

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours

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Aligning golf course performance with
the requirements of golf club members

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up his role as Chief
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Southern belle

Golf
Course
Feature

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Credit where credit is due

The news that Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours was as welcome, and richly deserved, as it was surprising.

I say surprising for no other reason than it is often the case that those who are most deserving tend to be overlooked. That is particularly the case in a profession that often sees its best work carried out with nothing other than the odd fox, deer or blackbird for an audience.

For the first time I can recall, the Ryder Cup showed greenkeeping in the much prized "high profile-positive" combo. If it hadn't been for Jim and his team - 65 Celtic Manor staff, supplemented by 71 volunteers drawn from all over the UK and beyond - the 2010 Ryder Cup would not have been completed, and the world of golf knew it.

Not only would that have deprived golf lovers of the spectacular action provided by both sets of players, particularly during Monday's dramatic singles, it would also have gone down as a black day for the game, and for Wales.

The Ryder Cup was the biggest golf event of the year. It's actually the third biggest sporting event in the world nowadays after the World Cup and the Olympics and for it not to have been completed would have been an absolute disaster.

As the biggest sporting event in Wales' history, the disappointment of an abandonment would have cut right through the nation's heart.

Jim is very modest and quick to deflect the achievements of the week onto his team but speak with anyone who was involved and they will tell you that Jim was absolutely immense – calm, organised and on top of every possible

scenario, even if he was quaking just a bit on the inside. In other words, it was his leadership, in circumstances and under a pressure no other greenkeeper has ever experienced before, which carried everyone through.

Since those momentous days last October, Jim has been very generous with his time. He has spoken at many BIGGA Seminars at National, Regional and Section level, describing what happened during the Ryder Cup and passing on advice and information that will help the hundreds of greenkeepers who have had the privilege of listening to him.

In much the same way that you can be sure Jim learned much in his early greenkeeping days from attending talks given by the senior Head Greenkeepers of the time, while he was working at Hagg's Castle, Cawder and Renfrew before he moved south to Wentworth and then Celtic Manor.

And that is the beauty of BIGGA and its wonderful members. To have someone at the very top of the profession, so willing to share experiences and information with his fellow members – in his own time and often at his own expense – is not something that is found in many areas of life. In other industries, a seminar session to listen to someone of Jim's standing could cost as much as a greenkeeper's weekly wage.

Jim – You are a top man.
Congratulations!

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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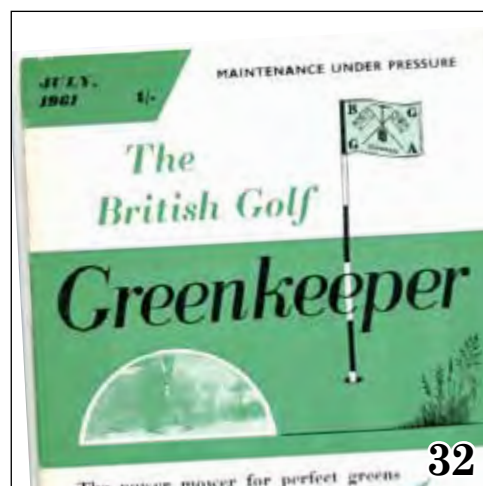
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Partnership Looks To The Future

The Golf Club Management Partnership, which comprises BIGGA, the PGA and the GCMA, is working towards identifying the different types and levels of management qualifications that currently exist.

Among the aims of the partnership is to develop a framework that will help managers and golf clubs progress their skills and identify any gaps in the current provision.

Dr Kyle Phillpots, PGA Director of Education and Career Development, who chaired a recent meeting at the PGA's Belfry headquarters, believes creating a framework will be welcomed by the golf industry.

"The aim of all three parties is to work together to maximise the value and effectiveness of golf club management through shared learning, professional development and the promotion of best practice," he said.

"We will also consult with employers and deployers of GCMP members to ensure that we meet the needs of the golf industry.

"Discussions on the qualifications are not finalised but they reflect the partnership's commitment to a coordinated approach to the management of golf facilities."

Andrew Mellon, Chairman of BIGGA, added, "The group is exploring positive ways of collaborating which will ensure that resources are used in the best possible way, thereby minimising duplication, sharing good practice, ensuring consistency and enabling knowledge transfer.

"The Partnership provides each Association with a better understanding of the role their

respective members play, and by gaining a mutual respect for each, can encourage and demonstrate the benefits of closer team working within our workplaces. We all play an important part in achieving the successful operation of our golf facilities."

Keith Lloyd, GCMA Chief Executive, said: "The GCMA has been providing a pathway to education for its members for over 20 years now and today runs a structured programme of comprehensive introductory courses to golf club management, a university based certificate course, plus regional training opportunities and a biennial national conference event featuring world class international speakers.

"In addition, it has built up an electronic library of 600 plus advisory documents in this same period, which acts as a valuable 'bank' of information to both GCMA members and the clubs they manage.

"There is no doubt, that the coupling of the expertise and experience of GCMA members along with the modern day PGA Professional and BIGGA Course Manager via their respective Associations will benefit golf clubs as a whole."

The GCMP was formally signed at Turnberry in 2009 with the aim of helping UK golf clubs to operate more effectively and efficiently by fostering closer ties between PGA Professionals, Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and Club Managers and Secretaries.

The three bodies represent more than 16,000 members employed in the golf industry.



Scotts Rebranded

Since the ICL Group's purchase of the Scotts Miracle Gro Company in February, a new name has been created for the global professional business: Everris.

The accompanying press release stated: "Representing the term 'Ever Rising', the name Everris is symbolic of the new company's commitment to further enhance the technologies, products and services it offers to horticulture, agriculture and turf & amenity professionals worldwide. In addition to its English meaning, the name also represents the French, Italian and Spanish terms for 'green'—"vert" and "verde."

Everris will continue developing the range of products which includes Osmocote, Peters, Universol, Levington, Humax, Sierraform GT, Sierrablen Plus and Agroblen.

According to Everris CEO, Fred Bosch, the company's new tagline, "Driven by Innovation, Inspired by Nature", underlines its ultimate goal to bring professional products and innovative, sustainable solutions to ornamental horticulture growers, turf managers, landscapers and farmers. "Everris combines the technical expertise and resources of both Scotts and ICL, making us well-poised to take our innovative spirit to the next level," he said.

MBE for Jim McKenzie



Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, in recognition of the miraculous work he and his greenkeeping team achieved during last year's Ryder Cup as well as for his 30 years involvement in the greenkeeping industry.

In being awarded the MBE, Jim, Director of Golf Courses at The Celtic Manor Resort, joins a select band of greenkeepers who have been similarly honoured for their

achievements including Walter Woods BEM, Jack McMillan MBE and Jimmy MacDonald MBE.

"I found out on May 11 when the letter arrived through the door and I was totally overwhelmed. I told my team this morning that it was for all the guys who worked at the Ryder Cup, not just the Celtic Manor team, but all of the volunteers who helped us during the week itself," said Jim.

"To be honest I'm a little embarrassed by the whole thing because there were times

when I just stood back and watched, in awe at what they were achieving," said Jim, who added that he also saw the honour as being for those people who had helped him over the years, some of whom had left the industry and some of them who had passed away."

Jim started his greenkeeping career at Hagg's Castle GC under Chris Kennedy, before moving to Cawder GC to work under Alistair Connell. His first Head Greenkeeper's job was at Renfrew GC where he took over from George Barr. He moved to Wentworth, rejoining Chris Kennedy in 1990, before moving to Celtic Manor in 1993 where he managed the construction of three 18 hole courses including the 2010 Course, the Ryder Cup venue, and was extremely active in bringing the match to South Wales.

"I would never have dreamt that one day I would win such an honour but it is a measure of the huge strides the profession, and BIGGA, has made that it is now possible," said Jim.

During the Ryder Cup week itself there was 55% of the expected monthly rainfall in two days before and during the match and it was only through Jim's 130 strong team working through the night that the match was able to proceed, albeit being the first ever Ryder Cup to finish on a Monday.

European Captain, Colin Montgomerie, proclaimed them as the first ever greenkeeping team which could honestly claim to have helped win the Ryder Cup.

Jim believes although no-one has told him such, that the nomination came from a number of people and organisations from Newport and South Wales and from within the industry.

He expects to be presented with the medal sometime in the summer, although he has not yet been told where it will happen.

PGA Pro's Charitable Efforts Win Toby Sunderland Award



Phil Harrison, Wildwood Golf & Country Club's Managing Director and PGA professional, has won the Toby Sunderland award in recognition of his charitable efforts. After raising thousands of pounds for numerous causes close to the Surrey club and further a field, Phil collected the accolade at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth. He also received £1,000 for a charity of his choice.

"When I took over Wildwood it did not have a good reputation in the local community so I wanted to engage with the community and got involved with the youth, schools and the elderly."

Phil has decided to split the £1,000 for charity between two local charities – The Jigsaw Trust and Muntham House School.

Shown left, Phil Harrison (centre) receives the Toby Sunderland Award from PGA Captain Eddie Bullock (left) and Warren Sunderland (right). *Courtesy of Andy Redington at Getty Images.*



BMW Support Team at Wentworth

Once again a full contingent of BIGGA members, some having travelled from all parts of the country, were on hand to offer support on all four days for the European Tour's flagship event the BMW PGA Championships held at Wentworth.

The weather was kind again this year although rather cooler with a brisk wind blowing on all four days.

Play was delayed for 45 minutes on Thursday because of the close proximity of thunder and lightning, that fortunately did not amount to much, but did cause the inconvenience for the final players out on the course who had to complete their rounds early the following morning.

This year's event again attracted record crowds on all four days who enjoyed some excellent golf on the West Course with a few modifications having been carried out over

the past year including the much publicised changes to the 18th green.

Chris Kennedy and his team, as always, produced a superb golf course, magnificently prepared and appreciated by all, with absolutely no help from the weather and the distinct lack of rainfall experienced by all greenkeepers in the south east following the long cold winter.

Visitors to the BIGGA tent included Past Chairmen Paul Worster and Kenny MacKay.

The popular winner of this year's event was Luke Donald who won the first hole of a play-off beating Lee Westwood whose third shot to the 18th found water, enabling Donald to replace him as number one spot in the world rankings.

Words: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator.

Photograph: Arnold Phipps-Jones



Appointment

Headland's new Regional Technical Manager, Andy Ward has a wealth of hands-on experience with a background encompassing both Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

Starting his career, 17 years ago as a trainee Greenkeeper at Overstone Park Golf Club he moved to become Assistant Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Ground before rising to Head Groundsman at Slough Sports Club. Latterly in sales, Andy will be responsible for serving existing customers and promoting new business in Kent, Sussex and South East London.

"Headland is a company that is well perceived and has a fantastic knowledge base that is passed on to customers," he said.



New BLEC Sandfiller

BLEC's new GKB Sandfiller in action at Crow Wood Golf Club, Muirhead, Scotland, watched by groundmen and greenkeepers

A new tractor-mounted scarifier and sandslitter which removes and collects spoil and fills grooves with sand in one pass has been on a demonstration tour with BLEC Managing Director Gary Mumby.

The Sandfiller, manufactured by GKB Machines, has been specifically designed for aerating and draining sports turf. "This is an ideal

machine for sports areas that previously had to be treated twice by using at least two machines," said Gary.

"One would cut the grooves and another would apply the sand. Now this operation can be carried out by the Sandfiller in one pass on the back of a tractor."

Gary launched BLEC (now BLEC GLOBAL) in 1986 with wife, Sue, and was previously a landscaper who realised he could design and manufacture specialist machines for the grounds care industry.

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Essex Victorious in Toro Challenge Match



A crowd of over 70 - including the players - were present at Upton Park (capacity 35,300) the home of West Ham United for the challenge football match organised by Lely UK and sponsored by Toro between Greenkeepers from the Essex Section and the Sussex Section.

There was a rumour that the Essex team had been in strict training and had organised several practice matches in the weeks leading up to the game.

This certainly was evident, but only after a slow start and an early chance for Simon Wells, the Sussex forward, who hit the upright with a powerful shot after a good run from the right side.

After this Essex started to take control of the match and after 20

minutes were two up with man of the match, Liam Close, scoring both. Five minutes later Essex had added another well taken goal by Jamie Blagdon and went three up. Against the run of play Sussex were awarded a dubious penalty, duly dispatched by Rob Hudson.

The second half started with Sussex pressure rewarded by a second goal after 20 minutes.

Despite having more possession for long periods of the game Sussex were unable to break down the Essex team, marshalled by Antony Kirwan in the midfield, and the introduction of Martin Forrester who came on as substitute, with his pace and experience to steady his side.

In the final minutes Dave Ansell, the Sussex goalkeeper, made a

great save from a well hit powerful shot.

Final Score Essex 3 Sussex 2

After the match players and supporters enjoyed the hospitality in the Lyle and Greenwood Room at the top of the Bobby Moore stand where Sales Manager of Lely, Jeff Anguige, presented the trophy to the winning Essex Team.

Special thanks to Larry Pearman for making all the arrangements and organising the day and to David Cole, from JSM, for his ball boy duties throughout the match.

All commented on the immaculate condition of the pitch, without a blemish after a long season.

Hopefully this event will take place next year with more Sections involved.

STRI's New Website Makes Sense For Sport



STRI has launched a new website, restructured by individual sport to reflect the needs of clients in the sports turf industry.

The new website focuses on providing information on STRI's services, specific to each sport or client. "With such a vast range of clients, it was important to design a website where clients could easily find information on STRI's services related to their sport or company," said Carolyn Beadsmoore, Head of Sales & Marketing.

More than 2,500 clients contact STRI every year to get advice on the development or management of their sports surfaces. "Each

of our clients is looking for a particular solution; this could be the design and construction of a new pitch for a major stadium, help with managing diseases on a golf green, support in setting up environmental planning and projects or setting up research trials for product manufacturers and distributors. The new user-friendly website enables this," added Carolyn.

The new design was created by Tebays design agency, based in Leeds, and the STRI website has already been entered in the DADI (Drum Award for the Digital Industries) Awards 2011.

SPRAYER TESTING ACHIEVES TARGET

The National Sprayer Testing Scheme has again achieved its government agreed target of testing sprayers covering 85% of the sprayed area of the UK.

To achieve the actual figure of 85.7% over 14200 sprayers were tested.

"This is a magnificent achievement, over 14,000 sprayer tests per year is the highest number achieved since NSTS started in 2003. It's very much down to the scheme becoming a recognised part of UK agriculture, a requirement of crop assurance schemes and of course our band of testers," said NSTS Manager, Duncan Russell.

Results from tests show that repairs and rectifications were required on 62.3% of machines with leaks and drips, hoses, worn nozzles and faulty pressure gauges being the main reasons, these have remained stable over recent years.

"The NSTS test is like a car MOT in that failure items are repaired and rectified before the machine goes back to work, that way we can be confident that machines are working efficiently and safely for the environment and the operator," said Duncan.



New Role For Kerran

Kerran Daly MG, has joined Greensward Sports Consultancy in the position of Senior Consultant.

Kerran will be responsible for development of the consultancy arm of the business, serving golf clubs, bowling clubs and sports facilities in all parts of the UK.

Kerran, a Past Chairman of BIGGA, brings a wealth of experience to the sector. He is very pleased to be working with Andrew Boyce, Managing Director, Greensward Sports Consultancy.

"I am happy to be re-united with Andrew after having worked together during the early part of Andrew's career. I look forward to my association with such a go-ahead company and it will compliment very well the work I am doing in training and assessing young greenkeepers through the NDH apprenticeship scheme."

"I have gained much throughout my time in greenkeeping and relish the opportunity to put something back through greenkeeper training and by assisting Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers to maximise their potential in delivering high quality provision."

For further information visit www.greenswardsports.co.uk

Allett Mowers Set to Grow

Allett Mowers is set to become the largest manufacturer of pedestrian petrol-engined cylinder mowers in Britain following its acquisition from Bosch Lawn and Garden Ltd of the drawings, plant and equipment, tooling and intellectual property necessary for the manufacture of the entire range of former Atco and Suffolk Punch petrol and electric lawn mowers.

Included in the purchase is specialist equipment for the manufacture of helical cutting cylinders, enabling Allett to be self-sufficient for the first time in a key component of cylinder-type mowing machines, which have been produced by Allett since the mid 1960s.

It does not include the Atco and Suffolk Punch brand

names nor the individual mower model names which have been retained by Bosch Lawn and Garden.

As a result, all of Bosch's former Atco and Suffolk Punch pedestrian cylinder mowers will be manufactured and sold in future under the Allett brand name with appropriate new model designations to be given by Allett to each mower in the range prior to their launch ahead of the 2012 grass-cutting season.

Other than that, all of the former Atco and Suffolk Punch petrol and electric pedestrian cylinder mowers to be manufactured from October 2011 onwards at Allett's production centre in Hixon, Staffordshire, will be to the same design and specification as their forerunners, including

the green and gold livery.

Allett plans to sell its new line of domestic and semi-professional cylinder mowers through a network of independent garden machinery dealers, selected for their ability to provide first-class sales and service support to customers.

"The acquisition of the design rights and manufacturing capability for the former Atco and Suffolk Punch pedestrian mowers is a natural extension of the Allett brand," commented Austin Jarrett, Managing Director of Allett Mowers' parent company, Turfmach Machinery, said: "We will be looking to hire up to 20 new staff, which is good news for our local area and for British manufacturing."

100 years of Greenkeeping Associations

In 2012 it will be 100 years since the first Association was formed.

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by? Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored

away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early years, but anything you have would be worth considering for our new

feature, Back in time, on pages 32-33, as well as a possible display at BTME 2012. Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Roof Top Garden Achieves Honours at Chelsea Flower Show

Lindum's Wildflower & Sedum Mat has helped Dr. Nigel Dunnett, of the University of Sheffield, achieve Chelsea honours for the second time.

Last seen at the show in 2009 on his Silver-Gilt winning Future, Nature garden, Wildflower & Sedum Mat graced the roof of the garden studio, the main feature of Nigel's RBC New Wild Garden, which scooped another Silver-Gilt medal this year.

Billed as Chelsea's first full-size 'Rain Garden' the green roof, a mixture of wild flowers, sedum, herbs and flowering perennials grown on a biodegradable felt mat is designed to take in rain water and re-distribute it. "It's all about soaking up all the water within the garden," says Nigel. "Rain goes from the green roof to a pool, on to another pool and eventually soaks into the garden."

