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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Opportunity Knocks

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FINALISTS ARE REVEALED

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Landing at The Berkshire

Golf
Course
Feature

The BIGGA National Championship arrives at The Berkshire Golf Club, in this month's Course Feature



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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



A golf club without a golf course is what..?

Boy, has it been a difficult year. No, it's not an extract from Tiger Woods' diary, but a feeling that has been around for a while.

Having entered the year deep in recession we then had a General Election which culminated in an announcement that, while we all knew we were in a bit of a mess financially, it was, in fact, worse – much, much, worse and we would all need to bite a very large bullet for a very long time. Everyone, that is, except the bankers who got us into this mess but who were, all of a sudden, announcing record profits and trousering huge bonuses once again.

For the rest of us, we shall be looking over our shoulders trying to avoid P45s and wondering what sort of affect 20% VAT will have on us on a day to day basis.

Amid all of this golf clubs will have to make ends meet.

I've never served on a Golf Club Committee but I can fully appreciate how difficult it must be to sit around a table knowing that you are spending more than you are taking in. In those circumstances there are two ways forward – generate more income or make cuts. In the current climate the quicker method is the latter.

The biggest expenditure at any golf club should be the maintenance of course, so it is likely that the course would be identified as the area where cuts could be made. When push comes to shove most budgets can be squeezed a little, and capital expenditure projects mothballed for a period, but it all has an impact on the finished product.

But recently we have heard tales of golf clubs making their Course Manager redundant and the responsibility for the maintenance of the

course being passed on to the committee or another, non-greenkeeping member of staff.

Now you wouldn't decide to cut your holiday costs by removing the pilot and flying the plane yourself on the basis that you'd watched Top Gun twice, or have a go at removing your partner's tooth on the back of info you'd picked up from the Internet, but for some reason everyone thinks they can look after a golf course.

The long term prognosis for any golf course managed by non-professionals cannot be good, and a downward spiral is notoriously difficult to reverse, but unfortunately stupidity is not a crime and if a club decides to take this path, if it abides by employment law, there is little to stop it.

I would urge golf clubs to protect the fundamental reason they exist and, wherever possible, retain the staff who can ensure the best quality golf course, given the level of resource available. The alternative is not worth considering because a golf club without a golf course is what...?

Work with your Course Manager to produce as good a product as possible over the medium term, knowing that when better times return you will be best placed to step up a gear and grab the new golfing business that is out there.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

SEPTEMBER 2010

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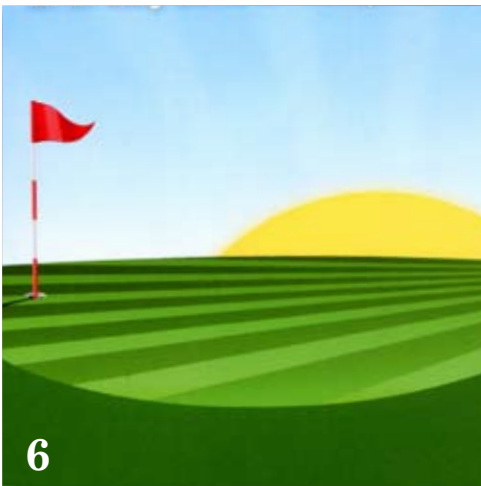
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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



Hatcher at Headland

Headland has boosted its technical sales force with the addition of Darren Hatcher, who takes responsibility for serving current customers and developing new business in Hampshire, Dorset and West Sussex.

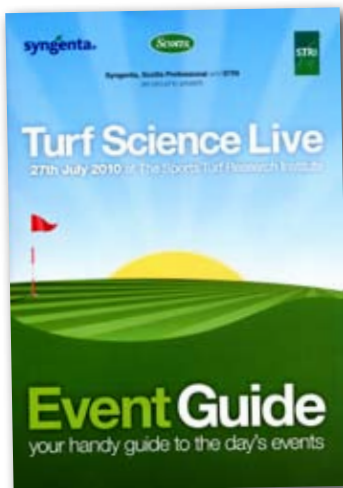
Following 18 years in greenkeeping, and the post of Course Manager at Alresford Golf Club in Hampshire, Darren and his wife took a year out to travel the world, before joining Headland's distributors, Sherriff Amenity for six years on the area he's covering now.

"I was familiar with Headland products and wanted to focus exclusively on them," he explained.

"I also wanted to become more knowledgeable technically and Headland is one of the most agronomically advanced companies around."

Headland's Sales Director Andy Russell says that Darren's greenkeeping and on-the-road experience make him the ideal candidate for the job.

Turf Science goes Live



Over 100 greenkeepers, turf managers, agronomists and golf club managers attended the first ever Turf Science Live, held at the STRI at the end of July. The event, included an innovative approach of live demonstrations of some of the latest developments in turf agronomy.

Organised by Syngenta, Scotts Professional and STRI, the practical topics covered ranged from surface conversion techniques, demonstrated by Keith Kensett, to establish desirable fine grass species on greens, to management of environmental features around the golf course

for increased biodiversity value and application techniques to get spray treatments on target. The new format gave the opportunity for small groups of greenkeepers to engage in active discussion and debate on the merits and potential for different techniques.

Six Stations were set up on the trial fields with another in the STRI laboratory with a huge marquee acting as base and catering centre.

The weather held off but for a small shower and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day which featured several breaks between Station visits and opportunity to network with colleagues.

NEW GTC QUALITY ASSURED SCHEME ON THE WAY

The GTC has contacted its entire current network of Approved Training Providers, mainly Further Education colleges, inviting them to apply to join a new GTC Quality Assured Scheme.

Following the recent announcement that an agreement

has been reached with City & Guilds Land Based Services (formerly NPTC) to offer from 1st September 2010, jointly branded Work Based Diplomas (WBD's), the GTC is now looking to direct golf club employers and greenkeepers to Centres that have

met a criteria designed to ensure quality education and training programmes match the standards within the Work Based Diplomas.

The GTC is currently looking to have a similar agreement with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA.)

SEALEY TAKES REVENGE AT CHIPPENHAM GOLF CLUB



Chris, pictured here on the right, with the rest of the team

This year's Captain at Chippenham, Quentin Grandison, has served on the Greens' Sub Committee for four years and it was his idea to run the Sealey's Revenge - a fun competition, allowing me to set up the course just the way I wanted it!

After several meetings when some of my more extreme ideas were discounted, we came up with a final plan. The surprise for me was that Q insisted I play in the competition and present the prizes. That would give our members the opportunity to 'abuse' me face to face rather than through the committee.

The course was set up with:

- Pins on steep slopes with greens rolled up to ten times (we managed to get several up to 18-19 on the stimp meter). Some were so severe I had to put in a winter hole cup as it was the only way to get the ball in the hole.
- We placed huge logs on the 2nd green for players to putt around.
- Pins were placed behind trees, bunkers with the sand piled up into deep ridges.
- OOB posts on the edge of fairways, holes cut on temporary greens at fairway height

- Holes cut on collars so they had to putt off the green to get to the hole.

- The 12 hole (Par 3) is near our shed so there's always machinery parked which annoys the ladies, so we parked a Cushman right in front of the green, complete with an Indian mannequin in the back dressed in a high-viz jacket, helmet and ear defenders!

- Tee markers were placed behind trees (particularly for the Captain as he is left handed), tee markers moved forward to ensure more people went into ditches.

- We also installed two large Blue tarpaulins in the 18th bunker to make two ponds, complete with yellow plastic ducks. The members entered into spirit of the day by feeding them bread.

The course was incredibly tough and I was threatened and my parentage questioned. I asked for refuge in the ladies' locker room but was informed that I would lose an important part of my anatomy.

Everyone had a really great day and I received lots of praise for my imagination although perhaps being described as a 'vindictive b...' isn't praise. I got 23 points and 39 won.

A very good score under the circumstances.

Most importantly we designated the competition as a charity day for Help for Heroes. Twelve soldiers back from Afghanistan played, and stayed for prize giving to thank the Club for our support. We raised £1,000 on the day for a very worthy cause with support from the local press.

The downside is that they want me to do it again next year so I'll need to invent alternative way of ruining their game.

Chris Sealey



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Open House in Ipswich



Golf course owners, managers, greenkeeping staff and fine turf professionals from across the UK are invited to an Open House event at Ransomes Jacobsen's European head office and manufacturing facility in Ipswich on Wednesday September 22.

The aim of the Open House is to provide end users from the golf sector with the opportunity to witness the Ransomes Jacobsen operation at first hand. There will be factory tours at regular intervals to see how modern commercial mowers are manufactured and a display of ancient and modern grass cutting machinery from the first Budding lawnmower of 1832 through to the latest Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid greens mower.

Greg Spray, Marketing Manager, commented:

"We want this to be an informative and fun day for customers using our equipment and also for those who might be considering using it. As well as the guided Factory tours, we'll also be holding product demonstrations and there'll be the opportunity to meet and network with other industry professionals.

"The tented village will house our industry partners including the AEA, CMAE, IOG, BIGGA, FEGGA, STRI, GEO, Scotts, Syngenta, Bernhard, Rain Bird, Ryan, Turfco and Smithco together with our own Parts, Customer Care, Retail and Cutting Edge Training stands.

"We will be providing a BBQ

lunch and there's a 'Nearest the Pin' competition on the 1st hole of our golf course with the opportunity to win an E-Z-GO golf car should one of the guests achieve the first Hole-in-One on the course.

An eclectic mix of bands will provide music throughout the day and there will be some fun stands that will test accuracy, hand-eye co-ordinations and dexterity!

All professionals from the golf sector and those involved in the maintenance of fine turf are invited, so if you are interested in attending please contact Lucy Davis, Marketing Co-ordinator on 01473 276287 or email: ldavis@tip.textron.com



Thanks

Just a note of thanks, I am very pleased with the article on my life in education etc. On reading what you have written memories flooded back to the many, many people in the then Scottish Colleges who gave me great encouragement and assistance. Without their know how we might still be dabbling in the diverse ways in which our education was going in those days.

I know you could not include others in what you wrote but names like Gordon MacMaster, Charlie Crossan, Margaret Hamilton and Colin Urquhart, of Woodburn House, and Mike Taylor and Carol Borthwick, of Elmwood, all flood through my head.

Again, may I say thanks and include Margaret's regards she loves your photo of her and I in the Garden of Eden.

Kindest regards,
Cecil George

30 Years with Bernhard

Tony Sheppard, Production Supervisor with Bernhard has just celebrated 30 years with the grinder company.

Tony began his career with Bernhard as a 16 year old apprentice with Atterton & Ellis as a fitter/turner. Two years later Tony was in the assembly shop building Express Dual grinders.

"When I first moved in to the assembly shop in 1982 we were building 80 Express Dual grinders a year, by 1988 we were building 147 Express Dual a year," said Tony.

Progressing through the ranks at Bernhard - Tony has worked in production, stores and purchasing.

Now Production Supervisor, Tony has seen just about everything at Bernhard and is thus counted on for identifying parts for older Express Duals still in use.

He counts the company's 2008 Queen's Award for Enterprise as one of career highlights having been involved with the innovation of the Express Dual from its early stages.

Tony adds, "I can't believe it's been 30 years already. I don't even look 30!"



Three Peaks

A dedicated group of friends from the golf industry conquered the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge to raise tens of thousands of pounds for the charity Help for Heroes.

The team of 11, from all corners of the industry, climbed the UK's three highest peaks - Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike - in a time of 22 hours 45 minutes and have so far raised £27,111.35 for Help for Heroes, to support the Battle Back initiative, a tri-service organisation which uses Adaptive Adventure Training and Sports Rehabilitation to help seriously wounded service personnel gain confidence and return to an active life.

The group was made up of Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen (Burhill Golf & Leisure), Kevin Hart (Club Car), Andrew Brown (Toro), Daniel Hodson (De Vere), Simon Thorpe (Expressions Partnership), John Weir (Cornerstone Golf), Chris Lomas and Course Designer, Jonathan Gaunt.

They kicked off the challenge at 3.55am on Saturday, July 24, climbing the UK's highest peak Ben Nevis in Scotland, with words of encouragement from Lee Westwood, a Help for



Heroes Ambassador, ringing in their ears.

Ben Nevis was conquered in four hours, before the team headed to Scafell Pike in the Lake District, scaling that in three hours 25 minutes.

A four-hour drive to North Wales gave the team a chance for a quick rest before tackling Snowdon, which was climbed in four hours 30 minutes, finishing the challenge at 2.40am on Sunday, July 25.

Colin Mayes said: "It was an extremely tough challenge both physically and mentally, but the group pulled together and helped each other through.

"To finish the challenge in just less than 23 hours was a

great achievement, and raising so much money for such a great cause was an even bigger accomplishment, and one that the whole team is proud of."

Kevin Hart added: "We spent a total of 11 hours 55 minutes climbing the three mountains. British Military Fitness (BMF), who coordinated the Three Peaks Challenge, in which nine teams participated, adds 10 hours to your climbing time for transportation.

"So our official time was 21 hours 55 minutes, resulting in second place, a fantastic effort for a group of golfers.

"The main aim of the Challenge was to raise as much

money for Help for Heroes Battle Back Golf as possible. The sum raised currently stands at £27,500 and the team is still working to exceed £30,000 by the time we present a cheque to Battle Back Golf in early September.

"The golf industry has been magnificent in offering so much financial support to this very worthy cause and the whole team would like to thank everyone who has been kind enough to sponsor them."

Donations can still be made by visiting:

*www.bmycharity.com/V2/h4hColinMayes or:
www.bmycharity.com/V2*



Steve takes a Bow

All good things must come to an end. Just recently we have learned that a well known face in our industry believes that now is the time to down tools and say goodbye to a role that he has loved for over 37 years.

Steve Hasell has decided to call time, and enjoy life a little more. It all started from a background in farming for Steve, that, and an HND in Agricultural engineering. Steve wanted to move back to his home county to get married. This is when he applied for a position at Cannington. It has to be said that Steve has had a fantastic career.

During his 37 years, Steve has taught many students,

from Agricultural Students to Horticultural Students, and even the greenkeepers, as these course became more popular. Steve says that his greatest pleasure is meeting everyone who attended Cannington College; from the far flung edges of Cornwall to the northern edges of Scotland - and beyond.

This is especially rewarding for Steve, when he sees many faces at Harrogate, and the fact so many of them have done so well! Steve would like to thank everyone for making his 37 years feel so special and wishes everyone the very best during their own careers.

Adam Matthews, South West Section, BIGGA

Mark Pagan

Sadly, Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper at Eyemouth GC passed away on June 5, 2010 aged 35 yrs. Our thoughts at the East Section, Scotland, go out to Mark's wife Caroline and her 2 boys Harry and Jack.

Mark worked at Goswick GC, South Moor, Durham, Slaley Hall and Whitelkirk GC.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Sports Turf Student Prizes for The Four Degrees

Myerscough College held their presentation of awards ceremonies over two days in July. The ceremonies saw many students presented with outstanding achievement awards, rewarding their efforts over the duration of the course. This year saw eight Sportsturf students given awards as the top students on their courses.

Paul Cook, from Woking, won the Martyn Jones Award First Prize for his work on the BSc (Hons) in Sportsturf and Golf Course

Management Degree. For the FdSc Sportsturf Degree; David Golding, from Southport, won the Ernest Jones Award First Prize; Robert Clare, from Clitheroe, won the Ransomes Jacobsen Turfmech Cup, and Peter Leach, from Exeter, won the Barenburg Turf Award for the FdSc Sportsturf Degree Online.

At Further Education Level, Neil Kellington, from Levens, Cumbria, and Gary McCluskey, from Liverpool, won the Rufford

Top Dress Cup and Ransomes Jacobsen Turf Machinery Practical Award respectively for the National Diploma in Sportsturf. For the First Diploma in Sportsturf, Stephen McGrath, from Lancaster, won the IOG Cup, while Mark Willis, from Blackpool, won the Toro Turf Machinery Practical Award.

The group picture shows the four Degree students (from left to right), Peter Leach, Paul Cook, Robert Clare and David Golding.

TURFMECH GETS HITCHED



Turfmech Machinery has acquired the design, manufacturing and marketing rights to the three-point linkage kits developed originally by Scottish company, 3PointPower Ltd, for fitting to rear of the Toro Workman HD and John Deere ProGator work vehicles.

The acquisition includes also the company's PTO kit for the JD ProGator.

Turfmech's Managing Director, Austin Jarrett, explained that the agreement encompassed the entire stock, trade, brands and intellectual property rights formerly owned by 3PointPower Ltd and its founder and owner, Shaun Reilly.

Turfmech plans to sell boxed kits world-wide via its website and its sales team as well as through John Deere and Toro dealers.

Thanks, Scotts

The Golf Management Competitions for the South West and South Wales Region have taken place over the summer months and the support of The Scotts Company who has sponsored these events for many years is greatly appreciated by the BIGGA South West and South Wales Region.

Along with individual prizes for the members of the first, second and third placed teams the winning teams in each section received an Accupro 2000 Spreader from The Scotts Company.

