

# GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 AUGUST 2011

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The eight finalists revealed

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### Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton  
jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

### Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins  
sami@bigga.co.uk

### Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

### Contact Us

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

## GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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### Editorial

#### Communications Manager / Editor

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



### Design

**Design and  
Production Editor**  
Tom Campbell

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



### Advertising

**Sales Executive**  
Kirstin Black

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



**Sales Executive**  
Jill Rodham

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

### Printing

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

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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



# A special month for greenkeeping

**The freakish weather at the Ryder Cup last year was regarded as pretty much a one-off, or at the very least a once in a century occurrence. But then, less than a year later, along came the Barclays Scottish Open, at Castle Stuart, in Inverness.**

Rain, of such ferocity that it caused landslips on areas of the course which hadn't been touched by man in thousands of years, just happened to hit the biggest sporting event ever organised in the Highlands.

In the magazine this month the Course Manager, Chris Haspell, describes how they had 97mm of rain in a matter of hours, with very little warning. That the tournament reached a successful conclusion - albeit over 54 holes - with the World No 1, Luke Donald, lifting the brand new trophy, is a credit to a huge number of people. Chris and his incredible team, were assisted by some of the top Course Managers in the country who happened to be at the event enjoying hospitality. They were more than happy to roll up their sleeves, pick up a shovel and shift some mud.

Remarkably, despite it all, Castle Stuart emerged from the week with its reputation if anything enhanced and there will be a whole host of the world's top golfers keen to return next year, or add it onto their schedules ahead of the Royal Lytham and St Annes Open.

Royal St George's, at the opposite end of the country, was a superb venue for this year's Open and, as you will read in our Review, it was the scene of another greenkeeping triumph. Graham Royden had only been confirmed as permanent Head Greenkeeper a couple of weeks before the Championship, but he

handled everything that was thrown at him with all the calm assurance of a seasoned veteran. The weather wasn't perfect but the golf course was and it was a credit to the work that Graham and his wonderful team had done in the months and weeks running up to the start.

Come the week itself the BIGGA Open Support Team arrived in force to assist with the day-to-day work during the Championship itself. And it worked superbly, to the extent that by the weekend Graham had asked two Support Team members each day to double cut the 17th and 18th greens. What great faith to show in the Support Team, and what an experience for those young greenkeepers. Whenever footage of Darren Clarke's march to victory is shown on TV they will be able to watch the final two holes and say, "I cut those greens."

So July was a special month for greenkeeping. There was hard work, often in desperate conditions, but in both cases, at Castle Stuart and Royal St George's, they succeeded in producing great tournament venues. That much of the work was carried out in front of soaking wet galleries and television cameras meant that it was a perfect showcase for quality greenkeeping - just the sort of greenkeeping that is carried out, away from the spotlight, up and down the country week in and week out.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**

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## Toro Student of the Year Finalists

The Regional Finals have taken place and the eight finalists for the 2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and succeed Andrew Stanger

One of them now has the opportunity to become the 23rd Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and succeed Andrew Stanger

The eight will arrive at Aldwick Manor on Sunday, September 11, in preparation for the Final the following day, which will comprise of a formal interview and the completion of a report, which will only be revealed to them on the Monday morning.

The winner and two runners-up will be announced second Open, with the day concluding with a meal and a relaxed game of tennis.

The winner receives an eight week trip to the United States, beginning next January. This includes a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts, and trips to the USGA's Golf Industry Show, in Las Vegas, and Toro's California base.

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



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**STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Name: Robert Mills**  
Age: 24  
Golf Club: Burningside GC  
Position: Assistant  
College: Morris Wood College

Robert joined the staff at Burningside in 2008 and has been enjoying working at Burningside since then. He has been a finalist in the past a number of times and is pleased to be back again for a second time. His father is Head Greenkeeper at Bishop's Cleeve and together they have worked on a voluntary basis to prepare their local cricket pitch.

He was a member of the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal St George's this year. As a member he was in the Team House of the Year, and is a dad in the wood number 11 hat!

**Name: Miles Todd**  
Age: 23  
Golf Club: Rhoads GC  
Position: Deputy Course Manager  
College: Donk College

Miles was presented to Deputy Course Manager at Rhoads GC just over a year ago and finished his NVQ Level III earlier this year.

He is a keen golfer having represented North Wales at all age levels and Captain of his club. He was also a member of BIGGA's Open Support Team at Torquay in 2009, and also a regular attendee at BIGGA events at the British.

**Name: Justin Howard**  
Age: 20  
Golf Club: Chesham Golf Centre  
Position: Head Greenkeeper  
College: Macclesfield College

Justin started his greenkeeping career seven years ago. 10 years after finishing his studies at Chesham bank. He became Head Greenkeeper in 2009 and has been working hard to improve the club. He is currently studying for his Level III Diploma which will help towards his goal. One of his goals is to be a better runner and enjoy watching Burningside Team GC.

**Name: Ryan Williams**  
Age: 26  
Golf Club: Royal Portcullis GC  
Position: Assistant  
College: Preston College

Ryan has been at Royal Portcullis since the spring of this year having worked at the Green GC for three and a half years before that.

As a golfer he plays off 25 and won the Green Club Championship on several occasions as well as a number of club competitions. Prior to that he played international rugby for Wales at under 18 and under 19 level and played semi professionally for Bridgend. He has played alongside current Welsh international, Shane Hook and Andrew Bishop.

**Name: Ben Thomas**  
Age: 22  
Golf Club: Daugham Park GC  
Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
College: Macclesfield College

Ben has been in his current position for five years and has been part of the design and construction work on other clubs in the area and he is currently spending his winter months working on a large scale project which will be a new clubhouse and shop work. As a golfer he has represented North Wales at junior level but now wishes to represent his club in a team format over off a handicap of 8.

**Name: Matthew Perks**  
Age: 28  
Golf Club: Ham Manor GC  
Position: First Assistant/Mechanic  
College: Plymouth College

Matthew has worked at Ham Manor for three and a half years having previously been a Machinery Technician at the Championship Centre for Lord Board Stirling in Somerset.

Among his achievements have been Best Overall and Best Cadet in the Army Cadets, which he was also selected as one of the winners of the Machinery Technicians at the 2010 Ryder Cup, at Celtic Manor and represented his club with him for the rest of his life.

Outside of work Matthew has interests in golf, football, tennis, DVD and art and design.



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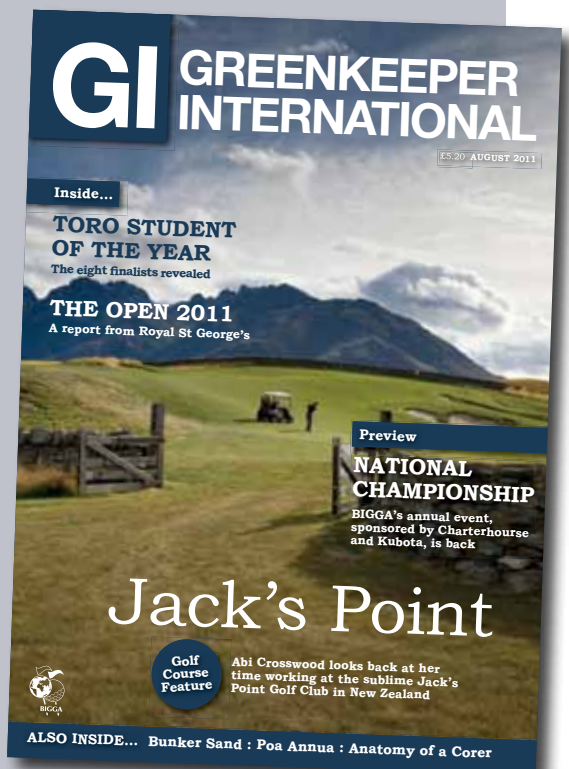
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## An Extraordinary Tournament



**Castle Stuart Course Manager, Chris Haspell, describes the extraordinary events surrounding the Barclays Scottish Open, last month.**

Seldom in professional golf do you encounter the type of weather we had for this year's Barclays Scottish Open, and I now know how Jim Mackenzie and his Team must have felt at last year's Ryder Cup.

We had a good start on Thursday and Friday, but the players were delayed on Friday afternoon for lightning.

However, looking at the weather system for the following day, nothing was going to prepare us for what was about to happen.

On Friday evening I saw the localised flooding in Edinburgh on the TV, but, not giving it a second thought, I went to bed, while my two boys camped in the garden.

About 2.30am I was awoken by thunder in the distance and I heard some rain, so I got up and made a brew, before going to work, as we were meeting at 3.30am anyway. The guys were all there ready to go, so I went on a quick run around the course. With 10mm in the rain gauge we were still looking good for a 7am start.

When I got to the 12th, that's when it started, with a lightning strike just off the 12th green. Then the rain arrived in earnest and my windscreen wipers would not keep up, it was relentless. It was too risky for the guys to go on the course so I held them back.

At 4.30am I emptied the gauge and it showed 37mm on top of the original 10mm. One hour later we were up to 87mm.

It was around 6am when we had the first landslip, with the second following shortly afterwards. A bank, which has lain untouched for thousands of years, had yielded in two places, on the 1st and 12th. We were up to 97mm around 10am.

I tried to keep the lads away while I formulated a plan, as that kind of thing can quickly drag down morale, especially if you do not have a construction background.

It was then announced that play would be delayed until 2pm. My local contractor arrived on site around 9am so I knew I had a few hours before we were due to tee off.

That's when the guys who had been



invited as hospitality guests turned up, including Gordon Moir and Gordon McKie, from St Andrews, and Euan Grant, from Turnberry - who were pictured on TV working on the course.

They joined the guys from local courses with shovels, forks and squeegees. I cannot thank them enough. It just shows what a great industry we work in.

During the day every time we got the course ready for play more rain would fall very quickly, undoing what we had done, and we toiled until the very last minute, at 7.30pm, when the play was finally cancelled for the day.

It is with this in mind that I would like to name the guys who worked so hard to get the play finished and those who just turned up on spec. The hardest part was keeping them off the course in such violent weather conditions, such was their enthusiasm and tenacity to get things moving.

The team for the week was: James, Alan, Kev, James, Hexley, Andrew, Daz, Gok, Graham, Roy, Ewen, John, Ray, George, Gary, Lee, Matt, Justin, Andy, Chris, David, Martin, Davie, Gordon, Graeme, Mike, Sean, Rob, Jesper, Anders, Craig, Alexander, Simon, Bob, Tony, Alistair, James and Nick, who all did a first class job

The clubs and helpers who turned up on

spec included, Sandy Kineard, Carrbridge GK, Ballindalloch GK, St Andrews Links, Royal Dornoch, Turnberry, Loch Lomond, Moray GK, John Milne Landscapes, Las Plant Pump hire, Fairways GM plus the many marshals and others who helped.

There were many others and I apologise if I have left anyone out. To all, a personal thank you from all of the team here at Castle Stuart. Without your help we could not have finished the Tournament.

Now we are in the process of clearing up. Two landslips also occurred just along the coast from us so we were not isolated. It was just pure weight of water,

Now we are planning some emergency storm drainage to cope should it ever happen again.







## The Course Care Cup 2011: Wessex Secretaries v South Coast Greenkeepers

Now in its 14th year and sponsored by Course Care, this popular event took place recently at Knighton Heath Golf Club, in Bournemouth.

The Greenkeepers, having won last year, were determined to consolidate their position and win again, while the Secretaries were keen to take the cup this year.

Much was at stake and it was close run but, in the end, the match was halved with the trophy being retained by last year's winners; the Greenkeepers!

However, consolation was found in a superb meal which followed and after which the trophy was presented by Highspeed Group's joint Managing Director, David Mears. David (centre) is shown with Eddie Robertson, Captain of the Secretaries team (left) and Tony Gadd, Chairman of BIGGA South Coast Section and Greenkeeper's Captain (right).



## UP FOR A CHALLENGE

A Golf Day Challenge hosted by Sherriff Amenity and Everris (formerly Scotts) was recently held at De Vere Oulton Hall.

The event, held over two days was a huge success. Fourteen four ball groups played on the day with representation from BIGGA, including the new CEO, Jim Croxton; Geoff Webb, the CEO of IOG, also played along with other guests including teams from the STRI, Crown Golf, De Vere, Leaderboard, Glendale, The Belfry and London Golf Club as well as Course Directors from Scotland.

After a great day of golf first prize was eventually won by the Burhill Golf and Leisure team, second went to Crown Golf, with the BIGGA team in third.

The following day saw presentations made by both Sherriff Amenity and Everris to the group on their respective businesses.

A prize draw held in the evening raised £400 for Sherriff Amenity's nominated charity of the year "Help For Heroes".

A team from Sherriffs also cycled over 180 miles last month, travelling from Lymm to Cambridge: sponsorship details can be found at [www.sherriffamenity.com](http://www.sherriffamenity.com).

Pictured, Mark Pyrah of Sherriff Amenity (second left) with Steve Wragg (left), Jim Croxton (second right) and Tracey Maddison (right).

## Tacit Golf Management Trophy Competitions 2011

New sponsors Tacit have given the event a slightly new format. Together with team prizes to be won on the day teams are competing for places in a National Final to be held later in the year.

Two of the South West and South Wales Region's Tacit Golf Management Competitions have taken place and four clubs have secured their places in the finals of the event.

The South Coast Section event was recently held at Liphook Golf Club with the home team winning the event with 85 points, just one point ahead of the second placed team Test Valley.

In the South Wales Section event the winners were Newport Golf Club with 78 points and the runners up were the home team of Morrison Golf Club with 76 points. All four teams will now go through to the final.

The last of this Region's competitions took place in the South West Section at The Players Golf Club on July 21 with 23 clubs taking part.

Forthcoming Regional Golf Management Trophy competitions sponsored by TACIT are: BIGGA Midland, Brickendon Grange Golf Club on Tuesday, August 2, 2011; BIGGA South East, Upminster Golf Club on Thursday, August 11, 2011; BIGGA Northern, Cookridge Hall Golf Club on Thursday, August 18, 2011, BIGGA Midland, Market Harborough Golf Club on September 1, 2011.



## BSH Visit is a Big Hit



British Seed Houses hosted a press visit to IBERS - The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, at the University of Aberystwyth – where the research and development work into new cultivars is carried out.

The event was introduced by BSH Managing Director, William Gilbert, and there were talks from Sheena Duller, who is in charge of the Amenity Breeding programme at Aberystwyth; and Ian Thomas, who maintains the Institute's enormous store of grass seed from around the world and who travels the world adding to it.

The seed with specific qualities is then used for breeding purposes with a view to producing new varieties with improved benefits.

Danny Thorogood and PhD student, Chloe Manzanares, then explained the work and science being carried out with molecular markers, which identify genetic traits within grass species at an early stage and so can cut down the number of years it takes for a new variety to reach production stage.

Danny explained the work of 19th century monk, Gregor Mendel, who did some ground breaking work on genetics involving peas which was subsequently developed by scientists, William Bateson, Reginald Punnett and Thomas Morgan.

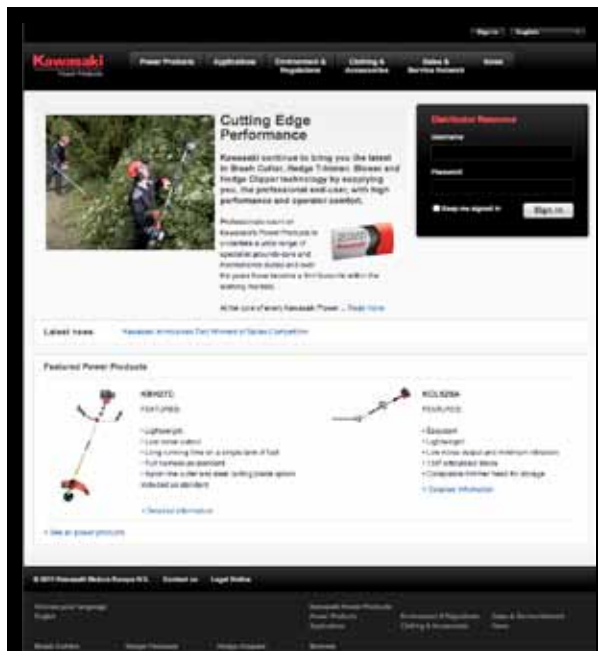
Also interesting was the emerging fact that the perfect grass – one which performs well under all conditions – may be unsuccessful if it doesn't produce sufficient yield to make it viable.

It has to be worthwhile financially for farmers to give their fields over to grass seed production.

The following morning BSH's Richard Brown carried out a de-brief of the previous day's talks explaining how all new varieties must conform to rigorous testing while at the same time the uniformity must be robust enough to cope with production on a commercial scale and withstand thorough crop inspection.

He revealed that slender creeping red fescue, AberCharm, which will supercede AberFlight, will become commercially available next year and which has demonstrated excellent winter and summer colour while in 2013 AberRegal, a browntop bent, is scheduled to become available and it is showing firmness of leaf and high shoot density plus good resistance to fusarium.

There followed a session of clay pigeon shooting at the Mid Wales Shooting Centre which identified Jonathan Tilley, of Horticulture Week, as the least blunt among the assembled group of sharp shooters.



## NEW DEDICATED WEBSITES FOR KAWASAKI'S ENGINES & POWER PRODUCTS

Kawasaki, has launched two new websites to provide information and support that is specifically tailored to their Engines and Power Products markets.

Speaking about the launch, Kawasaki's Sales & Marketing Co-ordinator, Louise Topp, said "We took the decision to create two separate sites as we wanted to emphasise how our products relate to very different market needs and requirements as well as providing websites that are easy to navigate and user friendly, to make sure visitors can find relevant information quickly and easily. They will be an invaluable resource for our dealers, distributors and customers."

An important consideration was to have product specifications and dealer and distributor network information readily to hand for visitors to the sites. With this in mind, they have been designed with a comprehensive search facility, with distributor and dealer information only a click away.

A major new feature of both sites is the dedicated Distributor Resource Area where dealers and distributors will have a central source of support material.

The latest technical bulletins, parts catalogues, owner manuals and marketing material will all be available for download.

Kawasaki is committed to long term investment in their websites, with further phased developments being planned for launch throughout the year. There is a rolling programme scheduled to make the Engine website available in additional EU Languages, while the Power Products website will eventually be available in the language of every country within Kawasaki's trading area.

To have a look at the new sites and to keep up to date with Kawasaki's latest information please visit [www.kawasaki-powerproducts.eu](http://www.kawasaki-powerproducts.eu) and [www.kawasaki-engines.eu](http://www.kawasaki-engines.eu)



# Backing for New Initiative



The PGA and BIGGA are backing an American initiative aimed at making golf more enjoyable.

Golfers in USA are taking part in the Tee it Forward scheme which encourages clubs to set tee boxes forward to match the ability of amateurs.

PGA Chief Executive, Sandy Jones, has welcomed the idea, which is being piloted by the PGA of America and the USGA.

He sees it as a means of improving the game, speeding up pace of play and

attracting new enthusiasts to the sport.

BIGGA Chief Executive, Jim Croxton, also backs the initiative.

“BIGGA is fundamentally in favour of any initiative which serves to make the game of golf more accessible and enjoyable for all. The Tee it Forward programme will serve to fulfil those ambitions particularly on courses that currently have the flexibility to vary course length. Enjoyment of a golf course is also intrinsically linked to the condition in which it is presented and that

includes ensuring that teeing grounds are suitable for purpose,” said Jim.

“We applaud the PGA of America and the USGA for their initiative and would welcome the opportunity to work with the governing bodies of golf in the UK to form and manage similarly innovative initiatives to help grow the game,” he added.

Sandy Jones also sees wider benefits of the Tee it Forward programme

“It will not just boost many golfers’ enjoyment of the game but also addresses two of the bugbears frequently cited as problems in the game - time taken to play a round of golf and the pace of play.

“I think realistically, the average club player should be thinking about playing courses in the region of 6,000-6,200 yards. It doesn’t make sense to have higher handicap players tackling 450-yard par fours when they’ve got no chance of reaching them in two.”

The move would see courses set up in line with the average driving distance for amateurs, meaning they would be 6,000-6,200 yards long.

Courses in the region of 6,700-yards would be proportionate to Tour players playing 8,100-yard courses, at least 700-yards longer than those Tour players play on. This stems from a report that found the average drive for a mid to high handicapper male is 192 yards while the distance for women, is 145 yards.

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# BIGGA SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT THE DUKES COURSE, ST.ANDREWS



This year's Scottish National Tournament was held over the Dukes Course, St.Andrews.

Overhead conditions were fine, a slight breeze but dry. The course at its longest can be played at 7,500 yards which makes it one of the longest inland courses in Europe, but we settled for a reasonable yardage at 6,500 yards.

This still proved a difficult test which was reflected in the scoring. Derek Robson, Course Manager and his staff, had obviously worked extremely hard to produce an outstanding course which rightly received plaudits from the players for its superb condition.

Four players, Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns; Alistair Read, Williamwood; David Grant, Newmachar GC, and Paul Teviotdale, Montrose Links, all returned gross 77. With a better inward half, Paul was the winner of the SGGA Challenge Cup for 2011. After his win last year of the Pattison Trophy (Second Class), Richard Pirie, of Newmachar, went one better and won the Friendship Trophy and Handicap Champion for 2011 with a score of 84-11-73.

Our Chairman, Stuart Taylor, thanked David Scott, General Manager at the Dukes, for the assistance and help given to the Association prior to and during the tournament by his staff.

## PRIZE LIST

### **SGGA Challenge Cup - Scratch Champion**

Paul Teviotdale, Montrose Links, 77

### **Friendship Trophy - Handicap Champion**

Richard Pirie, Newmachar GC, 84-11-73

### **Ransomes Trophy - First Class**

1. George Brown, Retired, 81-7-74 (BIH)
2. David Grant, Newmachar GC, 77-2-75 (BIH)
3. Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns, 77-2-75
4. Patrick Wood, Newmachar GC, 81-5-76 (BIH)

### **Pattison Trophy - Second Class**

1. Gordon McKie, St Andrews, 87-11-76
2. Stuart Brown, Royal Aberdeen, 87-10-77
3. Alan Russell, Archerfield, 90-12-78 (BIH)
4. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC, 90-12-78

### **STRI Trophy - Third Class**

1. Euan Grant, Turnberry Hotel, 98-14-84

### **Dick Aitken Trophy - Best Head Greenkeeper**

Paul Murphy, Downfield GC, 80-5-75

### **M&M Trophy - Best Assistant**

Kenny Mitchell, St.Andrews, 79-5-74

### **SIGGA Trophy - Best Veteran**

Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 88-11-77

### **St Mungo Trophy - Team Trophy (Best 4 net scores) Section; Central**

Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews, 74; Paul Murphy, Downfield GC, 75; Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns, 75; Gordon McKie, St Andrews, 76. Total - 300

### **Patron/Trade Trophy**

Kenny Turnbull, Vermigrand, 80-5-75

### **Qualifiers National Championship;**

Paul Teviotdale, Montrose Links  
Richard Pirie, Newmachar GC

Peter J.Boyd, Regional Administrator

## Scottish Region v GCMA

This year's match against the GCMA was held at Glasgow Gables Golf Club.

GCMA were the hosts and had high hopes of winning after their victory in the previous visit to Gables in 1998.

The match, played in windy but dry conditions, was very close with the GCMA leading by a point with two matches to go. Both games, however, went the way of BIGGA and we emerged the winners by 5 matches to 4. The Vice Chairman, Andy O'Hara, accepted the trophy on behalf of BIGGA and gave the apologies on behalf of the Chairman who had to leave early.

Winners for the Association were: Derek Wilson & Iain MacDonald, Derek Scott & Stuart Brown, Scott Ballantyne & Brian Hillen, Colin McArthur & Shaun Cunningham. Halved matches for Iain MacLeod & Archie Dunn plus Andy Peace & Blair Somerville. The defeated pairings were Stuart Taylor & Andy O'Hara, Iain Barr & Duncan Gray and David McBride & John Brown.

Our thanks to the Captain and Committee of Glasgow GC for the courtesy and facilities afforded to us. The course was in superb condition and congratulations go to Brian Dickson and his staff for all their hard work in preparing the course for our visit.

Details of the rematch in 2012 details will follow soon.

Peter J. Boyd, RA





# Chairman's Word

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

## A huge effort

**I've just had one of the most enjoyable months of my career in Golf Course Management.**

I attended the Scottish National Tournament, held at The Duke's Course in St Andrews. The attendance, camaraderie and competitive spirit were all in abundance. Paul Teviotdale emerged as worthy winner, and there was a lesson for us all as George Brown took first place in the 1st Class category. Course Manager, Derek Robson, and the team had the course in great condition, the investment in drainage has paid huge dividends. Thanks to General Manager, David Scott, and the team for great hospitality.