Lindum's Managing Director, Stephen Fell, was delighted.

"I was lucky enough to visit the show the day that the medals were announced and felt very proud to be associated with the garden," he said.

Following the Chelsea Flower Show, the RBC New Wild Garden will find a permanent home at Slimbridge, the headquarters of the Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust.

Lindum's Wildflower Meadow Turf (a mixture of wild flowers and grasses also grown on a biodegradable felt mat) featured on the Hae-Woo-So Artisan garden which took Gold and was awarded 'Best in Category.'



New Ransomes Record for Lottie and Joy for Ipswich Golf Club Juniors

Eight Juniors aged 12 to 18 years old from Ipswich Golf Club visited Ransomes Jacobsen to practice and play a couple of rounds on the turf equipment manufacturer's three-hole, par 9 golf course.

They were accompanied by Sheila Laws, chair of the Junior section, together with coach, Kevin Lovelock, and parents. Lottie Whyman, who plays off 17, equalled the course record of 8 and became the first female in the three years that the course has been open, to match the record.

Commenting at the end of the visit, Sheila Laws said, "We are indebted to Richard Comely and his team at Ransomes Jacobsen for accommodating us and we all had a very enjoyable time. The course may be just three holes, but it's a great test of accurate golf and the Junior's really took to it. The third green is almost an island and is a true test, whatever your age or ability, so Lottie's achievement in equalling the course record was remarkable."





Chairman's Word

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

Another busy month

Jim Croxton CEO, has been in post for over a month now, and he has taken up the role with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. I'm sure as he will confirm he is not short of things to do.

I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Members and the Board to thank Tracey Maddison, who has been acting as General Manager during the interim period.

She has done a fantastic job ensuring that BIGGA keeps on track, and has shown great initiative and leadership during this time.

Tracey is continuing in this role while we undertake the strategic review and will be a great help in enabling Jim to get settled and introduced to all the stakeholders of BIGGA.

Forming productive working relationships with you all is a vital task.

I'd also like to sincerely thank all the team at BIGGA HQ and the Regional Administrators, who have continued to work tirelessly through this period, with fewer staff than we have had previously, sharing the extra work across the teams.

Well, the months are flying by now.

Just as it seems I was looking forward to summer, by the time you read this, the longest day has come and gone! While there is still a huge amount of summer work to do, minds are already turning to and preparing for the countdown and preparation for winter.

So far this year business has been good at my own course, Elmwood, and I've heard similar reports from many others.

Due to the good weather we are very busy with golfers, but as with everyone else, it's quite challenging dealing with the extended dry spell.

I know some have had it worse than others, but we thankfully have had intermittent heavy showers, which help, without impacting too much on golf.

"Make hay while the sun shines", is the proverb, and in the current economic climate, that's something we are very aware of, trying to maximise income, to give the business the best chance of balancing against lower winter income.

Our challenge as ever, is preparing the course the best we can, and nurturing and caring for it, while it takes such a high level of punishment.

Hopefully more golfers will have fonder memories of their golf this year in the good weather, and clubs will benefit from an increase in participation.

I'd like to congratulate Jim McKenzie MBE, who received this award recently in the Queen's Birthday Honours' List.

Jim and his team played a vital part in the recent European success at the Ryder Cup, as we all know, but this was not achieved on the day alone and was due to the years of preparation and improvements they made to the course, and lessons learned from successfully delivering the Wales Open for many years.

His inspirational leadership, and sheer tenacity are known to us all, but it was a delight to see this more widely recognised.

I had another busy month, on behalf of the Association.

At a meeting with the R&A we continue to explore how we can support one another's objectives.

Our challenge as ever, is preparing the course the best we can, and nurturing and caring for it, while it takes such a high level of punishment. Hopefully more golfers will have fonder memories of their golf this year in the good weather, and clubs will benefit from an increase in participation

I attended a CMAE seminar in Scotland on Effective Governance, and the GTC-R&A workshop at Auchterarder Golf Club, which was very informative on the benefits of Sustainable Development within Golf, and how that is progressing through the collaborative efforts both locally through the Golf Unions and the Scottish Golf Environment Group, and internationally through the R&A and Golf Environment Organisation.

Thanks to the courtesy of Toro/Lely and Golf Environment Organisation I was invited to attend Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship on the Saturday.

The course was in fantastic condition and a testament to a dedicated, skilled team led by Chris Kennedy.

You can tell a real professional, they make it all look so easy on the day.

I know how much planning, preparation, and sheer hard work there would have been during a long run up, through a tough dry spring, and the massive efforts behind the scenes.

The Support Team of volunteers from BIGGA was on hand throughout to help.

Well done to all of them for volunteering.

I'm sure the experience was well worth the effort.

Thanks also to Sherriff Amenity and Scotts Professional (now Evertis) for their hospitality at the Corporate Event held at De Vere Oulton Hotel and Golf Resort.

Jim Brown and the team presented a great venue, and it was a good opportunity to introduce Jim Croxton to many of our members and trade supporters.

On behalf of our GTC Board member, Tony Smith, who was on annual leave, I attended the GTC AGM, and introduced them to our new CEO.

This was followed by a one day workshop

for Quality Assured Education Centres and Providers.

Unfortunately I had to leave early as I rather clumsily broke one of my teeth trying to open a plastic packet.

(Not a pretty sight).

I beat a hasty retreat home, (a long drive) to seek treatment, as much for the pain as the indignity of my smile!

Lastly, the networking opportunities through BIGGA continue to expand, and we are keeping pace with modern Social Media.

Log on to Facebook or LinkedIn, search for BIGGA and take advantage of this modern phenomenon.

See you there!

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Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

For many years one of the key aims and roles of the GTC has been to maintain a partnership with selected colleges who have the human and physical resources to deliver greenkeeper education and training courses which lead to nationally recognised qualifications, all of which are Government accredited.

The greenkeeping sector of golf has always stayed within the Government's framework of qualifications, including the very successful apprenticeship scheme.

The Government's funding support, accessed by the colleges over many years, has benefited employers and learners alike and the improvement in the maintenance and management of golf courses is there for all to see.

During the early 90's the transition from classroom delivered qualifications to involving the workplace, the GTC invested heavily in raising the awareness to employers, Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers on their responsibility in the delivery of the new vocational qualifications.

Colleges, GTC and private companies have all played their part to develop, maintain and deliver these work based skills and knowledge based qualifications over the years.

The highly trained greenkeepers we are now seeing come through the system, is something the sector, as a whole should be proud of.

Assessor training has helped with the delivery of the work based qualifications but equally the flexibility of some colleges has played its part to form a very strong partnership between golf club employers, greenkeeping students and the colleges.

We must also remember that while the changes were happening on the most popular qualifications, the more "academic" qualifications such as the Higher National Certificates and Diplomas were

also constantly being reviewed and updated to reflect the changes within the industry.

Many regular readers of this column will know the GTC is keen to ensure there are courses and qualifications for everybody working on golf courses, from achieving qualifications without leaving the workplace, to the more traditional part-time delivery methods where the student attends a college for x number of days or weeks.

The apprenticeship is still by far the most popular route that suits the employers and students, not only because in many cases the training is subsidised but the programme reflects the skills and knowledge required to maintain the golf course!

The GTC will continue to work with the various bodies to maintain the occupational standards and various qualifications however it has never been more important that employers look to the GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to provide the courses to suit the business and staff development.

Why, I hear you say, should we not use the college down the road?

There are numerous colleges which offer 'sports turf' qualifications, many of which are finding the current economic climate difficult.

The GTC is hearing some very worrying news coming out of very established Further Education Colleges....staff redundancies imminent... some no longer offering greenkeeper training... all worrying times for those involved and a situation the GTC is monitoring very closely.

All of this is why the GTC introduced its Quality Assured Scheme in September of last year.

I should explain at this stage the use of the word Centre as opposed to college.

Our Scottish friends will be familiar with a private company based in Glasgow, GOSTA Training, which for many years has served the sector well by delivering

In Brief

David explains the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme and why it is important the golf club employers and greenkeepers support Centres and Training Providers who have successfully met the criteria and are therefore GTC Quality Assured.

the range of vocationally approved qualifications.

They, along with colleges are collectively known by the Awarding Bodies as CENTRES.

It is therefore the reason why the GTC has adopted this title and for all formal qualification programmes including apprenticeships it is these Centres that should be contacted.

Some Centres have been very innovative in the delivery of courses to compliment the range of qualifications with modern technology now an option many greenkeeping students, of all ages, are opting to use.

Eportfolio, on-line learning as well as the more traditional day and block release certainly giving employers and students every opportunity to have well educated, trained and qualified staff.

The new category, Quality Assured Training Providers is open to individuals and private companies who are looking of offer sector specific training courses that align to the occupational standards for greenkeeping and golf course management.

The QA Training Providers have a vital role through workshops, seminars, short courses and I am pleased that the STRI, TORO, Jon Allbutt Associates, Laurence Pithie Turf Master One and Cutting Edge Training have all met the GTC criteria.

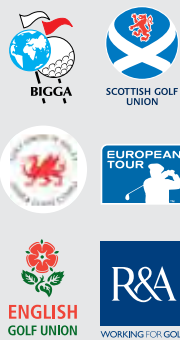
While not offering the formal qualifications the QA Training Providers will compliment the work of the QA Centres and Certificates can be achieved in some cases.

In summary, the GTC will continue to maintain the Quality Assured Scheme and through ongoing monitoring of its Centres and Training Providers we sincerely trust the golf clubs and greenkeepers support those who have met the GTC's criteria.

For an up to date list of GTC quality assured centres and training providers visit www.the-gtc.co.uk or call the GTC direct on 01347 838640.



The GTC is funded by:



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Learning & Development

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



The planning and organising season is upon us, with the main focus being on the preparation of the Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012 education programme, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award as well as several ongoing projects. It's a bit of a juggling act, but as long as we don't drop any of the balls, it should all be just fine!

Bursaries from City and Guilds

While having a search on the Government website www.direct.gov.uk for free courses, I came across some information on Bursaries available from City and Guilds.

It appears that they offer a small number of bursaries each year to people who would like to study for a City & Guilds qualification.

The bursaries can be used for costs like course fees, learning materials, childcare or travel.

Applications are considered in April and September each year.

For further information visit www.cityandguilds.com/42758.

The BIGGA Open Championship Support Team 2011

Rachael Duffy will once again be at The Open, on hand to help coordinate the support team made up of approximately 65 greenkeepers and staff.

Under the management of Scott MacCallum, Rachael ensures that everyone has a bed, a meal, a uniform and the correct credentials, as well as ensuring that they are all transported to and from the venue safely and on time.

The BIGGA Marquee is Rachael's home for the week where she spends much of her time meeting and greeting visitors as well as looking after the Support Team, making sure that everyone knows their schedule and that they are where they should be at the right time!

If you are going to the 151st Open Championship at Royal St George's, Sandwich, Kent, why not pop into the BIGGA Marquee to say hello to the BIGGA staff that are in attendance? You'll be sure of a warm and smiley welcome from Rachael (who'll also be able to answer any of those L&D questions you may have!).

Good luck goes to all the team at Royal St George's as well as to the volunteer support team – enjoy your week.



Field Guide Updates

Two of the existing Field Guides will be receiving an update.

Main Grasses Found in Golf Course Rough and the Tree and Shrubs on the Golf Course guides will be enhanced with the addition of a number of extra pages.

It is hoped that the first update



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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will be launched in September, with the second one following in January.

Once available, members will be able to request the additional pages from the Learning and Development Department.

CPD

Continuing Professional Development (insert CPD logo)

The 2010/2011 CPD year ended on 30 June and barring a few late comers we will be awarding 99 Certificate's and four first Diploma's of Continuing Professional Development.

As CPD scheme is now 11 years old we will, once again, be awarding second Diplomas of Continuing Professional Development, this year to two Members (all numbers correct at the time of writing this article).

Certificates will be sent out in the post later this month, with the Diploma's being presented at Harrogate Week 2012.



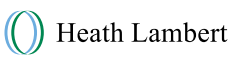
Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Ben Kebyy – BSc Sportsturf Online

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



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

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz, Jaey Goodchild



MARKETING MANAGER APPOINTED

Bernhard's has appointed Sarah Lashbrooke as its new Marketing Communications Manager.

A graduate with a background in both marketing communications and customer relationships, Sarah brings a wide variety of knowledge and experience with many parallels to the golf and turf industry, trade associations and key relationships.

"We are very much looking forward to Sarah joining the team. We feel Sarah will be an excellent fit with Bernhard and the industry," said Peter Wood, Chief Operating Officer.

Service Makes the Difference at Aldeburgh

A range of new John Deere golf course equipment has been supplied to Aldeburgh Golf Club in Suffolk by local dealer Tomlinson Groundcare.

The latest package deal brings the total Deere fleet at Aldeburgh to 25 machines.

Mark Broughton MG has been Course Manager for nearly 13 years at Aldeburgh, "There was a desperate need for investment in new machinery when I arrived, so over the years we've managed to build up a first-class fleet, and now replace machines on a rolling programme."

The newest 2500E hybrid greens mower

means that two are now used on the greens, one on the tees and one older 2500A model for other work.

"It's nice to have one of these mowers permanently dedicated to the 'bits and pieces' jobs," said Mark.

"At Aldeburgh we don't use groomers on any of the greens triple mowers. This is because the grass here is predominantly made up of slow growing fescues, and we don't want to knock hell out of them. Minimising disturbance and heights of cut generally no lower than 5mm are important features of our greens maintenance programme."

Blade Runner

A single set of Toro EdgeMax blades has clocked up 1,800 hours of cutting time before being changed earlier this season.

Stuart Hall, Workshop Manager at Bedfordshire's John O'Gaunt Golf Club, finally changed his bottom blades earlier this spring after four seasons of faultless cutting with his Toro Reelmaster 5610-D fairway mower, which comes fitted with EdgeMax blades as standard.

"We only changed the blades because we wanted a slightly more aggressive angle of cut come the new growing season," says Stuart, who is responsible for machinery maintenance at the 36-hole course.

"If it hadn't been for that, they could have lasted a bit longer. It's amazing to think that, with recommended grinding, they've done a whole four seasons - I'm very impressed with them."





MAJOR CONTRACT FOR SPEEDCUT

Speedcut Contractors is carrying out one of the biggest football pitches construction jobs in London, developing a five hectare site for Kidbrooke Playing Fields in Greenwich.

The Kidbrooke site is home to Long Lane Junior Football Club – the largest junior football club in London and one of the largest in Britain.

It has more than 30 teams from boys (under sevens) and girls (under 10s) to senior teams for men and women.

The new pitches project was a challenge for Speedcut because of varying levels on the undulating

ground but staff used their laser-guided Caterpillar D6 to create level pitches.

After stripping topsoil, regrading the subsoil and laser levelling to FA-accepted gradients, the Speedcut team installed a complete primary drainage system after replacing the topsoil and cultivating.

More than 2,000 tonnes of sand was then applied to the surface to ameliorate the topsoil.

“The dry weather has been a problem because there is currently no irrigation on the site,” said Speedcut Contracts Manager, Kevin Smith.



A Lifetime with the Bernhard Group

Chris Whiting, production electrician at the Bernhard factory, retired at the end of April. Joining Atterton and Ellis in 1962 as an apprentice, Chris tells of how he was called “boy” when he started, and for at least the following 20 years! Chris, pictured above left with Stephen Bernhard, now retires under the title of “pensioner”.

Celebrating his retirement with a party at the local Haverhill Golf Club, Chris was given a fond farewell from the whole of the current staff, as well as best wishes from overseas and past colleagues he worked with over his lifetime of service.

What's your number?

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

Name:
Neil Thompson

Company:
Border Sports Services Ltd

Position:
Director

How long have you been in the industry?
10 Years

How did you get into it?
Having just got married in 2000, I wanted a more secure future and my dad (who started the business over 18 years ago) was wanting to lighten the workload a bit.

What other jobs have you done?
I have always worked in a sales orientated environment, my last job was selling furniture, before that I worked for an Agricultural Merchant.

What do you like about your current job?
The variety of people you meet and the challenges that are presented on a daily basis, and the satisfaction of finding a solution to them.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
Most recently that people are becoming much more price conscious, and are looking for value for money, with tightening budgets. Something we always try to provide.

What do you do in your spare time?
Play golf, follow football and the British Touring Car Championship.

Where do you see yourself in 10 year's time?
Still providing our customers with the level of service they require, and growing the business.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
I am fortunate to have met and dealt with many customers and suppliers over the last 10 years, and count quite a few as good friends.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
30, my birthday!

Pick a number
30

Neil has picked Paul Moreton of British Seed Houses



Southern belle

Royal St George's is the most southerly of The Open Championship rota courses and as Scott MacCallum found out a thermal vest is not often a requirement



Royal St George's is by far and away the most southerly-based course on the Open Championship rota and if you'd expected it therefore to experience the hottest, driest weather of all the courses, judging by recent times you'd probably be right.

When it last hosted The Open in 2003 conditions were warm and dry and the course was hard and fast. Six weeks out from this year's Open the same warm, dry conditions exist and, again, hard, fast conditions seem inevitable.

"We've had 21 mm of rain since February and 16 of those came in February itself with only five since March," said Acting Head Greenkeeper, Graham Royden, as we spoke in the team's Mess Room, 58 days ahead of the Championship.

With rough, literally as well as metaphorically, thin on the ground, substantial and consistent rain was needed within the next two weeks to offer any chance of achieving rough 12-18 inches in height.

"That would increase the golfing test and give us definition down the fairways and offer the chance of seeing the tall fescue blowing in the wind. But if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen and the R&A are relaxed at the moment. It looks like we will have hard, fast conditions and the R&A can adjust the pin positions to make the course tougher if need be. The greatest defence we have is the wind and I'm sure it will be a good challenge no matter what," said Graham.

One man who may not be too unhappy if the status quo is maintained is Tiger Woods, whose drive off the 1st tee on the opening day last time round was never seen again... at least not within the five minutes permitted search time!

Graham moved up from Deputy Head Greenkeeper to Acting Head Greenkeeper last October and with his first task being to prepare for an Open Championship the phrase "hitting the ground running" couldn't be any more apt.



