

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 OCTOBER 2011

Inside...

## CONTINENTAL SHIFT

Holland is the destination for this month's course visit

## TREADING THE BOARDS

The benefits of BIGGA's website bulletin boards



# Perks of the job

2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner is Matthew Perks



ALSO INSIDE... Clover : Dollar spot : Second hand machinery



# Silent running.

the new Eclipse 322 Electric from Jacobsen

## Silent running and cost effective

The all electric Eclipse 322 means fuel costs are a thing of the past and it won't spoil your member's coffee break.



[www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)

## **Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd**

West Road, Ipswich, IP3 9TT UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1473 270000  
Web: [www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)

Code: GKI/11/11/E322silent



**Driving Environmental Performance**

## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

### BIGGA



**President**  
Sir Michael Bonallack,  
OBE

**Board of Management  
Chairman**  
Andrew Mellon  
**Vice Chairman**  
Tony Smith  
**Past Chairman**  
Paul Worster

#### Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,  
Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Hughes, Kenny  
MacKay, Mark Dobell

#### Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton  
jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

#### Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins  
sami@bigga.co.uk

#### Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

#### Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York,  
YO61 1UF  
info@bigga.co.uk  
www.bigga.org.uk  
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

### GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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

#### Editorial

#### Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum  
Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801  
scott@bigga.co.uk



#### Design

**Design and  
Production Editor**  
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833801  
tom@bigga.co.uk



#### Advertising

**Sales Executive**  
Kirstin Black

Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833802  
kirstin@bigga.co.uk



**Sales Executive**  
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833802  
jill@bigga.co.uk

#### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor  
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH  
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise  
reproduced without written permission.  
Return postage must accompany all  
materials submitted if return is requested. No  
responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited  
materials. The right is reserved to edit  
submissions before publication.  
Although every care will be taken, no  
responsibility is accepted for loss of  
manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions  
expressed are not necessarily those of the  
Association, and no responsibility is accepted  
for such content, advertising or product  
information that may appear. Circulation is by  
subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per  
year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World  
£95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA  
members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf  
industry, libraries and central government.



When you have finished with  
this magazine please recycle it.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2011 British and International Golf  
Greenkeepers Association Limited



# Hard work pays off

**While September is regarded as the traditional end of summer – however disappointing it has been over the last few years - it does herald one of the most heart warming and positive events in which BIGGA is involved each year.**

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is a wonderful competition, and the final, with eight of the finest young greenkeepers in the country, invariably demonstrates that the industry is in good hands.

Matt Perks, from Ham Manor Golf Club, in West Sussex, and Plumpton College, became its 23rd winner last month and he can look to, among others, the current Course Managers of Turnberry and Sunningdale to see just how large the doors that can be opened by being the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year are.

Every student in the country has the opportunity to win, but if you are going to follow Matt next year you can read this month just how much work and effort needs to go into preparing if you are going to give yourself the best opportunity.

Matt recognised just how big an opportunity he had been given when he was nominated by Plumpton College and he was desperate not to leave any stone unturned to maximise that chance.

Matt's story demonstrates just how much the combination of inspiration and perspiration is needed to be successful, but often the element which is open to absolutely everyone is in lesser supply. While not everyone is necessarily blessed with inspiration, everyone can make sure they work hard and own whatever situation they find themselves in.

Matt's hard work has already won him the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, but, at the age of 28, he has just been appointed a Director of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association

and he impressed enough to be one of nine volunteers selected to assist with maintenance at last year's Ryder Cup.

This month we also look at one of the most valuable, but perhaps underused, of all member benefits. The website's Bulletin Boards are the BIGGA members' very own version of Wikipedia.

If you want to know anything, and I mean anything, post the question on the Boards and your fellow members will come up with an answer for you. If that answer is something open to dispute then someone else will offer an alternative view and you can be sure that within a few days the consensus will provide as accurate an answer as you could hope to find from any other source.

But the Boards are not just a font of information, they can also offer support and solace to anyone looking for help in difficult times. In a solitary job, it is sometimes easily forgotten that, paradoxically, there are many others in similarly solitary positions, and the Bulletin Boards offer the chance to come together with colleagues to share problems and potential solutions.

If you haven't yet got involved go on and take a look. You don't have to become visible straight away by posting topics or providing answers. You can just observe from the sidelines but if you do have something you want to say the urge to post something might just become too great.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**



OCTOBER 2011

## FEATURES

### 22 Perks of the job

Scott MacCallum meets Matthew Perks, the 2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.



## Greenkeepers in clover

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at how best to face up to the challenge of clover

Dr Terry Mabbett examines that blight of the greenkeepers' world - clover. The article discusses the impact of clover on golf courses and provides practical advice on how to manage it. It covers topics such as soil fertility, mowing regimes, and the use of fungicides. The text is accompanied by several small photographs showing different types of clover and their effects on the grass.



### 26 Greenkeepers in clover

Dr Terry Mabbett examines that blight of the greenkeepers' world - clover.



22

### 30 Treading the boards

Scott MacCallum takes a look at one of BIGGA's most valuable member benefits.



42

### 34 Continental shift

Mark Alexander finds out how an Irish greenkeeper ended up at a Dutch course run by a group of Scottish golf pros.

### 42 Dollar spot and integrated pest management

Julie Wheater looks at one of the most common turf diseases.

### 44 The anatomy of ... Second hand machinery

James de Havilland looks at how best to go about the purchase of second hand kit.



30



44





34



18



20

## REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 13 Chairman's Word
- 14 GTC
- 15 Learning & Development
- 16 Industry Update
- 17 What's Your Number  
– Andy Russell
- 18 New Products
- 48 Back in Time – 1982
- 50 Around the Green
- 53 Assistant Profile  
– Miles Todd
- 55 CEO's Column
- 56 Diary of Events
- 58 Diary of Events
- 59 In the Shed
- 63 Dealer of the Month
- 66 Soapbox  
– Tim Merrell

## GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

65.20 OCTOBER 2011

Inside...

### CONTINENTAL SHIFT

Holland is the destination for this month's course visit

### TREADING THE BOARDS

The benefits of BIGGA's website bulletin boards



Perks of the job

2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner is Matthew Perks

ALSO INSIDE... Clover : Dollar spot : Second hand machinery



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



## UK First for Askham Bryan Students

A solar-powered irrigation system for a golf course at a Yorkshire college may be the first of its kind in the UK.

The irrigation is being installed as part of work by sportsturf and horticulture students studying at Askham Bryan College near York.

With the help of agriculture and engineering students, they have created three golf holes in a disused field at the College.

With the course being built at little cost, one of the key challenges was to find an irrigation system and course tutor Dan Prest approached supplier Evergreen Irrigation to ask if the company would supply a 100m pipe to get the project going.

Evergreen put Dan in touch with Rain Bird which has supplied a state-of-the-art system.

There was one more problem for the students to solve: the irrigation system is



controlled by an electronic control system but there was no electricity to the field where the holes have been located.

The answer came from CI Solar in California which is converting the power-source to solar power to allow the students to complete the project.

Dan said: "We owe a great deal of gratitude to these companies for helping our students not only to complete these

holes but also to use the latest technology to achieve it. Our idea was to give the students the experience of creating a course from scratch, rather than looking only at the maintenance, and this has been a fantastic learning experience.

Around 70 students, who are studying for future careers as greenkeepers and groundsmen, have been involved in the project to date.



## DAVID WITHERS PROMOTED TO PRESIDENT OF JACOBSEN

David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, has been promoted to the position of President of Jacobsen.

David has been Managing director at Ransomes Jacobsen since January 2005, overseeing international operations for all Jacobsen brands as well as the E-Z-GO brand in Europe.

"I'm delighted to be given this leadership opportunity and look forward to developing our brand and products in a global marketplace, he said.

"My view is that everything we do as a company needs to be focussed on supporting our end-user customers and also building strong relationships with our channel partners and other industry bodies around the world," he said.

He joined Textron in 1992 as a Regional Sales Manager for Jacobsen. In 1996,

he was promoted to the position of National Accounts Manager, focusing on developing business with key customers in the United Kingdom.

In 2002, he was promoted to the position of Sales and Marketing Director before his appointment as Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

Commenting on his appointment, Scott Donnelly, Textron CEO said,

"David is a proven leader in the golf and turf industry and is highly respected among his peers and customers.

"With his broad international experience - which spans over 45 countries - and his strong track record in business development and operational excellence, I am confident that he is the right person to maximise the growth opportunities that lie ahead for Jacobsen."



# GOSTA go East with Greenkeeper Training

As part of an expansion programme GOSTA will now be offering support and training to golf clubs in Edinburgh and Lothian area with Modern Apprenticeships in Sportsturf/Greenkeeping at both Level 2 and 3.

GOSTA has been involved in delivering training to Modern Apprentices in the West of Scotland since 1982. In that time the company has seen many new apprentices in the industry progress to becoming Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers who now send their apprentices to GOSTA. As a training provider GOSTA is an approved centre for Lantra, GTC and SQA and is a Branded Centre for learndirect Scotland.