This year the South West Section event was held at Marlborough GC and was won by the Chipping Sodbury GC team with 86 points, in second place was Salford GC with 81 points and third place was Chippenham GC with 78 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Morrision GC and was won on count back by the home club team with 80 points, runners up were Llanwern GC with 80 points and third was Haverfordwest GC with 78 points. The South Coast Section event was held at Barton-on-Sea GC and was again won by the home club team on count back with 90 points and in second place was Test Valley GC with 90 points and third was Southwood GC with 87 points.

The days were enjoyed by all participants and the region would also like to thank the host clubs for their support.

Jane Jones
South West and South Wales RA



Chairman's Word

BIGGA Chairman Paul Worster looks at how both the Association and individual greenkeepers can empower and protect themselves

My personal thanks

Much has already been written about the recent Open Championship and recognition rightly given to BIGGA volunteers and staff who worked so hard – both on the course and behind the scenes. It was my first time at St Andrews and what a memorable experience. I am pleased to add my personal thanks to everyone on the Team which once again helped raise BIGGA's profile.

Great life in greenkeeping

My favorite moment was introducing Cecil George's Lifetime Achievement Award during Friday lunchtime in the BIGGA marquee.

It was fantastic that so many of Cecil's old friends as well as so many of our younger people took time out to be there. It was a powerful combination of 'old-guard' and 'young-guns' - all with a single purpose - to celebrate Cecil's great life in greenkeeping. I don't know Cecil very well so I brought in two who did - Elliott Small and Walter Woods.

In a witty aside, Cecil upon being informed that it was Walter who would be making the presentation was heard to mutter "Och, it'll be nice to actually get something out of the old so-and-so for a change!"

Joking aside - as Elliott was listing Cecil's many achievements, it struck me just how much one person on his own managed to achieve when he put his mind to it. It follows that if we ALL put our minds to it - just how much we can achieve together. This after all is the purpose of a trade association like BIGGA, and is why I closed the presentation ceremony by saying "I want us all to take a long hard look at what we do, and what we are". Because by doing this, by involving ourselves at all levels - we can empower ourselves.

I had some busy meetings, including the GEO and the R&A Golf Course Committee. Both have on-line systems for interactive recording

and benchmarking against goals, leading to significant golf course improvements, and both appeal directly for BIGGA's assistance to increase greenkeeper involvement in their fine work.

The greenkeeper will provide the key information these organisations need

Clearly both organisations need the active support of greenkeepers. Both want to bring real and sustainable improvements to golf courses. This can only be really successful if UK greenkeepers take the lead. We can start by registering with both the GEO and the R & A via their websites.

www.golfenvironment.org/certification

www.bestcourseforgolf.org/club/register.html

May I urge you to take a few minutes to register your club on both of these sites? By registering and participating, the UK greenkeeper will provide the key information these organisations need to help us move the industry forward. As Greenkeepers, by taking the lead, we can far better directly influence any number of key issues.

By doing so we will not only enhance our individual standing but that of the greenkeeping profession as a whole.

It is this type of activity, this professionalism that will one day ensure all greenkeepers will be seen by their employers as the people who make a real and positive contribution to enhancing the golfing experience.

In this we emulate Cecil's example - he was a lone influence on the education system, and with singular resolve hammered out the deals that put UK Greenkeeper Training on the map. This was achieved by a single person. This is empowerment.

Support Your Trade Show

May I close by bringing an industry situation to your attention. It is that of trade shows - specifically IOG SALTEX and BTME. Recently, IOG and BIGGA attended a meeting at

the NEC with trades-people (some of our exhibitors and sponsors) and representatives of Pitchcare, independently chaired by Roger Lane-Nott, CEO of the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA). The purpose was to discuss the future of SALTEX and BTME. You may be aware that trade shows in general are facing hard times - take the Royal Show and the Smith field Show - both industry institutions in their heyday, but both now vanished without trace.

We will protect and enhance everything that BIGGA members want from their Association

It was decided that both BIGGA and the IOG would be represented on a Steering Group, which, in conjunction with Pitchcare and the AEA, would look at the future direction of both shows, and to adopt an objective and business-oriented approach to them.

BIGGA participates in this Steering Group because it is far better to take part in essential, if difficult, discussions than to avoid them. We will absolutely protect and enhance everything that BIGGA members want from their Association by forging closer links with others such as the IOG or the AEA if this will help us to advance the interests of greenkeepers.

I need hardly remind you how attending BTME can help you in advancing your career; networking with like-minded professionals, sharing knowledge and experience, as well as improving your knowledge through extensive educational seminars. You can update yourself on the products, services and developments within the industry, by meeting with the suppliers who choose to exhibit. By exhibiting the trade provides valuable, vital and hugely appreciated support to BIGGA, and I would encourage you to support the companies that support you in this way.

I would urge you all to ensure that you make full use of this event.

This brings me back to the need for us all to take every opportunity to empower ourselves and advance this great profession.



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

The 2010 series of workshops were designed to meet the main aim of the special project: to engage all turf staff working within the GTC's Approved Centres and colleges to not only help them understand and promote through the various training courses all aspects of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme but also to see best practice first hand at venues throughout Britain.

This second series of workshops was hosted at the following venues:

Kingsknowe Golf Club,
Edinburgh
Course Manager, Stevie Dixon

Enville Golf Club,
near Stourbridge
Course Manager, Jonathan Wood

Easingwold Golf Club,
near York
Course Manager, Andre Erlah

Minchinhampton Golf Club,
near Stroud
Course Manager, Paul Worster

Tyrrells Wood Golf Club,
near Leatherhead
Course Manager, Billy McMillan

Lymm Golf Club,
near Warrington
Course Manager, Stuart Yarwood

The courtesy and support from the Directors, Committees and Course Managers at the above clubs is much appreciated by the GTC and The R&A.

It should also be noted that, as with last years venues, all clubs are willing to share their experiences with others. Contact details available from the GTC.

A reminder of the 2009 venues:

**Glencorse GC,
Wilmslow GC,
Gog Magog GC,
Cleveland GC,**

**Kings Hill GC,
Burnham & Berrow GC
and Temple GC.**

Following the 2009 workshops it was agreed to extend invitations to widen the delegates beyond turf Centre staff. The PGA and GCMA were invited to identify representatives who could attend and in turn distribute the message to their members.

Phil Weaver, Chairman of the PGA and Keith Lloyd CEO of the GCMA attended a workshop and their feedback and support will hopefully result in the Sustainable Golf Course Programme message being integrated into future seminars and education programmes for their members.

In recent years "sustainability" has become a word that many industries have adopted but few people really understand what it means or how it can be applied within their particular working environment.

With the support of the turf staff at the GTC Approved Centres and the information and learning materials produced by the various organisations, including those associated with the GTC, we are starting to make real progress to promote best practice for the future maintenance and management of British golf courses.

From the outset of the promotion of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme the GTC has always promoted the need for a united approach at any golf club before embarking on the programme and, in particular, the basic requirement of a Course Policy Document.

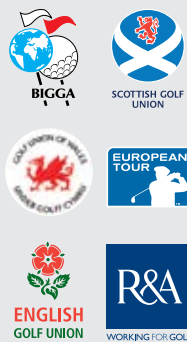
This message seems quite old now and while it has been adopted by many clubs it appears there are still some who manage the course without such a policy. This clearly has implications as committees change or when the Course Manager moves on.

I know all of the Course Managers at the workshop venues above have stories to share when the agreed policy at their club has been questioned, to the point where even

In Brief

David reviews the 2010 series of Sustainable Golf Course Programme series of workshops hosted by the GTC in association with The R&A.

The GTC is funded by:



the temptation to abandon the programme has been close to being approved by owners and committees.

The pressure to stick to the policy not only falls on the Course Manager but also the management team at the clubs and equally their employers.

During all of the GTC workshops the issue of communication to the golfer was highlighted and despite the GTC ensuring all aspects of the sustainable programme being incorporated into the various qualifications and training courses there is still much more work to be done with employers and the golfer.

In an effort to help share the sustainable message the GTC had the workshop at Lymm Golf Club filmed and with the kind permission of the speakers on the day we invite you to view one or more of 11 films on the GTC website.

Another development during recent years has been the ongoing capture of best practice case studies at various golf clubs and as these become available we will ensure these can be accessed through our website www.the-gtc.co.uk

It is with the support from The R&A and the Home Unions that case studies are being written up and there is clear evidence that this source of information, together with visits to the clubs to see the work often still in progress, is an excellent method of promoting the various aspects of the sustainable programme.

The GTC, in supporting the sustainable programme, also promotes the fact that there has to be a sense of realism when embarking on any aspect of the programme, that there is no quick fix and the road can be very rocky at times for both the Greenkeeping team and the people empowered to manage the club.

The sustainable programme is not just about encouraging and maintaining the more suitable and sustainable grasses....it encompasses all the facets of playing and economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

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Learning & Development

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



September hails the journey to Saltex, with our wellies packed, next to our suntan lotion! September also features the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the delivery of the brochure for the Continue to Learn Education Programme.

The focus shifts from 'planning' to 'organising' and, for the next few months, all roads lead to Harrogate.

Continue to Learn 2011 – Turf Managers' Conference

The 2011 Continue to Learn education programme has been finalised. You will be receiving your copy of the programme with next month's issue of Greenkeeper International.

Brand new for 2011 is the introduction of the "Turf Managers' Conference". Taking place on Monday, January 17, the new Conference has been developed specifically with Head Greenkeepers, Course Managers and those who manage turf, in mind.

We have secured a first-class line up of speakers:

- Dr John E. Kaminski, Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University
- Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, The Turf Disease Centre
- Robert Hunt, Chairman, International Design Group
- Stanley J. Kostka, PhD, Director – Technology and Innovation, Aquatrols Corporation

• Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum

Presenting a range of topics:

- Effective use of Primo on golf courses
- New challenges in turf disease management
- Golf Is Dead
- It's not just about dry patch anymore! The science of soil water repellency, surfactants and sustainable turf management
- Microscolex phosphoreus: a new threat to golf greens
- Preparing for and dealing with Winter damage

Further information on the Turf Managers' Conference will feature in the Continue to Learn Education Programme. However, if you want to reserve your place, please contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3).



New Field Guide - Coming Soon!

A new field guide, written by Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at the STRI, will be available soon. The subject for the new guide was selected following last year's Field Guide survey for new subjects. It will deal with the Legislation and Recognition of Protected Habitats and Species. This follows the production of the updated guide, on the Major Diseases and Pests of Fine Turf, late last year.



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.



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Remember to visit the BIGGA Stand at Saltex!



'How To...' Guides

Have you looked at the new 'How To...' Guides? They can be found under Member Resources in the Members area of the website. Feedback on these new guides would be welcomed, email your comments to sami@bigga.co.uk.



BIGGA Library

We have added four new books to the BIGGA Library:

- The Superintendent's Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed - Thomas A. Nikolai
- Turfgrass and Landscape Irrigation Water Quality Assessment and Management - Ronny R Duncan, Robert N Carrow and Michael T Huck.

• Tournament Management - A Superintendent's Guide to Preparing a Golf Course for Competition - John C Miller, CGCS

• Best Golf Course Management Practices - L.B. McCarty

The 'How To...' Guides, Field Guides and Library books are purchased and are available free of charge, to BIGGA Members, thanks to the Golden and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

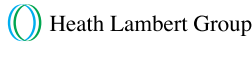


Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to: Michael Boyes – Foundation Degree - Online

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; Jason Sarna; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz

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Toro keeps The Old Course in Championship Condition

The St Andrews Links greenkeeping team has paid tribute to the Toro turf maintenance fleet that helped it keep the Old Course in championship condition for the recent Open.

Louis Oosthuizen may have lifted the Claret Jug, but hearty congratulations are also in order for Director of Greenkeeping, Gordon Moir, and Gordon McKie, Course Manager of The Old Course.

Also, credit goes to their crew, who battled blustery conditions and heavy rain to keep the course in perfect playing condition – with a little help from Toro, whose machinery The Home of Golf exclusively uses.

“Our Toro fleet certainly helped us to get the job done and achieve the results we were looking for,” Gordon Moir reveals.

The team also sought Toro’s special Tournament Fleet service to supplement St Andrews Links’ existing machinery supply from its other course.

“The tournament support helped by loaning us seven extra Greensmaster 3250Ds to allow us to achieve the huge task of mowing fairways to the highest standard within the tight timescale we had each morning,” Gordon McKie adds.

“The Old Course has seven double fairways, which means we had to mow two fairways at once, so we required the additional machinery to make that achievable.

“In addition, we brought in extra Workman utility vehicles for transportation of various pedestrian mowers and, of course, the staff as well!”



FRENCH CONNECTION

ClearWater has made the French connection with one of its washpad water recycling systems being recently installed in France at Omaha Beach GC in Normandy.

Highspeed Group’s Joint MD, David Mears said; “This follows many months of hard work, particularly by our agent for France, Michel Champenois of MACDIS Sarl to secure business for ClearWater. We were very pleased to have been selected to install one of our systems at this superb club.”

With the demands of legislation concerning pollution prevention tightening across Europe, ClearWater recycling systems are now a familiar sight in the UK and Ireland. With over 140 installations, the company hopes that the same will be the case in France as they showcase the system at Omaha.

Trucks in Demand



For many years Club Car, has been the Official Golf Car of the European Tour. This year sees additions to the Tour trucks used to transport the vehicles to and from each event.

“We’re delighted to continue our commitment to the European Tour,” said Roberto Gorostiaga, Director of Marketing & Sales for Club Car.

“Our association with the Tour provides a highly visible and prestigious platform for Club Car to showcase a wide range of products, build relationships and enhance the brand globally.”

The Club Car entourage covers the European Tour’s needs for staging, television and rules cars. Every car supplied by Club Car is designed to fit a specific purpose and it takes two double-decker 28 ton trucks to transport the cars around from venue to venue. Additional trucks have been added this year to cope with demands.



Oxfordshire Gardens

go Mowing with Sanli

High-profile Oxfordshire visitor attraction, Waterperry Gardens, has taken delivery of a pair of Sanli LSP46 self-propelled pedestrian mowers to help maintain a variety of formal lawns and other grassed areas within the magnificent 3.2ha ornamental garden.

Handed over by Sanli UK's Area Manager, Claire Morris, the two mowers are to be used by Waterperry's three full-time gardeners. The mowers incorporate operator-friendly features such as comfort-grip handles, 60 litre grass collectors and single-point cutting height adjustment.

Located near the village of Wheatley, east of Oxford, Waterperry Gardens was, until 1971, home to a school of horticulture for ladies. Today, the gardens at Waterperry have evolved into an oasis of calm and beauty where visitors can enjoy the spectacular formal gardens, which include a waterlily canal, a rose garden and the celebrated 60m long colour border, said to be one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the UK.



JCB Secures Huge Order with Leading London Plant Hirer

JCB has won a huge order – including 42 tracked and wheeled excavators – from one of the country's leading plant hire firms.

The multi-million pound deal has been secured with London-based Lynch Plant Hire and includes a fleet of racked excavator models in addition to two wheeled excavators – manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

The excavator order has been placed in response to increased demand from Lynch Plant Hire's customers for machines which can operate in the demanding road and rail sectors. Several of the machines have already been delivered and are already performing on high profile projects across the UK. This includes the JCB wheeled excavator models carrying groundworks as part of the M25 motorway widening scheme.

What's your number?

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

Lee Penrose, of the STRI, is interrogated...



What is your position?

Project Manager / Consultant

How long have you been in the industry?

Just over eight years

How did you get into it?

Whilst at university I conducted a research project for Dr Stephen Baker, at STRI, investigating rootzone construction in greens. The time I spent working with Steve and the team was great and I took the opportunity to work for a forward looking company !

What other jobs have you done?

Laid bricks, built conservatories, managed Burger King, and worked on turf construction and maintenance.

What do you like about your current job?

Definitely, the variety. My life is impossible to predict day to day, and that is a great thing. I spend a lot of time travelling and meeting new people. I love being at the cutting edge of the turf industry and, through the STRI, helping to steer things in the right direction for our clients.

What changes have you seen during your time?

Technology is now king and we are slowly seeing that creep into the industry and, in particular, course management. We are moving into an era where quantitative analysis and prediction, using tools like the STRI Trueness Meter, will help take golf course presentation and playability to the next level.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have 3 great passions in my life:

- 1 – My wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Abigail
- 2 – Fly fishing for salmon and wild trout
- 3 – (Sadly) work. I spend my evenings working on things like the Golf Environment Awards.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Who knows? I have an inherent need to re-invent myself every few years. I will no doubt still be involved with STRI and working within the industry (but hopefully for more money!)

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?

Numerous, but I particularly enjoy annual jaunts shared with Dr Micah "Buckie" Woods (Director, Asian Turfgrass Centre) and have spent many happy hours with Simon Elsworth (Head EAME Turf & Landscape, Syngenta)

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

215 – not sure why...

Lee has picked Shona Garner, Consultant



Landing at The Berkshire

Scott MacCallum touches down at the destination of this year's BIGGA National Championship, taking place on the 4th and 5th of October







“Any golfer who has not visited this marvellous club with its two magnificent courses, the Red and the Blue, has missed one of the great pleasures in golf”

Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE, *BIGGA*
President



This year's BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, is being played at one of the most iconic golf clubs in the country – The Berkshire, near Ascot.

But don't just take my word for it. Listen to what five time Amateur Champion and BIGGA President, Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, says about the club.

