

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 DECEMBER 2011

## Hope and glory

Paul Hope, of High Post Golf Club, takes first place in the sixth BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition

### Inside...

#### BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Cricket and golf come together at The Rose Bowl, in Southampton

#### HARROGATE WEEK 2012 PREVIEW

The ultimate turf management exhibition returns to Harrogate

## A degree of success

**RANSOMES  
JACOBSEN**  
A Textron Company

A beneficiary of the 2011 BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen, writes for us



**ALSO INSIDE... Tropical Turf Weeds : H&S : Festive Ideas**





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# Talent in abundance as we approach a big year

**The talent within the BIGGA membership is ably showcased in this month's issue of Greenkeeper International. Not only do we feature the winners of this year's BIGGA Photographic Competition, but also show what you can achieve with hard work, a lot of study, and a scholarship courtesy of Ransomes Jacobsen.**

Paul Hope's stunning picture of a four legged visitor to High Post Golf Club demonstrates everything that is good about golf and greenkeeping – golf and nature operating in perfect harmony. It is a wonderful photograph and one which would grace the portfolio of any professional photographer. It just goes to highlight the skills that are inherent within the BIGGA membership. And in Paul's case it's not a one off because he was runner-up in last year's Photographic Competition.

He is just one of a number of BIGGA members who take their hobby seriously and use the wonderful opportunities afforded to them thanks to working early mornings in photogenic surroundings. Congratulations to Paul, to runner-up Adam Grieve and third placed Gareth Anwell, and to all the other entrants.

I am sure that you will be impressed by the quality of the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven Golf Club, caught the education bug a few years ago and what he has achieved since has been quite remarkable.

He has balanced his home and professional life at Fairhaven, with the considerable demands of studying for a Foundation Degree at Myerscough College as well as becoming the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year for 2010, in the STRI Golf Environment Awards.

James is first to admit that he would not

have been able to move forward with his education if it had not been for the help he received from the R&A, BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen, through the Scholarship Scheme which has seen over £125,000 in grants given to BIGGA members to pay course fees. That financial support, from within the industry itself, is absolutely tremendous and certainly not something you would find in many other

When people ask what they get for their BIGGA membership perhaps the opportunity to have a quick word with James would make it a little clearer. You can read James' story this month.

It seems quite remarkable that yet another year has whizzed by and that we are about to enter 2012. When London was awarded the Olympics it did seem a long, long way away, but here we are on the threshold of what should be a momentous year for sport in Britain. That said, a look in the mirror should be more than enough to confirm that nearly six and a half years has passed since that Olympic announcement in July, 2005.

Hopefully, the feel good factor generated by a home Olympics will be infectious and golf, not an Olympic sport for another four years, will benefit from increased participation and clubs will get a much needed boost to their coffers.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable break over the holiday period.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Scott MacCallum  
Editor

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**The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe**

**24 to 26 January 2012**

**Continue to Learn**  
22 to 26 January 2012

at the Harrogate International Centre  
North Yorkshire, UK



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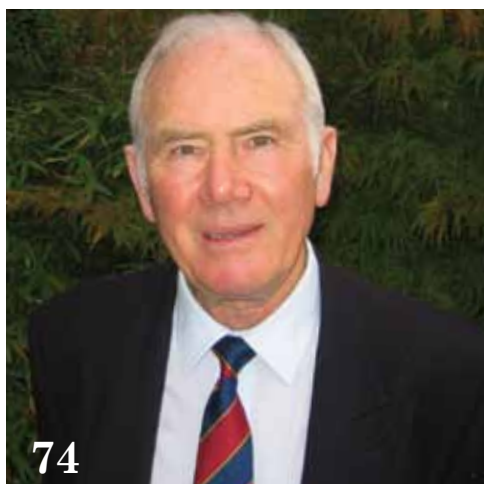




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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.



## Sports Turf Conference Success



The 2011 South East Regional Conference was hosted this year by the Essex Section at Stock Brook Manor Golf & Country Club.

Unfortunately the first speaker Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur Head Groundsman, was called away on business to Belgium, which resulted in a swift change around of the running order. First up, and Chairman for the day, was BIGGA's Chief Executive Officer, Jim Croxton.

Jim got proceedings under way quickly, giving a rundown on how he saw the Association progressing in the coming years.

First of the main speakers was Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club. He talked about the maintenance practices of Tennis and Croquet and showed the assembled, a Mallet, Ball and Croquet hoop. The tolerances that they work to are incredible. The hoop width has to be accurate to 1/32 inch for the recently held croquet championship. Additionally, Tennis, Bowls, Golf, Cricket and in and outdoor Swimming pools are all part of this fine club. He explained the cutting and maintenance practice of this renowned club.

He was followed by Past National Chairman Richard Whyman. Course Manager at Burnham & Berrow GC. Richard ran us through his maintenance practices, with a breakdown of fertiliser and chemical usage, topdressing regime and how he dealt with pests like rabbits. He explained the principles of his work programme and the ethics behind them. Richard showed graphs of his records, which he has been keeping over the 10 or so years he has been at the club.

Next to hit the floor was local boy, Stuart Kerrison, Head Man at Essex County Cricket Club, in Chelmsford. To we greenkeepers cricket seems a strange game with the misconception that the wicket is shaved to the root.

Fine maintenance, cutting and rolling are what are involved. Water is also a key factor and Stuart has only a 15mm main water supply to look after all of his ground, and that also has to feed his house and other buildings in the ground! So sometimes things are a bit tight for this fine ground.

He explained the need to keep the foot holes at each end, in good repair during a match and told of how this was achieved, sometimes at other grounds by devious

means. He even explained about the use of glue to stick the cracks in the wicket together.

A delicious lunch, provided by Stock Brook Manor, was warmly received by the 120 plus delegates and speakers, after which we moved to our last speaker of the day. Greg Evans Course Manager, at Ealing Golf Club.

Greg spoke about the problems of maintaining a course built on clay greens and his practices and principles of maintenance. He justified why he cut at 2mm and what he did to sustain the turf at that height of cut. His feeding and topdressing programme and the difficulties he faced throughout the year.

A number of delegates asked questions of the speakers, which then started a debate between the speakers and the floor with some very good questions and answers on a variety of turf related subjects.

The day was wound up by Jim Croxton, who thanked the speakers, the Essex Section and Terry Peachey, the owner of Stock Brook Manor. He then went on to thank all the delegates for attending and the 28 sponsors of the Essex Section who helped make this day possible.

*Arnold Phipps-Jones*



## The Spectrum of Sports Turf Management



The South West and South Wales Regional Conference took place at the new venue of the Oaktree Arena and Conference Centre, Highbridge, with 134 in attendance. The theme for the day was "The Spectrum of Sports Turf Management" with presentations from Cale Bigelow, from Purdue University, in the US, Chris Haspell, from Castle Stuart Golf Links, Huw Morgan, from Ashburnham Golf Club, Craig Richardson, from Bristol City Football Club, and Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity.

The programme gave an insight into the different aspects of managing sports turf and sports facilities.

These varied from the diverse requirements of a modern football stadium, to presenting a course for the Scottish Open and the problems which have to be dealt with when adverse weather takes its toll.

Along with these speakers the Region was pleased to welcome Jim Croxton the new BIGGA CEO who spent a little time telling delegates about their Association and the future plans.

*Jane Jones  
South West and South Wales  
Regional Administrator*

## INJURED GOLFER VERDICT

A golf club has been found 30% liable for an accident which resulted in a golfer losing an eye – the judge found that remaining 70% responsibility belonged to the golfer who played the shot which caused the injury.

See Jon Allbutt feature elsewhere in this issue "Golfer loses an Eye. Was this Avoidable?"

Damages have still to be finalised but a figure of around £400,000 had previously been agreed, and Niddry Castle Golf Club, in West Lothian, will be liable for approximately £120,000 of that.

Judge Lord Brailsford ruled that the club's liability was for its failure to erect proper warning signs on the course.

He said the golf club should have erected signs alerting path users to potential hazards.

'Experts considered that signs would have been a proper and effective way to draw risk to the attention of golfers and, moreover, that such signs, had they existed, would have been likely to have been heeded,' he said.

'I accordingly form the view that the failure to provide signs either at the 18th tee or in the area between the 6th green and 7th tee was a failure of duty'.

## St Andrews Certified for Sustainability

St Andrews Links has become the first Open Championship venue to achieve the GEO Certified™ ecolabel in recognition of its sustainability commitment and achievements.

St Andrews Links Trust, which manages the seven courses at the Home of Golf including the Old Course and The Castle Course, has operated a sustainability programme for many years and this approach was described by Mike Wood, the accredited verifier, as being "close to defining an ideal model for sustainable management."

In the GEO verification report the assessor praised the Trust's commitment to social responsibility and community engagement as well as the eco-friendly manner in which the clubhouses, retail outlets and other facilities are operated.



They said that not only was the Trust nurturing a 600 year heritage as the birthplace of the

game, it was a "standard bearer for 21st Century good practice in golf management."





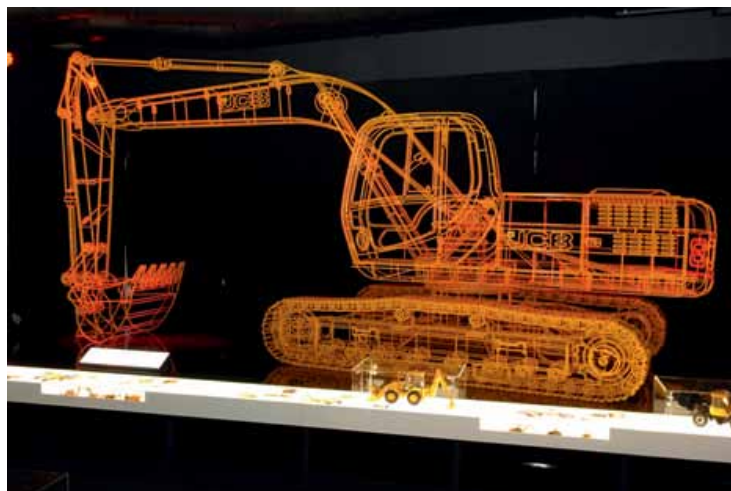
## Toro Show Reel

When Chesterfield Golf Club undertook a three-year bunker renovation programme, they knew there was only one piece of kit to conquer the steep edges and sharp contours of their new hazards – a Toro Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder mower.

As part of a recently signed five-year deal with Toro distributor Lely UK, the Derbyshire club has invested in two 3100-Ds.

As Course Manager, Mark Crossley, said: “We needed a machine that would get around those hard-to-reach areas, and it does just that and more.”

The club, which has been using Toro machines for seven years, has also added two Greenmaster 1000s, a Groundsmaster 3500-D Sidewinder and a Debris Blower 600 to its fleet. What’s more, Mark is looking forward to the delivery of a further five Toro machines in the near future.



## ‘STORY OF JCB’ EXHIBITION SET TO GENERATE NEW EXPORT BUSINESS

The doors have been thrown open to a multi-million pound customer attraction at JCB.

The permanent exhibition, called The Story of JCB, has been developed at JCB’s HQ at Rocester charting the company’s links to industry back to the 1820s.

The exhibition covers 2,500m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace and includes 14 zones which take the visitor on a journey through time, starting in the 1820s, when the Bamford family were blacksmiths in Uttoxeter through to the present day and JCB’s ECO range of fuel-saving machines.

The exhibition is also populated by 10 of the landmark JCB machines through the ages which had to be craned through the roof as the attraction took shape.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a giant skeletal model of a JCB JS200 tracked excavator built to scale out of 8mm steel rod and created by renowned artist Benedict Radcliffe, some of whose work is currently on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The finished artwork took five months to complete, used around one kilometre of steel rod and weighs around two tonnes – a tenth of the weight of the actual machine it represents.

JCB currently welcomes around 15,000 visitors from all over the world and this figure is expected to rise to 20,000 from next year as a result of the exhibition.

## Kingsbarns is Golf Course of the Year

Kingsbarns Golf Links has been voted the Golf Course of the Year at the Golf Tourism Scotland Gold Standard Awards held at the Fairmont, St Andrews Resort.

The St Andrews-based club was named Course of the Year for the fourth time, ahead of some of the leading courses in Scotland including Balcomie Links (Crail), the Carnoustie Championship Course, Castle Stuart Golf Links, Gullane No 2, Machrihanish Dunes, the New Course, St Andrews, North Berwick West Links, Pitlochry, the Old Course St Andrews, the Torrance Course (Fairmont St Andrews), the Ailsa Course at Turnberry and Western Gailes.

The GTS Gold Standard Awards are the only Scottish golf industry honours to be nominated by, and voted for by the industry itself. GTS members cast their votes online in the various categories.

## EUROPEAN GOLF BODIES TO PROMOTE GROW THE GAME OF GOLF WEBSITE

A group of Golf organisations which include The European Tour, FEGGA, PGA’s of Europe, CMAE, EGCOA, GEO, EGIA and EIGCA, have agreed to expand and promote Grow the Game of Golf website.

The aim of the website is to encourage and inspire golf clubs and other golf organizations to help develop the game, particularly at grass roots level.

There are various successful ideas on the website you could acquire for the growth of golf at your golf club.



## New machinery at Bothwell Castle



Bothwell Castle Golf Club recently signed a six year agreement with local Toro suppliers, Hamilton Brothers Ltd.

The deal, worth over £300,000, represents a significant investment in plant and machinery to ensure that the course at Bothwell Castle continues to be maintained to the highest standards.

Acting Head Greenkeeper Alasdair McDermid said "I am delighted with

the new machinery and thank the club for investing in what I consider to be the best greens equipment in the marketplace"

The 2011 Club Captain, Andrew Braidwood said "it was very important to get the best equipment but also to get the right deal for the club."

He went on to thank Hamilton Brothers Ltd for their assistance in securing this agreement.

The Club's General Manager, Jim Callaghan CCM said that "it is vitally important that the Club continues to invest in its equipment and facilities for the benefit of all its members and their guests.

This agreement demonstrates that the Committee and the Club is focused on providing the best possible playing surfaces on its golf course for years to come"

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## Deanwood Park GC win Rigby Taylor Pairs Competition



This year's final of the Rigby Taylor Pairs Competition was contested between Sonning GC and Deanwood Park GC. The teams were blessed with fantastic sunny autumn weather on the day at The Berkshire, which made the course even more pleasurable to play.

A big thank you must go to Ian Morrison and his team for making everyone feel very welcome at short notice.

Sonning GC took an early lead with a 30 footer on the 1st. but the Deanwood Park team got there heads down and put in a performance worthy of past champions.

It was a very close fought battle and they were all square going to the last but with the threat of extra holes looming David Lyons (left) and John Bowness from Deanwood Park GC (right) won the hole, making them the 2011 Rigby Taylor winners.

Gareth Acteson, Rigby Taylor Area Sales Manager



## Jim McKenzie Receives MBE

Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie looks resplendent in a tartan suit when he visited Buckingham Palace to be presented with his MBE by HRH The Prince of Wales.

"It was fitting that it was Prince Charles who made the presentation as I'd met him during the Ryder Cup itself," said Jim.

He was awarded the honour following last year's Ryder Cup when he led his team of Celtic Manor staff and volunteer greenkeepers in overcoming the horrendous weather conditions which came close to causing the historic match to be postponed.

Working every available hour the match – one of the most exciting in the Ryder Cup's history – was concluded on a precedent setting fourth day, with Colin Montgomerie's Europe team clinching a narrow victory.

## BIGGA SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION SPONSOR PLACES TO HARROGATE WEEK 2012

This year the Regional Board of the South West and South Wales Region has decided to sponsor one place from each of the four Sections on the Region's Harrogate Week accommodation package giving four people the opportunity to attend the show and seminars.

Each committee has been asked to select someone from their Section who they feel would benefit from the experience. This opportunity has been made possible due to the RA's work in

stabilising and growing the financial position of the Region and the support of the Region's Patrons.

Thanks go to Patrons - Ransomes Jacobsen, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, Avoncrop Amentiy, W T and R J Jones, Farmura, Huxley Golf, Martyn Lane Golf, Everris, and Sports Metals for the support they give to the region through the Patronage Scheme.

Following their experience each of the four winners will be asked to write a small

piece on their experience of Harrogate Week for the magazine.

Together with these sponsored places the region's subsidized accommodation package is also available to members and is for three night's bed and breakfast at The Cairn Hotel arriving Monday, January 23, 2012 and departing Thursday, January 26. Any member of the region interested should contact BIGGA Regional Administrator, Jane Jones on 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.





# Chairman's Word

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

## An interesting and challenging year

**The time has flown by since I wrote my last column. I'm glad to say that I have not required much time away from work recently enabling me to concentrate on my family life and busy role at Elmwood. There I was thinking winter is here and we get a very mild November despite the weatherman's predictions, giving us more mowing to do than predicted and less time for some of the other tasks.**

I did attend a Management Training Course delivered by the Scottish Golf Union and Scottish Ladies Golf Association, with collaboration from many other golf bodies, BIGGA included. Many thanks to Lee Strutt MG who presented with Steve Isaac (R&A) on our behalf.

It was aimed at Golf Club Management and it was very interesting to learn about all the other aspects of managing golf clubs and to hear from experts and delegates who work in these areas.

It gave me a good insight into some of the challenges they face, and confirmed how important effective management of the golf course and its staff and resources are in maintaining the overall health of any golf club.

It also confirmed how important it is that each department works together, aware of their impact on each other and the customer experience.

Our staff at HQ have been very busy, and bookings for the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate are very brisk.

Make sure you check out all that is on offer and take advantage while space is still available.

Planning your visit to Harrogate will enable you to access some great education, see all the new equipment and products you need to research, and make time to meet your colleagues in the industry and catch up on what will have been a challenging year for everyone.

I'm sure there will be lots to discuss and lots of good help and advice available on meeting the challenges in the industry at present. I'm certainly looking forward to it, especially as we will be celebrating 25 years of BIGGA.

Many thanks also to the BIGGA members and trade members who delivered presentations at the recent round of Regional seminars and at IOG Scotsturf.

They were all well attended and feedback was excellent from the delegates.

To keep up with all that is going on check the "Events" page on the website.

The judging for the Bernhard and Company sponsored BIGGA Delegation to the GIS show in Las Vegas took place. Congratulations to the worthy winners and commiserations to the many fine applicants who didn't make it.

The quality of candidate is tremendous and shows how professional many of our members are in developing their careers.

The L&D department is continuing the review of the CPD scheme, Accreditation programmes and the Master Greenkeeper Award. The aim is to identify the needs of

Resort of the Year, and Fife was awarded European Golf Destination of the Year.

All fantastic achievements which should help in raising the profile of golf as an important part of our UK economy, and in influencing the tourism sector.

With that in mind, Jim Croxton and I were invited to attend the All-Party Parliamentary Gardening and Horticulture Group at the House of Commons, Westminster, by Brian H Donohue MP, at the behest of David Gwyther (Horticulture Trade Association).

Although the focus was on that sector, it gave us an opportunity to build some further networks and see how such events can be used to raise the profile of our industry and try to exert some influence on developing policies which could impact on our industry.

Time will tell, but if you don't try you will never know!

**"We all get very passionate about our golf courses, and this tremendous industry we work in, but its important that we keep it in perspective and realise that our family and friends play the most important part in our lives and we need to get the work/life balance right"**

Greenkeepers and Course Managers at every stage in their career, ensure that relevant content and provisions are made, and make it accessible. Facilitating education for its members is one of the main objectives of BIGGA, and we will continue to seek improvements and developments to that end.

Locally the "Home of Golf" has been gaining wider recognition with the achievement of several awards, which would not be possible without the excellent work of many of our members.

Kingsbarns set the ball rolling by winning the The Golf Tourism Scotland Gold Standard Course of the Year. Next up, St Andrews Links became the first Open Championship Course to achieve GEO certification.

At the IAGTO awards held in Turkey, Fairmont St Andrews won European Golf

Many thanks to David for the invitation.

I am off to China again for a week teaching on behalf of Elmwood, and meeting some contacts there to see what might be gained from relationships with BIGGA.

It's been a long, interesting and challenging year, but exciting also. I am looking forward to the holiday season, and spending some valuable time with the family.

I know we all get very passionate about our golf courses, and this tremendous industry we work in, but its important that we keep it in perspective and realise that our family and friends play the most important part in our lives and we need to get the work/life balance right.

Enjoy the festive season,

My very best regards,

**Andrew Mellon**

**07780 995602**

**amellon@elmwood.ac.uk**





## NEW RECRUIT FOR CHARTERHOUSE

Dougie Archibald, has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery as Northern Area Territory Manager.

Dougie, 37, who is from Dunfermline, in Fife, brings a wealth of experience with him as he initially was a groundsman working at Murrayfield. He then moved on to being a product demonstrator, and latterly an area sales representative for a well respected John Deere dealership in Scotland.

In announcing the appointment, General Manager at CTM, Nick Darking, explained, "When the vacancy occurred we went about setting the criteria for the ideal candidate, and there was Dougie. Not only does he have hands on experience, he also comes with a solid sales background. We're delighted to have him join the team and expand our position in the North."

Any spare time Dougie has is spent playing golf, watching football or tinkering with classic cars.

## AFT See Heworth GC into Centenary Year



A combination of AFT Trenchers and Sandbender successfully combat surface water at Heworth Golf Club.

In 2012 the Heworth Golf Club celebrates its Centenary year. The course has matured and is always immaculately presented by Head Greenkeeper, Colin Pringle and his team.

Colin runs a team of five including himself and Harry, the young apprentice, combining college and greenkeeping experience.

"We maintain an 18 hole course which is constructed on very heavy clay soil. Our biggest issue has always been drainage and we installed a complete main drainage system using an AFT 45 trencher, 12 years ago." Despite much of the country suffering from drought, this is has not been a problem in Tyne and Wear, the home county of the club. "We have found that if anything we have had excessive levels of rainfall this year and because of that we have invested in the AFT Sandbender to give even more structure to keeping the course free of surface water," explained Colin

The AFT Sandbender has revolutionised the way sand slits are installed on sport surfaces. The unique blade design and oscillating movement installs drainage slits with well consolidated sand. In this instance the Sandbender has been used to successfully divert surface water on the greens to the existing lateral drains.