Funding from Skills Development Scotland supports many of the students through their Modern Apprenticeship Training, providing they meet the age criteria. The funding is a fantastic support to golf clubs at a time where they still remain

committed to training but funds are a bit more restricted. Also available is a full portfolio of short courses designed to enhance the skills of the greenkeeper for their future.

Managing Director of GOSTA Training, Lesley Lowrie, commented, "We are setting up training at Deerpark Golf and Country Club and are very excited at the challenge in expanding the business.

"I am also delighted to welcome respected lecturer, Steve Miller, onto to the team to work with our students in the Edinburgh area. Steve has a long history of working within the industry and has a major contribution to make to the development of our students."

Day release classes commence this month and if you would like to register your apprentice please contact GOSTA as soon as possible as places are limited.

For further information on the services available contact GOSTA on 0141-556-3999.



## Ian 'The Viking' Tomlinson

I recently watched a BBC documentary called "Blood of the Vikings". In it a London Professor and his colleagues travelled to Yorkshire to find out if any of the local population where descendants of the Vikings.

They took DNA samples from many people and discovered through genetic testing that in fact a high percentage were actually true descendants of the Vikings.

I was intrigued by all this as York was the main Viking stronghold hundreds of years ago and I originate from the York area.

I then read an article about people with "Claw Hands", which is where the little finger, (pinky) and the ring finger are pulled down into the palm of the hand where they remain. This has been traced back to people with Viking ancestry. My Grandmother and Great Grandfather both suffered from this same condition with their hands.

Was it merely coincidence or is it possible that I am a descendant of a Viking and here I am now living and working in Denmark? Had I returned to my ancestral roots?

I was desperate to find out the truth. I finally tracked down Professor Goldstein now working in America. He put me in touch with Dr. James Wilson in Scotland who runs his own Ethno Ancestry Company and who also worked on the original TV documentary.

I submitted a DNA sample to his company and I have just received the results.

They have been able to place me in a group which covered the whole of Denmark and the East of England (around Yorkshire). It also states that in the British Isles my group indicates ancestry from an invading group such as the Vikings and also earlier settlers on the East Coast

So it appears that somewhere out in Denmark I am maybe related to somebody and that is spooky.

Ian The Viking Tomlinson  
Rungsted GC  
Denmark



## Double A Success

John Deere dealership Double A Trading Company, based at Cupar in Fife, walked away with the top award at the AEA/Service Dealer Awards.

The company had extra reason for celebration as the award for Apprentice of the Year went to Christopher Mason, also of Double A.

Other Awards were Sales Person of the Year which went to Davinder (Dave) Sharma, Henton & Chattell Ltd, Nottingham; Parts Person of the Year, went to Paul Tipton, of Oakley's Groundcare, Shrewsbury and Technical of the Year went to Dan Massey, of JE Buckle, Stevenage.

The Awards were announced at a dinner held during Saltex week.

Photograph shows The Double A winners with Managing Director, Sandy Armit, and Christopher Mason centre.

Photograph by Mike Beardall, Oakfield Media





## Jimmy Kidd Joins The Great Turf Company

Jimmy Kidd has joined The Great Turf Company as Global Development Director in support of the team's 'Activated Microbial' approach to turf management.

The appointment marks the reunion of Jimmy with two of his previous colleagues and life long friends, Ian MacMillan and Ian Morrison.

With 51 years experience in the turf care industry worldwide, including the post of Director of Golf Courses and Estate at Gleneagles where he prepared courses for 17 championships, Jimmy has become a prime figure within the greenkeeping community.

At The Great Turf Company Jimmy will also work alongside Technical Director, Andrew Turnbull, and Managing Director, Ian Morrison, another of Jimmy's past colleagues; the pair worked together in the 1990s when they were at the forefront of the Gleneagles Golf Developments team in the assembly and coordination of the Ryder Cup bid.

In his new post as Global Development Director, Jimmy will focus on creating opportunities for The Great Turf Company to grow internationally, with particular focus on warm season fine turf management.



## Bingley St Ives Victorious at Golf Management Trophy Day

A Northern Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by Tim Webb and TACIT, was held at Cookridge Hall Golf Club, superbly prepared by Course Manager, John Watts, and his staff. Bingley St Ives Golf Club, led by Course Manager, Alan Baxter, won the event with a score of 87 points.

The final 2011 Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by TACIT, was held at Market Harborough Golf Club, with 10 golf clubs competing for the last two places in the National Final.

All players were very complimentary about the course superbly presented by Course Manager, Nick Miles, and his staff.

Our thanks are extended to all at the Club for making the day enjoyable and successful.

Rothley Park Golf Club, led by Course Manager Nigel Colley, won the event with a score of 85 pts; and Gay Hill Golf Club were runners-up with 82 pts.

The clubs now progress to the National Final held at Mere Golf Resort & Spa at the end of last month.

## Quality Assured at Oaklands College

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, in announcing Oaklands College as a GTC Quality Assured Centre paid tribute to the dedication of Andy Wight and his turf team at the college, who for many years have achieved excellent completion rates, especially with sports turf apprenticeships.

David added that the greenkeeping apprenticeship

scheme has proved very successful for both golf club employers and the apprentices since the introduction of formal work based training and qualifications, with Oaklands College very much committed to delivering quality courses to meet the standards within the apprenticeship framework.

Andy Wight, Pathway

Manager Horticulture and Greenkeeping has been a member of the GTC's Technical Committee for a number of years and firmly believes that quality education and training must be maintained to ensure any industry has the skilled workforce required to ensure that playing surfaces are to the highest standards possible.

# Setting Directions

John Deere will celebrate its 175th anniversary next year. That its experience continues to breed innovation was on display at their 'Setting Directions' Exhibition at Chantilly, France.

Several new products were being shown off at the show, including three greens hand-mowers introduced to replace the C Series models. The 180SL, 220SL and 260SL offer true cutting widths of 18, 22 and 26in respectively and feature the Speed Link technology now seen on all John Deere reel mowers.

This allows height of cut adjustments to be made quickly and with ease, from one point on either side of the cutting machine.

Using an air drill, each revolution of the mechanism means a 0.25mm height adjustment..

As on the previous range, all three SL hand-mowers have the 4hp Honda petrol engine with dual-traction drive for manoeuvrability and straight tracking on greens.

Adjustable front-mounted turf brushes are optional, as are detachable transport wheels, a pull-back clutch that allows the mower to be reversed while the wheels are engaged and a choice of grooved, smooth or spiral rollers.

Another new addition to John Deere's range is the 1026R sub compact tractor. It is an 'all rounder' designed to carry a large number of attachments

and implements, including a quick-attach front loader, snow blade or mowing deck.

The tractor's overall height is under 2m and it is powered by a 26hp three-cylinder diesel engine.

As well as viewing the new products, the event also allowed for some hands-on enjoyment. Several John Deere Gators, including a model new to the range, were at the ready for delegates to put through their paces around a purpose built off-road track.

The XUV 550 is smaller and lighter than existing Gators and, in a first for John Deere, is available as a four-passenger version. This, the XUV 550 S4, has a stretched chassis with a rear bench seat behind the two standard front seats. If extra storage room is needed, this bench can be converted into a cargo rack with the pull of a lever. The new Gators have a 12.1kW V-twin OHV air-cooled petrol engine. They can reach a top speed of 28mph, have 10.3 inches of ground clearance and a towing capacity of 500kg.

Both versions are available from spring 2012 and with the wide range of options and extras..


The trip was rounded off with a putting competition, with prizes for those skilful enough to sink a perilously-perched USB stick into a hole from a distance, and a final presentation which included an introduction to their new website.




AUTUMN ESSENTIAL

## imant's ROTOBLAST

A powerful tractor-mounted blower that moves leaves, grass clippings, thatch, litter, cores and other unwanted surface debris from important areas.



QUALITY GROUND CARE EQUIPMENT



**CAMPEY TURF CARE SYSTEMS**

MARTON  
MACCLESFIELD  
CHESHIRE  
SK11 9HG

TEL: 01260 224568

FAX: 01260 224791

EMAIL: [INFO@CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM](mailto:INFO@CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM)

[WWW.CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM](http://WWW.CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM)



# Increased Pay Award Recommended by CGCS

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries has recommended a 3% increase in the level of recommended Salary Scale for Greenkeepers. This comes after a period of high inflation and a period of no increases.

The CGCS appreciates the strain on Club finances during the current economic problems, but feel that the time has come to recognise the pressure this is placing on employed staff.

Now that the Government has reverted to RPI rather than Average Earnings it is the Committee's intention, in the future, to do likewise.

This year the Committee is recommending a figure of 3% for the coming year, while not

totally in keeping with RPI, it will if adopted go some way to alleviating growing hardships.

The CGCS recommended rates of pay package are guidelines only and the Committee is mindful that they are for negotiation only and that, as in all walks of life, some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the standing of the Club.

The CGCS wants to emphasise that these scales are for 'packages' and should be treated as such, while taking into account individual and team performance and increase in responsibility and qualification.

Once again the CGCS wishes to draw the attention of golf clubs to impending changes in pension legislation.

## Going Down

A select group of industry press were invited to visit Boulby Mine – the second deepest mine in Europe – to see potash, a vital component in fertiliser, being mined.