Back at Elmwood, the team continues to work hard on trying to finish all the snagging, now that our major reconstruction work is finished. It's hard to get those extra tasks done when you return to normal team size. Six hard working French students had joined us for three weeks to gain some experience and provided some much appreciated help. We also held an Open Day with the industry to listen to their views on Education across our three main areas of Golf Course Management, Golf Management and Professional Golf Coaching/Performance. This will ensure we develop our provision to match the requirements of students.

We held our June Board meeting, the first with our new Chief Executive, and it was very progressive and forward looking. Watch this space.

I then booked a week and a half away from work, for a whirlwind experience. It started with a visit to Celtic Manor 2010, for a Corporate day with Bernhards, a key BIGGA supporter, where Jim Mackenzie MBE, showed us around and explained what had taken place during the Ryder Cup. The recovery of the course is as much an achievement as completing play during the event.

Next I was off to Inverness to the Barclays Scottish Open at Castle Stuart. Courtesy of Toro on Thursday and Ransomes Jacobsen on Friday, I had the opportunity to meet many members and also see this great new course. Chris Haspell, Course Manager, and Stuart McColm, General Manager, run a very smooth operation, and despite horrific weather conditions overnight on

Friday, they managed with the assistance of their teams and volunteers to get things back on track for the Sunday finish. I would highly recommend a visit.

A quick visit home to make sure it was still there at the weekend and then down to Royal St Georges for The Open.

En route I visited two clubs, Carden Park and The London Club, as well as the Lastec company, in Maidstone. We arrived at the University of Kent, where the Support Team

**I was proud to witness the huge effort made by the Royal St George's staff. The diligence of our Support Team in assisting them, as well as the excellent organisation of our own BIGGA staff, helped to ensure that everything went smoothly, despite another challenging rainfall event**

was staying and prepared for the Association of Golf Writers' Dinner. Among the golfers who attended were Colin Montgomerie, who presented a special award to Ernie Els, three recent Major Champions in Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen and Graeme McDowell and far too many more to mention. There were also all the major movers and shakers in the game of golf. I went in the company of Graham Royden, the Royal St George's Head Greenkeeper, and it was great to see him so in control on the eve of such a major Championship.

Throughout the week Jim Croxton and I met with many golf bodies and with Trade companies who were attending. It was reassuring to hear of their support for the direction we are taking. It is a superb opportunity to catch up with everyone in the golf industry and we had many productive meetings.

We attended the annual PGA reception, where it was a privilege to see their PGA Master Professional Awards presented, and to meet John Jacobs, one of the most famous golf coaches of all time. We also attended Golf Monthly's 100th anniversary celebrations at nearby Prince's Golf Club where again it was a privilege to enjoy an evening with so many influential people in the golf industry.



I've been extremely proud to have witnessed the huge effort made by the Royal St George's staff in presenting such a wonderful course in superb condition. The diligence of our Support Team in assisting them during the week and the excellent organisation of our own BIGGA staff helped to ensure that everything went smoothly, despite another challenging rainfall event.

I must congratulate the R&A on once again organising such a fantastic event. To see Darren Clarke emerge as winner was very special. Many thanks to Jim McArthur, Chairman of the R&A Championship Committee, for recognising the efforts and expressing his thanks to the Greenkeeping Team, led by Graham Royden and also to the volunteers during the closing ceremony.

Almost every major event this year has been struck by significant challenges from the weather, and it has been noticeable that the work done by volunteers has been crucial in dealing with this to ensure their success. I'm proud to be part of something which helps make that happen.

Next month, I'm focusing my attention on my own course. The support I get from the team there has been essential in enabling me to work on behalf of BIGGA. I'm confident our new CEO Jim Croxton has settled in well, and will continue to move things forward.



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



Donald Steel, GTC's Chairman, gives readers his thoughts on why he believes "Sustainability" is nothing new...

**Trying to say the same thing in different ways is a sure sign that writers have been round the block a few times. When applied to golf, it is another way of proving that nothing is new but all the rhetoric on sustainability and environmental best practises are a clear echo of what Jim Arthur preached all his life - and, in many quarters, was damned with faint praise for so doing.**

A Press cutting from 1975, for instance, reminds us that "no sooner had cheers greeted the news that Turnberry would hold the 1977 Open championship for the first time than rumours spread that the magnificent Ailsa course was in poor condition".

Jim Arthur, the R&A's agronomist, was called in to brew his magic potion which "consists basically of a return to nature - a reduction of inorganic feeding, regular aeration and a tight hold on watering".

He recommended "no water" because he knew Clubs would apply a little which was what he wanted but greenkeeping can never be a matter of formula. Greenkeepers (a much nicer title than Course Manager) are custodians of their course and everything must be left to their judgment in taking day to day, week to week decisions.

Adjusting to the weather is probably the prime requirement in order that the best playing surfaces can be prepared.

Green speed will be uppermost in their thoughts but, even then, opinions vary as to what that should be.

From what I have observed over the years, condition will be good if the non-stop battle against thatch and compaction can be won.

They represent the common enemy whatever the soil, the grass or the climate. This makes regular aeration the exercise most believe to be the common denominator in terms of universal policy but most greenkeepers are guided by principles that provide a framework for policies to be effective.



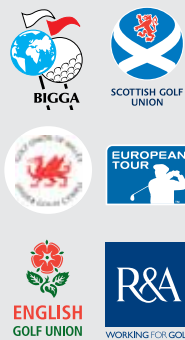
Old Course, St Andrews, by Lewis Birch

As we saw at the Scottish Open and in last year's Ryder Cup, contingency plans are essential but nothing raised spirits more than the recent GTC Workshop at Portmore Golf Park, in Barnstaple, the last to be funded by the R&A - and more is the pity. It was hosted by Colin and Josh Webber, the father and son who abandoned dairy farming in favour of the sort of golf operation of which the game needs more.

Josh, in fact, is the greatest possible recommendation for greenkeeper training, having studied at Myerscough before establishing himself as the most enthusiastic convert to a maintenance programme at Portmore that includes the development of a home-made compost that helps implement a budget designed to give maximum value for money.

Much time was also given at Portmore to environmental matters but acknowledgement of the way in which golf courses have preserved our heathland and protected our coastline are further examples that the subject serves more as a reminder than a novel issue.

The GTC is funded by:



In 1987, Sir David Attenborough maintained "Golf courses have always, and will always, provide splendid wildlife habitats for whatever reason they are conserved". Nobody would argue with the authority of that source but things don't just happen.

That is why good communication is important in informing members of what is taking place and why. It is members who need to be convinced so full marks to West Sussex GC for producing pictorial evidence of their sterling efforts during the English Women's Championship in May, which conveyed the pride that lay behind the teamwork that achieved such commendable results.

When they were also able to add news that Abbie Holland had completed Level 2 at Plumpton College and been named Student of the Year, there was every cause for celebration that the influence of the GTC is strong. Jim Arthur, one of the pioneers, will doubtless have enjoyed a heavenly whisky in celebration although how much water he added - if any - is another matter.

## Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



# Learning & Development

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



A very weary, but elated, Rachael has returned from the Open Championship. Another splendid job done by the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal St Georges. Congratulations to Graham Royden and his team and all of the volunteers. Darren Clarke must be one of the most popular winners in recent years, his acceptance speech and delight certainly brought a tear to my eye.

Congratulations must also go to Chris Haspell, his team and the volunteers who worked tirelessly at the Scottish Open at Castle Stuart, coping with the terrible weather conditions and a landslide to boot!

## SALTEX 2011

BIGGA will once again be exhibiting at SALTEX on September 6, 7 and 8 on Stand E33.

We are delighted, to have been invited by the IOG, to present a seminar programme at SALTEX 2011.

Focussing on research, technique and experience, these seminars will give turf professionals the opportunity to gain an insight into the art of golf greenkeeping.

Taking place on Wednesday, September 7 in the Grandstand at Windsor Race Course, the seminars are Free and available on a first come, first serve basis. One BIGGA CPD credit is available for each of the sessions.

**11.15 am – 12.15 pm**  
**Putting Green Potpourri:**  
**Managing Water, Firmness and Growth,** Cale Bigelow, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University

Cale has undertaken research on localised dry spot and hydrophobic soil conditions on closely cut cool season grasses that are grown on sand-based rootzones. With this research in mind Cale will discuss the outcomes as well as looking at plant growth regulators and their effects on water use.



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

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

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.



## Contact Details

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

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

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



**12.30 pm – 1.15 pm**  
**Bunker Reconstruction at The Richmond,** Les Howkins MG, Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club

Following the reconstruction of 25 bunkers at The Richmond Golf Club, Course Manager, Les Howkins will give an overview of the work carried out, the processes involved and the methods used.

**1.30 pm – 2.30pm**  
**The Ryder Cup Experience,** Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf Course and Estates Management, Celtic Manor Resort

Jim will look back over the events that made the 2010 Ryder Cup such a memorable experience for all those involved with the greenkeeping support team, and at how the 2010 course has been repaired following the damage that occurred during the event.

**I look forward to seeing you at SALTEX.**



**Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012**

My focus over the past few weeks has been firmly on confirming the Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012 education programme. By the time you read this article, the brochure will have been written and handed over to Tom, our Designer, to make it look fancy.

The Turf Managers' Conference will return to the programme for the second year, there will be a comprehensive Workshop schedule and an array of Seminars for visitors to select from.

More information on the speakers, topics and features will appear in the September magazine, with the printed brochure being mailed with the October magazine.



**Higher Education Scholarships**

*Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen*

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Philip I'anson - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

## New Improved InjectorDos for easier dispatch of Japanese Knotweed



'Death by lethal injection' awaits weeds with the new improved InjectorDos from Micron Sprayers, a pesticide applicator specifically designed for the direct introduction of herbicide into hollow-stem weeds of which Japanese Knotweed (JKW) remains the most widespread and damaging.

The latest version of InjectorDos features a new volume dispenser and trigger for easier operation.

The reduced amount of pressure required to operate the trigger makes the new InjectorDos less tiring to use for repetitive applications.

The streamlined unit design allows better access to the base of JKW stems in the cramped and difficult to work situations invariably presented by dense JKW growth.

The InjectorDos applicator features a sharp robust needle which penetrates tough full grown JKW stems with a minimal force required.

Equipped with an exit hole for the herbicide two-thirds of the way from the tip and 10mm from its circular brass base, the needle passes right through the mature stem until stopped by the base making contact with the outside of the JKW stem.

InjectorDos design also includes a 'dial-in' facility, which allows operators to dispense a pre-determined metered volume of herbicide formulation between 0.1ml and 2ml per shot.

The latest InjectorDos version is packed with operator friendly features, which include a compact one-litre backpack, a comfortable shoulder strap and a funnel.

The volume dispenser and trigger, two needles and a plastic needle protection cap fit safely and securely into a neat and securely fastened black carrying case.

JKW stems can be injected with herbicide at any time but late summer is the ideal time to carry out the operation.

Tel: 01885 482 397  
or email [ausra.landey@micron.co.uk](mailto:ausra.landey@micron.co.uk)



## Updated Shelton Sand Hopper

The two tonne capacity Shelton Sand Placement Hopper for topping-up land drainage trenches has been revamped.

Numerous detailed changes enable sand and sand loam composts to be laid over the trenches at forward speeds of 5-6mph. The hydraulically driven agitator is driven from the tractor's spool valves and the floating skirt contains the sand and at the same time, reduces bruising to the grass sward. The large rear roller consolidates the laid material giving a neat appearance overall.

With much dry weather many drainage trenches have sunk and this is an ideal tool for speedy topping-up.

In the new Shelton livery it sells for £3995.00 plus VAT ex-works.

Tel: 01507578288

## New from Groundsman

The TMC2 and TMC4, two and four wheel drive range of Turf Multi Cutters have been launched by Groundsman for 2011. They offer performance, reliability and, with the lowest operator hand arm vibration (HAV) levels on the market.

The Groundsman's website contains the full product and accessories range plus technical information and short video clips of the machines working.



Contact Billy Warke owner and designer of the Groundsman range  
Tel: 028 2766 7049 or email: [bwarke@groundsmenindustries.com](mailto:bwarke@groundsmenindustries.com)



# Ten blue tractors



After a very busy winter, the ten brand new New Holland Groundcare T3000 tractors that arrived at South Lanarkshire Council in November, will now be out and about carrying out their summer duties in the county's parks and on the golf courses.

The ten tractors, supplied by the Groundcare division at Bryson Tractors, in Lanark, spent the winter clearing snow

from pavements and gritting surfaces to keep the ice away.

Bryson Tractors has been working with South Lanarkshire Council for eight years – in fact ever since the company became a New Holland dealership.

In the past they'd supplied the council with their big, agricultural New Holland machines.

But two years ago, Bryson Tractors

began dealing in smaller New Holland Groundcare machines.

Bryson Tractors Managing Director, Nancy Bryson, says this contract works really well:

"We took on the Groundcare side of the business to run alongside the Agriculture side. We were already supplying South Lanarkshire Council with big machines so when they needed to replace their fleet of smaller ones, we could help.

"The Groundcare side of the business has its own sales team and its own mechanics – so it is separate, but fits in really well with the Agriculture side of things. In fact lots of our customers involved in landscaping use large and small machines, so we are able to supply the lot.

"When South Lanarkshire Council originally came to us about the T3000s, it was the summer.

"We talked to them about what we could do and they told us they needed ten tractors with snowploughs on the front and gritters on the back.

"Once we'd discussed all the specifications, the order was put through in September.

"The tractors were delivered on a Friday in November and it started snowing on the Saturday morning! I'd like to say it was planned, but it was just sheer luck!"

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

## Ultragroomer

The Advanced Turf Technology (ATT) TM System 'Ultragroomer' can provide excellent results on high density fine turf grasses such as creeping bents, explains ATT's John Coleman.

Traditionally, verticutting has been the solution to remove organic debris, but John suggests that the 10mm spacing of a verticut reel is more suited for older, less dense grasses and that developments to specialist golf green cultivars have outpaced traditional maintenance machine technology.

The situation is exacerbated by lower heights of cut which can further increase density.

Verticutting, John points out, is best suited to removing the build up of organic matter rather than preventing it, and the sward can soon get tight and puffy, leading to thatch development. It is during this 'puffy' phase that the green surface 'footprints'. Cutting at low heights of cut when greens are in this state will also result in scalping, further stressing the plant.

"The sward is also subjected to considerable stress by aggressive verticutting, which can weaken it.

Treatment with the Ultragroomer every week to 10 days minimises the phased management effect, using thin tipped blades at 5mm spacings. "More blade surface area is in contact with the turf, and



it is working at a shallower depth, so stress on the plant is reduced," John explains.

There are other benefits too – it can be difficult to get sand dressings into the tight sward of bent, but the Ultragroomer makes 'space' for the sand.

Greenkeepers can also use the Ultragroomer to control grain, either on sloping greens or where shade encourages the grasses to grow in the direction of the light.

He warns that the Ultragroomer must be well maintained to give the best possible

results. "If the blades have rounded tips they risk bruising the plant, leading to disease ingress, so they do need replacing every couple of seasons."

John adds that the Ultragroomer is a key part of a complete regime of good surface management.

"Keep on top of nutrition and growth regulators, plus regular use of the Ultragroomer for the best possible results on bents," he says.

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



## 25th Anniversary

Campey's 25th Anniversary Open Day, at their Macclesfield Headquarters, last month was a superb opportunity for the industry to get together and congratulate Richard Campey and his team on the success of a great British company.

"A very very big thank you to everyone for supporting our Open Day," said Richard.

"We have been overwhelmed with the turnout with guests from around the world attending, and interest shown from all sides of our industry."

Over 300 people visited over the two days with representation from a whole host of sports and educational establishments. Groundsmen and greenkeepers from golf, football, rugby and bowling clubs, private facilities, colleges, universities and local authorities came along to congratulate Campey Turf Care Systems on their achievements over the past 25 years and to view a full range of sports turf maintenance machinery.

Despite the vagaries of the British weather the sun shone, most of the time, on demonstrations of a variety of established and new machinery from brands including Vredo, Dakota, Koro by Imants, Raycam and Omarv. These continued throughout the day with only a short break during the seminars and talks given by the STRI, IOG and Premier Pitches Managing Director, Carl Pass.

Support for the occasion came from football clubs including Manchester City, Port Vale, Stockport County, plus the DW Stadium; golf clubs including Bolton Old Links, Chester, Clitheroe, Dunham Forest, Garstang, Kirklees Council, Knotty Hill, Stockport, Trentham Park and Wilmslow, as well as Burnley Council and Tameside Council. There were also representatives from UK and European suppliers and distributors, consultants and Greenkeeping Federations as well as visitors from USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The generosity of those taking part in the auctions raised over £5000 which will be donated to Cancer Research UK.



## Join the Club

Club Car has completed a major European deal with De Vere to supply 227 new electric vehicles.

The order is Club Car's largest this year and consists of 203 Precedent i2 golf cars, plus a range of Turf utility vehicles and Café Express mobile refreshment centres.

Daniel Hodson, Director of Golf at De Vere, said: "This is a significant investment for De Vere which, based on experience, we know will deliver a return on investment."

Kevin Hart, National Accounts Manager for Club Car in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said: "De Vere is a great example of a golf venue operator in tune with its customers' wants and needs, successfully adding to the business' bottom line via golf car rentals.

"There is also some indication, from the level of orders we are receiving, that there is a steady increase in demand in mature European golf markets for golf cars. There is no doubt that there is a growing minority of golfers who now want to ride," added Kevin.

## Quality Assured Training Providers

The GTC has announced that two of the world's leading machinery manufacturers have become GTC Quality Assured Training Providers.

Cutting Edge, a division of Ransomes Jacobsen, and TORO, are both companies committed to ensuring quality training courses are available to the sports turf sector.

From machine maintenance to operator training and health and safety awareness workshops, the range of courses will underpin the formal greenkeeping qualifications available through GTC Quality Assured Centres.

David Golding, GTC's

Education Director, believes that their support is a sign of total commitment to supporting the industry:

"As the game of golf develops through many countries, there will be a clear training requirement to support the greenkeeping teams skills development and there will be clear opportunities to share the education and training best practices in the future," he said.

The GTC will be promoting a range of training courses for this autumn with both companies involved and these will be in the form of one-day workshops around the country.





## Drainage Solution

“Bunker maintenance is an expensive and time consuming part of any course budget. I visit around 20 courses a week,” said Jeremy Parkman, of M J Abbott Ltd,

“Many clubs are now considering the option of filling in or grassing over some of their high maintenance or poorly placed bunkers but with some imagination these can be retained and made more effective.

“Bunker Plug can be installed into bunkers to ensure free draining and that they spend less time spent out of play,” said Jeremy.

“Bunker Plug is probably the most cost effective solution to the poorly draining bunkers on the market today,” he added

A few of the benefits are that it:

- Can be fitted in approx an hour (by course staff).
- Significantly reduces contamination.
- Eliminates the need for pumping.
- Requires minimal maintenance.
- Provides a flushing point for bunker drainage. Also allowing for outfall verification.
- Eliminates surface pumping onto fairways / rough, benefiting both players and spectators and removes the possibility of mower damage from pumps debris.
- Significantly reduces sand migration if two or more are installed in large / long bunkers.

“With budgets on so many courses having to be stretched further and further, anything that can help save time and money, yet also appeal to those that count, has to be a good thing,” said Jeremy

“Golfers like it because the playability of the course in adverse conditions is hugely improved, Management like it because of its cost effectiveness and minimal disruption to play when being installed, and the peace of mind it provides and Greenkeepers like it because it’s quick and easy to install and it relieves them from the mundane task of pumping bunkers.”

Designed to be fitted on the surface when you need it to be, for maximum efficiency, but hidden away sub surface, when you don’t and with the ability to change from surface to subsurface or vice versa taking less than a couple of minutes giving great control over flooding even in the worst rain events.

For further information visit [www.bunkerplug.com](http://www.bunkerplug.com) and [www.mjabbott.co.uk](http://www.mjabbott.co.uk)

## What’s your number?

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

Paul Moreton of BSH is this month’s chosen one...

**Name:** Paul Moreton

**Company:** British Seed Houses

**Position:** Sales Rep  
North West England and Midlands



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

10 years (6 previously in New Zealand)

**How did you get into it?**

In New Zealand I worked for an Agricultural Company that had an ever growing Amenity division and I just found myself spending more time on golf courses and sports grounds which is more fun than faecal counts!

**What other jobs have you done?**

Mainly Agricultural Sales, Farm hand, Produce Sales.

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

Talking technically with Turf professionals and having someone appreciate your expertise

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

The biggest change for me was seeing how more adaptable and efficient UK greenkeepers/groundsman are when it comes to weather, legislation hassles and expectations compared to NZ, Australia and US counterparts.

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

I play cricket at a decent level, golf, biking, I have played rugby since I was a lad but have retired due to the weather in the UK! I try to get to the beach whenever I can.

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

Still doing what I’m doing now hopefully, probably still in the UK.

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

Being on the road we get to know our clients better than our own staff members! So I have got to know a lot of real decent blokes over the last five years. I think back to a few Greenkeepers who really helped me understand the UK culture when I first started.

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

34, has been for years and is my current age!

**Pick a number 7**

*Paul has picked Bruce Jamieson, Consultant Agronomist*



# A week to remember

This year's Open was a huge success, in no small part, due to the great work of the home greenkeeping team and the BIGGA Open Support Team











**The 2011 Open Championship will go down as one of the most memorable of recent times, as it produced a hugely popular winner.**

Darren Clarke, son of greenkeeper, Godfrey Clarke, must have looked at his younger Northern Irish compatriots, Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy, who'd won the US Open Championship in successive years, and thought, "That could have been me."

He'd been one of the world's top golfers for many years but slipped down the rankings in recent times and many experts were writing him off.

However, now he, G Mac and Rory will be forever linked as a threesome and will enjoy legendary status in a country which loves its golf.

The other heroes of the week were

the green staff, led by Graham Royden, who had his Head Greenkeeper position confirmed as permanent a couple of weeks before the Championship.

Graham was calm and in control throughout, comfortable in the knowledge that his own team, and the BIGGA Open Support Team, could handle everything that could be thrown at them. While the weather was not perfect, with high winds and torrential rain on occasions, play was never interrupted and the condition of the course was universally praised.

Indeed, Charl Schwartzel, the Masters Champion, told Graham that his were the best greens he'd played on all year. Think about that for a moment.

Graham had such confidence in the work of the Support Team that by the weekend he was employing two members of it to double cut the 17th and 18th greens, while they

had also prepared the putting and chipping greens for the entire week.

The team also prepared all 104 bunkers at the start of each day, as well as on dummy runs conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Overall in Championship play the team raked 1016 bunkers which were found.

The team has now raked 17,958 bunkers since statistics began being recorded in 1995 (see below).

Congratulations to Graham Royden and his team and the entire BIGGA Open Support Team. It was a job well done.

|              | 1995<br>St.<br>A's | 1996<br>Lythm | 1997<br>Troon | 1998<br>B'dal<br>e | 1999<br>C'stie | 2000<br>St.<br>A's | 2001<br>Lythm | 2002<br>Mfield | 2003<br>St.Gs |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bnkrs        | 112                | 185           | 84            | 117                | 115            | 112                | 197           | 148            | 106           |
| Rd 1         | 214                | 501           | 344           | 355                | 539            | 148                | 557           | 359            | 388           |
| Rd 2         | 201                | 577           | 272           | 406                | 468            | 164                | 547           | 372            | 405           |
| Rd 3         | 130                | 269           | 107           | 226                | 202            | 65                 | 224           | 175            | 149           |
| Rd 4         | 156                | 271           | 136           | 153                | 265            | 71                 | 257           | 169            | 181           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>701</b>         | <b>1618</b>   | <b>859</b>    | <b>1140</b>        | <b>1474</b>    | <b>448</b>         | <b>1585</b>   | <b>1078</b>    | <b>1123</b>   |





MAIN PHOTO: The triumphant BIGGA Open Support Team

FAR LEFT: The Royal St George's Team visit the BIGGA marquee

ABOVE LEFT and ABOVE: Billy McMillan and Gavin Robson rake a bunker on the 6th

LEFT: Chris Holdham enjoying his day

|              | 2004<br>Troon | 2005<br>St. A's | 2006<br>Hlake | 2007<br>C'stie | 2008<br>Birkdale | 2009<br>T'berry | 2010<br>St A's | 2011<br>St G's |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bnkrs        | 93            | 112             | 96            | 113            | 123              | 85              | 112            | 104            |
| Rd 1         | 393           | 252             | 352           | 442            | 472              | 272             | 149            | 291            |
| Rd 2         | 371           | 203             | 353           | 482            | 379              | 332             | 200            | 391            |
| Rd 3         | 148           | 100             | 183           | 189            | 219              | 172             | 77             | 175            |
| Rd 4         | 185           | 121             | 204           | 198            | 198              | 185             | 85             | 159            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1097</b>   | <b>676</b>      | <b>1092</b>   | <b>1311</b>    | <b>1268</b>      | <b>961</b>      | <b>511</b>     | <b>1016</b>    |



## Blog highlights

Extracts from blogs which originally appeared on the BIGGA website throughout the week

### Anthony Stockwell, Wednesday

On the Tuesday and Wednesday mornings I was on the Prep team and was particularly pleased to be asked to double cut the putting green and chipping green along with Gavin Robson on the Wednesday.