“Any golfer who has not visited this marvellous club with its two magnificent courses, the Red and the Blue, has missed one of the great pleasures in golf.

“I have always loved both links and heathland golf, and the two Berkshire courses are the finest example of the latter. Sand based fairways and greens are set in a superb arena of pine trees and heather and the design and placement of the bunkers are a tribute to the skill of the golf course architect.

“In particular, the par three holes are as good as any to be found, with each having its own character and not like the 250 yard tests that are a feature of contemporary design. However they are just as hard and in some cases, even more punishing to a bad shot.

“All in all, there is no finer place to play golf.”

As testimonials go they don't come much better than that and those who tee up in this heartland of the Home Counties' stockbroker

belt at the beginning of October will be able to see whether Sir Michael was on the mark.

While there will be a full field competing over the two wonderful heathland courses one of the main instigators of BIGGA's visit will not be there, not in an official capacity, at any rate.

Chris Lomas MG, Courses Manager from 2003 left earlier this year to take up the position of Secretary at nearby Worplesdon Golf Club, his position taken over last month by Ian Morrison, who had been Course Manager at West Hill GC.

“It's been an amazing seven years and it is with an extremely heavy heart that I leave, but it is a career decision. It is where I want to go and it is what I've been working towards for a long time,” said Chris, as we sat in the committee room on the first floor of the splendid clubhouse, not long before he left.

“Becoming a Secretary has been a goal and ambition of mine for quite some time. I am a career orientated person and I feel very lucky to have been at a club as revered as The Berkshire. As a greenkeeper it would've been difficult to find anywhere as special to continue my career and I could see more doors opening for me as a Secretary.”

Not long after Chris began his time at The Berkshire, Greenkeeper International visited him and discussed his aims and aspirations.



“The goals were to continue improving the course and I was concerned about the woodland at the time. The headline of the article was ‘A Woodland Course with Heather’,” Chris recalled.

“A huge amount of woodland management has been carried out since. It's expensive to carry out and often seen as a luxury, but if you don't do it you lose heather and the fine grasses, while drainage can become blocked. Having done the work we have we have seen improvement in drainage and turf quality.

“The sward has improved for a number of reasons – the air that we have given it to breathe, an aeration programme and a new irrigation system which has allowed us a full growing season through the summer.”

The irrigation was another major advance for the club with the instal-





lation of a new £1.25 million irrigation system and reservoir.

"I am very proud to say that The Berkshire is now totally self-sufficient for water with all water that comes off the clubhouse and the course being collected in the reservoir, while we have our own bore hole for use in the summer months. We don't rely on outside water at all and are saving approximately £40,000 a year by not having to use mains water. With the reservoir costing us in the region of £180,000 it doesn't take long to get your money back and it means you are ticking all the right boxes for the environment."

The vast majority of the woodland management work was carried out in-house and the legacy that has left the club is a group of staff who are trained and qualified in the use of chainsaws.

"It was something we could really

get on with at times like last winter when we couldn't get on to the golf course."

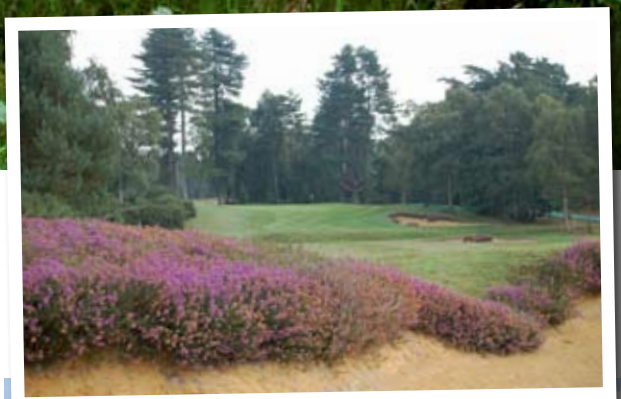
But don't run away with the idea that Chris and his team spent so much time in the woods they were on first name terms with the nation's picnicking bears.

They have also built a fantastic practice ground, importing half a million tonnes of soil.

"It was previously landfill and we made the club money from it as well as producing a wonderful facility and short game area."

With Chris moving on his successor will be left to carry out the next project which is a bunker programme.

"We are assessing the bunkers with Thomson, Perrett and Lobb with the aim of getting greater consistency, design and playability. That's the next big project and I'm





Win a car, courtesy of Rigby Taylor!



Rigby Taylor is sponsoring a fabulous prize at this year's BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, where entrants who achieve a hole-in-one on selected holes during the two days of the tournament will win the **new, 2010 BMW Mini Countryman worth £20,000!**

The holes selected during this year's tournament at The Berkshire are the par 3, 221 yard 16th on the Red Course and the par 3, 199 yard 10th on the Blue course. Any player who achieves a hole-in-one on these holes will win a car, an example of which will be on display during the tournament.



A former winner of the BIGGA National Championship, he clinched the crown at Cox Moor and Hollinwell in 2004

“It is difficult to say what October will bring weather wise – the Championship starts the day after the Ryder Cup finishes; hopefully we will be reaping the benefit of a dry summer”

very envious that I'm leaving my successor this as I really wanted to get stuck into it.”

As a former winner of the BIGGA National Championship, clinching the crown at Cox Moor and Hollinwell in 2004, Chris can talk passionately about the event.

“Hollinwell went straight to the top of my list of favourites after that and I hope the players who come here get a similar experience to the one I got at those two wonderful golf courses.

“It is difficult to say what October will bring weather wise – the Championship starts the day after the Ryder Cup finishes and everyone is expecting that to be a foggy dark affair but hopefully we will be reaping the benefit of a dry summer and should still be nice, firm and fast.”

The two courses carry very worthy reputations.

“The Red is unique in this country as it has six par-3s, six par-4s and six par-5s and I don't think you will find six finer par-3s anywhere. They are incredible,” said Chris, echoing the words of Sir Michael.

“The Blue is a sterner test of golf

and the better golfers prefer to play Medals around it as they know that the weaker golfer will struggle. If you score well around the Blue you should feel very satisfied while the Red is a little more comfortable and you can open up your shoulders a bit, especially on the par-5s... but beware of those par-3s.”

The two courses are regarded as equals, no-one at the club openly expresses a preference, and are both managed in exactly the same way.

It is with a tinge or regret that Chris will not be in position when BIGGA rolls into town.

“I was thoroughly looking forward to the prospect of 80 greenkeepers coming and playing the golf courses and experiencing that sort of examination but that will be done to the new Course Manager now. I had planned to peak the courses for the BIGGA National Championship and I would have loved to have had that challenge.

“The new guy can always shrug his shoulders and say it was all Chris Lomas' fault anyway...or take the acclaim as well. It doesn't really matter,” he laughed.

Chris will remain a Golden Key BIGGA member and will encourage the greenkeeping staff at Worplesdon to consider the Association if they do not already do so.

“I'd never force anyone to become a member but I'd like to think that they'd want to be BIGGA members as education is hugely important.”

The Berkshire's Secretary, John Hunt, is also a big supporter of BIGGA and encouraged Chris to go for Master Greenkeeper status, something he achieved in 2006.

“It is really down to John Hunt that the Championship is being played here. He really pushed for it and is looking forward to welcoming everyone.

“Being a Master Greenkeeper made me comfortable that I was doing things correctly and didn't have any glaring omissions from a greenkeeping sense,” added Chris.

He is not sure if he will make an appearance during the Championship but you can be sure that wherever he is at the time his thoughts will be with his old club and the greenkeepers who are tackling his two favourite courses.



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As time goes by

Jonathan N Knowles delves into the archives

Advances in the developing and forward thinking sports turf industry is important. Nevertheless, sometimes it's good to stop, think, stare into a distance point and think where we've journeyed from and reflect. After all, there may be something worth getting back to the basics for.

In 1942, the song *As Time Goes By*, from the film *Casablanca*, delivered the poignant lyrics - 'The fundamental things apply, As Time Goes By'. Around the same time, many turf, lawn and greenkeeping publications were being printed. Are these texts still relevant in the 21st century? Do the same fundamental things apply, as time goes by in turf care?

Chosen are a selection of seminal industry texts from the time of around seventy to a hundred years ago, including; 'Golf Greens & Green-Keeping' edited by H. G. Hutchinson, 'The Seeding and Care of Golf Courses' by O.M. Scott & Sons, 'The Lawn' by H.B. Sprague and 'Turf for Golf Courses' by C.V. Piper and R.A. Oakley.

In the 1917 publication 'Turf For Golf Courses', it contains information on climate for turf, soils, fertilisers, nutrients, identification, lime, purposes of turf, care, machinery and interestingly, scientific experimental work. In the experiment chapter, the authors Piper & Oakley cite the work of J.B. Olcott, a recognised early pioneer of turf. The 'Olcott Turfgrass Garden' also known as the 'Connecticut Experiment Station' was said to be located at Olcott's home between 1885 and 1910. Olcott studied thousands of grass species and their uses in sports turf. He collected 'mats' of turf from across the US, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and Europe, propagating and caring for the turf in his garden of plots. This was a pioneering search for the 'perfect

turf. Olcott published his work and is paraphrased as stating the finest, highest quality turf in New England to be Creeping Bent grass and Red Fescue.

When Olcott died in 1910, the legacy was up taken by F.W Taylor, who purchased the plots and transplanted them in Highland, Philadelphia. Like Olcott, Taylor himself was a Turfgrass pioneer. Taylor was the first to identify the need for a standard approach for constructing a putting green. Taylor fundamentally identified the need for a rooting medium or 'Foundation' that had to have a high water holding capacity that, at the same time, provides the perfect drainage. These are still relevant fundamentals for root zone specification and construction today. Taylor also theorised and pioneered what could be described as an early form of hydro-seeding.

In the 1917 book, Piper & Oakley clearly depict Taylor's work in detail with care but, at the same time, analysing some of Taylor's methods. It's insightful to see these early



INSET ABOVE: Olcott's Turfgrass Garden in 1910, Located in Connecticut. He had been collecting mats of grasses from around the world since 1885. It was noted that few recognised the significance of his work or indeed appreciated fine turf in those early days. (Source: *The First Turf Garden in America* by C.V Piper, USGA article February 1921)



ABOVE: Annual Meadow grass or Annual Blue-grass (Poa Annuua), described in 1917 as "a weedy little grass that produces blossoms even at the lowest of clips." (Source: Piper and Oakley, 1917)



pioneers questioning each others methods. Even in those early days, the use of lime as a soil additive was opposed by Piper & Oakley, while many promoted ground limestone. Taylor had suggested the use of lime and multi-layering a foundation incorporating peat-moss and bone-meal when constructing a putting green. While Piper & Oakley dismissed the use of lime for growing turf, as they had observed that the lime encouraged weeds and discouraged Red Fescues – a fundamental against the use of lime that is still widely observed in greenkeeping today. However, at the time, many other authors such as Harry Colt, Herbert Fowler, Fred Taylor and, indeed, Howard Sprague were recommending lime. It should be noted that Oakley was the pioneer of the infamous 'Acid Theory'. Indeed, some authors, such as Sprague, dismiss the 'Acid Theory' as failing to suppress weeds, making the soil infertile and losing its permeability to rainfall. Personally, I place the 'Acid Theory' as an over-theorised piece of science of the time, when



root zone, plant nutrition, irrigation and pesticide technologies were in their infancy.

The alternative British text to the Piper & Oakley technical manual was the 1906 publication 'Golf Greens and Green-Keeping' edited by Horace Hutchinson. Experiences and entrees are made on subjects such as; 'the formation of turf', 'the treatment and upkeep of seaside links', 'light inland soils', 'heath land', 'pine forest courses', 'chalk downs' and 'laying out and designing the links'. Authors of the book include; Harry Colt, Herbert Fowler, James Braid and Hutchinson.

Whether American or British, all the old texts refer to *Agrostis vulgaris*, now known as *Agrostis tenuis*, as the desirable bent grass. In 1906, the author H. Hamilton describes the best varieties for the golf green as *Agrostis vulgaris*, as he had experienced 'unerring and true putting qualities at St. Andrews'; he had noted it to be present on the east side of the fifth and thirteen greens and northern side of the ninth green, adding that

he knows not of any better wearing variety. Further recommended grasses and plants include: crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), vernalis (*Anthoxanthum* spp), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and wild thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* or could be in reference to *Veronica serpyllifolia*), and the small leaved clover (*Trifolium dubium*). It's not uncommon to read in these old texts the recommendation for a seed blend to include clover and yarrow. Surprisingly, the best tee surface to the author's mind is that of Mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*) and Brown Bent (*A. vulgaris*). Colt, in the 1906 publication describes how he had observed a mixture of smooth-stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*), crested dogs tail and red fescues (*Festuca rubra* ssp.) had been seeded at Sunningdale across a ridge in the land. He observed and noted how the fescues had become predominant on the dry ridge, but in the rest of the nursery the grasses were growing more equally, highlighting the difficulties to establish similar species on

"Worthy men and excellent growers of tomatoes and cucumbers, but possibly without any experience in greenkeeping" Harry S. Colt

all greens without variation to the pace. Hopefully, Colt, too, could see that the importance here was not just to apply a standard seed mixture, but also implement a standard root zone and drainage capacity, as addressed later by Taylor. The notorious Harry S. Colt offers the ultimate advice to Head Greenkeepers regarding club membership;

"Worthy men and excellent growers of tomatoes and cucumbers, but possibly without any experience in greenkeeping. These golfers believe any silly fool can grow grass. The Head Greenkeeper should therefore be prepared to hear criticism from every member of the club and have his methods discussed in every corner of the smoking-room. But

MAIN ABOVE: Golf Course construction in the early 1900s (Source: Turf For Golf Courses. Piper & Oakley (1917))

this will not matter much so long as he retains the confidence of the Greens Committee and is allowed to persevere.”

Rolling has for a long time been regarded as a necessary task to provide a quality putting surface. The advice given by Colt is clear, only roll on free draining soils, light rolling of around a hundredweight is permissible, heavy roll has been acceptable in the past, but never in access or in the establishment of a new green. And incorrect rolling practices, as Colt identifies rolling as the greenkeepers’ commonest fault, will lead to death of the surface.

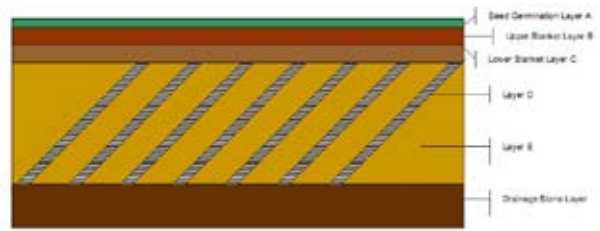
These bygone turf professionals knew the limits of rolling and its use. The damage and bad reputation of rolling we have seen in the past has come from incorrect implementation and use. As rolling has seen a renaissance in these past many years, we should continue to take heed to prevent history repeating. Rolling is a friendly method for providing the quality surface and should continue to be with the correct implementation and ensuring a ‘porous’ soil is obtained prior to any rolling.

How do you work your top-dressing in? Drag-mat, drag-brush or not at all? Colt recommends;

“On Monday mornings, brush the dressing in carefully with new birch brooms, on Tuesday sweep off what is left. Thus, by Wednesday or Thursday there will practically be no inconvenience.”

What’s insightful here is the importance of brushing in by hand, and look to apply more dressing in the hollows. How often these days do we apply an even blanket of top-dressing on hump or hollow? Does this application method exacerbate the difference in hollows? Working the dressing in by hand will allow the opportunity to manipulate the dressing carefully across the green in to portions that require different quantities.

Understandably, not a favourable manual task, however, we should question again does a handcrafted top-dressed green perform better than a mechanically dressed one? – Perhaps a workable approach is combining the old with the new? Sprague writes in ‘Better Lawns’ (1945) that the top-dressing should be spread over the entire surface and then worked into the low spots; he also makes an early reference for the recommendation and use of a steel door mat on a rope to drag in dressing.



ABOVE: Taylor’s recommendation for Golf Green Construction from 1917. Layers A, B & C are said to be made up of large quantities of peat and manure with seed. Layer D the ‘moisture and food slant’ made up of three parts clay to one part cow manure, this is said to be moulded into flat pans of one and a half inch widths and then installed at around 45 degree angle. Layer E the ‘deep rooting layer’ is a 12 inch layer made up of chopped cow manure and decayed peat moss at nine parts to one. With copious quantities of organic matter for nutrition, water holding capacity while having so-called ‘excellent drainage qualities’. Not a method that has lasted the test of time and very different from the current STRI and USGA specification. [Adapted from Piper & Oakley 1917]

The American methods of greenkeeping have long influenced greenkeeping in the UK; in the 1906 publication there is a quote of an ‘Americans’ opinion of St. Andrews dry turf.

“If we had a links like you have at St. Andrews, I guess we should keep the grass properly watered, if it took a pipe made of gold to convey the water out to the end hole.”

Does this sum up an age-old American view that British Greenkeeping is under-resourced? Does it suggest that if the Old Course was State-side, vast amounts of cash would be pumped into maintaining the verdure ‘properly’! If so, then the statement arrogantly disregards the Scottish Greenkeeping intention of maintaining firm, dry and fine turf. However, the quote in context is a recommendation for British seaside golf courses to have

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an irrigation system. The author proposes that laying a 3-inch pipe with a hydrant to all greens, will see less wear, little seeding, less feeding and less re-turfing. If it was suggested that the present British golf green is over-watered, we could not blame the education by American turf management methods.