Organised by Everris, formerly Scotts, the trip saw a party of six, including host, Boulby Mine's Health and Safety expert, Neil Rowley, go down one mile and then drive a further six miles under the North Sea through a series of previously mined tunnels and passages to witness the potash being mined from the face.

An indepth look at the Boulby Mine will appear in next month's magazine.



## The IGCEMA Opens Nominations for the 2011 Edwin Budding Award

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) is announcing it will now be accepting nominations for the fifth annual Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The Award recognises those who have made significant contributions to the golf course equipment industry, including those who have excelled in the business, history, design, engineering and maintenance of golf course equipment. The award will be in addition to those known for their contributions to innovations in the turf equipment industry. The award will recognise those who think outside the box and who have dedicated themselves to improving the industry as a whole. The Edwin Budding award will be awarded to someone in the industry who meets the criteria as set forth by the Association and the Award Committee.

Nominations should be filled out on the IGCEMA website [www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org). The deadline for nominations is November 20th, 2011, and the winner will be presented the award at Harrogate Week in the UK during the BIGGA conference.

Anyone has the opportunity to win the award. No matter where you are in the world your contributions to golf count.



## Harrogate Week 2012

The Scottish Region is pleased to offer the following package for the Holiday Inn, Harrogate.

The accommodation is from Monday 23 January.

Three nights, B&B in en-suite rooms on January 23, 24 & 25, 2012. Cost will be £168.

To obtain a booking form for the accommodation contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on: Tel 0141 616 3440 Mob 07776242120 email; [pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com) Peter J. Boyd Regional Administrator

## South East Regional Conference

The South East Regional Conference Wednesday will be held on November 16 at Stock Brook Manor Golf Club

The Essex Section of BIGGA is hosting this year's South East Regional Conference

The theme is 'Dead or Alive' with speakers from various areas of sports turf providing presentations.

The cost for the day will be £10

Speakers include: Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, The Hurlingham Club; Richard Whyman – Burnham & Berrow Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison – Essex County Cricket Ground, and Greg Evans, Ealing Golf Club.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA's new Chief Executive Officer, will also be speaking.

For more information please Contact: Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)

# Eagle's Fairway Markers...

...will enhance your course presentation.

Eagle's range of posts, mow-overs and sprinkler head markers offers the complete distance measure solution.

Call us now on **01883 344 244** for prices and deals.



Fairway markers are available in a variety of substrates

Bronze > Sprinkler Head > Granite > Resin



t +44 (0)1883 344244  
f +44 (0)1883 341777  
e info@eagle.uk.com  
www.eagle.uk.com

**TORO**



TORO Commercial Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226870 Email: toro.parts.uk@lely.com www.lely.com www.toro.com

## EDGEMAX. SHARPER FOR LONGER.

The EdgeMax bedknife from TORO is manufactured from hardened tool steel to stay sharper up to three times longer than standard bedknives. Its superior performance ensures a cleaner cut for healthier turf and significantly reduces maintenance time. We believe EdgeMax is the ultimate bedknife for all our DPA (Dual Precision Adjustment) cutting units, enabling you to get the best from your reel mowers. Speak to your TORO dealer today and insist on genuine TORO parts.

Call 01480 226870 or visit [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)



partners in turfcare



BEDKNIVES



BEARINGS



AIR & OIL FILTERS



BELTS



BLADES



REELS



TITAN TINES



# STRI Research Day



More than 100 greenkeepers travelled from across the UK and Ireland, to attend the first STRI Research event at its research facilities in Bingley,

The day was set up in a 'station rotation' format and demonstrated the latest products, machinery and techniques that are being tested and developed for the effective management of sports turf.

The format worked well and looks set

to be followed in future years – with many advance bookings already being taken for 2012 from those who attended. Each year will showcase the latest developments and different focuses for turf management.

This year's event focused on seven separate research aspects and included disease and nutritional management research, demos from the latest machinery and innovative techniques to help improve

the quality and performance of turf.

Bayer, Becker Underwood, Everris (formerly Scotts), R&K Kensett, Ransomes Jacobsen, Sherriff Amenity and Syngenta were the companies supporting and presenting at the event, each of which is having research conducted at Bingley and investing time and resource into the development of new products for the industry with the support of STRI's research team.

Ruth Mann, who manages many research trials for STRI, commented on the day, "What a great day! The weather worked well for us and the new rotation format was very successful, allowing lots of questions and interaction from the delegates. We've had some amazing feedback, with lots of people already asking what we've got planned for next year! We're going to ask the delegates who attended to let us know what worked well on the day to help us plan for next year's event, which we hope will become an annual fixture in the industry's calendar."

Gordon McKillop, STRI CEO said, "The response for STRI Research has been remarkable, we were already oversubscribed for the event within two weeks of the invitations being sent out.

"This shows the desire for knowledge within the industry and we believe that the STRI Research event offers a great platform for turf managers to see, firsthand, the innovations that are being made in sports turf research and management."



## EUROPEAN GOLF BODIES TO PROMOTE 'GROW THE GAME OF GOLF' WEBSITE

A group of pan European golf organisations including The European Tour, FEGGA, PGAs of Europe, CMAE, EGCOA, GEO, GCIA and EIGCA, have agreed to expand and promote the *Grow the Game of Golf* website with the aim of encouraging and inspiring golf clubs and other golf organisations to help develop the game, particularly at grass roots level.

The *Grow the Game of Golf* website describes best practices within the industry and aims to provide feedback from the leading experts in golf development.

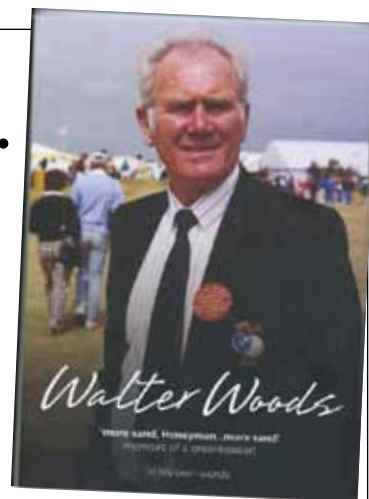
For further info. visit: [www.growthegameofgolf.org](http://www.growthegameofgolf.org)

## "More sand, Honeyman... more sand"

"More sand, Honeyman...more sand" Memoirs of a greenkeeper. Walter Woods' story, in his own words, was launched officially at the Toro Turf Professionals meeting, at Goodwood Hotel and Golf Club, last month.

Walter, who was St Andrews Links Superintendent from 1974 to 1995 and BIGGA's first National Chairman, in 1987, is synonymous with greenkeeping and his stellar career has seen him awarded the BEM, the GCSAA Old Tom Morris Award and BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The book, which was published by the Toro Company, takes the reader through every aspect of Walter's life from his birth in 1935 in Tillicoultry, where he also started his greenkeeping life at the age of 22 and where he



is now Club President, through to his fourth and final, Open Championship at St Andrews in 1995.

The book is full of thoughts, reminiscences and an insight into Walter's own greenkeeping philosophy.

BIGGA and Toro are currently working together on a distribution policy for the book and a full review of it will appear in next month's Greenkeeper International.





# Chairman's Word

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

## Working together for a better future

**As you will read in the magazine Matt Perks, First Assistant/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club, in West Sussex, is the 2011 winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.**

As previous winners, including Alan Pierce his own Course Manager, will no doubt testify, the effort required to achieve this accolade is more than justified when you see the benefits to be gained both in terms of personal development and more tangibly in the New Year in the form of a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts, a trip to the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas and visits to Toro's base and many other facilities I'm sure.

The runners up and all the entrants should all be equally proud as they exemplify the passion and dedication that members of our Association apply to their careers, in seeking to fully educate and prepare themselves.

I was extremely fortunate recently to attend the Toro Turf Professionals reunion, in the company of many of our country's finest Greenkeepers, and especially fortunate to travel with Walter Woods, BEM, formally Links Superintendent of St Andrews Links.

I've known Walter for a few years now and have been fortunate enough to listen often as he shared his experiences with myself and many others at local Section events or at BTME.

Toro have published his book, "Walter Woods, Memoirs of a Greenkeeper", and it is great to see those experiences permanently recorded to share with others.

Many of Walter's peers were also present at the reunion; Jack McMillan, George Brown, Chris Kennedy, and many top managers from the next generation also.

The collective experience of the group was very inspiring. These gentlemen, and many others, were the pioneers, whose efforts and collaboration were the foundations of the BIGGA we know today.

Their effort and their recognition of how important education and sharing of good practice would be in the development of greenkeeping standards, has led to such an improvement in golf course conditions that many young Greenkeepers today are expected to, and are capable of producing consistently high course standards which

would once have been the preserve of only the top professional tournaments.

We must not be complacent and allow the legacy they have created to be diminished. The importance of your Association cannot be underestimated. Times are tough, but they have been tough before, and these gentlemen would tell you that it was through associating with and supporting each other, through hard work and dedication that they persevered and were better for it.