I've just learned that I've drawn the opening match tomorrow so it looks like another early start.

It has been great to meet up with Graham Royden, the Royal St George's Head Greenkeeper. He is very calm and taking everything in his stride. It has also been good to meet the Support Team guys who also arrived early to assist with the Pre runs and I'm looking forward to meeting the rest of the team later today.

### Graham Royden, Saturday

I've not had one complaint during the entire week and the players have actually been seeking me out to comment on the course. I spoke with Tom Watson, who said that the greens were fantastic. Unfortunately it was before his hole-in-one as I would have loved to congratulate him on the feat. It was absolutely incredible and a great story for The Open.

Charl Schwartzel said they were the best greens he'd putted on all year and bearing in mind he won The Masters earlier in the year it was quite a compliment. All the feedback has been so positive.

The BIGGA guys have been absolutely fantastic. There has been a team tending to all the bunkers every morning and they've been immaculate. I've also managed to persuade the team to do some cutting for me.

Since Wednesday they have cut the practice putting and chipping green while, today, I've asked them also to cut the 17th and 18th greens. I've checked the lines and it goes without saying that they were true. This has really helped my guys, especially with the double cutting, as it means we can get ahead of the game. I'm going to get them to do the 17th and 18th greens again tomorrow.

### Bruce Hicks, Saturday

This is my first time on the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team and I have been one of the mini bus drivers.

I've been to several Opens as a spectator but experiencing from inside the ropes is just amazing. Walking up the 18th fairway with the stands all full must be like appearing at Wembley for the Cup Final. You get the thrill without the pressure.

I did expect to work hard this week but it is much more demanding than I envisaged. The days can be very long but the experience of being here more than makes up for it.

BIGGA's organisation of the event is first class – it virtually runs on rails with everyone knowing exactly where they should be at any one time and what they should be doing.

I will most definitely be applying for the Support Team in the future as it really is an experience not to be missed by anyone with a passion for golf and greenkeeping.

To sum things up I would just say that this is one "Sandwich" that you will never get indigestion from, but just the odd bit of backache!

### Beverly Blair, Friday

I was very nervous but excited yesterday morning when I woke up at 3.40am. I made some coffee, had a shower and got into my uniform for the day.

I was in the third match out with Gregory Havret, Charley Hoffman and Marcus Brier and we teed off at 6.52.

I raked my first bunker of the day, a greenside one by the 1st, and that settled my nerves. Altogether I had five bunkers to rake which I believe was about average.

It was a real honour to be inside the ropes. You put your shoulders back and walk with your head held high. Experiencing The Open this way makes up for every wet, early morning, when your members don't see all the work you are doing out on the golf course.



TOP: Anthony Stockwell with BIGGA starter prepare for the first game of the week.  
 ABOVE: Graham Royden relaxes at The Golf Writers' Dinner.  
 BELOW: Martin Wood is congratulated by Andrew Mellon on winning the Everris BIGGA Bunker Competition



RIGHT: Adam Matthews, with one of the early matches  
 FAR RIGHT: The Sherriff Amenity sponsored internet points proved a huge success  
 MAIN BELOW: Lewis Birch was one of the Support Team members with the honour of cutting the 18th green  
 BOTTOM: Jim Croxton addresses the team  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: The massive 4th hole bunker gets the Support Team treatment



Support team members, Beverly Blair and Vanja Drasler, get some raking practice in on the Wednesday evening





## Open Championship Awards

**The Bad Luck Horseshoe** – Goes to Martin Dearlove, of Stanmore GC, who helped make the draw for the Sunday Matches on Saturday afternoon. The names of those Team members not with a game on Sunday were drawn out first and the first name that Martin drew was, you've guessed it, – Martin Dearlove.

**The Homer Simpson "Doh!" Award** – Goes to Adam Matthews, of Minchinhampton GC, who woke up in a panic on Saturday morning thinking that he'd missed his 5.15am minibus. Showing great resourcefulness he blagged a lift on one of the busses taking security staff to the course, only to learn when he got to Royal St George's that, in fact, there wasn't a 5.15am minibus and that he was scheduled to be on the one due to leave at 7.15am.

**The Nostradamus Prize** – Goes to Martin Wood, of Bedlingtonshire GC, who was only one bunker out in his prediction of how many were found during the week and won the £100 of M&S vouchers in the Everris-sponsored competition. He was so much more accurate than the might of the world media whose champion turned out to be John Huggan, of Golf World, who was 21 bunkers out and won £250 worth of M&S vouchers also donated by Everris.

**The Burghley Park Award of Excellence** – Burghley Park GC greenkeepers, Gary Salisbury and Steve Hopkins, were both on the team - Steve joined the staff after being selected for the Support Team. While raking during the second round both received rounds of applause from the galleries for their professional work, Gary at the 11th when he raked bunkers for Stuart Cink and Francesco Molinari, while Steve got the same when clearing up after Sergio Garcia and Luke Donald.

**The Happy Birthday Cake** – Shared by Golf Monthly magazine, which celebrated its 100th birthday with a party at Prince's Golf Club on the Thursday evening, and South East Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood, who celebrated a significant birthday during the week.

**The Comedy BAFTA** - Billy McMillan for his inspired routine in the University of Kent, Student Union on Saturday night. Billy arranged 20 hydraulic bar stools in a line in front of the bar and loaded up with Support Team staff and some innocent by-standers, facing in alternate directions. He then conducted a reverse Mexican wave as each person released the hydraulics in turn.





## BIGGA Titbits

Nathan Green didn't have to look far for a ruling when he hit his tee shot into the back of a buggy on the 18th during the opening round – it was a Rule's buggy! -

Information supplied by **BIGGA Open Support Team Member, Anthony Stockwell, of The London Club.**

Anthony Kim missed the fairway on the 9th and struck the official who was holding the red and green flags square on the head. With blood pouring from the wound Kim apologised and helped by producing a towel from his bag to staunch the flow of blood.

Information supplied by **BIGGA Open Support Team Member, John Keenaghan, of Chipping Sodbury GC.**

Charl Schwartzel thought he'd missed the bunker on the 14th only for a spectator to head it back in. Painful!

Information supplied by **BIGGA Support Team member, Tony Smith, of Teesside Golf Club.**



TOP: Steve Mason brought home the winner on Sunday.  
 MAIN ABOVE: The team on the eve of the Championship  
 ABOVE: Ransomes Jacobsen rucksacks were as useful as ever  
 LEFT: Early morning cutting of the 6th green





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# Toro Student Finalists



The Regional Finals have taken place and the eight finalists for the 2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition have been selected.

One of them now has the opportunity to become the 23rd Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and succeed Andrew Stanger

**The eight will arrive at Aldwark Manor on Sunday, September 11, in preparation for the Final the following day, which will comprise of a formal interview and the completion of a report, which will only be revealed to them on the Monday morning.**

The winner and two runners-up will be announced around 5pm, with the day concluding with a meal and a relaxed game of tenpin bowling.

The winner receives an eight week trip to the United States, beginning next January. This includes a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts, and trips to the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show, in Las Vegas, and Toro's Californian base.

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







Name: Robert Mills  
Age: 24  
Golf Club: Sunningdale GC  
Position: Assistant  
College: Merrist Wood College

Robert joined the staff at Sunningdale in June last year having previously worked at nearby Mill Ride GC. Robert was a finalist at last year's Toro Student of the Year and is honoured to be back again for a second time. His father is Head Groundsman at Bishop's Stortford FC and together they have also worked on a voluntary basis to prepare their local cricket pitch.

He was a member of the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal St George's this year. As a cricketer himself was 1st Team Bowler of the Year, and is a died-in-the-wool number 11 bat!



Name: Miles Todd  
Age: 23  
Golf Club: Rhuddlan GC  
Position: Deputy Course Manager  
College: Deeside College

Miles was promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Rhuddlan just over a year ago and started his NVQ Level III earlier this year. He is a keen footballer having represented North Wales at all age levels and Captain of his club. He was also a member of BIGGA's Open Support Team at Turnberry in 2009, and also a regular attendee at BIGGA events in his Section. In addition to his football he is a keen golfer and mountain biker.



Name: Justin Howard  
Age: 39  
Golf Club: Cranham Golf Centre  
Position: Head Greenkeeper  
College: Myerscough College

Justin arrived in greenkeeping seven years ago, 10 years after working for a major European bank. He became Head Greenkeeper two years ago. He has a desire to keep improving and is studying for his Level III Diploma which will help towards his goal. Out of work he is a keen runner and enjoys watching Brentwood Town FC.



Name: Blair Somerville  
Age: 21  
Golf Club: Helensburgh GC  
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper  
College: GOSTA

Blair started his greenkeeping career at Loch Lomond as a seasonal worker before becoming a full time apprentice and worked on two Barclay's Scottish Opens. He has been at Helensburgh for 18 months, where he completed his SVQ Level II. He is also currently investigating the possibility of an internship in the United States. A 10 handicap golfer he is also a keen follower of rugby and admits to watching most other sports when he can.



Name: Rhys Williams  
Age: 26  
Golf Club: Royal Porthcawl GC  
Position: Assistant  
College: Pencoed College

Rhys has been at Royal Porthcawl since the spring of this year having worked at the Grove GC for three and a half years before that.

As a golfer he plays off 2.5 and won the Grove Club Championship on a couple of occasions as well as a number of club competitions. Prior to that he played international rugby for Wales at under 16 and under 18 level and played semi professionally for Bridgend. He has played alongside current Welsh internationals, James Hook and Andrew Bishop.



Name: Jon Watson  
Age: 32  
Golf Club: Burgham Park GC  
Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
College: Myerscough College

Jon has been in his current position for five years and has been at the forefront of some of the design and construction projects at the club. Indeed he has been involved in design and construction work on other clubs in the area and he is currently spending his winter months working on upgrading another club where he is carrying out shaping work. As a golfer he has represented Northumberland at junior level but now admits to enjoying golf at a more leisurely pace off a handicap of 8.



Name: Benjamin Hunter  
Age: 20  
Golf Club: Garon Park Golf Complex  
Position: Assistant  
College: Myerscough College

Benjamin got a taste for greenkeeping on summer work experience and realised that it could provide him with a long and satisfying career. He has been at Garon Park for just under a year and is pleased to be benefiting from the work based learning available to him.

He is an extremely highly regarded athlete having represented Great Britain in the Youth Olympics over 3000 metres and he has since represented his country as a cross country runner. He continues to train hard and is committed to applying high standards to all aspects of his life.



Name: Matthew Perks  
Age: 28  
Golf Club: Ham Manor GC  
Position: First Assistant/Mechanic  
College: Plumpton College

Matthew has worked at Ham Manor for three and a half years having previously been a Machinery Technician at the Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies in Somerset.

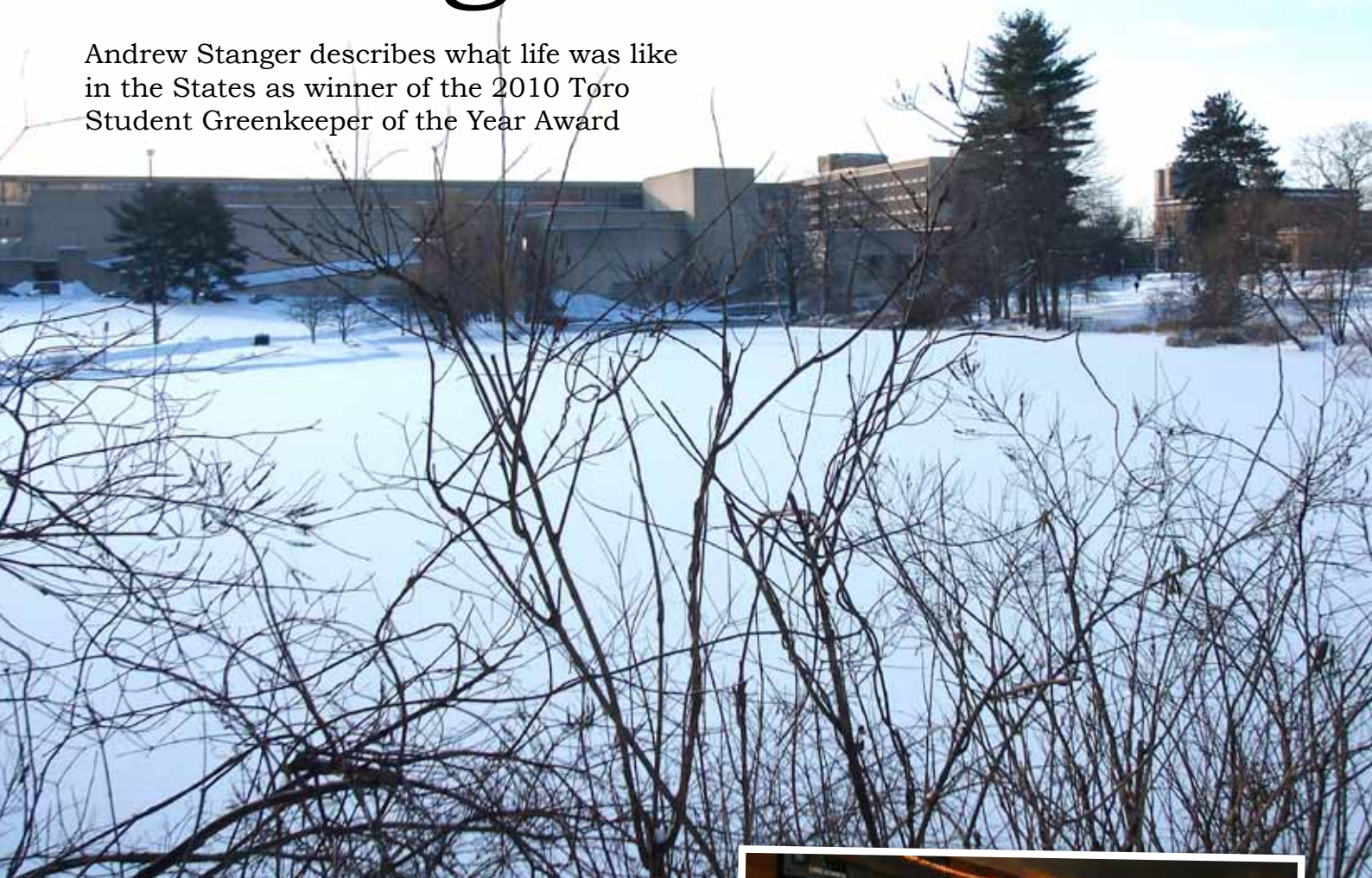
Among his achievements have been Best Recruit and Best Cadet in the Army Cadets, while he was also selected as one of nine volunteer Machinery Technicians at the 2010 Ryder Cup, at Celtic Manor, an experience he says will remain with him for the rest of his life.

Outside of work Matthew has interests in golf, football, darts, DIY and art and design.



# Having a blast!

Andrew Stanger describes what life was like in the States as winner of the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award



**When I entered the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, I didn't give a single thought to the prize that came with it, so when it was announced that I had won, the realisation hit that I was going to spend two months in a place that I couldn't even point to on a map!**

The previous year's winner, Rhys Norville, mentioned that it can get quite cold in Massachusetts and it might be a good idea to take some warm clothes. Little did I know that the coldest winter in 80 years was heading towards Massachusetts and no amount of warm clothes would protect me from the -28°C temperatures and the 52" of snowfall I was about to experience.

This wasn't my first trip into the unknown as I spent a year in the United States while participating in the Ohio State Programme. That trip taught me to expect the unexpected and this trip turned

out to be no different. I had no idea how I was going to get from the airport to my hotel, which was in a different State; how long it might take or if the roads would even be suitable for driving on but I just decided to leave that to fate. Luckily for me, there were some other students heading up to Amherst to join the 22,000 waiting for us at UMASS.

When I checked into the Comfort Inn I was informed that the Australian winner had already arrived and had gone out for the evening, so I left instructions with the receptionist for him to call by and introduce himself so we could make arrangements to get to our first class the next morning. A few hours went by without a knock and after my long journey I couldn't help but fall asleep. In the early hours the knock finally came, not knowing what day it was or where I was, I answered the door to find two very merry gentlemen that



over the next eight weeks would become friends for life.

There was no time for adjustment, classes started the next morning at 8am and it was clear from the outset that we wouldn't be stopping for breath until the graduation dinner at the end of February. Looking through my induction pack on Day One it would seem that we were going to attempt to complete the equivalent



of our NVQ2 in just eight weeks, a tall order for anyone never mind the students who had no previous education in turf.

The first week hit everybody hard, a lot of information came flying at us in a very short space of time but it wasn't long before things settled down and the nine hour days, with an average of three tests a day, became our routine.

With topics like Turf Grass Physiology, Turf Grass Management, Turf Grass Diseases, Weed Management, Entomology, Turf Grass ID, Calculations, Water Management, Golf Course Design & Irrigation and Arboriculture, there was plenty to keep us busy, both in the classroom and the hotel room at night. The lecturers had their work cut out, keeping a classroom of 40 men, who usually spend all day outdoors, focused, would be no easy task, but they were all fantastic. They were all specialists in their field and were only too happy to show us what they were working on and were keen to get feedback from us as to how we did things out on our own courses.

After a couple of weeks we all knew each others' names and felt that we deserved some social time and the campus had plenty to offer. Tickets were always available for the college basketball and hockey games and by the end of term, me and 'the Aussie' were keen fans. They ran a competition in the interval at the hockey called 'chuck a puck'. You could buy three foam pucks for \$5 and you had to try and land your puck closest to the centre of the ice rink. As a keen cricketer, the Aussie more than fancied his chances and kindly explained to the woman selling the pucks that he would only require one! From half way up the bleachers, true to his word, Adam Shields put it within inches of the announcer's feet and collected the \$250 prize pot! A good night was had by all!

Our projects were progressing nicely and our test averages were high, before long it was time for us to make our way down to Florida for the Golf Industry Show. A little reluctant to leave our new found friends, Shields and I flew out in search of some much needed warmth. As I expected, the show was massive and it was great to see that so many professionals from all over the world had made the journey. I managed to meet up with Greg James and Brad Owen, the Superintendents I had worked for two years before, along with a

few other faces that I've met along the way. Toro kindly took us out for dinner and we got the chance to meet and thank the people that made it all possible. The show was a huge success and I had a great time, it was the rest we needed to prepare us for our final leg at UMASS.

With time running out, we managed to get up to Portsmouth and spend the weekend with the family of our classmate and fellow Comfort Inn resident, Jerry Lachance. It was nice to thank his mother in person for all the meals she'd sent down to us at UMASS. We were welcomed with open arms and fed like her own sons for the weekend.

They took us to their social club that we'd heard so much about as Jerry wanted to pit our international pool skills against his locals. After a 16 game winning streak, Shields and I were rubbed off the chalkboard and politely asked to play darts instead. It was great to meet the whole family, his friends and to see where Jerry grew up, without his trusty truck and his sense of humour the trip wouldn't have been the same.

We made the two hour journey back for our final week and our long awaited, well earned, graduation. Shirts were ironed, shoes were polished and the lecturers couldn't recognise us at the presentation dinner. Some parents had made the long journey to see their son's graduate, It was a very proud moment for all and I felt extremely privileged to be part of it. Celebrations went on long into the night but that sadly meant that our time together had come to an end. I never imagined I would make such genuine friends on this trip and to be quite honest I don't think our time there could ever be replicated. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everybody at UMASS and wish the class of 2011 the very best in their careers.

Things weren't quite over for us Internationals, we had a trip to the Toro Headquarters, in Minnesota, to look forward to as we set out on yet another flight. We landed, not really knowing what was in store for us but all became clear when we were greeted by our personal Toro tour guide, Edric Funk. At this point, I was under the illusion that when you ordered a new piece of Toro equipment, an email was sent to Toro, they built it and sent it to you, so you can imagine the shock when I learnt that the Toro plant works in a three shift pattern that never stops! We saw the raw



Aussie, Adam Shields put the puck within inches of the announcer's feet

steel enter the pre plant that had come from back home in Sheffield, go right through the complex system to become a shiny red TriFlex at the end.

Edric asked us if we had any suggestions on how to improve the mowers based on any problems we've found in the past, I pointed out that cutting unit clips tend to get sand in and stick. Toro had already noted the problem and eliminated them on the new TriFlex. Knowing what they put into it, I'll never look at their machinery in the same way again; it was a huge eye opener.

I would like to thank Toro for giving me this once in a life time opportunity and the friends and memories that came with it. Special thanks must go to Peter Mansfield and his secretary, Christine, at Lely UK, who went more than out of their way to make sure the trip went without a hitch. I'd also like to thank BIGGA, my college lecturer Steve Prinn and Horsforth Golf Club for their continued support in the furthering of my education. Last but not least, the team, Adam Shields, Jerry Lachance, Brian Prescott and Chad Brown. Good luck to all those candidates competing this year and to whoever wins; you're going to have a blast!

**I'd like to thank Toro for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity, and the friends and memories that came with it. Special thanks go to Peter Mansfield and his secretary, Christine, at Lely UK, who went out of their way to make sure the trip went without a hitch**

# Come and test yourselves

As a golf club, West Lancs Golf Club has all the weapons to ensure that it will be BIGGA's best golfer who emerges as the winner of the forthcoming National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota



**West Lancs Golf Club has all the weapons to ensure that it identifies BIGGA's best golfer when the National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota is played on October 3-4.**

There are many fine judges in the game who believe that West Lancashire Golf Club – West Lancs to its friends – is a little unlucky not to have hosted an Open Championship.

Indeed, it has been claimed that if the three existing North West clubs Royal Birkdale, Royal Liverpool and Royal Lytham and St Anne's hadn't been so close by it may have happened, as there is certainly sufficient room around the course to accommodate all that a modern day Open requires.

It certainly has nothing to do with its quality as a course, and those who have succeeded over it in Final Open Qualifying conditions have

found themselves well prepared for the challenge of The Open itself a few days later.

So it is undoubtedly a worthy venue for this year's BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota and the person who is holding the BIGGA Challenge Trophy at the end of 36 gruelling holes will have earned the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer.

So what it is that makes West Lancs such a highly regarded and revered course?

It is laid out over two loops of nine so you are not playing in the same direction for too many holes in a row.

There are raised greens, sunken greens, well placed bunkers, some stunning par-3s; exacting par-4s all invariably presented in exemplary condition by Course Manager, John Muir and his team. Add to all that the wind which whips in







from the Irish Sea and you have the recipe for superb links golf.

But the word which is most often used in connection with West Lincs is “tough”. If you can play well around West Lincs you can play.

But it can be tamed. The longest hole-in-one in the British Isles occurred at the club’s 7th, a 393 yard par 4, made by one of the club’s, at the time, Assistant Pro, Peter Parkinson, on June 6, 1972.

The club itself is steeped in history and many of those with close associations to the club featuring strongly in the annals of the game.

One of England’s greatest amateurs, Harold Hilton, who won The Open Championship on two occasions, was Club Secretary before going on to become the first Editor of *Golf Monthly* magazine.

Club professional, Sandy Herd, won the 1902 Open at Hoylake while one of his succes-

**“We are fast running and the greens are small, so you have to be accurate and position the ball in the right areas of the fairway. Thinking your way round is very much the key to success”**

**John Muir, Course Manager, since 1984**

sors, Arthur Havers, also won The Open, in 1923 at Troon, before defeating Bobby Jones and Gene Sarazen in a challenge match in the States.

