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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 FEBRUARY 2011



Harrogate
week

Harrogate Week 2011 12-Page Supplement Inside

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Gordon Child's Lifetime Achievement Award
Interview with 2011 BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Mellon
Focus on Fusarium, with Dr Terry Mabbett



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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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

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ISSN: 0961-6977

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Harrogate delivers once again

Those who had a feeling of trepidation in the lead up to Harrogate Week 2011, concerns brought on by worldwide recession and the horrible weather we endured in December, saw their fears dissipate as soon as BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, cut the green ribbon to proclaim the Show open.

The traditional buzz was there, and in abundance too, albeit assisted by the real life bees Syngenta had as an attraction on its stand, and the Halls soon filled up. The fact that the final attendance was just over 6,000, 2.3% up on last year was a genuine bonus.

Harrogate has always been a partnership of commerce and education and it would be fair to say that the strong Continue to Learn Education Programme, supported by BIGGA's Gold and Silver Key supporters, gave many people a bone fide reason to come to Harrogate. The quality of what was on offer would enhance anyone's career and those who took advantage felt all the better for doing so. Indeed, with a record 2000 plus attending workshops and seminars the week was given a great start before it had even begun.

People will point to the fact that the actual Show was smaller than it has been in the past and, with slightly under three Halls of exhibitors, that is indeed true, but to expect companies in our industry sector to be immune from the economic realities is a little unfair. I was certainly disappointed on behalf of those companies who would desperately have liked to have given themselves the boost to the start of the year that Harrogate Week traditionally offers, but through budget constraints were unable to do so. They will be welcomed back with open arms when they are in a position to re-book.

Those who did exhibit were delighted that they had done so. One of them, Vermigrand, a company in the new Enviro Zone which was exhibiting in Harrogate for the first time, actually said that it was the best and most professionally run show they had ever attended.

Harrogate Week 2011 was also the end of an era as it was the last that John Pemberton will attend in an official capacity.

Having taken the decision to stand down as Chief Executive, John was the recipient of good wishes from the many, many friends and associates he had made during his 18 years with the Association.

Although he is still officially with the Association until the end of April, John will be spending his last couple of months working from home. BIGGA HOUSE will not be the same without his infectious personality and desire to do anything for anyone.

He has left no stone unturned in making BIGGA as strong an organisation as it can be, particularly during his time as Chief Executive, and there are countless members who, directly or indirectly, owe him a great deal.

He will not be disappearing entirely, and I am sure he will still be giving the benefit of his knowledge and experience to the Association whenever he is asked, but he will no doubt make the most of the free time he has to look forward to.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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Living life to the full

Scott MacCallum catches up with Gordon Child, the latest recipient of BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A smile is never far from the lips of BIGGA's latest Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Gordon Child has lived life to the full and in modern sporting parlance, not left anything out on the park. His greenkeeping career was carried out at some of the finest golf clubs in the country and he watched some of the finest players in the world playing courses he'd prepared. His BIGGA career saw him become the only Chairman to date to serve for two years and spend 10 years as Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales, while his own golfing ability has got enough for him to play in two Open Championships and now he has been very busy in every time he goes out.

"I've been very lucky in life," said Gordon, as we sat in the upstairs living room overlooking some amazing Devon countryside. "I'm greatly honoured to get this award and to be thought of in the same company as those who have already received it is quite humbling. I thought when I was asked to become Chairman of Chaston Golf Club in 2009 that it had completed the circle for me but here comes another great honour."

Gordon joins Sir Michael Bonallack CBE, Walter Woods BEM, Jack & Mike MBE, George Brown and Cecil George as recipients of BIGGA's top accolade.

Anyone who knows anything about Gordon's background would have no doubt that BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award could have been introduced specifically for him and that he ends up in the Association's most exclusive club

is a fitting tribute to a man who has achieved so much. Gordon was the son, and grandson, of greenkeepers so a career on the golf course may well have been preordained, but from starting work as a school leaver at Dixie and Tolly, in Sheffield, he made the most of his opportunities.

"It was while I was there that I enjoyed one of the pieces of luck which I've enjoyed all my life. I started work in 1947 and at the time there were only two colleges in the UK which did turf culture and one of them was Leeds College of Art and Technology while the other was in Scotland. The college was in easy reach of my home so for three years I was able to study three nights a week and one half day for which the club gave me time off. It provided me with the foundation for my whole career."

It also saw the beginnings of a friendship which was to last for over half a century.

"It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college," said Gordon.

Friendship with the legendary agronomist lasted until Jim's death at the age of 84, in 2004, and eventually saw the pair of them bring just the miles from each other in Devon - Gordon in Chaston and Jim in Huddersfield, Salford.

Following his time at Dixie and Tolly Gordon joined the Army and the Liverpool Regiment where he served in Korea along with another well known BIGGA figure, the late Bert Cross, and when he got



"It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college"

Gordon Child

back Jim grandmother told him that he was to take up a job at Royal Birkdale.

"I was told I was going, I wasn't asked. Going to an Open venue was his idea, but being being that I'd worked on a parkland and that I should learn how to work on a links course."

An career advice given it couldn't have been much better as having Royal Birkdale on his CV was the passport to what was to come.

"I was at Royal Birkdale for quite a while, never more than an Assistant, but I built up my knowledge base."

Gordon left Birkdale to become Head Greenkeeper at Blackburn Golf Club but before long moved south to St George's Hill, in Weybridge.

"I think having worked at Royal

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

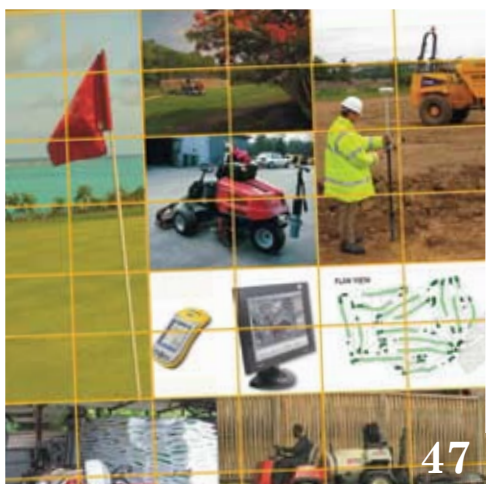
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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



New Partnership

BIGGA and The Golf Environment Organization (GEO) have established a partnership that will see the two bodies collaborate in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership seeks to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and Course Managers to understand, and provide support for their ongoing, continual improvement efforts. Through the promotion of GEO Certified, the aim is also to enable golf facilities to attain credible and lasting recognition for ongoing environmental action and corporate responsibility.

GEO will be presented as BIGGA's Sustainability Partner, and BIGGA will become a Golf Partner of GEO.

Speaking on behalf of BIGGA, outgoing Chairman, Paul Worster, said: "We want to support our members further in playing an active leadership role, productively with their management team colleagues, to make the most

informed sustainability based decisions in the workplace.

"The BIGGA Board feels that GEO is extremely well placed to support our organisation and our members - strategically and practically.

"In recent years we have seen GEO dedicate itself to bringing forward the kinds of solutions based guidance and programmes that will help every one of our members in the field. There's a straightforward logic to what GEO presents, and they understand the needs and priorities of Course Managers extremely well."

Incoming Chairman, Andrew Mellon, added: "There are a number of reasons why BIGGA has decided to work with GEO. First of all, we recognise the importance of what they stand for and what they are trying to achieve as an organisation in support of greenkeepers. We see real value in widespread participation by BIGGA members in GEO Certified. In addition the partnership enables us all to

draw on the educational, advisory and verification support of their emerging GEOSA Network of 'golf ready' sustainability professionals. Collaboration with like minded bodies brings more strength to golf's efforts as we all move forward in an increasingly sustainability minded world," he said.

"We know that many other companies and organisations are also critical to this effort, both current partners of BIGGA and GEO, and also potential partners. For that reason we have drafted an action plan which will enable all those who are interested to get involved and gain visibility in a cohesive approach to this important subject," added Andrew.

Jonathan Smith, CEO of GEO, added: "We are delighted to make this announcement after many months of discussion. BIGGA is one of the world's largest and most respected greenkeeper associations, so its interest in, and endorsement of our work is incredibly valuable.



NEW ROLE FOR PAUL

Symbio has appointed Paul Lowe as Regional Manager for the North West of England. Paul brings 22 years of greenkeeping experience with him, having spent the majority of his career as Course Manager at Rhuddlan Golf Course and the past four years as Course Manager at Bromborough Golf Club.

Paul, a member of the Gingerbread Men group, committed to environmentally sustainable management, said: "I am delighted to join the Symbio team. Moving from greenkeeping to Symbio has been a natural progression as we share the same passion for creating sustainable courses and landscapes built on healthy living soils."

Martin Ward, Symbio Managing Director, said: "As the industry increasingly adopts a sustainable approach to course management, it is great to have Paul on board with his exceptional knowledge and wealth of experience in managing sustainable golf courses."



Adaptability in the Snow

French manufacturer Etesia enjoyed a sales boom as users of its ride-on rotary mowers have been rushing to buy snow clearing attachments and tow-behind gritters for their existing Hydro mowers so that they wouldn't be caught out in the next big freeze.

With its wide range of attachments, the range of Etesia mowers can be transformed into multi-tasking, all-year-

round workhorses for a wide-range of applications including snow clearing and salt/sand spreading.

"At times like this, end users realise the true multi-tasking value of an Etesia ride-on," commented Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager.

"Our accessories such as the snow plough or salt/sand spreader are keenly priced so keeping roadways and paths

clear is a very cost effective operation. Our customers have discovered that for a relatively small investment they can be prepared without the need to have expensive dedicated equipment lying idle during long periods of the year."

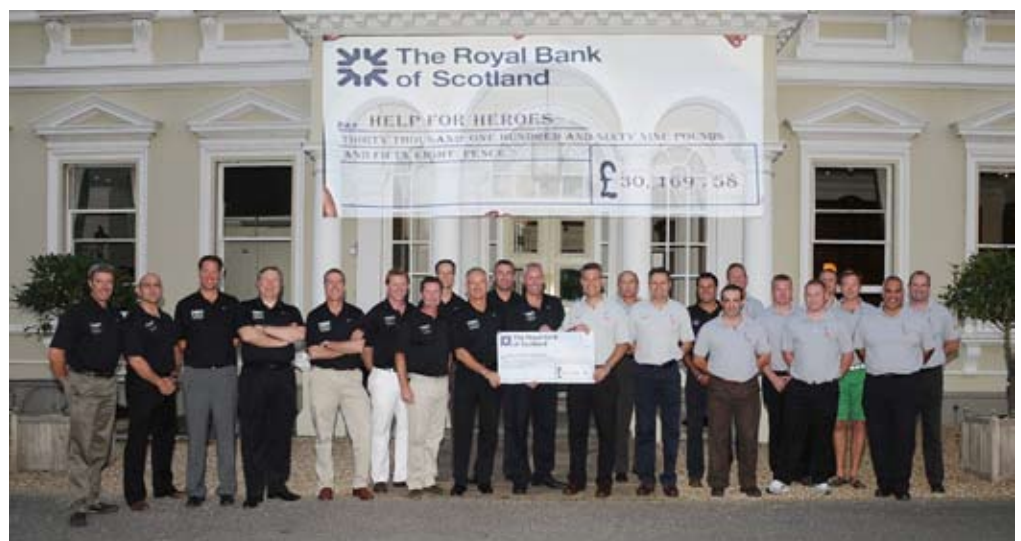
For further information, please contact Etesia UK on 01295 680120 or visit www.etesia.com/uk

GOLF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS PRESENT MORE THAN £30,000 TO HELP FOR HEROES

A golf industry group which conquered the Three Peaks Challenge has presented a cheque for £30,169.58 to Help for Heroes.

The team of 11 friends from all parts of the golf industry took just 22 hours and 45 minutes to climb the UK's three highest mountains – Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike last July, in aid of Help for Heroes' Battle Back initiative.

Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen, Burhill Golf & Leisure; Kevin Hart, Club Car; Andrew Brown, Toro; Daniel Hodson, De Vere; Simon Thorpe, Expressions Partnership; John Weir, Cornerstone Golf; Chris Lomas, Secretary at Worplesdon Golf Club, and course designer, Jonathan Gaunt, joined servicemen benefiting from Battle Back Golf at Burhill Golf Club for a round of golf and to



present the cheque.

Kevin Hart said: "Everyone was astounded with the money raised, which reflects the generosity of the golf industry and the support of this worthwhile cause."

Any golf manufacturer, golf course or professional who would like to help Battle Back Golf with the provision of equipment, tee times, coaching or anything that may assist injured soldiers please contact

Kevin Hart at kevin_hart@clubcar.com.

The photograph shows The Three Peaks team handing over a cheque for £30,169.57 to members of the Battle Back Golf initiative.



Simon Gale

Lely UK has announced the death of one of its employees, Simon Gale.

Simon, 40, passed away following a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he married shortly before his death.

Simon joined Lely in 2007 as the turf machinery distributor's Toro key accounts product specialist, where he soon established himself as a popular and much relied upon member of the team. As well as providing hands-on servicing and parts support to customers, he was also responsible for training operators and mechanics, imparting his considerable skills and expertise to a plethora of industry peers.

Prior to joining Lely, Simon spent the lion's share of his career at Ransomes and some of its key dealerships.

October 1990 saw him leave to take up the post of head mechanic with one of Turney's major customers, Hewison Brothers, where he was responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of the company's extensive machinery fleet. Three years later he joined Ransomes dealer ET Breakwell.

Ransomes Jacobsen's Sales Director, Alan Prickett, who had known and worked with Simon for 21 years, concludes: "Simon was a good friend and colleague with whom I spent many years working in various roles. He was always optimistic and had a positive and ambitious attitude to life, making his loss at such an early age even more tragic. He leaves behind a great many friends within Ransomes Jacobsen and the industry."

Farol Takes on John Deere Turf Franchise

John Deere has announced that the Farol branches at Milton Common in Oxfordshire and Hinckley, in Leicestershire, have become turf & utility equipment dealers,

As of last month both branches will sell and support John Deere's full range of professional turf equipment, which includes mowers, compact and utility tractors, utility vehicles, aerators, sprayers and irrigation systems. The Milton Common branch will cover Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, while the new Farol branch at Hinckley will service the Midlands area.

Farol has created a new turf business division, which will be managed initially by the group's recently-appointed Operations Director, Dave Roberts.

"This is an exciting development for Farol, and a natural expansion of our successful John Deere agricultural business," said Dave.

"This signing of Farol as a professional turf dealer in the Midlands strengthens our dealership presence in this area," added David Hart, John Deere's Turf & Utility Equipment Division Manager for the UK and Ireland.

"Farol is a well established business with a strong focus on first class customer and product support. Alongside our ongoing Dealer of the Future initiative, it reflects our continued efforts to build the strongest dealership network for turf equipment in the UK."

Irish Conference

The annual GCSAI conference will take place at Knightsbrook Hotel and Golf Club just outside Dublin. Speakers include Professor James Beard who wrote, 'Turf Management for Golf Courses'. Lining up alongside Professor Beard is Greg Evans, who will be conducting a talk about his greens methodology.

The conference is open to all greenkeepers and groundsman across the British Isles and if you are interested in coming along please contact Maria Behan on +3538779 17789 or email her at maria.behan@calibresupport.ie

25 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR CAMPEY TURF CARE

The 25th Anniversary of Campey Turf Care Systems will be celebrated throughout the coming months with a number of events aimed at highlighting the achievements of its staff, the loyalty of its customers and the continuing confidence of the manufacturers which provide such an excellent range of products.

All of these elements have played a part in ensuring the success of Campey Turf Care Systems as well as a winning combination of dedication to quality of products and professionalism of after sales support.

A display of the products and brand names that have become synonymous with Campeys were on display at BTME including the Dakota - 407 Mounted Top-dresser and the Imants Shockwave which are typical of the products introduced by Campey.

Also on the stand was the Vredo Super Compact seeder and the Timan - RC-750 remote control brush cutter & slope mower introduced last season



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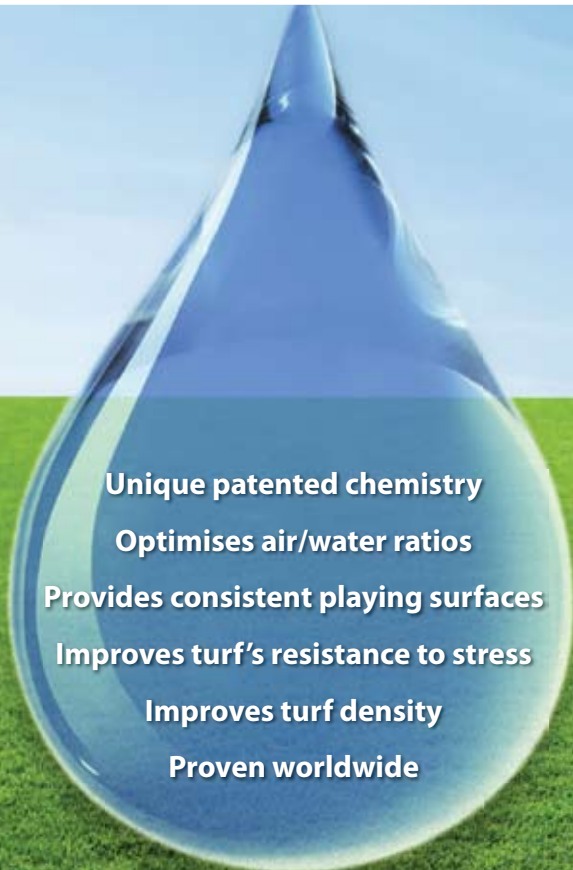
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GEO Certified™: International Sustainability Award for Auchterarder Golf Club

The first traditional UK members' club to be awarded GEO Certified status, Auchterarder is a sustainability leader in Scottish golf. As they join the international group of clubs that has received the prestigious GEO designation, the Perthshire club can be proud in the knowledge they are positioned among the world's most sustainable.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at the club for 14 years and National Director of BIGGA, is not one to shy away from innovation or the need for leadership:

"GEO Certification is an important ongoing project for Auchterarder Golf Club, helping to shape our environmental programme and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable year on year. The targeted support we're receiving from Sustainability Adviser, Elspeth Coutts, has brought our planning, monitoring and recording into line with GEO requirements; a huge help on the whole learning curve towards sustainable golf," said Archie.

Read the GEO Certified™ Report prepared by Archie and his team here: <http://www.golfenvironment.org/clubs/auchterardergolf>

South East Region Annual Gentleman's Day Golf and Dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club
Friday 4th March 2011
One of Greenkeeping's longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact:
Clive Osgood
South East Regional Administrator
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
Phone 01737 819343 mob 07841 948410



Harrogate Week: The Natural Choice For Company Launch

Soil fertility company Organic Soil Systems selected the 2011 BTME at Harrogate as the venue for their UK launch.

Company Chairman, Ronald Gilchrist, explained, "BTME is widely regarded as Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals, with attendance consistently in the thousands. This was exactly the right forum for us to hold the official launch of our world leading soil fertility products and technology in the UK."

"We have had an excellent response throughout the exhibition and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients."

Managing Director, Kenneth Turnbull, added, "Through our partner company, Vermigrand, our EU certified Organic biohumus is being used as a top dressing at renowned sporting venues in mainland Europe and our activated compost tea has astounded seasoned sports turf professionals with its results as both a foliar feed and soil inoculants."

For further information visit www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk

IOG LAUNCHES APPRENTICESHIPS

The IOG has announced the IOG Apprenticeship in Groundsmanship – a work-based programme available to aspiring groundsmen and women.

Providing a choice of options – Apprenticeship Level 2, Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 and Higher Apprenticeship Level the programme is targeted at anyone aged from 16 years. The IOG Apprenticeship will take between one and three years, depending on the Level chosen.

Explaining that the new Apprenticeship is the latest in a comprehensive range of affordable education services delivering high quality and accredited qualifications at every level of grounds care Ian Lacy, the IOG's Head of Professional Services, said that the new scheme follows the successful recent launch of the IOG Young Apprenticeship Scheme as a curriculum option for students aged 14 at Harefield Academy, St Albans.

"The IOG Apprenticeship, a work-based programme designed around the needs of an employer, leads to nationally recognised qualifications such as diplomas in Groundsmanship and greenkeeping accredited by City & Guilds land-based services," said Ian.

"To support the new scheme, the IOG is offering a 'one-stop shop' apprenticeship service which includes screening literacy and numeracy, assessment of occupational skills, advice on learning styles and psychometric testing, plus help with the induction and sign-up and the assessor visit, and ongoing monitoring of progress."

Wimbledon Seminar

A total of 140 grounds and golf Course Managers gathered at The All England Club recently for a seminar at which prominent speakers addressed the challenges of preparing turf for major events, hosted by Scotts Professional.

Head Groundsman, Eddie Seaward MBE, opened the day's programme with an insight into the logistical challenges he and his team face in preparation for an intensive summer of sport in 2012, which will see the world's tennis stars competing twice in a matter of weeks.

