

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 NOVEMBER 2011

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The winners of the 2011
Awards are announced

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

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BIGGA National
Championship

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Q&A

Coming up Trumps

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Exclusive

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new International Golf Links, in Aberdeen

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North of Scotland is where it's at

The new Trump International Links, currently under construction near Aberdeen, is going to be absolutely superb.

The course is cut through some of the highest and most spectacular dunes to be found anywhere, and it is a real credit to Architect, Martin Hawtree; Constructor, Sol Golf, and, John Bambury who is responsible for the grow-in.

If the preconception was that a Donald Trump golf course would be big on cart paths, ornamental fountains and burger concessions, discretely located behind every third tee, you will be pleasantly surprised. It certainly does not fit the archetypal mould of an American-style course. It has been designed to be walked – ideally with caddies - and there is not a buggy to be found anywhere, never mind a path for one.

The course is totally in keeping with the environment and, outside of the tees, greens and bunkers it would be hard to identify any man-made touches.

You can read all about this much talked about new course in our exclusive profile elsewhere in this issue. It includes interviews with both John Bambury and Martin Hawtree.

It will open in July of next year which ties in beautifully with the 100th anniversary of Martin's family golf architecture firm.

The golf course is sure to establish itself very at the top of the British and international game and the arrival of top tournaments will surely follow.

It confirms the North of Scotland's place as a must-visit destination for golfers wishing to experience the best the UK and Ireland has to offer.

There are established clubs like Royal

Dornoch, Nairn, and Royal Aberdeen, which received massive plaudits for its hosting of the recent Walker Cup, as well as the hidden gems including Cruden Bay, Tain and Boat of Garten.

Then there is the fantastic Castle Stuart, which caught the imagination of so many when it hosted the Barclays Scottish Open in July, despite being less than two years old.

All are classic, or guaranteed to become classic, golf courses and each is maintained to the highest possible standard by Course Managers, who all know how to cope with the slightly more extreme weather conditions that particular area of the UK throws up.

The weather may be cold but as a golfing destination the north of Scotland is definitely hot.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jason Hunt on becoming BIGGA's Champion Golfer for 2011. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, was a wonderful event made more so because of the wonderful welcome by West Lincs Golf Club, and two superb sponsors. The camaraderie of the players, many of whom return year after year, is a delight to see, while the quality of golf, at the top end of the field, is second to none.

The aim is to identify BIGGA's Champion, but the competition is open to all –there are handicap prizes for example, the main one being won by Mark Blacknell – and it remains one of the highlights of the BIGGA calendar.

Irvine Bogside, another wonderful golf course, hosts next year, so why not make a point of playing?

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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Overall Achievement Award

The top award this year is presented to Loch Lomond Golf Club. David Cole and his team at Loch Lomond have been driving towards environmental sustainability for a number of years.

The setting definitely has natural beauty, however a great deal of work is required to maintain the golf course to a high standard to its surroundings. To win our top award, clubs need to be achieving exemplary work in each of our key performance areas: nature conservation, waste management, water management, and turfgrass management, and Loch Lomond ticks all these boxes.

Conservation Management is largely directed by Deputy Course Manager, Darren Marshall, with the full backing of the General Manager and the Director of Golf.

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GOLF MONTHLY

The club works to a detailed management plan, covering scrub, grassland, tree and water feature management.

The club is also responsible for the conservation of three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering the loch shore, veteran trees and urban rock habitats.

Water Management is also dealt with very effectively and through diligent management planning, the club recycles 92% of all waste generated, including clubhouse and on course water, tea, card and plastics.

Their aim is to manage the turf to the highest quality based on proven agronomic techniques, with a particular emphasis placed on the greatest emphasis placed on Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

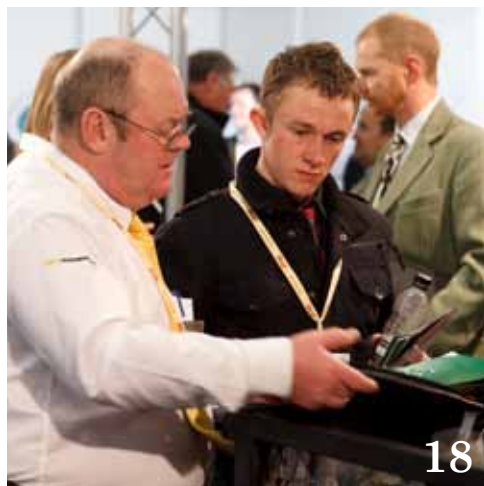
Soil cultural practices are key to Loch Lomond in located in one of the most challenging areas of the UK, annually experiencing over 2,000 mm of annual rainfall, poor light levels, high humidity, poor air flow and inherent poor soils.

Effective drainage on the course helps to improve playability, being able to remove the excess water expeditiously ensures good turfgrass health and prevents course closure.

The turfgrass nutrition programme for their USA specification greens is based on a 'light and warm regime' feeding programme using soluble applications.

Amounts are dependent on

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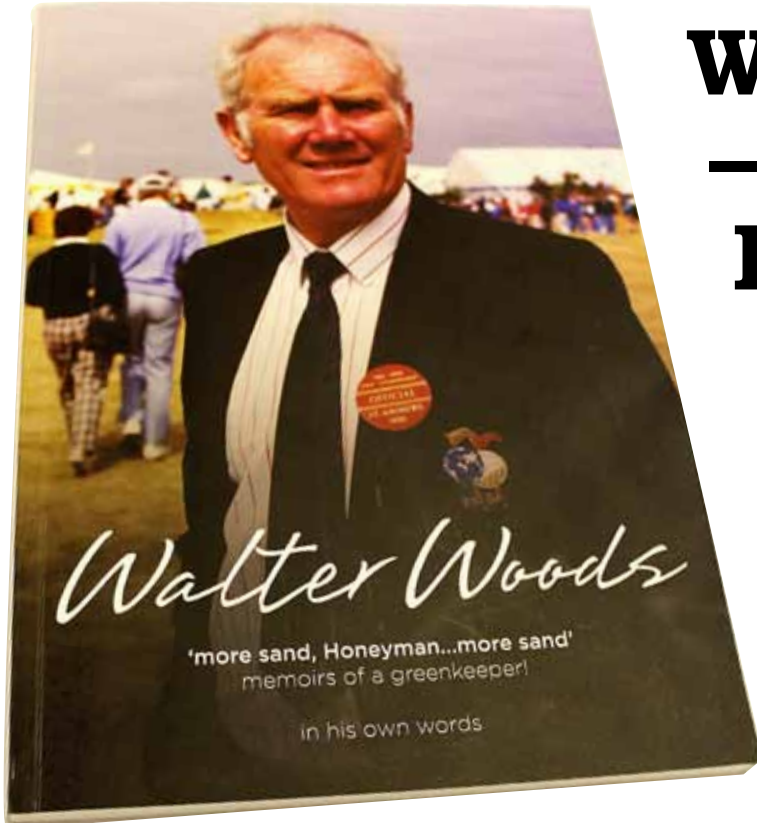
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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.



Walter Woods – ‘more sand, Honeyman... more sand’

**Memoirs of a
greenkeeper!**

In his own words

Walter Woods BEM is the most recognised greenkeeper in the world and his memoir is an opportunity to recount his reminiscences and thoughts to the profession both young and old.

Starting his working life down a coal mine Walter then worked at his home town, Tillicoultry's, golf club in the late 1950s where his hard work and ability as a county standard player brought him to wider attention. He moved to Braehead Golf Club in 1965 where he and wife, Caroline, worked on the course and in the clubhouse.

The family moved south to Stanton-on-the-Wolds GC in Nottinghamshire in 1968 before, a short time later, he was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts (Hollinwell) GC, a job he had coveted since he had arrived in England.

The chance spotting of an advert for the job of Links Supervisor at St Andrews created a dilemma for Walter but the lure of managing the best known course in the world was too much and in 1974 he was appointed.

Almost immediately he set about improving the education and motivation of the Links Trust staff, as well as his own communication skills, in a job which was more administrative than hands-on greenkeeping. The scale of managing four

links courses, heavily played on a huge stretch of land also had to be developed to ensure the most effective approaches were adopted.

Walter prepared The Old Course for four Opens – 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1995 – and the book gives an insight into the behind the scenes activity at each of these.

As one of the prime movers behind the formation of BIGGA, Walter describes the background to this including the proposal and ultimate rejection of a move to join with the PGA.

Following discussions between Walter and Sir Michael Bonallack, the Secretary of the R&A, (now BIGGA President), the ground work towards forming a new Association, covering all of the UK and beyond was funded by the R&A and BIGGA was formed in 1987 with Walter as the first Chairman.

In addition to Walter's experiences of four Opens, and the myriad of other tournaments that he prepared the course for he also includes much of his own greenkeeping philosophy and many of his own anecdotes covering the period.

His last Open was in 1995, won by that golfing maverick, John Daly. Walter had asked to have a flag signed by the new Champion when he was taking part in a photo session by the Road Hole Bunker

the following morning but was greeted by abuse when he made his request in person. In response Walter asked Daly and his entourage to move as far away from the area as possible. He never did get his flag signed.

When he finally retired after 21 years as Links Superintendent he was bestowed the Freedom of the Links, allowing him to play golf as St Andrews for the rest of his days.

A must read for anyone with an association with the great profession of greenkeeping, those who have had the privilege of knowing Walter can hear his voice as you read and there is much to learn, and much to raise a chuckle.

The production of the book owes much to the hard work of Walter himself, but also to Barry Beckett, of Toro, without whom the project would not have reached the successful conclusion that it has.

The book will be included in the New BIGGA Members' Welcome Pack for the next two years; it will be available on the BIGGA stand at BTME 2012 for anyone wishing a copy while Walter will also be available during the Show to sign copies. The book will also be available on line to members for the cost of postage and packing.

Scott MacCallum



GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY 2011

The final of the Tacit Golf Management Trophy. At The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, last month saw victory for The Players' Club, in Bristol.

It was the culmination of a series of regional events held up and down the country which produced a great final.

Teams from all over the country qualified for the inaugural Tacit sponsored Golf Management Trophy, these included: Upminster; Bingley St Ives; Romford; Rothley Park; Gay Hill; The Players Club; Verulum; Brickendon; Morriston; Newport; Test Valley and Liphook

The format of the competition was a team comprising of greenkeeper, Club Captain, Secretary and Green Committee Member – fourball better ball with two best scores counting.

The idea of the competition was to pay for prizes for the club rather than individual gain, with prizes as a memento of the day.

Regional rounds saw the winners going away with sets of embroidered flags for their course, while the final winners also took home an additional full set of pins and cups - a prize worth in excess of £2,000, as well as individual blaklader waterproof jackets and fleeces.

"We have enjoyed tremendously getting involved with BIGGA and the Golf Management Trophy," said Tim Webb, Managing Director, at Tacit.

"This is a fantastic vehicle to promote the relationship

between Greenkeepers and their Club Management. Relationships often forged on the golf course can then be more easily transferred to the boardroom or committee room making communications between Clubhouse and Course smoother and more beneficial in both directions," he said.

"I know all of the clubs have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the regional events and then getting to the final.

"We are really excited about we venues which we have been promised for next year and we will try and get a complete listing out by January, so clubs can see which venue would be ideal for them."

Tacit is also trying to increase the coverage to give all clubs in Great Britain a chance to play. However, the entry will be limited to the venue capacity, so please get your entries in early if you wish to partake.

"I look forward to making new friends and meeting up with old ones over the forthcoming events. See you there," added Tim.

Results: 1. The Players' Club (Bristol) (-11) 131 - Andy Grabham (Deputy Head Greenkeeper), Paul Heyburn (Hon Secretary), Terry Parsons (Captain), Peter Aitken (Vice Chairman); 2. Liphook (-9) 133 cpo; 3. Rothley Park (-9) 133 cpo; 4. Test Valley (-9) 133

The photo is of (left to right): Jim Croxton, Andy Grabham, Paul Heyburn, Terry Parsons, Peter Aitken, Tim Webb (MD - Tacit), Jane Jones.



McMillan Tankard

The annual McMillan Tankard over Sunningdale was won by one of the home team greenkeepers, Tom Brearley.

Played recently over the New Course at Sunningdale Surrey Section members had the pleasure of playing the course - as always in fantastic condition thanks to Murray Long and his team, all with the added pleasure of the heather looking magnificent in full bloom.

Tom won on the day with a score of 37 points. Tony Bremer finished runner up with 35 points.

He was presented with the Tankard by Jack and Rita McMillan, as has been tradition for over 30 years.

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THANK YOU

Now that the dust has settled on the Walker Cup I am now getting time to thank everybody who helped make the event a great success.

I had many volunteers from as far away as Tennessee in the USA, to Golspie in the north and from all corners of the UK. I would like to officially thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to help out at the event. It was very much appreciated by myself and the Walker Cup committee. The weather was reasonably kind to us with some heavy rain showers on the Saturday giving some slight concerns but overall we were lucky with the weather we had.

I also had tremendous trade support from John Deere, Bernhard & Co, Greentech Sportsturf Ltd, Fairways GM, Andersons fertilisers, Floratine products and Don Valley turf and seeds. Thank you to you all for your help and support.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I have to thank my own staff on a tremendous achievement over the past few years and latterly the past 6 months. Their commitment to ensuring that the course looked and played its best was fantastic and I thank them all very much, well done boys a great achievement.

Thanks again to everybody involved
 Robert N Patterson
 Course Manager
 Royal Aberdeen GC

November is a bumper month for learning and development within BIGGA with four Regional Conferences taking place around the country.

On November 16 the South East Conference takes place at Stockbrook Manor Golf Club, in Essex, with an exciting range of speakers covering a range of sports surfaces. Included in the programme area Darren Baldwin, from Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club, and Stuart Kerrison, from Essex County Cricket Club, while golf is represented by Richard Whyman, Burnham and Berrow GC Course Manager, and BIGGA Past Chairman and Greg Evans, Course Manager of Ealing GC.

The very next day the South West and South Wales Conference is held at the Oaktree Arena in Somerset, where Cale Bigelow, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University; Craig Richardson, Grounds Manager, Bristol City Football Club; Huw Morgan MG, Golf

Club Manager, Ashburnham Golf Club; Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Castle Stuart Golf Links and Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity Ltd are the principle speakers.

To alleviate any travel issues the Northern Region is holding two Conferences on consecutive days in two venues on either side of the Pennines.

The first will be held at Cookridge Hall GC, Leeds on November 29, with the second the following day at Birchwood GC, Manchester. Speakers for both include: Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity; Dr Keith Duff, Golf Environment Consultant, and Bob Hardy, Secretary, of Vale of Llangollen Golf Club.

Full details for all of the Conferences can be found on the Events Section of the BIGGA Website.

Be sure to take advantage!

Rolawn Restores Stonehenge

Rolawn's Medallion® turf has recently been laid around the ancient stone circle at Stonehenge, as part of its annual restoration programme. The installation was carried out by specialist contractor Parsons Landscapes Ltd.



50 years Celebrations

Lloyds' Paladin Mower, which holds a place of affection with many around the world, is celebrating 50 years in production.

The current range of Paladins, although very different to the original model, has kept loyal to the concept of simplicity and efficiency of operation and maintenance. Clive Nottingham, Managing Director of Lloyds and Co



Letchworth Ltd is delighted with the performance of the Paladin over the last 50 years.

"This is a machine which has always been highly rated by the end user. It invariably gives unprecedented performance for the professional looking for the perfect finish. Even in today's demanding sporting world where the expectations are extremely high, the Paladin always delivers on its promise."

As a special landmark in 1977, Lloyds produced a totally silver Paladin in celebration of the Queens Silver Jubilee year. Manufactured from aluminum, the components were highly polished and all other steel parts were chromium plated. It was presented to Her Majesty and was used at Balmoral Castle.

BIGGA SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION SPONSOR PLACES TO HARROGATE WEEK 2012

This year the Regional Board of the South West and South Wales Region has decided to sponsor one place from each of the four Sections on the Region's Harrogate Week accommodation package giving four people the opportunity to attend the show and seminars. Each committee has been asked to select someone from their Section who they feel would benefit from the experience. This opportunity has been made possible due to the RA's work in stabilising and growing the financial position of the Region and the support of the Region's Patrons. Thanks go to Patrons - Ransomes Jacobsen, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, Avoncrop Amentiy, W T and R J Jones, Farmura, Huxley Golf, Martyn Lane Golf, Everris, and Sports Metals for the support they give to the region through the Patronage Scheme.

Following their experience each of the four winners will be asked to write a small piece on their experience of Harrogate Week for the magazine

Together with these sponsored places the region's subsidized accommodation package is also available to members and is for three night's bed and breakfast at The Cairn Hotel arriving Monday, January 23, 2012 and departing Thursday, January 26. Any member of the region interested should contact BIGGA Regional Administrator, Jane Jones on 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.

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Norrie Whytock Trophy



The annual competition for the Norrie Whytock Trophy took place at the usual venue Auchterarder Golf Club recently.

With a full compliment of five teams taking part, the weather at the beginning of play was quite favourable and some excellent scoring was recorded. Although the weather deteriorated near the end of play, this did not hinder the field and the good scoring continued till all the players were finished. Archie Dunn and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a first class golf course.

The scoring was its usual high standard. In third place with 88 points was the West Section team comprised S. Taylor, Glasgow GC; D. Reid, Lenzie GC; S. Diamond, Loch Lomond, and C. George, Retired Member. Second with a total of 103 pts was the Central Section comprising, P. Murphy, Downfield GC, E. Small, Retired Member, and J. Watson, St. Andrews Links. The winners this year were the North Section

with a total of 104 pts, team members R. Macrae, Newmachar GC, J. McCormack, Kirriemuir GC, Ri. Pirie, Newmachar GC and finally D. Middleton, Deeside GC, who recorded the best individual score with 41 pts.

The team prize was accepted by Jim McCormack on behalf of the North Section from Kenny Liddell, Bayer's representative in Scotland.

Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor thanked Kenny Liddell and Bayer for once again sponsoring this year's tournament.

The Association wish to place on record their thanks to the Captain and Committee for the courtesy and facilities and to David Smith, Managing Secretary for his assistance.

Next year's tournament will take place on 16 August, 2012.

*Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator*

Photo shows K Liddell, D Middleton, S Taylor, R Pirie, R Macrae and J McCormack



Singing the Greens

Paul Carella, an Assistant at The Richmond Club, in London, is making quite a splash as a singer and recently competed in a National Open Mic contest.

"I sung Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash and one of my own original songs called Red Sole Woman," explained Paul

"I didn't get through this time, but my performance has generated interest from a couple of record labels..

Paul has been singing seriously for two years playing pubs around London and has had two of his own songs from his first album, Outlaw, on an American radio show, HosstheBoss, based in Texas.

"I had two top 20 finishes out of the best 350 songs of each year, 2009 and 2010. The songs were called, A Letter For My Brother and Drifter. I also did a guest dj appearance on the show and I'll be back on again next year," said Paul, who also played at Guilfest this year, where Razorlight, Roger Daltrey and James Blunt wer among the acts.

You can check out some of Paul's original songs at www.myspace.com/paulcarella and keep up to date with his music at [paul carella-music](http://paulcarella-music) on facebook.

GTC ANNOUNCES NEW DATES

The GTC, in association with the EGU is hosting three further workshops as part of a pilot programme to introduce Quality Assured short courses and workshops for golf club officials and managers.

The workshops are:
November 9, Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Hertfordshire;
November 17, Rotherham Golf Club, South Yorkshire;

November 25 Sundridge Park Golf Club, Kent; January 26, Oakdale Golf Club, North Yorkshire; February 22 Cold Ashby Golf Club, Northamptonshire. Further dates still to be announced.

The GTC has engaged the services of Laurence Pithie, MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers, to present these workshops. Comprehensive course notes

will be given to all delegates attending the workshop.

To view the programme visit www.the-gtc.co.uk

The cost of the workshop is £60pp to include refreshments, lunch and course materials.

Places are strictly limited therefore early application is advisable. Call the GTC on Tel: 01347 838640 or email fiona@the-gtc.co.uk

AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held during Harrogate Week, on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork, including the agenda and proxy voting forms will be available on the BIGGA Website from December 20.



Chairman's Word

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

Changing seasons

Well, winter is officially here, and already we have had a few frosts to contend with. When you read this, the clocks will have changed, and the daylight hours drastically reduced. Going to work in the dark, as usual, but coming home in it also, is not far away.

The changing seasons add variety to the job, and every year throws up something new for us to deal with. Last year was the prolonged snow and ice, what is it going to be this year? It's good at this time of year to reflect on the season past, and learn from what went well, and what didn't.

In some ways in the UK we are fortunate with the climate we have to operate in, with less of the pests, diseases, temperature and drought extremes which they suffer elsewhere in the world. But it is not without its disadvantages. We do, on the whole though, manage to produce decent playing surfaces for the majority of the year, some with more difficulty than others due to their soil types, drainage, resources, etc.

As the weather worsens the demand for play drops, thankfully, and there is a task to be done protecting the course from damage by spreading wear and protecting all the fragile and wetter areas. The skills demonstrated by our members in dealing with these challenging circumstances allow golfers to continue to enjoy golf in areas, which would normally resemble flood plains.

However, we are not miracle workers, and as many of you will no doubt experience, there is a limit to what can be done. Many courses will experience very wet conditions, and extreme difficulty in doing anything about it.

