra since he took over at the nine hole village course last February.

And it would be hard to argue as, when Darren took over, the course was certainly in the gutter, but not necessarily looking at the stars - to paraphrase another acclaimed philosopher and wit, Oscar Wilde.

The course had just gone into administration. The Head Greenkeeper and his part time assistant had to go as part of the old regime. The Administrator had taken what worthwhile machinery was to be had in the ramshackled building which masqueraded as the maintenance facility.

The club had struggled for a number of years, being propped up by the club's owner, who was spending anything up to £50,000 each year, to bail the club out on salaries, overheads etc. The membership had also dwindled from a relatively robust 400 to just over a 100. It was then that the owner understandably felt

that the situation was not sustainable and that, while he would be happy for the club to continue, he would no longer bank roll it, and so things came to a head.

Looking into a genuine abyss, the Club Professional, Peter Chandler, and one of the club's squash members, James O'Reilly, decided, despite the less than rosy outlook, to try and make a go of the club.

It was to this situation that Darren arrived. A man who had earned his greenkeeping stripes at Walton Heath, under Clive Osgood and latterly, Ian McMillan, and a former junior member of Hawkhurst, Darren





was living with friends on the edge of the golf course when a member got wind of the fact that he was between jobs and offered to pay for him personally to rebuild the bunkers.

"It took a lot of graft as the bunkers hadn't been touched since the previous October and it took me three weeks to get them into some sort of order," explained Darren.

The bunkers had previously been the responsibility of a volunteer who had to catch a bus to get to the club, usually arriving around 10 in the morning and working on them a couple of times a week.

"This arrangement wasn't sustainable or fair on the person tasked with the job," said Darren.

Obviously impressed by the work he had done and knowing that a full time greenkeeper for Hawkhurst had become a necessity, Darren was asked if he would be interested in taking over full time. He said "Yes".

"I do recall my first day. It was raining, and had been for about four months on the spin.



ABOVE: Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent

"When I was at Walton Heath, we had all the best kit for whatever we needed to do. Now all I had was a bucket, a shovel and a borrowed half moon.

Once all the leaves had been raked out of the bunkers and the water bailed out, I then started doing the edges and digging the sand around to make it more level," he recalled.

"When you don't have someone to talk to when you are working and you are 'on your tod,' it is pretty hard graft," he added, with an understandable degree of understatement.

With the receivers having taken a tractor and trailer and a fairway machine and with only a John Deere 2500 greens machine available, which has to be re-set each time to cut tees and surrounds. For fairways they have a John Deere 2653, which allows them to cut fairways in four and a half hours and an old Saxon to cut rough.

The club currently operates with Darren and a number of volunteers who turn up to provide support when they can.

"Some bring domestic ride-on's which they use in their gardens, while others would do divoting or bunker raking. I'm really grateful for all the help but you never know if anyone is going to arrive that morning until they turn up."

With such uncertainty, planning,

even for the day ahead is nigh on impossible and Darren regularly works 55 hours a week, considerably more than the 40 for which he is paid.

"I usually go in on the Monday morning and think about the main tasks that I want to complete. Obviously there are the essentials and cutting greens and raking bunkers are done daily but much of the rest is often spur of the moment thinking – what needs doing now or can I do it first thing tomorrow depending upon which volunteers come in," said Darren, who is given some respite by Pro, Peter Chandler, who is useful on a greens machine and who normally cuts the greens at the weekend.

"If there is a big competition on, nine times out of ten I'll be playing in it so I go in early and do them."

But before you feel too sorry for Darren, he does have a Guardian Angel in the shape of Mike Mosse, Course Manager at the nearby large and prestigious, Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club.

Dale Hill is part of the Leaderboard Group which also includes Chart Hills, The Oxfordshire, Sandford Springs and the Leaderboard Golf Centre in Reading.

"I was aware of the problems they were having at Hawkhurst as I knew the previous Head Greenkeeper. He came to see me to tell me that he was leaving and I knew the club was going into receivership," said Mike.

"One of Hawkhurst's members previously worked here as a greenkeeper and he approached me and said that they could do with a bit of help so he, Darren and I met for a chat.





"I was keen as I knew they'd been going through a hard time and that Darren was on his own with virtually no kit and I just thought we might be able to offer some help. I had a chat with our General Manager and he in turn with Owners Paul and Jennifer Gibbons who agreed to us helping out, as long as there would be no direct cost to us," explained Mike.

What happened next is a perfect example of what is great about golf and greenkeeping.

"Local John Deere dealer, Godfrey's, brought their trailer and free of charge transported kit over for

around 30 from the low point at the beginning of the year, the members were more than happy that their course was on the up.

"The course will go forward because we have the help and people genuinely want it to work. I believe the management are looking at getting someone in part time to help me next year. Generally there is a good feeling about the place because they are seeing results – although there is some disgust that the fairways are a bit tighter because I've added definition to them," he smiled.



ABOVE: The Club Professional, Peter Chandler

## **"When you don't have someone to talk to when you are working, and you are 'on your tod,' it is pretty hard graft"** Darren Child

us, it's only a few miles but it really did help, and three of our guys tined and top dressed the greens for them," said Mike, of the good deed which took place last May.

It was the first time that the greens had been given such a good work out in about four years and there was plenty of thatch removed.

"Having Mike and his team come and help was a big, big help and the greens benefited greatly," said a still grateful Darren, who was one of the Walton Heath staff who qualified as an HGV Driver so that he could drive a tanker to transport water on to the course during the last extended drought.

With membership already up by

Having come from a top quality, highly respected club like Walton Heath to one from which survival is a huge achievement, Darren has got used to the difference in expectation.

"It is not easy but when you look at what you are working with there is satisfaction at achieving something with minimal help. You can't just jump on a piece of kit and go, you have to physically check the machine you do have and adjust things so that you can do what you want to do," explained Darren.

"I've still got good ties with Walton Heath and can phone Ian (McMillan) up at any time and he's given me some excellent advice. Walton

Heath Mechanic, Graham Goldup has helped me no end with the problems I've had with machinery and Irrigation Engineer, Mark Bass, who is also a personal friend has helped with many irrigation issues. I'd hate to think where Hawkhurst would be without his help.

"We had a system which had fallen into disrepair but he was able to get it going again. It doesn't run smoothly and it needs money spent on it but I can water all the greens now which is an absolute God send, particularly as we've only had five inches of rain since April."

The help of all these people has been invaluable and done for the genuine desire to help a club down on its luck.

Darren has been able to thank Dale Hill in a small way by providing some plants for a new pond Dale Hill has created but in the main a warm thanks has been all that has been asked or given.

When I arrived at Hawkhurst in a morning early in the school summer holidays the first 20 golfers I saw all appeared to be under the age of 14 and keen as mustard to play. If the club had gone to the wall those children would have missed out on the chance of developing a love of golf.

Now hopefully a proportion of those children will be golfers for the rest of their days and there is a fair chance that some of them will go on to become members of Dale Hill, showing that good deeds now might be rewarded further down the line.

Yazz was correct in saying "The Only Way is Up" but only through hard work and the determination of key people.



A friend and his dog: Darren stands by Mike Mosse, Course Manager at the nearby Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club.





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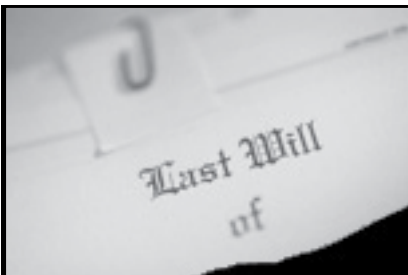
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James de Havilland takes a closer look  
at the intricacies of current machinery

# The anatomy of...

## A Charterhouse core collector



Charterhouse introduced its first pedestrian CC3000 Core Collector in 2002, the featured CC3001HL coming along in 2006. It may look the same, but it is much changed from the original.

Pick-up performance will be influenced by the condition of the cores but clean removal is more likely when working soon after coring has taken place. The Core Collector can work from both broadcast and windrowed cores and is also able to deal with deep scarifier debris.



**Charterhouse has established that the average golf green will, post coring, yield around a tonne of cores depending upon size and moisture. Multiply that by 18 greens, and you could end up with 18 tonnes of cores that need to be picked up. No surprise that this task is increasingly carried out by a core collector, with many clubs hiring in a unit as needed.**

The problem with hiring is that most clubs will want to be coring at pretty much the same time as everyone else which can mean you have to wait for a collector. It was to address this issue by offering a relatively low cost alternative that led to the development of the original CC3000 Core Collector. Picking up across a 1.0m width, the pedestrian machine was designed to keep up with a pedestrian corer of the same width.

The original unit proved a success for Charterhouse, but the design has moved on. First was the hydrostatic drive system. This was directly driven from the 5.5hp petrol engine which made starting tricky; the recoil starter had to pull over not just the engine but the drive as well. This made it difficult to turn the engine over, particularly when cold.

The second issue related to the pick-up system. In outline this used the same collection head design as the existing CC3001HL model but with a pair of impellers picking up and discharging the cores into the hopper. Turning at a relatively high speed, the impellers work just fine but they also had a tendency to smash the cores. This could in turn lead to debris building up in the elevator which, if left, could lead to blockages.

The CC3001HL overcomes the first issue by doing away with the hydrostatic drive and replacing it with a simple belt drive. When the collector is at a standstill, the drive brakes the wheels and disengages the transmission clutch. The power unit is thus disconnected, making it far easier to start. The 7.5hp Briggs also has a bit more power, this proving useful when handling a full hopper up an incline.

To get around the problem of cores getting broken up within the elevator, the two impellers were replaced by a conveyor. This has a more gentle pick-up action, helping reduce debris build up and the need for cleaning. Another new feature is the ability to reverse the conveyor. If the elevator does get blocked, reversing the conveyor should clear it.

**Outline specification:**  
Charterhouse CC3001HL  
Core Collector.  
Working width: 1.0m  
Tipping height: 1.30m  
Hopper capacity: 250kg / 0.25m<sup>3</sup>  
Tyre pressure: 1.2 – 1.4bar  
Engine: Briggs and Stratton  
Vanguard 7.5hp  
Transmission: 4-speed,  
neutral and reverse.  
Conveyor drive: Hydraulic  
Retail price: £6,595 ex-VAT

Supplier: Charterhouse Turf  
Machinery Ltd, Surrey.  
Tel: 01428 661222.  
www.  
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co.uk

These developments from the original design have helped boost sales of the Core Collector, Charterhouse having sold more of the British made units this year than any other year. The way in which cores are picked up, however, is not changed, the slim stainless steel bottom blade design of the original machines being carried over.

In work, the operator drives the three-wheel unit from the rear, the 'dead man' handle being pushed down to engage drive. Four forward speeds are offered, with the first two typically providing the right balance between a comfortable working

When it comes to emptying the hopper, the operator can discharge into a turf truck or trailer, the hopper lifting to clear a side of up to 1.30m. The actual tipping action is designed so the hopper lifts and moves back, avoiding the problem of material spilling back as the load is dumped.

The tricycle undercarriage affords the unit with good agility, making the Core Collector an ideal partner to pedestrian as well as tractor mounted corers. Running on smooth tyres inflated to 1.2 to 1.4 bar, a full collector will weigh in at around 530kg.

## SUMMARY

Collecting cores manually can be time consuming, the job becoming a greater chore if the cores start to break up. Mechanical collection is therefore something that golf and sports turf professional tend to favour. The snag is some collectors are pretty costly to buy and hiring can be tricky if you are not at the front of the queue when you actually need one. With a retail price of £6,595, the Charterhouse CC3001HL Core Collector certainly appears to be well worth a look. Simple, easy to operate and, above all, capable of dealing with large volumes of cores it does exactly what it says in its name.

*With grateful thanks to: Gareth Roberts, Course Manager, Hankley Common Golf Club and Nick Darking and Tim Franklyn, Charterhouse Turf Machinery.*

**“Simple, easy to operate and, above all, capable of dealing with large volumes of cores”**

pace and the ability to cleanly pick-up the cores.

The swage boards at the front of the unit windrow the cores ahead of the collection head, the slim profile of bottom blade allowing it to slide beneath them.

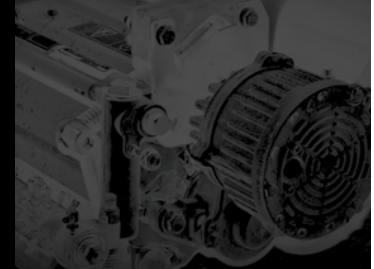
The whole system is very simple, with the machine produce good results not just with cores but also debris brought up during deep scarifying. Once passed over the bottom blade, the cores are picked up by the conveyor and discharged into the 1m<sup>3</sup> hopper. Dust and debris is contained by a hinged steel cover over the hopper.





# Step-by-step Analysis...

## Charterhouse C3001HL Core Collector



The original Charterhouse Core Collector CC3000 was powered by a 5.5hp petrol engine that featured hydrostatic drive. Introduced in 2006, the current CC3001HL model has a 7.5 hp Briggs and Stratton Vanguard power unit. See text.



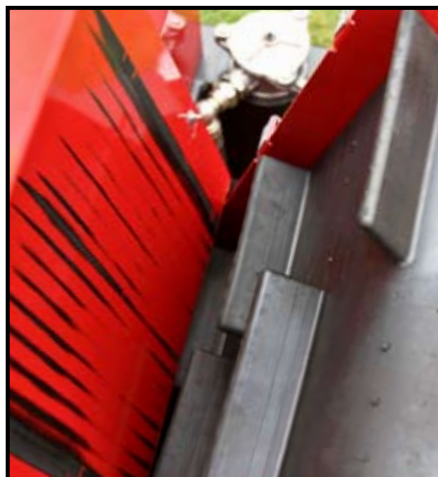
Three hydraulic levers look after the collecting head raise lower, conveyor drive and hopper tip. There is no need to set the collecting head height as it runs on a stainless bottom blade that is designed to 'slide' under the cores. Note sealed tube to house operator handbook.



The main chassis rail on the left houses the 22 litre capacity hydraulic tank with its integral filter and sight glass level. The right chassis rail covers the pair of V-belts that take power to the rear axle drive chain; this drives the axle via a differential to prevent tyre scuff when turning.



To engage drive, the operator pushes the control handle down; releasing pressure automatically brakes and holds the machine with no need to apply a park lock. Four forward ratios allow slow working to a brisk transport speed. In most conditions, the collector will keep pace with a pedestrian corer.



The paddles of the conveyor run up against the collection elevator to help prevent cores dropping back onto the surface. The predecessor CC3000 model has twin impellers. Although effective, the earlier design could break up cores, making it necessary to clean inside the elevator more frequently.



Simple driveline is designed to cut maintenance demands, the short drive chain requiring periodic lubrication. Note single hydraulic ram. This is used to raise and lower both the collection head and rear windrow swage boards.