BIGGA features in the club’s more recent history. The late Northern Regional Administrator, Doug Bell, had previously been West Lincs’ Secretary and was in post when the inaugural Hayter International Challenge Match, pitting the Americas against the Rest of the World, was played over the course in September, ’96.



The Americas greenkeepers won a pulsating match 10-8 before the return was played in Atlanta, Georgia, the following year.

They are events which live long in the memory of those who had the privilege of being there.

John Muir has been Course Manager at the club since 1984 and has earned a fine reputation for the quality of golf course he has continually produced since then.

"We are burnt to a crisp at the moment.

"We just don't get rain at West Lincs. It can be raining in Liverpool or Southport but will miss us," revealed John, as we spoke at the beginning of July.

With his 27 years of experience at West Lincs, John is well placed to comment on the strengths of the course.

"It is a wonderful, old fashioned links and if you are a good golfer and a student of such things you could easily be playing 100 years ago.

"We are fast running and the greens are small, so you have to be accurate and position the ball in the right areas of the fairway.

"Thinking your way round is very much the key to success."

On that word "tough" John also has some interesting thoughts.

"We are regarded as tough because there are no weaknesses

on the course Perhaps there aren't the memorable holes of some courses, but we don't have any weak holes and the pressure doesn't let up."

"Also because we are on a large site it sometimes appears that the fairways are narrow and all you can see is rough,"

John is looking forward to the BIGGA National Championship and welcoming greenkeepers from all over the country to his course.

"I'm hoping that the weather is good in the run-up and that the players get the opportunity to play the course at its best," he said.

Last year's BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at The Berkshire, was won by former Leicestershire County Captain, Paul Frith, playing off scratch.

Paul shot a two round total of 143 to win in a card play-off from +2 man, Laurie Tremlett, with 1 handicapper, John McLaughlin, a single shot behind.

It takes some high quality golf to become BIGGA's Champion Golfer and that is bound to be the case again this year.



**BIGGA National Championship 2011, West Lincs Golf Club, October 3-4 • Entry Form**

**Please select the relevant category:**

**Full Member**

**Affiliate Member**

The entry fee of **£95** includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name .....

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership Number .....

Handicap .....

BIGGA Section.....

**Payment method (please tick)**

I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£95**

Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of **£95**

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Start Date ..... Expiry Date .....

Last 3 security digits .....

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only) .....

Signature.....

Date.....

Or E-mail your details to:

**pauline@bigga.co.uk**

Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

**Deadline for entry is 11th September 2011.**

Completed entry forms should be sent to:

**BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**



The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.



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## BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

### Northern

29th November 2011, **Cookridge Hall Golf Club**

30th November 2011, **Birchwood Golf Club**

Contact Peter Larter, RA, 01476 550115

### South East

16 November 2011, **Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex**

Contact Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343

### South West & South East

17 November 2011, **Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset**

Contact Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850

### Scotland

6 March 2012, **Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline**

Contact Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440



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# Pretentious Poa annua

Dr Terry Mabbett casts his eye over the most ubiquitous grass around

**Poa annua is a real conundrum variously called the 'bête noir' or 'black sheep' of the sports turf sward, and described as 'persona non grata' even though annual meadow grass has been estimated to be the dominant species on up to 70% of golf greens in the United Kingdom.**

On balance, and in practice, the majority of turf managers scorn Poa annua but others tolerate and even welcome and encourage the grass, perhaps more philosophically than professionally, on the basis that it is better to have Poa annua than no grass at all. And paradoxically Poa annua may not be 'annual' at all because there are actually two different biotypes, which means the universal name annual meadow grass is a misnomer.

They are Poa annua var annua, which is the 'real' annual meadow grass and the less common, but equally significant, perennial biotype called Poa annua var reptans. The two types are not easy to tell apart but the annual biotype is distinctly more upright in its growth habit. The word 'reptans' refers to the creeping habit of the former.

**Poa annua is a naturally upright grass that will grow to a height of some six to eight inches when left uncut. Perennial biotypes may spread by weak to strong stolons (horizontal surface growing stems), while true annual biotypes display a distinctly bunch-type growth**

Poa annua is native to Europe but now spread throughout the world where climate allows. The species is well established and frequent on golf courses in North America and Australia, where you hear roughly the same kinds of comments and prejudices about Poa annua as are voiced in the United Kingdom.

North Americans call Poa annua annual bluegrass and the Australians have named it 'winter grass', because it is only present during winter and spring, dying out in the hot dry summers when warm season grasses like Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) and couch grass hybrid cultivars (*Cynodon dactylon*), also in the turf mixture, take over.

## Picking out Poa

Picking out and identifying different grass species is no easy task and especially in low cut professional turf where other grasses fail to produce seed heads.

But Poa has some unique distinguishing features, with Poa annua being one of only few species able to produce seed heads and seeds at low heights of cut.

I found this very much to my advantage back in the 1960's, thrown straight from school, where grasses did not feature on the A Level Botany syllabus, into a degree in Agricultural Botany at The University College of Wales, at Aberystwyth, one of several





Poa annua and especially the annual biotype has an upright habit

centres of excellence for grassland agronomy at that time.

Our lecturers made it as easy as possible – chew the leaf and if it tastes bitter from coumarin then you have sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*).

Red stripes down leaf sheaths on the 'pyjama grass' meant Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) for sure. Poa annua was made equally easy by looking for the typical and characteristic 'boat-shaped' leaf tip and almost certainly a crinkling of the blade part way along the leaf.

Annual meadow grass has light green flattened stems which are bent at the base and regularly rooted at the lower stem joint.

The light apple green coloured leaf blades often have a band of lateral crinkling part way down and are from 2.5 to 7.5 cm long with the typical boat-shaped tips of species belonging to the Poa genus.

The ligule takes the form of a tall white membrane. A ligule is a structure typically found in grasses at the junction of the leaf sheath and the leaf blade.

It may take the form of a prominent white membrane, as in Poa annua, be reduced to a fringe of hairs (called ciliate) or absent. Most grasses possess a ligule and the shape, length and appearance of the ligule margin are important and consistent characters for separating genera and species within this notoriously difficult to classify group of plants.

Poa annua is a naturally upright grass that will grow to a height of some six to eight inches when left uncut. Perennial biotypes may spread by weak to strong stolons (horizontal surface growing stems), while true annual biotypes display a distinctly bunch-type growth.

Poa annua has a relatively shallow and weak root system that requires a regular supply of moisture from rainfall or frequently applied irrigation for survival.

This grass grows well in moist areas under direct sunlight but will also thrive in semi-shaded conditions, and competes well in compacted soil conditions where dedicated turf grass species find it difficult to survive.

In inherently warm climates or during unusually hot and dry summers the true annual form of Poa annua brown off and dies out.

The inflorescence (flowering structure) of Poa annua takes the form of a terminal panicle which together with stalk varies in length from 2.5 to 10 cm long. Seed is amber coloured and about 1.5 mm long.

## A greedy grass

Poa annua has been called the 'greedy' grass and with good reason. This shallow rooting, fast growing grass takes everything on offer in nutrients and water from fertiliser application and irrigation. Fast growth rate means Poa annua is a high thatch producing species predisposing both the annual meadow grass component and the turf grass sward as a whole to disease.

Inappropriate fertilisation and irrigation practice are two of the main reasons for high and unwanted Poa annua presence and inclusion in turf. Inappropriate aspects of fertiliser usage include reliance on types and formulations which have a neutral reaction on soil pH and inappropriate application (volume and composition) at wrong times of the year.

This may result in forced, sappy and therefore weak grass growth which is more susceptible to wear and tear and fungal disease attack from pathogens like *Microdochium nivale* (Fusarium patch) and *Colletotrichum graminicola* (anthracnose).

Such weak sappy growth is a particular problem for swards containing a high percentage of Poa due to its shallow root system providing a poor weak foundation and footing for golf courses and sports fields. Poa annua is easily 'kicked out' of football pitches.

Poa annua thrives on excessive applications of phosphate which allow this inherently fast and shallow rooting grass to get even more of a head start over other slowing growing and more valued turf grass species. Red fescue and browntop bentgrass prefer lower phosphate levels. Phosphate is a key nutrient in seed germination and establishment and root growth.

As a general rule and to minimise Poa annua 'infestation', turf managers should aim to provide an acid reaction root zone of about pH 5.5 for fine turf and 6.0-6.5 for amenity swards with a high perennial ryegrass component.

Low pH (acidic) conditions especially in the surface layers soil are reported to inhibit the germination of Poa annua seeds and therefore prevent the grass from gaining a foothold in the sward at the expense of other main components of fine turf swards like *Agrostis tenuis* (browntop bentgrass).

Applications of iron (ferrous sulphate) as a 'green up' tonic for turf will not only acidify the surface layers where the Poa annua root system is located but also pro-

duce 'harder' growth making root anchorage stronger and the foliage less prone to disease. Furthermore it will deter surface worm casts which are instrumental in providing germination sites for annual meadow grass seed.

Irrigation practice should encourage the penetration and secure the establishment of deeper rooted finer turf grasses like bents and fescues. Frequently applied irrigation which simply wets the top 25 mm of soil profile and keeps it in a soft and moist condition encourages and promotes Poa annua into producing surface roots that outcompete finer turf grass species.

Any attempt to irrigate a hard pan soil surface, without first alleviating the compaction, is an open invitation for even more annual meadow grass. Such inappropriate irrigation regimes leave water lying on top of the turf, unable to penetrate the surface, and allowing Poa annua to 'drink up' the moisture and further consolidate its position and hold.

Use of deep and infrequent irrigation is recommended to discourage development of annual meadow grass. Water should be withheld until the desirable species are just beginning to show drought stress, by which time annual meadow grass will be on the way out. Always avoid turf management practices and use programmes that tend to cause and exacerbate soil compaction.

Poa annua is regarded as a 'high maintenance' grass which is the supreme irony considering most turf managers regard it as a coarse grass weed of fine turf. Truth is the majority of sports turf situations including golf courses can't do without it and any attempts to exclude it completely would mean even higher maintenance and cost.

## Seeds of success

Frequent flowering and prolific seed set across a huge variety of amenity habitats including in low cut turf, a feat not managed by any other turf grass species in the UK, is secret to the success of Poa annua.

Seed head initiations start as soon as the plants are 6 weeks old with plants still small at just 4 to 5 tillers. Prolific seed set and production, up to 100 seeds per panicle within just 8 weeks, is high for such a relatively small grass plant. Viable grass seed may have formed within just several days after pollination which puts Poa annua in a good position to reseed even in frequently low cut turf.

This grass can produce seed all year round providing the conditions of temperature and moisture are suitable, with peaks of production in April and May and October and November under UK conditions. There does not appear to be any severe photoperiod restriction on flowering and seed set.

In moisture stress conditions turf containing a sizable proportion of *Poa annua* assumes an even more insipid light green colouration than usual because the plants suffering from a lack of nitrogen. The roots are unable to absorb nitrogen as soluble nitrate from the soil due to a lack of moisture.

In the absence of irrigation *Poa annua* and especially the annual biotype will brown off and die out during hot dry summers, the shallow root systems unable to access water for growth and survival.

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This may leave unsightly thin areas and gaps in the sward which fescue and bentgrass components cannot quickly colonise because they are also under moisture stress and inherently slower growing.

Threadbare areas and gaps remain as ideal germination niches for *Poa annua* seed, either previously produced on nearby plants which have died out or arriving from outside seed banks. These will include grass verges, flower beds, gravel paths and even soil filled gutters where the ubiquitous and opportunistic annual meadow grass is regularly found.

What's more seeds and especially those produced by the annual biotypes do not germinate straightaway, but remain dormant for months ready to colonise and regenerate in turf when conditions become right, usually in spring and autumn.

Any cultural practice or failure in management practice which opens up the sward with thin areas, abrasions or bare patches will provide ideal germination sites and an open invitation for annual meadow grass.

High thatch and soil compaction are two turf features closely

associated with *Poa* predominant swards. Scarification, aeration and verticutting used to control thatch and alleviate compaction, and thereby enhance permeability and porosity of the soil profile to encourage deeper rooted dedicated turf grass species at the expense of *Poa annua*, may make matters worse if carried out in appropriately or at the wrong time.

For instance, recommendations from around the turf world where *Poa annua* is considered a problem include not performing such operations during inappropriate soil conditions which may cause surface smearing and germination opportunities for *Poa annua*. More specific recommendations include not carrying out hollow-tining during peak periods of annual meadow grass seed germination. And not hollow-tining followed by top dressing when the tine holes can't be quickly colonised by dedicated turf grasses, but do provide ideal germination sites for annual meadow grass seeds.

Greenkeepers and groundsmen are urged to use sterilised top dressings ensure there is no *Poa annua* introduction from contaminated sources. To always use grass seed which is certified free of annual meadow grass. To carry out any over-seeding required at the optimum time for grass seed germination and seedling establishment, so that desirable turf grasses are given the best chance of establishment, and definitely not to delay this important operation due to playing considerations.

Boxing off grass clippings removes seed set on low cut fine turf and reduce the numbers of viable seed reaching the soil, as well as helping to discourage surface casting earthworms coiled deposits of which provide ideal germination sites.

Practice a programme of worm cast management by spraying dedicated wormicides, acidifying the surface soil layer using iron containing fertilisers and formulations and removing worm casts as they appear. Ideally mowers should be cleaned after each operation especially during spring and autumn which are peak periods of annual meadow grass seed set, production and germination.

### What's wrong with *Poa annua*

So what is actually wrong with *Poa annua* from the greenkeepers' and players' point of view? *Poa* predominant swards have an unattractive insipid light green colour



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aggravated when plants produce seed heads and especially so when *Poa annua* is under moisture stress during hot dry summers.

*Poa* is one of the highest maintenance turf grasses, grabbing all on offer in the way of fertilisers and irrigation, while being one of the least sustainable species due to poor drought tolerance and a high susceptibility to diseases aggravated by high thatch production.

Annual meadow grass is susceptible to a range of diseases including *Fusarium* and especially anthracnose. However, greenkeepers wanting to passively reduce *Poa* may see anthracnose as a 'blessing in disguise' for 'weeding out' annual meadow grass using a natural and novel biological control agent.

*Poa* produces slower putting and bowling surfaces than do fescue and bentgrass dominated swards. The presence of seed heads, as well as *Poa*'s differential growth rate compared with these desirable turf grasses, contributes significantly to uneven surfaces.

Be that as it may many turf managers may muse that it is 'better the *Poa* you know' than to have broad leaved weeds occupying threadbare patches and gaps in turf.

For all its faults *Poa annua* is the re-generation grass of turf as seen this spring and early summer in southern England. By early May *Poa annua* dominated swards had browned off completely but by late June were green again as though nothing happened in the 'Great 2011 Drought' that never was.



**MAIN LEFT:** Close up on the flattened stem of *Poa annua* with leaf sheaths and blades

**ABOVE:** Consequences of having too much *Poa annua* during drought conditions, but bouncing back and re-greened after sustained rainfall in June 2011

**RIGHT:** *Poa annua* exploiting compacted soil along with plantain another indicator weed of compacted ground

**BELOW RIGHT:** *Poa annua* in the fairway along with ryegrass and white clover

**BELOW LEFT:** *Poa annua* 'down under' in South Australia where it is called 'Winter Grass'. Seen here with a single *Sparaxis* one of the many colourful exotic bulbs that invade Australian turf



**BELOW:** *Poa annua* growing quite comfortably on a gravel path

**BOTTOM MIDDLE:** *Poa annua* recolonizing golf tee after the Spring 2011 drought in southern England along with some unwelcome sow thistle

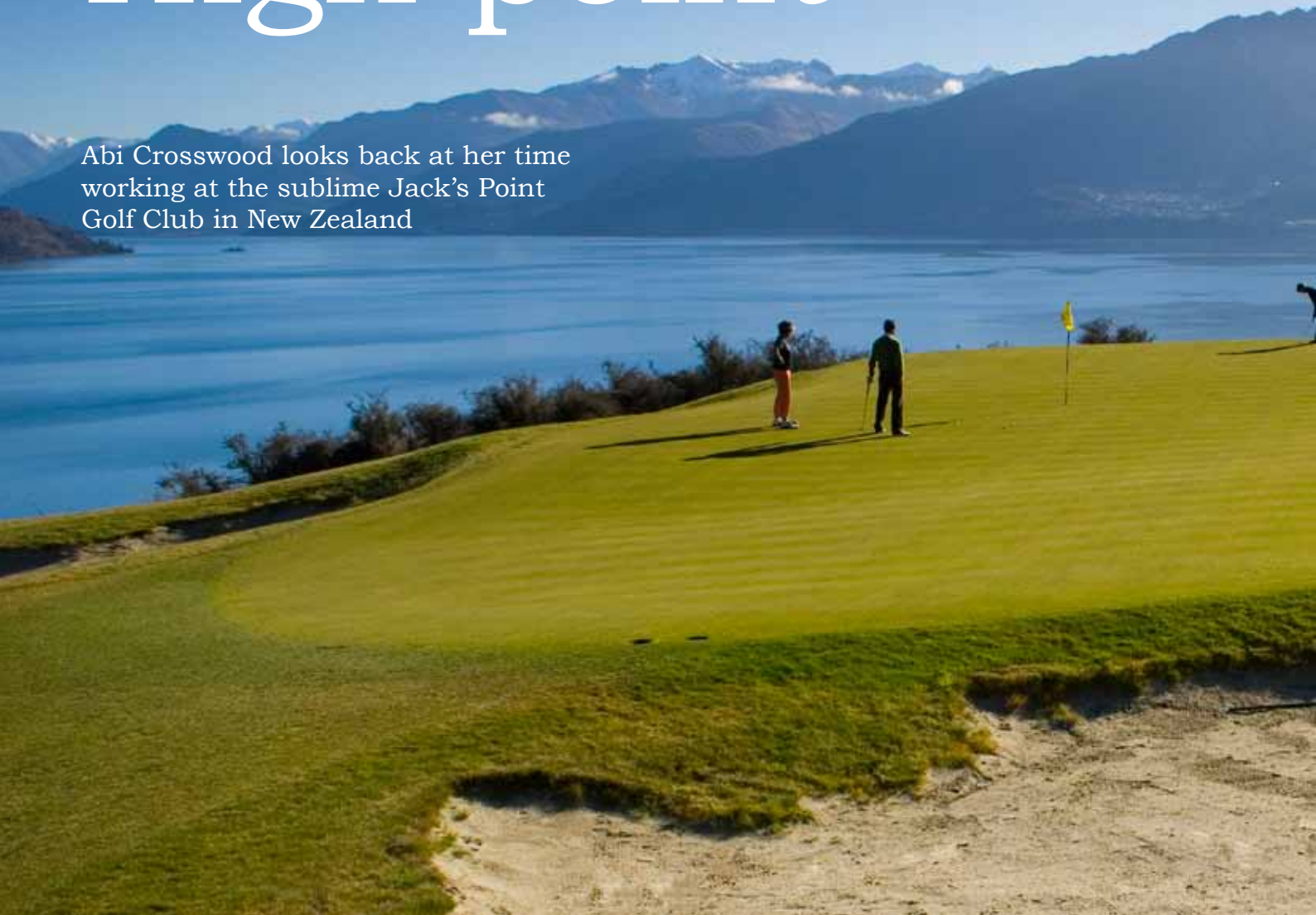
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Inflorescence takes the form of a terminal panicle. Prominent white membrane-like ligule is visible





# High point

Abi Crosswood looks back at her time working at the sublime Jack's Point Golf Club in New Zealand



**When I got placed at the Augusta National Golf Course last year I thought it was one of the most amazing experiences I could have ever imagined. But then I was lucky enough to have the opportunity of a sabbatical at the beautiful Jack's Point Golf Course in Queenstown, New Zealand.**

This was only made possible because of the kind consideration of my employers at the Newquay Golf Club, and the opportunity that some key people in the golf course industry, from two different parts of the world, gave me.

ABOVE: Beautiful panoramic shot of the 7th hole at Jack's Point

There are more golf courses in New Zealand per head of the population than anywhere in the world. Over 400 courses comprising one six-hole course; 183 nine-hole courses; 211 18-hole courses and five 18+-hole courses. The golf industry itself is constantly developing and this generates a lot of competition amongst the clubs to be the best.

I really enjoyed working at Jack's Point under Golf Course Superintendent, Simon Forshaw. I learned that although they may well be some of our distant cousins they do have a laid back attitude about most things that they do (as long

as you don't mention the All Blacks then things change pretty quickly!).

Of course, the great summer outdoor living goes a long way to making them the people they are, but, in saying that, their expectations of turf and golf course quality are as high as anywhere. They are not always inclined to use machinery all the time to do the job and often do things by hand in order to get the best results. That includes walk behind greens and tees cutting; walk behind spraying equipment and hand raking/brushing of bunkers, even though there are 74 of them and they have two 5200 Toro Sandpros!





Legislations are similar but different. The resource consent at Jack's Point took up to five years to get approval. For a golf course and housing development, you need to obtain an Approved Handlers' Certificate in order to use most agrichemicals and, of course, some of the staff have to be trained through St Johns for health and safety purposes. However, when it comes to things like attention to detail and standards there are always very high expectations. Close enough is never good enough.

I particularly liked the way that the whole team got to be involved and that there was real feeling of a

team environment, much like being a crew member on a ship. You knew what was going on and your position and place.

There were regular meetings so that the team would know the up-and-coming plans and the standards that were expected. Following this weekly briefing every member of staff was encouraged to do their best as each person was genuinely valued. This approach certainly had the effect of making all team members even more attentive to every detail.

Jack's Point was designed by John Darby, with assistance from Brett Thomson, from Darby Part-

ners, who have also designed The Hills GC, home of the last three New Zealand Opens, Clearwater Resort, host of the New Zealand PGA and a few more. It is regarded as a very special course in New Zealand as it was the first of its kind to be designed as hybrid California/USGA greens construction as opposed to the standard USGA.

This design was by Dr Richard Gibbs and selected to minimise costs of importation of sand and to reduce moisture loss, since the sand has some large particle sizes. Dune sand from Dunedin is imported for the use of dusting/topdressing and coring as the

Tarras sand is too hard on cutting equipment and takes too long to brake down into the turf canopy.

Queenstown on average only receives around 700-800mm of rainfall a year. By way of comparison 400mm rainfall is considered to be desert conditions!

Although I was not present at Jack's Point for the construction it was still really interesting learning how it was done from the numerous pictures. Amazingly, the only material imported was the Tarras sand, not only used for the greens but also the tees and the bunkers. The rest of the course construction was done by scraping off the topsoil and then screening it while the sub-grade soil was being shaped to make the contours. Drainage and ring main irrigation were installed and later once the top-soil was reinstated, irrigation lines at three per hole were introduced, using a mole plough attachment. Drenching would have been impossible due to the nature of the glacier rock involved.

The designer wanted to keep the course very natural, and roughly only 225,000 cubic metres of earth was moved, which was mainly from the three bottom holes (1st, 17th and 18th) - as a man-made lake had to be made due to resource consent.

The lake and the Golf Course is named Tewa, after Maori Jack Tewa.

This is because in the mid to late 1800s, Jack saved the life of a man who was drowning in the main Lake Wakatupi, after his boat tipped over. Also, he was the first to discover gold in the shot over river around the 1860s, so it is only fitting that this wonderful place be named after such a legend!

The glacier rock was also used as features on the course to build walls etc. and dynamite was used to break up natural rock. A lot of the tee walls were constructed using this rock as well as the dry stone dykes. In some circumstances it was too difficult to move some of the natural rock, therefore it was simply incorporated into the design and it has made interesting features in some fairways and surrounds.

Browntop is the native grass to the area in which Jack's Point is located. Ever since some of the first settlers from the United Kingdom and Europe come over in the sailing ships, along with the browntop they also brought sweet ferns, crested dog tail and timothy.

The architects, and Simon, as he was the grow-in Superintendent, at the time decided to sow the greens



MAIN RIGHT (BOTH IMAGES) and NBELOW: the 15th hole looking splendid with its glorious surroundings



and tees with Egmont browntop as they know how well this turf type has done before in the climate, and liked the idea of the low inputs.

The Bent is more resilient than some other types of fine turf and at one point, during my time at Jack's Point, the tees were cut at 3.8mm and coped well with the low height. Visitors often commented on how the tees were better than their home course's greens!