The hectic period begins in June with the regular Championship fortnight.

The courts will then be brought back into action at the end of July for a week of Olympic tennis.

Simon Barnaby, then took to the floor to discuss the development of Primo Maxx strategies for tournament turf.

After lunch, Dr Ruth Mann, of the STRI and her colleague, John Lockyer, described some of the work the team at the institute has carried out at stadia in the



Ukraine, Monaco and South Africa.

The focus then switched to golf, as Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links, Gordon Moir, outlined his team's preparations for last summer's Open Championship staged on the Old Course.

Completing the speaker programme was Ipswich Town's Head Groundsman, Alan Ferguson, whose presentation described the steps he took

to prepare the football club's playing surface for the heavy plant, staging and 25,000 music fans that descended on Portman Road for Pink's concert in June.

A visit to the world's most famous tennis venue wouldn't be complete without a tour of the courts.

Eddie Seaward and his staff gave everyone the opportunity to see some of the construction work taking place in preparation for the Olympics.

SCOTTISH REGION

On behalf of the Association I would like to express our thanks to our Patrons for their support during 2010. Their financial and practical support makes it possible for the Scottish Region to run another successful Conference in March at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline. Individual sections continued to organise various seminars, talks and golf outings throughout the year. All of this, plus the Scottish National Tournament, made it a very successful year for the Association.

The Patron Award winners enjoyed a trip to Harrogate along with their book prize presented by the Patrons. This is only possible with the support of the Patrons. We are extremely grateful to them all.

We look forward to continuing the relationship we have with our Patrons and look forward to 2011.

Thanks to the following firms: Richard Aitken (Seedsman); Bayer; Daval Industrial Products; The Double "A" Trading Company; Fairways Group; Hamilton Bros (Eng); Golf Finance; Greentech (Sportsturf); Henderson Grass Machinery; Indigrow; McNab Sport; Meiklem Drainage & Groundworks; Nairn Brown (Glasgow); Parsaver Golf; Rigby Taylor; SGM Contract; LLP; Scotlube; Symbio The Scotts Company (UK); Souters Sports; Sports Turf Services; Turf Irrigation Services; Thomas Sheriff & Coy and Thorntrees Amenity.

Peter J Boyd,
Scottish Region

George Hampton

Former SPGA, SIGGA and BIGGA member, George Hampton, sadly died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness.

George (second from left) was a well kent face in the Scottish greenkeeping and golfing circles and you could always hear him if you were within ear shot with his distinct laughter, either telling or receiving jokes!

George completed his National Service in Singapore to which we were told he treated it like a long holiday!

With his sound golfing ability and through getting afternoons off from his postie job led him to become the Pro at Burntisland GC, in Fife. George then took up the post of Greenkeeper/Pro at Stornoway GC on the island of Lewis before moving back to the east coast in 1973 to do the same at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC.

Not only a good teaching pro as a greenkeeper George would



preach about keeping the turf lean and dry, aeration is key and to work with nature.

Sensible greenkeeping I am happy to say!

George retired from greenkeeping in 1991 and took up the post as Pro at Pitlochry during which time he won the

Scottish Seniors PGA in 1993. Arthritis in his hands restricted his golf these past few years before finally setting home down for retirement in Inverness.

We pass on our thoughts to his wife Mary and family.

George Paterson



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1. 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals'

Introduction
The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning. Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top-level goals down through the organisation.

Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

1. Cascading goals
Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual in the unit has their own performance goal. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

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

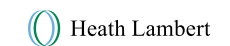
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The 'How To...' guides are a new benefit of BIGGA membership and are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.





Chairman's Word

Incoming National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, with his first monthly column

The start of a busy year ahead

On October, 21, 2009, I received an email from Paul Worster, BIGGA Chairman 2010, asking me to give him a call. I had an initial slight concern, thinking have we done something wrong at Section level. I called him that afternoon, and much to my surprise, he asked me to consider taking on the role of Chairman for 2011.

Surprise was probably an understatement, and my initial reaction was, that I would be honoured, but that I would need to know more about the commitment required, consult with my family, my employers and our team at Elmwood Golf Course. I also wanted to speak with my Section committee, (Central), and the Scottish Board to ensure I had their support.

Having done that, and discussed with John Pemberton in more detail the challenges involved, and receiving full support from all concerned, I was honoured to accept.

My first meeting was at Harrogate 2010, when I was welcomed and introduced to the Board. I came out of that meeting under no illusions to the fact that this was not a committee for committees' sake, but a group of people passionate and dedicated to ensuring the success of BIGGA, and supporting their fellow Greenkeepers.

We were also beginning to feel the bite of the recession, and the challenges of not only running a successful Association, but a successful business, became only too apparent to me.

When I arrived at the AGM this year to step up to Chairman, I had attended many meetings, both with the Board and several working parties, attended several events in the year, including The Open at St Andrews, and formed stronger working relationships with the Board members and the Staff at HQ.

Having checked my email inbox out of interest just before the AGM, and having received a good luck email from Paul, I noticed that I had received 554 emails from Paul over the year. I knew for a fact that we

had spoken almost daily during that year, not to mention my correspondence with the rest of the Board and the staff at HQ.

That may give you an indication of the level of commitment shown by those who serve you, the members, while volunteering their time to help steer the association.

I'd like to thank Paul and the rest of the Board for their dedication to this task, and also the staff whose enthusiasm, drive and dedication ensure that we can strive to meet the needs of the members.

There are many other members, (Greenkeepers and Trade), serving the Sections, Regions, and working parties and sub committees, who often go unrecognised and their contribution is vital to our future success. The support we receive from Industry is significant, and their recognition of the importance of our Association, despite their own current challenges, is something we value.

I returned from Harrogate, and once the adrenalin had worn off, I was shattered, but elated. I witnessed first hand the hunger among the members for further education, which had been more than satisfied by a fantastic record breaking education programme put together by Sami Collins, Rachael Duffy, and I'm sure support from many other staff. To see the queues up the escalator waiting to enter the sessions was incredible.

I spoke with many exhibitors in the halls. Despite the gloom and doom expressed by some in the lead up to Harrogate week, they were delighted and astonished at the level of support and interest they had received during the show.

My frustration was that I was unable to meet them all personally to thank them for their support. I am writing to them all to thank them and to ask for their input to ensure we continue to develop and organise

the event in such a way to obtain the most benefit for them and for the members – win/win.

During the week I attended many productive meetings, seeking to establish collaboration from other Golfing Bodies and Industry Partners. We sought feedback at open forums from the members and exhibitors which were well attended.

We will be actively engaging with all stakeholders. The Board took part in a strategic planning session during the week, the first of several.

By engaging with you we can ensure that we are working toward a common vision, and we can formulate the correct strategies and objectives to ensure our resources are focussed on achieving it.

“The support we receive from Industry is significant, and their recognition of the importance of our Association, despite their own current challenges, is something we value”

While we have all this attention, due to the challenges of the economic climate, it presents a great opportunity to evaluate our position and communicate. I am sure, more than ever, that not only will we face this challenge, but, that as we work together with our members, and collaborate with Industry and Golf bodies, we will flourish and ensure BIGGA's success.

I would like to close by thanking John Pemberton for his faithful, dedicated service to BIGGA over the last 18 years.

We have grown from small beginnings, to the strong vibrant Association we are today.

John will always be part of that and always welcomed by our members.

On behalf of all the members, thank you John and all the best for the future.



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

The GTC was back in attendance at this year's show after one year's absence as an exhibitor and for many of us it has been a pilgrimage since the first exhibition back in 1989.

So many faces who have attended since that first show are still committed to ensuring that greenkeeping is seen as a respected profession and they should be proud of their achievements over the years.

Prior to this year's show, there was much talk about there only being three halls and the recession will keep people away....well back in 1989 there were only two halls but that event signalled the start of something very special.

Those in attendance back in 1989 will remember the image of the greenkeepers and how BIGGA was continually encouraging members to buy Association blazers, sweaters and even giving ties away as a membership benefit, all designed to promote a more professional image.

There were even neck scarves for any lady members. You could say the Association was ahead of the sexism laws!

Image is so important and while we all accept greenkeeping is a very hands on job, often dirty, there must be the continual drive to be professional as it clearly has put greenkeeping in the spotlight.

Most recent, the greenkeeping team, admirably managed by Jim McKenzie at Celtic Manor, during the most atrocious weather imaginable, were all aware of the importance of image and wearing corporate effective attire was brilliant to see.

The site of the GTC stand this year meant everybody attending a seminar or workshop had to pass our stand and from the dress of delegates to the professionalism of speakers it spoke volumes for the industry.

Harrogate Week may be all about supporting the exhibitors whether they are in two halls or five, but many companies now contribute so much to the very soul of the

annual January gathering and that is EDUCATION!

It has been said by many who attended this year's event that the education programme had something for everybody and attendances were record breaking.

Those older readers may well remember the dynamic stunning speaker, Bobbie Gee, back at the 1991 exhibition giving a keynote address on, 'Image - understanding the role image plays in personal and professional success'.

If my memory serves me right, Bobbie's husband was a Golf Course Superintendant in the USA and she knew first hand how the profession, or image of the profession, had to be changed and she was inspirational for all of us at the presentation.

We have known for many years that the American Golf Course Superintendants are held in high esteem by their employers and golfers and thankfully I believe our Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers are now at least on a par with their colleagues throughout the world of golf course management.

For many years the GTC focused, quite rightly, on ensuring the agronomic aspects of the greenkeeper's job were covered in education courses and qualifications and rest assured this is still the number one priority, just look at the content of the apprenticeship scheme!

However since The R&A's discussion document The Way Forward was circulated to golf clubs and golfing bodies in 1989 which, among other matters stated: "that many Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers feel that advanced training in management skills is the greatest deficiency in their training" - times have changed!

During this year's Continue to Learn programme, there was a workshop for assistants hosted by Frank Newberry (nowhere near as attractive as Bobbie Gee!) which focused on the importance of good communication and image. It is by raising the awareness of the importance of image at the earli-

In Brief

David reflects on the recent Harrogate Week and also remembers the first show, European Turf Management Exhibition (ETME) in 1989 and how he believes the greenkeeping profession has moved forward in those 22 years and that professionalism is still the key to being a successful greenkeeper, Head Greenkeeper and Course Manager.

The GTC is funded by:



est opportunity in a greenkeeper's career that we will produce the Course Managers for the future.

Some 22 years on there is so much to be proud of in the way greenkeepers have progressed both in seeking knowledge to add to their skills to maintain the golf course and now we see many apprentices from the 1990's as today's Golf Course Managers and some stepping into General Manager positions.

The GTC will ensure the ranges of qualifications available within the sector include "communication" Units and that includes image.

We will work with our Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to ensure there are seminars, workshops and short courses available leaving options for employers and learners to choose from.

BIGGA, I am sure, will continue to promote supervisory and management short course provision through its Sections and Regions, which are often subsidised through the Learning and Development Fund and the GTC will continue the drive for professionalism through greenkeeper training.

In closing please feel free to feedback any views you might have on current provision of education, training courses and any gaps you feel the GTC should be addressing.

Please contact us on:

Tel: 01347 838640 or email david@the-gtc.co.uk

For the latest news on greenkeeper education, training and qualifications including the up to date list of GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers visit www.the-gtc.co.uk

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Learning & Development

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



That was the week that was.... and what a week it was!

Rachael and I are soaking our feet while looking aghast at the attendance figures for the Continue to Learn Education Programme. Now we know why we're so tired and our feet still hurt!



Continue to Learn 2011 delivered 143.5 hours of education to 2008 attendees. The Queen's Suite was buzzing with the queues outside the auditoriums for some of the most popular seminars. On a couple of occasions there was standing room only and a couple of prominent Course Managers were spotted sitting on the floor to ensure that they could participate in the session.

The introduction of the Turf Managers' Conference proved to be a success with superb feedback on the speakers and the content of their presentations.

Dr David Jones from the Natural History Museum, aka 'the worm man', equally educated and entertained the audience with many requesting his return to future programmes.

The 'Fringe' sessions, presented by exhibitors at the show, were as popular as ever. The more established speakers imparted their knowledge to enthusiastic audiences, with newer speakers attracting a credible number of attendees.

I am forever indebted to all the

speakers who (sometimes with a little coaxing) agree to speak on the Continue to Learn education programme. Without them, there wouldn't be an education programme to present.

The new challenge is to replicate the success in 2012 – no pressure!

A HUGE thank you goes to the Gold and Silver Key companies and individuals to the Learning and Development Fund for their support in enabling us to present Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week.



Pesticide Update for NPTC Certificate Holders

Health and Safety advisor, Jon Allbutt has confirmed that the possession of a City and Guilds/ NPTC Pesticides Certificate that is more than five years old may not be accepted as evident of competence, unless the holder has updated their skills and knowledge and kept pace with the many changes in this important legislation, the Code of Practice, application equipment and techniques for the control of pests and diseases.

Following an oversubscribed workshop at Harrogate, there are a number of Update Courses being presented. For up to date availability, contact Jane Glassett at Jon Allbutt Associates on 01959 575575 or visit the Events' page on the BIGGA website.

The current Pesticides Code of practice for using plant protection products is now available as a free download in the Members' Area of the BIGGA website.



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The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Andrew Turnbull; Ian MacMillan MG; Ian Morrison
Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz, Jaey Goodchild

New Name for JCB Groundhog



JCB has rebranded its Utility Terrain Vehicles with the new name JCB WORKMAX.

This covers both the current diesel-powered models; the 4x4 for rough terrain applications and the 6x4 for 'fine turf' applications such as golf courses and sports fields.

Until now JCB has used the name 'Groundhog' for its UTVs.

JCB is focused on answering

the demands of the professional equipment user and therefore the new Registered WORKMAX name has been adopted to reflect this.

The 'Groundhog' name has been in use since JCB entered the UTV market in 2005.

JCB Utility Products Sales Director Keith Hoskins said:

"The old Groundhog name has served us well in establishing our

products particularly in the UK.

"But we are on course for market share growth in several countries at the expense of ride-on quads which we believe can never offer the ride quality, safety, and load carrying performance of a Side-by-Side design.

"Our new WORKMAX name is also easily understood in other languages."

James Watson Joins Sherriff Amenity

Sherriff Amenity has strengthened its national sales team by appointing James Watson as an Amenity Specialist covering Surrey and the south.

James, who will be working closely with Chris Rudkin to support Sherriff Amenity's current customers and also develop new business in the area, spent 15 years as a Greenkeeper in the UK and Europe before joining Headland Amenity as a Regional Manager.

"James' previous experience, both as a Greenkeeper and in a sales position made him the ideal candidate for the job ." commented Mark Pyrah, Amenity Director of Agrovista UK .



NEW IRRIGATION ADVISORY SERVICE

Intelligent Watering is a new irrigation advisory service that has been founded by Adrian Handbury. Adrian has been in the industry for 17 years, originally as the First Irrigation Manager at the London Golf Club. As well as being an end user, Adrian has also installed many irrigation systems. However, his main discipline has been the specification and design of irrigation for the companies he has been employed by or those that he advises, and has worked extensively over three continents.

Intelligent Design has been set up to supply irrigation audit, advice and new system design services to the Golf, Sportsturf and Landscape industries.

Email design@intelligentwatering.co.uk or go to the website www.intelligentwatering.co.uk



TWO HEADLIGHTS, ONE BATTERY

Ian Howard, Managing Director of Dennis, has announced that his company has acquired SISIS, which will now operate as a division of Howardson Ltd, alongside Dennis.

"We have acquired the respected brand, designs, patents and intellectual property and this new partnership is part of our on-going investment strategy," explained Ian.

"I would compare Dennis and Sisis to two headlights being operated by one battery," said Ian, as he explained the new strategy at a press briefing in Harrogate.

"The companies will run independently, while at the same time benefiting from each other's strengths and powered by parent company, Howardson Ltd

"Our traditional strengths of reliability and excellent customer support will enhance this partnership and we are optimistic about our future



together, working as a team to grow further our profile in the market. Our products dovetail extremely well," said Ian, who added that they would be conducting an immediate review of all aspects of the business including customer service and supply.

Ian Howard, Managing Director of Howardson Engineering, with Andrew Walker, Field Sales Manager of SISIS



Huxley Golf extend into Europe

A new business, Huxley Golf Europe, has been formed in Luxembourg under the direction of Danish golf professional, Ole Pedersen, and businessman, Torben Poulsen.

The pair are targeting golf clubs, teaching academies, hotels and private clients across a large and important new sales territory for Huxley Golf.

Paul Huxley, Director of Huxley Golf, which has a growing network of distributors in the UK and abroad, said: "The region spanning the Benelux countries and France and Germany has become very important to Huxley Golf. Ole and Torben have the local presence and expertise necessary to position our products successfully in this marketplace."

Huxley Golf provides all-weather surfaces for golf around the world. Clients include training and coaching establishments, golf resorts, ranges and academies as well as several Open Championship and Ryder Cup venues.

For more information, visit www.huxleygolf.com.

What's your number?

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

Name: Fiona Gebbett

Company: PAN Publicity Limited

Position: Director

How long have you been in the industry?

Almost 20 years

How did you get into it?

In my previous job, PAN was one of my key suppliers. When a job came up there, I applied and the rest is history.

What other jobs have you done?

After university, I was a Holiday Rep in France and then Tenerife. I then joined a Conference Production company and ran corporate events around the country.

What do you like about your current job?

My clients. We handle a variety of accounts which means we get to know some great people and no two days are ever the same.

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

Very little change in the printed media compared to other industries we work in; but, of course, on-line media has developed considerably. What I have seen is the reduction in editorial staff and the growth of freelance writers. This has had an impact on our output seeing us supply more finished copy rather than marrying up a Journalist with a Greenkeeper/Groundsman.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Socialising mainly, but living on the coast I like nothing more than getting rugged up on a Sunday morning and going for a nice long walk on the sea front. We also have the beautiful North Norfolk coast to drive to and enjoy the superb beaches and pubs there.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I very much want to be doing the same thing in a re-vitalised industry. Basically my job is about people; talking to them and finding out how they do their jobs. It's what I love about what I do and I don't see that changing much in the next 10 years.

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

The Press. They're a great bunch of people. We've had some fun times over the years on Press trips in various countries. We all have some very fond memories from them, I'm sure.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? 4

Fiona has picked Tim Merrell, of The Grass Group



Living life to the full

Scott MacCallum catches up with, Gordon Child, the latest recipient of BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A smile is never far from the lips of BIGGA's latest Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Gordon Child has lived life to the full and in, modern sporting parlance, not left anything out on the park. His greenkeeping career was carried out at some of the finest golf clubs in the country and he watched some of the finest players in the world playing courses he'd prepared. His BIGGA career saw him become the only Chairman to date to serve for two years and spend 10 years as Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales, while his own golfing ability was good enough for him to play in two Open Championships and now sees him beat his age virtually every time he goes out.

"I've been very lucky in life," said Gordon, as we sat in the upstairs living room overlooking some stunning Devon countryside.

"I'm greatly honoured to get this award and to be thought of in the same company as those who have already received it is quite humbling. I thought when I was asked to become Captain of Chuston Golf Club in 2009 that it had completed the circle for me but here comes another great honour."

Gordon joins Sir Michael Bonallack OBE; Walter Woods BEM; Jack McMillan MBE; George Brown and Cecil George as recipients of BIGGA's top accolade.

Anyone who knows anything about Gordon's background would have no doubt that BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award could have been introduced specifically for him and that his entry into the Association's most exclusive club

is a fitting tribute to a man who has achieved so much.

Gordon was the son, and grandson, of greenkeepers so a career on the golf course may well have been preordained, but from starting work as a school leaver at Dore and Totley, in Sheffield, he made the most of his opportunities.

"It was while I was there that I enjoyed one of the pieces of luck which I've enjoyed all my life. I started work in 1947 and at the time there were only two colleges in the UK which did turf culture and one of them was Leeds College of Art and Technology while the other as in Scotland. The college was in easy reach of my home so for three years I was able to study three nights a week and one half day for which the club gave me time off. It provided me with the foundations for my whole career."

It also saw the beginnings of a friendship which was to last for over half a century.

"It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college," said Gordon.

Friendship with the legendary agronomist lasted until Jim's death at the age of 84, in 2004, and ironically saw the pair of them living just a few miles from each other in Devon – Gordon in Churston and Jim in Budleigh Salterton.

Following his time at Dore and Totley Gordon joined the Army and the Liverpool Regiment where he served in Korea along with another well known BIGGA figure, the late Bert Cross, and when he got



"It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college"

Gordon Child

back his grandfather told him that he was to take up a job at Royal Birkdale.

"I was told I was going. I wasn't asked. Going to an Open venue was his idea, his feeling being that I'd worked on a parkland and that I should learn how to work on a links course."

As career advice goes it couldn't have been much better, as having Royal Birkdale on his CV was the passport to what was to come.