The elevator top cover is secured by six Dzus fasteners and hinges forward to allow easy access to the conveyor for cleaning. The conveyor has external adjusters for tension with greaseable bearings. Keeping the unit clean and lubed is about all the maintenance required.



The 65kg / 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity hopper is designed to move forward as it tips for emptying, allowing it to fill a turf vehicle or low sided trailer. Lift height is put at 1.30m. Note tricycle design which is designed to allow good manoeuvrability.



The swage board arms locate via a quick release system to allow them to be easily removed. When not in use, they can be stored in the hopper. This is useful when trying to cram a lot of equipment into a confined storage area. Note chain between the boards. This is used to set their working angle.







An aerial photograph of a golf course. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a large area of green grass with a grid of white lines, indicating extensive drainage work. A single, large, leafless tree stands in the middle ground. In the background, there is a sand trap and a small waterfall or stream. The right side of the image shows a dense forest of trees.

# Golf course drainage: Short term pain, long term gain

David Shelton describes the extensive drainage work that has been carried out at Loch Lomond Golf Club



**A framed certificate on the office wall informs visitors and staff alike that this golf course is rated in the top 100 best golf courses in the world.**

The rain gauge in the Met. Station outside records a total of two metres of precipitation a year. The waters of the loch to the east lap several fairways. The course hosts the annual Barclays Scottish Open Competition in the week before The Open Championship. Yes, this is Loch Lomond, famous the world over where the setting is superb and the course maintained to the very highest standards.

In years past the winter months were usually the wettest but more recently the rainfall pattern has been changing. In 2009, for example, the two wettest months were August and November with 345mm and 360mm of rain respectively. Conversely, precipitation in January 2010 was negligible. In

running alongside, was purchased; it was powered by one of the John Deere tractors fitted with creep gears.

Susan Rothwell has been on the staff since 2003 and is now Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Responsible for the drainage operations she has an ochre problem to contend with! Where gravel has been used as a permeable back-fill in earlier drainage works the ochre has cemented this together, dramatically reducing its effectiveness. This problem has been overcome by using a free-draining medium-course sand from the Tillicoultry pit, 45 miles away.

Explaining the drainage techniques in detail Susan said 50 kilometres of piped drains have been installed on the fairways in phase one the laterals at 5 metre intervals. Due to the stones the bottom of the trenches were not smooth so prior to placing the 50mm and 100mm

**“Where gravel has been used as a permeable back-fill in earlier drainage works the ochre has cemented this together, dramatically reducing its effectiveness”**

**David Shelton**

circumstances such as these, good course drainage is essential so how has this been tackled?

Initially, specialist sportsturf drainage contractors were employed to undertake some of the work. It was expensive for intensive drainage systems were required in view of the high rainfall, and the trench digging was hard on machinery due to the excessively stony sub-soil.

It was decided to undertake the drainage work in-house. The course is closed in the winter months and this would be an ideal time to carry out the work. The John Deere tractors are fitted with the widest of wide grassland tyres to minimise compaction problems and the course workshop, with Charles Johnson in charge, built a specialist trailer and trench back-filling equipment to install the permeable fill. A Shelton Supertrencher 560, with conveyor to elevate the arisings into a trailer

diameter pipes 25mm of gravel was placed in the trenches to give a smooth bed. Over the pipes the sand was placed in two, sometimes three passes with a tractor-mounted consolidating wheel used after each pass. In an ideal world kiln-dried sand would be preferable but cost prohibited its use. The final pass of sand is left slightly proud, using back-pack blowers any excess is removed and the grass ‘fluffed-up’ to hasten its growth.

A total of 74½ kilometres of phase two drainage with trenches dug 55mm wide and 225mm deep spaced at 1 metre intervals speed excess soil water to the piped system. The same Tillicoultry sand is used in back-filling these drainage channels, also.

In the winter of 2009-2010 the course at Loch Lomond had over 16 weeks of frosts – severe at times. On the fairways this frost penetrated







in excess of 400mm, in the rough less than half this. In mild winters it has not been possible to drain areas of excessively wet rough but with frost in the ground the opportunity was grasped to carry-out drainage works. The Shelton Supertrencher dug exceptionally neat trenches in the frozen ground, and wear on the tungsten carbide tipped cutters was not excessive. Susan succinctly summarised the operations; “short term pain, long term gain”.

Charles’ work entails keeping the golf course machinery in first class order. The Shelton Supertrencher has been used to install over 112 kilometres of drainage in hard rocky ground. He had had to change the drive shaft, the drive chain and sprockets, and the machine was now on its third elevator belt. A remarkable performance he considers in view of the conditions. Steel wash on the cutters is treated by building up with welding using a MIG welder. He had found this more cost-effective than hard-facing. The original digging wheel was still fitted due to the fact that the turbo bars and nut/bolt protecting blocks had been replaced at regular intervals.

The accompanying pictures show the exceptionally high standards of operations undertaken by the eight strong drainage team. In all but extreme weather conditions this course should be able to host the most prestigious competitions for the enjoyment of players and spectators alike.

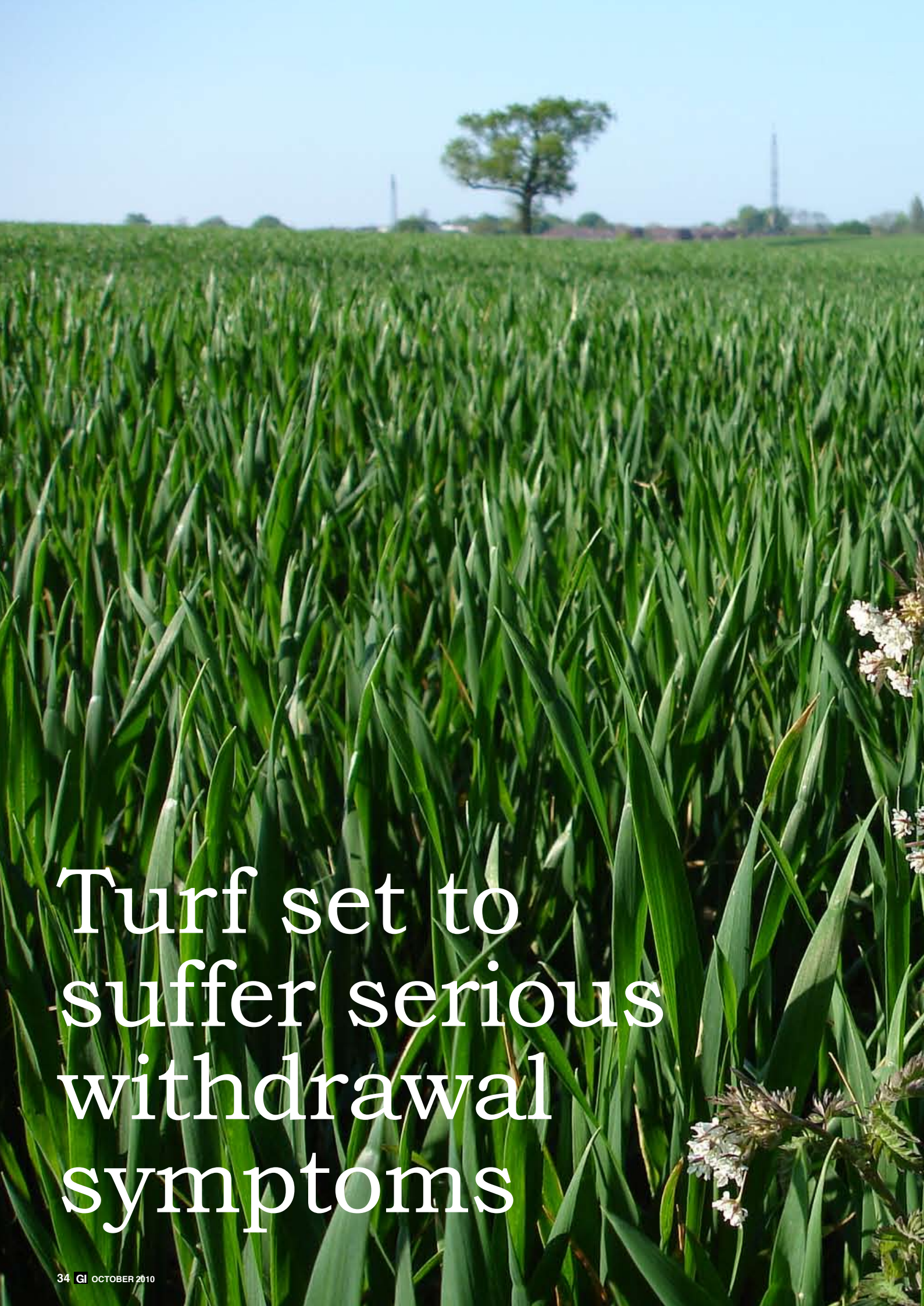


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# Turf set to suffer serious withdrawal symptoms





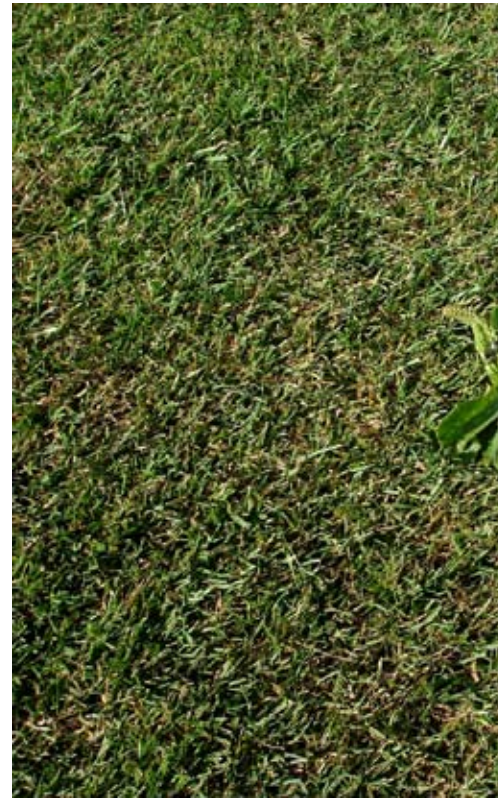
**Dr Terry Mabbett, shares with us once more, his technical expertise, and predicts some serious suffering for turf...**

Herbicides used in small quantities on turf could be dragged down by residues from much greater use of the same actives in agriculture





Without chemical insecticide there is no quick, clean and easy way of dealing with a sudden burst of chafer grubs and the collateral damage caused by badgers, birds and foxes looking for a feed.



## “Perhaps the most ‘dangerous’ aspect of this directive for future use of chemical pesticides, is increasing calls for tighter restrictions on pesticide use”

Dr Terry Mabbett

Chemical pesticides registered for use on managed turf are disappearing at an alarming rate. The same is happening in other sectors but professional turf is most between a ‘rock and hard place’. On one side is EU politicians and bureaucrats looking at what they would claim is the bigger picture. On the other is the greenkeeper concerned with more ‘bread and butter’ issues like maintaining his/her greens, tees and fairways in the pristine condition which the club membership expects and is accustomed. When things go wrong such as a sudden burst of chafer grubs or an unwelcome carpet of Fusarium patch, then the remedy needs to be applied promptly and act fast which only chemical pesticides can achieve.

Legislative weapons currently used against chemical pesticides by the EU essentially come in four directives, highly complex when dissected but simply as follows:

- Revision 91/414 Directive
- Sustainable Use Directive
- Machinery Directive
- Water Framework Directive

Revision 91/414 Directive: Brussels’ onslaught on the use of chemical pesticides across the 27 member-country EU is a multi-pronged attack with some chemicals targeted and shot down directly by EU legislation on toxicity and environmental safety grounds. Other long established pesticide products which should have years of safe and effective use in front of them are essentially being withdrawn by default, due to pressures piled on manufacturers to provide more and more technical and environmental data to ensure the active ingredient’s continued registration and use. There comes a point for the manufacturer when a product’s projected financial reward does not square up with the costs involved, and unfortunately this position is usually reached more quickly and easily in a tiny market sector like professional turf.

The Sustainable Use Directive is all about the way pesticides are used. Perhaps the most ‘dangerous’ aspect of this directive for future use of chemical pesticides in turf and amenity is increasing calls for



Without herbicides there is only one way to deal with this plantain, established in a tee – get on your hands and knees and dig it out!



The EU Machinery Directive targets pesticides via their application machinery

tighter restrictions on pesticide use in public places which is what turf and amenity situations inherently are.

The Machinery Directive deals specifically with the application equipment used to deliver pesticides. It requires every new turf and amenity sprayer to achieve certification to a required level of environmental protection before being released onto the market. This is clearly not a direct hit on pesticides but the potential effect could be the same. Remove the most appropriate application technique and you essentially remove the pesticide.

The Water Framework Directive say inside observers is the one with the largest and widest potential impact on current pesticide use. In many cases the active ingredients under scrutiny in water supplies will originate from agricultural and hard surface applications in the industrial and amenity sectors. An active ingredient could be withdrawn from use in turf, although the offending residues in water were largely due to its greater use in agriculture, and direct run-off of the chemical into ground water supplies from application to hard surfaces.

Pesticide use in agriculture dwarfs that in turf and amenity while applications of pesticides to hard surfaces (pavements, roads, railways, car parks etc.) lack the soil-soaking and soil-holding buffering capacity afforded to those

chemicals applied to sports turf and amenity grass. Both factors stand to impact heavily, albeit indirectly, on the future security and availability of chemical pesticides for use on turf, where the same active ingredient is used in agriculture or hard surface applications.

What's more it will be harder to replace chemicals lost from professional turf with its unique specific and stricter chemical use and application requirement and higher demands as a natural grass playing surface. Golf courses with their inherently high proportion of professional turf would suffer more than most.

There are many active ingredients widely used in agriculture that don't come anywhere near professional turf such as IPU previously used as a cereal herbicide, now banned but still causing problems. Unacceptably high residues still appearing in water supplies suggest some farmers held onto stocks and may have still been using them. Of course this has nothing to do with either turf or amenity because IPU was never registered for use in these sectors. In the same way residues of aminopyralid (hormone-based herbicide used against deep rooted weeds in pasture) in farmyard manure have no relation to turf weed control.

However, EU eyes are also focussed on water pollution by other herbicide actives like clopyralid and mecoprop, both widely and intensively used in farming but



Industry watchers believe the Water Framework Directive for environmental protection will have the biggest negative impact on future use of chemical pesticides





Well-rounded and experienced greenkeepers can keep the lid on turf disease with good management practice

also in turf. Volumes used in turf compared with agricultural grassland are miniscule but if a problem arises any ban is likely to be blanket. These actives would be hard to replace with alternatives for turf but not so difficult in agriculture.

New turf pesticide products are appearing all the time which could cause greenkeepers to believe there is not too much to worry about. What they probably don't realise, and there's no reason they should, is that all these 'novel' actives appearing in new dedicated turf products are not as 'new' as they seem.

