

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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DREAMS CAN COME TRUE

Ohio State Intern Dan Quinn looks forward to the US Open

ALIEN INVASIVE WEEDS

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at some foreign invaders

A rising star

Golf Course Feature

Castle Stuart, near Inverness, and host to the Barclays Scottish Open, is this month's Golf Course Feature





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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



The fist pumping hero of '84

I remember watching Seve at the St Andrews Open in 1984. As a golf mad 21 year-old I had positioned myself at the wall alongside the 17th green for the final three days and watched the golf unfold in front of me and through the medium of the giant scoreboards.

Seve was always well placed over the four rounds but didn't hit the front until it really mattered - the 72nd hole. When his birdie putt found the bottom of the hole he performed the most famous celebration in all of golf, joyously pumping his fist and saluting his adoring galleries.

I was watching from 500 yards away – at the same time as Tom Watson's chances were disappearing, just a few feet in front of me, following a misjudged approach. It was spellbinding and an occasion I will never ever forget.

Six years later, when I worked for the European Tour, and acted as Press Officer for some of the tournaments, including the Volvo PGA Championship and European Opens, I was to drive Seve in a buggy from the 18th green to the Media Centre for his press interviews. It was always tricky to remain nonchalant and matter of fact at times like that.

There was an aura about him. Although Sir Nick Faldo ended up with more Majors to his name Seve would remain the more popular golfer, even in this country. I once wrote an article on Faldo, for a now defunct golf magazine, under the heading, and with all due respect to The Hollies, "He ain't Seve".

It may have been a corny pun but it was also hard to argue with the sentiments.

What he did for golf can never be underestimated. When he burst onto the scene

the European Tour was still in its infancy and outside of Tony Jacklin and Peter Oosterhuis there were barely any golfers whose names would have been recognised by the general public. Virtually single handedly Seve made golf popular, driving the game forward and showing the likes of Sandy Lyle, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Faldo what it was possible to achieve.

A few years later Jose Maria Olazabal, for whom Seve was very much a surrogate uncle, credited his compatriot for his success.

Three years ago, when news of his collapse at Madrid Airport came through, we all worried desperately about him and it says a huge amount for his strength of character that he fought on for another three years.

When he announced his intention to participate in the Champions' Challenge, over the Old Course, at last year's Open Championship many of us doubted he would make it, but it was his desire to once again stand on that 18th green and salute the galleries one last time that undoubtedly gave him the strength to keep fighting on.

As it turned out he lost that battle to get to St Andrews, and perhaps just as well, because the Champions' Challenge never happened because of torrential rain, but there was no-one at last year's Open who did not have thoughts for the fist pumping hero of '84.

Thank you for the memories, Seve.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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A rising star

Castle Stuart has been open less than two years but, as Scott MacCallum found out, you wouldn't know it, and next month it is hosting the Barclays Scottish Open

Looking out of one of the many large windows in the property Art Depp clubhouse at the magnificent Castle Stuart, it is easy to visualise Harry Vardon striding majestically down the 9th fairway in his Blue Boy. Tom Watson drilling a 2-iron into the 18th green, or Seve taking the acclaim, having got up and down from an impossible spot on the 2nd to save par.

In fact, it wouldn't be too difficult to imagine any one of the golfing greats pining his way against a course which looks like it has been around for a 100-year-plus. But the fact is that under cover of trees here, as the course, close to Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland, with the stunning Moray Firth as a backdrop, is virtually brand new. In fact, when it hosts the Barclays Scottish Open next month it will have been open for business less than two years.

Indeed, a mere four years ago much of Castle Stuart consisted of potato and carrot fields, but it is a tribute to the work that has been done in the building, growing in and establishment of the course that a flagship European Tour event like the Barclays Scottish Open could even be considered a possibility.

The inspiration behind Castle Stuart is American developer, Mark Parslow, who had originally been one of the architects and founders of Kingsbarns.

In 2001 Parslow decided he wanted to create a golf course of his own and began an extensive search of Scotland to find suitable land.

It was when he was looking at a stretch of Highland road estate that he happened to glance over and spot a bank of gorse on land which offered the elevation that drove comparisons with the fabled Royal Dornoch links not too far away. His search was over.

Mark then persuaded Stuart McCollum, Course Manager at Kingsbarns, to become Project Manager for the new course with the promise of the position of General Manager once the course was up and running.

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

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

BIGGA Appoints New CEO

Jim Croxton has been appointed as BIGGA's Chief Executive Officer, following a thorough and searching recruitment process.

Jim comes to BIGGA from the PGA, where he served most recently as Sponsorship Manager, having previously held the posts of Regional Secretary of the PGA North Region and National Tournament Director.

BIGGA Chairman Andrew Mellon said, "On behalf of the BIGGA Board of Management and our members I am delighted to announce the appointment of Jim Croxton as our new CEO. He is a confident, energetic and determined golf industry professional, with a track record of driving and implementing commercial and operational strategies, delivering successful and financially secure events and leading and motivating teams of staff.

He has more than 12 years of experience of senior roles within

The PGA, a volunteer committee-led members' Association."

Jim said, "I am proud and delighted to be appointed to this role and am looking forward immensely to working with the Board of Management and the excellent team at BIGGA HOUSE to continue the work of the Association. The work of BIGGA members is fundamental to the future health of the game of golf and I am convinced that the Board's ambitions to raise the profile of this vital work are worthy and achievable.

"At the same time I am sad to leave the PGA as I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of 16 years employment with them but am heartened by the fact that the two organisations enjoy a close relationship, so our paths will hopefully continue to cross."

Jim was born in July, 1972, and is a BSc Honours graduate of Leeds University. An active



golfer for over 20 years, playing off 6, he also represented Northamptonshire at Junior level.

He regularly participates in several sports including 5-a-side football, tennis and skiing; and is a keen spectator of most sports, particularly football and rugby union.

He lives near Macclesfield with his partner, Caroline, and children, Samuel and Megan.

Change at Avoncrop

Avoncrop Amenity Products has announced that they are to restructure their business by the middle of June and will operate solely from their recently acquired site in Winkfield, near Windsor.

"We decided that now was the time to restructure our business as the lease for our Sandford, North Somerset site comes up for renewal. We also believe that basing our business in one location means we can benefit from greater cost efficiencies and give our customers a continued high level of service," said Managing Director, Rod Feltham.

The head office and business operation will now be performed from the Winkfield site, including sales, technical support, distribution and finance. The technical field staff will not change and it will be business as usual.

"We recognise the importance of ensuring our customers are serviced in the best way possible. By optimising our operations in one location, we believe we can focus on offering quality products, competitive prices and service to those we do business with in the amenity sector," said Director, Johanna McCloskey.

New Sanli Man

Sanli UK, has strengthened its national sales team with the appointment of Russell Kelly as Area Sales Manager for the South of England and parts of East Anglia.

Russell takes over an area looked after previously by Claire Morris who, in her new role as the company's General Manager, is working with and supporting Mark Osborne in his dual capacity as Managing Director of Sanli UK Ltd and Director of European Operations, China Engine Group, Fujian Sanli Engine Co Ltd.

Russell joins Sanli UK from well-known garden machinery dealer, Tylers Ltd of Uckfield, East Sussex, where he had been for the past 15 years, initially as Sales Manager and latterly as Sales Director. Prior to that, Russell was a Regional Sales Manager with Atco Qualcast.

"I have watched Sanli's progress with great interest over the past 18 months and am delighted to be joining a company that is the first subsidiary of a Chinese outdoor power equipment manufacturer to be established in Britain," commented Russell.





Bayer Appointment

Claire Matthewman has joined the Bayer Environmental Science Professional team as Product Manager.

Claire will be responsible for all marketing and portfolio decisions relating to the Turf and Amenity and Professional Pest Control business for UK and Ireland. A main part of her role will be managing key brands like Chipco green®, Dedicate®, Scorpion®, Merit® Turf, Longbow®, Festival®, Finale® and CDA Vanquish®.

Claire goes to Bayer with a wealth of marketing experience and fresh ideas having previously worked outside of the industry, which will help shape the future Professional business.

JCB INNOVATION HONOURED WITH QUEEN'S AWARD



A product innovation that reduces fuel usage on JCB diggers and allows operators to get to site quicker is today recognised with one of the highest honours in the UK – a Queen's Award.

The Queen's Award for Innovation has been handed to JCB for developing a product

called TorqueLock, which is fitted to the company's biggest selling product, the backhoe loader.

The Queen's Award is the 26th to be won by the JCB Group since the first one was granted in 1969 – a record for a UK company.

JCB Chairman Sir

Anthony Bamford said: "JCB TorqueLock is just one innovation among many that we've produced with our customers' needs in mind and I'm delighted for the whole team at JCB that its development has been recognised with a Queen's Award."

West Malling GC Owner Drives New Half a Million Toro Deal



West Malling Golf Club, in Kent, has recently signed a £500,000 deal with Toro turf maintenance machinery distributor Lely UK.

The club, which has two 18-hole courses, has been kitted out with over 30 brand new Toro machines. "Toro has an excellent reputation and a range of machines more solidly built than any other we've seen.

We chose Toro because we wanted a fleet that does a great job, plus I'm pleased that they look the part and suit the overall image of the club, which is important to me as its owner," said Mike Ellis.

Key pieces of Toro equipment that the club has invested in include six Greensmaster 1000-D and two Reelmaster 5510-D mowers, a ProPass 200 topdresser, a MultiPro 5700-D sprayer, five Workman MD utility vehicles and a ProCore 648 aerator.



Tim Hands Over The Reins At TGA's Spring Meeting

Incumbent Chairman of the Turfgrass Growers Association, Tim Fell, was praised for steering the TGA through a challenging two years as he handed the reins over to fellow grower Hugh Dampney at the Association's spring members meeting in Southport.

Hugh drew applause from the 60 members gathered at the Ramada Plaza Hotel as he described the achievements Tim had contributed to during tough trading conditions, including the inclusion of TGA member-grown turf in the landscaping contracts for the 2012 Olympic Games and the successful negotiation of a discretionary 28 day exemption for newly laid turf in the event of drought orders being imposed.

He presented his predecessor with an engraved decanter and some fly fishing vouchers to mark his term in office.

The next time the turf growers will convene will be at the TGA's biennial turf show, which is being hosted by J&B Farnaby near Scotch Corner, later this month on, June 28 and 29.

Further details on www.turfshow.co.uk.

Farewell to BIGGA's Membership Man

BIGGA's Membership Assistant Brad Anderson has left the Association to manage a pub in Harrogate.

Brad, who joined the Association from school as one of the Reception Staff over 10 years ago will be managing the Coach and Horses pub in the town.

Brad's membership role will be covered by existing staff for the time being.



GREENCAST SITE GETS MAKEOVER

There's a new look to the Syngenta GreenCast website, with improvements to make it faster and easier to find all the essential knowledge for more proactive turf management.

GreenCast is the most comprehensive website for weather forecasting, disease risk prediction, turf management information and turf specific application advice, according to Syngenta GreenCast Project Manager, Karen Roberts.

"It remains completely free for all turf managers, agronomists and students. They just have to register once, to gain full access to all the resources and knowledge."

She also highlights site features that include Weather Radar Information, so users can track weather fronts moving across the country and foresee potential issues:

"Used in conjunction with the Syngenta Spray Windows Forecast, greenkeepers and turf managers can plan spraying opportunities and programme work schedules.

"It's part of our ongoing commitment to provide the most useful information for turf managers in a quick and convenient format."

GreenCast is also now available as a mobile website, enabling greenkeepers, turf managers and agronomists to have instant access to practical information whilst out on the course or pitch, direct to their iPhone, Blackberry or mobile phone.

Key features on the new look website include:

- Five-day local and national disease & weather forecasting – proven by course managers to be more accurate than other turf-focussed weather providers
- Unique forecast of key turf disease risks – proven to aid more effective proactive decision making
- Valuable five-day spray window forecast – enabling better work scheduling and optimum spray timing
- Essential Integrated Turf Management advice from STRI and Syngenta technical specialists
- Full product information and advice to help achieve the best possible results
- Application advice to get sprays on target
- The latest news, innovation and technical updates for more effective turf management
- Entirely free access for turf managers, agronomists and students

For further info, visit www.greencast.co.uk





John Steps into Retirement

BIGGA Headquarter's staff were on hand to pay tribute to retiring Chief Executive John Pemberton last month and presented him with gifts bought from donations gathered from staff, Past Chairman and others keen to pay tribute to his 18 year contribution to BIGGA.

John was given a book containing pictures from all aspects of his BIGGA life over the years and a driving experience where he will get behind the wheel of a number of performance cars including an Aston Martin and a Ferrari.



GROUNDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The winners of the 2011 Groundsman of the Year awards for the npower Football League have been announced.

After a season when extreme weather pushed pitches to their limits, the efforts of ground staff across the country have been recognised.

Ewan Hunter, of Nottingham Forest, has been named winner of the npower Championship accolade, with Burnley's, Paul Bradshaw, and Gary Kemp, of Norwich City, both highly commended.

Carlisle United's, David Mitchell, scooped the Award for npower League 1 while Joe Aylett, of Milton Keynes Dons, and Southampton's, Andrew Gray, – last year's winner – both received commendations for the surfaces at Stadiummk and St Mary's.

In npower League 2, Anthony Haywood brought more success to promotion winners Chesterfield with the divisional Award for best groundsman. Bradford City's, Michael Doyle, and Shrewsbury Town's, Richard Barnett, were highly commended.

Presented by the Playing Surfaces Committee, the Groundsman of the Year Awards recognise the importance of the quality of pitches and to acknowledge head groundsmen and their staff.

The Awards are determined initially using marks from referees and away managers for each game, and are then followed by detailed pitch inspections and a review of management operations. These visits were carried out in late March and early April.



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Silent Running for Nick Skelton's Yard

Showjumping legend Nick Skelton has acquired a Polaris EV 4x4 electric vehicle, to assist with work on his state-of-the-art stable in Warwickshire.

He uses the EV for something everyday whether it's at feeding time, towing a set of harrows to prepare the school, monitoring the gallops, cleaning up the stables or just

general ground care.

Nick makes the point that as it is totally silent and will never backfire it won't spook the horses. Important when it's working around some very high value horses and can be used when they are exercising and for a whole variety of tasks throughout the day.

He says the concept of the EV is invaluable and reassuring.

At 5 o'clock his horses have the last feed of the day, followed by a late night check.

The ideal time to plug in the EV for its overnight charge, ready for the next working day.



NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

Greg Evans MG has launched a new website as part of his golf course solutions consultancy which he set a couple of years ago to offer practical advice to golf clubs seeking to improve their product.

Greg said of www.gregevanmsg.com:

"The new look website heralds those changing perceptions and confidence in me to deliver a first class product and services which include staff training, agronomy and budgeting among them. What has proved popular with several clubs is the course audit, where I reviews all aspects of course operations, suggesting areas for improvement which can save money and increase the club's revenue and profitability."



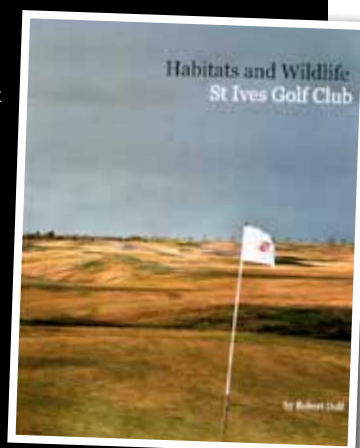
Habitats and Wildlife

Rob Duff, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at St Ives Golf Club, has shown that his talents spread further than course management by producing a superb booklet Habitats and Wildlife – St Ives Golf Club which may soon find its way into the local libraries and schools as well as the clubhouse.

"I was looking into a project for my Foundation Degree at Myerscough College into Golf Club Environmental Policies and found that there was an opportunity produce something that golf club members might enjoy showing what work is done on the golf course and identifying the bird life we have.

"I found a site on the web which offered an on-line editing suite and I put the book together with pictures I'd taken on the course as well as those supplied by members and some I bought in," said Rob, who works with Master Greenkeeper Phil Gates at St Ives.

Such has been the interest in Rob's work that he is giving a presentation to the club later this month and he has been asked to visit local schools to talk about environmental issues.





Chairman's Word

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

Moving forward

As you will know (if you read the website and the last magazine) our new CEO Jim Croxton is now in post as of May 31.

Jim's extensive knowledge of the Golf sector, his managerial and commercial experience will I'm sure be a great asset in assuring we utilise fully the potential of our members and the great team we have at HQ, and in the field through our Regional Administrators, and Sections.

We were fortunate in having many great candidates to choose from, and Jim was able to demonstrate to the Board, how he had the necessary qualities and leadership to take BIGGA forward.

(Nothing like a little bit of pressure Jim?)

Myself and Sami Collins, on behalf of BIGGA attended a meeting at the Belfry with the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and The Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA), as the group collectively known as the Golf Club Management Partnership, (GCMP).

The immediate reaction may be, "Oh, not another group", but this is not simply a talking shop.

The group's purpose is to explore positive ways of collaborating between those who represent the majority of people employed to work at Golf Facilities.

That collaboration will seek to ensure that resources we commit to providing education and other services are used most effectively and that we avoid duplication, especially important in tough economic times such as these.

The added benefit is that each Association achieves 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.

The meeting was very positive and I look forward to sharing with you soon examples of how this group's work will benefit you.

I was also asked to speak on behalf of BIGGA at the Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) Symposium.