MAIN ABOVE: Trying to counter the drought
 INSET ABOVE: St George's uses its namesake flag on their pins
 LEFT: The Maiden's Bunker
 RIGHT: The iconic St George's Starter's Hut

Head Greenkeeper at Royal St George's. Add The Open to the mix and it's just incredible. To be in the same bracket as others who have prepared a course for an Open is a real privilege," said Graham.

"I inherited a good course – the basics are all there and I will keep the continuity that has taken us to where we are going, but I just feel that we could push the bar a little bit higher when it comes to consistency, grass content and textures of the greens."

This goal has been made all the more possible thanks to the work Graham has been doing with the STRI and the new technology now



available, including the Moisture Meter and Firmness Meters.

“It has been a priority for us to keep on top of the moisture levels as consistent as possible, even in these extremely dry conditions. We use the probe and the aim is to keep the moisture in the greens between 15 and 20%, It has been extremely useful and given us an idea as to how different greens react to temperature changes and how much moisture is lost through the course of a day. Some greens dry out quicker than others so the work we have done has brought all the greens in line with each other instead of having one green extremely soft and another extremely hard,” explained Graham, who revealed that only the previous day the readings had shown that the greens were bang on the mark.

The STRI visits once a month to check six test greens while Graham carries out interim testing on a weekly basis himself.

“If they fall below the 15-20 mark we adjust the irrigation accordingly in increments of anything from half a millimetre a time. It means that all our greens and the putting green should be the same. It’s another tool for us to use and this has brought another aspect into greenkeeping which is certainly an interesting one.”

final preparation push began on June 1.

“By then it will have been the final polish. We’ll have the heights of cut down to more or less where we want them and dependant on weather conditions make our final tweaks then.

“We have been working closely with Alistair Beggs, of the STRI, and have been gradually bringing the heights of cut down. Greens will be 3.75 mm by June and we’ll maintain that level until a month before The Open. The aim is to have them running at 10 and a half to 11 feet but we are an exposed site and if it is still dry and windy we won’t want them running at more than 10 and a half as the ball will start oscillating and the last thing we want is a suspension of play.”

Fairway widths were determined some time ago and have changed slightly since 2003 with the 1st, 17th and 18th being widened to counter the complaints of the last Open that the very undulating fairways – they are the most undulating on the Open rota – meant it was difficult to keep the ball on the cut area.

“We thought we would be a little more generous and give the players a bit more room and so they have been widened by five or six yards in places,” said Graham.

Graham was Deputy when the

“Some greens dry out quicker than others so the work we have done has brought all the greens in line with each other, instead of having one green extremely soft and another extremely hard”

Graham Royden



On the construction side 37 bunkers of the 104 bunkers were revetted as part of the last winter programme to add to the 45, which had been done the winter before.

“We had hoped to have everything completed by Christmas but the snow which came early, uncharacteristically for this area, pushed our deadline back until the R&A’s first official visit on February 15.

“The team has been working extremely hard through the winter with long hours and weekend work just to get back on schedule but it has been very easy to motivate the guys with such an important goal to work towards,” he explained.

To protect the course a mat system was introduced at the end of May and with six weeks to go the

last Open was played, and the Open before that when Greg Norman was the Champion he was an Assistant.

Graham’s regular team of 12 will be supplemented by up to a dozen more experienced greenkeepers from the Kent area, together with the 60 strong BIGGA Open Support Team which will prepare and look after the bunkers for the week and generally support the Championship in any way that is asked of it.

“I recently appointed Paul Larsen as my Deputy. He had worked here before but was a Course Manager in Holland and looking to return for family reasons so it’s great to have him back,” explained Graham, who added that the team will be bolstered for the week by two mechanics from John Deere dealer, Godfrey’s;



a couple from John Deere itself, including Howard Storey, and a technician from Hunter Grinders. In all I'll have close to 90 people to call upon."

No-one has more experience of Opens than one member of the staff, Robin Holloway, for whom it will be his fifth Open Championship at Royal St George's.

"His first Open was the 1981 event, won by Bill Rogers, so it is quite an achievement," said Graham.

"The additional support has been wonderful. John Deere and Godfrey's are bringing in six extra hand mowers, tees mowers – we will be hand cutting tees for the first time this time round – four fairway

mowers, two trailers and a Hoover collection machine for the range tee. Godfrey's are going to store some of our other machinery to make room."

Royal St George's became the first English course to host The Open when JH Taylor won in 1894 and this year's playing will make it the 14th time the course has played host. Included among its Champions are Harry Vardon (twice); Walter Hagen (twice), Bobby Locke, Bill Rogers, Sandy Lyle and Greg Norman, while the famous Dunlop 65 ball was named in recognition of the stunning second round Henry Cotton shot on his way to winning the 1934 Championship.

One of the most famous holes

is the 4th, which features the giant Maidens bunker, built into a mountainous dune, to the right of the fairway. It's not always in play but when it is it can cause absolute havoc. Enter "Maiden Bunker. Mike Harwood" into YouTube and you'll be given a graphic demonstration of what can happen.

The most significant presentational change this year will be the fact that the fairways will be mown in one direction which will add to the demands on the team.

"For the fairways it has gone from a two man, two machine job to six mowers in a line and we will be cutting from tee to green," revealed Graham, from whom a smile is never far away, no matter the pressures.

In his quieter moments Graham can let his mind wander to around 6pm on Sunday, July 17, when he will be standing in the presentation party as the new Champion is crowned.

"It will be a very proud moment. I've said to the Secretary and the Chairman of Green that I want to be standing there knowing that the team and I have given everything we possibly could in the build up and during the week itself, have had positive feedback and that we have a worthy champion."

Judging by the attention to detail and quality of work that has already been carried out it's a fairly safe bet that Graham and the team will not be left disappointed.



ABOVE: Graham Royden
LEFT: The massive stands are already in place

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Ghost grass

Jonathan Knowles enters the spooky world of ghost grass

The Ghost Grass Disorder is observed by many turf professionals and can raise a few questions.

Is it a passing phenomenon, or, is it an indication of something a little more sinister? It can be identified by the elongated chlorotic (yellowing and whitening) leaves that rise significantly above the surface canopy by around 10 – 25 mm (Plate 1).

This disorder is mostly commonly observed on maintained and closely mown areas including greens, tees and fairways.

With similarities to some diseases it is worryingly at risk of misdiagnosis, costing time and potentially expensive pesticides, conditioners and fertilisers that ultimately have no effect, or possibly exacerbating the effects.

The disorder is not widely researched in UK turf.

In the UK it is mainly referred to as 'Ghost Grass'.

In the United States there are two names used, some refer to the disorder as Mad Tiller, however, since around 2005 it is routinely named by experts as Etiolated Tiller Syndrome (ETS).

The cool-season grasses that are readily named as susceptible to ETS are mainly reported as:

Annual Meadowgrass (*Poa annua*), Perennial Ryegrass

(*Lolium perenne*), Creeping Bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Smooth-Stalked meadowgrass (*Poa pratensis*).

Etiolation

To get a better understanding, it is perhaps important to understand the lay-definition of the phenomenon called - etiolation.

With the absence of prolonged daylight to leaves a physiological differentiation occurs to plants such as grass.

The leaf cells elongate and the chlorophyll loses its green pigment in response to diverting energy into avoiding the darkness by competing or searching for light.

Of course, in many situations where ETS occurs on the golf course, shade and restricted light may not be obvious from overhanging branches or shadows from tall trees.

The conditions of warm over-cast periods; with flush growth followed by wet and cold; with the shortening daylight periods raise the competition for sunlight within a dense sward.

These environmental and surrounding microclimate conditions are considered a contributory factor.

During etiolation, infected plants are observed as having an increase in gibberellins.

Gibberelin

The plant growth regulator gibberellic acid stimulates vertical leaf growth by elongating the cells in maturing grass plants.

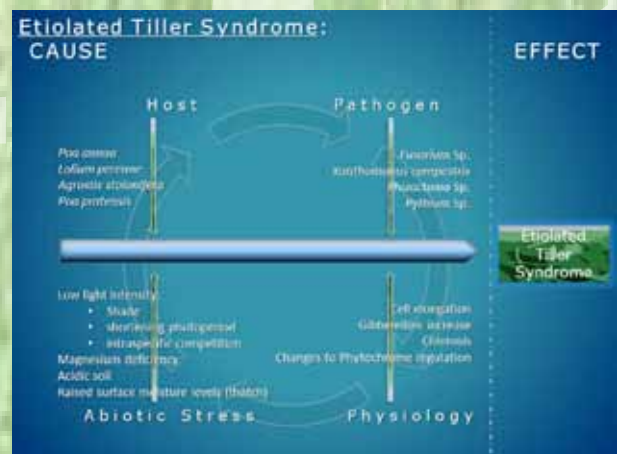
Applied gibberellic acid is known to increase shoot growth, while reducing root growth and overall turf quality.

Gibberellins are synthesised during germination in grasses and cereals specifically.

However, the application of gibberellic acid to seed does not increase germination.

Etiolation can be the result of a number of abiotic factors, such as shade, but also an array of biotic factors, such as bacteria.

Some experts suggest this rapid



production of gibberellins with excessive foliar growth is caused by pathogens such as, *Fusarium* Sp.

Gibberellins were first discovered in the 1930's by Japanese scientists investigating the pathogen *Gibberella fujikuroi* which causes the fungal disease Bakanae in rice.

Many fungal diseases are now known to increase gibberellins, including the large genus of fungi - *Fusarium*.

It is important not to confuse this with *Fusarium* Patch, which is associated with the pathogenic fungi *Microdochium nivale*.

The *Fusarium* pathogens causing ETS are from a different genus of fungi for example, *Fusarium acuminatum*, *F.graminearum* and *F.heterosporum*.

The Causes of Etiolated Tiller Syndrome

The cause and effect of ETS is depicted in Figure 1, the four causes are illustrated as; host, pathogen, abiotic stress, and physiology.

With each of the four causes are listed examples which may be observed during the effects of ETS.

Not all the listed have to be comprehensively observed to give rise to ETS.

For example, not all the host species need to be in the sward, not all pathogens have to be active and not all the abiotic stresses need to be observed.

In principle Figure 1 exemplifies a management tool for controlling ETS, by potentially breaking the known association between the causes.

Managing Etiolated Tiller Syndrome

Similar to other diseases and disorders a threshold will activate the turf manager's action.

If the occurrence of ETS is of little consequence to playability, maintenance and appearance, then management is limiting in disruption, and will often call for increased mowing and continued monitoring.

However, going above the threshold for tolerance may see the significant effects of ETS; this will need management and control.

The control of ETS as with other cases of disease and disorders should be pro-actively managed with cultural approaches.

A cultural approach to disrupting the associated causes would be to culturally manage the abiotic stresses (with the exception of photoperiod (day length)).

A dense sward should never be a mono-culture, as culturally speaking an intraspecific competition for light will always be stronger in a mono-culture as growing patterns are matched.

Also, a mono-culture has the potential for spreading diseases exponentially until the carrying capacity is maximised – this could be significantly detrimental.

It is understood that the susceptibility varies between species for ETS, so a blend of the susceptible species will be culturally more acceptable in comparison to the mono-culture.

Clearly, to introduce non-susceptible species to the composition will reduce incidence and further damage.

Managing the low pH and the nutrient deficiencies may hold an additional control.

Lowering the soil pH by the over application of ammonium sulphate is related to diminishing magnesium ions, this is bad news and an invitation to ETS.

As magnesium is required for chlorophyll production, any observed chlorosis, could be an indication of a magnesium deficiency, and should be investigated.

The application of Magnesium in the form of Epsom Salts has been shown to control ETS in the UK.

Possibly the most important cultural control is the cultural control that should be embedded in every turf manager's mind – aeration.

It is a simple and distinct fact that such diseases do not spread on dry turf.

Essentially, keeping the turf environment dry and firm will limit disease incidence and improve turf health to cope with these stresses.

International research has investigated the application of Trinexepac-ethyl and ethephon (Primo-MAXX and PROXY) for ETS, while the outcomes are sketchy, as the application of Trinexepac-ethyl is suggested as a logical control because of the inhibiting effect on gibberellic acid.

However, there are experts who have observed ETS on areas under routine applications of Trinexepac-ethyl.

Further research is needed.

A broad spectrum strobil fungicide could perhaps, pose as a possibility, it must be said that strobins e.g. azoxystrobin or pyraclostrobin are not known or labelled as a control for ETS, but they offer a unique systemic mode of action through the xylem tissue and attack many pathogens.

Again, further research could be investigated here.

Beware of misdiagnosis

The misdiagnosis of ETS for the Yellow Tuft (Downey Mildew) disease is plausible because of the chlorotic etiolated leaves.

Yellow Tuft patches are raised patches similarly seen with ETS.

Yellow Tuft effects bent-grasses alone, which, once infected are easily extracted from the turf and are defined circular patches.

Whereas the etiolated leaves associated with ETS can be seen across the turf in an irregular formation, especially on *P.annua* swards.

While the cultural control will be much the same for Yellow Tuft as ETS, diagnosis should always be clarified in order for effective monitoring and management.

In summary

Etiolated Tiller Syndrome could be regarded as a passing manageable phenomenon.

The tolerance threshold may become excessive in some seasons and so the maintenance

Etiolated Tiller Syndrome could be regarded as a passing manageable phenomenon. The tolerance threshold may become excessive in some seasons and so the maintenance programme and soil chemistry may need re-programming and investigating

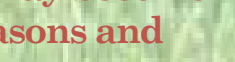
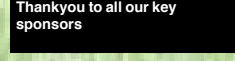
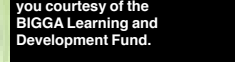
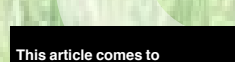
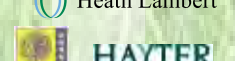
programme and soil chemistry may need re-programming and investigating.

Ensuring any practices to lower the soil pH are monitored and considered a risk towards a disorder such as ETS.

A mono-culture sward should be addressed and renovated to enhance a multi-cultural one.

The turf environment must be maintained as consistently dry and as thatch free as possible.

ETS could be best described as an 'Indicator' of future problems, as a mono-culture (especially of *Poa annua*) with a dense thatch, that is sustained with excessive applications of acidifying fertilisers, will always be detrimental to the turf environment and ultimately the playing surface at some point.



about the author

Jonathan Knowles has been involved in Greenkeeping for 18 years, first as a greenkeeper and latterly at Myerscough College. Recently he has been working on a research project that discusses the effects of cutting height on the grass species in golf greens and the associated trends for adapted ecological methods for greenkeeping.



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A man steeped in the game

Scott MacCallum talks with BIGGA's new CEO, Jim Croxton, about his life, aims and aspirations and what attracted him to a life at BIGGA

BIGGA's new Chief Executive Officer is a man steeped in the game of golf, having grown up on a golf course and worked in golf administration at the top end of the game ever since. He is even a former BIGGA member.

"Golf is close to my heart and I've been involved in it all my life. It's the best sport in the world and I have to say, one of the things I most enjoy about the game is the actual golf courses themselves," said Jim Croxton, as we sat in his new office in BIGGA House in the grounds of Aldwark Manor Hotel and golf course, just north of York.

"Growing up I did practically every job going at the Golf Club, from cleaning the toilets, working in the Pro Shop, running the handicaps, working behind the bar (when I was old enough) and some sales and marketing," he recalled, of the club which his father, David, who sits on the Board of the EGU, has run since 1978.

"But my favourite job without question was working as seasonal labour on the golf course. I loved it. I was very lucky that I wasn't doing a lot of greenkeeping in the winter, but I was doing about four or five months on the golf course a year. When I finished university I went full time for a while which was when I joined BIGGA, giving me the opportunity to learn a bit more about greenkeeping and feel part of the industry."

A year or so in to this period he joined the staff of the PGA where he was to fulfil a number of roles over the next 18 years, until his move to BIGGA.

"My perception of greenkeeping has always been a very positive one



"My perception of greenkeeping has always been a very positive one and the improvement in course quality over the years has been incredible"

and the improvement in course quality over the years has been incredible. If you watch Shell's Wonderful World of Golf you see the greats playing top golf courses but one thing you do notice is the ball bobbling along on the greens. Nowadays you watch golf on TV and they are playing on billiard tables week in week out. That is

down in part to improvements in equipment and greenkeeping techniques but mainly to the increased education and diligence of the greenkeepers and course managers responsible for all of our courses.

"Nowadays it's very rare that you find a course in poor condition."

His other perception of greenkeeping is one shared by so many who work in the profession the length and breadth of the country – that the excellent work carried out is taken for granted.

"Because standards are now so high golfers have come to expect excellence when, in fact, an enormous amount of skill and effort

goes into achieving this. Throw in the variable and adverse weather conditions we now experience such as the current drought and the results are bordering on miraculous. We at BIGGA need to shout about the excellence of our members from the rooftops and also assist them in communicating with their members, visitors, colleagues and employers to ensure their work is appreciated."

While he arrived at BIGGA with more knowledge of what greenkeeping entailed than the average golfer, and a healthy respect for the job greenkeepers do, he didn't have as strong a knowledge of the breadth of work of BIGGA as an Association.

"I had had contact with BIGGA over the years and even spoken at a couple of Section events, but two weeks into the job, I can now see the sheer scale of the challenges BIGGA faces and the opportunities that are out there. That means working directly with the myriad of other governing bodies in the game and the many excellent colleges that provide greenkeeper education through to organising trade shows, golf tournaments and seminars."

During his time at the PGA Jim worked for four years in the tournament administration section at regional and national levels, became R&A Rules qualified and refereed at European Tour events, before moving into management with eight years as Regional Secretary for the North Region, based at Bolton GC, looking after the 1200 PGA members in the Region as well as putting on a tournament calendar worth in excess of £300,000 annually.

"The public face of the PGA is its tournament activity but actually it is just like BIGGA in that it is an educational body with professional standards and CPD and also is actively involved in representing the needs of its members at all levels.

"It is not a trade union and neither is BIGGA but I spent a lot of time working with members to improve their lot at golf clubs and driving ranges by helping them understand how better to be involved with the business and thus to protect their future. I spent the majority of my PGA career in 'member facing' roles and thoroughly enjoyed that day-to-day interaction.