Colin is delighted with the results so far and is confident that the course will be at its best for 2012, when the club is hosting the English Golf Union Seniors County Finals.

## John Holt Retires after 30 years with Rigby Taylor



After 30 years with Rigby Taylor and the past 10 as Commercial Director, John Holt has retired.

John joined the company, as a rep in 1979 and in the early 1990's became Sales Manager.

While Commercial Director he played a significant part in product development, culminating in many new fertilizers, formulated with traditional greenkeeping in mind.

John's lifelong interest in golf came as a result of his parents, who were Steward and stewardess at Blackburn Golf Club. He spent many hours watching the professional repair clubs, which gave

him his interest in club making.

For many years, while working as a greenkeeper, John was a category one golfer and this interest in all aspects of the game led him to become a member of the British Golf Collectors and The James Braid Golfing Society. His present collection of golf artifacts includes approximately 800 golf clubs.

As a member of Clitheroe Golf Club since 1975 John has spent many years as Chairman of Green.

He would like to thank all the greenkeepers and colleagues who have supported him over the years.



## Abbeydale is Where it's ATT



Abbeydale Golf Club in Sheffield has been a long time advocate of ATT's turf maintenance equipment, and five years ago were one of the first clubs to trial the TMSystem.

Previously, the club had used dethatching cassettes, but the TMSystem offered a first opportunity to perform more maintenance tasks with a single power unit.

"We have two John Deere greens triples, one of which is kept for mowing and the other used with the TMSystem," says Head Greenkeeper, Warwick Manning.

"I was immediately impressed with the build quality of the system and the range of cassettes available."

The Ultragroover is the most frequently used attachment used on a regular basis to take grain out of the meadow grasses on the greens.

"We have reduced thatch to a manageable level, so all that is needed is surface management of the sward, and the Ultragroover does an excellent job."

Vibratory rollers maintain green speeds and also help to work topdressings in, while the sarel rollers spike the surface, ensuring that dressings penetrate for greatest effect.

The vibration brush is also used after top dressing, while the scarifier cassette can be employed as and when necessary.



## Buggy Solutions

Wyevale East Nurseries in Swanley, Kent, has taken delivery of their second S1 sit-on 2 wheel drive electric vehicle from Electric Powered Solutions.

Nursery Director, Richard McKenna, first saw the vehicle at the Four Oaks trade show in 2010 and immediately recognised its potential for moving stock around their 10 acre site.

Depending on the motor size the buggy can load up to 500kg and w a trailer carrying up to 1,000kg.

## What's your number?

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

**Name:** Ian Marshall  
**Company:** Crocodile Golf Products  
**Position:** Managing Director



**How long have you been in the industry?**  
5 years, since August 2006

### How did you get into it?

As an established manufacturer of rotary blades for domestic lawn mowing machines, we acquired plant and machinery from a failed engineering company that manufactured cylinder mower blades and bottom blades for a number of original equipment lawn mower manufacturers engaged in the turfcare industry, we quickly identified the demand for replacement parts and launched Crocodile Golf Products in 2009.

### What other jobs have you done?

Following a thorough apprenticeship in the foundry industry, managed a number of engineering companies in the automotive, presswork, steelwork and construction industry and manufactured a range of hand-tool and agricultural tools in Thailand, Ghana and Nigeria.

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

Easily the people! Having worked in a variety of different industries the people in the turfcare industry are head and shoulders the nicest and most accommodating people I have ever worked with. The care and attention showed by groundsmen and greenkeepers world-wide is a much understated commodity!

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

We have only seen growth. In spite of this recession and the obvious cut backs in spending, the demand for our range of quality replacement parts continues to exceed our expectations.

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

Would it be too obvious to say play golf and spend time with the family? But you do have to get the balance right!

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

In a box! Seriously, I would like to see us establish a global centre of excellence for wear resistant cutting tools providing a comprehensive service to the international turfcare industry.

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

Without doubt, the greenkeepers.

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**  
5





# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director,  
with a monthly update



**As we approach the season of goodwill and enter a New Year, maybe it is an appropriate time to not just catch up with and family friends, but, also a time to consider your own personal development and how you could improve all aspects of your life?**

Easier said than done you might say, during difficult times for many golf clubs and in the middle of winter but some people I know, do take stock of their situation as a New Year approaches.

One thing that January always brings for our sector is the opportunity to meet up with friends, old and new, during the Harrogate Week exhibition and Continue to Learn programme.

During the day there is so much going on with workshops and seminars available seemingly around every corner and the range of latest equipment, machinery, advice and materials for every visitor to see first hand.

In the evening the socialising starts in abundance and this is where the counselling and support network really shows its true colours and what a fantastic camaraderie there is within greenkeeping and groundsmanship.

So many wise words available from the more mature greenkeepers present, all of them always willing to share their knowledge and experiences with the next generation.

Many of the younger Course Managers are now presenting at seminars and workshops throughout the year and they have much to be proud of, as golf course standards are not only weekly in the spotlight of TV coverage but at every site where golf is played.

I am amazed at the talent now within the industry and as BIGGA celebrates its 25-year anniversary we must continue to promote all which is good about the profession and ensure the game has well trained and educated greenkeepers for many years to come.

On this occasion I think we can take a break from talking about

the formal education and training opportunities available through courses leading to qualifications and focus on the various informal routes to gain new knowledge and experience to improve your lifestyle.

The Greenkeeping Associations from 1912 have always been the main support network for greenkeepers on a local, regional and national level but in recent years with the advent of the Internet there is an incredible source for knowledge and arguably more important peer group help and guidance accessible 24/7.

The various websites and bulletin boards are an ongoing resource to share and assist with other greenkeeping problems.

During 2011 the GTC has hosted a series of workshops specifically aimed at assisting golf club employers understand more about the role of the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and what is involved in maintaining and managing a golf course to the highest standard possible given the budget and resources available.

More employer focused workshops are planned for the New Year covering such subjects as Health & Safety, Improving Communication within the Golf Club and more dates for the now tried and tested Chairman of Green – Secretary Manager workshops, will be announced shortly.

What is pleasing for the GTC is that the intended aim of these workshops, to improve the relationship between the employer and employee, has without doubt been achieved.

To see Chairmen of Green, Secretary Managers and Course Managers together at workshops where the open debate sessions are so beneficial for all delegates is very rewarding for the GTC.

So whether it is reading magazines, searching the relevant websites, attending seminars and/or workshops, attending Harrogate Week please remember you are part of an industry where there is a tremendous amount of support available.



Short courses provided by GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers are also an opportunity for you to improve your personal development and I sincerely hope you visit the GTC website to keep you up to date on all matters greenkeeping?

The updated website has live links to all our supporting bodies who also have so much information to share.

Finally, if during your reflective moments during the festive season you feel the GTC can do more to assist you and or your golf club by way of greenkeeper education and training please do not hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of the GTC Board of Directors, Fiona and myself may I wish you and yours a very peaceful, relaxing Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!

See you on the GTC stand during Harrogate Week maybe?



The GTC is funded by:



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# Learning & Development

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

**Christmas is coming... I hope you're all organised and have bought your presents. Don't leave it too late - a can of de-icer, upholstery shampoo and a Magic Tree from the local garage are not great gifts!**

**Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week**

Continue to Learn boasts a packed programme of education events. I'm happy to report that many workshops are now sold out, so if you haven't booked your place yet you might want to check the Harrogate Week website for availability. It certainly looks like the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre is going to be the place to be from January 22-26.

We are fortunate to be presenting a number of seminars from companies who are exhibiting at the trade show, these include:

## Tuesday, January 24

- Suppression of Fusarium Patch By Phosphite in Cool-Season Amenity
- Turfgrasses – Turfcare
- Understanding Cutting Unit Performance – John Deere
- Activated Microbial Turf Management – Great Turf Company
- Use of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria for Healthy Turf – British Seed Houses
- Use of Synthetic Turf in Golf – SAPCA
- Organic Matter - Friend or Foe? - Symbio
- Perceptions in Greens Management – What's Most Important? You Decide – Ransomes Jacobsen
- Tier 4 – How Will it Affect You? – New Holland

## Wednesday, January 25

- Achieving Smooth Golf Greens – Myerscough College
- The Ultimate Renovation Package – R & K Kensett
- BASIS Contribution for the Future of Amenity Industry – Sherriiff Amenity



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



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01347 833800 (option 3)  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



- A New Approach in Wetting Agent Technology for Enhanced Turf Health, Consistency and Playability - Syngenta
- Sustainable Golf Course Management and the Impact of the Cutting Unit – Bernhard & Co

## Thursday, January 26

- Bunker Construction - The Way Forward – Blinder Bunker Liner
- Using an Integrated Management Approach to Eliminate Turf Disease on Fine Turf Surfaces - Everris
- The Rescue Club

Further seminars are being added. Check the website for the most current information [www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education).

Remember, all of the Seminars are FREE and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Ensure that you are at the Queen's Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.

## Master Greenkeepers

I am delighted to announce that we have two new Master Greenkeepers:

Steven Tierney MG – Golfpark Nuolen AG, Switzerland

Justin Ruiz MG – Indian Summer G & CC, Washington, USA

My congratulations go to them both.

## Field Guides



We are waiting for the delivery of updates to two of our On Course Field Guides. Additional pages have been produced for:

*Grasses Found in Golf Course Rough; Trees and Shrubs on the Golf Course*

The additional pages for each guide will be available at Harrogate Week or from the Learning and Development Department from January.

## Regional Conferences

In November I attended both the South East and South West & South Wales Regional Conferences. Both were very well attended.

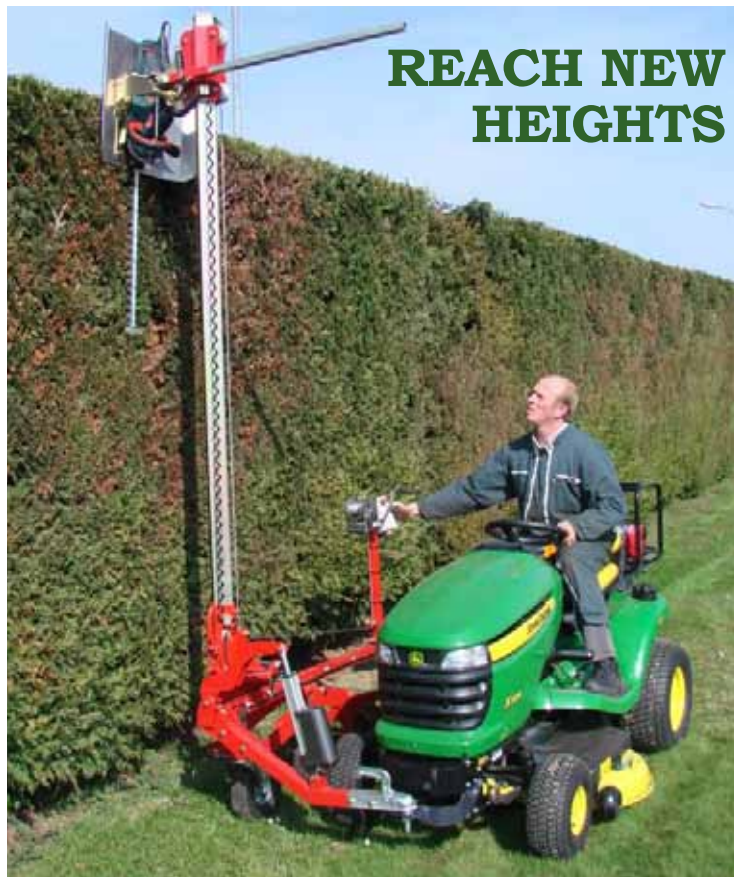
## Scotsturf

In early November we presented three seminars at the IOG Scotsturf exhibition. All of the sessions were well attended with a total of 150 delegates. My thanks go to all those who supported BIGGA and the education, to the speakers, Grant Frogley, Allan Patterson and Cale Bigelow, and to Stuart Taylor, Andy O'Hara, Archie Dunn and Derek Scott for helping out on the

# G

# NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed



## REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Richmonds Groundcare has launched the Cochet Hedgetrimmer, which allows gardeners to cut and top high hedges with ease and safety. Using a ladder or scaffolding makes the task labour intensive and often dangerous.

Cochet has designed a flexible hedge trimmer designed for mounting on riding mowers and small tractors. The machine features a reciprocating cutting blade hedge trimmer mounted on a telescopic arm allowing hedges up to 4m tall and 2.6m across to be cut with minimal effort. To top the hedge, the mounting bracket is simply rotated through 90degrees. The hedge trimmer can also be detached within seconds from the support arm to reach areas inaccessible by the mower.

The trimmer's patent pending chassis uses three wheels to follow ground contours and keep the blades in line with the hedge.

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



## HIGH PERFORMANCE EXCAVATORS

Designed and engineered to provide the best combination of high performance, stability, safety, operator comfort and durability in the compact excavator market, the Bobcat micro- and mini-excavator range from 1-3 tonne has recently been expanded with the launch of the exciting new E26 model.

The new 2.6 tonne zero tail swing E26 mini-excavator offers all the advantages of the new E-generation of excavators from Bobcat, including the existing high performance E08, E10, E14 and E16 models.

As well as smooth workgroup operation and superior hydraulic performance, the E26 also offers low noise and vibration and optimised weight - the cabbed long arm version weighs just 2700 kg - allowing it to be transported by trailer.

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

## NEW FERTILISERS FROM VITAX AMENITY

SwardPhite is based on potassium phosphite (PO) and has smaller more reactive molecules than conventional phosphate. Its effect is to promote healthy turf growth by improving natural defence systems and by stimulating meristem cell activity in roots and crowns.

Foliar applied, it will also help to avoid phosphate lock-up during

Summer stress periods and, under difficult conditions, will aid the uptake of potassium, calcium magnesium, iron and manganese.

The second new product is VitaSil, a liquid silicon stress reducer for turf. Silicon is now recognised as a vital component in turf nutrient programmes because it helps strengthen cell walls, toughens epidermal cells and

boosts natural defences against disease.

Turf blades stand more erect when fortified with VitaSil so seed heads and stalky material are more reliably mown off, giving a cleaner cut, reduced accumulation of thatch, better appearance and faster ball roll.

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





## WESSEX LOG SPLITTER

With the arrival of colder weather and everyone across the UK looking to reduce fuel costs, the comforting warmth of the woodburning stove and crackle and glow of the open fire are back in vogue.

However, the old saying of "wood warms you twice" has been well proven by anyone with experience of laborious and back-breaking hours wielding a splitting axe, or worse – the sledgehammer and splitting wedge, which invariably pings off the log at shin height.

The new Wessex Country LS100 log splitter can be used on any compact or large tractor with a category 1 three-point linkage. With a hydraulically-powered vertical ram providing up to 10 tonne of splitting pressure, logs of up to 18" in height are split and processed with ease, while the floor-level platform means that loading larger logs onto the splitter is safe and simple.

01420 478111  
sales@broadwoodintl.co.uk

## BRUSH CUTTERS

Etesia has launched three new ride-on brushcutters. All three models share the distinctive body styling of the Attila AV98 and are powered by Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engines.

Starting with the smallest AV88, it has a 16hp engine, 88cm cutting width and like the rest of the Attila range, hydrostatic drive. The chassis has a strengthened structure

welded tubular chassis for a better driving position.

The AV95 which now incorporates front brakes for better control on descents. Power comes from the twin cylinder 18hp engine. The cutting height can be adjusted by a centralised lever with five positions from 25mm to 85mm.

The last of the new models,

the AV98X, again 4 wheel drive. This unit has powerful motors in the rear that also power the front wheels.

Power is supplied by a 23hp engine with a 98cm cutting width.

The new model also has a built in slope indicator for safer driving at all times.

www.etesia.co.uk

## SALT & SAND SPREADER MAKES LIGHT WORK OF WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE



Kuhn has extended its range of mounted salt and sand spreaders, adding the smaller Axéo 2.1 with a maximum load capacity of 800kg to two existing larger models.

As with the earlier models, the Axéo 2.1 is adaptable for use with salt, sand and grit. This new model has a hopper capacity that can be extended from 250 to 350 litres and includes an agitator design feature that prevents settling and compaction of materials.

Distribution over the treatment area is adjusted easily and without tools by changing the point at which material is delivered to the disc. Stainless steel deflectors control the spread width (up to 8 metres). The spreading disc has eight blades to provide improved distribution of materials, particularly at high forward speeds.

The Axéo, which can also be used to spread fertiliser, is part of Kuhn's Amenity Pro range and is available through the company's nationwide distributor network. Prices start at £3,634 plus VAT.

www.kuhn.co.uk

# Best of

Scott MacCallum visits the home of Hampshire Cricket where a superb new golf course is being built to complement the already superb cricket facilities



**Two sports dominate our summer and they can be encapsulated, albeit in cliché form, by the anguished cry of “Fore!” and the sound of leather on willow.**

Golf and cricket provide weekend relief for large chunks of the population, and for a few lucky ones other times of the week as well. Golfers do play cricket and cricketers do play golf, but they tend to keep the two pursuits separate - no-one has that much spare time! - until now that is...

INSET CENTRE: Head Groundsman, Nigel Gray (left) and Course Manager, Julian Covey (right)

BELOW: In-fill arriving on site



The Rose Bowl, in Southampton, is home to Hampshire Cricket and the newest venue on the Test playing rota. In addition a superb 18 hole golf course is currently under construction, alongside the ground, to replace an existing nine holer. Cricket and golf working in harness!

The spectacular cricket ground has already hosted a Test Match – last June’s match with Sri Lanka, which was so rain affected that Head Groundsman, Nigel Gray, was regarded by many experts as the Man of the Match. He actually did win the Test Match Special Champagne Moment award.

Despite the weather it was regarded as a triumph, with the wicket being roundly applauded, and it marked a significant milestone in the progress of The Rose Bowl, with the new golf course another key development.

“We knew that Hampshire Cricket wouldn’t work as purely a domestic cricket ground and a nine hole golf course – there just

wasn’t sufficient earning potential to maintain the facility,” explained Managing Director, Glenn Delve.

“We had a fantastic facility for cricket and 160 acres available for golf, but only had nine holes on it.”

Having decided to invest in a new 18 holes, the plan which was hatched to make it happen could be regarded as a piece of outstanding “outside the box” thinking, and will lead to The Rose Bowl gaining its new course for the princely sum of £1.

And it is all down to importing inert in-fill.

“It was one of our more interesting days in the office when we realised we could have a £5 million golf course for £1,” said Glenn.

“It’s a very interesting business model, not completely unheard of but for the quality of golf course we are building it is unusual.”

The constructor, Keltbray Golf Environmental, handles all aspects of the project, from first spade in the ground to signing off on a completed golf course.



# both worlds



"We charge a tipping fee and a proportion of that goes towards building the golf course and any other infrastructure, then there are our building costs and whatever left is our profit," explained Dave Coussell, the Project Manager for Keltbray.

"We charge the same for pure virgin dig soil as they do for those loads which are in need of cleaning and screening but the material is constantly monitored for quality and anything that does not meet the required standard is either rejected or put into quarantine and sent for testing," he explained.

"If we get nice clean clay we use that for tee or green complexes, while the poorer loads, which may include concrete will be crushed and used for the internal road.

Julian Covey joined The Rose Bowl as Course Manager in mid 2010, and is maintaining the existing nine hole course, along with his Deputy, Ian Reeves, and Assistant, Joe Weston, as part of a three man team, as well as co-ordinating the

temporary lay-out which will be used by the membership while the new course is under construction.

"It is such an exciting venture, particularly at a time when the golf boom has slowed down," explained Julian, who has been involved in greenkeeping since he left school and who has been involved with Hampshire Cricket since his son, Ryan, played age group cricket for the County. Ryan is now a greenkeeper at Worldham GC working with his older brother, Richard, who is Course Manager.

Julian has been greenkeeping at a number of clubs in his career including Liphook, Isle of Purbeck, Hindhead, Old Thorns and The Tytherington Club in Macclesfield and moved into golf course construction in the early '90s.

"I have the best of both world's here. A project to work on and a course to maintain. It's a real professional challenge but with emotional ties. I love the hustle and bustle of a construction project, but this one allows me to be at home and I can

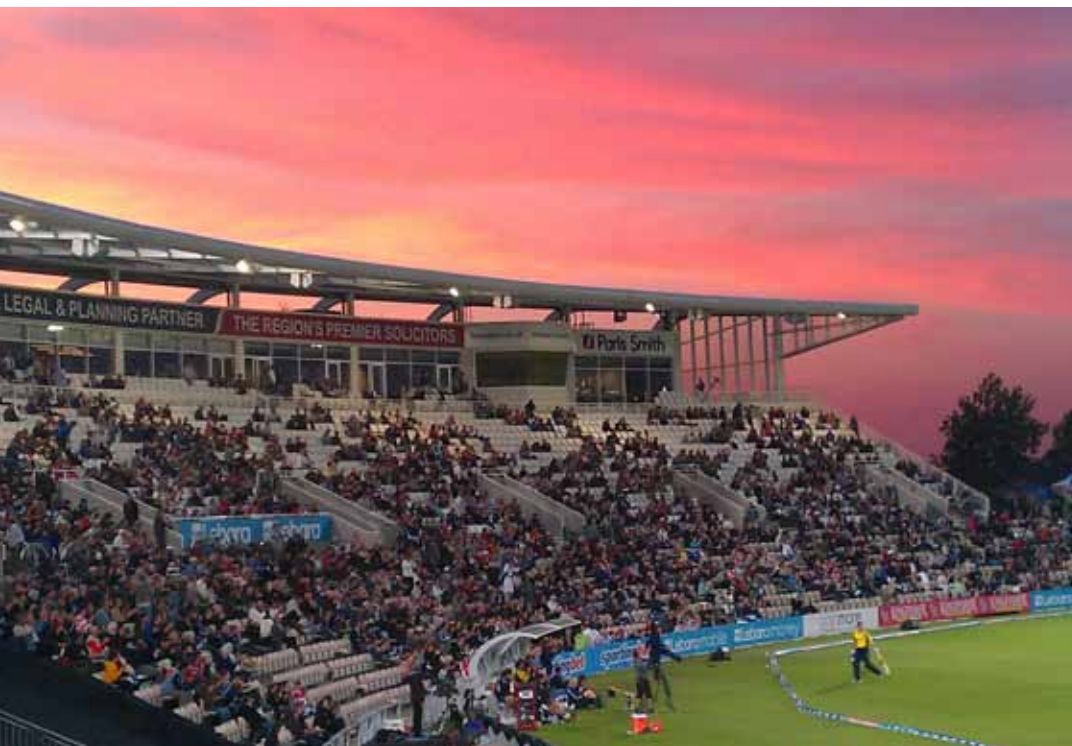


**"I love the hustle and bustle of a construction project, but this one allows me to be at home and I can ensure that everything is as I want it for the on-going management of the course"**  
Julian Covey

ensure that everything is as I want it for the on-going management of the course."