"I was at Royal Birkdale for quite a while, never more than an Assistant, but I built up my knowledge base."

Gordon left Birkdale to become Head Greenkeeper at Blackburn Golf Club but before long moved south to St George's Hill, in Weybridge.

ABOVE: Gordon Child (centre) with his award, beside Paul Worster and Jack McMillan MBE

"I think having worked at Royal Birkdale helped me get the job and I absolutely loved the place. It was a gem of a club and I loved the people there. The course was hewn out of a pine forest and it was one of the those courses on which you only saw the people on the hole you were playing.

"The club was on a very upper class estate and a lot of celebrities were members, but once you were in you were a part of the club somehow.

"I met Eric Sykes there and he was a great help to me. We were like a big family and I can tell you it was very hard to leave."

What eventually did prise him away was the prospect of working at one of the biggest clubs in the country at the time – Moor Park, in Rickmansworth.

"Even when the job offer from Moor Park came in it took me a long time make up my mind to move."

Moor Park had two stunning golf courses as well as the tennis courts and the gardens, while Gordon also managed the local municipal course on behalf of Rickmansworth Council.

It was also one of the premier Tour venues at the time playing host to a number of events

including the Uniroyal, the Martini, the Bob Hope and the Tournament Players' Championship.

"One year we had two tournaments within the space of two months when the brand new Foxhills wasn't ready to take the TPC."

One of the highlights for Gordon was watching a young Seve Ballesteros win his first UK event, in a play-off with Nick Faldo.

"I watched Seve play the greatest shot I've ever seen in my life that week.

"He was on a severe downslope with the hole cut just over a bunker on the 17th but he sized it up following week we all tried to play the shot and no-one could keep the ball on the green never mind anywhere close to the hole," recalled Gordon, who also remembered Greg Norman playing a ball from off the television gantry.

After six years, six tournaments and, at the age of 50, Gordon accepted the job which was to see him through to his retirement and provide him with home for the next 30 years of his life.

"The Chairman of Green at Churston played Moor Park and came and spoke to me about coming down to Devon.

"The timing was right because if I had stayed at Moor Park I wouldn't have had the time to get involved with BIGGA or the other work I've been able to do since," said Gordon.

Gordon was on the Board of the BGGGA when the amalgamation talks started in the mid 80s and was actually delivering a paper on Parkland Golf at a St Andrews conference, chaired by Walter Woods, when the R&A got involved in bringing the BGGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA together with a view to forming what became BIGGA.

When it became a reality in 1987 Gordon, ably assisted by wife, Marion, who has been a constant companion, became a volunteer Regional Administrator for the SW and South Wales and remain so until the role became a salaries position in 1997.

He is particularly proud of the Westurf Show, at Long Ashton Golf Club, which ran for 10 years and which ensured that the Region was financially secure for many years.

Another success was the creation of the Cannington College golf course for which he was a key mover, along with Jim Arthur and, another close friend, golf course architect, Martin Hawtree.

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The following year Gordon became BIGGA National Chairman and he is still the only man to date to have held the position for two years.

Highlights during that time was the Duke Of York officially opening of BIGGA HOUSE in 1998 and being Captain of the Rest of the World team for the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, that same year.

"I've got so many wonderful memories of my time as Chairman and particularly meeting so many great and wonderful people.

"I remember some superb trips to the American and Canadian Conferences and meeting motivational speakers, Frank Dick and Simon Weston at Harrogate.

"Frank Dick's speech is still the best I've ever heard," said Gordon who continued to be BIGGA's representative on the GTC and the Region's Education Officer for several years after his Chairmanship.

Another one of the coincidences which have followed Gordon through his life occurred when he retired.

"I took over from Jock Millar, at Moor Park and when I retired from

Churston Jock's son, Kelvin, took over from me.

"The families have both been close and I have to say Kelvin has done a wonderful job since he took over.

Since retiring Gordon has had his fair share of health issues and now boasts a new knee in one leg and a new hip in the other while he is a superb advert for a Plymouth-based Scottish heart surgeon from whom his quadruple by-pass represented 286 successful operations in a row.

"I was playing in the final of the Devon Seniors at Yelverton recently when a friend came over and said that a guy wanted to meet me.

"I went over and he looked familiar but I couldn't place him.

"Then he said, 'I'm the guy who saved your life and I've been hearing about your golf so I must have done a good job!'"

Marion had encouraged him to take up golf again and Churston initially gave him a handicap of 12.

It was cut in half by the end of the first season and he is currently standing at 4, with his 80th birthday in May.

"My final golfing ambition was to be playing to single figures when I hit 80 so I think I'm going to make

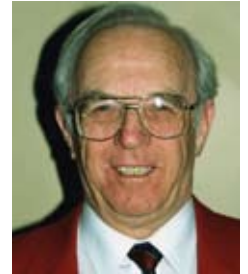
it," said the man who still plays three times a week, often 36 holes in a day, and only on a rare bad day does he fail to beat his age.

"As he prepares to enter his 80s Gordon will have another shot to play with so that achievement will go on for some time to come.

"My final golfing ambition was to be playing to single figures when I hit 80 so I think I'm going to make it," said the man who still plays three times a week, often 36 holes in a day, and only on a rare bad day does he fail to beat his age.
Marion Child

Indeed, the quality of his golf saw him play off +2 in his prime and compete in two Open Championships - the Centenary Open at St Andrews in 1960 and five years later, appropriately at Royal Birkdale.

As he looks back on a life full of enjoyment and achievement is it any wonder that smile is never far away?



Gordon Child

systemic

in one!



syngenta

Focus on Fusarium

the foremost disease of UK turf

Dr Terry Mabbett takes an indepth look at the most prolific turf disease in the country

Typical circular tan-coloured areas of Fusarium Patch caused by *Microdochium nivale* (Picture courtesy Vitax)

At first sight turf appears to suffer from surprisingly severe foliar disease given the relatively small proportion of grass shoot and leaf displayed on frequently cut and well managed swards.

However, with wider and deeper consideration it is easy to see why a perennial ecosystem perpetually wounded by mowing, stressed in summer from drought and heavy traffic then flushed with fertiliser under moist misty autumn conditions is susceptible to fungal infection and disease spread.

Fungal pathogens are present



year round in thatch and spread by traffic and turf machinery to gain easy entry through cut leaf surfaces and develop more rapidly on physiologically 'under-par' turf grass.

Sports turf in the United Kingdom suffers from around a dozen different foliar diseases but one stands 'head and shoulders' above the rest in spread, severity, damage caused and cost of control. Surveys show how over 90% of all UK greenkeepers expect to deal with Fusarium patch disease in any one calendar year.

More than half of all professional football pitches are affected by

Fusarium on an occasional basis and one fifth of local authority pitches where disease monitoring is generally less.

As much as 80% of all fungicide applications to UK sports turf are targeted at Fusarium although other diseases are managed at the same time especially by broad spectrum fungicides.

That said, new products released onto the market have Fusarium at the top of the fungicide label's target list even though a wider range of diseases will invariably fall within the activity spectrum.

Fusarium is a fast moving disease

and once established can only be eradicated by the use of fast acting curative fungicides.

However, there is still a lot the greenkeeper and groundsman can do to minimise infection and reduce the rate spread and damage caused should Fusarium patch disease appear.

Success lies in deep knowledge of the pathogen and the disease and by establishing through the seasons and over the years those management practices which minimise infection and subsequent spread and development.

This scenic golf course was carved out of natural forest but excessive shading of greens could encourage Fusarium



Microdochium nivale

Fusarium patch is caused by a fungus now called *Microdochium nivale* after mycologists changed the name from *Fusarium nivale* some years ago. The disease is additionally called pink snow mould because symptoms may appear as a distinct pink colouration after periods of prolonged snow cover. There was talk of changing the common name to *Microdochium Patch* (as in North America) but everyone in the UK knows the disease as *Fusarium Patch* and that is the way it should stay.

Pink snow mould is still appropriate because it reminds Managers in areas with regular snow cover that turf is particularly susceptible to *M. nivale* at this time. Closely related pathogens including *Fusarium culmorum* and *Fusarium avenaceum* which are sometimes found in infective association with *M. nivale* on grasses maintain the *Fusarium* name.

Microdochium nivale success is multi-fold. First and foremost the fungus is present in turf year round on the thatch in saprophytic

(feeding on dead decaying organic matter) or weakly parasitic mode. Secondly the pathogenic fungus is active over the wide range of temperature typically found in cool temperate climates during the calendar year being capable of growing at temperatures as low as 21 °F (-6 °C) and up to about 86 °F (30 °C).

Thirdly the fungus is not too fussy about the type of turf grass attacked and is found infecting all mainstream turf grasses including *Agrostis*, *Festuca*, *Poa* and *Lolium* species. Equally important is pathogen preference for fertile soil, especially where excess nitrogen has been applied in autumn during inappropriate attempts to boost grass growth and green up turf after summer drought and heavy wear and tear.

The fungus grows over a wide range of temperature but other conditions are required before it can move into top parasitic gear. Prolonged periods of high humidity and surface wetness coinciding with cool temperatures make *Fusarium* a high risk disease for spring as well as autumn, especially after overdone nitrogen fertiliser application.

Symptoms of Fusarium patch

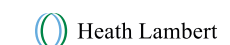
General descriptions of plant disease are largely subjective and in the eye of the beholder and that documented for *Fusarium Patch* is no exception.

General consensus has *Fusarium* down as circular patches on the turf, first appearing as water-soaked spots less than two inches (5 cm) in width, then quickly changing in colour from orange brown to dark reddish brown and eventually to tan or straw colouration.

If the disease goes unchecked small sized reddish brown spots may start to appear in lines where spores (conidia) have been spread by mowers. Ring-like patches may appear on low cut turf.

Under suitable conditions small spots of *Fusarium* infection will quickly enlarge and coalesce to form extensive patches of disease on the turf.

Under snow cover and other saturated conditions thin and fluffy coverings of white mycelium are seen on matted grass leaves, and as the snow melts the affected areas appear as straw coloured patches



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with a pink tinge intensifying in sunlight.

Under the microscope *M. nivale* has septate (cross walled) hyphae (mycelium) and produces pink or white sporodochia (fruiting bodies) with spores, particularly in cool weather conditions.

The tiny asexual spores (conidia) are lunate (new moon shaped) with cross walls and width x length dimensions of 2.5-5.0 x 10-30 microns (µm); 1 micron (µm) is one thousandth of a millimetre.

Survival in thatch and subsequent spread

Microdochium nivale has no trouble in surviving unfavourable conditions, including hot dry summers, because it 'rests up' on grass debris provided by thatch.

When conditions become favourable the pathogen infects the leaves of living grass plants through fungal hyphae growing up from the thatch or via germinating conidia.

The disease may grow and spread slowly at first with some weeks passing before detection, but under wet and overcast conditions and within a wide range of temperature [freezing point to 60 °F (16 °C)] will start to spread rapidly.

Huge numbers of conidia produced at this time are readily and rapidly spread along and around the green on wheeled equipment (mowers, spreaders and sprayers), on boots and the feet of animals.

The pathogen slows down and becomes inactive during periods of warm sunny weather which cause the grass canopy to dry out.

Slow growing turf with deep thatch provides the ideal substrate for *M. nivale*. Such situations exist during cool wet conditions (32 to 46 °F [0 – 8°C]) and when turf grass is covered with snow.

Specific conditions that encourage spread of the fungus include drizzle, fog, frost occurring night after night and alternating thawing and snow cover.

Poor drainage favours Fusarium Patch as does long uncut grass leaves becoming matted down to creating a humid microclimate within the canopy.

Which turf grass?

Most cool climate turf grass species are susceptible to Fusarium Patch disease although there are some marked differences which can be exploited.

Annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) is particularly susceptible to Fusarium especially in the autumn



when cool and moist environmental conditions bearing down on summer-stressed turf are ideal for disease development.

Poa annua is not a resilient grass, being highly susceptible to heat stress and drought stress and prone to cold injury, all of which clearly contribute to high disease susceptibility through autumn and into winter.

Agrostis species including *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) are very susceptible to Fusarium Patch. Browntop bent (*Agrostis castellana* Highland) is more prone than cultivars of *Agrostis capillaris*. *Lolium perenne* (perennial rye grass), *Poa pratensis* (smooth stalked meadow grass) and *Festuca* species are somewhat less susceptible.

They have a low to medium thatching tendency compared with *Poa annua* and *Agrostis* species which is medium to high.

There appears to be positive correlation between high thatching tendency and frequency of foliar disease including Fusarium Patch.

High nitrogen availability which generates soft succulent growth increases turf susceptibility to Fusarium Patch, while high available soil potassium has the reverse effect.

Factors pre-disposing to Fusarium Patch

Pre-disposing factors related to

climate, weather, soil conditions and management practice provide ideal conditions for infection by *M. nivale* and its subsequent development and spread. They include:

- Humid atmosphere, shade and surface wetness especially when accompanied by cool temperature conditions
- Inadequate circulation of air above the grass sward
- Rapid, forced, soft and succulent growth especially in autumn from late application of fertiliser especially nitrogen
- Soil pH in the neutral to alkaline range (pH 7+) and inappropriate use of lime that raises pH to alkaline levels.
- Overambitious use of fertiliser especially if poorly balanced
- Damaged turf grass due to high

ABOVE AND LEFT: Trees are an essential integral part of a well laid out and managed golf course but not so near as to permanently shade the greens



BELOW: High moss infestation indicative of wet turf and higher risk of Fusarium patch

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wear or irregular cutting which may cause 'shaving', too low cuts resulting in 'scalping' and insufficiently sharp blades that tear rather than cut and therefore cause leaves to have cut jagged edges which are more prone to infection.

Best practice

Many good management practices minimise opportunities for *M. nivale* to infect grass plants and spread across the turf. Examples of good practice are:

- Remove early morning dew and other surface water by sweeping or swishing and improve air circulation above the sward by good pruning and management of adjacent hedges and overhanging trees. Maintain good air circulation within the turf and ground by regular aeration. Minimise shade but where shade is unavoidable adjust (reduce) fertiliser levels accordingly.

- Maintain thatch at optimum height and density for the particular sports surface situation. Box off and remove grass clippings and do not smother turf when applying top dressing by making sure it is well worked into the turf.

- Establish a regular programme of mowing with correctly set and adjusted blades for height of cut and self-sharpening.

- Appraise seed mixtures and turf composition for maximum resistance to Fusarium Patch disease and minimise annual meadow grass content.

- Maintain surface acidity using applications of sulphate of iron to toughen and green up grass for autumn and winter and to additionally deter casting earthworms and control moss.

- Take care to balance soil fertility and increase the proportion of potassium relative to nitrogen when going into high risk autumn situations.

Apply nitrogen early enough in the late summer/early autumn period so that grass can harden off sufficiently before winter.

Do not allow grass to go into winter too high and ensure drainage is adequate.

Fall back on fungicides

The foregoing management practices may not completely avoid Fusarium patch but will decrease incidence and severity should it appear.

Fungicides are required to completely eradicate Fusarium patch but adherence to best management

practice should reduce the required frequency and intensity of use.

There is a bewildering range of fungicides for Fusarium control carrying increasingly sophisticated claims by manufacturers on activity and action. However, there are several salient points greenkeepers can use as markers to assess whether a fungicide product will deliver.

Fungicides are essentially protectant or curative in action. Protectant fungicides remain on the leaf surface and protect the grass plant against infection and as such deposits must be on the leaf surface before infection is attempted by the pathogen.

Curative fungicides can move into the grass plant to eradicate established infections. Fungicides may enter the plant through the leaves, the roots or both, and move around the entire plant in which case they are said to be truly systemic.

Some which do not move out of the leaf they pass into are termed trans-laminar. Curative fungicides may also deliver significant protection depending on how long they remain on the leaf surface before moving into the plant.

Protectant fungicides and systemic fungicides that only enter through the leaves are essentially lost once they drip off (or are washed off) the leaves and into the soil. Those which can additionally enter via the roots may be taken up and used to good effect.

There may be a grey area for some essentially protectant fungicides that migrate a short distance into the leaf and therefore provide some marginal curative action.

Products which contain two or more different active fungicides may deliver protectant and curative action depending on the nature of the individual active fungicides they contain.

Greenkeepers (and groundsmen) are in a unique situation with regard to fungicide application and foliar disease control.

Every time turf is mowed grass plants are 'wounded' thus facilitating easy pathogen entry through the cut surfaces of leaves.

At the same time mowing is removing any fungicide that is on or inside the excised portion of leaf.

Microdochium nivale is ever present on the thatch component of turf, ready and waiting for the right physical conditions (temperature, humidity, leaf wetness) and biological conditions (inherently susceptible and physiologically stressed turf grass plants) to move into full parasitic disease mode.



ABOVE: Fusarium patch and fallen leaves invariably occur at the same time – in autumn

BELOW: Best turf management practice is the key to minimising incidence, spread and severity of Fusarium patch (Picture courtesy Vitax)

BOTTOM: Fungicide spraying is needed to eradicate established infections but sound turf management practice will minimise the frequency and intensity of application required.







Hitting the ground running

Scott MacCallum find out what makes BIGGA's new Chairman, Andrew Mellon, tick

Some people like to ease themselves into new situations while others are great at hitting the ground running. It is perhaps fortunate that Andrew Mellon, BIGGA's 2011 Chairman, is of the latter persuasion.

Throughout his career Andy has shown himself to be someone who doesn't shirk a challenge and, with much to do in the first few weeks of his Chairmanship, easing himself in was never going to be an option.

"We are entering a period of change as John Pemberton, our long-standing CEO, is retiring and it is crucial that we recruit the right person to take the Association forward and continue to manage our resources as effectively as possible," said Andy, as we chatted in his office in the grounds of Elmwood College Golf Course.

"We have appointed a company to carry out the recruitment process and getting the right person is top of the agenda. We could be looking at having someone in place as early as April, depending upon the notice period the successful person has to give, but we will take the time to ensure we get the best person" he revealed.

A relative late-comer to the profession, 43 year-old Andy has made up for any lost time with a commitment to hard work and a

will to learn which has seen him recently promoted to Golf Operations Manager at Elmwood Golf Course and rise through the ranks of BIGGA with indecent haste.

"It has been a rapid learning process while Vice Chairman because I hadn't been involved in the main Board prior to that, so it has been a year of learning how the Association operates – what goes on at BIGGA HOUSE and how it interacts with the members through the Regions and Sections etc"

"I do believe that BIGGA is a very strong, established Association and that its great strength is its membership. We are only as strong as our membership and the Association could not have been successful in getting to where it is today without that commitment from its members"
Andrew Mellon

What he has always known, however, and it is a view which has hardened over the last 12 months, is just what a superb organisation it is that he'll be chairing.

"I do believe that BIGGA is a very strong, established Association

and think that its great strength is its membership. We are only as strong as our membership and the Association could not have been successful in getting to where it is today without that commitment from its members," he said.

Andy is well aware of the issues facing the Association, and the industry as a whole, as we look to the future.

"We are in a more financially challenging situation than we have ever been and, of course, we are not alone in that. It means that we must ensure that we make the most effective use of our resources and, more than that, increase collaboration with like minded bodies, which can add benefit to our members."

Andy was born in Glasgow but spent the first six years of his life in Kenya, the family having moved

to Africa through his fathers work.

"I have vivid and fond memories of Kenya. It was a very relaxed lifestyle and a wonderful climate"

Another clear recollection was of his return to Scotland.

"I was in the car on the way back

from the airport and I'd never seen weather like it. It was terrible and I can still remember wiping the steamed up windows, probably wondering why we had left Africa" said Andy, who lived initially with his grandmother and aunts in Twechar, a small mining village near Kirkintilloch.

It was then that he displayed a rare ability to fit into his new surroundings.

"Living in Kenya I'd picked up quite a posh accent but within two weeks I was speaking like a true Glaswegian. My parents said they had never heard anyone change so quickly! – Kids have a strong ability to adapt"

On leaving school Andy went to Strathclyde University to study Civil Engineering, but his desire to earn a living was never far away and he took a job in the summer holidays selling photocopiers and also joined the University's Officer Training Corp. This saw him out on exercises most weekends.

"I enjoyed the challenging outdoor, military lifestyle, so much so that I joined Glasgow's Royal Marines Reserve Corp, and was seriously considering a full time military career."

After having studied for two years Andy decided to take a year out and worked on a self employed basis for an insurance brokerage. He was still serving in the Reserve Corp, but having met his future wife, Jane, the prospect of a full time military career and being away from home for long periods became less attractive and the demands of self employed Insurance Sales required his full time commitment. Having progressed to the position of Training Manager he explored setting up his own company.

"I was actually in the process of setting up my own brokerage when Standard Life offered me a job and I worked for them in Glasgow for two years," said Andy.

"I took full advantage of the superb Standard Life's Customer service and Sales training programme, which has served me well ever since"

"It was a fairly intense job and the money was good but there was something missing"

The opportunity to make a change came when his wife was offered a job in the Western Isles.

