

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 APRIL 2011

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NOT SO COMMON

Hankley Common GC is the venue
of this month's Golf Course Feature

CANDID IN CAMERA

An article by an anonymous writer

Picture perfection

Professional golf course photographer, Eric
Hepworth, offers some advice ahead of the
2011 BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition



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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



The world caved in on them...

There are many times when we feel that the weight of the world resting very firmly on our shoulders and, to be honest, there are days when, quite frankly, we just feel down.

We could be worried about the onset of disease on the golf course, or a member complaining about an overflowing litter bin, or in my case, an impending magazine deadline or it could be something at home, not work related.

But it's when you think about the people in Northern Japan, that it gives us a proper perspective on life. There, they were going about their business, some of them possibly even believing like us that the weight of the world was resting on their shoulders, when that world caved in on them.

The earthquake, which was the catalyst for a horrific series of events, was a massive 9 on the Richter Scale, the largest since records began. The tsunami which followed half an hour later created devastation that would cast doubt on the believability of any disaster movie plot. The television footage of the flood water sweeping away entire buildings, and gathering cars as though they were made by Corgi or Dinky and not Nissan or Toyota, was jaw dropping and it is impossible to imagine the despair of those unfortunate people who have been caught up in it.

Then, on top of it all, and as if there wasn't enough to deal with, there is the nuclear power station time bomb.

Those brave people who, as I write, are working tirelessly to avoid catastrophic meltdown are putting their own lives at risk and some will be doing so while at the same time in mourning for members of their own families.

With some many towns and villages totally wiped out, "Where to start?" must be the question for those charged with rebuilding, and attempting to bring back some degree of new normality to broken lives.

We can only wish them all well as work begins and offer up support, moral or financial, if it is requested.

What is going on in Japan doesn't take away from the troubles and issues we are dealing with back here but appreciating the suffering of the Japanese puts into context a little bit of Fusarium and a looming deadline.

With April upon us we can well and truly say that the new golfing season is here and what a season it should be. No-one is dominating the game at the moment and every tournament and Major could be won by any one of a huge number of players. In other words, for the first time in over a decade Tiger, on current form, is unlikely to be the favourite in any of the tournaments he enters and I would be very surprised if the Majors were not won by four different players.

With The Masters kicking it all off I have a sneaking suspicion for Bubba Watson so, whatever you do, avoid the eccentric left hander like the plague when you are making your selections at the bookies.

With my lamentable prediction record you'd no doubt be wiser investing your money in a Tiger Slam for 2011!

Scott MacCallum
Editor

APRIL 2011

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Compiled by Jim Cook.



Not so common

That it is called Hankley Common Golf Club is a bit of a misnomer. It is one of the finest examples of a heathland course in the country, and Scott MacCallum discovers, as a golf course, it is anything but common

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Cover photography shows Ballyunion Golf Club as taken by Eric Hepworth



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

Icelandic President Opens FEGGA Conference

The President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, opened the recently held FEGGA Conference.

It was very refreshing to hear the President talking about golf and nature working together and how it is important to Iceland. He also spoke about golf being for everyone and the fact that 10% of the population are now playing on a regular basis and up to half of them playing some five times per week. He also spoke about the recently signed agreement with the Icelandic Golf Association, where all 65 golf courses have signed up to the first stage of GEO certification.

Edwin Roald, Golf Course Architect, commented: "The number of affiliated golfers in Iceland is still growing despite the economic downturn that has had a significant effect on the disposable income and purchasing power. This makes Iceland one of relatively few exceptions to the rule that participation in golf is generally decreasing."

The Conference was attended by over 20 Greenkeeper Associations and 40 organisations coming from over 20 countries globally.

This year's Conference also hosted the International Summit, an event that was established in 1990 and attended by Greenkeeper Associations annually to discuss the prominent current issues facing golf and the golf related business of managing golf courses world-wide.

The Conference and Summit concentrated on a variety of core subjects that fall high on the list of industry challenges that golf and the golf industry is facing today. The whole Conference was geared up to be very interactive, the result being to produce a range of information that will help and support Greenkeepers Associations and the 20 other organisations that were also present at this special event.

*Dean Cleaver,
FEGGA Executive Officer*



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Bunker Solution is a three-part liner that answers many of the commonly occurring bunker problems. The three parts are the mat, anchor and drain liner. It provides "grip" for sand in the bottom bunkers and on bunker faces.

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The engineered mat costs around £14 per square metre, while the lip and drainage liners are sold by the linear foot.

For further information www.bunkersolution.co.uk



LETTER FROM AMERICA

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Rae and Wilson Morrison, from Fairways GM, for a very kind invitation over to the States for the American Golf Industry Show and a look round the Ransomes Jacobson Factory in Charlotte.

"I was joined on the trip by Kenny Harper, of Meldrum House Golf Club; Robert O'Donnell, from Oldmeldrum Golf Club, and Muir Ross, from Ballindalloch Golf Club. We were looked after extremely well by Wilson and nothing was too much bother for him. Everything was organised for us and the trip ran very smoothly. We were also joined by Gerry Bruen, from Williamwood Golf Club, and Garry Ross, from Troon Golf Club, and also Gareth Rogers, also from Fairways GM, so thanks go to them for their friendship and great company.

"I am sure I speak for everyone when I say thanks very much again for a fantastic time in America."

Dale Robertson
Newmachar GC

Souters Complete Swedish Project

More than half a million people play golf regularly in Sweden. The country may not be blessed with an ideal golfing climate, but it is one of the game's rising stars.

The prowess of Sweden's top professionals is more than matched by its technology, especially in the provision of training: witness the new Halmstad Golf Arena, with its all year round facilities. Last April work began and handover is due later this year.

What is pleasing to the British golf course industry is that one of our major sports turf contractors, Souters Sports, and its irrigation division, Souters Irrigation Services Ltd, has played a major part in its development alongside main contractor Irish-based SOL.

What makes the Arena unique is that golfers will be able to play each green from different positions and there are ten different angles for tee-off positions.

Project Architect, Christian Lundin, said that the idea was to create a links character for the state of the art training complex, and he was very much inspired by Scottish courses.

Cumbernauld and Knutsford based Souters Sports has worked successfully on many a Scottish course so its involvement in the Halmstad project was entirely appropriate.

The focal point of the 17 hectare site is a 365-metre range flanked by grass tees.

Surrounding the range is a short game area where golfers

can hit balls up to 140 metres. In the centre is a 2170 square metre green.

There is also a practice hole with four greens and nine tees.

A sports academy building includes high tech swing studios, and adjacent to this are a 1579 square metre putting green and a 1950 square metre chipping green with bunkers to suit all levels of ability.

Some of the greens have under soil heating, and teeing areas are sheltered and heated.

It was apt that Souter's 10th anniversary year was marked by its first European venture.

For further information, visit www.soutersports.co.uk or visit the Halmstad Golf Arena's website: www.halmstadgolfarena.se

PlantProtection goes Live with Latest Pesticide News

The UK Pesticide Guide's database has now been updated and uploaded to plantprotection.co.uk ready for the coming spray season. With so many changes taking place to pesticide legislation and product availability, a resource that helps you with your product selection, at such a busy time of year, has got to be a must.

Important changes that are now included on PlantProtection include the addition of new products: SPITFIRE from Dow; IGNITE, an

EC formulation of epoxiconazole from BASF, and INTRUDER, a new chlorpropham product from Agrichem BV.

Two products SCALA and INVADER, both from BASF, have new MAPP numbers and additional crop recommendations and a further 42 new SOLAs have also been entered.





Wild Flowers

British Seed Houses has produced a new wild flower mixture which is as attractive to the eye as it is to the multitude of wildlife for which it will provide a habitat. WF17 is set to change the misconceptions that have grown up around these mixtures.

Wild flower areas are a popular choice for all types of developments – from new roads to hotels and shopping centres.

Yet developers are frequently disappointed with their choice, seeing the

area deteriorate into a dull weedy mess.

“Architects often imagine a wild flower meadow to be like a herbaceous border,” says British Seed Houses’ Richard Brown, “yet the reality is that many native wild flower species are unspectacular to look at and that it can take a year or two to get a full display.”

British Seed Houses has sought to tackle this issue with WF17.

For further information visit: www.britishseedhouses.com

AMENITY FORUM EXPRESSES CONCERNS

The Amenity Forum has written to the DEFRA Secretary of State and other Government Ministers. It has expressed concerns about comments being made recently and emerging from discussions within Government departments.

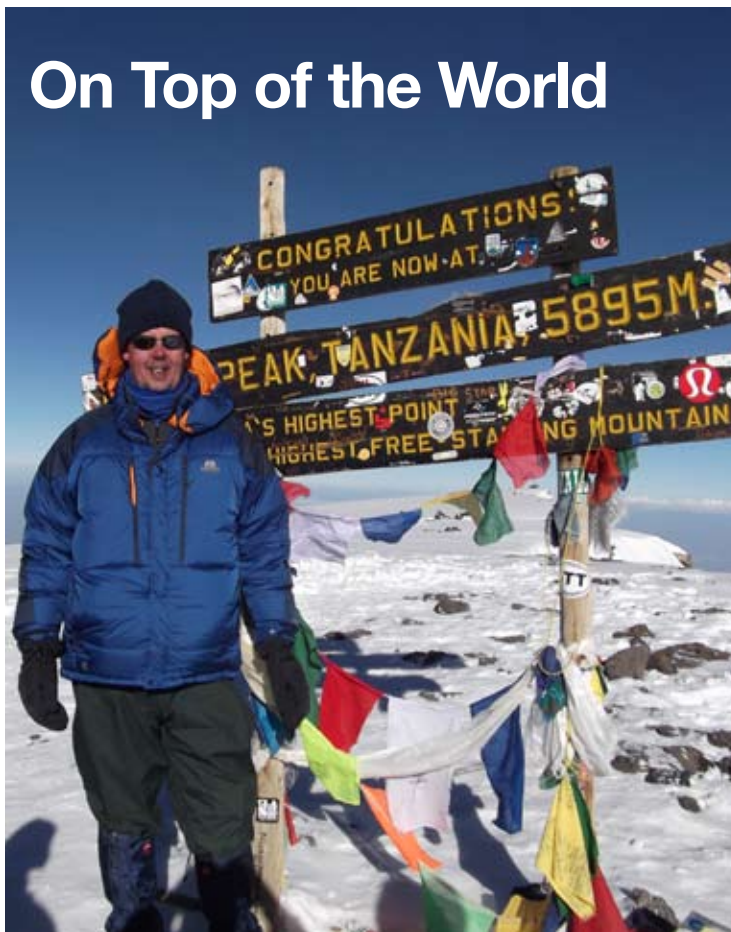
These relate to the implementation into law of the EU Sustainable Use Directive. The concern is that current controls on the use and distribution of pesticides may not be maintained but reduced.

The Forum recognises the Government’s wish not to unduly add to requirements in the Directive unless absolutely necessary but, if the current text of the Directive was just transposed into UK law, it believes that the changes would undermine the status of current professional standards on user and adviser certification.

The wording of the Directive states that Member States would be required to provide access to training, rather than stating that all sprayer operators and advisers must be trained and certificated by law.

The Chairman of the Amenity Forum, John Moverley said, “In considering the consultation on the changes last year, we had always believed that the Directive sought to reinforce controls on the use and distribution of pesticides, rather than weaken them. We urge the Government for a continuation of the UK’s current statutory requirement for certification of sprayer operators and an extension of this requirement to all advisers, as well as provisions for ongoing training and professional development.”

On Top of the World



Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common GC, celebrated his impending 50th birthday by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Having agreed to make the climb over a few pints with three friends early in 2010 they reached the summit after eight days and 100km of hard walking and climbing on February 18.

It was the culmination of a year of fund raising by the four for local

charity, Help Autistic Children, which saw its coffers increased by over £50,000.

Together they have raised over £100,000 in 10 years of fund raising through a series of golf days and dinners.

“It was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone although you do need to be fit to do it,” said Gareth.

“For my 60th I’m going to be a bit more sensible!”





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Is OPM Spreading out of Control?

Over 40 of the country's senior tree officers attended an OPM Briefing at the head office of tree care firm, Gristwood & Toms, to discuss the scale of the problem.

The Oak Processionary Moth is already spreading in London and has been detected further afield in Reading and as far north as Sheffield.

Following its rapid spread across parts of Europe, it poses a serious threat to the health of the nation although it is virtually impossible to tell how prevalent it is likely to become.

The problem with the Oak Processionary Moth is that during certain stages of its development, minute toxic hairs become airborne and fall around the base of the oak trees in which it nests. These invisible urticating hairs are also spread by wind and

affect wider areas. In parts of Northern Europe, where it is prevalent, communities regularly suffer with respiratory problems, vomiting, dizziness, fever, eye and skin irritation throughout the summer months.

The Government announced last week that it is no longer seeking to eradicate the pest and will adopt a policy of containment.

They have stated that any action to manage the issue will be left to Local Authorities and tree owners.

The Forestry Commission has confirmed that it will no longer issue Statutory Notices requiring the owners of trees within the core outbreak zone to have the nests and caterpillars removed from their trees on the grounds of tree health.

Photographs courtesy of Gristwood & Toms

SOUTH EAST REGION DINNER

Members and guests enjoyed some good weather at Walton Heath, although it was slightly chilly for the early starters after an overnight frost.

Competitors once on the Course were warmed up and replenished with refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson, of Sherriff Amenity, out on the 10th hole.

Everybody who played was very appreciative of the presentation and condition of the course after the long and very severe at times, winter.

It was very evident that Ian McMillan and his team had been really busy with some good work on both the Courses over the past year.

Once again the Ray Day Memorial Trophy was won by a member from Addington Palace Golf Club. It was the turn of Jason Hunt this year, playing some great golf to get round the New Course with a gross score of 69.

Following an excellent meal we were entertained by the popular guest speaker, Russ Williams, a former Comedian of the Year.

Matt Plested thanked the host Club for, as always, their fantastic hospitality and for making us so welcome on the day.

The evening was concluded with the Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, Robert Dyson, presenting the prizes to the many different category winning competitors.

Next year's event will take place on Friday, March 9.

The South East Region of BIGGA is most grateful to the following companies for their most generous sponsorship and help with this event:-

Avoncrop Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW; Ernest Doe & Sons; Grass Roots Trading Co; JSM; P Tuckwell; Rigby Taylor; Scotts; Sherriff Amenity; Sisis; Town & Country Turf; Tacit and BGA Essex Section (Hosts of this year's Regional Conference.)

Clive Osgood



10 Years Service

Rachael Duffy, of BIGGA's Learning and Development Department, recently celebrated 10 years with the Association.

Rachael started as one of BIGGA's Receptionists before moving to the L&D Department four years ago, and she also works closely with Scott MacCallum on the organisation of the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team.

To commemorate the occasion Rachael, left, was presented with a Pandora bracelet by Tracey Maddison.

Tour de France Fundraising



South Winchester Course Manager, Alex Hawkes, is taking part in a stage of the toughest sporting event in the world to raise money for two very worthwhile charities.

"The ride I am doing is the Etape Du Tour, which is a stage of the Tour de France, and the idea is that amateurs - 10,000 of them - can ride a stage of the Tour De France under 'Tour Conditions'," he explained.

Alex is riding to raise money for Parkinson's UK and The Alzheimer's Society which are particularly close to my family and I am taking part in the mountain stage, which takes place on Monday, July 11 and will be ridden by the pros as the final and most prestigious mountain, a week or so later.

The stage takes in three of the most famous alpine climbs in the Tour, Le Col du Galibier, Le Col du Telegraphe and, possibly the most famous of them all, the Alpe D'Huez.

"I think the main issues that I will face will be the heat of France in July, the cold when descending at high speed from high mountains, the lack of oxygen at such altitude and the length of the climbs - the Galibier is over 18 km of uphill road on its own," said Alex.

"I am funding the whole cost of this trip myself (or at least my wife is for my 40th) so all the money that I raise will go to the charities, rather than funding the trip itself," said Alex who is writing a blog of his experiences.

The links to Alex's fundraising pages are:

www.justgiving.com/Alex-Hawkes-Alzheimers

www.justgiving.com/Alex-Hawkes-Parkinsons-UK

SPORTS TURF INDUSTRY PROGRESSES WAY FORWARD FOR TRADE SHOWS

Leaders of the main organisations involved in the sports turf industry held further discussions recently to take forward development plans for the sector's trade shows.

The aim is to understand even better the needs of exhibitors, visitors and their representative bodies, in order to find the most cost-effective route to market for all. Senior representatives from the Agricultural Engineers Association, BIGGA, and IOG met under the impartial chairmanship of David Gwyther, of the Horticultural Trades Association. They continued to review the strengths and weaknesses of existing trade shows, including topline data from both the latest Saltex and BTME shows. They also considered in principle the respective visitor and exhibitor profiles and views, and the current show target sectors. It was agreed that some additional market

research was needed to more fully clarify the needs of stakeholders for the future, and to facilitate a development programme for trade shows.

This programme will represent a properly planned route map identifying the right solution to meet the needs of all industry stakeholder groups. The plan will be published later this year to enable solid preparation to be undertaken to implement the programme over subsequent years.