But clearly, the Americans' techniques have maintained their influence on British Greenkeeping over the years. Although, in the American 1922 handbook 'Seeding and Care of Golf Courses' By O.M Scott and Sons it does state 'little damage caused by over-watering', but again, this is in the context of the American turf. Are, or have we been taking these Americans out of context?

In case you were wondering, O.M Scott & Sons is the same company that still exists as 'Scotts'.

When it comes to greenkeeping practices, there are ranging and interesting concepts from all the early influential texts. The technical turfgrass information has clearly been borne in the States. The technical and descriptive detail in the 1917 book by Piper & Oakley and the later lawn care book 'Better Lawns' by H.B. Sprague (1945) is

magnificent for the time, and the influence on the following technical text books and scientific papers is clear. In 1945, Sprague details the excessive use of nitrogen fertilisers, that stimulates top growth to the expense of root development, and how close mowing restricts root development, diminishing the ability to obtain moisture, nutrients from the soil, capacity to withstand heat, drought, disease and insect attacks.

In these contemporary times of over-feeding and excessive close mowing, are we forgetting these immovable fundamentals? It goes on, Sprague continues, with the affliction of springtime close mowing, identifying it as particularly harmful, since root development is limited by removal of top-growth, leading to the grass being limited to utilise soil resources for the remaining growing season.

For turf establishment, it can be tempting to apply a disproportionate amount of seed; Sprague identifies this as initial heavy seeding, and he clearly explains it is a flawed practice as it produces such competition between the plants, that there is little opportunity for any to develop strongly, until many have

died in the struggle. This accounts for slow development of a vigorous healthy sod, in comparison with thinner sowing rates.

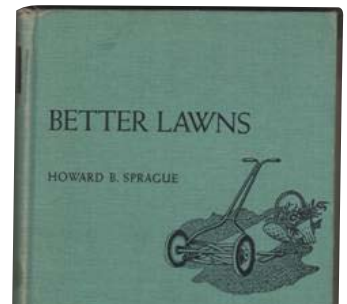
My final comment comes from 1945, whereby Sprague offers what could be described as the Holy Trinity for turf care, as they are three fundamentals that will remain no matter what duration of time goes by:

Sprague's three fundamentals for vigour and growth:

1. Provide adequate leaf area to receive sunlight by controlling the mowing height and controlling the leaf area

2. Supply of adequate moisture, adequate root development and soil moisture levels

3. Supply of carbon dioxide; this is abundant and inexhaustible from the atmosphere.



RIGHT: Sprague's 1945 Seminal Technical Turf Manual

systemic

in **one!**



Opportunity knocks



The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award is one of the highlights of BIGGA's calendar. Meet the 2010 finalists

The challenge of identifying the Champion Student Greenkeeper of the Year gets under way later this month with the final of the Award taking place.

Eight highly talented and motivated greenkeepers will descend on BIGGA HOUSE for the 22nd Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year final.

Each year the standard of the finalist rises and to reach the final attaches a beacon to a CV drawing its attention to potential employers.

Last year Rhys Norville, from Newport Golf Club, in South Wales, was the man who made that final push to claim the title, but such is the standard of finalist now it could have been any one of the eight.

"Winning the award has been a unique experience which has enabled me to learn lots, meet some fantastic people and has helped me to understand more about the industry," said Rhys.

"Every stage of the trip to America was more than I ever expected and I have to thank Toro and Lely for putting on such a fantastic trip. This award has helped me to realise that you can achieve whatever you set your mind to," he added.

This year the finalists will arrive at Aldwark Manor in Sunday, September 12, when they will meet up with the judges and get to know each other before they start what could be one of the most significant events of their careers.

Dinner with fellow finalists and the judges should tee up

Monday just nicely for the candidates, when they will be set a project for the day and interviewed by a panel comprising Peter Mansfield, of Lely; Chris Sealey, Chairman of the BIGGA Learning and Development Sub Committee; Bruce Jamieson, of Toro, and Sami Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development.

The winner will win an eight week trip to the United States beginning next January, which includes a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts and a trip to the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show, in Orlando, Florida, and Toro's Californian HQ.

The runners-up will receive an expenses paid trip to the Continue to Learn Education programme in January.



MAIN ABOVE:
Toro's Californian HQ

INSET ABOVE:
Last year's winner, Rhys Norville
sits proudly with his trophy



Andrew Stanger, Horsforth Golf Club & Askham Bryan College

Andrew, 24, began as an apprentice at Calverley Golf Club and was Student of the Year at Askham Bryan College before being placed at Liberty National

Golf Club, New York, as part of the Ohio State Program. From there he worked at Augusta National on the "Hole Care" Team initially on holes 8 and 9 and later on 11 and 12 on Amen Corner for the 2009 Masters.

A keen keep fitter, he returned to join Horsforth, filling in as Head Greenkeeper during sick leave on a three week contract which was extended to three months, before taking over full time in June of this year.

He has just completed his NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Maintenance.



Robert Mills, Sunningdale Golf Club & Merrist Wood College

Robert, 23, became interested in greenkeeping at the age of 7, as his father was Deputy Head Greenkeeper at The Manor of Groves GC (now Head Groundsman for Bishop's Stortford FC), and use to take him to work on weekend mornings, where he developed a love for dew covered early morning golf courses.

He started for real at nine hole Briggens Park at the age of 17 and just a few months later took over as Head Greenkeeper for three months.

Under a new Head he attended Oaklands College and when Briggens Park closed in 2006 he moved to the 18 hole Whitehills, before arriving at Mill Ride, following time spent as a seasonal worker at The Buckinghamshire. He has since made the move to Sunningdale working alongside a previous Toro winner, Murray Long.

A keen cricketer, he is also an animal lover with two dogs and two cats, and is currently studying at Merrist Wood College.



Craig Boath, Carnoustie Golf Links and Elmwood College

Craig, 30, is Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Carnoustie Links. Having spent 15 years at the famous Open venue – initially during his October school holidays and again the following Easter before he started as a youth trainee in June '96.

He has worked on two Open Championships; 10 Dunhill Links Championships; one Scottish Open; a British Senior Open and numerous other amateur events.

He has set up the Greenkeepers' Blog for Carnoustie which can be found on the BIGGA Central Section Website as well as the Facebook page for Carnoustie Golf Links. He is a keen golfer, playing off 7 and enjoys football.



Gavin Moore, Launceston Golf Club & Duchy College

Gavin, 29, has been a golf lover since the age of 10 and was Junior Captain and Club Handicap Champion of Holsworthy GC. He started work at a nursery and achieved Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture before moving into greenkeeping at his old club, Hosworthy.

After five years he moved to Launceston where he still works. An active BIGGA member he is a regular at Devon and Cornwall Sections meetings and played in the BIGGA National Championship last year.

He is a keen football fan and recently became a father.



Sebastian Cavilla, The Manor House Hotel and Golf Club & Cannington College

Sebastian, 25, spent two years as a gardener and one as a Racecourse Groundsman before finding, "his true vocation".

He has worked at The Manor House since 2007 and in

that time has been studying for a Foundation Degree and increasing his knowledge base while working on environmental clearance work on the golf course. His ambition is to become a Course Manager.



Tom Hayward, Frome Golf Club & Bridgewater College

Tom, 19, has a great love of the outdoors and considered a career in Countryside Management but having been a golfer since the age of eight, and having asked his local club if it had any summer work he was bitten by the greenkeeping bug immediately.

He has just completed his NVQ Level 2 at Bridgewater College and is actively considering Level 3 and possibly a degree. He has completed his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and has just taken up mountain biking.

He also plays guitar and designs websites.



Sean Borrett, Ellesborough Golf Club & Myerscough College

Sean, 29, arrived at a greenkeeping career having first gained a Honours Degree in Business and Finance from Oxford Brookes University and a job within the finance department of McCormick's (UK) PLC. A part time job raking bunkers at Ellesborough

sparked the desire for a change of path.

He has completed his NVQ Level 2 at Myerscough via distance learning and has ambitions to become a Head Greenkeeper on a links course and to add a degree and the Master Greenkeeper Certificate to his CV.

Initially he did have ambitions to become a professional golfer and still plays Category 1 golf. He has also played squash to junior county standard and has rowed for Great Britain at junior level.



Stephen Thompson, Bearsted Golf Club & Hadlow College

Stephen, 36, started out as an agricultural engineer and became interested in greenkeeping while working on equipment as Weald of Kent Golf Club was being constructed, and became friendly with those working on the course.

Following redundancy he worked on Langley Park Driving Range in Maidstone for seven years and moved to advance his career to Bearsted as an Assistant in 1999 and he is currently in the process of completing his Level 3 at Hadlow College.

Engaged, with a child on the way, Stephen is a keen walker and cyclist.

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Return to Slender

Slender speedwell is the word, as Dr Terry Mabbett returns to front this month's L&D Feature

Brooklime is commonly found as a water margin plant around ponds and along brooks

There are over 20 different speedwells native or naturalised in the UK but slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) is the only one found growing as a weed in well formed and tightly knit professional sports turf. Slender speedwell as the name suggests is one of the 'puniest' speedwells but more than makes up for lack of stature by being one of the 'worst' weeds in turf.

Slender speedwell along with field woodrush was given the dubious honour of being the most stubborn and difficult to manage weed of sports turf. Bayer Environmental Science conducted a survey by questionnaire at Saltex 2004 to find out which weeds were regarded as the most difficult to control. Slender speedwell came out top of for stubbornness with 33% of respondents identifying the weed as the most difficult to control on their 'patch'.

A well travelled weed

Veronica filiformis is a garden plant introduction that must have seemed like a good idea at the time

in the early 19th century. It was originally introduced from the Caucasus in 1808 as a 'Georgian rock gardener's delight' but subsequently found a more favourable and fruitful habitat in grassland. Slender speedwell was already well established as a garden plant in 1830 when the cylinder mower was invented. Eight years later saw first reports of slender speedwell escaping from rock gardens into the wider world of turf.

Turf was clearly 'on a roll' following invention of the cylinder mower by Edwin Budding and on sale two years later at Ransomes. The 'Collins Wild Flower Guide' describes slender speedwell with its pretty blue/mauve flowers as 'a worthy addition to our flora' but the greenkeeper and groundsman would disagree seeing slender speedwell as a pernicious weed of fine turf.

Slender speedwell is not the sort of plant you notice unless you are really looking for it, especially in the cold light of January when plants make their first new-year appearance as a small 'dormant' matt growth with tiny leaves. In March they are on the move and by late April the slender stems are sliding

through the turf and bearing flowers.

Slender speedwell is certainly obscure compared with most other speedwells, especially the bushier and larger-leaved germander (birds-eye) speedwell. Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) and other species like thyme speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*) are as nuisance weeds of turf, but generally amenity turf or recently seeded fine turf disappearing quickly once regular closer cut mowing begins.

But mowing has little effect on slender speedwell which sneaks through the turf at ground level via long, slender, creeping stems eventually consolidating into relatively large patches of stubborn weed growth. Slender speedwell is one of the most deceptively damaging of weeds of sports turf and mowing can actually make it worse.

A die-hard weed

There is no doubt that slender speedwell is one of the hardest weeds to control and along with Field Woodrush is the most resistant to selective herbicides in general used on managed turf. Unlike



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

Thank you to all our key sponsors



Slender speedwell in the cold light of January is a small and static matt of foliage



Slender speedwell on the move in March



Slender speedwell in late April with slender stems moving quickly through turf rooting as they go. Plants already in flower



Thyme speedwell in amenity turf



Germander (Bird's eye) speedwell in amenity turf



Close up on brooklime

Field Woodrush which is essentially confined to low fertility acid reaction soils, slender speedwell is not that fussy about soil conditions and tends to crop up anywhere and everywhere in turf.

Botanically speaking slender speedwell is a downy, low-growing and matt-forming perennial with small blunt-toothed, kidney shaped leaves carried on short stalks either in pairs or alternately. The mauve-blue flowers borne on long thread-like stalks are relatively large given the diminutive foliage and only appear within a relatively narrow 6-week window of flowering from late April to June.

In spite of its exotic plant status and original rock garden niche this fast spreading garden escape took to its 'new' turf home with relish and gusto, but not in every respect because *Veronica filiformis* rarely sets fruit or viable seed in the United Kingdom. Outside of the turf grass environment the weed is

or a completely different course in a contractor's mowing schedule.

If a student of botany were to research the historical development of slender speedwell as a turf weed they would almost certainly find it was closely tied to birth and growth of mowing including the spread of contract grass cutting services.

Few herbicides for control

Before reaching for the bottle [of herbicide] there are basic things to do that will help suppress and contain this pernicious weed. Always box clippings and destroy them if you think they contain pieces of slender speedwell. Try to avoid lending out or borrowing mowers and always clean machinery thoroughly before moving on to a new site. Slender speedwell can be checked by applications of lawn sand in spring, the iron (ferrous sulphate) component burning off the leaves but it will not kill the plants.

“If a student of botany were to research the historical development of slender speedwell as a turf weed they would almost certainly find it was closely tied to birth and growth of mowing including the spread of contract grass cutting services”

rather localised and found mainly by riverbanks, in churchyards and other damp places.

Sexual reproduction is clearly not the secret of slender speedwell's success in UK turf and unlike more widespread and highly fecund wayside weeds such as dandelion, clovers and plantains there is no seed bank outside. But every 'dog has its day', and slender speedwell is no exception. Plants have an ultra efficient means of asexual or vegetative reproduction unwittingly assisted by greenkeepers mowing without a box. This mode of spread in which pieces of slender speedwell stem 'hitch a ride' on mower blades has underpinned its success as a well-travelled turf weed.

The long, creeping prostrate stems root at regular intervals (the nodes) to produce new plants which collectively form a large matt of weed growth. Pieces of stem excised during mowing root readily where they fall. This can be on the same site or miles away, because pieces of stem become attached to the mower and are carried on to the next hole on the same course

When you finally go to use herbicide make sure you choose the right one because slender speedwell is notoriously resistant to many herbicides. There has always been a dearth of herbicide actives capable of killing this particular weed at standard label dosage rates and application frequencies. The target weed lists of most turf herbicides will contain notoriously difficult to control turf weeds like self-heal, yarrow and clovers but often make no mention of slender speedwell.

Look down the target weed 'hit list' for an unequivocal statement about control of slender speedwell. Make sure the label specifies slender speedwell as opposed to speedwells in general and beware of comments like 'moderate control only'. The 'old' auxin-type (hormonal) herbicides such as 2,4-D and MCPA will do little if anything against slender speedwell but there are newer actives with the same hormonal mode of action that will.

The one with the most proven pedigree is fluroxypyr and by looking for products which contain this herbicide active is probably the

best starting point for controlling slender speedwell. Virtually all products containing fluroxypyr will contain other actives as well. The will invariably have a completely different mode of action and may well augment control provided by fluroxypyr.

Spray timing against slender speedwell appears to be critical and is recommended within a relatively short window amounting to weeks. As an already difficult to control weed application too early in the year when the ground is still cold, and neither weeds nor grass is actively growing, is not advised. Applications made after slender speedwell's main flowering period in May are considered as too late.

Sorting out the speedwells

There are around two dozen speedwells in various environments across the UK but the speedwell situation for greenkeepers shouldn't be too difficult to sort out. All speedwell flowers have a common structure (short tube with four petal like lobes) and are all basically blue though with different shades and patterns. The botanist might be comfortable about differentiating species on exact flower size, structure and colour but others will clearly not. Moreover the greenkeeper may not see slender speedwell in flower, because although low cut mowing will not remove the weed it will almost certainly stop it from flowering in profusion.

A far better way to recognise slender speedwell in turf is by its slender creeping stems and distinctive leaf shape – kidney shaped when young and becoming more rounded with age. Indeed an alternative though much less frequently used common name for *Veronica filiformis* is 'round leaved speedwell'. German speedwell and thyme speedwell which are not uncommon in amenity turf are much more upright plants with flowers borne on spikes rather than single stalks.

The speedwell most frequently encountered in general is common field speedwell (*Veronica persica*) a lover of recently disturbed ground and almost certainly present in flower beds around the clubhouse. It may be accompanied by ivy speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*), so called because of its ivy-like leaf shape. Of passing interest is 'brooklime' (*Veronica beccabunga*) very common in muddy areas around ponds and along brooks. The leaves were apparently used centuries ago as a cure for scurvy (Vitamin C deficiency).

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

The anatomy of...

British hand mowers

Hand mower choice may be wider than you think



The 'big three', John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro, may be the key names associated with golf course mowing equipment, but these companies do not have it all their own way when it comes to all fine turf care.

Cricket wickets, lawn tennis and bowls, for example, are areas where smaller independent British mower makers Allett, Dennis and Lloyds continue to do extremely well.

But this is not to suggest British pedestrian mower makers do not have models suitable for 'hand mowing' golf greens and tees. And to suggest that Ransomes hand

mowers, such as the highly regarded Super Certes, will never compete with in-house siblings Jacobsen for some golf course duties would be misleading too. But it is fair to say the key US makers, with US made models, have fine tuned their pedestrian models specifically for the golf market.