"Jane had worked in the area before and had a lot of friends up there so I said let's just go. I decided that I would go to college and study Business Admin and just see what happened."

As it turned out, one of his lec-

tures also ran a local insurance brokerage and offered Andy a job so he found himself working in the same industry as the one he'd left behind in Glasgow.

"We settled in Stornoway for seven years and two of our children were born there. We had a fantastic house, looking out over a bay, and a great lifestyle, although it was difficult being so far away from family,"

Over the years Andy turned his hand to several jobs, seeking something which he would feel happy in. He played golf regularly and a chance encounter with the Greens Convenor made him aware of a vacancy as a six month labourer.

"I filled out an application form and one interview later I had the job. I can still remember my first day walking around the course with Alistair MacLeod, the Head Greenkeeper. The sun was coming

with Elmwood College.

"I decided to study distance learning but soon realised I would have to move to move to fulfil my career ambitions."

"I decided to take on a full time HNC course at Elmwood which was a real sacrifice as initially I'd be leaving my wife and children in Stornoway. I did so with a view to eventually getting a job in Fife. I reasoned that there were over 50 courses in Fife and that if I couldn't get a job after doing my HNC there would be something wrong!"

He was right, but that job came quicker than he could ever have imagined.

"Within a month of starting there was an advert for a Greenkeeper/ Instructor on Elmwood's course. I applied for it, got it, continued my HNC and began working under John Quinn MG. Being apart was difficult and six months later my wife managed to find a good position in Cupar, and the family was back together"

Within a year he'd been appointed as Head Greenkeeper and another year on, when John left to set up his own business, he was appointed Course Manager.

"I like to think that I was working hard and applying myself but opportunities came along at the right time and I was able to take advantage of them. Elmwood College was a very supportive employer, allowing me to fulfil my desire for further education. Carol Borthwick, my Director, encouraged me to develop my knowledge and skills, for which I'm grateful, and I took full advantage."

Before long the Course was to undergo a massive project reconstructing eight of its holes, building a superb new driving range and training academy and a state-of-the-art maintenance facility.

"I remember applying for planning permission and being desperate to get it but when it came through, all of a sudden, thinking 'Oh dear. How are we going to do all of this?'"

It was a fair question because, although Andy had Howard Swan to provide the design and planning, all of the work was done in-house and, over the five years the work was being carried out, hundreds of students, at various stages of their education, worked on it with Andy operating as Project Manager.

"I learned a great deal from Howard and his team, and was

"I filled out an application form and one interview later I had the job. I can still remember my first day walking around the course with Alistair MacLeod, the Head Greenkeeper. The sun was coming up and I thought – I'm getting paid to do this. This is the life and what I want to do"
Andrew Mellon

up and I thought – I'm getting paid to do this. This is the life and what I want to do."

The job was only meant to be temporary but Andy threw himself into it making himself as indispensable as possible. He serviced machines, saving the club money, and never missed an opportunity to learn more about his new vocation, using holidays to visit other clubs on the mainland and learn more about the job.

"Working in a small dedicated team, I learnt a lot from Alistair, and my desire to progress grew. The network available through BIGGA membership, and Greenkeeper International enabled me to make contact with many more experienced Course Managers, who were always willing to give advice, and I owe them a great debt." After the six month contract was over the committee asked him to stay on.

His voracious appetite for knowledge was soon to put him in touch

fortunate that there was a lot of construction taking place at Kingsbarns, Fairmont and St Andrews. I was not shy in asking for advice.”

Despite this he found time to join the Central Section committee and before long had become Secretary/Treasurer, succeeding another former BIGGA Chairman, John Crawford.

“We had a great committee of dedicated experienced guys who built on the great work done by John to make the Section one of the most proactive and successful in the Association, focussed on providing education and network opportunities for the members.”

Having completed the majority of the Elmwood project the call from Paul Worster asking him to consider Vice Chairman came at a time when his work commitments had reduced a little and he could see that he could devote the time required to taking on a greater role within BIGGA.

“Having ensured he had the support of his employers and more importantly his family he accepted the position.

“We are often asked ‘Why should people join BIGGA?’ I think we need to make the Association something for which the question should be, ‘Why would you not join?’”

“The answer to that is one which already exists in my head but we need to get that across to all greenkeepers out there as well as Club Managers, Secretaries and the owners of golf facilities.

“They need to be made more aware of how their club would benefit from their staff being members of an Association which supports their staff and makes them the best they can be at their job,” he said.

“I honestly believe that being a member of BIGGA is worth its weight in gold because of the resources that are available to them. But I think we can improve in a lot of areas.

“I’d like to see Sections and Regions having more support and sharing good practice while we need to continue to develop our alliances with other bodies within the industry so we can work together for the mutual benefit of the clubs and businesses we work for.

“One thing I have learned in the time I have been involved is the growing respect there is among the other industry professionals for the position of the greenkeeper.

“They recognise that we have a very important part to play, as part of the team which supports this great Industry.”



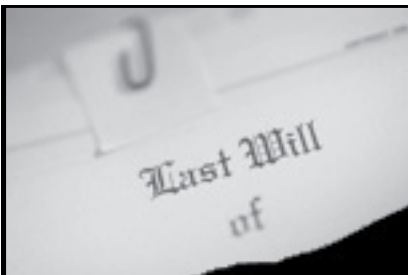
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Harrogate Week 2011

Defying the odds, more people visited Harrogate Week 2011 than did in 2010, which is a huge tribute to the work that goes into ensuring that the week delivers what the customer wants and the attraction that the town of Harrogate holds for visitors. With 6018 coming through the doors over the three days of the Show it represented a 2.3% increase on the year before while the number who took part in a Continue to Learn Workshop or Seminar exceeded 2000 for the very first time.





The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

Jim Cook spent three days exploring Harrogate Week and found it to be time extremely well spent



After a few days spent in the old spa town of Harrogate at this certain time of year, it is difficult not to feel that you have been part of something a bit special.

An exhibitor at the show told me his company return annually because it is the biggest 'shop window' in the industry, in Europe. This statement is certainly true, the opportunity for sales and promotion is huge, but it is also a fact that the week offers an experience outside of the capacious halls that is simply unrivalled throughout the continent. Workshops and seminars with some of the biggest names in the business run throughout the week and newly-qualified greenkeepers have the chance to plot their way to

becoming a Course Manager with the guidance of the Personal Development Zone. From welcoming old pubs tucked away below street level to the multitude of restaurants, coffee shops and modern, vibrant bars, all within a short stroll of each other, the networking opportunity that Harrogate town itself provides is truly tantalising.

It was with all this and the upcoming 'Harrogate buzz' in mind that I arrived at the exhibition entrance at 9am on Tuesday, January 18.

If the eager throng of visitors that bustled outside Hall A was anything to go by, then this year's Harrogate Week looked likely to be a resounding success.

BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster,



ABOVE: Media Centre press conference with Top Green and Rigby Taylor
 OTHERS: A great place for meeting people

cut the green ribbon to start BTME and Clubhouse 2011. Previous to this, the Continue to Learn Education Programme, had begun on Sunday, with record numbers in attendance.

As the halls steadily began to fill, it was down to the Media Centre for the opening press conference with Top Green and Rigby Taylor who were launching their Euroflor flower seed mixes.

Brian Robinson, Seed Research Director, at Rigby Taylor, emphasised the biodiversity the flowers should encourage, due to long flowering periods from spring to autumn and this was the first of many positive environmental sentiments to be broadcast over the week.



The announcement of Dennis acquiring SISIS was made by Managing Director of Dennis, Ian Howard. He emphasised how the two companies were metaphorical headlights, side by side, whilst parent company Howardson Ltd was the battery driving them.

Although I did not have the opportunity to see many of the seminars and workshops, I managed to catch the presentation given by Course Manager of the Old Course, St. Andrews, Gordon McKie and Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St. Andrew's Links, entitled 'Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship'.

This proved immensely interesting as they spoke about many things including how daily maintenance of the course continued around contractors setting up grandstands, and removing sprinklers in preparation for The Open. They talked about increasing Fescue with overseeding, top dressing little

STRI's Golf Environment Awards recognise the most environmentally proactive clubs in the UK and it was in the Queen's Suite where presentations were made for the 2010 winners

and often, problems with Pearlwort and how fungicides have not been used on the course for 20 years. A fascinating insight into life at St. Andrews came when the laborious methods of a company developing a computer game about the course were explained and how greenstaff worked around this.

The annual awards ceremony saw BIGGA members recognised for achievements in front of a crowded room.

STRI's Golf Environment Awards recognise the most environmentally proactive clubs in the UK and it was in the Queen's Suite where presentations were made for the 2010 winners.

Regional awards were given to David Cole, of Loch Lomond GC; Meurig Lumley, of Aberdovey GC; Brian Storey, of Silloth on Solway GC and Mark Broughton MG, of Aldeburgh GC.

Overall winner was Colin Webber, of Portmore Golf Club, who was commended as being a fantastic exemplar of the greenkeeping

PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY: Past Chairman, Paul Worster, stands beside...

TOP: STRI's Golf Environment Award winners Josh and Colin Webber

SECOND TOP: Master Greenkeeper Award winners: Alan Hess MG, Stuart Yarwood MG, Alan Pierce MG and Greg Evans MG

THIRD TOP: Lifetime Award recipient Gordon Child with Jack McMillan MBE

BOTTOM LEFT: Machrihanish Dunes GC Course Manager, Keith Martin receiving the GEO certificate from Jonathan Smith

BOTTOM RIGHT: Auchterarder GC Head Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn receiving the GEO certificate from Jonathan Smith

PAGE 37 TOP: Unsung Heroes David Green; Dave Saltman; Winner, Lestin Carpenter; Trevor Williams and Lynda Green





industry. He thanked his family and colleagues and accepted the award on behalf of all the team. James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven GC, was the winner of the individual award.

Ben Warren, Director of Communications at the Golf Environment Organisation, presented GEO certification to Machrihanish Dunes GC, on the Kintyre Peninsula, Scotland, and Auchterarder GC, in Perthshire, Scotland, and said he looked forward to many more BIGGA members receiving this award next year.

Master Greenkeeper awards followed with Greg Evans, of Ealing GC, becoming the 52nd person to achieve this status. Stuart Yarwood, of Lymm GC, and Alan Pierce, of Ham Manor GC, also received the accolade alongside Alan Hess, of Augusta Pines GC, in Texas, USA. Alan thanked Sami and Rachael for their support and made a moving speech thanking his father for encouraging him to become a Superintendent.

Gordon Child received the prestigious BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Jack McMillan MBE.

Gordon started out at Dore and Totley and Royal Birkdale and went on to become Course Manager at such courses as St George's Hill and Moor Park, where he prepared the course for some top European Tour events.

He became Course Manager at Churston Golf Club, in Devon, where he stayed until retirement.

Gordon also played in The Open Championship twice, at St. Andrews in 1960 and Royal Birkdale in 1965. Out on the course, he still regularly beats his age.

Terrain Aeration's eighth Unsung Heroes were recognised at the Show. Joint Sponsors, the EGU sponsor the Unsung Hero award

for a Greenkeeper and presented a cheque along with Terrain Aeration to Iestyn Carpenter, of Corhampton Golf Club.

Steven Kennedy, of Sandgate Boys Football Club, won the Groundsman Award

The BIGGA social night went down extremely well, literally, as this year's entertainment was a beer festival held at the Old Swan Hotel. The night was a definite success with attendees enjoying a buffet, live band and a wide selection of real ales.

It was with thick heads that many of us approached Wednesday morning's calendar of events.

In the Queen's Suite above Hall C, Chris Kennedy, Director and Course Manager of Wentworth GC, gave an overview of major refurbishments of the West Course.

His working relationship with Ernie Els proved a source of amusement and interest to the massed onlookers.

Els had said that the point of making changes was not to alter the character of the course, that would have been a crime, but to bring it up to specifications needed to host the largest competitions.

Chris mentioned turf from their old greens, sold for charity, raised £27,000.

The vast amount of manpower and materials involved in the refurbishments was apparent from Chris's presentation and he was keen to recognise the rest of the team responsible saying:

"Everyone who has been involved from 2005 has done a fantastic job."

Back to the press conferences where Vitax Amenity launched their new fertiliser, Enhance R Prime, which won IOG's 'Best New and Innovative Product' award in the Fertiliser and Pesticides category.



TOP: The Social Night; SECOND TOP: The live entertainment; THIRD TOP: Shona Garner hosts a Continue to Learn Workshop; ABOVE: Another workshop in full flow







The introduction of an Envirozone was new to this year's exhibition and with environmentalism becoming such an importance for golf courses, it was encouraging to see the area lively with activity over the three days.

Stands from British Climate Services, Golf Environment Organisation, EnviroSports Ltd, Solarwall Ltd, Vermigrand and British Wild Flower Plants sent out a clear message that the industry is working hard to dispel myths about golf courses not being environmentally friendly or offering bio diversity and sustainability.

In relation to this, BTME 2011 saw Syngenta launch Operation Pollinator, which is a project designed to create new habitats in out of play areas of golf courses, for bumblebees and pollinating insects.

It is well documented that bumblebee numbers have declined by 70% over the past 40 years and Syngenta's press conference on Wednesday afternoon made the very agreeable statement that the plight of the bumblebee should be reversed.

For the incentive, golf courses are being sought to join a national scheme in which they commit to establishing at least half a hectare of Operation Pollinator seed mix, which is designed to encourage bumblebees and pollinating insects by being rich in pollen and nectar food sources. Simon Elsworth, Turf and Landscape Manager at Syngenta, said that with the correct management, golf courses could provide the perfect habitat for bumblebees and other pollinating insects.

Late on Wednesday afternoon, BIGGA and the Golf Environment Organisation announced the establishment of a partnership between

Syngenta's stand included a platoon of live bees which caught the attention of one young visitor

the two bodies. It will see them collaborating in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership aims to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and course managers to understand, and provide support for their improvement efforts.

Incoming Chairman at BIGGA, Andrew Mellon said the whole industry needs to pull together and collaboration with like minded bodies brings more strength to golf's efforts.

On Thursday morning it was great to catch up with a new exhibitor at the show to get his view on the week. Richard Allen, Co-Director of EnviroSports Ltd, was showcasing its riveted bunker system in the Envirozone and said: "EnviroSports is a very new company and it's our first time to Harrogate. We've really enjoyed the show, we've met a lot of people, especially in our target

client list of golf courses and really enjoyed the whole experience of exchanging ideas with other people who have the same passion towards golf that we've got."

After 4pm when the doors closed to visitors, the cleanup began and it was time for assessments of a hectic few days.

Any fears of inclement weather, such as the recent early December freeze, affecting Harrogate Week were quickly appeased as it became apparent we were in for cold but rain and snow free skies for the duration. This, combined with the unquestionable lure of so many industry names under one roof, led the exhibition halls to be crowded with enthusiastic visitors.

The attendance figure of 6019 for the week is higher than in 2010 and shows that despite budget pressures, people are willing to make the effort for something which is



RIGHT: Jim McKenzie of Celtic Manor conducting a very popular session on last year's Ryder Cup
 ABOVE RIGHT: Volunteers' workshop
 BELOW: John Pemberton with some of the BIGGA team

worthwhile. The Continue to Learn Education Programme in the Queen's Suite provided a catalogue of informative, educational seminars and workshops throughout the entire week, while the exhibition halls bustled throughout.

With the success of this year's show still ringing in their ears, the BIGGA team has already begun preparing for Harrogate Week 2012, which will undoubtedly prove once again to be the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe.



GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on show at Harrogate Week 2011



BLINDER BUNKER LINING SYSTEM LAUNCHED AT BTME

Blinder Bunker Liner Ltd launched a new patented bunker lining system, Blinder, at BTME.

The new system is environmentally sound and uses rubber crumb made from recycled tyres mixed with a binding agent to produce a bunker lining that provides a solution to many of the problems associated with maintaining bunkers.

Blinder was developed by Course Manager, Murray Long, who was looking for a viable option to reduce bunker maintenance hours.

Rubber crumb is mixed with a binding agent and then spread onto a sub-base at a depth of 25mm. It is then smoothed by hand to provide the perfect base for the bunker sand. It can then be sprayed to match the colour of the sand, if required.

The liner is resistant to club strikes and burrowing animals and drains at a rate up to 2,400 ml per hour. It also minimises contamination to the sand, which can create

substantial savings in sand replacement and reduces the possibility of stones on the fine turf areas surrounding the bunkers. It also offers protection to the drainage system, extending the timeframe for drainage replacement programmes.

The new system can be easily installed when renovating existing bunkers or constructing new ones.

Technical Director, Murray Long, added: "Blinder is suited to all types of bunkers and can be extremely useful in areas of heavy wear such as practice bunkers. It is also very effective in chalk and flint soils, especially stopping contamination of stones and other particles into the sand. Bunker maintenance is an issue I've been battling with for many years, and I'm confident that I've found a solution, not only for me, but also for my peers."

01344 621654
www.theblinder.com



PRO-PRUNER

The PRO-Pruner range developed in New Zealand by Lakewood Products, offers simple, robust, well engineered pruning tools capable of pruning branches up to 65mm in diameter. The advanced design features of the PRO-Pruner include:

- A unique curved blade: the shape of the curved blade pulls the pruner onto the branch and holds it tight, helping to avoid collar damage, blade crossover and slip; the ability to hold bigger branches and easier scarring are major benefits.

- PRO-Lock threading: threaded handles, fitted with specially designed PRO-Lock bolts, has eliminated nut and bolt failure. The easy adjust PRO-Lock bolts prevent lifting when the lock-nut is tightened. This system reduces the number of working parts ensuring the pruners perform better.

- Strength and durability; reducing the bolt holes in the handles to 7mm and riveting the tube to the high strength steel arms further strengthens the handles.

- Operator comfort; ergonomically designed grips and the offset bolts on the handle to head have helped in reducing shock to the operator's arms and elbows.

Lakewood Products has now made the PRO-Pruner available in the UK through Baxter Bay Limited.

www.propruner.co.uk

MORE NEW PRODUCTS NEXT MONTH...



NEW SCOTTS LAUNCH

Greenmaster Topdress Z is a fine particle-sized topdressing based on Scotts' Pro-Lite zeolite technology. This gives a particle count of 1,100-2,000 granules per gram. It has an open caged structure with a very high nutrient holding capacity, making it ideal for use as an amendment to new rootzones or in topdressing. The high Cation Exchange Capacity of Topdress Z helps turf managers with their nutrient management by enabling the soil to hold onto more nutrients.

Stuart Staples, International Technical Manager, said that turf managers can save time and money while improving the health of their turf by using controlled-release fertilisers.

"Controlled-release fertilisers deliver their nutrients over a specified period in a consistent and reliable way, so losses are minimised and nutrient use efficiency is greatly improved. While the price per kilogram is greater than conventional fertilisers, the long lasting effects of the product, reduced nutrient losses and the saving in labour costs compared to repeated applications of a conventional fertiliser, means that multiple savings can be made over the course of a season."

"In addition, providing a steady supply of nutrients rather than a 'feast or famine' approach has been proven to improve turf health and resilience," he added.

www.scottspromotional.co.uk



EUROFLOR INTRODUCED BY RIGBY TAYLOR

Following extensive trials at golf clubs in the UK, Rigby Taylor, in partnership with seed breeder Top Green, launched EUROFLOR urban flower seed mixtures at BTME.

Brightening up the golf course, natural floral cultivars are mixed with wild flower species to provide horticultural excellence.

These mixes help to provide areas which will give back to nature what has often been taken away by the destruction of natural habitats.

Attracting wildlife throughout their long-flowering period from late spring well into the autumn they offer animals and insects cover and an extended food source.

Through trials and tests at 18 UK sites Euroflor has been found to be highly successful on varying 'normal' soil types - including loam, sand, clay, stoney and slightly acidic to alkaline soils with a pH of 6 to 8. These colourful mixtures have also performed well on steep slopes but here the sowing rate needs to be increased to 5g per square metre to allow for run-off.

Virtually no maintenance is required on the 14 hand-selected mixtures being introduced which can include mixtures which replicate a club's corporate image.

www.rigbytaylor.com

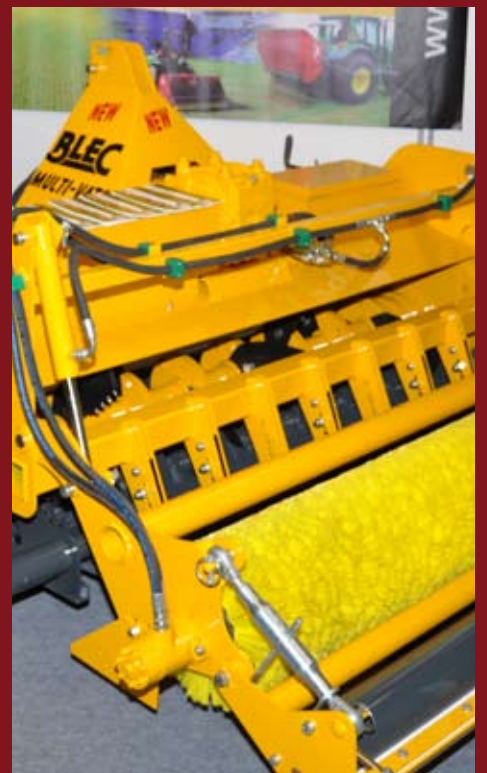
NEW BLEC MULTIVATOR

A unique chassis design with quick hook-up rear attachment system turns the Multivator into a multi-use machine carrying out a wide range of tasks achieved with only one drive unit.