Andrew Mellon, BIGGA Chairman, commented: "As a member organisation we need to ensure that our resources are directed at delivering benefits to our members. We are undertaking a thorough strategic planning process and we will ensure we re-align our resources to that end once complete. We do need to ensure that our decision making processes are fully informed by reliable information, but have a sense of urgency and can

assure all stakeholders that it is at the top of our agenda. We took the opportunity at BTME 2011 to consult with our trade customers, and received excellent feedback. BTME 2012, which will take place in Harrogate in January, has already attracted huge support and we will continue to engage with the trade to ensure we adapt to their needs."

Geoff Webb, Chief Executive of IOG, said: "IOG has listened to others' views on the subject of trade shows and understands the need to adapt and evolve. The discussions we have held with other stakeholders have been constructive and positive. Whilst both confident in, and proud of, the track record of Saltex (despite the economic downturn) we believe the time is right to engage constructively in this review process under the direction of the independent Chairman David Gwyther. In the

meantime we are planning for this year's show - with as ever some exciting innovations - whilst continuing the dialogue with other representative bodies to look at possible future formats."

David Gwyther said: "It was another very constructive meeting on a challenging subject, but one which needs to be properly and professionally sorted in the interests of all involved in the sports turf industry. I am pleased that each organisation confirmed its desire to work together on this very important issue. Participants are all strongly committed to finding the right way to deliver the most effective show programme for their members and their customers. The Group has the professional knowledge and the right development processes to achieve a successful outcome, but will ensure it tests the water with everyone necessary on the way through."



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Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the month

A wonderful support network

As I finished my last column, I was off for a nightcap with some colleagues at the Irish Conference.

As you might imagine their hospitality, was very generous, and I also enjoyed the company of George Brown who had so many great and amusing experiences to share from a lifetime in Greenkeeping and Golf circles.

We sat discussing our profession and putting the world to rights for quite some time.

On reflection it reminded me of how fortunate I am that I have been able to build a support network within my profession to which I can turn for advice, or even just for a good old chat to cheer me up.

Our profession is not immune to the impact of the worldwide economic crisis and it is having an impact on employment and budgets throughout the country.

At such times our network can be very useful in sharing good ideas, and offering support to colleagues facing difficult times. I've heard of many cases of the greenkeeping teams taking action to ensure they make a positive contribution, as part of the overall team to the difficult challenges clubs are facing.

It struck me that although I am able to access this and we have a large Association with over 6000 members not everyone is as forthright in accessing such support.

I would like to encourage members to make contact with their Section Secretaries and offer their support, in whatever way they can, or to seek support.

You can make a big difference to the Association as a whole, but more importantly it may be that you have advice or experience you can share with your fellow members which will make a huge difference to them.

I would also include our many retired Greenkeepers, who have a lifetime's experience to share, and encourage them to stay involved were possible.

Local meetings can be great for sharing and developing positive ideas to support one another. This goes back to the very roots of why our "Association" formed and why it grew so successfully.

If anyone has any ideas on this they would like to see developed please get in touch at the email address below or by calling me.

As we go to press, I am heading off to be involved in interviewing the shortlisted candidates for our Chief Executive position.

We have an excellent selection of people and I look forward to finding someone with the commitment and drive to continue to grow the Association and build on its strengths. Ensuring that it remains member focussed will be a priority, but also the ability to develop a commercially sustainable business model for the long term future.

At our recent Board meeting we continued to progress some of the work on fostering collaborative efforts with other Golf and Industry bodies.

There is a lot of good potential benefit in this work and we will keep you informed in due course through the website and the magazine.

We also took the opportunity to continue some of the work on strategic planning for the future of BIGGA. The Regional Administrators and all the Staff and Board were involved in discussions which were very useful in gaining a better understanding of where the Association currently sits and in the different perspectives of the members and staff.

We intend to further this work by engaging more with the Regions and Sections to learn more about how you want to see the future of BIGGA, and what you want it to be. Establishing a clear, achievable vision of our future will ensure that we can task the Board, the Chief Executive and staff with developing the correct strategies to deliver that vision.

We have many strengths as I have already said, but the time is right to ensure that we know exactly where we are heading and

that we align our resources in the best way to achieve that.

I have continued to meet with the IOG and the Agricultural Engineers Association and have had discussions with several other companies to date to discuss the subject of trade shows.

We started this process at Harrogate last year and we received very useful feedback which we are keen to develop further.

We are reforming the Trade Member Forum to allow us to gain a better insight into the requirements of our trade customers who support the Association.

At such times our network can be very useful in sharing good ideas, and offering support to colleagues facing difficult times. I've heard of many cases of the greenkeeping teams taking action to ensure they make a positive contribution, as part of the overall team to the difficult challenges clubs are facing

We want to ensure that our decision making processes are based on good information, direct from our customers. It is difficult to be all things to all people, but we need to deliver a good service to the trade if we want to continue receiving their support and this research will be a vital part of ensuring we adapt as required.

Harrogate 2012 is looking very good with bookings already well underway, and the team at HQ are already compiling an exciting Learning and Development programme.

Back at Elmwood our team has been hard at work taking advantage of the fine Spring weather and it has been good to feel the sun on the back again. Roll on summer

amellon@elmwood.ac.uk
Tel: 07780 995602



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

I know the word sustainability has become something of a buzz word but as the GTC moves into a third series of workshops, supported by The R&A, we are looking to share the most up to date information and best practices with invited delegates on all aspects of the sustainable golf club.

The GTC has engaged speakers who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of the sustainable golf course and clubhouse.

Clearly, the GTC has a responsibility to promote best practices to maintain and manage golf courses but there are wider issues that we have to ensure Course Managers are aware of.

The workshops will be hosted at clubs who are all committed to maintaining the courses in a sustainable manner and are willing to share their experiences with delegates:

Auchterarder Golf Club, Perthshire – Monday, June 6; Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire – Tuesday, June 28; Portmore Golf Club, Devon – Thursday, June 30

In previous years the GTC has focused on ensuring that Quality Assured Centre turf staff, including college lecturers, have encouraged best practice throughout the various education and training courses they offer.

This year, the GTC is looking to invite representatives from clubs, including Course Managers, Club Managers, Professionals to attend a workshop, as the agenda will be of interest to all involved in managing a golf course and/or golf club.

Speakers will include representatives from the host club, the Golf Environment Group (GEO), Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Scottish Golf Environment Group (SGEG), The R&A, Quality Assured Centres and The GTC.

If you would like to attend one of the workshops please register by contacting Fiona at the GTC: fiona@the-gtc.co.uk or call 01347 838640

Places are strictly limited therefore early registration is recommended.

Quality Assured Centres and Training Provider Workshop

During 2010 the GTC launched its Quality Assured Scheme, inviting colleges and private training providers to join the scheme.

The current list of Approved Centres and Training Providers is available on the GTC website and this is regularly updated.

The scheme is designed to direct employers and learners to those Centres and Training Providers, who have met criteria based on quality.

Not only are Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers permitted to use the GTC QA logo on all their publicity, representatives are also invited to attend an annual workshop hosted by the GTC. This year the event will be held on June 9 and 10, at GTC headquarters, Aldwark Manor.

The GTC is pleased that City & Guilds Land Based Services has agreed to sponsor the workshop and its CEO, Jack Ward, will open proceedings followed by speakers from the Skills Funding Agency including National Apprenticeship Service, Lantra SSC, Health & Safety updates as well as External Verification standardisation.

Technology is becoming an increasingly popular choice for learning and while hard copy portfolios are still favoured by some learners e-portfolios and e-learning is something we all have to consider therefore demonstrations from Learning Assistant and One File software companies are also on the agenda.

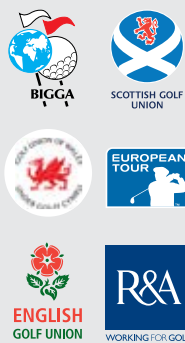
All of the above will assist Centre staff and Training Providers hear from speakers at the heart of funding policies, standard setting bodies and with open forums, give the GTC first hand updates to share with the employers and greenkeepers it represents.

It is also an opportunity for delegates to discuss openly all

In Brief

David explains how the GTC is looking to ensure greenkeeping has embraced all aspects of sustainability through a third series of workshops in association with The R&A and also how a workshop for GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers will focus on ensuring there is "something for everybody" in greenkeeper training provision.

The GTC is funded by:



aspects of greenkeeper training and to ensure that employers and any greenkeepers have access to learning at various levels and through various delivery options.

Finally, I am pleased to report that there has been some progress to report with the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU).

The R&A has awarded additional funds to a Management Group to move forward, the work to date, by the pan-European standards working group.

John Holliday, the GTC's Finance Director, and I have been appointed onto the EGEU Management Board, as has Dean Cleaver, CEO of FEGGA.

It is hoped the European Golf Association (EGA) will also nominate a suitable representative to join the EGEU Board.

The EGEU will have to show continual progress and with colleagues from the working group we must look to encourage, advise and support countries committed to develop and maintain greenkeeping standards.

A website, www.egeu.eu will be maintained as a portal of information and having recently attended the FEGGA conference and International Summit in Iceland, there is a clear interest, from many countries in adopting EGEU standards. Bespoke qualifications, training courses, learning materials and training manual can all be designed to suit a specific country's needs.

The greenkeeping community is an incredible family which stretches beyond Europe, it is world-wide and wherever we travel, the willingness to share knowledge, best practice and form alliances and partnerships is around every corner and this should be encouraged.

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Learning & Development

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



After all the mayhem of Harrogate Week, the Golf Industry Show, the Scottish and the Midland Region Conferences, I finally have my feet back under my desk and can start 2011!

With many projects underway, it's going to be all go in the L&D Department. Rachael has been manning (or should that be womaning?) the Department while I have been 'gallivanting' around the world. She has spent many hours updating CPD records from all the events that have been taking place around the country as well as assisting (and organising) Scott in the selection of the Open Support Team 2012.

The Learning and Development Fund, which is supported by the Gold and Silver Key members of BIGGA, is a ring-fenced pot of money used specifically to support the activities and projects undertaken by the Learning and Development Department. I am pleased to confirm that those companies who have agreed to support the fund in 2011 are:



Gold Key

European Tour
John Deere
Kubota
Ransomes Jacobsen
Toro
Syngenta



Silver Key

Vitax
Symbio

ARC Legal Assistance
Bernhard & Company
Heath Lambert
Hayter
Wiedenmann
Rainbird

My thanks go to those companies listed who enable us to continue to develop resources for the members.

My main focus for 2011 is the re-development of the Continuing Professional Development scheme, the introduction of an Accreditation system and an update of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Further information on the progress of these projects will follow later in the year.

Safety Management System



A new look Safety Management System will soon be available.

Both the Golf Club Managers' Association (GCMA) and ourselves have been working on developing a simpler website that will help golf clubs implement a Safety Management System.

Based around seven areas:
Greenkeeping Activities
Maintenance Facility
Golf Course
Clubhouse
Pro Shop
Kitchen
Fire

Each area will contain download-

The funding provided by Gold 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 Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

able documents including a Risk Profile, Risk Assessments and Hazards.

The Safety Management System is a membership benefit and is available to members of both BIGGA and the GCMA.

Watch this space for information on the launch of the new website.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

I am delighted to announce that Ransomes Jacobsen has agreed to continue to support the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship scheme in 2011. Since its launch in 2002, Ransomes Jacobsen has contributed over £130,000 into the fund and by the end of 2011 will have supported more than 120 BIGGA members achieve a Higher Education qualification.

Any full member of BIGGA, who has been a member for two consecutive years, is working as a full time greenkeeper and is undertaking a higher education course, is eligible to apply for a scholarship.

The fund may award scholarships of up to 50% of the cost of the course however, it will typically be capped at £1000.

For further information or to download an application form, go to: www.bigga.org.uk/education/resources/higher-education-scholarships

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JOHN DEERE



Heath Lambert



Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Andrew Turnbull; Ian MacMillan MG; Ian Morrison

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JOHN QUINTON PROMOTION

John Quinton, Ransomes Jacobsen's former Regional Sales Manager for the southwest and northwest of England and Wales, has been promoted to the position of Sales Manager, UK and Ireland.

Reporting to Sales Director, Rupert Price, he will be responsible for business development, equipment sales and dealer support throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

John, a graduate of Harper Adams University College, in Shropshire, where he gained a HND in agricultural engineering, joined Ransomes Jacobsen last year from Hayter.

Before coming to the UK, John farmed in his native, Zimbabwe, and he currently lives in Monmouth with his wife, Victoria, and their two daughters, Sophie and Emma. He will be relocating to Suffolk in the near future.

Commenting on the appointment Rupert said, "John has only been with business for a short while, but in that time has impressed everyone with his drive and determination. His rounded experience of the turf industry will certainly be an added strength together with his undoubted management skills that are a requisite for this demanding post."



Masons Kings of Sale, Service and Support

John Deere dealership Masons Kings has been appointed to take on the sale, service and support of John Deere's full line of professional turf and homeowner equipment ranges in Cornwall, previously handled by Cornwall Farmers Ltd.

Brand new premises have been opened at Winnards Perch, St Columb, in the centre of Cornwall, trading under the new name Masons Kings. All the sales, parts and service staff from

the Cornwall Farmers turf equipment division, previously based at Roche, have been taken on by the new dealership. The new Masons Kings business name now also includes the dealership's main branch at Chudleigh in, and the Kings branch at Dulverton in Somerset.

Masons has been a machinery dealership for 36 years, a John Deere agricultural dealer for over 26, and first established its John Deere professional turf division in 2007.

New Website for Turfgrass Growers Association

The Turfgrass Growers Association has a new website: www.turfgrass.co.uk

The design features a comprehensive knowledge base with a range of helpful fact sheets relating to turf health and maintenance as well as details of TGA specifications and standards.

Visitors can also find information about TGA events, including the 2011 Turf Show, read the latest news articles, find out more about membership, source products and services from affiliate members or locate their nearest TGA grower.





Ice Ice Buggy

Staff at the Eden Project in Cornwall, have been using a Kubota B2230 compact tractor to power an Olympia 250 ice machine used to clean and prepare the ice for skate sessions.

Since Eden's seasonal ice rink first opened five years ago, the organisation had used a golf buggy to pull its ice machine. Unfortunately, both machines were written off during a major flood which caused the ice rink to close for a month last November.

After consultations between the ice rink staff and John Ryan,

the Transport Manager at the Eden Project, it was decided that a faster, more powerful and efficient replacement was needed and the Olympia 250 was chosen.

The new tractor was delivered last December and was fitted with special tyres featuring special ice-studs as a precaution to ensure that it wouldn't skid.

It has since been used to help create an expert surface between every skate session which takes around 20 minutes.

As a result, Eden's ice rink was able to cater for approximately 23 skate sessions every week.



TRAIN THE TRAINER

Toro distributor Lely UK has further strengthened its operator training programme with the launch of a new Train the Trainer scheme, developed in partnership with The Belfry.

For large resorts with a hectic schedule and higher staff turnover, regularly sending greenkeepers and groundsmen for off-site manufacturer training can be a real drain on time, budgets and staff resources.

The Belfry's Director of Golf Courses and Grounds, Kenny

Mackay, certainly found this to be the case.

Kenny put his situation to Lely's training division, leading to the creation of a pilot 'Train the Trainer' scheme. This saw the resort's more experienced operators trained to impart their knowledge to junior colleagues direct and on home turf, instead of having to schedule an on-site course led by the Lely training team and/or attending a session at the company's St Neots National Training Centre.

What's your number?

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

Name: Adrian Handbury.

Company: Intelligent Watering.

Position: Owner.

How long have you been in the industry?

Since 1993 (with two years off for good behaviour!)



How did you get into it?

I was offered the job of Irrigation Manager at the London Golf Club.

What other jobs have you done?

Shelf-stacker, Farm Worker, Farm Manager, Machinery Demonstrator (John Deere), Area Service Manager (John Deere), Marketing Director.

What do you like about your current job?

It is a cliché, but the variety. Through the irrigation industry I have worked on TV sets, national football and cricket stadia and, of course, fantastic golf courses on three continents.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

Although technology has progressed, what is good to see is that the people in the industry haven't. The majority are friendly and eager to learn. One area that has improved for the better is the appreciation of the environment.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I cook (Finalist in 2010 Britain's Best Dish), and I am reshaping the garden. Also I am looking at doing another degree later this year.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Hopefully still married, healthy and managing to keep my two daughters out of my wallet. And still in business!

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

I don't think that I can single out any single names as there are too many – especially among the irrigation contractors that I have been lucky enough to work with, and also those with whom I worked at the LGC.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

13 – it is my birthday, and the date that I met my wife.

Pick a number - 13.

Adrian has picked David Cole from JSM

Not so common

That it is called *Hankley Common Golf Club* is a bit of a misnomer. It is one of the finest examples of a heathland course in the country, and Scott MacCallum discovers, as a golf course, it is anything but common



Heathland Splendour on the 6th hole



Located deep in the heart of Surrey, Hankley Common GC has a great feeling of space. This is not surprising as the club owns 860 acres, leasing a large proportion of it out to the Ministry of Defence for training purposes. An extensive woodland management programme also started a number of years ago, which opened the course up again after the pine and birch left its mark.

The programme was hugely successful and led to the club winning BIGGA's Golf Environment Competition in 1997, but the work that has gone on to maintaining the heathland is equally impressive.

