



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."

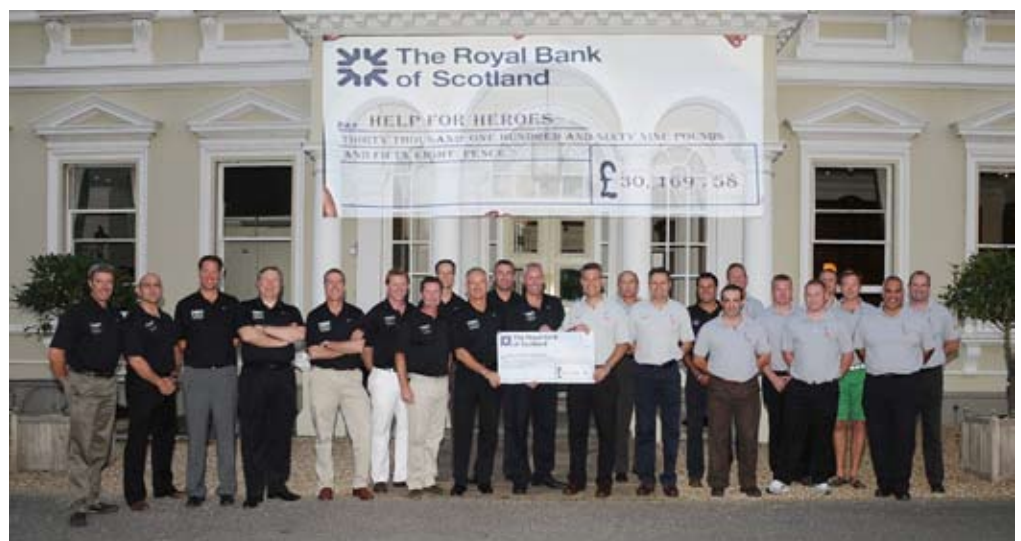
For further information, please contact Etesia UK on 01295 680120 or visit www.etesia.com/uk

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



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