"The public face of the PGA is its tournament activity but actually it is just like BIGGA in that it is an educational body with professional standards and CPD, and also is actively involved in representing the needs of its members at all levels"



"I sincerely hope that I can develop similarly positive relationships with the membership of BIGGA."

"Four and a half years ago Jim was asked to manage sponsorship for the PGA and look after and develop the various Partner, Official Supplier and tournament sponsorship income streams.

"The term sponsorship in commercial terms used to be relevant but now sponsorship is what people ask for when they run the London Marathon. You hand over £20, but get nothing in return other than a warm feeling for having done something for charity.

"Nowadays it is all about investing and partnerships. Companies

Turf disease protection that

after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut...



are looking for a return on their investment and the challenge is for BIGGA to put together packages for partners or suppliers whereby there can be achievable targets which can then be measured. Then it can be demonstrated that there has been value for money. Once you've done that, renegotiation is much more straightforward."

From what Jim has already identified BIGGA does give value for money to its partners and suppliers, based on the number of re-bookings that regularly come in for Greenkeeper International and for Harrogate Week.

"Early conversations suggest that our customers value their relationship with BIGGA and what we offer. This is evidenced as our advertising, exhibition and sponsorship activity is all healthy at present, but we need to make sure that we keep listening to them about what value they are looking for and make sure they get as much of it as they can."

Jim has been a regular attendee at Harrogate Week over recent years, seeing it as the ideal opportunity to catch up with the industry and meet up with the movers and the shakers who also

see Harrogate as the ideal January meeting place.

"Since joining BIGGA I've studied the statistics for Harrogate Week 2011 and they prove that it was a successful week, with strong attendance and good feedback from exhibitors.

"Additionally our educational programme is thriving with attendance in 2011 being more than 24% up on 2010. It was a worthwhile week and shows that it certainly is not a show on the wane. I think that's because this industry thrives on face-to-face meetings and the demonstration of product.

"This is a very established industry. People have been looking after sports turf for many years and a lot of the companies we work with, although they may have gone through buyouts or name changes, have actually been around for a long time and are steeped in integrity. They are good businesses and are about people. The opportunity we provide for our visitors and those companies to interact for a few days each January, is a vital benefit for everyone.

Harrogate provides the perfect platform for this," said Jim.

His first priority now that he has

started is to put together a long term strategic plan for the Association and a comprehensive review of current activity.

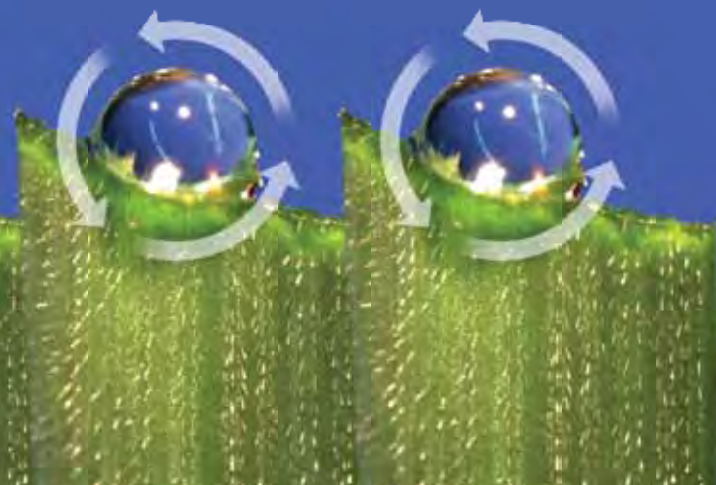
"The Board's ambition for this is that it should be in place within six months of my starting. It's a tough target as it is not a passive strategic review, but an active one being formed while we continue to run the business," said Jim, who is also hoping to get around the country attending as many Section, Region and National meetings and events as he can as well as arranging meetings with BIGGA's trade supporters.

"Over the next three to five years the aim is to create a sound financial and commercial model to ensure that the business, which is currently healthy, remains strong and grows in a sustainable fashion.

"At the same time we've got to increase the recognition of the work that greenkeepers do and, to use a modern expression, make it a 'no-brainer' for greenkeepers to join BIGGA."

It's going to be a busy short, medium and long term for BIGGA's new CEO but you can be sure that he is up for the challenge.

stays cut...
after cut... after cut...



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The Ransomes' way

Scott MacCallum catches up with David Withers, the Managing Director of BIGGA Gold Key Supporter Ransomes Jacobsen



Not far from the Ransomes Jacobsen factory, on a huge industrial estate just outside Ipswich, is a road called "Ransomes Way".

It is pure coincidence, the two are not related as, I believe, the road, was named in honour of the "Swallows and Amazons" author Arthur Ransome, who has connections with the area.

But wouldn't it be great if the road and the company were part of a master plan because listening to Managing Director, David Withers, you become very aware that there is a Ransomes way – or more accurately - a Ransomes Jacobsen way.

"Over the last four or five years we've focussed on three core principles. 1. You've got to build a relationship with your customer; 2. Build a good machine, which meets the customer's unmet needs and 3. You've got to look after it for the whole life of the machine," explained David, as we sat in his office overlooking the wonderful three hole golf course which has become such a feature of the Ransomes Jacobsen HQ over the last three years.

"If you do these three things, you'll succeed in business. Get any one of them wrong and you'll fail," said David, who was honest enough to admit that the company had not always achieved all three.

"There have been times in the past when we did get one or more of them wrong."

David is very much a people person and is keen that the team he has built around him contains individuals of a similar vein.

"I'm definitely a believer that you've got to build relationships. We don't just sell a mower and walk away. It's all about repeat business and that comes back to having the right people in place. We always try to hire the best people we can and don't give them short term incentives.

"We always look to the long term path and that means winning one customer at a time.

"That is the ethos which runs through the whole company and if you hire people with that same kind of philosophy, and reinforce

the message, the more you will tend to end up with a group of people who embody that spirit and ideal."

The success of the policy has seen the Ipswich-based team extending their boundaries to cover the Asia Pacific rim.

"We had always described our territory as 'I to I' – Iceland to India - now it is still 'I to I' but now it's Iceland to Indonesia. It is very good news for us and gives us the chance to explore an area which has potential for growth in the golf industry," said David, who explained that the new area had previously been covered by Textron's American team but that they were now focussing on Latin America.

"We were known to have a good sales team – or 'Bench strength' as they describe it in the States – and it was felt that we should have the opportunity to use that strength to build on the excellent work that the US team had already done."

Ransomes Jacobsen's Sales Director, Alan Prickett has relocated to Singapore to become Managing Director of the Asia Pacific Region.

"We are used to managing disparate time zones and the expansion fits in nicely with what we have been trying to do in terms of getting close to our customer," said David, whose already extensive travel schedule has recently increased markedly, with additional trips down to Asia coupled with his regular trans-Atlantic hops to the States.

Indeed he's a real rival to George Clooney's character in "Up in the Air" when it comes to Air Miles.

"It'll calm down when Alan gets everything in place in Singapore," he said.

Other than Alan, they have recruited nationals wherever possible to fill key roles in the various countries.

"I'm a believer in that strategy. The more you can have the local culture represented the better, as it is much easier to fit in and communicate with customers."

Like so many companies in all areas of business the recession has had an impact on Ransomes Jacobsen but David feels that they are fortunate to have a balance of markets to trade in, plus

"I'm definitely a believer that you've got to build relationships. We don't just sell a mower and walk away. It's all about repeat business and that comes back to having the right people in place"
David Withers



the backup of a huge company in Textron.

"Generally speaking we have the public money with our Ransomes brand and private money with the Jacobsen, EZGO and Iseki brands. In recent years if one side has been up the other side has been down and they have balanced themselves out.

"However we had the perfect storm in '09 when we had a bad public year and a bad private year. We had to put a redundancy programme in place and had to shut the plant on a couple of occasions," explained David, candidly.

One of the major problems was that the RJ dealers had strong inventories of machines in stock and were reluctant to order more until they had sold what they held.

"They were quite right and so they sold what they had in stock and we accepted the situation and didn't push any inventory onto them. We ran the plant slow and lean and it was tough for us, but I'm happy to say that we didn't lose any dealers during that time."

While it meant a tough 2009 the following year and first half of this year have been more encouraging.

"Having sold what they held the dealers had empty shelves at the beginning of 2010 and needed to restock and with a decent year they ended the year with the same amount of inventory as they started so they had sold out what they have bought in so 2010 was a good bounce back year."

One area which has particularly pleased David is the number of new customers they have attracted during the recession.

"We track our unique customers and last year we had 30% more unique retail customers that we



RJ International Golf Course

had the previous year,” said David.

A major success over the last 18 months has been the emergence of the Eclipse 322, the hydraulic free greens mower.

“That comes back to coming up with a machine which meets the customers unmet needs and the Eclipse can control clip rates, cannot spill oil, gives a better finish and uses a lot less fuel thus reducing running costs.

“It means that there are people who are now considering us and saying ‘Maybe I’ll give Jake a chance,” said David, who added that the company has now invested in three demonstrator vehicles which tour the country ensuring that potential customers can view machines at their absolute best.

Another area of huge investment by the company has been in the area of after sales and spare parts, which had been a weakness.

“We doubled the value of parts held in our inventory, which is not as easy as it might sound, as we have hundreds of thousands of individual parts with an inventory of 40,000 different parts numbers which we hold.

“We must get it right as it can ruin people’s jobs if we get it wrong and we are well aware of that.”

Ransomes Jacobsen has a very strong relationship with BIGGA



RJ’s recently introduced demonstration fleet

and the other industry bodies which David has worked hard to develop and BIGGA is delighted that the company supports the Learning and Development Fund as well as sponsoring the soon-to-be-relaunched Safety Management System; the BIGGA educational scholarship scheme which has seen greenkeepers’ courses funded to the tune of over £150,000 since it was launched as well as other sponsorships including rucksacks for the BIGGA Open Support team.

“I get many letters from guys

who have been given scholarships saying that they wouldn’t be in the job they are in now if it wasn’t for the fact that Ransomes Jacobsen had helped them through the BIGGA programme. I get a warm feeling when I read that.”

It is all part of Ransomes Jacobsen’s support for BIGGA.

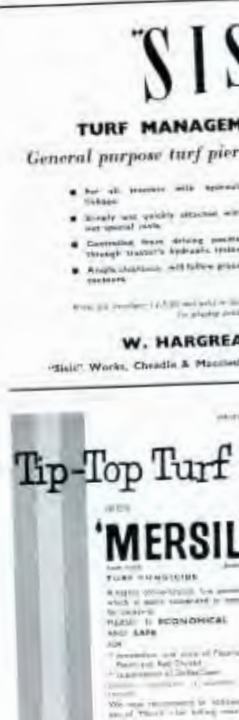
“I believe that BIGGA is a great force for good in the industry and working together is good for BIGGA, good for us and good for the industry and it is still something I personally like to get involved with.”

All part of the Ransomes’ way!

Back in time


to this month in... **1961**

Back in time is a new feature looking back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 will be a landmark year, as it will be the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. This month, we travel back to July 1961, and look at the journal published by The British Golf Greenkeepers Association (BGGGA), *The British Golf Greenkeeper*...




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What do your members want?

(Aligning golf course performance with the requirements of the golf club members)

Andy Owen and Katie Walls, from Myerscough College, recently completed a study which attempted to provide an answer to this question to try and inform maintenance and management practices which are currently in place. The results are summarised here





The debate centred around the height of cut held during Harrogate Week 2010 generated a good deal of discussion, follow-up articles and message-board posts across the industry.

One comment stood out, 'fast greens are what my members want'. This suggests that many in the industry strive to achieve a fast surface to keep their membership satisfied.

There can be very little argument, particularly in the current financial climate that to ensure economic sustainability it is imperative for a golf club to provide a golfer with what he or she wants, particularly in terms of the playing quality of the fine turf surfaces on the golf course.

However, a number of questions do remain. Do all the members at a golf club have the same perfor-

mance requirements of the golf greens? How important is speed? And are smoothness, firmness or consistency just as important, or maybe more important than speed?

Methodology

The study was carried out at a good quality parkland golf course in the NW England.

During a single week it was attempted to get every golfer who played a round of golf to complete a questionnaire which asked a range of baseline questions, investigated the importance of playing quality (speed, smoothness and firmness), and also the importance of 'non-golf' factors.

Two hundred and forty five questionnaires were completed over five days and so the study generated a very valid data set for analysis.

The respondents

A greater number of questionnaire responses were received from the 'male' membership category (table one), although a large number of 'visitors' to the golf course also completed questionnaires. These return rates will correspond to the number of rounds played by each category during the testing week. The club had relatively few juniors playing the course in the week the study took place. It was estimated that over 50% of the golfers who played a round of golf during the study completed a questionnaire.

Table one. Membership category response rate, mean and range of handicap

Category	Response rate	Mean handicap	Handicap range
Mens	100	13	1 - 28
Ladies	39	22	5 - 34
Junior	15	17	7 - 24
Senior	24	18	8 - 28
Visitors	67	14	1 - 34

The overall mean handicap of respondents was 15, although golfers with a wide range of handicaps completed questionnaires from every membership category (table

one). The men had the lowest mean handicap and the ladies had the highest.

One of the aims of the study was to assess the importance of green performance measurements to the membership of a golf club. The performance characteristic of golf green speed was rated as important or very important by 73% of respondents to the questionnaire (figure one). As a comparison the performance characteristic of green smoothness was rated as important or very important by 91% of respondents to the questionnaire (figure two). Golfers at this club rated green smoothness as being more important than green speed, however both performance measurements were seen as important by a large number of golfers.

This results can however be investigated further by splitting the data set up into separate membership categories. This allows a clear comparison to be made between all the membership categories and their preferences of green performance. The comparison of figures three, four and five shows that 76% of the male membership category rate speed as being very important or important to their game of golf. This is compared with 59% of the lady membership category and 55% of the senior membership category. There is a distinct difference between the categories and

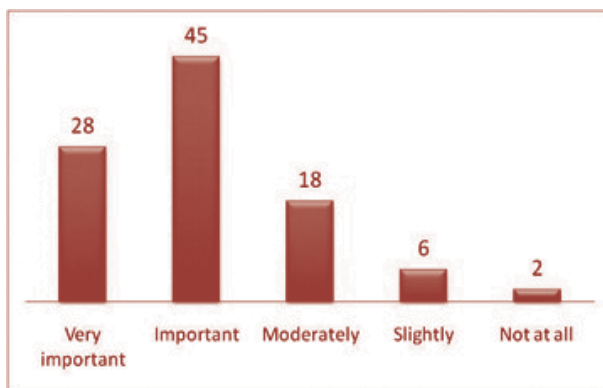


Figure one. Percentage responses to 'please could you rate how important green speed is to your game of golf'

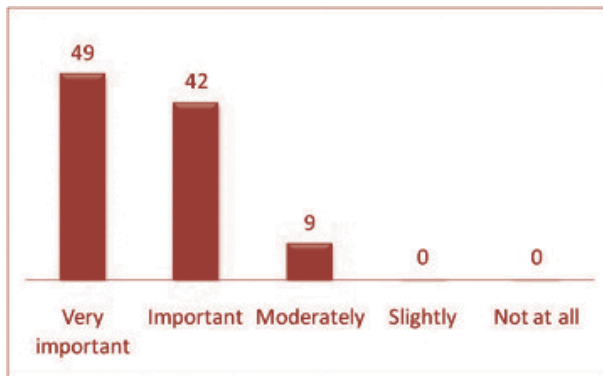


Figure two. Percentage responses to 'please could you rate how important green smoothness is to your game of golf'

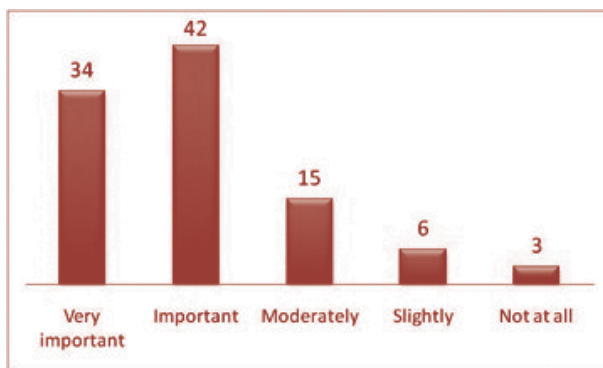


Figure three. Male members' category responses to 'please could you rate how important green speed is to your game of golf'

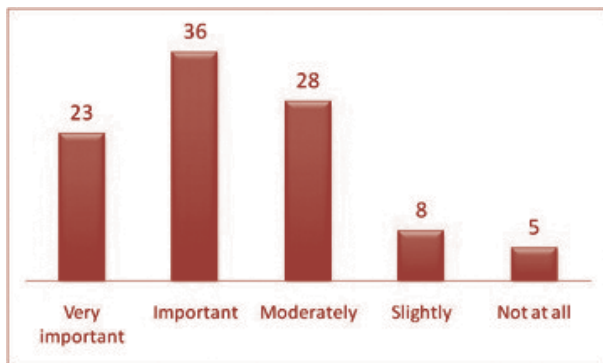


Figure four. Lady members' category responses to 'please could you rate how important green speed is to your game of golf'



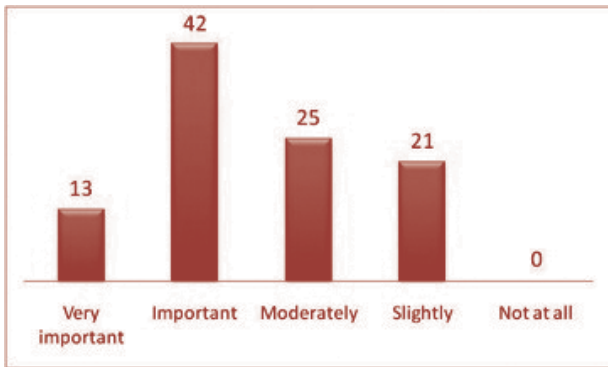


Figure five. Senior members' category responses to 'please could you rate how important green speed is to your game of golf'

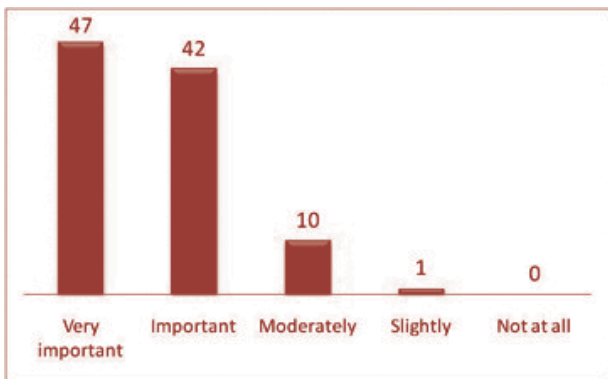


Figure six. Male members category responses to 'please could you rate how important green smoothness is to your game of golf'

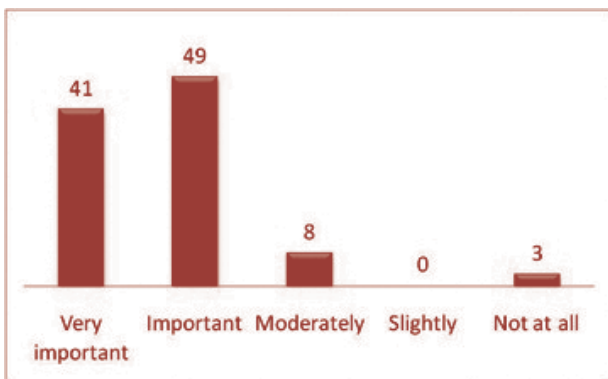


Figure seven. Lady members category responses to 'please could you rate how important green smoothness is to your game of golf'

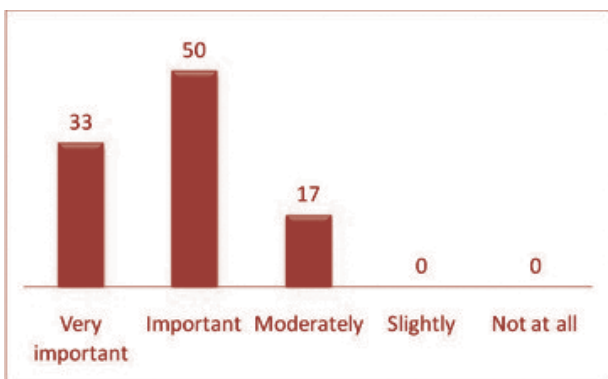


Figure eight. Senior members' category responses to 'please could you rate how important green smoothness is to your game of golf'



how they rate the importance of golf green speed.