When a hitherto undiscovered active ingredient first shows up as promising on the manufacturer's laboratory screen first focus is on those sectors where biggest returns can be made most quickly. This means cereal crops and other large-scale globally-grown field crops like potatoes, oilseed crops and sugar beet followed by grapevines and high value horticultural crops. Turf and amenity comes way down the list. For instance, imadocloprid introduced several years ago as the undisputed saviour of UK turf from chafer grubs has its roots in the late 1980's. Only last week I was reading a old copy of African Farming



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## “Volumes used in turf compared with agricultural grassland are miniscule, but if a problem arises any ban is likely to be blanket”

Dr Terry Mabbett

giving the insecticide a rave write up for controlling insect pests on rice – that was in 1992.

The UK and indeed the EU is only part of the worldwide market for chemical pesticides and the turf and amenity sector is even smaller than that. Its costs money to bring an active ingredient (even an established one) to full registered use in turf, and if chemical manufacturers think a planned new product may fall foul of EU legislation in just a few years then the incentive to proceed and to pay for the privilege may be lost.

Should the worst happen to the chemical pesticide arsenal then lack of selective weed control is that likely to pose the biggest single problem for professional turf. Turf disease can be avoided or at least managed by good cultural control and more developments in turf grass varieties specifically resistant to diseases like Fusarium

and anthracnose. UK turf has relatively few insect pest problems and there is biological control based on entomopathogenic nematodes for use against both chafer grubs and leatherjackets, although it is clearly less versatile and fast-acting as chemical insecticide.

Much is made about likely effects of global warming on the sustainability of UK turf but relatively little is said about its potential effect on turf weeds. As a traditionally cool wet country we tend not think of our native (and introduced) weeds as drought resistant plants, but many turf weeds are. You only have to look around at the moment to see how well white clover, bird's foot trefoil, yellow suckling clover, yarrow and even self-heal are doing in the current South of England drought and therefore how predicted effects of global warming could make the weed situation for UK turf a whole lot worse.



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Close up of Fusarium Patch. (Courtesy of Vitax Ltd)

# Nature's cure



Graham Paul offers some useful fungicide advice, which can also go towards building your BASIS Points

**If you are using fungicides or advising others on their use to control turf disease, you will understand the need to keep abreast of this rapidly changing market place.**

Advances in chemistry and technology may cause us to change our thinking on how to choose fungicides to combat the ever present threat of disease on sports and amenity turf. The simple choice of contact fungicides in the winter and systemic products in periods of strong growth now has to be tempered by the fact that the modern fungicides, brought in to replace those withdrawn on environmental or toxicological grounds, do not always behave in the manner we are accustomed. This article reviews the introduction of a new group of fungicides to the turf market and how they are best used for maximum effect.

In 1977 a group of German scientists discovered two anti-fungal antibiotics which they named 'strobilurin A' and 'strobilurin B' because they were isolated from the pine cone fungus *Strobilurus tenacellus*. This organism produces these natural fungicides to restrict other species of fungi that are competing for its main food source. As a result of this research we now have a whole new family of fungicides based on these naturally occurring products.

Strobilurins were found to be very effective against a wide range of species, from all of the four families of fungi but were easily broken down by UV light. Strong sunlight is not an issue to the pine cone fungus living on the heavily shaded forest floor but out in the open it's a different matter, so UV stable synthetic strobilurins were produced to get round the problem.

Today we have three strobilurin molecules registered for use on

Further advice on the use of QoI fungicides can be found on the FRAC website (See References below)

References:

1) Fungicides Resistance Action Committee – QoI Action Group <http://www.frac.info/frac/index.htm>

2) Fungicide resistance in crop pathogens: How can it be managed?

FRAC Monograph No. 1 (second, revised edition) Keith J Brent and Derek W Hollomon

3) Strobilurin fungicides: Nature's Cleanup Crew – Liskey E. Grounds Maintenance 2002

4) QoI (Strobilurin) Fungicides: Benefits and Risks – Vincelli P. Univ. Kentucky <http://www.apsnet.org/education/advancedplantpath/topics/strobilurin/top.htm>

turf in the UK. The first of these was azoxystrobin, launched under the brand name 'Heritage' in 1997 followed soon after by 'Scorpio' (trifloxystrobin) and 'Insignia' (pyraclostrobin). Since the initial introductions there have been several 'me too' products formulated from straight strobilurins and two mixtures with other fungicides; 'Headway' (azoxystrobin and propiconazole) and 'Dedicate' (trifloxystrobin and tebuconazole)

All members of the strobilurin family have the same mode of action. They interfere with energy production in the fungal cells, bringing all activity to a halt – like tripping out a circuit breaker! To be more specific, they all have a 'single site' mode of

system enabling it to be distributed through the plant. Such movement is sometimes referred to as 'acropetal systemic activity' to differentiate it from 'true' systemic action, which involves both upward and downward distribution.

Trifloxystrobin ('Scorpio') and pyraclostrobin ('Mascot Eland') are not systemic or contact fungicides but they are strongly lipophilic and become firmly embedded in the waxy cuticle cells of the leaf surface. This makes them very rain-fast and during periods of slow growth they will persist for longer than the upwardly mobile 'Heritage'.

Bayer's product 'Scorpio' differs from the others in that it has the ability to move a short distance in

**“This organism produces these natural fungicides to restrict other species of fungi that are competing for its main food source. We now have a whole new family of fungicides based on these natural products”  
Graham Paul**

action, targeting energy conversion in the cell – a process which is known to biochemists as 'mitochondrial respiration'. The strobilurins are classified under the group name QoI (which stands for 'Quinone outer Inhibitor' the specific binding site where they disrupt the cellular energy process). Without energy conversion the fungus cannot grow or reproduce and death follows.

However, despite the common mode of action of these QoI fungicides, the three active ingredients used in turf have fundamental differences in the way they move within the plant. All demonstrate 'trans-laminar' movement from one leaf surface to the other but azoxystrobin ('Heritage') also moves upwards in the plant's xylem

the vapour phase from one leaf to another or onto adjacent plants – so achieving a degree of re-distribution after spraying. Bayer describe the movement of their product as 'mesostemic' – reflecting the fact that it does not fit in with any existing terminology!

QoI fungicides are very effective at killing germinating spores, which makes them ideal for use as preventative treatments or in the very early stages of disease. However, they cannot be relied upon to work curatively on most diseases – especially those products that bind to the waxy cuticle: 'Scorpio', 'Insignia' and 'Mascot Eland'. Trans-laminar movement carries the active ingredient through the leaf tissues and out onto the other side where

Scorpio and Dedicate are registered trademarks of BayerCropScience Ltd. Headway and Heritage are registered trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. Mascot is a registered trademark of Rigby Taylor, Eland is a registered trademark of BASF Insignia is a registered trademark of BASF





ABOVE: Turf disease control after an early year's start in West Sussex.

Both images on this page were featured in an article by Dr Terry Mabbett, entitled, "Focus on Fungicide," in *GI*, June 2009.

it re-binds with the cuticle wax. In the initial stages of disease, the germinating spore is located on the outside surface of the leaf and is easily controlled. Once the fungal hyphae penetrate the inside of the leaf the level of chemical present is often too low to halt the growth of the fungal mycelium. Therefore, timing is critical to the successful use of these QoI products.

A disadvantage of 'single-site' mode of action is that it offers a much greater potential for resistant strains to develop than is the case with fungicides having a 'multi-site' mode of action. Whilst I do not want to cause unnecessary concern over the potential for fungicide resistance in UK turf, it is something we all need to be aware of when selecting a fungicide strategy. Acquired resistance is an ever present threat that needs careful management to prevent the loss of valuable chemical weapons in the fight against disease. The turf market in the USA is much larger than ours in the UK and the QoI products have been used there more extensively and over a much longer period.

A study by the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) has revealed isolated cases of resistance to turf-grass diseases in the USA – notably; Anthracnose, Gray Leaf Spot and Pythium Blight – the latter two being of no importance to UK turf. However, the same group also reports isolated cases of resistance to *Microdochium nivale* in wheat grown in Europe. This same fungus is the cause of the UK's most important turf disease formerly known as Fusarium Patch.

Where a group of fungicides has the same 'single-site' mode of action, resistant strains of fungi will demonstrate cross resistance to all members in that chemical family. Consequently, rotation of fungicides and tank-mixes should

involve products from different chemical groups.

Many scientists believe the theory of evolution dictates that fungi will develop a way around any chemical agent in time. The strategy must therefore be to delay this for as long as possible by sensible use of these valuable materials.

In the past, cases of resistance have been attributed to over-use, under-dosing or incorrect application. When fungicide resistance develops, it is often the most popular, most effective material that becomes worthless almost overnight. Fortunately we now have watchdog groups like FRAC who routinely follow up and monitor suspected cases of acquired resistance and more importantly advise manufacturers and users on the best way to minimise resistance risk.

The following guidelines for use of QoI fungicides may help to prolong their usefulness:-

- They should be treated as preventative fungicides and applied before or at the earliest moment after the onset of visible symptoms.
- Fungicide programs must deliver effective disease management. Apply QoI fungicide based products at effective rates and intervals according to manufacturers' recommendations. Effective disease management is a critical component to delay the build-up of resistant pathogen populations.
- The number of applications per year must be restricted to the statutory requirement – whether used solo or in mixtures.
- Because all of the QoI fungicides have the same mode of action they will exhibit cross resistance to other members of the same group. Rotation of fungicides must therefore be outside the QoI family with substances having different mode of action.

So you can either direct people to the homepage: [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com) or direct to the article: [www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=18](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=18).

## SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form online at [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com)

Circle the correct answer(s)

**1) Which of the following active ingredients are registered for use on managed amenity turf in the UK? More than one may apply.**

- a) pyraclostrobin
- b) fluoxastrobin
- c) azoxystrobin
- d) kresoxim methyl

**2) What do the initials FRAC stand for?**

- a) Friends Reunited Against Chemicals
- b) Fungicide Research into Agricultural Chemicals
- c) Fungicide Resistance Action Committee
- d) Federation of Royal Agricultural Colleges

**3) Which UK turf diseases have produced strains resistant to QoI products in the USA?**

- a) Fusarium Patch
- b) Anthracnose
- c) Gray Leaf Spot
- d) Take-all Patch

**4 In general, how would you classify QoI fungicides in terms of their uptake activity?**

- a) Contact acting
- b) True Systemic
- c) Trans-laminar
- d) Root absorbed

**5) In which year were the strobilurin fungicides first discovered?**

- a) 1979
- b) 1997
- c) 1977
- d) 1967

**6) If a fungicide has a 'single-site' mode of action, will it:**

- a) be unlikely to encourage resistant strains of the disease.
- b) work better in warm climates
- c) be more prone to develop resistance than those with 'multi-site' mode of action.
- d) be cheaper to produce





The First Hole Cutter – Still on Display at Royal Musselburgh

# Tin cup

Tim Webb provides a fascinating view on the development of the holecup

**As the UK hosts two of golf's greatest competitions this year: the recent Open Championship, on the Old Course at St Andrews for the 28th time, and the Ryder Cup for the first time in Wales, questions and commentary abound.**

Amid the hoopla and gossip—talk about Tiger's tumble, speculation about whether an English man could work some wonders, and the strut toward Celtic Manor—an unobtrusive, modest pair of contributors are helping stage the competition. I'm talking about the flagsticks and the cups. They do their best work if the wind is up, but whatever the conditions, the flagsticks bend with the breeze, and the cups will shine bright, their luminous white liners visible not just to the players on the greens but to galleries and TV audiences world-wide. Big deal, you say—it's a flagstick right; it's a cup, correct?

The golf cup is younger than the game—the requirement for a cup is just over one hundred years old, while the game is five times that age. The original cups were installed simply to keep the hole from growing unsportingly large. It was long the custom for players to grab a handful of sand out of the hole when they retrieved their balls and use it to build a little cone-shaped tee on the driving ground. The first recorded shaped hole was at Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, in 1829, cut with a drain pipe and measuring 4 1/4 inches in diameter. In 1891, the R & A standardized that as the legal cup size in its official rules. Golf holes all over the world today measure 4 1/4 inches (even in metric countries, where that is approximately

108mm), and they have been this size since 1891.

The reason for that precise diameter is that Royal Musselburgh Golf Club had invented, in 1829, the first known hole-cutter. It is still in existence and on display at the club, and had become the accepted norm at clubs in that part of Scotland. Musselburgh pioneered the cleanly cut, standard-sized hole, by using a handy object—a piece of old drainage pipe which coincidentally still today measures 108mm. Try measuring the soil pipe that comes from your toilet and you will see what I mean.

Gordon Moir is the Director of Greenkeeping for the St Andrews Links Trust. In that role Moir is responsible for safeguarding a legacy that extends from the Old Course, the most venerated of golf courses worldwide, to the Castle Course, a brilliant example of modern golf design executed by a son of Scotland, David McLay Kidd. "At St Andrews Links," Moir says, "we have found the Tacit holecups to be long lasting—especially the liners, which are excellent. They stand up well to windy conditions," he confirms, "and help the hole keep its shape" Did Gordon have a crystal ball in anticipating the conditions the players at this year's Open would encounter when on the second day of play when play was stopped as balls shivered and were blown off the immaculately prepared greens. Why else (perhaps a few years of local knowledge maybe) would he ensure that the Old Lady was adorned with cups and pins that just wouldn't blow out and stood to attention in conditions that the Authorities regarded as unplayable?

Twenty years ago a new type cup and ferrule was developed by Richard Webb of Tacit. An Anti Swivel Ferrule/Holecup combination that has now been adopted by the majority of courses throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Indeed it is so good that some companies have taken the idea and produced anti swivel systems of their own.

Tacit in recent years took another leap forward with the introduction of the Sub Cap to the central Ferrule bore, thus reducing holecup sinkage and reducing substantially the amount the ferrule will wear.

**“Try measuring the soil pipe that comes from your toilet and you will see what I mean”**

**Tim Webb**

**How did they achieve this?**

Imagine the ferrule on the bottom of flagstick to be a pebble in a stream. Imagine the holecup to be a rock pocket that has collected the pebble, as the pebble turns within the hole, both the pebble wears smaller, whilst the hole wears bigger. How to stop the wear? Simple, stop the movement.

This is where the splines on the underside of the ferrule come into their own. Although unobtrusive, the splines instantly locate in the corresponding slots in the holecup and stop the flagstick from rotating within the holecup. Instead of the flagpins needing to be replaced annually, there is now a two year renew cycle.

Adding Tacit's sub cap to this scenario, could lead to a three or four year renew cycle, as the wear



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email: tim@tacitgolf.com



on the ferrule and holecup is slowed even more.