At the forefront is Course Manager, Gareth Roberts, a man with mountaineering and photography, as well as an immaculately maintained golf course, on a very full CV.

Gareth had recently joined then Course Manager, Ian McMillan, when the decision was taken to return the course to its heathland roots.

"The course was turning into a tree lined course with a lot of canopy and a lot of shade.

"We'd done some thinning of blocks of pine, regenerated pine and birch, which were so dense you couldn't see through to the next hole," explained Gareth.

Then, in the company of the then Chairman of Green, Peter Green, Ian and Gareth had a meeting on top of Yagden Hill, which overlooks the course, when the decision to really grasp the nettle was taken.

"Peter, who had great vision, said how great it would be if we could clear all the trees and show off the course and from there the wheels were put in motion," he recalled.

The plan was pushed through the various committees fairly quickly and, about six months after the meeting on the hill, contactors came in and the work began.

"We brought in local contractor, John Thorne and his crew, and they took down all the pine and birch and, in all honesty, a lot of rubbish over an area of around 22 hectares, but in doing so we left a screen of trees of around 25 metres deep while the main work was going on," he explained, adding that the work

began in November '96 and was completed the following March.

"There was a committee meeting on Sunday evening and Ian got the call to say we could start removing the screen and, at 6am on the Monday, we started work, dropping all the trees one after another," said Gareth, adding that it did get quite contentious for some members.

"One came to see me in an extremely angry state while I was cutting and asked if I was going all the way up to the corner of the 4th. I didn't have the heart to tell him I was going up the 5th and 6th as well.

"That member was good enough to come back later and apologise.

"We knew there was a viable seed bed within these areas but we also added heather seed/brashings. It was eight months before we saw signs of seedlings coming through, but once they started, the areas exploded with new growth"

Gareth Roberts

He said that now that the trees had gone he could see what Hankley was all about," he said.

The whole process hadn't cost the club a penny as grants from English Nature were available at the time and they were also able to sell the timber.

With such an immediate and dramatic change to the golf course the team did have some concerns that they may have gone too far.

"When we had the fires burning it was something out of the Battle of the Somme and we did think, 'Have we done too much here?'

"We knew there was a viable seed bed within these areas but we also added heather seed/brashings back into these areas. We still had our fingers crossed though. It was eight months on before we saw any real signs of the seedlings coming through but once they started the areas exploded with new growth.

"Some areas were stripped and seeded, some we did by just removing the litter layer and others we added brashings and incorporated it into the litter layer with a tooth bar. The seeded areas came first



Gareth Roberts,
Course Manager

but four years later all the areas looked exactly the same."

Having seen the benefits of all their work, keeping heathland, always in transitional state, is never easy but Hankley Common brought in extra help to ensure saplings were not able to encroach.

"After the heather restoration we actually got in four Old English White cattle to keep the saplings down. They belonged to Surrey Heathland Management Project which also paid for the electric fence round the five hectare plot in which they grazed; all we were required to do was make sure they had sufficient water."

The policy came to an end with the advent of Foot and Mouth, but



Collection of stunning photography from Gareth Roberts, showing MAIN ABOVE: 10th hole; LEFT: Colourful view from the 12th to 15th holes; INSET ABOVE: 15th and 16th holes



The 8th green

the cattle definitely proved to be the best method to keep the land free from tree samplings.

“Without the cattle we have to employ contractors, or use our staff to physically remove the samples and it can take a large part of the budget.

“That’s why we are looking at bringing the cattle back again. The members really liked having them about.”

The other projects which have kept Gareth and the team busy in recent years are one of course lengthening and bunker modernisation.

“We had the Open Qualifier for 14 years up until ’99 but when it moved to Hindhead we started to look at the length of our course – 6400 yards – and how it compared to those courses around us – the likes of Sunningdale, Walton Heath and Wentworth, who had all put in new Championship tees.”

It was a slow process as they had to work with English Nature, as the course is a SSSI, SPA, AOC and AOB, but they received a lot of help from Dr Keith Duff.

“We did the eight tees over a two year period taking it up to 6700 then we put in a new tee on the 3rd for the British Boys’ Home Internationals in 2009, which turned a short par-4 into a long dogleg par-4.

“With approval for another new

tee on the 11th just approved it will lengthen the course to around 6800 yards which we consider to be about right.”

While building the new 3rd tee they uncovered two old ponds, which a local historian informed us, had been built in the 17th century by Monks who kept fish for the Duke of Winchester’s banquets when staying at Farnham Castle. In effect it was an early fish farm.

“We would have liked to incorporate the ponds into the hole but Natural England said it wanted the land left the way we had found it so it is a very natural wet area around the tee which is accessed by a bridge.”

With the lengthening all but achieved Gareth and the team are turning their attention to the bunkering some of which have become obsolete due to the advancement in ball and club development and also the player’s fitness.

“We are looking at making the golfer think and not just pull out his driver and smash it. We want him to think about clearing a bunker or laying up with a 3-wood or rescue club.”

Gareth designs all the new bunkers and tees himself, providing the committee with photographic impressions of what the new bunker or tee will look like, and how it will fit into the hole, produced

“We are looking at making the golfer think and not just pull out his driver and smash it. We want him to think about clearing a bunker or laying up with a 3-wood or rescue club”

Gareth Roberts

RIGHT and BELOW: part of the bunker renovation programme





on a computer with a paintshop programme.

Among the other interesting elements of Hankley Common is the hibernaculum, which they have built to provide a winter hibernation for snakes with the club acting as home to the complete set of British snakes; the on-site borrow pit, complete with digger, from which the club can provide all its own construction materials; 10 bee hives and the Atlantic Wall which was a training facility for the British Army in the Second World War so they could prepare to breach enemy barricades.

All of which offers Gareth a wonderful opportunity to indulge his passion for photography, a hobby which led to him winning the 2010 BIGGA Golf Photography Competition, sponsored by Syngenta.

"I've got a Canon 350D with various lenses as well as a little 14 megapixel Fujifilm JX, which I carry around with me so if I see a good opportunity I can grab it," said Gareth, who has also been placed in the competition in previous years.

His camera was also part of his essential luggage when he climbed Kilimanjaro in February with three friends in aid of local charity Help Autistic Children.

"We were all 50 or about to become 50 and decided we needed

a bigger challenge, so over a pint we decided to take on the climb. We covered 100km, walking eight hours a day for eight days, often over very difficult terrain and changes in altitude and reached the summit on morning of February 18.

"In the past year we have raised over £50,000 through two golf days, a dance and the climb, and over the 9 years since we started the charity golf day, played at Hankley we have raised £100,000, and I'd like to thank the many companies within our industry who have donated and helped the cause."

Back at Hankley, sitting in his office, Gareth still glows with pride at the achievement but when he looks out of the door he should be more proud of what he and his team have achieved on a far from common golf course.

BELOW: A new bunker looks the part
ABOVE RIGHT: View from the ridge
RIGHT: The Greenkeeping team



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Gather no moss

Mosses are primitive chlorophyll-containing green plants one rung up the evolutionary ladder from the algae and one down from ferns and bracken (Pteridophytes). Some 12,000 species of moss along with their close relatives called liverworts belong to the plant group Bryophyta, writes Dr Terry Mabbett

Primitive they may be, and much more so than grasses, but this does not stop a range of moss type and species from invading turf, both professional and amenity in status. 'A rolling stone gathers no moss' goes the age old saying, but poorly managed turf will gather moss, and rapidly too, causing costly repair work if left unchecked.

Mosses are generally less than 5cm tall and commonly grow in dense clumps or mats comprising many tiny and soft, non-flowering plants with rudimentary green leaves on thin wiry stems. Mosses have neither a vascular system nor a proper root system. Individual moss plants are anchored to the substrate (soil, bark, timber, brick, concrete and tarmac) by 'non-absorbing' roots called rhizoids.

Moss mats and cushions generally thrive in moist shady situations and locations, relying on sufficient moisture in the immediate sur-

roundings to be transferred directly, together with nutrients, into the leaves. Not being flowering plants they lack formalised flowers, fruits and seeds but at certain times of the year produce beak-like capsules containing spores and borne aloft on thin stalks.

When growing in turf, moss is simply a green plant in the wrong place at the wrong time and is therefore classed as a weed, albeit a very primitive one but also a highly successful one. Moss is more apparent and a bigger problem in close-cut professional turf simply because the tiny plants are more obvious and not shaded out as they are in less frequently and higher cut amenity grass swards.

Underlying cause of moss invasion

Since moss lacks a proper water-absorbing root system, and is therefore totally reliant on direct transfer of water (and nutrients) from the

Late winter coming into early spring is the time to assess moss levels in turf.

immediate surroundings and into the leaves, sufficient and persistent surface moisture is essential for its successful establishment and spread. All things being equal moisture is most likely to occur and persist in autumn when turf grass starts to lose its competitive edge with moss, because growth is slowing down in response to falling temperature and reduced light regimes. Early spring is the time to assess the amount and extent of moss in turf and also the best time to tackle it. Late March and into April is the time to start dealing with moss.

Be that as it may, moss will grow during most of the year especially in grass swards where shading, poor drainage, soil compaction and poor mowing practice allow for faster growth compared with the turf grass. Indeed moss invasion of turf is a symptom of poor grass growth and a 'sure-fire' indicator of more basic and deep-seated turf problems. Growth of moss



Moss growing on a wall showing dehiscent (spent) capsules



Cushion moss under pine trees with evidence of foraging by birds for invertebrate animals



Moss bearing beak-like spore bearing capsules on thin filaments



Cushion forming moss is prevalent under trees especially along side exposed tree roots



Liverworts are also found on damp poorly drained turf

in turf is invariably accompanied by broad leaved weeds including self-heal, parsley piert, mouse-ear chickweed, slender speedwell and creeping cinquefoil which thrive in the same moist surface conditions, but even these will be choked off once the moss mat spreads and a dense cushion of moss foliage is formed.

Moss is essentially a soil surface weed competing for space and light with grass plants but the root causes of moss are above and below ground in factors like persistent shade and poor soil drainage. Solving a moss problem is not just a case of reaching for a bottle of dedicated moss killer but all-round, year-round good proactive management practice. Greenkeepers and groundsmen faced with extensive and lasting moss need to look long and hard at turf management in its broadest context to reduce shading by pruning trees, water-logging through improved drainage and the relief of soil compaction.

Moss more complex than first seems

Moss problems are invariably more complex than at first they



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seem. There are three distinct types of moss which invade turf – cushion moss, trailing moss and upright moss – each an indicator weed of specific problems in the turf environment.

- Cushion forming mosses are tiny ground-hugging clusters of moss indicative of closely mown and scalped swards, especially where deep thatch is impeding air circulation and aggravating surface moisture retention.
- Trailing mosses with their fern-like, feathered leaves are symptomatic of inherently poor drainage and heavy persistent shade
- Upright mosses comprising larger, taller and more tufted plants are found on drier more acidic (lower pH) soils

Moss growth becomes most apparent in early spring but greenkeepers should be mindful of moss throughout the year and take appropriate measures that deter invasion and suppress existing growth. Heavy persistent shade cast by trees clearly serves to encourage and maintain turf surface moisture levels and therefore moss, and especially the year-round reduction in light level caused by conifers and

other evergreens like holly. Think twice before planting evergreen trees near greens and tees and have the pruning saw ready to cut low hanging branches and even fell trees if necessary.

Regular ‘cleaning out’ of turf by scarification and aeration by spiking all help to avoid the compaction and persistent dampness that encourages moss. But regular water logging of turf causing perpetual moss growth will require a deeper solution to an obvious soil drainage problem.

A balanced fertiliser programme is important to give turf grasses a constant edge in growth and surface spread at the expense of moss. Timely spring and early summer liquid feeds give grass the advantage it needs, while slower but more solid benefits of autumn top dressing should build up soil fertility and stack the odds against moss, especially where soils are sandy and/or shallow.

Moss thrives on low soil pH and its persistent growth, especially on sandy and free draining soils, may indicate that over-acidity is root cause of the problem.

Confirm this using a soil pH test which if less than 5.5 means some



Dense carpet of moss on a golf tee in late winter



Outside of turf and on hard surfaces moss is an important component of many habitats like rotting tree stumps

remedial measure is required. An application of ground limestone can be used but consult on and monitor rates carefully. Rising pH and soil alkalinity from liming can soon cause general deterioration by encouraging weeds, worms and disease, while suppressing the health and growth of fine turf grasses.

'Shaving' the turf at less than the recommended cutting height weakens the grass and creates a window of opportunity for moss, particularly on damp surfaces where mower 'scalping' occurs. Consistency in mowing is important.

Cut at regular intervals using cut heights appropriate to turf type, season and the changing nature and condition of the turf. Autumn moss growth on damp and dew covered grass may have its 'roots' back in summer when drought caused bare patches and paved the way for later invasion by moss.

Moss management and control

Comprehensive and consistent turf management practice should largely banish moss from the turf grass sward, but extensive and actively spreading areas of moss

may require targeted control. Given current emphasis on the fast formulation delivery of dedicated moss control products it is easy to forget long-established and long term benefits of lawn sand. Lawn sand mixtures contain the 'old favourite' ferrous sulphate (iron sulphate or sulphate of iron) to give grass a tonic boost while disposing of moss.

The fine particle formulation is spread over the turf preferably from April to the end of June when the ground is moist.

The fine particles of the powder-like formulation cling to the coarser moss leaves (and broad-leaf weeds) but not to the smoother and finer leaves of grass. This allows the ferrous sulphate component to scorch the moss, which turns black and dies. And without a proper root system there is no prospect of re-growth. The powder should be washed off the foliage naturally by rainfall, or by watering if rain does not fall within two days of application.

Lawn sand also contains ammonium sulphate, which together with the tonic effect of iron, boosts grass growth and assists in fast coverage of the gaps left by dead patches

Outside of turf and on hard surfaces moss is an important component of many habitats like rotting tree stumps



Moss provides important protection for moisture loving woodland plants like sweet violet shown here



Moss will readily grow on a wide range of vertical as well as horizontal surfaces



Moss and surface casting earthworms are active in the same moist turf conditions



Moss invariably occurs together with a variety of broad leaf weeds like parsely piert, slender speedwell and dandelion, among others, shown here

of moss. Typical lawn sand may contain three parts of ammonium sulphate and one part of ferrous sulphate in 20 parts of very fine sand or compost.

Many proprietary moss killers are based on almost 'pure' ferrous sulphate for mixing with water and application by vehicle mounted power sprayer or a lever operated knapsack sprayer depending on the size of area treated. Granular products are generally easier and more accurately applied and therefore safer to use. The moss will blacken and die relatively quickly while the iron simultaneously gives the turf grass a 'short-in-the-arm' from its natural function as a plant nutrient.

Iron sulphate is widely offered as a fertiliser and soil amendment (acidifying) agent but unless it is contained within a proprietary lawn moss killer it will not be approved for use as a pesticide and therefore cannot be legally used to control moss. Whether using ferrous sulphate in lawn sand or in a proprietary moss killer it is essential to read the product label with regard to rate, dosage and all other application conditions. When used

in excess or under inappropriate conditions, especially in lawn sand, ferrous sulphate can blacken and seriously damage turf grass.

Ferrous sulphate in lawn sand or as a proprietary moss killer will usually control closely related liverworts as well as algae and lichens at rates recommended for moss control. Algae and lichens can be problematic on neglected and/or persistently wet turf. Algae are simple green plants even further down the evolutionary 'pecking order' than mosses, and they appear on turf as green or black slime. Lichens, which appear in the form of leaf-like growths, are brownish or blackish when 'fresh' turning grey with curled up edges when dry. Lichens are not individual plants but a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship between an alga and a fungus. The alga manufactures the food and the fungus absorbs water and nutrients.

Dead moss should be removed by scarification or raking but the now cleaned up turf will have gaps where the dead moss was taken from. Bare soil in turf is vulnerable to further invasion but this time by opportunistic fast spreading broad-

Moss invariably occurs together with a variety of broad leaf weeds like parsely piert, slender speedwell and dandelion

leaved weeds like dandelions and self-heal taking full advantage of the fertile conditions created to discourage moss. Rapid turf repair by seeding to re-populate with existing or new grasses is a priority.

Mosses growing in turf and on some hard surfaces are strictly weeds but otherwise they are important components of different ecosystems and habitats including heathland, damp woodlands and tree stumps. They are a rich source of insects and other invertebrate animals. This becomes abundantly clear when cushions of moss in turf under trees, and especially around exposed tree roots, are pecked to bits by blackbirds, starlings and other birds feeding on invertebrate animals.

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In camera *adj. or adv.* phrase. In private.

There are many things you'd like to say, but can't because of the potential consequences. Greenkeeper International is offering you the chance to be a little more free with what you say, safe in the knowledge that your identity will be protected...

I went to a Section Meeting the other day. The golf course, for an inland course so early in the year, was in fantastic condition and chatting to a group of the guys in the bar afterwards, even the greenkeeper (modestly) said he'd never seen it so good at this time of year. I thought he'd then go on to be really positive about the season ahead and his work for the year.

But no – the poor guy was really down. The club had just appointed a new Managing Director, and nothing was right. The bunkers were poor, the greens were too slow, the fairways needed shaping properly, the trees were overgrown and needed pruning. He couldn't do anything right.

