

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 JANUARY 2011

Inside...

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How bunkers are built at
Sunningdale Golf Club

BEHIND THE SCENES AT AN EXHIBITION

Harrogate Week 2011 uncovered

Golf in Asia

An insight into turfgrass
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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Déjà vu, all over again

There is a genuine feeling of déjà vu around the country at the moment. Wasn't it this time last year that the country was covered in snow and Christmas proved to be a real endurance test for anyone wishing to get about over the festive period?

Well here we are again. As I write we've had Siberian conditions for three whole weeks and rather than seeing the end of it we are awaiting another wave of the extremely cold stuff.

A White Christmas looks great on the Christmas cards, but not quite so great when you have to live, or travel, through it.

We can, however, still hope for a balmy spell in January for Harrogate Week but, whatever the conditions, I know it will perform its regular role, of providing the industry with a boost at the start of the year.

There can be no doubt that those who attend Harrogate, in either a visitor or exhibitor capacity, get so much out of it and I do have genuine sympathy for those who don't have the necessary budget to attend this year.

We all know that money is in short supply and futures are uncertain. What it means is that many people who would have loved to take advantage of the regular career and company enhancing treats that Harrogate brings are quite simply unable to do so this year.

You will all be missed, but you can rest assured that we will welcome you back with open arms in 2012, when hopefully signs are a little more positive.

And there is some light on the horizon for the golf business and it comes in the shape of the wonderful form of the British golfers over the last 12 months.

Lee Westwood has achieved the previously unthinkable feat of knocking Tiger Woods off the top of the World Rankings - the first Brit since Nick Faldo in '94 to reach such a heady position, while there are five players from these shores in the World's top 10, Westwood, Graeme McDowell, Paul Casey, Luke Donald and Ian Poulter, with Rory McIlroy just outside at 11th and, honorary Brit, Ernie Els, at 12th.

Put that together with the stunning victory in the Ryder Cup, at Celtic Manor; McDowell's magnificent win in the US Open, at Pebble Beach, and - let's claim a bit of credit as well for - Martin Kaymer's win in the USPGA Championship, at Whistling Straits, and we have enough reason to expect that the popularity of golf is on the up.

Remember the golden age of the 80s when we had Seve, Sandy, Nick, Woosie and Bernhard all playing at their absolute peak?

The benefits that brought to the game were huge and golf clubs were swinging places to be. With the new generation of player beginning to do equally well it would be great to see such enthusiasm for golf resurface.

So we do have some justification for a bit of optimism.

A happy new year to you all.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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Micah Woods gives an insight into a different type of turf management



For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate

At Bangkok, the average high temperature never drops below 31°C, and the average low temperature is always more than 20°C. As I write this, it is the end of this year's rainy season, when in an average year about 1200mm of rain will fall at Bangkok from May to October.

At Singapore the average annual rainfall, spread more evenly throughout the year, is closer to 2400mm! Compare that with London and its 600 mm average

annual rainfall, or Glasgow with its 900 mm, and one quickly realises that Southeast Asia may be a suitable location for a holiday, but it is quite a different land challenge to manage turfgrass.

When I first visited Southeast Asia in 1999, I saw that there were many golf courses here, but essentially nothing in the way of greenkeeper education, or turfgrass research, or independent advisory services to greenkeepers or golf clubs. In 2000 I joined the Asian Turfgrass Centre with the goal of providing some of

those services, and I also promised Scott MacCallum that I would write an article about greenkeeping in Southeast Asia. Greenkeeping in Southeast Asia is so different than in Britain, and I thought a description of some of these differences

could be of interest to the readership of Greenkeeper International.

What Grasses Are Used on Golf Courses

The primary grasses used here are hybrid bermudagrasses (Cyn-

odon spp.), manisgrass (*Zoysia matrella*), and/or paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*), and broadleaf carpetgrass (*Axonopus compressus*). For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate. One

doesn't find much in the way of open meadows in Southeast Asia. The climate vegetation here would be a tropical rainforest, so to maintain turfgrass on golf courses takes

a different mentality than in other parts of the world. The goal here is actually to keep a vigorously growing turf. Because of the climate of such, other plants will invade, and

quickly. The amount of water and fertilizer used on courses in Asia is considerably more than would typically be used in Europe. This is because of the different grass types used, the weather, and the need to keep the grass growing to prevent it being overtaken by

WIDE PHOTO: The Blue Canyon Golf Club

LESS DESIRABLE SPECIES. For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate

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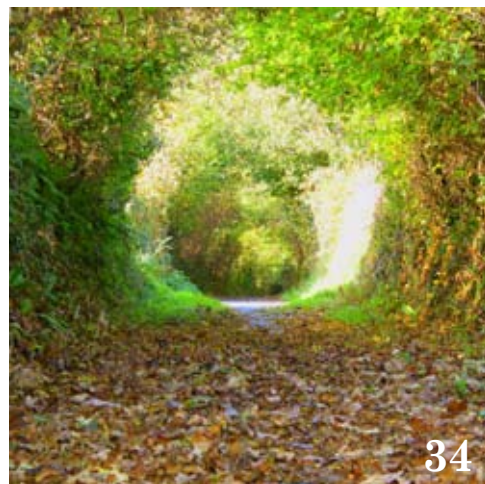
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Cover shows photography of Blue Canyon In Thailand



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



End of an Era

It was the end of an era recently when the last G-Plex III ride-on greens mower rolled off the Ransomes Jacobsen production line at the Ipswich manufacturing facility.

This was the 3,536th G-Plex built at Ipswich since production began in the UK, back in 1998. Previously the first incarnation of this ever popular mower, the GP160, was built at the Cushman plant in Lincoln, Nebraska in the USA.

Dom La Bella, Team Leader on the G-Plex production line, who has been involved with every machine that has come down the line in the past 12 years commented:

“To have produced over 3500 units is a great achievement, especially as around 40% are exported around the world with a majority going to the USA. I am very proud of the team that builds them and it’s a sad day to see a

real stalwart of greens mowing disappear.

“Mind you, we have now changed the line to take the new GP400, which is the replacement for the G-Plex and this is a machine that has taken all the best features of the old mower and added new, modern systems to provide better functionality and operator comfort. We’re confident that we’ll be producing just as many over the coming years.”



Dave’s a Pop Master

David Fellows, Head Greenkeeper at Cocks Moor Woods GC, in Solihull, won the daily Pop Master quiz on the Ken Bruce Show on Radio 2 on Tuesday December 7.

Quiz nut, Dave, who specialises in music, science and nature and other “weird things”, scored an impressive 30 out of 39, only missing out on two very obscure questions, to win his head to head, before successfully naming three Who songs in 10 seconds to upgrade from an MP3 player to a Digital Radio.

“When I phoned up I told the researcher that I’d met Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Charlton which is all true but it increased the chances of me being selected and it worked although Ken didn’t ask me about that in the end,” said Dave, who also won the same quiz nine years ago.

Upgrade for Royal Jersey

Thomson Perrett & Lobb golf course architecture practice founded by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson with partners Ross Perrett and Tim Lobb, has been appointed by Royal Jersey Golf Club to carry out an audit of the Channel Island golf course and make recommendations to enhance the playing strategy.

Tim Lobb, TPL principal,

said: "The history and traditions of Royal Jersey GC are of paramount importance to us and are a key consideration as we undertake our work over this famous links course."

Among TPL's objectives at Royal Jersey is the improvement of the bunkers. Design work begins this month with the teamworking closely with the club's Head

Greenkeeper, David Crawford.

David commented: "Thomson Perrett & Lobb are a natural choice for Royal Jersey Golf Club. Not only were they recommended to us and then, subsequently, gave a very detailed proposal, but there were also sentimental reasons attached to our decision.

"It will be the first time in 35 years that an outside team of

architects has studied the Royal Jersey layout.

"One of the key aspects of TPL's work will be to ensure the course is still a fair test of golf, particularly when you consider how advancements in equipment and golf ball technology over the past 10 years have significantly influenced how far all levels of player hit their shots."

BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP WENTWORTH, MAY 26-29

Volunteers are required for the 2011 BIGGA Support Team at this year's BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see at close hand the extensive work that goes into the preparation for a major European Tour Golf Championship.

No accommodation is provided. For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference on March 1st

The 2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie, Dunfermline on Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Speakers include Jim McKenzie, Course Superintendent, Celtic Manor; Simon Watson, of Syngenta, and Jonathan Harmer, of Farmura. Other speakers include Chris Kennedy/Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, Clive Nottingham, Hunters Grinders and finally Chris Haspell, Castle Stuart Golf Links. Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, tea/coffee and pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be available and posted to members in Scotland and forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J.Boyd, Regional Administrator. Tel 0141 616 3440 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Month 1

Month 2



ELECTRIC GATORS ARE TRIED AND TRUSTED

One of the National Trust’s flagship properties, Cliveden House in Buckinghamshire – once the family home of the Astors and later more infamously associated with the Profumo affair – has a newly expanded fleet of five John Deere TE electric Gator utility vehicles, supplied by dealer Golf & Turf Equipment of Wokingham in Berkshire.

Use of electric vehicles is now particularly advocated across the Trust, because of their environmental advantages in reducing both noise and fuel consumption. The TE Gators are used every day by Cliveden House Head Gardener Andrew Mudge and his garden and estate maintenance teams, covering 80 acres of amenity grass and borders, as well as the catering department for moving supplies around the public outlets on site.

“Since we bought our first electric Gator three years ago, we’ve found them to be very reliable machines, and there’s only been a problem with one battery terminal in all that time,” says Andrew Mudge. “

We now have three road going models in all in the fleet, which has effectively replaced our previous 4x4 vehicles, and on average we only need to recharge the vehicles once or twice a week.

“Once the staff got used to driving a Gator instead of a 4x4, they loved it,” adds Andrew.

“It’s the first choice now for most jobs transporting materials such as compost, small tools and equipment. You can easily load up a lawnmower too, using the tipping load bed, and it will easily pull our woodchipper along the roads and main pathways.”

Links Superintendent Leaves Trump Course

Paul O’Connor, appointed last year as Links Superintendent at the controversial Donald Trump golf course currently under construction, near Aberdeen, has left his job.

Reports in local media suggest that Paul, who was previously at Carnoustie Links, was dismissed for refusing to be part of a “campaign of intimidation” against people

who had refused to sell their land to facilitate the project.

According to the press reports Paul refused to follow orders to build a huge mound of earth behind the home of one of the local residents.

It is understood an employment tribunal is to meet.

South East Region Conference

This year the South East Regional Conference was hosted by the Sussex Section at Plumpton College, East Sussex.

Section Chairman, Rob Hudson, introduced the excellent speakers who covered a varied range of subjects on what proved an interesting and informative day, with some wide ranging and valid points being made during question time at the end of the day’s proceedings.

Speakers on the day were David Blackmur, Head of Horticulture, at Plumpton College; Jack McMillan MBE who gave us a fascinating insight into the recent changes on the West Course at Wentworth; Charles Henderson who introduced the STRI programme on organic matter management and Martin Ward, of Symbio, on extending early and late season growth.

After a substantial lunch Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, spoke on turf maintenance and disease control, followed by Kerran Daly MG who highlighted the attention to detail to the finer points that make the difference on a well presented golf course.

After question time, the Chairman thanked all the Speakers for their presentations. He also thanked members of the Trade for their support of events in the Region and Sections throughout the year, and the team at Plumpton College for looking after us so well on the day.

Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator.

Month 3

Month 4

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Seven members of the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE) have joined an elite band of individuals who have gained the Certified Club Managers (CCM) qualification.

The Club Managers passed the seven hour examination, which focuses on 10 key club management disciplines, including financial, leadership, facility and food and beverage management, to join just 15 CMAE members to achieve the qualification.

They are: David Cook CCM, Burhill Golf Club, Surrey; Tristan Hall CCM, Aldwickbury Park/Redbourn Golf Clubs, Hertfordshire; Andy Campbell CCM, Ransomes Jacobsen Regional Manager Scotland and Ireland; Jim Callaghan CCM, Bothwell Castle Golf Club, Glasgow; Pdraig Flattery CCM, Athenry Golf Club, Galway; Christopher May CCM, Emirates/Dubai Creek Golf Clubs, Dubai, UAE; Mark Anderson CCM, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, The Lansdowne Club, London.

The seven became the latest Club Managers to pass the CCM examination, a qualification recognised as the global industry benchmark. The CCM is open to suitably experienced managers who aim to become the best in their business and wish to develop their careers.

“Congratulations to those who achieved the highest recognition available in their profession,” said Jerry Kilby, CMAE Chief Executive.

“They are now one of 15 CMAE members who have achieved the qualification since its European launch in 2007, and join many of their colleagues in the USA and Canada, where the qualification has been established for many years.”



Plugging a Hole in the Market

Jeremy Parkman, former greenkeeper and inventor of “Bunker Plug,” has been appointed Technical Sales Executive at MJ Abbott, providing a direct link between golf courses and the ground breaking product.

“At this time of year, bunker maintenance is unquestionably one of the biggest headaches for Course Managers and Greens Staff and is often one of the most complained about areas of any course. Bunker Plug is an extremely efficient and very cost effective solution to the problem of flooding. Simple and efficient, quick and easy to fit with a host of other advantages, Bunker Plug is liked by Greens Staff because it eliminates pumping and associated problems, while improving playability,” said Jeremy, who was a greenkeeper at Dale Hill GC, in Kent, until recently.

With new attachments for surface drains and other problem areas on the course being launched at Harrogate Week 2011, Bunker Plug is proving more and more popular on courses around the U.K. and with plans to launch in Europe and the U.S.A., the future looks bright.

MJ Abbott, Sole Distributors of Bunker Plug, say the innovative product deserves its place on any course.

Rebrand for Limagrain

Limagrain UK has re-branded its professional seeds portfolio as ‘LG’ (Limagrain Genetics), reflecting the global nature of its parent company’s business.

Replacing the former Advanta, Nickerson and Sharpes ranges, the LG brand now encompasses cereals, maize, oilseed rape, peas and beans, vining peas, sugar beet, forage, root and leaf varieties, together with environmental and conservation crops.

Limagrain UK is the local agricultural and amenity seeds operating company of Group Limagrain, an international co-operative group specialising in agricultural and horticultural seeds, plus cereal products.

Group Limagrain employs more than 6000 people: over 1200 in research, has subsidiaries in 38 countries, sells in over 100 countries and has an annual turnover exceeding €1.35 billion. It is owned by its 3700 farmer members.

The company has a heritage of seedsmanship, combining more than 24 names such as Sharpes, and Sinclair McGill.

Formed in 2005, Limagrain UK embarked on a five-year, £3 million investment programme which has modernised the company’s systems and production facilities, together with its breeding and technology systems.

Month 5

Month 6

Asian Turf Seminar

Registration is now open for the March 14 to 16 Sustainable Turfgrass Management in Asia 2011 conference. Visit www.asianturfseminar.com for more details or download the PDF registration form here.

The fee for the three-day conference is 8,000 THB (about \$265), including three lunches, two dinners, and the Asian Turfgrass Field Day. The educational program has been approved for 1.0 education points by GCSAA. Topics this year for the classroom and field day seminars include weed control, grass selection and management in Asia, and practical advice on improving turfgrass playing conditions. Hear from grass scientists such as Dr. Don Loch from Australia, Dr. Jim Brosnan from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Micah Woods of the Asian Turfgrass Center, Philip Russell from The R&A, along with a session of presentations from Thai superintendents.

This conference is presented by the Thai GCSA and Asian Turfgrass Center for the Thailand Golf Association, with support from The R&A.

www.asianturfseminar.com



Teeing Off for Health and Safety

Golf Course operators and employees are the latest from the local business community in County Durham to have benefited from a free health and safety awareness raising seminar.

The one day, golf themed event took place at Chester-le-Street Golf Club. It was organised to help golf course employers and employees comply with their legal responsibilities relating to health and safety at work and help reduce accident and ill-health rates.

Organised by Durham County Council's Safety and Occupational Health Team, the day concentrated on safety issues such as lone working and risk assessment, as well as practical demonstrations including safe use of green keeping vehicles and machinery, safe use of pesticides, safe use of mobile machinery such as grass cutters and administering of First Aid. As well as council officers, demonstrations were delivered by representatives from the HSE, St John's Ambulance, Jon Allbutt Associates and Toro.

Shown above, Jon Allbutt participating in an outdoor workshop on vehicle safety which covered topics such as stability on slopes, vehicle safety features and using the right equipment for the job.

DENNIS MOWERS FOCUS ON CRICKET GROUNDSMEN

Following on from a successful series of seminars in 2010, Dennis Mowers is now focusing its attention on the specific needs of Cricket groundsmen. Hosted by Uxbridge Cricket Club, in conjunction with Dennis and cricketworld.com, the specialist seminar will take place on Thursday, February 10 (9.30am registration).

The seminar will combine expert practical tips and information followed by an open forum.

Among the impressive line up of speakers is Angus Fraser, former England and Middlesex fast bowler, now Managing Director of Cricket at Middlesex County Cricket Club; Host Groundsman Vic Demain, Stuart Kerrison, Head Groundsman at Essex County Cricket Club and Paul Taylor, Deputy Head Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Club.

Seeding and fertiliser application will be addressed by Craig Spooner of Limagrain, who will offer tips and advice on how to get the best looking and performing sward.

To register contact Roger Moore at Dennis on 01332 824777.

Month 7

Month 8



Uk & Ireland Golf Market Shrinks

A new golf industry survey has revealed a 4% decrease in the number of players in the UK and Ireland over the last year.

The survey reveals Europe's golf market as a whole has experienced significant growth since the 1980s and the number of golfers has more than tripled in the last 25 years, with golf course supply doubling in the same period.

However, across Europe, while the number of registered players grew by 5% annually until 2005, KPMG's research suggests that since then, demand growth has slowed down in the second half of the decade to 1-2% per year, and the current global economic pressures affecting many European countries have taken their toll, with nine countries suffering a decrease in participation over the past 12 months.

The report also recommends the need for more playable courses, six and nine hole developments, which will comfortably sit alongside championship-length courses to encourage new entrants to the game and offer affordable, accessible family-friendly services.

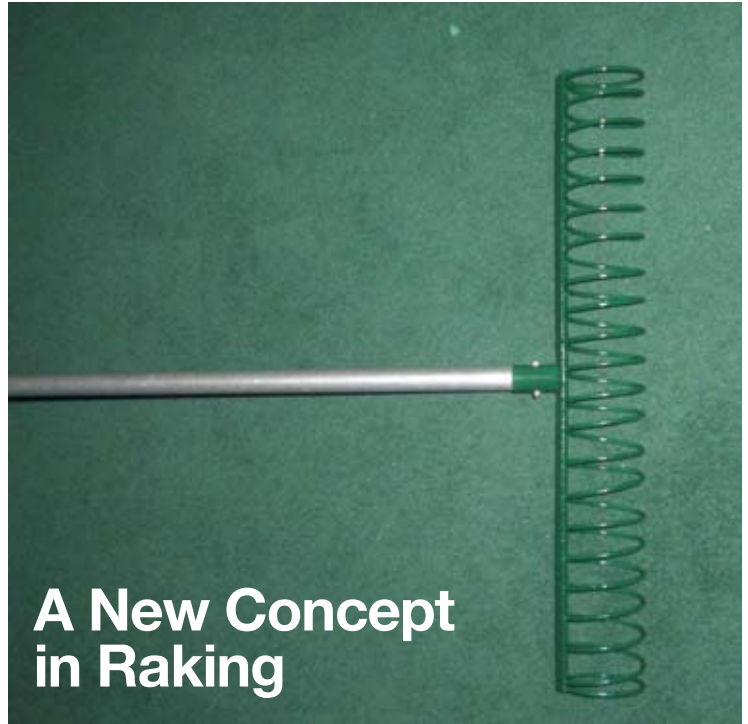
Turkey is highlighted as one of Europe's success stories where a 'Junior Golf League' initiative has proved so popular over the past three years that more than 3,000 additional juniors have been registered.