Without this excessive wear brought about by ferrule rotation, the flagstick stays upright longer, with the chances of the flagstick blowing out of the holecup in strong winds being substantially reduced.

**Why add a Sub Cap?**

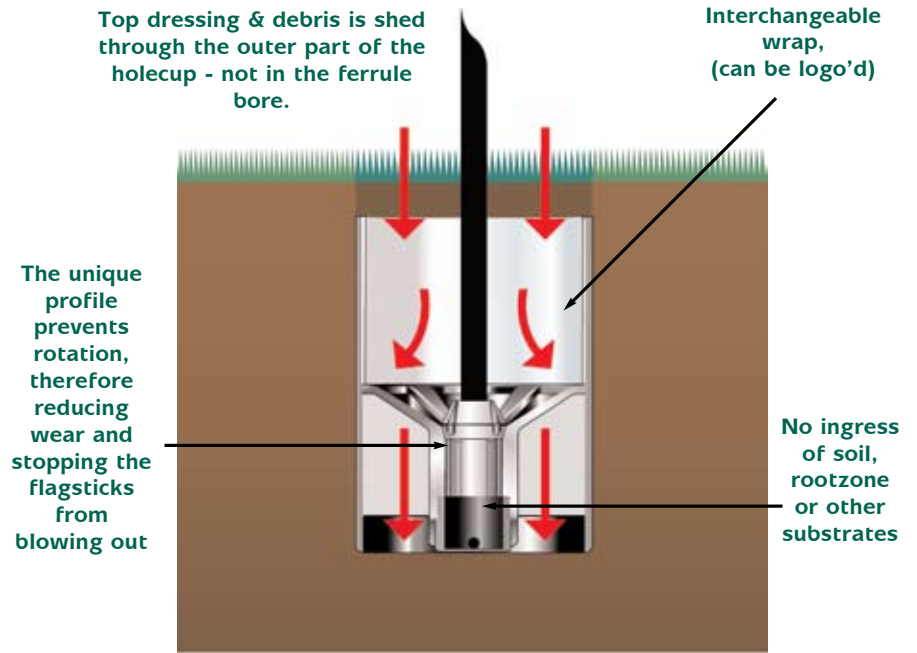
The only way flagsticks will blow out of the hole or wear excessively, is if the ferrule is not locating correctly in the hole. On a busy course, the flagstick is relocated every 10 to 15 minutes throughout the day; the holecup is constantly hammered deeper and deeper into the hole. Originally set to the R & A recommended 1" depth; the holecup can end up 2" below the surface after a few days, especially in U.S.G.A. specification sand greens. The sub cap increases the ambient surface area by over 300%, allowing the holecup to effectively float in the green.

The ingress of soil up the middle of the holecup is completely stopped but the cup can still be bedded solidly into the root zone. The flagstick and ferrule can then sit in the holecup in perfect harmony and work together at their optimum in a rootzone free world, because the ferrule / holecup combination is grit free the ferrule and holecup do not jam and therefore the holecup is not pulled out of the ground when the flag is being tended.

**But what about the cup itself?**

Tacit's holecup is unique in that it works opposite to all the other cups on the market, while they have been designed to move all the debris and topdressing down the center bore causing all sorts of problems with wear and "ferrule jam" the Tacit holecup is designed to shed all that unrequited rubbish through the outer windows keeping the central bore clear. Constructed and machined to exact tolerances in the UK by skilled time served craftsmen from Marine Aluminum, the leading edges being given a taper both top and bottom allowing for ease of setting and extraction of the cup whilst maintaining an exact 4 1/4" diameter to the body of the cup.

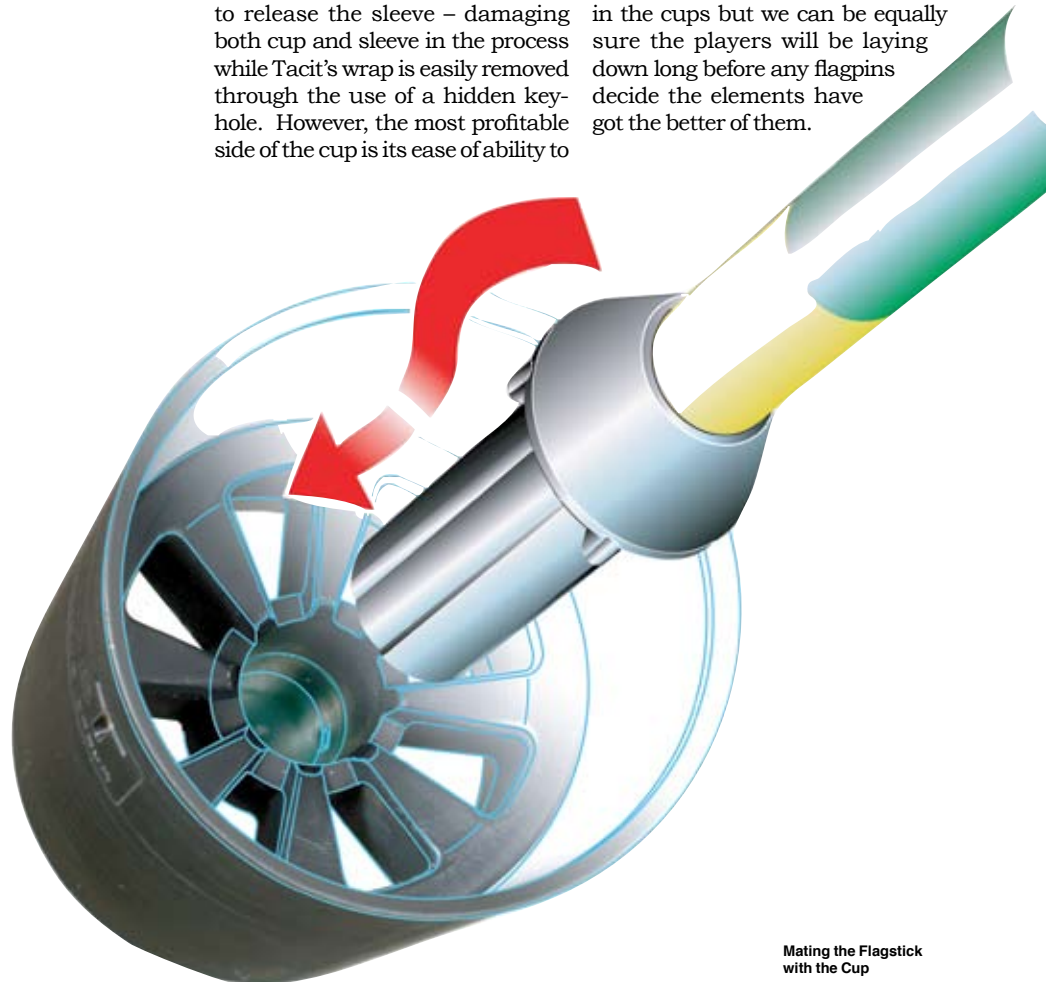
But the "piaster resistance" must be the wrap contained in the cup. For years green keepers have had to struggle with damaged and chipped paint coming off the cups. With the introduction of a PVC wrap all these problems have been instantly eradicated. The cup stays bright and white month after month,



and when it needs changing it is replaced cheaply and in seconds and because it is constructed of a very fine surfaced PVC, dirt and dust are not easily engrained unlike other similar sleeved designs. These other sleeved designs also have an inherent weakness in that a screwdriver has to be pushed down the front edge of the cup in order to release the sleeve – damaging both cup and sleeve in the process while Tacit's wrap is easily removed through the use of a hidden key-hole. However, the most profitable side of the cup is its ease of ability to

be logoed or branded. This can be done cheaply and easily while flat either locally or ordered in specially, the advertising space can then be sold over and over.

As we sit back and listen to the dulcet tones of Peter Allis at this Years Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor we can be pretty sure we wont be seeing any Union Jacks or European flags in the cups but we can be equally sure the players will be laying down long before any flagpins decide the elements have got the better of them.



Mating the Flagstick with the Cup



# DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

## MAJOR R. OWEN LTD

### Location and size

Parc Road, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd, North Wales. 2 Acre site

### Employees and size of premises

26 Staff. 18500sq feet of covered trading space

### Number of service vans:

8

### Brief history of company

The business was established in 1977 by Major Raymond Owen and operated from his garden shed at his home in Penrhyndeudraeth. At this time, the concentration was primarily on two-stroke machinery, especially chainsaws and brush cutters. Major's daughter, Deborah, looked after the accounts with him.

Major moved to his first retail premises in School Street, Penrhyndeudraeth. In 1984, he was on the move again and took up a lease on the Old Market Hall in the centre of the village and was joined by his son in-law David Burnham and son in-law to be Andy Jones. As the volume of business increased, it soon became apparent that purpose built premises were necessary and in 1988 two acres of land was purchased at Park Road, Penrhyndeudraeth and a building of 5000 sq feet erected.

The business was incorporated in January 1990 and moved into its new premises during September of that year. Since that time, expansion has continued and this site now houses approximately 18,500 sq feet of covered trading space, incorporating showroom, workshop, parts, warehousing and administration areas.



Our operating area extends throughout North and mid-Wales. Currently the company employs 26 people including a team of 14 after sales staff.

Major retired in December 1997 and his son-in-law, David Burnham was appointed as Managing Director, supported by Major's other son-in-law, Andy Jones as Sales Director and his daughter, Deborah Burnham as Administration Director.

David retired in early April 2008 and Andy Jones was appointed as Managing Director and supported by Deborah Burnham as Finance Director.

### Key services offered

Sales, service, parts, hire on all makes of equipment.

### Specialist services offered

Regrinding of cylinders and bottom blades, Specialist lathe work, all types of welding, all types

of electrical testing & fault finding, all types of hydraulic testing & fault finding, shot & bead blasting,

### What would you like to see changed?

More appreciation of greenkeepers and the superb job they do, especially in the current financial climate.

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

Yes

### Major customers

All leading golf clubs in North Wales, All Local Authorities, Environment Agency, All leading caravan parks

### Franchises

- Kubota, Toro, Hyster, Greentek, Ferris, Gianni Ferrari, Honda, Stihl, Husqvarna, Viking, Ifor Williams and many more too numerous to mention

To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...  
Email [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)



# Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

## Become a key sponsor

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

To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800



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

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



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

John Pemberton, Chief Executive



### Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie; Michael Beaton; Douglas Duguid; Derek Grendowicz



## A BIG LAUNCH FROM TYM



TYM Tractors has launched its largest tractor to date, the 100hp T1003, at Saltex. Delivering 100hp from a Perkins 1104D-44TA engine, the T1003 is designed to tackle tasks from gang mowing to hedge and verge trimming and handling the meatiest aerator or decompactor.

This tractor remains compact enough to manoeuvre easily around the works yard with a wheelbase of 2300mm, and weighs in at 3685kg. A fuel tank capacity of 125 litres is more than ample for a long working day.

MORE SALTEX  
NEW PRODUCTS  
WILL APPEAR  
NEXT MONTH

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

## Hello ELMOW



Allett's new battery-powered fine-turf cylinder mower made its world public debut at Saltex.

Known as ELMOW, the walk-behind machine is available with a choice of cutting units, both fitted as standard with a 120mm diameter, 10-bladed cutting cylinder and a powered turf groomer.

Its rate of cut is 220 clips per metre a rate - maintained irrespective of working speed or variations in speed.

The battery pack powering ELMOW is a 24 volt, 42Ah gel-type unit located using a 'slide and click' system that allows rapid interchange of discharged and fully-charged battery packs.

Price of the ELMOW 20 and 24 mowers, including a battery pack and charger, is £5,400 and £5,650 respectively.

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

## Dethatcher And Spiker - A Two In One Renovation Machine



Having added the RotaDairon range of renovation and maintenance equipment to the stable this year, the Grass Group has launched the ED 130 TS dethatcher and spiker with collection box - a two in one renovation machine. With the PTO engaged, the ED is capable of working from 0 to 60 mm deep, and offering fast, clean removal of thatch from fine turf. Detach the PTO and the ED becomes a spiking machine for golf greens and sports fields.

Advanced Turf Technology's TMSsystem is another addition to the range. With eight individual cassettes, the system is fully interchangeable between all mainstream makes of triplex greens mowers and lightweight fairway mowers.

Choose from groomers, vibratory rollers, spikers, scarifiers and brushes to suit the conditions in hand, all superbly engineered for best results. Swapping attachments takes a matter of minutes with the four-bolt "Easy-In-Easy-Out" cassette installation and removal method.

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



## LINE-MARKING PAINT MAKES...



## ...AN IMPACT

Rigby Taylor launched Impact Gold a ready-to-use line marking paint which offers a total integration of paint, its application to the target surface and packaging disposable.

The paint is free of volatile organic compounds and bio-degradable. Finely atomised spray droplets ensure complete coverage of both sides of the leaf blade with a single application while special pigmentation attributes impart a bright, highly reflective white surface coating that increases in intensity as the paint dries.

Using a specially developed gold nozzle, a football pitch can be over-marked with as little as one litre per pitch.

It provides major benefits in environmental saving including reduced water consumption, fuel economies and waste disposal. As a ready-to-use product. It does not require water, therefore eliminating the need for mixing, measuring and pouring. The only water required is for priming the new iGo spray marking machine pump and nozzle cleaning.

When using traditional dilutable paints, a typical 35 week football season this can amount to over 400 litres of water using a standard 4:1 ratio of water to paint. Impact Gold over this time may use less than 5 litres of water.

The iGo spray-marking machine can carry 2 x 10 litre packs, so a single operator can mark out up to 20 pitches without the need for water or, repeatedly returning to a central base to fill up.

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

## The Excelion: Brush Cutting And Grass Trimming Combined



The Pellenc Excelion is a new product to the UK, available through Etesia. Pellenc is the only manufacturer to be able to produce machines that can be used up to a full day's work on a single charge of the ultra lithium battery and at the same time guarantees use with no odour, no pollution and virtually no noise making them an environmentally friendly product.

The Excelion combines both a brush cutter and a grass trimmer: only the cutting head change. This change-over is very quick, taking

less than one minute to change from the brush cutter version to the grass trimmer version and all without the use of any tools.

Half the weight of the lightest petrol brush cutters, the Excelion makes brush clearing easier in ditches and on steep slopes. Fitted with an adjustable handle, directional head and telescopic system gives the user exceptional working comfort.

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

## Sanli extends its range



SANLI has added three new self-propelled wheeled rotary mowers to its range of outdoor power equipment.

The new pedestrian machines are all powered by SANLI 5.5hp OHV engines with similarly sized Briggs and

Stratton power units available as an extra-cost option.

They comprise steel-decked 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 mowers producing a 56cm width of cut, the LSPA56 is the widest yet pedestrian machine to be developed and manufactured

by SANLI. The mower's tough, lightweight aluminium deck and wide cut make it ideal for commercial users requiring a high performance, quality mower at a very competitive price.