Paramount among the thinking for the new 18 holes was to ensure that the existing club members always had a good quality 9 holes to play until the new course came on stream.

INSET ABOVE: A tee is rebuilt on the course



“The project is split into ten different phases with the objective always to make sure that the current members always have nine holes to play and that means putting in some temporary holes, which might be there for two or three years,” explained Julian, who added that the one downside of an in-fill generated project is that it can only move at the pace of the house building and construction industry which generated so much of the in-fill.

“It would have been easy to have given the members nine little par-3s, but nobody wanted that.”

Part of the brief was that the golf course had to act as a car park for the cricket ground when Test matches, ODIs or big Twenty20 matches come to town.

“It was a condition of planning that we incorporate an exit route through the course for cars attend-

ing the cricket while the 1st fairway is used for corporate parking. The road is also used as the haul road for the lorries moving around the site for depositing the imported material-fill,” explained Julian.

Once the new course has been completed new areas for parking – spurs off the road – will be identified.

“We are lucky that where the car parking is, it is relatively dry. In fact we had a few hundred cars on our existing 1st fairway just a couple of weeks ago and you wouldn’t know,” said Julian.

While the quality of the inert in-fill arriving at the site may vary, what goes into the construction will meet very exacting standards.

“During the construction it is my job to see that all materials, the gravels, the rootzones etc are all tested by a laboratory and ensure that it performs to the correct specification ie particle size, percolation rates, compatibility etc. We spot test every 500 tonnes that comes on site to ensure that it is within the tolerance levels of the lab tested material. I am absolutely comfortable that there are no compromises as anyone is only as good as their last job and this is a high profile project, Keltbray will ensure that the golf course is constructed to the highest standard.”

The timescale for the new course is around four to five years but is dependent on the rate of the importation.

“The time scale is fine as we will always have nine holes open for play, while nine holes are growing



**“I am absolutely comfortable that there are no compromises as anyone is only as good as their last job and this is a high profile project”**

**Julian Covey**







in then we will flip them over and let the new holes grow in.

“Within the temporary lay-out we are losing two of the existing greens so we will build temporary greens out of the the rootzone and turf from the old greens,” explained Julian, for whom all the experience he has accumulated over 35 years of greenkeeping is coming together on this one project.

“I’ve got the greenkeeping experience, and the construction and the grow-in skills all coming together and it is down to me to ensure that the Rose Bowl gets what is specified within the contract. It’s certainly

the most exciting project I’ve ever been involved with,” said Julian.

When the major cricket matches take place Julian and his team swap their dark blue uniforms, for the light blue of the cricket ground staff and join Nigel Gray’s team.

“If you love cricket, as I do, the chance to get involved in Test matches or one days is fantastic. The golf course is closed and we’re under Nigel’s wing.

“If it’s a lovely sunny day you’ve got little to do, but on the Saturday of the Sri Lanka Test we had the covers on and off 10 times and, believe me, they are heavy when

they are covered in water.”

Julian and Nigel often talk about the issues that affect their two strands of the sports’ turf maintenance business.

“It is really interesting to learn about preparing a cricket wicket. If you look at what we do for golf, we don’t like compaction, but with cricket they compact as hard as they can in the summer and then relieve it in the winter by spiking etc.”

Nigel has been Head Groundsman for 21 years – including 10 at the previous County Ground, and having been in at the start at The



Rose Bowl he was able to construct the square exactly as he wanted.

"The top layer is four inches of screened clay/loam, the next eight inches is unscreened clay/loam and the eight inches below that is road stone," revealed Nigel, who added that following successful experiments on a pitch including more sand, three more of the square's 20 pitches are being rebuilt over the winter in this style.

"We spent a lot of time having One Day Internationals so we approached the Test Match like having five ODI's in a row. I was confident that the pitch was pretty good, and that we were doing the right things in the right way, so that took a lot of the pressure off," he explained.

"Basically all pitch preparation follows a similar path and you are trying to create one which is hard, fast, bouncy, although you have to adjust procedures for a one day game - you wouldn't want it to be quite as bouncy as a Test match pitch because over five days you want players to have a chance to display all their abilities. For a one dayer, you want the bat to be able to hit the ball and runs to be scored, which makes for an entertaining game."

The procedure employed on a one day pitch to reduce the bounce flies against any thoughts a lay person would have on the matter.

"We probably roll a one day pitch a little more which has the

effect of calming it down. You can go beyond the point of rolling it to make it bouncier and it deadens it - there is an optimum point at which you get maximum bounce," explained Nigel, who added that the aim of a Test Match groundsman is, weather permitting, to have the game going into the last afternoon.

Preparing a pitch to suit the home bowling attack is also regarded as fair practice.

"England have three six foot seven bowlers, so if we produce a bouncy pitch we were going to get more out of it than the Sri Lankans, who are six foot, tops.

"It was in England's interest to produce fast bouncy pitches and at home you have the chance to produce something like that," said Nigel, who prior to Julian's arrival oversaw the maintenance of the golf course as well.

With the hotel - which will overlook the ground and double up as a Media Centre and corporate hospitality venue for matches - due to commence construction in the near future, and the golf course underway, the opportunity to ensure year round usage is getting closer. but in the meantime the Rose Bowl is also being used as a popular concert venue, with acts including the likes of Oasis and Neil Diamond strutting their stuff while the fireworks displays are also extremely popular.

"We build a stage on the outfield

facing east and cover the square with trackway," explained Nigel.

"When we had a Billy Joel concert a couple of years ago we had a T20 match on the Saturday, started building the stage on the Sunday, had the concert on the Thursday and then had another T20 the following Tuesday."

As part of the planning regulations for the golf course environmental consultant, Matt Johns, has been a regular visitor ensuring environmental issues were at the top of everyone's thoughts.

"I put together some very detailed management plans which were a condition of the planning approval.

"There is a landscape management plan; a woodland management plan and a nature conservation plan which all come together," explained Matt, who is on site at least once a fortnight as the course is constructed.

It certainly is an exciting project and with a method of construction which may prove to be a model for many future new or redeveloped course construction processes and once fully completed it should satisfy the desires of both golfers and cricketers.

Below: The greenkeeping team







## BSH Grade 'A' grass seed mixtures. Make a great approach.

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

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# Harrogate week

# The ultimate turf management exhibition



BIGGA's Quarter Century is a reason to celebrate, writes Scott MacCallum



*Celebrating 25  
years of BIGGA*

**Harrogate Week is always a special occasion for all those who attend, but Harrogate Week 2012 will be particularly so, as it not only celebrates the 25th anniversary of BIGGA itself, but also 100 years since the first surviving recorded minutes of BIGGA's oldest ancestor – the very first greenkeeping Association.**

Both events will be recognised during the week with a Celebration Evening to mark BIGGA's Silver Jubilee and an exhibition in the Halls to commemorate the centenary of greenkeeping Associations.

The rate of change since 1987, never mind 1912, within the industry has been truly remarkable and Harrogate Week symbolises that.

The technology on show during Harrogate 2012 would have had NASA astronauts opened jawed with amazement in 1987, and there is no sign of progress slowing.

Whatever the task which is required on the golf course, there will be a boffin in an R&D Department somewhere, looking at ways of making your professional life better or easier.

The fruits of their labours to date will be there for all to see in one of the four Halls at Harrogate International Centre, while the world renowned Continue to Learn programme ensures that those who take part are in a position to keep on top of all those industry developments.

It is a combination which has proved a very productive cocktail for all concerned over the years and, coupled with the unique Harrogate atmosphere for the Apres Show, it creates a never to be forgotten occasion for all who attend.



mate

24 to 26 January 2012

# nagement in Europe

**Continue to Learn**  
22 to 26 January 2012

at the Harrogate International Centre  
North Yorkshire, UK







# Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

**BIGGA's 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, will be a wonderful opportunity to share memories with some of those who have played a part in the success of the Association, as well as celebrating two and a half decades of progress, whilst looking forward to a bright future.**

The occasion will comprise a drinks reception and convivial dinner all designed to give ample opportunity to catch up with friends from across the Industry.

Achievements since 1987, individually and collectively, will also be recognised and it will give a

chance for every one to raise a glass to BIGGA.

A host of dignitaries will be in attendance, including Ken Schofield OBE, who led the PGA European Tour for 30 years.

Ken, right, will be making a Toast to the Association.

"BIGGA has come a very long way in 25 years and the Celebratory Dinner will give us a chance to pay tribute to everyone and everything that has made that possible.

"I am sure it will be a memorable occasion for all who attend," said BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Mellon.

The Association is delighted that one of its longest standing and best supporters, Ransomes Jacobsen,



Ken Schofield OBE

will be sponsoring the event.

"We have always seen BIGGA as a valued partner and have enjoyed a close working relationship with the Association over the last 25 years.

We are delighted to be able to sponsor the 25th Anniversary Celebration and wish everyone at BIGGA every success for the next 25 years," said Dave Withers, President of Jacobsen.

The Celebratory Evening takes place at The Old Swan Hotel, in Harrogate, on January 24, 2012.

Tickets are available to BIGGA members and guests, and can be purchased from Rachael or Angela at BIGGA. Tel. 01347 833800.



## BIGGA

### 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening

Sponsored by



at The Old Swan Hotel,  
Harrogate, 7pm-11pm,  
Tuesday January 24, 2012

*Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA*

Smart dress

Tickets cost  
£30.00 inc. VAT

Contact Rachael or  
Angela at BIGGA for  
further information on  
01347 833800



## Workshops

After the successful introduction of the **How to be an Outstanding Manager** workshops, the 2012 programme will once again feature Shona Garner, Director of Shona Garner Coaching Services Ltd, offering **Part 3: Performance Management; How to Get it Right**

Following feedback a couple of workshops that were originally offered as one day workshops, have been extended to two days:

**So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager** by Peter Jones and Kevin Munt, Golf Course Consultants

**Irrigation System Management and Design** by Adrian Mortram, Irrigation Consultant, Robin Hume Associates and Dennis Mortram

New workshops will include:

**Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers** by Jacky Lowe, Training Gem

**A Practical Guide to Setting Up a Social Media Presence** by



Lesley Wood, Principal Consultant, Targeting Innovation Ltd

**Progressive Cultural Management Programs** **SOLD OUT**

by Frank Rossi Ph.D, Professor, Cornell University

**Successful Project Management** by Bruce Williams CGCS, Bruce Williams Consulting

A mainstay of the GCSAA's Education Programme, we are delighted that Bruce will be presenting this workshop on the Continue to Learn programme.

## Seminars



Seminar Sessions will include the following presentations:

**Managing Winter Kill in West of Scotland?**

David Cole, Golf Course/Estate Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club

**From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years**

Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Castle Stewart Golf Club

**Let's Re-build 20 Greens in 10 Days – Mission Impossible?**

Cameron McMillan, Course Manager, Queenwood Golf Club

**Being a Professional and Living It**

Bruce Williams CGCS, Owner and Principal, Bruce Williams Golf Consulting

**The Control of Earthworms on Golf Courses**

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

**The Biology and Effects of Parasitic Nematodes in Sports Turf**

Dr Colin Fleming, Plant Pathologist, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

**LinkedIn – A Masterclass**

Lesley Wood, Principal Consultant, Targeting Innovation Ltd

**Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf**

Frank Rossi Ph.D, Professor, Cornell University

Many other workshops and seminars will be taking place. Further information on the Continue to Learn Education Programme is available at [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)

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Montpelier

Image courtesy of HIC



Cattleman's Association



Blues Bar

# Where to eat, sleep and socialise in Harrogate...

**Harrogate Week is unlike any other event. It is your chance to meet and interact with decision makers 24 hours a day. After the show closes there are endless opportunities to network in the Harrogate bars and restaurants with fellow turf professionals.**

As you can imagine, Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town.

With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively nightlife along with a glamorous heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

## WHERE TO EAT...

When you're feeling peckish or want to mix business with pleasure...

Alberts .....	Tel: 01423 568446 .....	Bar & dining
Ali Raj .....	Tel: 01432 621627 .....	Indian
B.E.D. ....	Tel: 01423 568600 .....	Modern English
Bengal Spice .....	Tel: 01423 502610 .....	Indian
Betty's .....	Tel: 01423 502746 .....	Traditional English
Caramba Tapas & Bar.....	Tel: 01423 505300 .....	Tapas
Cattleman's Association .....	Tel: 01423 561456 .....	Tex Mex
Chez La Vie .....	Tel: 01423 560666 .....	Traditional English
Damn Yankee .....	Tel: 01423 561424 .....	Tex Mex
Drum and Monkey .....	Tel: 01423 502650 .....	Seafood
Harrogate Brasserie .....	Tel: 01423 505041 .....	English
Horoscope .....	Tel: 01423 508144 .....	Chinese
Joe Rigatoni .....	Tel: 01423 500071 .....	Italian
La Tasca .....	Tel: 01423 566333 .....	Tapas
Le Bistrot Pierre .....	Tel: 01423 533070 .....	French
Thai Elephant .....	Tel: 01423 530099 .....	Thai
Salsa Posada .....	Tel: 01423 565151 .....	Mexican
William and Victoria .....	Tel: 01423 506883 .....	English

## WHERE TO STAY...

Holiday Inn Harrogate, Kings Road .....	Tel: 0871 423 4876
Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road .....	Tel: 01423 500055
Studley Hotel, Swan Road .....	Tel: 01423 560425
Grants Hotel, Swan Road .....	Tel: 01423 560666
Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road.....	Tel: 0870 1688833
Crown Hotel, Crown Place .....	Tel: 01423 567755
Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road.....	Tel: 01423 504005
Cedar Court Hotel, Knaresborough Rd.....	Tel: 01423 858585
St George Hotel, Ripon Road.....	Tel: 01423 561431
Kimberely Hotel, Kings Road .....	Tel: 01423 505613
White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road .....	Tel: 01423 505681
Alexa House, Ripon Road .....	Tel: 01423 501988
Yorkshire Hotel, West Park .....	Tel: 01423 565071
Travelodge, The Ginnell .....	Tel: 0871 9846238
Shannon Court, Dragon Avenue .....	Tel: 01423 509858
Grafton, Franklin Mount .....	Tel: 01423 508491
Camberley, Kings Road .....	Tel: 01423 561618

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit:  
[www.reservation-highway.co.uk](http://www.reservation-highway.co.uk) access code "bigga"  
 or Tel: 01423 525577.

## THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...

The Moko Lounge, Kings Road .....	Tel: 01423 525862
The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street.....	Tel: 01423 520567
Odeon Cinema, East Parade.....	Tel: 0871 2244007
Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street .....	Tel: 01423 502116



# How to get to Harrogate

## Rail

Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station.

East Coast trains has announced the start of new services to provide a long awaited direct link, from London to Harrogate.

The direct trains are shown on the East Coast timetable: [www.eastcoast.co.uk](http://www.eastcoast.co.uk)  
For all other rail services to Harrogate contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 or visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

## Air

### Leeds Bradford International Airport [www.lbia.co.uk](http://www.lbia.co.uk)

Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately £18. You may wish to visit the following websites for flight information.

[www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)  
[www.jet2.com](http://www.jet2.com)  
[www.airsouthwest.com](http://www.airsouthwest.com)

The "Bus 2 Jet" 767 service links Leeds Bradford International Airport with Harrogate town centre. The service runs every 90 minutes between 0615 and 2245, with an average journey time of around half an hour. For further information on this service please contact Harrogate & District Travel Ltd on + 44 1423 566061  
Or visit [www.bus2jet.com](http://www.bus2jet.com)

### Manchester International Airport [www.manchesterairport.co.uk](http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk)

Manchester International Airport is situated halfway between London and Edinburgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public Transport links are available 24 hours a day offering services to Harrogate via Leeds or York.

## Coach

### National Express [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

National Express is the UK's largest scheduled coach network, offering several services a day to Harrogate from all over the UK.

## Car

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



## Directions

From M1: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From M62: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the South A1(M): Leave the A1(M) at Wetherby and take the A661 to Harrogate, approximately 10 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the North A1(M): Leave A1(M) at junction 47 and take the A59 to Harrogate, approximately 8 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the East: Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the West

Take the A59 to Harrogate. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

## Harrogate Town Centre Car Parks

MULTI-STOREY  
Victoria, Jubilee, West Park

SURFACE LEVEL  
Odeon, Park View, Montpellier Shoppers, West Park

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours.

Charges apply all days at all times (including Public Holidays)  
Free parking for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles

Pay and Display parking is in operation in most town centre streets in Harrogate. Charges and restrictions apply on Sundays and Bank Holidays in all parking areas unless otherwise stated.

## Sea

### Direct Ferries [www.directferries.co.uk](http://www.directferries.co.uk)

Direct Ferries are part of Direct Ferries Ltd, an online travel provider based in the UK offering ferry crossings to the UK from the continent. Registered agents of the ferry operators are listed on the website, they sail to 14 Countries and 54 ferry ports on over 60 routes.

North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles from Harrogate.

## Park & Ride

BTME & ClubHouse provides a FREE 'Park and Ride' service from the Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground). From the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate, follow the ring road to the Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground) A661 to Harrogate International Centre. If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid any traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space.

The shuttle service will run at the times:

- Tuesday 20 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Wednesday 21 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Thursday 22 January 08.30 to 16.30



# Tap into the R&A

There is great support out there for you if you only know where to look. The R&A Scholarship Programme is well worth considering



Elmwood Scholars outside The R&A Clubhouse

**Did you know that The R&A supports greenkeepers that want to further their education?**

**Did you know that R&A Scholarships are available to greenkeepers studying higher education courses (HNC and above) in golf course management at Elmwood and Myerscough Colleges?**

Since 2004, The R&A has invested over £330,000 in its Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme, helping 109 students progress along their education path.

On Tuesday, January 24, from 11.50am, at the Show floor Theatre (by the BIGGA stand), you will be able to hear how you can become an R&A Scholar and benefit from a financial contribution, and the experience of being associated with the world golf development and Rules body and organiser of The Open Championship.

Not only do R&A Scholars get financial support towards the cost of their education, they also have the opportunity to engage with The R&A through a website dedicated to Scholars past and present.

A total of 12 Scholars, each year, get to attend a field study week on the island of South Uist to spend time at Askernish Golf Club with guest speakers who discuss the architectural development, natural history and greenkeeping practices at this unique course. This is a life-changing experience.

Candidates for an R&A Scholarship are selected by the colleges, with input from The R&A. The level of support available varies dependent on the nature of the course being studied and where in the world the student is travelling from

## Proven performance across the UK



**Jim Brown**  
Course Manager  
Oulton Hall Golf Club

***"Medallion TL completely halted the Fusarium, with control witnessed after only 24 hours."***



**Marcus Oakey**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Moor Allerton  
Golf Club

***"Even with snow cover we achieved five weeks disease prevention."***



**Stan Power**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Hanbury Manor Golf Club

***"The greens treated with Medallion TL came through the harsh winter period with no signs of disease."***





– anything from £500 to £5,000 per Scholar for each year of their studies.

The R&A Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme is a truly international scheme. As well as home-grown greenkeepers, the programme has helped students from China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Nepal, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and the USA.

You can read more about our Scholars in the 'News' section of The R&A website, [www.randa.org/](http://www.randa.org/)

the golfcourse

The session during Harrogate Week will include:

- An introduction to The R&A Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme by Steve Isaac of The R&A
- Advice on how to become an R&A Scholar and how the programme operates within the colleges by Dr Andy Owen of Myerscough College
- Information on the field study visit to Askernish by Paul Miller of Elmwood College
- An insight into the benefits of the programme from R&A Scholar, James Hutchinson, who is now a

greenkeeper at Fairhaven Golf Club in Lancashire.

There will be ample opportunity to discuss the programme with the speakers and a number of other Scholars after the formal presentations.

If you are considering taking a HE course in greenkeeping or want more information on The R&A Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme, come to the Showfloor Theatre at 11.50 am on Tuesday, January 24.

We look forward to seeing you there!

ABOVE LEFT: Josh Webber, an R&A Scholar at Myerscough College, talks to delegates at a GTC Workshop about the composting process at the Webber family run Portmore Golf Park in Devon

ABOVE RIGHT: R&A Scholar Frank Aherne, recipient of the award for the Best Overall National Certificate Greenkeeping Student from

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**syngenta.**







soil science and ecology, all of which I have found to be most useful in my professional and personal life and they have all altered the way I now look at grass growth and golf course management. In fact, last year I was awarded the title of Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year and did my learning in the ecology module help to secure this title? You bet it did. Along with the title came a trip to the US to study one or two top end golf courses such as Isleworth and the Nick Faldo-backed, Grande Vista.

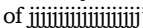
The trip to the US was a great learning curve and the knowledge I gained during my three year course meant I was able to hold engaging conversations with the American Superintendents I was introduced to while not looking completely dumb.

The cost of the FdSc degree averaged at £1400 per year, but for current course costs I would contact course enquiries at Myerscough. I believe that university fees are set to almost triple and I am unsure as to how families of aspiring young (and older like me) greenkeepers are expected to fund themselves.