The country now boasts a growing golf population, 51% of which are juniors.

Other highlights from the survey include:

- From 2000 – 2010, the number of golfers in England and Wales decreased (-63,800 and -14,500 respectively).
- In absolute terms, the leading countries in golf participation growth were Germany (+254,000 = 74% growth), the Netherlands (+204,000 = 146% growth) and Spain (+187,000 = 124% growth).

Download the survey at www.golfbusinesscommunity.com



A New Concept in Raking

The Sandglider rake was conceived by Terry MacKay after his many frustrations with the standard of rakes on his frequent visits to bunkers around the world. Rakes were often broken, bent, missing teeth and generally pretty awful. Being a design engineer and former owner of a precision engineering company, Terry decided to design a rake which would address all the problems he had encountered. Almost five years later, SilverTree Products Limited is ready to launch Sandglider onto the market.

"There are many advantages to the rake; its stainless steel construction means years of useful life while retaining a pleasing appearance after exposure to all types of weather," said Terry.

"It is easy to use and can be

pushed or pulled to equal effect. Dry sand is effortless to work and the surface finish superior to a conventional rake. Heavy wet sand is always a problem for a flimsy rake but Sandglider copes," he explained.

A final redesign of the rake head has virtually eliminated any build-up of sand in the coil and in any event a tap on the ground clears the build-up immediately. The surface finish on wet sand is superior to that of a conventional tined rake. Having no teeth means Sandglider will not damage bunker membranes.

Sandglider will be priced much the same as any good quality rake available from reputable outlets; under £20 but with a longer lifespan.

For further info contact Terry MacKay on tdm@silvertree.co.im (Tel. +44 (0) 1624 852183)

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Month 9

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For more information, contact Scotts Professional on 01473 201106 email prof.sales@scotts.com www.scottspromotional.co.uk

*Dependent on chosen longevity.





Chairman's Word

As he writes his final column as BIGGA Chairman 2010, Paul Worster audits his motivations and aspirations

A momentous year comes to a close

The year 2010 was rather a momentous one for me - as it may have been for you. Some of you started the old year with a steady job and prospects, but unfortunately may not be starting the New Year in the same happy situation.

For many greenkeepers the old year was a year of change and adjustment; a year of difficult challenges but also, I hope, some welcome support.

I am grateful to my family, and my friends in the industry

This past year I have cause to be very grateful to my wife and my two sons for their support. I am grateful also to my good friends in the industry, my fellow BIGGA Board members, the hard working BIGGA staff and all our wonderful volunteers.

I am particularly grateful to Minchinhampton Golf Club for permitting me to have a considerable amount of time away over the last two years, and of course I want to thank all my staff for their hard work and support in 2009 and 2010.

At the AGM in 2010 I spoke from the heart in my acceptance speech. My personal view, after a year as Vice Chairman, was not a completely positive one. I felt the weight of accusation that the Association was somehow out of kilter with the aspirations of its members.

Like others on the Board I had heard criticism that nothing would ever change, and I had also heard a suggestion that once elected to the Board, ambitions to make change happen appeared to diminish.

I knew that this was unfair criticism

If this was true, then all Board members, volunteers and hard working HQ staff could be open to the further accusation that they were doing nothing, for example, to combat perceived apathy about

CPD in the profession.

I knew that this was unfair criticism, but I had to acknowledge that once such an impression had combined with the impact on our members of the worst recession in living memory something had to be done. Where then to start?

How about BIGGA's core values and mission? I was particularly concerned that our Association, which exists to advance the profession through training and CPD, was only actually able to train and develop a relatively small minority of its members over most past years.

Now some may argue that because we offer training and development to 100% of our members, our job is somehow done.

However, our mission is to 'strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession'.

Focus on the things that will make a difference

Looking back over 2010 I hope that I have been reasonably successful in dispelling another notion - that the Board is a clique made up of individuals with limited interest in the needs and aspirations of the rank and file BIGGA member.

If you have any doubts about the ambitions of Board members I just ask that you give us a fair chance to prove otherwise. This month, for example, sees the first Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers FOC at Harrogate Week. If successful, this will be run out in the Regions.

In 2010 I have also been motivated to help the Board that I serve to focus on the things that will make a difference, and I am hoping my successor will allow me to support him to deliver on a number of fronts going forward. Currently on my ongoing agenda:

1. Our relationships with our trade partners and other Associations

2. Member engagement in our services, particularly through uptake of CPD

3. Support for our volunteers

4. The CEO Succession

5. Governance of the Association

6. Re-alignment of the organisation

7. Advancement of the greenkeeping profession

So what is now happening in BIGGA HOUSE?

I suspect that many of our members will have concerns about staff changes at BIGGA HOUSE. Let me assure you that all of the hard working members of the HQ team and the Regional Administrators are highly valued by the Board.

Indeed HQ staff are already making bigger contributions to Board meetings. In doing so they are enlarging their contribution to BIGGA's delivery of its mission.

Meanwhile, the CEO and Board are working very closely together to manage the transition period to ensure a smooth and comprehensive hand-over of the business. This is a very important phase which will require John's full focus. To that end, Tracey Maddison (Currently Head of Membership Services), will take the role of Acting General Manager until such time as a new CEO is appointed.

There will be a huge "farewell" for John Pemberton at Harrogate 2011, and I hope members will take the opportunity to personally visit the Show to thank John for his contributions over the years. Keep an eye on the website for details.

The subject of Trade Shows continues to catch the eye

The subject of Trade Shows continues to catch the eye of the industry press.

Let me again assure you that the BIGGA Board continues to be at the very centre of discussions about the future of Harrogate Week.

Continued on page 55

Crashing Pilot Hits Bunker

Barely an hour after he crawled out of a damaged plane on a Corona golf course, pilot Richard Hammerschlag said his otherwise safe emergency landing fell victim to a hidden sand trap, reported US newspaper, The Press-Enterprise.

"I was trying to avoid the green but I couldn't see the trap coming up (as I rolled) up an incline. It snuck up on me," said the 63-year-old.

The plane landed on the undulating sixth fairway, which crests just before the green -- and the sand trap.

When Richard turned to avoid the green, the little two-seater literally fell into the trap.

The emergency landing avoided the two-story homes that border both sides of the fairway. The damage to the golf course was minimal, a club spokesman said.

"He was the most courteous crash pilot: He managed to avoid the green altogether," said General Manager, Mike Kim.

"We sustained a little damage to the sand trap, but nothing that can't be repaired."



JCB WINS ORDER TO SUPPLY BRITISH ARMY

JCB has been awarded one of the largest British Army machine orders in its 65-year history.

The order for 236 machines will be delivered by the end of this month.

The contract is for 138 JCB 4CX backhoe loaders and 98 JCB 436eHT wheel loading shovels. The backhoe

loaders are made at JCB's World HQ, Rocester, and the wheeled loading shovels at JCB Earthmovers, Cheadle.

The machines will be predominantly commercial with minor enhancements such as NATO green livery, personal weapons stowage inside the cab, convoy lighting and increased wading ability.

Contact+ On Target for Effective Disease Control

The bio-inspired Syngenta Contact+ fungicide active for turf, fludioxonil, will offer a novel action that effectively explodes targeted disease spores.

Syngenta Research Biochemist, Dr Andy Corran, says that new fungicide mechanisms of action are incredibly rare and extremely exciting, with the opportunity to develop new disease control strategies.

"Originally inspired by the naturally occurring antifungal compound of some soil bacteria, fludioxonil works in an entirely different way to the strobilurin and triazole fungicides -- which opens up new opportunities," he told greenkeepers and agronomists during a turf disease briefing at the Syngenta Jealott's Hill

International Research Centre, in Berkshire.

Andy explained that, when fludioxonil locks onto targeted disease spores, it upsets the osmotic balance within the cells and effectively tricks the pathogen into absorbing water. The result is that the spore rapidly swells until it - quite literally - explodes. This happens so quickly there is no time for the spore to develop mycelial growth into the leaf, thus preventing damage to the surface.

He also highlighted that fludioxonil only binds to a specific protein of targeted turf disease spores, so beneficial soil microbes that have different protein structures will not be affected.

Syngenta Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson, added that



fludioxonil not only targets disease pathogens on the leaf surface, but has the same effect on Fusarium disease spores in the thatch layer and the soil surface.

"The disease threat is ever present in the thatch layer, living on decaying material and roots and waiting for the right conditions to flare up," he warned.

"The additional thatch and soil activity of fludioxonil, compared to standard contact fungicides, explains why it's described as contact+.

"Fludioxonil will change the way we think about disease control, by reducing disease spore numbers and lowering the risk of infection," added Simon.



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

How does the GTC intend to engage more employers, in what, for many, is a natural ongoing process, staff investment and development?

Maybe for readers, it would be timely to remind you of who is represented around the table of the GTC and why there is a GTC, when there is BIGGA.

BIGGA clearly represents the greenkeepers and the Home Unions, EGU, SGU and GUW collectively represent over 2300 British golf club employers.

With a representative from the four bodies above plus Donald Steel, as the independent Chairman, and John Holliday as its Finance Director, it is a relatively small Board and one which is committed to promote greenkeeper training at every opportunity.

The GTC also has financial support for its work from the PGA European Tour and a special project grant from The R&A.

A closer relationship with organisations including FEGGA, CMAE, PGA and the GCMA has to be good for the game and this partnership will strengthen as the Home Unions look to establish Golf Education Groups.

The meetings I attend to discuss greenkeeping qualifications and apprenticeships are all driven by employers and employment needs.

To represent a sector where we have the employers and employees involved in the development and review of qualifications as well as promoting the various courses, workshops and seminars, is such an advantage when seeking approval from the accreditation and awarding bodies.

I don't intend to bore you with detail of how even those of us working in education get totally perplexed as policies seem to change from week to week!

The GTC believes it is still right to work within the Governments education policies for qualifications as funding support, albeit reducing, has been of great benefit too employers and greenkeeping students for many years.

Given that BIGGA will continue to promote greenkeeper education through its flagship award Master Greenkeeper, National and Regional Conferences, workshops and seminars, the GTC will develop and promote its new network of Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

One of the major roles of the GTC, having developed the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for greenkeeping, is to direct employers and greenkeeping students to Centres including colleges and Training Providers who offer formal and informal courses for our sector.

Quality has to be the benchmark we all aspire to, hence the launch of the GTC Quality Assured Scheme.

It would be a sheer waste of everybody's efforts if having developed a range of qualifications (standards) only for the delivery of these is of poor quality.

It is a challenge for the GTC to maintain the Assured Scheme but with BIGGA and the Home Unions totally committed to the scheme we will be promoting those Centres and Training Providers at every opportunity.

It is the Home Unions, through their Golf Services Committees, who are now making great strides in educating the golfer on the important work Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and the greenkeeping staff carry out.

Articles written by Master Greenkeepers are now appearing in the newsletters of the Unions and County Unions will also be better informed of the options for greenkeeper training which can then be shared with the clubs within their county.

We can promise you that there will be an increase in promotional materials and information to both employers and greenkeepers explaining just what is available.

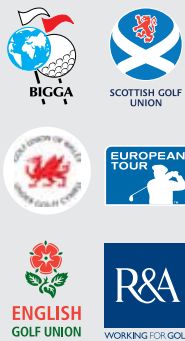
The GTC website will be maintained to give all the latest information on standards, qualifications, apprenticeship schemes, courses and the Quality Assured Scheme.

www.the-gtc.co.uk

In Brief

David looks forward to the New Year and how the GTC will be looking to promote staff education and training to employers as an ideal tonic during the winter months and at a time when many golf club businesses are still reeling within what appears to be a never-ending recession.

The GTC is funded by:



One important area of training the GTC is keen to promote more during the New Year is that of short courses or "bite-size learning" to use a slice of education jargon.

Qualifications will be delivered by the QA Centres but we see an increasing role for the QA Training Providers, who offer short courses and workshops aligned to the National Occupational Standards (NOS).

A menu of bite size learning options will be prepared, from which employers and greenkeepers will be able to choose the course or workshop to meet their needs.

Some well respected names and companies have already met the GTC's QA Criteria including Jon Allbutt Associates, Laurence Pithe MG Turf Master One and the STRI. We trust more will come on board shortly as the QA Training Providers will compliment the work of the QA Centres.

In summary, refer to the GTC website for all the latest information on qualifications and opportunities to learn through Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

Call the GTC on 01347 838640, email david@the-gtc.co.uk or is it really 12 months since many of us made the annual pilgrimage to Harrogate?

Please come and speak to us on stand C12



I understand we will see a reduced number of exhibitors from last year in attendance at this years event but at least it appears the education programme, including a new conference has exceeded all projected registration numbers.... education, education, education!

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Learning & Development

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



January 2011 and a whole new year to go at! A new year always promises new starts and new opportunities. The Learning and Development Department's resolution is to roll with the changes. What will your's be?



Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week

Harrogate Week gets the year underway with the Continue to Learn programme running from Sunday 16 to Thursday 20 January, delivering almost 150 hours of education. All indications are that Continue to Learn is going to be busier than ever, with record numbers of bookings received for the workshop programme.

Much interest has been shown in the Seminar Programme, especially The Ryder Cup and The Open Championship, both of which show all signs of being standing room only.

Tuesday 18 January

Update on UK Proposals for Implementing the EU Sustainable Use Directive

- Efficient Nutrient Technology
- STRI - Part of the Winning Team at the World Cup
- Wills and Estate Planning
- Improving Turf Quality
- Update from the R&A
- The Future of Turf Management
- Integrated Lake and Pond Management - Innovative Aquatic Solutions
- Ryder Cup Cymru

Why Electricity Generation Makes Economic Sense for Your Business

Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship

Fulvic Acid the Biostimulant that Extends Early and Late Season Growth

Fludioxonil Providing Innovative Disease Management and Application

Bunker Erosion: A Sustainable Solution to an Age Old Golfing Problem

Wednesday 19 January

Linking Fuel Savings to Reel Maintenance

Overseeding with Bentgrass the Pros and Pros

The West Course at Wentworth

The Three Steps to Transition

Coated Seed Delivering Species

Transition on the Golf Course!

Course Manager to Club Manager

- The Challenges

Aeration on Golf Courses

Green Up Your Greens

Integrated Management of Dollar

Spot

Environmental Management of

your Golf Course with the Latest

Technology in Chemistry

Nature's Solution to Greenkeepers'

Problems - Soil Fertility Explained

Demystification of Synthetic

Sports Surfaces

Turf in the Sustainability Era

Working on Your Own at a 9 Hole

Course

Thursday 20 January

Woodfuel Energy that Grows on

Trees

Sustainable Golf Course Maintenance



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.



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The New EU Water Directive and its Impact on Golf Courses

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For full information visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education/seminars

The Continue to Learn programme is supported by the Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund, those supporters are listed at the bottom of this page. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support.



Personal Development Zone

If you are looking to further your career or just gain more advice on how you can improve your personal development then a visit to the Personal Development Zone at Harrogate Week 2011 is a must. An invaluable resource for any sports turf professional who is looking to gain careers' advice or inspiration. Featuring experts in the field of greenkeeping, careers assistance and consultancy there is a wealth of specialist advice available.

Find the Personal Development Zone on Stand C22 on Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 January.

Rachael and I look forward to seeing you in Harrogate and wish you health, wealth and happiness for 2011.

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



JOHN DEERE



Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey; 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



IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS HONOUR UK GROUNDS EXPERTISE

Almost 300 of the UK's and Europe's leading grounds care experts from both the professional and volunteer sector and guests honoured the expertise, dedication and passion of the country's grounds profession at the (IOG) Industry Awards.

The ceremony at Cardiff's SWALEC Stadium recognised leadership, innovation and outstanding achievement across every aspect of grounds care – from grassroots pitches to professional stadia, including all types of public and private sports venues, and it highlighted the progress of young/student grounds professionals as well as product development and employer considerations.

The main winners were:

Professional Football Grounds Management Team of the Year – the Alex R Millar Award: Manchester City Football Club,

Groundsman's Groundsman of the Year: Iain Main, Surrey University's Surrey Sports Park

Lifetime Achievement Award: Keith Boyce

Most Promising Sports Turf Student of the Year: Nicholas Staff, Otley College, Suffolk

Young Groundsman of the Year: Nick Phillips, Tottenham Hotspur FC

Professional Sports Ground Management Team of the Year: Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, London

“Reel-Good” turn out for Crocodile Open Day

Crocodile Golf Products held its most successful Open Day so far, when over 40 greenkeepers, agronomists, service engineers and students toured the factory to see the quality and manufacture of its growing range of cylinder mower blades and bottom blades.

Greenkeepers were able to leave the temporary greens behind and meet for coffee before being introduced to the manufacturing capabilities of this long-established engineering firm.

Originally starting out in 1874 as a manufacturer of sugar cane harvesting knives and farming machetes, the company has developed the same 'cutting-edge' technology to make cylinder lawn-mower blades, bottom



blades and rotary blades to fit original equipment as well as a whole range of replacement parts to fit both greensmowers and fairways lawn mowers.

Managing Director, Ian Marshall, commented that 'the demise of the automotive industry within the West Midlands has required considerable diversification and the manufacture of this type of product has provided a perfect opportunity for growth, particularly at a time when everyone is trying to make savings!'



Bucking the Trend

Norwich-based, P&R Hydraulics is bucking the trend of manufacturing and distribution companies struggling to achieve growth during the current economic climate.

P&R has experienced significant growth in the last 12 months of trading. Since taking the decision to purchase Hydraulics Direct in January of last year, the company has not only seen a considerable increase in its revenue but also its export business.

“Many small companies would not choose to acquire a new business during the worst recession we have seen for a generation. However, the opportunity presented itself to us and despite the obvious challenges

we felt the time was right for us to grow our business and expand into a new market sector, turf care equipment,” said Sales Director, Richard Howard.

In addition, the company is expanding by taking on additional floor space for its manufacturing and repair operations in Norwich. There are also plans to increase the current workforce during 2011 to ensure customers continue to receive excellent service and support despite the increased workload.

Members of the P & R Hydraulics team from left to right, Glenn Jordan, David Elliott, Justin Gill, Richard Howard and Maria Barham-Brown’

BAR Trio from Barenbrug

New from Barenbrug is BAR Trio, a 100% fescue blend specifically designed to provide the superior salt tolerance required by links courses.