The new man had even started discussing his ideas for possible green staff cuts and changes to their working practices with one of the clubhouse staff in the bar, who naturally headed straight down to the green shed to share the information. Before long, the poor greenkeeper had a near riot on his hands which, by his own admission, took a lot of calming down.

I then expected the conversation to move on to beer, women and football, but no, this turned

out to be not an isolated incident and we were soon talking about Green Committees in general, and group rapidly swapped horror stories.

One guy had 19 people on his Committee – “So many people turn up I don't even think the Chairman knows who's supposed to be attending”; “We never seem to get much done, and last year I was told to dig up a tree and move it at one meeting, only to be told

keepers in our group were well unimpressed.

Another greenkeeper recalled the tale of a club where a neighbour had put up a wind turbine in his adjoining property. The turbine was big news locally – gone through planning as part of the Council's “Green Drive”, and was hailed far and wide as a break-through in green energy technology. The club, however, immediately instructed their

It is time Golf Clubs awoke to the modern time before it's too late and become far more business orientated. Appoint professional people throughout to run their businesses, and respect those people for what they do

to put it back again a couple months later at the next one, by two members who'd missed the original meeting.”

It turned out one of them and his wife had dug this particular bush as a sapling off another course where they'd won a big Mixed Open, brought it back and planted it.

Luckily this guy was fairly philosophical and his staff had had a good laugh about it, but I sensed that the other green-

keeper to get out there and plant a row of poplars in front of it “as big as you can get”.

This brought resigned sighs from our group, (Poplars, windbreaks, less-than-efficient turbines, enraged out-of-pocket neighbours, local papers, NIMBY's etc). There was a complete lack of appreciation of how important local opinion is becoming for the survival



of golf, and how important it is that golf projects a positive feel to its local communities.

It went on. "Car Park Duty," said another guy heavily. "At our place 'Car Park Duty' means having the whole staff on standby 24-7 in case two snowflakes fall in the car park. Back in December when the police were warning people not to venture out on the roads unless their journey was really necessary- the Chairman rang me up on the home phone at 11.30 at night - waking the whole family to insist that we get the car park cleared of a foot of snow and ice by 9am the next day. 'Just in case any members want to drop in for a coffee'."

"Wouldn't have been so bad, but the local TV news was showing pictures of expectant mothers being winched off roofs by the RAF, and stranded motorists being rescued from their cars. So who in their right minds was going to, 'Nip up the golf club for a cup of coffee?' The lanes up to our place were choc-a-bloc with snow anyway."

Another (Assistant) greenkeeper chipped in. "I read on our Bulletin Board that someone is about to start offering training courses for Greens Chairmen. Do you think they're trying to train them to be greenkeepers?"

(Raucous laughter at this point.) Sounds pretty scary actually and as for being strictly necessary? Hey I don't think so....

So where is it all going wrong? The majority of golf club members are not expert players, but the lower the handicap the seemingly louder they shout. Whatever happened to fresh air? Camaraderie? Exercise? Fun? Some players are eaten up by the game. A never ending sense of one-upmanship and no apparent appreciation of reality.

Golf courses are outdoors and subject to a lot we can't control. What's so difficult to understand about that? If it's not five hours of mind-numbing grinding in a competition, and they can't come back in moaning about slow play, and they haven't compiled a full list of course defects, they're not happy.

But the ordinary members are almost as bad. A couple of years ago I had a minor issue with our greens in the early spring. Nope - not looking at their normal best - cold, dry, windy - should never have hollow tined - you know the feeling?

So - let me pose a question. When you've got an issue with a product you own a share in - do you?

a\ Quietly and gently explain to prospective new customers

what has happened, and what is being done to resolve it?

Or b\ Moan and complain relentlessly about what a rubbish service you're getting to anyone who'll listen, to the point where no-one wants to use your product at any cost, and you've adversely affected the green fees and income? Yep - think we've all guessed the answer to that one.

Last year I hosted a major county amateur event. Late May - often not the best time of year. It went really well with rightly a lot of good comment about the course, particularly the greens - only soured by one of our members who, when complimented by a visitor on the condition of his course, allegedly snorted - "Pah - don't think it's always like this do you?"

Another complete amateur capable of doing considerable damage to his club.

It is time Golf Clubs awoke to the modern time before it's too late and become far more business orientated.

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Picture perfection

Professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth, offers some advice to those BIGGA members keen to maximise their chances in the 2011 BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition



Alwoodley.
In Eric's opinion, this is the best course in Yorkshire. In this portrait format picture, Eric made good use of the interesting cloud formations and shadows over the bunker.



Since the inaugural BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition in 2006, it is generally agreed that the overall standard of entry has risen year on year and identified a huge reservoir of photographic expertise among the BIGGA Membership.

There can be few areas of technology which have advanced in recent years as much as photography, with cameras developing almost on a weekly basis.

From the early days of digital photography when we were amazed that pictures could be taken without the use of film, to the rapid climb from one megapixel cameras, and memory cards that can hold a dozen images, to now when even mobile phones can boast 12 megapixel cameras and memory cards can hold hundreds of pictures at any one time.

High quality cameras can now fit into the smallest pocket on the tightest pair of jeans and there is rarely an occasion when someone isn't able to record a moment.

But for all the technology, there is still an art to taking photographs and the more knowledge and skill you can bring to complement the quality of equipment now available,

ABOVE: Royal North Devon.

This panoramic photo illustrates the advantage of a hole being laid out North to South, the gorgeous evening light casting long shadows across the fairway.

the more chance you will have in the 2011 BIGGA Photographic Competition.

To that end, professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth, one of the judges of our competition, took some time out to talk about golf course photography and offer some advice to those

“Courses set up north to south are much easier to photograph than those which run from east to west, since when it's the right time to take the pictures, the sun is shining across most of the holes, creating superb shadows”
Eric Hepworth

many greenkeepers who now carry a camera as an essential element of their day-to-day kit.

“The most important thing to think about when taking a golf course photograph is the light. You can't take a good course picture without good light,” explained Eric, who has well over 300 courses in his library.

“Poor light can't even save images of Augusta National. You've either got good light or you haven't. You can't generate it in Photoshop!”

So what is good light in photographic terms?

“I watch the weather forecasts, looking for frontal systems. Look on the Met Office website rather than TV, as their forecasts have been dumbed down. Ideally your visit must be timed when the front has just passed through. That is when the best possible light is available.”

Chasing the best possible conditions has seen Eric spending long periods of time waiting, just waiting, for the right conditions.

“I've often said you don't have to be the best golf course photographer in the world, just the most patient.”

The longest he can recall spending at a course waiting for the ideal conditions was a fortnight when at Carnoustie, shooting a hole-by-hole guide for the 1999 Open Championship.

“Golf course photography must be the only profession where you open the curtains and decide if you are going to go to work!” said Eric.

“I get to know my landladies so well, they are all on my Christmas card list!”



“If the weather is bad, I tend to go swimming. You need to be in fair shape to carry the huge amount of equipment I take on the course. I’ll often re-visit my notes and make sure that my cameras and lenses are clean and working correctly too.”

“On many occasions though, I have returned home with nothing, as the weather just hasn’t co-operated. There is no point in taking pictures that are not going to show the course off to its best, I would only throw them away and tear myself a strip off for taking them in the first place.”

“If the light is there, obviously, you must be able to make the most of it. Taking pictures in the middle of the day is a big no-no because the sun is high and the shadows are straight down.”

“The best times are when the sun is just coming up early in the morning or in the evening when the sun is going down. This means the shadows give great definition to any shot you take.”

There are some courses which are easier to photograph than others and Eric carries around a compass which identifies where the sun will rise and set at any given time of the year.

“Courses that are set up north to south are much easier to photo-

graph than those which run from east to west because when it’s the right time to take the pictures, the sun is shining across most of the holes, creating superb shadows; while east to west, the sun is in the wrong place for most holes, when it’s the right time to take the pictures,” said Eric, who always takes time to plan out where to position himself in advance for shots of particular holes and marks them on a Strokesaver.

But don’t panic though if your course is laid out east to west course. You can take competition-winning pictures, it just takes a little more effort.

“You have to try and engineer an angle. Rather than just standing in the 18th fairway, pointing at the green with the clubhouse in the background, you would have to move left or right to create an angle and bring out the shadows on undulations and around bunkers etc.”

The other principle element of photography is the framing and there are rules that you should think about before you take your picture.

“You can ruin a fantastically lit picture just by the wrong choice of framing.”



ABOVE: Royal County Down. To get the best of the evening light, be there in mid June, as the sun sets behind the mountain at any other time of the year.

BELOW: Aberdovey. Against a cloudless sky, this picture would not be anywhere near as dramatic.



“The Rule of Thirds is derived from landscape artists like Constable. In simple terms, the points of interest should be located in one of the four intersections of the picture a third in, and not in the centre of the picture”
Eric Hepworth



Pyle and Kenfig; example of how
The Rule of Thirds works, with
the point of interest
(the green) roughly a third in

One of the main things to consider is to apply the Rule of Thirds to your picture.

"The Rule of Thirds is something which has come down from landscape artists like Constable. In simple terms, the points of interest should be located in one of the four intersections of the picture a third in and not in the centre of the picture.

"It makes the picture more pleasing on the eye."

That's not to say it is a rigid rule and there are many occasions when a picture which doesn't abide by it can look absolutely stunning but there is no doubt that taking the Rule of Thirds into account can help improve your photography.

When it comes to equipment, Eric is of the opinion that the advent of digital photography has been a double edged sword.

"Digital photographs are now so easy to take, that people are not taking time over what they shoot.

"If they don't like the picture they just bin it. In the days when we used film, we were conscious of how much it cost and had that in mind when we pressed the shutter.

"Due to digital's simplicity, millions of people who previously would not have dreamed of using a camera, are taking pictures and that's a great thing but, on the flip side, people are not thinking enough about how to make their pictures better because it is such a straight forward process."

If you are considering taking your photography seriously and are looking to do more than you can with a compact or mobile phone camera, Eric would point you to a digital SLR which gives the option of allowing different lenses for different occasions.

"I would recommend going for one which has a full frame sensor but unfortunately they are more expensive. If you look at the photographers at football matches these days, they don't need enormous lenses anymore.

"The cameras they often use now, have sensors which multiply the image, in some instances by as much as 1.6 times. The camera now does some of the work of a long lens.

"However, this principle also prevents getting the best out of a wide angle lens, which is the favourite of golf course photographers. A standard 50mm lens fitted to a camera with a 1.6 times sensor, becomes an 80 mm, not wide enough to use around a green.



One of Eric's oldest and favourite pictures, again exemplifying the rule of thirds. He has tried to re-create this picture a number of times but failed.



To view Eric's extensive library of golf course pictures visit: www.hepworthgolfphotography.com

Eric's Tips

Don't take pictures in the middle of the day.

Take pictures first thing in the morning or in the evening.

Swot up on the Rule of Thirds and work this into your pictures.

Rake the bunker. Don't have big hoof prints in the bunker and then take the rake out of shot.

If you are shooting in the morning, make sure you don't have footprints in the dew where you are hoping to shoot.

Have a look at the file size and resolution of the picture you are taking. A wonderful shot which is too small or in low resolution, is useless.

Always make sure your lens is clean. If you are pointing into light, any spec of dust will create flare.

If you can, take step ladders with you, so you can add a little height to your pictures.

If you are intending to take pictures on a golf course which is not your own, always seek permission first.

All about Eric...

Eric started off life as an underground electrician at Hickleton Main Colliery with photography very much a hobby.

"I got to know sports photographer, Mark Newcombe, through my aunt who worked for the Barnsley Chronicle, and I invited Mark along to an exhibition of my sports photography at the Cooper Gallery in the town.

"Mark said he liked some of them and enquired if I would consider photographing football for him at weekends. I was in dream world! I began taking pictures of teams in the old First Division, travelling to Manchester United, Leeds, Tottenham, Aston Villa etc. I thought this was wonderful."

With the demise of the mining industry, Eric took advantage of a redundancy package which included a redeployment scheme which saw 12 months salary paid to any future employer and Eric joined Mark at Visions in Golf full time, taking pictures for the recently launched Fore! magazine.

"It was a great apprenticeship and I hugely appreciated the faith that Mark placed in me. It was a massive learning curve though. One day I was a mining electrician and the next, I was trying to pull off being a fully fledged professional photographer. When I went freelance in 1995, I was very fortunate to be asked to photograph the hole by hole collection of photographs of The Old Course for that year's

Open Championship. Thankfully, following that stroke of luck, I've done every Open since, re-visiting each venue to take account of any changes to the course."

Apart from the Open, Eric also takes commissions for any golf club wishing to have a top quality portfolio of pictures for display or marketing purposes.

"Today, golf clubs are striving to increase their membership and to attract more visitors. All too often though, they are trying to promote their most valuable asset to prospective members or visiting golfers by relying on pictures that have been taken by a member who is a keen amateur photographer. The Internet, whether clubs embrace it or not, is where these potential vital sources of income can be attracted, by having good photographs of their course featured on the club's website.

"I have often been contacted by golf magazine editors seeking pictures of esteemed golf courses, after receiving pictures from the club that were unusable. Sadly many Secretary/Managers, before they were informed by the editor, thought the photographs acceptable.

Consider this scenario.

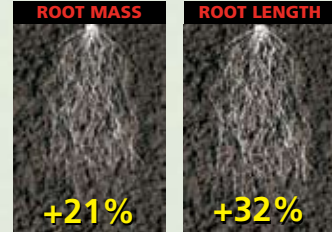
If your daughter was soon to be married, would you ask around for someone who was handy with a camera or would you contact a professional to provide the very best pictures for your daughter's special day. Golf clubs which are often million pound businesses, are relying on amateur pictures to promote themselves."

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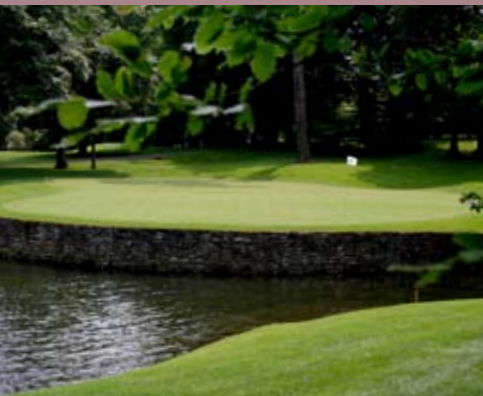
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Happy snapping

BIGGA's Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2011, so it's time to dust down your trusty camera, go out on your golf course and get snapping!



The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions - the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as:

www.mailbigfile.com.

Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: tom@bigga.co.uk, entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2011' as the email subject header.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2011, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.



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BIGGA Calendar 2011
Featuring the Top 12 Entries from the BIGGA Photographic Competition

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

The anatomy of...



Utility vehicle sprayers

How much thought goes into choosing your sprayer?

As was suggested in last month's issue, heavy-duty utility vehicles really start to come into their own when fitted with attachments that can include a sprayer. But how do you select the right sprayer for the job? James de Havilland offers some advice



(ABOVE) British sprayer manufacturers are strong in the amenity sector. Team Sprayers offers a choice of demount designs and choice of standard and shrouded booms. If you have a specific need, you do not need to buy 'off-the-peg'.

(INSET) The Toro Multi Pro 5800 reflects the demand for a vehicle that is well adapted to spraying duties. When looking for a demount sprayer, it pays to try out a system actually fitted to the vehicle you want to use it with.



Hardi sprayers include the Boss range of demount models. By offering a wide specification choice, as well as models tailored to fit a range of utility vehicles, the company is well placed to meet specific end user needs.



Spray Star sprayers from Ransomes Jacobsen are purpose built self-propelled units. Where a demount sprayer combination will be used full-time as a sprayer, it may be worth looking at a dedicated unit as an alternative.



A low profile, combined with a high standard specification, can make a complete demount sprayer package an attractive buy. John Deere Select Spray and ProGator combinations are increasingly purchased together.

In broad outline, heavy-duty utility vehicles have a nominal capacity of around 1200Kg.

By the time you have accommodated the weight of the operator and any attached sprayer, actual tank capacities can be up to around 800litres. Width wise, booms on offer will include those of up to 12m, the ability to work a portion of a partially folded wide unit offering the potential to operate at a range of narrower widths.

When considering a de-mount sprayer for a utility vehicle, it follows that capacity and width are a good point to start from. A key is to consider is that a higher capacity sprayer need not always be operated with a full tank, and that selecting a boom that may be able to operate at narrower widths may also increase its versatility.

As a guide, it can pay to look to the uses to which the sprayer will be put and how these uses may evolve. A good example is in the application of a growth regulator to fairways. It is obvious that a larger sprayer will help apply the material in less time, but if that same sprayer is also tasked with working on the greens, it needs to be right for that job too.

Other considerations can make actually choosing what is on offer more complex. It follows that the sprayer is designed to demount from the vehicle, the ease of doing this varying not just between the sprayer itself but to the vehicle to which it is attached as well. It is hardly a surprise to see a Deere ProGator married to a Deere sprayer or

a Toro Workman and Toro sprayer. But there are alternatives that are well worth looking into.