Federations from all over Europe and all the Golf industry bodies were in attendance

and it once again demonstrated the benefit to be gained from close collaboration between everyone working in our Industry.

There is so much great work taking place, so much good practice, and innovation, and GEO can be a great conduit for sharing that work.

As you know we entered a strategic agreement with GEO at Harrogate in January, with a view to improving the services available to you.

Many other countries in Europe are taking full advantage of their services.

I would encourage you to discuss with your club and register on their website.

www.golfenvironment.org

In a very brief process you can upload some basic information which will produce an action plan, demonstrating how you can progress forward to achieving recognition for the great work taking place on most golf courses, and help to improve the image golf portrays in the wider world.

This is vital in ensuring that UK Greenkeepers remain at the forefront of developments of this type in Golf.

In conjunction with this I would also encourage you to make use of the benchmarking and self assessment tools available through the R&A on their website, www.bestcourseforgolf.org

Both sites have excellent case studies and a wealth of information to help you in managing the Golf Course.

Words can be extremely powerful, and it's important that you don't take everything you read or hear as fact and take time to look further.

If one were to believe the writings in a certain editorial from an industry magazine, then you would have seen Harrogate 2011 portrayed as "poor".

BIGGA won't be bullied! It's easy for those sitting on the side, with solely their own commercial interest to consider, not their members, to make such casual unsubstantiated speculative remarks and attempt to force a rash decision.

The facts, as correctly reported by BIGGA, speak for themselves on the outcomes of Harrogate, and the members proved that it was a success.

2012 is already well on the way to being a huge success with bookings very buoyant.

But we are not complacent; we will seek to properly research the correct solutions going forward which will benefit us all in a sustainable manner.

We have spoken with many customers, and there is "no one size fits all" solution, but that makes the continuing work even more important in ensuring we make informed decisions about how to move forward.

We have a very good relationship with IOG, and are actively seeking to recommend each others' Associations and recognise the value we both bring to our members.

We will continue to collaborate when that is of mutual benefit.

We have a very good relationship with IOG, and are actively seeking to recommend each others' Associations and recognise the value we both bring to our members

Our members are the arbiter of our success.

We are currently investigating fully and planning to survey our stakeholders, alongside IOG, to ensure we get the necessary information to ensure sensible decisions are made.

Please contact me if you wish to share opinion on this matter.

It will get a hearing at the Board.

Finally, I took advantage of a week off at Easter for a quick break in Cornwall with the family.

It was good to switch off briefly and recharge the batteries for the season ahead, and make sure the kids still recognised me!

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Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

Unsung hero is often a tribute bestowed to somebody who has quietly gone about his or her business with a quiet professionalism not seeking recognition or payment.

Well our sector may have many Unsung Heroes, but one very special man has to be mentioned in this category: W.N.S Bisset, or just Nick to so many of us, who sadly passed away, somewhat ironically on St Georges Day, April 23.

A proud Scotsman with an incredible sense of humour, a smile which he will be most remembered for and, not forgetting the wearing of his kilt at every opportunity - Nick will be missed by so many.

His wisdom and knowledge over many years has helped so many, including me personally, as he has been the Chairman of the GTC's Technical Committee in recent years.

Older greenkeepers will remember first registering as an Apprentice with Nick in the days when the GTC had no funding but who could forget the address: 66 Old Orchard, Haxby, York..... Nick, his wife, Pat, and family eventually moved from that address, but for years it was known as the home of apprentice registrations!

The registration scheme then did not require any formal training but Nick always had the vision that one day all trainee greenkeepers would receive due recognition for their skills and knowledge with a Government approved qualification.

Having attended school in St.Andrews, his love of golf and golf courses commenced on the Links and having studied at the Edinburgh College of Agriculture he took up a job as a salesman in the wheat and barley trade. This didn't last long but the connection did give him a love of good whisky!

Nick applied for a job at the STRI, in Bingley, and was appointed agronomist covering his beloved Scotland and Norfolk!

He made some great friends and colleagues during his nine years at STRI before moving into education as Greenkeeping tutor at Askham

Bryan College, York, in 1976. Initially employed on a one-year contract, Nick stayed there for 29 years!

From his early days as an STRI agronomist in Scotland, he always had a great empathy for greenkeepers and mainly through his work as a turf lecturer at Askham Bryan College near York, he orchestrated change from both behind the scenes through his work for the GTC but also at the delivery end of courses related to all levels of greenkeeping.

A gentle man, but never afraid to stand up for the principles he was Administrator to the GTC when a per-capita levy on male golfers was introduced in the 1980's with the support of the four Home Unions, The R&A and the then three greenkeeping Associations. When I first met Nick he was administering the GTC with donations from various golfing bodies totalling then £1000.

The introduction of a 2p per head levy from male golfers who were members of affiliated clubs was a major breakthrough for greenkeeper training and to this day albeit now an annual grant from the British Home Unions it has allowed so much development from a voluntary enrolment registration scheme for greenkeepers in the 60s to a Government approved structure of qualifications recognised by employers and greenkeepers throughout Britain.

At the same time, the only formal training was the week at the STRI, Bingley, but it was all about to change.....

Nick and a small band of volunteers set about identifying skills and knowledge that would make a greenkeeping qualification. City & Guilds and Scotec were born in GREENKEEPING, not Agriculture or even Horticulture.

Through the 80s and 90s a limited number of land based colleges were identified to provide greenkeeping courses aligned to the City & Guilds and Scotec Phases with supervisory and management levels added, giving us today's acknowledged career path from Apprentice to Manager.



In Brief

David pays tribute to Nick Bisset who sadly died aged 66, following a fight against cancer, and looks at a legacy of greenkeeper education and training left by Nick through his years of dedication to improve the plight of greenkeepers.

Nick was the GTC's number 1 assessor when N/SVQ's were introduced by the Government. He was also co-author of the GTC's internationally recognised Training Manual and Learning Materials and a BIGGA Master Greenkeeper advisor and examiner.

I am sure his former colleagues at STRI and Askham Bryan have many fond memories of Nick as well as the many students who passed through under his caring watch over many years.

Nick always enjoyed helping students especially those who, while being practical, struggled a little with the theory.

He was particularly proud when an Askham Bryan College student, James Braithwaite, won the Student of the Year award in 1995. This success allowed Nick, together with James to travel to the States, a trip he thoroughly enjoyed.

Pat and children, Scott and Catriona, have very fond memories of being on holiday and no matter where they were in the world, Nick was "just popping in to see a former student" who was now a Course Manager at a course which just happened to be where they were staying!

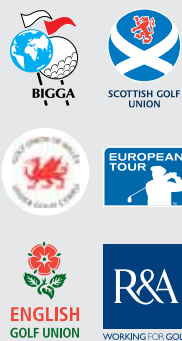
Nick was a judge for Yorkshire in Bloom and fully involved with his village Church and while knowing he was poorly my fondest memory of him was that he was determined to attend Harrogate 2011, carry out Stand duties for the GTC as Chairman of the Technical Committee meeting and asking if he could spend some time to view mowers suitable to mow the church grounds!

A true legend in our industry and a person who truly, quietly went about his life with a smile and having left us with a legacy of greenkeeper education and training in which he played a major role in establishing, we will miss him.

Our thoughts are with Pat, Catriona and Scott, daughter in law, Sally, and his two grandchildren, William and Edward.

On behalf of greenkeepers and greenkeeping, thank you Nick.

The GTC is funded by:



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Learning & Development

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



'Seven Days in Sunny June' by Jamiroquai is one of my favourite summer songs, however, I am hoping for more than seven days of sunshine this June!

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Nick Bisset. Nick was a great supporter of BIGGA and The GTC.

He was instrumental in the development of the original Master Greenkeeper Certificate and right up until his passing, was one of the examiners for the Certificate.

His passion for education was unwavering and this was reinforced by his role as the Chairman of The GTC Technical Committee.

I am fortunate to have known and worked with Nick for 18 years, also sharing a trip to the GCSAA show in Orlando back in the 1990's.

All those whose lives he has touched will miss him.

CPD

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development

For those of you active on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme, it's that time of year that the reminder letters will land on your doormat reminding you that the CPD year is coming to a close on 30 June.

With this in mind, you need to forward any outstanding CPD credit claim forms to Rachael, so that she can update your record and your CPD Certificate for 2010/2011 can be produced.

For those of you heading towards your 5th or 10th consecutive Certificate it also means you'll be getting notification of receiving your Diploma for Continuing Professional Development.

If you have any queries regarding CPD, please contact Rachael on 01347 833800 (option 3) or by email to rachael@bigga.co.uk.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2011

Entries for this year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award closed last month.

We will see 31 student greenkeepers competing for a place in the National Final and ultimately for their chance to win the Toro Scholarship to the Winter Turf School at the University of Massachusetts and a trip to the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. Local interviews will be taking place in early July. Details of the finalists will appear in this column in the August magazine.



Safety Management System

Work is continuing on the new look Safety Management System. There have been a few challenging moments (!) but Gill Bridle from the Golf Club Managers' Association and myself are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Bear with us, we promise there will be a new system available soon!



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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Harrogate Week 2012

The Harrogate Week 2012 programme is slowly developing in my mind. A great many calls will be made over the next few weeks to begin confirming speakers and sketching out the Conference, Workshop and Seminar schedules. I always liken this process to doing a jigsaw – usually it resembles one of those that have 1000 pieces all with baked beans on! Watch this space.



BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

There are funds available for those members who are applying for, or undertaking a Higher Education course. For further information on the application process, visit www.bigga.org.uk/education/resources/higher-education-scholarships



Master Greenkeeper Certificate

I am delighted to announce we have two new Master Greenkeepers: *Mike Bush MG - St Mellion Hotel & Country Club, Cornwall* and *Dan McGrath MG - North Foreland Golf Club, Kent*
My congratulations go to them both

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



JOHN DEERE



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

John Deere to Reign at The Open, The Walker Cup and The Solheim Cup

John Deere and its dealers Godfreys, Alpha Plus Groundcare and Dublin Grass Machinery are the exclusive suppliers of golf course maintenance equipment in 2011 to The Open Championship at Royal St George's, The Walker Cup at Royal Aberdeen and The Solheim Cup at Killeen Castle, which will also host The AIB Ladies Irish Open again this year.



NEW ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SOIL IMPROVER

Ultra Soil Solutions Ltd has added GYP-FLO liquid gypsum to its range of environmentally friendly soil improvers.

Used for rapid improvement of clay soils, improving poor soil structure, increasing nutrient and moisture availability and increasing calcium levels in root zones, GYP-FLO has undergone many years of trials prior to its availability in the UK.

It improves soil structure leading to better drainage during the winter, saving money and improving sports turf performance. It also improves water holding capacity during dry weather, which reduces hardness and cracking of compacted soils, minimises water usage and encourages root and plant growth.

GYP-FLO can also be used in soil injection systems such as used with the GWAZAE Deep Probe Aeration process. The high availability of calcium has proved highly effective at flocculating the soil and ensuring the decompacting action of air injection remains beneficial for longer.

For more information visit www.ultimateagri.com.au

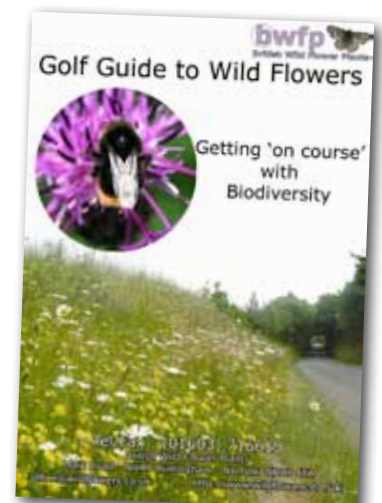
On Course with Biodiversity

British Wild Flower Plants' 'Golf Guide to Wild Flowers' is now available to download.

MD and owner Linda Laxton has drawn on her 25 years experience of growing nothing but native species, to guide Turf Managers interested in preserving wildlife towards biodiversity.

From simply planting wild flowers in the rough to creating a natural grey water filtering system the guide pinpoints areas that can become important wildlife habitats just by changing the planting.

Filled with such gems as 'don't forget that Holly and Ivy planted together will provide vital food for the Holly Blue Butterfly' and 'the larvae of the Champion Moth that lives in the Red Champion's seed heads is a valuable food source for Blue Tits' the Golf Guide to



Wild Flowers, although written primarily for Greenkeepers is also relevant to anybody in charge of a green open space.

To download the guide visit www.wildflowers.co.uk



One Brand for New Venture

Following the merger of the manufacturers Tunnissen and Saalen Industrie within the S.E.E Group, the two companies have joined forces under one brand: TS INDUSTRIE.

The new brand TS INDUSTRIE™ hopes to develop their products with an emphasis on environmental preoccupations: to put green waste to good use.

With the new wood chippers and multi-vegetation chipper, tree and branch lumber will no longer be considered as 'waste' and can be put to good use through modern techniques such as mulching, composting and fuel for heating.

TS Industrie™ products are distributed in the UK exclusively by Eric Hunter Ltd.

For further information, please contact Eric Hunter Ltd on 01628 778 644 or visit www.erichunter.co.uk

BOOKITEE: THE WORLD'S FIRST FREE TO USE AND MOBILE ENABLED ON-LINE BOOKING AND TEE-TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

With mobile devices becoming the medium for digital commerce and recent research suggesting over 70% of on-line tee-time bookings are made outside of office hours, it pays to incorporate a mobile enabled booking system at your club.

Bookitee is a new player on the booking system market which promises increased revenues, member retention rates and analysis and reporting tools. It features Multi-lingual iPhone, Android and Blackberry compatibility with additional Facebook integration.

Designed by a golfer for golfers, Andrew Mackintosh, Bookitee's founder explains:

"As a keen golfer in the UK, I couldn't help notice the continual declining demand for memberships of our courses. I wanted to create an on-line booking system, to really help struggling golf clubs attract visitors, introduce new types of membership options and increase the satisfaction of current members so clubs not only stay alive, but thrive.

Bookitee, has an inventive payment structure, including a version entirely free to golf clubs, by utilising an ad-funded approach where we display discrete promotions on the booking system."

For more information and details on Bookitee's risk free evaluation process for clubs as well as a free newsletter, '10 Steps To Use Facebook To Increase Your Clubs Revenue And Service.'

For more information www.bookitee.com

What's your number?

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

Name: Charmian Robinson

Company: ABR Publicity

Position: Press and Public Relations Consultant

How long have you been in the industry?

I have been a PR Professional in Agriculture for eight years and 12 years in Sports and Amenity



How did you get into it?

By pretending to be experienced, applying and getting a job as a Publicity Officer for a machinery importer and then finding out I was actually pretty good at it!

What other jobs have you done?

After studying for an HND in Marketing and Business I au paired, waitressed, clerked, researched – you name it I seem to have done it, until I discovered this wonderful 'Outdoor Industry' and have been a part of it ever since.

What do you like about your current job?

I love being able to combine working from home with visiting a lot of different places and meeting a wide variety of people.

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

The biggest changes have been in the way we communicate the information to the press. It's changing ever more quickly now in ways we couldn't have imagined even ten years ago.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Cooking, gardening and riding a tandem so I can chat and look at the view while my partner gets fitter.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Still writing but maybe having a little more time to travel and see some of the wilder places in the world.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

I have been privileged to be able to count many of the clients I have worked for as friends. Having been through some tough times there are people in the industry who have shown me true friendship. They already know who they are so I won't name them.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

2

Pick a number 22

You've selected Neil Thompson from Border Sports

Irrigation's Latest Sprinkler Launch



Toro Irrigation's latest sprinkler launch is the T7 Series Rotor, a rugged rotor specially designed to provide maximum watering efficiency and precision while withstanding the rigours of golf tee applications.

The T7's Smart Arc easy arc-adjustment feature is a simple dial on the top of the sprinkler allowing an adjustment of the arc from 45 to 360 degrees for dry arcing upon set-up and in field.

Available with a sturdy stainless steel riser, the T7 Rotor is robust than most and benefits from a five-year warranty. Its heavy-duty retractable spring and water-lubricated

gear drive, together with wiper seal to reduce sticking and leaks, add to the sprinkler's durability.

The T7's nozzles deliver both precise watering and long distance of throw. In particular, a single port design ensures water is evenly distributed across the spray pattern without putting too much water near the head, which can otherwise cause seed to wash away.

The T7 Rotor's nozzle tree offers seven nozzles for maximum flexibility and ease of maintenance."

www.toro.com



LOW-COST SECURITY

The Block Stem security system is suitable for tractors, construction plant or any other self-propelled machine with an exposed power steering ram.

Imported from Italy, the Block Stem system costs from £240 plus VAT, and is available with a five-year warranty and a money back guarantee.

Manufactured in two sections from very heavy-duty steel, the tamper-proof Block Stem simply slots together over the hydraulic steering axle ram of any self-propelled machine, and is locked in place with a unique key when the wheels are at full lock.

Once fitted, the unit not only acts as an effective visual deterrent; it also means the vehicle can only go round in circles, thus preventing the vehicle from being loaded or driven away, even if the thief has the ignition key.

[+44 \(0\)1902 744475](tel:+441902744475)

A Cut Above



Ransomes Jacobsen has produced the first 15-blade cutting cylinder, designed to provide increased productivity, a superior quality of cut and optimum turf health.

The new Jacobsen Classic XP 15-blade cutting cylinder provides increased benefits for the Jacobsen range of Eclipse greens mowers - the Eclipse 100 walk-behind F-series and the new Eclipse 322 ride-on series.

All Eclipse mowers feature independent electric motors

which control the traction and the cutting cylinders.