Decompacting, soil recycling and topdressing all in one pass, the Multivator has quick hook-on rear attachments, easy change blade system and heavy duty reversible drive system.

There are five models available in different widths - three for mid-range tractors and two heavy duty for higher HP tractors. All units are equipped with overload cam clutch and the heavy duty models also feature long-life side gear drive with forward and reverse rotation.

The heavy duty units also feature a heavy duty gearbox with four shafts to give two-speed drive and reverse rotation - mounted on a swivel base for easy drive change. On the heavy duty models a PTO shaft drive is fitted for rear attachments and an extreme duty overload clutch (pre-set).



www.blec.co.uk



Harrogate week

The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2011 9AM - 5PM
WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2011 9AM - 5PM
THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2011 9AM - 4PM

BTME ClubHouse Continue to learn



Breaker BioLinks



It's Evolution

..... **not revolution!**

The 'Breaker' family of turf water management products continues to evolve!



Confirmed in independent trials, Breaker BioLinks is the proven solution specially developed to solve Dry Patch and water related problems on all turf surfaces. Particularly effective on Links golf courses and other sand based rootzones.

Integrated source of plant growth hormones provides natural moisture retention and stimulates root recovery.



- **Prevents and cures Dry Patch**
- **Stimulates root regeneration**
- **Balances soil moisture content**
- **Improves turf health and colour**

Preventative & Curative effectiveness confirmed independently by STRI

RT
rigby taylor



Flying the flag for British manufactured products and environmentally responsible transportation and packaging.

FREEPHONE 0800 424 919 www.rigbytaylor.com

Breaker and Breaker BioLinks are trademarks of Rigby Taylor Limited
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PLAN VIEW



GIS for you

Ian Phythian looks at the benefits that can be derived from turning to your computer for assistance

Many of us now have access to the internet and have at some time downloaded applications for our own use.

As a golf course GIS analyst my mission is to inform and educate golf club personnel the latest technology available as a freeware. Most of us now are computer literate to some degree and also we are all aware of downloadable content from the internet.

There are many downloadable programmes available for the public and there are specific ones that could directly benefit golf clubs and I would like to show you how free downloadable GIS technology can be harnessed and applied to your working lives at the golf club and your careers. Indeed many golf club personnel are simply unaware of GIS and the immediate benefit it can bring!

WHAT IS GIS?

GIS stands for (Geographic Information System). Apply this technology and you can view your golf course in great detail.

GIS is based on showing many layers of golf course features.

Measurements

Area measurements to all individual greens, tees, fairways or any other areas.

Accurate length measurements for planning new drainage.

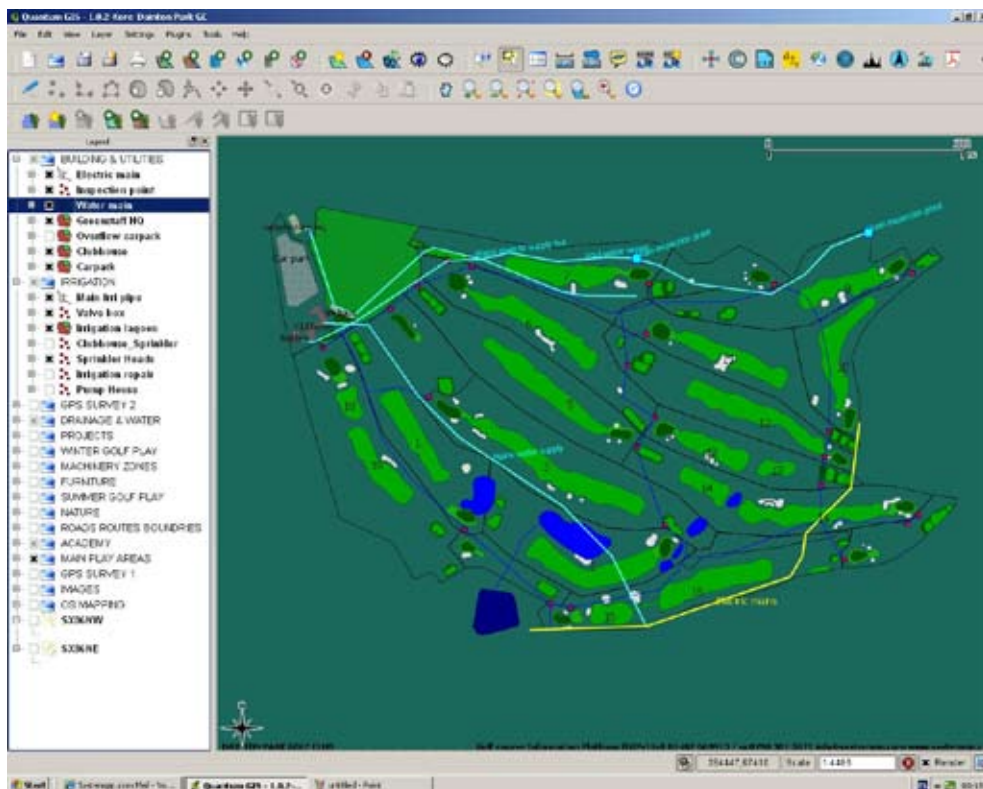
Print outs/Job Sheets

Ideal for those extra summer staff! It's an excellent communication/discussion tool for general maintenance tasks as well as "the" on going working document for the golf club infrastructure.

Set up for any golf course

GIS can be set up for 9, 18, 27, 36, 45 holes and in addition cater for leisure and hotel groups with any number of courses worldwide with their correct geo location coordinates.

In addition it can be set up to specific named courses within the golf club if desired.



Languages

As freeware GIS is developed for the international community many languages are available.

GIS GOLF COURSE FEATURES

Main play surfaces

This is all the main golf playing sports surfaces that make up your golf course. All greens, aprons, tees, tee banks, fairways, semi-rough, rough stage-1, rough stage-2, bunkers, banks and mounds, tee group banks, and hole zones.

Drainage and water

Start to document your drain information into the GIS. Main drain, sand slit drain, waterfall feature, old clay drain, inspection, carrier drain, stream, rodding eye, gully pots, vermin traps locations and repair history.

Irrigation

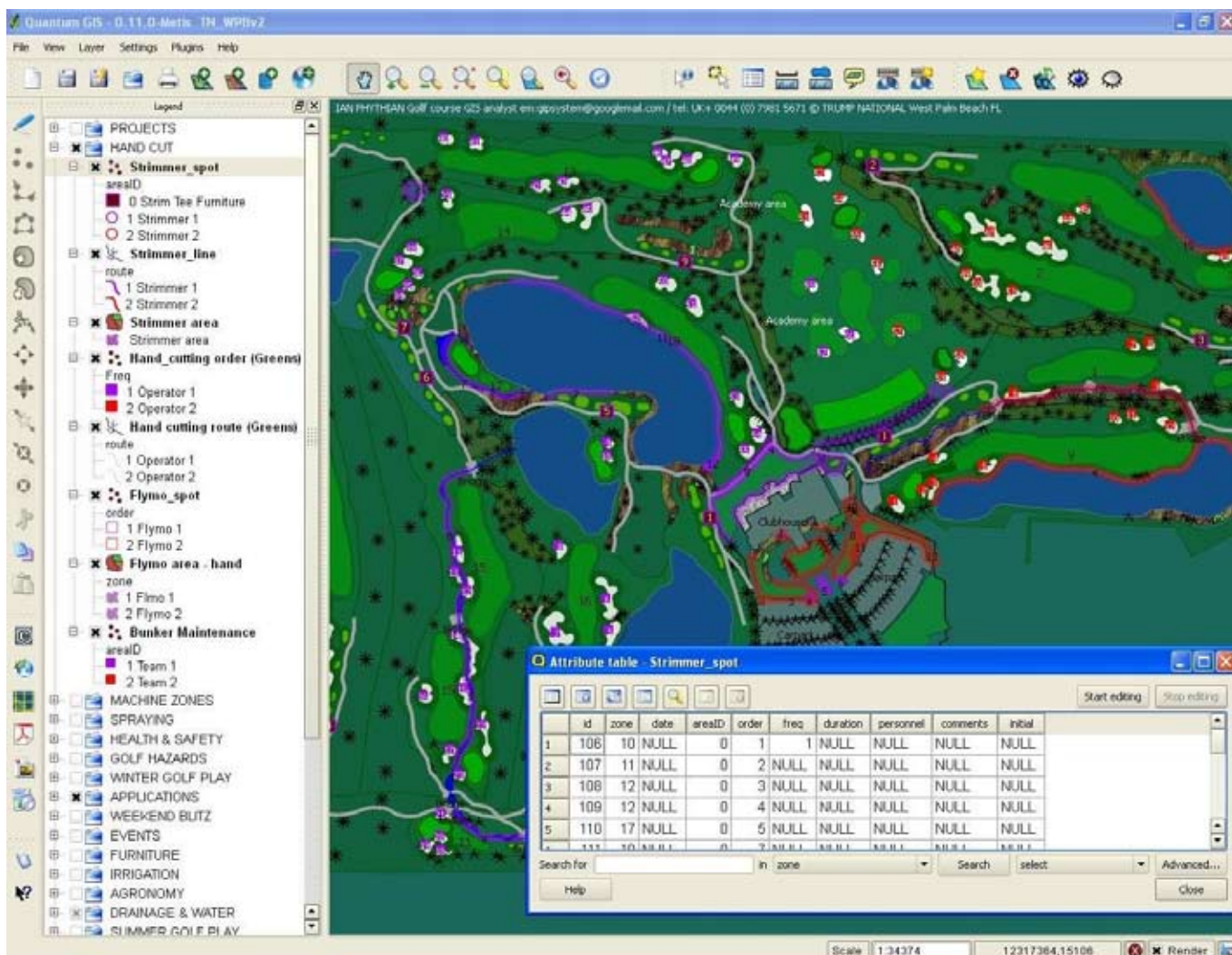
The main artery of your course, the main armoury against draught, no detail is enough! Each sprinkler

with its own unique ID, print out or email give to your irrigation specialist includes greens, tees, aprons, fairways, ornamental, academy, air release valve, pump house, filter, main pipe, valve box, location, span (cast) and repair history.

ABOVE: Example (fig 1) with golf course layers (left) with a comprehensive toolbox (top) to enable measuring, editing, printing to the golf course map (centre).

BELOW: Example (fig 2) we actually see a number of layers switched on including the irrigation with numbered irrigation heads.





ABOVE: Example (fig 3) showing spraying spot treatment (purple). Hand cut flymo & strimming (red).

Projects

This could be any new or proposed feature however large or small, proposed features such as location of new tee and bunker etc. Hand cutting - All those labour intensive jobs that compliment the main cutting programme, which is very labour and time consuming.

Plan and work smarter.

For example, strimming, flymo, bunker maintenance location, frequency, and duration.

Roads, routes and boundaries

Shows all the clubs assets, this could also be split to show land owned by the club ready for a future project as well as the existing established golf course boundary.

For example traffic flow, trolley line, track, footpath, perimeter fence line, cattle grid, electric fence, green staff track, bridge, buggy path, boundary fence and location.

Buildings and utilities

Different clubs have many different facilities and utility connections, it is good practice to know where they are.

For example electric transformer,

electric main, telephone line, miscellaneous, gas main, water main, pylon, sub station, club signpost, green staff HQ, clubhouse building, proshop location, repair history and locations.

Furniture

This highlights all your course extras. For example, course signage, bins, bench, practice net, toilet, ball washer and drinking water locations

Clubhouse

Covers your entire clubhouse and buildings infrastructure. For example, security lodge, building and out buildings, sport area (eg: tennis courts), buggy park, lawn, patio area, proshop and locations.

Academy

However big or small shows your academy area. Includes green, tee, fairway, bunker perimeter area and locations.

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Spraying

Intensive spraying record archive to keep up to date. For example, loca-

tion, frequency, zone, treatment, buffer zone and maintenance.

Health and safety

Be up to date with your staff's safety. Includes flash flood, water, risk assessment area and spot location.

Agronomy

Document your course health, follow your agronomist advice update your report view with your consultant. For example, Ph test, agronomy report, turf nursery and locations.

Applications

Document your feeding and top dress programme show/print to the proshop to view any course delays excellent customer service. For example, machine setting, comments, initial, product applied, date, ingredient, application rate for top dressing, fertiliser (liquid and granular) and over seeding.

Nature

Highlights all the natural features that compliment your course. Plan your next tree/shrub planting project with GIPs.

Contact

info@systemgip.com
www.systemgip.com

Ian R Phythian
Golf Course GIS Analyst
UK 0044 (0)798 381 5671



For example, perma frost, perma shade, site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or (Triple S) areas, protected wildlife area, heather area, flowerbed, evergreen tree and group, broadleaf tree and group, palm tree, protected tree, mature tree, hedge and rushes, coppice area, shrubs location, comments and initial database.

Machine zones

Tag a machine type to a specific area. This is also useful for any risk assessment analysis.

GOLF PLAY

Golf hazards

Highlight all your course specific play rules and boundaries includes ground under repair (GUR), out of bounds (OOB), lateral water hazard, drop zone locations, comments and initials database.

Summer golf play

Shows all your playing information inc: the play lines from specific tees or planned tee projects and much more.

Includes tee yard markers, green centre, practice green, yard marker post or plate, regular pin, weekend position, 50,100,150, 200yrd markers or plates, tee markers (all colours), all play lines and custom colours (eg: red tee = red play lines) location and comments.

Winter golf play

Often forgotten not now, you can switch on/off at a click winter course prepared, compared to your summer course and viewed by all. For example, play lines, stroke index, par, yardage, and sponsor.

Weekend preparation

Highlights the time critical course preparation undertaken by

the green staff for most weekends throughout the season very labour and time critical operation get it right, plan it, work smarter, print out for your staff then they know what, when and where they are working ideal for extra summer staff.

Events

Plan your event however big or small features, planning is everything.

For example, public gallery, advertisement, press HQ, marshals, extra green staff, overflow car parks.

Base maps

Choice of ortho-rectified images in colour, black and white.

Contour and topographic mapping can also be added.

ABOVE: Example (fig 4) Public gallery areas, walkways, tee colour, play lines, greenkeepers bunker position, overflow carpark, advert banner position.

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

The anatomy of...

Battery powered kit

These days there seems to be a rush to adopt any green technology. Nothing wrong in that. But sometimes there is a great deal more to 'green' options than just cutting down on your carbon footprint.



Unlike its 'hybrid' small diesel or petrol powered siblings, the all-electric version of the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 relies solely on six 8-volt deep cycle lead acid batteries for its power. Modern CAN bus digital control improves efficiency and operating costs should be considerably lower than a fossil fuel burning alternative.

Step-by-step Analysis... Battery powered kit



The armrest control on the all-electric Eclipse 322 will look familiar to existing Jacobsen greens mower users. The steering is also electrically assisted, the mower having no hydraulics on it at all.



Loppers, power pruners, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, brushcutters, branch tiers and a power hoe. The pictured kit provides a snapshot of the battery powered items available from Pellenc. An impressive range matched to first class build quality.



The battery charger is an integral part of the Eclipse 322, as is a centralised electrolyte top-up system. Although lithium-ion and other battery types grab the headlines, modern control systems and intelligent chargers ensure there is still a lot of life left in lead-acid battery technology.



Pellenc equipment is powered by Lithium-ion batteries linked to the tool via a cable. The Poly5 unit on the right represents the latest technology, its 'polymer' design packing more punch into a smaller, lighter package. All feature a capacity indicator. (Inset).

It is tempting to concentrate on the fact that here we are looking at battery powered equipment. But pick up a diminutive Pellenc Selion C20 chainsaw or take a test drive on the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 ride-on greens mower and the chances are the power source will not be the first point of interest.

These tools are well engineered items of equipment that deserve close inspection for what they are as opposed to how they are powered. In short battery driven equipment can now be looked at for reasons other than just its power source.

"A key modern demand is not just to produce a quality mown finish but to deliver it consistently," says Richard Comely, Ransomes Jacobsen's Product Manager. "With the battery-powered Eclipse 322 ride-on greens mower, advanced CAN bus digital control enables the mower to be set up so it will deliver a consistent and repeatable

frequency of cut every time it is operated. The clip rate will remain constant, adjusting the speed of the cutting cylinder to precisely match variations in forward speed. This cannot be achieved on a hydraulic mower but it is a standard feature of our battery and hybrid powered Eclipse 322 models".

The important point here is not so much that the battery powered Eclipse draws its top-up energy from the mains but that it just happens to be a pretty decent greens mower. Approach it from this angle first, and by all means compare it to its hybrid and all-hydraulic alternatives, and that is perhaps a better way to consider the mower. Look at it solely because it is the only battery powered model of its type on offer and you run the risk of overlooking what it is designed to do; cut greens to a high standard.

Taking a sideways glance at a completely different set of kit, the Pellenc battery powered range of brushcutters, loppers, saws, prun-

ers and trimmers is completely different. Powered hand tools are now well established so on the surface the offering from Pellenc is not really that 'new'. But where Pellenc is different is in the way it builds its equipment.

Modern battery powered tools, such as drills and impact drivers,

So what? Well it is only when you operate a battery powered tool that you get to know if it will be up to a professional job.

are now designed to be battery powered from the outset. You get the impression, however, that some hand held tools now offered with a battery pack are developed from a petrol powered equivalent. With Pellenc, all the kit the company makes is battery powered. There

are no engine powered alternatives. Although companies to include Stihl and Husqvarna do offer some well proven battery powered tools, the survival of these companies does not depend upon them being any good. With Pellenc it does.

So what? Well it is only when you operate a battery powered tool that you get to know if it will be up to a professional job.

Pellenc kit is engineered to be used for extended periods every day. It shows. Similarly, the all-electric Eclipse 322 has taken a long time to come to market simply because Jacobsen have to ensure it will do the job reliably over an extended period. It has to stand comparison not just to its all-hydraulic alternatives but to hybrid mowers to.

Making the most of lead acid batteries

In the case of Jacobsen, existing lead acid battery technology is matched to modern electronics. The Eclipse 322 is able to maximise the capacity of its batteries by using it more efficiently and, of

equal importance, having the battery pack managed to optimise the storage of electrical power. An argument against battery power in the past was that you stood a very real chance of the batteries giving up on you in the middle of the course.

“We have taken the proven charging technology of our E-Z-Go electric vehicles and adapted it to suit the all-electric Eclipse 322,” says Richard Comely. “The mower has its own integral digital battery charger.

This intelligently manages the amount of electricity that is used to recharge the batteries and will not over charge. A centralised system also makes it simple to keep the electrolyte topped up to exactly the right level, points that combine to make it much easier to look after the power pack which in turn means consistent working periods between charges”.

So how long will the Eclipse 322 run between charges? Sensibly Ransomes Jacobsen suggests a lot will depend upon the distances between greens and terrain, but most operators should expect 18 to

21 greens per charge, this dropping if attachments, such as a groomer, are also operated.

With regard to operating costs, running a battery powered Eclipse 322 will save on red diesel and, all too easily overlooked, hydraulic oil too. Servicing times are also reduced, so this can also help reduce the costs of mowing overall.

An argument against battery power in the past was that you stood a very real chance of the batteries giving up on you in the middle of the course.

Hand tool battery technology

Pellenc uses Lithium-ion batteries and again these are replenished using an intelligent charging system. This ensures the battery can be charged at anytime, with no ‘memory effect’. In simple terms this means you can top up the bat-



Designed for the light trimming typically carried out by a 30cc brushcutter, the Pellenc Excellion has a telescopic pole to give a reach of up to 1.5m. The speed of the cutting head can be set from 5,000 to 6,200rpm.

teries without first having to fully discharge them to optimise their service life.

This used to be a problem with other early small battery designs.

Of equal importance, Pellenc claim the batteries have an extended life. After 800 charges, the company suggest the batteries will still retain at least 80% of their original capacity, with no reduction in the actual power delivered by the battery.

And when the batteries are not in use for more than four consecutive days, the batteries will automatically manage how they discharge to optimise their service life.

Designed by Pellenc, it is the in-built software that is the clever part behind the optimisation of the batteries. A dealer can use the software, for example, to interrogate the battery.

This can be used to list the number and duration of charges made, operating temperatures, duration and loads placed on battery and even shock loads.