The resources available to you now through BIGGA are constantly improving and developing and are far more extensive than then but you must play your part. It is collectively that we are strong, united in supporting one another as we face challenges we have not experienced before.

The forum on our website is a modern and excellent way of communicating with hundreds, if not thousands of your peers. You only have to look at that to see how much Greenkeepers are prepared to help and support one another. The education



encourage any Greenkeeper who is serious about their career to take that step and start participating in BIGGA, through the forums, local Sections, and our annual gathering in Harrogate in January.

Put yourself out a bit, demonstrate your professional ethics and standards and soon

**All the Toro Student of the Year entrants should all be equally proud as they exemplify the passion and dedication that members of our Association apply to their careers, in seeking to fully educate and prepare themselves**

available, locally at Section events, regionally at their conferences, and nationally at BTME in Harrogate each year, provide you with great opportunities to learn from Industry experts, and share experiences with your colleagues.

I started my greenkeeping career a relatively short time ago in 1997, at the remote Stornoway Golf Club, on the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles of Scotland, where I learnt a great deal from working in a small close knit dedicated team.

But it was through taking advantage of the BIGGA network, that I was able to explore further horizons, make useful contacts and take advantage of the abundance of learning opportunities available, at BIGGA, at College and from fellow Greenkeepers, who were always willing to help.

I'm a great believer that you get out of something what you put into it. I would

you will reap the benefits to you. In turn your employers will see the improvement in you as a committed valued member of their team. That can only be of benefit to you and our profession as a whole.

The Golf Industry Trade companies, the R&A, the Golf Unions, the PGA, the Club Managers Associations, and many more have all seen the benefit and improvements in golf brought about through better greenkeeping hence their willingness to support and work together with us in our efforts.

Let's continue to work together and ensure that the legacy created by the founders of BIGGA and its predecessors, continues and strengthens, for our benefit and for the game of Golf.

Andrew Mellon  
07780 995602  
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk





# Greenkeepers Training Committee

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, looks at improving communication within the golf club



**One point emerged emphatically from a series of recent GTC workshops conducted very ably at Temple and Gatton Manor by Laurence Pithie MG, the message being that the principles of greenkeeping haven't changed - simply the way in which they are applied and implemented.**

Put another way, whole scale mechanisation has widened the scope of what is possible when it comes to course condition and presentation although machinery is expensive and every machine needs at least one person to operate it. It actually makes you realise that, with an average crew of only five or six, it is something of a miracle that our greenkeepers manage to do what they do. Certainly, other countries are open-mouthed in wonder.

I have always maintained the major problem with being a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper is in dealing with the hundreds knocking your door with something to sell. That undoubtedly gave rise to a regrettable period 30 odd years ago when courses were subjected to overuse of water and fertiliser. It led to bad habits spawned from the belief that American-style courses, green wall-to-wall, were superior to our own. What made it even more reprehensible was the desertion of a traditional formula that was known to work.

The formation of the GTC was one of the influences that brought about a much needed change of heart but it had to be proved to a fresh audience and Laurence's presentations provided enough evidence to show that greenkeeping has mended its ways. Nevertheless, periodic reminders are always wise which is why good communications are so important.

September's workshops to which I referred brought together Greenkeepers, Green Committee Chairmen and Club Secretaries, engaging in an enjoyable open forum with Laurence who kept everyone interested for four or five hours which is no easy task. By engaging



in a comprehensive review of the fundamentals, the recurring theme was that greenkeeping is more common sense than mystic art.

Nobody can question that aeration, scarification, top dressing, over-seeding and sensible cutting heights are the common bonds of course managers everywhere. The skill lies in making on the spot, day to day judgements in adjusting to weather conditions. Details can vary even if principles are constant.

Resources differ from Club to Club and so do budgets which, in turn, can dictate methods. Practically the only advantage of growing old is you can make comparisons and, seeing the list of modern aeration techniques, brought to mind the days when, as a junior member of Denham in the 1950s, we earned welcome pocket money by lending a hand with the annual ritual of treating the greens.

It consisted of scarifying by hand with a springbok rake, cutting the shoots by hand that were raised, hand hollow-tining to a depth of no more than 2-3 inches, applying a dressing of soot and later rounding off with an application of dried blood, hoof and horn meal.

It was a laborious and dirty process involving working on perhaps two or three greens a day whereas, nowadays, the entire operation

can be completed in two days and the greens back near their best in little more than a week. In today's context, it is merely part of an industry's proud heritage in the same way as hickory shafts and gutta-percha balls but, while the only shot over which a player has influence is the next one, greenkeeping can only look ahead. Here the future couldn't be brighter.

BIGGA and the GTC have joint interests and responsibilities in raising standards and performance. The Home Unions lend practical and financial support, leaving golfers to understand that it is all being done for their benefit. Whether they do or not depends, as I have stressed, on the vital role of communication.

Owing to the demand for Chairman of Green – Secretary Manager – Course Manager workshops, more are being planned. Dates and venues will be available from the GTC and on the website.

Delegate feedback has also encouraged the GTC to organise more workshops covering such subjects as Health & Safety including EMPLOYER responsibilities and how to improve communications within the golf club.

All workshops will be conducted by GTC Quality Assured Training Providers.



The GTC is funded by:



## Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



# Learning & Development

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

**October heralds the launch of the Continue to Learn Education Programme at Harrogate Week and the decent into complete mayhem in the Learning and Development Department. Rachael and I are bracing ourselves for a very busy period ahead!**

## Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012

You should have received your copy of the Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012 with this issue of the Greenkeeper International. For those of you who have already perused it, prior to reading this, you'll see that we have a number of workshops that are new to the 2012 programme. These include:

### One-day Workshops

- Progressive Cultural Management – Frank Rossi Ph.D
- How to be an Outstanding Manager, Part Three – Shona Garner
- Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers – Jacky Lowe
- Successful Project Management – Bruce Williams CGCS

### Half-day Workshops

- A Practical Guide to Setting Up a Social Media Presence – Lesley Wood
- Renovating Your Course – Parts 1 and 2 – Howard Swan
- Managing Parkland, Heathland and Links Golf Courses – an Ecological Perspective – Bob Taylor
- Compost Teas – Provide Health Rootzones for Healthy Grass – Martin Ward
- Writing an Environmental Policy Document – Richard Stuttard
- The Turf Managers' Conference will make its return to the programme on Monday 23 January featuring presentations on:
  - Identifying and Managing Plant Parasitic Nematode Problems in



Turfgrass – Dr Colin Fleming  
 Golf Course Photography – The Job, Purpose and Challenges – Iain Lowe  
 The Effects of Climate Change and Climate Phenomenon on Greenkeeping Practices – Mark Hunt  
 Employee Engagement – Helen Bennett  
 The Power of Social Media for Your Golf Club – Lesley Wood  
 Practically Sustainable Golf Turf Management - Frank Rossi Ph.D

Book now to secure your place by completing the booking form or by contacting the L&D Department on 01347 833800 option 3.



### Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

The calibre of candidates, who attended the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2011 finals at BIGGA HOUSE, was outstanding. Any one of the eight finalists could have won the Award making the selection process for the judges a bit of a nightmare! Finally, though, the decision was made and the winner of the 2011 award was Matthew Perks, from Ham Manor Golf Club, representing Plumpton College. Matt will be winging his way to the University of Massachusetts in early January. The two runners-

up, who both win a trip to Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week, were Rob Mills, from Sunningdale Golf Club, representing Merrist Wood College and Miles Todd, from Rhuddlan Golf Club, representing Deeside College. Congratulations go to all of the Finalists, they represented their clubs and colleges admirably.

### BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX

For the first time, BIGGA presented a series of educational seminars as part of the SALTEX education programme. Presentations were made by Cale Bigelow from Purdue University, USA; Les Howkins MG, from The Richmond Golf Club, and Jim McKenzie MBE, from Celtic Manor Resort.

I am delighted to report that attendance figures were better than hoped and that the feedback from the attendees and the organisers was great! We have now been asked to put together some seminars to take place at Scotsturf in November – details to follow.

### Higher Education Scholarships



*Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen*  
 The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:  
 Ash Smith - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf



**Gold Key Individual Members:**  
 Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Andrew Turnbull; Ian MacMillan MG; Ian Morrison; Antony Calvert  
**Silver Key Individual Members:**  
 Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz, Jaey Goodchild

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.



**Contact Details**  
 Sami Collins  
 Head of L&D  
 sami@bigga.co.uk  
 Rachael Duffy  
 L&D Administrator  
 rachael@bigga.co.uk  
 01347 833800 (option 3)  
 www.bigga.org.uk





## New Groundcare Dealership

New Holland has strengthened its UK dealer network with the launch of a new Groundcare dealership in Warwickshire - The Compact Tractor Centre.

The new dealership will supply a full range of Groundcare products including the latest New Holland Utility Vehicle - the Rustler.

Dealer Principal, Nathan Walker, says The Compact

Tractor Centre, based in Bidford-on-Avon, will stock a full range of New Holland groundcare products.

"Although we are a new company, our staff are no strangers to the Groundcare business.

"They already have a wealth of experience with the products and equipment on offer. We want to provide the local

community with easy access to New Holland Groundcare products and are looking forward to demonstrating what the equipment is capable of," said Nathan.