When I set out on the degree path, I contacted numerous Government backed schemes enquiring about possible funding and financial help. Unfortunately, as my family and I have always worked for a living and earned our own way in life, there was to be no help. I can't help thinking that if I lazed around all day and did not want to work then there would be funds galore on offer - just being honest!

I had thought about giving up on the whole idea of study as we couldn't possibly afford it, then I read that BIGGA offered a "Return of Fees" scheme for spraying courses and chainsaw certificates etc.... I saw this as an opportunity to maybe find some assistance and financial help so I contacted BIGGA and, to cut a long story short, I was offered a place on the Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship Scheme and, I don't mind telling you, that I was over the moon - a phrase I was to use a lot over the next three years.

I mentioned MOLLNET a little earlier and I would just like to give you a brief indication of how the system works. The assignments and course module documents are sent via MOLLNET and are simple to access as during the first week of study you are allocated your own personal page. Apart from one or two 'externals' such as soil sample analysis and the exams, everything is completed through MOLLNET. I

will say, however, that you should ideally be computer literate before approaching any on-line study. I found out this 'Pearl of Wisdom' early on in the degree, when I was asked to produce a 'mean plant growth graph' in an Excel document. This is the point in my study where the long line of  first appeared and I can assure you it wasn't to be the last.

I found most of my reading help in the form of BIGGA's lending library. BIGGA now has a wide range of topics available and are keen to share their library with any of BIGGA's members. I took full advantage of this offer and by the way, where else can you obtain in-depth Plant Science literature for the price of a stamp?

Year One included soil technology, plant biology and ecology. Year Two was based around business planning, principles of mechanisation and cultural practices while Year Three was pests and diseases, drainage construction and golf course design. Prior to your final year of study, you are given a year long project to work on.

The project should be industry related so I chose the Introduction of Native Wildflowers into a Golf Courses' Ecological Rough.

We had already started to introduce wildflowers onto an out of play area at my place of work so I already had an indication of the type of growing medium they preferred. During the project, I posted a question on BIGGA's bulletin boards for member's help re pictures of wildflowers on a golf course. The response was fabulous and I thank all those who helped the project to run smoothly. I must also give praise at this point to Andy Owen (Course Tutor), Stewart Brown (Team Leader) and the tutors from on-line team, who guided us through the degree and their lightening fast responses to questions and queries aimed in their direction.

Three years zipped by and the morning of receiving my final grade was one of excitement and panic. Excitement because I had completed a degree which was something I thought that I could never do, and panic because I wanted to progress onto a BSc but you needed to pass your FdSc at 60% or above to be accepted.

As luck would have it, I did manage to receive more than the required grade so I applied for acceptance onto the BSc and the outcome is that I start studying for the BSc degree in September - over the moon again! Preparation for graduation could now begin.

Looking around the Myerscough graduation ceremony, I could tell that the look on the graduates' faces was one of excitement and contentment while the look on the faces of their families was one of sheer pride even if their son or daughter was dressed as batman. The gown I hired for the day came in either two sizes: Large or Small, so, being around the same height as Bilbo Baggins, I opted for the small but this, however, was still too long and all I could think of while waiting to be called up to graduate was "please do not trip over your gown onto Myerscough's Principal and, in turn, pull the curtains down over the band". As luck would have it, all turned out fine and I managed to make it back to my seat with my scroll and dignity intact.

If I were asked to give advice on the degree programme (try and stop me giving advice by the way!) then it would be to do precisely as the course tutor asks you to do. For instance, if you are required to produce 2000 words on a USGA spec green then write 2000 words on a USGA spec green. Do not mention

**I was offered a place on the Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship Scheme and, I don't mind telling you, that I was over the moon - a phrase I was to use a lot over the next three years**

that your dad's sister's cousin once played on a natural 'push up' green and found it to be nothing like the USGA spec type; if you do include nonsense then you can watch your grades quickly descend - trust me, I know!

I could talk for hours on my thoughts on Myerscough's teaching and the help that I have received from BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen, but I may need a few more pages in Greenkeeper International - trust me, the aforementioned words are the revised version!

May I also quickly take this opportunity to thank Fairhaven Golf Club for their help understanding, also my work pals, Craig, Jaymo, Mike, Pete and Tom for putting up with three years of an over excited James Hutchinson and his constant talk on grass, sand or whatever he had learned about the night before - now for two more!





Allowing staff time to visit shows and demonstrations may cost money but actively 'giving' them the time to go to an event can help team moral. All forms of experience and training contribute to CPD, Continuing Professional Development, vital to the development of skills in the greenkeeping profession.

# All I want for Christmas



James de Havilland looks at a alternative route to take when it comes to Christmas presents

**If all you get for Christmas is the odd card or two from work colleagues don't worry. You are not alone. But the 'festive' season can be an opportunity to take stock on the past year and think laterally. How about using Christmas as a time to 'reward' faithful greens staff and help them meet their goals of Continuing Professional Development?**

Perhaps the greatest gift you can offer any busy person is time. A bonus 'day off' is always welcome,

but that is not quite the same as allowing someone the time to go off and do something that could well enhance how they go about the job that they do and make a real contribution to CPD, Continuing Professional Development. Some Green staff may also feel a bit overlooked. Many turn up early every day to tend the course and disappear before senior management staff will have had a chance to talk to them.

Smaller clubs may well benefit from easier communication

between everybody, but it is all too easy for some members of a team to feel somewhat left out.

Others may feel that they could benefit from a little change, no matter how much they enjoy their job.

Some may also want to know a little bit more about the tasks they are carrying out or even to progress to carry out jobs reserved for those with more experience. These are all points that BIGGA has sought to improve through its support of CPD.

John Deere has a range of Christmas gifts to include gingerbread treats and decorative tree baubles. But the company can also offer a lot more, from overalls to training courses.





So what can a Course Manager do? One consideration could be to look at offering certain members of the team the time off and resources to attend a training course. Although there will always be those, both donor and recipient, who would not consider this a 'gift', the simple fact remains that the more involved you become as the member of a greens team, the less time you may devote to 'developing' your wider experience. No one is ever too old to pick up new ideas or skills.

A training course could also be a subtle way of helping members of the team who may benefit from a bit of guidance. Talk to those who have been put through a development course they really did not think would help and many suggest they have really learned something. The way in which they are 'sold' the course will also impact upon how willingly they take part.

Tell someone you are sending them off on a course because they need some training is not as encouraging as suggesting you want to help them develop their

skills to enable them to tackle more demanding duties or add to their qualifications. Offering a course or two as a Christmas 'gift' can also give them something to look forward to and lift those suffering from the winter doldrums.

So what courses can you consider? Cutting Edge Training, an operating division of Ransomes Jacobsen, provides course managers with a wide range of operator training to ensure that mowing equipment, tractors and ATVs are being used correctly and safely.

According to the company, the training team are all highly experienced individuals with a combination of talents to ensure that everyone attending courses gains the utmost benefit from each and every session. Each has his own area of expertise to provide the operator with 'the skills to assess the working environment, ensuring that all pre-start checks are completed and that the machine is in a safe working condition.' From a golf club or any other employers perspective that has to be a good thing.



On completion of the training each candidate is assessed and, if deemed competent, will be issued a certificate of competency by either the NPTC or LANTRA Awards, depending upon the awarding body of your choice.

Certificated courses available through Cutting Edge Training include:

- Pedestrian controlled mowers – cylinder, flail and rotary
- Tractor-mounted mowers
- Remote-controlled mowers

**INSET ABOVE:** Tablet computers are not cheap but one can be a really useful business tool. Take an image or video of something like bunker damage. Email it to an iPad or smart 'phone. Share your pain with others or send it direct to the person faced with doing the repair.





Tractor driving and related operations – compact, utility and large agricultural

Tractor loader operation  
Utility vehicle and ATVs  
Brushcutters and strimmers  
Hedge trimmers

All of the above are relevant to any manufacturer, not just Ransomes and Jacobsen products. Cutting Edge Training also promotes technical training aimed at experienced mechanics and technicians who carry out maintenance and repairs on Ransomes Jacobsen products including Ransomes municipal mowers, Jacobsen golf course equipment and Iseki tractors and ride-on mowers.

Lely's Toro training could also be 'gifted' to deserving greenkeeping teams by their clubs. Clubs often send one or two representatives to the company's St Neots training centre. But perhaps investing in

A training course 'gift' is something many would appreciate. Not only do you get a chance to learn about new equipment you can also get the chance to meet new people and share ideas.

the wider team, by sending a larger contingent, would be a welcome gift this Christmas? As with other courses, such an investment could be a real reward for individuals keen to progress their knowledge and skills.

By ensuring the greenkeeping team gets the training they need, a problem they have maybe been struggling to tackle this year could be turned into a positive as they learn how best to overcome it in 2012. It is also, of course, a great 'gift' to the greenkeeping and golf industry as a whole, helping to raise standards and improve health and safety. Lely can tailor training packages to suit any club's requirements.

It follows, of course, that other manufacturers to include John Deere and other key suppliers offer a cracking range of training opportunities. The easiest thing to do is to just ask. Manufacturers are keen to promote best practice to ensure customers get the best out of equipment. The same applies to 'specialist' equipment to include items as diverse as chainsaws, sprayers and fork lift trucks.

### More traditional Christmas treats

On a more light-hearted note, you can also tap into the merchandise offers from manufacturers. Diaries, jotters, desk tidies, ballpoint pens, calendars and posters have long been handed out by dealer 'reps' to promote business. But mark enthusiasts may also find other items that attract them. John Deere has a strong following amongst the younger generation thanks to its high visibility in sectors that

include agriculture.

So no surprise that it offers gifts to include a chocolate advent calendar, a tractor themed gingerbread and electric Christmas lights. You can even buy green and yellow Christmas tree baubles decorated with the John Deere logo.

In fact Christmas can be a good time to renew staff work clothing too. How about a nice set of overalls or coat with a key supplier logo on it? Decent work wear does not come cheap, so why not tap into some manufacturer goodwill for this Christmas!

### Technology

Those of a certain generation may bemoan the increasing dependence some seem to have upon smart 'phones, tablet computers and other digital wizardry. These tools, however, can be really useful. Those who use a tablet computer can carry it with them. This can then be used to access daily work instructions for anything from a bunker repair to detailing exactly where you would like a little extra top dressing applying – this can even be done via a video clip. The key is that you can 'gift' staff a bit of tech that will help you work with them in imaginative ways. Technology can improve communication.

A key to good staff moral is of course to foster a team spirit. A surprise Christmas lunch or 'works outing' can really help lift spirits, but a gift that lasts will always be more valued. So think beyond a simple Christmas card and you may end up giving a gift that really does more than add a little festive cheer.



An employee cannot just pick up a chainsaw and start using it. A training course can be a way of not only helping the club make use of its own personnel but also benefit the individual by adding an extra qualification to their portfolio.



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stand  
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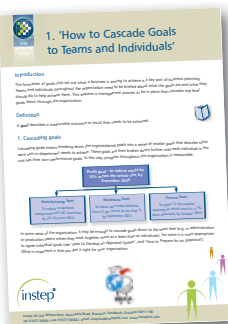


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# Hope and glory

Paul Hope, of High Post Golf Club,  
takes the crown in the sixth BIGGA  
Photographic Competition

**“I was out taking photos of the  
sunrise one morning when this  
young stag just wandered right  
into the shot”**

Paul Hope, High Post Golf Club

1st: Paul Hope. Eco Harmony, High Post Golf Club  
2nd: Adam Grieve. Early morning strimming creates mist in the sunlight, to beautiful effect, on the 3rd green bank at The Royal Eastbourne GC  
3rd: Gareth Anwell. Spectacular cloud formations compliment the surface shadows and bunker layout on the 15th hole by the old Palacio at Son Gual Golf SL





Craig Boath. A lone greenkeeper patrols the horizon at Carnoustie Golf Links



Michael Williams. Ancient oaks and fresh blue bells on the 5th green at Coombe Hill Golf Club

**“This has been a very good year for our BIGGA Photographic competition. What a pity there are only twelve months on a calendar, we could have used so many more...”**

Alan Birch, Competition Judge



Ian Brodie. A sight to behold at North Berwick Sea Hole, Glen Golf Club

**The quality of entry in the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition goes from strength to strength.**

Now in its sixth year, the standard of entry has improved to the extent that compiling the 2012 calendar is difficult because of the excellence of pictures which have to be left out rather than finding sufficient to find one for each year.

The winning entry this year came from Paul Hope, from High Post Golf Club, in Wiltshire, with a stunning picture on the course, with a deer posing for him in the right hand corner.

Runner-up was Adam Grieve, of Royal Eastbourne Golf Club, with a superb shot of early morning strimming, while Gareth Anwell, of Golf Son Gual GC, in Mallorca, Spain, was third with a superb picture of the old Palacio.

Golf course photographer and competition judge Eric Hepworth was particularly impressed with this year's entry.

“I think we all agree that this year's entries are the best ever.

Many of the entrants pictures would easily fit within my library and be thought of as a professional photographer's work.”

On Paul's winning picture Eric said: “This is a brilliant piece of photography and a worthy winner. The picture, though, is not without irony for me as I had the opportunity to take a similar picture of a huge stag with massive antlers once and a greenkeeper in a utility vehicle, scared it away!

“Paul has used the vegetation to the left extremely well and if he could have picked up the deer and placed it in the frame, he could not have chosen a better place. A fabulous picture.”

On Adam's picture Eric was equally complimentary.

“We are increasingly seeing other members of greenkeeping staff included in the pictures and this is one of the best examples of that. Shooting towards the sun is never easy in photography but Adam has pulled this off wonderfully well. The exhaust off the strimmers and the green staff's breath in the cold

conditions, has given this picture an extra facet. A great picture.”

“I put Gareth's picture on my short list as soon as I saw it. I immediately thought that this picture must have been taken by a professional. It is a truly cracking photograph and I love the way the semicircle of the trees are almost copied by the shape of the clouds.”

Fellow judge, Alan Birch was the man whose idea it was to launch the competition.

“This has been a very good year for our BIGGA Photographic competition. Congratulations and thank you all on the high standards and quality of your photographs. What a pity there are only twelve months on a calendar, we could have used so many more of photographs.”

The winner, Paul Hope. The wonderful light and all round colour makes for a truly great photograph, which could easily have won the Countryfile competition).

“Second, Adam Grieve. What a super ‘Working greenkeeper’ photograph. In the right place at the right time. Well done. Let's have more.





Stuart Cagle. Beautiful bunker shadows beside the sea at the Royal Aberdeen Golf Club



Colin Jones. Using a tree to great sunlight-blocking effect at Mold Golf Club



Peter Robinson. "The ball collector" at Slieve Russell Golf Club



James Hutchinson. Snow stops play at Fairhaven GC, but it makes for a fine winter shot

"Third, Gareth Anwell. The trees, the sky and the delicate shadows in and around the old Palacio, together with the quality of the greenkeeping make this picture stand out. This photograph belongs in some of the glossy magazines, as well as ours.

I would enjoy these and many others in my personal library. Thank you to all Greenkeepers," said Alan.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2011 BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition.

You can enter next year's competition now if you wish (although you have until July 31, 2012).

Please mark your emails, "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2012," in the subject header (using upper-case lettering please) and send to [tom@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tom@bigga.co.uk)

Good luck!

### 2011 BIGGA Photographic Competition winners are:

1st. Paul Hope, High Post GC; 2nd. Adam Grieve, Royal Eastbourne GC; 3rd. Gareth Anwell, Son Gual Golf SL



ABOVE: Glenn Kirby, awesome colour in place at the 16th International, London Golf Club

BELOW: George Little, the beautifully patterned fairway neatly contrasts the tone of the forest skyline, on the 11th hole, at Woburn Golf Club





# Golfer loses an eye... *was this avoidable?*

Health and Safety expert, Jon Allbutt, examines the evidence in the recent Scottish court case where **a man lost the sight of one eye while playing golf**, and offers advice on how to avoid it happening again

The conclusion of a recent court case in Scotland has been widely reported. The judgement, by Lord Brailsford, contains some important information for golf clubs and golfers.

The case concerns an accident where a golfer lost the sight in one eye as a result of being hit by a golf ball. Player A played his tee shot and saw that it was going left towards another part of the golf course where a group of golfers were walking from a green to their next tee. Golfer A said that he shouted "Fore" and three out of the fourball group took avoiding action but it was unclear if, in fact, the fourth, Golfer B, did take sufficient avoiding action.

The Judge stated that Golfer A was 70% negligent as he was over confident and failed to exercise good judgement before playing his shot; the golf club was 30% negligent because they did not carry out a risk assessment and they failed to provide signs and guidance, but that Golfer B was not negligent as he was an inexperienced golfer and may not have known what to do on hearing the shout of "Fore". And, in any case, he only had a matter

of a few seconds to decide what to do.

The experts agreed that there was no guidance by way of signs to guide the fourball from the green to the next tee and that if signs had been provided it may well have guided them along a safer route to the next tee. The experts' evidence also indicated that a deviation in the region of just 15° from the centre line of the fairway, from where Golfer A played his shot would put other golfers at risk. The teeing ground where Golfer A played his shot had no signs to give any guidance on priority.

Although not directly relevant to this case, there were, in fact, two other golf holes within range of a mis-hit tee shot from where Golfer A played his shot. It appears that it was foreseeable that a golfer on any of the three holes might be at risk of being hit by a miss-hit ball played from the teeing ground where Golfer A played his shot.

The golf club did not offer any evidence by way of risk assessments, or monitoring of play, to show that they had considered the risks to greenkeepers or golfers at this complex of golf holes.



If a risk assessment indicates significant risks to greenkeepers when they are working on the golf course it is very likely that golfers may also be at risk when they are in the same place.

It seems very likely that had the golf club prepared a golf course risk assessment, and provided some guidance on safe routes and perhaps also a local rule for priority, it may have avoided the judgement of 30% negligence in this case.

I find that golf clubs seem to be uncertain and confused about what they need to do and are unwilling to accept that sound judgement and good common sense by their professional team (the greenkeepers), and golfers, is often sufficient when preparing a risk assessment. There is also hesitation when it comes to deciding on what 'reasonable actions' are needed to eliminate, or reduce, the risks of injury.

In my experience, if there is some doubt as to what actions are needed to reduce a risk, a period of monitoring of the work, or golf, or both, will soon provide the evidence needed. Monitoring is a valid process providing it is not open ended and the results are duly considered. However, it is also acceptable that monitoring can be extended for an additional period in order to gather additional data. Where it seems likely that seasonal conditions on the ground are a factor then monitoring could be extended for several years, but there would need to be justification for this and it is not used as an excuse for not making a decision!

Actions to reduce risk can be

as basic as providing signs and/or written guidance or local rules. However, it could be that there may need to be physical alterations to the golf course and these could range from subtle changes to the shape of a fairway, to moving greens and tees, re-grading steep slopes, moving trees or other costly actions. It is very important to remember that such actions must be proportionate to the degree of risk identified.

In addition to the risks of civil actions being brought against the golf club there are also risks of criminal action in the form of enforcement notices, or prosecutions, being taken under health and safety legislation.

Most golf clubs have some understanding of their duties under health and safety legislation, not only for their employees, but also to golfers and the public. However, it is also important to note that in this case the judgement against the golf club was made under Section 2 (1) the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act 1960 which states:

"2.-(1) The care which an occupier of premises is required, by reason of his occupation or control of the premises, to show towards a person entering thereon in respect of dangers which are due to the state of the premises or to anything done

**Most golf clubs have some understanding of their duties under health and safety legislation, not only for their employees, but also to golfers and the public**

or omitted to be done on them and for which the occupier is in law responsible shall, except in so far as he is entitled to and does extend, restrict, modify or exclude by agreement his obligations towards that person, be such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that that person will not suffer injury or damage by reason of any such danger".

There is a similar Occupiers Liability Act applying to England and Wales.

A golf club has duties to prepare a risk assessment for the golf course and to take reasonable actions to reduce the risks identified. The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System is available to assist with this important process and there are experienced expert independent health and safety professionals available to advise golf clubs to achieve the appropriate safety standards.

Jon Allbutt  
jon@jonallbutt.co.uk  
01959-575575





# Volunteers wanted



## to work at The Open

The Open Championship, Lytham and St Anne's, July 19-22, 2012

**This is your opportunity to work at The Open Championship and assist the Lytham and St Anne's team with the preparation of the course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.**

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – a hotel in the centre of Blackpool, - but after that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship. Accommodation will be on a shared twin-room basis.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July

18, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only.

Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered, as will a number of first-time applicants.

To apply please complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

For further information contact Scott on: 01347 833800 or email: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

Closing Date for applications for The Open Support Team is February 1, 2011, and you will be notified later in the month.







Name .....

Yes No

Golf Club .....

Position .....

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years .... ☐ ..... ☐

..... Age .....

I serve, or have served in the last three years,  
on a Section/Region Committee ..... ☐ ..... ☐

BIGGA Mem Number .....

I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme ..... ☐ ..... ☐

Email Address .....

I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks. .... ☐ ..... ☐

Mobile Number .....