The fact that Ransomes Jacobsen now markets the Smithco range of dedicated self-propelled sprayers is also interesting. This move reflects the growing trend for many utility vehicles to end up spending their lives permanently fitted with a sprayer.

Other demount and sprayer considerations

On paper, it is actually difficult to do a proper sprayer comparison. The best buy is the unit that offers not just the right combination of features but also other vital details. These can include boom visibility - some tanks are tall and make it hard to see the offside extreme of the boom at narrow settings. The filters on some sprayers are spread around, making servicing less easy than it could be. You need to look over a sprayer to appreciate these finer points.

Then there are the controls. Simple mechanical controls are typically easy to operate, more complex automatic controllers initially seeming baffling in what they can offer. But in an increasingly regulated world, the ability to record spray data easily can make the investment in some of the more sophisticated controllers worth considering. Automatic rate control also helps improve spraying accuracy, which in turn can reduce costs.



Basic mechanical controls, with boom section shut-off and pressure gauge, are simple to understand and well suited to applications such as applying liquid feeds.



More advanced electronic controllers make precision spraying more straightforward. The key is to work out what is needed and how receptive the operator is to using this type of system.



Sprayers fitted with a fast flow water intake, such as the John Deere HD200 SelectSpray, may also have the option of specifying an electronic flow meter with auto shut off.

As a starting point, the following may help when considering a new sprayer...

- Centre of gravity. A low tank design may be a better choice when working on slopes
- Boom visibility. From the operators seat, can the extremes of the boom be seen?
- Pump choice. Some sprayers may be offered with a choice of centrifugal or piston pump. Will one design be better for your needs than the other?
- Manual controls. May offer independent boom shut off and will be fine where the main job is applying liquid feeds.
- Automated controllers. Vary in sophistication, but a key plus will be where automated flow rate control is required.
- Booms. Width and ability to operate at narrower width when folded. Ability to fit single or multi-head nozzle holders – triple bodies with standard, lo-drift and high volume nozzles can make life easier when switching between materials.
- Booms. Auto break back useful. Contour following wheels handy over undulating ground.
- Hose reel. A useful extra that can be used to operate a pedestrian boom on delicate turf or spot spray lance.
- Shrouded booms. Useful, particularly when spraying near watercourses and where tight environmental concerns demand minimal risk of spray drift.
- Foam marker. 'Blobs' have increased in popularity.
- Chemical induction hopper. Nice to have, but a low tank fill point will be fine for many users.
- Tank shape. The best designs will ensure the tank can be run completely dry.
- Fast fill point. Worth considering where fast water filling option available. Can have auto cut-off and flow meter.
- Easy clean and flushing. A clean water tank makes it easier to flush the sprayer through when the job is done.

Basic checks to keep spraying accurately

1. Ensure the sprayer is securely mounted to the vehicle and the boom is set so it runs about 50cm from the ground or target.
2. Every day, take out the suction filter and make sure it is clean. Look in the housing and check it is clear. Grease the threads and check the 'O' ring is seated correctly. Hand tighten the filter cap.
3. Remove and check the pressure filter. Again, smear grease over the housing threads. This will help seal the system and reduce the chance of leaks.
4. Pressure equalisation entails checking the pressure remains the same when flow to each boom section is opened and closed. This should always be done before calibrating the sprayer.
5. Grease the PTO shaft and sprayer pump. This should be done on a regular basis when the sprayer is in use and before the unit is first used after a prolonged lay up.



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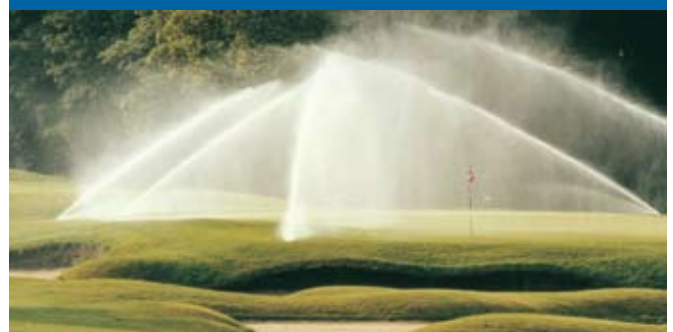
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NEW LOADERS FROM BOBCAT



The launch of the new 700 Series compact loaders adds three new models to the company's family of new generation loaders. The new loaders, all with vertical lift path design, offer several new features and enhancements that significantly extend the range of applications for compact loaders.

The 700 Series comprises a new skid-steer loader model, the S770, a new compact tracked loader, the T770, and a new all-wheel-steer (AWS) loader, the A770.

All three new loaders offer higher rated operating capacities and increased engine and hydraulic power, allowing users to take on new, more demanding applications.

As well as higher performance and power, the new 700 Series loaders offer improved visibility, comfort and uptime protection.

A new forward position that offers a 30% increase in all-round visibility for the operator

www.bobcat.eu



Syngenta's Contact+ fungicide active for turf, Medallion TL, has gained approval for use by turf managers.

Medallion TL targets disease pathogens on the leaf surface, but also has the same effect on Fusarium disease spores in the thatch layer and the soil surface, according to Syngenta Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson.

"Medallion TL will change the way we think about disease control, not only protecting from disease infection, but also reducing disease spore numbers and lowering the risk of further infection," he said.

"That makes it incredibly effective in its primary role as an autumn and winter Contact+ treatment, but could also have a really valuable effect to prevent disease outbreaks triggered by spring and summer aeration or maintenance activities."

Simon added that it is the additional activity in thatch and soil surface that gives Medallion TL its Contact+ credentials.

www.greencast.co.uk

TWO-WHEEL DRIVE MODEL



John Deere has added a new two-wheel drive model to the 5E range of utility tractors. The 55hp open station 5055E is the only model in the range offered with 2WD, but otherwise features the same specifications as the 4WD 5055E, 5065E and 5075E models.

The 5055E is a small, lightweight and manoeuvrable machine, perfect for use as a general-purpose utility tractor with or without a front loader, for example. This new tractor is suitable for a wide range of customers, including caravan parks, equestrian centres, garden centres, greenkeepers and groundsmen, growers, landscapers, local authorities, public amenities and smallholders.

Lift capacity is 1.8 tonnes at the hitch balls, and the tractor can be fitted with a choice of two mechanical self-levelling or non self-levelling loaders, with lift capacities of either 873kg or 989kg to a maximum lift height of 3.38m. A fold-away roll-over frame is fitted as standard, and a two-post sun protection canopy is available as an option.

www.deere.co.uk



MICRON MICROWIPE

Five plant species are defined as 'Injurious Weeds' under The Weeds Act of 1959 although a handful of otherwise notorious weeds are conspicuous by their absence.

The five are common ragwort thistles (creeping and spear) and docks (curled and broad-leaved) – are proscribed due to their overwhelming competitive effect on other useful plant species in agricultural and amenity situations, and through their intrinsically rapid growth rates and prolific rates of reproduction.

Once established and allowed to grow, spread and multiply during late spring and early summer these weeds become difficult if not impossible to shift. However, if hit early in the year while still in a sluggish vegetative state, all five of these heavy-weight weeds are easily and quickly dispatched using lightweight and easy to use hand-held herbicide applicators.

Herbicide applicators of choice include the Micron Microwipe, a light-weight, hand-carried applicator that delivers highly targeted doses of herbicide onto individual weed plants. Microwipe is ideally suited to the control of docks.

www.micron.co.uk

SIGN OF THE TINES

Tired of stop-starting your aerator to change broken and bent tines, or unclog cores? Losing precious man-hours and money buying and applying new ones? What about time wasted collecting core-debris and repairing post-aeration turf damage?

Toro's ultra-durable Titan Tines offer precise, concise holes for faster recovery and a smooth finish.

Boasting a clean-cut performance, Titan Tines are manufactured from a unique heat-treated metal alloy that provides maximum strength and resistance while allowing for thinner tine walls for improved core-pull and hole quality and will last three to four times longer than standard tines.



With over 150 tines to choose from, there's one to suit every turf application, soil situation and Toro aerator, from the popular ProCore 648 pedestrian machine to the ProCore 864 and 1298 tractor-mounted models. Titan Tines are also compatible with most leading manufacturers' models.

"Our intensive renovation programme involves hollow coring the greens and tees across all 36 holes in spring and late summer. In addition, a similar operation is required twice yearly on 1.5 acres of grass practice area tees. Solid tine aeration work also features as part of a range of cultural practices, particularly the use of star tines," said Peter Todd, Courses Manager at The London Club.

"The abrasive nature of our sand rootzones places much greater wear on tines so it is important to choose ones that can last as long as possible.

"We've found Titan Tines – the hardened-tip ones in particular – are best able to cope with such heavy usage and wear," said Peter.

500 SERIES BRUSH CUTTERS

The new 500 series from Husqvarna provides professional brush cutters with high performance and reliability as well as sensational ergonomics and manoeuvrability.

Within the 500 series is the new 545RX with its optimised shaft length and bevel gear angled 35 degrees. The gear was designed so that a high torque is available and the cutting equipment is parallel to the ground, helping to achieve the best cutting results.

Husqvarna's X-Torq® engine technology enables the 545RX to deliver rapid acceleration and high power over a wider RPM range. X-Torq® also increases fuel efficiency by up to 20% while reducing exhaust emissions by up to 75%.

The engine and starter have also been designed using Smart Start® technology so the 545RX starts quickly and with minimum effort. In fact resistance in the starter cord is reduced by up to 40%.

www.husqvarna.com/uk



	How do you combat damage being caused to irrigation systems during winter?	Do modern, computerised, automatic systems help with early warnings of such problems as non-uniformity in application?
<p>Keith Martin Course Manager Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club</p> 	<p>We drain our system and tanks down, protecting both pipe work and heads from frost damage. With our pump station being in a heated room there is also no chance of any damage occurring during very cold periods.</p>	<p>The installation of moisture probes within greens can be a great tool to monitor soil conditions, helping with both setting appropriate programmes and helping conserve the amount of water actually needed.</p>
<p>Jeremy Hughes Course Manager Vale of Llangollen Golf Club</p> 	<p>At the end of October, the system drain valves are opened and the two lowest irrigation valves will also be left open, the pump is drained off and drain plug removed. The intake submersible pump is removed for service, both tanks are left full.</p>	<p>My system is an old TW2 controller and while it will notify us of problems in the system and then run diagnostics to identify it quickly, we can only gauge uniformity and effectiveness of the coverage with visual assessment.</p>
<p>Ken Barber Course Manager Staverton Park Golf Club</p> 	<p>A powerful generator is used to blow the pipe-work through with air to clear the entire system of water. This ensures that the coldest of winters will not have any effect on the system.</p>	<p>Our greens have no steep undulations, which makes life a little easier, yet we had some localised Dry Patch problems last year. In some cases this may be due to wind exposure. I plan to water less often, but for longer, to encourage deeper rooting.</p>
<p>Dave Langheim Course Manager Wimbledon Park Golf Club</p> 	<p>We shut down our irrigation system around October, and drain off from the lowest points of the course. We blow out the pipes with compressed air to ensure they don't freeze over the winter months.</p>	<p>Very much so. Modern systems are so hi-spec now that you should never see non-uniformity in application. I think irrigation technology has evolved so much in the last ten years that non-uniformity is no longer an issue.</p>
<p>Pete Gross Deputy Course Manager Ashbury Golf Hotel</p> 	<p>We winterise both our systems each year to protect them. This means draining the whole system and also shutting down the controller so no signals are being sent out to the valves. Each of our pump houses are insulated and heated.</p>	<p>Valve-in-head sprinklers can show you how much each individual sprinkler is putting down and is instantly recognizable, however they don't say whether the sprinkler is rotating so uniform coverage still needs to be picked up visually.</p>
<p>Aaron Small Course Manager Donaghadee Golf Club</p> 	<p>At the start of November we drain the irrigation system at two low points on the course and we drain the main pump in the pump house. Also the pump house is heated just in case of any freak frosts.</p>	<p>We have a 35-year-old system that regularly gives us trouble. I prefer to check core samples and do visual checks than to rely on it. We do the weather for the MET office so we are very accurate on rainfall which helps a lot.</p>

IRRIGATION

Irrigation is the subject of debate

<p>Is it important for golf courses to be seen as leading the way in terms of respecting environmental issues of high water usage?</p>	<p>Where do you source your water from and is this an ideal system for you?</p>	<p>Water restrictions were placed on many areas of the UK in 2005. Is a problem keeping your course watered with these in place?</p>
<p>Yes, it is very important. Machrihanish Dunes follows an environmentally responsible management approach to our water resources with the aim of minimising water use and to protect and enhance water quality in and out of our course.</p>	<p>We have 19 well points from which we draw water. It is then pumped to a holding tank. This system works well for us as we only irrigate greens and tees. Also, we only use water only when necessary so we don't need to store huge quantities.</p>	<p>The abstraction licence we hold is adequate to more than fulfil our needs. The only problem we could have is during droughts the well points could run dry, but this hasn't happened yet.</p>
<p>It is important that we are seen to be intelligent in our water usage and what we can do to reduce the amount of water we need to use, so hand watering is an essential part of our water management program.</p>	<p>The source of our water is the stream that runs down through the course and feeds into the river Dee, which flows along four holes of our course. A submersible pump in a holding area feeds both irrigation tanks.</p>	<p>No we don't have any problems as we extract from the stream and do not take any mains water. We have a licence to extract up to 3.2 million units over the year and never get anywhere near this volume.</p>
<p>I believe water is used to excess on some courses, especially those with fairway irrigation. I aerate my fairways as regularly as I can afford, which promotes deeper rooting and more drought tolerant. Plus the more desirable bent/fescue grasses often predominate.</p>	<p>We are very lucky, since our water is sourced from a spring fed lake, which never seems to drop. The pH is a little too high for my liking, but having a natural water source allows me to easily carry out compost tea brewing.</p>	<p>Even with the spring fed lake, it does not necessarily mean I use it without consideration, since I tend to hand water when restrictions are in place. The occasional deep watering followed by syringing during very hot weather helps reduce plant stress.</p>
<p>When you have areas of the country with hosepipe bans and you're throwing on water, it's very important to respect environmental issues. I think golf courses should be at the forefront of using the least amount of water possible.</p>	<p>Our water is from the mains. Is it ideal? – No. I would love to use the nearby lake, but due to its toxicity, can't. Our course rebuild over the next few years will incorporate a new system and we're looking into bore holes.</p>	<p>The club was told to cut down, before my tenure began in 2008, and they did. They tended to over-water here years ago and the sprinklers were so poorly positioned that water was wasted. We cut that by placing half-circle sprinklers at roadsides.</p>
<p>Yes, and even more so for us with five and-a-half courses. This is why modern control systems and sprinklers are such useful tools. If the back of a green is sheltered, it can be watered less than the front with valve-in-head sprinklers as opposed to a block system.</p>	<p>Our water is all delivered from above and held in reservoirs. With the amount of courses we have, bore-holes or mains water wouldn't be able to produce enough water, as well as the cost being prohibitive.</p>	<p>Our main problem with keeping the courses watered is the actual amount of greens – over 100. Because of this we closely monitor usage and available water resource and adjust programmes accordingly.</p>
<p>For me to respect environmental issues better I would need a new system. This would save electrical energy, reduce hydraulic shock and provide better control of water use. Unfortunately there's no chance of a new one in this economic climate.</p>	<p>We source our water from a bore hole and mains water. The bore hole cannot keep up with the system in a night's watering so it gets help from the main. At least from the bore hole the plant is getting the majority of natural water.</p>	<p>As yet in Northern Ireland we have no water restrictions but we do keep it to a minimum. Often golfers perceive that greens are watered to soften them not that we water them to keep them healthy.</p>

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Section Notes

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All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Central

We had a great turnout for the presentation by Andy Russell, of Headland, on a wet evening on February 23 when we were competing against Champions League football on the TV. Those present certainly went away with some food for thought on how to prepare their fine turf areas heading into the winter.

The presentation by Lynn Jopling, of SGEF, which had to be cancelled for snow was rearranged for February 8 and we had a creditable 16 members along for that, which was also good considering some people who would likely have attended were away at the GIS, in Orlando. Sincere thanks to both Lynn and Andy for taking the time to come and share their knowledge with us.

The Spring outing will be held on April 28, at Ladybank, this year and entry forms should be with you by the time you read this. Numbers are limited to 32 players therefore please return your entry form promptly.

The Section Committee has decided to make some important changes to how it organises and runs the outings and other events from now on with most correspondence being by email, therefore to make sure you don't miss out, please contact us with your email address and remember to let us know if it changes. There will also be an entry form available on our website, www.biggacentralsection.co.uk Entries must be paid up front in full and returned with the entry form or you can pay by BACS bank transfer if you prefer and follow the correct instructions,

which are explained on the entry form. We will not accept entries after the closing date or on the day. The draw will appear on the website on April 22.

We also intend running a Pairs' Competition through the season. You should also have been sent an email with an entry form and details of this and again, the information and rules of the competition are on the website.

At the time of writing, we hope that Stan Zontek will give a presentation at the Elmwood Training Room in mid to late April on the changes made to the Congressional GC, in Washington DC, in preparation for the US Open.