Part of the 2011 BAR Range, this latest product launch is the result of Barenbrug’s extensive research and development commitment to finding a salt-tolerant fescue blend especially for golf users.

Following a pilot project in 2009 at Northumberland course Goswick Links, the BAR Trio mixture synergy has been perfected in trials across the UK and Ireland in order to provide the shoot density, plus disease and salt tolerance, that links courses so often struggle to achieve.

BAR Trio contains a blend of Barenbrug slender creeping red fescues – 40% Viktorka, 30% Barcrown and 30% Barpearl



What’s your number?

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

Name: David Golding
Company: The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC)
Position: Education Director



How long have you been in the industry?
 40+ years....and it seems like only yesterday.

How did you get into it?

I was a keen young golfer in the mid-sixties playing for the county colts in Derbyshire and working in the Pro’s shop during my spare time. I left school to become an Assistant Professional but soon realised that I was not going to be good enough to make a living out of playing the game. My home club, Buxton & High Peak offered me an Apprenticeship as a Greenkeeper. The rest as they say is history....my career progressed to becoming a Head Greenkeeper and Course Manager, while also being a volunteer within the BGGGA and from 1987 an RA for BIGGA. I joined BIGGA in 1989 before becoming the GTC’s Education Director in 1993.

What other jobs have you done?

Apprentice Greenkeeper to Golf Courses Manager and for the past 21 years privileged to work as an education administrator within the greenkeeping sector of golf.

What do you like about your current job?

Representing the greenkeeping sector at high profile meetings to ensure there are opportunities for all ages of greenkeepers and leaving employers no excuses not to invest in staff development.

What changes have you seen in the industry?

The professionalism of, and respect for, the majority of greenkeepers has improved tremendously. I would like to think as a sector we have education and training courses for everyone, thanks to BIGGA and the ongoing support we have from other golfing organisations.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with the family and watching sport, especially Man Utd who have given me so much pleasure, and very occasional heartache, since I was a little lad.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Retired, and who knows back playing as much golf as I once did. This time it will be in sunnier climes rather than the bleak High Peak!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

I would like to think after a lifetime in the industry, most greenkeepers, and many other individuals who I have met since the 60s.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? 7

David has picked Fiona Gebbett, of Pan Publicity

Turfgrass management

Micah Woods gives an insight into a different type of turf management



At Bangkok, the average high temperature never drops below 31°C, and the average low temperature is always more than 20°C. As I write this, it is the end of this year's rainy season, when in an average year about 1200mm of rain will fall at Bangkok from May to October.

At Singapore the average annual rainfall, spread more evenly throughout the year, is closer to 2400mm! Compare that with London and its 600 mm average

annual rainfall, or Glasgow with its 900 mm, and one quickly realizes that Southeast Asia may be a salubrious location for a holiday, but it is quite a different (and challenging) place to manage turfgrass.

When I first visited Southeast Asia in 1999, I saw that there were many golf courses here, but essentially nothing in the way of greenkeeper education, or turfgrass research, or independent advisory services for greenkeepers or golf clubs. In 2006 I started the Asian Turfgrass Center with the goal of providing some of

those services, and I also promised Scott MacCallum that I would write an article about greenkeeping in Southeast Asia. Greenkeeping in Southeast Asia is so different than in Britain, and I thought a description of some of these differences may be of interest to the readership of Greenkeeper International.

What Grasses Are Used on Golf Courses

The primary grasses used here are hybrid bermudagrass, (Cyn-

in Southeast Asia

For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate

odon spp.), manilagrass (*Zoysia matrella*), seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*), and broadleaf carpetgrass (*Axonopus compressus*). For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate. One doesn't find much in the way of open meadow in Southeast Asia. The climate vegetation here would be a tropical rainforest, so to maintain turfgrass on golf courses takes

a different mentality than in other parts of the world. The goal here is actually to keep a vigorously growing sward. Because of the climate, if the growth of the grass is allowed to slow, other plants will invade, and quickly.

The amount of water and fertiliser used on courses in Asia is considerably more than would typically be used in Europe. This is because of the different grass types used, the twelve month growing season, and the need to keep the grass growing to prevent it being overtaken by less

MAIN PHOTO: Blue Canyon in Thailand

desirable species. For nitrogen, in Southeast Asia, the average golf course would use 400 to 600 kg N/ha on greens, and perhaps 200 to 400 kg N/ha on fairways and roughs. And when it comes to water, there is a high evapotranspiration (ET) rate because of the sun intensity close to the equator, and during dry weather the daily ET is about 7 mm per day. Some types of grass can survive with deficit irrigation at less than full replacement of ET, but when that happens growth will slow, so only a very skilled



ABOVE: Rain or shine? Umbrellas are used here to protect the caddies from the heat of the Thailand sun

greenkeeper can manage the turf under those conditions, carefully controlling the growth rate of the desired grass species while carefully monitoring the potential invasion of weeds that could overtake the turf if it is allowed to stop growing.

Average Crew Sizes

When it comes to the number of employees working on the maintenance crew in Southeast Asia, I don't think there is much relation to the numbers at golf courses in other parts of the world. There would tend to be at least 30 or 40 people working at the average 18 hole facility, with it not uncommon to have more than 50 people working at one course. In August I visited a course at Vietnam that had 70 employees on the course maintenance crew. And you may be aware that many golf courses in Asia require the players to take a caddy.

Micah Woods, examines some trial plots, is Managing Director of the Asian Turfgrass Center (www.asianturfgrass.com)



Each course may then have 100 or more caddies, and these caddies are sometimes used to supplement the work of the maintenance crew, perhaps pulling weeds or collecting leaves or other debris from the course during times when they are not otherwise engaged.

Cost for Golf Course Maintenance

The money required to maintain a golf course is quite variable, but it would tend to be more than in temperate climates due to the year-round growing season and consequently more mowing and fertilizer and Labor and irrigation required. Labor costs vary considerably, with minimum daily wage at Thailand being about £4 per day, and with a Head Greenkeeper at Thailand drawing a salary of about £900 per month. The Labor costs on a golf course in Southeast Asia would

tend to be relatively low, but the fertilizer costs and fuel costs may be high, because golf course owners like to see the entire grounds green and trimmed and cleaned.

The Environment or Golf?

There is certainly a different perspective on the environment from Europe to Asia. I was at a pub in Edinburgh a few years ago and I somehow came into conversation with someone about my employment in the golf industry. And the conversation soon turned to something along the lines of "but don't they use a lot of chemicals on golf courses, and don't they use a lot of water, and aren't the golf courses located in rather remote places, and don't people drive large vehicles out to the golf courses, and aren't the parking lots of the golf courses filled with so many large vehicles?" That type of concern is, I think, somewhat prevalent in Europe and also in North America, but in Southeast Asia the mentality is different. In Thailand or Vietnam or the Philippines, where only a small percentage of the population owns an automobile, the wish to have an automobile and the convenience that would provide certainly trumps any concern about the environment. At an average golf course in these countries, there would be perhaps 40 employees working on golf course maintenance, and three of them would own an automobile, with the rest going to work on foot or by bicycle or motorcycle.

The climate of Southeast Asia is great for a holiday, but not for a

There would tend to be at least 30 or 40 people working at the average 18 hole facility, with it not un-common to have more than 50 people working at one course



A different kind of spectator can be found by the courses of Singapore



Banyan GC, Thailand

routine job when one must get to work by bicycle or motorcycle, and it is understandable that one would want to have a better quality of life and a car or truck. And when we pass vast expanses of rice fields and see workers spraying insecticides and herbicides with no protective gear, we may cringe a bit, but that is commonplace in Southeast Asia and food production is a lot more important than is golf course maintenance.

When the agricultural industry spreads fertilisers and pesticides in a certain way, those working in golf course maintenance will have a hard time understanding why they should do the work any differently. If it is good enough for our food, why is it not good for the grass, the thinking may go.

People in Asia are concerned about the environment, but in my experience, the people are first concerned about improving their quality of life, and would prefer to see people from developed countries make sacrifices in their lives rather than restricting water use or golf development or energy use in Asia.

Employment Opportunities for Expatriates

I am sometimes contacted by people who are interested in working in Asia, asking me if I know of any job openings or how one might go about gaining employment here. Frankly, there are not a lot of employment opportunities for foreigners in the greenkeeping field in

Southeast Asia. To take Thailand as an example, with its approximately 250 golf courses, I think there are five expatriate head greenkeepers. At Hong Kong there are expatriates in the management roles at most clubs, but then with only six clubs, that doesn't represent many jobs, does it?

To step away from Southeast Asia for a moment, we can look at Japan, where there are over 2000 golf courses, and I can say with some confidence that aside from the few American military base courses in Japan, there are a grand total of zero expatriates working as a Head Greenkeeper in Japan.

To sum it up, there are not a lot of employment opportunities available, and those that are available are usually offered to people who have already been working in Asia.

The way to get work (and the way that I found my first employment in Asia) is through new construction projects, generally, and if you are interested in working in Asia, and have some contacts with golf course architects or construction companies who are doing work in Asia, that may be an opportunity to find a job here. And once you have worked in Asia, and been successful, it is relatively easy to find another job within the region.

A Difficult Place to Grow Grass

Because the climax vegetation in Southeast Asia tends toward jungle, it is a matter of constant effort and constant vigilance on the



A team of workers can contain around 50 people



ABOVE: Not regarded as suitable footwear in Europe!
BELOW: Caddies say, "Hi"



part of the greenkeeper to keep a course in good condition. And it is particularly unfortunate that in a part of the world where the climate is so extreme and unamenable to turfgrass growth, there is also a real lack of educational opportunities available for greenkeepers.

But that is changing, and local greenkeeper associations are developing to share information and provide educational opportunities to their members.

With that, I think, the greenkeepers in Asia have much in common with their counterparts in other parts of the world, and although the climate and grass and economy are all quite different from Asia to Europe to America, the greenkeepers here have the same passion for the work and the same interest in constant improvement in their skills and in the courses they manage.



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The architecture of grass and green speed

Tim Lodge raids his bathroom to produce visual aids illustrating his take on green speed



Golf ball on a wire brush (left) and on a toothbrush

Imagine a wire brush. Imagine the wires are as densely packed onto the brush as they are on a toothbrush but all are exactly the same length. Imagine the brush is really big, as big as a golf green.

Now imagine rolling a golf ball over that brush. Because the wires are all really stiff, up to a height of maybe an inch or more their length isn't going to have any effect at all upon the rolling ball.

Now imagine they are nylon fibres like a toothbrush and not wire. Now maybe a length of about half an inch might be the upper limit at which the roll of the ball is affected. Below this height, it's unlikely that long or short fibres will make much difference.

You can perhaps see where I'm going with this. The extent to which a rolling golf ball is affected by the grass will be related in a very important way to the density of the shoots and to other factors such as their width and their individual 'floppiness'. It's not just about height of cut. Different grass species will have inherently differing degrees of stiffness in their shoots. Rather like men perhaps, this will also vary according to other factors like the pressure of the fluids within the

leaf cells, a phenomenon known as turgidity which is related to the grass's water uptake.

Different grass species will also form swards with different shoot densities. The shoot density of a fescue sward for example is totally different to a sward of annual meadow grass. The photographs suggest that the shoot density of a healthy fescue sward is actually less than that of a meadow grass sward.

The width of the leaves will also be important, particularly in relation to how much of their surface actually comes into contact with the ball. This will also affect the amount of surface moisture they retain which will in turn affect the roll. Fescues of course have much narrower leaves than bents and annual meadow grass.

The point is that the height of the sward, the mowing height, may not be quite as influential in affecting the speed of greens as is widely assumed. Unfortunately, there is a desperate paucity of research on this very important question. How does the 'architecture' of the sward, including the height of cut, affect green speed?

The necessary experiments required to answer this would be fairly easy to set up and study. If



anyone was prepared to fund this research, we at Agrostis would be more than happy to carry it out.

In the meantime, we should perhaps take the heat off greenkeepers who are often forced simply to lower mowing heights in the quest for faster greens.

This places both the greens and the greenkeeper under often quite unnecessary stress. If it were more widely appreciated that the situation is more complicated than simply the mowing height setting there might be a few less argument taking place and fewer jobs being lost.

Tim Lodge, Agrostis Turf Consultancy, Tel: 01359 259361, www.agrostis.co.uk



Annual meadow grass sward (left) and fescue sward, both mown at around 4 mm



On the beach

Murray Long explains how bunker construction and maintenance is carried out at Sunningdale

Bunkers are up there alongside golf greens as one of the most emotive subjects in the bar after a game of golf, or in a greens meeting! In the same manner as golfers would say the greens were too slow, bumpy or soft, they would also say, “My ball was plugged! There was no sand! There was too much sand!” etc.

They are a hazard! Therein lies the problem; how much of a hazard should they be? Certainly not the hazard they used to be when they were formed from rabbit scrapes in the dunes or sheep sheltering from the howling wind or rain hundreds of years ago. Even on from that, at the turn of the 20th century when Harry Colt started building bunkers whose bases were not evenly bowled, bases were fluctuating and

sand could never be kept evenly distributed over the bases or faces as gravity would play its part and sand levels would be inconsistent. After all, bunkers were designed as a hazard!

The modern day bunker is somewhat different. A more manicured approach has developed with edges having to be defined to clearly mark the hazard, even sand levels so that you get the same lie where ever your ball lands. The best players in golf would much rather land in a perfectly raked bunker if they miss the green, where they can get a clean strike and achieve some spin to stop the ball, as opposed to a ball sitting down in some clumpy rye where anything can happen.

With the current economic climate, things may well be heading back towards more unmaintained

hazards. There are certainly a lot more golf course designs coming out of America with a more rugged appearance, but you can still be sure we greenkeepers will be put under pressure to maintain our bunkers to achieve consistency, as

Many years ago, the USGA developed a specification for a green in the search for a consistent putting surface

I have yet to hear a golfer say “It was ok, I thinned it, I was in a hazard!”

Some of the best bunkers I have at Sunningdale don't have any drainage installed. Four out of a total count of 154 lie over a free-draining sand rootzone that has little or no



ABOVE: Range of photographs showing new Course bunkers under construction

stones. This is the ideal. I wish this ratio was higher, but it does give some indication of what is needed in a good bunker!

Many years ago, the USGA developed a specification for a green in the search for a consistent putting surface.

In my opinion, we need to apply some of these principles in order to produce good bunkers that actually reduce the level of maintenance required because they're constructed well from the sub base up.

On many sites, the sub base can vary substantially across the course which will have an effect on the sands performance, so we have to create some consistency, starting with a good drainage system ideally leading to a positive outfall and adequate pipe size to maintain a

reasonable flow of water to prevent flooding.

Flush points can be fitted to the drainage system by carrying the pipe up and out of the bunker to a convenient place close to the edge where it can be fitted with a cap to allow flushing prior to winter heavy rains ideally just before drain down. These flush points can also be used for rodding should blockages occur.

Another option can involve fitting a piece of twin wall pipe with a solid base into the drainage line so it acts as a silt trap.

This would also have a solid removable lid ideally six inches below the finished level of the sand to avoid damage from clubs.

They can be handy access points in times of severe flooding to get water quickly to drainage. It also

helps to make them large enough to drop a bunker pump into, to act as a sump in the worst case scenario.

If a soak away is your only option, try to construct it outside the bunker with enough storage capacity to take all the water a bunker is likely to take, far enough away to avoid water backing up the pipe. Again, twin wall can be built into the soak away large enough for a bunker pump to be dropped in should it become full.

Making the sub base as solid as possible and sloping it towards drainage, ensures water can be quickly evacuated.

The biggest problem affecting bunkers is contamination. The more you can prevent it, the longer the bunker will last and perform effectively. Contamination comes in a variety of form from different



sand/grit will help identify when levels are in need of attention.

Liners are also a good option between the drainage layer and the sand. There are many options available, but ideally look for a lining system with the following qualities.

It should be permeable so water can travel through to drainage. It should also be able to withstand impact from golf clubs and not rip or chip, as in the real world, sand levels fluctuate and at some point a golf club will come into connection with the liner. It should also be able to expand and contract with varying soil conditions in summer and winter and should ideally improve sand holding capacities on bunker faces.

Choosing the correct bunker sand can be a minefield, but good advice is available from your agronomist and reputable suppliers.

When it comes to bunker maintenance, different raking techniques can be used to help you achieve your

ABOVE: bunkers before and
BELOW: after re-construction



The key to achieving good consistent bunkers is to create similar conditions throughout the golf course in different environments, and an effective sub base and drainage is a good start

areas and there are a number of solutions.

Contamination from the sub base may cause stones, rock or chalk to mix with the sand, which pose a potential risk to golfers if they're struck. They can also land on the putting surfaces where they can cause damage to mowing equipment.

Once we have installed good drainage systems, they can become blocked by silts, so it's important to make sure we have the correct gradation of particles from the course drainage aggregates to the fines of our sands. Drainage aggregate can also become a pollutant if sand levels are not maintained and the gravel comes up into the sand.

The edges of the bunker are also an interface between the soil, turf and sand. Stones can encroach from the edges of the bunker, but probably more troublesome is the soil that can be washed in, changing the drainage characteristics of the sand.

Placing a small revetment of about three turves around the edge of the bunker gives good definition and acts as a good barrier to prevent

this occurring.

Contamination from areas outside of the bunker, such as grass and leaves, can be easily dealt with by simply blowing bunkers out prior to raking or after maintenance practises.

The key to achieving good consistent bunkers is to create similar conditions throughout the golf course in different environments, and an effective sub base and drainage is a good start.

In order to minimise contamination to the sand from the base or the sand and silts to the drainage we need to create a bridge or blinding layer between the sand and the drainage. This can be done in a number of ways.

A layer of coarse sand or grit can be put over the entire base of the bunker creating a barrier between troublesome sub soils and the sand. The important thing to remember with this is that the layer has to be thick enough to stop movement upwards but also of the right depth and particle size as to not restrict drainage. Sand levels must be monitored. A distinct difference in colour between the sand and coarse

goals. Softer sands may need to be flat raked to minimise plugging or try using rakes with shorter teeth. Flat raking around the outside of the bunker improves the chances of the ball coming to rest in the bunker base and not on the face. Varying raking directions helps with the even distribution of sand. Brushing of bunker faces with a stiff bristle broom can also produce an interesting appearance.

Devise a maintenance plan specifically for the bunkers on your course with the aim of achieving greater levels of play and giving them the attention they need. Greenside bunkers may be raked every day along with crucial drive bunkers. Bunkers situated further out of play may get foot printed every third day.

Every golf course we work on is different.

The key to success is creating consistency throughout your site and maintaining it by minimising contamination and finding a simple solution to bunker maintenance. Good luck with your bunker endeavours this winter!

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Early southern summer scorcher left a dry taste for turf

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the knock-on problems that can be created by stressful weather conditions

Southern England's middle summer months left a distinctly dry taste for turf in 2010. A succession of scorching hot and rainless days through June and July left turf dry and drought stricken with a repeat of 1976, one of the hottest and driest summers on record, looking a real possibility.