I have applied for/appeared  
on the team at:

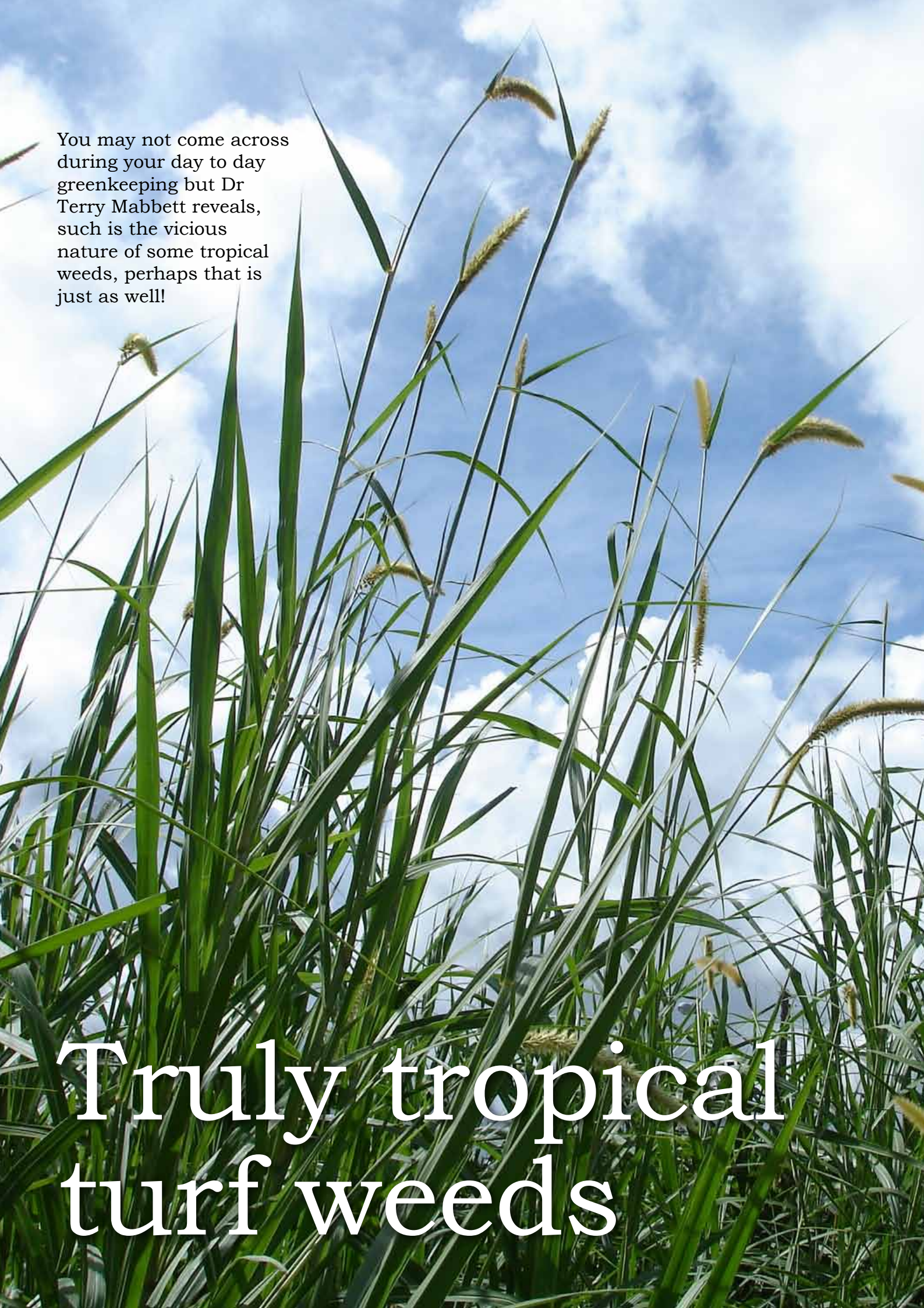
Applied Successful

I am/have been a member of the PGA  
Championship Support Team ..... ☐ ..... ☐Royal St George's, 2011 ..... ☐ ..... ☐St Andrews, 2010 ..... ☐ ..... ☐Turnberry, 2009 ..... ☐ ..... ☐Royal Birkdale 2008 ..... ☐ ..... ☐Carnoustie 2007 ..... ☐ ..... ☐I am willing to be a mini bus driver  
(You must have held a full driving license  
for three years and be over 25 years of age.) ..... ☐ ..... ☐I am an overseas Member ..... ☐ ..... ☐

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.

Should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ.





You may not come across  
during your day to day  
greenkeeping but Dr  
Terry Mabbett reveals,  
such is the vicious  
nature of some tropical  
weeds, perhaps that is  
just as well!

# Truly tropical turf weeds





Golfers could get lost in the 'rough'

**Trawl the net for tropical weeds and you will find most consideration given to agriculture. It's as though turf in the tropics does not suffer from weeds, but I can assure you it does and with a vengeance. Weeds in the hot wet tropics smother turf and take over amenity grassland spreading from these sites to cover hard surfaces at phenomenal rates.**

No part of the tropical sports and leisure facility escapes. Weeds will infest greens, tees and fairways, turn any 'rough' into a veritable jungle and completely clog up streams, drainage ditches, ponds and lakes.

Weed frequency, intensity and growth rate are exceptionally, high boosted by high temperature, humidity and soil moisture level. In regions lacking a dry season weeds grow and reproduce throughout the calendar year.

Facilities in regions with a distinct dry season are given some respite but instantaneous bursts of weed growth with onset of the rains has to be seen to be believed, and requires prompt sustained control. Turf Managers in temperate countries face a seasonal resurgence of weeds, but this will pale into insignificance in the humid tropics where weeds move so fast you can almost see them grow.

Many of the worst tropical weeds started life as 'ordinary' wild plants within restricted habitats and geographical distributions. Redistribution of plants by agriculture and horticulture during colonial times (18th and 19th centuries) spread lots of wild plants that subsequently acquired turf and amenity weed status throughout the tropics.

Nowhere is this more true and apparent than in the Caribbean, historically most visited part of the world by man and plant alike.

The following observations on weeds of turf and amenity grass were made in the twin island nation of Trinidad and Tobago southernmost of the Caribbean island countries and just a few miles off the coast of South America.

These islands provide an ideal location to gauge the breadth of tropical turf and amenity weeds. Not only do they support weeds native to South America, to which Trinidad was once joined, but others from across the world introduced deliberately or accidentally, especially by The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (now the St Augustine Campus of The University of The West Indies) with its roots way back in the 19th century.





### Surface spreading tropical turf weeds

Surface spreading weeds create big problems for turf and amenity managers with a wide range of creeping and matt-forming broad-leaf herbaceous plants responding rapidly to high temperature, rainfall and humidity. The most effective and successful are those with running and creeping stems, above or below ground, especially if they root at the nodes.

Many which spread by nodal rooting, as their creeping stems elongate, can spread a metre or more across impenetrable hard

surface, still supported by root anchorages on adjacent turf.

Tropical (warm season) grasses in sports and amenity turf generally possess much broader leaves and form thicker swards than do cool temperate grasses like *Festuca* and *Agrostis*. Growth rates are much faster too but still no match for dedicated matt forming turf weeds like *Alysicarpus* and *Sida acuta* (sweet broom). And opportunistic turf weeds including *Mimosa pudica* and *Desmodium* which rapidly colonise turf in the wet season forming large unsightly patches of weed growth in a remarkably short space of time



ABOVE LEFT: Rapidly spreading low-profile *Alysicarpus vaginalis*

ABOVE: Diminutive *Desmodium* in the long grass

ABOVE RIGHT: *Tridax procumbens* spreading from turf across a hard surface

ABOVE RIGHT (INSET): Willow leaved primrose (*Ludwigia*) is already in the UK

ABOVE FAR RIGHT: Carpet daisy is a problem on turf near the seashore

BELOW LEFT: Fast spreading *Mimosa pudica* swamps wet turf and amenity grass

BELOW: *Mimosa pudica*, *Sida acuta* and *Desmodium* have overwhelmed this turf

FAR RIGHT: Tropical turf grasses tend to have comparatively broad leaves

### Long reach of the legumes

*Mimosa pudica*, *Desmodium* species and *Alysicarpus vaginalis* are leguminous weeds of tropical turf. All three are important matt forming weeds of sports turf and savannah (parkland) grass spreading rapidly to colonise large areas in no time at all. All three will then spread out across adjacent hard surface areas for a considerable distance to cover substantial areas all supported by a root base now a good distance away.

Each spreads through creeping and ground hugging stems which freely root at the nodes. *Alysicarpus*







vaginalis is a dedicated low growing creeping herb while the others are more versatile, evolving a low profile habit in frequently cut turf and semi-erect woody stems in amenity grass. The delicate reddish purple bean-like flowers of *Desmodium* and *Alysicarpus* borne on erect stalks can be confused but are easily distinguished from the light purple/mauve pompom flowers of *Mimosa pudica*.

The best way to separate them is by the foliage. *Alysicarpus* bears simple rounded to boat-shaped leaves in alternate positions along the stem. *Desmodium* has compound leaves comprising one pair of side leaflets and a terminal leaflet each on a short stalk. Technically, it is a compound pinnate structure but at first glance looks like a three leaflet compound palmate leaf. *Mimosa* has a compound pinnate structure with leaves pinnately arranged into one or two pairs of leaflets further subdivided into 10 to 20 pairs of smaller leaflets. The leaflets are sensitive and close up when touched.

*Mimosa pudica* is viscosely thorny and not the sort of weed welcomed on sports grounds and other public places like parks and savannahs. On the other hand the soft leaves and stems of *Alysicarpus* (called Alyce clover by farmers in North America) provide highly nutritious animal fodder.

All three contribute to soil fertility

via nitrogen fixation by symbiotic rhizobia bacteria in the root nodules, although this will be of little consequence on fine turf that is regularly fertilized and sprayed with herbicide to maintain weed-free status.

#### **All things to all habitats**

*Sida acuta* (Malvaceae) is called sweet broom but there is nothing sweet about this plant as one of the most versatile amenity weeds of the wet and humid tropics. Plants develop rapidly into low-growing herbs up to one metre high in open waste places, or stay as a prostrate plants in grassland or closely mown turf, still producing the peach coloured flowers on a daily basis.

This bushy plant with woody stems has short hard hairs making it rough to touch and difficult control when fully grown. In the prostrate biotypes infesting turf the whole leaf takes on a reddish hue. Flowers are delicate and peach coloured having a translucent basal area with orange coloured 'veins' (lines or creases) extending up to the apex of the petal.

Despite its weed status sweet broom does have some positive points, apart from the beautiful flowers. The hard wiry stems can be cut and tied in bundles to make brooms for sweeping and the macerated stem and leaf tissue are traditionally used as a poultice

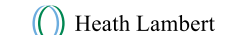
**Willow leaved primrose (*Ludwigia*) is already in the UK (inset above) whilst carpet daisy is a problem on turf near the seashore**







ABOVE RIGHT: Large butterfly populations make herbicide use a tricky business. *Euploia hegesia* (brown biscuit butterfly) shown here on *Bidens pilosa*, and ABOVE SECOND RIGHT on *Tridax procumbens*



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

Thankyou to all our key sponsors

to alleviate the pain and swelling associated with sprains.

### Daisies everywhere

The most ubiquitous and versatile weeds of temperate amenity habitats are plants from the family Asteraceae (Compositae), including dandelions, daisies, cat's ear and ragwort. The same situation occurs in the tropics where two white 'daisy-like' weeds are among the most widespread and adaptable weeds.

With its rough non-descript daisy-like flowers, *Tridax procumbens* is one of the most frequently occurring and fast spreading weeds throughout the tropics. Biggest weed problems occur in the amenity sector where it spreads quickly and efficiently rooting at the nodes into soft ground and from there across adjacent hard surfaces. Flowers are single heads 15mm wide with short widely spaced cream coloured ray florets surrounding a round central core of densely packed yellow disc florets. Leaves are very hairy and rough to touch and the flowers more resemblance to thistle heads than daisies, hence the common name of rabbit thistle. Two interesting common names have evolved in creole dialects of English speaking Caribbean islands like Trinidad with its strong historical French influence. They are 'mawgwit blan' derived from 'Marguerite Daisy' (white daisy) and 'bouton blan' derived from 'bouton blanc' (white button).

Like its temperate relatives *Bidens pilosa* crops up everywhere through prolonged flowering periods, high seed set and efficient means of fruit and seed dispersal. All opportunities and niches on disturbed ground and cracks in pavements or walls are exploited to the fullest extent.

Each flower is a capitulum consisting of 5 to 6 white petals (ray florets) surrounding a dense cluster of yellow disc florets in the centre. *Bidens pilosa* has a wide range of common names including Spanish Needle, Cobbler's Pegs and Farmer's Friend. 'Rabbit Meat' is the most commonly used name in Trinidad where its soft succulent growth available year round is traditionally used as rabbit feed.

### Sand, sea and rough

Sand in bunkers is one thing but encroaching sand from the sea-shore which many golf courses in the Caribbean are unavoidably near is another. As such greenkeepers

invariably have to cope with weeds that are both xerophytic (adapted to the dry conditions of sandy soils) and halophytic (adapted to high salt concentrations). Classic in the Caribbean is *Wedelia trilobata* (carpet daisy) with creeping stems, leaves shaped like duck's feet and bright yellow daisy like flowers.

The 'rough' as an area of unmanaged grass does not take on the same importance on tropical golf courses and for very good reason. On temperate courses grass may typically reach a metre high during spring and summer and then die right back until the following spring. Not so in the tropics where grass grows throughout most of year with many species like elephant grass reaching three metres with ease. It is not so much the case of losing the ball but of losing the golfer.

### Herbicides and environmental integrity

Three factors make herbicide use a difficult and tricky operation. First is high rainfall so timing is critical. Second there is a tradition of grazing animals on public amenity land. Last but not least, is the question of environmental integrity and preserving biodiversity. UK Turf Managers are under increasing pressure to protect and preserve wildlife including insects and especially butterflies. In variety and density the UK butterfly population pales into insignificance compared with that in the Caribbean. The most notorious weeds like *Tridax procumbens* and *Bidens pilosa* are often the most attractive to butterflies.

### Wet weeds on the move

Equatorial regions are inherently wet and humid with weeds adapting to suit. Waterways, lakes, ponds, ditches and drains are continually clogged up with weeds and some are not as tropical as you might think. The willow leaved primrose (*Ludwigia* species), so called because the leaves are willow shaped and the yellow flowers resemble primroses, have been found on at least two sites in the United Kingdom – the New Forest in Hampshire and a wetland site in the City of London.

The weed is well established in France. Another nominally tropical weed of damp wet places is not too far away. *Eclipta prostrata* (false daisy) is currently causing big weed problems in southern Europe having already invaded North America reaching as far north as New England.



# Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

## Become a key sponsor

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

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



Gallagher Heath





# Home from the hills

Some of the hardiest of all grass varieties are finding their way into new turfgrass mixtures that can create the perfect fairway playing surface

**The choice of cultivars for fine turf applications such as golf is usually a done deal, with chewings and slender creeping red fescues dominating the mix. But there's a new kid on the block that's set to transform the turfgrass climate of the game.**

Well, not so much new as home from the hills. Sheep's and hard fescues have roamed free across much of the grass and moorland of Britain for centuries.

Probably introduced into the catalogue of grass cultivars in the 19th century, they found few if any sporting uses, being sown largely for low maintenance landscape features, where their evolution to cope with the poor quality, well-drained soils of heaths and mountain regions found a ready application.

Hardy, dense, drought resistant and disease tolerant, they're one of the reasons that grass has become so dominant a species across the landscape.

Lush green in winter and summer, these varieties are as tough as they come but only relatively recently have thoughts

turned to applying them to sporting applications requiring the highest quality fine turf.

Preferences are moving strongly towards more sustainable green-keeping practices that focus on less feeding and watering.

The quantities of weed grasses such as *Poa annua* present in many fairways for example has until now made these twin cost centres a fundamental requirement.

Such grasses are both hungry and thirsty and soon show sickly signs if greens staff fail to satisfy their needs.

Sheep's and hard fescues can change all that. They are perfectly comfortable in the kind of conditions that a grass such as *Poa annua* struggles in, allowing managers to introduce a new level of sustainable grass management.

"Areas full of weed grasses such as *Poa annua* are no longer financially viable to feed and water to high standards," said Derek Smith, Amenity Sales Manager for DLF Trifolium.

"We're building on these grasses' ability to tolerate dry conditions and tick all the green boxes that

private and public clubs and facilities are clamouring for in their bid to introduce sustainable grass management," adds Smith.

Leading the charge of sheep's and hard fescues are the cultivars Manetto and Quatro, which DLF Trifolium claims, outstrip many of the current chewings and slender creeping red fescues across the spectrum of characteristics.

Independent trials conducted on the new cultivars prove that they are prime performers in shoot density, visual merit and winter and summer greenness.

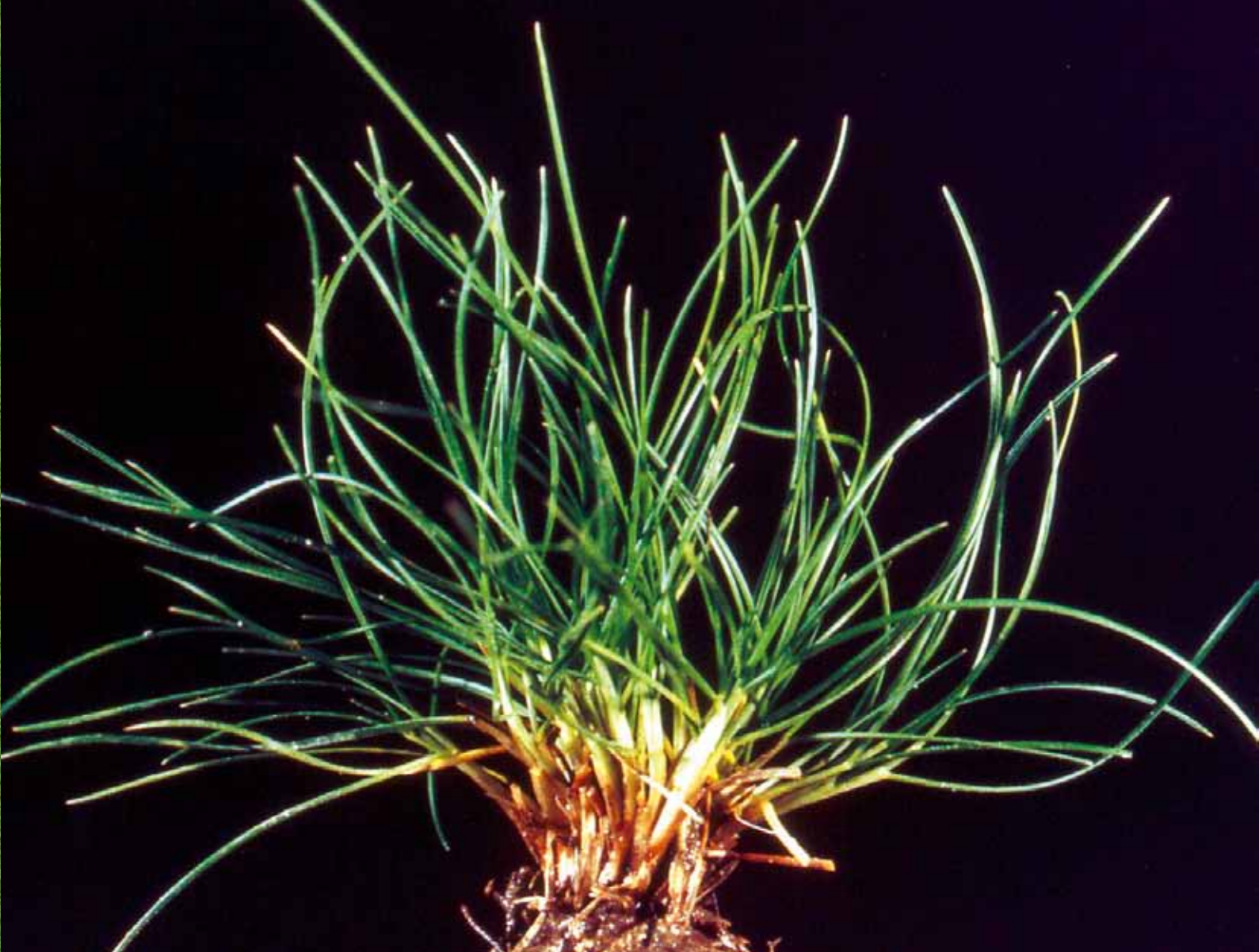
"Their fine, dense, exceptional dark green colour is maintained in times when many grasses yellow off," added Derek.

"Extremely hardy and drought resistant, they can stand the close cutting that many golf courses conduct."

The Turfgrass Seed 2011 publication – prepared by the British Society of Plant Breeders in association with the Sports Turf Research Institute – is the bible for seed buyers and the only truly independent source for them to compare the qualities of available cultivars.







Quatro (*Festuca ovina*) and Manetto (*Festuca longifolia*) top the league table (L6) for sheep's and hard fescues respectively for summer sports.

The importance and use of hard and sheep's fescues will rise significantly in the coming years and, as Derek believes, not only because of the improvement in turf quality gained in using them but also in terms of financial benefits gained from lower fertilising, weeding and watering requirements.

"In our breeding plots and in the STRI trials, they have demonstrated an unprecedented degree of disease resistance [Quatro showed by far the greatest resistance to red thread of any of the sheep's and

hard fescues in the table].

"Their exceptional shoot and sward density also reduces the likelihood of weed grasses becoming established as clubs don't want the turf to open up.

"We soon realised their importance in sustainable turf management in fine turf applications.

"Golf fairways for example can demand extensive watering and management so we decided to investigate how Quatro and Manetto could help managers introduce less onerous practices."

At its Didbrook R&D centre in Worcestershire, DLF Trifolium embarked on trials to determine what percentage of sheep's and hard fescues in seed mixtures could create the optimum inclusion rate in its Johnson's seed mixtures to deliver the required benefits.

Over the last two years, its breeding scientists have been proportionately increasing the presence of the cultivars within J Fairway and have doubled the inclusion rate of the original mixture - from 20% to 40%.

"We have settled on 40% as the optimum level - 20% each of Quatro

and Manetto in J Fairway as well as J Premier Fairway mixtures," Smith notes.

"This percentage strikes a good balance in terms of price, speed of establishment - which is not quite as quick as strong creepers but we have included chewings and slender creeping red fescues in the mixture, which shows good salt tolerance and comparable density.

The latest STRI trials demonstrate that we have achieved pretty much the right balance."

The sheep's and hard fescues in the mixtures grow slowly, helping greens staff to reduce the frequency of cutting and the quantity of clippings taken, which in turn reduces their carbon footprint.

According to Derek, the chewings and slender fescues included, offer extra fineness and show strong speed of establishment.

"What develops after sowing is a tight, fine, highly coloured sward, creating what many would argue is the perfect fairway.

A big green carpet that makes lighter demands on staff resourcing and less wear and tear on machinery."