It is interesting to make the comparison between green speed and green smoothness within each membership category. The majority of the men's membership category (89%) rate green smoothness as very important or important to their game of golf (figure six). However, both the lady members (90%) and the senior members (83%) also rate smoothness as very important or important (figure seven and eight). Every membership category rates smoothness above speed in terms of the importance to their game of golf, and there is clear contrast between the rating of speed and smoothness.

The second aim of the study was to assess the importance of non-golf related environmental factors alongside green performance characteristics. To achieve this a question asked the participants to circle three factors that could be considered to be central to their enjoyment of the game of golf.

A range of factors were provided: Birdsong, Trees, The view, A good walk, Dry fairways, Pin position, Green speed, Peace and quiet, Birds, Green smoothness, No greens maintenance, The weather, Green firmness, Wildlife, Good company, Speed of play, Wild flowers, Striped playing surfaces No rush and Raked bunkers.

Those related to the players score, and individual golf game; putting, driving, short game etc. were deliberately excluded.

The responses for this question from all respondents shows clearly that 'good company' was the most important factor for the enjoyment of a game of golf (figure nine). This

was followed by the 'weather' and then 'speed of play'. Following these three categories were aspects of playing quality particularly green smoothness and then green speed. These five factors could be highlighted as the most important needed for golfers at this club to enjoy a round of golf.

This data can however be investigated further by splitting the data set up into grouped handicap categories. This allows a comparison to be made between respondents with a range of golf handicaps to assess whether their enjoyment of the game of golf is based on different factors. The handicap categories selected for analysis were handicaps 1-9, handicap 10-19 and handicap 20+. This data was converted to a percentage scale to allow comparison between each data set.

The lowest handicap golfers (1-9) identified green smoothness and good company as the most crucial elements for their enjoyment of golf (figure ten). 'Speed of play', 'green speed' and 'weather' were also identified as important. Other factors such as the 'wildlife', 'wild flowers', 'trees', 'peace and quiet' were considered relatively unimportant.

Responses from the moderate handicap category golfers (10-19) show some differences to the higher handicap golfers. The same five factors are highlighted as being central to their enjoyment of the game of golf but in a different order (figure 11). Green performance characteristics are ranked of lower importance than 'the weather', 'good company' and 'speed of play'. 'Dry fairways', 'no rush' and 'the view' are becoming more important for the moderate handicap golfers.



Responses from the higher handicap category golfers (20+) show similar trends as the playing characteristics of green speed and green smoothness are of even lower importance than 'good company' and the weather (figure 12). For this category of golfer 'no rush' becomes even more important and 'the view' 'a good walk' and wildlife 'dry fairways' and 'peace and quiet' are also highlighted as being as important as green speed and green smoothness.

Conclusion

In the current economic climate it is important to consider what all the membership of any golf club want from their playing surfaces. The data collected at this golf course makes an interesting case study comparing green speed and green smoothness. Both characteristics are important qualities of the playing surface and need to be managed carefully. However, the data here suggests that golf course managers should prioritise green smoothness over green speed as this is rated as more important by the men's, ladies' and seniors' membership categories. Green speed should not be ignored as this is rated as important by a large proportion of each category but much more so for the men's membership category than the ladies' and the seniors'. Perhaps there is the potential to focus more effort on achieving green smoothness than chasing that extra 30 cm of green speed.

When the data from the questionnaire relating to what makes a round of golf enjoyable for the members of a golf club (beyond playing well and achieving a low score) is considered in detail some interesting talking points are raised. Primarily five factors feature strongly

for all golfers with a handicap lower than 19. These factors were, good company, weather, speed of play, green smoothness and green speed. The highest scoring factor 'good company' show that golf is a sociable game and having good company is crucial to the enjoyment of a round. The second factor to score well was 'the weather' - and perhaps the wet weather recorded during the week of data collection highlighted this factor more than many others for the players. 'Speed of play' was also highlighted, golfers ideally do not want to get held up during a round. Green performance characteristics; smoothness and speed, did score highly - showing the obvious factor that any golf club wishing to retain members does need to carefully manage and maintain the playing surfaces.

When data for the golfers with higher handicaps (20+) was considered the relative importance of the green performance characteristics dropped noticeably, 'company' and the 'weather' still scored highly but other factors became important to their enjoyment of the game. Noticeably 'no rush' and 'the view' were more important than 'green speed' and 'green smoothness'. These factors were also much more important than factors such as 'striping of fairways', 'pin position' and 'raked bunkers'.

The results to this survey would suggest all golf courses would benefit from a close examination of their members or regular users and to consider their golfing abilities. It is clear that golfers of different abilities look to a range of factors on a golf course to get pleasure from the game. It would be prudent for a golf course to consider these extra non-golf factors in any strategic long-term planning.

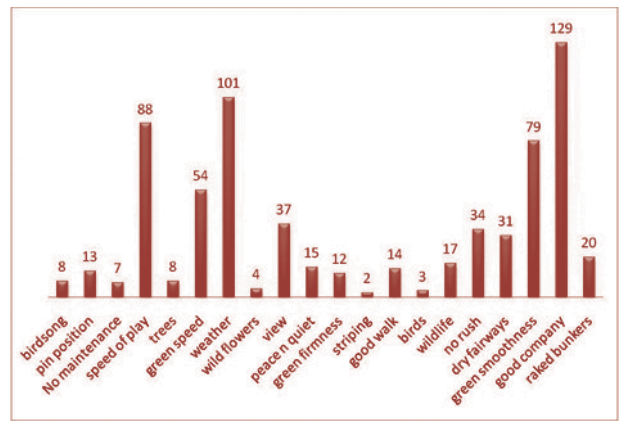


Figure nine. Responses to the question circle THREE of the following golf course characteristics that are central to your enjoyment of a game of golf

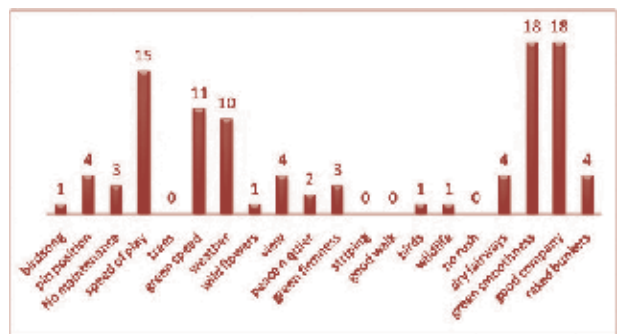


Figure ten. Responses from the handicap category 1-9 to the question circle THREE of the following golf course characteristics that are central to your enjoyment of a game of golf

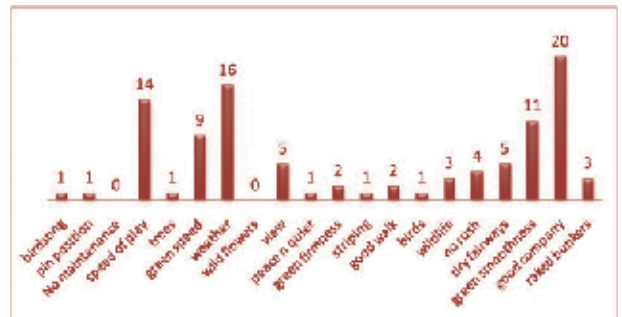


Figure 11. Responses from the handicap category 10-19 to the question circle THREE of the following golf course characteristics that are central to your enjoyment of a game of golf

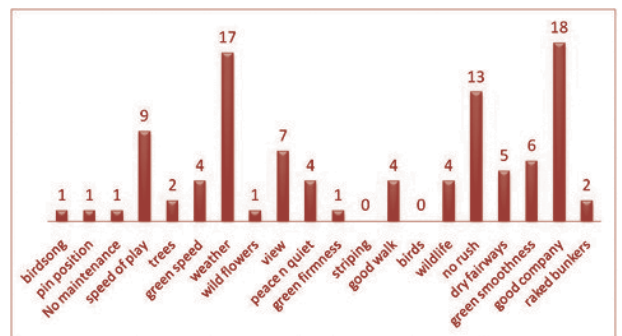


Figure 12. Responses from the handicap category 20+ to the question circle THREE of the following golf course characteristics that are central to your enjoyment of a game of golf

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

The anatomy of... Electric mowers



Modern electric and hybrid greens mowers benefit from years of development. A key point is that you have a choice, ranging from full diesel hydraulic mowers right through to fully electric models.

Slow burning move to electric drive?

When Jacobsen launched its Greens King Electric mowers in the '90s, some predicted this would herald a new dawn in the use of electric power. But rather than concentrate upon the mower's plus points – there are a large number of these mowers still at work – detractors focussed upon where electric power had a weakness, such as having insufficient power to drive groomers and roller brushes or run out of power prematurely. But that was then. Where are we now?

Step-by-step Analysis... Electric mowers



John Deere retains mechanical power to the drive roller on its 220E pedestrian greens mower. The cutting unit is of the same design to that fitted to the ride on 2500 series, the floating head offering a fully variable clip rate. Note ridges on catcher. These aid sighting when aligning bout passes.



Allett has invested a great deal in making the ELMOW not just quiet and efficient but also easily fine tuned to suit conditions. The mower's controls allow the forward speed of the mower to be readily adapted to suit the operator without impacting upon the quality of cut. So operators who walk at a different pace can easily adapt the mower to suit without alerting the clip rate.



Battery powered pedestrian mowers are not new, but what has changed is the sophistication of modern units. A key emphasis is upon quality of cut, electronics enabling great precision when it comes to clip rate. Modern lead acid batteries also pack more power and staying power, reducing the risk of running out of puff half way through a job.



John Deere retains mechanical power to the drive roller on its 220E pedestrian greens mower. The cutting unit is of the same design to that fitted to the ride on 2500 series, the floating head offering a fully variable clip rate. Note ridges on catcher. These aid sighting when aligning bout passes.



In full electric form, the Jacobsen Eclipse E322 is powered by six 8 volt batteries – two are mounted under the main pack of four - with a single point top up system making maintenance easier. A full charge should deliver 3 ¾ hours of running.

John Deere introduced its 2500E 'hybrid' ride-on greens mower in 2005 and with it helped re-kindle wider interest in the use of electric power.

Like the well-established Jacobsen pedestrian E-Walk 100 electric greens mower and the Ransomes E-Plex of the 90's, the 2500E benefitted from the ability to deliver precise and repeatable speeds for the units, quality of cut listing among these mowers key selling points.

John Deere, however, continues to retain hydraulic drive to the

traction motors of the 2500E, arguing its hybrid system delivers the right balance between proven technology, affordability and ease of use. Although the 2500E is now recognised as being able to deliver improved fuel economy when compared to its all-hydraulic 2500B alternative, consistent quality of cut has helped the 2500E win over those who perhaps were wary of switching for proven hydraulic s to electric motors. By 2010, Deere suggests its hybrid and all-hydraulic ride on models were selling in pretty even numbers in the UK.

Ransomes-Jacobsen, in the meantime, had been looking to develop a ride-on greens mower that eliminated any form of hydraulics. The result was the Eclipse 322, with UK sales starting to take off last year. Not only does this mower have electric traction motors, the steering system is also electrically powered and the units are raised using motorised screw jacks too.

What makes the Eclipse 322 even more interesting is that because it has no hydraulics it also can be offered in all-electric form. So where the 'hybrid' is powered by a 2-cylinder liquid cooled 13.3hp Kubota diesel, the all-electric model is driven by six 8 volt deep-cycle lead acid batteries. Ransomes-Jacobsen suggests these will deliver a run time of up to three and three quarter hours from a single overnight charge. This

should be sufficient to cut up to 21 greens in good going, reducing to up to 12 holes if grooming with roller brushes. The batteries should have a life span of between 750 to 1,000 charge cycles.

Back to pedestrian models, and John Deere's 'hybrid' 220E pedestrian greens mower has enjoyed increasing sales thanks to its ability to deliver a consistent quality of cut - Deere has adopted a fully floating cutting head for the mower as standard as this is easier to achieve with electric drive. Like its ride-on sibling, the 220E uses an internal combustion engine to generate the power to drive the cutting unit, but retains mechanical drive to the roller.

Again, Ransomes-Jacobsen has taken a different route, its Eclipse 122 models launched in 2008 featuring full electric drive. This enables the mowers, which are offered in standard 122 fixed and 122F floating head variants, to again be either battery or engine powered.

Other developments

In development for several years, the all-British Allett ELMOW electric fine-turf mower also benefits from advances made in battery, motor and controller technology. A key aim was to develop a mower that not only produces an exceptionally high quality finish but also does so in near-silence with low Hand Arm Vibration.

So what is Toro up to? In short, the company will unveil its new 'hybrid' and battery powered models later this year. Importers Lely UK has been working hard to ensure the new mowers will be up to the prevailing conditions in the UK, making no secret of the fact that the all-new Greensmaster Triflex is to be offered in both conventional and hybrid forms.

The company will also introduce new pedestrian models, the forthcoming Greensmaster coming in 18 and 21in versions with a choice of petrol or, in an industry first, eFlex lithium-ion battery power. Although these new models have been launched in the US, it is perhaps premature to go into too much detail ahead of their UK launch as some details may change.

What is clear is that the use of electric motors and battery power is increasing. And it is not confined to 'greens' mowers either. The John Deere five-gang 7500E hybrid fairway mower is currently selling as well as its conventional hydraulic 7500 sibling (and its 8000E and 8500E are not doing badly either). To suggest we are seeing the beginning of the end of hydraulic drive for some categories of mower would of course be wrong.

But what we are seeing is real progress and development, with some interesting developments that could lead to remote mowing in the future.



Soon to be launched in the UK, the all-new Greensmaster Triflex is to be offered in both conventional and, as pictured, hybrid forms. Pedestrian models will also be offered in hybrid and full electric variants, the latter featuring lithium-ion batteries.

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DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

DEVON GARDEN MACHINERY

Location and size:

Torquay, Devon. Turnover is around £3 million.

Employees and size of premises:

22 employees spread across sales, parts, service, hire and admin. We occupy a site of approximately three acres.

Number of service vans: Three.

Brief history of company:

DGM is a family business started 27-years ago by husband and wife team, Alan and Jeannette Dommatt. Previous to that, Alan had worked for a large horticultural machinery supplier for 25 years.

Initially specialising in garden machinery, the business gradually moved into turfcare, which led to DGM being appointed Toro distributor for Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. Alan's son, Steven, joined the business in 1990 and is now a partner, with Jeannette retired and Alan trying to retire! Steven's wife, Charlotte, also runs the accounts department.

The team at DGM is exceptionally experienced with many key members of staff having been with the company for over 20 years. The business has been built on traditional values and a passion for making sure the customer is treated in a friendly and professional manner.

Key services offered:

New and used equipment sales, service, parts and hire of a large range of garden and turfcare equipment.

Franchises

Toro, Hayter, Iseki, Dennis, Sisis, Honda, Greentek and many more.



Specialist services offered:

Specialist sports grounds maintenance using our own operators who are ex-greenkeepers. These services include Verti-Draining, solid and hollow tining, overseeding, topdressing and deep scarifying.

How has the dealership changed?

As our company name suggests, we started life as a garden machinery business operating in Devon. But for the last 20 years our emphasis has been more on specialist turfcare equipment, covering the whole of the southwest of England. Our operated specialist contracting work for natural and artificial sports turf surfaces is also growing, along with an increased demand for good reconditioned equipment.

What would you like to see changed?

Funding for sport, especially at a junior level, to be protected during the government cut backs. Without encouraging kids into sport, the future of

our golf, football, rugby and other clubs – which are the lifeblood of our industry – will be seriously compromised. Keep them busy and they are also far less likely to get into trouble!

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie, OEM parts supply)?:

Yes, we provide comprehensive parts back-up as well as advice and service on more complicated issues.

Major customers:

All our customers are important whether they are buying a spark plug or a fleet of new equipment. A selection of our customers include St Mellion International, Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club, Trevoze Golf & Country Club, The National Trust and Torquay United FC.