Jack's Point decided to use Chewing's Fescue and Creeping Red for the rest of the course. This is because it helps to maintain the link's characteristics, common to the Great Britain and Ireland. They like the idea about how they want their course to play, such as the bump and run shot; being able to play shots along the ground as well as through the air. They want to make sure that it would not be a target shot making course as so modern day design are. It involves a lot of the natural design features and uses the natural landscape as much as possible all things which you would of seen during the "Golden Age of Architecture".





Furthermore it is a fairly native species with it being discovered 100km from the site on Mr Chewing's farm, fescue works really well on the course, providing a natural look. However, in New Zealand the warmer temperatures are a major consideration. Extra caution has to be taken with machinery as it can bruise the fescue easily from the heat and it is then slow to recover. This is not often an aspect that British greenkeepers have to worry about.

There are two other courses in New Zealand also using fescue on their fairways and roughs, the newish Jack Nicklaus course, Kinloch, in Taupo, and the new course in Christchurch Pegasus, The Pegasus people were so impressed when they visited Jack's before the sow-out of their course that they actually used the same turf types as Jack's Point (that's got to be the highest form of praise)

Management mentioned that they have found that the fescue goes into dormancy before the bents but they recover far quicker coming out of winter, also they love

the idea of less irrigation requirements and lower fertility.

Real resourcefulness had to be demonstrated in continuing the rustic and natural characteristic. This was achieved by recycling driftwood from the bottom of the lake. Driftwood is used as a fence along the back drop of the classic par-3 7th hole, reminiscent of the drop hole 7th at Pebble Beach and around the course native wood is a visual feature and is used to make rakes, bins, fences, benches etc.

Their goal is to have everything on the golf course made from totally natural materials but as the Superintendent says that's pretty hard to do when your only choice is metal or plastic putting cups and nylon flags although he did mention he would love wooden flag poles if he could get them.

The irrigation on the course is sourced from the beautiful Lake Wakaputi and the water drawn is pumped into a man-made lake. This man-made lake feeds an irrigation pond which (unlike a huge tank) blends into the course unnoticed.



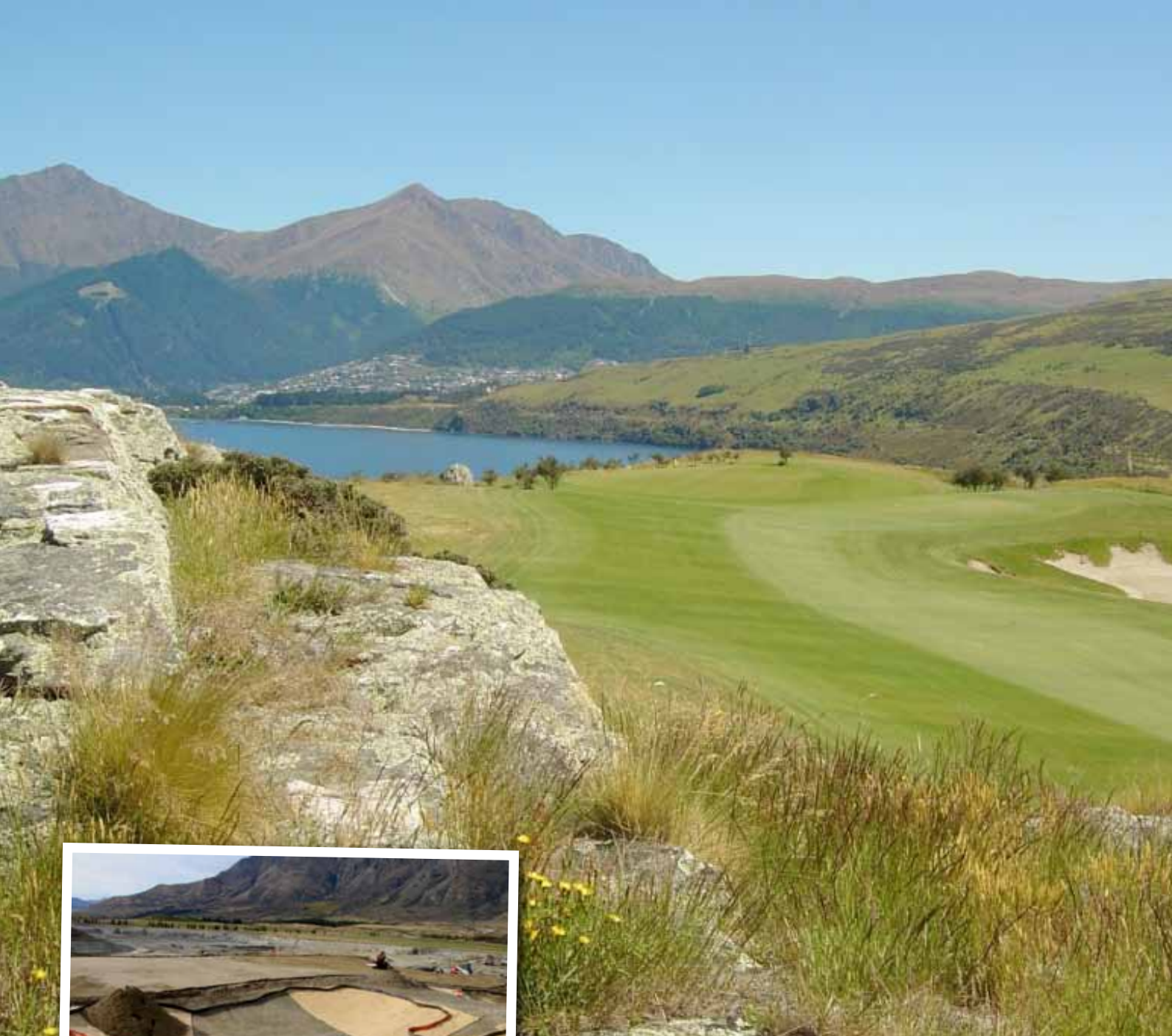
**I really enjoyed working at Jack's Point under Superintendent, Simon Forshaw. They may be some of our distant cousins, but do have a laid back attitude**

Every consideration has been made with the design even the Maintenance Depot building is hidden from site with high mounding all around it, you can't see it hardly from anywhere when playing the course (a very nice touch).

My favourite aspect of the course was the bunkers. Although they looked very rustic and natural a

**ABOVE:** Superintendent, Simon Forshaw (right) with 1963 Open Champion, New Zealander, Bob Charles (left)





lot of maintenance hours had to be spent on them. The greenside bunkers and the fronts of the fairway bunkers which lead into the bunkers from the tees were all kept looking good by cutting them the same height as the fairways and the rest of them done by using fly mows. However, the rest of the bunkers were left to grow as wild sweeping fescue. They looked amazing!

Like the rest of the world New Zealand is also experiencing economical strains, with budgets constantly being reviewed. Jack's Point has around 15 members of staff during the summer season and then they cut down to a skeleton staff during the winter months, numbering around seven members of staff, which sees them taking most of their annual holidays

as the course can be covered in snow or has perma frost.

The larger Courses in New Zealand and in the South Island because of the seasonal changes have a lot of opportunities for seasonal workers to make up their team size during the growing season when more man-hours are required and this gives a great chance to experience another way of seeing how golf courses are maintained to the highest level down under.

New Zealand has some different opportunities to get Qualified in Turf Management

We are lucky in the UK that there is considerable help to finance greenkeeper education.

In New Zealand there are some different ways that you can get qualified such as:

- You can do an Apprenticeship through the New Zealand Sports





THIS PAGE: Luxurious scenery of Jack's Point Golf Club

INSET BOTTOM LEFT: 17th fairway bunkers looking towards 18th green

INSET SECOND BOTTOM LEFT: 18th green under development



Turf Institute along with your golf club/sporting club (Three years)

- A course through the Otago Polytechnic (Two years)
- At Universities
- Online Through Universities in North America
- After the standard Level 4 Apprenticeship you can do Level 6 and 7 through University which is something like our Masters programme

Like all courses Jack's Point is improving all the time. Although to me it is an amazing course - improvements have already been outlined for the future. This will include more drainage in key areas, how best to protect fine fescue getting damaged by the use of golfers on golf carts, how to maintain your growing turf as long as possible, best way to treat high traffic areas.

There are also plans to extend some par-3 tees. It is a work in

progress which is developing for the better all the time as like with everything the golf course is a living breathing identity changing and evolving all the time.

Nothing is perfect in the beginning and it is good that problem areas are highlighted so that improvements can be made, but the best thing apart from the people at Jack's Point is the experience you get when you are there.

It's like playing golf with all the views you get watching a Lord of the Rings movie. The only difference is that from time to time you might catch the view of deer running across the fairways as you are working.

Jack's Point is still very up and coming, already rated number one golf course in the South Island and ranked number five overall. I'm sure we will see great things from it in the future!

**Jack's Point is still very up and coming, already rated number one golf course in the South Island and ranked number five overall. I'm sure we will see great things from it in the future**



RIGHT: Abi Crosswood



# Back in time to this month in... 1989

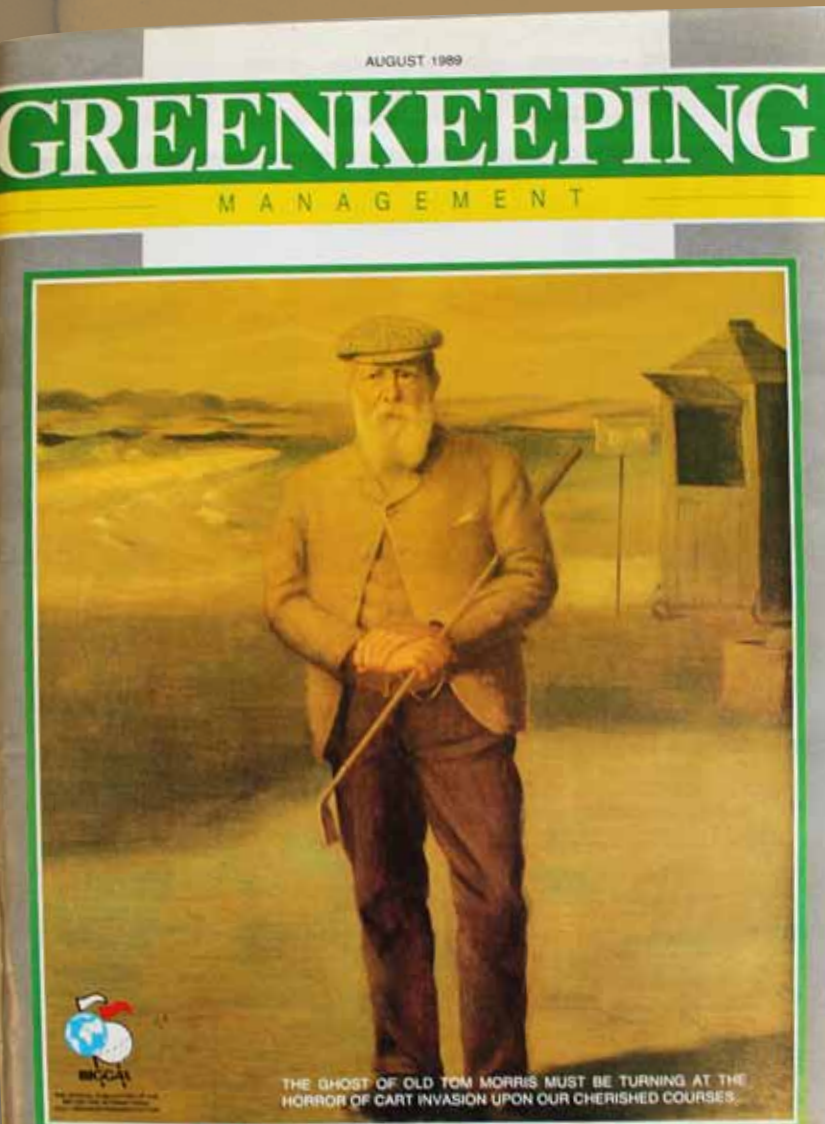
Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman,

elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Back in time is a new feature looking back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 will be a landmark year, as it will be the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. This month we travel back to August 1989 when ironically the magazine was looking back itself with the grandfather of all greenkeepers Old Tom Morris on the cover...



Europe's most widely circulated Greenkeeping magazine

**Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA's first President is pictured (right) and the "Flannel Panel" lists who were involved in BIGGA at that particular time**

"ANOTHER DEAD MOLE" The story was about an albino mole which was one of four trapped by the Fraserburgh Head Greenkeeper, one Gordon Moir, now Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews.

The Poseur's Pose! Piece is actually a preview for BIGGA's National Championship, which was due to be played at Lyme Regis GC over three days in August. Coincidentally, Greenkeeper International is previewing this year's National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at West Lanes GC.

**GREENKEEPING**  
MANAGEMENT

The Official Publication of The British and International Golf Clubs



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**Publishing Director: Barry Poole,**  
Tel: 091 496 0003 Fax: 091 496 0004  
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**GREENKEEPING**  
MANAGEMENT

**The National Association of Public Golf Courses threatened**

The National Association of Public Golf Courses, for six years by one year the accepted and recognised administration body for the public course club golfer, are indignant at the recent news - out of the blue - that the E.G.U. are to discuss a privately published paper. The English Golf Union and the Non-Status Golfer without consultation with NAPGC, even though their Association represents over 100 of the present public course clubs and over 80,000 public course players' insulted and ignorant as they are over the seeming insensitivity of the E.G.U. on such an important issue, they made the point to Greenkeeping Management that to make attempts to support and recognise the non-status golfer without involving the ONLY organisation with real experience in this moment to their being discussed.

Some of the questions posed in the paper, with NAPGC comments, are given here:

1. The Non-status golfer (NSG) wants some official recognition of his golfing ability. **Answer** - Let him join the club at the public course he plays upon.
2. The NSG wants to become a better player and enter the 'real' world of golf by competitive and social play. **Answer** - By joining a public course club he gets his 'passport' through a handicap certificate.
3. The NSG wants ultimately to join a club of society. **Answer** - Public course clubs would welcome him into their ranks.
4. The NSG wants to improve his knowledge of rules and etiquette. **Answer** - The first priority of NAPGC is to teach new players the rules and etiquette of golf with committee members of the Association always on hand to guide and counsel.
5. The NSG wants an opportunity to play in an organised competitive arena. **Answer** - NAPGC organises numerous competitive events at both local and national level.
6. The NSG wants a passport to extend his play beyond the municipal course.

**Poseur's Pose!**

**Flying Divots**



**ANOTHER DEAD MOLE**

A RARE ALBINO MOLE TRAPPED BY G. MOIR

Greenkeeping enemy number one, the mole, is seen here in a different guise. One of four of the same little varmints trapped by Fraserburgh Golf Club head greenkeeper, Gordon Moir, all within a matter of weeks. All pure white when trapped, Gordon makes the point that this specimen had turned a little yellow by the time he had photographed it, being well dead and surely, having been in the trap for a few days. Gordon says of this rarity, 'I am sure many greenkeepers have never seen a white mole before'. Our feelings are that these obnoxious creatures, albino or regular, male or female, big or small, whatever their lineage, are better dead than alive.

**Rosemount record shattered**





LEFT: Another coincidence! August '89 previews the very first Toro Student of the Year competition, which was to be won by Mark Proctor. This month Greenkeeper International contains the preview for the 2011 competition.

RIGHT: Range of adverts which appeared in the issue



BELOW: A snapshot of an article written by one of greenkeeping's greatest supporters, architect, Fred Hawtree. Again this piece was looking back into golfing history.

Greenkeepers Association

**"They donned the felt Homburg hat of commerce"**

They too put up a team of five, captained by Harry Colt, R & A. Rules Committee, Cambridge Captain, Lawyer, Sunningdale Secretary, and finally No. 1 course architect of the amateurs. He scored 20 layouts in his first eight years, finally leaving Sunningdale in 1913 to go solo. His associates Dr. Alister MacKenzie, the Leeds medical practitioner, and Hugh Alison, Secretary of Stoke Poges followed his lead.

J.F. Abercromby was not a profile designer, but was highly respected. His new course at Addington was a gem, stolen now by housing needs, though the Old Course is fortunately still there. He checked out the opposition by working with Park earlier at Coombe Hill.

Herbert Fowler, who had designed Walton Heath, co-operated with Abercromby at Cowdray Park and West Kent (now moved to Downe). All three were involved in the early days of Worpleton. Fowler started playing golf at the late age of 35 and planned Walton Heath because of a family connection. He then completed five British courses and one in Los Angeles before the 1914 war.

On quantity, The Caps halved one game and won the rest, even giving a stroke a hole. But if we assess quality in the results, I should say it was honourably halved.

The flood of new courses did not

Caps well to the fore at Sundridge Park, circa 1913



**Aspects of Design**

stop completely between 1914 and 1918; it slowed to a trickle. Only MacKenzie and Alison were young enough to join the Army. But in 1920, both sides returned to the offensive. The amateurs struck first. Colt & Alison produced one book, 'Some Essays on Golf Course Architecture', and Alister MacKenzie produced another. He included in his book a list of the 13 features essential in an ideal golf course, this catching the readers' imagination, as simple summings-up often do, despite what they leave out. Historians have mistakenly quoted from this book ever since, but I can now reveal for the first time that MacKenzie first outlined his

13 points not in book form, but when lecturing to the Northern Section of the Golf Greenkeepers Association, **Greenkeepers First - The World Second!** He obviously got his priorities right.

In case you have forgotten what he said up there, we shall start in the next issue where we leave off - with those 13 points, and a few extra for good measure. Incidentally, his book, 'Golf Architecture', costs about £350 now, so you might as well wait and get his points for nothing.

**FRED HAWTREE.**

A Homburg behatted forebear of The Author.





# In search of the perfect bunker sand

George Shiels offers some valuable advice on how to ensure you have the best sand for your bunkers

**Bunkers and bunker sands have, yet again, been a topic of much conversation. Golfers seek the perfect bunker, one that is consistent, regardless of the weather. Where sand depth never varies and the ball never disappears from view, and every bunker on the course has to be identical in every respect. Whatever happened to a sand bunker being a hazard?**

What is it that makes a bunker acceptable or unacceptable? Opinions seem to differ just as much as golfers' handicaps but, surely, bunkers must have some features in common that makes them more or less acceptable to the average golfer.

Bunker designs vary according to the whims or desires of the architect or designer and, of course, they vary along with the character of the golf course. But, surely, the sand is more or less the same in them all,

so what is the problem with making bunkers work everywhere?

Well, sand may well be sand, but opinions vary about what does or does not constitute a good sand once it is placed in a bunker and, even when tests suggest it should be good, the golfer may not like it, perhaps because the way it plays or, maybe, simply because the appearance isn't quite right.

There are some factors that we can't do anything about. One such factor is the handicap of the individual golfer and how he or she likes the sand to play. We often find that low handicap golfers prefer firm sand which is quite shallow, while a higher handicap golfer may well prefer softer and deeper sand.

Unfortunately, they play the same course, end up in the same bunker, and come out with a totally different assessment of the bunker's quality. Selecting bunker sand that will please every golfer and greenkeeper is, perhaps, as







## It is the role of the specialist testing laboratory to look at the various characteristics of the sands being considered, and then to identify those that might be suitable, and which, if any, might be preferred

close to impossible as we are ever likely to get. But, in the testing laboratory, we can, at least, go part of way to selecting sands that might be acceptable to golfers.

Putting a technical spin on sand selection is only the start. Having found sands that technically appear suitable, we must then subject them to field testing, on the golf course, to establish whether they are, indeed, suitable for use, bearing in mind the design and location of the bunkers and the expectations or preferences of the golfers themselves. We have to start somewhere, and subjecting sands to technical assessment will, at least, shorten the list by rejecting some that will never be suitable. Historically, some golf clubs have always purchased local sand, because it was cheaper than others from further away. It might or might not be good for the purpose but, in these days of budget constraints, it might be used out of necessity. A few tests can help the selection process for sands, and may help to avoid buying in problems in the form of sand that will never be suitable.

Unfortunately, sands are not all the same, they vary in several ways - in composition, size, shape and colour. And, because they vary in these ways, we also find that they vary in drainage rate as well as how they pack down, and, in particular, how they play and adhere to the

bunker faces, remembering that some faces are 30cm high and others are close to 3m high.

It is the role of the specialist testing laboratory to look at the various characteristics of the sands being considered, and then to identify those that might be suitable, and which, if any, might be preferred.

### Step One

The first step after identifying sand suppliers is to get samples to the testing laboratory. Send about 5kg, and ask them to run the samples through a series of tests for potential bunker sands.

### A - Colour

An obvious and easy test to undertake is by matching the sands with colour charts. Some clubs prefer white sand, because they value the contrast of white and green.

It may well look very attractive at the outset, but it can soon become dirty and require replacing so often that it becomes a budgetary nightmare.

Some players love the appearance; others hate the glare that white sand creates on a sunny day, even though sunny days happen only rarely.

Occasionally, an owner or a committee ask for a sand that fits the local geology and soil, they want one that blends in and plays well. How enlightened they are.

### B - Particle Size

Having received the samples, the first test is to determine the grading or makeup of the sand, by running the samples through a nest of sieves. The procedure for this test will give very accurate results, but it doesn't test the entire supply, and sand grading might change slightly with time. If you can, get hold of some older test results and check for any obvious changes.

We look for sands where 95% of the particles lie between 0.15 and 1.0mm diameter, but also where the bulk of the particles lie between, say, 0.25mm and 0.50mm to ensure that the sand splash from greenside bunkers don't cause deterioration of the putting surface.

Coarser sands may result in surface abrasion, whilst finer sands may well cause perching or increased surface wetness on greens built with a USGA rootzone. Even though this sand grading is the one we'd all opt for, it is no guarantee of consistent playing characteristics. However, sands of this grade are more likely to be good bunker sands than others which lie outside the range. How the sand plays will still depend on maintenance and, of course, moisture content. The sand that drains well and plays well throughout the winter may be deemed too soft and unacceptable in a dry summer.

Ideally, a minimum of 75% of the sand should lie within the 0.25 to 0.5mm range but, where the spread of particles is too narrow, you may find the sand is too soft. A percentage of larger particles, and some finer particles, can improve stability of the sand and reduce the risk of balls burying too deeply; but too much and you may find the sand being lost to the first stiff breeze.

The laboratory will include a measure of uniformity for the sand (CU) and this will give a good indication of the spread of different particle sizes.

### C - Purity

A good bunker sand is clean. If it contains silt or clay, it will tend to crust and will be at risk of draining slowly. The test for particle size will include silt and clay levels as a norm.

### D - Shape

When we select materials for drainage, a round particle is often preferred, because the material flows more easily into the trench. In a bunker, a round sand particle will do much the same - it will move easily and, so, each time it rains,



the sand will wash away from steep slopes. Angular sand is, therefore preferred. You will also find that an angular material will pack down more firmly and will resist balls burying into it. There are degrees of packing down of course, so be careful. Going for something which is too angular may leave you with a bunker that bears more resemblance to the M4 than a sand trap.

### E - Composition

Most sands contain quartz or silica. A hard, quartz sand is preferred in bunkers because it retains its shape and resists weathering. Sands that weather, or break down too easily, may well become compact and seal, requiring more attention from the maintenance team. Some sands come with a large amount of limestone attached to the sand grains, and the laboratory will pick this up when they test the pH.

If the pH appears high, the laboratory will usually undertake a simple "fizz test" to determine how much limestone is present. If there is too much, the sand grains will weather and become smaller in time, so the drainage rate and playing characteristics will also change.

If you use a high pH sand, bear in mind that splashing this onto your greens may well affect soil pH and perhaps increase disease incidence.

### F - Angle of Repose

I love this test, because it involves mathematics, and it informs us about the maximum angle of bunker face that we can construct and still keep the sand in place. Generally, we'd look for sand with an angle of repose of say 35 degrees or more.

Some designers build near vertical faces in their bunkers and, when we are faced with using sand that can stay in place on a face no steeper than 40-45 degrees, it's no wonder that bunkers become sources of discontent within the golf club.

This test isn't done on all sands and some laboratories don't offer it, but ETL finds that the angles vary with particle shape and distribution, and it is a piece of the jigsaw that that may help predict sand behaviour on flashed bunker faces, the probability of fried egg lies.

### G - Drainage Rate

Not everyone asks for this test because, once they have seen the particle make up of the sand, they can often tell whether or not the sand will drain well. It is a piece of



**If you leave old sand in place, and cover it with a new material, the old sand will eventually come through, unless you ban golfers from using rakes**

the jigsaw, and adds information about how the sand will perform initially, though, of course, with time and contamination, drainage rate will decline.