Using electronics it is possible to maintain frequency of cut independent to operational mow speed.

By utilising the new 15-blade cutting cylinder the desired FOC and cutting cylinder speed can be maintained, while operating mow speed can be increased up to 36%, substantially increasing productivity.

The additional blades provide a tighter FOC,

reducing stragglers, yielding a smoother surface and delivering the ability to raise the height of cut without compromising ball speed.

Jacobsen conducted thorough testing of these new cutting cylinders at numerous golf courses around the world.

One of these was the Quail Hollow Club in North Carolina, which hosted the recent Wells Fargo Championship in May

www.jacobsen.com



NEW ACTIVE IN HAMMER HERBICIDE

New Hammer from Scotts Professional is a rapid action total herbicide containing a brand new active ingredient.

The combination of Pyraflufen-ethyl and Glyphosate was developed by scientists at Scotts Research & Development in France and the UK, and trialled over the course of two years at the company's Levington Research Station.

Pyraflufen-ethyl acts rapidly causing the visible signs of destruction of the aerial part of the plant within 24 hours by inhibiting the enzymes that drive photosynthesis, while the systemic action of Glyphosate, completes the total kill.

Applied post-emergence, Hammer is ideal for application between April and September when weeds are actively growing. Once applied, it's rainfast within six hours and effectively controls a broad spectrum of annual and perennial weeds, including the tough brush weeds bramble and bracken.

It's registered for use on natural surfaces not intending to bear vegetation, permeable surfaces overlaying soil and to control weeds around ornamental trees and shrubs.

www.scottsprofessional.co.uk



Ride-On Rotary Mower New from Lastec

Lastec has launched a new model in its Articulator ride-on series of rotary mowers, with a cutting width of 3m that is believed to be the widest of any Zero Turn ride-on mower on the market.

The extra cutting width of the new Model 4520 makes a significant improvement to productivity, cutting 20% more grass compared with the company's previous largest Articulator Zero Turn mower which had a cutting width of 2.5m.

The 4520 has five articulating decks that flow over the contour of the ground without

scalping high spots or leaving hollows and dips unmowed.

It has a side reach of 685mm (27in), which means it can trim closer to ponds, over the edges of banks and ditches and under low limbs of trees - areas that otherwise often need to be finished by strimming or with small pedestrian mowers.

The decks fold at the push of a lever, leaving the mower at road legal width or for carriage on a flatbed truck or trailer.

www.lastec.com

New Power Unit from Sanli

Sanli has extended the number of pedestrian mowers in its range available with the choice of a Sanli or Briggs and Stratton power unit.

Originally available only on the self-propelled LBP46 18in steel deck rotary mower, Briggs and Stratton's DOV 750 5.5hp petrol

engine is now used also on the Sanli LBP513 3-in-1 20in steel deck rotary mower. The DOV 750 engine comes as standard on the top-of-the-range Sanli LBPA56 22in rotary mower with aluminium cutter deck.

Depending on model, the difference in price can be as much as £100 in favour of the Sanli 550 OHV engine.

As well as its pedestrian mower models, Sanli also offers a choice of Sanli or Briggs and Stratton engine on a number of its ride-on machines including its zero-turn radius and rider mower models.

www.sanli.co.uk



A rising star

Castle Stuart has been open less than two years but, as Scott MacCallum found out, you wouldn't know it, and next month it is hosting the Barclay's Scottish Open



Looking out of one of the many huge windows in the superb Art Deco clubhouse at the magnificent Castle Stuart links it is easy to visualise Harry Vardon striding majestically down the 9th fairway in his Plus 4s; Tom Watson drilling a 2-iron into the 18th green, or Seve taking the acclaim, having got up and down from an impossible spot on the 3rd to save par.

In fact, it wouldn't be too difficult visualising any one of the golfing greats pitting his wits against a course which looks like it has been around for a 100 years plus. But the fact is that so far none of them have, as the course, close to Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland, with the stunning Moray Firth as a backdrop, is virtually brand new.

Moreover, when it hosts the Barclay's Scottish Open next month it will have been open for business less than two years.

Indeed, a mere four years ago much of Castle Stuart consisted of potato and carrot fields, but it is a tribute to the work that has been

done in the building, growing-in and establishment of the course that a flagship European Tour event like the Barclay's Scottish Open could even be considered a possibility.

The inspiration behind Castle Stuart is American developer, Mark Parsinen, who had originally been one of the investors and founders of Kingsbarns.

In 2001 Mark decided he wanted to create a golf course of his own and began an extensive search of Scotland to find suitable land.

It was when he was looking at a stretch of Highland real estate that he happened to glance over and spot a bank of gorse on land which offered the elevation that drew comparisons with the fabled Royal Dornoch links not too far away. His search was over.

Mark then persuaded Stuart McColm, Course Manager at Kingsbarns, to become Project Manager for the new course with the promise of the position of General Manager once the course was up and running.





“I saw a news report on the television that planning approval had been granted for the new Castle Stuart course, and I actually wrote a letter of application there and then”
Chris Haspell, Course Manager



Chris Haspell, Course Manager

One of Stuart’s first appointments was Chris Haspell, who was drawn away from an excellent job in Denmark to become Course Manager.

Together with American architect, Gil Hanse, the newly-created Project Management team set about creating a golf course which will undoubtedly become one of the finest to be found anywhere.

“I was actually at Askernish doing some volunteer work with Gordon Irvine, when I saw a news report on the television that planning approval had been granted for the new Castle Stuart course and I actually wrote a letter of application there and then from the hotel,” recalled Chris, who had no idea at that stage that Stuart, who he’d met on a number of occasions, was involved in the project.

“Stuart called me and we met on site in May, 2006 and the site really did sell itself. He phoned me later to offer me the job, the stipulation being that I start within a month. I was very grateful to my old boss for his understanding in letting me go on the proviso that I return three times the first year and twice the second to advise on my old course.”

The work of turning agricultural fields into world class golf course began in earnest on June 26, 2006, with the earth moving to create a rough outline of the holes. The entire first year was spent shaping.

“Just over half the site was on pure sand and we began to sand cap the rest of the site, to a depth of 40cm, with sand quarried from elsewhere on the site.

“I would say that it began to look like a golf course in May or June

2007,” said Chris, who managed a construction team of 10.

“We were working to a schedule of a hole a week – which involved sandcapping, installing irrigation, seeding and final prep and we finished in November of ’07.”

Nothing was left to chance and quality was the watchword with the work carried out with Mark Parsinen on site permanently to ensure that his vision came to fruition.

An example of the attention to detail shown came on the 13th, a dogleg par-4, which boasts a wonderful view of the Kessock Bridge over the Moray Firth.

“Mark was adamant that when you play the course you should have it to yourself and that there should be seclusion on every hole. On the 13th he wanted to be able to



see a slither of water below the Keswick Bridge from the fairway. We had already landscaped the entire area when Mark spotted the top of a greenkeeper's head, who was stone picking on the 15th fairway, which runs behind the green.

He asked me how tall the guy was and I told him that he was six feet two. As a result we put a halt to seeding and lifted the fairway another six inches from 70 metres out so you couldn't see anyone behind the green."

The course takes full advantage of its surroundings. There are infinity edged greens and fairways making it look like the course runs into thin air or the water and which messes with depth perception, while the views of Fort George, Ben Nevis, Castle Stuart itself and the aforementioned Keswick Bridge

make the heart leap on the dullest of days.

Around the clubhouse and car park areas the upright sleepers give another feeling of establishment and quality.

The course has been seeded throughout with fescue which was a decision taken before Chris, a long time advocate of fescue from his time in Denmark, had come on board but for whom it was a huge attraction.

"We had a vision of trying to be as good as we could be agronomically and by having a pure sand type rather than a sand/soil mix has given us the opportunity to do that," explained Chris, who also said that the wonderful gorse which had created such a good impression on Mark, has been added to over the rest of the course with gorse

grown from seed. That also looks as though it has been there for years.

"If we'd used any other type of grass with the pure sand I believe we would have had serious issues. We have issues now, fescue isn't perfect, but the problems with maintenance would have been more serious had we gone down another route," he said.

"What will intrigue me when we have the tournament is what the player perception will be to playing on pure fescue, because nowhere else does it and it will look different to what they've seen before.

"We will try and keep the seed bank as fescue – don't get me wrong there is poa in there, but we'll try keep the fescue in the high 90%."

Chris says that they probably won't cut below five mil for the tournament.





BELOW: The team, including dogs Max and Chance, are Ewen, Ray, Roy, Andrew, James H, James T, Darren H, Darren S, Alan, David, Kevin, Graham, Chris, John and Neil

“My team are a great mix of guys, most are local and four of them started here as young guys and came through apprenticeships. They’re all buzzing at the thought of the tournament coming to us”
Chris Haspell, Course Manager

“The Tour wants us to be stimping at nine the Friday before we start but the problem with fescue is that once you have the speed you can’t take it off because it doesn’t grow,” said Chris, who admits, particularly with the first of the three contracted Opens, that he will be pleased when it is over and the week has been a success.

He has faced questions and some criticism for the fescue approach but is confident that as well as fitting the R&A’s bill for sustain-

ability it provides an ideal playing surface.

“People have said that by going pure fescue we are creating a monoculture but it’s not because there are so many different fescues. We have a trial plot with 40 different fescues and we are testing to see which get disease and which don’t, what the colour is like in summer, how they cope with drought.”

As a result of the work that has been done, the new environment has attracted a huge range of wildlife.

“We’ve turned 90 hectares of farmland into a nature reserve. We’ve got Plovers, Oyster Catchers, Ospreys, Woodcocks, Kestrels, Little Owls, Long Eared Owls wading birds, Sea Eagles, while we’ve got 62 nesting pairs of Sandmartins in the quarry we’ve created.”

A European Tour event was never a consideration until Stuart and Chris met with representatives from the European Tour early last year at a Challenge Tour event at Spey Valley and invited them across to Castle Stuart for a game.

With the contract with Loch Lomond coming to an end and the Tour wishing to return the Scottish Open to a links course to attract a top field with relevant practice for The Open Championship, which traditionally follows the tournament, everything fell into place.

Barclay’s visited, had a look and were happy with what they were shown and the agreement with the Tour was signed in the second week in January.

Castle Stuart may well be the youngest course ever to be given such a flagship event on the European Tour and the Barclay’s Scottish Open will be the biggest sporting event that the Scottish Highlands has ever had.

“There has been great support from the Golf Tourism Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the local council which has been great.

“There will be concerts running in Inverness all week and a huge buzz has been created behind the scenes.”

The development of Castle Stuart has been carried out with a view of producing a quiet efficiency in all areas.

The maintenance team currently consists of eight, plus Chris, plus seasonal support and a divoting team, not excessive given the high standard of presentation required.

“I’m delighted with my team you are nothing without them. Most of them are local and four of them started here as young guys and came through apprenticeships.

“They are a great mix of guys and they are all buzzing at the thought of the tournament coming to us,” said Chris.

Castle Stuart may be a youngster, but it will not be long before it is considered an equal alongside the very best courses around.

With the arrival of the Scottish Open, it’s own history of memorable deeds, performed by the modern superstars of the game, can then start to be catalogued.





Stuart: enjoying his new role



Stuart McCole is loving the challenge that his new role is giving him.

“It came about by accident. I lived and breathed Kingsbarns from the grow-in stage, and was really enjoying being back as part of the St Andrews family and working with Walter (Woods) again.

“Mark (Parsinen) then asked me to take a look at this new site and as I had lived in Inverness I asked him where it was. I couldn’t picture it so I travelled up and took a look and found it as stunning as he did. However, when he asked if I would join him I said that it would be hard for me to give up a Top 50 course in the world to do another project which would take years of my life and potentially ended up with me in the same position as I already had – Course Manager at a Top 50 course There was no incentive for me.

“Mark then said that he’d like me to come up and project manage before taking on the role of General Manager because it was his belief that the General Manager should have his finger on the pulse of the product and that I would be able to do that – not that every Course Manager would want to do it,” recalled Stuart.

“I do have an interest in wine on a personal basis but I wouldn’t say that food and wine excited me, while I’d never been in the hospitality game. However, I could put a budget together, look at sales forecasts, that sort of thing. So I felt that General Manager could be a natural progression for me.

“I’ve not been in it long enough to be judged a success and if I stopped enjoying it, who knows what I would do, but at the moment I’m really enjoying the challenge,” he said.

“It’s a steep learning curve, but I’ve always believed that a desire and passion to get the job done is more important than the skill set which is needed for the job as you can always learn that and you find a way of getting it done. That’s what I believe – if you are given an opportunity you turn it down at your peril.

“How are you going to get on in life if you don’t take your opportunities?”

Stuart has had input in all aspects of Castle Stuart including the design of the clubhouse.

“I’ve always thought it strange that locker rooms tend to be in the cellar or back of the club with no windows. Coming here you can see the golf course, and all the wonderful views, when you are eating in the bar, from the locker rooms, even when you are taking a shower. It all adds to the experience.”

Stuart and Chris work very closely together but Stuart tries to look at the course from a golfer’s perspective now.

“It’s not my own personal turf anymore and I’ve had to pull away from it because it’s not my bag any more, but I do know what it takes to get a product like this up and running although it doesn’t mean that I can’t question Chris or say no to one of his many requests.”

With the Barclay’s Scottish Open set for the next three years, a five star hotel, a golfers’ lodge, and a series of time share developments, not to mention another 18 holes all in the pipeline it is fair to say that Stuart will be kept busy for some time to come.

Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

Become a key sponsor

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key supporters means that BIGGA can continue to produce training and career aids including DVDs, CD Roms, field-guides, as well as refunds for training fees, subsidised learning and development courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800



“ I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training, so I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. A refund of my course fees has enabled me to complete my chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting, felling of small trees and my PA6 spraying certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Gold and Silver Key Companies, has done for my career. ”

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors





Alien invasive weeds

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at some of the weeds which were brought to this country many many years ago and have caused problems ever since

Weeds are simply plants in the wrong place at the wrong time but some grow so quickly they can smother, swamp and oust virtually all other plants. They are by definition invasive weeds colonising a wide range of ecosystems and environments. Those invading most methodically and with the worst effects are invariably alien (exotic) plant species, now with a 'free hand' in a new environment, because all closely matched natural enemies and diseases were left behind in the country of origin.

Three classic examples of alien invasive weeds in the United King-

ABOVE: Himalayan balsam growing in damp places can develop into huge patches

dom (UK) are Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia* sp), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) introduced by plant collectors, horticulturalists and gardeners several hundred years ago in what must have seemed like a good idea at the time. They have since graduated into invasive weeds and now occupy significant areas of ecologically sensitive environments and ecosystems causing massive amounts of economic damage and equally costly to manage.

All three weeds have several things in common. They are of Asian origin and prefer damp and wet places. They have no natural predator insects or diseases in the

UK which can exert any meaningful level of natural control. All three require dedicated herbicide application techniques for control using herbicides.

Even herbicide treatment will only manage rather than eradicate these weeds from the environment at large.

The pervading nature of invasive weeds makes it difficult to easily and safely access treatment using standard herbicide application equipment. At risk are water-courses near to where these three species most frequently grow and valued plants including turf grasses near to and below these tall invasive weeds. Custom-designed herbicide applicators are required.



Research into discovery and development of insect pests and plant pathogens for commercial control are on-going. This involves identification and collection of specimens in the weed plants' centre of origin and developing formulations and application techniques for delivery as commercial biological control agents. That is the easy part. Obtaining permission to introduce these additionally alien organisms into the UK environment, where they could become pests or diseases in their own right, is a long drawn out process with relatively low success rates.

Getting to the 'root' of the Japanese knotweed problem

An invasive label means a weed is automatically damaging and

difficult to control but Japanese knotweed which covers a number of species belonging to the genus *Fallopia* (family Polygonaceae) and native to Japan and parts of China stands 'head and shoulders' above the rest.

In their native Asian countries and environments these species are primary volcanic colonisers and generally much less vigorous, being kept in check by co-evolving species including insect natural enemies and pathogenic diseases.

The species usually found in the UK is *Fallopia japonica* var. *japonica*, introduced from Japan two centuries ago.

Japanese knotweed continues to destroy ecosystems and urban infrastructure and is one of few herbaceous weeds demanding direct placement of herbicide inside the

Seed from this single Himalayan balsam plant will be carried along the stream

plant to ensure fast lasting control.

Introduction of Japanese knotweed as an ornamental plant for early Victorian gardens must have seemed like a good idea at the time, but the contemporary weed legacy for UK is huge and growing. Weed success is due to ability for rapid spread in situ through enormous, super active and resilient rhizomes, and efficient dynamic spread assisted by the nature of its favoured riparian and urban environments.

Dense growth of Japanese knotweed restricts access for riverbank inspection and increases flood risk through large quantities of dead stems and leaves washed into rivers and streams. Attempts to remove established stands from riparian areas may cause instability in river banks and increase the risk of soil erosion.

Urban infestations cause considerable damage to hard surfaces. Tarmac is no problem for a weed that can force its stems through concrete.

Factors favouring and assisting dissemination of propagules is moving water on the one hand and human activity including soil excavation, movement into landfill and fly-tipping, on the other.

Severity and seriousness of Japanese knotweed is clear to see from the UK legislation used to try and limit its spread.

Japanese knotweed is on the list of Schedule 9 alien invasive species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it an offence to plant or cause it to grow in the wild. It is additionally classified as 'Controlled Waste' under the Environment Protection Act 1990 and can be disposed only at a licensed landfill site in accordance with the Environment Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991.