The benefit of this is that users can be given a clear outline not just of how much work a battery

has done but also how much life remains.

Typically, Pellenc expect professional users to get as much as three years out of a battery pack.

Now actual life expectancy can be monitored so you know how much life a battery has remaining. All useful information that can help keep an accurate tab on equipment running and operating costs.

Why no advanced batteries for larger kit?

The clever batteries used by Pellenc, and as will be fitted to cars like the forthcoming Nissan Leaf, are extremely expensive.

For small hand held tools the price can be more easily justified.

But the cost of a Lithium-Ion battery pack needed to power a ride-on mower has to be carefully balanced against the operating and cost benefits it would deliver over the whole life of the mower.

At present the sums do not stack up.

The Nissan Leaf, incidentally, will benefit from a £5,000 government

subsidy when it goes on sale. But even then the car will cost in excess of £23,000. That is a lot of money for a car that will 'only' do 100 miles between charges and is only the size of a VW Golf.

Put these figures into a mower context and it could be that a lithium-ion powered fairway mower would perhaps cost pretty much twice the price of a diesel hydraulic or diesel hybrid equivalent.

This is not to suggest only lead acid technology will be used to power electric mowers of the future as there almost certainly going to be alternatives available.

The question is what those alternatives will turn out to be and when they will become mainstream.

For more details on Jacobsen Eclipse 322 and operating costs, Ransomes Jacobsen has a website www.eclipse322.com.

This provides detailed information that is claimed to demonstrate the return on investment that can be achieved by switching to the all-battery powered 322.

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
Scotland	1 March 2011	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440
North Midlands	To be announced 30 March 2011	To be announced Newark Golf Club	Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115 Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115





Getting on top of your drainage problems

GI looks at two Home County golf clubs which have invested in tackling their drainage problems

In an ideal world, every golf course would love to tackle drainage problems when the ground is relatively dry, when access is easy and potential surface damage can be kept to a minimum.

However, greenkeepers like groundsmen in other outdoor sporting facilities are subject to limitations brought on by the demands of the sport. The dry summer months are the busiest time for clubs. Events are scheduled, matches played and maintenance issues have to fit into the busy schedule. Coupled with this is the desire for most clubs to achieve and maintain the highest standards.

The worst drainage problems invariably don't surface until it's too wet to get onto the course without causing more problems than you're attempting to solve.

Last year seemed to be particularly dogged by poor weather conditions: the dreadful downpours that caused such turmoil during the Ryder Cup, the interminable wet weather in the late autumn followed by unremitting snow and icy conditions. But this isn't a new phenomenon. Winters are

invariably cold, wet and windy - just varying in degrees.

Contractors know all about poor working conditions, it comes with the territory. It's how they approach the job that makes the difference to whether objectives are achieved, in spite of whatever nature throws at them.

So how do you get round the need to do the work but at a time which isn't ideal? The first and the most important step is to select a reputable contractor preferably a member of the Land Drainage Contractors Association (www.ldca.org) who understands fully the implications of working in less than ideal conditions. Another important though rarely used resource is the reference. Get to know your contractor. Talk to others who have used them on previous projects. Get to know their strengths and weaknesses before taking them on to do a job which has a direct impact on the quality of play enjoyed by members of your club. Experience in dealing with similar situations can offer huge benefits to the greenkeeper managing the wide range of drainage issues that can arise and choosing the different

methods of solving them. It is also critical to understand the effects of drainage installation on the playing surface, particularly in adverse circumstances.

The relationship between club and contractor has to work on many different levels with communication always being the key to success. It is vital that you choose a

“The role of the Course Manager is crucial to the completion of any drainage project”

Nathan George, Contracts Manager

professional outfit which has a very positive attitude and understanding of Health and Safety obligations for instance. You need to be confident that any legal requirements are adhered to and all the necessary service searches for gas, water, electricity and existing drainage lines are in place before any work is undertaken.

MJ Abbott is an experienced and specialist contractors to the sports



industry and have set out a list of helpful pointers for the Course Manager to help them obtain the most from their contractor and ensure that whatever the installation and whenever it takes place, it will run as smoothly as possible.

“The role of the Course Manager is crucial to the successful completion of any drainage project,” said Nathan George, Contracts Manager.

“The relationship between all the parties is even more critical when the project is difficult. Patience and appreciation of all the factors coming into play from both parties can make all the difference to progress and a satisfactory outcome. So we recommend the following:

1. Provide details of existing drainage and services, outfalls etc. to the contractor before the project commences.

2. Be aware of relevant Health & Safety issues and regulations.

3. To minimise disruption to the course, installation should take place during spring, summer or autumn. If this isn't possible, choose a contractor that is experienced in challenging environments.

4. Tendering – Encourage different contractors to tender for the work, but check its like-for-like, particularly in difficult economic



ABOVE: machines in action at Foxhills

times when costs are not always transparent.

5. Make your contractor aware of your expectations and limitations

6. Communication is the key – open lines of communication to keep up-to-date with progress.

7. Approve all materials before use - check the quality.

8. Be realistic in your expectations and prepare club members for a small amount of disruption to your course

9. Keep your Greens Committee informed on progress with regular updates so they can keep members informed.

10. Keep in contact with your contractor - Good client/contractor relationships are built over time as contractors become accustomed to the site and staff. When the project is completed, maintain contact with your contractor and keep them informed of progress. They are there to support you moving forwards.”

Murray Long, Courses & Estates Manager at Sunningdale Golf Club, has had first hand experience of the difficulties of timing essential remedial drainage work.

“We were aware that work needed doing well before the winter of 2008 but it wasn't possible to even contemplate interrupting the Members’

fixtures for the coming season,” explained Murray.

“Any drainage works would have to be scheduled for late summer early autumn and recovery would have to be swift so that the Senior Open Championship due to take place the following July would be played on a course at its peak. We just had to hope that weather conditions would be favourable. In the event, they couldn't have been worse.

“There are many factors to consider when choosing your contractor,” he continued. “We have always used several different contractors for a variety of work but what we looked for in this instance was a company that had the experience to give us the confidence that they were capable of the work. We had to acknowledge the significance of re-instatement and the need to avoid surface disruption. It meant the work would take longer and the contractor would have to dedicate their time and resources of labour and equipment over a prolonged period of time to ensure quality of finish rather than speed,” said Murray.

“Traditionally we would always aim to do drainage schemes in the drier late summer months” explained Nathan.

"But the problem at Sunningdale had become acute and we were asked to install drainage in conditions which were extremely challenging. Work was required on the 2nd and 14th holes of the Old Course that involved the installation of 365 linear metres of primary drainage with 100mm perforated mainlines and 650 metres of 80mm perforated lateral drainage at eight metre spacings. We excavated trenches at 600-700mm depth, laid the pipe and backfilled to within 150mm of the surface with 10-5mm gravel, and approved sand/soil mix rootzone."

"This was then followed with secondary drainage, consisting of narrow bands of gravel banding installed perpendicular to the primary drainage. The 20mm wide x 180mm depth bands of 6mm gravel are injected into the surface at 400mm centres. They make a positive contact with the piped drainage gravel and are designed to speed up the drainage of surface water lying between the lateral pipework."

In order to keep surface disruption to an absolute minimum, boards were deployed to displace the weight of each piece of equipment when in operation. Three machines were working side by side at any given time; the trencher, the

dumper for spoil removal, and the gravel cart. Individual boards had to be laid, removed then re-positioned

Foxhills Golf Club and Resort in Surrey called in Speedcut to carry out drainage work on greens as part of continuing improvements to course conditions.

"A wet summer in 2009 brought drainage problems to a head on several badly-draining greens," said Course Manager, David Wyborn.

Speedcut Contracts Manager Kevin Smith said: "We carried out sandslitting on two greens that October with our AFT Wizz Wheel, having done one in March, and the heavy rain during the summer showed the full extent of the problems."

Previously, two laser-guided Mastenbroek 10/12Ds had been employed on six fairways at Foxhills, cutting trenches, removing spoil and laying pipeline.

"The torrential rain in July, up to two inches in a day on two occasions, would have been a real problem on the Longcross course but we fairways one, two and three sandbanded and they drained fantastically," said David.

"In 2009 we had the second wettest year on record, and certainly the wettest summer," he recalled.

"Our drainage programme

became increasingly pressing. During that summer we were hit by dreadful rain in July, which followed a terrible winter.

"The rainfall in 2009 between the beginning of October and the end of February was a record 18 inches," said David.

Six of the fairways at Foxhills had suffered the previous winter and had to be closed for short periods, not only because of water not draining but because of slippery surfaces in some areas becoming a health and safety issue for players.

"We decided to drain three fairways on the Longcross course and three on the Bernard Hunt course," explained David.

"The soil conditions on the course vary between sand and heavy blue clay, but in general the soil is heavy and poor draining."

The three greens that were sand-slit are on the Longcross course.

"They have always been prone to wetness but they now drain well," said David.

"Foxhills has superb surroundings and is very challenging from a greenkeeping point of view.

"To maintain the very high standards drainage work is essential. Club members are very understanding and know all the work and disruption is for their benefit."



Foxhills Course Manager David Wyborn

SPEEDCUT DETAILS:
www.speedcutcontractors.co.uk or 01865 331479.

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A QUICK GUIDE TO...

EASING TRAFFIC AREAS

George Pitts, Course Manager at Yelverton GC, offers some practical advice to preserving the over worked parts of the course

These days, the expectation of the modern golfer and the culture of the game demands “year round” golf along with the use of heavy bags laden with all the latest gadgets.

It is unrealistic for most to expect zero damage and compaction from golfing traffic. The skill is to limit the amount of damage.

Trolley / Buggy Policy.

The majority of golfing traffic damage will be caused by trolleys, power trolleys and golf buggies. It is useful to have an agreed policy in place that gives the Course Manager the option of restricting the use of trolleys and buggies on the course. There are no hard and fast rules with implementing trolley bans, it is a balancing act of reducing traffic and subsequent wear/compaction against allowing and encouraging members and visitors to play the course in order to meet revenue targets.

Directing Traffic.

Inevitably, golfing traffic will need to be moved around the course to spread the wear, in the same way hole cups need to be changed and teeing boxes moved. This will include, signage, post and rope, hoops, t-strips and line-marker. All these methods can be used to direct traffic away from high wear areas. If post and rope is used, it is important to ensure there is a system of regularly moving its position and a strategy of moving post and rope forward in increments will ensure that the wear is spread. Signage will need to be clean, tidy, easy to read and prominently positioned.

Paths.

Where “bottle-necks” and concentrated areas of wear cannot be avoided through directing traffic, paths may need to be installed. Construction and materials used will depend on budget, site, design and aesthetics. When installing paths, the position, shape and colour must always be sympathetic to and never compromise the overall aesthetics and design of the course.



Grass Species.

A more recent trend has been to trial and use grass species that have been specifically bred to withstand high wear pressures. Perennial Ryegrass and more recently Rhizomatous tall fescue and Tufted tall fescue all have very high wear tolerance capabilities. It is important to ensure that these species are compatible with the site they are intended as colour, leaf size and tolerances to heights of cut may vary dramatically to the indigenous species. In many cases, these grass species are being used to substitute paths to avoid compromising the design and the aesthetics of the course. It is important to note that these species often require higher levels of nutrient and irrigation.

Improved drainage.

The effects of concentrated areas of wear and compaction, especially in wet areas, can be greatly reduced through improved surface drainage. Drainage, regular aeration and soil exchange with compatible, sandy free draining materials will all help to direct water away from the surface and thus alleviate compaction and wear issues.

Anti-erosion / compaction products.

There are many products on the market that have been designed to improve the grass plants resistance to heavy wear. Turf reinforcement mesh and rubber-matting, if

properly installed, can provide compaction and erosion relief on areas such as path ends and steps, where traffic is at its most intense. Other innovative products include winter trolley wheels that are designed to limit damage by evenly distributing the load over a smaller surface contact area. It is important to always extensively trial any new products.

Course Design.

The psychology of a human being (this includes golfers!) is to take the shortest route, a straight line to the next destination. There will often be random movement from tee to green, as the golf ball dictates the players movements, but, from green to tee there maybe limited exit points to often only one destination. If exit points are restricted by hazards, traffic routes will be limited and wear further concentrated. Exit points can be greatly increased by removing some trees or repositioning a bunker.

Communication.

The key to all the above is to ensure that there is always a healthy line of communication to members and visitors of the golf course. Policies can be communicated through websites, notice boards, newsletters and presentations to the members. Communicating to the golfing public alongside sound, innovative and professional management practices should ensure that a balance is met between accessibility and commonsense.

DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

THE DOUBLE A TRADING COMPANY LTD

Location

Eden Valley Business Park,
East Road, Cupar,

Employees and Size of premises

28 Employees/18,000 sq. ft

Number of service vans 7

Brief history of company

Sandy Armit who had been involved in the groundcare machinery business for over 20 years formed Double A in 1996. the business is owned by Sandy and his wife, Aileen.

High profile sales helped the company to grow quickly in the early days and raise their position in the Scottish groundcare industry

In 1999 Double A was awarded a John Deere Groundcare Equipment Dealership. This, along with existing franchises, enabled the company to provide a fuller range of quality products.

In 2001, the company moved to their new 11,000 square foot purpose built building and a year later they increased their range of specialist equipment with the addition of Aebi and Gianni Ferrari.

In 2003 they were appointed Scottish Distributors for Campey, and In 2007 they branched into a new business when they became UK distributors for the Tru-Turf range of greens rollers.

In 2009 the company was appointed as Scottish Importers for Goupil Electric Vehicles and last year they were appointed dealers for both IPU and Charterhouse equipment.

How has the dealership changed?

"When I look back it seems like we have come a long way in a short time, it doesn't feel like that when you live and breath the business 24 hours a day 52 weeks of the year. It has been hard work but satisfying at the same time to see where we are now.

"The biggest step would definitely be when John Deere had the faith in Aileen and I, in 1999 to give us a dealership when at the time we had five staff and worked from a small rented unit and an office in our back bedroom.

"After the franchise taking the decision to build our own facility here in Cupar in 2001 which we extended in 2008 has helped us to be far more efficient and professional.

"Today we are a leading supplier to the Scottish groundcare machinery industry with an experienced sales team backed up by a highly capable team of engineers, parts, and administration staff offering customers a high quality product range."

Sandy Armit

What would you like to see changed?

I would like to see a change in UK trade shows I am not sure what the answer is but I do not see attendances increasing in the current climate, which makes change more likely.

In Scotland, as a long term supporter of Scotsturf, I cannot understand how companies much larger than us can say officially that they cannot justify the cost of the show but they are



happy to send their sales teams to visit the show for two days and tout business - this is totally wrong, either support the show (which I think everyone would prefer) or stay away!

I think BTME works well. It is at a good time of year in a central location and has plenty to offer in terms of training, seminars, trade shows and a good social atmosphere. Saltex is becoming a more south of England and/or dealer show with less training and no atmosphere at night. But as to an answer that suit's everyone's requirements, someone maybe older but definitely wiser than me will have to come up with that one.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities?

We do, we offer a computerised parts service which allows access to John Deere parts and to our stock levels 24 hours a day. We also have an in house LANTRA

trainer who can carry out any technician and operator training our customers may require.

Franchises

John Deere Groundcare Equipment;
Lastec Articulator Mowers;
Timberwolf Woodchippers;
Aebi Tractor and Mowers;
Gianni Ferrari Mowers;
Campey Turfcare Equipment;
Tru-Turf Rollers (UK Distributor);
Goupil Electric Utility Vehicles;
Multicar Vehicles;
Yamaha Golf Cars; IPU Groundcare Products;
Redexim - Charterhouse Equipment

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

Three kings

The 'Golf Club Management Partnership' recently celebrated its first anniversary. Sandy Jones charts the progress made so far and looks ahead to the future

The Golf Club Management Partnership (GCMP) has been set up by the PGA, BIGGA and the GCMA to provide a co-ordinated approach to the management of golf clubs.

We chose a particularly appropriate time to join forces, as golf clubs feel the effects of the economic situation and adapt to changing attitudes to leisure activities.

In every golf club there are three providers of services to the golfers – the manager, professional and the course manager and his team, and it makes sense to work together and ensure that these services are provided at the highest level.

This has proved essential as golf club committees consider ways to cut costs in order to survive the recession when in fact they should be looking to add value. There is a temptation to simply chop out areas of the operation, often because committees may not fully understand how the club is run.

The difficulty is that often those people providing the services don't communicate their joint value clearly to the committees, and this can result in a contest where the professional, manager and greenkeeping department are fighting for survival.

We believe that our role is to communicate on behalf of all three parties and ensure that committees appreciate their qualities.

In the USA, the reaction to the current situation has simply been to cut staff numbers, but we have aimed to put the message across to the clubs that they should take advantage of the abilities of their team to offer better value to the members. It takes time and money to develop the skills needed to run a golf club, and this should not just be thrown away.

Of course we understand that there may need to be some reductions in staff numbers, but we hope to persuade the clubs to look at increasing efficiency first.

Now that the bodies involved in the partnership understand



each other better, we can take our message to the club owners and to amateur bodies such as the English Golf Union (EGU) over the next 12 months.

We are also aiming to create models to show how clubs can operate more efficiently, considering the whole operation rather than just staff costs. The club must engage with its manager, professional and greenkeeping team – as they

There is a temptation to simply chop out areas of the operation, often because committees may not fully understand how the club is run

are the first point of contact with members and visitors – to ensure that the golfers' needs are met, on the course, in the pro shop and in the clubhouse.

Our united approach is already benefiting clubs – after the severe winter we produced some recommendations to help tackle claims relating to health and safety in bad weather which has been invaluable for managers dealing with those situations.

We have also set up a network to tackle credit card scams affecting pro shops, getting the word around clubs after an incident, and this has led to the arrest of offenders.

The internet will become increasingly important in the communication process, and we are already looking at the latest technology for the delivery of education programmes.

The GCMP has also looked at ways of sharing expertise between the PGA, GCMA and BIGGA, and capitalising on common ground while accepting individual strengths. All three have comprehensive education programmes, but some subjects that have previously been taught separately to professionals,

managers and greenkeepers – such as health and safety – can easily be brought together.

This also leads to a closer understanding of each others' abilities and provides an opportunity to share ideas.

There are other opportunities too – PGA members have given lectures on BIGGA and GCMA courses, and at events such as BIGGA's Harrogate Week, many of the seminars will be applicable to all sectors.

Marketing is a further example – the professional and the course manager can contribute as much to marketing the club as the manager.

Another goal will be to communicate the significance of golf to the wider community, and to the government, to put us in a better position to lobby for support.

This is one area where the Americans are ahead of us, producing statistics on the industry and creating a website to promote golf.

We already know that golf makes an important contribution to the economy – for example the economic impact of the Ryder Cup was more than £100m.

Going forward, we are keen to foster closer relationships between golf club managers, professionals and course managers.

Managers and professionals must not see each other as rivals – it is understandable that a manager would see a professional who gains managerial skills as a threat, but they can be much more effective as allies. Clubs work best if all parties use their skills together, rather than in isolation.

The golfer and the club is the ultimate winner if we can understand each other better and appreciate how we can provide an improved service to members and guests. This economic crisis will not last forever, and this is the time to get organised and prepare for the opportunities ahead. GCM

Sandy Jones is chief executive of the PGA. Interview conducted by Jane Carley

Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



North

It is now the beginning of January that I'm writing this and thankfully the snow all seems to have disappeared. It's still pretty cold so by the time you read this in February the snow will of probably come back. I say it every year but it doesn't half set you back with your winter programmes. especially if it's pretty big! We at Murcar Links were in the middle of building and renovating bunkers before the snow arrived and now we're only just getting back to them.

There's been a couple of sad bits of news been sent to me recently. The first bit is that Mike Campbell has passed away at the age of 78. A Lossie native, he spent 19 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moray Golf Club, retiring in 1997. Mike was renowned as a fit and active man who enjoyed his golf. Previous to his Greenkeeping, Mike spent time as a chef, was deployed to the Suez Canal during his National Service and he both fished and built boats out of the Buckie and Lossie shipyards. We would all like to pass on our condolences to his wife, Marjory, and family at this time.

Also a lot of you older greenkeepers will remember George Hampton, Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose. He sadly passed away just before Christmas and our thoughts are with his family at this time. There is an insert earlier on in the magazine from George Paterson remembering George Hampton.

Thanks to George Paterson for providing me with these notes to put in the magazine. He has been the first one to email me

with any news since I started doing this column. In fact I was quite shocked to find BIGGA notes in my inbox!

Also by the time you read this you'll either be at Harrogate, reading it on the BIGGA stand, or you'll have been down and are reading this back home if you didn't pick up a copy. Whatever the case hopefully you would of all had a great time and don't forget if any of you have any stories from your trip please drop me a line on 07813889374 or alternatively on tinternet benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk

That's all for this month guys and girls albeit mostly bad news but at least it's some news to share with the whole of the section.