Having a sand that drains freely often has to be balanced against the sand being too soft in dry weather and, although the laboratory can put numbers on the performance of the sand, the final decision rests with the club to decide whether or not the balance between drainage rate and firmness of the sand is the right one.

### H - Penetrometer Reading

A simple penetrometer test is the best measure of sand firmness that we have at the moment; it's not perfect but, added to the other information, it helps to predict performance.

### Step Two

Having tested the sands and found some that might be suitable, test them insitu and let the golfers report back on how well or badly they play. Before you put the new sand into a bunker, make sure the old sand has been removed, otherwise you don't get the playing characteristics of either sand, just

an unpredictable mish-mash of what might be two very different materials.

If you leave old sand in place, and cover it with a new material, the old sand will eventually come through, unless you ban golfers from using rakes.

Given a bit of help from nature and the powers that be, you may get good feedback from the golfers and can then proceed with a sand replacement programme.

Hopefully, the new sand fits the bill, until it becomes contaminated or the sand supply runs out, and then you may have to start again.

Using a laboratory can take away some of the guesswork from sand selection, but always bear in mind that bunker design, climate and golfers vary enormously. You may never reach the Holy Grail of golf, i.e. the perfect bunker sand for all seasons and all courses but, if you do find this, you're well on your way to making your fortune.

George Shiels is a Director of ETL - European Turfgrass Laboratories

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# Firmly syngenta® established

Scott MacCallum discovers what is behind the recent success of BIGGA Gold Key Supporter, Syngenta.

**Syngenta may be a young company – having been formed in 2000 and not breaking into the UK golf market until 2005 – but in those six years many Course Managers have come to rely heavily on the products that it has developed and services that it provides.**

With Primo Maxx, Rescue, Banner Maxx., Instrata and Medalion TL among the big hitters in its portfolio along with the industry standard Heritage Maxx, and back up services like the GreenCast website, innovative nozzle application technology and environmental initiatives, the days before their existence already seem like a distant memory to many grateful turf professionals.

But behind the company is a long history and pedigree with its roots in ICI, Zeneca and Novartis.

“We have always seen ourselves as solution providers, rather than just selling a product. We work hard to produce good products, provide the after sales care and build relationships with our customers,” explained Syngenta’s Rod Burke, as we talked at Marriott Hanbury Manor Hotel and Country Club, along with one of those customers, Course Manager, Andrew Howarth.

“That’s the Syngenta way, and how the company operates in all of its markets. We are never in a situation where we just put a product out and walk away. It doesn’t work like that, and it also helps us because we get feedback from the customer about where we need to go and the new products we need to research,” explained Rod.

Much of that turf research work is carried out at Stein, in Switzerland, a vast complex containing laboratories, greenhouses and climate chambers. It even has breeding stations for pests and diseases, to replicate golf course problems



**“We have always seen ourselves as solution providers, rather than just selling a product. We work hard to produce good products, provide the after sales care and build relationships with our customers”**

**Rod Burke, Syngenta**

in test conditions. No stone is left unturned in the unwavering ambition to produce new products.

In the UK, the company also has a base at Jealott’s Hill, near Reading, where testing of new active ingredients is carried out in mind boggling numbers, aimed at uncovering those which should be put forward for further development work as potential new products.

It all goes to explain the huge investment required to create a new product— estimates place it at anything up to £200 million to develop a new active ingredient and bring it to the market.. “That includes meeting all the various and demanding regulatory requirements which are set by individual countries or

regions. Product development can take a decade or more from the first discovery through to market. Once the development work has been completed it still takes around two years to go through the regulation process in the UK and in other countries like Spain, up to a further five years. It is a huge amount of work,” explained Rod.

But that effort is appreciated by people like Andrew, at Hanbury Manor, who has used Syngenta products almost as long as they have been available in the UK, and who provided one of the trial sites for the recently-launched Medalion TL, a contact+ fungicide, which offers protection from fusarium.

Such was his confidence in the





TOP: Research work  
 ABOVE: Syngenta spends a lot of time working with its customers  
 LEFT: Andrew Howarth, Course Manager at Marriott Hanbury Manor  
 BELOW: Disease microscopy



product and in Syngenta's track record, Andrew gave it an extensive trial on the greens at Hanbury Manor at the end of November last year.

"It snowed the very next day and the greens were covered for the best part of four weeks, but when it cleared the greens were perfect," he said.

Timing of the application is all important and this is where the GreenCast website comes into its own as a disease prevention tool as it identifies the potential for disease to strike.

"Historically, greenkeepers have used a 'wait and see' approach to management. If they saw disease they would spray it and be disappointed when it returned two weeks later," explained Rod.

"With the ability of GreenCast to identify when disease is most likely to strike, the spraying can be carried out just before the disease becomes established and as a result, typically, it provides six to eight weeks of control. By targeting the spraying at the most effective time you can actually reduce the number of spraying applications you use in the course of a year

ensuring that products are used at the right time for best effect and creating savings overall."

It is a view that is endorsed by Andrew:

"We very much operate on a preventative basis but we aim to be specific. It's certainly not a scatter gun approach and so tools like GreenCast are great. You might think in your own mind that it is the right day to go ahead with an application but now you then check with GreenCast which can confirm if you are right," said Andrew, who admits to visiting the site at least once a day.

"As greenkeepers we are all obsessed with the weather so it's great to have somewhere to go which has so much useful information."

Andrew was also one of the first to use the growth regulator, Primo Maxx, which perhaps more than any other has left its mark on the industry in the last 10 years.

"I started using Primo Maxx in 2007 and believe I was in the first group of people to do so. It has made a huge difference in terms of quality of surface, as well as savings in manpower as a result of the growth regulator element of it.

"I have to say that it has done everything that we wanted it to do and we've got more out of it the more we have used it and learnt about it," explained Andrew, for whom quality at such a high profile golfing venue is of prime importance.

Indeed, like so many of his fellow users, Andrew has become more sophisticated in his use of Primo Maxx, which is now an integral part of the turf management routine.

Syngenta has done a significant amount of research aimed at putting together a persuasive case for golf clubs to invest in turf management - clearly demonstrating the benefits and value created by new solutions and techniques to bring an economic benefit.

"We provide the tools for Course Managers like Andrew, to take a proposal to their Director or General Manager to persuade them to move forward on a programme of investment in turf quality," explained Rod, who added that this was done on a number of fronts.

"On quality, if you can increase membership by just 1% that typically equates to an extra £5000 income a year, while if you attract five more players a week with your quality golf course that increases income by around £15,000 a year on typical figures," explained Rod.

Furthermore they have also researched the benefits on cost

savings that are there to be had.

"It costs £15 per hour to run a mower, if you include labour, machinery costs and fuel. The growth regulation properties of Primo Maxx reduces the mowing requirement and cuts associated costs, as well as freeing up labour for other course improvements and detailing to increase the players enjoyment of their round."

As part of the marketing approach Syngenta has put together a series of packages including the Ultimate Fairway Programme in conjunction with distribution partner Everris, containing all that is needed to produce top quality fairways including Primo Maxx, nutrition and nozzles which have been developed to ensure that the company's product is applied in an effective and accurate fashion.

"Our big drive is to reduce water rates and reduce drift, both of which our nozzles help to achieve. Where our trials show it is appropriate we aim to reduce water volumes to 200-250 litres per application, from current typical levels of 600-650 litres. It will help to spray quicker and reduce costs, as well as enhancing product efficacy and results," said Rod, who explained that Syngenta also works extremely closely with the STRI on its research.

Syngenta is also the driving force behind Operation Pollinator, an international five year biodiversity programme to boost the number of pollinating insects by creating specific habitats, tailored to local conditions and native insects.

In golf, the project aims to utilise out of play areas to increase the attractiveness of courses for insects and players.

Participants are provided with agronomic advice and innovative research based practices to successfully establish and manage specific wildflower mixtures designed to benefit pollinators and improve course playability.

As a Gold Key Supporter of BIGGA since 2008 Syngenta supports the Association's Education and Development Fund, which was set up to offer support and tools for BIGGA members.

"We see the professional development of BIGGA members as being extremely beneficial to the industry," added Rod.

"We increasingly find that we are dealing with professionals of the quality of Andrew, who appreciate what we are bringing to the market place in terms of high performance products, integrated solutions and services and comprehensive support."



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

# The anatomy of...

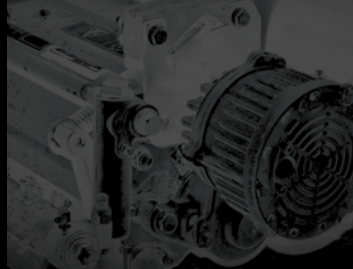
## Toro ProCore 648

Engineered to perform? James de Havilland turns his attention to the newest machine to enter the corer market



In work, the aeration head follows behind the inset wheels, preventing the unit running over non-windrowed cores

## Step-by-step Analysis... Toro ProCore 648



When working with needle tines, the operator can use fold out markers to assist aligning bout passes.. It does not take long to aerate a green, the total time required to cover 18 holes needing to include the time to move between. The latter can take longer than the aeration itself!

**Superseding its Pedestrian Greens Aerator in 2006, the Toro ProCore 648 is now well established. Offering a 48in/122cm working width, the unit can be fitted with needle, solid, side-eject and hollow tines in diameters of 5 to 16mm and can work down to a maximum of 102mm. But is it really that different from its predecessor?**

There are new model introductions that leave you scratching your head, wondering if it is just a few details or even just the model number that has changed. In the case of the Toro ProCore 648, however, the company ripped up its previous pedestrian aerator design and started anew.

A key feature of the ProCore 648 is its operating speed, Toro publicly boasting of its 18 greens in seven hours performance. That sounds pretty impressive for a pedestrian machine, but it perhaps detracts from the unit's other features that include of ease of set up and operation.

Opt for the Toro QuickChange tine option, launched in 2010, and swapping tine sets can be done without the need for spanners. Of equal importance, the QuickChange system makes it really simple to remove a damaged tine.

Setting the operating depth is achieved via a lever, Toro 'grading' the depth settings A to H. This allows the operator to set the working depth without the need for any tools and quickly adjust the unit to accommodate tine wear; rest a tine on the decal beside the depth setting lever, read off the letter that corresponds with the desired aeration depth and adjust the depth accordingly. Simple.

With regard to hole spacing, the adjustment is simple, a notched bracket alongside the lever enables operators to quickly return the lever to a pre-determined setting when using a different set of tines or working to a different hole pattern.

### Any room for improvement?

Toro has done a good job with the design of the ProCore 648, but the optional QuickChange system would be even better if it came as standard. At present it adds an extra £680 to the unit's £18,507 list price. On the plus side, existing users can retrofit QuickChange.



Once set up, operating the ProCore is straightforward. The only complexity is trying to decipher the warning on the decals.



The Toro QuickChange system was introduced in 2010 and is a retrofit option for existing ProCore 648 pedestrian and mounted 864 and 1298 models.



Simple tricycle undercarriage allows good contour following. Steering king pin is one of the few grease points on the machine.



Adding or removing shims can control lateral float. The head can be fixed when aerating level surfaces such as a bowling green.



This includes 6 tine heads, 24 Inserts and the QuickChange tool

We also think Toro could add a few small detail refinements to further enhance opting for Quick-Change. First, the combination tine release and lock tool has separate ends to perform each task. Each end could do with marking so you don't have to work out which end does what. Second, the tool could be stored on the aerator along with few tines and spare mounting collars. This would ensure they were always with the machine.

This nit picking does not get away from the impression that Toro appears to have listened to criticisms of its original Greens Aerator. The ProCore is manoeuvrable and easy to control and has little details that enhance its operation. An example is little markers that pull out to allow you to match each bout without having to walk so you can always see the nearside wheel. The wheels are also mounted inboard and ahead of the aeration head. This ensures the unit does not run over freshly produced holes or cores.

**Floating head and balance**

When aerating a level surface, such as a bowling green, a fixed aeration head will deliver consistent hole depth across the width of the unit. Golf greens are of course different, so allowing the head to float to follow contours is desirable.

On the ProCore 648, Toro suspends the head via a pivot and spring system with removable spacers controlling the degree of available float.

The float can also be locked off if desired. For the most part, the float setting is something operators can just set and forget but those who also contract out the aeration services to a local bowls club will value the ability to set the head accordingly.

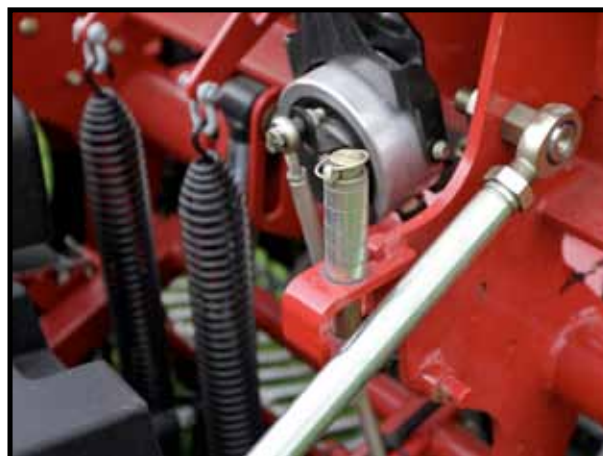
Moving on the crank, this is driven via a belt that is in turn powered via a hydraulic motor. The crank and connecting rods are balanced in the factory, with the components numbered to ensure they are matched following any maintenance.

To further reduce vibration, the crank hangers are mounted on isolation blocks and each throw of the crank is counter-balanced by the connecting rods acting in pairs.

In work, the ProCore obviously vibrates as does the ground as the tines penetrate the surface of the turf. But vibration passing through to the operator is well controlled.



A decal adjacent to the depth-setting lever enables the setting to be set to accommodate tine wear. Not collar on tine. This is part of the QuickChange system.



Adding or removing shims can control lateral float. The head can be fixed when aerating level surfaces such as a bowling green.

**Spot the grease nipple**

Those who enjoy delaying getting out to the greens nice and early will curse the ProCore for its lack of grease points.

The crank and key joints all run on sealed bearings, with just the steering pivot requiring the odd shot of lube to keep everything in order. Add QuickChange tines and there is no need for a pre-run spot of tine tightening either.

**Summary**

The ProCore 648 is a well-engineered item of equipment.

**It is clear Toro has invested a great deal in making the machine efficient and easy to operate and also taken a look at maintenance demands too. It is the manner in which the tool goes about its work that is of course the key point. Here it is hard to really find fault**

It is clear Toro has invested a great deal in making the machine efficient and easy to operate and also taken a look at maintenance demands too.

It is the manner in which the tool goes about its work that is of course the key point. Here it is hard to really find fault.

As long as the operator is fit enough to keep pace with the unit's potential work rate, the boast of 18 greens in seven hours should be no problem.

With particular thanks to Tadmarton Heath Golf Club and Course Manager Brian Owen, Alastair Rathbone, Central Contract Supplies and Rob Atwell of Toro distributor, Lely UK.



Balanced crank has numbered connecting rods to ensure they are re-matched following a major overhaul. Note vibration isolation blocks.

**Toro ProCore 648 – outline specification**

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Engine Make.....              | Kohler             |
| Engine Power (hp).....        | 23                 |
| Working Width (mm).....       | 1220               |
| Maximum Working Depth (mm) .. | 102                |
| Weight (kg) .....             | 722                |
| Tine Types                    |                    |
| Needle (mm).....              | 5, 8               |
| Solid (mm) .....              | 9.5, 11, 13, 16    |
| Side-eject (mm) .....         | 6.4, 13, 16, 19    |
| Hollow core .....             | 9.5, 13, 16        |
| Tine holders.....             | 3 and 4-tine       |
| Key options .....             | QuickChange tines* |
| List price .....              | £18,507.00         |

\*Available as a retrofit kit.

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# Don't Miss Harro

Harrogate Week 2012 is already taking shape and is on course to be one of the finest weeks yet



**The Continue to Learn Programme will offer something for everyone while the 2012 Show coincides with BIGGA's 25th Birthday and the 100th anniversary of the very first Greenkeeping Association. Both events will be recognised at Harrogate next year.**

Demand for stand space has been extremely positive with many exhibitors taking advantage of the loyalty scheme introduced earlier this year while many of the large manufacturers have already re-booked for 2012.

## Continue to Learn Programme

Sami Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development, has put the finishing touches to the Continue to Learn Programme for Harrogate Week 2012 which will be packed with educational opportunities for turf professionals at all stages of their careers.

"With over 150 hours of education scheduled, there is sure to be something of interest for all visitors to the Show," revealed Sami.

"We are providing a combination of events including the Turf Managers' Conference; half, one and two-day Workshops; Seminars by renowned Course Managers and a range of sessions presented by companies whom are exhibiting at BTME."

She also revealed an internationally renowned speaker from the United States, that will be speaking at Harrogate for the first time.

"I'm delighted to confirm that Dr Frank Rossi, from Cornell University, will be making his debut on the Continue to Learn education programme.

"He will be talking on 'Progressive Cultural Management Programmes' and 'Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf,'" said Sami.

"It is our aim, along with the help of a superb line-up of speakers, to smash the record set in January 2011 for the number of attendees at education events by providing the most comprehensive education programme for the greenkeeping industry in Europe."

The Continue to Learn programme offers benefits to Golf Clubs and employees by providing education that is specifically targeted at the greenkeeping and golf industry, ensuring that staff are kept up to date with changes in legislation, technical skills and current research as well as the supervisory and management skills that are essential in the workplace.

## Stand Sales Update

Stand Sales have been extremely positive and with six months to go until Harrogate Week 2012 80% of stand space, within the four halls has already been sold.

The recently-introduced loyalty discount scheme allows repeat exhibitors the chance to claim up to 10% off the price of their stand space as long as they rebook before end of business on September 16.

To claim this discount Exhibitors need to contact Sue McDonough [sue@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sue@bigga.co.uk) or Jill Rodham [jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

Or call on 01347 833 800.



# Harrogate Week 2012

24 - 26 January 2012



**“With over 150 hours of education scheduled, there is sure to be something of interest for all visitors to the Show”**  
Sami Collins

tions. That is also being recognised at Harrogate Week 2012 with a display taking visitors through the past 100 years. If anyone would like to contribute to this with the lending or donation of Minute Books, historic memorabilia, photographs etc please contact Elliott Small, who is co-ordinating the 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations work. Elliott can be contacted on: [elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk)

We are happy to announce that the registration for Harrogate Week is now OPEN. Entry is FREE, just go to [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and click the “Register NOW” button, complete the form and you will receive an eBadge if you have chosen the green option.

Firmly established as Europe’s foremost turf care show, this unmissable event takes place from January 24-26, 2012 at Harrogate International Centre over three vibrant days in which Harrogate becomes the heart of the turf care industry.

Now in its 25th consecutive year, the exhibition encompasses every product in the industry including artificial grass, course furniture,

drainage, fertilisers, groundscare machinery and equipment, irrigation, mowers, soil biology, spraying, turf and seeds, water, lake and pond management, wetting agents and so much more.

#### Where to Stay

Reservation Highway, the officially appointed accommodation agent for Harrogate Week, provides a centralised point of contact for all your accommodation and travel enquiries. The Reservation Highway website and the rooms and rates shown there, are for your benefit only and are not available to the general public as the site is password protected.

By visiting [www.reservation-highway.co.uk/conference\\_info.php](http://www.reservation-highway.co.uk/conference_info.php), you can gain instant access to all the accommodation special event rates that have been negotiated. All the rates shown are the rates that you will pay with no hidden extras.

As well as having special nightly rates, Reservation Highway also offer special deals such as three night specials, Advance Purchase, Early bird rates etc.



#### Anniversaries

BIGGA is 25 years old in 2012 and celebrations to mark the occasion will be launched at Harrogate Week 2012. The Association has come a very long way since 1987, thanks to the outstanding work of so many of its members, supported by the HQ and Regional Administrator staff, and Harrogate Week is the perfect place to recognise the achievements.

BIGGA was launched 75 years after the very first greenkeeping Association was formed so, coincidentally, 2012 represents 100 years of Greenkeeper Associa-



## Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### East

Well the weather has certainly improved and the hard graft begins. The last couple of weeks has brought us a flush of growth to deal with at long last. That's the story on the links anyway, but no doubt you fellas inland have been hard at it for longer than that.

Hopefully you will have received your entry forms from our hardworking Secretary, Stuart Ferguson. The Willie Woods Tournament at Mortonhall Golf Club on August 9 should be a cracking day. One remembers being there for an Autumn Tournament years ago and if anyone can come up with the proper year I would be grateful if they would let me know.

The Braids Golf Club will hold the Autumn Tournament on Wednesday, September 14. Can't ever remember playing a BIGGA event there before, so looking forward to it with anticipation.

Our Norrie Wytock team is captained by Alastair Holmes, Seahouses; Grant Moran, Mortonhall; Philip Butler, Murrayfield, and Ryan McCulloch, Goswick. Remember guys we won it last year so NO PRESURE. But bring it home.

There are other areas for your attention at the bottom of the entry form, please let us know if you are interested?

Remember for all correspondence on events, contact: S. Ferguson (Secretary), 50 Easter Road, Shotts, North Lanarkshire, ML7 4AS [stuferg@btinternet.com](mailto:stuferg@btinternet.com)

For any any interesting comments you may wish to make, email [s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)

Lastly, thank you to Shaun Cunningham for the text, it was gratefully received, I look forward to my large rum. Don't burn Samaras's shirt yet!

Have a good summer  
Yours in golf  
Stewart Crawford



### Central

All the best to the Carnoustie crowd who will have hosted the Ricoh Women's British Open by the time you read this, and also to the teams at Fairmont and Gleneagles, who shortly have the Scottish Seniors' and Johnnie Walker tournament respectively.

We are fortunate to be in an area where so many large events are staged.

The next event to look forward to is the Autumn outing at Kingsbarns on Tuesday, September 14 and entry forms will be emailed out those I have email address for or can be found on the website:

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

This may well be over subscribed and if this is the case then there will be some type of selection criteria which the committee shall decide upon at their meeting in the first week of August and which will be explained on the entry form.

Also on the website will be news of the next few educational events and the AGM. The Pairs' competition has reached the knockout stages and has proven very popular with those who entered.

Down in Leven, Kevin Webster's wife, Karen, gave birth to a daughter, Grace Catherine, Kevin has just endured the first sleepless night.

Gordon Moir



### West

Sorry for not submitting something last month but the only item to be included was the Spring outing held at Cowglen Golf Club on May 19, which surprisingly experienced a lovely sunny day unlike many of the other days in that month. The course was in excellent condition for the time of year after all the difficulties and for that I would thank Michael Slack and his team for their efforts and the council for allowing the Section to play the course. The results were as follows: Scratch Prize A. Reid, Williamwood, 74, First Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes, 32pts; 2. J. Brown, Bearsden, 31pts; 3. G. Bruen, Williamwood, 30pts. Second Class. 1. M. Slack, Cowglen, 34pts; 2. B. Sommerville, Helensburgh, 27 pts (bih); 3. D. McBride, Vale of Leven, 27pts. Third Class. 1. D. Reid, Lenzie, 32pts; 2. C. Boyd, Helensburgh, 15pts; 3. S. Reid, East Kilbride, 14pts. Apprentice prize A. Orr, 27pts, Trade Prize, as usual, D. Duthie, Aitkens.

The only disappointing issue from the day was a lack of numbers with 22 in attendance unlike our normal amount of 35-40. So where were all you guys and what are you up to? Is the cost too much or are we having to take days off to attend? I would appreciate if members could contact me or any Section committee member to discover reasons for the absence.

A wee match has been arranged for the North of the river verses the South which I will report on at a later stage but the intention was to contact a few people who haven't been attending things over the last years with the idea of socialising

and get together for a chat about different aspects. If you wish to be involved then give me a call on 07790823914 or contact Gerry Bruen on the blog and we can include you.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at the Duke's course in June and this had an excellent turn out of 70, to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff, and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff, for all their assistance in helping to make a successful day.

As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O'Hara, the Vice Chairman. I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

Finally if anyone has anything to say give me a call on 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914 or e-mail me on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com) I hope everyone as a good remainder to the season and eagerly await your calls.

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hi everyone hope you are all well and enjoying the prolonged hot spell. Sadly in our part of the country the few showers we are getting are cancelled out by the drying winds. On June 22 we held our President's Day, at Moortown GC. The Section would like to thank the club for a great day, and Steve and his team for a great but challenging course. Winners on the day were as follows, President's Trophy. S. Mason, 35pts. Div 1. 1. N.