British designed and built pedestrian mowers do of course retain a strong following. The ability of these mowers to produce the fine quality of cut demanded by bowls and cricket wickets proving the ability of these machines to deliver a good, consistent finish. What many in the golf sector may not have also

appreciated is how British made models have evolved. Lloyds may well still make a Paladin model but to suggest it is the same mower as the ones on sale in the 1960s is wide of the mark.

Allett and Dennis have made huge development changes too; current models have vastly improved ergonomics, vibration damping and ease of set up.

Here we take a brief overview of Allett, Dennis and Lloyds and the models that these companies suggest are well suited to producing a cut to meet the most exacting of standards to include greens mowing.

All electric power: The Allett ELMOW is due for release this autumn. Battery powered, the ELMOW shows how British mower manufactures are continuing to develop their machines.

Dennis Mowers, Ashbourne Road, Kirk Langley, Derbyshire DE6 4N
www.dennisuk.com

For many, it is the versatile Dennis FT510 'cassette' model that is the most recognisable Dennis model. The company does of course offer a far wider model choice, including its increasingly popular Razor models to include the Razor Ultra 560. Fitted with a 'loop' handle more familiar to many in the golf sector, the Razor Ultra is designed to suit greens and other fine turf mowing. Dennis has recently invested in new production facilities.

Dennis Razor Ultra 560

The Dennis Razor Ultra 560 has been purpose developed to meet the demands of golf greens and tees, cricket pitches and bowling greens. It features a 560mm (22") cutting width with an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels. Claimed to offer excellent balance and good manoeuvrability, the mower has a compact handle design and simple controls with durable acrylic guards.

Key Razor Ultra 560 specification details:

Cutting width: 560mm (22")
Cylinder: 11 blade
Height of cut: 1.6 – 15mm
Cut performance: 200 cuts/m
Dimensions (LxWxH): 910 x 823 x 1135mm
Weight (approx): 140kg
Engine: Honda GX120

Dennis Razor Ultra 560 features a short wheelbase and loop handle.

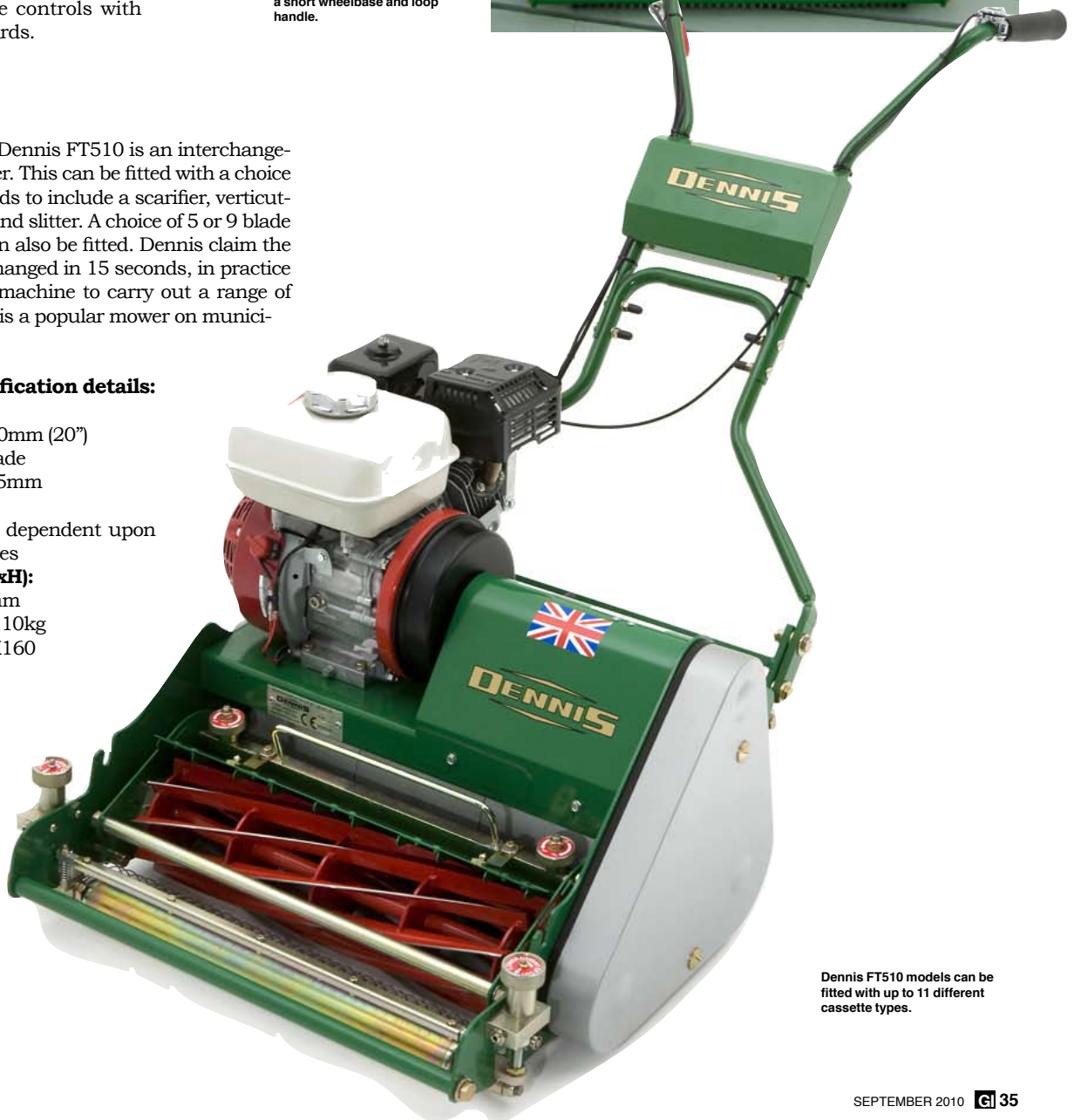


Dennis FT510

The established Dennis FT510 is an interchangeable cassette mower. This can be fitted with a choice of 11 different heads to include a scarifier, verticutter, brush, spiker and slitter. A choice of 5 or 9 blade cutter cassettes can also be fitted. Dennis claim the cassettes can be changed in 15 seconds, in practice this enabling one machine to carry out a range of duties. The FT510 is a popular mower on municipal golf courses.

Key FT510 specification details:

Cutting width: 510mm (20")
Cylinder: 5 or 9 blade
Height of cut: 2-25mm
Cut performance: up to 200 cuts/m dependent upon the number of blades
Dimensions (LxWxH): 1300 x 750 x 970mm
Weight (approx): 110kg
Engine: Honda GX160



Dennis FT510 models can be fitted with up to 11 different cassette types.

**Allett Mowers by Turfmech Machinery Ltd ,
Hangar 5, New Road, Hixon, Stafford ST18 0PJ
www.allett.co.uk**

Allett Mowers was acquired by Turfmech Machinery in 2007 with production moving to the company's Stafford factory. During the past three years, Turfmech

has retained the basic Allett mower design but developed production to make the mowers both easier to build and maintain. The key models that target the golf sector include the Tournament and Shaver, although the new ELMOW model, due for launch this autumn, is an interesting development. Based on the Tournament, the ELMOW should boast low noise and running costs.

Allett Shaver 20 and 24

Allett Shaver mowers have no groomer fitted but have space to accommodate a static brush. The front roller can be moved rearwards so it is closer to the rear roller on the Shaver - there's no groomer in the way- to better handle undulating turf and contours. The Shaver targets those who mow their greens regularly using a ride-on triple mower fitted with a groomer and use a hand mower solely ahead of competitions where a close strip final finish and appearance is paramount.

Key Allett Shaver 20 and 24 specification details:

- Cutting width:** 510mm (20") or 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 10 blade
- Height of cut:** 2.4 - 19mm
- Dimensions (LxH):** 1010 x 1280mm
- Cut performance:** 246 cuts/m
- Weight (approx):** 81.5 - 92kg or 91.5 - 104kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120 (4hp) or GX160 (5.5hp)



Allett Tournament 20 and 24

Allett Tournament models have an integral groomer that can be raised out of work when not required. This model is otherwise the same as its non-Groomer Shaver alternative. Turfmech has made a number of detail changes to these models since taking over production, these ranging from improved roller bearings, improved vibration and noise control and the introduction of a quick height micro system that allows adjustment without tools.

Key Allett Tournament 20 and 24 specification details:

- Cutting width:** 510mm (20") or 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 10 blade
- Height of cut:** 2.4 - 19mm
- Dimensions (LxH):** 1010 x 1280mm
- Cut performance:** 246 cuts/m
- Weight (approx):** 81.5 - 92kg or 91.5 - 104kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120 (4hp) or GX160 (5.5hp)



**Lloyds & Co. Letchworth Ltd, Birds Hill,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 1JE
www.lloydsandco.com**

The Paladin mower comes in three varieties, the Paladin, Paladin Dual and the Paladin TG and two widths of 21" (533mm) and 24" (610mm). The mowers are all fine turf models, suitable for cutting bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket squares and golf putting greens. Lloyds suggest the independent clutches of the Paladin models

transmission is unique system and prevents the mower from the snatching on take off. All models are constructed from high-grade aluminium castings with a rotationally moulded grassbox with lifting handles for ease of use; this helps make them one of the lightest machines on the market. Height adjustment is via a single adjuster with additional alignment compensation. Dual and TG models target those seeking the highest quality of cut and are the units most suited to mowing golf greens.



Paladin Dual

The Lloyds Paladin Dual is developed from the Lloyds Paladin TG without the groomer being fitted. The front grooved roller can be located closely back to the cutting cylinder thus ensuring the shortest roller distance to follow the tight contours of the golf greens.

Key Paladin Dual specification details:

- Cutting width:** 533mm (21") & 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 5,9 or 11 blade
- Height of cut:** 1-25mm
- Cut performance:** up to 225 cuts/m dependent upon the number of blades
- Weight (approx):** 76 to 80kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120

Paladin TG

The Lloyds Paladin TG has a groomer fitted closely between the cutting cylinder and the grooved front roller. The groomer aids healthy growth by removing the lateral grasses and other debris to aid the playability of the surface. The groomer can be engaged or disengaged via a simple clutch arrangement. All Paladin models are designed to allow the cutting cylinder to be removed quickly and easily for maintenance.

Key Paladin TG specification details:

- Cutting width:** 533mm (21") & 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 11 blade
- Height of cut:** 1-25mm
- Cut performance:** up to 225 cuts/m
- Weight (approx):** 82 to 88kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120



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DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

TED HOPKINS LTD / TRACTOR HIRE LTD

Location and Size

Newport & Brecon covering Mid, West & South Wales, plus Midlands & South West England for Club Car.

Employees and size of Premises

24 employees. Newport has a three acre site and Brecon has a one acre site.

Number of service vans

Seven

Brief History of Company

Ted Hopkins Ltd is a family run business established since 1987 and having been involved in the agricultural and horticultural machinery business since 1954 Ted Hopkins took the opportunity in 1987 to start his own business specialising in the sales and servicing of groundcare machinery from a small workshop and parts facility at St. Brides Wentloog near Newport. This site has grown and now includes six acres of grass for testing and demonstrating machines.

The business grew in the 90's and a second depot was built on a greenfield site at Brecon. Again including storage, workshops and a larger retail shop on a one acre site.

In 2008 an additional storage building was purchased in Brecon as the depot expanded.

In 2008 a new storage and building was built in Newport to assemble the equipment required for the Ryder Cup in 2010.

Over the last five years we have expanded our hire fleet of equipment, this is mainly utility vehicles and golf buggies which are offered on long term contracts to customers in Wales, Midlands, through to Hampshire and all of the South West.

In 2010 we added two new trucks for the transportation of golf buggies for the European Tour to cover all major golf tournaments.



Ted Hopkins is still involved in the business on a daily basis, he will turn 80 next February and is supported by his son and two grandsons.

Key services offered

Sales, service, parts, long and short term spot hire of groundcare equipment including tractors up to 120hp on turf tyres, and implements and a full range of utility vehicles including golf buggies.

How has the dealership changed over the years?

Initially, we started selling horticultural machinery locally, from one depot then decided to concentrate on the commercial groundcare equipment, together with utility vehicles and golf buggies from our Newport depot.

Realised in the late 90's we needed to concentrate our agricultural business in Mid Wales and built a new depot in Brecon.

There's been a demand in the last five years for contract hire to include servicing.

What would you like to see changed?

Long term contracts from manufacturers - who expect the dealer

network to invest in training, tooling, parts and stock equipment - with buy backs built into contracts if the manufacturer terminates the franchise agreement.

How do you work with your customers?

A number of customers work closely with us, with their own in house service facility carrying out routine servicing with our staff carrying out the major repairs.

We operate our own transport which includes two 38 tonne tractor units with a range of trailers and one 7.5 tonne beaver tail lorry for delivery and collections, together with a number of 4wd pickup trucks with trailers.

Major customers

Celtic Manor; Ryder Cup Wales; European Tour.

Franchises

- Amazone; Blec; Bomford; Club Car; Dennis; Deutz; Hardi; Kawasaki; Kubota; McConnel; Merlo; Stihl; Toro;

and many more too numerous to mention

Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Ayrshire

Hello there!

I've finally landed back on my feet after being blown around daft at St Andrews.... What was all the fuss about? 40 mile an hour winds I guess! I could hardly stand on my own two feet and that was me using the bunker rake to hold me up!

Hats off to the players who had to suffer not only the strong winds on the Friday but the heavy showers of rain that visited every few hours. Just goes to show how well Louis Oosthuizen actually played over the whole week. He even managed to smile through every round..... I'm going to try that method, see if it helps my game.

Anyway I thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in the Open Support team. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Scott MacCallum and Rachael Duffy, of BIGGA, for the efforts that they both put in, not only during the week of The Open but long into the night organising us greenkeepers to be in certain places at certain times.

Thank you to you both and the other BIGGA representatives. Also a big thanks to the 52 greenkeepers involved, spirits were high throughout the Championship and a great week was had by all! Can't wait to do it all again in the future.

A congratulations is due to George Morrison and his partner, Maggie, on the arrival of their bouncing baby boy, Rory. Good wishes to the three of you from all in the Section.

Finally, we have a retirement in the Section this month, Robin McMillan, of Moffat Golf Club. Robin has been with Moffat

since 1974 and has clocked up some well earned miles over his tenure, Plenty time on your hands now, Robin, I personally think he won't be able to stay away! Robin handed the reigns over to Mike Wilson at the end of August. From all of us in the Section we wish you well in your retirement and good luck to Mike on his new appointment.

Remember guys get in touch with any news!

'til next time.

John Mair 07500874449

johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk



Central

This year's Autumn outing will take place at Downfield GC on Thursday Sept 23. Entry forms should be with you shortly if you don't already them. We hope for a good turnout over what is a great course.

Course Manager, Paul Murphy, has indicated that he may even cut the greens for this special occasion but stopped short of a definite promise.

At the Section AGM, which is scheduled to be held at Elmwood in the last few days in October, we will be looking for a new Secretary/ Treasurer.

As you will be aware Andy Mellon gave up this position when he was elected National Vice-Chairman.

George Pendrich, who stood in temporarily has decided that his commitments to other matters means he cannot give it the attention the job deserves so any keen members out there please get in touch with someone on the committee.

Likewise, if there is anything a member would like us to consider staging as an educational event then please contact us.

Gordon Moir



West

Autumn has arrived and here we are preparing to core greens and verti-drain a variety of surfaces assuming we can take the machines around the course without sinking, what a difference to a couple of months ago when nothing would grow because of the dry conditions.

I hope all of you have had a good season and are looking forward to the course alterations scheduled with an abundance of enthusiasm and new lively spring in your step.

Only a couple of items to mention as very little seems to be happening, as usual not a soul has been on touch, but maybe that could change or people are just too busy.

The AGM due in October has still to be confirmed for the venue but will be along similar lines to previous years with a couple of speakers, some suggestions would be good if possible.

The annual dinner in November looks to be back to Victoria's but committee have still to confirm this as numbers last year were a bit disappointing.

The outing at Helensburgh Golf Club on September 2 will be reported on in the next issue.

Please remember gents to get in touch at stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or on 0141-942-5554, or on mobile 07790823914.

Nice to see the Association recognised Cecil George for all his efforts over the years in relation to education and service to the West Section and before that SIGGA. It was a lovely article on a dedicated greenkeeper. Best wishes from the Section, Cecil.

Last, but not least, I would express our sadness at the passing of Gordon Howat's

mother during the summer. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.



North

I start again with another apology, communications or wires seemed to be crossed again. I sent the notes in again on time but it coincided with The Open and they seemed to have got lost along the way.

Editor's Note. Please accept my apologies for the omission of the North Notes for August. There was a communication/administration hiccup at our end. S Mac

The Scottish National Tournament was held back in June at Murcar Links. I must admit we were blessed with good weather on the day. The North Section were narrowly beaten by the Central Section on the four best nett scores. Richard Pirie, from Newmachar GC, won his section as did Derek Green, from Royal Aberdeen. I was lucky enough to win the best Nett score of the day and therefore collected the Friendship Trophy. I have now qualified for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, down at The Berkshire Golf Club just outside London, along with David Simpson, of Crieff GC, who won the scratch competition.