All grades of un-watered turf across the region became brown and lifeless as turf grasses shrivelled, although many broadleaf turf weeds were still growing and outwardly unaffected. They continued to flower, fruit and seed, staking out a strong and dominant position for the return of normal growth conditions.

In the end the notoriously fickle British weather saved the day following an extremely wet August with the lowest recorded mean temperature for 17 years. Equally remarkable was the speed of turf grass recovery which by September looked lush and green as though nothing had happened, except for the weeds. At the height of the drought in mid-July turf weeds

such as white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), recognised as drought tolerant, and others like self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla repens*) which are not, were seemingly unaffected by the drought, flowering profusely with seeds ripening quickly in the hot summer sun.

UK turf generally benefits from a benign climate and environment and is relatively untroubled by biological agents (e.g. weeds) compared with turf grown in other parts of the temperate world. But for the first time since its widespread development and adoption as a playing and leisure surface, UK turf could face a double-whammy of man-made and contrived threats with a combined and related force that could change the face of golf courses.

First is the generally accepted threat of climate change and global warming which promises hotter and drier summers on a regular basis. Second is the EU blitz on turf pesticides right across the sports turf and amenity sectors. Disappearing fast are products using a long-established and traditionally-

used range of sophisticated and high efficacious herbicide actives. Greenkeepers have relied on herbicides to keep their most professional playing surfaces (greens and tees) essentially weed free and to manage weeds as appropriate across the rest of the golf course. At first sight the two seem totally unrelated but nothing could be further from the truth.

But for the first time since its widespread development and adoption as a playing and leisure surface, UK turf could face a double-whammy of man-made and contrived threats

Broad leaved plants are generally better able [than turf grasses] to withstand drought conditions and those which grow in turf always manage a head start over grasses - if they didn't they wouldn't be successful turf weeds. Some might argue that disappearance of established herbicides for managed turf is a 'red herring' [in relation

MAIN PIC ABOVE: Yarrow, a dedicated drought tolerant turf weed had a field day



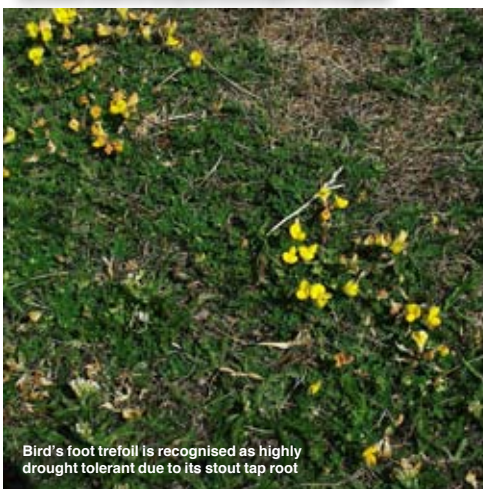
Yarrow, a dedicated drought tolerant turf weed had a field day



Creeping cinquefoil not noted for drought tolerance persisted while all the grass around gave up the ghost



Self-heal is more usually associated with damp turf but that also did well out of the drought



Bird's foot trefoil is recognised as highly drought tolerant due to its stout tap root



The nitrogen fixing legume white clover rapidly spread out to form huge weed patches



By September dandelions were much more in evidence than usual and flowering



Even opportunistic turf weeds like bristly ox-tongue did well, surviving the drought courtesy a deep and strong tap root



By September the normally diminutive and difficult to see parsley piert was spreading across tees like lush green parsley as its common name suggests

to increasingly severe summer drought conditions] because selective herbicides are never applied during extended periods of dry weather when the grass is not actively growing. But on the other side of the global warming 'coin' are predicted wetter winters with the classical December-February UK winter period squeezed at both ends by extended autumns and earlier springs.

These are the seasons when weed pressure, originating during hot dry summers, will be felt. You only had to look at the lush green turf in September 2010 to see how the situation had changed in a matter of weeks. Turf grass growth had recovered but weeds like white clover and yarrow didn't need to recover and simply took over with huge patches across even professional sports turf. And if herbicides are no longer available for prompt application in September when the rain resumes there will be no way of shifting such fast moving and well established weed growth that will persist through to spring.

The industry is preoccupied with new grass species and varieties to withstand hotter and drier summer conditions but largely ignores the inherent capacity of many native and naturalised broad leaf turf weeds to effectively withstand severe drought conditions. We are so conditioned to our inherently wet climate that we never dream to imagine that native and naturalised broad leaf weeds are drought tolerant.

What's more those plant characteristics like finely-divided leaves with thick cuticles and underground vegetative organs, which confer general drought tolerance, are often the very same characteristics that make drought tolerant species difficult to kill with herbicides. In a nutshell plant leaf shape and surface structure that makes it harder for water to escape from the plant make it equally hard for herbicide to get in.

Yarrow

Yarrow is the classic drought tolerant weed of UK turf with finely-divided leaves protected by a thick cuticle and wax bloom and providing the ideal bulwark against excessive loss of water by transpiration during hot dry conditions. These are the self-same plant characteristics that make yarrow one of the most herbicide tolerant of all broad leaf weeds in UK turf. Yarrow thrives in undernourished low fertility soils and swards and will continue to



By July drought resistant turf weeds stretched as far as the eye could see

grow when the grass cannot. The turf root zone may be brimming with nutrients but if the fine fibrous root system of turf grasses cannot enough extract water from the soil to compensate for transpiration then it [the soil] is for all intents and purposes functionally infertile.

Leguminous turf weeds

A select group of leguminous plants including white clover, bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), yellow suckling clover (*Trifolium dubium*) and black medick (*Medicago lupulina*) are dedicated weeds of UK turf with two essential and related things in common. All have the capacity to access their own supplies of nitrate courtesy nitrogen fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium* species) that conduct a symbiotic relationship with the leguminous plant from their position in the root nodules. In addition all these leguminous weeds are inherently drought tolerant.

Nitrogen is an essential major nutrient for growth which most plants including grasses can only source it as water soluble nitrate ions (NO_3^-). Plants which are unable to source water from soil during drought conditions automatically lose access to nitrate fertilizer. No such problem for leguminous plants which take advantage of

Individual leguminous turf weeds may possess other characters that confer drought resistance

any shortage of soil water and soil nitrogen by 'making their own'.

Individual leguminous turf weeds may possess other characters that confer drought resistance. For instance, bird's foot trefoil has a deep tap root while the relatively small area of the individual leaves on all of these species helps to minimise water loss by transpiration.

Nowhere to hide

Fast growing turf's ability to hide more diminutive turf weeds like parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*), creeping cinquefoil, self-heal, slender-speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) and dove's foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*) is a double-edged sword. It may be superficially OK when turf grasses are actively growing but with the onset of drought these small-leaved plants are no longer easy to hide and become prominent weeds in their own right, presented with a free hand to grow and move through the static drought-stricken turf.

None of these turf weeds is generally thought of [like yarrow and white clover] as drought tolerant

but parsley piert and dove's foot cranesbill in particular with their fondness for sandy free-draining soils would be expected to have a high degree of drought tolerance. Furthermore the inherent soil structure of golf greens and tees with their distinctly sandy free-draining bases are clearly potential prime sites for these weeds whether or not water stress in summer is a problem. The clear advantage given to such weeds during June and July was evident by September with parsley-piert spreading on golf tees as its common name implies like parsley fit for a salad.

That apart even those weeds like self-heal which most frequently occurs as a problem weed of persistently damp and poorly drained turf, and creeping cinquefoil typically found in wet neglected acid turf, were doing well enough at the height of heat and drought in July 2010. They were flowering and setting seed to take full advantage of the late summer and autumn rains that would follow just a few weeks later. Even weeds like slender speedwell known to prefer damp swards did not appear to have suf-



Another example of drought resistant turf weeds in July

fered. By September this dedicated turf weed was growing profusely alongside opportunistic turf weeds such as bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echinoides*).

Tap roots all round

Small leaved weeds may go unnoticed in the grass but there's nowhere to hide for turf weeds from the family Asteraceae (Compositae) irrespective of whether the sward is actively-growing or static. A number of factors contrive to make dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and to a lesser sent smooth hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*) and mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*) formidable turf weeds.

The common factor which enables this group of closely related species to withstand severe drought is a tap root. Packed with polysaccharide tap roots have traditionally allowed these perennial plants to survive the sub-zero air temperatures and frozen soils of winter and get a head start over turf grass in the spring. However, tap roots prove equally useful in enabling them to survive a completely different set of adverse environmental conditions in the form of high air temperatures and soil moisture deficits in summer that will push other plants past

permanent wilting point.

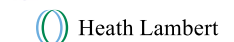
Dandelion was already having a good year (Greenkeeper International, July 2010) and the summer drought just added to this relative advantage over turf grass, so that by September dandelions were much more prominent and frequent in fine turf than usually seen at this time of year. And especially on golf tees where dandelion seeds germinate and establish with ease in the unavoidably damaged turf. Other related species such as ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and bristly ox-tongue were clearly taking advantage especially when the tees were alongside potentially large seed banks like railway embankments.

Neither ragwort nor bristly ox-tongue is regarded as weed of professional turf and as such will rarely appear on the target weed hit list for selective herbicides designed and recommended for use on managed turf. That said it should come as no surprise that both are able, when the opportunity arises, to exploit golf tees by germinating and establishing on bare soil exposed by divots and which offers the ideal sandy free draining base that both prefer. Indeed ragwort is listed as a key species in the plant succession of sand dunes. Once established they are difficult to remove. Like dandelions, ragwort and bristly ox-

tongue are quickly conditioned by close cutting into a prostrate habit that allows most of the leaf rosette to escape the mower's blades. With their deep tap roots able to generate new shoots at will even a low cut is to no avail.

Fears for the future

The drought tolerance of dandelion and other members of the Asteraceae (Compositae) like cat's ear are evident from their success as turf weeds in South Australia where there are four consecutive excessively hot summer months with virtually no rain. Should global warming arrive and develop at the speed and on the scale predicted five years ago for the UK then turf weeds will present a huge problem for golf courses. Not in mid to late summer, when the grass is dried out and herbicide application is not an option anyway, but certainly during the rest of the year starting in autumn, when the rain returns and still-growing weeds have a head start of over turf grasses. And at the very time when on-going EU pesticide legislation seems hell bent on removing chemical herbicides from the marketplace, leaving greenkeepers with few if any proactive practical options for turf weed control.



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Every one a winner

Winners, Portmore Golf Park

Richard Stuttard, of the STRI, reveals the winners of this year's Golf Environment Awards and explains why they were successful



STRI's Golf Environment Awards have once again brought to the forefront of the golf industry ten of the most environmentally proactive golf clubs in the UK.

In addition to this the awards attracted a significant number of first time entrants to the programme indicating that awareness of environmental and ecological best practice is continuing to spread throughout the industry.

In 2010 our overall winner is Portmore Golf Park situated close to Barnstaple in North Devon. This 27 hole facility constructed on former agricultural land in the 1990's has had ecological and environmental considerations built into its ethos since inception. The Club has achieved the perfect balance between presenting a top quality golfing experience with a low environmental and financial cost.

The foresight and enthusiasm of owner, Colin Webber, has resulted in the creation of a successful and sustainable business model for the Club particularly with regard to ecological and environmental

considerations. On the nature conservation side the course is a rich mix of diverse mature woodland, extensive well managed deep rough grassland and visually and ecologically superb water features. The Club has a true appreciation of the need to develop ecological corridors through the golf course and

son, Josh, are strong advocates of the use of Compost Tea and have developed considerable skills in its development and application.

Waste reduction and management has also been a priority at Portmore, particularly over the last five years. In that time the Club has achieved a two thirds reduction

The Club (Portmore Golf Park) has achieved the perfect balance between presenting a top quality golfing experience with a low environmental and financial cost

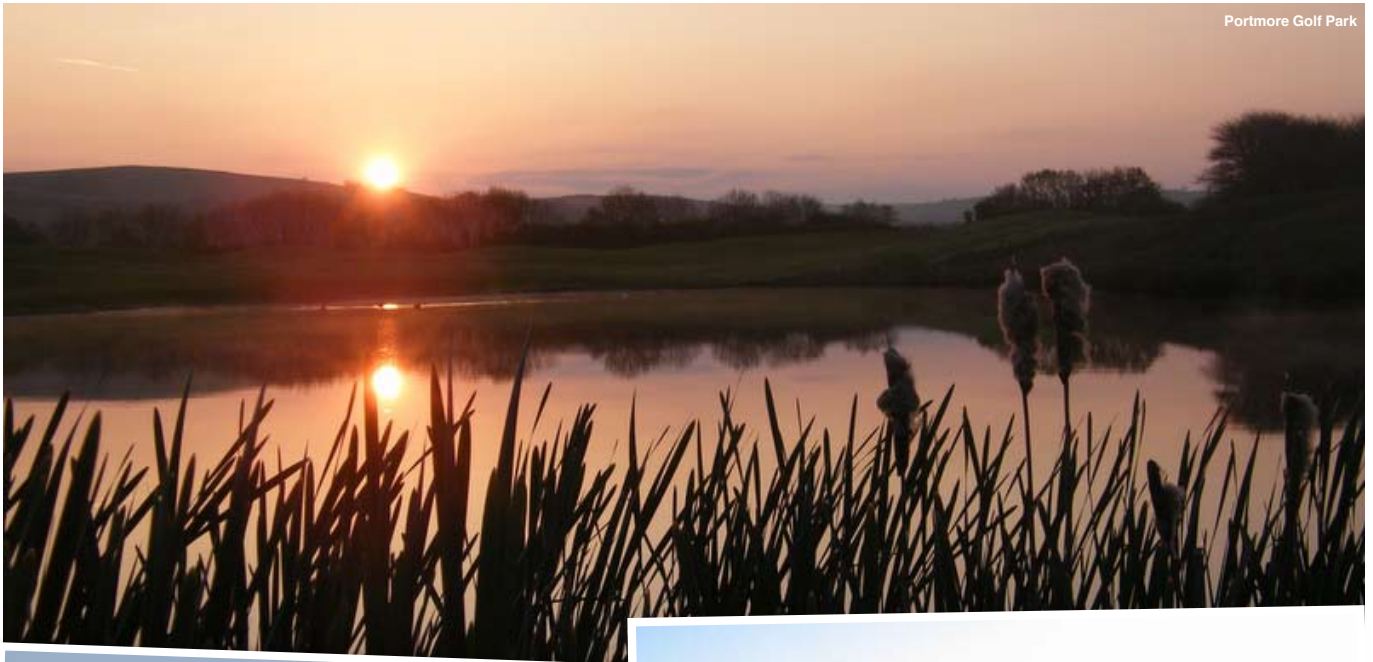
have as a result created appealing vistas from all parts of the golf course. On the playing surfaces an eight year programme of intensive management has seen previously annual meadow grass dominated greens become almost entirely fescue. No pesticides or fungicides have been used on the course for over 14 years and only organic fertilisers are applied. Colin and his

in landfill waste – a considerable environmental achievement.

Overall, and with all environmental bases covered, Portmore Golf Park find themselves worthy winners of the 2010 overall prize.

Our Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year award has been given to James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven Golf Club. James, who was featured recently in Greenkeeper

Portmore Golf Park



Silloth on Solway Golf Club



Fairhaven Golf Club

International was given the award for his tireless dedication toward maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity interest at Fairhaven. With the full backing of Club representatives James has very much taken the lead in establishing countless ecological projects across the site. Fairhaven is host to a rare mix of woodland, grassland, heathland and links characteristics and has significant opportunity, if managed correctly, to be a true wildlife haven. Happily James picked up on this around five years ago and has been making enhancements to the course ever since. Some of James' most visually striking projects have included the creation of extensive wild flower areas, heather establishment and promotion and pond clearance and maintenance. James' achievements are a shining example of how the enthusiasm and dedication of an individual can achieve significant results.

The remaining eight prize winners in this year's awards are all worthy recipients, each with their own individual distinguishing characteristics. Our Regional Prize winners;

Loch Lomond Golf Club, Silloth on Solway Golf Club, Aberdovey Golf Club and Aldeburgh Golf Club each offer very different but very special golfing experiences. Loch Lomond Golf Club sits within a truly breathtaking setting which has been further enhanced by the work of the golf course maintenance team. As managers of such an important site there is a clear sense of responsibility from the whole team and this is reflected in the quality of ecological work undertaken. The Club have also paid significant attention to environmental matters with large scale water management projects undertaken and waste management being a particular specialism. The Club are on course to achieve their highly commendable goal of sending zero waste to landfill by 2012 – a not inconsiderable achievement.

Our Northern Regional winner, Silloth on Solway Golf Club, received their award for the large scale ecological management work that has been undertaken over the last 10 years and continued in earnest in 2010. The transforma-

tion at the Club in the last 10 years has been truly staggering with this former gorse choked coastal course being gradually reverted to its original more open character. Following large scale gorse removal the Club have continued to enhance the bio-diversity of the course by exposing wetlands, developing heather swards and establishing and maintaining good quality open and fine leaved rough grasslands. Additionally this year the Club have significantly improved their impact on local water resources installing a bore hole to obtain irrigation water and investing in a new highly efficient and accurate irrigation system, thereby ensuring minimal inputs to the turf.

Aberdovey Golf Club has retained their 2009 Welsh Regional title following the continuation of its extensive ecological and environmental management programme. In 2010 the Club have focused on sand dune restoration and stabilisation, scrub clearance and grassland management and have also paid particular attention to further naturalising the golf course with deep coastal grass-

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Silloth on Solway Golf Club



Portmore Golf Park

lands being developed around tee complexes and bunkers to create a more natural rugged appearance.

In addition to Silloth on Solway Golf Club's battle with gorse invasion our Southern Regional winners, Aldeburgh Golf Club has also made significant management advances in recent years, again reverting the character of the course back to its more original open nature. The Club have developed fine leaved

rough grasslands and a strong heather component in addition to maintaining extensive deciduous woodland. Turfgrass management at Aldeburgh is of the highest order with fertiliser, pesticide and water inputs kept to an absolute minimum and this has been reflected in the firm, fast and true playing surfaces that are achieved here. Additionally in recognition of the increasingly strict water legislation relating to golf, Aldeburgh has commissioned and will shortly be installing a reed bed to cleanse waste water from its machinery wash down area.

The Golf Environment Awards also offers special initiative prizes in the following areas – Nature Conservation, Waste Management, Water Management and Turfgrass Management. Each of the four winners here have undertaken

innovative and effective projects in their respective category areas. This year's Nature Conservation Award has been given to Delamere Forest Golf Club. The win for Delamere Forest is made all the more special by the fact that this is the Club's first application to the Awards Programme. A hidden gem, supporting a wide range of habitats including mature deciduous woodland, gorse, heather, fine leaved open grassland and large, well maintained water bodies, there is a great appreciation at the Club of the benefits of enhancing the nature conservation value of the site, not only for wildlife but also in terms of the visual and strategic aspects that the natural environment can offer. The result is a course that has significant aesthetic and playability appeal and is a striking natural environment within which to play golf.