The Compact Tractor Centre will service a large geographic area, incorporating areas such as Dudley, Coventry, Birmingham, Warwick and Stratford.



## Weather Check

Headland Amenity has launched Weather Check, a personalised weather forecasting service allowing turf managers to access information on temperature, wind speed and direction as well as rainfall, with the choice of a general seven day forecast or a more detailed projection, which breaks down into three hour segments, providing an extremely accurate overview of conditions.

The 'RainNow' option produces a 25km 'rain radar map' with their sports facility at the centre, and by using the Agronomic module, which combines anticipated rainfall, wind strength, precipitation, air temperature and evapotranspiration, they are able to accurately judge spraying conditions over the coming week.

Glenn Kirby, Assistant Course Manager at the London Golf Club, says that Headland Weathercheck has improved the planning of daily work.

"It gives me valuable information that helps me to fit work such as fertilising, spraying and hand watering into the best weather window. When deciding on irrigation applications it provides me with another information source alongside my soil probe, and onsite ET readings. I no longer need to trawl the internet looking at different websites and choosing the most likely outcome as Weather Check has proved to be a consistently reliable source.

## New Partnership Category For Architects' Institute

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects has announced a new partnership category for golf course consultants with the aim of increasing interaction between the EIGCA and other professions in the golf industry. The scheme will be open to all consultants who are working in a solely fee based, professional practice, associated with the golf course design business.

It is hoped that this new partnership category will appeal to consultants involved in associated businesses such as agronomy, irrigation, drainage, planning, landscape and even photography and architecture.

Announcing the new scheme Julia Green, EIGCA Executive Officer, commented:

"The EIGCA is always looking at ways we can do more for both our membership and the industry in general. We felt that the new Consultant Partnership programme would help to expand possibilities for meaningful professional development within the EIGCA and its partners.

"Over the years we have strived hard to develop the profession and to promote European expertise in golf course architecture and construction.

"We have developed very good relationships with our Patrons and Industry Partners to help us in this aim and we hope to develop similar close relationships with our new Consultant Partners."

## Barenbrug Roadshow



Barenbrug has rounded off its 12-month seminar tour of the UK by making St Andrews Links Castle Course the final pit-stop in its roadshow.

A year ago, Barenbrug took to the road to bring its expertise direct to turf professionals in a series of events held at key trial and customer venues.

The first pit-stop in the company's year-long seminar programme was Druids Glen Golf Resort in County Wicklow, where the preliminary results of its Irish golf greens trial were revealed.

Since then over 250 turf professionals have attended events

at the likes of Manchester City Football Club, Carnoustie Golf Links, in Angus, Scotland, and the London Golf Club, in Kent.

Along the way, Barenbrug revealed its latest trial results and practical findings, while also giving delegates the chance to gain firsthand insights from the host venue's course and grounds managers, and benefit from the contributions of top guest speakers.

After stopping off for the penultimate seminar at Furness Golf Club in Cumbria, Barenbrug bowed out at St Andrews Links.

## WIEDENMANN DONATES £20K



To mark two decades in the turf care sector, Wiedenmann UK is donating all proceeds from the sale of a platinum-painted Terra Spike GXi8 HD to charity. Already several bids in excess of £20k have been received, guaranteeing a minimum of £10,000 each for Cancer Research and The MS Society, the causes sharing the receipts.

The company also unveiled a new addition to the artificial turf maintenance fleet, at Saltex, the Terra Groom, a lightweight brush which can also be used on natural surfaces. Wiedenmann also won two Awards for its stand at Saltex.

Managing Director, David Rae, who founded Wiedenmann UK at just 24, welcomed the news of the first bids. Bids close on October 28.

## What's your number?

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

**Name:** Andy Russell

**Company:** Headland Amenity Ltd

**Position:** Sales & Marketing Director.

**How long have you been in the industry?**

21 Years

**How did you get into it?**

After studying Applied Biology, I entered the sales world with a Builders' Merchant at the age of 21 as I was getting married and needed a job! My keen interest in sport then lead me to a sales position with a sports equipment manufacturer. Luckily in 1990 I was able to combine both interests when I joined Fisons and became involved in amenity sportsturf.

**What other jobs have you done?**

I have worked as assistant greenkeeper and groundsman, as well as two fun summers as a deckchair attendant on Eastbourne seafront.

**What do you like about your current job?**

The two best things are the huge variety of tasks I get involved with and secondly the people that I meet.

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

For me it has been in the professionalism of greenkeepers and groundsmen that has led to higher quality turf surfaces.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Most of my time is taken up as family taxi driver! My son is into athletics (1500/5000 m) and both my daughters dance. I enjoy playing cricket, as well as table tennis and golf (Badly).

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**

On a plane across the Atlantic going to support Headlands growing business in the US!

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

Probably all my colleagues at Headland – a fantastic mix of people with many different attributes, all pulling together to succeed.

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**

10

**Pick a number** 17



*Andy has selected Gary Mumby, of BLEC*



# GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products from Saltex 2011 reviewed...

New at  
Saltex  
2011



## DJ Turfcare Plugging New Aerator

DJ Turfcare unveiled the Plugger PL855 Pro HD, which has an optional stand-on, ride-behind platform called the Step Saver.

The tough aeration machine features hydrostatic-drive and uses both solid and hollow tines.

It is highly manoeuvrable and is ideal for grass maintenance in more difficult areas, and is easy to transport and handle.

With a crank-powered design the Plugger PL855 punches clean, deep holes in tough soil conditions and is easy to maintain. This aerator performs on slopes, plug depth is maintained on both sides of the machine. Grades up to 20 degrees or more can be traversed safely either up or down without major impact on plug depth.

It is supplied with 5/8" diameter tubular tines while other tines available are 3/8" solid, 7/8" solid, 3/8" hollow, 5/8" solid.

[www.djturfcare.co.uk](http://www.djturfcare.co.uk)



## New Campey Launches

Campey Turf Care Systems has launched two new models of the Field TopMaker from Koro by Imants. The 1200 and 1500 Field TopMaker are heavy duty fraise mowers ideal for removing unwanted surface matter such as poa-annua, thatch, weeds or the entire surface to a depth of 50mm.

The Koro by Imants Field TopMaker 1500 is designed for mid-range tractors from 50 - 65hp and is aimed at sports pitches and golf fairways, while the 1200 version is suitable for compact tractors of 35 -50 hp and works well on both fine turf golf greens and tees, tennis courts and outfield turf on sports fields and golf course fairways.

Campey also launched the Imants GreenWave which takes the 'Shockwave' principal and applies it in a moderated form to fine-turf playing surfaces such as greens, tees and bowling greens.

A small, lightweight, tractor-mounted linear decompactor, the Imants GreenWave is ideal for compact tractors from 24-30hp to relieve compaction to a depth of 150mm, using 8mm thick, forged steel blades

It operates a working width of 120cm at a depth of 150mm and weighs no more than 395kg.

[www.campeyturfcare.com](http://www.campeyturfcare.com)



## GI NEW PRODUCTS

More New Products from  
Saltex 2011 next month



## New from BLEC

Aimed at contractors, local authorities and sportsturf managers, the Shakervator has been developed by Managing Director, Gary Mumby, to cope with hard ground conditions which have been particularly prevalent this year. Designed for use with 50-100hp tractors, the Shakervator has hardened steel blades which penetrate the ground up to 300mm and use a vibrating motion to shatter the ground and create fissures.

Blades can be spaced with nine at 20cm spaces or five at 40cm spaces on a machine which is two metres in width. The gearbox design creates the vibration with a forward and reverse capability.

Special features of the Shakervator are the discs in front of the blades which create slits before the vibrating blades enter the ground - and the depth control roller which follows the blades and can be weight-adjusted with ballast.

[www.blec.co.uk](http://www.blec.co.uk)



## AMENITY SPRAYER RANGE FROM KUHN

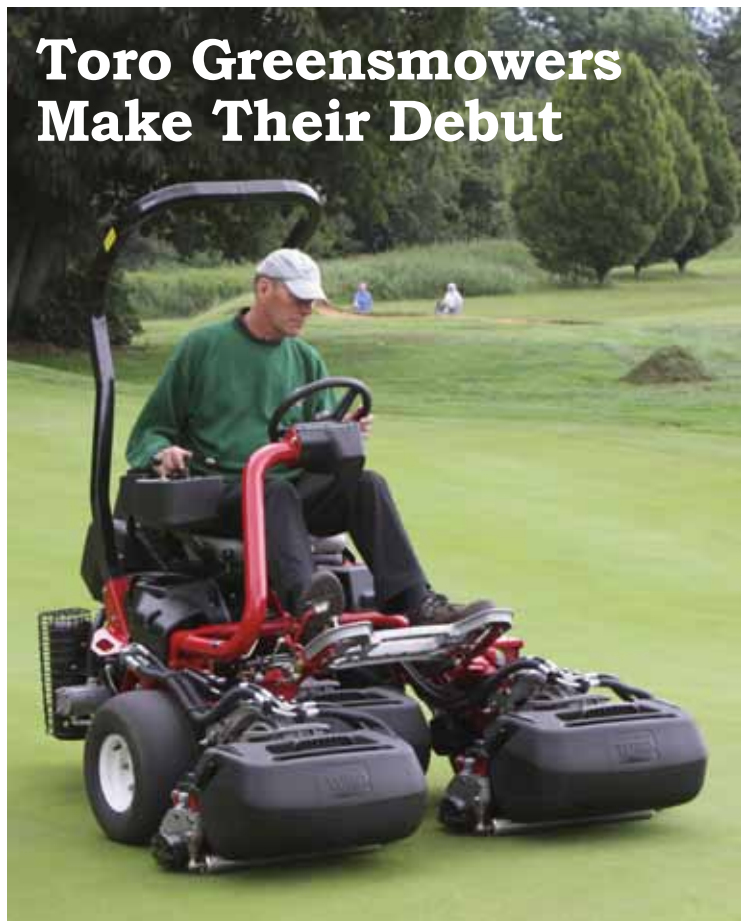
Kuhn's amenity sprayer range covers hand-held through to tractor-mounted models, with features such as controlled dosing being a good illustration of the company's commitment to technological advancement.