Hopefully your members/owners will understand that you are doing everything with the resources they provide. It's not easy, but communication to them at these times is crucial, backed up with evidence and information, so they understand what the limitations are. You can also propose solutions, again backed up with evidence, costs etc, which allow them to make the decision on whether investment is worthwhile for what they desire.

These challenges are not new, and Greenkeepers have always had to deal with this,

but it is becoming more difficult as golfers' expectations now are much higher, even while we face this difficult economic climate.

If you are uncertain about how to deal with such a situation, or need any help or advice, I'd encourage you to seek support from your fellow members. Use the bulletin boards on the website, talk to other Head Greenkeepers nearby, and share your experiences.

Congratulations to our new National Champion Jason Hunt, and to the other prize winners who took part in the National Championship at West Lincs.

I was unable to attend due to other commitments, but I'm reliably informed it was a closely fought contest on a great course, and enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to John Muir and his team for their efforts, to the club for hosting the event and to the sponsors, Kubota and Charterhouse. Also to our staff who helped organise the event so well.

As the weather worsens the demand for play drops, and there is a task to be done protecting the course from damage by spreading wear and protecting all the fragile and wetter areas

The CEO, Jim Croxton, has been working hard with the team on the Strategic Review, and is starting to share his findings with the Board. This review cannot be done alone and we require the co-operation and assistance of the section committees. We shall be contacting them to help in this process.

If you look back at how the Association formed, it was by like minded individual members seeking out help and advice from colleagues, understanding that collectively they could achieve and learn more than in isolation.

In a similar way, we would like to ask the sections to support us in learning more about the members we have and how the sections are functioning. You will be doing your Association a great service by helping in any way you can with this work.

As the Association has grown, and the workload increased, we have relied more



Photography by Adam Turner

heavily on the work of our employed staff. However, there are elements of being an Association which rely heavily upon you - the member - playing a part, which will make it stronger and of more benefit not only to you, but to every Greenkeeper.

Please, if asked, do what you can to

help. In my greenkeeping career I've been fortunate to say that I have never had a Greenkeeper refuse me help. Not many professions would be able to say that, and that is why we are such a strong Association.

I hope to see as many of you this year at Harrogate as possible.

The Chief Executive and the Board will be presenting some of the plans for the future of your Association, based on the findings of the Strategic Review. It would be good to hear your initial feedback and any further views at that time.

Meantime, please feel free to contact myself or any Board member if you wish to discuss these matters further.

My best regards,
Andrew Mellon
07780 995602
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, GTC Education Director, encourages you to attend Harrogate Week 2012

Following on from recent Chairman of Green workshops, I encourage all Course Managers and Greenkeepers to make their plans to attend Harrogate Week 2012 and to bring along their employers.

Once again the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate Week 2012 has something for everybody, and for many involved in golf course maintenance and management, it is the one event where they can truly bring themselves up to speed with everything, ranging from education, to what is new in technology, machinery and product development.

The GTC, in recent months, has been encouraged by the support for greenkeeper education and training it has received for hosting four EMPLOYER focused workshops around the country.

Whilst originally only scheduled as a pilot programme of three Chairman of Green workshops, ably delivered by Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, to assist the Chairman of Green understand the role of the employer, the role of the Course Manager and all aspects of golf course maintenance more dates and venues have now been added.

The GTC, with tremendous support from English Golf Union staff and volunteers from their Golf Services Committee, believe we have broken new ground in improving the relationship between the Course Manager and their employer.

We know there was some concern from certain greenkeepers regarding workshops for Chairman of Green, however, I can only report on the feedback from delegates and their Course Managers which has by far exceeded our expectations in terms of how beneficial the events have been to their relationship back at the club.

Not only are we hoping to add dates and venues for Chairman of Green and Green Convenors in Scotland and Wales but also add workshops aimed at the employers and their Course Managers in

other key areas such as Health & Safety and Communications using GTC Quality Assured Training Providers.

From the very first workshop we had requests for Secretary/Managers and Course Managers to attend and in some cases three representatives from one club have attended.

All credit goes to Laurence for tailoring the workshops to ensure there is something for all and no topic is "out of bounds".

Please visit the GTC website to view the latest workshops, dates, venues and subjects.

I won't embarrass the Course Managers or their Chairman of Green or Secretary- Managers who have benefited from the workshops but I am sure you will see them promoting their improved relationship and appreciation of each others responsibilities in the turf and golf press very soon.

All designed to help bring about a better maintained and managed golf course.

The stories over lunch at the workshops have been enlightening to say the least but I must share one with you:

David Golding to Chairman of Green: "Have you enjoyed the morning session?"

Chairman of Green: "Brilliant, I didn't know there was so much involved in greenkeeping, it has given me so much information already, I will be now able to support our Head Greenkeeper better at future Green meetings"

David: "How long have you been a Chairman of Green?"

Chairman of Green: "Well, I had played golf at my club for years and years and decided to give it a rest this year. I didn't renew my membership.

However one sunny day in April I was walking the dog alongside the course and from the patio of the clubhouse I was beckoned over by my old pals and six pints later, here I am, back playing golf and as a Chairman of Green!!"

At last, my years of suspicion had been confirmed in one chance,



The GTC is funded by:



honest, brief chat over a lunch!

For so many the Chairman of Green position at a golf club, is the one nobody wants and so often it is a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It is now time to give these willing or often unwilling volunteers the support, education and training they surely deserve and for one person it totally changed his perception of the work required to maintain good quality playing surfaces and the wider environment.

I know this might be an exceptional story but for many years the constant changing of Chairman of Green has been a big problem to Course Managers

STOP PRESS

Chairman of Green - Secretary Manager Workshop to be held during Harrogate Week
DATE: THURSDAY 26th JANUARY 2012
VENUE: OAKDALE GOLF CLUB, HARROGATE (CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE)

CONTACT THE GTC FOR FURTHER DETAILS

and one highlighted in the R&A's discussion document circulated to all British golf clubs back in 1989.

Course Managers have nothing to fear from these employer focused workshops and I sincerely hope this initiative, long overdue you might suggest, is just the start of a partnership which will see more employers side by side with their Course Managers at events like Harrogate Week.

The GTC's Quality Assured Training Providers and Centres are all looking to provide workshops and courses to help clubs have skilled and knowledgeable greenstaff and now knowledgeable employers who together with a good communication structure can provide an excellent golfing experience at their club.

Contact Details

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www.the-gtc.co.uk



Learning & Development

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

Happy Halloween! I know that it's already a thing of the past but I do like to mark the year with these little highlights. Bonfire Night is also a favourite of mine, watching fireworks followed by a trip to the pub with good friends – oh and I do like a good sparkler! Speaking of sparklers, Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week promises to be full of sparkles...



Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012

Since the launch of the Continue to Learn 2012 education programme places have been selling fast with a few workshops full or almost full. My advice would be that if there is a workshop that you are particularly interested in attending, get your booking in quickly to guarantee your place.

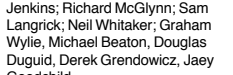
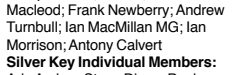
Feedback on the programme has been excellent and it is our intention to smash the record for the number of attendees through the education doors that was set in January 2011.

Seminar Sessions

There are a number of 'Featured Sessions' in the 2012 programme:

Tuesday 24 January

- The Biology and Effects of Parasitic Nematodes in Sports Turf – Dr Colin Fleming, Plant Pathologist, Agri-food and Biosciences Institute
- Managing Winter Kill in West of Scotland? – David Cole, Golf Course/Estate Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club
- Important Health, Safety and Pesticides Updates – Jon Allbutt, Principal Consultant, Jon Allbutt Associates
- LinkedIn a Masterclass – Lesley Wood, Principal Consultant, Targeting Innovation Ltd
- Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf



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.



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www.bigga.org.uk



Course Turf – Frank Rossi Ph.D,
Professor, Cornell University

Wednesday 25 January

- Being a Professional and Living It – Bruce Williams CGCS, Owner and Principal, Bruce Williams Golf Consulting
- The Control of Earthworms on Golf Courses – Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum.
- Let's Re-build 20 Greens in 10 Days – Mission Impossible – Cameron McMillan, Course Manager, Queenwood Golf Club
- From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years – Chris Haspell, course Manager, Castle Stuart Golf Links

There are many more Seminar Sessions being presented by companies exhibiting at BTME and additional sessions are regularly being added. For full up to date information of the Continue to Learn education programme visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education/seminars.



Microsoft Online Learning

Are your IT skills as good as they could be?

We are now able to offer the new Microsoft Online Learning 'Skills Collections'. Skills Collections include beginners, intermediate and advanced learning for the selected Microsoft application.

Skills Collections are available in either 2007 or 2010 versions in the following subjects:

Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Project

Each of the Skills Collections is available to BIGGA Members at a reduced cost of £18.00 (inc VAT) thanks to the support of the Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

Other applications are available, contact the L&D Department if you have a specific requirement.



Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

- Greg Fitzmaurice – HNC in Golf Course Management
- Gary Douglas - HNC in Golf Course Management
- Craig Morris – Foundation Degree in Sports Turf (online)
- Stephen Jack – NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf Management

Solheim Cup Success

The hard work which went into preparing Kileen Castle for the fantastic recent Solheim Cup Match can be seen with this post match picture showing the staff and equipment involved.

Superintendent, Mark Collins, is pictured centre with his Deputy, Robert Kane, together

with the full time and volunteer staff as well as the support staff from John Deere and local dealer, Dublin Grass Machinery.

Picture taken by John Deere's Irish Territory Manager, Philip Tong



SPEEDCUT KEEPS DRIVING RANGE ON FORM



Burgess Hill Golf Centre in West Sussex has just had its 28 bay two-hectare driving range sandbanded by Speedcut Contractors.

Sandbanding was installed across the range following sandslitting along the length which they carried out three years ago.

"The operations have greatly improved

drainage on the range," said Head Greenkeeper, Damon Roberts. "Speedcut have always carried out a very efficient service for us."

Speedcut Contracts Manager Kevin Smith said: "Burgess Hill Golf Centre is in a beautiful location and we have a very good working relationship with Damon and his team."

John Deere Listed in 100 Best Global Brands 2011

John Deere has been included in the list of the 100 Best Global Brands for the first time.

This annual ranking is compiled by the consulting firm Interbrand and covers all industries worldwide.

Interbrand recognised that John Deere is continuously strengthening its global presence.

"The brand is also widening its focus by going beyond equipment to provide farmers and landowners with expert advice on how to get the most out of their land," Interbrand noted in the ranking comments.

"Being recognised as one of the top 100 brands among thousands of corporations reflects our consistent approach to serving our customers, and is the result of our ongoing commitment to markets outside North America," said Mark von Pentz, President of John Deere's Agriculture & Turf Division.

More Responsibility for Lely UK

From next year Lely (UK) Limited will become responsible for the distribution, sales, service and technical support of all Toro-branded commercial turf maintenance products distributed in the UK and Eire, includes all Toro-branded commercial products manufactured by Hayter, in Spellbrook.

While Lely will have expanded responsibility for all commercial products, Hayter will continue to handle sales, marketing and service support of Toro-branded consumer and landscape contractor products, in addition to Hayter-branded equipment.

Manufacturing of commercial and consumer products will also remain at Spellbrook.

As a result of this change, Toro's international division is working with Lely (UK) and Hayter to ensure that this does not affect their end-user customers. Through careful and thoughtful decision-making, Toro and Lely (UK) will be organising internal structures to meet the future sales and support needs of all its customers.

Lely has been a partner with the Toro Company for over 30 years and the move will strengthen the relationship of both companies.

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROPAGATION SOCIETY

Linda Laxton, Managing Director and owner of British Wild Flower Plants, will become the new President of the Great Britain and Ireland region (which includes Europe) of the International Plant Propagation Society (IPPS) at the beginning of next year.

Linda, who has been an IPPS member for over 10 years and whose Norfolk nursery specialises in growing purely native plants from seed collected throughout the UK will be responsible for overseeing the running of this wing of the society, and liaising with the other IPPS regions world wide.



What's your number?

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

Name: Gary Mumby
Company: BLEC Global Ltd
Position: Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
Since I was 16 and I'm now 56. So that was back in 1971.

How did you get into it?
I was working for my father's landscaping company and carried on in the business before starting to develop and make my own specialist machines to help the job in about 1982. People started to buy the machines I made so I realised it was time to go into manufacturing full-time. I started BLEC in 1986 with my wife Sue, near Peterborough, where we have always been based.

What other jobs have you done?
Landscaping, sportsturf and manufacturing machinery have been my whole life. I had ideas to be an accountant before I left school – but luckily my father needed help in his business so I didn't get stuck in a desk job.

What do you like about your current job?
Meeting so many enthusiastic people in a very nice industry where everybody is friendly and keen to learn about new ways to tackle difficult jobs with new machines.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
The introduction of so much good equipment for greenkeepers and groundsmen with new techniques and better education in turf maintenance and sportsturf construction techniques.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I don't have much spare time but a lot of my work involves travelling abroad to meet clients and distributors so I use the opportunity to visit the sights. Often at the weekends, when I'm home, I'm in the workshop working on new designs. I like watching football and support Arsenal.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?
Still doing what I'm doing now, which I thoroughly enjoy. Inventing, making and demonstrating machines is a passion.

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?
I have met so many people over the years – contractors, greenkeepers, groundsmen . . . and I can honestly say that they have all become friends, some of them very good friends.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
7 - which happens to be my wife Sue's birthday in August and our wedding anniversary in June.

Spin and Relief... Bernhard launches the New Dual Master 3000iR

Driven by customer feedback, Bernhard has developed a double operation spin and relief grinder – the Dual Master 3000iR

Building on the technical foundations of the renowned Express Dual and Anglemaster system, the Dual Master 3000iR is the fastest, easiest and most accurate way to return your cutting units to manufacturer's specifications.

With the ability to change from spin to relief or relief to spin in under 60 seconds the Dual Master 3000iR can save time in the workshop so more time can be spent out on the course.

www.bernhards.co.uk



The Grass Group has unveiled the latest development from Advanced Turf Technology offering a progression for the INFiNiPower pedestrian drive unit which will now be available with an all new hybrid petrol/electric power unit. It incorporates a 1.5kw generator, coupled to a Honda GX-120 engine, to deliver a continuous 48V supply to both the traction drive and cutting cylinders' DC Brushless motors.

The INFiNiPower accepts ATT's versatile TMSystem of interchangeable cassettes. This results in a walk behind mower and maintenance system to cut and maintain greens to the highest tournament standards.

Benefits of the hybrid design are reduced noise and better fuel efficiency.

This INFiNiPower offers variable clip rates based on forward travel speed. The unit also has a patent pending floating head mechanism which has no wear parts and offers a more consistent cut than any other mower on the market.

With a power requirement of 45hp, the S4 matches well with compact tractors but has a capacity of 4.0 cubic metres. The sweeping head with hydraulically driven brush has a 1.8m working width and the 250mm diameter suction hose scoops up material from kerbs, bins or inaccessible areas. A 4.5m² filter area gives 35 per cent more surface area for cleaner working.

www.thegrassgroup.com



Tidy Machine

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has launched a range of new machines both from lines such as the Verti-Drain and by extending into new groundcare areas.

The Turf Tidy incorporates de-thatching, flail cutting and sweeping using quick change rotors on a fully floating head that follows ground contours for a clean and even pick-up. The Turf Tidy lifts cores, leaves, pine needles, paper, and grass clippings. The three cubic metre hopper means less time emptying and its high lift allows greater clearance when tipping to 2.17m.

www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk



Mighty Mechron

RECO-Kioti has unveiled its brand-new homologated version of the Kioti Mechron Utility Vehicle.

The homologated version of the Mechron is different to any other currently on the market as it includes a combination of both bucket and bench seats. This combination means that you can safely transport a driver plus two passengers when travelling by road.

Introduced two years ago the Kioti Mechron has been well received by RECO's dealers and the new homologated version will increase the usability of the machine further. The Mechron 2210 will have a RRP from £10,995.

www.recokioti.co.uk



Spider Mower

The Ransomes Spider Mini, the latest addition to the range of radio controlled slope mowers, also includes the proven Spider 1 and Spider 2.

Compact in size at only 1040 mm x 900 mm with a 56 cm width of cut, the Spider Mini can access smaller and more difficult areas on wooded slopes, riverbanks and other constricted areas. At only 130kg its light weight ensures low fuel consumption and emissions, a turf friendly foot-print

and easy transportation.

Power comes from a 6.5hp Briggs and Stratton petrol engine with hydrostatic transmission and it is capable of speeds up to 4 km/h. The single rotary blade has a cutting width of 56 cm with a height of cut ranging from 40mm to 90mm.

The industrial quality remote control unit allows the operator to control the drive, steering, engine start and, if required, emergency shutdown.

The height of cut and blade engagement is controlled manually on the machine.

It will climb 25 degree slopes and with productivity up to 1500 sq metres per hour on a single litre of fuel, the Spider Mini is the ideal, cost-effective mower for difficult to access areas that require a maintained finish, such as lakes, dams, pastures and sloping lawns.

www.ransomesjacobsen.com

Harrogate Week 2012

Make it happen

You can only make full use of the Continue to Learn programme and, Harrogate Week as a whole, if you attend. That can often be down to persuading the people who ultimately make the decision that your being there would be a valuable use of both time and money.

So how do you go about making a strong, irrefutable, case for your attendance next January?

There are four main boxes which you must tick when putting forward your wish to be in Harrogate.



1. Understand Motivation

The person or people who make the decision on your attendance will be looking for clearly defined benefits; that expenses are reasonable and that the time out of the office is well spent.

You can assist this process by identifying reasonably priced hotel, B&B price via Reservation Highway www.reservation-highway.co.uk/conference_info.php. Another option is to consider sharing an apartment with friends or colleagues for the week, which can bring costs down.

Identify which workshops would be most beneficial to you and your employer, or who you are particularly keen to take in on the Education Conference or Seminar Sessions. Doing so can strengthen your case and increase your chances of being given the ok ahead to book up.

2. Understanding the Benefits that Impress

The two principle benefits of attending Harrogate Week are education and networking. The latter is a very important benefit but it is more difficult to quantify when building a case. You can outline who you spoke with, and any solutions you were able to identify, from networking during the week.

However, it is often speculative and difficult to quantify these

undoubted benefits. It is much easier to concentrate on the educational side where you can point to a specific course and how your attendance could have a direct benefit to the golf club.

The best way to do this is to link specific Workshops or topics on a Conference or Seminar session, as well as what you will be researching in the Exhibition Halls, to specific issues at work and then highlight what it is you will take from Harrogate and be able to implement back at work.

3. Quantifying the Benefits

It may well be worth breaking down and simplifying what it is you hope to achieve from your visit.

It would be wrong to assume that those making the final decision understand just how valuable the benefits of your attendance could be to the club. To assist, you should bring the Continue to Learn brochure with you when you attend the meeting, with the relevant elements highlighted.

4. Time Well Spent

Your decision makers need to appreciate that you are not seeking time off for a jolly but that attending Workshops, Education Conferences and carrying out research in the Exhibition is hard work.

Make sure you make them aware that you will be working through

lunch intervals and maximising the opportunity attending Harrogate has given you. Also make them aware that any social events take place outside of the regular Workshop, Conference or Show hours.

Once you have returned home ensure that you produce a report on what you have taken away from the week and what it will enable you to do. It will prove that not only has it been time well spent but money well spent as well.

It is important that you stress the value of attending educational events with the top quality speakers who are there, as the opportunity to tap into their knowledge may not come around too often. Harrogate Week is a once a year opportunity and if you miss out next year you will have to wait for another 12 months for the opportunity to come around again. It may be that your neighbouring clubs are taking advantage of everything and stealing a march on you.

**Harrogate Week 2012
January 22-26**

Information for the article was drawn from a Guide produced by the Club Managers of America Association.



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Industry Trade Shows: The debate

Established by BIGGA, the IOG and AEA, under the independent Chairmanship of David Gwyther of the Horticultural Trades Association, the Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum set out to look into not only the current issues facing industry trade shows but also into how the industry could collaborate on wider issues. Following an extensive review of trade events in the sector – specifically BTME and IOG SALTEX – the Forum issued a statement recently reinforcing the view that there are significant differences between the two events and that they are not directly comparable. Market forces will continue to dictate the demand and make up of these types of event. David Gwyther provides some background to the Forum and its actions

1. What was the purpose of the Forum and why was it established?

It was originally established to review the most cost-effective routes for delivering trade shows to the sports turf sector, following questioning from within the industry as to whether running separate shows was the best way forward. I was very impressed at the integrity and openness of this approach, and the commitment that BIGGA, IOG and AEA brought to the process. So I was not surprised that the positive discussions we had on shows led on, in due course, to agreement to work together on a number of other areas.

2. Did the Forum evolve or change during the process?

The Group focussed firmly on the shows' issue initially, with a series of regular meetings backed by objective data analysis to inform them. This analysis had to be done independently and confidentially of course, not least because of the commercially sensitive nature of the data to both IOG and BIGGA. I am pleased that the composition of the forum continues to evolve positively, with the inclusion of BAGMA at our last meeting. It may be that other relevant bodies or individuals are brought on board over time.

3. You were appointed as independent Chairman with no commercial/membership interests in either show? What is your background?