Our Waste Management Award is given to Clubs which pay specific attention to waste reduction on the golf course and take seriously the need to manage this in a sustainable and responsible fashion. In 2010 Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club are the well deserved recipients. Open for just over a year the course was constructed on ecologically rich duneland near Campbeltown on the Mull of Kintyre.

Given the very special nature of the environment within which the course sits the Club has adopted a rigorous waste management policy which dictates that all waste streams are dealt with in the most environmentally appropriate manner. This includes all maintenance facility related waste; oils, batteries, fertiliser bags, pesticide containers, contaminated wash down water and also gives cognisance to Clubhouse waste also.

The Golf Environment Awards continue to promote the wide range of environmentally positive initiatives that are being undertaken throughout the golf industry



Delamere Forest

Purchasing policies and sustainable sourcing are also key elements addressed by the club and as a result Machrihanish Dunes are very much leading the way in terms of waste management within the golf industry.

Our Water Management Award has been given to Maesteg Golf Club in South Wales. For many years several areas of the course have been prone to flooding/water logging and the Club has put a considerable amount of effort in recent times to combating these issues.

In 2010 one of the few remaining issues was a green prone to regular water logging due to surface water run off from an adjacent hillside. To deal with this the Club took on an ambitious project to completely redesign the topography of the green and green surround.

This project, designed and undertaken in-house was to raise the previously low set green and create a swale at the low point of the green surround to divert water around the playing area and direct it off site. The project was a huge success with the water logging issue completely solved and the re-designed hole looking and playing superbly.

And finally we move onto our Turfgrass Management Award. This award is presented to Clubs which have adopted a sustainable approach to Turfgrass management.



This year the award has gone to Royal St David's Golf Club in Harlech, North Wales. Course Manager, Roger Kerry, and his team have put in considerable effort toward changing the composition of the formerly input demanding annual meadow grass dominated playing surfaces to the bent/fescue dominated swards we see today. In recent times the annual meadow grass content of greens has changed from 80% to approximately 5% as a result of input control and cultural management techniques. The result is a consist-

tent set of firm, fast and true playing surfaces which are environmentally and financially sustainable and are crucially available for play for the vast majority of the year.

The Golf Environment Awards continue to promote the wide range of environmentally positive initiatives that are being undertaken throughout the golf industry and it is hoped that those clubs who are yet to address environmental sensitivities at their club will gain inspiration from the fine example set by this year's winners.



This page: more shots showing the splendour of Portmore

For more info. on this years winners and how to apply for the 2011 Golf Environment Awards Programme please visit www.golfenvironmentawards.com or alternatively call Richard Stuttard on 01274 518903





Behind the scenes at an exhibition

Jim Cook finds out exactly what it takes to pull together the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe



For anyone who, like me, has attended Harrogate Week religiously in previous years, soaked up knowledge during seminars and workshops, learnt from exhibitions, built contacts in the industry and met some great friends, the thought of how it all happens and how it is put together may have slipped under the radar.

From cups of coffee and risk assessments, to delegate packs and schedules, every detail of the week must be planned meticulously to ensure the visitor has the most beneficial and enjoyable time possible.

To gain an insight into how this is all done and what goes on behind the scenes in hosting such an immense event I visited the BIGGA office and spoke with the team responsible.

Pauline Thompson, the Exhibition Officer, is first on site during the week and the last to leave. She has the task of organising the venue so that when exhibitors and delegates arrive, everything is where it should be and running as smoothly as possible.



Throughout the year, Pauline negotiates with various contractors and companies, manages content for the website, writes copy and sifts through photographs from the previous show. She also processes applications from the sales team, researches best prices on such things as lanyards, carrier bags and pens, looks after the health and safety side of things and has the sizeable task of getting information out to exhibitors about the build.

“It’s an extremely tight build time-wise and because of the location it’s like a big jigsaw puzzle. Contractors help me but I guide and drive it. We all work fantastically well as a team.”

The day after the show finishes, Pauline begins planning for the next one by holding debriefs with contractors, the Harrogate International Centre and various accommodation venues, to review how things went and build a template for the following year.

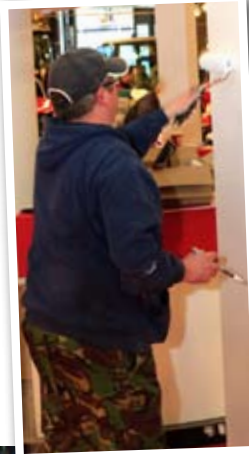


TOP: The Exhibition in full flow
INSET ABOVE: Work in progress
BELOW: Pauline discussing the Hall Plans

“I work all year round for this one event.

“When I know the build is complete on the Monday night I can take a deep breath, then the show opens and it’s lovely to hear people say thanks it’s been great and I’ve enjoyed the show.”





“All the little things where people say, ‘We’ll go for a coffee break now’ we’ve had to print out hundreds of coffee vouchers and made sure we have the right number in for each class”
Sami Collins



This year the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate will be the most comprehensive it has ever been. The pair organising it, Sami Collins and Rachael Duffy (shown above) start planning 14-16 months in advance for sessions running over the full five days. They organise featured sessions, which this year include Jim McKenzie, of Celtic Manor, and Chris Kennedy, of Wentworth, and allocate the rest of the seminars over the week. After sorting out all the accommodation and contractual requirements for the speakers, they write the brochure for the beginning of August and have the programme completed by June.

Sami explained the administration behind parts of the week.

“We make up all the delegate packs, all the speaker packs and do all the vouchers for lunches, coffee

and catering. All the little things where people say, ‘We’ll go for a coffee break now’ we’ve had to print out hundreds of coffee vouchers and made sure we have the right number in for each class. All the very small things that people may not think twice about have actually taken us maybe two days to do.”

Sami and Rachael arrive on site at 8am Sunday morning, start preparing rooms for speakers and by 9:30am start registering delegates, giving out badges and handing out delegate packs.

“Once all the delegates are in, calm starts to descend for a little while at least while we start thinking about what needs doing next and we start writing a reminder list for the next year. What could have been better; let’s keep that in mind; what didn’t we bring?”

Rachael is also co-ordinating

the Personal Development Zone adjacent to the BIGGA stand.

After the show there is no rest as it is back to work the next day.

“Friday morning we’re back in the office, unpacking boxes and sorting out everything that’s happened, what we need to address, getting certificates out to people and then the show starts all over again.”

Harrogate show provides a large part of the income for BIGGA and the task of selling exhibition space falls at the feet of the sales team,

BELOW and ABOVE RIGHT: a seminar room in action and in preparation





Sue McDonough poses next to the Hall Plans, and two pics showing the Exhibition in full flow

Sue McDonough and Jill Rodham. They organise who goes where in the exhibition hall based on individual requirements of space and cost.

Sue said they book clients in as early as possible in the year and then help them with a number of things including sponsorship and how to get the best out of the show.

“The people who are coming to exhibit will talk about the show as a project so they’ll know they’ll come in January and show their product, but also know that it’s an opportunity to see all their clients, meet and sell. It is their one shot in the year to get all these visitors in one place to show off their product.”

This year the team has brought in a new Enviro-Zone.

“What I also do is go around other shows looking for ideas to make Harrogate better and this was one that Jill and I came up with. It is something that we can grow and expand on and hopefully end up with a half, or a full hall of environmental stands.”

“I think next year we will because we will have an idea of what worked and what didn’t from this year and we’ll be able to move it forward,” said Jill.

Sue explained her and Jill’s role at the show.

“When we get to Harrogate it’s a case of us walking around and making sure that everybody is happy and also meeting new

customers. It’s to do with building relationships and we use these three days to get to know people. It’s a very social and exciting job.”

Anything media-related to the Harrogate Week is handled by Scott MacCallum.

His work also begins immediately after the previous show, when he starts putting the press centre schedule together and companies can book slots for press conferences in the media centre under Hall A.

Towards the end of the year he starts putting out press releases to all the media outlets, using e-zines to tell what will be new at the show.

During the week itself Scott juggles a number of roles as Press Officer, BIGGA official and the Editor of Greenkeeper International. He explained how he utilises his time there.

“I’m sometimes hosting press conferences, I’m sometimes doing my PR role, meeting and greeting people; attending press conferences in a journalistic capacity; taking notes, chatting to people and generally just making sure that the whole thing is running smoothly.”

For a number of members it is the only chance in the year they get to meet up with Scott.

“They wouldn’t get to see me during the other eleven-and-three quarter months of the year, but they’ll pop in to say hello and it’s nice to see a lot of the friendly faces

“We like to think that it is the biggest event of its type in Europe, so it’s important that we get it right and that we plan it meticulously”

John Pemberton



John Pemberton at BIGGA HOUSE

who I have got to know over the last fifteen-and-a-half years.”

As soon as the show is over Scott focuses on the important February magazine.

“It’s a great week and I have thoroughly enjoyed every Harrogate I’ve ever done. The first time I went there was 1996 and I couldn’t believe the scale of it then and it’s grown so much. It’s an event of which I’m extremely proud to be a part. I know though, that these are difficult times and I really do feel sorry for those companies who have regularly attended and see Harrogate as a great launch to the year, but whose budgets just can’t cope with attending this year. We would love to see them back when things are looking up and hopefully that will happen before too long.”

Even though BIGGA organise the event, they are also exhibiting at the show and their stand remains an important focal point for members. Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, Steve Wragg, Company Accountant, and Brad Anderson,

BELOW: Scott MacCallum, concentrating hard at his desk





ABOVE: The BIGGA stand under construction, beside Tracey Maddison, working at BIGGA HOUSE

Membership Administrator, man this stand and ensure it is the best it can be over the three days.

The team head over on the Monday afternoon and set the stand up to be ready for Tuesday morning.

Tracey explained how, as well as giving away freebies such as beanie hats and pens, membership promotion was the most important aspect of the stand.

"We take all our equipment over to produce and process cards. A lot of overseas members take the opportunity to come along and renew their membership. We have about 260 overseas members and a lot have met friends here and come to see them every year."

The stand is in Hall C, where the escalator runs up to the learning and development section and near the Personal Development Zone manned by Angela Wilson.

Tracey mentioned how she was looking forward to seeing new and regular faces.

"It is a good chance for people to meet us as we are just names

throughout the year. I try and meet as many as I can during the week. There are four regional administrators there as well. It's nice to get out of the office for three days and meet people."

Design work for the week is done by Tom Campbell. He explained how his main job was in the build up.

"I'm dealing with all the visitor side of Harrogate Week. My major work is done before the show. I design and produce the advertisements which appear in a host of turf maintenance magazines, including this one (see next page!)

"I also create the Continue to Learn brochure, the Show Guide and also the Show Planner, which folds out to form a map.

"For the show itself, I'm doing visual signs as well, those you see at the HIC, when walking through the main entrance etc."

Tom also designed the mastheads for the website. He spoke of his role at last year's show.

"I was based in the media centre assisting with any problems with people using computers or if anyone had any queries. Other than that I was with the photographer."

With 16 successful Harrogate shows behind him, John Pemberton is the man responsible for steering the ship in the right direction.

Preceding the week, John manages and pulls it all together.

"It is the biggest showcase for the industry, not only in greenkeeping but all sports and amenity turf to look at new products, meet people and take up the opportunity to take in some education. We have a massive education programme and 2011 is the biggest we've ever produced.

The fact that it attracts visitors

from overseas spells out within the industry how highly it's regarded."

At the show John is constantly on the move and engaged with meetings, organising AGMs and going around talking to key industry people.

"We like to think that it is the biggest event of its type in Europe, so it's important that we get it right and that we plan it meticulously. It's also an opportunity for the members to meet our staff and the Board, so we place great emphasis on making ourselves as accessible as possible. It's an opportunity to meet a lot of people very easily, whether they're on the retail side or the customer."

"This is my 17th Harrogate and we believe strongly in our product. Every year we produce a very good show that only raises the bar for the following year.

People come from America, Canada, mainland Europe and we've had people from Australia, Africa and South East Asia in the past.

This is great for UK members as they can talk to them and find out what life is like in other parts of the world.

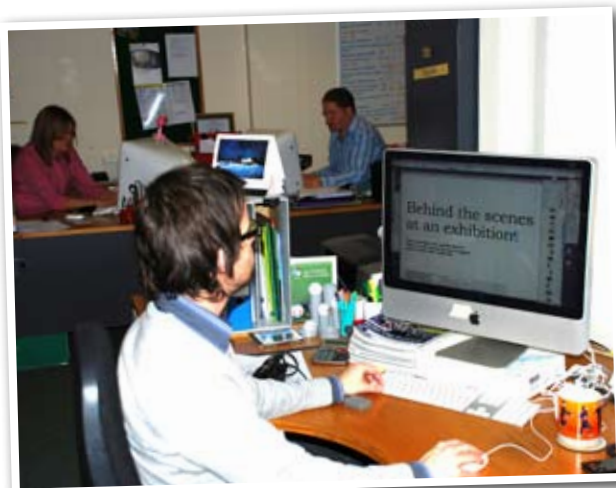
It's a great learning opportunity for a whole variety of reasons. It helps make the world a much smaller place."

Harrogate Week is the culmination of a year's worth of effort from a dedicated group.

The teamwork involved in putting on an event such as this is phenomenal and with each section working like a well-oiled machine the end product, a show for us all to enjoy and learn from, reflects care and attention, built from experience, knowledge and expertise.



BELOW: As the Accounts duo Angela and Steve focus on the figures, BIGGA Designer, Tom, is laying out this article!



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Organised by the British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



Harrogate
week

The MD of the Golf Club

Keith Lloyd, Chief Executive of the GCMA, outlines the ever changing role of the modern Club Manager and the benefits of the three pronged Alliance with BIGGA and the PGA. He talks with Scott MacCallum

Golf is full of clichés and caricatures. There are those arcane club rules, for starters - “No Ladies or Dogs”; golfers all wear garish, checked trousers; greenkeepers are grass cutters; professionals sell Mars Bar, and secretaries are retired military men who enjoy the odd glass of gin.

Now greenkeepers do cut grass, pros do sell confectionary and some secretaries, like everyone else, perhaps do occasionally partake of a tippie at the end of a long day, there is a great deal more which defines their roles within a golf club than those clichés and caricatures would suggest.

Greenkeepers cope with all aspects of course conditioning and preparation; the role of the pro is primarily to teach the game of golf, while the Secretary/Manager is, to all intents and purposes, the Managing Director of the Club.

The roles encompass the three main areas of responsibility within the golf club and a recently introduced Alliance of BIGGA, the PGA, and the GCMA is aimed at ensuring the collective skills are brought together for the greater good of the golf club and, indeed, golf itself.

“It is the all round responsibility of the Secretary/Manager, much more than ever before, to keep the others in a job wherever possible,” explained Keith Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Golf Club Managers Association.

“The pressure is on to keep an adequate supply of new members coming into a golf club and then, importantly, keeping them, and the demands of today are very different from years ago.

“The introduction of the Sunday trading laws have counted against golf over the years, as has the increased pressure on family life,” said Keith, who spent a number of years at the sharp end himself as a Golf Club Secretary in Wales.

One element of the GCMA - which was formed as the Golf Club Secretaries’ Association in 1933 before becoming the GCMA in 2007 - that has pleased Keith is the age profile of those seeking to enter the profession, which is dropping significantly.

“It’s never going to be a job for a school leaver, as becoming a

greenkeeper or an assistant pro, it is nearly always a second, or even third, career, but it is no longer seen as an opportunity for an ex-military man to see out his last few years before retirement.

“In the last six years, the average age of those attending the four residential training courses we hold each year, has seen those over the age of 60 drop from 16% to around 1%-2%; and those under 40 has gone from 10% to 22%. It’s quite a dramatic change,” explained Keith, whose 2200 members include 300 ladies.

Keith sees real benefits from the coming together of the three bodies.

“Each of us has our own identity but I do think that it is the case that we didn’t necessarily have a clear understanding of what each of our members did.

“Very often a Club Manager may have a daily meeting or a coffee with the Course Manager to catch up, but how often does he talk with the rest of the greens staff or the staff in the Pro Shop? Often the only time he ventures into the Sheds or the Pro Shop is if there is a problem,” he said.

It is a key part because each element has a vital role to play in the success of the management of the golf club,” said Keith who feels that golf clubs have a lot to learn when it comes to orientation programmes for new members and looking after the visitor market.

“How often do you see a ‘Welcome to...’ sign at a club?”

The management structure of golf clubs has long been a thorny issue with some operating with committees up to and over 20 people.

Keith is an advocate of a well honed two tier structure.

“There should be the Captain’s Committee, which organises all the social events for the year and a Management Team numbering no more than six or seven including the Club Manager with elected members representing Membership, Finance and the Course, along with the Chairman, someone who serves ideally for three to five years to give continuity. the Pro and the Course Manager.

“The Club Pro and the Course Manager should be closely linked to



this regime, if not actually serving on this board.

“For many Club Managers the biggest problem is having a different boss, in the shape of the Captain, every year. Indeed clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to get people to take on the role of Club Captain, as there is much demanded of Captains nowadays. They are put in the position of being responsible for club liabilities, and it is all much more than they bargained for.

“Captains should be there to kiss babies and present prizes, full stop!” added Keith.

Another problem that can, and does, exist is whether the Course Manager is answerable to the Chairman of Green and not the Club Manager.

“Each of us has our own identity but I do think that it is the case that we didn’t necessarily have a clear understanding of what each of our members did”

Keith Lloyd

“Such a situation can undermine the Club Manager and keep him out of the loop and ultimately prevents him from being able support the Course Manager.”

Keith has a cautiously optimistic view of the future but does think there are some rocky times ahead.

“Looking to the future in the current climate I think we will continue to struggle to attract new people to the game as people will be reluctant to face a £1000 bill to pay for (what many perceive as) a luxury when they have food to put on the table.

“However, golf will always survive because those people who do play golf are, by definition, the people who have a genuine affection for playing the game and, unless there is a dramatic change in their circumstances, will choose to continue their memberships.

“Over the next 18 months we all need to concentrate of providing our core services and keep members feeling that they are getting value for money. A recession can be an opportunity to make yourself the best in the High Street.”

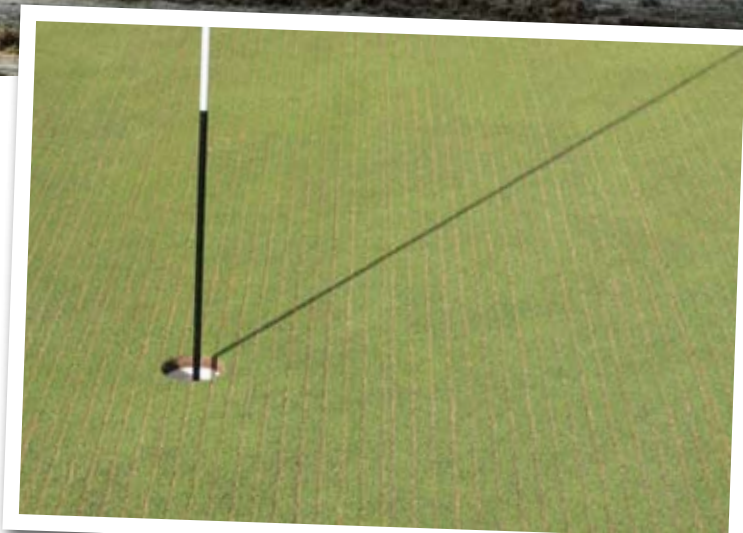
James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

The anatomy of...