To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured... Email scott@bigga.co.uk

Happy snapping

BIGGA's Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2011, so it's time to dust down your trusty camera, go out on your golf course and get snapping!



The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions - the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as:

www.mailbigfile.com.

Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: tom@bigga.co.uk, entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2011' as the email subject header.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2011, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.



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BIGGA Calendar 2011
Featuring the Top 12 Entries from the BIGGA Photographic Competition

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



East

The first day of June has come and on reflection May has served up some extraordinary weather. Strong cool winds together with intermittent bouts of rain, have taken their toll on the links. It appears rather benign, with little growth from a month that usually has a flush of green grass.

Four greenkeepers from the Renaissance Course at Archerfield escaped serious injury when a tree was blown down on their car as they were leaving work. I believe there were broken bones sustained but thankfully they survived to tell the story. Good wishes from the East Section goes to them and hopefully a speedy recovery.

No hint of a text of congratulations have been received by me as the mightier Gers (some weeks ago now) sealed another SPL title (three in a row) from Mr Shaun Cunningham. A large rum might do the trick at your wonderful Mortonhall Golf Course (Willie Woods Tournament venue in August) would suffice my rival Old Firm fan.

The Norrie Whittock team will be confirmed next month and hopefully the East Section team will bring the trophy back home once again.

Richard Scott's (Sherriff Amenity) invitation to his Open Day was gratefully received and I, along with a good number of green staff from the East Section, enjoyed a view of fantastic machinery at Musselburgh Racecourse. Congratulations to him and his staff for a very successful day.

A phone call from George Stavert was gratefully received by myself and, yes George, we

look forward to seeing you at the Braid Hills Golf Course in the autumn. Your guests are very welcome on the day as well.

Yours in Golf and Football!

Stewart Crawford

Chairman East Section Scotland



Central

The last education evening before the summer was held in early May where a small number of attendees were treated to a very informative presentation about Turf growing by Adam Pounds, of Tillers Turf. The new Pairs' Competition introduced this year got a healthy support of 16 teams which were split into four mini leagues of four teams. The first two sets of round robin matches should have been played by now and the results posted on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

We now have Facebook up and running in the Section and interest is slowly building. Leven Links has recruited Craig Berry, who has 'Jamp the dyke' from Lundin, and on Leven staff, Kevin Webster, is about to become a father for the first time and Gary McLaren a grandad. Must be something in the water down that way!

Things coming up are the autumn outing at Kingsbarns, in September and on Monday, October 3 Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University, will be giving a presentation at St Andrews Links. I would urge members who have not already done so to provide us with their email address as this is a much easier way for us to provide you with information going forward.

Congratulations to Section members Gary Douglas, Piperdam, Frank Aherne and Matthew Engwell, both St Andrews,

and also ex members Anke Perplies and Neville Wenhold who all won awards at Elmwood College's prize giving.

Gordon Moir



Ayrshire

Hello to you all, hope you are all well. A false sense of security yet again with the weather! April was the driest in history with sun shining down on us and May has given us a taste of what we are used to - cold winds, heavy rain and dull days..... I'm sure it feels like winter out there! June has started slightly better and I really do hope it keeps up.

It saddened me very much to hear of the passing of such a golfing great in Seve Ballesteros - a great man, the one, the only Seve, at the age of 54. Seve was a true professional and true gentleman. The world has lost a legend and one who will never be forgotten. Three times Open Championship winner he will miss this year's Championship at Royal St George's where, I'm sure, there will be some sort of honour in Seve's name. He will surely be watching over the week's play and I fancy one of Seve's countrymen to rise to the top on the Sunday.

If this year's Championship is as good as it was at St Andrews last year then I'm sure we will all see a spectacular event! I wish all the BIGGA Support Team all the best for the week and hope they enjoy the experience. It really is an honour to be part of it all.

Well that's that for another month, you know what to do, any news, goss, anything... Get in touch!

Cheers.

John Mair

Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk
07500874449



North

As I write the Section news for July the weather in the North seems to have settled down. There doesn't seem to be any sign of the wet stuff so I would presume that we are all hand watering a lot of areas on the course.

I start with a kind of congratulations to the four greenkeepers who took part in the annual Trades competition that takes place at Hazelhead No.1 Course. George Mitchell has been running the Trade's Team now for a couple of years and together with Fraser Downie, Peterculter GC, Rossco Macrae and Dennis Grant, both Newmachar, came runners up in a very hard fought final. George and Fraser played out of their skins and won their match 4 up. Unfortunately, they hadn't banked on Rossco and Dennis losing their match by 5, which meant that they lost the match by a hole. Never mind lads hopefully you can go one better next year and break that duck under George. Well done, lads!

Congratulations to Derek Green, formerly of Royal Aberdeen, who has managed to land himself the job of Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. On behalf of the Section well done and I'm sure you'll do a good job. Moving to Royal Aberdeen from Kirriemuir is young Mark McLaren. Well done on getting the job, Mark, and with the Walker Cup coming up in September I'm sure you will have a great time in preparing for the tournament. Jim McCormack will miss you greatly, so he said, but you know him better than me!

The Scottish National Tournament will have taken place by the time you read this and hope-

fully the North Section would have had a good turn out with plenty of winners. A report will follow in next month's magazine with all our winners!

Around the time you get the next magazine the Barclays Scottish Open at Castle Stuart will either just be teeing off or have finished. Good Luck to you all up in Inverness and we hope as a Section that everything goes according to plan.

That's all for this month's news ladies and gents but as always you can contact me on 07813889374 or email me on benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Brookes

BIGGA SCOTTISH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

6 March 2012, Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline
Contact Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440

Northern Region



North Wales

I start with an apology there wasn't a column last month as my computer crashed on me and I was unable to even check my e-mail never mind do anything as interesting as the column. Luckily I've now borrowed a laptop to keep me going until I get my relic of a tower system fixed. Now to start catching up on the news of the last two months and perhaps one or two things to look forward to.

On April 13 we held the Spring Tournament at Denbigh Golf Club, I believe this was just at the start of the hot and dry start we had at the beginning of the season. I must say the course was beautifully set up, a complete joy for all 43 competitors to play and showed how much care and attention it receives from Karl Parry and team, we also have to thank the bar and catering for spoiling us with a three course lunch and excellent service.

The results for the day were; 1. Simon Ashford, 37pts; 2. Ben Hall, 35pts; 3. Paul Gator, 33 pts; 4. Neil Oxton, 33 pts. Best gross went to Rhys Butler

with a score of 74 off a scratch handicap.

The day was also a qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota later on in the year and with best nett and gross scores Simon Ashford and Rhys Butler take the hopes of the Section with them. On June 15 the annual North Wales/North West match took place at Heaton Moor Golf Club more about the day and results in next month's column. In other news Johnny Evans has moved to a new job in Nottingham at a course called Ramsdale Park, with moving so far he also has had to give up his position on the Section committee, our thanks go to him for his invaluable help on committee and our best wishes to his new and most probably exciting new position. There is a 20/20 cricket match taking place in the beginning of July full details on our Facebook group North Wales bigga. I think that's about that for now so all the best until next month!

Pete Maybury

e-mail petemayb66@aol.com
mobile 07756001187



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and enjoying the prolonged spell of hot and dry weather. I have just returned from a holiday in Menorca, with temps in the 30s, it was a bit of a shock to come home to our typical bank holiday weather. But back to matters golf, on July 21 the Northern Section plays the annual match v the Sheffield Section, to be hosted this year by Renishaw Park GC. The 1st tee is at 1.30pm. I am looking for 12 golfers to make up the Northern team, anyone wishing to take part please get in contact with me to put your name down. Sorry I have no news or gossip this month, if you have any please pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY, Mob: 07947401278, email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk
Frank Stewart.



Cleveland

Not much to mention. News has been like the rain, very little in the way of it.

We had our spring tournament at Middlesbrough (Brasscastle) Golf Club on April 6. The day was kindly sponsored by Lloyds of Bishop Auckland, in association with Toro.

Thanks goes to Alistair Whitby, of Lloyds, for his help with this and his continuous behind the scenes support of the Cleveland Section. There was also other sponsors on the day, and of which I don't have details of but will follow in next month's news.

I will apologise on my behalf because I was unable to attend due to spring maintenance.

Unfortunately I don't have the results from the day, but they will follow in next month's news. I am told that the turnout was reasonable, given the time of year and everyone doing greens

maintenance.

The course was said to be in fantastic condition, with the greens running in top order, so well done to Course manager, John Talbot, and the rest of his team. A very big thank you also to the staff and officials at Middlesbrough GC for allowing us courtesy on the day and for providing a lovely meal afterwards.

Just a little brief news to follow, Martin Mccrirc, from South Shields won the Durham County Strokeplay title.

A great achievement Martin. Well done.

On a sad note, Nick Bisset, of who many of you will know was the Head Tutor for Greenkeeping at Askham Bryan College, in York for many many years sadly passed away in late May due to illness.

I had the privilege of being taught by Nick when I started my apprentice in 1997 and he was a great guy who always lightened the mood with his great sense of humour, but at the same time, could help you out with anything due to his great knowledge and experience

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of the industry. I am sure many of you will have had the same privilege.

Nick was also a Chairman of the GTC's Technical Committee in recent years, as well as being an agronomist at the STRI.

Our thoughts are with Nick's family.

That's it for now

Any news contact me on 07921817857 or kevsscarce@aol.com

Kevin Scarce



Sheffield

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone at Sickleholme GC for a fantastic day at our Spring competition. Everyone who played had a great day despite the weather and said the course was in fantastic condition.

Results: 1. S. Pigott 31pts on count back; 2. A. Unwin 31pts. Trade. T. Dodson 29 pts. Nearest the Pin R. Binns

Also a massive thanks to Proturf for their generosity once again in sponsoring the event, as we say time and time again these days would struggle to go ahead without the help of all our sponsors.

I'm sure that many of you will have heard of the tragic death of Danny Cavill, who worked at Sitwell Park GC. All our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

On a whole the Section is running well and your committee is constantly seeking ways to improve the Section we hold meetings regularly to discuss issues and ideas. If anyone has any ideas then feel free to get in touch and the ideas will be discussed.

Section polo shirts are still available for a small fee anyone thinking of refreshing their wardrobe for the summer should definitely think about adding on to their collection.

I hope everyone is managing to cope with the prolonged dry spells we have aced this year and our courses are facing up to the demands. At least we can finally justify our irrigation systems!

James Stevens

07738719614

jimthegreenkeeper@hotmail.com

Midland Region



East Midlands

Sorry for the lack of an update in the last issue, somebody decided to throw in too many bank holidays into the normal spring rush! And I hear we are all going to be enjoying another extra "long weekend" next year for the Queen's Jubilee, maybe we could celebrate the jubilee by closing our courses! Rant over!

Moving on we have some changes to announce to the way your Section is run and by whom. Firstly Andy De Wet has stepped down as Section Secretary, we would like to thank Andy for all his hard work, and wish him well for the future, coming back onto the committee is Nick Miles, Nick will be taking on Andy's role as Section Secretary, and acting as our regional rep, The Section email is now biggaeastmid@gmail.com, all results in the Pairs' Competition should now be emailed to this new address. Also coming back onto the committee is Greg Skinner and Nigel Colley, Greg and Nigel will be filling the roles of Vice Chairman, Golf Co-ordinator and Education Organiser, I will be continuing as Chairman and Scribe to the magazine as well as taking on the Treasurer's role. Finally, Carl Chamberlain will continue as the Trade Representative.

We hope that by the time you are reading this you will all have received communications relating to the new email address to contact the Section on, and mailing address to send competition entries to.

Onto events now, and again by the time you are reading this we would have played our summer competition at Cavendish GC, (I hope the rain holds off) and be due to play our inaugural Par 3 competition. Results from both of these next month.

The Pairs' Competition is up and running and results are trickling in, the deadline for the group matches to be played has been extended to the end of July, we are also delighted to announce that Headland have again agreed to sponsor this event, and we are hoping to be

playing the final at Bearwood Lakes GC, with overnight accommodation included. Unfortunately I do not think that my partner and I will be troubling the receptionists at the hotel. Our first match saw a heavy loss to Chris Weir and Lee Wenlock, although the whole reason for writing this piece is to tee myself up to tell you all about Chris Weir's air shot on the 1st, never before have I seen such a shot, the full "Have it" swing followed by triple loop, finishing with a flat dive face first onto the floor, brilliant! Told you it would go in the mag, Chris!

Finally, anyone wishing to help out on the committee or with any ideas for future events can contact me at pds1@btinternet.com or Nick at biggaeastmid@gmail.com

Regards to all

Pete Smith



Midland

Well, did you spy me on "Midlands Today" news programme last month? And no it was not in a criminal sense, you heathens. The programme was doing a piece about Birmingham City Ladies' football team and their new home ground of Stratford Town FC. I, of course, was simply mowing the pitch on a Toro Sidewinder. I, and my colleague, 12 months ago became involved with maintenance of the pitch and at that time he stated that he had just been on a seed educational trip to France and had said to a Head Groundsman of a famous Football ground "What, looking after a hectare of Rye Grass? How hard can it be?" Both he and I now know just how difficult it is. "Very" is not the word. We poncey Greenkeepers complain about pitch marks, Groundsmen have to rectify Le Somme in the winter twice weekly. It just shows how different similar would be professions really are and that each has to deal with many difficult problems using basically the same science, products and machinery.

Now talking of machinery, this month's kind sponsors of the calendar is our Toro dealers Abbey Mower Supplies Ltd, I don't know what I'd do without

my Sidewinders, whether it be for golf or football! For all your Toro supplies please visit Abbey's Website: www.abbey-mowers.co.uk.

The Midland Section played their annual match vs the Presidents team of Handsworth Golf Club on Tuesday, May 10. The Handsworth team was very strong, eventually winning the match 7-1. Thanks to the 12 members of the Greenkeeping team for giving their time to this long standing match, and, of course, to John Hughes and his green staff for presenting the course in such good condition, despite the recent reduction in staff numbers.

The Spring Tournament was held at Bewdley Pines Golf Club, Worcestershire on Thursday, May 12. Unfortunately the day was not supported as we would have liked, with numbers our lowest in memory at 28. This is a shame, especially when you consider the great day enjoyed by the players that make the effort. Our thanks to New Holland for sponsoring the prize table on the day. Thanks also to Sherriff Amenity x2, White-moss and Rigby Taylor for the four Nearest the Pin prizes on offer. Snacks around the course were provided by the lads from Farols. Thanks to all our sponsors as always, which add to the enjoyment of the day.

Results were as follows: 1. K. Baker, 38pts; 2. P. Evans, 38pts; 3. E. Stant, 35pts. Div 1. V. Gilroy; Div 2. A. Brougham; Div 3. P. Jefferies. Trade. A. Lane.

Our Summer Tournament is at Kenilworth Golf Club on Monday, July 11, 12.30 start. Please find an entry sheet to all our tournaments on our website www.biggamidlandsection.com

Well that's all for this month folks. If you have any news please email me: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk. Come on, give us a few words would you? Fishing tales next month, I promise.

Sean "The Pandecks Kid" McDade



East of England

Our latest golf day was at Immingham Golf Club on Wednesday, May 25. The golf course was in excellent condi-

tion, especially when considering the extremely small budget it is run on.

Results were as follows: 1. Rob Bemment, Immingham; 2. Russ Moody, Torksey; 3. Chris Goodall, Elsham; 4. Bryan Robinson, Belton Woods. Trade prize, Gary Cooper. Nearest the Pin was John Hewson, Market Rasen. Unfortunately Nearest the Pin in 2 was hijacked by someone called Phil McCracken. A joke that went unnoticed until the prizes were about to be given out! A mention must also go to Jim Dempster for a hole-in-one on the 12th.

Thanks also go to the Immingham catering staff for providing an excellent meal after the golf. Also thanks to Dave Hampshire and LMS for the sponsorship of the day, and for the loan of their Eclipse mower!

Our next golf day is on July 28, at Stoke Rochford Golf Club. All are welcome, please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

Many thanks,
Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



Mid Anglia

Hello everyone. It is my task to put pen to paper once again.

I have just returned from a most enjoyable Spring Tournament at Brickenden Grange, Hertford.

The weather was kind, not so some of the pin positions though. Thanks to Trevor and his team for turning out a well presented course during this testing dry spell and let's hope for some much needed rain soon! Didn't think we'd be saying that this early in the year.

Results on the day as follows: 1. L. Matthiole, with an outstanding 43 pts; 2. A. Cussen, 36 pts; 3. S. Wooley 34 pts. Longest Drive. L. Matthiole and Nearest the Pin N. Phelan.

It would be nice to see a few more faces, old and new, at the next meeting which is being held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, on July 28. After match refreshments are likely to be a

BBQ, so a casual affair, no need for dressing up, if that's what's putting some of you younger members off! More details to follow before the event. Hope to see you there.

A couple more dates for your diaries, Autumn Meeting, September 22, at St Neots, and Winter Texas Scramble, December 8, at South Beds.

That's all the news I have for you this month. 'til next time,
Nigel Phelan

South East



Surrey

Tuesday May 17. I am writing this very early because I am on holiday from tomorrow May 18. Sorry, but you will have to wait until the August edition to read about my adventures in the Eastern Mediterranean. As my movements, due to the present troubles in the area, are rather hush hush and on a need to know basis only, so be patient, the time will pass only too quickly until I am back and am able to divulge the daring details of my 'holiday'.

The qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota took place at Mitcham GC on Tuesday, May 10. Paul Weston and Danny Murray had the dubious pleasure of my company and as there were only a few small ponds on the course Gary Ogilvie was most thankful to return to the clubhouse undipped. Many thanks to Mitcham GC for allowing us courtesy, providing an excellent meal and arranging for dry weather. David Willis, their good looking Head Greenkeeper, joined us for the meal and enjoyed the numerous compliments bestowed on him by one and all. Ian Sellers, a Past Captain at Mitcham, won Nearest the Pin [the most important prize normally the preserve of Ron Christie] and Kevin Boxall did his bit for the Longest Drive. Phil Beeny was 1st with a nett 66; followed by Gavin Kyle and Stewart Clayton, both with nett 67. Jason Hunt had the best gross score of 75.