The course on the day was in very good condition and that is all down to Brian Anderson and his staff at Murcar. Did you say that I could go down to the British, Brian? Murcar was immense!

A big thank you on behalf of the North Section goes to the Scottish Administrator, Peter Boyd who had organised the whole day, without him the event would never have hap-

pened. He was ably assisted by the one, the only, some people say thank goodness (or words to that effect), Neil Mitchell from Greentech. A thank you to all the trade who donated raffle prizes on the day. Without you guys the outings would not be possible either.

Just down the road from Murcar, a certain new golfing development is finally getting under way. Full planning permission for the course and driving range at Trump International Links has now been granted. At last some ground work can begin in earnest.

The North Section would like to wish Paul O'Connor and SOL Golf Construction Ltd all the best over the coming months and hopefully there are not too many sticking points.

Dale Robertson will have sent the forms out for the Autumn outing at Huntly GC. He asks that if you do intend going that you get the forms back to him as soon as possible and then hopefully we can get a great turn out just like we did at Deeside back in May. Ross assures me that the course will be in tip top condition!

Brian Hunter, from McDonald Golf Club in Ellon, has returned from his weary duties down at The Open. I don't know if many of you were watching the coverage on the TV during Saturday's play but he was lucky enough to get Henrik Stenson and Trevor Immelman. When they reached the 17th Road hole, one of the players landed in the famous Road Hole bunker and as you are probably aware there is a camera in it. Well when it came to raking the bunker the camera shot to him and Peter Alliss started talking about the BIGGA Support Team and how well they had been working. Brian finished raking the bunker then sat down on the edge of it. Peter Alliss then said something along the lines of, "It looks as though he's had enough!" when in fact he was actually ducking down out the way so he wasn't in the line of sight of the players.

He was very fortunate too on the Sunday as he had the final group on the last day. Knowing him I could imagine him beaming with pride walking up the 18th with the crowd behind him. He was quite emotional when he found out he had the last group, so much so that he actually kissed the Editor, Scott

MacCallum. Never mind Brian! He would like to thank BIGGA for the opportunity of working with the Support team and that he had the time of his life despite being out on the course on the Friday for a round lasting just over eight hours!

One other bit of news this month is that Euan Rankin, from Murcar Links, left us last month. He has gone back to working along side his father at Fyvie Golf Club. Good luck Euan in this new venture for you and despite what Brian says you will be missed.

I did say I was clutching at straws for news this month, so I do apologise again. It is hard to get stories throughout the summer months so I do have to waffle on a bit! If you do have any news no matter how big or small then give me a shout on 07813889374 or on tinternet benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk. Happy Greenkeeping.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying the summer. With this warm wet weather at the moment, the grass seems to be growing faster than we can cut it. On June 14 at the annual Northern v Sheffield match, we managed to retain the trophy by drawing the match 3-3. The Section would like to thank Woolley Park GC. for hosting the match, and Rigby Taylors for sponsoring it. The weather for the early starters was good, but with a late thunder storm it was difficult for the last few games to finish. One item of news, the Section would like to congratulate Phil Rowbottam, from Woolley Park, on his selection to the England clay pigeon shooting team, and managing to win a team gold medal. The next Section event is the Autumn Tournament plus A.G.M. on September 29, to be held at Bradford GC. First tee 10am. I will be on holiday the week before the event, so please contact me early, or contact J.Watts on 07720294031 to book your place. As usual please contact me at 72 West

Park Grove Roundhay, LS8 2DY. 07947401278. E mail frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Frank Stewart



North East

Hello everyone. It's that time of the month again unfortunately not a lot of news to talk about, only my holidays which I have always threatened to write about should I not receive any news. Well I popped over to Spain with my family, but before that I had decided to get in touch with Wendy O'Brien, Superintendent at one of those Polaris World courses to ask if she could show us around her course, Wendy previously worked at Carden Park before moving to Spain..

My son, Steven, and I certainly got our eyes opened, especially at the size of the bunkers. Can you believe the total yardage of bunkers covered eight hectares? Some were the total length of the hole and, of course, plenty of water to go with it?

Anyway, anybody thinking of moving over to Spain for a job forget it as they are having a worse recession than us. In fact, Polaris World has sold three of its courses already. To top that the heat is unbearable, it was around 34 degrees centigrade when we visited. So, Wendy, if you manage to read my Section news, thanks for the tour.

Now on the membership news. I believe Barry Wilson, of Stocksfield GC, has taken early retirement due to ill health. Let's hope he gets better. Now that he's gone we don't seem to have any golfing members from there to play in our Section do's. Mind you they aren't the only club. One club in the Section has gone one better, having paid the subs for their staff of five for years and years the new manager claims they cannot afford it. Come on, think of the benefits both club and staff get, at this rate we will never achieve good relationships between greenkeeper and the powers that be.

And finally just to remind you that the Autumn comp is at Gosforth GC [Bridal Path] on October 6. Everyone will be notified via T.S.L as they do our

postage, next year. Still going to try and keep it central. Courses being considered are Newcastle Utd in the Spring and Heworth for the Autumn. If anyone wants their course chosen just get in touch with me and I'll see what I can do.

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

It's hard to believe we're heading into the close of the summer's competitive season already with club finals being played in clubs all over our Section and the scratch season coming to a close all in this next few weeks. Whether it's me getting a little older or time is actually moving faster because the "September blues" as I call it when the days get shorter (and so does your patience!) seems to be happening a lot sooner after the spring flush than it used to.

This month is also the start of autumn renovation, if you've got an understanding committee or board of management, renovation can start early in the month, if you're like the rest of us (which will most probably be the majority of us) you will have to wait until the end of September, when recovery (and the inevitable whinges that follow) takes longer to happen, but that's enough of my whinging.

In local news, congratulations go to Dave Lewis and his team for hosting one of the Ladies European Tour events at Conwy Golf Club, I understand that Dave left the ladies well satisfied! (With the course anyway). Congratulations also go to Ewan Jones, of Eaton Golf Club, and his wife who recently became parents to their baby boy, Zac. It's not only the ground that's fertile at Eaton because Bryn Roberts and his wife are expecting the pater of tiny feet in November as well. Best of luck to you both! Pat Mcateer, of Nefyn Golf Club, has made it on to the Support Team at the Ryder Cup, Well done Pat, show them how professional North Wales greenkeepers work. Last of all don't forget our Autumn Tournament at Mold Golf Club on the 30th. Entry forms to Jez Hughes ASAP please.

All the best until next month

Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187

Midland Region



East Midland

Ah, the long dry summer.... Seems a distant dream now! I blame myself. I was foolish enough to write my summer newsletter to my members at the end of June, where references to drought were made. As I am writing this the dry summer has been broken by three weeks of wet and cool conditions, but by the time you are reading this let's hope summer has returned? I do wonder though just what we as greenkeepers would prefer, long dry hot summers, or wet and cool?

Back to the activities in our Section now, and first details of the Summer Tournament and second National Championship qualifier that was held at Rothley Park. Thanks as always to our sponsors for the day, which were, Countrywide farmers, Henton and Chattell, Banks Amenity and Tacit. Winners were Cat 1, Paul Frith, 38pts; Cat 2, Mitchell Jordan, 33pts. The trade prize went to Mick Marvell, with 33pts. Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin both went to Paul Frith. Paul's good day saw him qualify in Cat 1 for the National Championship, with Pete Smith (that's me) putting in another solid display to clinch the qualifying spot in Cat 2.

The course was in fantastic condition and thanks go to Nigel Colley and his team, on another note thanks again go Nigel, due to various reasons he has now stepped down from his role on the committee as Vice Chairman for the Section, we would like to take this opportunity to wish him well and thank him for all his hard work. Congratulations are also due to former committee member Craig Watt, Deputy at Glen Gorse GC, he and his wife, Amye, are celebrating the arrival of son, Isaac, on July 13, Isaac weighed in at a healthy 9lb 4 oz.

The Headland Pairs competition is coming to its conclusion with some semi finalists already decided, more news on the semis and final will hopefully be available in the next update, likewise no news as yet on who is taking the blame between myself and my partner for our

appalling performances in the competition. News on that, as it breaks!

This year's Autumn Education day is to be held at Birstall Golf Club on Thursday, November 18. Subjects for the day are being finalised and places will be limited so watch out for your invites/registration forms soon. Greg Skinner, my colleague on the education front, is very close to finalising Excavator Training, although I think he is having trouble convincing his committee that having 20 trainee digger drivers at Forest Hill GC is a good idea!

It's not always easy finding things to write about, so in an effort to avoid 500 words of drivel next month, anybody with any news from within our section can contact me at pds1@btinternet.com, you have been warned!

Regards to all
Pete Smith



Midland

Well it never ceases to amaze me the many differing conditions that can affect sports turf, and our wonderful ability to diagnose such influences and respond to such. However one that was recently of puzzlement to me, was slight desiccation to the sward with no other apparent factors. Unbeknown to me, a helicopter had landed and taken-off on the said sward. I wonder whether the STRI will include such in their revised book regarding "Turf Grass Pests, Diseases, and Disorders". Such could take the name/condition of: "Helicopter exhaust desiccation syndrome".

Anyway, now down to the real news and my thanks to our Chair, Ed, for the following (I hope that you have recovered from that food poisoning mate). Edgbaston Golf Club held the Summer Tournament on Monday, July 19. Our thanks to Eddie Mills and his team for producing a great looking golf course. The windy conditions made us feel like we were at St. Andrews! Thanks too for Edgbaston's hospitality for allowing us the day.

Thanks to New Holland

Tractors and Simon Gumbrill, of Campeys, as the main prize sponsors for the day.

Thanks as always to our President, John Hammond, for starting us off at the 1st tee.

Thanks to Kev, and Turner Groundscare, for the refreshments before and half way around.

Thanks to British Seed Houses, Sherriff Amenity, Whitemoss and Crocodile Golf Products for Nearest the Pin prizes.

Results: Gross: 1. Mike Hughes, 31pts; Nett 1. Mike Large, 40pts; 2. Paul Jeffries, 38pts; 3. Jim Gilchrist, 38pts. Div 1. Mike Hughes; Div 2. Dave Fellows; Div 3. Andy Brougham. Trade. Peter McCrainor.

Nearest the Pin Winners. P. Jeffries, C. Woodall, E. Stant, J. Ganley.

Lovely to see three new faces at the golf, Mick Large, Wayne Banner and Anthony Wilkes. Please come again, gentlemen!

Congratulations to Vince Gilroy on his appointment as Course Manager at Gay Hill Golf Club.

Can all members and trade alike look to the website for information. All new members are required to bring a handicap certificate if they have one and don't forget we always require a jacket and tie for our sit down meal after the golf.

Please look on website for the next BIGGA Breakfast Club meeting. The last one was held at Great Barr Golf Club on Wednesday, August 18 where the STRI were demonstrating their Performance Measuring tools and the benefits of recording this data.

And now just time to mention our wonderful sponsors of this month's calendar page. Such being our long term sponsors of the Section Scotts. Please consider them for your fertiliser etc needs, and visit their web-site with your enquires; www.scottspromotional.co.uk <<http://www.scottspromotional.co.uk>>. Also, good luck to those remaining in the Scotts Doubles Knockout Tournament.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Autumn Tournament to be held at the wonderful venue that is Beau Desert Golf Club on October 7. Start time 10am at only £20. Also, don't forget that our AGM is also to be held there with a start time of 5pm. All of

course are welcome to attend. Your thoughts and council are of great importance to the committee, indeed without such it is all most impossible to serve you, but we do. Impossible we do, however miracles take a little longer!

Well that's me, off in five days for six and a half, can't wait! SW-Alan, Caersws pal, the land of 4lb wild Browns 3lb Grayling, Salmon, oh and of course the odd Chub.

Sean McDade



Mid Anglia

Hello all, it's been a long time since I've had to do this article, but Craig and his wife have just had their second child and they're a little busy, as you can well imagine! Congratulations to the both of you from us all.

I hope you're all praying for some much needed rain, but only between 6pm and 6am! Its nice to have a prolonged spell of dry, warm weather, it's been a few years of wet summers and I hope your courses are holding up well.

Our Summer comp was held at Stocks Golf Club and we managed to get 33 players to attend at such short notice, as we had to bring it forward due to a cancellation from one of our Charity events.

Of those who made it, all had a great day, played well, ate well, drank well and with the relaxed dress code, felt more comfortable on a warm summers night.

I would like to thank my boss, Mr Harris, for allowing us to hold our event at Stocks as we don't normally have Corporate or Society days.

Our sponsors for the day were Tacit, and what a prize table, thanks go to Tim Webb and Mark Day for their generosity, also a big thank you goes to Michael Payne, Steve Bush, of Ernest Doe, and his wife for hosting the BBQ all day and putting on a great spread for us. To Nigel Church, of Ransomes Jacobsen, for providing the on-course refreshments too and all our other trade members who support our Section so well.

I personally want to say thanks to my staff for presenting the course in probably its best

Around The Green

condition over the last few years, well done lads.

The results for the day were as follows: 1. P. Crouch, 43pts; 2. M. Lambert, 40pts; 3. G. James, 39pts; 4. S. Mason, 39pts. Trade, M. Payne, 41pts. Nearest the Pin. S. Banks and, finally, Longest Drive. G. Bruce.

I hope everyone enjoyed the day and I'll try again in a few years to hold another comp, but with a clubhouse this time.

Some dates for your diaries, the Autumn meet is at Berkhamsted G C on October 20 followed with the AGM and the Christmas Scramble is at Ashridge GC on December 15. Please get your entries in early as this one is sure to fill up very quickly.

That's all for now, if you have any news at all that you want aired through this article, then contact one of the committee and we will get it in the next available publication.

Steve Mason.



East of England

Our second golf day of the year was played on July 15, at Tydd St Giles Golf Club. The day was sponsored by Collier Turf Care and Burdens Groundcare, many thanks to them for their continued support.

The results were as follows: 1, G. Macdonald; 2, B Robinson; 3, D Beba

Nearest the Pin, J P Bowers; Longest Drive, G Macdonald

Many thanks to all at Tydd St Giles for their hospitality, the food provided and the condition of the golf course.

Our next golf day is the eagerly anticipated Greenkeepers vs

Trade, this year to be held on September 22 at Lincoln Golf Club. Please email your notes to scott@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month, to ensure inclusion in the next issue. Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

South West and South Wales



South Wales

Hi Everyone!

Firstly, Here's hoping that you are all well and are looking forward to your Autumn renovation and the subsequent comments of approval and encouragement for your members!

The Summer tournament was held at Glynneath Golf Club in July and around 25 players enjoyed the warm (after a wet start) summer weather and a golf course that was in great condition, which was a credit to HGK Kevin Griffiths, Darryl Jones and the rest of the Greenstaff. The buffet meal was excellent, as were the prizes, which were provided by the day's sponsors, Tacit, represented by Steve Milton. Thank you for sponsoring our section once more. The results were as follows: 1. Darryl Jones, Glynneath, 37 pts; 2. Nigel Ruck, Glynhir, 31 pts (bih); 3. Wayne Benger (Glyhir, 31pts. Nearest The Pin: Nigel Sandquest, Glynhir; Longest Drive: Mark Wilshire, Newport.,

Trade: Peter Holstrom, Countrywide. The prize for the most frantic search for a raffle ticket went to Gary Rose, Corus.

Commiserations to Mal from Glynhir, who was the only attendee from his club not to win anything!

Our sincere thanks go out to Glynneath Golf Club for their hospitality, to Steve Chappell for his work in organising the event, to Jane Jones, Regional Administrator for BIGGA, to Peter Holstrom and myself (!) for the raffle prizes and to everyone who attended.

As I write, preparations are on course for October's Ryder Cup. Everyone I have spoken to who are on the Greenkeeping Support Team are looking forward to the event immensely. So good luck to Jim McKenzie and everyone involved. Please God, let it stay dry! And if it does then be sure to point this out to Nick Faldo if you see him, but he may be laying low for a while!

The annual Greenkeepers V Secretaries Golf match will be held this month, details weren't

available at the time of going to press, so if you would like to play then please contact Steve Chappell.

I do know that it will be again sponsored by CWC so thanks to Alan Abel for their continued support.

The next golf day (and AGM) will be held at Brynhill GC on October 14. Invites will be sent out but if you haven't received one then please contact Steve Chappell.

Finally, on a rather sad note, I learned that three Head Greenkeepers from the section have recently lost their fathers. So to Harvey, Julian and Steve, I quote an old proverb. 'Say not in grief 'He is no more' but live in the thankfulness that he was'.

Take Care

Ceri Richards



South Coast

Hi all,

Hope your summer is going well, as I write this in early August the weather forecasters are saying that rain is on the way with a cooler changeable week, we will see.

Firstly, the results of the summer tournament held at Stoneham Golf Club in July. This is our invitation day sponsored by Tacit, the prize table consists of wine (lots of it). Results: 1. Chris Bitten and Clive Cook, Stoneham; 2. Tony Gadd and Graham Hodgkinson, Barton on Sea; 3. Stephen Christopher and Stephen Rayment, Barton on Sea

Longest Drive. Chris Bitten. Nearest the Pin - Tony Crouch.