Kuhn's ControlSpot and ControlMix dosage systems treat clean water with either plant protection product or fertilisers immediately prior to the boom or lance, thereby improving the accuracy of application rates and avoiding wastage resulting from unused tank residues.

Dosage systems include an homogeniser bowl and are available for single product or dual product application, and at dosage rates from 0.15% up to 5.5%. This technology is available on Polypul wheelbarrow sprayers, Actis and Omnis tractor mounted sprayers, and on some other models.

[www.kuhn.co.uk](http://www.kuhn.co.uk)

## Toro Greensmowers Make Their Debut



Built from the ground up to provide the precision cut of a pedestrian mower and packed with revolutionary features, these riding golf greensmowers are causing quite a stir in the UK greenkeeping sector. The arrival of the hybrid – the first Toro mower to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system.

From tool-free, quick-change cutting units and a unique Flex double A-arm suspension system, to superb operator comfort and a hybrid option that virtually eliminates hydraulic leaks, Toro is confident its latest launch will live up to the hype! The hybrid model is also the first Toro machine to

earn its new 'EnergySmart' seal of approval, thanks to its greener features.

Saltex also saw the launch of the Workman MD range of mid-duty utility vehicles completed with the introduction of the eagerly-awaited MDX-D diesel version. With the MD Series renowned for its ride comfort, improved performance and the highest total payload capacity in its class, the MDX-D is sure to be a hit with turf professionals seeking a diesel alternative to an already proven and popular petrol machine.

[www.toro.com/](http://www.toro.com/)[www.lely.com](http://www.lely.com)







## Solar Power

Pellenc has produced a new solar charging station – the Solorion for use with all of the tools and a new highly powerful multi-function battery – The ULB1100, the next generation battery.

Once the Solorion panels are installed, they use an MPPT load regulator. The MPPT function stands for Maximum Power Point Tracking. This function basically scans the photo panel cells and monitors the power drawn from them, and then optimises it with the battery connected. This detection is all done automatically. A maximum of three batteries can be charged at one time, by using three separate converters.

A Poly5 battery can be recharged in normal sunlight levels in under just three hours as opposed to five hours on a standard 2.2a mains charger.

01295 680120  
www.etesia.com/uk



## Etesia Bahia

Etesia launched an array of new products at Saltex with a heavy emphasis on Bio-friendly and four wheel drive products.

The new electric Bahia, which will be in full production later this year. The Bahia M2E is billed as the world's first fully electric ride-on cut and collect mower.

Featuring all of the benefits of its petrol 'brother' with the added advantages of no odour, zero emissions, low noise, low vibrations, reduced maintenance costs and reduced health and safety issues for operators. The new model has been developed around the chassis of the petrol-powered models and effectively has the same compact look with a cutting width of 80cm and grass box capacity of 240 litres.

Power comes from four acid/lead batteries located under the operator's seat which can be re-charged within six hours.

Cutting and collecting is directly comparable to the petrol version with a guaranteed mowing time of 2 hours or 2500m<sup>2</sup>. Both the drive and cutting transmissions are 100% electric.

An optional solar panel for re-charging is also available further enhancing the green credentials of this new machine.

Two new ride-on mowers are 4 Wheel Drive, with one being a dedicated mulcher with a 144cm cutting width – the H144MX and the other being the HVHPX - an LPG powered 4 wheel drive version of the 124P.

## THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

DLF Trifolium, has launched a new formulation of iSeed, which was launched at the beginning of last year.

The new formulation follows research into how to further improve the flow of iSeed through seed drills, after feedback from users identified application difficulties with some types of equipment.

iSeed delivers high quality seed and focused fertilisation to improve the emergence and establishment of the grass sward following germination.

Certain characteristics of iSeed sometimes hindered flow through applicators, creating an uneven spread. The fertiliser in the coating made the product less smooth and stiffer

compared to bare seed.

After testing what factors of seed drills might cause the occasional 'stickiness' that some contractors and customers had reported, DLF developed an improved coating formulation, which, when trialed in the field by end users and machine manufacturers, have been shown to produce flow characteristics they say virtually match those of bare seed.

DLF's test programme has resulted in a smoother less dusty product that still contains 20% nitrogen and 4% phosphorus on a bare seed basis.

www.dlf.co.uk



## New from Ransomes Jacobsen



Ransomes Jacobsen launched a number of new machines at the show including the Jacobsen GP400 and the Jacobsen LF550/570

Combining the features of its predecessor, the G-Plex III, the Jacobsen GP400 features new ergonomics and engineering to better meet the needs of operators and mechanics.

Its patented swing-out reel and quick release motor mounting system ensures easy maintenance and adjustment and the ergonomically re-styled dash panel has clear and easy-to-use operator controls including a one-touch joystick lift/lower control.

A hydraulic system with fewer components is easier and more cost-effective to maintain and the re-styled fuel tank features a storage area and an easy fill cap. The tank is hinged allowing it to be lifted high from the engine compartment providing easy access.

The modified steering arm angle improves line of sight to the right-hand reel and there's an optional three-wheel drive kit for increased traction on sloping ground.

Replacing the popular Jacobsen LF-3400 and LF-3800, these new light fairway mowers retain many of its predecessor's best features but with additional enhancements that improve functionality and reduce maintenance requirements.

Both feature Jacobsen's Classic XP reels; 127mm reels on the LF550 and 178mm reels on the LF570, with FlashAttach reel mounting for quick and easy reel removal for maintenance.

Programmable mow and transport speeds can be easily set providing the ability to control the frequency of clip for varying conditions and regardless of operator. It's password-protected to prevent over-ride by the operator. With the fastest transport speed in the industry productivity is excellent. The movable armrest includes a one-touch joystick control and the integrated LCD screen displays full text diagnostics for monitoring the mowers' functions.

[www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)



## Air Bubble Jet

Billericay Farm Service's (BFS) has launched its new 0.8 White low drift Air Bubble Jet which has been specially developed for greenkeepers and groundsmen.

This white nozzle gives double the flow of the popular red nozzle and, as many greenkeepers use a twin cap with two red nozzles, the white nozzle does the same with just a single jet. This 0.8 nozzle provides a flow rate of 3.2 litres per minute at a pressure of 3 bar, which equates to 320 litres per hectare at 12kph. However, for operators who wish to apply higher volumes, reducing the speed to 6 kph, will enable a spray volume of 640 litres per hectare to be achieved.

Confirmed by independent research, the BFS Air Bubble Jet will reduce spray drift by 75%\* and, as the spray is less affected by wind, will ensure improved surface coverage and provide spray operators with more spraying day opportunities. Compared to conventional jets, 18% more of the chemical containing spray reaches its intended target and will provide enhanced control first time round, thereby reducing the requirement for repeat applications.

Such benefits are a major reason why the leading manufacturer of amenity sprayers Gambetti Barre, fits Air Bubble Jets as standard nozzle on their machines.

The Air Bubble Jet has a top 3 star LERAP award that allows category B chemicals to be sprayed within one metre of a water-course, a significant benefit for golf clubs that have lakes, ponds and streams on their course and landscape contractors undertaking weed control adjacent to rivers and reservoirs.

Originally invented by BFS, the Air Bubble Jet has for over 20 years been the industry leader in supplying farmers and growers with environmentally responsible, low drift spray technology and improved targeting of chemical applications.





## Matt's Personal Thanks

There are of course people who I feel deserve a special mention as they have made a huge contribution to my life and the running and organisation of the Toro student greenkeeper award, in no particular order they are:

Peter Mansfield and Christine Watson, at Lely UK

Sami Collins, Rachael Duffy, Scott MacCallum, Jim Croxtan, Andrew Mellon, Chris Sealey, Archie Dunn and Gary Cunningham, all BIGGA

Bruce Jameson B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd; Andrew Stranger, Horsforth Golf Club; Billy McMillan, Tyrell's Wood Golf Club; Amy Ellingham, One Agency/Lely UK;

All of the national finalists, Rob, Miles, Blair, Rhys, Jon, Justin and Ben; Jim McKenzie and Patrick, Callaby Celtic Manor Resort; Martin Perrot, Newport Golf Club; Stuart Hall, John O Gaunt Golf Club; Alan Pierce MG Ham Manor Golf

Club; all of the hard working staff at Ham Manor Golf Club in West Sussex; David Blackmur, Nigel Ellis, Laurie MacMillan, Stuart Franks, all Plumpton College; Hugh Murray, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies; Mick Beard, Evesham College; Richard Bevan and his family who work at Weston Garden Machinery in Somerset; all of my family and friends who have supported me throughout my life and during the award process.