Happy Winter Work
Ben Brookes
Murcar Links



Ayrshire

Editor's Note
Apologies for the lack of December Notes. It was an error on my part. I received the email out of the office and didn't follow it through when I got back.

Here are the highlights of the Notes
Scott Mac

Results for the autumn outing to Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club are as follows:-1st Class. 1. Keith McCartney, 36 pts; 2. Derek Wilson, 33 pts; 3. William McMeiken, 32 pts. 2nd Class. 1. Kevin Kirkpatrick, 33 pts; 2. William McGhee, 31 pts; 3. Duncan Gray, 30 pts

Winner of the Harry Diamond Jug is William McMeiken, Turnberry.

I couldn't make the outing but my sources tell me that Keith and his staff had the course

looking really well! Well done, keep up the good work. Thanks goes to Dumfries & Galloway for the use of the club and its facilities.

Congratulations are due to Andrew Donnelly, from Thistle Ground Care, and his partner, Lynn, on the birth of their baby daughter, Orla. We wish you well from all in the Section!

From the snow at the beginning of the year and the big thaw and then when you think it's safe to come out again the rain hits us! Wouldn't be the Ayrshire we all know & love without it, eh?

I don't know what it is with you guys but everytime I ask for some news or some info about anything.... Yup anything, I get no feedback! So come on eh, get in touch.... You don't even have to speak to me just send me a text or drop me an email, I don't bite honest!

It's getting to that time of year again when we get our learning caps out from under the stairs and dust them off just in time to head up to the Carnegie Conference Centre, in Dunfermline, for the Scottish Regional Conference.... The date for this event is Tuesday, March 1. With speakers including Jim McKenzie, Estates Director at Celtic Manor; Chris Kennedy and Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, and Simon Watson, Syngenta, this year's event is sure to be one to be part of! So make sure this one for the diary. Booking forms will be posted to all Scottish members any additional forms can be obtained from Peter Boyd. Hope to see you all there!

Again I can't stress enough guys, get in touch and help out our Section with any news, large or small! Much appreciated.

For another month.

Cheers!

John Mair.



West

Seasons greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for all the keen golfers who were unable to play for so long during November and December, six weeks in my case.

Sitting here writing the few notes I have to mention, the course is open, but on temporary greens with snow expected, let's just hope it's not quite as bad as before Christmas. After the last lot of snow I discovered a bad attack of snow mould on several greens causing some concern for their condition and presentation at the start of the year, I hope not too many others have had the same misfortune.

There is not a lot happening at present except preparing things for the start of next year. I should bring to your attention the Scottish Conference to be held once again at Dunfermline on March 1. Some excellent speakers have been found so I would recommend attending. Cost will be £35 per ticket with lunch included as usual.

Spring outing will be held at Cowglen Golf Club and the date is May 19, which unfortunately I cannot attend as I will be sunning myself in Turkey at that time. Best of luck to all who try and attend.

The Scottish National outing will be at The Duke's course, in St Andrews, on June 17, and I would suggest making the effort to attend as Derek usually has it in tip top condition, plus the changes make the course far more enjoyable.

And, last but not least, I will report on how things went at Harrogate in the March issue, but until then I hope everybody

has a good start to the year and keeps well.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any events pending, sponsor walks, wedding, or birth, you can get in touch by phoning 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914, or by e-mail on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Thanks again
Stuart Taylor

Northern



North East

Well, not much to report this month, other than as I am writing this report earlier than usual so if anything comes in it will have to wait until later on. As I am writing this letter all the snow has gone thank goodness for that but isn't it marvelous that soon as the snow goes out come the golfers, pros etc wondering why the course is still closed, forgetting that the ground is still rock hard and the water is going nowhere quick. The mind boggles doesn't it?

Which brings me to my next bit of news. Did anyone see in our local paper about the course in our Section that decided to stage a Snow Open, to play over an adapted nine holes with none of the holes longer than 200yds, all of them par 3s? Then to cap it, running the tractors over and over to compact the snow and make it playable for the golfers. How stupid can you get? Then we had a thaw and their competition was cancelled, due to the course been flooded, while some other courses were open that day.

I mean to say, that's all we need, a non greenkeeper coming up with an idea like that. I just wish that pros and Directors of Golf would just keep to what they are best at and that's golf. Leave the course to the professionals, that been the greenkeepers, after all we do know what's for the best. Well, that's my moan for the month.

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

I like February it's my birthday month and I always book some time off to celebrate (and lick my wounds at being another year older!). It's also Valentine's Day soon, another literally lovely time for sappy romantics like me. Hopefully if we concentrate on the positives that each month brings us this year, we can keep an attitude that will push us on through what is going to be an undoubtedly awkward financial year.

We are to hold a half day seminar soon with content and venue still to be finalised, so all details will be posted to you in plenty of time to book your place.

In local news Gwillim Roberts, of Holyhead Golf Club, celebrates 36 years in greenkeeping.

Chris Baker, of Eaton Golf Club, and his wife, Kate, are moving on to pastures new by moving to Victoria, in South Africa, and Jamie Williams, of Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, and his other (some say better) half, Rhian, celebrated becoming parents for the first time last Christmas with the birth of their baby girl, Frankie. Congratulations, and best hopes, go to all from all of us in the Section.

I think that's about it for now so all the best until next month.

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



North West

We are now into February and Harrogate has come and gone for another year. May I on behalf of the North West BIGGA members take this opportunity to thank all involved in the setup of the show and the smooth running of what must be a logistical nightmare. Looking forward to next year.

Here in the North West we are in the midst of putting together an excellent package for 2011. This starts with the Spring tournament held here at Hesketh (date to be finalised) in April.

For anybody not wanting to golf there is the offer of a course walk with members of the green staff. I will ensure a translator is at hand. There is talk this year of a potential cricket match. All those interested please let us know.

As mentioned previously, this is your Section so please support it in 2011. If there is any info you wish to share, please let us know, finally may I wish you all a good growing Spring and a great prosperous season.

pdmv@hotmail.co.uk
07885347818

Peter McVicar



Sheffield

Unfortunately we start this month with some bad news, Ron Cheetham who was a long time member of our Section and Course Manager at Stocksbridge GC recently passed away. I'm sure there are many of you who knew Ron very well and it is very sad news. Our thoughts go to his family at this time.

I hope all of you who attended Harrogate week will have found the event to be useful once again and anyone one who attended any of the educational events found them useful as well.

We held our Section AGM at Lindrick GC in December with only a few people attending the Christmas meal. The Committee from 2010 has agreed to stand for 2011 and we have one new member on our Committee. I would like to welcome Stuart Pigott to the committee and I'm sure he is ready to with a series of ideas for the upcoming meetings.

Our Competition Secretary is busy finalising our golf calendar for 2011 and when all dates have been finalised then you will all be informed. I'm sure that there are many of you getting prepared for the new golf season and we will have a fantastic turnout for our first event.

Hopefully by the time you receive this magazine we will have held our first lecture of the year and you will have all been informed of our second lecture of the year. I would like to thank Rebecca, from Sherriff Amenity, for helping me organise the first of our lectures this year.

Once again the golf season

is approaching fast and we will all be counting that our Winters maintenance work has been finished and everything is geared up and ready to go for the start of the 2011 season.

That's all from me have an excellent February and will talk again in March.

James Stevens
07738719614

Midland



East Midlands

Hello all, with the dust settling on another BTME week I hope all of you who attended got out of it what you expected and at the very least left having made new friends or picked up some new ideas for the coming season.

Back in the East Midlands Section we are busy finalising dates for your diaries for the coming year, with the first event being a trip to test our driving skills, karting at Wymeswold, this is taking place on the 17th of this month and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Very soon (if you haven't already) you will be receiving your fixtures card for the year. The golfing diary is crammed full this year, along with the Annual Pairs competition we will be holding five competitions this year for all abilities.

The first event will be our Spring competition with a rescheduled trip to the Nottinghamshire GC, the second being the Summer comp at Cavendish GC. Both of these competitions will be held as our Qualifiers for the National Championship and played as a Stableford. Both courses offer genuine tests of golf and are worthy of a visit to experience the challenges presented, or if that fazes you too much you can admire the stunning scenery at Cavendish.

In answer to a comment made at our AGM, the committee would like to point out that its sole purpose is to offer events that will attract our members to come and play, and to meet this purpose we feel that it is best to carry on offering the qualifiers as Stableford events to give everybody the feeling of having a chance, especially in the lower division. Let's face it, there are many off us that break into a

cold sweat at the mere thought of a medal round!

We then hope to introduce a new fun competition and BBQ at the stunning 9 hole par 3 course at Nailcote Hall, this is the venue for the National Par 3 Championships and will prove to be a great experience. The autumn competition and AGM will this year be held at Forest Hill GC, with the Christmas comp still to be finalised as I write.

As always your committee is working very hard to run your Section, at the moment we are looking into a format for a Autumn educational day, and as such would welcome any ideas for this event, also and as always if you have any suggestions, news or questions please feel free to contact me at pds1@btinternet.com or through out secretary Andy De Wet.

Finally on a sad note it is regret that I want to mention the passing of John Sykes, John was site foreman at the Nottinghamshire GC, sadly John passed away suddenly over Christmas, we would like to offer his friends and family our condolences.

Regards to all
Pete Smith



East of England

Belated Happy New Year to everyone.

As I write this we are finally clear of over five weeks of snow cover, just the thing that a struggling golf club relying on every penny needs! It took two days of snow clearing just to be able to enter the clubhouse from the road, then we started clearing off the greens..... That was three more days of constant shovelling but did pay off in getting the course playable again as well as helping the health of the greens themselves. A public thanks to my staff for the superhuman efforts involved during that time.

The snow also forced the cancellation of our Christmas golf day at Sleaford. I think the course was open and largely unaffected by snow, the cancellation was more down to people assuming it would be off and

also the safety of getting people to and from the venue at that time. At this point there is talk of it being played in March so keep those "bring and win" prizes wrapped up!

Congratulations goes to Robin Portess, of Immingham Golf Club, for winning the Order of Merit for 2010.

Golf fixtures have just about been finalised for this year, with the first being here at Immingham on Wednesday, May 25, tee off at 1pm. Fixtures will be posted here and on the website in due course.

Hopefully BTME was another successful show and not adversely affected by the weather or other factors beyond the control of BIGGA.

Many thanks.
Steve Beverly.
Immingham Golf Club.



Midland

Welcome to February's Section notes all the way from sunny Trentham. Sean cannot complete the notes this month due to the failing of his computer once and for all, but to all those who enjoy reading, or should I say dissecting, his monthly notes, don't worry, he tells me he has ordered another computer and will be booted up and ready to go for March. Thank God for that because I understand why he is always moaning, "What am I supposed to write here?".

Many thanks to our calendar sponsor for February, TH White. Please consider them for your machinery needs if you are lucky enough to get some money to spend on your course this year. All our sponsors are greatly appreciated, especially in these difficult times so thank you to each and every one of you, keep it up!

I trust many of you got to Harrogate for a day or two, and despite the exhibitor numbers being down, still found the trip useful, and you got to catch up with some old friends during your visit. I consider it the best trade show around and always find it an excellent way to spend a few days in January.

Our cancelled Christmas Tournament at Woburn last December because of snow has been rearranged. We cannot go back to Woburn this spring, as hoped, due to refurbishment work on the clubhouse, but we are going back there in December for our Christmas event for 2011. Our rearranged Christmas Tournament will be held at Stonebridge Golf Club on March 8,. The format will remain the same with the usual full English breakfast before play at 10am followed by a sit down meal following play. Our sponsor, Crocodile Golf, will be sponsoring the prizes, so please try and support it. Send entries to Gary or Rhys in the usual way please.

That's all from me, come back Sean all is forgiven!
Ed Stant

South East



East Anglia

Thorpeness Golf Club – December 2010

Here we go again then. Hope you had a merry & happy things.

Our last meeting at Thorpeness went like clockwork as usual, except for Yours Truly! I missed most of the AGM and then I had to leave early. As my old Headmaster used to say as he put the cane away – "You could do better, Lathrope".

Anyway, with help from Steve Freestone, we have something to put to paper; here goes:

The main sponsor for our umpteenth Turkey Trot was our old friend CMW.

Results: 1. Rushmere Hackers, 57.7; 2. Royal Cromer, 58.7; 3. Rookery Ramblers, 58.7; 4. Dunston Hall, 59.6

The Nearest, Longest and Closest are as follows – Sponsors are in brackets: Nearest 2nd (Aitkens) Peter Orbine; Nearest 7th (Bartram Mowers) Ross Stanard;

Nearest 10th (Ernest Doe) T. Mills; Nearest 16th (Tomlinson Groundcare) Matt Cartridge (12 bore!); Nearest in 2–6th (Lely UK) Paul Crask; Nearest in 2 – 11th

(Prime) Rob Mitchell; Nearest white line 5th (Collier Turf Care) Uncle Bob; Longest Drive Trade 14th, Andy Cureson; Longest Drive Guest 13th – Matt Lay;

Longest Drive Greenkeepers 0 – 14 4th (Baileys of Norfolk) Robert Whiting; Longest Drive Greenkeepers 15 – 21 1st (Rigby Taylor) Ben Grainger; Longest Drive Greenkeepers 22 – 28 18th (Tacit) Adrian Goode

There must have been nearly 200 people at Thorpeness – 120 were playing. All were welcomed by Mick Crabtree, Club Captain, who also presented the prizes.

The course, as usual, was in excellent condition thanks to Ian and the boys. Also the organisation of the day again, thanks to Ian, was first class.

The AGM, as I understand it went quite well. Roger Plummer was elected as our new Vice President – taken over from Uncle Bob Chesham who we wish a long and happy retirement.

Clive Osgood was singing our praises as probably the largest and best run outfit in the country and special praise for Colin (the President) Rushbrook for being at least a year in front for fixtures (2011 is already done, as is some of 2012).

2011 reads:- April – Rushmere followed by Yarmouth & Caister, Weston Park and Aldeburgh.

Colin also presented the Ernie Hart Services to Greenkeeping Award (bottle of port) to Roger Plummer. Nice one.

It was also nice to see Lyndon Upham back in the fold following his reinstatement as Head Greenkeeper at Gog Magog

Our thanks once again for a great day Thorpeness. Also a big thank you to our trade friends most of whom have already been mentioned. The rest are as follows:-

Ben Burgess, Symbio, Scotts, Headland, Sheriff, Ransomes Jacobsen and Lely UK

See you in the Spring.

As it's the season for new Chairmen of the Greens, read on.

Secretary asks Greenkeeper what he thought of his Chairman of Greens? Greenkeeper replied "I made a vow not to discuss Chairmen of Greens with Secretaries, and I'm not going to break it for that idiot!"

Mick Lathrope



Surrey

A belated Happy New Year to all my merry readers, please note merry not many and the same felicitation to all those who have the good sense not to bother. Did you all have a good Christmas? I did, with our now annual cruise to the sunny shores of the North Eastern most of the Channel Islands. We ventured out on Boxing Day to experience the Ventnor midday swim and were amused by the many colourful and gay costumes worn by the brave hearted and the thongs that the more plucky and copious chaps wore on entry into those chilly waters but who on exit were somewhat less so.

The atrocious weather before Christmas meant that my van and I stayed at home for many days and that the Surrey turkey trot was cancelled. Happily Guildford GC were able to fit us in yesterday, January 7, and as I was unavailable, due to a prior engagement, the result was recorded by our ever efficient Secretary and golfer supreme, Ron Christie, so the following is a verbatim report of his comments. The main prize of the day, the nearest the pin, was won by that very same golfer supreme, Ron Christie. Please remember that this is Ron's report not mine and any future slander lawsuit must be directed at him and not yours truly. The longest drive prize meant that Mark Harvey was able to go home and give it to his partner. The runner up team prize went to Tony Kyle, a possible relation to that well known other chap, Lloyd Barnes, Jason O'keefe and Richard Bacon. Score 53.2. The winners - and I hope I have written this down correctly - wore strikingly extravagant and large brimmed headgear? and were, in no particular order of importance, Dave Guy, Peter Marney, Andy Foulds and Andy Hall. Score 52.9. Jim Russell took five off Gary Ogilvie, unfortunately Ron did not say whether this was pence, pounds or a bunch of.

The day commenced with

a bacon roll and coffee or tea if you followed Tony Bremer's preference and then with a shotgun start at ten battle began. Ron said the course was in fantastic condition and praised Matt Lawrence and his team for restoring the greens and fairways after so much extreme weather. The food was also excellent and Clive Osgood was there in his capacity to give the thumbs up and get the curry, lasagne and chilly down. The players had soup halfway round which was very welcome. Many thanks to Guildford GC, its Captain and members.

The AGM followed or preceded, Ron did not say, but no matter as it was dealt with in Surrey's usual swift and efficient manner. Sadly our Chairman, John Ross, has resigned and needs replacing. If you know of any member with John's charisma, organisational abilities and managerial qualities please contact a committee member in writing and in complete confidence and leave the paper recycling to them. John, sorry that was my little joke, Ron really said and I agree wholeheartedly, that you have been an admirable chairman and will be seriously missed by Surrey committee and Surrey members. I hope that your future career will be all you wish for.

Brian Willmott.

South West and South Wales



South West

We've done it again, that's right the Section have had another amazing Christmas fixture. On December 16 the guys saw themselves heading to Lansdown Golf Club, home of Jon Jarvis. Let's be honest here, you all know how difficult this winter has been, with the frost in the ground deeper than my fork and the snow at times as deep as my knees, preparing a golf course for 40 odd greenkeepers could make some people nervous. Not Jon and his guys. The course was

looking as good as any other course would have this time of year, a great credit to you all at Lansdown.

The actual day was brilliant - 36 players and eight extras for the evening meal. As always we had our now famous raffle, rising £362, this was divided up and donated to different charities. What a great effort here!

At the Christmas fixture, the raffles so big everyone's a winner, but for the golfing competition there can only be one....3rd place Joe Curtis 39pts, 2nd place Tim Needham 39pts (after countback) and the winner (you may have heard this name here before), Stuart Broom 40pts.

I would now like to thank our Patronage Partners, thanks to them every year we are able to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. This year I would like to congratulate James Wright, from Worlebury Golf Club. Well done James, from the whole Section we very much hope you have a fantastic time!

Arriving in your e-mail inbox very shortly will be this year's fixture list, please make every effort to attend to as many events as you can this year. Your section really needs your support and you also know that you can gain so much more than just a round of golf!

Its joke time, what's the Australian version of LBW?? Lost...Beaten...Walloped!!!!

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grows as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, its time you were, ask for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

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



South Coast

Hi all.

Hope all is well with every one, and that the start of 2011 has not been as white as the end

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Luke Cordery
Age: 21
Club: Bearwood Lakes Golf Club
Position: Green Staff
Nickname: Lukey Boy



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

4 ½ years

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

Working outdoors

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

Testing computer games

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

Verti-draining because the tractor is fitted with a radio and you get a bit of alone time!

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

Trimming pop-ups. Its always me that has to do it!

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

Extra days holiday.

7. Hobbies?

Football, Golf, PS3

8. Favourite Band?

Oasis

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

The mighty Royals! (Reading)

10. What is your claim to fame?

Colin Montgomerie took the mick out of me for having the first iphone!

Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

To receive a questionnaire, email scott@bigga.co.uk

Around The Green

of 2010, down in Southampton we had more snow than I can remember sledging and snow ball fights better than ever.

Section news is a bit slow this time of year as it is either under snow or water so more news next month.

Hope every one had a great time at Harrogate, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetherspoons.

Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you have always wanted to read, start to play a musical instrument and visit that place in the world that you have always liked the look of.

Look forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so practice well get your handicap down and join in, meet new people get new ideas and solve problems by asking other greenkeepers, so please support your Sections.

Chris Bitten



South Wales

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period has finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you greens in better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year golf fixtures. Mainly because there weren't any fixtures! The snow didn't help most clubs' finances, but since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

The results from the Christmas Competition at Royal Porthcawl are as follows: Winner - Andy Roach, 34pts; 2. Leigh Davies, 30pts; 3. Gareth Knight, 29pts.

Nearest the Pin - Alan Abel; Longest drive - Darryl Jones (about 3 miles!) Best Trade - Alan Abel, 31pts. Christmas Spoon - Lucy Sellick, 12pts. Guess the balls lost - Lucy Sellick (89) Sorry Lucy! Steve Chappell put

that in!

Silver Salver prize for best scores throughout the season - Wayne Benger

A great day was had by all 33 golfers, or should I say hardy souls, braved the arctic winds and sleet showers to play 18 holes over the wonderfully presented golf course. Huge thanks to Ian Kinley and his team for their hard work in such testing conditions. Ian told me that they basically couldn't prepare the greens in any way, save changing the holes on the morning of the competition and yet the feedback was that the greens were excellent! 38 sat down for the traditional Christmas dinner which didn't disappoint so our thanks go to Jo and her team for looking after us. Thanks also to Wyn Davies and Chris Hopkins, from Ted Hopkins, & John Pike, from Toro, for sponsoring the day. Finally thanks to Royal Porthcawl Golf Club for agreeing to host the event.