The LSPA56 can be used in either cut and drop or cut and collect modes to suit mowing schedules and the specific finish required, with cut heights adjustable from 25mm – 86mm

Large rear drive wheels are a feature also of the new LSP514 steel-decked 4-in-1 pedestrian mower which combines cut and drop, cut and collect, mulch and side-discharge capabilities in a self-propelled wheeled machine.

Powered by a 5.5hp SANLI OHV engine the LSP514 offers all of the cut, collect and mulch mowing options that are likely to be needed by professional users.

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



# Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

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

Do you want to be taken seriously as a sports turf professional?

Do you want access to a wide range of bespoke education courses?

Do you want to be part of a large network of like-minded people where shared knowledge is a key ingredient?

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

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

## Why Join BIGGA?

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

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

Tel: 01347 833800 select option 1,

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

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



**Promoting best practice in sports turf management**



## Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Ayrshire

Hey chaps, Hope you are all well.

Back to that time of year again with aeration, or as the members would put it, "Damn greenkeepers wrecking our greens again". Well, as we all know, that ain't the case, but keeping any disruption to a minimum always helps.

I've got to say the majority of members these days actually warm to the tasks we carry out, with a lot more members having an understanding of what the benefits are instead of looking at the negative side of the work we do.

I find keeping our members informed of any works being carried out through a monthly newsletter helps keep the club informed and up to date.

Another thing which is popping through the ground this time of year is the dreaded leatherjackets or as they are commonly known the daddy long legs. They are the larval stage of the crane fly (daddy long legs).

Leather jackets start to feed on grass roots in the autumn. They will continue feed through the winter and spring. In the summer months the leather jackets pupate and the next generation of daddy long legs emerge and lay their eggs in the infected areas. Arrrrgh! Who said this job was easy, eh!

Anyway guys that's me for another month... so as I keep asking, if you have any news please let me know.

Thanks

[Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk)  
07500874449

John Mair



### West

The AGM has arrived and will be held at Hagg's Castle Golf Club on Thursday, October 28 and hopefully a few people will attend even those wishing to lend a helping hand by volunteering for committee duty. Our various committee members have been running things for a few years now, and some new blood is required. The day will be similar to others with the AGM and then a talk on Toro machinery or Demonstrations of equipment - weather dependant.

The Section would like to thank Hamilton Bros for its co-operation and sponsorship for this event.

Brian Hillen, our running Chairman, has arranged a football match against the Ayrshire Section for late October. All those interested should contact him or myself, both numbers are in the hand book, or for those who might have mislaid theirs; my number is 0141-942-5554, or mobile 07790823914.

Sportscrete is running a golf day at Eastwood Golf Club with a talk about its product, which should be interesting, as the main bone of contention on any golf course is usually the bunkers. The date for this event has not been confirmed with me in time for this magazine issue, therefore I hope Gavin can inform you at a later date by e-mail or letter.

Next month I will include a report on the Loch Lomond talk regarding the wetters which is being jointly hosted with STRI. This has been rearranged from April this year when the guest speaker could not attend due to the volcano disruption.

I will also include the results from the outing at Helensburgh.

The Patrons' awards will be selected in the next month and those chosen will attend Harrogate, in January, which should provide them with a beneficial experience. The Section would like to thank all the patrons for their continued support at this time considering the difficult financial climate we are presently encountering.

Last but not least, the annual dinner deserves some mention, but as yet the venue has not been confirmed. The likely candidates are the Studio or Curry Karioke situated at the tall ship. I hope this should be a slightly better experience from last year and would request as many people attend as possible to help support the Section. Prices and detail will be confirmed next month.

Best wishes to all for the remainder of the season

Contact details for all wishing to inform me of any events are [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com) or 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, please do not hesitate to contact me about anything even a moan but please something at least.

Stuart Taylor



### North

As I am sitting writing these notes, the weather seems to have a turn for the worse. It is the beginning of September and there are very high winds and on top of that the rain has just decided to help out.

A wee thank you to Scott, at Headquarters for his little input about the notes being missing from last month's edition.

By the time you read this, the Autumn outing will have taken place at Huntly and I will have all the runners and riders for you in

the next edition. Hopefully it was glorious and there were at least 50 people playing.

On the move this month is Eric Pickard, from Longside GC. He has decided for some strange reason to come and join us at Murcar Links. You really don't know what you are letting yourself in for Eric. It's true what everyone says about Brian.

Congratulations go to Kintore Deputy Dog, Davie Stephen, and his long term lover, Suzy. They tied the knot in Inch back in August. I did hear it was a great day and I also heard that the bridegroom fluffed his lines. Instead of saying 'To be your husband', he actually said 'To be my husband'! Now Davie, I've known you for a number of years now and my suspicions have been confirmed! Anyway well done the both of you.

Last but by no means least this month, we sent a team down to play for the Norrie Whytock Trophy, in Auchterarder, in August. George Mitchell, Robert Paterson, Paul Sharp and Mike Braidwood all travelled down and on paper you would think that we stood a pretty good chance of winning it! Well, when I say that we came fourth, you might think that's not bad either. But when I say there were only five teams in it, then you begin to realise that they must have had an off day. Never mind lads hopefully next year we could improve our position. Congratulations to the East Section for winning the competition for the second consecutive year.

On that note I will return next month with the scores from Huntly. Happy Greenkeeping.

Ben Brookes

Murcar Links

07813889374





## Central

Congratulation to Section Vice Chairman, Derek Robson, and his wife on the birth of their son Sam who came into the world weighing a massive 9lb 1oz. This might have been in last month's report but Sam didn't realise there was a deadline to meet!

We had a great turnout for the seminar on September 1 to hear Stan Zontek, John Kaminski and Peter Dernoeden talk about the different types of winter damage of turfgrass they have encountered. There were between 40 and 50 people packed into the room and it was great to see the different age groups there from students and greenkeepers just starting out in their career to people such as Walter Woods and John Philp who have reached the very top of the profession.

By the time you read this the autumn outing will have been played and the winning scores will be on the website [www.bigcentralsection.org.uk](http://www.bigcentralsection.org.uk) and I'll include them in the next report. Finally, a reminder that the Section AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 13, in the training room at Elmwood Golf Facility at 1pm

Gordon Moir

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well, as I sit here writing this article. Nice to see the sun after all the recent rain. On Aug 25 we held our invitation day at Harrogate GC. Our thanks go to everyone at Harrogate for their hospitality and courtesy of the course. We would also like to thank Tony and his team for presenting a superb course, a credit to them all. The winners on the day were R. Walker and H. Lampkin with 43pts on a back 9 countback; 2nd J. Dobson and N. Ormonroyd; 3rd S. Rothwell

and P. Saxon. Nearest the Pin 3rd P. Saxon and on the 12th J. Burnside. Thanks to all our winners and everyone for taking part. Thanks also to Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship.

After the golf presentations we had a couple of mementos to present to two long serving greenkeepers, Keith Gray, who recently retired from Driffild GC, and Tony Baxby, who is to retire shortly from Harrogate GC. We wish them both a long and happy retirement and hope to see them on future golf events.

Just a couple of quick ones. After being provided with a map it was nice to know Alan and Joe Baxter found their way out of Scarborough. It was also rumoured that Roy Armitage was going to join us at Harrogate for coffee and a chat, but was last seen wandering round Knarsborough GC. (Hope we soon get some younger members?). As usual any news or gossip please contact me Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Mob. 07947401278. email [frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk).

Frank Stewart



### North West

Firstly, let me apologise for not contributing notes for the last couple of Greenkeeper Internationals, sick relatives miles away and having very little to comment on have been the concerning factors. Having said that I still have nothing new to say.

The summer has now come to an end and most of us will have or are currently completing the autumnal renovation work, the turf is being laid and the concerns of last year's weather is at the forefront of my mind. I have always been one to ensure every piece of turf is laid by the end of the year, however, last year we finished turfing in February/March due to the snow, this was followed by the driest spring in my memory causing cracking and very poor looking turf. Having said that "What doesn't kill me makes me stronger".

At Hesketh over the past

weekend, we have just held a dance for the members, not only did we have a clean shed at the end, but also had 115 people raising over £3000 for cancer charities. Give it a try, it's great fun, by the way we called it "The Shindig in the Shed".

So there you have it. I told you I had nothing to report, before next months notes, I'm going to go on a tour to find interesting things to write about, as always please contact me with any info, Cheers

Peter McVicar  
[pdmv@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pdmv@hotmail.co.uk)  
07885347818



### North East

Is it that time again already the 5th of the month Section news is now due got to get in touch with the editor pretty damn quick as will miss the deadline. Again nothing coming in so I have to rely on news from other sources.

Well I got a very interesting phone call from David Golding of the GTC informing me that, as from September, Newcastle College has now been confirmed as an Approved Quality Assurance Centre, so if you have any staff who need to go to college get them enrolled you cannot be any more central than that. It's been a long time coming, info can be accessed from either Wayne Reid or Tony Milan on Tel: 01922004704.

Next on my list is that myself, Jordan Gibson and Russ Black will hopefully retain the White-moss Shield in the Inter-Section tournament on September 22, at Llangollen GC. This is now in it's third year. Finally, congratulations to Jordan Gibson and his wife on their new addition to the family - I believe a baby girl.

Jimmy Richardson



### North Wales

Autumn is well and truly kicking in now, with the leaves losing their grip on the trees, colder

nights and much shorter days. But do we moan? Of course we do! We do what we do best, whinge our arses off about the "autumn blues" then, just get on with our work as always. The true mark of a decent Greenkeeper, no matter what the time of year or how low that makes us feel, is that the course comes first.

We held two golfing events last month, the Northern region day was held at The Vale of Llangollen Golf Club and the autumn tournament was held at Mold Golf Club. A full write up on both events will appear in next month's column, if you can't wait pictures will be open to see on the North Wales BIGGA group on Facebook. The Christmas tournament isn't that far

away and with it being held on the east of the Section at Mile End Golf Club, you can guarantee it will be heavily booked, so get your entry forms in early!

In local news, I'm sure you'll join in sending our sympathies to Andy "Acorn" Cornes and his family after his mother died recently after illness, and it is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of Graham Hall, who died peacefully at home in August after a long illness. Graham retired approximately three years ago from Bathgate Silica Sand after completing 18 years service. He was well known in the foundry and leisure industry. Our sympathy goes to his partner Etty, daughter Alison and son's Steven and Andrew. I hope the Section joins in sending a get well soon message to Peter Larter, who is convalescing after an operation on his shoulder.

I think that's enough for now so, all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury

E-mail, [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com) or mobile 07756001187



### Sheffield

Hello once again fellow Greenkeepers and Groundsmen.

We have once again reached the end of another playing season and we now have the time reflect on the season that has passed. It has once again been a difficult



year for many golf clubs which results in a very difficult year for the workers.

Once again though I believe after speaking to various people that we have again excelled ourselves and provided courses throughout the Region that we all should be proud of. It is credit to us all that through this difficult period we have continued to provide such service and hopefully we will come through this period soon.

Congratulations to everyone who played in the Annual Northern vs. Sheffield golf match, by all accounts we played really well on the day and came away with a creditable tie. Thanks once again to Mike and Rigby Taylor for organising these days for us.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our Autumn competition at Silkstone G.C. I hope everyone enjoyed the day and the results will be in next month's magazine.

T-shirt sales have continued to be very successful and another order has been made, if anyone else is interested please contact me on the number below.

Throughout September we have been busy organising our winter lecture programme and will hopefully be able to inform you all shortly with a full list of events. As I have said before though if anyone out there has any ideas on what they would like to see or happen at these events then please let anyone on the Committee know.

And finally.... Hillsborough GC recently held a golf day in aid of the Help the Heroes charity. £6500 was raised on the day which is a fantastic effort. Ian would like to thank Mike Brear, Glenn Sawyer and Simon Hardcastle for their efforts in organising the day.

Also a big well done to Tom Strong from Hillsborough in passing his Level 2. The only way is up now Tom.

Thanks for listening and see you next month

James Stevens  
07738719614

## Midland Region



### East Midland

Hello all, with everyone being heads down and working hard the last month has been quiet; however there is a sprinkling of news to catch up on.

First some good news from Forest Hill GC, where long serving mechanic, Mick Gough, is making good progress and recovering well at home from his recent heart attack.

On another footing and again based around Forest Hill, Greg Skinner and I have decided that the only way to settle who was at fault for our whipping boy status in the Headland Pairs competition, will be a "Putt Out" over 9 holes at our next committee meeting at Birstall GC. News on the result in the next issue!

Seamlessly linking into Headland Pairs news, the semi finalists are now known and are as follows, Northern Section, P. Frith and N. Colley v P. Sands and M. Bunney, and Southern Section, F. Kempster and A. Porter v I. Hurst & P. Kendal. Hopefully, in the next issue, I will be able to report on the outcome of these matches and the final.

By the time you are reading this update we will be due to play our Autumn Tournament and afterwards hold our AGM, this will be at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday October 20, the last two events have been very well attended with numbers over 40 at each event, and more encouragingly lots of new faces. These golf days are a great chance to meet and socialise with colleagues and should be an important part of your diary, regardless of golfing ability. The cost for the day is £17 to all greens keepers and £25 to trade, 3 course evening meal included and lots of prizes. All entries to Andy De Wet, by October 13 please.

On a final note, I have always liked October, as normally it's a chance to finally ease off the cutting work, I hope everybody reading this has had a good season, as the grass slows

and memories of Autumn maintenance fade, we now look forward to winter and the projects we have planned, lets just hope the weather treats us kindly!

Anybody with any news please contact me @ pds1@btinternet.com,

Pete Smith



### Midland

Well here we all are in the hopefully lovely month of October, if the weather is fine. Nice and cool at night and lovely sunny afternoons with the beautiful colours and light that this month gives us. And those who are screaming, "What about all those \*\*\*\*ing leaves?" They come every year, you should be geared up for them with the right machinery. With such in mind the Section would like to thank our long serving sponsors ALS. for this month's calendar page. Please consider them for your leaf collection needs and other turf grass machinery requirements, either; Tel: 01952 641 949. or visit their Website: [www.amenity.co.uk](http://www.amenity.co.uk) <<http://www.amenity.co.uk/>> .

Well I must apologise for this rather short notation for this month, but as requested in August's edition for information etc... I have, to date, received diddly. Nothing new there then folks. Those that would complain regarding such a lack are either those that have, or those that have not. My respects and thanks to those that in the past have!

Looking forward to future information,  
Sean McDade.



### East of England

Hello all.

That's it, summer's over, Autumn greens renovation work done and greens put to bed for Winter. A summer of long hot spells coupled with

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** David Patrick  
**Age:** 23  
**Club:** Marlborough GC  
**Position:** Assistant Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** Dave



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

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Always wanted to work outside and the hours are great

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

I would have loved to have been a pro golfer but I don't play so much now.