Graden Contour Sand Injection

The modern game, be it golf, bowls or even croquet, has seen players become accustomed to faster and more consistent playing surfaces. Among the techniques that can help 'firm up' a green is sand injection. Here we take a look at the pedestrian operated Graden Contour Sand Injection unit.



There is nothing complicated about the Graden Contour Sand Injection. In simple outline, think scarifying blades, sand and seed hoppers and a nominal half-metre working width.

The blades cut a 3mm groove of up to 40mm in depth, while simultaneously filling it to the top with sand and, if desired, grass seed from the seeder attachment.

The seed flows through tubes to land in the sand and is claimed to provide the ideal growth medium. The process is not difficult to understand in other words.

As is so often the case of course, the thinking behind the Graden is the result of a great deal of development work, the system taking several years to evolve into the units now on offer.

In outline, the machine traces its roots back to the original pedestrian Graden GS04, the sand injection element having been developed around six years ago, with the availability of the Seeder Attachment following on some five years later.



On a golf course a bulk load of kiln dried sand will be less expensive but must be kept under cover and dry. A typical golf green will consume between 1 to 2.5 tonnes of sand depending on depth, all delivered through the 'small' 75kg hopper

As the Graden Sand Injection has evolved, so too has understanding of how to get the best from what it has to offer. Training is needed in order to operate the machine to the best of its ability. Good logistics and team work are also essential throughout the operation.

In outline, there needs to be a means of bringing the kiln dried sand to the Graden. For a bowling green it is probably easier to buy sand in bags and have them stacked near the green to enable the Graden to be topped up as required. On a golf course a bulk load of kiln dried sand will be less expensive but must be kept under cover and dry at all times. A typical golf green will consume between 1 to 2.5 tonnes of sand depending on depth, all delivered through the 'small' 75kg hopper.

The sand used for this operation must be kiln dried sand as any other type will not fill the grooves in thoroughly and this is vital. Any 'hole' left in the surface of a green by any machine will result in a further

build up of organic matter in that area. By using kiln dried sand, the grooves are more likely to be completely filled, which is key to the success of the process.

The next point is 'cleaning up' behind the machine. The removed organic matter from the scarifying process needs to be carted off, either manually or using a core collector. The Sand Injection operation can then be followed by using a smooth roller to iron the surface of the green which puts it back into play immediately.

So why look at the Graden in this way as opposed to running through its mechanical elements in the normal way of these articles? The answer is that it is all too easy to look at the Sand Injector as a tool and not delve into the process itself and, of even greater importance, what it can achieve. The latter is covered in a separate box, but the key point is that this method of removing organic matter and firming up playing surfaces has evolved.

User experience

Kim Blake, Course Manager at Fulford Heath Golf Club, Warwickshire, has been using a Graden Contour Sand Injection for three years. Prior to having a demonstration of the machine Kim admits that he was not impressed by the reports he had read on the machine. Now he is a convert, suggesting one pass with the Graden firms the greens as much as three hollow core passes.

"To be honest, I did once say I would never use a Graden," said Kim.

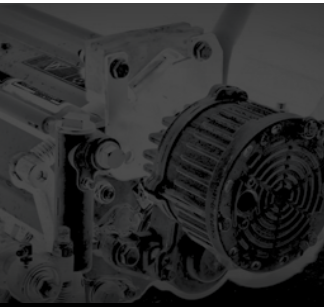
"Getting approx two tonnes of sand into a green using a pedestrian Graden with a 75kg sand hopper calls for a lot of work. Now, with five of us on the job, we can treat a green and have it back in play in 45 minutes. The system has firmed up our greens and works well."

STRI Trial Results – Organic Matter Control 2010*

Dr Ruth Mann BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MBPR of the STRI conducted Organic Matter Control Trials throughout 2009 and 2010. These were conducted over 90 replica trial plots upon which all forms of aeration were carried out to include hollow tining, micro tining and the use of the Graden Contour Sand Injection. The results showed the Graden Sand Injection system reduced the organic matter in the top 25mm of the test plot turf by 60%.

As part of the trial, the STRI also monitored the effect of various systems on a number of golf courses. In the case of the Graden, the selected courses were Sand Injected both at the beginning and the end of the year. A 30% reduction in organic matter in the top 25mm was recorded, suggesting the Sand Injection system reduced organic matter by at least 15% in one pass.

*Data supplied by R and K Kensett according to STRI trials



**Step-by
-step
Analysis**
Graden
Contour
Sand
Injection



The Graden sand hopper holds 75kg of kiln dried sand. A typical golf green will consume between one to two tonnes per treatment depending on depth, a good team perhaps completing a green in under an hour.



Available in 1mm, 2mm and 3mm widths, the 17 tungsten tipped 210mm blades are spaced at 30mm to give a working width of 510mm. The organic matter removed by the blades needs to be cleared away - a point to consider when working out how long it will take to complete the operation.



Powered by a 20hp Honda V-twin, the Graden Contour Sand Injection can be fitted with a Seeder Attachment. This allows seed to be sown while sand injecting. On a typical golf green, sole Graden Importers R and K Kensett suggest users are sowing bent seed at rates of 5g/m² when using the process in optimum conditions.



A simple screen is used to filter material entering the Graden sand hopper which requires a dry, free flowing in-fill material. This can include soil amendments such as Zeolite, porous ceramics (Profile etc) and Diatomaceous earth (Axis). Users suggest forcing clumps through the screen can cause blockages, the best approach being to allow anything that rests on the screen to either fall through on its own or be discarded.

Instrata

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The working depth is determined by using the Height Adjustment Pivot Bar, the blades working down to a maximum of 40mm. Sand Injection with the Graden is designed to compliment hollow coring and not replace it.



The Seeder Attachment is designed to cope with small grass seeds, including bent varieties. To get the best establishment, soil temperatures of 100 plus typically promote strong germination and seedling growth.

When Sand Injection may help...

“The number one problem on most greens throughout Europe if not the world, is the organic matter content in the top 40mm,” said Keith Kensett.

“Organic matter content should be measured at two depths; the top 0-20mm and then from 20-40mm. If the organic matter problems are below 30mm it is beneficial to hollow core as well as Sand Inject, ensuring cored holes are backfilled evenly to the surface”.

Accurately measuring organic matter can help in working out what treatments will benefit a given playing surface. The accepted Industry Standard test will comply with ASTM F1647-02a. The STRI or any other accredited laboratory can carry this out. The test is carried out on a core sample taken at depths of 0-20mm and 20-40mm. Keith suggests that 90 to 95% of the time major issues are most likely to be found in the top 20mm.

The Graden Contour Sand Injection can be used at any time of year except when it is raining. With regards to the Seeder Attachment, soil temperatures of 100 plus are warm enough to promote germination. Obviously the warmer the temperature the faster the germination. Seed must not be allowed to dry out during the growing period and nutrient input needs to be monitored. According to Keith Kensett, Graden’s global technical advisor, germination can take place between 5 to 7 days if conditions are right.

STRI TRIALS SHOW THAT GRADEN CONTOUR SAND INJECTION PROCESS:

- Removes and replaces 10-12% of the playing surface in one pass
- Reduces organic matter by at least 15% in one pass
- Allows overseeding at a reduced seed rate

GRADEN CONTOUR SAND INJECTOR – OUTLINE SPECIFICATION

- Engine** Petrol Honda GX620 20hp v-twin with electric or recoil start
- Transmission** Fully hydrostatic forward and reverse
- Tyres** Front 16x6.50 8 Turf Pattern Tubeless
- Rear 9x3.50-4 Slick Pattern Tube Tyre
- Blades** 17 x 210mm diameter with 8 tungsten tips
- Blade Width** 3mm, 2mm, or 1mm
- Blade spacing** 30mm
- Sand capacity** 75kg
- Working depth** 0 - 40mm
- Working width** 515mm
- Overall width** 103cm
- Length** 120cm
- Height** 123cm
- Weight** 290kg
- Retail price** From £11,250.00+ VAT



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to work at The Open

The Open Championship, Royal St George's Golf Club, July 14-17, 2011

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

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – University of Kent, in Canterbury - but after

that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 13, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only. Younger members, relatively

new to the Association, will also be actively considered.

To apply please complete this application form and send to:

Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

For further information contact Scott on: 01347 833800 or email: scott@bigga.co.uk

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

Name	.....	Yes	No
Golf Club	.....	I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Position	.....	I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
BIGGA Mem Number	.....	I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Email Address	.....	I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile Number	.....	I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
I have applied for/appeared on the team at:	Applied Successful	I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.).....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
St Andrews, 2010.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	I am an overseas Member.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Turnberry, 2009.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Royal Birkdale 2008.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Carnoustie 2007.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Hoylake, 2006.....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ as the R&A now have photographic ID for all Open Championship workers.

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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



Central

At the time of writing this report we are in the grips of the largest snowfall this side of Christmas that most of us on the East coast of Scotland can remember.

We had two educational events planned for December but at the moment it is hard to say if either of them will take place.

On the 8th, Lynn Jopling, from the Scottish Golf course Environmental Group, was scheduled to talk to us about the work they carry out and the help they can offer Course Managers.

Then on the 16th, Lee Strutt is hoping to show members the heather project they are carrying out at West.

One event which is definitely arranged is an evening in the Elmwood Training room with Grant Moir from the R&A's Rules Department.

Grant will cover some points on how greenkeeping work can impact on the rules of golf and this will take place on March 9.

More details will appear on the website as well as a couple of other seminars and a possible irrigation workshop for February/March time which may be arranged at short notice so keep logging onto www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk for the latest information.

On behalf of the Chairman and Committee I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and that 2011 brings sunshine and birdies!

Gordon Moir



Ayrshire

Hello there, hope you are all well. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the New Year ahead! Here's hoping it's a good one. I'm sure everyone has eaten their fair share over the festive season, I know I have! Back to the gym I think.... If I can remember how to get there?

Well, as I sit here writing my notes for the January issue in my Cosy warm abode, the snow is falling all around! Not only has it fallen around three inches today, it's now laying on top of last week's frozen covering.

Let's just say I've found getting out and about rather difficult. To be honest with you all I'm getting a bit peeved off with it... No fuel at the pumps, no salt available, stocks running low in the cupboards.

Personally I'd like the rain back, as cabin fever has set in. I bet all the lads on the golf courses in the area have varnished and painted all the markers and benches at least twice over, due to this weather.

The snow has arrived earlier than last, but I really hope it doesn't last into February like it did in 2010.

That would be a disaster not just personally but economically too! Get in touch with any stories or news you have of your own experiences of the snow. Here's hoping the next time you hear from me all this snow has gone!

Here's to a great New Year... cheers!

John A Mair
Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk
07500874449



West

Happy New Year to all and hopefully a good season will be had by everybody, here's hoping the weather will be slightly better than 2010.

Snow, snow and more snow seems to be the order of the day, or certainly in this part of the country that's the case. As I type this up there is one foot of snow lying outside and the staff are busy painting, snow clearing, and completing health and safety checks. I hope the conditions pick up to allow our so called winter programme to be completed as at present I have two bunkers under construction with no vision of a completion date. Well at least the golfers aren't moaning.

Not a great deal of activity in the last few weeks I'm afraid, just the seminar at Williamwood Golf Club on November 30, which surprisingly was attended by 20 people. Credit must go to Graham O'Connor and his boss, Martin, for producing a very interesting and thought provoking talk. Congratulations to all who attended for making the effort and well done Gerry Bruen for supplying the venue, I hope nobody got stuck on the way home.

The only other event arranged was the Annual Dinner at Victoria's, which had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers attending from other areas of the country, causing the Victoria's to contact us and cancel. Due to our commitment a few hardy souls decided to have a couple of drinks in town as we didn't want to cancel our pre-arranged plans. It turned out that ten people turned up visiting All Bar One and One Up. A good time was had by all in attendance and thanks to those who were

able to turn up.

I hope to attend Harrogate this year, weather dependant, and will report on how things went in the March issue, but until then I 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

It's snow joke is it! I wrote these notes at the beginning of December and I bet you had all your markers rubbed down, painted your benches and done any necessary maintenance. It's going to be a long Winter me thinks. Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, and that you didn't wake up on the first with a stinking hangover.

With the weather being the way it has been recently there hasn't been a lot of news unfortunately. Joanne O'Neill has stepped up at Newmachar's Swailend course to become Patrick Woods' Assistant. Well done Jo you thoroughly deserve it! Now you can boss Matty around at work now as well as at home!

I can reveal the venues for the Section outings next year too. The Spring outing moves down to Niall Bruce's Montrose Links and the Autumn outing is being held at Paul Sharp's Peterculter.

That's your lot for this month guys. If you do have any info please drop me a line on 07813889374 or if you do own a computer, email me on benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk.

Ben Brookes, Murcar Links

Northern



North East

My first news came from Graham Chambers Course Manager of Longhirst Golf Club he wrote the following; Recently and tragically, Longhirst Hall Assistant Course Manager, Stuart Wilson, died, Stu had worked at Longhirst since leaving school over 17 years before. Director of Golf, Graham Chambers, said, "This came as a huge shock to me, my staff and members. He truly was a one off and always went above and beyond what was expected. Last summer when we hosted our first Euro Pro event, I thanked him for his efforts and all he said was that he wouldn't have missed it for the world. "That's what I'm here for boss." That summed Stu up totally. Stu had a very active life and was always followed by his loyal spaniel Buke. We are still coming to terms with losing Stu and there are lasting memories of him all over the complex, through his work with me during the development of Longhirst. Like I said at his funeral, Longhirst was a huge part of Stuart's life and he will always be a huge part of Longhirst. A memorial competition is being set up around Easter 2011 in his name. Our thoughts are with his 3 year old daughter, Shaula.

Having since spoke to Graham I have asked if we could play our Autumn comp. in 2011 as a tribute to Stuart. It's expected to be played in late September. Times and date tba.

Other news around Section is as follows. I recently received an invitation to attend a meeting with Wayne Reid and Tony Milan both of John Marley Centre which is part of Newcastle College on the courses they provide for greenkeepers in the region. Not only was I there but representatives from both Northumberland and Durham Golf Unions; the Secretary from Newcastle Utd G.C; John Nicholson, of John Nicholson Associates, as this was the first Sports Turf Meeting Liaison Meeting, It was used as an information giving session to advise

members of the new Sports Turf Provision at Newcastle College and introduce them to the range of qualifications at the college. So if anybody needs any info please contact Wayne Reid on 0191 2004704.

Talking of greenkeeper qualifications, Steven Blakey of Close House, has recently completed Level 3, and still on about Close House, has anybody been over there to have a look around their new work building It's well worth a look at very spacious room for the staff with all the mod.cons and a workshop to die for, should you be a mechanic.

Well that's about it for another month maybe I will bump into one or two of you at BTME no doubt Terry Charlton will be providing a coach for us again. Thanks again Terry.

Jimmy Richardson



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. Firstly I would like to wish all Section members a happy New Year for 2011, hope you have all got over the over eating and drinking from the festive season.

Sitting writing these few words for the magazine looking out on six inches of snow - so much for global warming! The winter jobs have started even earlier this year, making new tee blocks, painting posts, sharpening and servicing mowers for the seemingly distant new season. We have a full calendar of events for the new year and I hope they are as well supported as last year. We have delayed news of a Section seminar until we hear news of a regional seminar organised by the regional reps, and notifying everyone through the magazine. No more news or gossip this month but hope to see you all at our first golf event at the K.P. Club Pocklington.

Any news or gossip please pass it on to me Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob: 07947401278.

email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.



North Wales

Happy New Year welcome to 2011. Goodness it only seems like a few years ago we were welcoming in the new Millennium, where does the time go?

November and December were a complete disaster for us - so much for putting the construction work to bed before Christmas break, the ground was so frozen the tracks on the 360 earthmover we were using stuck to the ground, not that the ground was anywhere near soft enough to work anyway!

We can only hope that with having January and February weather so early that January and February are more like November and December.

The weather also put the boot in on our ever popular Christmas tournament too with it being postponed from December 1 to December 8, then finally cancelled and, with the AGM also cancelled, the committee all agreed to carry on their current roles until another date can be arranged when we can officially stand for the positions on committee again.

I hope to see you all at our late winter/early spring seminar instead, details of content, date and venue to follow in due course.

We are still hoping to run a coach to Harrogate later this month.

With seats free to members and at a nominal price to non-members it has to be the only real bargain you are going to see this year, so please remember to mention seat availability to your Secretaries, Greens Chairmen or other interested parties within your clubs and register with Jez Hughes if you want any seats.

I can't think of anything else to write for now so, all the best until next month.

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



North West

Well, the new year has come and we are now all looking forward to Harrogate, as I write this we have had two weeks of solid frost and there looks like we have lots more to come. Fortunately for us in Southport we have had no snow to date, however, the frost has brought an end to the turfing we had hoped would be completed by year end and brought forward the tree work.

Unfortunately the AGM and golf at Wilmslow had to be cancelled due to the weather and the AGM has taken place at Birchwood, the home of our Chairman. Alas even with my crystal ball, I can't tell you what has happened but by visiting our facebook page (bigganorthwest) we will keep you informed of all that is going on.

This year we have an exciting programme for all members, this will include golf outings, course walks, education opportunities and of course the BIGGA National Championship, at West Lincs GC, John Muir and his team always make this true links course a gem to play and it is in my opinion one of the finest links courses in the land, with all parts of the course a joy to behold.

Hopefully we are now enjoying a mild January and many people have the opportunity to visit Harrogate, not only for the shiny machines and fantastic education experience, but also the superb networking possibilities.

Here's to a dry warm February.

Peter McVicar
pdmv@hotmail.co.uk

Midland



East Midlands

Hello all,
Ah summer sun, warm gentle breezes and the smell of freshly mown grass... "Wake up, Pete!

Around The Green

We've got a foot of snow to clear!" How quickly times change, I sincerely hope that, as I sit here now, the snow we all have is only a blip and not a precursor to an even harder winter than last year. It seems that every year I am wishing that summer returns sooner than I did the previous year!

A quiet month in the Section this time around, so not much to report I am afraid. The final of the Headland Pairs was played in October with National Champ, Paul Frith and partner Nigel Colley, defeating Ian Hurst and Paul Kendal 5&3. Hopefully in the next issue I will be able to report on the Christmas tournament, but with a heavy snow cover things are looking doubtful.

In the new year when memories of Harrogate start to fade we will hope to be offering Go Karting as an event, this will be sponsored by Toro, and in place of the usual trip which we did not do last year. We hope to have information out to you all in the next few weeks with a date in February in mind.

I hope to see many of you at Harrogate this year, and hope you all make the most of the education and seminars that are laid on for your benefit.