Coultish; 2. A. Court; 3. T. Gerard. Div 2. 1. A. Holroyde; 2. B. Knowles Jackson; 3. D. Campbell, Div 3. 1. E. Newsham; 2. K. Christie; 3. J. Bryson. Trade. M. Brear. N/P.D. Collins.

As usual a big thank you to the sponsor, Bob Wilde Grass Machinery. The Section's best wishes go to our President who is recovering after an operation on his hand. Get well soon, Dennis.

At our last Section meeting we discussed the possibility of a trip to Wembley Stadium, to get an idea of numbers. If you are interested please get in touch with a committee member.

Our next golf event is Invitation day at Bingley St. Ives GC, on August 31, Cost is £20 per person. Please get in touch early to book your place. That's all for this month, any news or gossip please get in touch, Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob: 07947401278. email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Frank Stewart



### North East

Well just checked the Rigby Taylor wall calendar at work and I see the first weekend in August is my last one EVER. Yes it's that time in my life when I have been put out to grass. Not my choice as I would have preferred to carry on working for a couple years more but the powers-that-be declined my services. So after 41 years in greenkeeping what next? Decisions, decisions. Shall I just trot off into the fields, or what? I don't think I could do that, as I need to be doing something in greenkeeping. It's such a brilliant profession, plenty of fresh air, meeting people, listening to the members moaning on... God I will miss all of those.

Looking back to 1970 when I started under the guidance of Steve Pope. What a privilege that was. Many others, as well as me, did ok between us over the forthcoming years and I am sure all of those people will agree with me that Steve was what we call a one off. We can tell lots of stories.

For the past 29 years I have been the Secretary of the North East Section of the then BGGA and BIGGA.

One of my claims to fame was

when I was appointed Chairman of BGGA in 1985 and to be involved with that historic meeting at Hagg's Castle with BGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA to form what we have now. It took two years, but it was well worth the wait in the end.

Another claim to fame I was lucky enough to enjoy was to be chosen, along with nine other greenkeepers from around the country, to attend the first Bernhard's trip, away to Vancouver.. So when you see that advert in Greenkeeper International, go for it.

Think that's all I am going to say, other than I expect to see quite a few of you at BTME in January and that I am still carrying on as the Secretary of the North East Section.

Whoops nearly forgot. If anybody wants a hard working retired greenkeeper in the future on a part time basis, or whatever, just give me a ring or email me.

I always said that if I received no news I would write about myself! So come on lads, you must have something to tell me even if it's winter projects, someone getting married, or moving on,. The summer months are always the hardest to write about.

There was one thing I could have written about last month and that was about Russ Black. For those of you who know him as he know longer works at Westerhope Golf Club. Unfortunately for him, and a couple of other staff, they were paid by Newcastle City Council and they needed to reduce the staff by one. So now Russ works in one of the City parks on bowling greens etc. You will, however, still see him at Section outings.

Finally, let's see a lot more people turn up for the Autumn comp at Longhirst Hall, on September 21. This venue was chosen in the honour of Stuart Wilson, Deputy Head, who tragically lost his life last year.

Jimmy Richardson



### Sheffield

We reach August, and near the end of another season. As I write these notes I can safely say that the weather for once has been on our side this year and long may it continue (fingers

crossed I have not placed a jinx by saying this).

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone concerned at Roundwood GC for what was a fantastic day at our Annual competition. I would like to say a special thanks to Ryan and his staff for producing a very good and difficult course. It was a credit to them all. I would also like to thank our sponsor, Mansfield Sand, for once again supporting the Section. Thankfully we managed a good turnout and I'm sure everyone had a great day. The results are as follows (Andy Unwin didn't do the countback).

Best gross A. Unwin, 78, (on Countback); Best nett D. Chappell, 78/69; 2. D. Brownlow, 78/70; A. Riley, 89/70. Trade R. Latham. Nearest the Pin Jamie Hobson, 10ft 13 inches (Yes, this is what he wrote for anyone who is puzzled)

Well done to all our winners and to everyone who played.

Unfortunately, now for a little bad news. We had to cancel our cricket match against Rigby Taylor due to poor numbers once again. I must thank Mike Brear for all his hard work in organising the day and also apologise to him on behalf of the Section. I believe it would have been a fantastic day if people had attended.

Our annual match against the Northern Section will have taken place in July and the results will be posted in next month's magazine.

Finally, I can announce we have our own facebook page. This will be updated with upcoming events and photos from events. Members can also go on and chat about all things greenkeeping. Find us at BIGGA Sheffield Section.

I am also on the final stages of completing a Sheffield Section website. I'm sure this will become a valuable tool to many members in our Section. More information will be posted in next month's magazine.

Have a good August and enjoy the sun.

James Stevens  
jimthegreenkeeper@hotmail.com  
07738719614

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

Sitting in a hotel room I've just realised it's deadline day for the magazine Section notes, so I'm going straight into things this month so there will be no waffling from me, "Hooray!" I hear you all cry!

Results from our Summer. First, the event was played at Cavendish GC and the course was in fantastic condition (I would say that wouldn't II!). Amazingly the rain also held off for the day so we were all truly blessed. Nearest the Pin prizes went to Andy Church, for the Trade bragging rights, and to Derek McJannett, for the Greenkeepers, Longest Drive went to Andy Lane, for the Trade, and Lee Wenlock, for the Greenkeepers.

The main prizes went to the "BIGGA boys" in the Trade section with Scott MacCallum taking third, and John Pemberton, newly-retired, taking first place. Thanks go to Andy Church for splitting them up. In Cat 2. Chris Weir and Greg Skinner took third and second with a card play off, and Pete Smith (yep, me again) ran out winner.

Please note that I have not put scores in for trade and cat 2 for fear of embarrassing all! Cat 1 winner was Derek McJannett, with Andy De Wet narrowly missing out by way of card play off, both scoring a fine 36 pts; third went to Lee Wenlock with 34pts.

As always thanks go to our sponsor for the day, these were Countrywide, Ultra soils, Campey Turfcare, Scotts and Tacit, without the continued support of our sponsors these events wouldn't be the success that they are. Thank you to all involved.

With the best combined scores from our Spring and Summer comps our BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, representatives will be previous National Champ Derek McJannett and, just to make up the numbers, yours truly!

The Headland Pairs competition continues and in the next update I should be able to announce quarter finalists,





# Around The Green

we will also be able to publish results from our first par-3 competition and summer BBQ. Here's hoping there're none of those long par-3's I love so much!

Regards to all  
Pete Smith



## Midland

Well, I sit at my computer each evening trolling through emails hoping that one day someone will send me a message which I can report within our notes. It's a bit like specimen coarse fishing, you often blank. However, unlike our , a 10lb+ Barbel, 5lb+ Chub or 25lb+ Carp will serve as wonderful memories and fuel many a tale of the one that didn't get away. Yes, yet again no one has any news for this month it seems. Reminds me of the 50s BBC news programme, "Good evening, there is no news this evening, so here's a little light music".

Please throw a man a bone, anything, births, marriages, retirements, promotions, educational achievement. My email address: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk bitte, bitte, takk fyrr.

Now away from the German and Icelandic, we have now a little light music in the form of our ever kind sponsor of this month's calendar page. Such being our long standing supporter of the Section and very dear friend, Nigel Tyler, and his kind company, Sherriff Amenity. Nigel is very knowledgeable within his field of pesticides, fertilisers, dressing etc. and from an unbiased personal view can be relied upon to give good advice for your requirements of such. Nigel's phone number: 07989 548 058, or visit Sherriff's website:

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

Looking forward to your emails.

The newsbarren.

Sean McDade.



## South East Region



### East Anglia

Our rather small but perfectly formed band of brothers (40 in total), descended upon Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club in the middle of June, in the middle of a drought. Guess what, the fairways were a lush yellow colour – a proper links course, lovely. Well done Simon Clark, Head Greenkeeper and his team.

In those conditions, club distance goes out of the window and you actually have to think! Well some of you did, they are as follows:

0 – 9 Handicap - there were only six of them, so only two prizes: 1. Graham Hurran 37pts, 2 Rob Boyce 34pts;

10 – 18 Handicap – not many again, same number of prizes: 1. Toni Thacker 37pts; 2. Richard Hurn 30pts; 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers: 1 Neville Rowlandson 33pts, 2 Martin Mison 30pts, 3 "The Maestro" Ian Willett 28pts.

The winner of the Greenkeeper and Captain's Shield was Neville Rowlandson and Frank Griffins – 71pts.

Trade & Guest: 1 Frank Griffins 38pts, 2, Clive Pinnock 36pts; Nearest the Pin: 7th Steve Coonan, 12h Chris Scott;

Nearest the Pin in Two. Graham Hurren; Longest Drive. Mark Keysell; Uncle Colin was presented with the Loo Seat, after his ball disappeared down a rabbit hole. Shame it didn't have the flag in it!

Thank you Gt Yarmouth & Caister for a good day – the course and catering were lovely.

The main sponsor of the day was Toro - the best halfway house yet! Our other loyal supporters were Aitkens, Bartram Mowers, Ransomes Jacobsen, Tacit, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ernest Doe and Prime Irrigation.

Nearly 50 years ago, my old boss said "To create a good course may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy a course can be the thoughtless act of a Greens' Committee in a single day. Nothing has changed. (Keep smiling.)

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

Not too much to report this month chaps, so I'll be brief.

Our Summer Pairs' Knockout is now in full swing with half of the games being played at the time of writing. I shall give a quick synopsis of the game between myself and Darren Child versus Darren Burton and Lee Campeney at the immaculate North Foreland Golf Club. It's fair to say that the low handicapped golfer on each side did much of the donkey work in making this match such a close fought affair. Ultimately, my partner's back giving way after carrying me for so long, leaving Lee to hole his putt on the final hole ensuring a very close victory of 1 up. A fantastic game guys at your superb venue. Many thanks and good luck for the remaining rounds.

If any of you have any news or reports for me then please contact me or Kev with the info you would like placed in this column. Also, we are compiling a fixture list for 2013 now, so if you would like to host an event then, again, please let us know.

Best of British

Rob Holland

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



## Surrey

Monday, July 4. Ahoy landlubbers. I'd like to say I'm glad to be back on terra firma but after 23 nights cruising the Eastern Med, I'm not. It's the sailor's life for me, from Dover to Istanbul and many other ports in between. Her indoors, me plus 815 other intrepid seafarers enjoyed sun, food, and entertainment on board the good ship 'Black Watch'. Our next cruise? Well who knows, perhaps the world.

So what has happened in Surrey since my departure with Fred Olsen and Captains' Pugwash and Birdseye? Well, Surrey Downs GC and the Cresta Cup happened on June 8. Paul Weston, that well

known once keeper of the first 'Aqua Toro Cushman', missed the day having not received the email update showing the revised date. His wife, Doreen, has insisted that they must now have a computer.

Commiserations to Paul but congratulations to winner, Steve Alabaster, Richard Bacon, runner up, and Ron Christie, who followed up the rear. Jim Russell, yes the one with the long shorts, hit the Longest Drive and Richard Bacon, yes him again, got Nearest the Pin. I am told that the course, the food and the weather were all excellent.

I have just heard the news that the sheds at Surrey Downs GC have burnt down and to Tony Kyle, Course Manager, I send my hopes that he will soon receive replacement equipment.

Finally, to Lynne Gray and her second child, Connor, 8lb 2ozs, I, on your behalf, wish them well and to Martin, Deputy at Bramley GC, the proud father, I wish him a pay rise, a broken alarm clock, the necessary dexterity to change nappies and the ability to refrain from whatever he has done in the past and take up a less expensive hobby.

Brian Willmott



## London

Well, we have finally had the rain need in June that was required by all, and now (beginning of July) the sun is shining and we have ideal conditions for golf course manicuring.

I had the pleasure of entertaining a few Course Managers from the London Section at my club the other day and it was a most enjoyable experience to talk to others, share ideas and points of view. May I make this suggestion to all to pop in on one's neighbour or pick up the phone and talk shop.

I also played nine holes of golf with Martin Smith, Course Manager at Porters Park. It was very pleasing to say the least, that someone who has been in the industry as long as he still has the enthusiasm, drive and enjoyment for the job as when he started. A true inspiration.

The website is currently being updated and information will be

continually added.

The London Section is looking at running some Chainsaw Courses towards the end of the season and during the winter months, in partnership with a local college, to provide lower cost courses. They would be run on golf courses in the area so that usual scenarios found in the work place can be tackled on the course. If you are interested please contact me so we can see if there is enough interest to make this work.

The next golf day is at Finchley Golf Club, on August 2. Information will be sent out to all email addresses that we have. If you would like to be added to the mailing list then please use the email addresses below.

Any queries, questions or feedback please contact us at: [adamccoll@hotmail.com](mailto:adamccoll@hotmail.com)  
Regards  
Adam McColl



Essex

Well it looks like our prayers have been answered and we have had rain in abundance. The grass has kicked off again and we are back into catch up mode.

Last month our Chairman, Mark Stopps, decided to stand down from the position. The committee and membership of the Section would like to thank him very much for all the hard work that he has done for the Section over his 18 months in office and wish him well for the future.

Our Summer Trophy event, held at Nazeing Golf Club, went off really well, although the weather was not so kind on the day, with a heavy storm working its way through just after play commenced. Luckily the rest of the day was fine, with the sun breaking through and the temperature soaring to dry out even the wettest player.

With the competition split in two, a blind pairs and qualifying for the National later this year, we were treated to a real feast of golf. The course was in fantastic condition and co-owner and Section member, Martin Guy, should be congratulated. He revealed that the staff had

decided, on their own initiative, to work on the Sunday prior to the match, to bring the course up to an even higher standard. On behalf of the Section I wish to thank Martin's team for the hard work they put in.

Results of the Blind Pairs:

1. Andy Pledger, 35pts & Liam Springett, 36pts, - 71pts; 2. Malcolm Smith, 38pts, & Alan Scott, 26pts, - 64pts; 3. Craig Serafin, 30pts, & Larry Pearman, 33pts, - 63pts. Best Overall Greenkeeper and place in the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota: Liam Close 44pts.

Best Trade: Steve Bush 33pts. Best Guest: Roy Spong 32pts. Nearest the Pin 2nd hole: Olly Homewood.. Nearest the Pin 15th Hole: Glenn Swift.

Quarter Finals Knockout Pairs Competition

The first round must be completed before Thursday, August 18, which is our next golf day. The draw for the next round will take place on that day!

Match 1 - Played at Stoke By Nayland Golf Club. Liam Springett & Liam Close v Dougie Fernie & Paul O'Kane; Match 2 - Played at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club. Barry Mann & Sam Anderson v Ian Wood & Mark Severn; Match 3 - Played at Abridge Golf Club. Richard Hare & Ben Scrivner v Stewart Rogers & Steve Cousins; Match 4 - Played at 'Royal' Orsett Golf Club. Andy Cracknell & Neil Peachy v Andy Darnell & Lee Stephens.

A small team from the Essex Section are making the trip down to Royal St Georges, to work on, The Open Championship Support Team. More from them next month.

Don't forget to send your entry for the next golf day the "Essex Trophy" is at Chelmsford Golf Club, Thursday, August 18. Entry's close on August 10.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Section's Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones



## South West and South Wales



South Wales

Hello. The sun is shining and we've at last glimpsed some small signs of the flushes of growth we've all been dying to see! Overseeding projects at many of our courses underway with the Poa struggling, a chance to get those Bents and Fescues sewn in to take over in the swards.

In last month's magazine I wrote about us attending Wenvoe Castle to support Mark Wilshire in his new role of Head Greenkeeper what I failed to mention was his predecessor Ty Garland. Ty Garland, 38 years of service most of which as Head Greenkeeper, has come to the generous age of retirement. During his time at Wenvoe Castle he managed his team to a number of County, Regional and National events the highlight of which the Welsh Professionals Classic in late 70's. Ty a true greenkeeping gentleman has not hung up his boots, strimmers and hole cutting scissors just yet he is staying with Wenvoe supporting Mark through the summer in the masses of hectares of land cut as rough at the golf club. The South Wales Section wish you all the best in your retirement and always stay in touch.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Knock out round was held at Neath Golf Club. The rain threatened but thankfully came to nothing so we could enjoy this excellent Harry Colt designed golf course and thankfully visibility was better than last year. Steve, you and your boys deserve a special thank you for setting up the course in great condition and the hospitality show by Neath Golf Club was second to none. Thank you.

Results

1. Glyn-Neath, Steve Chappell & Darryl Jones; 2. Andy Caps, Andy Roach & Huw Morgan; 3. Countrywide, Peter Holmstrom & Clive Moran; 4. Newport GC, Paul Handy & Mark Anderton

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Lewis Pattinson  
**Age:** 21  
**Club:** De Vere Oulton Hall  
**Position:** Greenkeeper/  
Mechanic  
**Nickname:** Spooner



### 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

3.5 years

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

Job satisfaction in presenting the golf course.

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

I'd planned to be a paratrooper.

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

Cutting the greens and maintenance.

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

Nothing really, I appreciate all jobs need to be done to the best standard.

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

A positive attitude and personal aspiration will result in reward.

### 7. Hobbies?

Going to the gym, rugby league, swimming & running

### 8. Favourite Band?

Swedish House Mafia.

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

Sunderland

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

I once won the Northern England bonnie baby competition.



# Around The Green

All four Pairs now qualify for the finals to be held at Green Meadow Golf Club in late October.

I know so far I have mentioned Celtic Manor and Jim McKenzie lots and lots of times but after the announcement that Jim was to be Honoured in the Queens Birthday Honours list is outstanding news for our Section and Region and our industry. Congratulations Jim from all of us in the South Wales Section.

Peter Holmstrom



## South West

Wednesday June 8, Section Captain, Wayne Vincent, took his team down to Long Ashton GC for our annual fixture against the Secretaries. With tough playing conditions on brilliant golf course (thanks to James Braithwaite and his guys!) we came away winning 4&2. Looks like Wayne is back to his winning ways again this year... Being partnered with Lewis Pisto, we somehow found ourselves 3 down after 3, and thinking this was going to be a long afternoon, but Lewis found his games face and this soon changed as we won the next 3 and soon after we were 1 up. I'd like to take this time to thank playing opponents Jim Cunning and Mike Wake for an entertaining afternoon and a competitive match!

Also this past month the Section visited Knowle GC. This was our Section's Summer tournament. With true golfing weather, on a well presented golf course, where it's so easy to forget where you actually are. Driving around the houses to get there, literally! Thanks to Mike Sage and his guys for preparing the course in such great condition for us!

Competition prizes (playing in Medal format) - Nearest the Pin at 6, Nick Lewis. Nearest the Pin at 12, Richard Louisson. Overall winners, 3. Richard Louisson, nett 69 (on countback from Roger Neale), 2. Craig Swines, nett 68 and this year's winner, Simon Kew, nett 68 (also on countback).

This is a very special event to our Section as we also invite the winner to represent our Section at the BIGGA National

Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, playing at West Lancashire GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Simon the very best.

On a more personal note, I've recently had my first experience in London (Well, since I last went 20 years ago). What a crazy place London is! Being from the Cotswolds a trip to the big city is very much out of my comfort zone...Arriving at Paddington Station and being hit by hundreds of people, thousands maybe. I soon dragged myself together and fitted right at home as I pushed passed people, hitting them with my luggage and on to the underground. Ummmm, what's that all about?

There was a reason why I visited London, It's not a hobby of mine just to sit on trains, I had the pleasure of going to the Hard Rock Calling Festival in Hyde Park.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop, Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful. However, for it grow more of you have to become involved. If you are not a member of the page, it's time you were, ask for the link and I'll happily forward it to you.

See you all very soon,  
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk  
07732503855



## South Coast

Hi all,

I think at last we are back to a typical summer easily described as changeable, even Britain's sunshine coast is experiencing some rain and strong winds.

Last month, the Section played the annual match against the Secretaries. This year it was held at Knighton Heath Golf Club in what is a fiercely fought battle for the coveted Course Care Cup. In true fashion the result went to the wire and ended in a half, which

meant the Greenkeepers retain the cup, well done all who took part. The course was in superb condition, well done to Roger and his team. Thanks also to Course Care for the on-going support in sponsoring the day it has become a firm favourite in the Section.

Mid June the newly sponsored Course Management Trophy was played for at Stoneham Golf Club, with 15 teams competing for prizes of course equipment and a place in a National Final.

It was a great day, particularly for the early starters who avoided the rain on a superbly presented course. Well done, Vince and his team. Considering it was a Monday you had worked miracles. Thanks to Tacit, as the new sponsor, and long may it continue. Lastly, thanks to Jane, our RA, for spending the whole day in the clubhouse, entertaining and sorting out the cards. The winning team was led by Dave Murdoch, from Liphook Golf Club, with a great score of 85 pts.

As I write this we are approaching the Open Championship week followed by our Summer Invitation competition at Brokenhurst Manor, the results of which will be in next month's article.

Here at Barton the season is in full swing, Ladies', Men's and Vets' Captain's Days, all in one week, Mixed Open followed by Invitation Day, let alone the continual societies. It's a wonder we get anything done on the course. Captain's Day is an event I struggle to get my head round. He invites the ladies to play 18 holes on our third loop of 9, so they are not left out! Can you imagine the ladies inviting the men to play on their day. The mere sight of men on the course is reported to the Secretary on a Tuesday. Anyway I must get on. John Deere have left a compact tractor on demo for a few days so I thought I would get some air in the greens, Vets' medal tomorrow "perfect"

Tony Gadd



## Devon and Cornwall

Our Summer meeting this year was held at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club. The golf match was contested between Devon Greenkeepers and Cornish Greenkeepers for the "Devon v Cornwall BIGGA Trophy". The format was 4BBB Matchplay and for the third year running the Cornish team came out on top with a 5.5 to 2.5 victory. There were individual prizes available too, with the best Pair Nett score going to Mike Ellis and Lloyd Overy, Lakeview, Rob Cook, Bowood, and Richard Japes, Sports Metals, came in second and Mike Bush, St Mellion, and David Daw, Porthpean, were in third place overall. Nearest the Pin on the 5th went to Mike Bush and on the 18th it went to James Sheehan, Truro. The Longest Drive prizes went to Richard Japes on the 8th and Mike Bush on the 16th. Congratulations to all the prize winners and a huge thank you our sponsors for the day, "Sports Metals" and "Symbio" for supplying the prizes. The Cornish Captain, Anthony James "Jacko", Killiow, received the BIGGA Trophy on behalf of the Cornish team. Congratulations to all those who took part from both teams.

Total attendance for the day was approximately 60 and those who did not take part in the golf, a course walk, led by Course Manager, Terry Farkins was enjoyed. The weather played ball after a very wet start and Terry took the course walkers around the course and facilities. Many thanks to Terry and all the Green staff for a very professional and fantastically presented golf course.

After the course walk and golf, all attendees enjoyed a BBQ on the terrace overlooking the course and this was followed by the prize giving. A big thank you to all the committee for the smooth running of the day and many thanks to Dartmouth G&CC for their kind and professional hospitality throughout the whole day.

Congratulations to Mike Bush MG for achieving his "Master Greenkeeper" award. Mike is

## Section Notes

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

Course Manager at St Mellion and has worked extremely hard to further his career over the years. Mike is the first to achieve the MG status in our Section and has even been on local BBC News being interviewed on the course. So good PR for the industry! Well done Bushy, and congratulations from the whole Section.

News from Duchy College. Kingston Maurward College (Dorset) and Duchy College have made a strategic decision to work together. This is good news for greenkeepers in the region. Kingston Maurward College will work under the GTC Quality Approved Centre status of Duchy College. Together the colleges will offer progression in greenkeeper training from Level 2 to Level 4. The greenkeeping team at Kingston Maurward will be headed by Alan Jacobsen, a greenkeeper who has recently moved to the Dorset College from Oatridge College.

NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture Management (Sports Turf). Congratulations to Mike Bush, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club; Mark Campbell, Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club; Victor Dyer, Thurlestone Golf Club, Graeme Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club, and John Scott, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club, for being the first candidates to achieve the NVQ 4 Sports Turf through Duchy College from Devon and Cornwall.

Their success in establishing the NVQ 4 Sports Turf allows other greenkeepers from the area to further progress their careers.

Their success also marks the amazing achievement of approaching 200 greenkeepers from Devon and Cornwall who have completed NVQ/Work Based Diplomas since March 2004. Duchy College achieved its GTC Approved Training Provider status in May 2006. Well done to each of these and to their Club, employers and to the Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers who have contributed to their training and assessment?