I've been Director General of the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) for many years. It's a large trade association, founded in 1899 and with a current turnover of around £27 million, so we have plenty of resources. They include political lobbying, training, and market research, but we're particu-

larly good at running events and have successfully established the National Plant Show recently following the demise of the old style GLEE show. So we've plenty of expertise to analyse the show scene and good experience of successfully evolving it.

4. How did you decide on what information you needed to start the process? What/whose data was analysed? Are you comfortable that the data presented to you was sufficient to enable the Forum to arrive at justifiable conclusions?

Because of our experience of these situations, we knew we needed robust visitor and exhibitor data from the existing shows. This data existed, but had never before been compared and analysed. We were therefore in a unique position of being able to do this – and it was therefore relatively easy to see a way forward for the immediate future. Clearly, though, performance output for the shows will need to be analysed in the future, and perhaps more targeted follow up research with exhibitors and visitors done, so that the situation is kept under constant review. This is a "work in progress" situation, not a final solution.

5. What was the process which resulted in the Forum reaching the conclusions which were announced last month?

As I said before, the initial focus of the forum's work was on the immediate future of the existing spread of shows. With the resolution of this, we were able to expand discussions to include new topics where common ground exists. These include training, policy lobbying, and market research, as well as bringing informed debate to

issues like pesticide use. However, the issue of the future composition of trade shows will be kept under review, to make sure that sensible responses to market forces are not missed.

6. How vital was it that EVERY aspect of the industry was considered?

Our focus has been very much on shows and methods of bringing suppliers and potential customers together. Other aspects of the industry can, though, now be considered by the Group not least to share best practice and ensure the most cost-efficient delivery of initiatives is developed on behalf of members. We're all very much focussed on serving the evolving needs of members, not maintaining a status quo.

7. Is the Forum adopting an open door policy going forwards?

Indeed – though I think membership has to be restricted to a small number of robust organisations who can properly represent their members' interests objectively. This obviously means that those members' views will come to the table and be properly considered. We'll also need to make sure that commercial sensitivities are handled confidentially and with care.

8. How important is it – to exhibitors as well as visitors – that trade shows continue to evolve and proactively adapt to market forces?

Absolutely fundamental. The forum was set up to ensure that market forces were properly taken into account in considering how best trade shows should evolve. There is total commitment to a process of constant review, and not seeking one off quick fixes.





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Coming up Trumps

The new Trump International Golf Links, in Aberdeen, has created numerous headlines and, as Scott MacCallum found out when he visited, it looks set to live up to all the hype



The spectacular par-five 14th is likely to become the signature hole





“I want this to be the best golf course in the world.” Those are the words Donald Trump has spoken to everyone involved in the development of Trump International Golf Links.

Quite a challenge, but for those lucky enough to have had a preview of the work being carried out on the Menie Estate, which hugs the rugged North Sea coastline, to the north of Aberdeen, it will certainly not fall short because of the quality of the land, or as a result of any lack of effort or attention to detail.

The course is built on a stretch of links land that could have been created especially for the game of

4th hole being seeded above and from a different angle, below, showing the interesting square tees

golf. Dunes the size of tower blocks, with valleys, the size and shape of fairways, running between them, were the raw material, but Architect, Martin Hawtree, Constructor, Sol Golf, and John Bambury of Create Turfgrass, have provided the skills to make the very most of what was there.

“Mr Trump promised the world the greatest golf course in the world and he isn’t a man to renege on a promise. We all genuinely believe that it will become the world’s greatest golf course,” said John, as we sat in the Trump offices, housed in an ancient stone lodge beside the course.

“When Mr Trump told me what he intended for the course my first thoughts were that it was an incredible challenge. That said, if my initial reaction was to have been daunted I would have steered clear, as this challenge is only going to grow and grow,” explained John, an Irishman who carries the relaxed air of confidence of a man in control of whatever circumstance should come his way.

So how do you face up to the challenge of producing a golf course so good that it is unmatched by anything else in the world?

“It’s a very simple thought process really. Everything you do, you then think - ‘How can I do it better tomorrow?’

“The bar is set very high. Our tee boxes have to be better than the best greens; our fairways have to be better than the best tee boxes and our greens have to be better than all the rest.”

John arrived on site in April, when just a handful of the holes had been shaped but none of the greens had been built. Since then the quality of the work and the pace at which this has been completed has been truly remarkable. Indeed, on the day of Greenkeeper International’s visit, at the end of September, the final fairway, the 4th, was being seeded, while all of the greens and bunkers had been finished.

John, a graduate of Penn State University, arrived in Aberdeen having worked on a number of grow-in projects in Ireland and with experience of working with Sol Golf.

“I think I ticked a lot of the boxes for the Trump Organisation and we got on very well. I presented them with a plan on how I would tackle the grow-in and I think they were impressed with this.

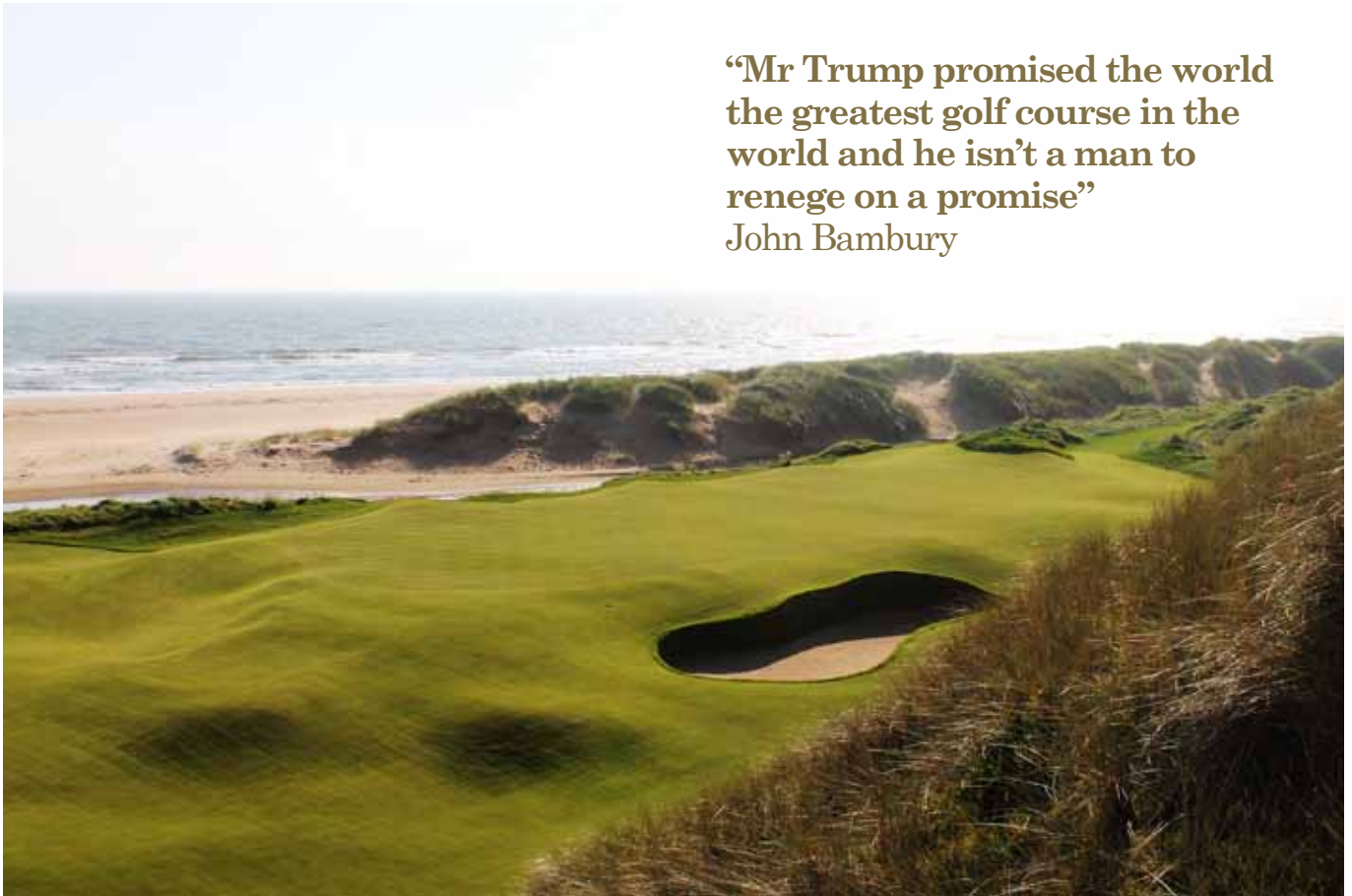
“It isn’t just about the turf, it’s about putting structures in place to cover every area.”

John’s first meeting was to compile an equipment list and this was carried out, with the Trump Organisation’s preferred supplier, John Deere, working closely with National Turf Manager for Turf



“Mr Trump promised the world the greatest golf course in the world and he isn’t a man to renege on a promise”

John Bambury



Equipment, Paul Trowman, in the space of five days.

“We turned it around very quickly, but life is only as complicated as you make it and we gave John Deere what we needed, together with the specifications, and we agreed a deal.

The equipment has worked very well for us. You don’t want to bring in a whole fleet of equipment at the same time and have it sitting there, so John Deere worked with our timelines on this.

It all had to be suitable for ongoing maintenance as well as the grow-in,” said John, whose local dealer is Double A.

The new maintenance facility will come on stream before the winter begins to hit hard.

Having conducted a full evaluation of the site and its topography, much of which influenced the equipment requirements, the greenkeeping team was assembled.

“People have always been hired here based on enthusiasm and commitment and we undertook a robust interview process which identified a number of staff from the local area, which was always one of Mr Trump’s objectives.

“It wasn’t hard to find local guys, because there is a wealth of talent in the area,” said John, who revealed that Donald Trump, himself, is a 4 handicapper with a very keen

knowledge of course building and construction.”

With equipment and team in place the next biggest issue was the agronomic plan for the grow-in.

“Temperatures get down very low up here, even in the middle of summer, and any given day it can be five or six degrees in the morning and be up at 18 by three o’clock in the afternoon,” explained John, who was quick to thank Robert Patterson, Course Manager at Royal Aberdeen, for bringing him up to speed on the local climatic conditions.

“What I learned from Robert in half an hour would have taken two years to figure out otherwise.”

The information gleaned helped influence the programmes that were subsequently put in place.

“For example, for the fairway programme we mixed in a slow release mixture in with our seed mixture but found very quickly that the low temperatures were not allowing this to work effectively, so we had to come across with straight fertiliser very quickly after germination.

“We couldn’t take a long term – six to eight week – view, in terms of fertiliser programmes. The fairways had to be managed on a five to seven day basis and this made us very conscious of the disease potential.

“With the traditional bent fescue mix on greens, and the grown-in nutrition programme, you’ve really

ABOVE: The 3rd green skirts the beach



John Bambury

got to watch for disease. On top of that, you’ve got to factor in that it is young turf which has been grown in a completely different environment so careful management is even more vital.

“For that reason we used a lot of traditional cultural practices. For example, our greens were aerated within four to five weeks of going down to encourage the root structure to develop quickly.”

To create a rootzone, top soil which had been cultivated a couple of times a year by local farmers around the Estate, was used.

“We mixed this 80-20 with the sand, for the green surfaces, and this enabled us to hold a little more moisture in there, again to encourage better root development.

One of the main stand out features of the course will be those

Thank you to John Deere (right), The Trump Organisation and Martin Hawtree Associates for making this feature possible.





greens and surrounds which have been turfed with bent fescue, supplied by Tillers Turf, and transported to the north east.

"It was a bespoke mixture and Tiller's were harvesting it at 4.30am and transporting it to us in refrigerated lorries so that it would be fresh when it arrived.

"We are using 4.3 hectares of turf for the green and surround areas, We are creating a frame around the green, using the same turf for the approaches and the green surfaces - the only difference will be the height of cut - everything else, including the nutrient and the cultural programmes, is the same. Our fairways and tees are pure fescue so we will have this beautiful contrast between the pure fescue fairway and the frame of the green and surround of bent fescue. It works very well."

The team had to prepare for the possibility that the site wasn't going to have any rain at all and as it turned out it had very little moisture for the grow-in.

"We have an excellent Rainbird irrigation system, 64,000 metres of pipe throughout the site, and this was vital during the summer and autumn."

The striking feature of the course is the amazing dunes. Martin Hawtree has ensured that none of the tees can be seen from anywhere else on the golf course to maintain the natural feel. That can cause

issues however, as during a sand storm earlier in the year, four inches of sand was dumped over the entire course.

"We had planned for the eventuality but it was the afternoon from hell and it took seven guys three hours per tee working 15 hour days to clear all the sand. Looking on the positive, it was a hell of a top dressing application!"

The on-going work that has gone into stabilising the dunes, to prevent this from happening again, was genuinely eye watering.

"We had a dedicated team which hand planted 5.6 million sprigs of marram grass over the period of six months. They were brought in by Sol and once they had hit on a method that worked they were very quick, and we've had a 95% success rate," said John, who added that more marram planting will be carried out this winter.

John's next comment is one which almost goes without saying.

"Only a company with the vision and the resources of the Trump Organisation could contemplate such a planting process."

However, the accusation that any project could only hit such heights if budgets could be tweaked with the simple addition of an extra zero at the end doesn't wash with John.

"Money is spent very wisely in the Trump Organisation and every penny is thought about. I would say that 70% of my time is dealing

ABOVE: the recently seeded 18th hole with its 18 bunkers

with costs and making sure we are on budget. Obviously we do have contingencies in place.

"You can't just throw money at the equation. Money isn't the answer, planning is, and having structures in place is the answer. It's a business and everyone is in business to make money but you can make money and still deliver the best golf course in the world.

"Mr Trump is a wealthy man and Trump is a profitable organisation. If you visit any Trump golf course, or one of the company's buildings, you will find perfection. It is about achieving perfection but there are always budgets in place and it is sensibly resourced."

But that will never detract from the sheer scale of the golf course. The driving range, for example, is 22 acres in total with the ability to play for a North Tee or a South Tee while the putting green is an enormous 3,000 square metres.

"What Martin wanted to achieve was to take a little bit of inspira-

RIGHT: Donald Trump with the team at Trump International Golf Links

If you visit any Trump golf course, or one of the company's buildings, you will find perfection. It is about achieving perfection but there are always budgets in place and it is sensibly resourced"
John Bambury





tion from each of the holes and put that into the putting green. He has actually done the same on the 18th hole, on which, in addition to 18 bunkers, he has tried to bring in everything which brings you to the 18th," he enthused.

"This is not just a project. Everyone who works on it knows that they are taking part in history in the making and the holes we are producing will be known the world over will quickly become one of the world's elite courses. As a golf course it is always exceeding people's expectations."

There is no doubt that International Golf Links will become one of the world's elite golf courses in a very short space of time and, with the might of the Trump Organisation ensuring its high profile, a glittering future is guaranteed.

It will go straight into the upper reaches of the personal top 10s of anyone lucky enough to play when it opens next July, and undoubtedly beguile the golf magazine judges in time for the next ranking lists.



Architect, Martin Hawtree, takes time to answer a few Greenkeeper International questions about Trump International Golf Links



1. How did you come to be chosen for the most sought after new course project in world golf?

The introduction came through the R&A with whom I had been working at a number of Championship venues. I was at first appointed as a consultant, with Tommy Fazio taking the lead role, Fazio had worked on many Trump projects.

2 What were your initial impressions when you saw the land?

It was by far the most stimulating site I had seen in 40 years of working as a golf architect. It was Royal Aberdeen, Royal Birkdale, Ballybunion, rolled into one and more. The scale of the dunes is very hard to imagine.

3. Where do you start when the remit is to design the greatest golf course in the world?

Just like any other project the aim is to get the best out of a piece of land. If the site itself promises to be the best in the world then there is much to help you.

The most important need is for self-control; let the site do its work and don't try too hard to do something very special: otherwise you may get it wrong and the result may be artificial. In this case the site was also environmentally very sensitive so I allowed the golf course to develop naturally from the site and to fit it to the site.

It was a balance between exploiting the extraordinary assets of the site and blending the course environmentally. For the layout, some areas we avoided altogether; for the detailed design we replaced or translocated as much of the existing vegetation as possible.

4. What are you particularly pleased about as the course stands at the moment?

I know that the fact that the tees cannot be seen while out on the course is regarded as a masterstroke.

What pleases me most about the course is the sequence of holes, the way in which the holes move around the site, exploiting different views and site characteristics.

The site has a particularly rich vegetative tapestry. So few holes are seen before they are played; each hole a surprise, now broad, then narrow; now marram framed, then heather framed, now flanked by ecological zones, then flanked by winter lochs.

An extraordinary perambulation.

5. John Bambury said that the course builds to a conclusion with elements of holes all brought together on the spectacular 18th and its 18 bunkers. Can you explain a little more about that?

I am enthusiastic about the final holes, turning at the 16th tee and rising progressively through the 16th and 17th, demanding holes played the prevailing wind; and as you climb you have an inkling of what may come because you have seen spectacular holes at the 14th, but when it comes it is still a surprise and a wonderfully exhilarating experience as you look south across the whole course and on towards Aberdeen.

The styles of bunker on previous holes are all here, the variety of tee alignments and distances, the dividing of fairways, a large green best attacked from different angles depending on the position of the pin. Lots of options bound in a heady montage of sand, dune, marram, fescue, and water.

6. I understand Mr Trump and Mr Trump Jnr have been involved and suggested a few spectacular tees. What has Mr Trump been like to work with?

Mr Trump has been great to work with. Always helpful and willing to listen; always accessible whatever the time zone; always stimulating and asking questions; all couched in an extraordinary memory for the details of the site.

7. The opening of the course coincides with the centenary of Hawtree. You must be delighted to have it in the company portfolio?

Yes, it is a great way to move into our centenary year with the opening of the Trump course. There are few enough new courses about at the moment for the comfort of a new project to turn into a rare privilege. And I hope privilege is the key-note of this course, for those who have helped design and build and grow-in the course – which has depended upon an extraordinarily bonded teamwork - and for those who come and play in this wonderfully rich and spectacular landscape.

Avoid the Yarrow March

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at Yarrow, the turf weed with it all



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is a successful and serious weed of managed turf. By nature all broad-leaf plants in managed turf will display at least some of well-established turf weed attributes but yarrow has virtually the lot.

Underground stems (rhizomes) and surface spreading creeping stems which root at the nodes and like most members of the plant family Asteraceae (better known as Compositae) prolific seed production.

However, there is another key attribute related to its leaves and accounting for much of yarrow's

success and prowess as a weed of managed turf. Yarrow's waxy and finely divided fern-like leaves contribute to the plant's strong drought resistance and high tolerance to herbicide because the foliage is hard to wet and therefore difficult to adequately cover with spray.

Yarrow profiled

Yarrow is a ubiquitous perennial weed occurring in most types of grassland. The name yarrow is derived from the Anglo Saxon 'gearwe' or 'giewan' meaning 'to be ready' (because of its healing properties) and turf managers faced

with this weed should certainly be ready for a difficult time.

Yarrow flourishes on dry, sandy and undernourished soils, calcareous or slightly acidic in reaction. Along with white clover and cat's ear, yarrow is one of the most drought hardy of all turf weeds.

During long hot summers, yarrow will persist as broad green patches while most other plants, turf grasses and weeds alike, are dried out, brown and seemingly dead.

Beneath the soil lays a sturdy system of underground stems called rhizomes spreading laterally from the parent plant at 7 to



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long hot summers when turf grass is at its lowest ebb.

First glimpse of the flower heads makes many think that yarrow is related to wild carrot, cow parsley, pig nut, hogweed, ground elder and other 'sometime' amenity weeds belonging to the family 'Umbelliferae'. But closer inspection reveals a flat-topped inflorescence comprising a cluster of tiny daisy-like flowers each composed of many florets. This places yarrow firmly in the Asteraceae (Compositae) 'camp'. Individual flowers are 3-6mm across with white or cream coloured disc florets, and five pinkish purple ray florets. Like most other members of the Asteraceae, including dandelion and ragwort, yarrow displays high seed production with up to 6000 seeds per plant.

And the finely dissected fern-like leaves of yarrow give extra clues to its classification status because they resemble the feathery, lace-like and highly segmented leaves of other members of the Asteraceae such as scentless mayweed, corn chamomile, pineapple weed and ragwort. The alternative common name 'Milfoil' derived from yarrow's Latin name 'millefolium' literally means 'thousand leaf'.

In the wider environment

Yarrow in flower is a common sight on infrequently mown grass or waste ground but hardly so on well managed turf. Regular mowing ensures the white flat flower heads are rarely seen in sports and amenity turf. And this together with a late and relatively short flowering window covering June-September should help to curtail its spread. But the secret of yarrow's success as with so many other turf weeds does not necessarily lie in sexual reproduction and the setting and dissemination of seed.

Ground hugging rosettes of stalked basal leaves, which largely escape the mower blades, hide an efficient means of vegetative reproduction through prostrate stems which develop into soil surface creeping stems (stolons) that root readily at the nodes. In contrast leaves borne on flowering stems are without stalks. The tough and fine-cut form of the yarrow leaf minimises loss of water by evaporation.