Japanese knotweed is multi-faceted weed species

Red-coloured and spear-like aerial shoots emerge in spring, reaching 30 cm by April and proceeding to form a massive foliar canopy 2 to 3 metres tall by summer's end. Plants produce large numbers of white flowers in summer but hardly any viable seed, probably due to UK climate limitations on normal sexual reproductive development.

Above ground stems die back and dry out in autumn, but overwintering rootstock and rhizomes (underground stems) are so fast growing, all pervading and consuming that nothing else stands a chance, even

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during the only 'knotweed-free window' which is late autumn and winter. Dead stems and leaves decompose very slowly to form a deep litter that prevents germination of other seeds.

Failure to produce viable seed is more than compensated for by a fast growing and robust system of rhizomes, which provides this and other invasive weeds with the means to exploit and dominate environments and vegetative propagation for efficient spread.

Rhizome systems may extend up to seven metres from the parent plant and to a depth of three metres. Rhizome fragments down to 0.7g can generate new plants and pieces of fresh aerial stem will grow shoots and roots in soil or water. Plants can achieve up to three metres of aerial and six metres of rhizome growth in a single growing season.

New shoots arise from the tiniest pieces of rhizome and cut stem-sections root at the nodes, while crowns will survive drying or composting and produce new canes once in contact with water. Attempts to mechanically control



ABOVE: *Rhododendron ponticum* is another well-established alien invasive weed

RIGHT: Creeping water primrose/willow-leaved primrose is an alien weed already in the UK and with potential to become invasive

LEFT, and BELOW: Japanese knotweed may appear almost anywhere including near buildings



Japanese knotweed using strimmers, flails or diggers will invariably aggravate its spread.

Application of herbicide is the only safe way to manage Japanese knotweed but this is easier said than done due to the sheer size and resilience of its rhizomes. A number of herbicides notably glyphosate are effective but how much and for how long will depend on the application method used, which is the factor determining ultimate success of any chemical control programme against Japanese knotweed. Spraying with contact herbicide will burn off leaves but rhizomes survive and produce new stems. The only sure way to dispatch Japanese

knotweed is to introduce systemically acting herbicide directly into the stems by filling the cut stems or injecting intact stems.

Target area is the lower part of the aerial stem to minimize the distance for downward translocation into the rhizomes, the underground part of the stem. Best time is from late summer through autumn when rhizomes become the sinks for soluble food and nutrients translocated from the leaves before they senesce and fall off. Introduced systemic herbicide is subject to this same strong basipetal (downward) translocation of soluble chemicals into the rhizome system which is subsequently killed.

Hand-operated applicators used for stem-injection and 'stem cut and fill' of the hollow stems with total systemically acting herbicides like glyphosate are the preferred weapons of choice.

For stem injection a single shot (several ml) of herbicide is introduced into the hollow stem just below the first stem node up from soil level, as near as possible to the underground rhizome.

An alternative direct application option is wiping the outer surface of Japanese knotweed plants using hand-held weed-wiper applicators. This is carried out on flowering stems up to two metres in height during late summer.

Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed require an 'inside job'

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) are two alien (non-native) invasive weeds causing serious environmental damage across the UK. Both species are on the Schedule 9 list of alien invasive weeds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

With a preference for damp waterside areas these plants spread

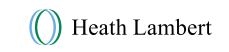
quickly and easily via water-borne seed to present increased flood risk while crowding out native waterside flora. However, their hollow stems open them up to a highly targeted and environmentally benign delivery of herbicide using stem injection.

With pretty pink flowers, which start to appear in June, Himalayan balsam grows up to three metres tall to completely out-compete nearby native plants and dies back in autumn to expose large areas of bare soil.

This makes river banks highly vulnerable to erosion form increased water flows during winter, thus increasing flood risk. Moreover it reduces harbourage, breeding sites and food supplies for native wildlife by obliterating native waterside flora. Seeds of the Himalayan balsam stay viable for two years or more.

There's nothing pretty about giant hogweed, growing up to five metres tall with huge flower heads (umbels) of several thousand seeds and around 50,000 seeds on every plant.

Seeds are readily dispersed along watercourses and may remain viable for 10 years. Giant hogweed poses an additional inherent



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Himalayan balsam by the waterside

danger from photosensitive toxic chemicals (furanocoumarins) contained in the sap. They cause severe burning and blistering (photodermatitis) of contaminated skin which is subsequently exposed to the UV spectrum of natural sunlight. Only minute traces are required for this to happen and the toxic chemical will remain active for several hours after the stem has been cut.

Control of these weeds alongside water courses should be carried out on a catchment basis, working from the upstream end to prevent seed colonization.

Treatment should be delayed until plants have a sufficiently large stem diameter to allow easy and effective injection, but should be carried out before viable seed has been set and dispersed. Seed pods of Himalayan balsam start to 'explode' and disperse their seed in late July.

Giant hogweed starts to flower in May with main period of seed set in late summer.

It is essential to establish and encourage growth of native plants as soon as possible after these alien invasive weeds have been controlled.

Sustainable chemical control requires light, portable, easy to use and cost effective chemical applicators. High environmental sensitivity of riverside areas infested with these two weeds means herbicide spraying is not the most appropriate application option because it can lead to contamination and damage through spray drift, run-off and leaching.

Safe and cost effective control requires an 'inside job' made all the more easy and effective, because the relatively large diameter and not too compact stems allow easy and effective use of the stem-injection method.

Other alien invasive weeds

Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed are some of the most high profile alien invasive weeds but some others just as well established or on the verge of becoming so.

Rhododendron ponticum, which originates in the Mediterranean region and has been around in the UK since the 18th century, is another well established and damaging alien invasive weed.

Ludwigia species (creeping water primrose/willow-leaved primrose) originating in South America is almost certainly the one to watch of the newest arrivals and those waiting in the wings.



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Time to keep a weather eye on your irrigation

This spring's unseasonably warm weather looks set to be a sign of things to come. So – asks Robert Jackson – can your golf course irrigation system take the heat or is it time to upgrade?



The unseasonably hot and dry spring weather has taken golf clubs across the UK by surprise in recent weeks, putting many an ageing and/or failing irrigation system to the test as a result.

If you're one of the clubs that have limped through the last couple of summers with an inadequate system, it's time to stop burying your head in the sand-bunker: either invest in a proper retrofit and remedial work, or budget for an all-new system.

Both are daunting steps in these economically difficult times, but are far better than having your existing system kick the bucket in the height of summer!

Let's look at your options...

Retrofit and remedial work

Did you know that remedial work can improve an existing system's

efficiency by around 20%? By repairing or renovating, customers can make significant savings on ongoing operating costs as well as save on the expense of a new installation – something that makes perfect financial sense in these tough times.

If the wholesale replacement of your existing system just isn't feasible, then it is possible to phase in a new system over time – though you will, of course, be limited by the pipe network you've already got.

For example: you could replace your mains and cabling in the first year; replace your pump system and tank the second year; and then, depending on your budget, put in a greens, tees and fairways system in the third year.

By carrying out the first two phases, you are free to 'bolt-on' greens, tees and fairways cover as and when you can, which offers a more cost-effective solution.

Sprinkler nozzles are also subject to wear, so something as simple as adequate maintenance and periodic replacement can bring about a dramatic improvement in the overall efficiency of your system.

Because they need to be replaced every few years, manufacturers are constantly updating and improving their design and function, which means new nozzles will work at the very best flow and pressure whereas older nozzles will always become less uniform with age.

Remarkably, simply by renewing sprinkler nozzles, you can increase the efficiency of your system by up to 10% at the right pressure and flow.

With nozzles costing on average just £15 per head, this can be a highly cost-effective way of improving your system and is a job that can be carried out by the green-keeping team.



Invest in an all-new system

Effective irrigation is crucial to successful course maintenance, and hence the majority of clubs have a contingency for this or are saving for a new system.

But many clubs persevere with serious problems, calling out the service engineers time and again, accruing unnecessary labour costs as well as causing turf damage during hot, dry spells, until it becomes a real headache.

Before you reach breaking point, it is prudent to weigh up the costs of calling out the engineers and growing annual service bills against budgeting for a new system.

More often than not, budgeting for new costs less in the long-term compared to throwing good money after bad in the short-term.

If a new system is called for, beware the pitfalls of buying cheap. Cheaper, lower-quality products have a shorter lifespan – which is not a good thing for something being installed underground!

What's more, leading companies invest a great deal of time and money designing and manufacturing products to perform to the most efficient and advanced standards, so a cheaper system will be less

efficient. If it's cheap, it's cheap for a reason!

Probably the greatest mistake a club can make is to fork out for a new system that then leaves no room for expansion.

So if you decide to invest in a greens system, it is vital you consider there and then whether you will want to expand this into, say, a tees system in the future.

By discussing your present and future needs with a consultant/contractor this can be designed into your system, making it future-proof.

Think about it: if you select a system that is simply designed to irrigate one green at a time then it is specified and costed accordingly.

So if you decide in a few years time that you want to add tees and fairways, the system will not have been designed to cope with this extra requirement.

You will then face the unpleasant prospect of having to upgrade or replace the mains infrastructure to cope with the additional flows and pressures.

Toro has been involved in the replacement of several systems that have been installed for less than 15 years, requiring clubs to make another major investment to

A good system will last between 30 and 50 years if properly maintained and serviced, and should be flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs of your club

give them the system they originally wanted. Proper long-term planning is, therefore, vital. A good system will last between 30 and 50 years if properly maintained and serviced, and should be flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs of your club.

Act now

Course Managers are beginning to see a trend in weather patterns, and I think it's safe to say that this early hot, dry spell is a sign of things to come this summer.

Perhaps it's even given you a sneak preview of the kinds of problems you might face in the height of summer.

So if your irrigation system will struggle when things really hot up, act now to keep your course looking good and in perfect playing condition.

about the author



Robert Jackson is Toro Irrigation's UK Sales Manager visit www.toro.com.

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Dreams *can* come true



Dan Quinn will be involved in course preparation at this month's US Open, at the Congressional Country Club, as part of his Ohio State Intern Program. He talks about the preparation he has done and his anticipation ahead of the big event



The 10th Hole of the Blue Course at Congressional Country Club as seen on Thursday, May 20, 2010 in Bethesda, Md. (Copyright USGA/ John Mummert)



If you had told me the first day I started at Woburn that I would get the chance to be involved in the set-up and preparation for a US Open, I would not have believed you. But that dream is coming true this year - thanks to a lot of people - most notably John Clarke, Courses Manager at Woburn, along with valuable support from The Duke of Bedford.

John had the opportunity to participate in the Ohio State University Internship program at Winged Foot where he was involved in the set up for the '97 PGA championship.

I will be forever grateful for this opportunity but I could not have done it without the help of another Woburn supporter and former employee, David McGregor.

David is also a past student of the Ohio Program and is now an assistant at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Manassas, Virginia.

I started my internship recently

are kept at lightning speeds and are very undulating with a trend to slope from back to front.

Previously Congressional's greens were 70% Poa and 30% Bentgrass but they have recently been reconstructed and they are now 100% Bentgrass, as are Robert Trent Jones' greens.

In 2009, after the AT&T, the course was closed and the greens rebuild commenced. They were completely rebuilt from a Poa/Bent combination to the Creeping Bentgrass variety which was a combination of A1/A4.

The collars were seeded with Pennncross and all existing drainage and greens profile was removed and new drainage and sub-bases were installed - and the Sub Air units installed. This helped them meet USGA specifications.

The course has also been lengthened by the addition of several new tees in preparation for the US Open and the fairways have been narrowed to really test the players.

This year's US Open will be held over the Blue course which was originally designed by Devereux Emmet, but has been renovated over the years by many architects including Robert Trent Jones

at The Robert Trent Jones GC under David's careful guidance, as I and approximately 10 other carefully selected Ohio State Program interns will be involved in the preparation of Congressional CC for the US Open.

After doing some research I found out that Congressional Country Club has been host to two US Opens, previously in 1964 and 1997, and one PGA championship in 1976.

Congressional is situated in Bethesda, Maryland just outside Washington DC. It is a 36-hole facility with a Gold course and a Blue course.

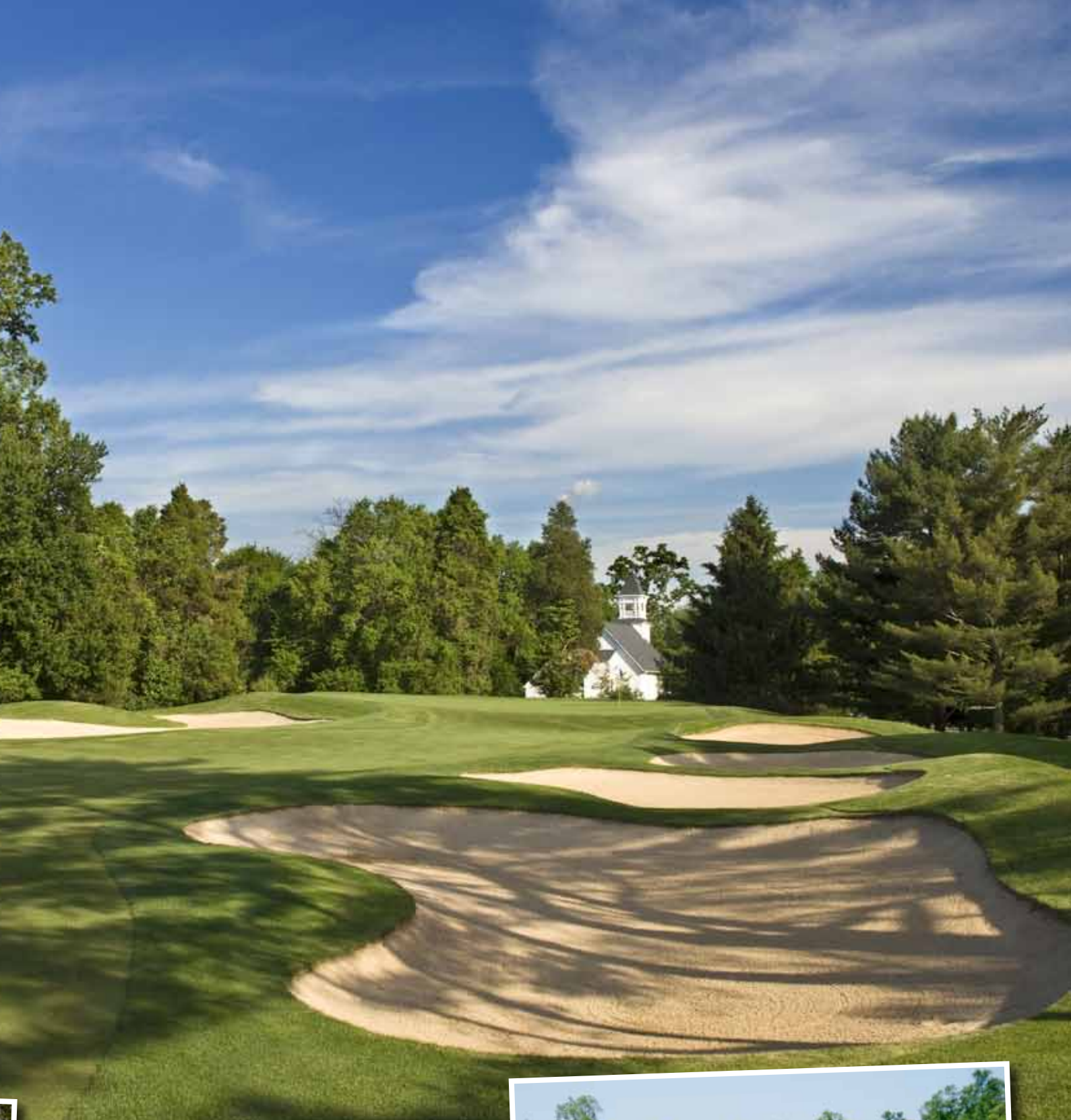
This year's US Open will be held over the Blue course which was originally designed by Devereux Emmet, but has been renovated over the years by many architects including Robert Trent Jones. I am looking forward to comparing the aspects of his design features between Robert Trent Jones Golf Club and Congressional Country Club.

Congressional has similar features to RTJ in that their greens

The experience of being part of the tournament preparation for a Major Championship hasn't really sunk in. After gathering information about Congressional and reading how much work has been and will be put in from now until the Championship begins gives me a taste of what I am in for. Congressional, although host to a PGA tour event every year, has really been pulling out all the stops to be prepared for a US Open, and to show the world what a fantastic venue it really is.

They are planning to have approximately 85 volunteers on hand from some of the best golf courses around the country and the world. Some coming from as far afield as Greece and Australia. They will have 60 full time staff, many of whom are seasoned veterans of previous Tour events. And more than 10 Ohio State interns, past and present will be helping, which is a huge number. It shows me what a great learning environment Congressional want to foster, by making this a truly global learning environment.





On top of that, they have requested the following list of equipment to be on hand:

(6) Flex 21 greens mowers; (8) GR 1000 walk mowers; (3) GR 3150 Triplex mowers; (19) RM 5410 5 Gang Fairway mowers; (3) GM 4500 Rough Rotary units; (2) GM 3500 Rough Rotary units; (1) RM 3100 Sidewinder; (2) SP 5040 Mechanical bunker rake; (12) Electric Workman utility vehicles; (10) Gas Workman utility vehicles; (4) Dump bed for 3200 Workman; (4) Transpro 80 trailers and (4) Transpro 100 trailers.