Hole in One. Ben Bishop.

What a day! First the weather took a massive change and blew a gale, at least it didn't rain. Wonderful to see some old faces returning to the section Alan Rideout, Tony Crouch and Tony Locke. Also great to see some new faces Beverly Blair, from Southwick Park GC, Sadly Beverly's day was ruined when she fell and broke her ankle while out on the course.

We all hope you are making a full and rapid recovery, looking forward to playing Southwick next year.

The course was in excellent condition, thanks to Vince and

his team for all their efforts. Lastly, thanks to the sponsors Tacit for their ongoing support, (you can see who the wine drinkers are as the same names crop up each year!)

The annual match against the S. West will be held at Sherbourne GC, on October 6. If you want to play contact Kevan Glass by email glassy2003@hotmail.com its only 10 a side so be quick. Following that on October 19 we have our Autumn tournament at Broadstone GC, this is our AGM day so we need good support. Once again contact Kev on the above email or phone 01590/622643.

Here at Barton we are still incredibly dry, I am being accused of always top dressing the greens on ladies day and watering one of our members who was on the course too early one morning. My excuse is my age, I can easily forget which day of the week it is and as for watering with the remote control with all those codes you have to put in its easy to get the wrong green! Anyway my wife tells me I am in a mid-life crisis as I keep looking at motorbikes!

Lastly, and on a very sad note Ian Noble, Course Manager at Moors Valley, has been made redundant after 23 years service. I'm sure that all of you that know him will join with me in wishing him well in whatever venture he chooses.

Tony Gadd



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all. Not much to report regarding events as this is our quiet time! We now have a full fixture list for the forthcoming 2010-2011 season of events. Fixture cards have been sponsored and printed courtesy of Martin Ward at Symbio. The first event for your diary will be our Golf Day and AGM at Stover Golf Club on Wednesday, October 6. The fixture cards will be sent out to all Devon and Cornwall members very soon. In the meantime, please check on forthcoming events via the events sections of the GI magazine and the BIGGA website.

Many thanks to Symbio for the sponsorship of these fixture cards.

Congratulations to Gavin Moore, from Launceston Golf Club who has earned himself a place in the national final of the Toro student of the year 2010. On behalf of the section I would like to wish Gavin every success in the finals at Aldwark Manor in September.

Steve Hasell, Cannington College Lecturer/Programme Manager, is to retire after 37 years. Steve will be a familiar face to most Greenkeepers throughout the South West and beyond. Anyone who has attended Cannington on a training course or as a student from NVQ to HE level courses would have been taught by Steve who specialised in Mechanisation.

Steve also spent many hours organising the Greenkeeping training as Programme Manager. Anyone who has met or been taught by Steve has known of his passion and enthusiasm for education and what a fantastic character he is, once met, never forgotten! I had the privilege of studying under and later working alongside Steve at Cannington and I would personally like to congratulate him on all he has done for Greenkeeping Education. If it wasn't for Steve, Greenkeeping courses may well have been lost at Cannington College! I know Steve would like to think he has had a positive impact on his past students and would like to thank them for being so attentive in Class (well mostly!) and wishes them all the best for their future. From the Section, we would like to wish Steve every happiness in his well-earned retirement.

Catch up with you all soon,
George Pitts



South West

What a great week that was, not sure that Paul Casey would agree, I'm not sure that Lee Westwood had the time of his life and I'm pretty sure that Tiger Woods was hoping for a little more... However, for the greenkeepers that were apart of the BIGGA Support team that really was a great week. Just recently I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 2010

Open at St Andrews.

This month I want to tell you about my time at The Open. Most people arrived on the Wednesday which was of course the main practice day, those that wanted to go and have a look around the Old Course, St Andrews could do so. This is when I realised that I was totally unprepared for the weather conditions in "sunny" Scotland, I still don't understand why I thought it was a good idea to leave my waterproofs behind! But anyway, I was walking around one of the greatest places in golfing history, I was not going to let the weather ruin this, just wished that some of the golfers were as brave. By the time we were ready to enjoy watching some of the big names play their practice round the weather changed all of this. However, I managed to find my way to the driving range, I was like a little kid in a candy shop, watching the pros "smash" balls for fun, however, I did have to laugh when I witnessed Sir Nick Faldo thin one!

That evening we had our pre event meeting and we were given our matches for the Thursday. My first group for the Thursday was with Todd Hamilton, the 2004 Champion. For me, this was rather a quiet morning, it wasn't until the 11th hole, a testing par 3 that I was called into action.

I had to wait to rake the bunker while the match putted out, by this time John Daly and his group were standing on the tee, no pressure I thought, I'll just have to hold him up, it's only the big John Daly and he only had a few thousand people watching...

As I had an early tee time, this meant I had most of the afternoon to kill, so returned to the driving range, this time it was even better, Tiger Woods turned up, I was stood about 10 metres away from him, watching him hit balls for about 30 minutes, and still not even sure he noticed me, probably because I'm not blonde with a nice cleavage.

Friday was the day play was delayed, I happened to be at the furthest point away from the clubhouse, which was not fun! I was grouped with an amateur on the Friday, he was playing really well, -1 thru 11 holes, looking like he may make the

cut, however, play restarted and he never looked like the same player and unfortunately started to drop shots. A real shame, I'm sure he will be back to play again one day.

The Saturday was rather uneventful, being paired with two Americans who didn't seem to care that we were even around and after raking four bunkers for one of the players... never mind, that's just the way some people are I guess.

The Sunday was the best day, this time I was with Ricky Fowler and Matt Kucher, two of golfers at their finest. Without being rude, I'd never heard of Ricky Fowler before, people reassured me that he was the next big thing and everyone in the US loved him. Dressed in all orange to represent his uni colours.

Watching him play was amazing, his ball striking was so pure, I don't even recall him missing a green on the front 9. I know that he didn't go in any bunkers all week.

I would like to thank everyone who attended The Open. Being with such a great bunch of people for the week was fantastic.

To more "real life" matters now then I guess. The South West Section Golf Management competition was recently played, sponsored by Scott's Turf Professional. Held at Marlborough GC, which I hear was in fantastic condition! The overall winners were Chipping Sodbury GC, scoring 86 points, well done JK. Second was Saltford GC with 81 points and third was Chippenham GC club with 78 points. Nearest the pin was won by M Horler and the longest drive went to Gwen Spear.

Thank you everyone who attended this event, I trust you all had a wonderful time.

Just another reminder guys that the South West Section has its own Facebook page. This was set up by Jamie Acton, and it is already becoming a big success. I encourage all of you that are on Facebook to check this out, and if you're not on Facebook, its time you logged on.

Hope to see you all very soon. As always keep in contact, it's great to hear from everyone one of you.

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

Assistant Profile

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

This is not the first time that 'Sheeno' has been featured in a magazine. This pool-playing poet once had a poem published! He also follows the Blue half of Glasgow...

Name: Stephen Sheehan
Age: 24
Club: East Kilbride
Position: Assistant
Nickname: Sheeno



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
Five and a half years.

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Like working outdoors.

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?
A car mechanic.

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting rough or raking bunkers on a summer's day.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Hollowcoring! Millions of cores feels like it's never going to end.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?
There should be a rule banning members from playing before 8am.

7. Hobbies? Pool, snooker, watching footy

8. Favourite Band? Kenny Rodgers

9. Which team do you support? Glasgow Rangers

10. What is your claim to fame?
Once had a poem published in a magazine.

South East Region



Kent

You know how it is. Sometimes things that seem implausible just happen.

There I was toiling away at Birchwood when a call came through inviting me to play in a Pro-Am for an Ernest Doe & Sons team at Sittingbourne Golf Club the following week! After several seconds of um-ing and ah-ing, and being brave enough to make a decision without consulting the wife, that was it. The day was in the diary and nothing was going to stop me. The lead up to the event should have been a heady mix of fine tuning, putting, pitching, driving and grovelling to the wife but before I knew it the day had arrived and none of the golfing practice side of things had materialised although several excursions with the Hoover had fortunately appeased the initial misgivings of the marital spouse.

Sittingbourne Golf Club was fantastic. Almost unbelievably green in the current 60 day plus drought, Dave Horne had presented the course brilliantly for the pros and the likes of me to enjoy. It goes without saying that my golf didn't live up to expectations or do the course any justice but, I'm pleased to say, our team came second overall so thanks to my playing partners, Tom Smith, Colne Valley, and Andy Turbin, of Ernest Doe. Less said about our pro the better.

Many thanks to Ernest Doe & Sons for the invitation.

Of course, this event should have stood me in good stead for our latest Kent Greenkeepers' event at Herne Bay Golf Club. The latest in our epic annual tour of the magnificent county in which we are proud to live. I have to say that one of the abiding memories of going to Herne Bay was the welcome we received from the golf club. They were extremely courteous hosts and, obviously with Phil Hirst, John Fullager, Steve Ellis and Sam Brearly presenting to the course to its optimum level, I would like to thank them for all the efforts they made for us on the day.

The course played deceptively

difficult despite a fairly innocuous appearance. After opening with a good par my round fell away rapidly as I (again) got caught up enjoying the company of my group too much to worry about the golf. Thanks to Barry Bradshaw, Mark Roach and Pete Leeves for making the round so enjoyable and to Steve Vogels, from John Shaw Machinery, for bravely winning a (hopefully substantial) bet by wearing the comedy shorts on the day.

Local knowledge proved to be key (not surprising bearing in my mind some of the pin positions) and the results were as follows: 1. Phil Hirst 33 pts; 2 and 3 were the Dynamic Duo from North Foreland of Adam White and Lee Company.

Trade prize was won very deservedly by Pete Leeves and his magic putter.

By the time you lot read this, the next event will be only days away at the superb venue that is King's Hill Golf Club. We really have been very lucky this year to play so many great courses and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us on September 15. It goes without saying that we need confirmation of numbers a week prior to the event so please call me to let me know if you're coming. Guests welcome too.

Prior to that, I'm off on my holidays to Egypt where I'm hoping the sun will constantly shine while we get the rain we so desperately need at home.

Take care one and all
Best of British
Rob Holland
kentgreenkeepers.com
07843 410755



Surrey

Monday August 2, was my birthday and I can now sing that old Beatles song, 'When I get older, losing my hair' etc. Chris Rudkin, my new near neighbour, although still hairy is also qualified to sing and remember with me that tune, recorded many years ago, when 64 to us seemed very old indeed. Now 64 feels comfortable and I feel no older than when I started calling on you some 20 years ago.

Enough of this reminiscing - I

should not keep remembering the past, but look forward to the future and my holiday in Guernsey later this month. News of this will feature heavily in October's edition.

Epsom GC, managed by our new Dad, Mark Harvey, has been the scene of two mishaps recently. Unable to expedite the departure of a visiting Worthing representative, (no names of course), by conventional means, Mark finally persuaded him to leave by reversing his pick-up into the said representative's new car. An accident, some would say, but I have heard that it has been contemplated at other clubs in Surrey.

The second mishap was the complete demolition of Mark's irrigation water storage tank, by forces unknown. Surely the damage to a new car and the destruction of an old water tank in the same month must be a complete co-incidence.

Jaws, be afraid and very careful, for Les 'the fly' Coombes, Windlesham GC, is fly-casting the waters of Avington for the whopper trout that weighs over 20lbs. His best so far is 13.5lbs. Any trout that Les captures at 20lbs or above is not to be fried, baked or smoked but will be despatched to the taxidermist to be stuffed, mounted and then displayed in the comfort of Chateau Coombes along with Les' other antiquities and objets d'art.

Surrey bandits raided Sussex Section at Haywards Heath GC, on August 5, and successfully picked up second prize in a three-man team event. Yours truly, Anthony 'Tel' Freeman and Tony 'Lars' Bremer narrowly escaped incarceration and flogging before fleeing back to their Surrey homeland. Thanks to Peter Ray and his team for a course that was very enjoyable to play and because of some recent rain was showing signs of the normal green, green grass of home.

Addington Palace GC hosted a Suppliers' Day, on July 28, and the above team + an old Surrey member, Douglas Iolanthe Fernie played with all our usual endeavour to come nowhere. Despite our disappointment, we realised that the course, although dry, had excellent and fast greens, all due no doubt to the instructions left by the on holiday Course Manager, Ronnie Christie.

When Enid Blyton wrote the

Famous Five books, her characters didn't ride powerful motorcycles along country roads but sailed quietly in boats to secret islands and all returned safely to their mummies and daddies. Unlike them Surrey Section's Infamous Five, Jim, Terry, Anthony, John and Paul went to see bike racing at Silverstone but only three arrived. Terry went to hospital, having broken his arm and Jim had to go home in a recovery vehicle, having hit Paul's bike when Paul had stopped to help Terry.

The moral of this story is keep your distance and exchange your two wheeled conveyance for an armour-plated Land Rover. It may not be as much fun but you will always go home safely, like the Famous Five, to your mummies and daddies.

My last paragraph is to congratulate Lingfield Park GC, Lingfield Park racecourse, Marriott Hotels and sponsors Vines BMW on creating an exciting venue for an activity holiday and week-end break for those who enjoy golf, horse racing and hotel luxury.

Brian Willmott



Essex

May I firstly on behalf of the Essex Section, pass on our condolences to Neil Peachey. Our thoughts are with you.

Ian Wood reported on the match held earlier in the month when the Greenkeepers played the Essex Captains, at Romford. Unfortunately the Captains won the day, beating the Greenkeepers by 16½ to 6½. We lost again! That's at least 10 years - we'll have to arrange more BIGGA days to get some practice in!

Winning Captain - Steve Range, from Hartswood. Winning Greenkeeper - Stewart Rogers from Orsett. Both scored a very creditable 41 points.

Ian partnered Ian Denny and beat Ian Seymour, Romford Captain, and Ian Timpson, Essex Captain Society Captain, from Royal Epping. (A four times 'Ian' football - they had all the jokes.)

Craig Campbell, from Romford, partnered Jon Selwood and they beat two Past Romford Captains, Steve Baker and Brian Baker.

The Tuckwell Golf Team Championship was held at Bentley Golf Club; Tuesday, July 20 a warm day greeted the 26 three man teams that took part, with a greenkeeper and two club officials making up the team. First place went to Romford Golf Club with 57 points for the Texas Scramble format. With a tenth of the combined.

Ian Wood's 25 handicap with his team mates 3 & 4 giving a combined 32 and with just three shots to play with the end result was a great score.

I understand they had three eagles in their round. James Tuckwell thanked Bentley Golf Club and Mark Stopps and his team for a fine day and the compliments about the courses' condition flowed.

We were very sorry that Neil could not be with us on such a great day, he was greatly missed. Robbie assisted James in the running of the day and we all enjoyed the fine hospitality that we were given. Our thanks once more to, P. Tuckwell Ltd and Bentley Golf Club.

I spent five very happy days up at the Open Golf Championship's in St Andrews with the

BIGGA Open Support team. I thoroughly enjoying the experience, meeting up with old friends and learning one or two things to boot, the camaraderie and friendship is something I will never forget, thank you to all those that made it such a worthwhile trip. What a course! If you ever get the opportunity to play or walk the course, grab it with both hands, it really is the true test of golf.

The knockout competition is down to the semi-finals stage and we will have a new winning team this year, with the overall winner's prize a trip to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse.

Next month I will have the results of our golf day at Boyce Hill Golf Club for you, plus some other information from the Section.

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

September already and it is noticeable how the nights are beginning to pull in with the start of Autumn just around the corner. A depressing thought and with this year's New Year resolutions now a distant memory there is not enough time left in 2010 to make up for lost time. I wonder how many of you have managed to fulfil your own ambitions in these very testing times.

As you will read in the Chairman's Column, BIGGA attended a meeting at the NEC to discuss the future of trade shows in response to pressure from a number of companies. There is no doubt that exhibitions in general are not as strong as they used to be and both the IOG and ourselves need to look at how we can evolve and adapt to suit a changing market place. A further meeting has been scheduled and we will keep members updated on a regular basis.

The Continue to Learn brochure, that outlines the education programme at Harrogate Week, next January, will be released at the start of next month and I hope that as many of you as possible, take advantage of the opportunities on offer. It is equally important that clubs recognise the value of Continuing Professional Development and encourage their staff to participate in Harrogate Week, in the quest to improve the standard of both their own performance, as well as that of their team. I am hoping that by working more closely with some of the other major bodies in golf that this message can be delivered to golf club owners and committees with greater conviction, better success and that participation in the event will be understood to be a must.

Times are difficult and I don't think we are anywhere near being through the worst of the economic struggle. However, I never fail to be amazed at the actions of some clubs. The golf course must unquestionably be the club's most valuable asset and yet we so often see greenkeeping staff being the first resource that is targeted in a budget cut. More worryingly, the victims of cuts are sometimes the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, mainly because they tend to be the higher paid members of staff, and yet it is they who have the greatest skills, the very skills needed to give the club that competitive edge.

Perhaps it is time that BIGGA, the GCMA, the Home Unions and the PGA got together to create some form of business advisory service to ailing clubs. Now there's a thought!

BIGGA will be exhibiting at SALTEX and a warm welcome awaits you on our stand. We will also be pleased to welcome non-members and talk to them about the work that we do and the benefits of being a member.