And last but not least my parents, Jean and Trevor Perks. Hopefully today has re-paid them for the years of grief and monetary hardship that I put them through.

Once again I just like to say thank you to everyone and to let you know how proud and privileged I am to work in an industry that has given me not only a great life but also awarded me for my efforts.



# Perks of the job



Matt Perks is a man who plans to succeed and, as Scott MacCallum found out, it paid off at the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final

**When the name “Matthew Perks” was announced as winner of the 2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, the owner of that name felt a mixture of shock and elation and “pretty much every emotion going”.**

One thing it wasn't, however, was a complete bolt from the blue as Matt, Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club, in West Sussex, had been working towards just that goal for over two years.

He had been well aware of the Toro Competition for some time as his current Course Manager, Alan Pierce MG, was the 2005 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, an achievement which assisted his own rise from an assistant to the position of Course Manager three years ago.

“I spoke to Alan about doing my Level 2 in Sportsturf two years ago and he was very positive, although I had to wait until one of the other guys had finished his Level 3 first, as we couldn't afford to have two staff members off at the same time,” explained Matt, as we spoke the morning after the Toro final.

“I was eager to get going when I did get to Plumpton College and felt that if I gave it everything over the winter months, and did really well, there was a chance I could get nominated by the College for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.”

And with that goal firmly in place that's exactly what he did.

“I was working three and four hours every single day to answer the questions set by the Tutor and was always keen to produce the

best piece of work I possibly could.”

In this life there are certain people for whom it is very difficult not to feel a tinge of sympathy and one of those must be the poor student who was next in line after Matt when it came to handing over course work.

“It is normal to fill one of the big portfolios with work during the course. I produced two. The reason being that I always knew that I wanted to be a Course Manager and that then I'd be responsible for bringing through other students, so my thinking was that if I could produce the best portfolio of work I could while on the course it would be a great reference document or learning tool for them to look through,” said Matt, who also completed the course two months early.

“So I suppose I was already thinking five years into the future. I always have a plan otherwise things just don't happen. You've got to make them happen, haven't you?”

Matt's rare combination of inspiration and perspiration reaped dividends and he became the college's Joint Student of the Year with Abbie Holland, of West Sussex Golf Club, and was duly nominated to represent the College for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

The Regional interview before Past BIGGA Chairman, Billy McMillan; Larry Pearman, of Toro Dealer John Shaw Machinery, and BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development, Sami Collins flew by and Matt anxiously awaited the verdict.

It speaks volumes for how much it meant to the 28 year-old that he postponed a visit to his parents by

a day, just to wait for the post to arrive with what turned out to be a BIGGA franked letter containing very good news.

“I went back through every single piece of college work I'd done to make sure I was prepared to answer anything, whether it be on trees, health and safety or any element of the job. Much of it was already automatic as I was doing it all the time at work, but there were other topics, in areas in which I didn't have regular involvement, and I wanted to refresh my knowledge and understanding of them.”

The overriding feeling for Matt once he got to Aldwark Manor was

**“I suppose I was already thinking five years into the future. I always have a plan otherwise things just don't happen. You've got to make them happen, haven't you?”**

**Matt Perks**

one of ensuring that he didn't let himself down.

“If I studied as hard as I could beforehand, did well in the interview and produced the best (finalists' assignment) report that I could, but didn't win I would have still slept well happy that I had done myself justice. The worst thing would have been to have not performed as well as I could and let myself down, especially when you know what winning this Award can do for you,” he explained.

Matt was born and bred in the Somerset village of Sandford, near Weston-Super-Mare, strong



on community and so small that it has one of everything - a pub, school, shop, church, and, as he reveals, with a broad grin, a cider factory!

After an initial foray into computer programming - "Being stuck in a basement room with no windows and fluorescent lights made me physically ill. It wasn't for me at all" - he was accepted for an apprenticeship with GAB Garden Machinery in Sandford, where he worked with Workshop Manager Richard Bevan, who has remained a good friend to Matt ever since. During his time there he passed his Level 3 in Turfcare Engineering at Evesham College.

With a sound mechanical foundation under his belt, and following a spell in Tewkesbury, he was attracted to a position in charge of maintaining the golf machinery at Cannington College, which had recently been bought by Bridge water College and had a half million pound's worth of investment in the fleet.

"It was something which really attracted me. I was an enthusiastic golfer and it was something which really interested me. In fact, I took a £2000 pay cut and gave myself an extra half an hour's drive each day, but I knew that I could make the job work."

Once he'd put all his procedures in place at Cannington, Matt found that he had some available time each week and asked Course Manager, Hugh Murray, if there was anything he could help with on the course.

"I went out with a zero turn mower and cut some semi rough and really enjoyed it and the next thing I was hand cutting greens and raking bunkers. I had a passion for it straight away and once you've been bitten by the greenkeeping bug you'll never go back."

A year and a half later he saw a job for Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club advertised in Greenkeeper International.

Matt applied, but anticipated a strong field for what is a fine golf course in a very good part of the world. However he impressed at the interview and was offered the job.

"I was offered the job at the interview and thought about it for all of 10 minutes before accepting," he smiled.

When he started his ratio was 60% mechanicing and 40% greenkeeping but since then, and he has again put his procedures in place and got the workshop to how he wanted it, it has turned to 70% greenkeeping and 30% mechanicing.

Matt's experience, of mechanic first and greenkeeper second, is not as common as the reverse but he does see significant benefits.

"Irrigation is straightforward to me because it is just a simple hydraulic system buried in the ground and I am used to dealing with much more complicated hydraulic repairs on mowers.

"I believe I need knowledge of both areas if I'm going to be a Course Manager. If it's a small club then I'll need to do the work myself or train someone else and if it's a bigger club, which employs a mechanic, it is important to know that he is doing the job properly."

One of his greatest experiences has been to be one of the volunteer mechanics at last year's Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor.

"I was one of nine volunteers who joined Equipment Manager Cal Callaby and overall team of 13 working to keep the machines going in horribly wet conditions.

"We were out on the golf course with bunker pumps to keep them going when they became blocked with gravel rather than have them brought back to the Sheds. The experience will stay with me for the rest of my life."

His time working with Cal may also have had more longstanding benefits to Matt as, following Cal's nomination he has recently become a Director of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association.

He is also looking forward to his trip to the United States, a place he hasn't visited before and he has already had the opportunity to chat with last year's Toro winner, Andrew Stanger, about what to expect when in the States.

He is just the sort of character who will gain immensely from the Study course at the University of Massachusetts, while he has friends who have already primed him for his trip to Las Vegas and the Golf Industry Show.

"I must thank everyone at BIGGA, Toro and Lely for all the work and money that goes into making the competition a success while I'd also like to congratulate the other finalists who are fine greenkeepers and wonderful people.

"None of this would have happened if I hadn't taken a £2000 pay cut to go to Cannington, but it has put me in a position where I can do something special with my life, and this is just the start."



**Matt has had the opportunity to chat with last year's Toro winner, Andrew Stanger (above left) about what to expect when in the States**







The 2011, and 23rd, winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is Matthew Perks, Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club representing Plumpton College.

The two runners-up were Robert Mills, of Sunningdale Golf Club and Merrist Wood College and Miles Todd, Deputy Course Manager of Rhuddlan Golf Club and Deeside College.

The other five finalists were Justin Howard, of Cranham Golf Centre and Myerscough College; Blair Somerville, of Helensburgh Golf Club and GOSTA; Rhys Williams, of Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and Pencoed College; Jon Watson, of Burgham Golf Club and Myerscough College and Benjamin Hunter, of Garon Park Golf Complex and Myerscough College.

The Final, which took place at BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, comprised a 45 minute interview before Pete Mansfield, of Lely UK; Bruce Jamieson, a respected golf course consultant; Chris Sealey, a BIGGA Director, and Sami Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development. The finalists were also presented with an assignment on the morning of the final and had to produce a report based on two of the Alwark Manor golf course holes.

Following the results everyone changed and went for a meal in York before rounding the day off with some high quality tenpin bowling.

Matt has won an eight week trip to the United States beginning in January where he will undertake a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts and trips to both the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show, in Las Vegas, and Toro's Californian base. Matt's Plumpton College Tutor David Blackmur also wins a trip to The Golf Industry Show.

Rob and Miles both win expenses paid trips to Harrogate Week 2012, while all eight receive a year's BIGGA membership.