Yarrow has healing properties and when the leaf segments are crushed they release a strong though not unpleasant aromatic smell claimed to provide at least one good use for this troublesome weed

in another time and place. Yarrow is claimed as excellent fodder for farm animals, and some dairy farmers encourage yarrow in their pastures to impart a pleasant taste to cow's milk and yarrow flavoured yoghurt thus made. Yarrow was popular as a cooked leaf vegetable in the sixteenth century.

Back to basics on managed turf

Back on the sports turf surface yarrow is notoriously difficult to control and a single application of herbicide is rarely sufficient to eliminate the weed. It's creeping, running stems root at intervals to produce large drought resistant patches of weed growth during hot and dry summers when turf grasses and most other weeds alike are stopped dead in their tracks. There is little that can be done because herbicide application is clearly not effective or advised during drought conditions.

When the rains resume in early autumn yarrow clearly has a head start over drought stricken grass and by late September turf grass swards may be riddled with the weed. The leaves are waxy which together with their finely divided structure makes them difficult to wet and cover with spray, as well as presenting a barrier to the entry of systemically acting (translocated) herbicide.

It is not a good idea to rely solely on herbicides for control of yarrow since the majority will struggle to eliminate this weed, especially with a single spray application. Carefully prise out isolated yarrow plants when they first appear and scarify (groom) the turf to raise the weed leaves prior to mowing. Nitrogen rich fertiliser in spring helps the grass to get a head start over yarrow.

Regular feeding and watering, especially during drought, maintains sward thickness and helps to suppress this aggressive weed. Round off the growing season with an autumn applied top dressing. Year on year persistence of yarrow indicates that turf requires at least a good tonic and more likely some serious soil conditioning or amendment.

Yarrow and herbicides

Most turf weeds are relatively easy to control with proprietary selective herbicides at standard dose rates and frequencies, but others are more difficult to shift. The situation surrounding yarrow and other hard to control weeds

20 cm a year and a deep fibrous root system which anchors plants securely in the turf grass sward.

This erect, tough and aromatic perennial is usually 30-60 cm high in uncut swards, forming ubiquitous clumps and patches on dry grassland, hedge-banks, roadside verges and waste places. That said yarrow can tolerate close mowing, readily adapting its growth habit in accordance with cutting height.

There are custom-bred varieties with yellow and pink flowers sought after by cottage garden enthusiasts. But turf managers are hardly enthusiastic about this 'dry-loving' weed which performs best during



MAIN PIC: As the season warms up and turf dries out so yarrow 'warms up' as well



TOP: Some dairy farmers encourage yarrow to produce pleasantly flavoured milk and yoghurt

ABOVE: Yarrow is a valued component of wild flower meadows in late summer

LEFT: Clearly severe drought conditions but yarrow still manages to flower

BELOW: Close up on conditions that allow yarrow to take over

BELOW RIGHT: Yarrow is usually the last weed left standing in drought stricken turf

is complex with various factors at work either on their own or in combination.

Thus weeds like yarrow which are difficult to control with herbicides may:

- Be hard to wet and cover with spray due to shape and disposition shape or surface properties of the foliage
- Present a barrier to herbicide penetration due to a wax bloom layer, a thick cuticle or hairs on the leaves or a combination of such surface properties.
- Be inherently resistant to herbicide due to aspects of natural metabolism like having specific enzymes that can detoxify a specific herbicide molecule.
- Have acquired resistance to specific selective herbicides due to their over use and abuse.

Product Labels of some single active ingredient herbicides claim control of yarrow but only by using the highest allowed dosage or repeat applications and often both.

Biggest and best clout is delivered by herbicide products containing two or more active ingredients, usually with completely different modes of action, but even these can come with some reservation over rapid and complete control of yarrow.

Fluroxpyr and florasulam in combination are acknowledged to achieve comprehensive control of weeds in managed turf, including those which are traditionally regarded as the most difficult to control. This combination has the benefit of using two 'modern' actives with completely different modes of action. Both disrupt the normal growth of broad leaved weeds, the former by mimicking the effect of auxins and the latter by inhibiting synthesis of branched chain essential amino acids the building blocks of protein.

Fluroxpyr is taken up by the leaves and florasulam by the roots also, and together with rapid

translocation in xylem and phloem means they can rapidly reach all growing points where their effect is felt. In spite of all these attributes control of yarrow is only defined as moderate in comparison to most other turf weeds.

Positive points for yarrow

As with other turf weeds there are positive sides to yarrow. Yarrow is a valued component of wild flower meadows providing a rash of striking white across the yellowing tall grass in late summer and ideal for attracting butterflies.

Some cavity nesting birds like starlings use yarrow foliage to line their nests and research in this respect with nesting tree swallows in North America showed that yarrow inhibits the growth of avian parasites.

The plant has a long history of use in herbal medicine including the ability to heal wounds. Indeed the Linnean name 'Achillea' is after 'Achilles' of Greek Mythology fame, and the foremost hero of the Trojan Wars, who is said to have first used yarrow to heal his soldiers' injuries.

A whole string of alternative common names such as soldier's woundwort, knight's milefoil, staunch weed and thousand-seal give credence to these claims. In antiquity yarrow was known as 'Herbal Militaris' because it would staunch the flow of blood from wounds sustained in battle.

In herbal medicine yarrow is recommended for fortification and decongestion as well as its anti-haemorrhagic properties, but a specific traditional recommendation for stemming blood flow and relieving toothache following molar extraction is of little consolation to the greenkeeper suffering the 'headache' of yarrow as a turf weed.

Or its use as a skin lotion to improve complexion and looks when this is the last thing yarrow does for fine turf.



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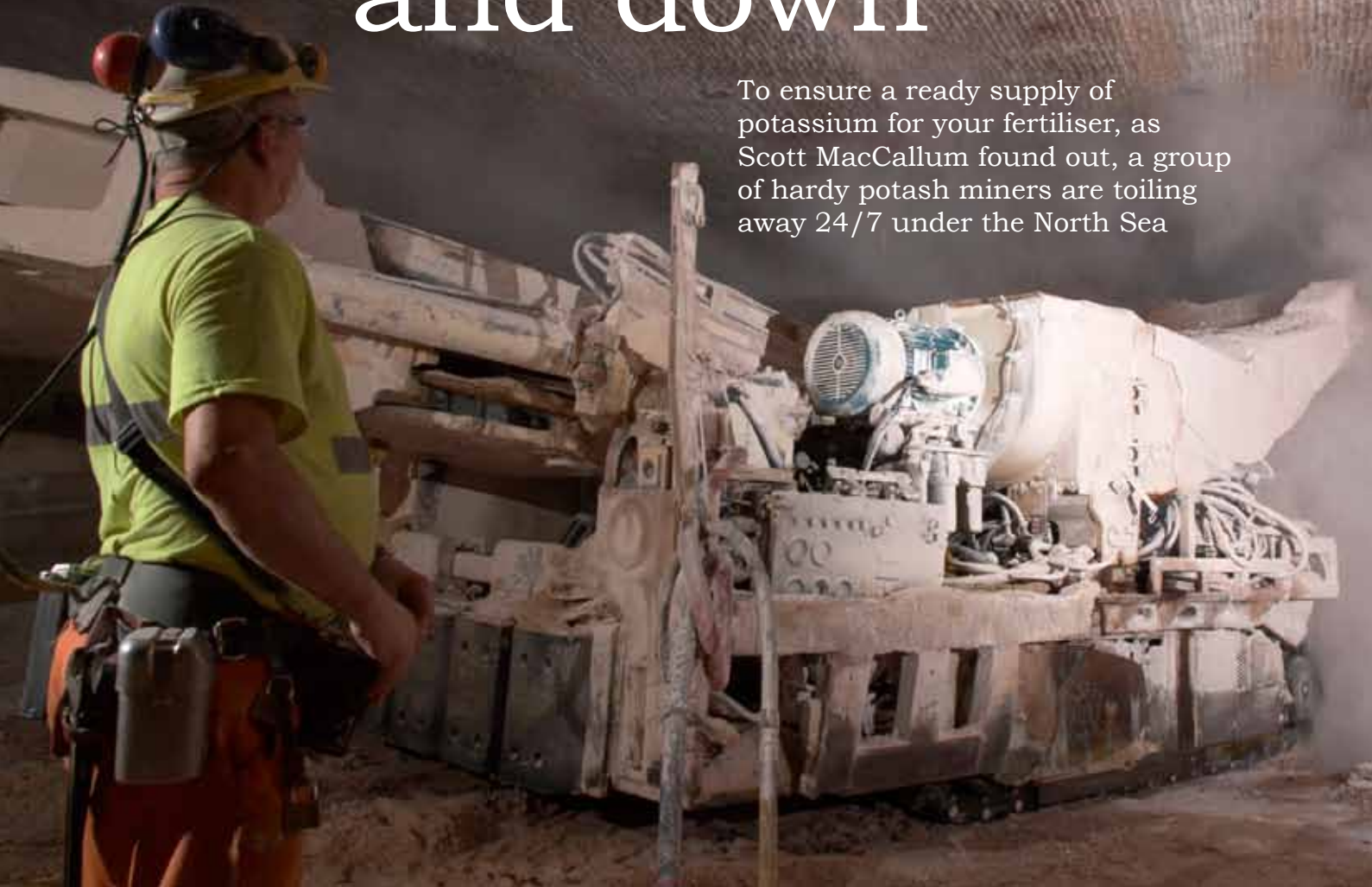
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Down down, deeper and down

To ensure a ready supply of potassium for your fertiliser, as Scott MacCallum found out, a group of hardy potash miners are toiling away 24/7 under the North Sea



There are many things in life which we just take for granted. It may be the fact that the car always starts when we turn the key, or that the light comes on when we flick the switch, or that when you put on an application of fertiliser it does exactly what it says on the tin (or bag).

But like most things that have become so simple and which we barely think about, there is a lot more to them than meets the eye.

You know that NPK stands for the ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium contained, but beyond that, how much do you know about that K element?

Potassium is the common name for potash, which comes from deep under the earth's surface and is mined in a similar fashion to coal.

One of the main potash mines is found on Teesside, at Boulby, near

Cleveland, which is run by Cleveland Potash, and owned by Everris, and it ensures a guaranteed supply of potash for its range of fertilisers. Construction on the mine began in 1969, and it began producing potash in 1973.

It is the second deepest mine in Europe at 1400 metres and produces half of the UK's annual supply of potash. As a by-product the mine also produces rock salt, an extremely valuable commodity in recent years and used across the country as a de-icing agent on roads in winter conditions.

Everris recently took a small party of journalists down the mine to demonstrate exactly how this most valuable of natural resources is harvested.

The mining process is extraordinary. Just to get to work face workers need to take a lift, dropping nearly a mile underground, before

getting into a truck and driving six miles under the North Sea.

Of a total staff of 900, including contractors, 600 work underground on shifts which ensures continuous 24-7 production.

The lift journey, in one of two lifts – the larger one can take over 30 people while the other can take around 12 – takes around four minutes and the when you arrive the immediate reaction is one of surprise at the sheer scale of the underground operation.

At any one time there are around 60 vehicles, including Land Rovers and even buses capable of transporting up to 12 people, and used to ferry face workers and engineers – and that is not counting the huge sophisticated machinery which is used for the actual mining itself.

These are all taken down in the same lifts, which are temporarily adapted for the non-human cargo.





The atmospheric conditions underground are particularly corrosive and electronic equipment, or even watches, can't be used or worn as they will not survive on return to the surface.

You are also warned that souvenir pieces of potash brought to the surface will quickly turn to dust if left in regular surface conditions.

With one way systems in operation wherever possible, a subterranean sign posting system in place, as well as tried and tested horn blowing procedures when approaching corners or junctions, the journey to the face can take over half an hour with speeds restricted to 15mph.

In effect with 45 minutes to reach the face and another 45 minutes to get back it reduces the productivity of every shift by an hour and a half and makes it all the more vital that the face workers maximise the time they have.

Technology ensures that 2.4 million tonnes of potash are mined at Boulby each year as well as 0.8 million tonnes of the rock salt which is mined two days a week.

The combination of potash and salt is important because the salt seams are much more stable than those of the potash and this makes negotiating the many seams much more manageable.

Indeed a two and a half metre high potash seam is so porous it will shrink back to nothing in the

The second deepest mine in Europe at 1400 metres, producing half of the UK's annual supply of potash. As a by-product the mine also produces rock salt, an extremely valuable commodity in recent years and used across the country as a de-icing agent on roads in winter

space of little more than a couple of years.

Indicators are placed in the roof to highlight the rate of compaction, while bolts are drilled into the roof to provide additional stability.

Walking through narrow seams of potash, six miles into the North Sea and a mile from the safety of the lift shaft, can be an unsettling experience, especially when creaks and groans can be heard coming from the roof or walls. However, safety is the bedrock of everything and accident statistics show Boulby to be an extremely safe working environment.

Underground everyone wears bright orange clothing to ensure that they will be easily visible at all times.

Off the regular tracks are cave-like expanses where miners have gone in to remove whatever extra potash can be safely extracted - miners are incentivised to produce as many tonnes as possible each day.

At any one time up to four faces are being mined at one time selected from a map, which bears a close resemblance to the London Underground map.

At the face itself, a team of around six carry out various functions - from stabilising the roof with bolts; operating the remote controlled but massive cutting machines; to driving the mobile conveyor belts which are used to transport the potash from the face to the main conveyor belts which then carry it back to the main shaft for delivery to the surface.

As the mine stretches further out into the North Sea production costs rise and while the viability of the mine is dependant on the worldwide price of potash - too low and the profit margin disappears, too high and the demand drops - the immediate future of Boulby is secure and a ready supply of K for those NPK Everris fertilisers is guaranteed.

STRI Golf Environment Awards: 2011 Winners



The winners of the 2011 Golf Environment Awards, supported by BIGGA, are announced. Richard Stuttard, of the STRI, reveals all...

Loch Lomond Golf Club (and inset)



STRI is delighted to announce the winners of the 2011 Golf Environment Awards. The scheme is designed to

highlight the 'greener side' of UK golf and inspire others in the UK and further afield to kick start the environmental side of their operations.

Overall Achievement Award

The top award this year is presented to Loch Lomond Golf Club. David Cole and his team at Loch Lomond have been driving towards environmental sustainability for a number of years.

The setting definitely has natural beauty, however a great deal of work is required to maintain the golf course to do justice to its surroundings. To win our top award, clubs

must be achieving exemplary work in each of our key performance areas: nature conservation, waste management, water management and turfgrass management, and Loch Lomond ticks all these boxes.

Conservation Management is largely directed by Deputy Course Manager, Darren Marshall, with the full backing of the General Manager and the Director of Golf.

2011 Golf Environment Awards Sponsors and Media Partners

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Environment Winners



The club works to a detailed management plan, covering scrub, grassland, tree and water feature management.

The club is also responsible for the conservation of three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering the loch shore, veteran trees and lichen rich habitats.

Waste Management is also dealt with very effectively and through diligent management planning the club recycles 92% of all waste

generated, including clubhouse and on course water, tins, card and plastics.

Their aim is to manage the turf to the highest quality based on proven agronomic techniques, with the greatest emphasis placed on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Sound cultural practices are key as Loch Lomond is located in one of the most challenging areas of the UK, annually experiencing over 2,000 mm of annual rainfall, poor

light levels, high humidity, poor air flow and inherent poor soils.

Effective drainage on the course helps to improve playability; being able to remove the excess water expediently ensures good turfgrass health and prevents course closure.

The turfgrass nutrition programme for their USGA specification greens is based on a “light and when required” feeding programme using soluble applications.

Amounts are dependent on

weather conditions, clipping yield, tissue analysis, size of green, traffic flow and visual health.

A key aspect at Loch Lomond is the drive to continue awareness among all the greenstaff so that potential problems can be identified quickly and efficiently.



Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year – Antony Wainwright, Turton Golf Club

Turton Golf Club is set within moorland on the southern slopes of the Turton Heights, outside the town of Bolton, Lancashire. The course, extending to over 56 hectares, has traditionally been managed with four greenstaff with little thought (initially) to developing its conservation potential. This all changed with the promotion of Antony Wainwright to Assistant

Head Greenkeeper in January 2011.

Antony has achieved a BSC (Hons) in by undertaking a full time course at The Bolton Institute. This, coupled with his promotion and passion for working on the golf course, has enabled the adoption of new management practices relating to rough grasslands and other 'out of play' areas on the course that are now paying real dividends.

Antony has utilised his broad knowledge of ecology to produce a very detailed management plan for the course, which is providing a clear direction to the clubs ecology related work as well as highlighting clear aims and objectives.

This year, the main areas of work include managing the rough grasslands to develop corridor habitat along the fringes of several holes and providing tall rough through certain carries.

Scrub and tree removal has been significant in reinstating important acid grassland and lowland heath habitat. Recognition has also been given to retaining and managing the dead wood habitat resource and to the erection of bat and bird boxes. Pond and water feature management is also high on the ecological management agenda.

Northern Regional Winner – Wilmslow Golf Club

Steve Oultram is well known for working within golf course ecology and conservation, not least for his recognised effort and desire to improve the ecology of the grasslands over the course. Steve manages the grasslands through an ongoing programme of cutting

and baling through the wider rough and the cutting and scarification of the fringing rough.

The programme is being directed through a five-year repeat management plan. Tree management includes the recognition of the importance of dead wood and pond management and is also a key element of the greenstaff's annual workload.

The club retains an affiliation with the 'Cheshire Butterfly and Moth Conservation Trust' and encourages visits and species recording. A particular highlight at Wilmslow relates to the extensive hedge laying work (following staff training) that has proven very effective in restoring good condition to several hundred metres of boundary hedge.

Southern Regional Winner – Thorpeness Golf Club

Thorpeness is a very special site offering a wide range of habitats and providing opportunities for a wealth of wildlife. There is a very much a team spirit between Course Manager, Ian Willett, and his crew and this is clearly highlighted by the amount and standard of work achieved both on the playing surfaces and through the 'out of play' areas of the course.

In recent months extensive work has been undertaken around the site to maintain and enhance more favourable habitats. Bracken has been controlled through 'bashing' techniques and this is allowing gorse and heather to develop in greater quantities.

Elsewhere, areas are being subtly 'roped off' to prevent buggy access and allow heather to establish without disturbance. Gorse continues to be managed on a rotational cycle and the large lake has recently been cleared of all invading vegetation and is now a superb feature for both golfer and wildlife to enjoy.

Scottish Regional Winner – Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

The visit to Royal Aberdeen came at the time of the Walker Cup and, as could be seen from the TV coverage, the course was in superb condition. The playing areas were outstanding but the highlight was the work clearly evident through the management of the fringing grassland rough and using this to delineate and set up each hole was impressive.

Robert Patterson and his team have shown how the rough can be used to envelope bunkers, and



ABOVE: Thorpeness GC
BELOW: Wilmslow GC



Northern Regional Winner – Wilmslow Golf Club





how by thinning and working the rough a good balance between golf and grassland conservation can be achieved. Royal Aberdeen has also put considerable effort into gorse management, which combined with the grassland are important features through a number of holes.

**Welsh Regional Winner
– Bull Bay Golf Club**

Bull Bay Golf Club is a hidden gem of a course tucked away on the northern coast of Anglesey. Situated in a breathtaking setting the club could be forgiven for relying on this aspect alone as the main draw of the course, yet Course Manager Andy Peel and his team have worked hard to maximise the visual and strategic potential of the course by maintaining high levels of biodiversity across the site. Deep roughs are presented in a good manner and maintained to support ground nesting birds and small mammals.

They also provide stunning definition across this coastal site. Gorse is also well maintained and the club are not afraid to leave dead wood in-situ for the benefit of wildlife. Turfgrass management is of the highest order here, with Andy, through cultural management practices, significantly reducing thatch levels and developing predominantly fescue greens. No fungicide has been applied in over 17 years and the course supports

quality playing surfaces all year round.

**Nature Conservation Award
– The Manchester Golf Club**

The team at The Manchester Golf Club, headed up by Course Manager, Mark Jones, and his team, and assisted by keen environmentalist and member, Gordon Yates, have in recent years begun extensive management work across their vast site. The course supports large areas of woodland with many fairways and greens being treelined.

The team have recognised the importance of woodland thinning (and restocking) work for the benefit of wildlife as well as for the strategic, visual and turf health aspect of the golf course and have in place a management strategy for trees and woodland which has already made a massive improvement to many areas.

Heather restoration has been carried out across several areas of the course with great success and the purchase this year of a flail collector has allowed grassland management, heather seed harvesting and scrub removal to be carried out on an even larger scale.

Such is the level of interest by the team, bumblebee colonies have been introduced to the site and detailed records of wildlife are maintained by Gordon allowing a full appreciation of the impact of these projects.

**Water Management Award
– Lymm Golf Club**

As former winners of our Turfgrass Management Award, Lymm Golf Club are no strangers to good environmental practice. This year Stuart Yarwood MG and his team have been doing great work with regards to water management on the course.

Water inputs to the playing surfaces have continued to be reduced, whilst the standard of surface remains high.

The club has also upgraded its existing waste water cleansing system within the maintenance area to incorporate capacity for 'worse case scenario' diesel spillages.

Perhaps most commendable in this category has been the club's

Royal Aberdeen Golf Club





MAIN ABOVE: – The Manchester Golf Club
 INSET ABOVE LEFT: Lymm GC
 INSET ABOVE RIGHT: New Malton GC
 BELOW: Aldeburgh GC

achievement of being the first golf club to receive funding from the Million Ponds Project.