BIGGA is working closer and closer with the IOG and so please support their event if you can. It is however paramount that Harrogate Week 2011 is a success - the success of the Association and the success of your future membership depends upon it. Many companies are still sat on the fence and have not committed to exhibiting because they do not feel that the membership is supportive enough of their Association's key event.

Tell them they are wrong. Prove to them that they are wrong!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

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Visit www.bigga.org.uk/events to view the list in full



Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
SEPTEMBER			
Thursday Sep 2nd	West Scotland Section	Helensburgh Golf Club	Gavin Jarvis at jarvisgav@aol.com or 07725 363715
Monday Sep 13th	Sheffield Section	Silkstone Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Wednesday Sep 15th	Kent Section	TBA	Rob Holland at grassyars@hotmail.com or 07843 410755
Thursday Sep 16th	North Scotland Section	Huntley Golf Club	Dale Robertson at daleturnberry@aol.com or 07711 274525
Wednesday Sep 22nd	East of England Section	Lincoln Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922
Thursday Sep 23rd	East Scotland Section	Liberton Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or 07961 630553
Tuesday Sep 28th	Sussex Section	Cophorne Golf Club	Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573
Thursday Sep 30th	Ayrshire Scotland Section	TBA	Derek Wilson at derwlsn@aol.com or 07770 734360
Thursday Sep 30th	North Wales Section	Mold Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 07876 776265
OCTOBER			
Friday October 1st – Sunday October 3rd	The 2010 Ryder Cup	Celtic Manor Resort	http://www.rydercup.com/2010/
Monday October 4th – Tuesday October 5th	BIGGA National Championship	The Berkshire Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 01347 833800 or Sandra@bigga.co.uk
Wednesday Oct 6th	North East Section Event	Gosforth Golf Club	James Richardson at jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com or 07500 528542
Monday Oct 11th	North West Section Autumn Tournament	Bolton Old Links Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604
Wednesday Oct 13th	East Anglia Section	Saffron Waldon Golf Club	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or 07929 205398
Thursday Oct 14th	East of England Section	Louth Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 569158
Tuesday Oct 19th	South Coast Section Autumn Event and AGM	Broadstone Golf Club	Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633
Wednesday Oct 20th	East Midlands Section Event and AGM	Hinckley Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
NOVEMBER			
Wednesday Nov 3rd – Thursday 4th	IoG Scotsturf	Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh	http://www.scotsturf.com/
Wednesday Nov 3rd	BB&O Autumn Section	Deanwood Park Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158
Monday Nov 29th	Sheffield Section	Lindrick Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
DECEMBER			
Wednesday December 1st	North Wales Section Event and AGM	Mile End Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 07876 776265
Thursday December 2nd	North West Section AGM & Bert Cross Trophy	Wilmslow Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Are you stepping up into a Supervisory or Management type role?

There comes a time in everyone's career when "management" becomes necessary. No matter what anybody tells you there is no magic recipe for managing for the first time.

Why not prepare yourself now for what may be an eventual transition into a supervisory or managerial role, for many this is a natural progression, especially as we grow older. As a member of BIGGA you can now gain access to a range of "How To..." Guides which outline many Human Resource topics.

Which Management Skills Are Important - When?

A common question asked is do supervisors, middle managers and executives need the same leadership and management skills? Well the answer is yes and no!

A useful way to analyse this is to consider a team sports analogy. A successful football team performs as a single unit, with the efforts of individual players blending seamlessly together. With this level of teamwork, the defender can kick a ball into a spot and "know" that his favourite mid-fielder will be in the precise spot - at the exact moment - to collect the pass. Obviously, while this level of teamwork requires a great deal of natural ability, the players must also clearly understand their own roles and the roles of their team mates and how they all fit together.

Not only must each player understand their specialised role, they must also recognise that they need to undertake certain tasks, no matter what position they play, to help the team succeed. A manager needs to understand how various team roles fit together. Management is a team sport that makes similar demands on its players. It is important for a Course Manager to understand how their job fits into the organisational levels and functions of a golf club and to appreciate other managers' contributions.

"How To..." Guides - To help understand and aid performance within your team

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 on the unit has their own performance goals. It shows progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

instep

BIGGA now offer members the opportunity to obtain these short, handy guides providing step-by-step assistance on a range of subjects to help to understand team roles.

For example, if you would like to set your team goals as part of the overall strategy for your golf club or sports ground, download the 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals' document. Or if you want some advice on holding team briefings then download the 'How to Conduct Team Briefings'.

There are 19 of these guides to help you develop your knowledge and even implement new processes within your workplace. Go and have a look at the other 17 and see which ones can help you, visit www.bigga.org.uk log in to the Members Area and click on 'Member Resources' from the options on the left hand side and topping the list are the guides.

These guides are FREE and accessible to ALL members of BIGGA.

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

Don't forget to tell us your name and membership number.



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South West & Wales

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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

www.bigga.org.uk

Scotland

Stuart Kelly, East
Calvin Cooper, East
Craig Paterson, West
Stuart Leek, West

Northern Region

Antony Hunt, North East
Michael Kelly, North East
Scott Reeves, North West
Philip Iball, North West
Jason Shuker, North West

Midland Region

Stephen Green, Berks/B&O
Paul Longman, Berks/B&O
Justin Sugg, Berks/B&O
Michael Luff, East Midland
Andy Bourne, East Midland
Jack Mayfield, East Midland
Ben Lowery, East of England
Tom Kennedy, Mid Anglia
Oliver Brown, Mid Anglia
Luke Dennis, Midland
Lyndon Day, Midland
Steven Connolly, Midland
Simon Whiteley, Midland
Callum Roberts, Midland

South East Region

Andrew Sheldon, Kent
Ryan Church, London
Stuart Porter, London
Jimmy Butler, Surrey
Gary Weston, Surrey
Daniel Saunders, Sussex
Richard Worsfold, Sussex
Sam Fuller, Sussex

S West/S Wales Region

Brian Stevens,
Devon & Cornwall
Mark Blake, South Coast
Mathew Darby, South West

Overseas

Mathias Lundgren, Sweden

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	To be announced	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>





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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.

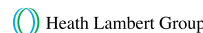
In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams where they work together more as a team than as individuals). For some it is more appropriate to agree individual goals (see 'How to Develop an Appraisal System', and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

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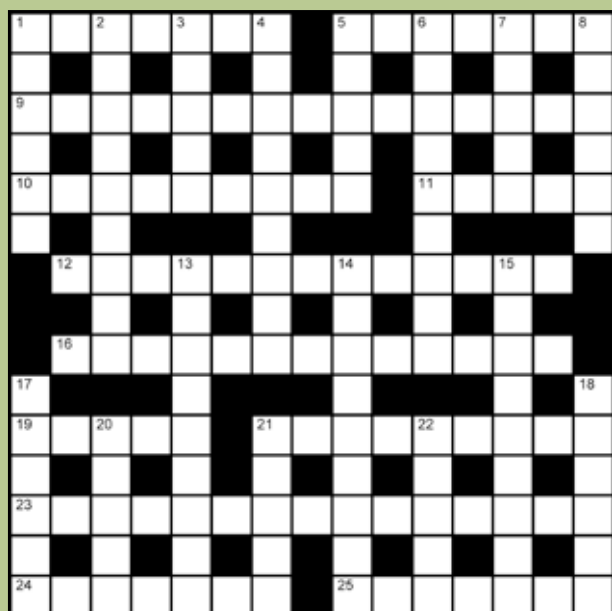




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 A place name (7)
- 5 A type of citrus beverage (7)
- 9 1996 book by Hillary Rodham Clinton (2,5,1,7)
- 10 A daily feature attempted by all the best people! (9)
- 11 "The Wild ____" - 1978 film starring Richard Burton (5)
- 12 INFANT HAS HELP (anag) (5,2,3,3)
- 16 Self-contained bomb launched from a ship or aircraft (6,7)
- 19 The building block of a digital picture (5)
- 21 Composer played by Gary Oldman in 1994's Immortal Beloved (9)
- 23 1952 musical famously parodied by Morecambe & Wise (6,2,3,4)
- 24 Transmitters of messages (7)
- 25 Doubt or mistrust (7)

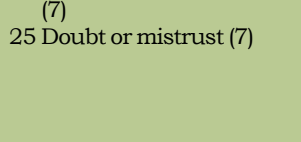
Down

- 1 A small, involuntary movement (6)
- 2 Low quality novel written with the primary intention of making money (9)
- 3 Colloquial term for "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" (5)
- 4 Inhabitant of Russia's largest city (9)
- 5 Extremely angry (5)
- 6 Those with an evil or wicked disposition (9)
- 7 To hurt or humiliate (5)
- 8 A grommet (6)
- 13 Type of painting, typically of fruit (5,4)
- 14 Loos in France (9)
- 15 Make easier to endure (9)
- 17 Large involuntary movements (6)
- 18 Disentangle (6)
- 20 Gaseous element, atomic number 54, discovered by Sir William Ramsay (5)
- 21 Supreme happiness (5)
- 22 Pays attention (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

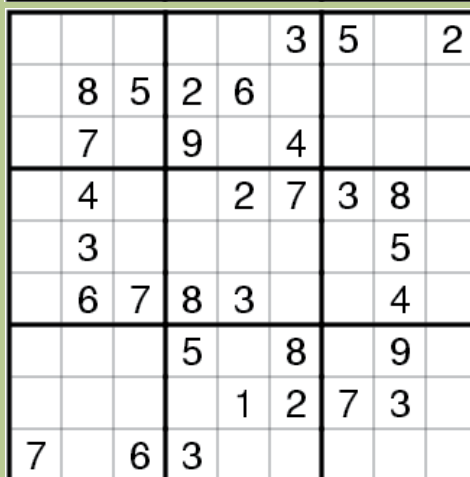
How well do you know the Ryder Cup?

1. In which town did Samuel Ryder make his living as a seed merchant?
2. Who memorably defeated Jack Nicklaus twice in Ryder Cup singles in the same day?
3. In which year did Europe take over from GB&I as USA's rivals?
4. Seve Ballesteros was one of the two Continental Europeans in that team. Who was the other?
5. When Bernhard Langer missed his 18th green putt to share the 1991 Ryder Cup who was he playing?
6. Who are Europe's and the USA's all time leading points scorers?
7. What colour jumper was Sam Torrance wearing when he sealed victory for Europe on the 18th hole of The Belfry in 1985?
8. Monty has played singles eight times and never lost winning six and halving two. He has played two Americans twice in that time. Who are they?
9. Jack Nicklaus famously refused to make Tony Jacklin hole a putt to share the 1969 Ryder Cup. Where did the match take place?



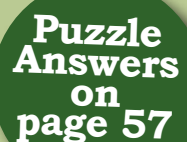
MONSTER SUDOKU

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.



BUYERS' GUIDE



Lindum Turf

Lindum Turf under Managing Director, Stephen Fell, has been growing turf since 1984. Based at Thorganby in the Vale of York, the stone free sandy loam soils are ideal for growing turf to a very high standard.

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Greens turf can be supplied grown on a USGA rootzone or as a washed turf. The washing of turf and its subsequent management is a technique which Lindum developed and successfully established – amidst much scepticism – 15 years ago. Three grades of tees and fairway turf are grown, and recently LT2 Low Maintenance Turf was added to provide a fine fescue type grade which is slow growing with reduced requirements for water and nutrients and can be mown down to 5mm.

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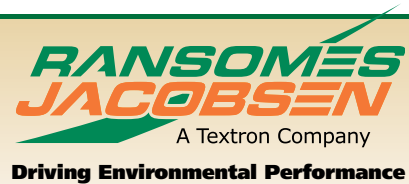
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in the shed answers

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2. Brian Barnes, Laurel Valley, 1975
3. 1979
4. Antonio Garrido
5. Hale Irwin
6. Nick Faldo (23 wins 4 halves) Billy Casper (20 wins and 7 halves)
7. Red
8. David Toms and Scott Hoch
9. Royal Birkdale

CROSSWORD

T	O	P	O	N	Y	M	L	I	M	E	A	D	E	
W	O	U	U	I	A	B	Y							
I	T	T	A	K	E	S	A	V	I	L	L	A	G	E
T	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	G	E	E	S	E
H	I	V	N	T										
	F	L	A	S	H	I	N	T	H	E	P	A	N	
	E	T	T	O	R	L								
	C	R	U	I	S	E	M	I	S	S	I	L	E	
S	L	L	E	U										
P	I	X	E	L	B	E	E	T	H	O	V	E	N	
A	E	L	L	T	E	R	I	K						
S	I	N	G	I	N	I	N	T	H	E	R	A	I	N
M	O	F	S	E	D	T	O							
S	E	N	D	E	R	S	S	U	S	P	E	C	T	

MONSTER SUDOKO

2	9	A	1	B	3	5	6	8	4	C	7
5	6	B	C	8	9	4	7	1	2	A	3
3	8	4	7	2	C	1	A	9	6	B	5
8	A	5	4	6	B	3	9	2	1	7	C
9	C	3	2	1	7	8	4	5	B	6	A
7	1	6	B	C	A	2	5	3	8	4	9
6	B	9	3	5	1	A	2	7	C	8	4
4	7	C	8	9	6	B	3	A	5	2	1
A	2	1	5	7	4	C	8	6	3	9	B
C	4	2	6	A	5	9	1	B	7	3	8
B	5	8	9	3	2	7	C	4	A	1	6
1	3	7	A	4	8	6	B	C	9	5	2

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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



On the Soapbox

Pete Smith, Course Manager of Cavendish Golf Club, in Derbyshire, takes to the Soapbox to share his thoughts

“Scott here”, read the email, “need some help. You always said you fancied doing a soapbox piece, you’ve always got an opinion!”

Now my time has come, I am not sure I want my thoughts broadcast, and what would I write about that has not been said already by my peers and colleagues alike? Here goes!

Thought 1. I love this job!

Like many I somewhat fell into greenkeeping, but what a job to fall into, If you like unpredictability, constant challenges and working in the elements! Do you like it? Yes, we all moan, the weather never does what we want it too, the members never understand, the committee won't give us what we want! But are these not the challenges that bring us back every day? Not knowing what the weather will do, having to educate the members as to the challenges we face and why we do the things that we do, convincing the committee that we do need that machine?

Is all this not worth it for those perfect days, when YOU KNOW the course is at its best, the weather is good and you can sit back from that view point on the course and think...me and my team are responsible for this! What a job to have!

Thought 2. Education.

The unsung heroes! The mere word Master Greenkeeper, stirs emotions in some, but what exactly does it entail, and is it the highest honour? Nights of research and reading, a dedication beyond all others, or merely an award to raise self esteem and pride? Does the title MG mean anything to me? For those that were prepared to study and further themselves I have only admiration, I withdrew from the process as I was not prepared to study to the detriment of my spare time with the family, but my real thoughts are to those unsung heroes, they are the ones that are at the top of this profession, they deserve the highest accolade for their influence on many.

Anyone who is prepared to train, motivate, influence and guide others to better themselves deserves far more recognition than the letters MG can ever carry. I was lucky enough to start out at East Sussex National, during construction through to the second European Open, during that eight years I was influenced by many good

greenkeepers either positively or negatively, all under the stewardship of the two Kens - Siems, and then, Barber.

In that time out of all the full time staff, I can count over a dozen of us that have gone on to become successful Course Managers, and that figure does not include the students who came to us.

To me it is people like the two Kens who are at the top of this profession, at the time they were prepared to take on new challenges and push new boundaries, and by doing so they inspired and influenced a generation of greenkeepers.

Thought 3. Get off my land!

Sometimes I feel that too many of my colleagues have the, “Get off my land!” mentality. Yes we are custodians of the land, and charged to look after it, but we should remember we are in a public service industry. It is our job to prepare the course for play, to a standard that our members have

requested or desire, and not to a standard that we decide is best for them!

Thought 4. It's the end result that matters!

Push up greens, USGA greens, organics, compounds, feed and water, dry and lean, 2mm or 6mm, micro biology or just kick the dirt and think it looks ok? Even in my time there have been so many versions of doing the same job, whether you agree with what the person at the course down the road is doing or not, are their members happy? If they are then does it matter how they gets results?

I know what you are thinking, yes it does matter if it is not sustainable, but let them find that out, let that course realise it was never sustainable - you can never turn a blind horse! His time will pass; we should concentrate on getting our houses in order and making sure our end results are as good as our members require.

Whatever we feel our limitations may be, there is always a way forward, sometimes we have to look at others for inspiration,

maybe, just maybe, that person we have been scolding for not pursuing the ideal will be right, maybe they have been brave enough to push the boundaries, just maybe they might be your inspiration!

Final Thought. I feel the first knife!

I can see it now, “Thanks Scott, I wish I had never done it, I’m an outcast!” But that’s why I love this industry, we all have different thoughts, different sites that bring different soil and weather, we have different requirements from users of our courses, and different views on how we present our courses.

We have a freedom to try new techniques of maintenance and presentation, we work with nature, and can influence our little piece off the planet, we have the ability to look and gain ideas from other courses, there is no black and white in this industry, only green, and how we get green is down to us, so long as its green, I love this job!

First thought? *I love this job*



Pete Smith, Course Manager of Cavendish Golf Club, in Derbyshire

Pete Smith

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