ABOVE: The 16th Hole of the Blue Course at Congressional Country Club (Copyright USGA/John Mummert)

LEFT: USGA Executive Director Mike Davis and USGA Vice President Thomas J. O'Toole Jr, left to right, walk to the 10th green as seen while setting up the Blue Course for the 2011 U.S. Open at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda (Copyright USGA/John Mummert)

RIGHT: Robert Trent Jones GC, 10th hole



Being part of a Major Championship will be a great addition to my CV or Resume, as they call it over here in the States, and although I have been part of 10 European Tour events during my time at Woburn, this experience will rank high above anything I have achieved or been part of during my career.

I have been at RTJ for a few months and I can safely say that this was the best decision of my life. The experience and lifestyle at RTJ is excellent and highly recommended. Choosing the Ohio State Program has turned out to be a fantastic decision and the experience and exposure to American turf industry has been of the highest calibre, I will soon be working at the US Open and will see tournament setup at its finest, but the best bit is, that I will be able to network with the best in the world all in one place and that is what makes this such a great learning environment.

Like I said, I would never believe you if you told me I'd get the chance to be involved in a US Open, but The Ohio State Program has made this all possible, by recruiting British students who show commitment and dedication to this profession. They have the network, infrastruc-

ture and connections to make this opportunity happen. Ohio State sponsored me to do my training at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, knowing that John Clarke had been preparing me for this position for quite a while.

If you want to get on such a program, you have to be single, 19-28 years old, having completed at least your NVQ level 2 and show commitment and dedication to your golf course, you also have to seek out and find as much education and training as possible, to prepare you to represent your College, your golf course and your country in situations like this. The pressure that is involved is clearly more than I expected but it will be well worth it in the long run.

The hours that are planned during the week of the US Open are set to kick off at 4.00am and be done by 7.30am with evening duties to run from 4.00pm to 8.00pm, but they are contingent on the weather.

Congressional have an ample supply of chainsaws, waterpumps, squeegees, bunker rakes and leaf rakes to clear the course in ample time, aided by a solid Sub Air system to get those pros back playing as quickly as possible.

The glorious course that is Robert Trent Jones, showing the 11th hole (BELOW); 1st (RIGHT) and Lake Manassas at night (BOTTOM RIGHT)

In my preparation and training for the US Open, Scott Furlong CGCS, the Director of Operations at The Robert Trent Jones GC, and his staff already had me working longer hours than I would normally do in the middle of the summer in England but I found myself wanting more because every day I was learning something new.

Being a completely different layout and design to what I had been used it helped me to see ways to improve myself.

I soon got used to the long hours and the sudden changes in weather and started to settle into a rhythm showing the assistants my ability and also asking them questions about the course to help me get an understanding to why these tasks are done.

In my first week I did mostly spraying, I spray hawked greens for the first time and was shattered by the 14th green.

It was 30 degrees centigrade and the humidity was unreal, and then the assistant that I was spraying with told me that we were only half way because RTJ has 10 practice greens.

I can safely say I slept well that night!





I also sprayed the fairways with fertilizer and the rough with a pre-emergent for crabgrass, I mowed greens, tees and fairways and helped lay about 20 pallets of sod. By the end of the week I was exhausted and David told me that this was a normal week!

I could now see why RTJ's reputation was so high, the standard that they set themselves is Championship standard and they try to keep the golf course in perfect condition all year round.

RTJ has a crew of around 40 people each day and each one of them are key to keeping the course at championship level. Daily duties include mowing greens, sometimes double cutting to increase green speeds, rolling greens fully then rolling the area around the pin position again, we change pins every day and full rake bunkers too, the tees, approaches and fairways are mowed twice a week and rough each week, bunkers are also edged every week.

Attention to detail is high priority and the assistants will check every inch of the course before morning setup is complete making sure the course meets the member's expectations.

Robert Trent Jones truly is a

Last but not least, I thank John Clarke, Courses Manager at Woburn for making all this possible with his support, and willingness to invest in my career, by letting me have this great experience



wonderful place to be and I feel very fortunate and privileged to be able to be part of their organisation, I am going to make the most of my summer here and I am very lucky to have been given the chance to work here.

I have to thank my family for supporting me, Mike O'Keeffe at Ohio State for believing in me and all the Staff at RTJ for making this a memorable experience, especially Dave McGregor, and last but not least, John Clarke and the Duke of Bedford for making all this possible with their support, and willingness to invest in my career by letting me have this great experience.

By the time you read this, you should at least know a little bit more about what goes into a US Open.



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Chemical saviours

The discovery and development of selective herbicides for turf.
By Graham Paul

Selective herbicides used to kill broad-leaved weeds in turf were developed from agricultural chemicals. Much of the first part of this article deals with the search for weed control in cereals, which are members of the same botanical family as grasses; the Gramineae. Therefore, the situation in amenity is the same as in agriculture, in that we are trying to control unwanted dicotyledonous plants in a monocotyledonous crop.

The use of chemicals to kill vegetation is not new; the first examples in history date back to around 1200BC when conquering armies, in what we now call the Middle East, used salt and ash to

wipe out their enemy's crops. In effect, these were chemicals used to spite others; the beneficial use of chemicals took much longer to emerge.

In mid nineteenth century Germany, a mixture of sulphuric acid and iron sulphate was used in possibly the first selective weed control experiment in European agriculture.

However, it was not until later in the 19th century that the early beginnings of the herbicide industry started to have an impact on agricultural practices.

The first products to come to market were copper salts that were found to provide a degree of selective weed control in cereal crops and boost the yield.

About a dozen other metal salts

including such efficacious offerings as iron sulphate and sodium nitrate soon followed to add to the product portfolio!

These metal salts had a contact action against the broad-leaved weeds, killing the aerial growth but leaving the roots intact, which could allow weed re-growth to occur in many cases.

Selectivity was partly due to differences in spray retention on the leaf between the crop and target. The finer, upright leaves of the cereal plants have a waxy coating and therefore retain less of the chemical than the leaves of broad-leaved weeds; which are rounder, have a greater surface area and are often horizontally oriented.

Also, the growing tips of cereals and grasses are less vulnerable to



sprays, being located in the base of the plant and protected by older leaves, whereas those of broad-leaved plants are terminal and more exposed to attack by chemicals.

Broad leaved weeds present a rounder, wider, horizontal target

These early selective herbicides were slow to be taken up by farmers due to the high cost of the active ingredients and their relatively poor cost/benefit – without modern formulation technology the performance was erratic and the salts could be easily washed away by heavy rainfall before the full effect was seen.

The long-term use of certain metal salts, e.g. copper sulphate, could also lead to the build-up of toxic residues in the soil that would eventually reduce the crop vigour.

However, one positive thing that emerged from these early agrochemicals was that they established the concept of chemical weeding and encouraged research into finding a more reliable means of achieving it.

In the 1930's a team of scientists working for ICI at the Jealott's Hill Research Station were working on a project to eradicate weeds in cereal crops by spraying with sulphuric and other acids.

The report published by G.E. Blackman and W.G. Templeman in 1936 showed up to 90% control of Charlock and Wild Radish in cereal crops sprayed with 9.2% sulphuric acid and slightly better control with similar concentrations of nitric acid.

It took a few more years of research and the sudden pressing need to feed a world at war, for the real breakthrough to come.

This was the introduction of the hormone herbicide 2,4-D, developed by a British team at Rothamstead Experimental Station in Hertfordshire led by Judah Hirsch Quastel. 2,4-D was the first of the group known as the phenoxy or hormone herbicides whose activity was due to its chemical similarity to naturally occurring plant growth hormones.

The use of phenoxy herbicides causes the plant to undergo uncontrolled growth, resulting in twisting of the leaves and stems – a symptom known as 'epinasty' where one surface of the leaf or one side of the stem grows faster than the other.

Only dicotyledonous plants are affected by the phenoxy herbicides, monocotyledonous plants such as cereals and grasses are largely

unaffected – although a very high dose will cause scorching in monocots.

2,4-D was released commercially in 1946 and was quickly followed by several other similar products from the same chemical group – some of which will be familiar to those working in the amenity turf industry; MCPA, 2,4-DB, dichlorprop, fenoprop, mecoprop and 2,4,5-T.

Many of these herbicides found uses in weed control in the main monocotyledonous crops throughout the world; cereals, maize and rice. Selective turf herbicides came a little later, borrowing the technology from the larger agricultural market.

The chemical structures of the phenoxy herbicides are very similar but small differences can dramatically change the spectrum of weeds they control.

For example MCPA and mecoprop differ only in the replacement of one hydrogen atom (H) in MCPA with a methyl group (CH₃).

MCPA is generally more effective on the deeper rooting weeds such as Dandelion, Docks and Cat's-ear whilst mecoprop gives better control of many smaller leaved weeds such as White Clover, Black Medick,

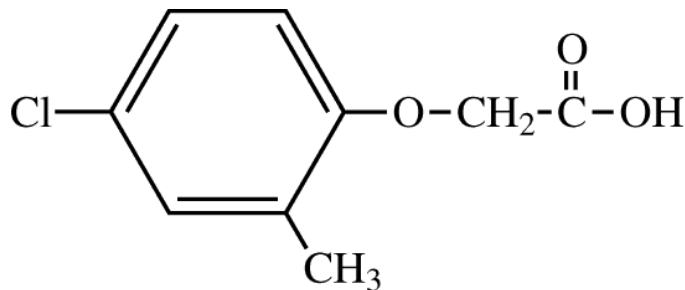
When certain chemicals are manufactured, the end product can be a mixture of two stereoisomers of the desired molecule.

Without going into great detail, the best way to illustrate stereoisomers is to look at your left and right hands. They are mirror images of one another, having the same number of fingers and thumbs attached to the palm in a similar but opposite way.

The manufacture of mecoprop produces a mixture of two molecules known as the '-' and '+' isomers; i.e. both left and right handed forms of the same chemical.

Both isomers will have the same physical and chemical properties. However, in nature usually only one isomeric form of a molecule is produced so when a pesticide works by mimicking a natural product, such as a plant growth hormone, it follows that a mixture of the '-' and '+' isomers will have only half of the activity of a pure solution of the one that is closest to nature's genuine part.

Modern chemical technology now allows us to manufacture mecoprop that contains only the '+' isomer (mecoprop-P) so we can reduce the amount of chemical



Common Chickweed and Procrumbent Pearlwort. By careful mixing of two or more active ingredients in a single product, manufacturers have been able to extend the weed spectrum in a bid to provide a complete answer to weed problems in one spray application.

One early example of this was 'Supertox' (now withdrawn) from May & Baker, which combined 2,4-D and mecoprop to control 18 out of the 22 commonly occurring turf weeds in the UK. It served the amenity market for some 40 years before disappearing in 2009 having been superseded by the newer products such as the 3 way mixes with dicamba, MCPA and mecoprop-P, which offer a slightly broader weed spectrum.

The suffix -P that appears after mecoprop denotes the use of an isomeric form of this molecule.

applied to the environment without losing the effectiveness of the product.

The period from the end of the Second World War through to the 1980's saw exponential growth in the discovery and development of new herbicides with companies investing heavily in screening and development programmes aimed at finding new active ingredients.

In addition to the phenoxy hormone herbicides, several other important selective herbicides used on turf and grassland were discovered including; dicamba, triclopyr, asulam and the hydroxybenzotrile (HBN) herbicides ioxynil and bromoxynil.

Dicamba and triclopyr are also described as 'plant hormone' herbicides but belong to a different chemical group. The HBN herbicides work by interfering with pho-





tosynthesis, a process that occurs in both grasses and broad-leaved vegetation. Selectivity is achieved by this group because grasses can rapidly break up the herbicide as soon as it enters the plant and before it reaches the target.

The mode of action of asulam is not fully understood but researchers believe that selectivity comes from rapid degradation of the chemical in the same manner as the HBN herbicides.

The rate of discovery of new herbicides slowed during the latter part of the 20th century with increased public awareness and concerns about environmental and health issues.

Increasing pesticide legislation and food surpluses also helped to apply the brakes. European Council Directive 91/414/ECC was issued to harmonise national arrangements for authorising pesticides within the EEC.

It resulted in the removal of two thirds of the active ingredients from the approved chemicals list in the UK by the time the exercise was completed in 2009.

Thankfully we still have a trickle of new chemicals getting through these tight controls. In recent years we have seen the introduction of products containing florasulam, fluroxypyr and carfentrazone, which have all found a place in this ever changing market.

Probably the most infamous 'chemical hoe' and member of the phenoxy group is the herbicide 2,4,5-T, whose activity as a brush-wood killer took it into the service of the American Forces fighting in the jungles in 1960's Vietnam.

The product, known as 'Agent Orange', was a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T.

This was applied to large areas of Vietnam to remove the cover provided by the jungle. Over the 10 years of the campaign in Vietnam a staggering 77 million litres of the defoliant was sprayed, so it had to be manufactured as quickly and cheaply as possible. The side effects of exposure to 'Agent Orange' started to emerge after a few years of spraying.

Studies showed a dramatic increase in horrific birth defects in children and skin problems in adults living in the treated areas. Researchers soon found out that it wasn't 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T that caused these effects but highly toxic bi-products of their manufacture known as dioxins.

Today, such impurities are removed to ensure that the commercial product is safe enough to use but in the 'military policing action' in Vietnam, the US Forces had neither the time nor the budget to produce a clean product. Many books have been written on the side effects of 'Agent Orange' because it affected so many people from both sides of the conflict.

It is fairly safe to say that the eventual withdrawal of the herbicide 2,4,5-T in the 1980's was in part due to the high levels of publicity that arose from its use in Vietnam.

SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form at: www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=21 Circle the correct answer(s)

1) When was the herbicide 2,4-D first released commercially?

- a) 1896 b) 1940 c) 1946 d) 1964

2) How do 'hormone' type herbicides kill broad-leaved weeds?

- a) Interfere with growth processes in the target plant.
b) Prevent transpiration causing loss of cooling.
c) Corrode aerial parts of the weed.
d) Poison the growing tips.

3) The suffix -P given to some selective herbicides such as mecoprop-P denotes: -

- a) Professional formulation for use by certified spray operators only.
b) It contains only the active (+) stereoisomer.
c) Pure formulation - containing no dioxins.
d) Poisonous to bees.

4) The disfigurement of leaves and stems caused by all hormone type herbicides is known as: -

- a) epiphany b) contracture c) epinasty d) exogamy

5) What is the mode of action of the HBN herbicide ioxynil?

- a) Inhibits cell elongation
b) Inhibits DNA replication in target plants.
c) Interferes with photosynthesis
d) Causes uncontrollable growth

6) In the report published by G.E. Blackman and W.G. Templeman in 1936, what weed species were involved in their experiments?

- a) Chamomile and Wild Rocket
b) Cleavers and Wild Carrot
c) Corn Marigold and Wild Oats
d) Charlock and Wild Radish

References:

- 1) G. E. Blackman and W. G. Templeman (1936). The eradication of weeds in cereal crops by sulphuric acid and other compounds. The Journal of Agricultural Science, 26, pp 368-390

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

The anatomy of...

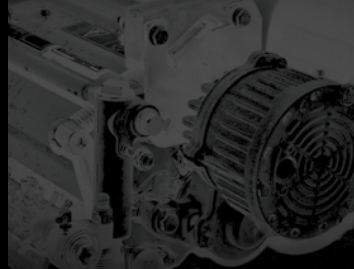
Vredo Super Compact Overseeders



Timing is key to overseeding success. Grass seed applied through any form of overseeding equipment should germinate just fine in the right conditions. The key to success, however, remains in ensuring the germinating seedling then survives. On sports turf that is allowed the luxury of a rest before it is played and tightly mown, overseeding can be carried out through a wider time frame. But year-round play makes overseeding golf greens a real challenge.

Step-by-step Analysis...

Vredo Super Compact Overseeders



As is so often the case, it can be dangerous to make sweeping generalisations, this applying particularly to the subject of overseeding. But when it comes to accurately placing fresh seed into an existing green, there is generally a consensus when it comes to timing; the optimum period will typically be between late August and then on through September. The job can also be carried out in October, but the later into the autumn the job is done the higher the risk of frost or late season fungal attack.



The steel flat fingers that run alongside the cutting discs help ensure a clean slice is cut into fine turf, and also help ensure an even depth is maintained across the full width of the machine.



Viewed from the side, the depth of slit can be clearly gauged by the amount of disc protruding through the fingers. The toothed wheel drives the metering unit.



Metered seed is drip between the silt-cutting discs via tubes. Note inter-disc scrapers, the chain supports allowing the scraper to move out of the way and subsequently eject an object as the disc space opens up.



Pictured on the assembly bench at the Vredo factory, the workings of the metering drive can be seen. A key design aim is to ensure low seed rates of small seed, to include Bent grass, can be accurately maintained.

It is also fair to say there are those who prefer to overseed in conjunction with sand slitting or other aeration methods, adding seed at the same time as the sand allowing two jobs to be done at once. Others prefer a direct overseed, with an emphasis upon minimal visual impact and allowing a green to be put back into play almost as soon as the equipment leaves the green. As always there will be a play off between getting the job done and minimising disruption.

If the latter is the goal, the choice of 'straight' overseeding equipment on offer will include the Vredo models offered by Campey Turf Care Systems.

A reason for taking a look at the Super Compact model featured here is that it has been purpose developed to suit overseeding golf greens and that the first models have now been in use in the UK long enough to be considered.