The qualifiers for the BIGGA National Championship

sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, due to various configurations and inability to attend, will be Gavin Kyle and Danny Murray.

Details of the golf day at Surrey Downs GC, on June 8 are understandably unknown to me today and as I am a particularly useless clairvoyant, will remain so until my return from far away places with strange sounding names.

Brian "Argonaut" Willmott



Kent

Greenkeeping. What does it mean to you?

There are a number of reasons why so many of us are very proud and privileged to work within the industry.

Initially, for most, it is the enjoyment of being in the great outdoors and taking pride in helping to improve the piece of green and pleasant land that we are honoured to be custodians of. Many (single males) enjoy the perk of the abundance of golf on offer and take full advantage in lowering their handicaps. Once established in the profession, however, many of us come to realise the great community of like-minded souls who are also committed to achieving the ultimate golf course in their own back yards. It is fairly evident that the best courses are maintained by individuals who involve themselves fully in the local BIGGA community, by networking regularly with other professionals. There is an immense amount of pride that I take from the years that I put into being a greenkeeper. There will always be highs and lows in any walk of life but when you commit yourself to producing a quality product and pretty much achieve it, your worries seem a world away.

Our Section was honoured to be invited to play at the beautiful Knole Park Golf Club recently for our BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota Qualifying event. A late tee time ensured a full turnout of nearly all our regulars to enjoy the pristine course that Gavin Kyle and his team of

Assistant Profile

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



Name: Robert Bemment
Age: 25
Club: Immingham
Position: First Assistant
Nickname: Bemo

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? Six years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Working in sport and liking the game of golf

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting fairways because after finishing it looks good.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Raking bunkers because it always rains after we finish.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Good machines to let us do a better job

7. Hobbies? Golf

8. Favourite Band? None. I like all music

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

10. What is your claim to fame? I met Adam Scott in a pub in St Andrews

Around The Green

greenkeepers had managed to produce. Set against the stunning backdrop of Knole Park stately home and the dozens of deer that wander around every hole, the assembled group of us were able to make hay while the sun shone. Indeed, the sun had been shining, without respite, for pretty much the last two months,

that was, however, until my group reached the 14th tee, standing on one of the high points of the course we could see the rain coming what we didn't expect was a hail shower so hard that by the time we reached the green it was buried in half an inch of ice.

The lightning speed from the greens transferred to lightning in the sky, three of us huddled under the hopeless protection of Roachy's broly but as the rain got harder we quickly realised that a sturdier form of shelter was necessary. Golf became a tad tricky for the next couple of holes despite the sun re-appearing fairly quickly.

Standing on the 18th tee for his final tee shot, Kev suffered from the dreaded slippery grip/wet glove combo resulting in his driver actually going further than his ball. Despite the weather though, a really enjoyable golfing experience in a fantastic environment.

On return to the clubhouse, after thawing out in the shower for a couple of hours, we were treated to a very welcome curry. Results of the day were as follows:

1. Steve Gunner, 37 pts; 2. Chris White, 36 pts; 3. Glynn Pollard, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin was achieved by Gary Branchett and Longest Drive, by Dan McGrath. The Trade Prize was won by Stewart Clayton. Best of luck to Steve and Chris who will now go on to represent Kent in the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

Thank you to Knole Park for hosting the day. Thanks also to our trade members for their continued support, especially Greensman and Sherriffs for providing additional prizes on the day. But mostly thanks to everyone who attended for making our Section such a brilliant group. Can't wait 'til the next event!

On the subject of the next event, as you all know we have dropped our usual summer

fixture in favour of a Summer Pairs' Knockout Tournament. The full draw and details of this are available on our website.

One other event to report is that Michael Wigstone, of Tenterden Golf Club, is due to become a dad again soon. Well done, mate.

Lastly, two great bits of news from the coastal region of our section. Obviously we are very proud to be hosting the Open Championship at Royal St George's in July. One new member of the greenkeeping team is one of Kent Section stalwarts, Adam White. Adam has made the move to Royal St. George's after sterling service to the North Foreland Golf Club.

We wish him well with his move and the greenkeeping team well for the forthcoming prestigious event. On the subject of North Foreland, the long serving Course Manager, Dan McGrath has just been awarded his richly deserved Master Greenkeeper accreditation. Well done mate.

Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



London

Firstly, on behalf of the London Section committee, we would like to apologise for the lack of content in Around the Green. An important London Section committee meeting took place at Mill Hill GC on May 26 and all present felt very passionate about moving the London Section forward.

We are here to represent members of our section so any information or feedback will be greatly received.

A big thank you to Andy Wight for the great part he plays in organising and coordinating the education seminars, along with his liaison committee. These have become popular events, which are greatly discussed and enjoyed by all that attend.

Many thanks for all your feedback from the event, the audio and visuals will be corrected for the next seminar with plans for the line up well underway.

We are looking to run a half day seminar at a local golf club towards the end of the season, about new relevant develop-

ments in the industry, look out for this in future Around the Green columns.

Thank you to all those who attended the Hadley Wood Golf Day and to Simon and his team for preparing the course for us, their hard work was evident.

Congratulations to the winner Kane Stone, runner up David Badham and qualifiers who will go on to represent the London Section at the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Many thanks also to AT Oliver & Sons for sponsoring the day.

The next golf day is at Finchley Golf Club on Wednesday August 3. Information will be sent out to all email addresses that we have. If you would like to be added to the mailing list then please use the email addresses below.

Any queries, questions or feedback please contact us at: adamccoll@hotmail.com l.cox15@btinternet.com matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk

Adam McColl



Essex

Another dry month has passed us by and in Essex we pray for rain, as I expect you all do in many other parts of the country.

May has seen a couple of events in our Section/Region, firstly on May 5 Essex played a game of football against Sussex.

The score is immaterial as everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the game and the experience. 3 - 2 to Essex was the final score, the home side got off to a fast start and soon had the goals flowing into the back of the net but they were not to be out done as Sussex soon struck back and netted a couple of their own, well done to all the players and supporters that turned up for a splendid afternoons sport.

The match was set up and hosted by Toro UK, at none other than Upton Park home to West Ham United. Our thanks go to Larry Pearman and Richard Freeman, plus Toro UK Sales Manager, Jeff Anguige, who presented the trophies and Dougie Robertson, Head Groundsman at West Ham, plus the club for allowing us the experience.

We were graced with full FA referee and linesmen so it was as near to Premier League as we could get.

One very proud member of the Essex team was long time supporter of West Ham for 50 years, Martin Forrester. Martin attends nearly every match at home and I'm sure the odd away one.

His face was a picture, as he proudly walked out on to the pitch to take his turn in the side - talk about the cat that got the cream. Well that was Martin. Every picture tells a story and later, as he relaxed in the Manager and Player's seats in the grandstand, he looked right at home.

That's not to say that he was the only member of the teams to support West Ham as I saw quite a few team shirts being proudly displayed both before and after the match.

The second event I had the pleasure to attend, although not quite in Essex, was the BMW PGA Championship, at Wentworth. The course was a picture. Chris Kennedy and his team should be proud of all the hard work they have put in on the changes that were made to the course over the past year (well done guys).

I was lucky enough to draw Ian Poulter for both of my weekend rounds and although he did not figure at the top of the leaderboard he still finished in his best ever position in that event, his partner on the final day was Marcus Fraser, who came fourth overall, so I was treated to some very good golf. Thanks to Clive Osgood for organising us all and keeping us in check.

Images of both events are on the website www.essexbigga.co.uk.

One major movement this month is the appointment of Andrew Pledger to the head position at Chelmsford Golf Club, I'm sure that you will all join me in congratulating him of his new position..

By the time you read this we will have held our Summer Tournament at Nazeing Golf Club and I will bring you all the news and scores in the next magazine.

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones

South West and South Wales



South Wales

I write this article fresh from supporting the Celtic Manor Greens Staff set up the course on the Thursday and Friday mornings of the SAAB Wales Open. I must say how well the work carried out over the last eight months has enabled them to present the course in outstanding fashion! Beautiful sunshine, minimal wind, absolutely perfect conditions for the tournament, totally different to October. I hope the weekend stayed as good for you and the boys, Jim.

Our Spring Competition Glynhir Golf Club

As I wrote in last month's Around The Green we were looking to change the format for this event - we did.

We played a 4 man team event Texas Scramble. Wayne Benger (a poor manager as he explained to me) set up his beautiful picturesque golf course in outstanding condition to welcome BIGGA South Wales and 19 teams of four. A big thank you to Wayne and his small team to make the day very memorable and one where a return visit will definitely be on.

The results: 1. D. Bray, W. Benger, M. Leech, L. Davies, 52pts;

2. I. Kinley, D. Jones, R. Williams, S. Chappell, 50pts; 3. J. Probert, H. Probert, S. Mills, P. Lacey, 50pts

Nearest the Pins. Prizes were Heineken Cup Final Tickets, International Rugby Tickets and play-off tickets. John Ward, John Holmstrom, Tony Horne, Brian Francis and Wayne Benger

Longest Drive. Martin Jones. Neil Roderick

So, a huge well done to all the winners; Glynhir Golf Club for their generous hospitality for the day and also our sponsors for the event DEAL and Textron.

We look forward now to a busy few golfing weeks, The RT Qualifier at Neath GC, June 16; The BIGGA Golf Management Trophy at Morryston GC, June 29; The BIGGA Summer Com-

petition at Wenvoe Castle GC, July 6.

I hope as many of us can make it to Wenvoe Castle GC to support Mark Wilshire, the new Head Greenkeeper, in his role and seeing any changes he's made and the club are also celebrating their 75th anniversary at the venue.

Peter Holmstrom



South Coast

As I write this in early June, staring out at straw coloured fairways, wondering when we might be lucky enough to catch one of those heavy showers that the weather forecaster talked about.

Mustn't complain, I did get 3mm over the weekend which did little more than settle the dust and annoy the wife because the washing was on the line. I said she should be more sympathetic, as we poor greenkeepers need rain to make life a little easier. Needless to say I never got a sensible answer.

The spring tournament in memory of Colin White, sponsored by Avoncrop was played at Liphook Golf Club.

As usual we had planned perfect weather, equally so David Murdoch had planned some devious pin positions around the stunning golf course.

A field of 48 played on the best greens I have been on this year. It was a stern test on the day which was reflected in the scores.

Cat 1) 0-13 1. Pete Oliver, Hankley Common, 34pts; 2. Darren Jones, Canford Magna, 33pts; 3. Colin Pardey, Sherbourne, 32pts. Cat 2) 14-28. 1. Colin Hutt, Basingstoke, 33pt; 2. Simon Justice, Alresford, 32pts; 3. Mike Lake, Blackmore, 31pts. Longest Drive. Kevin Tigg, Nearest the Pin. Dave Ross.

Many thanks as always to Avoncrop for their sponsorship. It was great to see Colin's family in attendance along with Joanna, from Avoncrop. Well done Dave and his team for presenting the course in superb condition. Lastly thanks to Jane for coming up to meet and greet as people arrived.

The Secretary and I were lucky enough to be invited to

Basingstoke Golf Club for their annual Bowl, another perfect day of sunshine light winds, in fact everything to encourage good golf, shame we came last. The course was in excellent condition. Well done Colin as always.

Next golf event is the match against the Secretaries, results of which will be in the next issue. Then the summer invitation is at Brokenhurst Manor on July 20, remember this is Kev's course so he will want to show it off. Usual email glassy2003@hotmail.com if you want to play. Your guest should be a member of a golf club and have a current handicap, get booked in early as this will be popular. Until next month.

Tony Gadd



South West

It's amazing isn't it...we have weeks of amazing weather, all to be enjoyed while we are at work, then just as a Bank Holiday comes along...it rains!

I'm sure this would have caused consensation too many of you, not me, however, I was sunning it up in Benidorm, helping to celebrate a friend's stag do...enough said!

You'll never believe this (well, those of you who know me might) but I've lost my car key. Not too much of a problem I hear you say, just use the spare one... if only I had one!

Trouble is, it's not just a normal car key, it's one of those key cards that works on a hands free system. After turning my place upside down looking for it, I gave in and admitted it was

lost...contact Renault, they say "not a problem Sir, just get the car to us and we'll order you a new key." I say "how do I that, I've lost my car key" he then replies "now we've a problem Sir.....".

So after having arranged a tow truck to the Renault garage, my new key card waiting for me, they get set to programme it for me...only to have ordered the wrong key! Can you believe my luck, I'm without my car for the best part of three weeks all because I lose my key card, Fantastic, I thought!

You see the Champions League final?

Sorry but I have to mention it. How awesome, amazing, entertaining is Messi? I remember the days waking up knowing I was that good, in my dreams. But honestly is there anything this player can't do...I love watching him, a true genius with a football.

Well guys, sorry I haven't got much more to say, this has been a rather boring month for me, maybe you could share some of your tales with me ready for next month....

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

Remember that we also have our own South West Section Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it to grow as more of you become involved.

If you are not a member of the page, it's time you were, ask for the link and I'll happily forward it to you.

Adam Matthews
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

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

South West & South East, 17 November 2011, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset
Contact Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850

Scotland, 6 March 2012, Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline
Contact Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

An update and summary of the last six months...

For the first five months of this year I was in the position of Acting General Manager and Head of Membership Services, no wonder time has literally flown by, I don't think I remember very much about the first half of this year! And with losing Brad Anderson, Membership Services Assistant, at the end of April, the department is currently stretched to its limits.

However, please be assured that we, here at BIGGA HOUSE, are not about to let standards drop, in this interim period of change with staff, our aim is to continue to offer good customer service to our members. See Contact Details (panel on the right) for ways you can get in touch.

During April we offered BIGGA members the opportunity of purchasing the 'tastecard', at an exclusive members rate. The offer was available for a two week period and proved quite popular. Watch this space as we are negotiating with 'tastecard' to offer this again later this year.

BIGGA also teamed up with Jemca Business Centre, London to offer BIGGA members preferential rates on out-right purchase or contract hire of Toyota HILUX vehicles.

All details of these offers and all membership services and benefits are available in the Members Area of the BIGGA Website www.bigga.org.uk.

The Importance of Networking Section Events

With 26 Sections around the UK there is always a 'friend' nearby.

Whether you are just starting out as a sports turf professional (greenkeeper or groundsman) or at the pinnacle of your career, networking is likely to play a large part in your success.

Networking is about creating a set of contacts and subsequently building a trust and creating a genuine relationship with the people you meet. It provides the opportunity for you to discover people who may be able to help with

queries/problems you encounter during your career as well as the opportunity for you to offer your assistance to others.

For people new to networking, it might seem a daunting prospect. But by investing time in other people you might soon find that your career is reaping the rewards.

Top tips for networking:

- Be yourself
- Be open
- Smile
- Let people talk
- Push yourself
- Know what you want
- Enjoy it

Bulletin Board

Current members of BIGGA can gain access to the Bulletin Boards where members can gain access to a vast amount of useful, important and vital information for greenkeepers and other sports turf professionals, golf clubs and businesses involved in the fine turf industry. Here you can discuss popular topics such as 'Education and Training for Greenkeepers' or 'Fusarium Scarring' and keep updated about Section seminars and events.

BIGGA is about promoting:

Best practice in sports turf management

Industry targeted learning and development

Greenkeeping as a career

Groundsmanship as a career

A better understanding of sports turf care

Open Support Team, Royal St George's, 2011

Good luck to the BIGGA Open Support Team, who will be supporting Graham Royden and his team at Royal St George's this month. For more information on the Open Support Team and what's involved visit the Members Area of the BIGGA Website and search down the left hand side for 'Open Support Team'.



Contact Details

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traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

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(option 1 for Membership)

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Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

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

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Bryan Beaton, North Section
Colin Black, West Section
Jamie Boon, North Section
James Brown, East Anglia Section
Ryan Cooper, North Section
Michael Harris, Sussex Section
Jamie Lallyett, Central Section
Mark Lindsell, Central Section
David Mackay, North Section
Christopher McLaughlin, West Section

Northern Region

Dalian Armsby, Northern Section
Stuart Hawker, North West Section
James Heeley, Sheffield Section
Stephen Hudson, North West Section
Jonathan Jubb, Northern Section
John Seaton, Cleveland Section
Daniel Yates, Sheffield Section

Midland Region

Matt Bennett, East of England Section
Alan Brown, Mid Anglia Section
Jamie Harris, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Jonathan Hart, East of England Section
Andrew Lewis, Midland Section
Wayne Mulrooney, Midland Section
David Roberts, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Steven Wallace, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
David Williams, East Midland Section

South East Region

Mark Brooks, Surrey Section
Sean Bullock, Surrey Section
Mark Dingle, East Anglia Section
Phillip Gillard, Kent Section
Anthony Gorman, Surrey Section
Benjamin Hunter, Essex Section
Ryan Jamieson, Sussex Section
Luke Jenkins, Kent Section
Peter Maes, Kent Section
Derek Payne, Kent Section
Glenn Taylor, Surrey Section
Jim Thornhill, London Section
Simon Walley, London Section
Matthew Winter, Sussex Section
Tom Woolf, Kent Section
Dean Young, Kent Section

South West/South Wales Region

Matthew Abrey, South Coast Section
David Field, South Coast Section
Darren J Ellis, Devon&Cornwall Section
Josh Lewis, South West Section
Mathew Lewis, South Wales Section
Ross Phillips, South West Section
Jamie Scovell, South Coast Section
Christopher Slater, South West Section
Stephen Townsend, South West Section