Regards to all
Pete smith



Midland

Let me firstly wish all a happy New Year from your committee (which is to stand as last year, with the exception of K.T.Blake) and personally by myself. Also a happy New Year to our various and very kind sponsors of the Midland Section, indeed without them our Section as a whole could not be run with any meaningful manner. With this in mind, the Section is proposing to run four seasonal informal educational half day events covering everyday greenkeeping practices and concerns such as mechanics, fertiliser and pesticide use and regulations, grasses and weed identification, and seasonal uneven growth considerations regarding in particular greens. These informal seminars will offer learned speakers by our

various sponsors which I'm sure will be found most informative and cost saving in our aim to produce the best of our courses in this very demanding time.

Although we are in the early stages of organising the "Four Seasons" Midland Education Days, we have pencilled in for: Winter, February 23; Spring, April 13; Summer, July 27, and Autumn, November 9.

As we have the second largest Section in area, the venues shall, where possible, be located as widely as is practicable within the Section. For further information please visit the Section's website: www.biggamidlandsection.com <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.com/>> or see the literature as kindly delivered by our supportive local reps. I will of course keep you updated within our notes.

This month's calendar page sponsor is Burrows Grass Machinery; please consider them for your Ransomes & Jacobsen machinery and maintenance. You can call their fine team on: 0870 242 6952. This brings us nicely on to the winner of this year's photo calendar competition. The bottle of Lansons champagne promised to the winner of the best picture sent in for our calendar was very difficult to decide. With this we have awarded two prizes, each going to Ian Holborn of Oxley Park and Steve Mucklow, of Beau Desert, (this month's photo). Well done to you both.

Our thanks to all that sent in pictures, although most were from rep's and committee members! So get clicking for next year's calendar, it is more than probable that it's worth a nice bottle of Champers. What a civilised way to bring in the New Year.

Unfortunately last year's Christmas tournament had to be cancelled due to inclement snow conditions at Woburn and indeed the rest of the country. Thankfully, Woburn has agreed to afford us this year's Christmas tournament on December 9, so get it in your diary. For those who missed last year's Christmas tournament, don't worry Rhys is rescheduling the event for sometime in the middle of March at, hopefully, a links course. The exact date and venue is being sort as I compile these notes and I should be able to inform you next month of the specific details.

Our thanks to the original sponsors "Crocodile" for honouring and supporting the rescheduled Christmas tournament in March of this year. Even if you didn't wish to play in the original event but fancy attending the rescheduled one in March give Gary a ring on; 07780 953 764. All of course are more than welcome, the more the merrier.

Once again a happy New Year.

Sean McDade



B,B&O

Another year is over - happy New Year to you all. The season of 2010 has passed and the inclement weather conditions are hopefully now just a faded bad memory. Father Christmas has again hammered his credit card - eaten one too many mince pies, experimented with a home brew Pink Gin kit and spent evenings wondering what happened to last year's resolutions which bit the dust. Welcome to 2011 the Chinese Year of the Rabbit.

Although the world's Rabbit economy will technically be out of recession, we will all be subject to high taxation this year. This is because the Metal Rabbit is an introspective, home loving pacifist with a sharp business acumen who will ensure the preservation of all the good things in life. It is a year in which the family will come first and VAT will come second.

Hopefully, he will not wreak havoc on the greens.

Christmas Turkey Trot and AGM got off to a bad start. It has been postponed until February 9 this year due to the unpredictable weather conditions which spread over the length and breadth of the BB&O, making transport and hitting golf balls a hazardous occupation. This date is yet to be confirmed.

Thank you to all our sponsors throughout 2010. We have had great support from the trade which has included Sheriff, Avoncrop, Tacit, Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Turner Groundcare, Golf & Turf, Browns, Amenity Land Solutions, Headland, ETT and Speedcut Contractors.

Simon Marsh has been hard at work and has organised an education seminar for the Section to be held on Tuesday, February 1, at Harleyford Golf and Country Club.

Sponsored by Countrywide Farmers our speakers include Mike Garner, from Maxicrop, who will talk on the benefits of natural plant extracts.

Paul Worcester, Course Manager Minchinhampton Golf Club and Chairman of BIGGA, on The Business of Golf.

Simon Barnaby, on behalf of Scott's Professional, talking on Managing Plant Health to provide Perfect Turf Surfaces.

Derek Smith, DFL & Johnson's, on the Pro's and Con's of Seed Coatings.

Jim McKenzie, Estate and Courses Manager The Celtic Manor Resort, will be giving what will be a fascinating talk with insight to the build up and climax of one of the finest greenkeeping achievements of modern times - The 2010 Ryder Cup.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the section and forthcoming events in 2011 you only have to log in to bbogreenkeepers.co.uk and leave your cyberspace details and e-mail address with the Secretary, Adam King, who will only be to pleased to keep you informed and up to date via e mail. Adam can be contacted on ajk@radley.org.uk

See you all at BTME in a few weeks time and wishing you all a great start to the New Year!

Mark Day



Mid Anglia

Writing this article is a good excuse to be in my nice warm office leaving the lads outside pruning on a snow covered golf course. I can barely remember the last time this happened in November. Maybe our Autumn meeting, held at Berkhamstead GC, in October, was a sign of things to come! Very cold, hard frosty greens, thanks to Gerald for letting us play on them.

Thirty two golfers braved the conditions, some fairing better than others. Results: 1. G.

Bruce, 33 pts, then countback required for three people on 32 pts, 2. Jeff Fenn; 3. Nigel Phelan with Paul Crouch just missing out on a prize. Sorry Paul!

Mark Ellis won Best Trade Prize, J. Smith, J. Haley, V. Le Gon and S. Bush winners of Nearest the Pins. A very big thank you to R. Catlin and D. Murphy, of AM-Tec, for sponsoring the day and presenting some great prizes to the winners.

Thanks again to Gerald and his team for the superb condition of the course and to the Berkhamsted in-house staff for looking after us so well off the course.

The Section AGM was also held at Berkhamsted, a fairly brief affair as always, minutes approved from last year, reports from Committee, no matters arising, and the election of officers for the coming year – and fortunately previously elected committee members agreeing to stand for another year.

Craig Spooner is standing down due to other commitments, as well as becoming a new Dad again! The Committee would like to thank him for his past contributions and hope to see him at future golf days. This leaves a space on committee so anyone out there wish to offer their services, please contact Gerald at gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk

I would just like to remind you that we are running a chainsaw and spraying course in February or March 2011, all enquiries to Gerald at the above e-mail address.

That's all for now, Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nigel Phelan

South East



Sussex

G'day Mates,

As the winter takes a strong hold on us all and very little is happening on the courses I have just a few lines this month. I take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new representative of the

Sussex Section for "Around the Green". I welcome your input and look forward to hearing from you with any news for the section.

Due to the recent inclement weather, the Turkey Trot planned for December 3 has been rescheduled for January 14, at Worthing Golf Club. Here's hoping our turkeys are also in deep freeze.

If Brian Wilmott is reading this, I have just come back from three weeks in Western Australia, but I will bore him with the details when I see him.

I am sure everyone wants to send their best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mike Gould, at Copthorne Golf Club, who has not been too well.

That's all for now but to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2011.

Regards,
Eric Green
01424 214600
TheGreens837@aol.com



Kent

Watcha All

By the time you get to read this, hopefully, you will have had a cracking Christmas and New Year and the world will be green again! A week of living in a Chrimbo card is more than enough for me! I'm just thankful that the snow held off for our Turkey Trot, which was held at Birchwood Park on November 25.

The Course, as ever, was in fantastic condition and is a credit Rob Holland and his lads, two of whom, Tony and Al played on the day. Thanks also to the catering staff for a lovely bit of nose bag. We would like to thank everyone who played on the day and all the trade members who, not only sponsor the Section, but who also donated raffle prizes for the day. We would like to say a very big thank you to the Scotts Company for the Scotts Shield, the hotly contested prize for the day. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Vic Maynard and Ernest Doe and Sons for the life saving "refreshment" wagon, cheers Vic! The results for the day were: 1.

Adam White, North Foreland; 2. Darren Child Hawkhurst; 3. Yours truly, Redlibbets. The trade winner was, all round good egg, Larry Pearman, from Lely, Don't forget those WHU tickets mate! The Nearest the Pin winner was Mark Todd, Wilderness, and Longest Drive, Yours truly, again. Sorry, Duncan!

Our AGM went very smoothly, and quickly, thankfully. No controversy and the status quo being maintained.

Details of next year's fixture list are available on the website www.kentgreenkeepers.com. We are proposing to run a Pairs Knockout next summer so please let either Rob or I know if you'd like to enter.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the Section in 2010 and look forward to seeing you all in 2011.

All the best
Chairman Kev Morris



Essex

A belated "Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year" to you all.

As you will all probably know by now we had to postpone the AGM and Christmas Team Golf Match, due to the adverse weather that we encountered at the beginning of December. We have rearranged this event for Thursday, January 27; it is still at the Essex Golf & Country Club.

I will be putting more information on the Website nearer the day, but if you did not enter a team for the December date you still have time to enter one for the new date in January. Previous entries will be carried forward to the January date.

A quite month on the Section front, though we have received all the nominations for the Committee and the Sponsors representative. These will be announced at the postponed AGM.

Because the AGM was put back, I do not have so much to announce this month, though we are planning an educational event of some kind in February or March and are actively put-

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Will Barnes
Age: 16
Club: Remedy Oak GC
Position: Apprentice



1. How long have you been in greenkeeping?

Six months

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working outside

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

A Business student.

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

Raking bunkers because it makes a difference to the course

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

Divotting tees because it seems to take ages

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

Golfers taking more notice of the job we do.

7. Hobbies?

Golf

8. Favourite Band?

Mark Ronson

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

Arsenal

10. What is your claim to fame?

I asked Harry Redknapp if he was an Arsenal fan.

Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?

To receive a questionnaire, email scott@bigga.co.uk

ting something together that will interest everyone.

This year's golf days have been a great success with more players entering. Keep it up for the next season, it's been great to see you all and the ambiance has been very good again this year.

We would like to thank once again all the following clubs that allowed us to play there courses' in 2010, Spring Trophy - South Essex Golf & Country Club; Summer Trophy - Channels Golf & Country Club; Romford Golf Club (Captains v Greenkeepers); Bentley Golf Club (Tuckwell Team Challenge); Essex Trophy - Boyce Hill Golf Club; Autumn Trophy - Benton Hall Golf & Country Club; Three Rivers Golf & Country Club (Triangular Team Tournament, Essex v Surrey v Sussex).

Golf days for 2011 are as follows: -

Spring Trophy: TBC. (Due to a Royal Wedding)

Summer Trophy: Nazeing Golf Club.

Essex Trophy: Chelmsford Golf Club.

Autumn Trophy: Langdon Hills Golf Club.

Christmas Team Event & AGM: Orsett Golf Club.

Exact fixture dates are still to be finalized with the above clubs.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones

Press Officer & Webmaster

South West and South Wales



South Coast

Happy New Year to greenkeepers everywhere! I guess you've all recovered from the festivities and are all enjoying being back in the old routine.

At the time of writing we on the South Coast are experiencing over heaviest snowfall for 40 years, so the older members have informed me. It's certainly the first time I've seen snow in

November and it looks strange to see snow on the ground and some of the oaks still in full leaf coverage. The signs are were in for a long winter, this spell of unseasonal weather has given us at Brokenhurst the chance to begin our woodland programme earlier than expected. This works hand in hand with plans next autumn to re develop three of our current holes which will be quite an exciting time for me and my staff to watch unfold.

Changing the subject I hope by the time this goes to press that England are on the verge of retaining The Ashes Down Under. Being an avid cricket lover I have been losing hours of sleep staying up to watch. If the lads continue how they've started it should all be worthwhile.

Back home not much news for me to mention apart from the annual South Coast Section Seminar, which looks like including some quality and interesting speakers. It will be in late February (date TBC) the venue has changed to Milton Abbey School. Watch this space for more details. All of this year's fixtures are confirmed and we have a quartet of great course to visit, they include Liphook, Brokenhurst Manor, Waterloo and High Post. We have had some really good numbers at the comps this year so keep supporting the Section, please. The committee has one or two ideas this year to help the day run smoothly and to make any new participants feel welcome.

For all attending BTME I look forward to catching up with friends and seeing some familiar faces again.

It just leaves me to wish you all best wishes for the year and happy greenkeeping.

Kevan Glass



South West

Happy New Year people, it's that time of year again when we all get a start afresh. How many of you have New Year's resolutions? How many of you just joined the gym, or brought yourself some new running shoes? How many

of you have just given up smoking? Started a diet? Whatever it is that you've decided to do for yourself this year, I wish you all the best and I hope that you have the determination to see it through, be strong!

We have now started to carry out some workshops with Laurence Pithie. We have also started to get some great feedback for them also. If your New Year's resolution is to continue with more education and better yourself in your profession, surely this is the perfect way to do so. Another workshop will be taking place in January, don't miss out, and book now!

The Fixture List will be with you very shortly. This year we will send them out to you via e-mail again, and this means you may need to keep me updated if I don't already have your address. This worked very well last year, also all the events will be on the southwest facebook page, in the magazines and on the BIGGA website. Really is no reason to miss an event! Just a reminder also, make it your goal to play in at least one Section team match, I know that Wayne will be waiting for your call.

This month, I promise you that I won't bore you with all that were up to at Minch. I'm sure you don't want to hear about us changing all our bunker sand on the Cherington course and making a few alterations to the ones on the Avening course - mainly reducing the larger bunkers and working towards preventing major washouts. I doubt that you want to hear about how many trees being felled this winter (approx 30 and planting around 50).

With The Ashes well underway now (while I write this we just got an incredible draw at Brisbane) it shows that England finally looks as though we could be the worlds best at something..... possibly. Well we tried at football (that was a painful summer, still hurts now). Martin Johnson and his team tried with an egg. They do all the right thing before and after a match, just struggle for the 80 minutes. But Andrew Strauss and his merry men seem to be doing everything just so. I'm going to predict that we win Down Under, 2-1...Any takers?

This month's tummy tickler: "I've just poured superglue into a non-stick pan...Somebody's going to be wrong!"

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grow as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, its time you were, ask me for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

Adam Matthews



South Wales

Happy New Year! Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and haven't put on too many pounds! Firstly, a round up of recent events.

The Annual Regional Seminar was again held at Cannington College. There was a fairly good attendance considering it was (unavoidably) held on a Friday and attendees were treated to some excellent talks on various subjects. In particular, our own Rhys Norville, of Newport GC, gave an excellent talk on his experiences in the US after winning 2009 Toro Student Greenkeeper Of The Year Award. Also a big 'Well Done' to Tony Horne, who stepped in at the last minute to give an excellent talk on the different types of sports pitches. Thanks go out to Jane Jones and Steve Chappell among others who helped to organise the event.

Also in November, the R&A, in conjunction with The Golf Union Of Wales, organised two 'Roadshow' events at Ashburnham and Greenmeadow golf clubs on the subject of sustainability. The talks centred on how to make your club more environmentally friendly, which in turn will save money without lowering standards. And, while promoting the finer grass species was mentioned, it is only a small facet of a much larger subject. Excellent presentations were given by Phillip Russell, of The R&A; Jonathan Smith, of Golf Environment Organisation, and Richard Stuttard, of The STRI. Well done to all those involved and to the aforementioned clubs for hosting the events. If they organise similar events in the future then I can wholeheartedly recommend them.

The results of the Christmas Competition will appear in February's column as the event took place after this edition went to print.

Back up to date now, and still on the subject of education, the Winter Series Of Evening Lectures has come around again. The first talk will be in January at Pencoed college, please contact Steve Chappell for the date as I haven't received it at the time of writing. Speaker for the evening will be Mark Hunt, of Headland. These evenings will again be sponsored by Countrywide Turf & Amenity, so thanks to them from the Section.

Congratulations to Andrew Mannion, of Southerndown GC, on becoming a father again, this time to little baby boy Noa Tomos. Best wishes from the Section.

Congratulations to Russia and Qatar for being chosen to hold the 2018 and 2022 football World Cups, although this didn't go down too well with an English colleague of mine! He

was especially mystified as to the thinking of the choice of Qatar as a host nation. 'Can you name a Qatar player?' He asked. I thought for a while and then said 'Eric Clapton?' He was not amused.

Finally, mystery surrounds the events of a few months ago, when a few Greenkeepers from our Section went on a golfing trip to West Wales. After a game of golf, they decided to go into the local village to have a few beers. A few hours later, suitably refreshed and in high spirits, they decided to take a short cut across a narrow bridge. Yes, you guessed it, one of them ended up in the drink, much to the amusement of his companions. To be fair, none of them has divulged as to the identity of the unlucky gentleman. So please don't throw pieces bread at him while making duck noises at the Christmas dinner as this might give the game away!

See You Soon
Ceri Richards

Chairman's Word (continued from page 12)

It is our intention to always act in the best interests of all our members.

If you have views yourself on the future of trade shows please let others know about them. Contact your local BIGGA Section committee members; let them know your opinions so that they can represent your best interests.

These fine people volunteer their time to serve you in your greenkeeping career. If you don't know who to contact, check out the Website, Magazine or contact a member of HQ staff on 01347 833800.

There is still much to be done

As mentioned before on these pages the Association we should always strive for must have:

1. A Customer Service Culture
2. The alignment of Services to Mission

3. Data Driven Strategies
4. Dialogue and Engagement with Members
5. The CEO to be a Broker of Good Ideas
6. Organisational Adaptability
7. Alliance Building.

I know that Andrew Mellon (Chairman-elect) feels that BIGGA should be at the very forefront of advancing the greenkeeping profession. He is a driven and talented individual who will do a great job as your National Chairman. I pledge my full support to him.

There is still much to be done and I hope that I can play my part in helping Andrew in every way possible during his year. I hope that you too will find your own way of taking this great profession forward.

My best wishes for a prosperous 2011.

Thanks - and regards,
Paul Worster

AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held on Wednesday January 19, 2011 at 5.15pm in the Queens Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork including the Agenda and proxy voting forms are available on the BIGGA Website in the Members' Area.

The meeting will be followed immediately by an Open Forum where members will have the opportunity to discuss matters of concern to them with the Board of Directors.



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Signing off for the last time

As we move into 2011 I sit down to write what is to be my last ever column for Greenkeeper International. This time last year I was focusing on dieting and handicaps with the thought of life without BIGGA never crossing my mind. What a difference a year makes though, my weight and my handicap remain unchanged but having given my future a great deal of thought I have decided to move into semi-retirement as from the end of April and will therefore be leaving my present post with BIGGA.

I first joined the Association in March 1993 and have, in my almost 18 years, built on my previous experience as an accountant and business manager to acquire a wealth of industry specific knowledge and large database of contact details that need to be passed on to the Board and my eventual successor. In order to achieve this the Board have asked me to seek some peace and quiet and to write them what in essence will be a manual to the job of Chief Executive, incorporating as much of that knowledge that I can.