Finally, two points from the February edition which was unfortunately didn't appear in the magazine. Belated congratulations to Jon Wood, and his partner, Elle Livanovo, on the birth of their son, Philip Ivan. Jon is the Deputy Course Manager on the Old Course. Someone on the move is Tommy McFadden, who has left St Andrews Links to take up a position as a Deputy Course Manager in Germany.

Gordon Moir



West

Sunshine and showers are the order of the day with some fine temperatures for this time of year, long may it continue. Our course looks rather good and dry for a change, but not for long I dare say, only the disease scars creating a blight on the horizon. Congratulations to Brian Bolland and the staff at East Kilbride Golf Club for having the course in excellent condition recently, coming through the winter with no disease scars (my home club folks).

Not too much to report on recently, only the Annual Conference at Dunfermline on March 1.

As usual the venue was first class, with Janice and her staff coping extremely well with all the problems created by impressive numbers of 200. The meal was excellent and the dining staff, headed by Reefa, had us in and out in no time. Congratulations on an superb spread.

The guest speakers of: Simon Watson, Sygenta; Chris Kennedy, Wentworth; Jonathan Harmer, Farmura; Jim Mackenzie, Celtic Manor; Clive Nottingham, Lloyds, and, finally, Chris Haspell, Castle Stuart, all gave excellent talks and had the audience captivated with the different aspects of their talks. Sorry to Chris Haspell for the Skibo Castle call but nerves did play a small part.

Thanks to Sami, from Headquarters, turning up to assist and the National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, that was much appreciated.

Finally, thanks to Peter Boyd without whom the whole thing just wouldn't happen. Once again you have excelled yourself.

All your hard work and organisation was well worth it and I'm sure you will be rewarded in heaven.

On a personal note I appreciate everything you did for the day and the Association.

A couple of things to mention for the coming months - Spring Outing, at Cowglen GC, on May 19; the Scottish National at Duke's Course, in St Andrews, on June 15, and the Autumn outing at Williamwood GC, on September 15.

Unfortunately, nobody has been in touch about news items but if you have something interesting to mention contact me on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or mobile 07790823914, or my landline is 0141-942-5554.

Stuart Taylor.



North

I start this month's news with the fact that Bryan Beaton, formerly of Craibstone Golf Centre in Aberdeen, has left to take up the post of Deputy Head at Inverurie Golf Club. He has joined up with Brian Williams who is the Head Greenkeeper there. Good luck Bryan and I hope you enjoy your time there.

The Section would like to thank Gary Smith, of Scotts, and Wilson Morrison, of Fairways, for their continued support with sponsoring of the 200 Club cards.

Robert Hardie, who runs the 200 Club, has asked me to mention that if you can return payment for your cards asap as this will then determine how many cards we have left to sell to the other members and friends. The price of the card, which includes the chance to win £100 each draw, is still £7 which, I think, is great value. There are other tickets available and if you feel you could maybe sell another one to a family member then please get in contact with Robert himself on 07590775957.

The Secretary, Dale Robertson, has asked me to put out a change of date for the Spring outing at Montrose Links. Originally it was to be held on May 19 but we have been shifted forward a week and it will now be on the Thursday, May 26. Forms for the day will be out soon and if you could get them back to Dale asap and remember you could always take a guest along, just to see what we're all about. They don't even have to be a member to come along.

Dunfermline has been and gone for another year. The best yet, by all accounts, with some 200 delegates attending. Once

Around The Green

again full credit to Peter Boyd. Year after year it gets more popular and with the hard work that Peter puts in, the rewards are very satisfying.

Thanks also to the many Section members who made the journey. Some took the car, some took the bus and some even took the sleeper! Remember attending events like these all count towards the Patrons' Award and the chance to attend BTME 2012.

One final piece of information, Dale Robertson, Course Manager at Newmachar, is looking at putting staff through their PA2, Tractor mounted spraying course. Anyone wanting to put staff through the course should contact Dale on 01651 863002 EXT 04. If you speak to Dale then you could maybe come to some arrangement and book the relevant course.

That's it for this month so if you do have any news just give me a shout on 07813889374.

Happy Greenkeeping

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links



Ayrshire

Hello again.

Another month has passed us by quicker than ever! Just when I put the pen and paper away it's time to bring it all back out again and write another report for all you budding greenkeepers out there!

Talking about time passing us by, it has been one year since our good old friend Denis Tweddell left Ayrshire to take up his new post as Head Greenkeeper, in Germany, (he's still there!) I heard from him just last week and all going well abroad, I did remind him that we are still waiting to hold one of our outings over there.....watch this space

I'm sure everyone has their work all carried out for the season ahead and now looking forward to getting back to cutting and that good old smell of cut grass? I can't wait! We wouldn't have it any other way, would we?

The Scottish Conference at Dunfermline was held on Tuesday, March 1, with again

another record turn out. All credit to Peter Boyd for bringing together some of the best speakers we have linked to our profession - another informative day for everyone involved.

My sources tell me the lunch refreshments were good as usual and that a certain Iain Barr enjoyed two helpings from the cake trolley - cheesecake, I heard! I just hope there was still some left for George, Iain! Thanks to all the Ayrshire boys that made the short trip up to the Conference, every little helps! I'm sure I've heard that somewhere before?

The Ayrshire Outing is upon us and is to be held over Prestwick St Cuthberts on Tuesday, April 26. I'm hoping to get a wee cheeky day off work, dust off the clubs and put in a decent score to take to the Autumn outing to be held at Turnberry Resort on October 4. Look forward to seeing you all there.

As stated in every report I issue if anyone has anything they would like to be mentioned in the mag or just something they would like off their chest then get in touch!

That's it for another month.

Cheers.

John Mair.

07500874449

Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and ready for a new golf season. By the time you read this article you will all have received a copy of the new Northern Section fixture list for the coming season. I think you will agree we have some top courses to play. At BTME in 2012 there is going to be an exhibition, "100 years of Greenkeeping Associations", Peter Larter has asked if anyone has any old photos, magazines or diaries, to please get in touch with him or the Section. Hopefully now the days are getting longer and warmer we can all start thinking about starting our spring programme of works. Sorry there is no news or gossip

this month, if you have any please forward it on to me, and I hope to see you at our golf events during the season. As usual please contact me: Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob 07947401278, email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Frank Stewart



North East

Well surprise surprise I have had some news sent in to me via e-mail, this is from Michael McKenna, formerly of Slaley Hall, Matfen Hall, Hexham and, lastly, Loch Lomond. After working at Loch Lomond as a seasonal last year he met an American Intern called Seth Rainer who worked at the world famous Scioto Country Club in Columbus-Ohio. The course where a young Jack Nicklaus learned the game of golf, Seth had come to the Loch through the Ohio State International Intern programme led by Program Manager, Michael O'Keefe.

After spending the summer working and studying with Seth he realised the level of knowledge and expertise he had gained attending the Ohio State University and working closely with Bob Becker, at Scioto CC, was at a high level. After seeking advice from David Cole, Superintendent at Loch Lomond GC, he decided to contact Mike O'Keefe and look at the possibility of enlisting on the Ohio State University International Intern programme.

That was back in November 2010, now he has been granted a Visa to complete a year of on training in the USA starting, of course, at Scioto CC for the first six months which will also include working at the US Tour Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village GC Dublin, Ohio. While he is there he is looking forward to learning from Superintendents and colleagues in the States and also attending seminars at the University.

Having received my list of membership I decided to have a good look at it and came up with some strange figures. As I have mentioned many times lately

on how the lack of members we see at golf events in recent years, well I am not surprised. Out of all our members only 23 people had played at sometime. Now take out some of those who had played once upon a time and we are left with a very small band of golfers.

Now for some more stats.

We have five retired members; 11 from various companies, four at college; 11 student members; nine members who are in the wrong Section; six Course Managers; 19 Head Greenkeepers; eight Deputies; six First Assistants; 30 over 21s; four Assistants under 21. Sounds like we have a large membership, doesn't it?

But no, we do not, there are a lot of non members out there I am not going to mention this month on what courses have no members at all leave that for later.

And finally the following dates for competitions. This year so far are Spring at Newcastle Utd GC, April 15, and Autumn at Longhirst Hall GC, September 21.

I look forward to seeing some new and old faces.

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

Hello again, in the theme of looking for something positive to cling to in this turbulent year. I can think of an amazing group of Bank Holidays coming up, whether you're a royalist or not, I very much doubt you'll turn down the extra holiday. Our first golf day is coming up this month, really good for golf-addict greenkeepers, who must by now be suffering from serious withdrawal symptoms after missing out on the Christmas tournament.

The Spring Tournament is being held at Denbigh GC, on April 13, and with this also being a qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship; I expect the whole field to have their most competitive heads on.

The North Wales/North West Inter-Section Golf Day takes place next month; the venue and date are in the hands of the North West Section, so when

we know more we will ask our members to do their bit, as they have so valiantly done before.

We are looking for anyone in the Section who may be handy with a bit of leather and willow, as Nick Gray, of Bathgate's, has organised a cricket match between the North Wales/ North West Sections on July 6.

If you feel you would like to get involved with this, please contact me I will happily take your details and pass on any relevant information, also we may be a little lacking in cricket gear anyone able to help out there? All offers of help will be welcome.

In local news, all hail Stu Yarwood, not only has he got the energy to become the Section's newest Master Greenkeeper but he has also become a dad again, Stu and his wife, Paula, became proud parents to, Isla Valentine, on February 1. Congratulations go to you both from the Section as a whole.

Right I think that will just about do for now so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury,
e-mail, petemayb66@aol.com Mobile 07756001187



North West

We are now through early Spring and I can feel the grass growing outside. (Actually as I write this, it's early March and white solid outside).

Recently we attended an informal get together organised by greenkeepers in the NW, it was held at Garstang GC, with a talk from Tony Kvedaras followed by a really nice curry.

There was a large number in attendance and seemed enjoyable to all, thank-you Spencer Penwortham, for the invite and all the hard work you put into the night.

With the Season all systems go, we are looking forward to hosting the Spring tournament here at Hesketh, on April 13.

There are still some spaces available and if you are looking to play, please contact Phil Dewhurst or post on the facebook page, the tee-time is reserved from 10-11.30 and all are welcome.

Oh well it's time to go out and put the greens on temporaries, on ladies day as well. Surely there can't be much more frost now.

All the best for the upcoming season...

Peter McVicar
pdmv@hotmail.co.uk
07885347818



Sheffield

Well March seemed to disappear as fast as it arrived. We are now well into preparations for the new season and I hope the weather has been kind to us and all our courses are ready for the battle.

Firstly, I would like to put a shout out to any keen cricketers among our ranks. Mike Brear, of Rigby Taylor, has kindly organised the Sheffield Section Vs Rigby Taylor cricket match for this summer (Date TBC).

The match will take place at Phoenix Sports and Social Club and will be a family event so feel free to bring the wife and kids. There will be a BBQ and bar available.

If anyone is interested in playing, or wants to attend, then get in touch with either me or Mike himself. Mike has told me he has pretty much sorted his side so we have some work to do.

I was talking to my Gordon the other day and he informed me that he was getting an extra member of staff for the summer. Sachin, I think his name was!

Fixture cards for this year's golf should have arrived at your doorsteps, if not you will have them shortly.

Thank you to Peter Fell, and Aitkens, for supplying the fixture cards once again.

Unfortunately that's all for April but remember if you like cricket get on the phone and get your place in the team reserved.

Bye for now and have a good April.

Jim Stevens
07738719614
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com

Midland Region



East Midlands

Hello all,

I am afraid I am rather busy at the time of writing this, so apologies for the brief nature of this update from our Section!

Mid February saw the Section take to the track in a Toro-sponsored go karting event. A total of 22 brave souls turned up ready to test their driving skills at the indoor Wymeswold track. Split into two heats with the slowest from each heat taking part in a Losers' final, then the fastest in a grand final. We all feared the worst when one of our members turned up ready to race "Stig" style with his own helmet and overalls, We soon realised this was just a trick to try and scare us out of the way!

What we realised was that those of us who had "listened to the rules" about no bumping or indeed, like me, are carrying to much weight were always going to be racing in the now renamed Heavyweight Final, as opposed to the Flyweight Category Final who had been able to whizz around the track at breakneck speed unhindered by weight!

In the Heavyweight Final Sam Voss, from Forest Hill, took third place; Andy de Wet, second, and yours truly first place, I feel at this stage I would like to apologise to Gary Thurman. Why? By his own admission Gary had become a bit like a slow moving chicane on the track, and after the first heat I realised that rather than sitting behind Gary for three or four laps it was far easier to "give him a little nudge" at the hairpin, sending him into a spin, I think I used this method five times in the final "Sorry Gary"

In the Flyweight "Racers" Final, Adi Porter, from Greatham, took third; Matt Lowe, from Woolaton, took second, with racer supreme Stefan Carter, from Forest Hill, taking the podium honours.

It should also be said that it was noted by many that some of the participants in the "Fly-

Assistant Profile

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



Name: Kevin Moore

Age: 23

Club: Garforth Golf Club

Position: Assistant

Nickname: "The machine"

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

5 ½ years

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

The thought of working in an outdoor environment.

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

Would of liked to be a professional sports man.

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

Woodland Management and Greens Projects.

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

Raking bunkers and ditching.

6. What would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

The development of young greenkeepers.

7. Hobbies?

Darts, Cricket, Rugby League, Golf and sport in general

8. Favourite Band?

I am a fan of R&B music

9. Which team do you support?

Castleford Tigers

10. Your claim to fame?

Going to Super league Grand Final and having pictures took with some players .

weight" Final were sin bined for bad driving, I can only dread to think of the state of the equipment in the sheds of these guys clubs! You know who you are!

I think a great time was had by all so may thanks go to Andy Humble, and Toro, for their sponsorship, and I think we will be returning to the track again soon.

Finally, by now I hope that you have all got your entries in for the Spring Competition, and the first part of the BIGGA National Championship qualifiers, I hope to see many of you there.

Pete Smith



Midland

Well here we are, April's edition of our Section's news, and what a delicious array of such I have for you to enjoy this month. Tuesday, March 8, saw the re-arranged Christmas tournament that was unfortunately postponed due to the snow that I'm sure we all remember only too well.

This time we were blessed with glorious sunshine and the pleasure of playing Stonebridge GC, in Meridan.

The course was very well presented by Danny Jones and his fine team. Well done to you gentlemen, and, of course, our thanks to Stonebridge Golf Club for affording us the day. The main prize sponsor for the day was Crocodile Golf. Thank you, Paul.

Nearest the Pin was sponsored by Global x2, Sherriffs and Whitemoss, while the drinks and chocolate around the course was provided by Farols.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, we are most grateful to you and of course to the golf clubs. Without their kindness and grace our fine days simply could not happen. The play was a Fourball Betterball format and the results were: 1. E. Stant & L. Lewis; 2. L. Swann & P. Jefferies; 3. V. Gilroy & N. Tyler. Nearest the Pins won by L. Lewis, T. Cheese and S. Gumbrill. We all have a lucky shot or round now and again.

Please note that our Spring tournament is to be played at Bewdley Pines GC, on May

12, where the annual Scott's Doubles draw will be made, this year's format will be Betterball rather than the usual Greensomes. Please get your entries in by the closing date, which you can find from your section calendar, fixture card, or website:

www.biggamidlandsection.com.

Please don't complain that "I didn't know", or "I couldn't find it" all the information is there in abundance if one would only look.

Now for the movers and shakers, Firstly: Ian Cureton, Deputy at Stourbridge, is moving to a course in Scotland. Ian has served Stourbridge for five years and the greenkeepers and club wish him well on his new venture.

My very good friend, Wilkeston, did the very same for the same reason. Your blushes are safe with me, Ian, all the best.

Secondly: At the old age of 30 years I spent a season in Austria at the first Nicklaus PGA course in main land Europe, something I wish I'd done in my earlier 20s. Congratulations to John Latoucho (21 years of age), of Trentham GC, who begins an internship through Ohio State University this month at Westchester Golf & Country Club for six months, before moving south for a further six months.

John will be involved in a US PGA Seniors Tour event at a club that boasts an annual budget of \$2.7m!

All the staff at Trentham are very envious and wish you luck with your new adventure, John.

Make sure they spend it wisely, and as an Austrian friend said to me once, "Go big or go home". You have, so well done, and all the very best.

And finally, just time to give the wonderful news that Paul Mills, Penn GC, and wife, Louise, have just had their second daughter, Beatrice, weighing in at 8lb 3oz. Good job you moved Paul, at this rate you would have required Flat 1 as well at Stratford. Congratulations to you both and welcome to the world Beatrice.

This month's calendar sponsor is our old friends ALS. Their website can be found at:

www.amenity.co.uk

Please consider them for you machinery needs and service.

Well, I'm sorry, but you will have to wait a whole month for the next episode.

Sean McDade.



B,B&O

The delayed Christmas Turkey Trot got off to a good start. On a cold but sunny morning in February the BB&O Section had the pleasure of visiting The Oxfordshire GC, for last year's AGM and Turkey Trot.

The Oxfordshire, set in the rolling hills of the Chilterns, and now no stranger to all who played, is located approximately 45 minutes drive northwest of London on the outskirts of the historical university town of Oxford.

Designed and built by the world-renowned architect Rees Jones, his first in Britain. No expense has been spared in creating this beautiful course. A tactical blend of bunkering, strategically placed lakes, wispy rough and wind make this a real challenge. Combine that with its natural beauty and you have all the course you'll ever need, a perfect start to 2011 as the Section relished the chance to play it.