This scheme, in place to provide further habitat for, amongst others, great crested newt, common toad and water vole, has provided financial assistance and guidance to allow the club to construct three new ponds on the site.

Although in their infancy, the ponds have been constructed to a high standard and will quickly establish top quality features. The level of commitment to securing this funding by Stuart and his team is highly commendable.

Waste Management Award - New Malton Golf Club

This year's Waste Management Award goes to New Malton Golf Club in Hertfordshire. The 230 acre site here is managed entirely with the environment in mind. Indeed some 100 acres is outside golf and managed in varying ways to promote biodiversity.

The approach by Owner, Paul Stevenson, and his team to waste management stood out from the crowd this year. If you consider the best practice order of dealing with waste streams as being 1. Eliminate, 2. Reduce, 3. Reuse, 4. Recycle, 5. Dispose, New Malton very much fits into the 'Eliminate' category, with hardly any waste produced at all. On the course, no

chemicals or inorganic products are ever used and in the clubhouse large amounts of produce are grown on-site.

The ultimate aim of New Malton Golf Club is to be self sufficient and by all accounts they are not far off. Even the waste that is produced is put to good use. At the time of my visit to the club, empty plastic kegs were being used to construct a raft which would be planted with vegetation and floated into the clubs irrigation reservoir, to create further wildlife habitat. A fine example to the golf industry.

Turfgrass Management Award - Aldeburgh Golf Club

Aldeburgh Golf Club, in Suffolk, is a course that delivers on many levels. The course supports considerable opportunities for wildlife and the habitats present are developed and used by the club to great effect in terms of the added value they bring to a top quality venue. The approach by Course Manager, Mark Broughton MG, to turfgrass management has been of particular interest this year.

Despite a challenging year weatherwise, to say the least, Mark has maintained playing surfaces that really are of the highest order.

They are delivering fescue-dominated, firm, fast and true surfaces all year round. All the more impressive when you consider that

no fungicides have been applied for years and this year only 3kg/ha of nitrogen has been required to keep the surfaces at this high standard.

It is clear that Mark and his team have developed an incredibly sustainable routine of greens management, incorporating cultural methods and close monitoring. Even irrigation is kept to an absolute minimum – simply enough to keep the plant alive, and Mark is informed of the necessity to water through the regular use of a moisture probe on all surfaces.

As always, the Golf Environment Awards could not take place without the valued input of our sponsors and also the continuing support given by BIGGA. A big thank-you to all involved.





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Jason Hunt coped with the exacting conditions best of all to become BIGGA's 2011 Champion Golfer



al of est

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WORLD LEADER IN MINI EXCAVATORS

The wind was blowing hard and the formidable West Lincs course was baring its considerable teeth, but one man stood firm to clinch the 2011 BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

Jason Hunt, a 29 year-old Assistant at Addington Palace Golf Club, near Croydon, kept his cool and carefully two putted the final hole for a single shot victory and the biggest win of his golfing career.

"I have won a few Open tournaments but the quality of the field here makes this the biggest win I've had," explained Jason, for whom it was the culmination of a fine year which has seen his handicap drop from two to scratch.

"These were the toughest conditions I've ever faced in a top tournament and it is one of the hardest courses I've played. I had to scrap for every par," he revealed.

"I had it in mind that it was between our three ball on the second day, me, Garry Duncan, from Carnoustie, and Kevin Boxall, from Guildford. Kevin had a good front nine and was in front at that stage, but Garry was leading by the back nine. I just hung in and on the final green I thought I might have two for it and that proved correct," said Jason, who is self taught, and who has never changed from the left hand below right grip he adopted when he took up the game.

The opening round was perhaps the difference when, in calmer conditions Jason shot a two over par 74 to hold the clubhouse lead by a single shot from Kevin, and two from Garry. It proved to be the difference when both Jason and Kevin shot 79s on the second round and Garry, dropping a few shots in the closing holes, shot 80 to complete the first second and third in the main competition.

"I thought West Lincs was a fantastic golf course and in superb condition. I'm looking forward to going to Scotland next year to defend my title at Irvine Bogside," said Jason.

"I'd like to thank West Lincs Golf Club, BIGGA and our sponsors, Charterhouse and Kubota, for making it such a wonderful event."

The handicap competition for the BIGGA Challenge Cup produced some real fireworks and one has to feel a little sorry for Mark Tucker, of Saunton Golf Club, who finished third, but had the same 151 score as Mark Blacknell and Gary Burgess.

He did lose out though to two players who, remarkably, both holed 4-irons during their second rounds.

Gary's was the most spectacular as it produced that rarest of birds, an albatross! The Grange Park man, had exactly 200 yards to go on the 478 yard 5th hole and his 4-iron was pinpoint accurate.

"I watched it all the way and thought I saw it drop in but you can never be sure from that distance," said Gary, a three handicapper, for whom, needless to say, it was his first ever albatross.

Mark Blacknell, who won the BIGGA Challenge Cup, was in a purple patch when he arrived at West Lincs, having just won his Club Championship at Leen Valley, but he could not have expected how his 36 holes would pan out.

The 5 handicapper shot a 10 over par 82 on the first day, without making a birdie, but when he set out on the windy second round he soon made up for it.

A 6-iron to eight inches on the





1st was a fine birdie start and he followed it up with a 50 foot eagle putt on the 2nd to be three under par gross after two. But that wasn't the end of it as he holed his 4-iron from 170 yards into the wind at the 13th for a two and his second eagle of the round.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the golf course, it suits my game as I hit a low ball, and I think it is a great event. I've already planned to take my wife with me to Scotland next year. I always enjoy it when we go to Scotland," said Mark, who celebrated his 50th birthday the Sunday following his win.

The Challenge Bowl for affiliates was a hotly contested category this year and it was Phil Dewhurst, of Rigby Taylor, who emerged victorious with a two round score of 157 to win on the better second round.

The 18 hole Stableford Challenge Plate was won by Brian Robinson, of De Vere Belton Woods, with 32 pts, while the Regional Cup, for the best four nett scores from each Region over the opening day was won by the South East Region with a score of 295 with the Midland Region, two shots adrift.

The difficulty of the West Lancs course can be amply illustrated by the fact that the scoreboard operator was deeply concerned

that he was running out of number "8"s, "2"s, "3"s, "4"s and "5"s were in plentiful supply and "6"s and "9" were interchangeable, but with many scratch, and indeed handicap scores, in the 80s and thus including the "snowman", contingency plans were put in place for the second round.

While it was exceptionally tough the course is also very fair and the conditioning was second to none and a real credit to Course Manager John Muir and his team, while the warm hospitality generated by the clubhouse staff was second to none. Club Captain, John Morris, attended the dinner and delivered a lovely speech and personalised Grace, and Lady Captain, Bernadette Metcalf, joined John at the Tuesday Prize Giving.

Charterhouse and Kubota, in the shape of Nick Darking and Curtis Allen, of Charterhouse and Tom Dunlop, of Kubota, were superb partners during the two days and the display of machinery they brought along was a demonstration of the commitment both companies give to the Championship.

The 2012 BIGGA National Championship will be held at Irvine Bogside Golf Club, Ayrshire, on October 8 & 9, 2012.



The BIGGA National Championship sponsors' were a great partnership



Course Manager, John Muir, receives a tankard from BIGGA Vice Chairman, Tony Smith



Club captain, John Morris, speaks at the dinner

2011 BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota

Results

BIGGA Challenge Trophy (Best Gross over 36 holes)

1. Jason Hunt (0), Addington Palace GC, 74, 79 = 153
2. Kevin Boxall (1), Guildford GC, 75, 79 = 154
3. Garry Duncan (+1), Carnoustie Links, 75, 80 = 155

BIGGA Challenge Cup (Best Nett over 36 holes)

1. Mark Blacknell (5), Leen Valley GC, 77, 74 = 151 (Better Second Round)
2. Gary Burgess (3), Grange Park GC, 75, 76 = 151
3. Mark Tucker (12), Saunton GC, 73, 78 = 151

BIGGA Challenge Plate (Stableford)

1. Brian Robinson (9), De Vere Belton Woods, 32pts

BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Affiliate)

1. Phillip Dewhurst (11), Rigby Taylor, 157 (Better Second Round)

Regional Cup

1. South East – Kevin Boxall, Dougie Fernie, Jason Hunt, Kane Stone = 295
2. Midland – John Bowness, David Lyons, Paul Reeve, Simon Woolley = 297

Handicap Prizes Day 1

- +1-5 Category. Paul Teviotdale (1), Montrose Links, 76
- 6-12 Category. Kane Stone (9), Ealing GC, 73
- 13-24 Category. Dougie Fernie (17), Upminster GC, 74

Handicap Prizes Day 2

- +1-5 Category. Andrew Riley (2), Colne GC, 73
- 6-12 Category. Peter Hogan (12), Eccle Riggs GC, 74
- 13-24 Category. Tony Thacker (13), RAF Marham, 84

- Nearest the Pin** – Kevin Boxallm, Guildford GC
- Longest Drive** – Duncan Cairnie, Carnoustie Links.

Trophy Winners (L-R): Brian Robinson, Mark Blacknell, Jason Hunt and Philip Dewhurst, flanked by Curtis Allen, of Charterhouse, and Tom Dunlop, of Kubota)



ABOVE: Nick Darking, of Charterhouse, address the dinner, and LEFT: Jason Hunt tops the board



Regional Cup Winners South East: Jason Hunt, Dougie Fernie, and Kane Stone (Kevin Boxall missing) with Tom and Nick

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

The anatomy of... Cylinder grinders

Hunter Grinders Jupiter ATI. Note the gantry to facilitate raising cutting units onto the machine.

A well managed in-house grinding station will not occupy much workshop space.

Some points to consider when choosing a grinder.

Enough settings to suit the job. A key requirement is to ensure the grinder under consideration will return both cylinders and bottom blades to the original manufacturer's specification.

Accuracy and durability.

The grinder should perform accurately for at least a decade. When costing a unit, find out the machine's maintenance demands and its projected service life. Compare machine specifications and ensure the unit will work to the tolerances you demand and that these are easily achieved.

Coping with coning.

Some modern cutting units have the cylinder and rear roller fixed in the frame during manufacture. During use, the cylinder can be subject to 'coning' that cannot be corrected other than through correct grinding. Check the machine you purchase will be able to remove such coning.

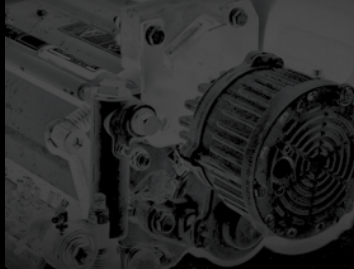
With thanks to Hunter Grinders – a division of Lloyds & Co of Letchworth Ltd.



Despite the simplicity of methods employed in cylinder grinding, there remains a degree of confusion regarding spin and relief methods. What is the difference and do they matter? James de Havilland offers his thoughts on the issue

Step-by-step Analysis...

Cylinder grinders



Technical terms

The relief on the back of a blade is cut to a specific 'relief angle'. The relief angle will typically be set by the mower manufacturer and will range between 20 to 45 degrees.

The cutting area of a given blade is often referred to as the land; so a blade with a relief that reduces the blade thickness to 1mm has a 1mm land.

Spin grinding

As the name suggests, spin grinding will typically sharpen the cutting edge and, assuming the grinder has been set up correctly, restore the edge profile to its original angle to the manufacturer's specification. The time it takes to do the job is influenced more by how long it takes to get the cutting unit into the grinder and correctly setting it up than that actual grinding process itself.

There are those that suggest a simple spin grind is always inferior to a relief/relief spin grind. This is a misleading argument because, as previously outlined, a relief may still be present following a spin grind.

Relief/Relief spin grinding

Terminology can be confusing, so it is best to consider relief grinding as a separate process; its job is to grind a relief into the back of the blade.

If the blade cutting edge can be reground at the same time, then it follows that the job will be carried out faster and hence the somewhat confusing description of spin relief grinding; the grinding stones spin but the cylinder blades are ground in turn - the cylinder is not powered and spun as it is when spin grinding.

Is a relief essential?

No, but it is accepted that relief ground units will stay on cut longer than those that are spun ground only. Cylinders can be exclusively treated to a spin grind and still deliver decent performance.

Manufacturer advice, however, tends to favour a relief grind for fine turf mowers, noting that with or without contact the technique reduces friction which in turn cuts heat generation which can help preserve the cutting edge for longer. Reduced friction also reduces overall wear and power consumption. The latter can help save fuel.

Of equal importance, a reduced land on the blade can ensure the



The cutting edge has been relief ground, leaving a slim 1mm thick 'land' on the blade.



A grinder that allows a complete pedestrian mower to be worked upon will make the whole grinding task simpler.



Spin grinding in action, with the cylinder in-situ in the cutting unit.



Modern controls make it easier to replicate grinding tasks, ensuring accuracy across multiple cutting units.

It could be argued that those responsible for the sale of cylinder grinding equipment have made outlining what specific tools do far more complex than it needs to be.

In very simple terms, modern golf course mowers are designed to produce a high quality of cut.

This quality can only be maintained if the cylinders – or reels – are kept not only sharp but also maintained with the correct relief on the blade or with an air gap.

The relief is essentially a section of metal ground out behind the blade to reduce the actual width of the cylinder cutting edge. The relief helps reduce friction between the cylinder and bottom blade – or bedknife – where a cylinder is set to light contact.

The relief also provides a degree of extra clearance behind the blade that in turn can help with the dispersal of clippings; this applies to cylinders set to both contact and air gap settings.

The relief cut into the blade essentially reduces the cutting edge width to around 1mm; this can vary according to manufacturer specifications and type of mower.

Rough mowers, for example, may have a thicker cutting edge with a reduced relief.

This is to ensure the cylinder cutting edge retains enough strength to cope with thicker, heavy mowing.

With a spin grind, there is no relief cut into the back of the blade. So the cutting edge presented to the grinder is simply reground.

If the cylinder is relatively new, the existing relief on the back cylinder blade is likely to have sufficient 'depth' not to be ground off. So although the spin grind will not have cut a relief, the existing relief may well remain and the cutting blade will still benefit from the relief.

Conversely, the relief is obviously eroded each time the cylinder is reground.

So it follows that once the relief is removed it will need to be re-ground if the cylinder is to be returned to the manufacturer's original specification.

Although this is a simplification, it follows that the relief essentially describes the edge of the cylinder blade where metal has been removed to reduce the width of the cutting edge.



Should you buy your own grinder? The view from one manufacturer, Hunter Grinders. Accepting a manufacturer will always argue in favour of buying its products, the following may help those considering grinding 'in-house'.

Cost.

The expenses related to sending cutting units out to be sharpened will range between £100 to £150. Some units may need to be ground more than once a year due to ever increasing frequencies of top dressing applications hastening cylinder wear.

Quality of cut.

In-house grinding can help ensure units are kept in premium condition throughout the whole of the cutting season – around 80% of grinding work with third parties is carried out over winter. Owning your own machine enables grinding schedules to be timed around top dressing programs, weather patterns and competitions.

Quality of grind.

Golf courses operating their own grinding equipment will not face the same pressure to grind large numbers of units, this in turn allowing – it is hoped – for more time to be dedicated to the grinding process. Automatic grinders are offered. These make it easier to maintain repeatedly high levels of grinding performance. With your own grinder, you are in charge of your own quality control.

cylinder blade to bottom blade angles are more tightly controlled for a cleaner and more consistent cut.

A spin grind will typically need to be carried out more often as the cutting edge tends to dull sooner.

As with backlapping, spin grinding delivers best results if carried out little and often.

Regardless of technique adopted, the most important issue is to keep cylinders sharp. So spin grinding will always be preferred to running dull cylinders.

So relief is best?

Simple answer is yes. Manufacturers put a relief on the back or trailing edge of a blade for a reason.

When this relief is worn away, it needs to be reinstated.

So spin grinding is can only work well as long as the original relief remains post sharpening.

It may be the case on some commercial mowers that no relief is present but not always.

Conversely, if you want to retain the relief as per the manufacturer's specification you need to regrind it as it is eroded by blade wear.

Contact or air gap?

With regard to air gap versus light

contact 'reel to bedknife' settings, it depends upon who you talk to; Toro is in the light contact group, John Deere and Ransomes Jacobsen setting most of their cutting units for golf with an air gap.

As a rule, it is best practice to follow the advice offered by your equipment supplier.

What about backlapping?

Not everyone thinks backlapping is a good idea.

The process re-hones the cylinder cutting edge from the rear and also possibly takes the cylinder 'out of true' as it relies upon the action of a grinding paste between it and the bottom blade.

Backlapping can actually further dull cutting units that are blunt to start with too.

The counter argument is that backlapping is not intended to re-sharpen a dull blade. Its job is to help retain an existing cutting edge, helping to restore it as it just starts to dull. Judicious 'little and often' backlapping can help lengthen the periods between regrinding the cylinder.

The problem with backlapping is that not everyone understands that it is only effective if the units have been relief ground because the relief is necessary to force the paste to the cutting edge.

It is not just a case of slapping on some backlapping compound, winding on a little extra pressure on the bottom blade and then running the cylinder up to speed in reverse.

The job needs to be carried out according to the mower manufacturer's instructions and performed long before the blades on the cylinder are really dull.

There are those who actually advocate a modest backlap post grinding; the argument is that grinding leaves a burr on the cylinder blades and backlapping removes them.

The more widely accepted consensus is that any burrs quickly dislodge during initial mowing, making a backlap unnecessary.

What about the bottom blade?

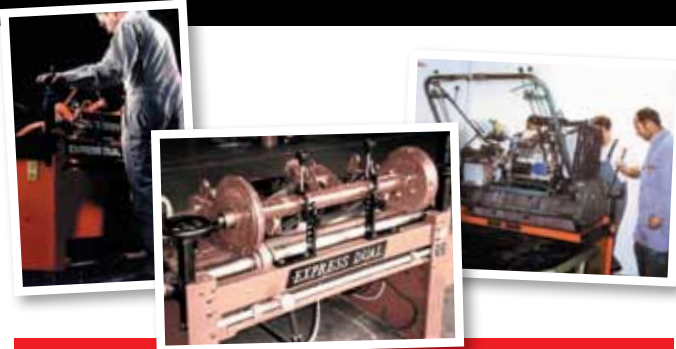
The correct bottom blade 'shear' angle is absolutely critical to the performance of the cutting unit.

The sharpest cylinders will not deliver if they are acting on a dull or incorrectly profiled bottom blade.

So it follows that grinding the bottom blade is as important as honing the cylinders.

Bottom blades also have a finite life, with a wear limit mark cast into many OEM designs.

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Back in time to this month in... 1975

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman,

elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 will be a landmark year, as it will be the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. This month we travel back to November 1975.

The issue covered **Drainage Problems**, a piece written by **D. F. Boocock**, an **Advisory Officer**, at the **STRI** and a piece on turf which came from a paper entitled **Composition and Nourishment of Amenity Swards**, delivered by **Robert W. Palin**, **Technical Director**, of **Sutton Seeds**, at **Turf 75**, held at **Reading University**.

A pub honours the fine art of greenkeeping, featured in the issue. The Greenkeeper was built at the entrance to Thorpe Wood Golf Course in Peterborough and the magazine appealed for the subject of the pub sign to make himself known. The success of the search is not known!

The information was provided by Mr F.E. Sismey, Head Greenkeeper of nearby Peterborough Milton Golf Club.



BGGA
JOURNAL

FOUNDED 1912

Published monthly for the benefit of greenkeepers, greenkeeping and the game of golf on behalf of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association

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The British Golf Greenkeeper



No. 366

November 1975 15p

Drainage problems

THE surface drainage of a golf course is greatly influenced both by design and by the character of the soil. This applies to all areas of the course from putting greens to rough. Design should not only take account of the natural features of the site to produce good golfing holes at an acceptable cost, but should bear in mind the varying drainage characteristics and subsequent maintenance of the area.

These latter aspects are particularly important when siting a new green or moving an existing one. Low lying areas are generally best avoided. If these parts are not naturally boggy and ill drained (or extremely difficult to drain artificially) they will nearly always be affected by surface water from surrounding higher land. Some of these problems may be overcome on the green itself by use of drainage carpets with emptying drains and an improved soil mix. Even then such good drainage can be severely taxed by heavy run-off in

By D. F. Boocock, Advisory Officer, The Sports Turf Research Institute.

storm conditions. The surrounds and approaches to such greens, usually with unimproved soil and little or no tile drainage, can deteriorate seriously.

Where a green must be of necessity sited in a different situation like this, some help can be gained by reshaping the fairway or surround to direct surface water run-off to the side of the green and, of course, away from the next tee.



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SECTION NEWS

with their prizes by Mr. Machin. I would just like to say a special thanks to Mr. Norman Spencer, who helped with the cards, etc., not only at this competition but also at our others this year.

It was very good to have with us at Dore & Todley one of our Hon. Life Members, Mr. Percy Booker, who was a very active member of this section in the past. Nice to see you, Percy.

Next winter meeting at Abbeydale G.C., December 4th at 2.30 p.m. Mr. D. F. Boocock, S.T.R.I., will talk on the subject of Modern Golf Green and Tee Construction.