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

Cutting fairways. I just love to criss cross them and make them look good.

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

Stone picking bunkers. It's just boring and very tedious.

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

There should be competitions once a year for us greenkeepers and people play, knowing that they are saying thanks for our work

**7. Hobbies?**

Golf, socialising and taking the dog for a walk

**8. Favourite Band?**

Blink 182 and Kings of Leon

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

I'm boring when it comes to sports and don't support anyone.

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

I used to be in my local paper a lot for breaking course records or holes-in-one. Or just winning big golf events



very little rain has been a challenge to all, what will the Winter have to throw at us this time around!

Congratulations to Graeme Macdonald and Bryan Robinson who have won places at this year's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, at The Berkshire. Congratulations and good luck to you both.

The Midland Region Inter-Section Challenge again takes place this year. As current holders of this title we are sticking with the same team of Rob Bement, Rob Welford and Ash Cox who triumphed last year. Once again, good luck to the team.

Our next golf day and annual AGM will take place on Thursday, October 21 at Louth Golf Club. Tee off is at 11am, however members are requested to turn up earlier to attend the AGM. The day will be a Singles competition, the final event to this year's Order of Merit, as well as a Pairs competition with pairs being drawn after the golf has finished.

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly. Immingham Golf Club



## B, B & O

Golf! The Golden Years, as the best of the BBO returned once again to take on the delights of East Berks GC which was host to the Summer National Qualifier Competition on August 26 with testing conditions applied by the occasional shower and the sudden downpour from the heavens. The course stood up well to the elements, with natural barriers and cleverly designed doglegs which made the course play longer than the scorecard suggested, coupled with fast undulating greens, this made for a real challenge of not only a players striking ability but also their discipline and course strategy providing a perfect and testing venue to compete for a place in this year's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, which will be held at The Berkshire.

The results were as follows:  
3. Ian Robbins, Bicester GC,

net 71; 2. Erik Kinlon. Net 71; 1. Mark Green, The Berkshire, net 71.

Tony May, The Berkshire GC, picked up The Tacit Claret Jug with a gross 77. John Bevan snookered himself with the longest walk clocking up an unbeatable clearance of 147.

Nearest the Pin on the 9th was won by Nick Carrisi, Hennerton GC, and Anthony Goodlad hitting The Longest Drive on the 10th with Paul Hedger Radley College finding good form on the 2nd with Nearest the Pin in 2.

To our main sponsor of the day Tim Webb, from Tacit, and all the other trade supporters who provide the Section with fantastic prizes.

A big thank you to East Berks GC for the courtesy of the course; Colin Day and Julieanne Thorp for administrating the event and the catering department for there gastronomic delights which were well received and Course Manager, Matt Nutter, and his staff for ensuring the course which was fantastic and prepared to a first class standard. Our next event is on November 3 at Deanwood Park GC. Stick it in the diary before you forget.

Congratulations! The BBO welcome's Ian Morrison, from West Hill GC, who has taken over as Course Manager at The Berkshire.

Chris Lomas has taken on a new role as Secretary at Worplesdon GC, in Surrey and from all the Section we wish you the very best in his new position.

Ben Edwards is also on the move from Sandmartins GC and takes up his new position as Course Manager at West Hill GC.

The Section welcomes Phil Gibson who has taken a new position as Technical Sales Representative with Turner Groundcare Machinery covering various parts of the BBO.

News has slowly been dribbling in from far and wide over the three counties and if any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the section and forthcoming events, please get in touch on the website [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk)

Mark Day

## South East Region



### Essex

Our Essex Trophy golf day at Boyce Hill Golf Club went off well, albeit with a few showers over the last eight holes or so. Unfortunately I was unable to play in this event but reports are that the day went off extremely well. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Andrew Harding and his team, who presented the course so well for us. Also to Club Captain, Roger Taylor, for playing and presenting the prizes and the catering staff that feed us all so well throughout the day, and a big thank you to the committee and members of Boyce Hill for the courtesy they extended to us.

Results: Overall winner. Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 33pts. He wins a place in the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse.

Division One. 1. Barry Mann, Three Rivers G&CC, 31 pts c/b, (Also a National Championship place); 2. Dominic Rodgers, Warley Park Golf Club, 31pts; 3. Ray Clark, Channels, 30 pts c/b. Division Two. 1. Mark Stopps, Bentley GC, 32 pts; Ken Towse, Boyce GC, 30 pts c/b; 3. Sam Cook, Colchester GC, 30pts. Guest Prize, Roger Taylor, Boyce Hill GC, 35pts. Trade Prize, Andy Turbin, Ernest Doe & Sons, 31pts.

Nearest the Pin, 8th Hole: Neil Peachey, 18th Hole: Lee Stephens

We have our qualifiers for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse. They are as follows. Tom Smith, Colne Valley GC; Stuart Rogers, Orsett GC; Andy Cracknell, Orsett GC; Anthony Kirwan, Lexden Wood GC; Ben Scrivener, Abridge G&CC; Dougie Fernie, Upminster GC; Steve Cousins, Orsett GC, and Barry Mann Three Rivers G&CC. We wish then all well in their attempts to lift the trophies at The Berkshire this month and good luck.

Looks like there won't be much work done at Orsett at the beginning of October, as they have three of their staff playing

at the Nationals.

I should have been able to give you the result of the semi-finals of the Knockout, but due to some issues with one of the matches, I am unable to give the finalists for the final's match, which we plan to play in October. The venue for which and the finalists will be announced soon on the website shortly.

On the education front, Paul O'Kane is actively working on arranging a seminar for you all, sometime towards the end of the year. If you have any education needs or won't any information on courses. Please contact Paul direct, email: [greenkeeperpaul@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greenkeeperpaul@yahoo.co.uk)

If you have any news for insertion in this section of the GI magazine or on our website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) then please contact me at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net) or on 07764-862.337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Officer



### East Anglia

Eaton Golf Club, Norwich – 11 August.

What can I say? Thank you, all 69 of you for turning up at Eaton Golf Club on August 11. I hope you all enjoyed your golf, (pin positions and all – blame Steve).

We all enjoyed preparing the course, as always for our mates, mainly because it is truly appreciated and secondly, because we'll get torn to shreds in the bar afterwards if it's not up to scratch.

Looking at the scores, I think the course won – only two greenkeepers scored over 36 points; they were Glen Rayfield, with 37 points, and Pat Swinn, 37 points. Our club Chairman managed 40 points. I keep hearing that Eaton is an easy course, so much so that an architect has been brought in to 'tighten it up!' The mind boggles.

Anyway, here comes the bit you've all been waiting for, the results of your efforts (or lack of).

Results: 0 – 9 Handicap: 1 Robert Whiting 33 pts; 2 Mike Virley 33 pts; 3 James Burton 32 pts.



10-18 Handicap: 1 Glen Rayfield 37 pts; 2 Richard Plummer 35 pts; 3 Doug Roofe 33 pts

19-28 Handicap - Real Golfers: 1 Pat Swinn 37 pts; 2 Steve (Mr Pin Position) Freestone 32 pts; 3 Steve Crabb 31 pts

Trade: 1 Mark Keysell 35 pts; 2 Stuart Edge 34 pts

Guests: 1 Mike Hart 40 pts; 2 Brian Lindores 36 pts

Nearest the Pin: 2nd Benny Hill; 13th Nick Howes; Longest Drive: 8th Paul Craske; 12th; Danny Perring; Loo Seat: Neville Rowlandson as he visited the loo four times before teeing off (must have been nerves) - he may as well have his name on it!

Our thanks to Colin Brown, Club Captain and Mike Hart, Club Chairman for their welcoming speeches, and the food was lovely.

The main sponsors of the day were Ben Burgess and Tomlinson Ground Care. Other trade prizes and support were from Symbio (sorry I missed you last time), Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Scotts, Baileys of Norfolk, Headland, Tacit.

Thank you Eaton for your warm hospitality.

Roger Plummer has finally hung up his rake after over 40 years of greenkeeping. He is a legend among greenkeepers and golfers alike - his knowledge of Royal Cromer Golf Course is incredible, all of which I am sure will have been passed down in traditional greenkeeping ways, none of which you can learn elsewhere nor in a book. We wish Roger a long and happy retirement. His message to all, younger greenkeepers especially, should not be treated lightly "NIL DESPERADUM ILLIGITIMI" (if you don't know what it means, ask me when we meet). God bless you mate.

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

If there was such a thing as an X Factor award for greenkeeping, what do you think would be the criteria for winning it?

Would Mr Cowell be looking purely at the aesthetics and landscaping at your own course or would he delve deeper?

Would he consider your

management, budgetary and administration skills, your motivational techniques, staff development, environmental awareness and data monitoring?

Would the work done outside of your own individual clubs come into consideration? For instance, external educational courses, attendance at seminars and shows, interaction with colleagues from other courses, as well as any involvement in BIGGA?

Would your scientific knowledge come into question?

What fertilisers work best for you? What seed mixes are most likely to succeed in your soil type? How do you manage your irrigation system? What is your soil type and how do you manage it to your advantage?

Most people do not realise what it takes to be a successful Golf Course Manager. I'm sure you could think of a number of other items which may or may not come into play in such a hypothetical competition. I know that the Master Greenkeeper award would assess all these, but that is assessed by our peers and not the public remember. It is the local communities who need to be made more aware of the work we do.

And, don't forget we need the diplomatic skills of a politician when it comes to dealing with uninformed sections of memberships and public.

If you think you've got all those boxes ticked then congratulations and get onto ITV now suggesting the new show and don't forget to send me the royalties!

News from Kent Section is a bit thin on the ground this month hence the blurb above. Golf day at King's Hill Golf Club report to follow next month and don't forget that our annual shindig Turkey Trot at Birchwood Park is fast approaching! Make sure you keep November 25 free for what should be another cracking day here.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



## Surrey

Tuesday September 7. Guernsey, - as promised, the following is an unexpurgated copy of my and her indoors' day to day diary. Tuesday August 24 - we drove to Poole harbour and caught the Vitesse ferry. Two and a half hours later, docked at St. Peter Port. Sorry, I can't continue - even I'm getting bored, but I will comment on one big coincidence that happened while eating breakfast. Our apartment overlooked the town and port and a cruise ship arrived that looked familiar. Would you believe it that of all the ships in all the world, the one in which we cruised last year in the Baltic should pick our holiday resort to visit when we were there. Wow!

August 15. Stunning Sunningdale GC in glorious sunshine and 40ish Surrey men and Tracey Maddison, from BIGGA HQ, played for the McMillan Tankard. Perfect conditions for an outstanding round of golf, until the beautiful and in flower heather came into play and magically removed my ball after ball from the face of the earth. Sunningdale is so special that it did not matter, for the walk round and the following Artisan's BBQ made it a day to remember. Now if only I can remember the result. At this point I had to phone Ron Christie to remind me that Mike Lake came first and carried off the Tankard presented by Jack McMillan. Gavin Kyle, that golfing phenomenon and charming chap, was runner-up with Aaron Crittenden in third. Longest drive was Anthony Terry Kojak Freeman and Nearest the Pin, Steve Alibaster.

Welcome to Surrey to Ben Edwards, who takes over West Hill GC from the Berkshire bound Ian Morrison. Our Chairman, John Ross, has left Laleham GC but I am confident that his charm, his MG badge and his somewhat fading good looks will see him rise again to the dizzy heights of management that I know he deserves.

The next event is the Tri-County golf competition at

Three Rivers GC in Essex on October 14. This is followed by the England v Scotland contest at Hankley Common GC on November 2. I would like it minuted that I am available for both events and am looking forward to my usual invitation to stay well away and leave my golf clubs at home where they will do no harm.

There is a rumour going round that I travel in ladies' underwear, this is completely untrue, although I will be able to supply logo clothing and wet weather gear later this year. If successful the under garments may follow.

Yours as ever

Brian Willmott

## South West and South Wales Region



### South West

What a fantastic time of year this is.....chilly mornings with dew an inch thick that covers the whole golf course, I must say, I love driving to work in the mornings, from the common looking down into the valley, all the houses are covered in this thick layer of fog, and look unbelievable. Shortly the leaves from the trees will start to turn then drop to ground.....hang on just a moment, maybe I'm getting a little ahead of myself, while I sit here and write this its only the middle of August.....plenty of sunshine left!

Well there is for me, as I'm off too Florida on September 1 for two weeks, not that I want you to feel bad or anything, but I've just had a look at the weather forecast for Florida, and the current temperature is in the 90s, FANTASTIC!

Back home, at Minchinhampton, we've just spent the last two weeks working on our greens. On the Avening course we solid tined all the greens followed by our scarifiers with a double pass. This was pretty simple, apart from having to work around a last minute Senior's Open Day and the ladies on a Tuesday. However, like I said this was pretty simple and was completed without any problems...we had



all the fun when we made a start on the Cherington course, again we solid tined the greens, but this time we included the use of a garden machine with the sand injector.

We have used this machine at Minchinhampton before so we knew what we were getting ourselves into, and this time we had a couple of extra summer staff to help us out. With everything in place, on Monday morning we were ready to get on this "challenge". We had the machine, we had the sand, about 15 tonnes in all and we had the all important manpower, nothing could stop us.....apart from the weather! This had to be the one week where the weather just didn't give up. I remember being on the 5th green, the garden work was complete and all that was left was the clearing, we also hired the SQL 600 to help us, this is a powered brush that collects the material, as you walk behind it. With six of us working at the time, the heavens thought this would be a cracking time to open up, all of us ran for cover.....with nothing else to do but watch the golfers dashing back to the clubhouse and the large rain drops bouncing off the windscreen. It didn't take long before the green we were working on was flooded. The worst thing about this is that this was at the beginning of the week, we still had four more days to go.

This is pretty much how most of the week went, stop, start, stop, start, just trying to do as much as we could when it wasn't raining and still manage two golf courses. This was a difficult couple of weeks we had, and a massive amount of credit must go to the guys at Minch, we really did just plough our way through the bad weather and cracked on with the task at hand. A great, great job done!

On Friday, September 27, Section Captain, Wayne Vincent, took a team over the bridge where we played our friendly neighbours, the South Wales Section. Wayne and his team travelled (over 100 miles) with high hopes, I'm sure at the start of the day any victory would have been welcome but to come away with a massive 6-0 win is just something else! Well done Wayne, and well done to all that played.

Just a reminder for everyone.....Thursday, October 14,

this is the next Section golf day. This time we have the pleasure of visiting Worlebury GC. Remember this is also our AGM. I look forward to seeing you all there.

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



## South Coast

Hi to all,  
Not much happening around the Section at the moment, we seem to be between golf events. Next up is the match against the South West Section to held at Sherbourne GC on October 6, hopefully I will get the results of that in next month's issue! The Autumn tournament is at Broadstone GC on October 19. This is our AGM meeting so we would welcome all the support we can get. Email glassy2003@hotmail.com if you are not already in. Or call Kevan on 01590 624143. Remember, Broadstone is one of the best venues in the Bournemouth area so don't miss out.