A great turnout was recorded to battle it out for The Avoncrop Cup in Texas Scramble format, supported by Greensman, ETT, Golf and Turf and Dick the Magnificent, from Speedcut. This was followed by a postponed Christmas dinner from last year due to the atrocious weather conditions and AGM.

Barry McCluskey, from Avoncrop, presented the main prizes and the results were as follows:

1. Harewood & Friends Team, led by Dominic Lewis Team;
2. Deanwood Mob, led by Tiger Boy Lyon's;
3. The Catlin Mob, from Mid Technology.

Nearest the Pin prizes went to Ted Lewis and John Bowness and Nick Mortimer who managed to break his driver while winning The Long Drive.

A big thank you goes to The Leaderboard Group, and Adam King, our Secretary, for co-ordinating this excellent venue and for the courtesy of the course which providing the Section with fantastic golf and catering facilities which were enjoyed by all on the day.

A big thank you to Nigel and Shawn, and all the greenkeeping

staff for preparing the course to a first class standard and ensuring we all had a great day out.

Thank you to all our sponsors throughout 2010. We have had great support from the trade, which has included Sheriff, Avoncrop, Tacit, Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Turner Groundcare, Golf & Turf, Brown's, Amenity Land Solutions, Headland, Banks, ETT and Speedcut Contractors.

The Annual General Meeting followed and Sid Arrowsmith was elected as the new President for the Section, followed by Alec McIndoe, Chairman; Calum Taylor, Secretary; Ted Lewis, Treasurer; Simon Marsh, Education, with Matt Nutter, Gareth Acteson, Dave Lyons, Dominic Lewis as committee helpers, with yours truly as the scribe for another year.

Frank Booth has resigned as Treasurer for the Section. A big thank you to Frank, who has been the silent man for the BB&O over the last few years providing us with reliable, well kept and accurate books while also representing the Section at all of the regional meetings. Frank is well, and in full retirement, handing over the reins to Ted Lewis, the new Treasurer. Thank you, Frank for a job very well done. We look forward to your company on and off the golf course.

Adam King has stepped down as Secretary and remains on the committee. Adam has been a great organiser and influence on the Section to move it to yet a greater height with his positive and professional manner. Adam has been chosen as a pitch inspector for ECB. "England Wales Cricket Board". This is a great accolade but one which is no surprise when you see the immaculate and First Class campus at Radley College, which Adam manages with passion and dedication. Well Done, Adam, and thanks for all your efforts in bringing the Section forward.

Nick Paris, from Datchet GC, is running the London Marathon for a charity close to his heart. This is something that will test his resolve and mental fortitude as he competes in this great race. To support Nick log into www.justgiving.com/nick-paris to make a tax free donation to "Make a Wish Foundation".

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information

about the section and forthcoming events in 2011 you only have to log in to bbogreenkeepers.co.uk your cyberspace details and e-mail address with the new Secretary, Calum Taylor, who will only be pleased to keep you informed and up to date. Calum can be contacted on coursemanagerbmgc@yahoo.co.uk

Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.co.uk

South West and South Wales



South West

Hello people, I trust that you are all well. As I sit down to write this month's Section letter, I find that we are now in March. Firstly I ask myself, where has the beginning of 2011 gone? Secondly, why is it still so cold, 0.5, my car read this morning, as I was driving to work! I think you'll all agree with me when I say, "Spring! Where is spring?" Just picture it now, the warmer weather, lighter evenings, and beer gardens. Time for me to book my holiday!

During March, you would have been aware that the EGU, was holding a number of road shows around the country, titled "GOLF ENVIRONMENT". Sponsored by John Deere. Having one of them held at Minchinhampton New course and attending this myself, it's safe to say that it was a rather worthwhile event. I wonder how many of you take into consideration the fact you could help reduce the carbon footprint, help the environment, help to save energy.....but what I think is most important....HELP SAVE MONEY! We all know to turn a light switch off when leaving a room, but are you aware that we could be doing so much more, without really changing anything. Think about it guys and help save your club some money.

Back to the Section, we have recently been having many Workshops for you all. Manual Handling and Chainsaw training has just taken place more recently. Subsidy and CPD

points were rewarded for both of these, ensure that you also receive the same benefits by getting involved. It's great when everyone tells me what they want, and trust me, I'm trying to ensure that everyone is catered for.

Very shortly we have our first Section fixture coming up, the famous AM/AM at Chipping Sodbury GC. So invite you Secretary/Manager, your Green Chairman or even your best mate who lives next door to you. This is always a great fixture in our diary and always a great time for everyone to get together. I look forward to seeing everyone at Chipping Sodbury on Thursday, April 14. Do your bit to help get the 2011 fixture list off to a great start.

As always, please feel free to contact myself at anytime, even better still, forward me on a short story about what's happening up your end. See you soon

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



South Coast

Hello everyone, welcome to April's Around the Green. There is not a lot of Section news to report on at this present time. However, our last committee meeting did bring up a few points for discussion, Firstly with regret that our Section seminar had to be cancelled in February as we, we were unable to get a firm conformation date from guest speakers. It was a great shame for me personally as it was to be held at Milton Abbey School, and it was a chance for me to show you all, what life is like at the School..

We have decided that in October this year we will try and put the Seminar back on, it will be held on the half term of the school which is October 19-30, A day has yet to be decided, but it look forward to welcoming you all to Milton Abbey School. Let's hope the snow hasn't fallen by then.

We also discussed how as a Section we could communicate better when organising our golf tournaments, although a flyer is put out for each tournament per-

haps the use of Facebook would help the younger greenkeepers in the Section communicate better between one another, we do have our own South Coast Section Facebook page so do have a look and see what is happening. I hope that our Spring Tournament flyer in may will be put on Facebook for members to view, I hope that this way we may get more support for our golf tournaments. So just to give you all an early reminder our spring tournament will be at Liphook GC, on May 19. This will be an 18 hole Stableford, and is the qualifier for this year's National Championship, although a fair distance to travel for some Section members, please try and support the day.

For me life at Milton Abbey is constantly changing, we are going full co-ed in September 2012 and two new boarding houses are to be built this summer which is really exciting news for the school as we look to expand and develop. Our school farm is also developing and expanding, more horses, sheep, chickens, pigs the list continues. My job description seems to be changing from day to day.

Well a happy Easter to you all, let's hope that the Premiership title race is still open, when you read this, Chelsea can still do it I think!

Joe Cooper



South Wales

I hope that by now the growing season has just started and you have got the old Paladin and Allen National oiled up and ready to go!

First, some news about forthcoming educational events for this month.

On Thursday, April 7, the Section will hold its Annual Education Seminar at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Sponsors for the day will be Frank Sutton and Powercut, John Deere's distributors for South Wales. Thanks in advance to them. Among the speakers will be Ian Booth of John Deere, Richard Windows and Paul Woodham, of the STRI. Also BIGGA's, Tracey Maddison and Sami Collins, will travel down from HQ to

give a presentation about the Association and its future aims. It looks like being an interesting day. Price for the day is £20 which includes coffee on arrival and the usual excellent buffet lunch. Contact Steve Chappell to reserve a place.

Still on education, the winter series of evening lectures concludes at Cardiff GC, on Wednesday, April 15. Head Greenkeeper, Nigel 'Dan' Harden will host a course walk where he will show us the work that has been carried out on the course over the past few years, including some greens reconstruction. This will be followed by a presentation by Adrian Masters, of Headland. This event will start at 5.30pm and is once again sponsored by Countrywide. Thanks again to them.

Don't forget the IOG Annual Dinner And Dance, which this year is back to its traditional venue of The Swalec Stadium and is on Friday, April 15. Give Steve Chappell a ring if you would like to attend.

Congratulations to David Jakeway, Course Manager at Bryn Meadows Golf Hotel & Spa, who recently became the proud father to a little girl, Daisy May. All the best to you and your partner Rachel from the Section, although you will probably be too tired to read this!

That's it for now. Next month I should have the dates for the spring golf competition and other forthcoming events. Have a great April and Easter.

PS. A big 'good luck' to William and Kate for their forthcoming wedding. I know I didn't receive an invite (it might still be in the post) but you can still come to the IOG dinner. Just remember to bring a raffle prize.

Your Humble Servant
Ceri Richards



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

A Section meeting was held at Warren GC, Dawlish Warren, on Wednesday, February 9. 50 attendees enjoyed either a Course walk or an Individual Stableford Golf competition. John Welsford, Course Manager, kindly led the course walk

around what is a very unique environment to manage. The Warren is built on a sand bank peninsula that is home to rare species and is deemed an SSSI rated site.

John explained how the club is restricted in terms of what management practices are and are not allowed. The fairways in particular receive little or no maintenance due to restrictions including not being able to use seed in the divot mix! They have also undergone some extensive gorse removal to encourage heather regeneration, guided by Natural England.

Although a reasonable free draining site, at High Tide it is subject to flooding and John explained defences put in place to combat the issue of rising water levels, including a newly installed pump, pumping water back out to sea. The course and, in particular, the greens were in fantastic condition for the time of year! Congratulations to John and his team!

The golf on the day was won by Deputy at the Warren, Patrick Twitchen, with 41 pts, second was Greg O'Reilly, St Mellion, with 40 pts and third was Mark Tucker, Saunton, with 39 pts. Nearest the Pin went to James Sheehan, Truro GC, and Longest Drive to Greg O'Reilly. An extra raffle prize was awarded to a course walker who was Tony Gooch, Great Torrington.

The educational speaker for the afternoon was Roger Davey, from Irritect. Roger is very well known and respected in the area and gave a very professional and informative presentation on the anatomy of an irrigation system. Thanks to Roger for taking time out of his busy schedule and for delivering a fantastic presentation. Thanks to John Welsford and his staff at the Warren and to all the staff at the club for their kind hospitality.

On Wednesday, February 23, a Drainage Workshop/Seminar was held at St Mellion International Resort, Cornwall. Over 70 attendees enjoyed a very interesting and thought provoking day, despite the weather and very wet conditions!

The day started with a practical demonstration from Shelton's Drainage Ltd Showing off their "System 25 Trencher" and their "Gravel Bander". Followed by further practical demonstrations from Ecololve with their "Drill and Fill" machine and Campey

with their "Sandcat" machine. All equipment and demonstrators performed extremely well, which was very impressive considering the surface conditions! Mike Bush, St Mellion, also talked through their pipe drainage system on the Kernow 2nd Green, which was installed completely in-house.

After a Cornish pasty lunch, the attendees headed up to the impressive new conference facilities.

Two seminar presentations were delivered. Firstly from John Reynolds, from Vertigo Drainage System. John explained the principles of this new solution to drainage issues. The second speaker was Steve Gingell, from the STRI.

Steve discussed the principles of drainage discussing the science behind water movement through the surface and soil profile. Huge thanks to all demonstrators and speakers involved and a special thank you to Mike Bush, Course Manager at St Mellion, and his Green Staff, for staging and helping with the organisation of the day.

January saw the loss of one of our oldest members, Mr Caleb Charles Moore. Mr Moore passed away on January 5, aged 96.

Having being involved with clubs in the Midlands, He retired to the area and became a member at East Devon GC and became a Life Member of BIGGA.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South East



Surrey

I have heard it said, although I don't know by whom, that we all have a book or novel inside us just waiting for the right moment to pop out. I, at this moment, would be pleased if I could think of just a few lines for this edition!

Thank goodness then for the Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath GC on March 4. I am pleased to confirm that Jason

Hunt, Addington Palace GC, is this year's winner with a magnificent gross 69. The nearest I come to a 69 is the number on the front of my meagre dwelling and not you know what. Tony Bremer was the only other Surrey member to win a prize by coming 2nd in the 11 to 20 handicap section. The event concluded with an After Dinner Speaker whose name now escapes me together with all his jokes.

Have you read Ron Christie's excellent Surrey Section Newsletter 2011? He started by thanking John Ross for having been a worthy Chairman and committee member for many years and welcoming Les Howkins as our new Chairman. Ron then asked for volunteers to contact Ian McMillan, at Walton Heath GC, if they could help at the British Seniors competition July 21-24 ianmcmillan@waltonheath.com. Rising costs will increase the price of members golf events to £25 ensuring that the committee's annual 'away day' to the south of France is not affected.

Surrey won the Annual Sussex v Essex v Surrey at The Three Rivers CG in Essex and due to an absentee, I played for Sussex. The next paragraph in Ron's newsletter is not worth the read and the mention of Your's Truly was most hurtful. Gareth Roberts reached the top of Kilimanjaro and any extra sponsorship will greatly help the Autistic Children Charity. Finally, who is that good looking chap in the visor? No it's not Ian Poulter or Darren Clark, it's one of your committee. If you know, write the answer on a £20 note, give it to me and it will go to the Autistic Children Charity.

Brian 'Regain' Willmott



Essex

February and March are normally quite months for the Section, so for that reason I don't have very much to report, though the following has been put in place by the Section committee.

Education. Our first in a series of One Day courses has started with a First Aid course,

which was held at The Burstead Golf Club, in early March. Once announced it did not take many days for it to fill up and another is planned shortly and may even have passed. We are also looking to run other One Day courses in the near future, so if you have any ideas or you need a specific course, then please contact Ian Wood, our Education Officer, by email: ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk

Golf. The new golf season is nearly upon us and our first venue is at Forrester Park, Thursday, May 5, for the Spring Trophy.

The new fixture book will be out mid April and entry forms will be available in this book, they are also available for download from the website. Don't forget to get your entries in early for this event.

Football. Our football match against the Sussex Section is on the Monday, May 23, at Upton Park, home to West Ham United Football Club, we have a list of players willing to play and trials are underway to pick the team. Kick off is at 2pm.

Social Networking. If you have been following things on the website you will have noticed that we now have a Facebook site and are also on Twitter. Both are Essex Bigga to log in.

Website. By the time you read this, I should have finished the new look website and have it up and running.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer & Web Master

Section Notes

To appear in the next issue please email your notes to scott@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of this month



Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
APRIL 2011			
April 6th	Cleveland Section Spring Tournament	Middlesborough Golf Club	Ian Pemberton at ispemberton@ntlworld.com or telephone 07791 695768
April 6th	East Midlands Spring Golf Day	The Nottinghamshire Golf & Country Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com
April 13th	North West Section Event	Hesketh Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
April 13th	North Wales Section Event	Denbigh Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes on jezpro69@aol.com or telephone 07876 776265
April 15th	North East Section Event	Newcastle United Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson at jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com or telephone 07500 528542
April 19th	East Scotland Section Spring Meeting	Craigielaw Golf Links	Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or telephone 07961 630553
April 20th	Northern Section Spring Tournament	KP Golf Club, Pocklington	Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
April 21st	South West Section	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855
MAY 2011			
May 6th	BIGGA v's GCMA	Glasgow Gailes Golf Club	Peter Boyd at pj.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0141 161 3440/07776 242120
May 25th	East of England Section Event	Immingham Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or telephone 07931 714922
JUNE 2011			
June 8th	South West Section	Long Ashton Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855
June 16th	North West Section v's North Wales Section	Heaton Moor Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 22nd	Northern Section – Presidents Day	Moortown Golf Club, Leeds	Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
June 29th	North West Section Summer Tournament	Grange Park Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 29th	East Midlands Section Summer Golf Day	Cavendish Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com
June 30th	South West Section Summer Tournament	Knowle Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855

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Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Membership Benefits Update

Tastecard offer...time limited offer exclusively for BIGGA Members



BIGGA have negotiated an exclusive deal with tastecard, the nation's largest dining club. A tastecard gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 4,500 restaurants nationwide. Participating restaurants range from PizzaExpress, Cafe Rouge, Bella Italia, Zizzi, ASK, GBK, STRADA and La Tasca to Marco Pierre White and everything in between!

Each restaurant featured offers either 50% off the total food bill or 2-for-1 across all courses (even for groups of more than two diners in most cases).

You can purchase a full year's membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 plus VAT (RRP £69.95).

Be quick, as this offer is only available from Wednesday, April 6, until April 20, 2011.

There are no catches, it is just a great deal, and an opportunity for all 'foodies' to save a small fortune on eating out over the next 12 months.

For more information on the tastecard visit:

www.tastecard.co.uk

From April 6 BIGGA Members will be able to purchase a tastecard via the BIGGA Website by paying online or by telephone by contacting BIGGA HQ directly. This exclusive deal is not available directly from the tastecard website.

Preferential rates on Toyota HILUX vehicles to BIGGA Members

BIGGA has teamed up with Jemca Business Centre, London (suppliers of Toyota and Lexus) to offer BIGGA Members preferential



rates on outright purchase or contract hire of Toyota HILUX vehicles.

Although based in London this offer is open to all BIGGA Members in the UK.