Southern Section

Chairman: D. S. GIBB
Hon. Secretary: MRS. D. MASON
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 Strood Green, Brockham,
 Surrey.

congratulations go to John Gerrards Cross Golf Club and of this section on winning the News Weekend Golfers Tour West Byfleet on September defeating 16-year-old Middx. Curtis at the 19th. This section also represented by Don Major, Park Golf Club, who he last eight.

come to this section the following members: F. G. Catchpole and Wilson as Vice-Presidents, and ngton, D. R. Fisher (R.A.F.), W. H. Millen (Tenterton), oness (Chestfield), H. W. Cave Green), M. P. Fitzsimmons am Place Park Municipal), ale (Surbiton G.C.) and Mr. It.

day's outing with a game of enjoyed by members of this at Foxhills Golf Club, at the of Huxleys. -A special thank



Sheffield Section

President: S. K. ARNOLD
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 153 Killon Road,
 Worksop, Notts.

AT Dore & Todley Golf Club on

The British Golf Greenkeeper

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er Picture
 ew Mounted Hydraulic 3 tractor mounted
 ower which made its debut at the Institute
 anship International Exhibition, Motspur
 urther deals on Page 11.

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HISTORY was made on September 12th when the first public house in the U.K. featuring the noble art of Greenkeeping was opened. Owned by brewers Greene King, the pub, appropriately named "The Greenkeeper", was built as the entrance to Thorpe Wood Golf Course, the only municipal course in Peterborough, 1 1/2 miles west of the city on the new A.47 road. In case you don't identify yourself with the character depicted, the artist was a lady, her model unknown. Will the offending greenkeeper please stand up. Our thanks are due to Mr. F. E. Simesy, Head Greenkeeper at Peterborough Milton G.C., for this information.

Diary dates

Oct. 20 N.W. Section, Lecture by Joseph Metcalfs Ltd., Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
 Nov. 3 North West Section, Talk by Mommersteeg Seeds, Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
 Nov. 3 Southern Section, Suttons Seeds, 6.30 p.m.
 Nov. 15 East Midlands Section, Annual Dinner/Dance, Shakespeare Inn, Leicester.
 Nov. 27 Northern Section, Lecture by S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd., Moor Allerton G.C., 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.
 Dec. 2 South Coast Section, Lecture by Mr. J. Bradbury of Mommersteeg International, Alresford G.C., 7 p.m.
 Dec. 3 Southern Section, Ransomes, 6.30 p.m.
 Dec. 4 N.W. Section, Visit to Toro.
 Dec. 4 Sheffield Section, Talk by Mr. D. F. Boocock of the S.T.R.I., Abbeydale G.C., 2.30 p.m.
 Dec. 12 Northern Section, Annual Dinner, Oakdale G.C.
 Jan. 12 N.W. Section, Lecture by Mr. T. L. Hewett, Atco Ltd.
 Jan. 29 Northern Section, Lecture by Mr. Tyldesley, a Meteorological Officer, Moor Allerton G.C.

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Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



East

What a fantastic autumn outing we had at the Braid Hills Golf Course. Twenty-two played on September 14 on a warm sunny 'breezy!' day. I believe the Braids is a highly under rated course, with some fabulous holes, great views and super greens. Thanks to Derek McLeod, the Head Greenkeeper and his crew, for the excellent presentation of the course and also Ian Grimwald, 'the pro', for providing Jim Davidson and myself some excellent advice on the day.

Eight-five year old George Stavert was there with two of his friends, one of whom was George Thompson, an ex Head Greenkeeper of the Braids, for 12 years, back in the days when men were men, eh!

You were very welcome boys, and it was nice to see my old friend George Stavert again, he even gave me a smile. Cheers boys.

Scores on the doors: Scratch winner. Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC. First Class winner. Derek McLeod, Braid Hills GC; Runner-up. Yohan Svard, Edinburgh Leisure. Second Class winner. Alan Campbell, Edinburgh Leisure; Runner-up. Ryan McCulloch, Gossick GC. (Old Veterans' winner) The young Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC; Patrons' winner. Hugh Fraser, Huxley Golf Limited. Longest Drive. Andrew Terras, Gossick GC. Nearest to Pin. Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Park GC

On a sad note, I can tell you that Jimmy Neilson has had a small stroke, but he attended

our last committee meeting and is well on the road to recovery. We wish him well.

I had an email from Ronnie McCrindle, Liberton GC, to say that he had been unwell recently. So good wishes to him and his recovery.

The AGM this year at the moment is going to be held on November 15, at Niddrie Castle GC, in Linlithgow, the sponsor of which will be Huxley Golf Limited.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in golf
Stewart Crawford



Central

A small but enthusiastic band of members were fortunate to hear a presentation from Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University, in St Andrews on October 3.

Joe spoke for over an hour on both the cultural and chemical practices of controlling a variety of common diseases such as dollar spot, anthracnose and fusarium patch diseases.

By the time you read this, the Section AGM will have come and gone and a full report will be on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Allan Patterson, Course Manager at the Castle Course, was selected to represent St Andrews Links in this year's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and acquitted himself well. Playing with Jean-Baptiste Gonnet as his Pro, they finished a respectable 17 under for the three rounds which was unfortunately four shots off making the cut for the last day. Many of the competitors were very complimentary of all three courses during the week.

Also at the time of writing, there may be an outside chance we can arrange a presentation from Marsh Benson, Director of Maintenance at Augusta National. Marsh is going to be in the area in mid November and if we can set this up we will contact members by email as well as advertising it on the website.

Gordon Moir



West

By the time you get this copy of the magazine the AGM will have been done and dusted, the venue being a mix of Ibrox Football Stadium and Hags Castle Golf Club, I will report next month on what happened and any feedback for members' attention.

The outing, at Williamwood Golf Club, was held on September 29 instead of the 15th, due to the poor weather conditions and the change of date certainly made the difference with beautiful sunshine sampled by all who attended. Unfortunately I, and my staff, were unable to compete due to a shortage of staff through a variety of things, but those who did play, experienced a course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Gerry Bruen and his staff for their efforts. Williamwood's committee has to be commended on allowing our presence this is very much appreciated, and thanks to both the catering and bar staff for attending to our requirements.

The prize winners on the day were: Scratch Alistair Reid, Williamwood gross 72. 1st Class 1. John Brown, Bearsden; 2. Craig Littlejohn, Bearsden; 3. Gerry Bruen, Williamwood. 2nd Class. 1. Blair Sommerville, Helensburgh; 2. Brian Hillen,

Drumpellier; Jack Steadman, Blairbeth; 3rd Class. Kevin Cross, Williamwood; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride; 3. David McBride, Vale of Leven. Visitors' prize and Longest Drive Peter Boyd. Nearest the Pin at hole 4. Gavin Jarvis. Nearest the Pin at hole 13. Willie Lewis.

On the day only 24 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a wee bit disappointing but maybe the next time more can get the time off.

The normal annual dinner has been difficult to discover a format which everybody wants and will attend, along with trying to get a suitable location which suits all. Last year the cancellation of the night meant a slightly reorganised pub crawl took place with those who had organised their baby sitters and house sitters, so this year it has been proposed to do a similar thing meeting in Glasgow at all bar one on November 25 for a few jars and a wee discussion on things. This will be an early meet up to allow those with trains to catch to get up the road in time, all are welcome so please let me know and keep you informed.

The annual match against the club masters was arranged for October 10 so I will report next month on the result, please remember to get in touch with any information births, deaths, marriages etc. on 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or e-mail stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Stuart Taylor



North

Hope everyone is well and by now all the Autumn renovation work is now done and dusted for another year. Our Autumn Outing this year was held at

Petercutler Golf Club on September 22. This was another fantastic Section outing with a total of 62 members and guests attending in what was a really warm summer's day. The prize winners on the day are as follows:

Nearest the Pin winners were at the 3rd hole. Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC; 8th hole. Andrew Scott, Petercutler GC' and 15th hole. Neil Metcalf, Craibstone GC.

First in the sweep was Stewart Clayton, Scotlube; 2. Derek Green, Inverurie GC; 3. Neil Metcalf, Craibstone GC, 4. Stuart Addison, Meldrum House GC. The Guest Winner was Norman Bruce, McDonald GC. The Trade Winner was Stewart Clayton, Scotlube. Committee Trophy Winner was Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC. Veterans: 1. Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 2. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC. Apprentice Trophy: 1. Andrew Scott, Peterculter GC. Class 3: 1. Mike Braidwood, Royal Aberdeen GC; 2. Tim Leitch, Deeside GC; 3. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead GC. Class 2: 1. Stewart Brown, Royal Aberdeen GC;

2. Dave Middleton, Royal Aberdeen GC; 3. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC. Class 1: 1. Neil Metcalf, Craibstone GC; 2. Stuart Addison, Meldrum House GC; 3. Simon Hoy, Royal Aberdeen GC. Scratch: 1. Derek Green, Inverurie GC; 2. George Mitchell, Newmachar GC.

The winner of the Mark Main Trophy for the best Nett score over the Spring and Autumn Outing's was Derek Green, Inverurie GC.

The Committee would like to pass on their thanks to Petercutler Golf Club and Course Manager, Paul Sharp and his team, for the superb condition of the golf course.

The 200 Club winners were £30 Neil Mitchell; £30 Gary Smith; £30 Dougal Duguid with the £100 won by Gina Pearson

By the time you read this report we will have had our AGM at Longside Golf Club on October 20 so more new on that to follow.

One last thing before we finish a lot of you might like to know that the North Section has now been going strong for 62 years and it is great to know we still have a very well supported Section so thanks again and keep up the good work.

Please remember if you have any news you might want to put in the magazine please get

in touch with your Chairman Robert Patterson email Grassman351@aol.com or Secretary Dale Robertson daleturnberry@aol.com

Northern



Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well. Nice to be sat here writing these few notes in such unusual hot weather. On September 28 the Section held the Autumn Golf, at Huddersfield GC, Fixby. The Section would like to thank Huddersfield GC for allowing us courtesy of the course, the catering staff for looking after us so well, and Ben and his team for presenting such a great course on the day, played in temperatures more usual for mid July. Results for the day were as follows, Div. 1. 1. D. Gosney; 2. A. Court; 3. B. Turner. Div. 2. 1. D. Campbell; 2. J. Waite; 3. D. Collins. Div 3. 1. S Rothwell; 2. N. Booth; 3. K. Christie. Nearest the Pin. 11th A. Court. Nearest the Pin. 17th. R. Harris. Trade Prize I. Collett. Our thanks also go to our sponsors for the day, Mansfield Sand, plus Golf and Turf Machinery.

The Section also held the AGM with 25 members attending the meeting. Due to different work commitments I sadly had to resign as Section Secretary, I hope to still see you at future golf events. Thank you for your support for the last few years. The rest of the Committee were re-elected to stand for another year, the new Secretary is to be Andrew Slingsby. Before the meeting the Section made a presentation to Joe Baxter on his retirement from Bingley St. Ives GC. The next Section golf day is the Christmas golf to be held at Selby GC. on December 7, 1st tee TBC.

As usual any news or gossip please pass it on to me F. Stewart, 72 West Park Grove Roundhay LS8 2DY. mob 07947401278, email frankstewart4@hotmail.co.uk, or the new Secretary, A. Slingsby 13 The Grove, Baildon, BD17 5NQ. mob 07506407867.

Frank Stewart



North East

On September 21 we held the Section's Autumn competition at Longhirst Hall Golf Club. This been the second time in recent years but for a reason It was only last year that Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Stuart Wilson, tragically lost his life. After having a meeting with Course Manager, Graham Chambers, he thought it would be a good idea to have the day in Stuart's honour.

Well the day started with a breeze briefly then quickly followed by a very strong wind playing havoc with the golf it just seemed either against you, or right to left, not ideal. Since we played The Lakes' course a lot of balls found the water. We just never seemed to have any holes downwind. Apparently the locals thought the wind wasn't too bad, Come to think of it, I reckon they played the other course. If that wasn't enough the rain came upon us for an hour, so you can imagine scores were rather high. But compliments to Graham and his staff as the course was in excellent condition, especially those slick greens.

Now then, let's not forget the sponsors on the day firstly Rickerbys, of Hexham, who had wanted to sponsor the day and gave a lot of prizes. Many thanks to David Common for that gesture (we still have a few left); TSL who unfortunately were unable to be there but gave two tickets for a Newcastle Utd match; Tony McLure, of TM Amenties; Neil Thompson, of Border Turf Services, and, last but not least, Graham Chambers. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank all of the sponsors who have supported us in both the Spring and Autumn comps.

Again there was not a large turnout but just a couple of regulars were missing so numbers did reach double figures (just). So let's get to the scores: Best Nett Ransomes Cup. J.S. Richardson, Hexham GC, 83-8-75; Best Gross. J. Gibson, The Northumberland GC, 85; Greenlay Cup Nett. G. Brown, Wooler GC, 86-9-77; Ransomes Shield. S.R.Pope, Tyneside GC, 93-15-78; D.Thompson, Hexham GC, 92-11-81; G.Batson, Alnmouth

GC, 98-13-85; R. Reid, Prudhoe GC, 96-8- 88; R. Black, Westerhope GC, 101-11- 90

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

I hoped you all enjoyed the Indian summer that the end of September and beginning of October brought us. It was a very handy occurrence for anyone who was doing their autumn greens' renovation. I personally can't remember our greens coming back from heavy tining and dressing so quickly and tidily. Now we're all starting to face winter, short frosty days, long frostier nights and golfers who cry foul when you ban buggies to protect the course. But it's not all bad, we can now get our teeth into some building work, a lot more exciting than sitting on machines endlessly cutting grass as we seem to do in the growing season. A good bit of shovelling and raking to keep us warm, with the hopeful (weather permitting) finishing line of the Christmas break!

A good link because the Christmas tournament isn't too far away with it being held at Heswall Golf Club on December 7, format for the day will be a fourball am/am. Please remember to book your tee times by November 29 to avoid disappointment, as this tournament is always popular and the starting sheet will fill very quickly.

The autumn tournament took place at Porthmadog on October 11; this column has to go to print before the day actually took place so I will place a full write up on the day and results in December.

The Northern Region Seminar is this year being split into two seminars, one in the north of the Region and one in the south. I personally believe this to be an excellent idea to give us all more chance to be involved without a massive journey but this will only be a success if we go to said seminar, so I hope we all endeavour to go and, with prices to members at £15 and non-members £20, it's far from being exorbitant and the venue being Birchwood Golf Club, near Warrington, it's within easy access from the A55 as well!

Congratulations go to Miles

Around The Green

Todd, of Rhuddlan Golf Club, on reaching the finals of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. I hope you continue to enjoy learning with your runners-up prize of a trip to the Continue to Learn programme, at Harrogate, next January.

We are now taking enquiries for a coach to Harrogate but, be warned, unless we have enough seats filled to make the trip a viable one it will not run and that would be a shame as this next show will be the year when all the big manufacturers and exhibitors will be there!

Please don't forget to keep an eye on our facebook group, North Wales BIGGA, as sometimes events show themselves too late to go in the column and when that happens we try to put them on the group events board instead, also if you want to start a topic of conversation or argument there's also a page on there for that too!

If you want to get in touch with me to put your personal or club related news in our "Around the Green" column please feel free I will only be too pleased to place your news in here.

Right I think that's enough to be going on with so, all the best until next month.

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



Sheffield

Firstly I must apologise for the lack of news over the last couple of months.

I hope all who have attended recent golf matches have had a good day and enjoyed the courses they have played. There will be a full report from Lindrick GC in next month's issue. In the meantime all members can check our facebook page for up to date information. All golf tee times will now be published on facebook prior to the events.

Our winter lecture organisation is in full swing now and I am pleased to announce that on 10th November we will have Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf at Celtic Manor, as our first lecture of the winter. We are very lucky to get Jim to Sheffield and hope members will make the

effort to attend what I'm sure will be a fantastic afternoon. All members should have received information on this now but it's not too late to grab a place. Further lectures are well on their way to being organised and members will be informed closer to the date.

That's all from me for now, all I hope is that when you read this Wednesday are still above United in the League.

See you soon
Jim Stevens
07738719614
facebook - Biggasheffieldsection

Midland



East of England

Our annual match vs the Trade was played on September 14, at Gainsborough Golf Club. Another disappointing Trade turnout meant that the match was more Greenkeepers vs Trade and Pottergate Golf Club members. However it was still a competitive, well played match that ended up with the Greenkeepers winning 5 - 1. Many thanks go to Gainsborough Golf Club for the excellent condition of the golf course and for the hospitality enjoyed afterwards. Thanks also goes to Ping for providing the prizes on the day. Nearest the Pin on 7th. Rob Bemment. Nearest the Pin on 17th, Ian Benn; Nearest the Pin in 2 on 14th. Alan Martin.

Many thanks.
Steve Beverly
Immingham Golf Club.



Midland

For many years we have contested the Rigby Taylor Midland Region Ryder Cup style golf event and this year such was held at Stratford Upon Avon GC of which Samuel Ryder was a prominent member. The course was in great condition as pre-

pared by H. Middlebrook and fine his team. The match was as close as can be - a draw. As the East Midland Section were last year's winners they retain the Shield and our congratulations to them.

As usual the East players were great company and a pleasure to spend the day with, and I had the added pleasure of my counterpart's company during the afternoon's play with Pete Smith. Pete gave me a right royal spanking of 6&5.

My apologies to our side. Our thanks to Stratford Upon Avon GC for hosting the event, and thanks to our old mate Tony Cheese/Rigby Taylor for continued support of both of our Sections.

The Autumn Golf Tournament was played at Sandwell Park Golf Club on Wednesday, October 5. Many thanks to the Captain of the Club, John Deakin, for joining us for dinner and welcoming us to this very challenging golf course. The day was memorable with us contending with high winds and very quick greens. Our thanks as always to the Club for allowing us courtesy, and to Kenny McNab, the Course Supervisor and his team, for the excellent course condition. The main prize sponsors on the day were Campey Turfcare, through Simon Gumbrell.

Nearest the Pin prizes supplied by Sherriff Amenity x2, Whitemoss and Countrywide. As always the chocolate, crisps and drink was on the 10th tee as supplied by Farols, and Kev Pugh. A big thank you to all sponsors on the day, your generosity makes these days what they are. Results on the day: Gross. Mike Hughes; 1. Mike Hughes, 34pts; 2. Andy Brougham, 33pts; 3. Clint Woodall, 32pts; Category 1. Vince Gilroy; Category 2. Rob Rowson; Category 3. Ian Holbourne; Nearest the Pins were won by Mike Hughes x2, Peter McCrainor and Rob Rowson. Congratulations to all who won something on the day.

Please note that we have a new website address which has changed the .com for a .co.uk - this is due to the website provider trying to charge us more than we were prepared to pay. The full address to get your Midland Section info is now www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk

Please use this site to get information on an upcoming

trip during December to the John Deere factory, in conjunction with Farols.

Now that the season of leaves is upon us we find ourselves with the daunting and unrewarding task of clearing up such. Luckily this month's calendar sponsor, Turfmech Machinery Ltd, can provide great machinery to ease this burden and can be contacted on: 01889 271 503, or visit their website: www.turfmech.co.uk <<http://www.turfmech.co.uk>>. I wonder if they can provide a machine to remove leaves from rivers?

Sean, Salmon and Sea-trouted up, (next month) McDade.

South East



Sussex

Many thanks to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring our Golf Day at Crowborough Beacon. The course was in fantastic condition and in a superb location. The weather did its best to treat us kindly, although a few more faces on the day would have been better. The results were: Longest Walk. Mick Groombridge; Trade & Guest Prize. Andy Mantelow; Main Event. 1. Chris Wells; 2. Glynn "Always the Bridesmaid" Pollard; 3. Peter Ray

Well done to all of them and thanks a million to Mark Day, and Tacit, for the fantastic prizes. A big thanks to all at Crowborough Beacon for a great golf day.

Anyone wishing to take part in the next Mitchell's Grounds-care fishing competition, should contact Darren or Scott. The competition will be sea fishing at Pevensy Bay, on Saturday December 10. It will be a roving competition from Alice's Pipe to White Horses Tower. Booking in from 2.30pm. The

competition starts at 4pm, finishing at 9pm. All welcome, whether novice or otherwise.

Tight lines.

Eric Green

TheGreens837@aol.com



Kent

Just back from a fantastic golf day at the superb Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club. The Indian Summer, which has had everyone scratching their heads over recently when it comes to course maintenance, was very welcome and over 30 Kentish men took full advantage of the conditions.

Brightly coloured shorts, shirts (and hats for the follically challenged ones among us) were the order of the day as the autumn sun beat down on the finest ensemble of talent that Kent can muster. The excellently prepared course which Dave Horn and his team had set up for our discerning group was faultless.

I was particularly impressed with the second hole which yielded a rare eagle for me! Indeed, for once I seemed to have brought my 'A' game to one of our events and, despite a wobble in the middle of the round, had a great time enjoying good golf and the usual great company as our group made our way to a much longed for 19th hole! Vic Maynard was again on patrol with his refreshment wagon. We thank him and Ernest Doe's for going to more expense than usual (don't ask) to provide the necessary sustenance to our flock.

