

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
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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.”

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’.