Therefore, with effect from January 4, I will not be attending the office as frequently as I have in the past and in the interim period, until a successor has been appointed, Tracey Maddison, currently Head of Membership Services, will take on the role of Acting General Manager, working with the Board, myself and the existing staff team to ensure the ongoing success of BIGGA and the continuity of the high level of service that it offers to both Members and the Industry. I will continue to be available to the Board to give advice, information and to help with special projects during my wind-down period and over the next couple of weeks I will be actively involved with the management and planning of Harrogate Week 2011.

2010 has been a difficult year for all of us but I have every confidence in the BIGGA Board and the HQ Staff for the coming year and I will be working hard behind the scenes to give them my full support. I thank you for the support that you have given both myself and the Association in the past and ask that you continue to put your weight behind BIGGA and the team at BIGGA HOUSE.

I will be attending Harrogate as usual and hope that I will see you there. After April please spare a thought for the old guy in the bright yellow suit manning the school crossing in the pouring rain ... it could be me!

Wishing everyone Good Luck and Good Fortune for 2011 and beyond. And now, signing off for the last time...

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Welcome to 2011

I hope you have had a great Christmas and New Year and are raring to go for 2011. To those who are going to kick start their year with a trip to Harrogate Week I look forward to meeting you there.

I often think that one of the great things about rolling into a new year is taking the opportunity to focus on the future and look ahead. You may be the type of person who sets yourself some targets both personally and professionally, if you are, a new year can be a good place to start.

So what does 2011 have in store?

There is no doubt that 2011 will be a challenging year for the Association, change will happen, that is for definite with the announcement of BIGGA's Chief Executive, John Pemberton, leaving. But while change is something that presses us out of our comfort zone and can be for the better or the worst, depending on where you view it, change is sometimes needed when all the props and practices of the past need revising. I believe that flexibility will be the key; even a roller coaster ride can be fun if you know when to lean and create new balance within the change.

Remember: Change is like driving in a fog – you can't see very far, but you can make the whole trip that way.

Make 2011 a year in which you make the effort to support your local Section whenever you can. Each of the 26 Sections throughout the UK have a team of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to create events and golf days where members can get together, make new friends, exchange anecdotes, gain advice and exchange information among a group of like-minded individuals. Please support their hard work and your Section.

Membership Renewals

Traditionally, BIGGA used to operate a membership year that ran from January to December, but to allow more flexibility BIGGA

now operate a rolling year. This means that a new member will gain 12 months membership from the month of joining BIGGA.

However, if any member has an expiry date, for example, December 31 or January 31, which doesn't fit in with their personal circumstances and wish to change to a different month please contact the Membership Department directly so that we can discuss your options with you.

We are also finding that some teams of greenkeepers, at the same golf club, have differing expiry dates; if your golf club wishes to pay for membership of BIGGA for all the greenkeepers at the same time, again, please contact the Membership Department so that we can discuss your options. We can be flexible to your financial requirements, but you need to contact us.

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA's Sections now have a Facebook page or group, below is a list of those that are now up and running, if you are a member of Facebook go and 'join' or 'like' a Section group or page and keep up to date with what's going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

facebook

- British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA)
- BB&O Golf Section
- East of England BIGGA
- Bigga Devon & Cornwall Section
- British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association South West Section
- Essex Greenkeepers
- North Wales B.I.G.G.A

If you have trouble finding the groups above log into the members area of the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) and click on the news section, this article holds links to all the above, but remember you already need to be registered as a Facebook user.



Contact Details

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traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

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(option 1 for Membership)

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South West & Wales

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Mobile: 07841 948110
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Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

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

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013
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0800 177 7891
Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

John Duncan, Central Section
Jack Morrison, Ayrshire Section
Nigel Scott-Smith, Central Section

Northern Region

Terry Heppenstall, Cleveland Section
Paul Wrigley, North West Section

Midland Region

Michelle Hall, Mid Anglia Section
Sam Hamer, Midland Section
Justin Lee, Midland Section
Graham Leeke, Midland Section
Wendy Moggridge, BB&O Section
Luke Sheldon, Midland Section

South East Region

David Bedford, East Anglia Section
Simon Campbell, Surrey Section
Wayne Dudley, Surrey Section
Craig Easton, Surrey Section
Kevin Finch, Kent Section
Laurence Gibson, Essex Section
Mark Heveran, East Anglia Section
Greg Kendrick, Surrey Section

South West/South Wales Region

Majed Albarkoumi, South Coast Section
William Barnes, South Coast Section
Sam Cornish, Devon & Cornwall Section
Mariusz Drag, South West Section
Ceri Fearnley, South West Section
Richard Garrard, Devon & Cornwall Section
Paul Gerdes, Devon & Cornwall Section
Harry Keenaghan, South West Section
Nicholas Lewis, South West Section
Cameron McMorris, Devon & Cornwall Section
Alvin Michael, South Wales Section

Northern Ireland

Trevor Camley
Christopher Young

International

Stein Erik Ebbesvik, Norway
Martin Sorensen, USA



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Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here...

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, due to the bad weather in December a lot of Section AGMs and Golf Competitions had to be postponed, contact your Section Secretary for an update. A full list of Section Secretaries is available via the BIGGA website, select Contact Us in the top right hand corner, select Contacts List from the selection on the left hand side and the Section Secretaries option.

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
JANUARY 2011			
Friday January 14th	Sussex Section Event (Re-arranged)	Worthing Golf Club	George Barr Tel: 07714 459167.
Thursday January 27th	Essex AGM (Re-arranged)	The Essex Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrogers@talktalk.net or tel mobile: 07798 641529.
Harrogate Week: The Ultimate Turf Management Exhibition In Europe			
Sunday 16th to Thursday 20th January	Continue to Learn, Harrogate	Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate	Rachael Duffy at Rachael@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800 or book places at www.bigga.org.uk/events and select Jan 2011 from the browse events calendar.
Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th	BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Harrogate	Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate	Register to attend at www.harrogateweek.org.uk and select REGISTER NOW! From the options on the left hand side.
Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th	BIGGA Stand	Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate	Make sure you drop by the BIGGA Stand (Hall C) to buy your BIGGA beanie wool hat (£3.50), update your membership or join your friend!
Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th	Personal Development Zone	Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate	If you are looking to further your career or just gain more advice on how you can improve your personal development then a visit to the Personal Development Zone is a must!

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	To be announced	Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115
	To be announced	To be announced	Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115





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Introduction
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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 goals. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

Profit goal - to reduce waste by 10% across the whole site, by December 20XX

- Manufacturing Team** - To reduce scrap/reject components off CNC machines by 2%, by June 20XX
- Warehouse Team** - To reduce part order deliveries from 22 per month to less than 5, by September 20XX
- Finance Team** - To agree 12 key supplier agreements which result in a 7% stock reduction, by October 20XX

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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“How To...” guides are now available exclusively to BIGGA Members, on a range of Human Resource topics.

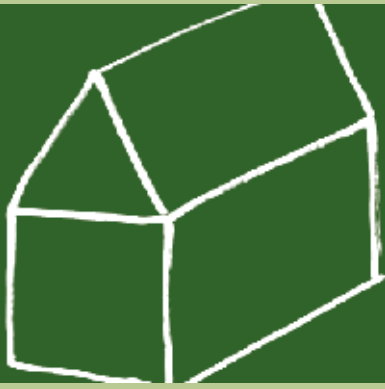
These short, handy guides provide practical, step by step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

To access the “How To...” guides, log on to the **BIGGA Members Area** at www.bigga.org and **click on Member Resources**.



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.

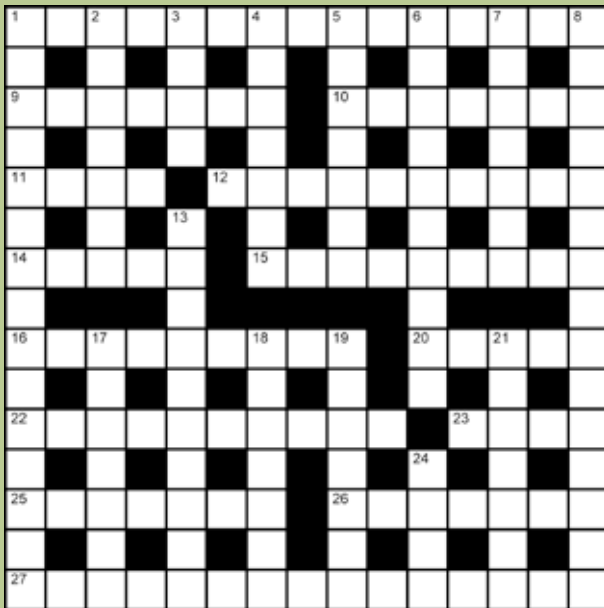




in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors..

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 1984 film featuring Harry Shearer as Derek Smalls (4,2,6,3)
- 9 Teach (7)
- 10 One who pardons (7)
- 11 The Hills Have ____ - 1977 Wes Craven film (4)
- 12 North American term for super-strength lager (4,6)
- 14 Strain of bacteria capable of causing severe food poisoning (1,4)
- 15 Four sided shape with no parallel sides (9)
- 16 The most honest (9)
- 20 Avoid capture (5)
- 22 Man with an inappropriately strong maternal bond (7,3)
- 23 Self-contained solo piece with orchestral accompaniment (4)
- 25 Italian Renaissance artist who painted The Transfiguration (7)
- 26 Composer played by F. Murray Abraham in Amadeus (7)
- 27 Celebrated on July 4 in the USA (12,3)

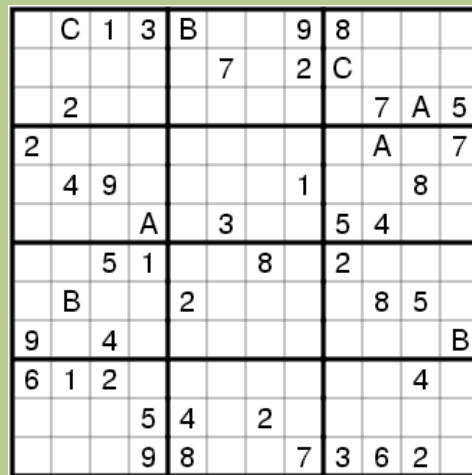
Down

- 1 Akira Kurosawa film on which The Magnificent Seven is based (3,5,7)
- 2 1993 Nirvana album (2,5)
- 3 The head of an Islamic mosque (4)
- 4 Alec ____, the most capped English cricketer of all time (7)
- 5 Non-alcoholic cold drink (4,3)
- 6 Greek mathematician from Syracuse (10)
- 7 A Roman military formation (7)
- 8 The ____, 1970's US musical sitcom (9,6)
- 13 Personal assistant to a high ranking military officer (4-2-4)
- 17 A bound book in which to collect various jottings (7)
- 18 The fifth letter of the Greek alphabet (7)
- 19 1982 film featuring Dustin Hoffman as Dorothy Michaels (7)
- 21 Bimbo (7)
- 24 A collection of like-minded entities, united behind a common purpose (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

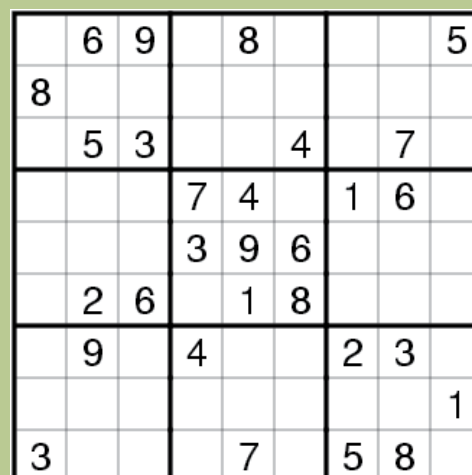
It happened in 1911

1. What air-sea combination was first achieved in 1911?
2. Which famous painting was stolen briefly in 1911?
3. Who won The Open in 1911?
4. Who was the first man to reach the South Pole in 1911, getting there before Captain Scott?
5. Which famous ship was launched in 1911?
6. Which US President was born in 1911?
7. Which famous race took place for the first time in 1911?
8. Which Irish golfer and Open Champion was born in 1911?
9. Which golf magazine was launched in by double Open Champion, Harold Hilton, in 1911?



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.



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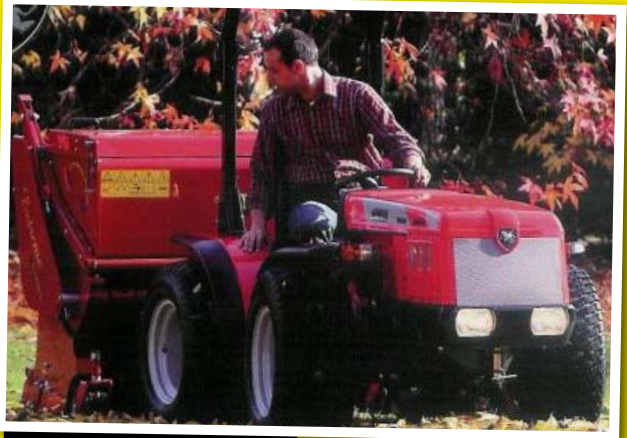
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We are seeking a deputy course manager with a strong technical background, work experience, and the ability to integrate into a new environment and learn French.

Specific Duties include: Spraying, Applying fertilizer, Daily direction and planning of 20+ team members, Supervising construction/renovation projects, Collect and record data on the golf course

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To apply for the position send a C.V. and a letter to:

William Warnick warnickbill@hotmail.com



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• Integrated pest management (IPM)
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You can find further information about Loch Lomond on our web page www.lochlomond.com

To apply for a position or find out more information please email or post a covering letter and C.V along with minimum 2 references. to:

Mary Danielsen, Golf Course and Estate Administration Manager,
Loch Lomond Golf Club, Rossdhu House, Luss (by Alexandria), Dunbartonshire G83 8NT Scotland.

Email: mary.danielsen@lochlomond.com



Sweden is one of the worlds top golfing nations, with over 500 golfcourses and half a million players. Despite world trends in golf there are still excellent opportunities for

energetic individuals within the Swedish golf industry. Golfmaskiner Landscaping AB was established in Sweden in 1994 as a golf machinery supplier and turf contractor.

Golfmaskiner is once again in a phase of rapid expansion with the development of its Golf Course management business.

Based in the Stockholm district we are now looking to recruit:

GREENKEEPERS to the Golf Course management division

You will be working under a Swedish turf manager and will be required to carry out all duties associated with golf course maintenance. These opportunities are open to all with a genuine interest in turf and who are looking to broaden their horizons both professionally and on a personal level. The positions are ideally suited to students or newly qualified greenkeepers looking for further experience. Formal qualifications in turf management are, however, advantageous.

Applicants need to be flexible and have a positive attitude to working in a dynamic working environment. A knowledge of irrigation and basic machinery maintenance is desirable

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Simon Pengel

Golf Courses General Manager

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To be successful in this role you must demonstrate a genuine passion for golf and golf course management alongside meticulous attention to detail and excellent communication skills. Dedication, flexibility and driving enthusiasm are also key attributes.

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in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. An aeroplane landed on a ship for the first time
2. The Mona Lisa
3. Harry Vardon
4. Roald Amundsen
5. Titanic
6. Ronald Reagan
7. Indianapolis 500
8. Fred Daly
9. Golf Monthly

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MONSTER SUDOKU

7	C	1	3	B	A	5	9	8	2	6	4
5	9	A	8	6	7	4	2	C	3	B	1
B	2	6	4	1	8	3	C	9	7	A	5
2	5	3	B	C	4	6	8	1	A	9	7
C	4	9	7	5	2	A	1	6	B	8	3
1	6	8	A	7	3	9	B	5	4	C	2
A	7	5	1	9	B	8	4	2	C	3	6
3	B	C	6	2	1	7	A	4	8	5	9
9	8	4	2	3	6	C	5	A	1	7	B
6	1	2	C	A	9	B	3	7	5	4	8
8	3	7	5	4	C	2	6	B	9	1	A
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Monster Daily SuDoku: Fri 17-Dec-2010 hard

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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Daily SuDoku: Fri 17-Dec-2010 hard



On the Soapbox

This month, Turf Consultant, Anthony Asquith takes to the Soapbox

I am always amazed and intrigued at the amount of products out there that come with big claims in terms of their huge benefits to turf and soils alike.

There is a plethora of such products around, from biological to some that provide simple forms of plant nutrient but are marketed as a wonder product. In my many years of independent turf research looking at products and materials, I have looked at and measured the effects of such products on turf grass. A lot of these generic products show results leading me to conclude that cost by far out-ways results.

In my honest opinion there is no silver bullet solution in turf regardless of what people say. It's important to use reliable tried and tested materials. We now live in a world where we are told what to buy, what to apply and what impressive things it can do but sometimes there is enough truth in it to widely exaggerate the product. Far too often, a lot of the information in brochures relies on the gullibility of the reader.

My advice to anyone would be ask for independent supportive data from a source you can place utter faith in and it should not be classed as sceptical to question everything. Quite often, I am classed as a sceptic but it is a very easy way for the salesman to get out of answering legitimate questions.

The key area for me is how much does X product improve turf? a few percent is not worth the cost but we need to see significant improvement in many facets. Also, has there been any statistical verification that such products improve turf? The answer to a lot of these is in short – No! We now live in a world where scaremongering is so rife people find it difficult to work out what is good information and what is poor information and what works and what doesn't. It is important turf managers ask for quality literature to support and justify claims made and not just go by the sales hype in magazines or from company brochures or presentations. Often people are spending a lot of time and money on products that are producing that elusive few percent of improvement but does this X% warrant the cost and timely application of such products? It has to be said that the amount of Iron or Nitrogen contained within some products is really the only thing that shows signs of improvement (hence the colour response) It's the most expensive form of N or Fe they will ever buy.

One worrying aspect for me, is the publication of research work by persons who are being paid to research, measure and evaluate the product or products by the product company so, again, it's important to get such informa-

tion from reputable sources and one's you can place faith in. Therefore I have to question the validity and the authenticity of the work been carried out and the results presented. I am not saying dismiss for the sake of it, but ask for supportive data to justify claims made that warrants and justifies the expense.

Another problem occurs with chemical soil testing accuracy. The results from such tests allow companies to produce lists of recommendations of fertiliser programmes that encourage the purchase of products by the end users. These recommendations are given without any correlation

significant benefit before being purchased in any amounts. If one is interested in such a product but the company cannot provide real independent data then my advice to them would be to ask to trial the product at the companies expense not yours. Any company that has a real belief in their product should not have a problem with supplying a potential purchaser with a trial amount. If they do supply a trial amount make sure you carry out reliable trials under controlled conditions which are properly measured. I have found many times products are bought and trialed without proper testing and

Keep it independent

to field trial response or historical site data. A lot of this type of information is not impartial.

What has become very apparent is the simple fact that very little reliable work has been carried out with turf grasses. There has been very little research or trial work into just how much grasses require nutritionally. This is down to the virtual impossibility of being able to carry out such work due to the varied range of grasses, cultivars, soils etc and the range of conditions that they would need to be tested.

It is important that any product is trialed, tested and statistically verified as being of

measuring plots and standard acceptable testing procedures.

My advice is always trial yourself and trial it properly to get meaningful results. I have done this over the years so I am happy to advise anyone.



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