Following the golf and a very welcome shower the usual banter was lively in the bar before a great dinner was provided by the Club. We would like to offer sincere thanks to the Secretary, Mr Charles Maxted, and all his

staff for a great day. Results as follows: 1. Michael Roberts, Knole Park, 38 pts (countback); 2. Chris White, Knole Park, 38 pts; 3rd Wayne Syers, Wants a job, 37 pts. Trade Prize. Rob Holland, 36 pts. Longest Drive. Darren Child; Nearest the Pin. Kev Morris. Thanks too, for the additional prizes provided by Richard Wood, of Sherriff Amenity.

Thanks to everyone who joined us on the day. Great fun, great atmosphere, great friends.

Best of luck this month to Kev Morris who is participating in 'Movember' (see facebook). The basic premise being that entrants are challenged to grow moustaches by going unshaven on the upper lip area for the whole month of November to support good causes. In his own inimitable style, Kev managed to coerce sponsorship to the tune of nearly £300 on the evening, which shall be presented to Kent Section's nominated charity at the end of the month. The end of the month (well, the 24th to be exact) coincides with our Winter Knees-up/Turkey Trot at its new base of Redlibbits Golf Club.

I know I don't need to tell you about the revelry that more often than not ensues on our winter outing. Kev Morris's course in Fawkham has had a great year and will, I'm assured, be in perfect condition for all to enjoy. The golf and dinner shall be followed by our AGM.

If you have any concerns about how our Section is being run then please come along and voice your opinion. Your current committee are fully aware that the Section is run for you guys all over our county.

We want feedback from you to ensure that we do the best by you to help encourage and

promote your careers to the best of our ability.

We shall also be distributing a fixture list for 2012 and presenting awards for our Pairs Knock-out Champions and Golfer of the Year. We hope to see as many of you as possible for the meeting, if not the whole day. If nothing else, it will be worth turning up to see Kev's attempted 'tache!

Please keep up to date with our website where details of Turkey Trot can be found otherwise have a great month one and all.

PS I'd just like to say to the guys I am currently working with that you're all mad but it's great fun. More on that next month.

Best of British
Rob Holland



Mid Anglia

I'll start off our Section news with results from our Autumn meeting held at St. Neots GC in September.

Great weather greeted 19 players - a disappointing turnout once again and something your Committee will be looking into for next year. Results: 1. K. Armstrong, 33 pts; J. Wilson, 33 pts; 3. N. Broadwith, 32 pts.

These three were the only players to break into the 30s a sign of the testing course Paul Crouch and his team presented to us.

Thanks Paul and team couldn't fault the course as always!

Thanks also to Rob Catlin, of Am-Tec, our main sponsor of the day for the great prizes the

above named won and

the Nearest the Pin prizes won by D. Mugford, D. Murphy, G. James and P. Crouch. Many thanks to the other trade representatives for your continued support also.

After being well fed and watered by the St. Neots in house staff, thanks to these also! We moved on to our AGM running swiftly through the agenda we reached the election of officers, all previous committee members re-elected with the exception of James Camfield who is stepping down with Kevin Armstrong joining in his place. Anyone out there who feels they could add another voice would be more than welcome.

Once again during the winter months we will be running a couple of training courses. Firstly, City and Guilds CS31

Fell and Process Small Trees. To join this course you must have previously attended and passed CS30.1 and CS30.2

Chainsaw Maintenance and Crosscutting. If there is enough demand we may be able to run this course also.

Secondly we will be running a First Aid course. These courses are well subsidised by Headquarters so a great

opportunity to gain a further qualification and save your club some cash. Further details from Gerald Bruce,

Email: gerald@berkhamstedge.co.uk

The winter/xmas meeting is to be held at South Beds GC on December 8, usual Texas Scramble format, shotgun start at 9.30. Entry forms should be with you shortly so as always for this event get them in early to avoid disappointment.

Thats all for now!

Nigel Phelan

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Surrey

Wednesday October 5. It's just two months since I hung up the van keys and took up residence in the Old People's home in Banstead. The foods OK, but the sponge baths are not what I expected, so I'm going to do a runner tonight when matron is asleep.

Just another example of the dreams I have been having since I started collecting wild mushrooms for a hobby. The book in which the safe fungi are described, I bought in a charity shop but as most of the pictures are missing, it's no wonder that I have decided to go back to Waitrose.

Tony Bremer has just sent an email requesting that if anyone is looking to replace their old rotary rough mower, he will be interested in taking it of their hands. Roger Tydeman's reply 'got a Flymo' was not helpful, although amusing, and is probably a better offer than my scissor suggestion. Please, if anyone can help with a machine, or a flock of sheep, Tony will be delighted to hear from you.

Dave Worner, greenkeeper extraordinaire, is taking six months leave from his job at Hindhead GC to explore Australia. When he returns I will interview him and report to you, in this very magazine, about his adventures. I am expecting tales of 'daring do' in the style of 'Crocodile Dundee' but the truth may be stranger than fiction. Only time will tell.

Thursday October 6. The final of the Surrey Bowl took place at Foxhills GC today. After an interesting and very sporting match the winners who were three up after nine holes and won two and one were Dan Murray, from the Roehampton Club, and Neil McDonald, from Wentworth GC. The worthy runners up were Gavin Kyle, Knole Park GC, and Richard Fortmuller. Many thanks to the sponsors of this year's Surrey Bowl, Tacit Golf Course Equipment, whose representative and semi retired yours truly, presented the Surrey Bowl Trophy and the cash prizes. Dave Wyborn,

Course Manager at Foxhills, joined us for the last few holes and the meal afterwards. Many thanks to Dave and Foxhills GC for again providing an excellent venue.

The National Championship Competition was won by Surrey member Jason Hunt, Addington Palace GC, with in second place another Surrey greenkeeper Kevin Boxall, Guildford GC. That elegant and one time Surrey member, Douglas Iolanthe Fernie, a personal friend and former Surrey Bowl partner, won his handicap section. I was pleased that the many tips I have given to him over the many years are now paying off.

Steve Bush, Mechanic at St Georges Hill GC, and that legend in formula lawn mower racing, has once again taken his team, 'Stroke by Pussy Cats', to first place, in group 2 rollers, in the 12 hour ordeal race at Five Oaks in Sussex. Starting at 7pm on September 24 his team completed 299 laps [250 miles] with three drivers. The 'Pussy Cats', dressed in their best leopard skins, came 11th overall and all money made was donated to charity.

This is the sort of information and news that I need so let me know yours or else its back to my favourite Isle.

Brian Willmott
07879474038. email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Essex

With only just two weeks to go before the South East Regional Conference on Wednesday, November 16, at Stock Brook The Country Club, and being held by our Section. It is time (if you have not already done so) to get your reservation in. Places are limited for this event and with the quality of speakers on offer, a call to Clive on 07841-948.410 or 01737-819.343 is essential to reserve your seat. Tickets are free to Essex Section members £10 to guests and other members.

Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, Essex County Cricket Club; Richard Whyman, Burnham & Berrow

Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison, The Hurlingham Club; Greg Evans, Ealing Golf Club.

Talk on the way they manage the varying conditions they encounter through out there playing seasons and how they tackle the different heights of cut to achieve the best out of their turf.

This will be followed by a question and answer session, when you can put your views to the lecturers and seek some answers to your niggling problems. Plus you will have a chance to meet and speak to our new BIGGA Chief Executive, Jim Croxton.

This event has been sponsored by the following companies:

Amenity Technology; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Headland Amenity Products; Irrigation & Water; Limagrain UK; Old Forge Mowers; Otley College; Payne's Turf; Philip Liverton Ltd; P. Tuckwell Ltd; Premier Plan; Prime Irrigation; Rainbird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Everris (Scotts Professional); Sheriff Amenity; Town & Country Turf Ltd; Sea Nymph Chaingreen; Tey Farm Systems; WJ Green Ltd and Writtle College.

We would also like to thank Stock Brook The Country Club and owner, Terry Peachey, for the use of their fine facilities.

The destination of the Essex BIGGA Autumn Trophy was Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club, and weather conditions couldn't have been any better. The course was in fantastic condition thanks to Course Manager, Tony Dunston and his team of greenkeepers.

Some of the scoring was very impressive with the overall winner being Liam Springett, Stoke by Nayland, with 39 pts, Category 2 was occupied by two Channels contingents, Richard Dunmow with 38 pts and Malcolm Smith 37 pts.

In Category 1 first position went to Tom Smith, Colne Valley, with 29 pts and second place went to Andy Toomey, Boyce Hill, with 23 pts. Trade was won by Neil Peachey, Tuckwells, and the best guest was won Steve Crosdale 36 pts. Longest Drive was won by Liam Springett and Nearest the Pin by Simon Bartrum (guest).

A massive thank you to Lang-

don Hills for their hospitality and we look forward to our next golf day which is also the AGM at Orsett Golf Club, on Tuesday, December 6. Entry's close on November 30 for this team event, entry fee is £66 per team of four (at least two players must be Section Members) or £16.50 for individuals, who will then be teamed up by Andy.

Don't forget the Regional Conference, being held in our Section on the Wednesday, November 16. Details on our website.

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones

South West and South Wales



South Wales

Wow what a weekend! Record temperatures and un-broken sunshine. Isn't it funny how two years can be completely different, Last year, at the same time I was swimming at times during the Ryder Cup, and this year swimming in the sea at Rest Bay on October 1! Who knows what's to come next.

Come on Wales hopefully when you guys get to read this we can call ourselves Rugby's World Champions! (Afraid not this time, Peter! - Ed) Safely through to the quarters I think we'd have comfortably beaten the Irish, and maybe drawn the English in the semi. We would then try to do what the Welsh greenkeepers can't and beat them.

Who's knows what can happen. Dan Carter, arguably the best rugby player of all time (behind our greats of course) unfortunately out, even the unbeatable All Blacks look a little fragile...

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay final. Thank you to Dave Carvey and Peter Griffiths, of Rigby Taylor, for being fantastic hosts and putting on a fantastic final day held at Green Meadow Golf

Club. The final four pairings battled out the semi final in the morning with Daryl Jones and Steve Chappell winning through along with Mark Anderton and Paul Handy to make the final. Clive Moran and myself, Huw Morgan and, straight down the middle, Andy Roach unfortunately tied for third place, Leaving the top boys to fight it out. Lunch was had and after a few arguments it was agreed that Daryl and Steve would receive 11 shots. Could Paul and Mark overhaul such a margin? Being 5 up at the turn Steve and Daryl looked home and dry but the boys battled back they pulled one then two then three shots back.

Never seen Steve show any signs of nerves before but, believe me, there were! Eventually Steve and Daryl hung on to record a 2&1 victory, but well done to Paul and Mark for such a great effort. Well done all.

Our AGM and Autumn comp has been held at Trefloyne Golf Club. Please read next month's magazine for results and news from the AGM.

The Regional Seminar this year is to be held at The Oaktree Centre, just off Jct 22 M5 Burnham on Sea turn off, on November 17. We have a fantastic array of speakers for the day.

Craig Richardson, Bristol City Football Club; Chris Haspel, Castle Stuart Golf Club; Huw Morgan, Ashburnham Golf Club; Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity, and Cale Bigalow, of the USA

It will be a fantastic day so if as many of us can attend it will be hugely to be benefit.

Thanks for reading guys.
Peter Holmstrom



South West

Just recently we had another fantastic golf day! This time we visited Cotswold Hills G.C, home of Section Team Captain, Wayne Vincent. I honestly have to say that this could have been one of the best Section events we have had in a little while, the course was in amazing condition, from tee to green very everything was clean...!

We were also very well sup-

ported by you guys, so thank you to everyone that made an appearance.

Having been our AGM, this made this event even more important to us, the minutes are now available for you, please drop me an e-mail and I will happily forward them on.

With the competition winners being, Nearest the Pin at the 9th, Zack Brooks. Nearest the Pin at the 15th, Craig Swindle. Overall winners' Third, on countback, Elliott Nicholls, 33 pts. Second, John Keenaghan, 35 pts; First, Craig Swindle, 36 pts.

As I mentioned this was our AGM, this is the time of year that people are nominated for your committee, The roles are as followed, Chairman, Chris Sealey; Secretary, Adam Matthews; Treasurer, Nobby Knight; Education, Paul Worster; Fixtures, Tim Morgan; Team Captain, Wayne Vincent; Vice Captain, Paul Garland; Regional Board. John Keenaghan and Jamie Acton; Somerset Representative, Roger Neale; Trade Representative, Sam Honeybourne, Countrywide.

I would also like to welcome Jaey Goodchild to the committee. Jaey, coming from Richmond GC, in Surrey, but now calling Bowood GC his home. Welcome Jaey, we all very much look forward to you becoming involved.

We also have a new facebook page for the South West Section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't having to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips.

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.

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



South Coast

Welcome to the latest South Coast column, I hope all your



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

Last month I had the privilege of spending two days at the West Lancashire Golf Club for the BIGGA National Championship. The Course Manager, John Muir, and his team presented the historic venue in immaculate condition for a tournament featuring nearly a hundred of his peers while Mother Nature did her best to make sure finding John's superb greens was no mean feat.

The event presented a golden opportunity to spend time in the company of so many BIGGA members in a relaxed, yet competitive, environment and naturally the conversations held were wide and varied.

There was one topic though that seemed to be prominent in nearly every discussion: communication. It is clear that to ensure that golfers, club officials and owners understand the importance of the work our members do in providing well maintained golf courses year in year out we need to ably communicate with all parties.

This communication has traditionally tended to focus on conveying what has been done rather than in managing people's understanding and expectations of what needs to happen to ensure playing surfaces remain good and continue to improve.

To understand the importance of the work our members do in providing well maintained golf courses year in year out we need to ably communicate with all parties

One conversation I had was a prime example - a BIGGA member explained how following some routine aeration, the professional at his club had been explaining to the members that the greenkeeper had ruined the hitherto excellent greens and that the course was now not worth playing.

This message to the club members could have been conveyed in a much more positive light if the greenkeeper in question had taken the time to communicate in advance to both the professional and the membership the reasons for the aeration and how it was a vital part in producing such good greens in the first place.

As our discussion in the West Lancs clubhouse continued fellow BIGGA members pointed out the importance of giving consideration to the impact their work has on other departments in the golf club.

Different people had differing views on how best to communicate with their colleagues and club members but the consensus was that we can definitely all improve. I believe that BIGGA needs to focus on helping its members to communicate at all levels and this will be a priority for us over the coming months. As we know from the Bulletin Boards there is rarely a problem that one or more of our members don't know the solution to and I am convinced that if we harness some of the good communication practice already being utilised across our membership we can make things better for us all.

Jim Croxton

early winter work is going well.

The autumn outing was held on October 6, at Waterlooville Golf Club, in a day of sunshine and showers which was enjoyed by 35 entrants.

A special mention must go out to Head Greenkeeper, Bob Good, and his staff for a course presented in the best possible condition especially as I am informed they are achieved this with only three staff.

Also a big thank you to the Captain & Council of Waterlooville for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day.

The results for the day were as follows: Cat 1 0-14. 1. L. Elgie, 38 pts; 2. M. Gray, 37 pts; 3. K. Tigg, 36 pts. Cat 2 15-28. 1. K. Glass, 38 pts; 2. R. Cooper, 37 pts; 3. M. Guilliver, 36 pts. N.P. K. Tigg, L.D. Oliver

Your AGM took place after the outing with the committee giving all there various reports. A couple of points worth reporting were Chris Bitten has decided to stand down as Section Secretary but has decided to remain on committee, Chris was thanked for all his hard work in this difficult role.

Alex Macombie was proposed and seconded as your new Secretary and I am sure you will all welcome Alex back into a post he has held before and I know will continue to do a great job.

He can be contacted regarding any Section matters at southcoastsectionsecretary@gmail.com.

It was reported during the meeting that the cost of the postage (£90 per outing) could no longer be absorbed by the Section funds. So it was agreed that each outing would go up in price to cover the postage.

The conference due to go ahead last month was cancelled because our main speaker, Jim McKenzie, was picking up his MBE from the Queen on the very same day.

The conference will now go ahead at Milton Abbey School, on Wednesday, February 15, with our two main speakers being the aforementioned Mr. McKenzie and Cameron McMillan, of Queenwood fame.

Talking of conferences I hope to see a few of you along at the Regional Conference on the 17th of this month. It is being held at a new venue this year – The Oak Tree Arena, Highbridge, which is just off junction 22 off the M5 this will hopefully make it a bit

easier as you won't have the Bridgewater traffic to contend with.

Still on regional matters our RA Jane Jones has arranged another excellent accommodation package for BTME this is a 3 x nights B&B sharing a twin room at the Cairn Hotel for £121.50 per person.

For details for both of these events please contact Jane on 07841 948110 or email jane@bigga.co.uk.

That's it for this month hope to see some of you at Highpost GC next month for the Turkey Trot and remember it's a Texas Scramble this year so you will need a three man team. If you require teaming up please contact Kevan Glass, on 07746 148650. Details of this event will be with you shortly.

Robert Hogarth



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all members. On Wednesday, October 5 our Section's AGM was held at Portmore Golf Park, near Barnstaple, North Devon. A total of 50 attendees enjoyed either an Individual Stableford Golf competition or a Course walk led by Colin Webber, Director, and Josh Webber, Course Manager at Portmore Golf Park. Colin and Josh have worked tirelessly to make Portmore one of the most sustainably managed Golf Clubs in the country. This hard work was rewarded back in January with the Club winning the "Overall Achievement Award" in the STRI Golf Environment Awards 2011.

Colin and Josh explained how every area of the business has been audited to ensure that maximum economic efficiency is achieved, environmental impact is reduced and the overall carbon footprint is reduced. Areas including lighting, electrical timers, rain-water harvesting and waste management have all been addressed and improved.

One of the most interesting areas is how they now produce their own compost from waste accumulated by the business and have a process where by the end product is used to produce

compost tea used on the greens.

A variety of composting procedures are used to create a diversity of biology. One of these processes includes a worm bin, "vermi-composting", which is fascinating and proving to be very successful. I'm sure that all those who attended the course walk, found it extremely interesting and inspiring.

The golf and "Don Hunt Trophy" was won by Anthony "Jacko" James, Killiow; Second was Lloyd Overy, Lakeview; Third Mark Tucker, Saunton. Nearest the Pin was won by Graham Clarke, Chumleigh, and Longest drive was won by Adrian West, St Mellion. Congratulations to all the winners and all those who took part. Many thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop Amenity and Sibelco.

John Palfrey, from Avoncrop, presented the prizes on behalf of the two sponsors.

After lunch, the AGM took place in the clubhouse. Reports were given by Tim Wakeham, President; Steve Harris, Treasurer; George Pitts, Secretary, and Jane Jones, Regional Representative.

The Section has had an extremely successful year with many accolades bestowed on its members. Congratulations to all members and thank you for your continued support.

Huge thanks to the Webber family for their faultless hospitality and for such a wonderful day!

Our second meeting of the year will be at Carlyon Bay, on Wednesday, November 9. Again, golf or a course walk, lunch followed by an educational presentation by Paul Morris, GBR Technology. Paul, will be giving a presentation on wetting agents. Paul graduated with a Masters from Oxford and has many years of experience working with and developing surfactant-based products.

The Christmas meeting this year will be held at Ashbury Golf Club, Okehampton on Thursday, December 15. Format will be the golf or course walk followed by Christmas lunch and entertainment in the afternoon. Accommodation will be available at a reduced rate if required.

Roger Davey, Irritech Ltd, will be running an "Irrigation Workshop" at Torquay Golf Club on Thursday, November 24. The

Workshop will be free to the first 20 Devon and Cornwall BIGGA Members to put their name down.

There will also be a "Sprayer Update Course" to be held at Launceston Golf Club, date to be advised.

If you are interested in any of the above events or courses, please contact me ASAP.