We also wish Tony Horne a speedy recovery after Tony suffered a heart attack before Christmas. We wish him and his family all the best.

The evening lecture for February will take place at Pencoed college on Wednesday, Feb 23 at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thanks again to our friends from Countrywide for sponsoring the night.

Still on the education front, the annual Avoncrop Amenity Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 23. Among the companies represented will be Scotts, Syngenta and Barenbrug. The day is free and includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

That's it for now. See you all soon I hope.

Ceri Richards
07831 16864
celticceri@aol.com



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Apologies for no notes last month, but there wasn't much

to report as I managed to get the summary of the Porthpean meeting in before the deadline and in the December Edition. Our Annual Christmas meeting was held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 15 with 80+ attendees enjoying a fresh but gorgeous sunny day. The event was kindly sponsored by MST and Irritech. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club. Starting with the Golf (Apologies if I have left anyone out, as unfortunately I misplaced my notes!)

The format was Greensomes playing on the West Course for the MST/Ramsomes Jacobsen Trophy and on the East Course for the Irritech Cup. With a total of 50 players enjoying the sunshine and perfect conditions, yet chilly, there were prizes a plenty to play for! Winning on the East Course was David Hiscock and Gordon Child; 2. Kelvin and Ashley Millar, all from Churston GC. Nearest the Pins were won by Kelvin and Ashley Millar and Longest Drives by Simon Saunders, Woodbury Park, and James Sheehan, Truro. Winning on the East Course was Jonathan Bullen and Shaun Warren, Staddon Heights, 2. Richard Parker and Jorden Wooden, Ilfracombe, 3. Jason Hampton, Stover, and Jason Brooks, Torquay. Nearest the Pins were won by Jason Brooks and Andy Parker, PGA, and Longest Drives by Jason Hampton and Jordan Wooden. Congratulations and well played to all Golf prize winners. The Course walk was enjoyed by the remaining 30+ attendees. Ray took the party firstly on to the East Course, then the West Course and finally the impressive and well organised maintenance facilities. Ray explained how the Courses have evolved and how different techniques have been utilised to improve traffic routes. He showed off some recent projects, Tee extensions and Bunker revetting as well as explaining how the club work very closely with Natural England on this environmentally sensitive site. The natural sand dunes at Saunton make up a truly remarkable landscape, one that is made for Golf! At this point, I would like to say a special mention to MST for providing a Halfway House that was enjoyed by both sets of golfers as well as

the course walkers. Hot Pasties were provided for all along with a selection of beverages. This has become a great feature of the Christmas meeting and is thoroughly enjoyed and remarked on by very thankful attendees.

The two Courses were in fantastic condition and a credit to Ray and all the green staff at Saunton. After visiting the facilities, it was time for a quick change and into the club for our Christmas meal. This was followed by entertainment in the shape of Comedian, Jimmy Quinn, who, a keen golfer himself, entertained the members with stories and jokes. After the entertainment the golf prizes were awarded by our Chairman, Colin Webber. Two extra raffle prizes were awarded, one being a hamper supplied by John Palfrey, from Avoncrop. This was won by Steven Cox, Sidmouth GC. The second was a free trip to Harrogate, funded by the Section, won by Christy Worthington, Saunton. A big thank you to all the committee members who helped with organising the day and to Saunton Golf Club for their help and hospitality in making this a successful and memorable day.

By the time you have read this, Harrogate would have been and gone. Again this year the Region organised travel and accommodation for our members. Thanks to Jane Jones for organising this. A big thank you to Scott Gibson, St Enodoc, and Keith Kemp, West Cornwall, for organising the Minibus again this year and to Richard Japes, Sports Metals, for Sponsoring the bus. This is very much appreciated by the Section and the Region.

Another special mention is to Trevor Dodge, Head Greenkeeper, Looe Golf Club, Cornwall, who celebrated 40 years at the club on January 3 this year! An amazing achievement, well done Trevor!

During February, there are two gatherings, firstly on Wednesday, Feb 9, Section Meeting at Warren Golf Club and secondly on Wednesday, Feb 23, we have a Drainage Workshop at St Mellion International. Please contact me for further details and to book yourself a place on either of these events.

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



Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
FEBRUARY 2011			
February 7th – 11th	Golf Industry Show and Education Conference	Orlando, Florida	www.golfindustryshow.com/
February 7th – 11th	National Golf Course Owners Association Annual Conference	Orlando, Florida	www.ngcoa.org/ac2011/
February 9th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event	Warren Golf Club	George Pitts at gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com or telephone 07929 754401
February 9th	BB&O Turkey Trot (rearranged date)	The Oxfordshire	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or telephone 01235 543119
February 23rd	Devon and Cornwall Drainage Workshop	St Mellion Golf Club	George Pitts at gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com or telephone 07929 754401
MARCH 2011			
March 1st	Scottish Regional Conference	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd at pj.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0141 616 3440/07776 242120
March 16th	Devon and Cornwall Section	Merlin Golf Club	George Pitts at gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com or telephone 07929 754401
March 17th	Joint BIGGA/GCMA Educational Seminar	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, Bristol	Karen Drake at wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com or telephone 01934 626968
March 30th	Midland Regional Conference	Newark Golf Club	Peter Larter at petelar972@aol.com or telephone 01476 550115
APRIL 2011			
April 15th	North East Section Event	Newcastle United Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson at jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com or telephone 07500 528542
April 19th	East Scotland Section Spring Meeting	Craigielaw Golf Links	Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or telephone 07961 630553
April 21st	South West Section	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855

BE SEEN BY THE BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

Advertise in GI, the monthly magazine for BIGGA members





Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

The week that was 'Harrogate Week 2011'

Each year the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Continue to Learn and Clubhouse serve as vital components of the membership benefits and services BIGGA offer and 2011 didn't fail to deliver.

Although smaller than previous years (reflecting the current economy) the show offered the same buzz, excitement and atmosphere as last year, in fact Continue to Learn experienced a growth in numbers. Many of the workshops were already full before the week started.

The BIGGA Stand in Hall C welcomed many visitors, from those who visit us year on year to say hello and catch up on the past twelve months to new visitors who come and see us for the first time to chat about the benefits of being a BIGGA Member.

Membership Benefits Brochure (see pic inset)

This year we were able to launch the new BIGGA Membership Benefits brochure, a guide to the opportunities and rewards of being a BIGGA member.

The brochure contains information on the different categories of membership and the benefits and services each one offers with testimonials from members of BIGGA.

Application forms for membership are available from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk, select 'MEMBERSHIP' from the options along the top and select 'Application Form' from the options on the left hand side, here you can download the information you need.

BIGGA has now firmly established itself as the professional body for golf greenkeepers and of course now BIGGA welcome applications for membership from other sports turf professionals working at a sports facility.

So what makes BIGGA different to other organisations that provide a platform for people to interact and exchange information?

Well, as a professional Association (also called a professional body, professional institute, professional organisation, or professional society) BIGGA is a non-profit organisation seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of the individuals engaged in that profession and the public interest. This means that any profit made on commercial activities is put right back into the Association for the benefit of its members.

Why join a professional body?

Professional bodies aim to raise standards among those in their industry, promoting best practice, training and recognised qualifications. Members can benefit from support, networking and access to news and training opportunities.

How BIGGA can help you become a better Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager

As a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager you may be faced with challenges for which you feel you are not completely prepared. Management and greenkeeping often require very different skills from those which have got you where you are.

BIGGA could help you bridge that gap in a number of ways. We can put you in contact with others in your field, and as a result can provide information about best practice. BIGGA also offer training for managers and team leaders.

Now is the time to get involved in your section events, if you don't already, make a deal with yourself to go to at least two section events this year and take advantage of meeting other BIGGA Members in your area. The golf industry is facing some challenging times; the section events provide you with the opportunity to discuss relevant issues with your colleagues from other golf clubs. It's reassuring to know that you do share some common problems and there may be somebody out there who can give you the benefit of their experience.



Contact Details

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Mobile: 07841 948410
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South West & Wales

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



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

This month BIGGA welcomes the following members...

Scottish

Duncan Peddie, West Section
Ian MacMillan MG, Central Section
Gordon Wood, North Section
Ian Morrison, Central Section
Andrew Turnbull, Central Section
Paul Ruby, West Section
James Balmbro, East Section
Steven Fitchet, Central Section
Paul Reilly, Central Section

Northern Region

Glynn Hancock, Sheffield Section
Lae Mason, Sheffield Section
Wayne Reid, North East Section
Joshua Lowe, Sheffield Section
Daniel Egan, North East Section
Gary McCluskey, North West Section
Darren Edwards, Sheffield Section
Tony Milan, North East Section

Midland Region

Christopher Horsler, Mid Anglia Section
Michael Price, East Midland Section

South East Region

Aaron Percival, London Section
Lewis Batch, East Anglia Section
Jamie Jacklin, Sussex Section
Kevin Leighton, Sheffield Section
Will Clark, Surrey Section
Rob Klein, Surrey Section
Simon Jacob, Surrey Section
Paul Heaven, Surrey Section
Michael Walsh, Sussex Section
Robert Parkin, London Section

Sth West & Sth Wales Region

Layton Wilkes, Devon & Cornwall Section
Stephen George, Devon & Cornwall Section
Mark Keevil, South Coast Section
Paul England, South Coast Section

International

Vanja Drašler, Slovenia
Grant McNally, Sweden
Bo Lacy, USA

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

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

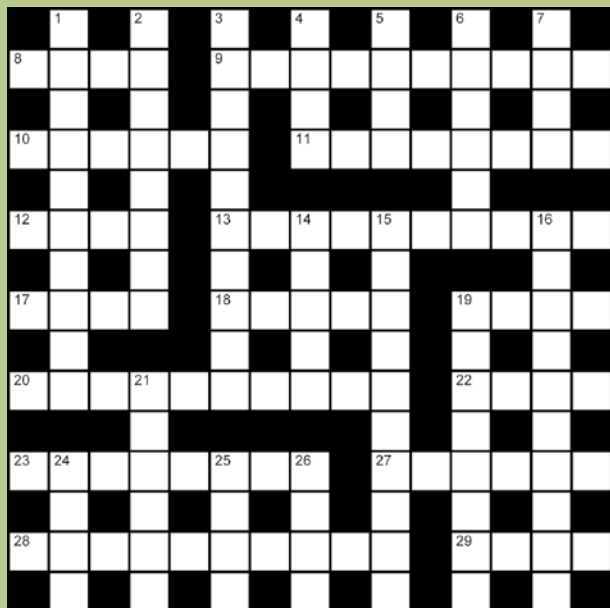




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 8 Brainwave (4)
- 9 The author of 95 poems (1,1,8)
- 10 Roman poet, and Dante's guide through Hell and Purgatory (6)
- 11 Exotic dancer and courtesan, executed for espionage in 1917 (4,4)
- 12 Dan, enemy of The Mekon (4)
- 13 Original host of Radio 4's Counterpoint (3,7)
- 17 Footballers' partners and a happy dog does this? (4)
- 18 Electric gun, named after the fictional Tom Swift's electric rifle (5)
- 19 Card game similar to poker (4)
- 20 Giver of the 'Friends, Romans, Countrymen' speech in Julius Caesar (4,6)
- 22 Brotherly surname of two Spandau Ballet band members (4)
- 23 Gangster, nicknamed 'Scarface' (2,6)
- 27 Diacritical mark, two dots placed over a vowel to change its pronunciation (6)
- 28 US actor who stars as 'Himself' in Curb Your Enthusiasm (5,5)
- 29 Relative position within a graded group (4)

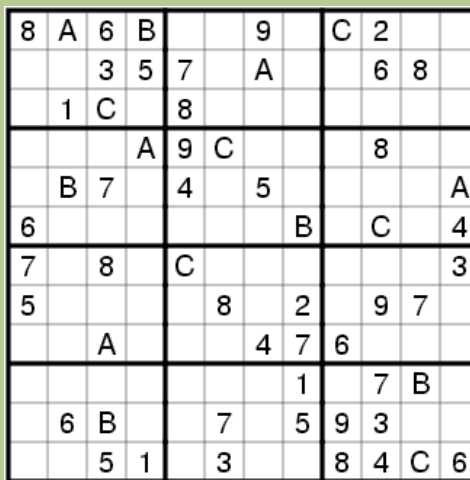
DOWN

- 1 Capital of Ethiopia (5,5)
- 2 People willing to debate a fair price (8)
- 3 Protective boot, popularised by Arthur Wellesley (10)
- 4 1979 borstal film starring Ray Winstone (4)
- 5 Miss (4)
- 6 Stringed instrument - used to score The Third Man (6)
- 7 In Terry Pratchett's Discworld, the name of every male servant in Uberwald (4)
- 14 1970's type of dance music (5)
- 15 Stringed instrument - also known as a wheel fiddle (5,5)
- 16 NZ born speedway star who won six world championships (4,6)
- 19 Old tradename of a thermosetting plastic (8)
- 21 Maori for 'be healthy' (3,3)
- 24 Author of The Owl and The Pussycat (4)
- 25 The gambling price, such as evens (4)
- 26 Covetousness (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

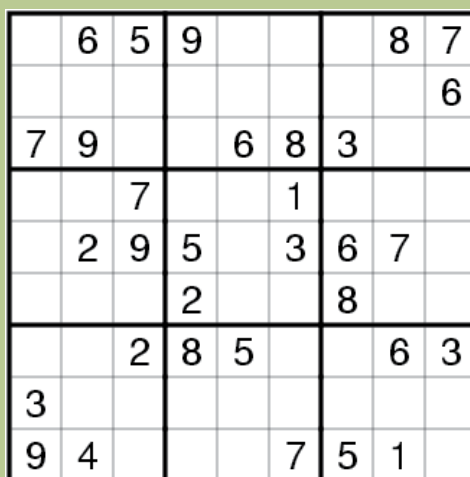
HOW MANY?

1. How many tennis Majors has Roger Federer won?
2. How many times has AP McCoy been Champion Jockey?
3. How many goals did record England scorer Bobby Charlton score?
4. How many Majors did Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo win between them?
5. How many trophies has Sir Alex Ferguson won as a manager?
6. How many Test Match centuries has Sachin Tendulkar made?
7. What is the lowest score anyone has shot in a Major Championship round?
8. To the nearest 10 how many runs did Alistair Cook score in the recent Ashes series?
9. Prior to this years Six Nations to the nearest 10 how many points has Johnny Wilkinson scored for England?



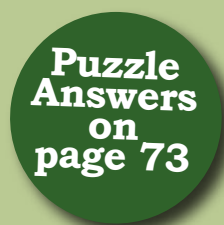
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SUDOKU

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



BUYERS' GUIDE



Solving the wear problem

Rubber Grass mats assisted Eoin Riddell, Course Manager at Royal Dornoch, in the preservation of grass pathways.

Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 years and found that the multi holed 1 x 1.5m x 23mm rubber grass mats an ideal solution to some of his grass wear problems on pathways, where it has been impossible to maintain a grass surface in the past.

He first saw them being used on a children's play areas and was one of the first Course Managers in Scotland to apply this idea to the golf links.

He cuts out the worn area and returfs allowing a clearance of one inch, he then inserts the 16 kilo mats and links them together with cable ties. The grass grows through the holes and soon obscures the mats from view. Mats inserted during the winter programme have disappeared from sight by the following June and do not reappear again. After less than 12 months it is possible to play off the surface.

"Tebbutt's rubber grass mat is best solution to pathway wear that I have seen in my 25 years in the business," said Eoin.

BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

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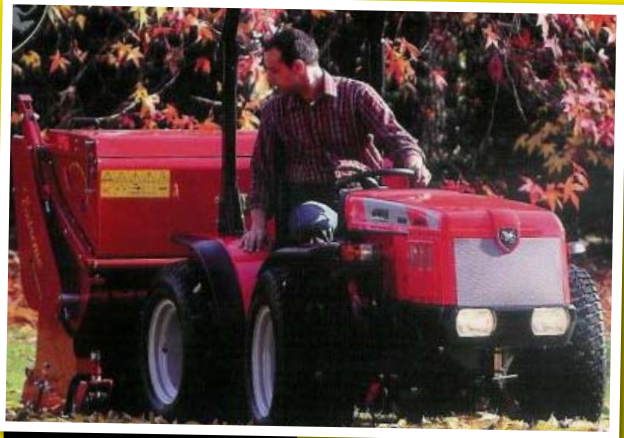
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On the Soapbox

Colin Callander looks at what is required of the modern day Course Director

There are some jobs that nobody in their right mind would ever touch with a barge pole.

It would be fair to say, for example, that I have never had even the slightest inclination to sign up as a Cat Food Quality Controller, although I assume somebody has to do it, and nor would I have exhibited even a modicum of enthusiasm had it ever been suggested that I should apply for the role of Chief Shoe Cleaner for Imelda Marcos.

I mention this here for the simple reason that eight months ago, when I accepted the invitation to become Greens Director at my local golf club, Welwyn Garden City GC, at least a dozen of my friends told me that I must have lost my marbles.

Long-standing acquaintances were particularly perplexed because they knew that about 20 years ago I had fulfilled a similar role at a previous club in Scotland and so automatically assumed that I should have known better than to agree.

I have numerous golfing acquaintances who would tell you they would rather have all their teeth removed without an anaesthetic than to become the Greens Director or Greens Convenor at their golf club but I'm not one of them and I can confirm nothing has happened over the last eight months to make me change my mind. Indeed, I have enjoyed the role immensely. I'm not sure our excellent Course Manager, Brett Cox, and his hard-working team would be quite as enthusiastic but, hopefully, they would agree I have done my bit and, much more importantly, let them get on with theirs.

A few months ago, Scott MacCallum, the Editor of this magazine and a former colleague of mine, both at The Courier newspaper and Golf Monthly magazine, asked me to pen some thoughts on the role of a Course Director. I have no idea why he chose me rather than, say, Malcolm Peake, an expert of many years standing and the author of the hugely informative and entertaining Confessions of a Chairman of the Green, or for that matter Nick Park, a respected R&A consultant and the co-author of Golf Monthly's highly influential series, The Management of British Golf Courses. But I had no desire to offend him, so somewhat reluctantly I agreed.

My remit was to come up with some thoughts on what made a successful Course Director but, before I get down to that, it might be worth highlighting the biggest mistake any wannabe Course Director can make, namely to believe the job title,

not to mention his reputation for having green fingers in his garden, gives him the right to dictate how the Course Manager maintains and manages the golf course. Unfortunately, that happens, as readers of this magazine will know. In fact, it would be fair to say it happens more frequently than any of us would care to admit.

I am a journalist. Other Course Directors I know are doctors, dentists, businessmen, civil servants, teachers and accountants. We all have our own individual skill sets but, apart from the dentists, the aforementioned Messrs Peake and Park, we have little knowledge about how to manage turf grass, we are not necessarily au fait all with the recent advances in fertilisers and we probably couldn't even tell you the difference between a Nematode and a Common Toad so have absolutely no right whatsoever to dictate to our highly trained greens staff what to do when it comes to presenting the golf course for our members. That would be nonsensical, surely, not to mention dangerous for all concerned

To me, the role of the Greens Director

or Greens Convenor is relatively simple and it is to liaise, on behalf of the Board or Committee, with the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper on all matters relating to Course management, maintenance and development. Together, the Greens Director and Course Manager will set an annual budget, agree a course maintenance policy and devise a rolling course improvement strategy, all of which then have to be agreed at Board or Committee level. Sometimes, perhaps during spells of inclement weather or, for example, while a concerted effort is being made to rid the greens of meadow grass, the Course Director will have to act as a buffer between the Greenkeeper and irate members. That is inevitable, not to mention uncomfortable. However, for the rest of the time, when the course is deemed to be in good condition, the same Course Director can bask in praise he scarcely deserves.

It is not rocket science, I can assure you, and it can be made even less problematical if every effort is made to tell members in advance when vertidrainage, hollow coring and top dressing and other such work is to be done.

Good communication is vital for any club

that wants to minimise frustration and adverse comments from its members. This winter, we have undertaken a considerable amount of course improvement work, necessitating some holes being out of play for long periods at a time. However, because we intimated in advance what would be done and what disruption would be caused, complaints have been minimal. In contrast, we omitted to publish a coherent policy on when carts and caddie cars could, or could not, be used in adverse weather conditions and this has led to uncertainty and considerable adverse comment.

The ultimate goal is to produce an exhaustive Course Policy Document outlining everything from how the course is to be managed, the expected standards of maintenance, a five-year plan for course improvements right down to information on when the course will be closed in the event of bad weather, when winter greens will be used and when golfers will be allowed out with carry bags only.

That way, the greens staff will have guidelines to work to and the rest of us will also know exactly where we stand.

Nematodes and common toads



Colin Callander is a former Editor of Golf Monthly magazine and is currently Greens Director at Welwyn Garden City GC

Colin Callander

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