

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



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. 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.

*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."

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.



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.

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

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