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

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Scotland
Lachlan Imrie, East
Michael Buxton, East
Craig Pollock, East
Douglas Clubb, North
Anthony O'Connor, North
Graeme Conlan, West
Kevin Prince, West

Northern Region

Harry Carvey, North East
Lewis Hill, North East
Andrew Phillips, North West
Andrew Sioane, North West
Lee Frost, Northern
Nik Blesic, Northern
Steve Woods, Northern
Joel Marsh, Northern
Adam Hepworth, Northern
Paul Legg, Cleveland

Midland Region

Luke Jackson, East Midland
James Patrick McShane, East Midland
Martin Jones, Midland
Robert Taylor, Midland
Adam Worrall, Midland
David Jones, Midland
David Stewart, Midland
Mark Oglesby, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Dean Davis, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Keith Simkin, Mid Anglia
John Lewis, Mid Anglia
Chris Trimble, Mid Anglia
Ian Coote, Mid Anglia
Scott Parnell, Mid Anglia

South East Region

Charlie Simpson, Surrey
Tom Smart, Surrey
Stephen Coates, Surrey
Robert Clark, Kent
Tyler Burkin, Kent
David Timms, Sussex
Daniel Perkins, London
Justin Howard, Essex

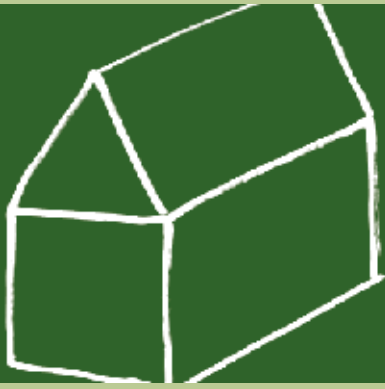
South West/South Wales

Gerald Clements, South West
Peter Corrick, South West
Ben Dollyer, South Coast
Robert Hancock, South Coast
Jamie Tredwell, South Coast
Richard Keith, South Coast
Andrew Burgess, South Wales
Andrew Edmunds, South Wales
Daniel Herbert, South Wales
Benjamin Smith, South Wales

Overseas

Gareth Bremner, Germany

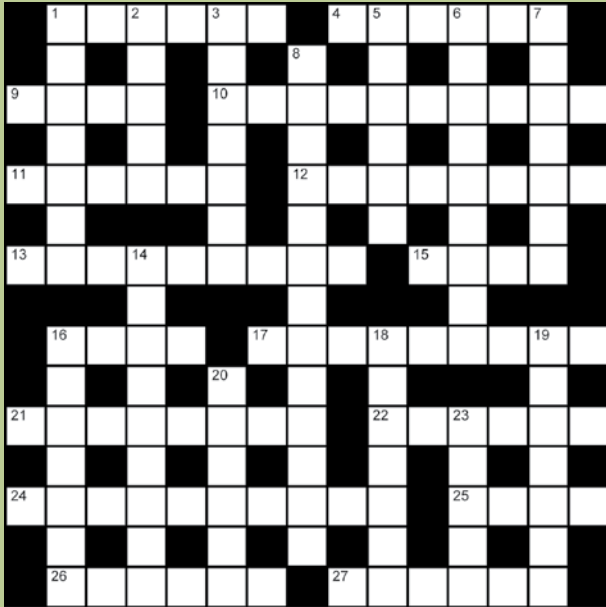
For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.



in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Neural developmental disorder (6)
- 4 To whine and complain in Yiddish (6)
- 9 Count (4)
- 10 1945 novel by George Orwell featuring Napoleon (6,4)
- 11 British tabloid famed for its topless women on page 3 (3,3)
- 12 Orange spice, often used in mustard (8)
- 13 Shopping (9)
- 15 Unctuous (4)
- 16 Christian, Batman actor (4)
- 17 One from the largest city in Massachusetts (9)
- 21 1949 romantic comedy starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn (5,3)
- 22 Mischievous Hogwarts poltergeist (6)
- 24 Handheld rotational puzzle (6,4)
- 25 Object (4)
- 26 Quite good (3,3)
- 27 A horse not yet trained for rodeo (6)

Down

- 1 Extra (7)
- 2 Metal colossus in Jason and the Argonauts (5)
- 3 Wrench (7)
- 5 Uplifting drug (6)
- 6 Nickname for Everton FC players (9)
- 7 29th President of the US (7)
- 8 Nursery rhyme character who looks after the sheep (6,3,4)
- 14 Journalist with a regular commentary piece (9)
- 16 Desert-dwelling Arab ethnic group, made up of numerous different tribes (7)
- 18 TV programme featuring the Cool Wall (3,4)
- 19 A long time in the past (4,3)
- 20 Former ITV and Channel 5 daytime talk show (6)
- 23 Original exporter of the Parthenon Marbles (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - As easy as A, B, C

1. What is the New Zealand rugby team affectionate known as?
2. Who was the last British driver to win the Formula 1 World Championship?
3. Which was the last team to complete the league and cup double in England?
4. The last player, whose surname began with a "D", to win the Masters did so for the third time in 1950. Who was he?
5. Which Premier League team comes on to the field to the theme tune from Z Cars?
6. Who was the Wakefield rugby league player who famously missed a conversion from in front of the posts at Wembley to win the 1968 Challenge Cup?
7. Who was the Australian who won seven Grand Slam titles tennis titles between 1971 and 1980?
8. Which larger than life golfer won 11 Majors between 1914 and 1929?
9. What was the Christian name of the Swedish boxer who won the World Heavyweight Belt in 1959 against Floyd Patterson?

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

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.

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

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle
Answers
on
page 59



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Membership Benefits Update



tastecard offer...repeated offer exclusively for BIGGA Members

A perfect Christmas gift! This offer is available to all current BIGGA Members (all categories of membership); it is time limited and available from Friday, November 4 – Friday, November 18.

BIGGA has once again negotiated an exclusive deal with tastecard, the nation's largest dining club. A tastecard gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 5,500+ restaurants nationwide.

Participating restaurants range from PizzaExpress, Cafe Rouge, Bella Italia, Zizzi, ASK, GBK, STRADA and La Tasca to Marco Pierre White and everything in between! Each restaurant featured offers either 50% off the total food bill or 2-for-1 across all courses (even for groups of more than two diners in most cases).

Why not treat someone special in your life to a tastecard membership, a truly unique gift that will be used all year round?



You can purchase a full year's membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 (RRP £69.95).

Be quick, as this offer is only available from Friday, November 4 – Friday, November 18.

There are no catches, it is just a great deal, and an opportunity for all 'foodies' to save a small fortune on eating out over the next 12 months.

For more information on the tastecard visit www.tastecard.co.uk

From November 4 BIGGA Members will be able to purchase a tastecard via the BIGGA Website by paying online or by telephone by contacting BIGGA HQ directly. This exclusive deal is not available directly from the tastecard website.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

If you are a Full Member of BIGGA you are encouraged to be registered on the BIGGA CPD Scheme. You may think that CPD isn't for you, but everyone can benefit.

CPD – what is it?

CPD is a combination of approaches, ideas and techniques that will help you manage your own learning and growth. Remember, one size doesn't fit all. Wherever you are in your career now, and whatever you want to achieve, your CPD should be exactly that: yours.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme

Has several benefits to you, it helps:

- to keep track of your training achievements
- to adapt out dated skills
- to show your employer that you are a true professional
- to give you a means of showing prospective employers that you have continued to develop your education and training beyond the minimum level
- to update skills and knowledge on a regular basis
- to give you the skills to cope with change

You can gain CPD credits for attendance at a wide range of educational events, Harrogate Week and the BIGGA AGM as well as Section and Region events and AGM's.

It is simple to join the scheme, just download an application form, complete and return it to the L&D Department.

To claim points, you either sign a register of attendance at the event (if available) or send in a credit claim form with proof of your attendance (certificate or signature from the organiser).

A BIGGA Certificate of Continuing Professional Development will be awarded to those members who accumulate 10 CPD Credits annually from July 1 to June 30.

Once you have been awarded five successive Certificates of Continuing Professional Development will receive a BIGGA Diploma of Continuing Professional Development.

BIGGA Regional Conferences

Northern

29th November 2011, **Cookridge Hall Golf Club**

30th November 2011, **Birchwood Golf Club**
Contact Peter Larter, RA, 01476 550115

South East

16 November 2011, **Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex**

Contact Clive Osgood, RA, 01737 819343

South West & Wales

17 November 2011, **Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset**
Contact Jane Jones, RA, 01454 270850

Scotland

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



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 933800
(option 1 for Membership)

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

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Mobile: 07841 948410
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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



Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
November 15th	Cleveland Section AGM	Teesside Golf Club	Ian Pemberton on 07791 695768 or email ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk
November 15th	Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil	Fulford Golf Club, York	Polly @ Symbio Tel: 01428 685762 or email polly@symbio.co.uk
November 15th	Sherriff Amenity True Solutions Roadsows	Beedle Lake Golf Club	Sherriff Amenity on Tel: 01638 721888 or email: Kevin.Whitby@agrovista.co.uk
November 15th	East Scotland Section AGM	Niddry Castle Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson on Mobile: 07961 630553 or email: stuferg@btinternet.com
November 16th	South East Regional Conference	Stock Brook Manor Golf Club	Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or email cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
November 16th	Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil	The Manchester Golf Club, Middleton	Polly @ Symbio Tel: 01428 685762 or email polly@symbio.co.uk
November 16th	Sherriff Amenity True Solutions Roadsows	Stover Golf Club	Sherriff Amenity on Tel: 01638 721888 or email: Kevin.Whitby@agrovista.co.uk
November 17th	South West & South Wales Regional Conference	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones on 01454 270850 or email jane@bigga.co.uk
November 17th	North West Section – Bert Cross Trophy & AGM	Wilmslow Golf Club	Chris Sheehan on 01512 894624 or email jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
November 17th	Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil	Staverton Park Golf Club, Daventry	Polly @ Symbio Tel: 01428 685762 or email polly@symbio.co.uk
November 17th	Sherriff Amenity True Solutions Roadsows	Surrey Downs Golf Club	Sherriff Amenity on Tel: 01638 721888 or email: Kevin.Whitby@agrovista.co.uk
November 18th	Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil	Sandmoor Golf Club, Leeds	Polly @ Symbio Tel: 01428 685762 or email polly@symbio.co.uk
November 22nd	One Day Pesticide Update Course	Potters Bar Golf Club	Jane Glassett @ Jon Allbutt Associates on 01959 575575 or email: jane@jonallbutt.co.uk
November 29th	Northern Regional Conference	Cookridge Hall Golf Club	Peter Larter on 01476 550115 or petelarter972@aol.com
November 30th	Northern Regional Conference	Birchwood Golf Club	Peter Larter on 01476 550115 or petelarter972@aol.com
December 1st	Oaklands College/ Crews Hill Golf Club		Adam McCall, London Section, Tel: 07886513975, email: adamccoll@hotmail.com



intheshed answers

CROSSWORD



MONSTER SUDOKO

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

Monster Daily SuDoku: Thu 27-Oct-2011

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

Daily SuDoku: Thu 27-Oct-2011

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- All Blacks
- Jenson Button
- Chelsea
- Jimmy Demaret
- Everton
- Don Fox
- Evonne Goolagong
- Walter Hagen
- Ingemar Johansson

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Last, but not least, is the RTF, which contains rhizomatous tall fescue. RTF is proving itself on golf courses for use on pathways. Its ability to withstand long periods of drought while being subjected to the wear from feet and trolleys means that it can survive where other grasses fail.

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DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

FAROL LTD

Location and size: Key services offered:

Five depots (Head office near Oxford, Daventry, Hungerford, Hinckley and Midhurst). Turnover is around £50M p.a.

Employees and size of premises:

35 employees. HQ is on a seven acre site just off JCT7 of the M40.

Number of service vans:

35 Mobile technicians (42 Technicians in total)

Brief history of company:

Farol Ltd was started in 1976 by George Vellacott selling new and used agricultural equipment, and today the business is headed up by George's son Matt as well as other directors who have joined the business over the years. Originally a Fiat tractor dealer, then taking on Case tractors in 1988, Farol expanded steadily, and built a reputation for excellent aftersales support.

When they were awarded the John Deere dealership in 2004 the growth came rapidly and although Farol operated predominantly in the agricultural industry, in January 2011 they were awarded the professional turf product range by John Deere. Complimented by several other key franchises, Farol are now a major groundcare dealer throughout central England in addition to the continually growing agricultural business. Farol have always maintained an extensive export business for used equipment and sell machines across the globe.

Parts and service specialists at each depot offer round the clock support to all Farol customers, with an extensive selection of key parts stocked across the five branches and menu pricing for servicing.

Sales specialists can offer expert advice, and provide demonstrations of a comprehensive range of products so customers can ensure they get the right machine for the job.

Specialist services offered:

Farol tyres offer a full range of replacement tyres for horticultural, agricultural, plant and HGV vehicles, with a team of 14 mobile tyre fitters available 24/7 for repairs or replacements.

Farol are also an NSTS sprayer testing station, can offer Dynamometer testing, as well as being JD AMS specialists and vehicle security specialists.

How has the dealership changed over the years?

Products have become more advanced to improve customers efficiency and productivity, so more informed and expert advice is required.

Farol have invested heavily in training all key staff to very high levels of competency and put teams of dedicated specialists in place to ensure that we can provide the best solutions for today's very competitive market place.

This investment is only viable



in a large commercial operation, so Farol has expanded significantly over recent years to make sure that they are well positioned and adaptable to cope with the changing trends.

What would you like to see changed?

Apart from the obvious "wishes" i.e. improved economic environment and consistent weather patterns, it would be good to see an increase in the profile of the Horticultural and Agricultural industries improved from a careers point of view.

Although industry bodies are doing their utmost to attract youngsters into the industry, it needs more emphasis at national government level.

The skill levels and diverse range of careers available have a broad appeal but attracting new talent into our trade is a constant challenge.

Although having a large business with structured career and education paths is critical to attaining and retaining quality staff.

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

A number of our customers operate their own workshops, and we are always on hand to offer service advice and support when needed, as well as supplying parts support. All of our branches have showrooms stocked with all the necessary sundries and tools that our customers may need, so we are well equipped to support customers at all levels.

Major customers:

Some of the better known clubs in our region who deal with Farol are The Belfry, The Forest of Arden, The Oxfordshire, Moor park and Frilford Heath.

Franchises

- John Deere, Wiedenmann, ALLETT, Stihl, Campey Turfcare, Trimax, AS Motor, and many more.

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

Recruitment

TURRIFF GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Club seeks applicants with the following skills, to maintain our 18 hole, parkland course:

- At Least 3 years as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper
 - Qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent
 - Spraying Certificates PA1, 2 & 6
- Proven Strong Supervisory and Communication Skills
- Understanding of Parkland Courses & Ecological Management

Salary is negotiable based on previous experience

The Club also seek: **A Qualified Greenkeeper**

Closing Date for both positions 25th November 2011

Please Apply in writing to: The Greens Convener
Turrieff Golf Club, Rosehall, Turrieff, AB53 4HD

Or e-mail secretary@turrieffgolf.sol.co.uk



Greenkeeper

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www.gairlochgolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for applications 30th November 2011

Assistant Greenkeeper

Hersham Golf Club is a 18 hole parkland course adjacent to Hersham railway station.

The Course Manager is seeking to appoint a full time Assistant Greenkeeper as part of his team. The successful candidate must be proficient in all aspects of golf course maintenance procedures, be hard working and have a minimum of 1 years experience.

Full uniform and PPE will be provided.

Salary will be from £13,000 subject to experience.

Applications by e-mail or post with a covering letter and CV to:

Kevin Day, Course Manager, Herhsam Golf Club, Assher Road, Herhsam, Surrey, KT12 4RA or email hershamgolfclubltd@btconnect.com



THE GOG MAGOG GOLF CLUB

Cambridge

Head Greenkeeper



The Gog Magog Golf Club is seeking to appoint an experienced and highly motivated Head Greenkeeper.

Located on the outskirts of Cambridge and overlooking the city and its surrounds, the Club boasts two fine 18-hole chalk downland golf courses and extensive practice facilities.

The Old Course (1901) hosts The Lagonda Trophy and the Wandlebury Course (1997) is a Regional Qualifying Course for The Open. Other prestigious competitions are held on the courses, including various national events.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Management Council of the Club via the Club's Secretary Manager and will be joining a Club committed to its staff and their on-going development.

Responsibility will be for all aspects of the Club's 390 acre estate, except the Clubhouse.

Applicants for the position, in addition to being experienced and highly motivated, should possess the following attributes:

- A senior position at another golf club with experience of presenting high quality courses both for top level tournament play and for the membership.
- Leadership and man management skills to motivate the current experienced green-keeping team.
- Financial awareness and the ability to compile and control budgets which will require computer and literacy skills.
- Appropriate agronomic experience and the ability to develop efficient and effective course management strategies in line with the Club's Course Policy Document.
 - Good knowledge of current Health & Safety & COSHH legislation.
 - A generous and tolerant attitude to staff and the Club's 1200 playing Members.

The remuneration package offered would reflect the importance of the position and is negotiable, dependent on experience.

Initial on-site accommodation is available if required.

Please send your CV with covering letter detailing your experience and marked 'Private and Confidential' to:

Kevin Mader, Secretary Manager, The Gog Magog Golf Club, Shelford Bottom, Cambridge CB22 3AB

by post or preferably e-mail to kevin.mader@gogmagog.co.uk

Closing date for applications is Monday 28th November 2011

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Eight Directors have been appointed to the Board of the Fife Golf Trust - with representation from the Royal & Ancient (R&A), St Andrews Links Trust and Elmwood College as well as 3 elected members from Fife Council.

The Golf Courses Manager will support the Golf Services Manager in driving forward the delivery of quality public golf courses that exceed traditional municipal expectations .

Highly motivated, inspirational and professional you are an experienced people and budget manager with a track record

of achievement. You should have a passion and understanding for the best traditions of the game of golf and a keen awareness of the financial and cultural challenges that face the sport today. Organisational, technical and communication skills will be crucial in ensuring that improvements are delivered and changes are well communicated to all key stakeholders.

With significant experience as a Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager or equivalent you will possess appropriate qualifications and have an ability to mentor and encourage skills development.

For more information and an Application Pack email : golf@fife.gov.uk

Applications to be received by Wednesday 30th November

Assistant Greenkeeper

Lingfield Park is a unique Country Club environment offering in addition to a beautiful 18 hole championship woodland course and Golf Academy, horseracing and a Marriott Hotel.



We are looking for an Assistant Greenkeeper to join our established team. An NVQ2 in Sports Turf Management or equivalent as well as PA1, 2a & 6a are an advantage but not essential for the right candidate. A full clean driving licence is essential. Salary dependant on experience.

To apply please send a CV, plus salary expectations to: Mrs Anne Graziano, Deputy Human Resources Manager, Lingfield Park Racecourse, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6PQ

agraziano@lingfieldpark.co.uk

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On the Soapbox

As part of a mini series, people from the industry discuss what they have gained from attending Harrogate Week. This month, Past BIGGA Chairman, Billy McMillan, reminisces...

I attended the very first Harrogate and can particularly recall the Royal Hall where the education was held. It was an eerie place and I distinctly remember the echoes.

Education was absolutely the main focus of why I was there and I remember Jim Arthur as a speaker, as was my dad and Walter Woods.

If I'm honest, we couldn't see the images on the screen, and the acoustics were poor because the IT at the time wasn't the best, but it was a very exciting time for a young greenkeeper.

Once a speaker had finished I used to rush out, run round the stands and get back to hear the next speaker, sneaking in the side door trying to not be found out.

Today we've found a wonderful balance of ensuring an audience for the Continue to Learn programme as well as a footfall for BTME.

This has not just happened but is the culmination of a lot of hard work and know-how.

The IT, which backs up the education nowadays, is exceptional and certainly on a par with anything else I've seen anywhere.

In fact many other bodies have said to me that they had learned a lot on how to set up their own conferences.

We have certainly done a lot of good things at Harrogate during the past number of years.

Outside of education the one thing, more than any other, that I get from Harrogate is the camaraderie.

This has grown beyond my wildest dreams and I can't think of any other industry where you can go, sit down with your peers and share time.

Frankly we learn just as much out of the Educational programme in the restaurants around the town at night then ever we do in the formal setting.

We are blessed, aren't we?

I've made so many friends, and not just in the UK. I've now got close friends in Scandinavia, Canada, America, all over the world in fact, and not just greenkeepers, there are Professors and experts in their field.

They are all accessible, give freely of their time and don't limit it to the podium to chew the fat.

This is a very personal industry and we are an extended family.

Even with the trade I have made as many friends from all the companies which show at Harrogate over the years, never mind

greenkeepers being passionate, they possess every bit as much love for the business as we do.

That's not to say that everyone agrees, but what strikes you when two people don't agree is that a healthy debate that takes place and at the end of it, there they would be in the bar having a drink together.

No malice and 99% of the time the reason for the argument would be agronomic.

A difference of opinion and a bit of passion is a wonderful thing to behold.

Some of the machinery that I have seen for the first time at Harrogate is wonderful.

There is no substitute for touching, feeling, seeing and discussing.

I can still remember seeing the latest innovations covering every area of golf course equipment we could ever wish to use on show at Harrogate.

If it is market leading and worth having, invariably it has been at Harrogate.

It is an exciting place to be on the product front and also and you can always expect to see the latest materials on show around the halls from seed to soil and everything in-between.

Today we've found a wonderful balance of ensuring an audience for the Continue to Learn programme as well as a footfall for BTME

After I'd experienced around 15 Harrogate's, and never getting much sleep, I introduced a basic rule some years ago.

I would try to get to bed on the same day as I got up.

I'm not a drinker, but what I am is a hoarder of information and I'm hungry to absorb everyone's views.

But there is never enough time and although I introduced this new rule it has never actually worked.

I still find myself starved of sleep during the course of a week.

I remember one year I accumulated nine and a half hours sleep over the entire week.

It wasn't uncommon for me to look at my watch and realise that it was easier for me to go to breakfast than it was to go to bed.

I'm not sure if people quite appreciate how much we take over Harrogate town during the week.

If you walk down any street or pop into any restaurant you will find that it is full of greenkeepers, sometimes upwards of a hundred of them.

I've been strolling through the town and got chatting to someone on a street corner and ended up there for an hour talking about the benefits of bent over fescue, or red machines, over orange machines over green machines or deep aeration over shallow aeration.

As for my own personal highlights I have too many to mention but I can particularly remember my year as Chairman – handing out prizes and representing the Association.

That year was the highlight of my career representing greenkeepers at our show what a treat that was for me personally.

For those people who have never been all I can say is that it will exceed your wildest expectations.

If you are not a social animal you can always tag along, not say a word and earwig.

You will still learn a tremendous amount. I learn more in four days than I could learn in years and you can't get close to the buzz I get driving home.

My life would be a sadder place without Harrogate, of that I'm pretty sure.



BIGGA Past Chairman, Billy McMillan, enjoying a desert at last year's Social Night

Billy McMillan

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