I have just returned from a couple of weeks away in Turkey, where I must say a great time was had by all. Barton was the last thing on my mind as copious amounts of beer were downed beside the pool. As I now see less and less of my three daughters, what with university etc. it was great to have them with us, especially to fetch the beer.

Reality then kicked in and it's back to work! The Workman has broken a leaf spring and the water pump is leaking, a bearing is going on the rotary and the fairway mower is awaiting new bottom blades; can you pick up some milk for tea break when you collect the puncture? Where did I go on holiday?

Must admit though the lads have done a fantastic job in my absence the course looks great. By the time you read this the Section committee will have met to discuss next year's fixtures and seminar so I can fill you in next month. As always anyone interested on coming on to the committee please make contact with me by email greenkeeper@bosgc.co.uk.

Thats it for this month, see

you at Broadstone. Don't forget Kevan Glass at the above address to book your tee time.

Tony Gadd



## Devon and Cornwall

Not too much to report this month as our Section's season of events start now! Please go to the events section of the BIGGA website and GI magazine to see full listings of our upcoming events.

Duchy College has been busy though and here follows an update of the College's news.

Life after Steve Evans. The replacement for Steve is now in post and a few of you will have met Roger White, who has been accompanying Brian Summers on workplace visits. Roger has been redeployed from his post as Grounds Supervisor for Cornwall College (East Area) and I hope that you will support his induction to his new and demanding job role. He is keen to get to know you all and support the Greenkeeping industry in Devon and Cornwall.

Outstanding Ofsted result for Duchy College. Students, staff and friends of Duchy College are celebrating after Ofsted inspectors deemed its land-based provision to be outstanding. The report published in June recognised that Duchy College has an outstanding range of provision, along with an excellent range of practical and academic routes which meet the needs of the county's rural economy. Apprenticeship success was particularly praised with the report stating: "Outcomes for apprentices are outstanding. Across all subjects, success rates continue to improve and are significantly above the national average. The proportion of learners who complete their qualification within the timescale allocated to them is very high."

The inspectors highlighted the College's excellent learning environment in their report, noting that, "Learners enjoy their courses... they value their training, their supportive tutors and the friendly and welcoming atmosphere" and praised the links with industry that

Duchy College strives so hard to create and maintain, saying that, "Learners benefit from the excellent range of additional industry-specific short courses. The skills developed significantly improve learners' employability prospects and progression opportunities," I would like to thank all businesses and students who completed the many questionnaires that were circulated and that supported this result.

A special thanks to Mike Bush and the team at St Mellion Hotel and Golf Club, who hosted a workplace visit from the inspector. Also to Graeme Gallimore in his role as Educational Officer who represented the Greenkeeping Industry and to Nick Palfrey, Trethorne Golf Club, who represented students and who both met the inspectors. We all seemed to have survived

- Ron Skinner

George Pitts

Section Secretary

Bigga Devon & Cornwall

07929 754401

gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



## South Wales

Hope you are all well.

Firstly, a reminder that our Autumn Competition is to be held at Brynhill GC on Wednesday, October 14. This meeting will include the Section's AGM and will, I believe, take place before the golf. You should by now have had an invite with notification of the schedule for the day. Tee off time is at 1.30pm. Please try and make it for this event, even if it is to attend the AGM only, as this is your opportunity to raise any matters relating to the Section that you feel are important. Or you can carry on being a grumpy old man/woman for another year. It's up to you!

Also, as far as the course is concerned, I know what it's like to host a BIGGA event (Mountain Ash 1994, seems like yesterday) and the hard work involved. So come on guys and gals, let's show our support for Iain Grant and his team and to the Section.

Other news now. The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Tournament



due to be held at Neath GC on August 20 was cancelled due to heavy rain (I blame the Greenstaff) and had been rescheduled for Friday, September 10. Results weren't through at the time of going to print so will be in next month's column. As will a report on the annual Greenkeepers v Secretaries match.

The annual South West v South Wales match was held at the end of August at Ashburnham Golf Club. In a closely fought contest, played on a beautifully presented course, and, after countless count-backs, it was finally agreed that the South West team narrowly pipped the Welsh.... 6 bloody nil! So well done to the South West team and commiserations to the Welsh. Thanks to the Inscapes represented by Tony Horne for sponsoring the day, to Paul Hopkins for producing a great golf course under the direction of Huw Morgan who was watching from his vantage point in the Manager's office, and to Ashburnham GC for the club's hospitality and to everyone involved.

A bit of good news now especially for Steve Chappell, whose BIGGA Scholarship trip with Bernards was cancelled last year. He has just heard that the trip has now been re arranged and he shall be travelling to the GCSAA show at Orlando in Feb

2011. Have a great time Steve!

Right! I'm off to find out if Ms Julia Gillard, Australia's new Prime Minister, who hails from that picturesque and crime free seaside town of Barry, is related to the even more famous, Peter Gillard, former lecturer of Green-keeping at Pencoed College and IOG stalwart. Why, you might ask, is this important? Well, if they are related then the IOG might then have the backing of the Australian Government. Which will put them in a strong position in any future negotiations with BIGGA. I wonder if we can get her to attend the South Wales IOG Dinner? But only if she sponsors a table and brings a raffle prize.

I spoke on my Internet phone recently to an old friend who emigrated to Oz a few years ago and he described Ms Gillard as a 'Ranger' (pronounced like banger) which is in reference to her red hair and is short for Orangutan. I think this very unkind. This sort of name calling has no place in a modern society and I apologise to Orangutans everywhere.

Don't forget, if you have anything that you would like to have mentioned in this column then please contact me on the number below. Otherwise it'll be more ramblings in next month's column as well.

Ceri Richards  
07831 168645



**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

Sales for the space at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, better known as BTME or Harrogate to many, continue to come in steadily. There is no doubt that there is reluctance by some to commit to a stand at this stage of the year, but for those that delay the choice of stand position is diminishing with each day that goes by.

I hear on the grapevine that some companies, not many I am glad to reveal, think that they can avoid booking a stand and instead they intend to have their representatives wander round the show selling through the back door. This is a practice that must not be allowed to happen and we will be vigilant in watching out for this.

Make no mistake they are cheats. Who are they cheating? They are cheating BIGGA; they are cheating the bone fide exhibitor who invests hard earned money in a legitimate stand and they are cheating you the Member. It is widely known that the profit from BTME is BIGGA's prime source of revenue and is used to heavily subsidise the rest of its activities for the benefit of the membership. If we condone sharp practice like this then I would immediately question our business principles. I for one will do all I can to stop these people and have them escorted off the premises. Indeed, if I get my way, I will also name and shame in Greenkeeper International. Let's hope my rant is in vain and everyone plays the game fairly, but I suspect some will still try to 'do it on the cheap'.

Anyone approached by a company trying to trade from the floor without being an exhibitor should report the details immediately to any member of the Board or the BIGGA Staff. They may think it's a smart move but the real loser is YOU, the Member, you may not realise it but as a Member you own a share in BIGGA. It literally is your Association.

Talking of Harrogate the Continue to Learn brochure is released this month and a copy should have arrived with your magazine. If not then a pdf can be downloaded from the BIGGA website. The quantity and quality of education on offer is unprecedented and I challenge anyone not to find something of interest. For many of the workshops and seminars places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment and also to avoid the VAT rise on the 1st January.

There has never been a more important time for you and your employer to invest in your future. We all know that golf is going through challenging times and whether greenkeeper or groundsman, you need to keep up to date with practices, products and the industry. You can now book your place for education or register for the show on-line through [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) or [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) so let's see commitment to your future, the future of BIGGA and the future of the sports turf industry.

**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

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on 01347 833800**





# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

**Pay for your Membership Renewal Online – It's as easy as 1-2-3!**



We have recently launched a secure online payment facility for existing members to renew their individual membership online.

Details and instructions are below, you will have had to register on the BIGGA website members area with your membership number, email and password in order to proceed.

1. Step One – make sure your BIGGA account is activated, if you have not registered on the new revised BIGGA website you will need to do so, type the following URL into your browser <http://www.bigga.org.uk/login> if you have already registered that's fine, go to Step Two, if not click on 'Activate my account' button to be taken to <http://www.bigga.org.uk/login/activate/> where you can activate your account.

[NB If your membership has expired your account may not be active contact the Membership Department.]

2. Step Two – once you have an active account type the following URL into your browser <http://renewals.bigga.org.uk> to be taken to a new window where you will be asked to log in to your account, here you will need to enter your membership number and password you created when you activated your account.

3. Step Three – Once you have logged in the screen should read 'BIGGA – Online Payments' and show your name, membership number and category of membership including the amount that

needs to be paid, [NOTE: if this is not correct please contact the BIGGA Membership Department before continuing]. Enter your billing address then click next step and follow the on-screen instructions. Once completed BIGGA will be advised that a payment has been made and we can process your membership accordingly.

Any queries or problems please contact the BIGGA Membership Department on 01347 833800 select Option 1.

## Diary of Events

It's getting to that time of year again when Section AGM's and Section Education and Golf Events are happening. In order to keep up to date with all the dates of the Section Events visit the Events Section on the BIGGA Website ([www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)) or see them listed on the 'Diary of Events' page in this month's Greenkeeper International.

There's plenty happening for you to get involved with during the rest of this year. For those of you in the South East and South West/South Wales Regions, the Regional Conferences are being held in November, full details are available in this month's Greenkeeper International but just to remind you See below: - South East Region on November 3 at Plumpton College

South West/South Wales Region on November 19 at Cannington College

For more information contact the Regional Administrators. Please make every effort to attend if you can, many people, mostly volunteers have gone to a lot of time and trouble to make sure these Regional Conferences happen, please, if you can, support them.

## Membership Cards and Photos

If you haven't updated your photograph within the last two/three years please can you send in a new one? You can send it by email to [brad@bigga.co.uk](mailto:brad@bigga.co.uk) don't forget to tell us your name and membership number.



## Contact Details

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

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

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)

## Regional Offices

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd  
Tel: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
[pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

### Northern & Midland

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

### South East

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

### South West & Wales

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



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

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

**BIGGA welcomes the following new members...**

**For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.**

## Scotland

Glen Anderson, East  
Andrew Baillie, North  
Euan Brown, West  
Graeme Fraser, North  
Jamie Groom, Central  
Kevin McBey, North  
Peter Walker, East

## Northern Region

Andrew Carmichael, North East  
Phillip Collins, Cleveland  
Paul O'Shea, North Wales  
Gerald Sims, Northern  
Andrew Stanger, Northern  
Nathan Weatherstone, Sheffield

## Midland Region

Sam Bostock, Midland  
Paul Evans, Midland  
Walter Frankham, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Adrian Handbury, East Midland  
Peter Hanks, Midland  
Martin Hillary, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Thomas Kelly, East Midland  
Gavin Moss, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Thomas Pain, Midland  
Christopher Palmer, East of England  
Alan Russell, Mid Anglia  
Nicholas Street, Mid Anglia  
Andrew Turner, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Liam Woods, Berks/Bucks & Oxon

## South East Region

Robert Abel, Essex  
Ston Bennett, London  
Michael Boase, London  
Ben Chamberlain, East Anglia  
Nicholas Chidwick, Kent  
Robert Clark Eaglesham, London  
Liam Evans, Kent  
Andrew Hall, Kent  
Gavin Hastings, London  
John Herring, East Anglia  
Andrew Hurst, Surrey  
David King, East Anglia  
William King, Surrey  
Mark Roach, Kent  
Victor Santos, London

## South West/South Wales Region

Richard Barter, South Wales  
Richard Beach, South Wales  
Oliver Bruce, South West  
Andy Hallett, South Coast  
Garry Huggett, South Wales  
Tim Manners, South West  
Nigel Sandquest, South Wales

## International

Ingvar Fjellman, Sweden  
Michael Morris, USA





# Diary of Events

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

| Date                                     | Event  | Venue                                   | Contact  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>                           |  |   |  |
| Friday October 1st – Sunday October 3rd  | The 2010 Ryder Cup                               | Celtic Manor Resort                     | <a href="http://www.rydercup.com/2010">http://www.rydercup.com/2010</a>  |
| Monday October 4th – Tuesday October 5th | BIGGA National Championship                      | The Berkshire Golf Club                 | Sandra Raper Tel: 01347 833800 or <a href="mailto:Sandra@bigga.co.uk">Sandra@bigga.co.uk</a>                                 |
| Wednesday October 6th                    | North East Section Event                         | Gosforth Golf Club                      | James Richardson at <a href="mailto:jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com">jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com</a> or 07500 528542 |
| Wednesday October 6th                    | Devon and Cornwall Event (Don Hunt Trophy & AGM) | Stover Golf Club                        | George Pitts at <a href="mailto:gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com">gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com</a> or 07929 754401         |
| Monday October 11th                      | North West Section Autumn Tournament             | Bolton Old Links Golf Club              | Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604  |
| Wednesday October 13th                   | East Anglia Section Event                        | Saffron Walden Golf Club                | Ian Willett at <a href="mailto:info@thorpeness.co.uk">info@thorpeness.co.uk</a> or 07929 205398                              |
| Wednesday October 13th                   | Cleveland Section Event                          | Rockcliffe Hall Golf and Country Club   | Ian Pemberton on 01642 486693/ Mobile 07791 695768   |
| Thursday October 14th                    | East of England Section Event                    | Louth Golf Club                         | Bruce Hicks at <a href="mailto:brucehicks1@gmail.com">brucehicks1@gmail.com</a> or 07931 569158                              |
| Tuesday October 19th                     | South Coast Section Autumn Event and AGM         | Broadstone Golf Club                    | Chris Bitten at <a href="mailto:chrisbitten@btinternet.com">chrisbitten@btinternet.com</a> or 07796 887633                   |
| Wednesday October 20th                   | Midland Section Event                            | South Staffs Golf Club                  | Kim Blake at <a href="mailto:kimfulfordheath@hotmail.co.uk">kimfulfordheath@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07540 771924                |
| Wednesday October 20th                   | East Midlands Section Event and AGM              | Hinckley Golf Club                      | Andrew de Wet at <a href="mailto:biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com">biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com</a> or 07730 713895            |
| Monday October 25th                      | Mid Anglia Autumn Meeting                        | Berkhamsted Golf Club                   | Gerald Bruce at <a href="mailto:Gerald@berkhampsteadgc.co.uk">Gerald@berkhampsteadgc.co.uk</a>                               |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>                          |  |   |  |
| Tuesday November 2nd                     | East Scotland Section AGM                        | Kingsfield Golf Centre                  | Stuart Ferguson at <a href="mailto:stuferg@btinternet.com">stuferg@btinternet.com</a> or mobile 07961 630553                 |
| Wednesday 3rd – Thursday 4th             | IoG Scotsturf                                    | Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh        | <a href="http://www.scotsturf.com/">http://www.scotsturf.com/</a>  |
| Wednesday November 3rd                   | BB&O Autumn Section Event                        | Deanwood Park Golf Club                 | Adam King at <a href="mailto:ajk@radley.org.uk">ajk@radley.org.uk</a> or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158                |
| Wednesday November 3rd                   | South East Regional Conference                   | Plumpton College                        | Clive Osgood at <a href="mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk">cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk</a> or 01737 819343                         |
| Thursday November 4th                    | Devon & Cornwall Section Toro Cup                | Porthpean Golf Club                     | George Pitts at <a href="mailto:gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com">gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com</a> or 07929 754401         |
| Wednesday November 10th                  | IOG West Yorkshire/Leeds Branch Event            | Cleckheaton Sports Centre               | Rod Heyhoe at <a href="mailto:rodheyhoe@talktalk.net">rodheyhoe@talktalk.net</a> or mobile 07748 653639                      |
| Friday November 19th                     | South West and South Wales Regional Conference   | Cannington Centre for Landbased Studies | Jane Jones at <a href="mailto:janejones1@btconnect.com">janejones1@btconnect.com</a> or mobile 07841 948110                  |
| Monday November 29th                     | Sheffield Section Event                          | Lindrick Golf Club                      | James Stevens at <a href="mailto:jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com">jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com</a> or 07738 719614                      |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>                          |  |   |  |
| Wednesday December 1st                   | North Wales Section Event and AGM                | Mile End Golf Club                      | Jeremy Hughes at <a href="mailto:jezpro69@aol.com">jezpro69@aol.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:lazyassron@btopenworld.com">lazyassron@btopenworld.com</a> or 07778 170077                   |