The Vredo Super Compact overseeder was originally developed for use on golf greens and tees though in practice users suggest the tool can also be used for patch repair on fairways, particularly landing zones subject to divot damage.

As to the actual Super Compact unit, its design follows the established Vredo seeding principle; a pair of angled discs cut a V-shaped slit into the turf into which metered seed is placed.

The idea behind the system is that the roller at the rear of the unit seals the slits. So although an overseeded green can be played on immediately the job is completed, the closed slit also helps to seal in moisture. This helps to provide good seed to soil contact, with users suggesting this results in good germination rates. Vredo suggest germination can be as high as 95%.

The Super Compact is offered in trailed and mounted versions, the build of the unit allowing the chosen model to be converted



Although shown in a ryegrass winter sports turf sward, the slit cut by the seeder is 'closed' by the unit's roller. On a golf green, the slits typically only show during an early morning dew.



The flutes of the metering unit are partially covered by a flap, the aperture of which is adjusted to seed the seed and desired application rate.



between the two. In trailed form, weights are added to help ensure the discs penetrate the turf, the aim being to allow trailed units to be operated behind a light tractor that may not have the lift capacity for the seeder in its mounted form.

The idea is to allow overseeding to be undertaken with as light a tractor as possible, front weights on the tractor possibly compromising the operation on some greens.

By offering the Super Compact in trailed form, overseeding can possibly take place with a lighter tractor, reducing the risk of compromising the green, particularly when overseeding in ideal damp conditions – check this and the paragraph below – this states it's ideal in damp conditions.

Although the operating principle of the Vredo Super Compact is easy enough to understand - metered seed drops via tubes between the cutting discs, the resultant slit being closed by a rear roller – actually setting up the unit can take a while to get right. A key point is to ensure the unit runs level and that a close eye is kept on the resultant finish.

The narrowest 0.80 and lightest Vredo Super Compact is ideally suited to mounting on a tractor with a modest 510kg lift capacity, the narrow width allowing good contour following.

How long it will take to overseed a green will of course relate to the green's size, but operators of the wider 1.20 models suggest a

green can be completed in around 20 minutes, making it feasible to complete 18 holes in a day.

With regard to conditions, the Vredo needs to work on a dry surface – this says it needs dry surfaces – this needs checking, with morning dew being enough to potentially upset the ability of the machine to leave a good finish.

Sowing depths can of course be varied but a slit depth of between 3 to 4mm is typically seen as being ideal. At 35mm spacing, a single one-way pass is also normally about right, a counter pass the next

season helping where a variety or species change is a priority.

With regard to prices, mounted models of the Super Compact are priced from £14,750, a trailed 1.60m Super Compact listing at £27,625. ex VAT.

This is a considerable investment but one that should be viewed in relation to the potential life of the unit. Most golf courses would struggle to wear a machine out in 20 plus years. The Vredo Compact range starts at £10,025 for a Compact 210, up to £14,545 for a Compact 222.

Shown in a typical greens overseeding application, the 1.60m Vredo SUPERCompact is based around the existing mounted and trailed Compact series also includes narrower 0.80m and 1.20m alternatives. Staggered discs allow a row spacing of just 35mm. With respective hopper capacities of 90, 135 and 180 litres, the units can be operated at speeds as high as 9 to 10kph. Note weight pack over rear roll.



Steve Oultram, Golf Course Manager at Wilmslow Golf Club has been using a mounted Vredo SUPERCompact to mainly establish bent grass into the course's 18 greens but has also overseeded with some fescue seed. A key reason for choosing the Vredo was its minimal surface disturbance and its speed; all 18 greens were seeded in a period stretching from 6am to 3pm.

"My first aim is to get a good rate of germination," he says, adding. "Once the seed has germinated it needs to establish. By sowing in September we are able to mow the greens at a winter cutting height and have stopped verticutting and using wetting agents. This allows the young grass plants to establish over the autumn".

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BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
South East	16 November 2011	Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex	Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343
South West & South East	17 November 2011	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850
Scotland	6 March 2012	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440



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Promoting best practice in sports turf management

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.



Sponsored by **syngenta**

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 of Scotland



Ayrshire



North

Central

A good turnout of 30 people came to hear Stan Zontek, of the USGA Greens Section, speak at Elmwood on April 21. Stan gave an interesting slide show showing some of the changes made to Pebble Beach for the 2010 US Open and at Congressional for this year's Championship.

Our Spring meeting was held in glorious weather at Ladybank GC on April 28. The main prizewinners were, Scratch, G. Duncan, Carnoustie, 75; Best Nett, Elliott Small, 70; Class 1, I. J. Watson, St Andrews, Nett 73. Class 2, D. Scott, Sconie, Nett 70. A full report of winners is on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Our thanks go to Ladybank GC and their Captain, Bill Pettigrew, and also to the Course Manager, Colin Powrie, and his team, for the excellent condition and presentation of the golf course.

There were 16 teams entered the Pairs tournament and again the draw and results will be posted on the website.

Finally for this month, one of the greenkeepers at The Dukes Course, Steven Horsburgh had a baby girl Amy 8lb 5oz on Sunday, April 24, and Steven Wilson has left The Duke's to work up at the Trump project in Aberdeen (take your thermals, Steve).

Gordon Moir

The Spring Outing was played over the Craighelaw Golf Links on the 19th of April and the weather was sunny and calm just as I ordered. Course Manager, Mark Reid, and his staff presented the links well although some tricky hole positions were mentioned. A huge thanks to all the staff at Craighelaw for the hospitality shown to our section. Some 24 members attended the event amongst those the Scottish Chairman, Stuart Taylor scored a 72 with seven three putts (well done Stuart) scores as follows:

Scratch Winner. Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC, 72. 1st Class Winner. Grant Moran, Mortonhall GC, 68 Nett; 2. Sean Cunningham Mortonhall GC, 69 Nett. 2nd Class Winner. Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC, 70 Nett; 2. Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Parks GC, 76 Nett

Best Nett. Ian Lauder, Kelso GC, 69 Nett; Veterans' Prize, Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC, 75 Nett. Trade Prize. Hugh Fraser, Huxley Golf Ltd, 69 Nett (BIH). Longest Drive 4th hole, Ian Lauder, Thomas Sherriffs

Nearest to Pin at Hole 10 - Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC

Congratulations to all!
Jimmy Nelson, Vice Chairman, delivered the After Dinner speech, which went down very well in my absence. Thanks to Jimmy, and nice to see Jimmy Combe playing with Jimmy for 16 holes. Both still have tremendous golf swings!

Next outing at Mortonhall (Willie Woods Tournament). Entry forms should be with you soon. Date for tournament is August 9.

Stewart Crawford - Chairman

Hi to you all once again. Summer seems to have come early this year. As I write the notes for this month the weather man has forecast rain. Woohoo! Never thought I'd say that. But we need it.

Not just because I've got the greenkeepers t-shirt tan but the ground is overdue a soaking of the good stuff!

Hope all of you guys have managed to get the wetting agents and sprinklers on in the meantime!

The Spring Outing was held over Prestwick St Cuthbert's on April 26 on what was more of a summer's day, the driest April on record I believe!

The turnout for the day ahead was poor although given the good weather following the Easter weekend it's maybe not surprising.

Thanks to all those who did make the journey to the sunny town of Prestwick. Thanks must go to St Cuthbert's for allowing us the use of the course facilities....

Special thanks must go to Richard Fulton and his staff for presenting the course in first class condition!

Results for the day are as follows:- visitor/trade prize-P.Boyd

1st Class. 1. G. Morrison; 2. W. McMeiken; 3. R. Fulton; 4. D. Wilson;

2nd Class. 1. M. Lothian; 2. I. Barr; 3. D. Watson; 4. J. Wilson.

That's the latest news for this month. As usual I ask you to get in touch with any news.

Until next time.

John Mair

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Firstly, may I apologise for there not being any notes in last month's edition. The plain and simple answer as to why this was that there wasn't any news from the biggest Section in Britain to report. If no one contacts me with news then I can't put anything in the magazine. I can't just make stuff up. Sorry, rant over.

We finally managed to get a date for our Spring Outing at Montrose. Back in April the weather was fantastic and Niall Bruce actually consulted his diary and found a day suitable for the outing. I personally think he's been a little side tracked by a certain young lady he's met - but these are purely rumours!

Niall, full credit to you and your squad for presenting the course in the way you did - just toasting perfectly. We had a good turn out as usual and I think that everyone that was there said that the weather and the course made their day.

Here goes with the results: Nearest the Pin. Gary Tough and Neil Sadler

Sweep. 1. Richard Watt; 2. Dave Middleton; 3. Gary Tough; 4. Jim McCormack. Guest Winner. George Bain; Trade Winner. Kevin Peace

Committee. Hugh McLatchie; Veterans'. 1. Jim McCormack; 2. Brian Hunter. Class 3. 1. Brian Hunter; 2. Hugh McLatchie; 3. Mike Braidwood.

Class 2. 1. Richard Watt; 2. Dave Middleton; 3. Richard Pirie. Class 1. 1. Jim McCormack; 2. Derek Green; 3. Fraser Downie. Scratch. 1. Gary Tough; 2. George Mitchell.

I had the pleasure of playing with a certain James

Section Notes

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

McCormack. I can't say it was a memorable experience, for me that is, but he played pretty well but when he hit a bad shot, he was like a bear with a sore head.

On with other news, people on the move, Stephen Brown, Deputy Head with George Mitchell, at Newmachar GC, has made the step up to Head Greenkeeper at Inch GC. Congratulations Stephen, I'm sure you'll do a fantastic job. Well done.

Ross MacRae has taken up the post that Stephen left behind and young Denis Grant, from Huntly, has taken up the post as an assistant at Newmachar too. Good luck Denis and I hope you can cope working with George and Ross. Good luck to you all.

That's all for this month. If you do have any news please contact me on 07813 889374 or email me on benpbrookes@yahoo.co.uk. Happy Greenkeeping
Ben Brookes



West

By the time you read this the sun will be scorching the surfaces but full growth will be present and the golfers will be full of praise for your gallant efforts over the winter period emphasising how great it is you manage to produce excellent surfaces year in year out.

I hope that is the case, but sadly things are harder and harder as budgets are cut each year and more demands are put on people to provide good, fast putting surfaces no matter what.

Unfortunately times are getting more difficult as courses lose members and clubs are unable to budget properly due to an unpredictable income, I just hope things improve over the coming years or we may see some clubs fold or even change to Pay and Play.

Sorry to be Mr Doom and Gloom, but our industry is suffering and I just wanted to state that we are all in the same boat, the demands on all people now are far greater than before in all industries.

Over the years our job has

changed dramatically with the advent of new equipment and the extremely high and sometimes unreal expectations of golfers. Gone are the days of sitting in the sheds on wet days, Councils and Committee want their pound of flesh.

What is it they say? The customer is always right! I hope most all of you are having a good season and look forward to your comments because I'm sure some people will disagree and I might even get a few phone calls.

Enough of the banter let's get onto the stuff in hand, I attended the Annual match against the Secretaries at Glasgow Gailes on May 3 in which we once again were victorious, but I have to say not due to my efforts.

Well done to the rest of the team and hard lines Secretaries for producing such a close game, thanks to Brian Dickson and his staff at Gailes for producing a lovely course and the members of Glasgow Golf Club for allowing us to play there.

Please remember the Scottish National Tournament at the Dukes course on June 15 and enter quickly as they are limited in numbers.

Kenny Hunter has to be congratulated on becoming a grandfather for the first time in the last month and here was me thinking you were just a nipper yourself, I do hope mum and baby are doing well.

Please remember if you have any comments or something you wish to mention then please contact me on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or 0141-942-5554 or my mobile is 07790823914.

Finally thanks to Gerry Bruen and Brian Bolland for your company the other evening when you dragged me for a few pints, I hope you were back home for 12 like good boys.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



North East

On April 13 we played the Annual Spring Comp. at Newcastle Utd GC. This was the

first time we had been there for many a year, in fact I don't seem to remember when we were last there, however it was a privilege to play the course and congratulations have to be in order for the Head Greenkeeper, Peter Anderson, and his staff for the remarkable condition of the course and, in particular, the greens considering the winter we had and the driest spring for a 100 years.

It wasn't the ideal start to a busy season ahead, but with Peter and one of his staff playing we managed to reach double figures and I know if we hadn't had about three or four of our regulars missing, it would have been a good turnout.

Never mind, we just have to hope that more people will turn out for the Autumn. Other thank yous were to the Steward on the meal. It was said that it was the best meal we had for a long time.

To the sponsors, who once again did us proud, those being Greenlay; TSL; Lloyds; Aitkens; Shorts; Rigby Taylor and finally Tony McLure, of TM Amenties.

Now for the leading scores: Best Gross. Jordan Gibson, Northumberland GC, 74. Best Nett. M. Harvey, Wearside GC, 71;

S. R. Pope, Tyneside GC, 72 Nett; S. Riley, Hexham GC, 74

J. S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 76; J. Storey, Alnmouth GC, 79;

W. Birks, Newcastle Utd GC, 89; P. Anderson, Newcastle Utd GC, 90

M. Harvey's handicap has been reduced to 18.

Autumn competition is to be held at Longhirst Hall GC on September 21. Members will be notified nearer the date

Sadly I have some bad news. BIGGA member, Michael Robson, the mechanic at Slaley Hall GC, died in April following a short illness.

Michael was just 60. Our thoughts go out to his family in these sad times.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Hello all,

Sorry I missed last time, I've been quite busy and the deadline passed before I noticed. I'm sure you will all forgive me!

I hope all who played at Sickleholme GC enjoyed the day and I'm sure the boys at Sickleholme will have had the course in great condition. A full report from Sickleholme will be in next month's edition.

I'd like to say that I've been inundated with members wanting to make the final squad for our cricket match against Rigby Taylor but sadly I haven't. If anyone is interested in playing please get in touch as the selectors need at least a couple of weeks to get the right balance in the team.

A BBQ and bar will be available on the day so bring the family and make a day of it.

We will shortly be asking any members if they would like to play in the Annual Sheffield vs. Northern match for further details and if anyone is interested in playing please get in touch.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new Chief Executive, Jim Croxton.

I'm sure we are all excited at what changes will be made to the organisation and how Jim will move BIGGA forward in the future.

I hope the summer months are going well for you all and you are all getting the praise that you deserve.

Good luck in June and see you all in July

Jim Stevens

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jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and enjoying this great start to the new golf season. Who



Around The Green

would have thought that by the end of April we would be desperate for a good rain shower. If we do get one, together with these silly spring temperatures, we will be able to watch the grass grow.

On April 20 we held our Spring tournament at the KP Club Pocklington. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank the committee and members of the club for courtesy of the course, and the bar and catering staff for a good reception and great meal. We would also like to thank Keith and his staff for presenting us with such a great course.

These events cannot take place without sponsorship, so we would like to thank Sherriff Amenity for their support. We had a good turnout on a sunny day, and it was nice to see a few new faces.

Prizewinners on the day, Scratch Trophy. A Baxter, Div 1. 1. A. Slingsby; 2. A. Court; 3. N. Coultish. Div 2. 1. S. Trowsdale; 2. F. Stewart; 3. G. Street. Div 3. 1. R. Smith; 2. N. Booth; 3. K. Christie, Nearest the Pins. 6th D Collins 17th (with local knowledge) K. Callander. Trade Prize. 1. T. Arana; 2. I. Collett.

I would like to thank everyone for attending, and look forward to seeing you all at Moortown GC on June 22.

That is all for this month so if you have any news or gossip, please pass it on to me:

Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob 07947401278. email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Midland Region



Midland

I can only hope that by the time you read this month's notes it has rained. I know that many of us have the latest and greatest computerised systems that can be reprogrammed by a simple phone call to a service centre in Belgium and that such happens in front of your eyes here in England in real time, and that it waters greens, tees, fairways, members (so funny

and, of course, us with alarming regularity. Nothing quite so pleasant as trying to turn off (with an ill-fitting plastic key) a sprinkler that is spewing a vertical jet that is destined for the moon.

However, many of us have to cope with antiquated systems that have the pressure and coverage of a dog peeing on the run after pinching a steak from the butchers. I can only shudder at the stresses that such brings, but I'll bet that you have a good mix of poa and agrostis, and that your roots go down a mile. You can have too much of a good thing you know!

Talking of good things, Gary "The Hedge" Hanson, who has served at Stratford on Avon GC for the last five years has retired for a well deserved rest and to travel the world, and he will. Gary is one of the fittest 64 year olds I have ever met and standard of work has been second to none, not even mine.

All of the boys at Stratford would like to wish you the very best and thank you for your wonderful banter and friendship over too few a year, you will of course come and see us unwashed working class, someone's got to finish the crossword Captain, but don't forget the sugar.

The Section's Spring Education Training Day was held by Sherriff Amenity & Johnsons Seed where a visit took place on April 13 to DLF Trifolium Trial Grounds at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Derek Smith, from Johnsons, gave a presentation, covering DLF breeding operations, which everybody found very interesting.

After a coffee it was on with the coats to the trial grounds and an opportunity to see many of the most popular cultivars as straights and question the breeders.

After lunch it was on to Inkberrow for a tour of the UK's largest grass seed mixing plant. All were amazed at how busy it was, and how much work goes in to that 20kg bag of seed we all buy.

A great day out was had by all, and our thanks to Derek Smith and Nigel Tyler, of Sherriff Amenity, for arranging the day.

The 2010 final of the Scotts Doubles took place on April 14 at the impressive Wentworth Club. The day was re-arranged due to injury by one of the finalists last

year and was finally contested by John Ganley and Steve Scott, from North Warwickshire GC, and Richard Beecham and Gary Turner, from Wrekin GC.