**"Golf fairways can demand extensive watering and management so we investigated how Quatro and Manetto could help managers introduce less onerous practices"**

**Derek Smith, DLF Trifolium**



## 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



### Central

The Section AGM was held at Elmwood training room on October 26 with 14 members in attendance. Those present heard how the Section had a successful year with the two golf outings being well supported with the new pair's competition proving popular. This was won by Gavin Neill and Marc Gentles, of St Andrews, who narrowly beat Davie Simpson and Tam Adams, of Crieff, in the final, played over the Rosemount course at Blairgowrie.

The Section had staged a number of educational events in 2011 which were well attended and the various speakers were thanked for their help in staging these. The accounts showed a healthy balance. Derek Robson, Bob Meikle and Gordon Moir remain as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary respectively, while the only changes on the Committee saw Donald Garner stand down after a number of years service while Lee Strutt and Kenny Liddell were elected to the Committee. Prior to the AGM Cale Bigelow gave an informative presentation on soils and rootzones. At the time of writing, Kenny Archibald, of Sherriff's Amenity, is scheduled to talk on Nov 30, again at the training room at Elmwood, although unfortunately the talk with Marsh Benson, of Augusta National, did not materialise. It has been an exceptionally mild spell of weather in the East through October and early November, ideal for getting on with the winter work. Let's hope it continues.

The Section plans to do all

correspondence by email, or via the website and facebook, next year therefore it's important that members provide their email addresses either to me, [gmoir@standrews.org.uk](mailto:gmoir@standrews.org.uk) or to BIGGA HQ so we can add them to the database.

Finally for 2011 the Committee congratulates Andy Mellon on his year as National Chairman and wish all our members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Gordon Moir



### West

Since the last meeting only a couple of items to mention with the most important being the AGM and talk held at Ibrox on October 27, with food and demonstration organised later at Haggs Castle Golf Club.

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to say thank you to all who attended and both facilities for allowing proceedings in the first place, unfortunately I did not attend as I was on holiday but I have been informed as to how the day went.

A talk was given by David Roxburgh on the methods used at Ibrox, the problems with light restrictions and how they have managed to combat all the difficulties associated with modern football stadia management. Discussions were taken to the pitch where a demonstration of the artificial lighting method was given and an explanation of how the product works, with a visual inspection showing the impressive results. Next came the AGM itself with some interesting results as Gavin Jarvis had stated he intended stepping down as Secretary but would remain as Treasurer. Two

candidates came forward with Brian Hillen and Fraser Ross putting themselves forward and after a tied vote Fraser Ross was voted in by the Chairman's deciding vote. I wish Fraser all the best in his new role and would like to extend thanks to Gavin for all his work in the last eight years. I would also like to thank the sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor and Hamilton Bros, for all their efforts and state the Section very much appreciates what they have done for the day to ensure all went successfully.

Some correspondence has been received which I very much appreciate, Neil Lindsay, Head Greenkeeper at Eastwood Golf Club, contacted me to say he had attended a seminar run by Carolyn Hedley, of the Scottish Golf Environment Group, which he thought was extremely interesting stating that he's been in the game 37 years and is still learning. Neil thoroughly recommends people to attend should this run again and if there are any questions to be asked about the day please feel free to contact him on 07747061932.

Secondly, Buchanan Castle Golf Club staff are participating in the well published Movember where all the staff are growing a moustache for charity raising money towards prostate and testicular cancer something very relevant to the male dominated Greenkeeping industry. If anybody in the Section wishes to donate anything then please feel free to contact Mark Cummin on 07747061932 to find out how to go about it.

I hope everybody has a good Christmas time and new year, I will report back on the night out in town on the 25th and how Mark and the chaps got on with Movember.

Finally please contact me if you have anything interesting going on 07790823914 or [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com).

Stuart Taylor



### North

Hi it's Ross MacRae here your new Section News person. I would firstly like to thank Dale and Robert for doing the report for the last few months but it's time for them to move over and let a professional do it.

I would like to start with the AGM at Longside Golf Club on October 20. Eighteen members attended and played 18 holes of golf and a good day was had by all. Our thanks go to the Club Council of Longside and Head Greenkeeper, Josh Lester, and his staff, for setting up the golf course.

There were two winners on the day our Chairman, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, won first prize with George Mitchell. Newmachar, runner up. So well done to them.

There was a change with the committee set up with Robert Hardie stepping down and Paul Sharp, from Peterculter Golf Club, coming on to carry on with the 200 club. The Committee would like to thank Robert for all his hard work over the years and best wishes for the future. Other news is our good friend Brian Anderson has retired early and left Murcar Golf Club after 14 years in charge.

We would like to wish him all the very best for the future. Brian's position has been filled by Bob Mackay who moved up from the Roxburghe, so we would like to wish him the very best in his new role.

I will hopefully have more news next month when I settle more into the job. If you have any news at all please call me on 07588896635.

Thanks for now  
Ross MacRae.



## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well, now the clocks have changed it seems that winter is just around the corner, and time to start on the programme of winter works. On October 18 the Section entered a team in the Inter Section golf at Teesside GC. Thanks go to Tony Smith and his team for a great course and hospitality, also to White Moss for sponsoring the day. It was won by a strong Sheffield side, the present holders of the trophy.

Sadly this is my last newsletter, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last couple of years, and to wish Andy good luck as new Section Secretary.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you at some of the future golf events. As usual any news or gossip please pass it on to the new sec. Andy Slingsby, 13 The Grove, Baildon, BD17 5NQ, Mob 07506407867, email slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com.

Frank Stewart



### Cleveland

Hello everyone, hope you are fit and well. Firstly, the lack of news put into the magazine over the past months is due to the lack of news given to print. Please, if you have any news, send me an email or give me a bell. Apologies on my behalf for one of the months, I forgot to get it in on time.

The clocks have gone back, the leaves are falling and Christmas will be here before we know it. I am just about ready to dig out the old thermals, and everywhere I look on the course there is leaves, leaves and more leaves.

The rather mild temperatures have meant that we are still cutting, albeit not at the same pace as mid-summer but nonetheless, when combined with the monotony of leaf collection, were just about as busy now as we are in summer. I might have to truck a load over to Pembo at Cleveland just so he doesn't forget what they look like!

The Autumn Tournament was scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, at Eaglescliffe G.C, but unfortunately Mother Nature seemed to have different ideas. The heavens opened and the course was unplayable, much to the annoyance I am sure of Geoff and the rest of his team. The day was re scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, and was kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Unfortunately I could not attend but I am told that the course and the greens were in unbelievable condition, and given that it had to be re scheduled to a later date - a great course was produced by Geoff and his team. Following the golf, a lovely meal was served in the clubhouse and prizes were handed out. Results are as follows

1. Martin Woods, 40pts; 2. Phil Hargraves, 38pts (back 9); 3. Alan Reid 38pts; 4. Paul Legg 36pts; 5. And, with the words of , "God knows how" Bishop's very own stand up comic, Phil Graham, 33pts; 6. Spuggy, 32pts (back 9); 7. Mark Brown 32pts; 8. Richie Hood, 30pts; 9. Chris Fidell, 29pts (back 9)

Trade Prize winner was David Snowdon. Longest Drive was claimed by Phil Hargrave. Nearest the Pin was won by Paul Legg.

Just like on Bullseye, Pembo always makes sure no one goes home empty handed and everyone got a prize with the famous Pembo fun dip raffle, complete with Halloween buckets and sweets, it meant everyone won something.

It goes without saying that we are in very tough times, and as such, for any business or organisation to allow something such as courtesy golf is a kind gesture.

With that in mind I would like to on behalf of the Cleveland Section, thank Eaglescliffe G.C and its officials for allowing us courtesy on the course. Thanks to the catering staff and clubhouse staff also.

Thanks to, in no particular

order, Border Sports, Aitkens, Blade Amenity, Boxer Chemicals and Turfcare, for donating prizes and supporting our events.

A big thank you to Rigby Taylor, and Jamie Applegarth, for sponsoring the day, without such support these days would not be possible.

Finally, these days do not run smoothly just by themselves. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to organise cards, prizes and make all the catering arrangements. Ian Pemberton is the man who works very hard time after time, organising and picking up prizes, receiving entries, sorting cards out etc. It goes without saying that Ian deserves a big pat on the back for his hard work.

By the time you read this some of our Section events will have been and gone, but the Annual "Bring a bottle" at Cleveland GC is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. Tee off will be 10.30am but you must arrive at 9.30am. The cost of this is only £15 and includes a meal afterwards. You must provide a bottle with preferably a good content of alcohol, all wrapped

up for the raffle.

These days are very popular, and the links at this time of year has provided us with great conditions in the past. Book early to avoid disappointment. Cheques or cash must be sent to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 8QR. The cheque must be made payable to Cleveland BIGGA Section.

That's all for now

Any news contact me 07921817857 or kevscarce@aol.com

Kevin Scarce



### North Wales

Hopefully by now we're heading towards completion on the major construction work planned for this winter, I don't know about you but I always feel it's best out of the way by the Christmas break and before the really bad weather kicks in.

The autumn tournament took

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Jill on 01347 833800

## BIGGA

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place at Porthmadog golf club on October 11 and with 32 players the results came in as follows:

1. Andrew "Acorn" Cornes & Huw Brown, 39 pts; 2. Barry Jones & Garry Huggett, 37 pts (BIH); 3. A. Hughes & K. Griffiths, 37 pts. Nearest the Pin went to Jez Hughes, on the 2nd and Peter Lacey, on the 9th.

I didn't attend this tournament but by all accounts the course was in brilliant condition an absolute testament to the hard work of Gareth "Bronco" Williams and team. You have every reason to be proud! A big thank you also goes to the clubhouse staff for the warm welcome and good hospitality.

The Christmas Tournament and AGM took place at Heswall Golf Club on December 7, as always this column goes to print before the actual day so as usual results and write up will be posted in January's column.

The regional seminar took place at Birchwood golf club on November 30. The subject was "Weather it's ecologically sound" and the day was a success with very interesting speakers. It was a real treat to be able to attend a regional seminar and I only hope that splitting the seminar between a northern and southern venue continues.

We are considering once again this year putting on a coach to Harrogate to take in the show but it will only be organised if there are enough "bums on seats" so anyone interested please contact Jeremy or myself, we need to know numbers by Monday, January 9 so we can decide viability of the trip and organise a coach. Don't forget to check out our Facebook group North Wales bigga and also the main BIGGA website for upcoming events and discussion boards.

I believe that just about covers everything for this month so all the best until next year!

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com mobile 07756001187



## North East

Right here we go again with the Section news. Always a

hard time of the year for doing a report, made worse for no news coming in via the telephone or mobile. Let's see what I can make up this time (just joking).

No doubt a lot of courses will be in full swing on their winter programme. One such course is my ex-workplace Hexham which is having to alter the right side of the 2nd par-3 hole due to it being a health and safety issue, with the steep bank right of the existing path. The bank steepness is to be altered so it can be maintained more easily, plus the bunkers are been brought up to the same design as the rest of the course which has seen all the bunkers done over a period of six years.

Just been checking on membership in the Section and numbers have dropped over the last couple of years, there has been at least three retirements, redundancies, relocation and those who have not renewed for various reasons. You don't have to play golf to be a member there are lots of greenkeepers in our Section who are not members, or have ever been, so I say to the Head Greenkeeper "Come on get your staff signed up, there are loads of benefits for all".

Next year will hopefully see two new courses chosen for the Spring and Autumn comps. Apparently the Cleveland Section would like to try their luck against us in a match. Let's hope they can do better at match-play than stroke-play if the recent team event at Teeside Golf Club is anything to go by for the Whitemoss Shield, I must congratulate Head Greenkeeper, Tony Smith, on his course as it was in first class condition. As everyone agreed a fine day was had by all.

Reckon that's all I can muster up this time hope some news comes in shortly.

Jimmy Richardson



## Sheffield

It's upon us again and seems to have got here quicker than wanted. It's Christmas - a time to forget our woes and revel in the Christmas spirit for a few days.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Autumn Lecture, which was a fantastic afternoon with a very inspirational speaker in Jim McKenzie MBE.

It was particularly nice to hear Jim talk about his staff with such passion over the four days of the Ryder cup and praise them for what was truly a massive operation.

I would like to thank Jim for taking the time to come to Sheffield and provide such entertainment and insight for our members. I would also like to thank Cheshire Turf Machinery and Whitemoss for their sponsorship which enabled the day to go ahead.

I'm sure you will have all received your Christmas golf invitations and you will have all posted them back to Andy, and don't forget it's everyone's favourite time of the year and the AGM. A full results list will be posted on Facebook and in next month's issue.

It is with regret that I have to announce our Treasurer, Alan Sampson, has decided to hand over the reigns this year.

Alan has been an extremely dedicated servant to the Section for many years and covered many roles. The work he does is a massive help to the Section and the operation runs very smoothly because of this. I would personally like to thank Alan for his work and I'm sure you all will as well.

Due to this we will be looking for someone to fill the role and Alan has agreed to help a willing volunteer into the role for a while, which is very good of him.

I expect my phone will red hot with members wishing to take on the role and dependant on numbers we may have to look into an interview process to find the ideal candidate!

As a Committee we are striving once again to improve the Section for the year coming and have many ideas we are trying to get off the ground but as I have said before if any members have any ideas then please contact a member of your Committee.

I hope you all have the most wonderful Christmas and New Year and a very prosperous 2012.

Best wishes  
Jim Stevens

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

Hello all,

The first thing to do is apologise for the lack of updates over the last two issues. Unfortunately I have been away and busy, as much as I would like to think I was busy being away on a beach in the Caribbean, it has not been so! And it's been as boring as being busy in the day job!

We have lots to catch up on so I will crack on with news on the Headland Pairs competition. The final was played over the challenging Oxfordshire GC and saw Glyn Buckby & Simon Banks take on Adi Porter & Frank Kempster. After a close run match Glyn and Simon ran out victors on the 16th green with a 3&2 win. Congratulations to them and thanks to everybody that took part in the competition this year.

Forest Hill GC was the venue for our autumn comp and AGM. News on the golf in a moment! At the AGM all committee members were re-elected, with myself as Chairman and Treasurer; Nick Miles, as Secretary; Greg Skinner as Vice Chairman, Nigel Colley as "Director of golf" (come on guys we all know that in the golf industry every management committee has to have one!) and Asa English, who was welcomed onto the committee in a soon to be disclosed role. Carl Chamberlain was also re-elected as our trade representative. The committee restated its desire to try and encourage more members to attend events and as such will endeavour to host some different days out and trips, so watch this space!

Now, back onto the golf results, and it goes without question that the first thing to do is to thank our sponsors for the day, these were Henton and Chattell, Sherrieff Amenity, Banks Amenity and Amenity Technology, and, as always, Tacit for the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive comps. The course at Forest Hill was in tremendous condition, and we



would like to extend our thanks to Course Manager, Greg Skinner, and his team, with many of us commenting that we were looking forward to returning to play from some of the new tees! Nearest the Pin was won by Nigel Colley, and Mick Marvel respectively, with Dan Branson and Gary Thurman winning their respective Longest Drive competitions. The main competition was a Texas Scramble, played in teams of three. In third place was the team of James Robson, Andy Marsh and Chris Weir, second place was the team of Sam Voss, Adrian Henshaw and Roger Lupton. The winning team consisted of Lee Wenlock, Asa English and Dave Smith, and for those of you that know Dave, you know we won't hear the end of that one! Once again thanks to our sponsors, without your continued support we would not be able to host these successful days.

Our next event is our Christmas competition and "Super Raffle" this is to be held at Lingdale GC, and by now you would all have received your entry forms, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Regards to all,  
Pete Smith

## Midland



The final of the Scotts (now Everris Ltd) Doubles Final took place at the magnificent Wentworth Club, over the famous West Course. As always the finalists were welcomed with breakfast in the Clubhouse where they were surprised to be serenaded on the piano by Bruce Forsyth!

The golf course was in great condition as always and our special thanks to Chris Kennedy for allowing us the privilege of playing the course once again. The eventual winners were David Fellows from Cocks Moors Woods and his partner Rob Rowson from The Forest of Arden, who managed to defeat Steve Thompson from Trentham and his partner Leigh Swann from Trentham Park by a margin of 3&1. Congratulations to Dave and Rob. Our

biggest thanks are reserved for Mark Rayner, and Everris, whose hospitality is always first class so many, many thanks to you, Mark.

I now come to some saddening news, the fact that Abbey Mowers has disbanded. Mick Shaw has supported our Section for as long as I've been greenkeeping, quite a while then. From a personal note and indeed I feel the Section, Mick, we wish you well, and I dare say you won't be kept down for long our friend.

This month's calendar sponsor is our old stilton (come on it is the month of the birth of Christ), Tony Cheese, representing Rigby Taylor. Their Mascot range of fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, and other products within their fine remit are more than worthy of consideration. Tony can be contacted on: 07778 665 506 or emailed on: t.cheese@rigbytaylor.com.

Now looking forward to next year, there is an educational trip to the John Deere factory in Nottingham, Langer, through Kev Pugh and Farols. The trip is arranged for Wednesday, January 11, 2012, it includes travel from relevant locations within the Section, a tour of the factory, a talk about John Deere and free lunch.

If you are interested please contact either Rhys Thomas on: 07775 581 615 or Kev Pugh on: 07943 192 498.

We now come to the last words of 2011 and I have promised you all tales from the river bank for a number of months now. I shall spare you this once, just to say the photos of lovely sea trout landed (of course, returned), and the Salmon that got away, blar, blar, blar.

However, I do feel, more importantly, that we all owe a thanks of gratitude to our long suffering Committee members, who, it must be remembered, serve our Section within their own time and generate some excellent golfing and educational events, and also through their determination secure great sponsorship funds.

Our thanks to all of our sponsors and a merry Christmas to you all, and I'm sure you will all join me to thank our committee on the fine works that they have achieved during 2011.

A very merry Christmas to all,  
Sean McDade

## East of England



It seems strange as I write this at the end of October but Happy Christmas to everybody. Who knows what the weather will be doing by the time you read this. Hopefully things will have turned colder (without the snow) that the unseasonably mild conditions we seem to be having at the moment.

Our AGM and October golf day took place on October 12, at Orton Meadows Golf Club, in Peterborough. An interesting layout was provided in excellent condition by Head Greenkeeper, Phillip Wright, and his team.

The results of the day are as follows: 1. Steve Hopkins, 45 pts (as Competitions' Secretary he should be looking at his handicap!); 2. Phillip Wright (local knowledge); 3. Rob Welford; Trade: Gary Cooper; Longest Drive: Colin Hopper; Nearest the Pin: Phillip Wright

Orton Meadows is different in that what was once the clubhouse is now a restaurant run by Beefeater and it was here that our AGM was held, which was well attended as usual. No changes were made at committee level and detailed annual reports were given by the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

After the golf we were allowed to choose from the two courses for £10 menu which included 12oz rump steak and "bottomless" chips that was very well received!

Thanks for the day go to all at Orton Meadows and the Beefeater and also to the spon-

sors for the day, Colliers and Farmura for their excellent prize table and continued support of our section.

All that is left is for me to say all the best to everyone for the New Year. Hopefully things will improve for everyone out there that is struggling at the moment.

Steve Beverly  
Immingham Golf Club.



## BB&O

By the time you read this we will have played the Turkey Trot event at The Buckinghamshire Golf Club, weather permitting, either that or we will be under snow! Results will be published in next month's magazine. The standard and quality of courses played at this year's events has been fantastic and a credit to the respective Course Managers and their teams. In what has been a tough year it is heartening to see guys producing great golf courses which are a credit to the profession. It's worth mentioning that without the generous support of our sponsors these events could not happen and their commitment is greatly appreciated.

There have been some changes to the BB&O Section, with Matt Nutter taking over as Secretary. As you will have read in last month's column Mark Day has sharpened his (slightly withered) pencil for the last time! The Section would like to pass on their thanks to Mark for his efforts over the years. The BB&O website is being updated and improved which will fea-

## BIGGA Regional Conferences

### 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 & Wales

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



# Around The Green

ture: news, fixtures, education, entry forms, golf days, jobs and competitions. The site can be viewed at [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk). It has never been easier to network or keep up to date with what is happening. The BB&O Section has set up both Twitter and Facebook accounts. On Twitter we can be found at <http://www.twitter.com/bbogreenkeepers> and join us on facebook under the group name BB&O Golf Section.

The Section was well represented at the National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, which were played over a cracking course at West Lancashire. David Lyons led after the first round, however, the following days scores suffered where conditions were tough not helped by a night out on the town in Liverpool! The Midlands Section was well represented finishing runners-up in the Regional Cup which consisted of David Lyons, John Bowness (both from Deamwood Park), Simon Wooley (Castle Royal) and Paul Reeve.

The Rigby Taylor Pairs final was contested between Sonning GC and Deanwood Park GC, at The Berkshire GC. The teams were blessed with fantastic autumn weather coupled with superb playing surfaces producing some great golf – match play at its best! A big thank you must go to Moggie and his team for making everyone very welcome. Following some great golf both teams reached the 18th all-square. David Lyons and John Bowness continued their good form to win the final hole, crowning them the 2011 Rigby Taylor Winners. Congratulations I'm sure you will look forward to defending your title next year.

Our thanks to Gareth Acteson, of Rigby Taylor, for his continued support organising this event each year.

In other news from the Section Dan Lightfoot and his team at Bearwood Lakes have been busy over the summer with an ambitious renovation programme. The results look impressive with many positive comments received. This will undoubtedly set the bar higher maintaining and strengthening the clubs ethos and reputation. The team will be busy as they push on with the next phase of works this winter.

The committee are working

hard to improve the Section for the benefit of all members. If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: [bboscribe@gmail.com](mailto:bboscribe@gmail.com) or alternatively contact Matt Nutter [bbosecretray@gmail.com](mailto:bbosecretray@gmail.com)

Lastly, as winter is upon us, I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you again next year - role on 2012!