Overseas

Scott Bibby, Kinloch Golf Resort, New Zealand

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



Diary of Events

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

A full list of events for 2011 can be found online at www.bigga.org.uk/events

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
JULY 2011			
July 1st	Operation Pollinator	Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, Somerset	www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com
July 6th	North West Section Cricket Tournament v's North Wales Section	Ashley Cricket Club, Altrincham	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
July 6th	South Wales Section Summer Competition	Wenvoe Castle Golf Club	Steve Chappell at chappel124@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07970 980899
July 11th	Midland Section Summer Golf Day	Kenilworth Golf Club	Andrew Smith at andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07977 145091
July 12th	Essex Captains v's Greenkeepers	Romford Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrogers@talktalk.net or telephone 07798 641529
July 13th	South Coast Section Summer Competition	Brockenhurst Golf Club	Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or telephone 07796 887633
July 13th	East Midlands Section Par 3 Championships	Nailcote Hall Golf Club	Andy de wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com
July 14th-17th	Open Championship	Royal St George's	www.opengolf.com/
July 21st	Inter Section Golf Match – Northern v's Sheffield	Renishaw Park Golf Club	Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
July 28th	East of England Section Event	Stoke Rochford Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or telephone 07931 714922
July 28th	Operation Pollinator	Marriott Worsley Park, Manchester	www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com
July 28th	Mid Anglia Section	Mount Pleasant Golf Club	Gerald Bruce at gerald@berkhampstedgc.co.uk or Tel: 01442 865832
July 29th	Operation Pollinator	Normanton Golf Club, Wakefield	www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com
AUGUST 2011			
August 3rd	Operation Pollinator	Elmwood College, Fife	www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com
August 8th	Operation Pollinator	De Vere Belton Woods, Grantham	www.greencast.co.uk or email operation.pollinatoruk@syngenta.com

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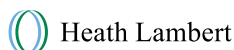


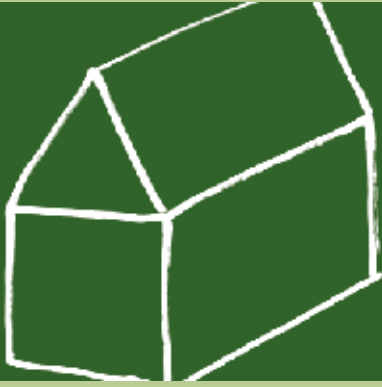
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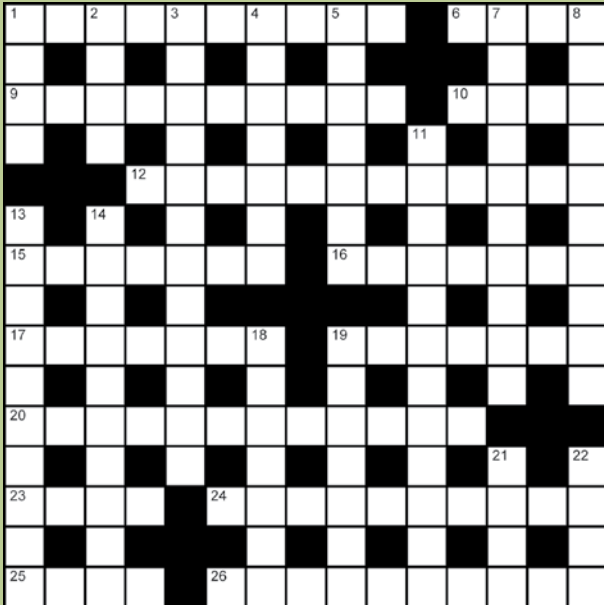




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Co-writer of *Sympathy for the Devil* (4,6)
- 6 *Frasier Crane's* radio station (1,1,1,1)
- 9 BBC Children's show presented by a former wrestler in a big chair (5,3,2)
- 10 Cord of twisted fibres; a story (4)
- 12 All the King's horses were unable to fix him (6-6)
- 15 Bureaucrat (7)
- 16 Emulsified high-fat offal tube (7)
- 17 Grave (7)
- 19 Enthusiastic, but unpaid (7)
- 20 'Old Ben' in *Star Wars* (3,3,6)
- 23 More common name for the Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Theatre (4)
- 24 British submarine, launched in 1942 and named after a hunting call (3,5-2)
- 25 Tender (4)
- 26 1998 sequel to *The Fugitive* (2,8)

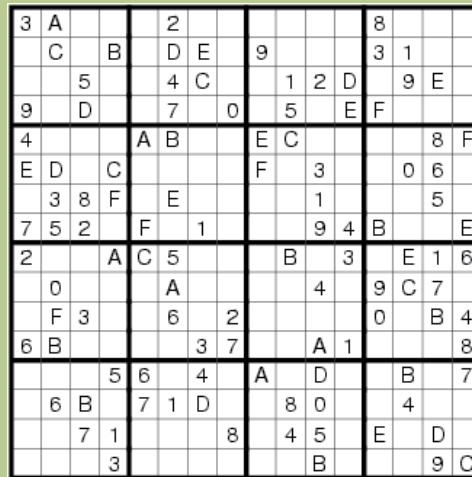
DOWN

- 1 Term for self-confidence used by *Austin Powers* (4)
- 2 One with fine teeth may be needed in a search (4)
- 3 Roman politician, kidnapped by pirates c.75BC (6,6)
- 4 1980s Grange Hill bully (7)
- 5 Greek deities of vengeance, also known as the Furies (7)
- 7 Hull based writer of *Oh no, it's Selwyn Froggitt* and *The Beiderbecke Trilogy* (4,6)
- 8 Comedian who starred with Tracy Ullman and David Copperfield in *Three of a Kind* (5,5)
- 11 1973 Mike Oldfield album, used in *The Exorcist* (7,5)
- 13 1995 Disney film featuring Mel Gibson (10)
- 14 Type of bowler who may be able to deliver a 'doosra' (3,7)
- 18 Indigenous people of the Arctic circle (7)
- 19 Ms Fältskog of ABBA (7)
- 21 Imitative bird of the starling family (4)
- 22 Sinks (in pool) (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Current Champions

1. Who is the current Open Golf Champion?
2. Who are the current Rugby Union World Cup Champions?
3. Who is the current Olympic 1500 metres Champion?
4. Who are the current World Series Baseball Champions?
5. Who are the current Carling Cup Champions?
6. Who are the current holders of the Solheim Cup?
7. Who are the current holders of the America's Cup?
8. Who are the current cricket 20/20 World Champions?
9. Who is the current US Open Men's tennis Champion?



MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers on page 65

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Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.



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Greenkeeper Training



A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo



Sami Collins
Head of Learning & Development
BIGGA
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: sami@bigga.co.uk
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GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

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Contact: Steve Miller
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Email: smiller@oatridge.ac.uk Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

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ENGLAND

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 Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

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Contact: Liz Clarkson
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 Email liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk
 Web: www.duchy.ac.uk

Claire Bennetts
 01209 722109/07824 626363
claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk

Duchy College offers Level 1, 2, & 3 Diplomas and NVQ 4 in Amenity Horticulture
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 Horticulture. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses
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 or Andrew McEvoy – Tel: 07896 674786,
 Email: amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk
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 Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
 Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk



Full time courses: City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma options
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 Work Based learning- Level 2 and 3 Diploma in
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ENGLAND

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Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk



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SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

South Staffordshire College

Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5PH
Tel: 01785 712209
Fax: 01785 715701
Email: keith.ellis@southstaffs.ac.uk
Web: www.southstaffs.ac.uk



South Staffordshire College offers an extensive range of courses, full, part time and day release. Full time programmes include; NPTC Skills for Life, Level One, 1st Diploma, National Award, National Certificate and National Diploma. Higher Education programmes can be studied on a part time basis and include Foundation Degree and the Bsc in Horticulture. Work based learning is available at NVQ 1, NVQ 2, and NVQ 3 and South Staffordshire offers very extensive Train2Gain provision. Sports turf and green keeping can be studied to NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 level on a day release basis. The college offers a wide transport network to its learners as well as residential accommodation on site.

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Contact: Gareth Phillips
or Chard Spicer
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Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
Web: www.reaseheath.ac.uk



Part time, block release courses include level 2, level 3 Certificate and Diploma in work based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Green keeper), NVQ level 4 Sports turf (Distance Learning). Our work based learning group offer apprenticeships in the work place. BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture/Sports Turf option, BTEC National Diploma in Sports Performance and Facilities Management endorsed by Premier League, Football league. Short Courses include Pesticide application (PA1/PA2/PA6) Chainsaw operation, Safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programs available on request. On site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, rugby, football pitches and Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

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Web: www.sparsholt.ac.uk



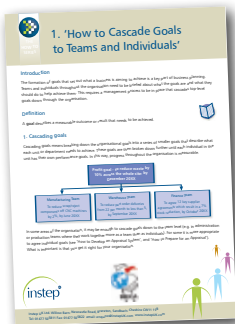
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The 'How To...' guides are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.



BUYERS' GUIDE



Making best use of your water resources

Water is currently emerging as one of the most topical conversations that can be found on the lips of both greenkeepers/groundsmen and golfers/sportsmen alike. The lack of natural precipitation is causing problems for both; the former with concerns about keeping the grass alive, and the latter for keeping their balls on the fairway. There are many mutterings from the Clubhouse that there should be water on the course, and what is the Course Manager doing about it?

Unfortunately we are in the middle of one of the worst financial periods in living memory which has had severe knock-on effects for those who have to maintain those rolling green acres of finely manicured turf.

Budgetary constraints have limited the resources available to the Course / Grounds Manager who have had to reduce their spending on machinery, chemicals, fertilizer and also water. However, there may be methods of improving the infrastructure that is currently in place without having to endure a large financial discussion with the relevant management committee.

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The owner of Intelligent Watering is Adrian Handbury. Adrian has been in the turf industry for 17 years, and during that time has been privileged to have worked on some of the finest golf courses and sports stadia in the UK At all levels, from irrigation technician to manufacturer's technical support. His work has also taken him to Europe, North America and Africa.

For a free discussion about how Intelligent Watering may help you, contact Adrian on +44 (7889) 006812 (mobile), or email him adrian@intelligentwatering.co.uk

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Recruitment

Frinton Golf Club



Frinton Golf Club invites applications for the position of **Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager**.

The Club comprises two 'links style' golf courses - the 18 hole Havers course and the 9 hole Kirby course. The Club is situated on the Essex coast and is one of the best kept courses in East Anglia, due in equal measure to the highly motivated greens staff and the comprehensive and modern greenkeeping machinery.

The Club seeks someone with the following skills.

- Three years golf course management experience.
- Qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent.
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6.
- Proven supervisory and communication skills.
- Understanding of Ecological Management (the course adjoins Holland Marshes and is itself a SSSI site).
- Understanding, maintaining and encouraging growth of fine grasses.
- Computer literate and capable of developing and tightly controlling a Greens' budget.

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications. Applications to **Chairman of Greens, Frinton Golf Club, 1 The Esplanade, Frinton On Sea, Essex CO13 9EP.**



SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB Head Greenkeeper

Sunningdale Golf Club are looking to recruit a Head Greenkeeper.

- Reporting to Course and Estate Manager
- Minimum of 5 years golf course management experience
- Qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent preferred
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6
- Strong supervisor and communication skills
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

Applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a World Top 50 golf club, host of the Open Championship International Final Qualifying -Europe.

Please apply in writing or email with full CV to:
Julie Watts, P.A to Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club,
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks, SL5 9RR
email juliew@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for Applicants 29 July 2011



Limpsfield Chart Golf Club



Senior Greenkeeper

A vacancy will arise for a Senior Greenkeeper at this 9 hole private members club, one of the oldest in Surrey. Our current Senior Greenkeeper retires in March 2012 after 40 years of service

The successful candidate will:

- hold appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and have held the position of Assistant Greenkeeper for at least five years
- understand the requirements of a heathland course
- be ambitious, hard working and reliable
- be computer literate (for reports etc.)

An attractive competitive remuneration package is on offer and on-site accommodation could be available for the successful candidate.

Please apply in writing together with an up to date CV and to arrange a course visit to: **The Secretary, Limpsfield Chart Golf Club, Westerham Road, Oxted, Surrey. RH8 0SL**

Closing date for applications **Monday 15th August**
www.limpsfieldchartgolfclub.co.uk

Head Greenkeepers Position



Shirland Golf Club is a newly formed private members golf club set within the Derbyshire Countryside. The club is quickly developing with much investment and a progressive approach to business. We are currently seeking to appoint a Head Greenkeeper with the following qualities:

- Qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent
- Spraying PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation
- Mechanical knowledge of machinery would be useful
- Strong supervisory and communication skills
- Good budgetary controls
- Applicants must be self motivated and hard working

The successful candidate will report to the General Manager and will be responsible for the greenkeeping team. Interested parties should forward their CV to the General Manager via email - office@shirlandgolfclub.co.uk or via post to: **Shirland Golf Club, Pit Lane, Lower Delves, Shirland, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 6AU.**

Please also include a covering letter with current salary and expected earnings in the role as detailed above.



Applications are invited for the following two vacancies;

COURSE MANAGER

Woodcote Park is a highly regarded private member's golf club in Surrey and will celebrate it's Centenary Year in 2012. At over 6700 yards our 18 hole parkland course is seen as an excellent test of golf and has a substantial practice area. It has been selected to host the 2012 County Championships. The Club is looking for a high calibre Course Manager with a proven track record to drive a team of 7 green staff to achieve the highest standards.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate

- High level of qualifications including level 4 NVQ/HNC or equivalent plus spraying certificates
- Sound leadership and motivational skills evidenced by experience.
- Experience in the training and development of team members.
- Knowledge and understanding of Health & Safety regulations.
- Ability to develop and maintain costs within an agreed budget.
- Formulate and execute a 5 year plan for course policy and resources.
- Strong communication and IT skills and the ability to interact with club members.
- The knowledge to maximise the benefits of a new £1/4m irrigation system
- Salary and benefits negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Accommodation would be available if required.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are seeking to recruit an experienced individual to join our team, who is looking to forward his or her career. The ideal person should possess the following personal & professional skills:

- Self motivated and enthusiastic
- Reliable and capable of working under own initiative
- Minimum 3years turf management experience
- NVQ 2 or equivalent qualification
- PA1, PA2A & PA6

Salary negotiable based on previous experience

Applications for both positions by e-mail only please including CV and covering letter to; The Secretary, Woodcote Park Golf Club - info@woodcotepgc.com

Closing date 10th July 2011

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On the Soapbox

Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club in Cheshire, with the first of a two-part Soapbox...

Greenkeeping is a tough job! It's not like shark wrestling or being a vegetarian butcher, but it has its tough moments.

We all know it's tough at the moment. The rain has disappeared and gone on holiday, along with all the money, and were left wondering when they're coming back! And not so much as a postcard.

It's not just grim up north anymore!

But we greenkeepers are made of stout stuff, we'll get through it! Of course we will - Stiff upper lip and all that!

But has anyone told the grasses that we play on or the soils that we work with?

These are the bread and butter aspects of any greenkeepers day, along with the myriad of skills we need to possess, from public relations, to public conveniences (and the unblocking of)

We get through it with hard work, determination, training, our experience and feel, a bit of good favour and fortune and teamwork. And teamwork doesn't stop at helping out our colleagues. It extends right down from the Chair of the Board right down to the soils beneath our feet. After all this is the foundation of what our greenkeeping 'shop window' is based upon.

How we look after our soils is going to have a direct impact on the grasses we promote and the playing surfaces we provide. If we don't get the correct balance of air, water, nutrient and organic matter right within our soils then this directly affects how our soils perform... and ultimately how our playing surfaces perform.

But how do our soils perform? How do we help our soils to help us deliver? Again this is down to teamwork, and good soil biology is a very important player.

Our soils can potentially contain an incredible diversity of micro-organisms ranging from the tiniest single celled bacteria, algae, fungi and protozoa to the more complex nematodes and micro-arthropods to the visible earthworms, insects, small vertebrates and plants. They all have a role in life.

As these organisms eat, grow, reproduce, and move through the soil, they have an important job to do. They help clean up the soil, aerate the soil, recycle nutrients, and decompose organic matter.

Others, such as mycorrhizae, act as personal assistants to grass roots making nutrient available to the plants, and make it possible to have clean water, clean air, healthy plants, and drainage.

It's like a city under our feet and there is always a war raging! There're predators and there's dinner. Some things eat, and some things get eaten, fungi prey on pathogens, limiting disease attacks, good nematodes predate on grass damaging root feeders and if the soil food web is bang on, then its healthy soil, healthy turf, and making our life easier as greenkeepers.

So why do we as greenkeepers employ practices that upset this balance? It just doesn't make sense.

We need to look after them and give them something to do. They need to breathe, eat, breed, grow and be entertained.

Some of us limit our aeration to the winter months when it's least effective and more convenient. Our soils need oxygen all year, so it is important to maintain aeration year round, all the time considering the golfer, the playing surface and ultimately our soils.

We need to aerate at the right times, right frequency and right depths, otherwise it becomes difficult to breathe down there, turns into a bad neighbourhood and folks move out. Not great.

It also may not be convenient for the golfer or the committee when we present our aeration schedules.

The club may not want ANY disruption in these strict economic times, and we are all desperate for perfect putting surfaces to get the new members coming through the door or just to retain the ever increasing nomadic golfer.

So we don't do the disruptive aeration and the flak goes away?

Possibly? Or, we just look at boosting our soil ecosystems with compost teas and expect this applied life to thrive.

The idea being, while the old biology dies off clutching their throats, turning blue and drowning, we send in a fresh batch of lambs to the slaughter! Perfect

And while we try to keep those alive, with sugary carbohydrate supplements, all the time we use salt based, inorganic fertilisers. Salt was used back in the Roman times to sterilise enemies soils so they're crops would die and starve them out, it's exactly what we are doing to our soil ecology.

If we are trying to encourage good soil ecology, and I fully agree with the benefits of all a compost tea contains, I don't believe one can force it into a soil, if that soil isn't supporting it already. The biology needs a healthy environment and we need to create it as greenkeepers, for it to flourish.

If we continue to use inorganic fertilisers, then we only serve to grow the plant, adding nothing to the soil. Surely we create an Easter egg scenario, where we have undermined the goodness from within the soil, keeping the top looking great, but hollow on the inside. If not managed correctly, it collapses, (through mechanical or environmental stresses) leaving a nitrate and bacterial rich environment only fit for the very grass we as good greenkeepers are trying to discourage, Poa Annua.

So the result of this poa dominant bacterial rich environment? The plant continues to grow, giving nothing back to the soil, resulting in more yield, slower greens so we mow tighter, apply a Programmed Growth Regulator, mixed with more urea based fertilisers, and a fungicide here and there to offset any disease attacks.

All good, but all chemicals all the same.

And do we really know their effects below the surface as well as we know these chemicals affect our balance sheets?

Tight times and we are in a profession that survives from within a bottle. Expensive, but it can save a lot of hard work and is convenient. But for how long and at what price?

Convenience – but who are we kidding?



Stuart Yarwood MG is Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club in Cheshire

Stuart Yarwood MG

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

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