After a pulsating final it was the pair of Richard and Gary who took home the Scotts Shield for the first time.

A huge thank you to Lewis Blois, of Scotts, who entertained everybody with distinction, which included lunch in the historical clubhouse before play, and dinner in a country pub by the course after play.

Also, a big thank you to Chris Kennedy, and the Wentworth Club, for allowing us to try out the new greens on the West course for the first time. This is the most wonderful prize and good luck to all who have entered this year.

This month's kind calendar sponsor's are Whitemoss who, as if you didn't know, produce and provide turf dressings, root zones, sands etc. that can be tailored to your specifications. Their web site: www.whitemoss-eco.co.uk.

Or you can call our old friend Mike Whitehouse on: 07795 395 669. Right, you've got a couple of weeks to get your entries into Gary for the Summer Tournament which is to be held at the lovely Golf Club Kenilworth, on Monday, July 11. Start time 12:30.

Once again let us hope that it has rained, but not for the golf course you see, something far more important, the rivers.

Tight lines, Fisher Mac.
Sean McDade



BB&O

The great British Spring can be extremely fickle and sometimes hard to predict, even the latest scientific equipment and gadgets that are available never seem to give the result we are all looking for.

It can blow hot and cold, wet and windy and often brings along sudden unpredictable surprises. Spring this year with warm spells encouraged a welcome boost in growth on our courses, to a rapid change where high temperatures tested

the irrigation and water supplies early in the season, leaving a month in May to pondering what delights the weatherman will bring for us all in June.

The BB&O carrier pigeon has reported that the Rigby Taylor Foursomes event is well under way and the draw has taken place with all entrants ready at the mark, as the carrier pigeon understands it, this year has preliminary rounds to play which will sort out the bowler hats from the sombreros, with the final, yet to be decided later in the year.

Defending champions look out, Ring Taylor, the new Secretary, has been sharpening his six gun skills, sorry! Six-iron skills to compete in this popular tournament which will be played all over the three counties.

On August 24, Dave Knight and crew welcome us to Donnington Grove GC on the edges of Berkshire in the lovely town of Newbury to host The Summer Tournament.

This fantastic course with a challenging layout and beautiful gardens will test the winner to qualify for the BIGGA National Championship. Put it in your diary before you forget.

A new Ryder Cup style format will take place in October between the BB&O. Teams will be formed to compete between Oxon, Berks and Bucks bringing ties and linking the three counties together for what will be a great new style of play to unite the section together. Look forward to it; keep your eyes on the web site.

If you have any news or views the section website designer is eager for photo's past and present or anything relevant on the golf course you wish to share with the masses.

Calum Taylor can be contacted on coursemanagerbmgc@yahoo.co.uk

Lastly, on a sombre note, it is with great regret that I have to report the sudden passing of Ian McMillan. Ian was the Course Manager at Walton Heath GC, Surrey. Ian was widely known and respected throughout the British Isles for his knowledge



and greenkeeping talents, reaching the pinnacle of his profession.

In this, he carried on a family tradition of fine greenkeeping. He had a great zest for life and will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the BB&O, I extend to his wife and family our sincere condolences.

Mark Day

South West and South Wales Region



South Wales

Hello and thanks for reading.

Without any hesitation a big thank you must go out to Ceri Richards who has stepped down from writing these articles for the last two and a half years a big thank you from all of us from the Section and on a personal note I hope your golf doesn't improve too much as I am quite fond of picking up the trade prizes at our golf days!

So with the fixture cards all out and with you another thank you must go to Alan Able, of Complete Weed Control, for their continued support in sponsoring them.

With Glynhir being the host for our spring tournament it is nice for the Section to visit a new venue and also holding a new format. The format for the day is four man Stableford with best two scores counting. Wayne Benger, Glynhir's Head Greenkeeper, has managed to pull in some great prizes for the event which include Heineken Cup tickets and International Rugby tickets and lots of other prizes donated by our sponsors David Evans (DEAL) and Textron. So keep a look out in next month's Around the Green for the results.

As you'll be reading this article I think many of you within this Region and Section could cast an eye back over last October (Rain, Rain more Rain and...Mr McDowell).

The Celtic Manor is back in action again nearly seven months after that man won

the last point so Europe won the Ryder Cup and many of us had the hardest but most rewarding times of our lives. Jim Mackenzie and his team have worked extremely hard in getting playing surfaces back to their best and the spectator areas just back to being able to walk on! Inscapes have provided Celtic Manor with over four hectares of turf and Countrywide providing more than four tonnes of special mix grass seed to repair the damaged areas we all saw last year all the staff have had their hands full during what has been one of the harshest winters and driest springs on record.

FACT since February 1 Celtic Manor accumulatively has had less rainfall than of any of the three days it rained during the Ryder Cup week!

So good luck Jim and your team and hope you have a successful SAAB Wales Open which you guys thoroughly deserve.

Once again thank you for reading if anyone has any ideas, moans, groans laughs or cries you know who I am, give me a call on 07876440599 or drop me an email at pholmstrom@countrywidefarmers.co.uk

Thank you, Peter Holmstrom



South Coast.

Hi all.

As I write this we are approaching our spring tournament at Liphook GC. sponsored by Avoncrop in memory of Colin (Chalkie) White.

An exciting new venue for us that I hope is well supported, results will be in next months issue.

I have just returned from a nine day Nordic City Cruise which was excellent, never thought I would take to cruising but I am hooked, must be my age! One or two of our members commented on taking holidays during busy times.

Simple, I replied I have a great team!

We have just got through the driest April on record coupled with some of the highest tem-

peratures for years, that, along with a constant easterly wind, and the course looks like mid-summer.

May hasn't really started any better although storms are forecast at the weekend, we will see!

The Section is very quiet at the moment, the committee met on April 13 to discuss topics for our Autumn seminar and possible venues for next year's golf. As always if you have any requests, let someone on the committee know.

This year's seminar will be at Milton Abbey School, another new venue with a different approach as there will be walks and talks on the work that goes on there. More details will be published later on.

Some good news from the Section is that Ian Noble is back in greenkeeping, he is the Head Man at Parley Golf Centre, we all wish you well Ian. Also Fred Deamen is back on track, Alton went into receivership late last year but the members have bailed it out and they are again trading.

Here at Barton we have aerated, over-seeded, top dressed, fed and watered everything within the area that the watering system covers. Five tonnes of outfield fertiliser sits on a trailer in the shed waiting for the slightest hint of rain!

My staff are hedging bets on who will get the dubious pleasure of spreading it in damp windy conditions!

In the mean time its onward with wetting agent, wetter pellets and keeping well out of the way of members who want me to over-water the greens.

Our next event will be Brokenhurst Manor on July 20, don't forget it's our invitation competition so your guests must be a member of a golf club with a valid handicap. This is Kev's course so he will be keen to show it off.

A flier will be sent out nearer the date but for more information contact Kev on glassy2003@hotmail.com In the mean time happy greenkeeping, see you at the golf events.

Tony Gadd



Assistant Profile

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



Name: Martyn Lumb

Age: 40

Club: Elsham

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Nickname: Two Bellies

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 10 years

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

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing? Construction (creative)

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing? Weeding

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

7. Hobbies? Golf and cinema

8. Favourite Band? Broken Family Band

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

10. What is your claim to fame? Met Andy Sinton and gave him five golf balls



South West

This past month, we held a classic Section event....it was the return (apart from last year's) of the "SOUTH WEST SECTION AMAM".

We had this very special event at Chipping Sodbury GC which was again in very fine condition, a great credit to all of the staff at Chipping Sodbury. This event is special to us because it allows us to bring our friends from outside the Association, a fine opportunity to show how professional BIGGA is!

The event was a great success, with more than 40 players, including some faces that we've not see recently...great to see you all and we hope to see you all again at the next event!

The evening meal was amazing...buffet style curry and I promise you, the dessert tray was incredible, even heaven was jealous of this one, I had to hit the gym after a couple of helpings, my bad!

To the results, in third place with 40pts (after countback), Darren Moxham and his partner Jerry Nash. In second place with 41pts, Chris Sealy and his partner Pete Scarander.

The 2011 "South West Section AMAM" winner...with an impressive 44pts, John Scoones and his partner Robert Wychard. Well done to all of the winners.

What a great last couple of weeks we've just had...the weather has been at its absolute best and I somehow manage to take the three magical days off that gave me 11 days holiday, I'm not bragging, not my style to, but that really was great work on my part, it really was brilliant!

The beer garden just kept calling my name, rude not to reply and sample what they had to offer....turns out double vision and a hangover was on the menu.

On a serious note, I do hope that you are all enjoying this incredible weather and that your courses are tolerating the conditions.

How many of you enjoyed the Royal Wedding, I did, this was one of the days that the beer

garden was calling my name....

What a great day this was, sure to go down in the history books to be one of the most special occasions in British history, only to be out done by the Americans just a couple of days later?

I hope to see everyone at our next section event, Thursday, June 30 at Knowle GC. This will be our Summer Tournament and as always the winner will be invited to the National Championship. Please be ready for the invitations to be with you shortly.

However if you can't wait until then, we have a section match at Long Ashton against the South West secretaries, on Wednesday, June 8, contact your Section Captain, Wayne Vincent.

Please do your best to play in at least one of these events.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop, Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very 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.

See you all very soon,
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,
A bit of a quiet time for us, so not much to report!
We do have our annual "Devon v Cornwall" match on Wednesday 15th June at Dartmouth G&CC.

Cornwall are on a bit of a run by winning the last two years running, so it is Devon's turn to be victorious this time! Home advantage should help rather than having to travel to the dark-side!! Can you tell which County I am from yet?

We look forward to seeing Terry Farkins and his team at Dartmouth and I am sure that the course is going to be in fantastic condition.

The golf will commence at 12.30pm and the course walk at 2.00pm. this will be followed by a BBQ on the terrace and a presentation.

Dress code will be informal afterwards as long as it conforms to the clubs rules, (No shirt and tie required!)

Invites should have reached you by now, so if you can contact me asap to secure a place.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South East Region



Surrey

Many thanks to Gareth Roberts and Jim Russell for last month's entry and their memories and tribute to Ian McMillan.

The result of the Texas Scramble at Epsom GC on March 31 was: First. P. Marney, A. Foulds, J. Cushing and loudly supported by some other guy named Dave. Runners Up were T. Bremer, A. Freeman, I. Sellers and M. Harvey. The most important prize, Nearest the Pin, was won by R. Christie and the Longest Driver was D. Nordsworthy.

All prize winner first names have been withheld to protect them from begging letters. Kevin Boxer has now become our man in charge of golf days and we were all pleased that his first event was eggremely well attended and eggcellently organised.

The kind hearted person who gave Kevin a present of an undeveloped chicken, still in its original shell wrapping, as he was crossing one of the many roads must be forever grateful that his car did not stall and personally receive Kevin's thanks.

The result of the Mitcham GC Golf Day will appear in July's edition but I am sure that I will

do well, for my golf is much improved as can be vouched for by my Surrey Bowl partner Paul Weston. Although we lost very narrowly to our first round opponents, Messrs Freeman and Langheim, I can see a bright and rewarding future for our new OAP paring.

Please let me know of any interesting news or special events or else the next edition will focus on my forthcoming cruise to the far reaches of the Byzantine heritage, Turkish delights, the Marsaxlokk experience and the Beauty of the Bosphorus.

Be warned and Bon Voyage
Brian Willmott



Kent

Sorry but this needs to be a rather short report this month as I'm very glad to report that I've got loads of work on!

Must say though that since leaving my old employ I've been enjoying playing a lot more golf on a few different courses so watch out for me on the summer knockout tournament!

By the time you read this we would just have played our early summer event at Knole Park. Many thanks to Gavin Kyle and his team for hosting this much anticipated event for us. For all those of you who are playing in our Kent Summer Pairs Knock-out, Please do your best to get at least one round in each month and report the result back to me or Kev so we can draw the next round.

Just leaves me to say thanks again to all my fellow professionals out there and see you on a course real soon.

Best of British
Rob Holland
grassyars@hotmail.com



East Anglia

Here we go yet again then. The first meeting of the year took

place at Rushmere Golf Club in early April. The first thing I will say is that the course wasn't good, it was brilliant and I don't care what time of year it was. A well deserved pat on the back (no pun intended) was in order for Pat Swinn and his team.

The trophy hunters were as follows:

As there were not many single figures playing, only two prizes were presented.

0-9 Handicap. Peter Howard, 35pts; 2. Michael Buck, 34pts. 10 - 18 Handicap. 1. Richard Hurn, AKA Nodzy (Don't ask), 44pts; 2. Ben Pearson, 39pts; 3. Mark Clements, 35pts. 19 - 28 Handicap. 1. Bob Tawell, 38pts; 2. Steve Freestone, 38pts OCB; 3. Craig Cameron, 34pts.

G & T. 1. Steve Auld, CPT, 39pts; 2. Jim Starbuck, 36pts; 3. Eddie Jack, 35pts. Nearest the Pin. 8th. Robert Ransome. 14th. Michael Buck. Longest Drive. 7th, Alan Elliot. 18th, Michael Buck.

The Loo Seat was presented to Bob Tawell for hitting a tree 100 yards in front of him and the ball finishing 20 yards behind him after sending four people diving for cover! Bob is also the Manager of Rushmere.

The prizes were presented by Mark Bartram the main sponsor, and Steve Auld, the Club Captain.

Other trade members and loyal supporters were: Aitkens, John Deere, Symbio, Toro, Scotts, Ernest Doe, Tacit, Rigby Taylor and Baileys of Norfolk.

Once again, thank you Rushmere for a super day. Last time I played there, Wally Mann was Head Greenkeeper. I hope it's not as long till the next time.

We must also thank Ian Willett for organising our band of brothers, and Colin Rushbrook for tirelessly sorting out venues on our behalf.

Mick Lathrope



Essex

Another quiet month in the Section.

Sorry to everyone who took the trouble to enter, for having to cancel the scheduled Spring Trophy to be held at Forrester

Park Golf & Country Club, on May 5. The entries were very poor when the closing date arrived, so to be fair to the club the decision was made to cancel the event. We suspect the poor entry could have been due to the abundance of Bank Holidays at that time.

We would like to thank Forrester Park Golf Club and Course Manager, Roland Hughes, for being so understanding and allowing us to cancel at such a late stage.

Section Knockout Trophy: The first round of the Knockout must be completed before Wednesday, June 22, which is our next golf day at Nazeing Golf Club. Entry forms are on line or in the fixture book.

The draw for the next round will take place on that day!

The following matches are on the website along with the shots you get per team.

Home team to arrange the match. Match 1 - Played at Colchester Golf Club. Sam Cook and Craig Serafin vs Andy Cracknell and Neil Peachey; Match 2 - Played at Bentley Golf Club. Stephen Adams and Nick Thompson vs Richard Hare and Ben Scrivener; Match 3 -

Played at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club. Barry Mann and Sam Anderson vs Mark Stopps and Mark Keysall; Match 4 - Played at Stoke By Nayland Golf Club. Liam Springett and Liam Close vs Ollie Homewood and Dan Crow; Match 5 - Played Upminster Golf Club. Dougie Fernie and Paul O'Kane vs Tom Smith and Anthony Kirwan; Match 6 - Played Thorndon Park Golf Club. Rob George and Jeff Taylor vs Andy Darnell and Lee Stephens; Match 7 - Played Romford Golf Club. Ian Wood and Mark Severn vs Sam Farrow and Craig Campbell BYES - In the draw for round 2

Stewart Rogers and Steve Cousins

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones



BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
South East	16 November 2011	Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex	Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343
South West & South East	17 November 2011	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850
Scotland	6 March 2012	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440





Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Membership Benefits Update: Renew Online

Many members are now taking advantage of being able to renew their membership online, through the BIGGA Website using a secure online payment facility; this is for existing members to renew their individual membership online. Details and instructions are below, you will have had to register on the BIGGA website members area with your membership number, email and password in order to proceed.



1. Step One – make sure your BIGGA account is activated, if you have not registered on the new revised BIGGA website you will need to do so, type the following URL into your browser <http://www.bigga.org.uk/login> if you have already registered that's fine, go to Step Two, if not click on 'Activate my account' button to be taken to <http://www.bigga.org.uk/login/activate/> where you can activate your account.

[Note: If your membership has expired your account may not be active, contact the Membership Department.]

2. Step Two – once you have an active account type the following URL into your browser <http://renewals.bigga.org.uk> to be taken to a new window where you will be asked to log in to your account, here you will need to enter your membership number and password you created when you activated your account.

3. Step Three – Once you have logged in the screen should read 'BIGGA – Online Payments' and

show your name, membership number and category of membership including the amount that needs to be paid, [NOTE: if this is not correct please contact the BIGGA Membership Department before continuing]. Enter your billing address then click next step and follow the on-screen instructions. Once completed BIGGA will be advised that a payment has been made and we can process your membership accordingly.

Any queries or problems please contact the BIGGA Membership Department on 01347 833800 select option 1.

Section and Region Events

Visit the 'Event's Section on BIGGA's website to have a look at what's on around the UK, www.bigga.org.uk select 'EVENTS' from across the top row.

Somebody asked me the other day if it was possible to be a member of two Sections, unfortunately, not, but that's not to say that if you would like to attend an event in a different Section just contact the Section Secretary and ask, I'm sure you would be made most welcome. After all, each Section is about the same thing, meeting new people, establishing new friendships and maintaining old ones, at the same time as discussing all things green-keeping and turf.