## South East Region



### East Anglia

I am pleased to report that our illustrious Secretary is alive and very well. After intensive tests and sleepless nights in hospital he came out with a virtually clean bill of health and contrary to popular belief, he is not the missing link!

Our latest venue was Aldeburgh Golf Club and after a mix up with the tee times, 50 of us ended up playing foursomes which was a shame as we could not play the course as we would have wished but it was the best of a bad job and it wasn't raining.

The course was in a fantastic condition thanks to Mark Broughton and his team. The greens were something else. Green lino perhaps? It was a privilege to be there. Well done mate.

Some of us (not me) managed to master the greens however, by using a feather duster instead of a putter.

Results: Tony Thacker & Nick Howes, 34 pts; 2. Ian Cambridge & Richard Southall, 30 pts; 3. Peter Howard (only 3rd) & Ray Forem, 29 pts; Danny Perring & Will Law, 29 pts

Nearest the Pin:- that's a laugh on those greens; 50 feet was a miracle! On the 17th it was Rob Boyce (28 ft 6 ins and he three putted). On the 4th it was Adrian Kersey (6 ft 11 ins and he four putted).

I may be prone to slight exaggeration from time to time and must never be taken too

seriously – just in case anyone wants to take me to court!

I digress. Longest drive - 9th Steve Dickinson and Longest drive - 18th Mike Virley

The main sponsor of the day was Tomlinson Groundcare – which reminds me, we all saw 'Tomo' by the 10th tee with his "nuts out" and other refreshments. Well someone, I think it was Nick Ashman, drank some firewater then proceeded to fall in the bunker by the 10th green, for which he was awarded the infamous loo seat.

Other trade donations came from our loyal supporters as ever: Aitkens, Bartram Mowers, Ernest Doe, Headland, Rigby Taylor and Ben Burgess.

Pause for thought:- Two Head Greenkeepers were discussing the merits (or lack of) of a Greens Committee – one said it took his committee two hours to decide the date of their next meeting. The other one said "only two hours"!

One final thought. I didn't know they had motor bikes on Thorpeness! Well on this note I got from Ian it says T.T. December 7.

That's all folks. Mick Lathrope

### Sussex



The annual match with Sussex, Surrey and Essex was recently played at Chichester Golf Club. Unfortunately, Essex could not make the numbers on the day and the competition was left to Sussex against Surrey. The course was in great nick and the food was excellent but Sussex were the underdogs on the day losing by just four points. Nearest the Pat the 15th hole went to Surrey man, Phil Rowlands, the Longest Drive at the 8th went to Surrey man, Jamie Jacklin. Overall, 41 well-earned points on count back went to a Sussex man (normally the bridesmaid) Glynn Pollard. Many thanks must go to everyone at Chichester Golf Club for making it such an enjoyable day.

Commiserations has to go to yours truly and Glynn Pollard who were knocked out of the Sussex Bowl by Gary Ogilvie and George Barr at Worthing

Golf Club. Gary played very well scoring a hand full of birdies. George was also there.

I would like to hear from Sussex members with any news to report Around the Greens. There must be a lot of activity out there that is not being brought to my attention for this very informative, well presented monthly communication for all. Contact me by phone or email.

Eric Green  
Beauport Park Golf Club  
01424-214600  
07805-024001  
[TheGreens837@aol.com](mailto:TheGreens837@aol.com)



### Kent

And so to the end of another year. A year of highs and lows that's for sure, but certainly finishing on a high for me. Our Section's golfing year has seen us travel to golf clubs at Lydd, Knole Park, Sittingbourne and, just a couple of weeks ago, to Redliff. We have seen so many new faces this year and we thank every one of you for your support for our Section and helping us to promote the image of professional greenkeepers up and down the land.

We would like to thank all these clubs for hosting events this year and we would also like to offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity in continuing to support our Section. We have now produced a full fixture list for next year, so please visit our website for full details.

Sorry this is only a short report but will make up for it next month with details of our Turkey Trot, AGM and extended prizegiving at Redliff.

Merry Christmas and a successful 2012

Best of British. Rob Holland  
[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)

### South East Regional Conference

16 November 2011, **Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex**  
Contact Clive Osgood, RA,  
01737 819343



## Surrey



Monday November 7. I have today been ringing a few Surrey members in the hope that someone has an exciting bit of news for me to relate to you all. Well, I have warned you many times in the past that if you don't tell me I will tell you. Therefore my latest holiday, was short, only a weekend break, Friday, October 28 to Sunday, October 30, in Studland Bay, Dorset, only a stone's throw from The Isle of Purbeck GC. I did not play golf, I did not join two other males in their pursuit of an all over sun tan on the naturist beach and I did not swim in the sea. I did eat three meals a day, drank a little vino and sampled the local public transport service, using my bus pass, to the delightful but slightly damp seaside resort of Swanage. Now if that doesn't bore you to tears, again be warned, I can go on with this sort of interesting travelogue for as long as it takes.

I hope you enjoyed the seminar, arranged by Les Howkins, on December 1. I was hoping to put the information in last month's edition but the speakers had not been finalised. Cameron McMillan was hopefully participating, probably on the same subject on which he will be speaking at Harrogate.

Thursday, October 27.

Many Surrey members gathered at Epsom GC to recognise the semi retirement of one of the industry's most underrated, but extremely handsome salesmen. Ron Christie and with limited help, but strong encouragement, from Douglas Iolanthe Fernie were the duo who thought up this tribute to the one and only yours truly.

Thanks to all my friends who attended this extravaganza and presented me with a fine selection of red wines and I look forward to next year, when I think we should do it all over again. Dan and Duncan, two Kent members who travelled far to be there, were also especially welcome. I played with Douglas, Ron and Paul Weston and with a little coaching from me Douglas [El Bandito] with

43 points came first and Paul [Aqua Cushman] was, with 37 points, runner up. Mark Harvey, Course Manager at Epsom, gets my gratitude for presenting the course, as always, in the sort of condition we expect and hope to find at any venue greenkeepers attend.

I have today been sent, by a Surrey Member, an informative text regarding this year's late leaf fall and how they are coping with the huge increase in the number of acorns, 10 times more than usual. He was also concerned that they are today under attack from a flock of seagulls, reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock's movie 'The Birds', but he did not go into details. If you have suffered from any similar problems please discuss them with this member, who wishes to remain anonymous, personally. Name and telephone number are available from the appropriate authority.

This is the sort of information I need to interest my readers, so please, follow XXX's example and text me your thoughts and experiences or it's back to the isle that's whiter than Wight.

Brian Willmott  
07879474038. Email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

## South West and South Wales Region



### South Wales

Hello South Wales. Well last month I wrote about the Rugby World Cup and I was hoping to be able to call ourselves World Champions but unfortunately there was a certain Irish French referee that had something to do with that! I'm so proud of all the lads it was great to be Welsh again even the Welsh flag was flying above Downing Street. Fair weather supporters I call it!

Onto the matters in hand we have held our autumn South Wales golf tournament at the beautiful Trefloyne Golf Club.

The course was outstanding how Gareth Knight and his one other staff member can maintain the course at that high standard is incredible. On the day the rain did threaten but we fortunately did miss all the showers and a good competition was had with Big D eventually knocking Andy Roach off the top spot. Peter Lacey was back in the prizes as the Trade Winner with Wayne Bengier and Nigel Ruck winning the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin respectively. A thank you must also go out to the catering staff whose meal and dessert after the golf was second to none.

With the golf over it was one last chance to have a beer with Steve Chappell before he left for Gleneagles and so I'm led to believe there wasn't much beer left in Tenby that evening! Again all the best to Steve and his family heading up north we wish you the best of luck and dryness possible.

Prior to the golf we did hold our AGM with Steve Chappell standing down Gareth Knight has been elected Secretary, Paul Handy as Chairman and myself back on as the Trade representative. Gareth and the committee will be looking at new fresh ideas to continue the great work that Steve Chappell has started and we will be looking very shortly of arranging a new format for the Countrywide Evening Lecture Series and everyone will receive an email confirming what all our new plans will be.

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club has now been confirmed as the host venue for the 2014 and 2019 Seniors British Open Golf Championship a huge congratulations to Ian Kinley, his team The Royal Porthcawl GC and even the Welsh Assembly, for supporting this event and again putting Wales golf and Welsh greenkeeping high up on the map. I have recently seen some of the subtle changes to some of the greens and realignment of some strategic bunkering not to mention the new 5th back tee possibly slightly sadist!

All the improvements are fantastic and I can't wait to play them in the New Year. With our Winter Competition being held here for the second year running on December 13, hopefully all of you guys can

## Assistant Profile

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

### Name:

Simon Connah

### Age:

39

### Club:

St. Andrews Links Trust

### Position:

Deputy Course Manager, Old Course.

**Nickname:** Si (there are others)!



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 22 Years.

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** I was lucky enough to work at the 84 Open whilst at school. My Grandfather also knew Walter Woods!!

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

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

Training & Developing Staff hopefully to help them progress.

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

Dealing with Staff discipline issues as most could easily be avoided.

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

An upturn in the Golf Industry which would hopefully provide opportunities for all, especially the Trainee Greenkeepers coming through College.

**7. Hobbies?** Football, Rugby Union, Live Music & Drumming.

**8. Favourite Band?**

Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band.

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

Dundee United FC

**10. What is your claim to fame?** Appeared on Sky Sports News chatting to, or maybe looked like 'harassing', Tiger Woods for his signature at the 2010 Open!



# Around The Green

attend the day and see some of the changes Ian has put to the course.

With Harrogate again coming closer please guys contact Jane Jones she has fantastic rates on rooms at the Cairns Hotel it would be fantastic to see as many of us up there as possible next year and yes I will get the beers in just you guys get up there.

Thanks for reading guys  
Peter Holmstrom



## South West

Hi Everyone, I have to start by apologising to you all for what has been a rather quiet month. So this is going to be short but still very sweet. I want to let you know what we have going on at the moment.

Paul and I are very keen at arranging more workshops/training days. Please feel free to let us know what it is you want to do and we'll do our best for you.

Any of you looking at attending Harrogate 2012, we can offer a free place, this is courtesy of our patronage partners. Send a letter or email to myself, stating why you should attend and what benefits you will receive while you are there.

An important date for your diary, Wednesday, December 14, the South West Section visits Burnham & Berrow G.C, this will be for our Christmas tournament, you know you really don't want to miss out on this!

We also have a new Facebook page for the South West Section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed Houses, Seadland, Avoncrop, Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

See you all very soon,  
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk  
07732503855



## Devon and Cornwall

Our November meeting was held at Carlyon Bay GC, in St Austell, Cornwall. A total of 55 attendees braved what was testing weather conditions for both the golf and the course walk. Despite the weather, the course held up very well. The Course walk was led by Brian Summers, Past Course Manager, and Steven Pope, Course Manager. Brian explained how the course was owned by the Brend Hotel Group and how the greenkeeping team structure was dictated by the owner's wishes.

Each area of the course is the responsibility of an individual i.e. one person in charge of greens, one in charge of fairways and so on.

This structure has been put in place so that each person can be held accountable for their area. Steven explained how this can be very frustrating and they are hoping to revert back to a more holistic approach where all staff can multi-task and be involved with maintaining all areas of the course.

There were many interesting features of the course including the remnants of old mine works throughout the course. A big thank you to Brian and Steve for their time and enthusiasm in leading the course walk.

The golf was an individual Stableford competition and a big thank you to those who took part and played as many holes as they could bear. For those who did actually make it around all 18 holes, prizes were sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery and Everris.

In first place with 28 points and winning on count back was Lloyd Overy, Lakeview GC, in second place was Graham Clarke, Chulmleigh, and in third was Jason Brooks, Torquay GC, with 27 points.

After a very welcome lunch our educational speaker for the day was Paul Morris, from GBR Technology. Paul's background is a chemist (Masters from Oxford), with 11 years formulating experi-

ence in surfactant containing products at Castrol (the surface treatment division rather than engine oils) and seven years at BASF selling surfactants into a range of industries including agrochemical adjuvants and turf wetting formulators. Most of the surfactant used in turf wetting preparations in the UK is BASF material. GBR Technology Ltd was incorporated in 1985 and has a heritage traced back to the Kodak Corporation over 40 years ago. The company developed a range of wetting agents in 2009 and have a reasonably small but growing number of accounts. Paul talked through the chemical structure of surfactants and how they work along with how they can be used. A big thank you to Paul for travelling down and giving up his time to share his specialist and extensive knowledge in this area.

Huge thanks to all the staff at Carlyon Bay for a great day despite the adverse weather conditions. Also, a big thank you to Steve Dommett, from Devon Garden, and Mark Raynor, from Everris, for attending, giving out the prizes and sponsoring the day.

Duchy College is offering a free Assessor update training session for Greenkeepers from Devon and Cornwall. This is for existing assessors who currently hold the D32/33 or A1 qualifications to meet the new TAQA Assessor requirements. This is a part of the Greenkeeper Industry Liaison and Standardisation Meeting taking place at Stoke Climsland in HE 2 on 07/12/11 from 9:00am-4:15pm (lunch provided). To get more details and to book your place, please contact Karen Davey 01579372220.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Meeting at Ashbury Golf Club, near Okehampton, in Devon. The format for the day will be to either play golf or attend the course walk, this will be followed by Christmas lunch, prizes and raffle. Following this there will be the opportunity to take part in various activities including snooker, indoor bowls and ten-pin bowling. The theme for the day will be "Devon v Cornwall".

There will be the opportunity to book accommodation at a cost of £25, this includes bed and breakfast and a further round of

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Christopher Wright, West Section  
Peter Murray, Central Section  
Alistair Morrison, Central Section  
David Burgess, North  
Ryan Stanhouse, Central  
Jamieson Henderson, Central  
Elliott Smith, Central

### Northern Region

Scott Needs, Northern  
Mark James, North  
Robert Lydon, North Wales  
Daniel Hahn, North West  
Christopher Chippindale, Northern  
Niall Robinson, Sheffield  
William Marriott, Sheffield  
Liam Plummer, Sheffield  
Stephen Warne, Sheffield  
Shaun Howbrook, North West

### Midland Region

Jack Glover, Midland  
Stephen Craft, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Simon Beard, East Midland

### South East Region

Joseph Blake, Surrey  
Alastair Moore, Kent  
Philip Cork, Surrey  
Aaron Temple, Surrey  
Ross Slade, Kent  
Daniel Weston, Kent  
Joshua Pickersgill, Surrey

### South West/South Wales Region

Robbie Vennard, South West  
Graham Howard, South Coast

### Overseas

Georgi Farfarov, Bulgaria  
Yavor Atanasov, Bulgaria  
Andrew Harvey, Netherlands

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

## BIGGA Regional Conferences

### 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 & Wales

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



golf the next day. Please contact me asap to secure a place as we expect this to be very popular!

George Pitts  
Section Secretary  
07929 754401  
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



## South Coast

December is here and we can look back on what has been a very challenging year and look forward with great hope that next year will be much kinder. The Section has been busy with a few people moving on and others taking up new positions. Steve Richardson moved from the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club to Parkstone Golf Club and we welcome him to the Section and wish him well. Roger Myatt has moved from Knighton Heath Golf Club to Doncaster and again we wish him well in his new position.

Alan Magee moves from Remedy Oak and is the new Course Manager at Knighton Heath. We congratulate him on his first appointment in that position, I have worked with Alan and know he will be a great asset to the club.

As Alan has moved on there have been promotions in the Remedy Oak team. Ed Carey has been appointed Deputy Course Manager and Rob Wills to First Assistant, congratulations to you both.

Finally, Graham Bungay, Head Greenkeeper at Wellow Golf Club has decided on a career change leaving the industry, so Simon Justice, from Alresford Golf Club, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper, again his first appointment in this position. Congratulations Simon, we wish you well and every success!

I know Robert spoke about BTME last month but a gentle reminder to make the effort to attend. There is an excellent education package covering every aspect of your jobs and the added knowledge not only expands your own but also helps keep you up to date of best practice and potential cost savings to your budgets with new developed products. The show is

also excellent and the opportunity to network with colleagues is excellent so make it a week not to miss.

Our own section seminar on February 15 is looking exciting and we have an excellent day planned. The venue is the magnificent Milton Abbey School where Joe Cooper is the Head Groundsman. Joe has been a long standing supporter of the Section both at our golf and education events but not many have had the opportunity to see the complexity of his position in managing the schools multi use sports fields.

We have been fortunate to attract some excellent speakers again this year including Jim McKenzie MBE, Cameron McMillan, Jonathan Worrall and Robert Wills.

The presentations will be held before lunch and then after lunch we will have a guided tour of the grounds where Joe will give us an insight to the challenges he and his team face in managing the grounds. All details will be very soon and we hope that you will as supportive to the day as you have before.

Our Section fixture card will also be with you very soon, which outlines the year ahead. As a Committee we are trying very hard to communicate information to you whether it though these pages, on the BIGGA website or on our Facebook page. If you feel we can do anything better please let us know, it's your Section and we endeavour to do our best for you. We all lead busy lives and times are difficult but attending section events is rewarding for yourselves and the committee so please try and support the section as much as you can, your section needs you!

I would like to finish by thanking Chris Bitten for all his hard work as Section Secretary. He worked very hard on the section's behalf and he thankfully remains an important committee member. Thanks Chris.

That just leaves me to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope it brings you everything you wish for. Enjoy the festivities, be safe and let's begin 2012 with a positive attitude, renewed hope and energy to make it a great year.

Alex McCombie Email south-coastsecretary@gmail.com



**Jim  
Croxton**  
Chief  
Executive

**It was a privilege recently to attend both the South East Region and South West and South Wales Region Conferences. Education underpins all that BIGGA does so it was heartening to see that the turnout out at both Conferences was excellent and there was a wide cross section of age and experience present.**

The format at both conferences allowed for interesting and thought provoking presentations including insights from turf managers in other sports. Importantly there was also time for question and answer sessions, along with sufficient breaks to allow Members to discuss the presentations heard as well as the hot topics currently affecting their own facilities.

## **A recurring theme was the challenge everyone faces to produce the playing surface required by the members or owners of each facility**

A recurring theme was the challenge everyone faces to produce the playing surface required by the members or owners of each facility. This was as true in golf as for the Essex County Cricket groundsman who discussed having to prepare either a dustbowl for a world class spinner one week and then a green top for seamers the next while I was astounded to learn that at The Hurlingham Club the croquet lawns were expected to stimp at over 10 feet for major competitions. Preparing the golf course in the best condition possible is the ambition of all of our members but it is clear that the Course Manager needs to be fully aware of the expectations of his or her Green Committee/Club Manager/Owner and, more importantly, needs to manage those expectations very carefully so that both parties aim for an achievable and agreed standard of presentation.

During the same week I also attended the Golf Club Managers Association's biennial conference in Hinckley. This was an excellent event with a wide range of topics discussed. Customer service was a high priority throughout but I came away with the strong impression that the modern Club Manager needs to be focussed on the sustainability and playability of the golf course. The conference itinerary included no fewer than seven different presentations related to elements of course management, it was not by any means an attempt to arm the Club Manager with the skills required to manage the course itself rather an opportunity to help them understand better the role that the Course Manager plays. This can only be a positive step in BIGGA's journey to raise the awareness of how vital professional course management is to the future health of the golf industry.

I look forward to meeting many more members at the various seminars and conferences that pepper the winter months and of course at BTME in just a few weeks time.

Jim Croxton





# Membership

**Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – start your year by organising your visit to...**

## **Harrogate Week 2012**

After a fantastic Harrogate Week 2011 (see right) we were left with the challenge of trying to better the Continue to Learn Programme, enhance the Exhibition and continue to provide Europe's largest turf management event.

## **We think we have done this for 2012....**

Be one of 6,000 visitors to visit Harrogate the home of BTME, Continue to Learn and ClubHouse and join visitors from around the world to attend an education event, which many industries can only envy, and an exhibition packed with experts showcasing the latest turf care technologies.

## **Continue to Learn 2012...**

...comprises one, two and three day Workshops, a Conference and seminars presented by a combination of Course Managers, industry specialists and companies exhibiting at the BTME exhibition.

## **The Turf Managers' Conference...**

...makes its return and features presentations from Dr Frank Rossi, from Cornell University, and Lesley Wood, a Social Media specialist. New workshops include Successful Project Management and Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers.

Some of the workshops are already FULL so don't hesitate visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and click on 'Events' to book online or ring BIGGA HQ on 01347 833800.

## **New for 2012 – Showfloor Theatre**

A new initiative for this year's exhibition, located next to the BIGGA Stand, is the Showfloor Theatre. Steve Isaac from The R&A will be talking about the R&A Greenkeeping Scholarships on Tuesday, and Jonathan Smith, from Golf Environment Organization, will be



talking about GEO Certification on Wednesday amongst many others. See the Continue to Learn 2012 brochure or visit the BIGGA website for up to date information.

## **BIGGA's 25th Anniversary and 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations**

BIGGA will be celebrating 25 years since it was formally created on January 1, 1987 from an amalgamation of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, The English and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and The Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. We will also be celebrating the centenary of the formation of the first Greenkeeping Association with a display at BTME.

Whatever your reason for visiting BTME 2012, you will be guaranteed one thing – you will expand your network. This is a brilliant opportunity to sound out the minds of those who have already been there, gained the experience and been at the face of the good and the bad in the industry, pick their brains, there is no point in re-inventing the wheel!

If you are to attend any exhibition in 2012 make sure it is BTME with FREE entry and a simple advance registration process, it is easy. Register at [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).

Don't forget to stop by the BIGGA Stand (Hall B Stand 23) and have a chat with the BIGGA Staff. We would welcome any feedback you have on membership issues, learning and development in fact anything you want to give feedback on! Or just stop by to say 'hello'.

## **BIGGA AGM – Wednesday, January 25 2012 at 5.15pm, Queens Suite**

Open to all Members of BIGGA, however, only FULL Members are entitled to vote.

Whether its up-market, mid-market, mass-market, niche-market, new products, new technology or new materials you'll find it all at Harrogate International Centre from 24th – 26th January 2012. I look forward to seeing you there.

## **Finally....**

Help your Association grow by sharing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join.

Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the BIGGA Staff. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your input, feedback, help and encouragement but mostly for your support, thank you and here's to 2012.



## **Contact Details**

**Tracey Maddison**  
[traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

### **Northern & Midland**

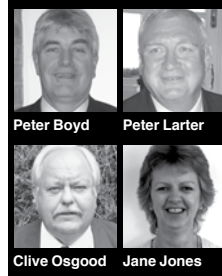
**Peter Larter**  
**Tel: 01737 819343**  
**Mobile: 07866 366966**  
[petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com)

### **South East**

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

### **South West & Wales**

**Jane Jones**  
**Tel: 01454 270850**  
**Mobile: 07841 948110**  
[jane@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jane@bigga.co.uk)



## **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 2011/12 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>DECEMBER 2011</b>			
December 5th	5 day Chainsaw Course CS30/CS31	Dedswell Manor Farm, Surrey	Jane Glassett at Jon Allbutt Associates Tel: 01959 575575 or email: jane@jonallbutt.co.uk
December 6th	Surrey Section AGM and Turkey Trot	Hankley Common Golf Club	Ron Christie Tel: 07778 170077 or email: lazyas-sron@bitopenworld.com
December 6th	Essex AGM and Team Event	Orsett Golf Club	Ian Wood Tel: 07952 470861 or email: ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk
December 7th	South Coast Section Winter Competition	High Post Golf Club	Alex McCombie Tel: 07561 001299 or email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
December 7th	Northern Section Christmas Golf Day	Selby Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby Tel: 07506 407867 or email: lynslingsby@sky.com
December 8th	East of England Section Event	Belton Park Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
December 13th	Cleveland Section Bring a Bottle Christmas Golf Day	Cleveland Golf Club	Ian Pemberton (Pembo) Tel: 07791 695768 or email: ispemberton@ntlworld.com
December 14th	South West Section Christmas Tournament	Burnham and Berrow Golf Club	Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
December 15th	South Wales Section Winter Competition	Royal Porthcawl Golf Club	Gareth Knight Tel: 07595 988512 or email gareth@trefloyne.com
December 15th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event	Ashbury Manor	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
<b>JANUARY 2012</b>			
January 9th	First Aid at Work	Berkhamsted Golf Club	Gerald Bruce Tel:07774 921606 or email: gerald@berkhampstedgc.co.uk
January 10th	3 day PA1/2/6A Pesticide	Kingswood Golf Club, Surrey	Jane Glassett at Jon Allbutt Associates Tel: 01959 575575 or email: jane@jonallbutt.co.uk
January 12th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event	Trevoise Golf Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
January 22nd – January 26th	Continue to Learn 	Harrogate International Centre	BIGGA HQ Tel:01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk
January 24th – January 26th	BTME 	Harrogate International Centre	BIGGA HQ Tel:01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk



**The ultimate**

**turf management**

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**24 - 26 JANUARY 2012**

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



**22 - 26**

**JANUARY**

**2012**



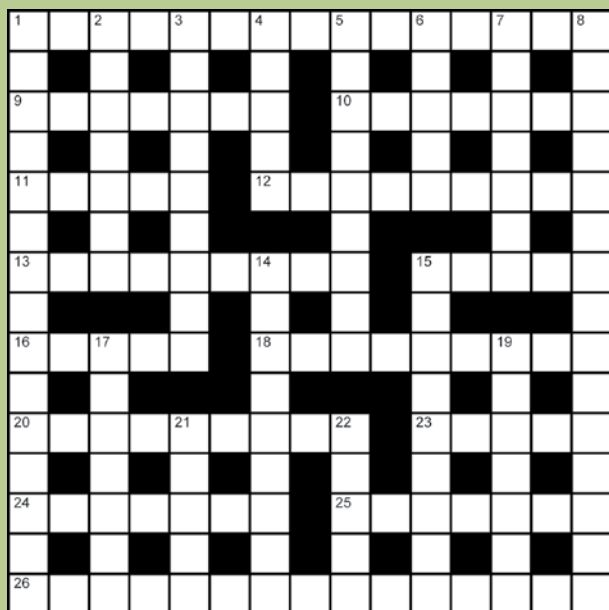




# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 So on and so forth (5,5,5)
- 9 Spiced up (7)
- 10 Alesha Dixon's original group (3,4)
- 11 A little hooter (5)
- 12 Egyptian pharaoh, known also as Ozymandias and The Great Ancestor (7,1,1)
- 13 Doer of good deeds, typically possessed of extraordinary powers (9)
- 15 Outbreak (5)
- 16 \_\_\_\_ the Peril, cartoon character in The Dandy (5)
- 18 Parts each making up approximately 9.090909% of the whole (9)
- 20 Game played at the opponent's venue (4,5)
- 23 Professor Brian Cox's former band (1-4)
- 24 Where an operation is undertaken if it is not outsourced (2-5)
- 25 A raised area of flat terrain (7)
- 26 Running competition involving transporting an ovoid in a small, handled bowl (3,3,5,4)

### Down

- 1 Song issued as a double A-side with Eleanor Rigby (6,9)
- 2 Evolve (7)
- 3 Stripped (2,7)
- 4 Native British snake (5)
- 5 Ghost actress (4,5)
- 6 Affirmative declarations (5)
- 7 Enrobes (7)
- 8 Silent, but for the squeaking (2,5,2,1,5)
- 14 Degree of deviance from the perpendicular (9)
- 15 In the red (9)
- 17 Selfish driver (4,3)
- 19 \_\_\_\_ May, Coalition Home Secretary (7)
- 21 Grieve (5)
- 22 African animal, named after a 'river horse' (5)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

### Festive Fun

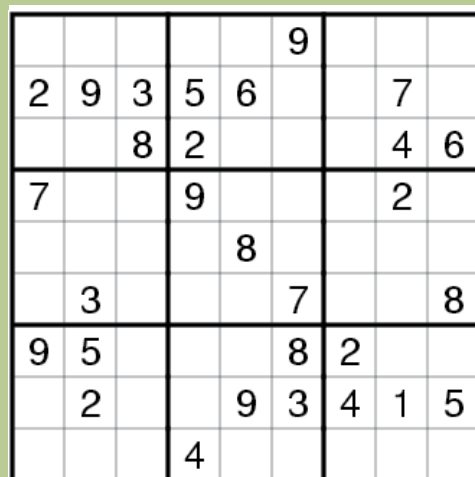
1. What is the name of the UK drag racing track?
2. In 1960 which Wilma was the first US track star to win three Olympic Gold medals at the same Games?
3. Which Paraguayan striker was transferred from Blackburn to Manchester City and has since moved to Real Betis?
4. Which Northern Ireland goalkeeper had a long spell with Manchester United?

5. Name the two-time US Open Champion whose nickname is often seen on the Christmas table.
6. Who is the English international striker who plays for Aston Villa and who is the club's second highest Premier League scorer.
7. What was the name of the greyhound owned by The Simpsons?
8. This golf club takes its name from the extremely festive Australian island on which it is built.
9. Name the horse with the Christmas-related name which won the 1964 Derby.



## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU

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

**Puzzle Answers on page 73**





# Greenkeeper Training



**A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK**

**BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.**

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo



**Sami Collins**  
**Head of Learning & Development**  
**BIGGA**

**01347 833800**

**sami@bigga.co.uk**  
**www.bigga.org.uk**

## SCOTLAND



**Cooper, Fife, KY15 4JB**

**Contact: wroberts@elmwood.ac.uk**

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**50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB**

**Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-556-3999**

**Fax: 0141-556-4999 learn@gostatraining.co.uk**

SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/ Sportsturf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery training, First Aid and many more. Candidates may use their Individual Learning Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.



## GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

**For more information contact the GTC on:**  
**01347 838640 or visit: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)**



## ENGLAND

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Block release courses: WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Groundsman Sportsturf Maintenance.

Short courses: FEPA spraying, irrigation, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

### Merrist Wood College

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE www.merristwood.ac.uk

Contact: Philip Mayes 07896 67 47 89 pmayes@guildford.ac.uk or Andrew McEvoy 07896 67 47 86 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk

Part-time courses: New Sports Management NVQ Level 4 - on-line distance learning course, Sports Turf Diploma Level 3 - on-line distance learning, Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 3, Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Groundsmanship Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Automatic Turf Irrigation Systems NPTC Certificate, NPTC courses including Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, FEPA Spraying and others. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the College.



Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL18 8PB

Duchy College, Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB

Contact: Liz Clarkson 01579 372345/07785 105087

liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk www.duchy.ac.uk

Duchy College offers a range of courses throughout the South West including Level 2 and 3 workbased Diplomas and Apprenticeships in horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture (Management). Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture (Including Sustainable Horticulture) FdSc and BSc (Hons) Horticulture. RHS Level 1, 2 and Advanced Certificate. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses to Greenkeepers and short courses in pesticides, plant machinery, vehicles, forestry and arboriculture.



Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY

Contact: Stewart Brown 01995 642305 www.myerscough.ac.uk

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Contact: Andrew Wight 01727 737735

andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk

www.oaklands.ac.uk

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Short courses: NPTC PA 1/2/6



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enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk

www.plumpton.ac.uk

Foundation Degree: Garden Design. Levels 2 and 3, Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: Work based Diploma: Level 1 and Level 2: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping and Horticulture. Parks, Gardens and Greenspace. Also RHS Level 2. Short courses available. FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke Training, following Training Needs Analysis (TNA).





**Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF**  
**Contact: Gareth Phillips 01270 613236**  
**enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk**  
**www.reaseheath.ac.uk**

Block release industry tailored courses include Level 2 and 3 Work Based Diploma in Horticulture / Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. Also: NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf (distance learning) and apprenticeships plus full-time Level 2 / Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture. Short courses include pesticide application, chainsaw operation, safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programmes available on request. Campus facilities include a commercial golf course, rugby and football pitches and Crewe Alexandra training grounds.



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**01962 797280**  
**enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk**  
**www.sparsholt.ac.uk**

Apprenticeships in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf). Short courses are available in C&G NPTC Chainsaw Operations, tree felling and clearing, operating brushwood chippers, MEWPs and other machinery operation, and safe handling and application of pesticides.



**Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire CV35 9BL**  
**Contact: Laura Savage 01926 318261 Fax: 01926 318300**  
**employers@warkscol.ac.uk**  
**www.warwickshire.ac.uk**

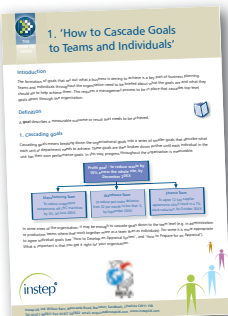
Warwickshire College offers apprenticeships in Sports Turf Management with routes in groundsman and groundkeeper. Apprenticeships are a great way for students to earn and learn and a fantastic opportunity for employers to take on a member of staff who is still in training. The college also offers short courses in pesticide application including the PA2 for amenity users, chainsaw certificates, landscape design, first aid and many more. Bespoke training packages are also available for employers on request.



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The 'How To...' guides are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.





# BUYERS' GUIDE



## Turfdry

**Golf course drainage specialist Turfdry has just completed further golf-green drainage installations for the 16th and 18th greens at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, for Head Greenkeeper, James Braithwaite, following the success of the earlier Turfdry (Greens) Drainage System installations for the 8th and 15th greens at the course in 2009.**

The unique Turfdry Drainage System, using Hydraway Sportsdrain, had already been proven on the course for fairway drainage as far back as 1998, when two new holes on the course, 7th and 8th, needed comprehensive drainage systems, and the Turfdry Drainage System was chosen because it could provide a highly effective post-construction drainage solution, with minimum disturbance to the newly constructed fairways.

The width of Hydraway Sportsdrain is considerably less than the diameter of a golf ball, and it can therefore slot into very narrow trenches. At the same time, it has a much greater surface area than a conventional 80mm plastic land drainage pipe and collects water far more efficiently. The company slogan for its unique Turfdry Drainage System is "Maximum Efficiency with Minimum Disruption".

The Turfdry Drainage System has a proven-track record in UK golf courses stretching back over 16 years, and the system has been satisfactorily installed in over 50 UK courses.

The Turfdry Drainage System is competitively priced and costs no more than an equivalent plastic pipe system, despite being more effective and less disruptive to install. Turfdry operates a friendly in-house team of experienced operatives using modern equipment with laser-grading facilities.

The Turfdry (Greens) Drainage System was also introduced in 1995. Turfdry's close liaison with its customer base enables the firm to demonstrate that the greens drainage systems installed back then are still working just as well today. The system can provide a long-term solution to waterlogged clay-based greens at a fraction of the cost of rebuilding.

Further information is available at the firm's new web

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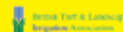
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# DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

## JOHN OSMAN GROUNDCARE LTD

### Franchises held:

Ransomes, Jacobsen, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Ryan, Turfco, Wiedenmann, Kawasaki, Polaris, Wolf, Sanli, Mountfield.

### Location:

Oswestry, Shropshire

### Employees:

10 employees, 12000 sq ft

### Number of service vans:

4

### Brief history:

John Osman Groundcare was formed in 1992 in Oswestry, the company has expanded and moved on two occasions finally into its current site on Oswestry Industrial Estate.

Remaining a family owned business has allowed them to retain a strong, reliable, highly trained and conscientious work force.

Their skills and knowledge along with the proactive approach to customer care has helped them to be one of the most highly respected dealers in the Shropshire, North, Mid and West Wales area.

The core of the business is supplying sales, service and parts to the commercial sectors including local authorities, golf courses, contractors and caravan parks, as well as a well stocked 3,500 sq ft showroom for domestic sales.

Strong franchises such as Ransomes Jacobsen have been the key to continued growth, there has also been great success in the golf car hire market.

Hire is another growing sector of the business not just with golf cars but turf machinery, tractors, mowers and specialist aeration equipment.

The company puts its continued success and growth down to over 80 years of combined industry experience from its staff aligned with great products fantastic parts, service support and great partnerships with its growing customer base.



### Key services offered:

Parts and Service support, on site servicing and repairs, cylinder grinding, machinery sales and demonstrations.

### Specialist Services:

Machinery hire, contract spraying and aeration work.

### How has the dealership changed over the years:

Customer Care is still the main priority for the company, with investment in better systems and staff training to accommodate this, along with diversification into the Agricultural vehicle market and the contract/hire market.

### What would you like to see changed:

A more sensible pricing structure across the industry allowing for more sustainable business and investment going forward.

### Do you support customers who have in house service facilities?

Absolutely yes we do, we appreciate that our customers all have different service requirements and we support these customers with training, impress stock and in many cases the more specialist work such as cylinder/bottom blade grinding, hydraulic testing and repair.

### Franchises

Ransomes, Jacobsen, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Ryan, Turfco, Wiedenmann, Kawasaki, Polaris, Wolf, Sanli, Mountfield.

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



# Recruitment



## Head Greenkeeper Blackwell Golf Club



Blackwell is a traditional private members' Golf Club founded in 1893. The Club is an 18 hole parkland course designed by Herbert Fowler and Tom Simpson. We have hosted many national Amateur and Professional tournaments, have been an Open Championship Regional Qualifying venue and will host the EGU's Reid Trophy in 2012.

*Applications are invited with the following attributes;*

Highly motivated with at least 5 years' experience as a Head or Deputy Head Green-keeper

This is a 'hands-on' position but the successful applicant shall also demonstrate proven leadership, man-management and communication skills with the ability to motivate a team of 4 experienced full-time plus 1 part-time green-staff

Recognised industry qualifications, knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance and experience of a modern computerised irrigation system

Capability of producing and controlling an annual greens budget

Experience in the construction of tees, greens and bunkers

Enthusiasm to become part of the planning process and then to oversee a full bunker restoration and renovation programme

Computer literate with the ability to provide written reports to the Club Committee

The successful applicant would be joining a golf club committed to excellence. The remuneration package offered will reflect the importance of the position.

Accommodation is available as part of the package.

Applications are by Curriculum Vitae with a covering letter ideally by email to;

[secretary@blackwellgolfclub.com](mailto:secretary@blackwellgolfclub.com) or by post to;

**Mr Finlay Clark, Secretary/Manager, Blackwell Golf Club, Agmore Road, Blackwell, Worcestershire B60 1PY**

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*Experience and Training would include:*

- USGA Greens and Turf Management
  - Estate and Environmental Management
  - Drainage installation and maintenance
  - Course projects
  - Operation and maintenance of an extensive fleet of turf grass maintenance equipment
  - Integrated pest management (IPM)
- This could be a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable experience and expand your knowledge in turf grass and environmental management.

*You can find further information about Loch Lomond on our web page [www.lochlomond.com](http://www.lochlomond.com)*

*To apply for a position or find out more information please email or post a covering letter and C.V along with minimum 2 references. to:*

**Mary Danielsen, Golf Course and Estate Administration Manager,**  
Loch Lomond Golf Club, Rossdhu House, Luss (by Alexandria),  
Dunbartonshire  
G83 8NT Scotland.

**Email:** [mary.danielsen@lochlomond.com](mailto:mary.danielsen@lochlomond.com)

**Peter Haggarty, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent will be attending the BIGGA Conference in Harrogate on the 23 and 24 January.**

If you are attending the conference and wish to meet with Peter please email Peter in advance at [Peter.haggarty@lochlomond.com](mailto:Peter.haggarty@lochlomond.com) to arrange a suitable time to meet.

# LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

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

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT JILL RODHAM

ON 01347 833800

OR EMAIL [jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)







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Closing date for applications: Tuesday 31st January 2012.

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**QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:**

1. Santa Pod
2. Wilma Rudolph
3. Roque Santa Cruz
4. Roy Carroll
5. Retief "The Goose" Goosen
6. Gabriel Agbonlahor
7. Santa's Little Helper
8. Christmas Island Golf Club
9. Santa Claus

**CROSSWORD**

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**MONSTER SUDOKU**

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C	8	9	1	4	E	7	6	2	3	5	D	B	A	0	F
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8	E	1	9	F	D	5	B	A	4	6	3	7	0	2	C
2	D	4	F	E	7	6	9	8	B	0	C	3	5	1	A
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9	C	E	3	7	6	0	2	5	A	8	4	F	1	B	D
4	1	D	0	9	A	8	5	F	C	3	B	E	2	7	6
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5	6	8	A	1	B	D	F	7	2	9	E	C	4	3	0

**SQUIGGLY SUDOKU**

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Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 29-Nov-2011 very hard

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# On the Soapbox

As part of a mini series, people from the industry discuss what they have gained from attending Harrogate Week. This month, Walter Woods BEM, BIGGA's first National Chairman, looks at how it all began

**I can vividly recall the morning of the very first BTME, at Harrogate on a cold freezing January in 1989, and opening the doors, to see a long queue of people. Being our first Show no-one could be sure, on how successful it was going to be, and to see all those people, gave us the belief that we were on the right lines.**

Collectively, we had done a lot of preparation work, by going out to the BIGGA Sections and Regions, and asking the membership to support the new exhibition, and seeing the numbers that first morning, showed that our hard work had paid off.

On every occasion that I have attended Harrogate, the feeling of achievement and satisfaction, we all acquired from that very first BTME. The Board members at the time had all worked hard to make it work, but it was the staff, led by the late Neil Thomas, who really made it happen. Many people thought that we wouldn't be able to pull it off, but we proved them wrong, and we were delighted to do so.

As a Trade Show, combined with a strong education programme, had been one of our main objectives for our Association, when becoming formed in 1987. The education, and the opportunity to learn, was the attraction for our members, who could then enjoy the Trade Show, which would help to fund the efforts of the Association. It was a combination that proved to be very effective.

It was also pleasing to have had the support of the Trade. Until that first Harrogate there had been smaller shows around the country, and the feeling was that it would be much more productive, for them to attend Harrogate, and have assurance in our ability to organise a successful event. That they had that confidence in us was very gratifying, and their faith on the BIGGA board has been repaid many times over, as it has grown and grown, and become the week that it has.

The fact that it is an indoor show has always been a big plus. It helps to give everyone a feeling that they are with friends, and in those early days the café at the end of Hall B, was a great place to meet and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Harrogate itself is such a lovely town and the town's people genuinely seem pleased to welcome visitors. A group of us used to meet for a meal in an Italian Restaurant every year, and it is those sorts of annual traditions, that make Harrogate such a great venue, and BTME such a great event.

I'd been fortunate to attend a number of the American Conventions, so I had an idea as to what was needed to produce a successful Show, and the benefits that would arrive from getting it right. Harrogate has always been a little different, as it is much friendlier and family focussed occasion, and this has been commented on by the many American Superintendents, who have visited Harrogate over the years.

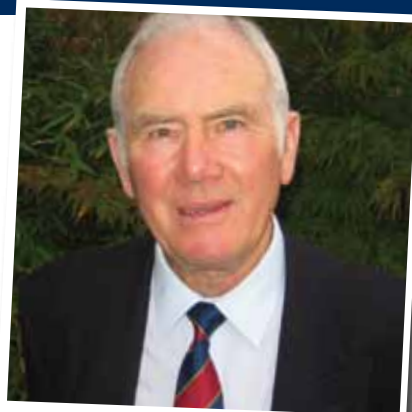
Since those early beginnings, Harrogate has become a fixture on the sports turf calendar, and thousands of green-keepers have benefited from spending some time in North Yorkshire every January.

Over the years I have never lost the feeling I had, when I attended that first Harrogate Week and it has been wonderful, to see how our own greenkeeping show has grown in size, as well as in stature, over the years.

I know so many people who attend the Show that I find my favourite spot to sit, often along with Jack McMillan, when we can talk with people for hours and hours.

I will be at Harrogate again this year, and will be on the BIGGA Stand to sign copies of my book, which was published recently.

I would urge those who have been regu-



*Walter Woods BEM*

lars at Harrogate, to continue to do so, as the career benefits it brings are immense, while anyone who has never been before should have a good look around. You will be amazed at what you will find, and once you have been, you will make every effort to get back every year. It is hard to describe Harrogate Week, in words other than to say it is "Magical".

**Over the years, I've never lost the feeling I had, when I attended that first Harrogate Week**



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