Ongoing trade support. Again the trade has been generous this year in its support to the college through the provision of posters, seed samples, catalogues, publications, etc. I am a little embarrassed not to have formally thanked the individual

companies before as many have supported the college for a number of years to the great benefit of the students. I am also a little cautious at listing these for fear of missing someone out but here goes. John Palfrey who has worked hard for a number of years to collate materials from Scotts, Barenburg, Rigby Taylor, Bayer. Thanks also to Barenburg and Johnsons (Phil Seedhouse and Dave Chamings) for the seed samples.

Ron Skinner, George Pitts  
Section Secretary  
Bigga Devon & Cornwall  
07929 754401  
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Stephen Barber, East Section  
Richard Bull, West Section  
Jack Fairbairn, North Section  
David Hay, Central Section  
Mark Hills, Central Section  
Dennis Grant, North Section  
Paul McAulay, West Section  
John McMurchie, East Section

### Northern Region

Neil Barrett, Northern Section  
Daniel Clarke, North West Section  
Aidan Coates, Cleveland Section  
Victor Cox, North East Section  
Ben Goodchild, North West Section  
Robert Hepworth, Northern Section  
James Lee, Sheffield Section  
Andrew Noon, North Wales Section  
Neil White, North West Section  
Benjamin Williams, North Wales Section

### Midland Region

Daniel Anstiss, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Adam Burley, Midland Section  
James Fox, Midland Section  
Geoff Gibbons, East Midland Section  
Anton Holliday, Midland Section  
Darren Howes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
David Ingleton, East of England Section  
Sarah Lashbrooke, East Midland Section  
Jason Molesworth, Midland Section  
Craig Tatton, East Midland Section  
John Whitehouse, BB&O  
Craig Wyatt, Midland Section

### South East Region

Sam Bethell, Surrey Section  
Joe Clarke, Surrey Section  
Jack Cleaver, Surrey Section  
Brian Eggleton, London Section  
Charles Lance, Sussex Section  
Wesley Lenihan, Sussex Section  
George Morley, Sussex Section  
Kane Stone, London Section

### South West/South Wales Region

Matthew Clark, South Coast Section  
Richard Hatcher, South Wales Section  
Iain Moore, South West Section  
Edward Read, South West Section  
Neil Scott, South West Section  
Amy Thomas, South Coast Section

### Overseas

Daniel Green, Thailand  
Zhiheng Wang, China

**For more listings, log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website**



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

**I must begin by thanking all of the BIGGA members, supporters and friends for all the kind wishes that I have received in my first few weeks in the Chief Executive's office. Many of you have offered support, assistance and advice for which I am very grateful, but be warned, I will be taking you up on your offers!**

In my first few weeks I have had the chance to meet many members, representatives of the trade and other golfing bodies and the message has been consistent and clear: There is a great deal of warmth and respect for the Association and its members and there is strong support for our ambition to continue to improve the quality of course presentation and condition which by extension will improve the quality of overall golfing experience that is enjoyed by the nation's nearly four million regular players. Our challenge is to harness that support so that all of us are working together in a focused way.

## I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right

I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right, I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity. Witnessing the dedication and professionalism of the BIGGA Support Team at the recent Open Championship gave me an insight in to how much we have to be proud of as an Association. The ground work was admirably carried out by Royal St George's Head Greenkeeper Graham Royden and his team who provided a course in magnificent condition. The commitment of the 56-strong team of highly qualified volunteers to provide greenkeeping support in testing weather did BIGGA proud.

At the conclusion of the Championship the Chairman and I took the opportunity to thank and congratulate the Support Team. We also gave our commitment that we intend to work tirelessly to raise the awareness and the profile of the excellent job that BIGGA members do up and down the land, day in and day out. This is a big task and to achieve it we need to engage stakeholders at all levels of the game but it also requires the support of all our members. We know what a great job you do for your respective employers, members and visitors and we need you to help us get that message across by continuing to strive for excellence, to represent the profession with pride and to take every opportunity to promote the good work of the industry.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks and months to come.

**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**





# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

## Congratulations to the BIGGA Open Support Team

Well done to members of the BIGGA Open Support Team in successfully supporting Graham Royden, Course Manager and his team in managing Royal St George's Golf Course during last months Open Championships.

To be part of the Open Support team is a fantastic opportunity to see golf at the very highest level from a privileged position – inside the ropes. It's hard work but well worth the effort.

To apply to be part of the team for the Open 2012 at Royal Lytham and St Annes look out for the invitation to apply later on this year.

If you want to know more about what's involved, log on to the members area of the BIGGA website and select 'Open Support Team' from the options on the left hand side or contact us directly at BIGGA HQ.



## Membership Offer

A summer loving offer with Inter-Continental Hotels Group (IHG) 35% off weekend stays

Explore the UK this Summer with IHG's special offer of up to 35% off weekend breaks. Whether you are visiting RHS Gardens, theme parks, the beach, the theatre or taking in a concert, there are some great breaks to choose from, come rain or shine! Plus once you have booked take advantage of IHG's great Days Out 2 for 1 offer.

Bookings must be made by 29th August 2011.

Visit the Members Area of the BIGGA website for details on how to book.

## Saltex – Tuesday 6 – Thursday, September 8 2011

BIGGA look forward to welcoming you onto the BIGGA Stand (last year's shown below) at this year's Saltex.

Visit us to see what benefits and services membership of BIGGA can offer you or how BIGGA, through its monthly magazine, website and annual exhibition can help promote your business.



## BIGGA Membership Handbook 2011/2012

We are currently working on the next edition of the BIGGA Membership Handbook. Contained within the handbook is a listing of all current members.

To ensure your listing is up to date, make sure the Membership Department have your up to date contact details. Please note no personal information is contained with the listings.

The BIGGA Membership Handbook continues to be a vital industry tool that goes from strength to strength each year, the 2011/2012 issue will be no different, packed with information, facts and figures it is designed to help you find that crucial member with ease, whether it be supplier or fellow member. The handbook is valued and viewed by many as being an important membership benefit.



## Contact Details

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)

## Regional Offices

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd  
Tel: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

### Northern & Midland

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
petelarter972@aol.com

### South East

Clive Osgood  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

### South West & Wales

Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
jane@bigga.co.uk



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





# Diary of Events

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

| Date                  | Event                                      | Venue                                       | Contact  |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>AUGUST 2011</b>    |  |   |  |
| August 3rd            | Operation Pollinator                       | Elmwood College, Fife                       | www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com       |
| August 3rd            | London Section Summer Meeting              | Finchley Golf Club                          | Matt Plested at matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk or Mobile: 07818 410333     |
| August 4th            | East Anglia Section Event                  | Weston Park Golf Club                       | Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or Mobile: 07929 205398           |
| August 8th            | Operation Pollinator                       | De Vere Belton Woods, Grantham              | www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com       |
| August 9th            | East Scotland W Woods Trophy               | Mortonhall Golf Club                        | Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or Mobile: 07961 630553      |
| August 9th            | Operation Pollinator                       | The London Club, Kent                       | www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com       |
| August 10th           | Operation Pollinator                       | Beaconsfield Golf Club, Bucks               | www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com       |
| August 12th           | South Wales Section v's South West Section | Chippenham Golf Club                        | Steve Chappell at chappell124@hotmail.co.uk or Mobile: 07970 980899    |
| August 15th           | Surrey Section Event – McMillan Tankard    | Sunningdale Golf Club                       | Kevin Boxall at kevbox29@hotmail.com or Mobile: 07812 554198           |
| August 18th           | Essex Trophy                               | Chelmsford Golf Club                        | essexbigga@talktalk.net  |
| August 24th           | South Coast Section v's South West Section | West Wilts Golf Club                        | Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or Mobile: 07732 503855 |
| August 25th           | South Wales Section v's GCMA Match         | Neath Golf Club                             | Steve Chappell at chappell124@hotmail.co.uk or Mobile: 07970 980899    |
| August 25th           | East of England Section v's GCMA Event     | Boston Golf Club                            | Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or Mobile: 07931 714922           |
| August 31st           | North Section Invitation Day               | Bingley St Ives Golf Club                   | Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or Mobile: 07947 401278   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2011</b> |  |   |  |
| September 10 and 11   | Walker Cup                                 | Balgownie Links of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club |  |
| September 13th        | Essex Section Autumn Trophy                | Langdon Hills Golf Club                     | Andy Cracknell at andyacknell@hotmail.com or Mobile: 07709 347312      |
| September 14th        | East Scotland Section Event                | Braid Hills Golf Club                       | Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or Mobile: 07961 630553      |
| September 14th        | Central Section Autumn Outing              | Kingsbarns Golf Links                       | Gordon Moir at gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk or Mobile: 07850 139799     |
| September 14th        | East of England Section Event              | Gainsborough Golf Club                      | Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or Mobile: 07931 714922           |
| September 15th        | West Scotland Section Event                | Williamwood Golf Club                       | Gavin Jarvis at jarvisgav@aol.com or Mobile: 07725 363715              |

Forthcoming Regional Golf Management Trophy competitions sponsored by TACIT


**BIGGA Midland, Brickendon Grange Golf Club on Tuesday, August 2, 2011**  
**BIGGA South East, Upminster Golf Club on Thursday, August 11, 2011**  
**BIGGA Northern, Cookridge Hall Golf Club on Thursday, August 18, 2011**  
**BIGGA Midland, Market Harborough Golf Club on September 1, 2011**




Calling all budding photographers,  
there is still time to enter the...

# BIGGA Photographic Competition 2011

## Deadline extended to 31st August 2011



Got a fantastic photo you want to share with us? Or fancy getting out onto the course to take advantage of the August weather (it must be better than July!)?



**Thanks to all the entries we have so far received for the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year. There are some fantastic pics, but we want to give you all a bit longer to get that ultimate photograph. So, any member who has not yet sent us a pic, please do, and for those who have already entered, there is still time to send in one more - if you think you can do better!**

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.

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.

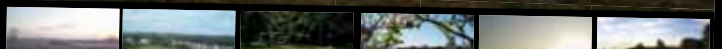
Please don't reduce the file size to fit on email as this will reduce

the quality of the image. If it is too large to send, we recommend using a website such as [www.mailbigfile.com](http://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](mailto:tom@bigga.co.uk), entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2011' as the email subject header.

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

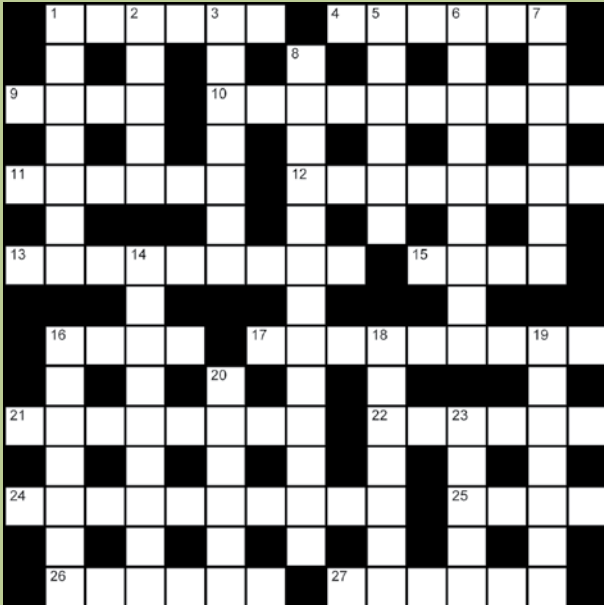




# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Childlike expression of delight (6)
- 4 Largest country in the world with over 10% of the world's land mass (6)
- 9 Amsterdam football club (4)
- 10 A man may cheat with one (5,5)
- 11 Recently conceived form (6)
- 12 Character played by Katee Sackhoff and Dirk Benedict in Battlestar Galactica (8)
- 13 Champagne house known as 'Bolly' (9)
- 15 Time of commencement for Operation Overlord (1-3)
- 16 Give up (4)
- 17 Ukrainian city, scene of 1986 nuclear incident (9)
- 21 There's no landing in this (8)
- 22 Pound (4,2)
- 24 Unpleasant know-it-all (5,5)
- 25 Popular toy whose name is derived from a Danish phrase meaning 'play well' (4)

- 26 Oppose (3-3)
- 27 A line of equal or constant pressure (6)

### DOWN

- 1 1961 Kurosawa film remade as A Fistful of Dollars (7)
- 2 Toy Story film studio (5)
- 3 Proposed site of new, sustainable residential site (3,4)
- 5 Hullabaloo (6)
- 6 Investigative cartoon hound owned by Norville Rogers (6-3)
- 7 Chaos (7)
- 8 The one and only pop star of the 1980s (7,6)
- 14 Scotland shaped body of water found 15 miles north of Fort William (4,5)
- 16 Jack \_\_\_\_, played Quincey MD (7)
- 18 Carpets (7)
- 19 No-one gets it (7)
- 20 Single excavatory orifice of birds, reptiles and amphibians (6)
- 23 Depart from the expected (2-3)

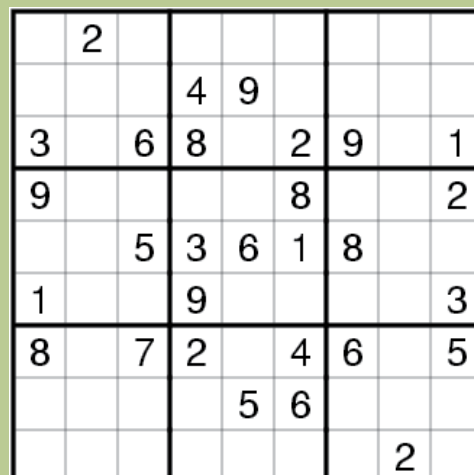
## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - As a tribute to Darren Clarke this month we look at Northern Irish sport.

1. Northern Irish golfers have ruled the world over the last year and a bit with Graeme McDowell, Rory McIlroy and now Darren Clarke, but who was the only other Northern Irishman to win a Major?
2. Who was the Northern Irish woman who won the Olympic Gold Medal in the Pentathlon at the Munich Games in 1972?
3. Who holds the record for the most goals in a UEFA European Qualifying Campaign with 13?
4. Who was the Northern Irish Formula 1 star who drove 152 races between 1973 and 1985?
5. Who was the two time Snooker World Champion who died in 2010?
6. Who was the versatile Northern Irish born rugby union player who set a record number of caps in the 60s and 70s and was regarded as the best centre of his generation?
7. Who was the boxer known as the Clones Cyclone?
8. In whose honour is Belfast City Airport named?
9. Who was the Northern Irish golfer who won the European Order of Merit in 1989?



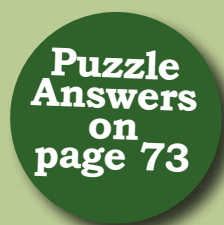
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU

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





# BUYERS' GUIDE



## Hedgeworx

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For further information contact Steve Moul or Mark Jones, Hedgeworx Ltd 01491 826925 or 07764 405335  
[www.hedgeworx.co.uk](http://www.hedgeworx.co.uk)  
[info@hedgeworx.co.uk](mailto:info@hedgeworx.co.uk)

## BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
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- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
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- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
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## AERATION

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## CONSTRUCTION

Photo courtesy of Ridding Park Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

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*Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.*





# Recruitment

## Mechanic/Greenkeeper

Bath Golf Club requires a Mechanic Greenkeeper to maintain its fleet of predominantly Toro equipment, as well as helping on the course (approx 60/40 split). Candidates must have relevant mechanical qualifications and greenkeeping experience.

Must be able to work unsupervised and should be capable of managing the Club's workshop, parts stock and equipment maintenance records. Reporting to the clubs Head Greenkeeper, a full uniform and PPE is provided, salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications. Hours based on a 40 hour week over the year, this will include some weekends.

Bath Golf Club also requires a First Assistant Greenkeeper to work within its greenstaff. Qualified to NVQ 2 as a minimum and preferably holding PA1, PA2 and PA6, chainsaw certification and other short course qualifications.

The suitable candidate should be experienced in all aspects of golf course maintenance and be keen to progress within the industry.

Reporting to the clubs Head Greenkeeper, a full uniform and PPE is provided, salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications.

Hours based on a 40 hour week over the year, this will include some weekends.

Apply in writing or via email with covering letter and CV To:

Mark Prentice, Head Greenkeeper, Bath Golf Club, North Road, Bath, BA2 6JG  
markprentice@bathgolfclub.org.uk



## SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

is a private members Club situated 7 miles from the centre of London with commanding views of the Kentish Hills.

The appointee would be expected to have the following skills and qualifications:  
NVQ level 3 sports turf management plus spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6  
Chainsaw qualifications,

A sound working knowledge of machinery

Effective Management skills

Experience in golf course construction including irrigation systems and

Knowledge of Health & Safety regulations.

A competitive salary is available - but no accommodation.

Applications with a covering letter and CV should be submitted by the  
25th August 2011 either by email: [craig@shgc.uk.com](mailto:craig@shgc.uk.com) or

The Course Manager, Shooters Hill Golf Club, 'Lowood', Eaglesfield Road,  
Shooters Hill, LONDON SE18 3DA



## Trevose Golf & Country Club, Cornwall

### Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager

**Trevose is seeking an experienced Green keeper to manage and maintain / develop its 3 golf courses.**

Trevose's Championship course has hosted a number of prestigious events, most recently The Brabazon Trophy and will be hosting the McGregor Trophy in 2012. The applicant needs a good understanding of Championship golf and what's required with knowledge of soil chemistry and a modern approach to the game and it's needs.

Trevose is a very busy venue and for this reason offers a number of different challenges. The applicant should be:

- Fully qualified in all areas to a minimum standard of level 3 with all spraying certificates.
- Competent with machinery maintenance
- An good understanding of Links Golf i.e grass species and their development etc.
- An underlying knowledge of golf design and construction.
- knowledge and competence of a computerised irrigation system
- Up to date with H&S requirements and budgeting.

Overall the applicant must have a passion for the game and a willingness to keep taking the course forward. This job offers the applicant a great opportunity to be part of a privately owned club that wants to keep going forward and adapt to the changing needs of the industry.

**Salary:** To be discussed on application

**Starting Date:** ASAP

For more information about Trevose please look at the club website

[www.trevose-gc.co.uk](http://www.trevose-gc.co.uk)

Applicants are invited to email CV's to: [ngammon@trevose-gc.co.uk](mailto:ngammon@trevose-gc.co.uk) or by post to: **Nick Gammon, Trevose Golf & Country Club, Constantine Bay, Nr Padstow Cornwall PL28 8JB Tel:01841520208**

## HIGHWOODS GOLF CLUB

### Head Greenkeeper

Highwoods Golf Club invites applications from experienced candidates for the position of **Head Greenkeeper** on this excellent East Sussex course.

Previous experience in course management deemed to be essential.

Full details obtainable from the club website on  
[www.highwoodsgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.highwoodsgolfclub.co.uk)

full applications with C.V. to:-

The Chairman of Green  
Highwoods Golf Club  
Ellerslie Lane  
Bexhill on Sea  
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*Applications to be received by 31st August 2011*

### Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Park Supervisor

Warley Woods Community Trust



Warley Woods Community Trust is looking for an experienced greenkeeper to join its small team.

Warley Woods in Smethwick, West Midlands, is managed by a Charitable Trust. The park is 100 acres in size and contains woodland, open parkland and a 9 hole pay and play course golf course. Warley Woods Community Trust would like to appoint a member of staff who will be able to take a full role in the maintenance of the whole site. Because the golf course is such an important part of the site, it is essential the successful candidate has substantial green keeping experience but there are other aspects to this role in maintaining a public park and they will need general horticultural experience as well.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to contribute to future plans for the site and there is the potential to progress within the organisation. In being involved with the Community Trust they will be looking after a site which forms the heart of the local community.

Salary to be discussed at interview. For more information go to the downloads page at [www.warleywoods.org.uk](http://www.warleywoods.org.uk) or call 0121 420 1061 for an information pack.

**The closing date is: Monday 5th September 2011**

### COURSE AND GROUNDS MANAGER

Buckinghamshire Golf Club based in Denham is seeking to appoint an experienced **Golf Course and Grounds Manager** to maintain and develop its 18 Hole Championship Golf Course.



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The role requires a candidate to successfully manage both the Golf Course and the Green Keeping team under the direction of the Executive Committee. The successful candidate will be suitably qualified with at least 5 years experience in a similar role and have a thorough understanding of modern Green Keeping and health and safety legislation.

Maximising team performance, leading by example and setting the highest standards are vital to this role. Excellent communication and motivational skills are a prerequisite for this position.

A competitive salary is being offered which is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Please e mail your CV and salary expectations to: Mrs Dubravka Griffiths, Operations Manager: [dubravka@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk](mailto:dubravka@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk)

Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Denham Court Drive, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG

01895 835 777

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## in the shed answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Fred Daly, who won the 1947 Open at Royal Liverpool.
2. Dame Mary Peters
3. David Healy MBE
4. John Watson MBE
5. Alex Higgins
6. Mike Gibson
7. Barry McGuigan MBE
8. George Best
9. Ronan Rafferty

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### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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# On the Soapbox

Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club in Cheshire, concludes the article he started last week

Last month Stuart Yarwood MG mounted the Soapbox to talk about soil biology. He was only just getting into his stride when we had to drag him off. This month he's back to finish what he started...

## **A good golf green environment should be good enough to support our beneficial soil ecology and it needs to be nourished.**

In order for the biology to work it needs something to do in order to break down organic matter.

This comes in many forms, and we, as greenkeepers, are striving to reduce it all the time, mainly in the form of thatch reduction, or surface organic matter.

Yes, we hollow core every year, scarify, pencil tine and anything else we can find from the shed, to reduce thatch and we do this every year.

And every year it upsets the surfaces, with golfers following on behind.

But are we working hard just to stand still?

Do we genuinely see an improvement in reduction of thatch?

Maybe with an eye for the biology within the soil and its requirements we can get it to work for us. If only we weren't killing it off all the time.

There is a need for soil organic matter inputs to feed and grow the biology. Seaweeds, organic fertilisers such as hoof and horn, dried blood, soils or fen peats that can replace or buffer our inorganic fertiliser feeds by being broken down through humification and those nutrients made available to the grass plants.

There is a growing trend, dangerous in my opinion, of trying to dilute surface organic matter with pure sands.

These are cheap to buy, easy and convenient to apply, as they don't upset the playing surface.

They would appear to firm surfaces in the short term, but with ineffective surface organic matter reduction, these layers will be pushed down causing future problems, such as layering and poor drainage.

One can't argue with the cries of Auld Tom Morris and "Mair sand Honeyman" calling for the local dune sand to be

applied to smooth the local surfaces and dilute surface organic matter, but these, however, contained some form of organic amendments, at varying times, such as seaweed or chimney soot, rich in carbon, the building blocks of life, and great food for the fescue loving fungi,

Many topdressing materials supplied today contain some form of organic amendment, which can serve to grow the soil biology.

One has to question the benefit of these products after they have been sterilised through heat treatment processes to kill off any weeds seeds or pathogens, and importantly any good biology in the dressings that you would want to keep.

Are we simply buying dirty, inorganic, hydrophobic sand, just because its easy and convenient to rub in?

If we are specifying some form of organic amendment within our dressings we need to move away from the ratios eg, 70/30, 80/20's etc and look at actually what

are all things that can upset our golfing customers but we must resist the convenience route, hoping and trying to keep people happy.

It is difficult in these compromised economic times but if we start to think about how we manage our turf and the consequences it has upon our soils, we may start to see the benefit for our soils, our surfaces, and our balance sheets.

Nutrition, aeration, water management, organic matter and top dressings play an effective role in soil biology, but like any eco system it has to be grown, nourished and nurtured.

We are dealing with nature, a cruel mistress at times, one to work with and not against, and it is folly to think we can just go in and erect something like good soil biology overnight!

It takes teamwork, even down to the smallest microscopic members of your team.

## Convenience - but who are we kidding? (Part two)

percentage of organic is within.

I think we would all be shocked how little, once we found out! It would make more sense to ensure our quality control measures and specifications, as Greenkeepers, Agronomists and Suppliers are strict enough to support the agronomic direction of the club.

To provide for the future, to remain healthy and to sustain ourselves, we have to eat well and play well. Happy Life!

We would test the resolve of our doctors, although they do have a lot of patience, if we were to tell them at our annual Well Man Clinic that we are getting by on shop-bought ready meals, vitamin tablets and Red Bull!

They would soon be writing us a prescription for bracing walks along the pier, fresh water, and nutritionally-balanced, low fat, home cooked foods with plenty of fresh veggies.

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Stuart Yarwood MG is Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club in Cheshire

Stuart Yarwood MG

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

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