NB: prices are frequent to change due to manufacturer campaigns, but examples of contract hire and purchase can be obtained from emailing membership@bigga.co.uk

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA's Sections now have a Facebook page or group, if you are a member of Facebook go and 'join' or 'like' a section group or page and keep up to date with what's going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

Membership Subscriptions 2011

From April 1, 2011 membership subscriptions will be: -

Category	Annual Fee
Full Member - Category 1A	£130
Full Member - Category 1B	£77
Associate Member - Category 2A	£57
Associate Member - Category 2B	£28.50
International Member	£90
Affiliate Member	£87
Student Member	£25



Contact Details

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Regional Offices

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Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

South West & Wales

Jane Jones
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
janejones1@btconnect.com



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

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

Scotland

Derek Adams, East Section
Frank Aherne, Central Section
Ott Avango, North Section
Ronald Gilchrist, Ayrshire Section
Michael Glennie, North Section
Allan Goodwin, Central Section
Alfred Grand, Central Section
Conor Hennessy, North Section
Anthony Marr, Central Section
Christopher McGhee, Ayrshire Section
Robert Richards, Central Section
Andrew Richards, Central Section
David Rumbles, North Section
Bruce Todd, Central Section
Kenneth Turnbull, Central Section
Steven Turnbull, East Section
Neville Wenhold, North Section

Northern Region

Simon Ashford, North Wales Section
Christopher Bullock, Northern Section
Jamie Cuthbert, North West Section
Thomas Garbutt, Northern Section
Stuart Goodsall, Northern Section
James High, Northern Section
Jack Howden, North East Section
Simon Maynard, North West Section
Daniel Walker, Northern Section
Richard Walton, Northern Section

Midland Region

Callum Auld, Mid Anglia Section
Anthony Darker, East of England Section
Andrew Davies, Midland Section
Michael Dickson, East Midland Section
Alex Ermini, Mid Anglia Section
Ian Haynes, East Midland Section
Debra Jardine, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Alexander O'Brien, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Stuart Robinson, Mid Anglia Section
Mark Smith, Midland Section
Stephen Stuart, East Midland Section
Daniel Turner, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Gary Walters, East Midland Section
Trevor Ward, Midland Section

South East Region

Lloyd Barnes, Surrey Section
Daniel Braden, Surrey Section
James Elmer, Surrey Section
Adam Envis, Kent Section
Steven Levermore, Essex Section
Ian Meek, Surrey Section
John Moore, East Anglia Section
Jason O'Keefe, Surrey Section
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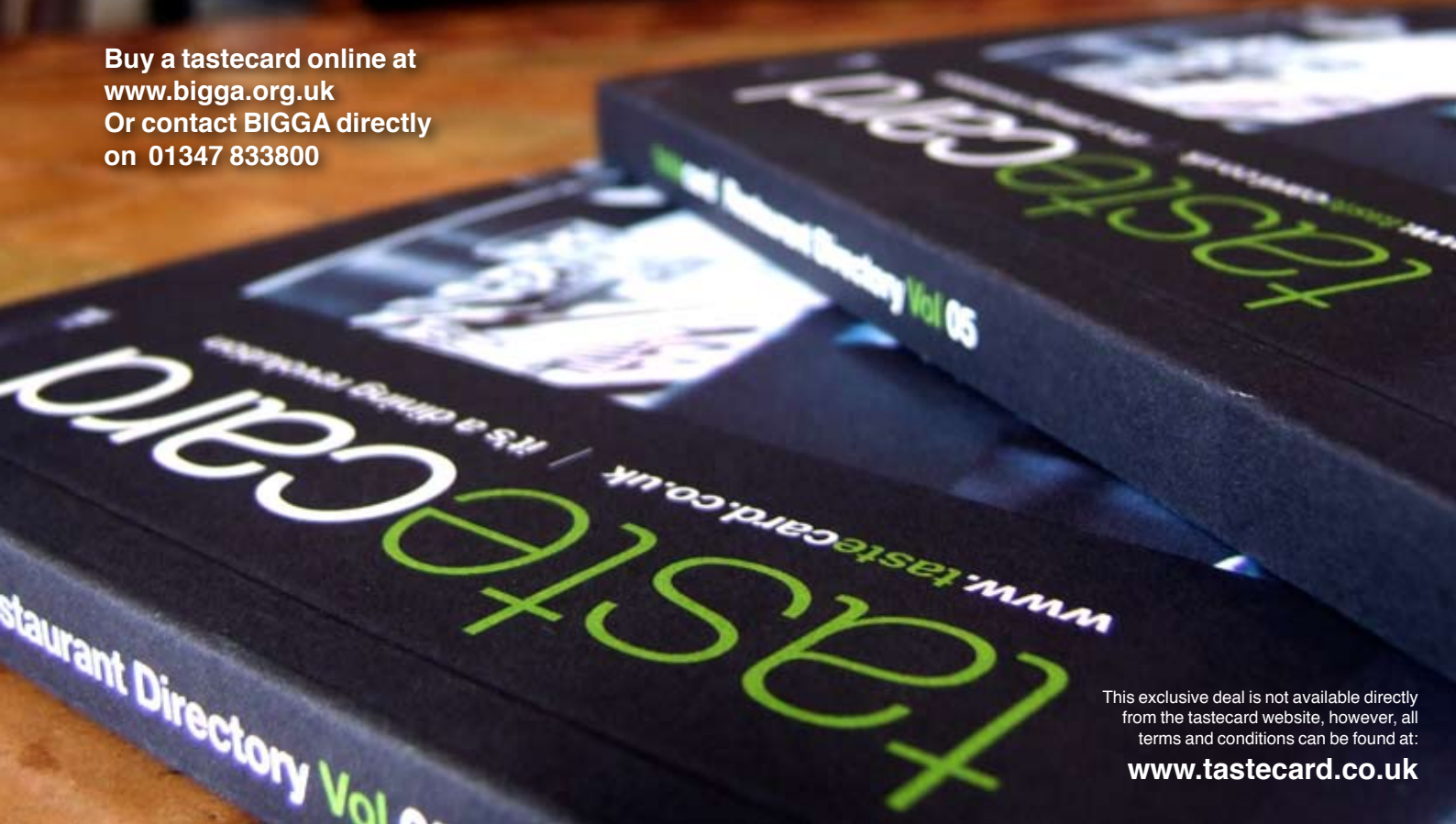
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Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

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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.

Profit goal - to reduce waste by 10% across the whole site, by December 20XX.

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To reduce scrap/reject components off CNC machines by 2%, by June 20XX.
- Warehouse Team**
To reduce part order deliveries from 22 per month to less than 5, by September 20XX.
- Finance Team**
To agree 12 key supplier agreements which result in a 1% stock reduction, by October 20XX.

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.

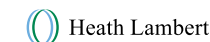
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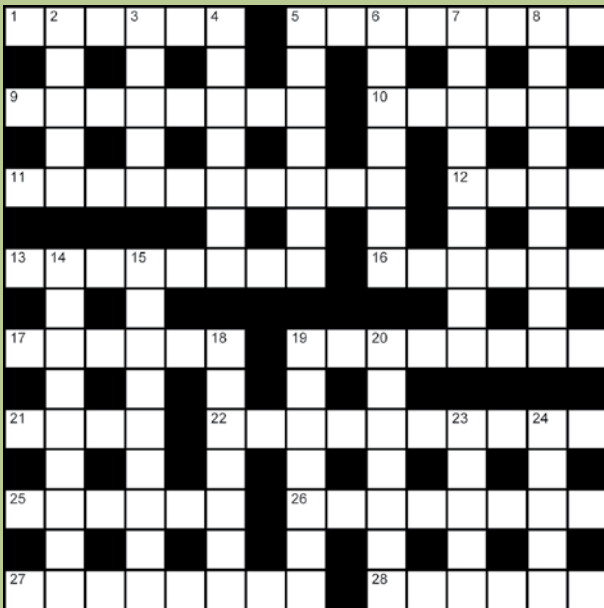




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 An irrational, intense fear (6)
- 5 Period of industrialisation associated with rail travel (5,3)
- 9 Social network site founded by Mark Zuckerberg (8)
- 10 Syd, comedy partner of Eddie Large (6)
- 11 How stairs should be taken? (4,2,4)
- 12 Raw beef or mutton fat (4)
- 13 Partner of French comedienne (8)
- 16 Rapper, aka Slim Shady aka Marshall Mathers (6)
- 17 2D representation of a sphere (6)
- 19 General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1964-1982 (8)
- 21 Rock band fronted by Brian Johnson (2-2)
- 22 Artist renowned for My Bed (6,4)
- 25 Brilliant (6)
- 26 Novelist DH, or soldier TE (8)
- 27 Walks unsteadily; disease affecting horses and cattle (8)
- 28 Personality (6)

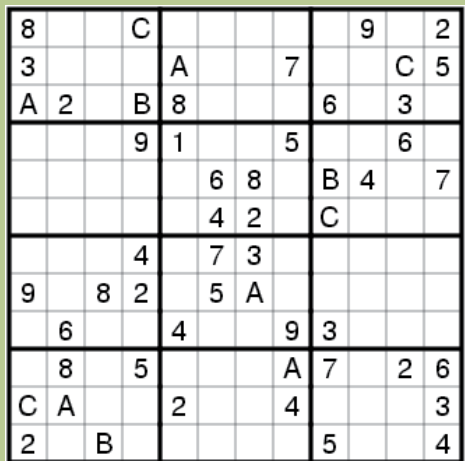
Down

- 2 Courage (5)
- 3 Sound used to disguise broadcast profanities (5)
- 4 Bland and inoffensive (7)
- 5 More popular name for Saint Christopher Island in the West Indies (2,5)
- 6 Obscure (7)
- 7 The eleventh actor to portray The Doctor (4,5)
- 8 The name of Ian Fleming's Jamaican estate (9)
- 14 1415 battle won by Henry V (9)
- 15 Successor to Sir Menzies Campbell as leader of Liberal Democrats (4,5)
- 18 Ugandan airport, scene of 1976 hostage rescue (7)
- 19 The ____, popular Liverpool music combo (7)
- 20 1872 novel by Samuel Butler (7)
- 23 Designate (5)
- 24 Suffer (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Play your Cards Right - Higher or Lower

1. Is the lowest score in Major History higher or lower than 266?
2. Is the highest number of goals scored by a Premier League team higher or lower than 100? -
3. Is the highest individual innings score in a Test Match higher or lower than 500?
4. Has AP McCoy ridden higher or lower than 3300 winners by the Cheltenham Festival of this year?
5. Has Jonny Wilkinson scored higher or lower than 1000 points.
6. Has Roger Federer won higher or lower than 17 Major Singles' titles?
7. Is the lowest round on one of the four major golf Tours higher or lower than 59?
8. Has Ryan Giggs played higher or lower than 850 games for Manchester United?
9. Did GB&I win higher or lower than 50 medals at the Beijing Olympics?



Monster Daily SuDoku: Mon 28-Mar-2011 easy

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.



Daily SuDoku: Mon 28-Mar-2011 easy

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle Answers on page 65

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The Buyers' Guide article in the February's magazine stated that the Royal Dornoch Course Manager had been in post for 10 years. Bob Mackay would like to point out that he, in fact, was Course Manager at Royal Dornoch until 2005. We would like to apologise to Bob for the inaccuracy.

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Photo courtesy of Ridding Park
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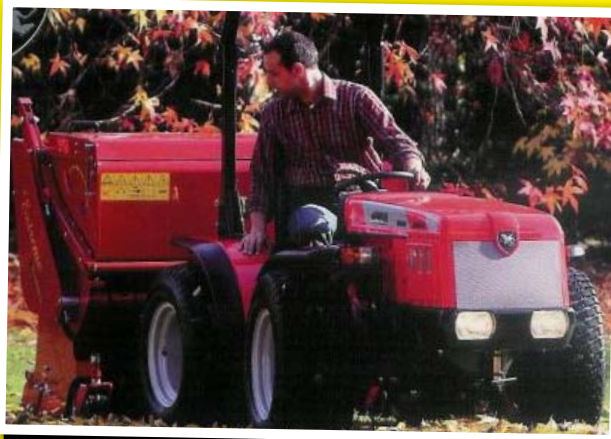
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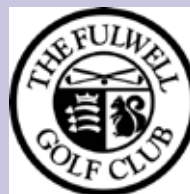
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BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
South East	16 November 2011	Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex	Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343
South West & South East	17 November 2011	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850
Scotland	6 March 2012	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440




in the shed answers

QUICK '9 HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Lower. David Toms 265, 2001 US PGA Championships.
2. Lower. 97 by Manchester United in 99-00 season.
3. Lower. 400 Not Out. Brian Lara verses England in Antigua, 2004
4. Higher. 3350 winners.
5. Higher. 1128 points.
6. Lower. 16 Major titles
7. Lower. 58. Ryo Ishikawa in 2010 at the Crowns event on the Japanese Tour.
8. Higher. 863 as of March this year.
9. Lower. 47. 19 Gold, 13 Silver and 15 Bronze.

CROSSWORD

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

MONSTER SUDOKU

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

Monster Daily SuDoku: Mon 28-Mar-2011 easy

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

Daily SuDoku: Mon 28-Mar-2011 easy



On the Soapbox

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

History! Not exactly everyone's favourite subject. All these dates you had to repeat to get them well and truly into your head. I'm sure you all still remember them...

Battle of Hastings? Signing of the Magna Carta? Battle of Bannockburn?

Of course you do. How could you forget?

Now, who knows the name of the first greenkeepers' Association formed in England, or in Scotland? Do you know when your Section was formed? Or even, when BIGGA was established?

History can be interesting, as long as you have an interest in the subject. And I believe we have an obligation to record our past so that our successors can see how the Associations have developed.

We in the Greenkeepers' Associations have, I believe, been a bit lax in recording our past and it is about time we brought it up to date. What better time than now, as next year - 2012 - it will be 100 years since the first Association in England was formed.

I say in England as we are pretty sure an Association was formed in Scotland in 1908, but unfortunately all those early records were lost in a fire.

Next year, at BTME, BIGGA would like to put on an exhibition/display on 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations and there are many of you who can contribute to its success.

Obviously the last 25 years' of BIGGA should be pretty well taken care of, so it is really the 75 years before then that need to be covered. I know, I know, how can many of you guys know anything about that time when you're not old enough?

Greenkeeping often runs in families and possibly your father or grandfather was a greenkeeper. What can they remember? Or what have they got hidden in the attic? Perhaps an old magazine from a bygone day, a prize won at a National tournament. Who won the first Ransomes' watches, presented many years ago and does anyone still have one, even if it was their father's?

Do you still have contact with old retired greenkeepers in your area? Have a chat see if they have anything that may be of interest. And, to the old retired greenkeepers who still get this magazine, especially those who were involved in one way or another in their Association, recycle the memories, you are the stepping stone back to the earlier years of what went on with our Associations.

Photographs are another way of recording the past. There must be photographs of all

kinds of greenkeeper meetings from golf days, company days, seminars, social events.

Can we find photographs of Past Chairmen of the BGGA; there has to be photos of winners of the BGGA National Tournament over the years.

I am not forgetting EIGGA in this, while they had a relatively short life compared to the other Associations, they play an important part in the evolution of what is now BIGGA. So I would appeal to the guys who were instrumental in the formation of EIGGA to contact me so that we can make sure we have facts, figures and names correct.

Education, this didn't just start with BIGGA. Both English and Scottish Associations encouraged greenkeepers to learn more about their trade through various means right from the early days. The GGA ran an essay competition and published the winning entries in its Journal in 1915 while the SGA ran evening lectures during the winter months through the 1920s and published booklets on these lectures.

Incidentally greenkeepers travelled from all over Scotland, by train of course, to attend

between them. Do we have a family who has only worked at one club?

What about some of the old established companies which have been such great supporters of all the different Associations over the years, have you got any mementos, photographs, brochures of company days for greenkeepers or programmes for seminars you or your predecessors may have put on.

So, to recap, we are looking for GGA Journals, BGGA magazines (not whole collections), possibly Diaries, especially from the earlier part of the century.

Also, Conference/Seminar brochures, photographs, booklets on lectures, any references to Educational events. Memorabilia, lapel badges, blazer badges, even cloth ones. In other words anything at all that relates to, and shows us how, the greenkeeping Associations developed over the last 100 years.

Any of these things can either be donated to BIGGA or loaned and will be returned. If you have something which you wish to send, but not until nearer the time contact me and let me know what it is so I can include it in the planning.

Be part of BIGGA's Time Team

these evenings. I have copies of some of the aforementioned journals and lecture booklets. Are there more out there? Has anyone got copies of the old GGA Journal, or do you know someone who may have?

Famous, or well known, people. I can think of a few professionals who started working as greenkeepers and then moved into the Pro Shop, but who do we know who moved onto the big stage and became familiar faces in the professional world. Not just pros, but top amateurs as well. Sandy Pirie, a well known greenkeeper in Aberdeen, was also one of Britain's top amateurs and a Walker Cup player. If my memory serves me correctly Alec Millar, from Denham, a member of an extended greenkeeping family, won either the Golf Illustrated Gold Vase or The Lytham Trophy, as did Tony McLure, from Whickham, in more recent years (the only time I didn't mind losing a fiver was to his shot making).

Greenkeeping Dynasties, or just families. Are you descended from a long line of greenkeepers, or do you know of a family who have followed each other into the business? Let us know about them from the oldest to the youngest how many cumulative years

If you wish to contact me you can do so on elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk or contact Headquarters on 01347 833800 or your local Regional Administrator.

I thank you in anticipation and incidentally those dates at the beginning were 1066, 1215 and 1314. Of course, you knew those anyway.



Elliott is a BIGGA Past Chairman
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Elliott Small

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