# 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>   |



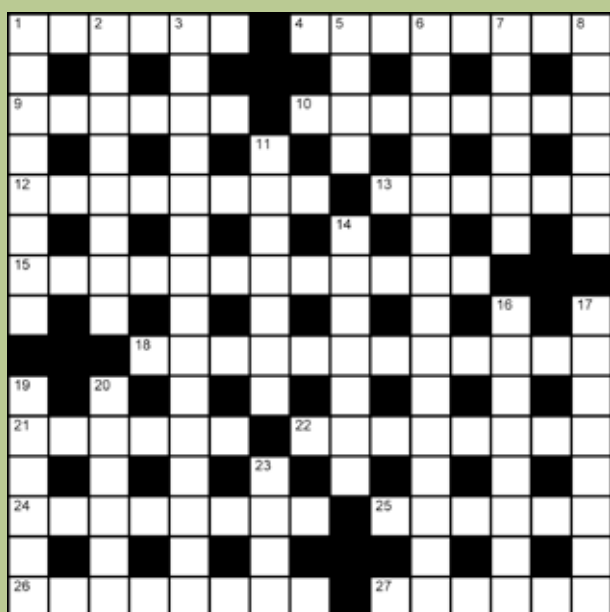




# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 "Religion is the \_\_\_ of the people" - Marx (6)
- 4 Chinese dog, called in China the 'Puffy Lion' (4,4)
- 9 Fall (6)
- 10 Vegetable banned from the Whitehouse by George Bush (8)
- 12 Worn out (3-5)
- 13 To cause hurt, though not physically (6)
- 15 Ol' Blue Eyes (5,7)
- 18 Having failed to achieve one's goal (12)
- 21 Coarse, unrefined (6)
- 22 A bit odd (8)
- 24 Imposed upon another (8)
- 25 John \_\_\_\_, founder member of Liverpool skiffle band The Quarrymen (6)
- 26 American musician, born Robert Zimmerman (3,5)
- 27 "The \_\_\_ of Man" - 1970s TV documentary series presented by Jacob Bronowski (6)

### Down

- 1 Intermittently (2,3,3)
- 2 Necessary for completion (8)
- 3 The three tunnels in The Great Escape (3,4,3,5)
- 5 German equivalent of Mr. (4)
- 6 Headmaster of Dotheboys Hall in Nicholas Nickleby (8,7)
- 7 "The \_\_\_ Claw" - nemesis of Penelope Pitstop (6)
- 8 Oddball (6)
- 11 Card game similar to whist, using a 48-card pack (7)
- 14 Dirty \_\_\_\_, British TV series similar in concept to Jackass (7)
- 16 To bind together in a promise of marriage (8)
- 17 Instrument played by Acker Bilk (8)
- 19 An electronic effect used in modern music (6)
- 20 \_\_\_ Sprout - pop group (6)
- 23 Second letter of the Greek alphabet (4)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

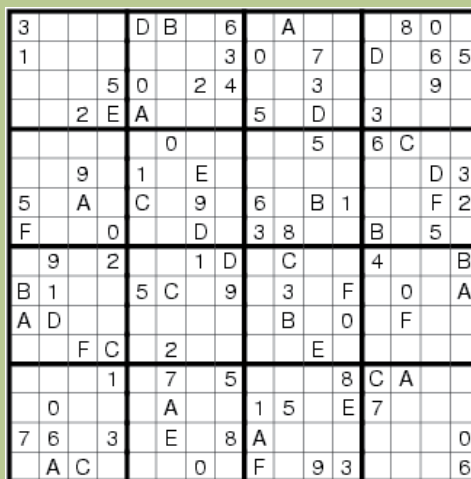


### October Quiz

Geekiest quiz yet! Match the golf club to the postcode.

- 1. EH31 2EG
- 2. GU23 4LS
- 3. G83 8NT
- 4. BT56 8JQ
- 5. KY16 9JD
- 6. NP18 1HQ
- 7. IV25 3LW
- 8. CT13 9PB
- 9. B76 9PR

R&A; Loch Lomond; Royal St George's; Muirfield; The Belfry; Royal Portrush; Celtic Manor; Wentworth and Royal Dornoch.



### MONSTER SUDOKU

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



### SUDOKU

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

**Puzzle Answers on page 65**



# BUYERS' GUIDE



## Meiklem Drainage Ltd

Gordon Brown officially opened the new purpose built premises of Meiklem Drainage Ltd, in Kelty, Fife, in his constituency while he was still Prime Minister last year.

John Meiklem Drainage Contractors Limited was formed in 1982 recognised widely now as Meiklem Drainage and Groundworks, one of the leading names in the field of drainage, site preparation, groundworks and hardlandscaping with a proven track record stretching back over twenty-five years.

The Company has carried out the groundworks for St Elizabeth's, Glenlee and St Cuthbert's Primary Schools in the Hamilton area. Recently groundworks packages have been completed at various prisons, namely Castle Huntley, Cornton Vale, Saughton, Polmont and currently Perth.

Meiklem has also recently installed the drainage at the Kingsbarns and Castle Golf Courses, St Andrews, Nairn Dunbar, Duff House Royal GC in Banff and more recently the drainage for the G West Golf Course at Blackford, near Gleneagles.

The Company employs over 40 people with many staff having over 15 years service and seven with over 25 years service to the Company.

The Company carries its own plant fleet consisting of tracked and wheeled excavators, JCB 3c type machine, dumpers, rollers, sports field equipment and various small plant. We are members of CECA, CITB, Constructionline, SPOA and the Land Drainage Association.

The Company is trackside sponsors of Kelty Hearts and Dunfermline Athletic Football Club and hold a 'Corporate Box' at East End Park.

Drainage is near the top of most sports clubs list of expected expenditure and Meiklem is always prepared to offer advice on all projects.

t: 01383 830217 f: 01383 831771  
e: Meiklem@btopenworld.com  
w: www.meiklem.com

## BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

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- GRINDERS
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- PLANT
- PUMPS
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SLEEPERS
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## AERATION

Harrogate  
week

### EDUCATION

16 - 20 January 2011

### EXHIBITION

18 - 20 January 2011

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

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Full page - £1500



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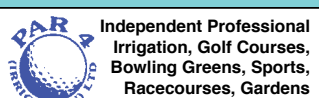


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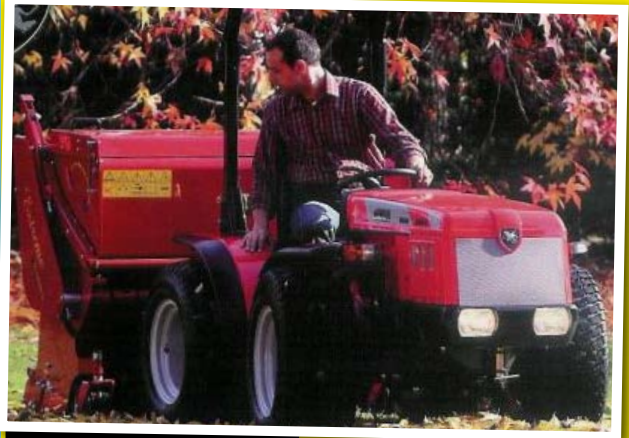
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Closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday, 22nd October 2010.



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The ideal candidate will be fully versed in all aspects of greenkeeping and must have a 'hands-on' approach to golf course management preferably qualified to NVQ3 in greenkeeping. An ability to demonstrate the experience of implementing and working to a budget and course management policy document is essential. The applicant will appreciate the need for flexible working hours and will have the ability to manage, control, lead and develop the existing team of greenkeeping staff to deliver the full potential of this James Braid heathland course.

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# Safety Management System

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

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Because:

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

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

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

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

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| F | R | A | N | K | S |   | I | N | A | T | R | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| F |   | L | A |   | Q |   | N | D | A |   | C |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 6 | F | D | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | E | 3 | B | A | 7 | 9 | C |
| 0 | C | 2 | E | A | 8 | 7 | F | 5 | 6 | D | 9 | 3 | B | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | B | 8 | 0 | F | 2 | E | 9 | 5 | D | 6 | C | A | 7 |
| C | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | E | B | 2 | 0 | F | A | 8 | 4 | D | 3 |
| 5 | 8 | A | D | C | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 4 | B | 1 | 0 | E | F | 2 |
| F | 2 | E | 0 | 6 | 4 | D | A | 3 | 8 | C | 7 | B | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| E | 9 | 0 | 2 | 3 | F | 1 | D | 7 | C | A | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | B |
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| 8 | 5 | F | C | B | 2 | A | 0 | 4 | 1 | E | 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 | D |
| D | E | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | B | 2 | 0 | 8 | C | A | 3 | F |
| 9 | 0 | B | F | 2 | A | 3 | C | 1 | 5 | 6 | E | 7 | D | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | F | E | B | 8 | A | D | 4 | C | 1 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 2 | A | C | 8 | 4 | D | 0 | 1 | F | 7 | 9 | 3 | E | 5 | B | 6 |

Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 21-Sep-2010 hard

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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# On the Soapbox

A vehicle for letting people within the industry express their point of view

**Think back and remember how over the last 30 years, greenkeeping has improved both in the quality of the turf and grasses, and visually. The high standards to which you, the greenkeepers, maintain the golf courses throughout the years. Yes, all four seasons are now in play for the golfers.**

The club members want to play all year round, and the travelling golfers, the visitors, also want to visit and play your golf courses throughout the year.

Visiting golfers bring in more finance to the golf clubs and also to the local areas. Yes, all things are about money and finances.

In 2010 it is not just the golf club finances that are tight it is worldwide.

The belts are pulled in, the course budgets are all adjusted and greenkeeping has to carry on.

Knowing many greenkeepers, as I do, I believe that the standards of greenkeeping will continue to improve throughout these very difficult times.

The standards of greenkeeping have improved beyond any expectations. You only need to view the TV footage which is shown regularly of events in the past.

Today we play on tees and fairways that are far better than some of the greens that are shown on these old films from 30 years ago.

Go back further and I can remember even bumpier courses, but then at those times we thought that the golf courses were great and some even fantastic.

I hope and pray that I am around in another 20-30 years to see the quality that you will achieve on your golf courses. How many more of you will be working in other countries around the world?

How many young greenkeepers will be preparing yourselves both educationally and in the workplace for the future in your given profession.

The world is a much smaller place now with all the modern technologies and fast travel.

Why does it take such a long time for a round of golf these days, when the tees, fairways, greens and all about and around a golf course is of a quality and condition which is so advanced and superior to those of 30 years ago when a round of golf lasted no longer than three hours 30 minutes.

The golf club members start their competitions earlier in the year and finish them later in the year. Your golf club needs the visitors

and the company days to survive more and more. You are maintaining your courses at competition standards for far longer periods throughout the years, 30 years ago there was not the amount of traffic on the courses as there is today.

You don't need me to tell you these facts. Every working hour down to the minute in the hours is now organised and programmed by your head greenkeeper/course manager to work and perform in all weathers and all conditions.

The greenkeepers' buildings are also the workshop for the repairs and maintenance of almost all the machinery and equipment used on the golf course. The modern day machines and equipment are so far advanced, what next?

This has reminded me of the years long ago when I read "The Eagle" comics Dan Dare pilot of the future. Jet planes and space craft.

Fantastic. Yes it has happened. Come on take a look into the future 60 years on and

ally and you the greenkeepers send in some extremely high quality photographs of your golf courses.

This competition was to show the quality, beauty and presentation of your golf courses. Also to help greenkeepers to keep fine records of the work in maintaining your courses.

Some of your photographs are now being used on club websites and in the advertisements in various magazines,

I am a retired 70 year old/young with a full time hobby, photographing golf courses I have many friends in greenkeeping.

I thank them all for their friendships and allowing me the privilege of photographing and recording the golf courses they have and spend their working days at.

The same thanks goes to the Managers/Secretaries at these golf clubs. To all greenkeepers wherever they may be thank you for the pleasures and memories that I have both golfing and photographing your golf courses.

## My view of greenkeeping over the past 30 years or so...

ask yourself what machinery and technologies will the greenkeeper have to hand.

Hovering above the fairways, tees and greens with zappers and laser cutting the turf to heights and standards that is beyond or thought at this moment in time 2010.

30 years ago it was very rare that the greenkeepers were involved in club meetings or discussing the golf course, green keeping methods, golf course presentation and the quality with the members and golfers.

Today the greenkeepers hold meetings/seminars and evenings for discussions questions and answers, the greenkeepers have course walks and talks to answer the questions from the members.

Promoting the golf club is very important today, this is to bring in the visiting golfers bringing in additional revenue to sustain and maintain the improving qualities of the golf club and its golf course.

Showing the golf course and the clubhouse on the web site and using good quality photographs to show how good your course is.

A few years ago a photographic competition was started in your BIGGA Magazine. The competition has now developed annu-



Alan C Birch – Retired.  
Full time hobby is photographing and recording Golf Courses.

If you would like to view a few of my golf course photographs please e-mail me on:  
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*Alan C. Birch*

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



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