BIGGA Lending Library

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check the our library listings to see if the BIGGA Lending Library stocks the title you are looking for? The lending library is available to ALL BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up to six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

Finally.... Help your Association grow by discussing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join. Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk
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(option 1 for Membership)

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

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Northern & Midland

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South East

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cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

South West & Wales

Jane Jones
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
jane@bigga.co.uk



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

Mark Gallagher, West Section
Richard McCombie, North Section
David Nelson, Ayrshire Section

Northern Region

David Bligh, North West Section
James Carr, North West Section
John Evans, North Wales Section
John Grey, North East Section
Mark Teasdale, North West Section
Jon Watson, North East Section

Midland Region

Steven Boittier, Mid Anglia Section
Toby Brearley, Midland Section
Simon Brown, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Michael D'Allesio, Mid Anglia Section
Martin Davenport, Midland Section
Justin Finney, Midland Section
Henry Fletcher, East of England Section
Ben Hall, Midland Section
Christopher Hill, Midland Section
Jarrod Hughes, Midland Section
Graham Ives, East of England Section
Christopher Kennedy, North Wales Section
Joe Lamb, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Robert Miller, Mid Anglia Section
Ian Pearce, Midland Section
David Salkeld, East Midland Section
Paul Searles, Mid Anglia Section
Duncan Steele, Mid Anglia Section
Colin Stockton, Midland Section
Paul Stone, Mid Anglia Section
Matthew Wright, Mid Anglia Section

South East Region

Darren Abbs, East Anglia Section
Richard Bacon, Surrey Section
Josh Bevan, Sussex Section
Craig Brindley, East Anglia Section
Scott Crombie, London Section
Lee Davies, Surrey Section
Wayne Hood, Sussex Section
Ben Pearson, East Anglia Section
Neil Smith, Surrey Section

South West/South Wales Region

Matthew Collis, South Coast Section
Julian Covey, South Coast Section
Tim Creed, South Coast Section
Benjamin Cummings, South Coast Section
Paul Fuge, South Coast Section
Alistair Hewat, South West Section
Gary Jenkins, South Coast Section
Micah Knight, South Coast Section
Brendan Lansley, South Coast Section
Paul Michael, South Wales Section
Guy Mitchison, South Coast Section
Michael Morgan, South Wales Section
Ashley Palmer, South West Section
Kristopher Paterson, South West Section
David Rowlands, South Coast Section
Joe Weston, South Coast Section

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 in 2011 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
JUNE 2011			
June 8th	South West Section	Long Ashton Golf Club	Wayne Vincent at wayne.vincent@cotswoldhills-golfclub.com or 07958 630590
June 15th	Scottish National Golf Tournament	Dukes Golf Club	Peter Boyd at pj.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0141 616 3440
June 16th	North West Section v's North Wales Section	Heaton Moor Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 16th	South Wales Section Golf Day	Neath Golf Club	Steve Chappell at Chappell 124@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07970 980899
June 22nd	Northern Section – Presidents Day	Moortown Golf Club, Leeds	Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
June 22nd	Essex Section Summer Trophy Competition	Nazing Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at dozzasdom@gmail.com or telephone 07798 641529
June 29th	North West Section Summer Tournament	Grange Park Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 29th	East Midlands Section Summer Golf Day	Cavendish Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com
June 30th	South West Section Summer Tournament	Knowle Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855
JULY 2011			
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 chappell124@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07970 980899
July 11th	Midland Section Summer Golf Day	Kenilworth Golf Club	Andrew Smith at andysmithhace@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07977 145091
July 12th	Essex Captains v's Greenkeepers	Romford Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at dozzasdom@gmail.com 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 – July 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

More dates for your diary next month

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

WORKING ABROAD

Ever considered working abroad? It's an exciting prospect and something which a career in greenkeeping does present the opportunity of doing, but how do you make sure that you gain the most from the experience?

Mike O'Keeffe, who runs the Ohio State University Internship programme offers some tips...



Know the visa rules and tax laws

- First of all, make sure you know the visa rules and tax laws for the particular country you're entering.

Got a criminal record?

- If you have a criminal/driving/drug record, forget about applying to go overseas

Get references

- Get references, good written references, as that is all you have to market yourself. If you do give references, include an email and a mobile telephone number.

Do your research

- Many British people call me and want to go work in America, and they have never been here. Do your research on the economy, the job market and the feasibility of getting a management job. And when possible, visit the country first, before making such a huge commitment.

Set your sights

- It's easy to get an internship, but not easy to get a management job in most countries.

Prepare a CV

- Prepare a CV, ideally a one pager, with a clean cut photo included with clear cut

goals in the first paragraph. No one cares about your O level or A levels, keep it brief and to the point. Adding a clear cut photo is not necessary but it helps a lot. Use proper English, no text speak, and make sure you double check your spelling.

In a relationship?

- Think carefully if you're in a serious relationship about leaving your girlfriend. Many places can only house single guys.

Be flexible

- Management jobs are difficult to get into but if you're willing to be flexible, many courses are attracted.

Like long hours?

- Be prepared to work long hours, many countries do not have the bank holidays or days off that you're accustomed to in Britain.

Student/Backpacker?

- Be careful if you're a student, as some countries now regard you as a 'Backpacker' and they treat you like a backpacker. If you have experience, don't expect that experience to be respected. You will be like grunt labour and given whatever job is needed to be done.

Do your taxes

- Don't blame the host country, as right now, hundreds of British and Irish and other nationalities are flocking to countries with easy visas. It's a big money maker for those countries, as they charge higher 'emergency taxes' and many students 'don't bother' to do their taxes, which is a shame. Do your taxes and you may get quite a sum of money back.

Get free assistance

- If you go on a structured programme, many of these issues can be taken care of. For example, in America, the Ohio Program provides free software to help you do your taxes online, on time and you are advised on how to prevent overtaxation.

My Details

Mike O'Keeffe, Program Manager
The Ohio State University
Ohio Intern Program

www.ohioprogram.org

Email: okeeffe.1@osu.edu (remember the two f's)

Skype: [turfokkeeffe](https://www.skype.com/user/turfokkeeffe)

Tel: 614-688-5653
Mobile: 614-620-7720

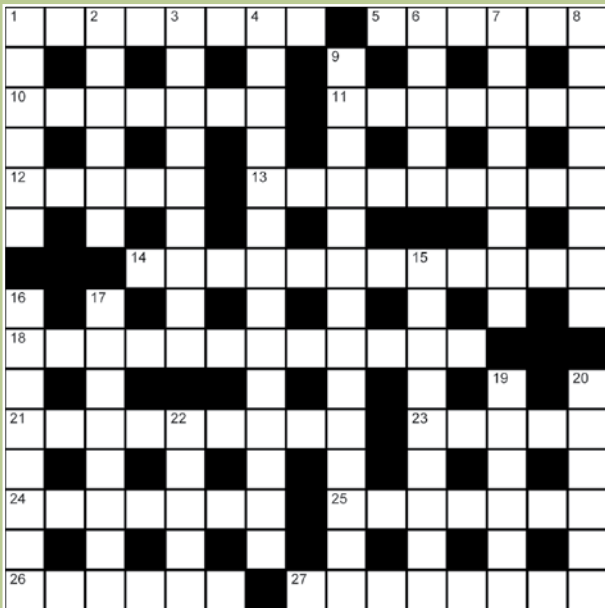
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in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

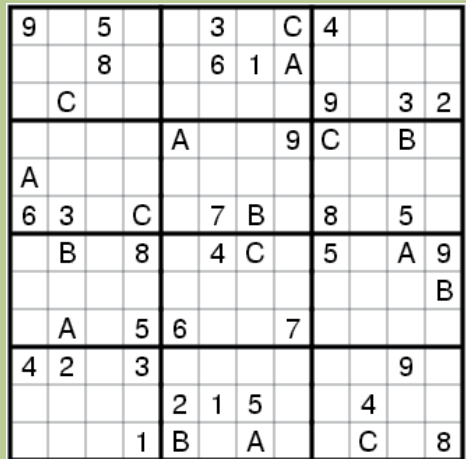
- 1 Cbeebies clown played by Justin Fletcher (2,6)
- 5 North American tree and fruit (6)
- 10 Inconsiderate driver who won't let another pass (4,3)
- 11 Most populous province of Canada (7)
- 12 Viscountess who was the first woman to sit in the House of Commons (5)
- 13 ___D, rock group featuring Kyle Gass and Jack Black (9)
- 14 Italian sparkling white wine (4,8)
- 18 Eighteenth century Christian hymn (7,5)
- 21 South American country with the currency of the Bolivar (9)
- 23 Normandy beach between Utah and Gold on D-Day (5)
- 24 Enlarged (7)
- 25 Sport in which a spider can be taken for a rest (7)
- 26 Key again (6)
- 27 Understood by only a select few (8)

Down

- 1/19 The former 'voice' of F1 motorsport (6,6)
- 2 Warm and cosy (6)
- 3 'Great Saint' in Hinduism (9)
- 4 Band that had a No.1 single with 'Three Lions' (9,5)
- 6 "As I perchance hereafter shall think meet, To put an ___ disposition on" - Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 5 (5)
- 7 Steals (8)
- 8 Traditional storage area for logs (8)
- 9 Greek mountain, home of the nine Muses (5,9)
- 15 IT company founded in Albuquerque, New Mexico (9)
- 16 ___ Dali, Spanish surrealist painter (8)
- 17 Protective glove, traditionally thrown in challenge (8)
- 19 See 1 down
- 20 Make-up (6)
- 22 US Blues rock band featuring Frank Beard on drums (1,1,3)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ -Seve Ballesteros

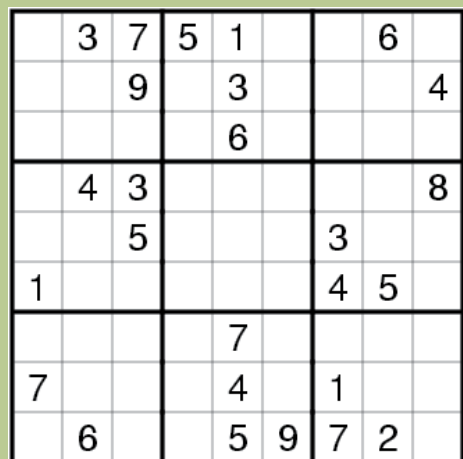
1. Where was Seve born?
2. Seve produced a stunning chip shot on the 72nd hole of the 1976 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale to secure a tie for second place with Jack Nicklaus, but who won?
3. 1976 also saw his first Tour win. What was it?
4. Seve won fewer Ryder Cup points than Colin Montgomerie. True or False.
5. Who was Seve's first ever Ryder Cup partner?
6. In which year was Seve's last top 10 finish in a Major?
7. Who was the US Captain at the '97 Ryder Cup at Valderrama?
8. What was Seve's last main Tour victory?
9. Seve had 10 holes-in-one throughout his career. True or false?



Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 17-May-2011 hard

MONSTER SUDOKU

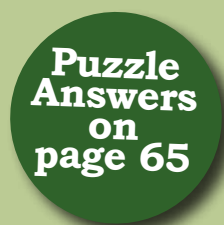
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



Daily SuDoku: Tue 17-May-2011 hard

SUDOKU

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



BUYERS' GUIDE



Boom times for Inturf

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For advice or information please call 01759321000 or email alex@inturf.co.uk or stephen@inturf.co.uk

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in the shed answers

QUICK '9 HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Pedrena in Spain
2. Johnny Miller
3. Dutch Open
4. True. Seve won 22.5 pts and Monty 23.5pts
5. Antonio Garrido
6. 1991. 9th in The Open at Royal Birkdale
7. Tom Kite
8. Peugeot Spanish Open in '95
9. False. Seve only recorded one competitive hole-in-one throughout his career

CROSSWORD

M	R	T	U	M	B	L	E	P	A	W	P	A	W
U	O	A	I	M	N	U	O						
R	O	A	D	H	O	G	O	N	T	A	R	I	O
R	S	A	H	U	I	L	L	D					
A	S	T	O	R	T	E	N	A	C	I	O	U	S
Y	Y	I	N	T									
		A	S	T	I	S	P	U	M	A	N	T	E
S	G	H	N	A	I	S	D						
A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	G	R	A	C	E		
L	U	S	N	R	W	F							
V	E	N	E	Z	U	E	L	A	O	M	A	H	A
A	T	Z	E	S	S	L	K	E	R				
D	I	L	A	T	E	D	S	N	O	O	K	E	R
O	E	O	S	U	F	E	I						
R	E	T	Y	P	E	E	S	O	T	E	R	I	C

MONSTER SUDOKO

9	7	5	B	8	3	2	C	4	A	1	6
3	4	8	2	9	6	1	A	B	5	7	C
1	C	6	A	7	5	4	B	9	8	3	2
8	5	1	4	A	2	6	9	C	7	B	3
A	9	B	7	3	C	8	5	6	2	4	1
6	3	2	C	4	7	B	1	8	9	5	A
7	B	3	8	1	4	C	2	5	6	A	9
2	1	4	6	5	A	9	8	7	3	C	B
C	A	9	5	6	B	3	7	2	1	8	4
4	2	A	3	C	8	7	6	1	B	9	5
B	8	C	9	2	1	5	3	A	4	6	7
5	6	7	1	B	9	A	4	3	C	2	8

Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 17-May-2011 hard

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

8	3	7	5	1	4	2	6	9
6	2	9	7	3	8	5	1	4
5	1	4	9	6	2	8	3	7
9	4	3	1	2	5	6	7	8
2	7	5	4	8	6	3	9	1
1	8	6	3	9	7	4	5	2
3	5	8	2	7	1	9	4	6
7	9	2	6	4	3	1	8	5
4	6	1	8	5	9	7	2	3

Daily SuDoku: Tue 17-May-2011 hard



On the Soapbox

A vehicle for letting people within the industry express their point of view

Britain has never enjoyed the most reliable of summers which is why when the sun comes out, we're all eager to get outside and make the most of it. But when we Brits are treated to a dose of sunshine, it's important to take steps to ensure we enjoy it safely.

We all need some sun to help keep our bones healthy, but skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the main cause of it is over exposure to UV radiation from the sun or sunbeds.

Getting painful sunburn just once every two years could triple the risk of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, which is why Cancer Research UK's SunSmart campaign is encouraging everyone to enjoy the sun safely and avoid sunburn this summer.

So, before heading out on the golf course or even just walking around town, think about your skin and the steps you can be taking to cut your chances of developing skin cancer in the future.

It's a common misconception that the sun in the UK isn't strong enough to damage your skin. Sunburn can easily happen at home as well as on holiday, and many cases happen when people are not deliberately 'sunbathing'.

Those who work outdoors are particularly vulnerable to being caught out by sunburn as their skin is being exposed to the sun throughout the day.

Now in its ninth year, Cancer Research UK's SunSmart campaign provides advice on how best to protect against too much ultraviolet radiation (UV) which, as well as being the major cause of skin cancer, also leads to premature ageing.

Sunburn is a sign the DNA in your skin cells has been damaged and even though the redness will fade, the damage could remain and lead to serious problems in later life, including melanoma.

The most important thing you can do for your skin is to avoid sunburn.

When the sun is at its strongest, spend time relaxing in the shade, cover up with hats, sunglasses and loose, long sleeved clothing, and use at least SPF 15 sunscreen, with a four or five star rating that protects against UVA and UVB rays.

Sunscreen should be applied generously throughout the day to ensure skin protection.

Being SunSmart is not about avoiding the sun altogether, as it is important to spend

some time in the sun for essential Vitamin D. But you only need short exposures to the sun to make enough Vitamin D - which is typically less time than it takes for your skin to redden or burn.

Anyone can develop skin cancer but some people are at greater risk and need to take more care to know how their skin reacts in the sun.

People with fair skin, lots of moles and freckles or a family or personal history of skin cancer should take extra care to avoid sunburn and enjoy the sun safely.

When skin cancer is diagnosed at an early stage, treatment is easier and more likely to be successful.

By getting to know your skin and what's normal for you, any unusual changes will be easier to spot.

Cancer Research UK recommends keeping an eye on your skin and reporting any changes in the size, shape or colour of a mole or other patch of skin to your doctor without delay.

moles or blemishes that will remain entirely harmless throughout their lives.

But if you notice a change in the size shape or colour of a mole or patch of skin that has happened over weeks or months you should visit your GP to have it checked, even if you don't think it's serious or anything to worry about.

While the ABCDE rule is a useful guide, it is important to remember that not all skin cancers look the same.

Other signs

Other signs which you should see your doctor about include:

- A new growth or sore that won't heal
- A spot, mole or sore that itches or hurts
- A mole or growth that bleeds, crusts or scabs

To find out more on how to enjoy the sun safely and facts about skin cancer, visit Cancer Research UK's SunSmart website, www.sunsmart.org.uk.

Be SunSmart. Enjoy the sun safely

The ABCDE Rule

The ABCDE Rule can help you recognise possible signs of skin cancer:

Asymmetry:

The two halves of a melanoma may not look the same

Border:

Edges of a melanoma may be irregular, blurred or jagged

Colour:

The colour of a melanoma may be uneven, with more than one shade

Diameter:

Many melanomas are at least 6mm in diameter, the size of a pencil eraser

Evolution:

A mole or patch of normal skin that has changed over time

Changes in skin do not necessarily mean something is wrong, and many people have



Jessica Harris is Senior Health Information Officer
Cancer Research UK

Jessica Harris

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

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