# Greenkeepers in clover

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at how best to face up to the challenge of clover

**To be 'in clover' implies a carefree life, the ancient saying coming from the fact that clover rich pastures were always good for fattening cattle.**

Clovers were important component species of livestock pastures long before managed turf for sport and leisure, but I doubt whether greenkeepers faced with clovers and closely related leguminous plants as weeds would consider themselves carefree. And this, considering clovers and close relatives in the plant family Fabaceae (pea and bean family), are generally positive for soil fertility.

All things being equal clovers are useful leguminous plants living alongside Rhizobium bacteria in root nodules within a symbiotic relationship. The nitrogen fixing bacteria convert atmospheric nitrogen into nitrate which is utilised by the clover plant and to the benefit of soil fertility. Clover foliage is rich in protein, makes good grazing and palatable fodder for farm animals. The flowers are important sources of nectar for bees and the basis of sought after brands of 'clover honey'.

Turf managers faced with clovers as weeds in fine turf clearly fail to see these otherwise useful leguminous plants in such a positive light. To be 'in clover' presents real problems for greenkeepers. Clovers are among the most persistent and fast spreading weeds of managed turf and some of the most drought resistant. White clover in particular is widespread on fairways, where it is tolerated to an extent, but a definite no-no for greens and tees.

Clovers 'proper' comprise 300+ species worldwide all belonging to the genus Trifolium. Most commonly found in UK professional turf is Trifolium repens (white clover) and Trifolium dubium (yellow suckling clover or lesser trefoil). Trifolium pratense (red clover) normally a dedicated agricultural clover can become a problem in amenity grassland.

In addition, there are other closely related plants such as the trefoils and medicks with virtually the same form, structure and credentials as Trifolium species and therefore considered within a wider grouping of 'clover' weeds in managed turf. They include bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and

black medick (*Medicago lupina*)

All the 'clovers' share some common features and attributes which make them highly successful broadleaf weeds of turf:

- A prostrate and low growing habit permitting growing points to escape mower blades.
- Creeping stems which root at the nodes in the case of white clover
- Extended periods of flowering and seed formation lasting right through summer and into autumn
- Ubiquitous distribution frequent occurrence in non-turf areas to create a large area-wide seed loads and seed banks.

Clovers have two additional related attributes which provide significant growth and survival advantages over turf grasses and other broadleaf weeds. Inherent ability to access their own source and supply of nitrate from root nodules allows clovers to exploit poorly-managed and under-nourished swards and to grow rapidly at the expense of turf grasses.

Secondly, clovers are very drought resistant and will rapidly colonise water-stressed turf at the expense of virtually all other plants, grasses and broadleaf species alike



MAIN ABOVE: Close up on white clover  
ABOVE: Close up on yellow suckling clover  
BELOW: Bird's foot trefoil thrives in dried out turf







ABOVE: Big clumps of white clover in drought stressed turf in southern England July 2010  
 LEFT: Drought stricken turf in July 2010 (southern England) with white clover and bird's foot trefoil (yellow) as far as the eye can see  
 LEFT BELOW: Yellow suckling clover  
 RIGHT: Late summer on increasingly drought stressed turf is when clovers come into their own



For these reasons, turf should be irrigated throughout dry periods and receive well-balanced fertiliser regimes over the year as a whole. However, first spring dressing must be rich in nitrogen and relatively low in phosphate and potash (potassium). This will give the grass a 'flying' start over clovers at the beginning of this key high-growth period of the year. Starving turf grass of nitrogen will simply weight the scales even more in the favour of clovers.

Clovers and closely related species possess trifoliate (3-leaflet) leaves. 'Trifolium', the genus name for true clovers and the common name 'trefoil' are both derived from the Latin 'Tres' meaning three and 'Folium' meaning leaf.

**Close-up on clovers**

**White clover (*Trifolium repens*)**

A rampant mat-forming weed which colonises large areas of turf through its creeping stems, rooting at the nodes. Alternatively called 'Dutch' clover or more patriotically 'Kentish clover', it is a perennial plant with dark green trifoliate leaves borne on slender and erect

leaf stalks. Each leaflet has a white band or 'halo' near to the base. White clover prefers fertile but non-acid soils and has a long flowering period starting in May and extending right through until October. White flower heads sometimes tinged with pink are borne on long slender pedicels (flower stalks).

**Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)**

Also a perennial with creeping stems but which do not root even though they grow just beneath the soil surface. A strong and sturdy taproot anchors the plant and confers a high degree of drought resistance. Leaves, like those of white clover appear to be trifoliate although an additional pair of bract-like leaflets attached close to the stem makes five leaflets in all. Bird's foot trefoil is, like white clover, a fast-spreading and mat-forming weed especially on dry alkaline soils. This weed thrives in turf on well-drained soils especially those derived from sand or limestone.

Bird's foot trefoil flowers from May through to August producing attractive yellow and orange heads, streaked with red and comprising

5-8 pea-like flowers. The plant is sometimes called 'bacon and eggs' due this colour combination in the petals.

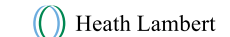
Bird's foot trefoil has a good biodiversity credentials, being the main food source of the common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) and other British butterflies. *Lotus corniculatus* owes its common name to the inch long seed pods turned up at the ends to resemble a bird's claw or talon.

**Yellow suckling clover (*Trifolium dubium*)**

Yellow suckling clover (lesser trefoil) is a major nuisance weed especially in fine turf. Even though an annual weed it is more difficult to control than white clover. The creeping stems are slender and fast growing, but do not root like those of perennial white clover. Even so, yellow suckling clover will still colonise substantial patches of ground especially on dry non-acidic soils when turf is thin.

Each leaf comprises three leaflets but unlike white clover the middle leaflet is borne on a noticeably shorter stalk.

The long flowering period from



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.  
 Thank you to all our key sponsors





TOP: Yellow suckling clover  
 SECOND TOP: Close up on bird's foot trefoil  
 ABOVE: White clover across the fairway  
 LEFT: Red clover is more closely associated with agricultural grassland but does make a colourful addition to high cut amenity grassland.

May to October produces a succession of small and round flower heads yellow at first turning brown later.

**Black medick (Medicago lupulina)**

Black medick is not a major weed of turf but may show up in quantity on poor quality swards particularly if dry. It looks similar to yellow suckling clover with slender creeping stems, a prostrate habit and well-defined trifoliate leaves. Unlike yellow suckling clover each leaflet has a sharp point at the tip. In contrast to the smooth foliage of yellow suckling clover this plant is hairy and feels sticky to touch. However, defining difference is in the flower and seed heads. They start as small, yellow and rounded (slightly less so) like yellow suckling clover, but later develop into distinctive pods becoming black and coiled when ripe.

**Clover control**

The mat forming habit of clovers enabled by their creeping stems means scarification is a useful means of suppression. Since growth tends to be patchy manual application using a rake with upturned tines is a useful tool for smaller areas of turf.

The annual life cycles of black medick and yellow suckling clover makes hand weeding of small areas a practical proposition.

Always use a grass box when mowing, not only to collect the small but prolific seed heads from the annual yellow suckling clover and black medick plants, but also pieces of white clover stem with the capacity to root and produce new plants.

Low soil moisture and nitrate levels spell competitive doom for most plants. Low soil moisture levels aggravate the situation because nitrogen is absorbed by roots from the soil as soluble nitrate ions (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>). Such conditions pose no problems for the clovers, because in addition to their intrinsic drought-resistance they have access to their own source and supply of nitrate in the root nodules.

High drought resistance and this 'home-made' 'in-house' supply of nitrate means clovers can weather such conditions and 'steal a march' on grasses. Indeed, timely applications of nitrogen fertiliser and summer watering are the next best thing to chemical control of clovers, and the first spring-applied fertiliser dressing should always be nitrogen based and never dedicated phosphate or potash fertiliser.

Keep turf well watered throughout the summer but remember patches of white clover are very slippery when wet.

Clovers were always among the most difficult to control weeds in managed turf but discovery of selective weed killers with a plant growth regulating (hormonal) mode of action helped 'save the day'. Until then clovers were a real nightmare in turf and any attempt to achieve clover free fine turf, especially under dry conditions, was virtually impossible. They are still not easy to control after seventy years of herbicide development and a whole new battery of active ingredients.

The industry still relies heavily on herbicides with a plant growth regulation mode of action and called synthetic auxins because they exert the same effect as indolylacetic acid (the main natural auxin plant hormone).

At high concentrations they are toxic to dicotyledons (broadleaf plants) but not as much to monocotyledons (grasses), and this is why they have been developed and deployed as selective herbicides in turf.

The group covers a whole range of widely known and used herbicides including the 1940's discoveries 2,4-D and MCPA, mecoprop-p and dicamba with their 1950's to 1960's vintage, and clopyralid and fluroxypur discovered and commercialised in the 1980's. Synthetic auxins are complemented with other newer herbicide actives such as diflufenican and florasulam with completely different chemistries and modes of action.

Contemporary commercial herbicides are invariably broad based products combining two or more of the above active ingredients in carefully crafted mixtures to obtain the most efficacious and broad spectrum weed control that includes the clovers.

White clover is the most widely spread and frequent of clovers in turf but also the most easy to control.

It is not unusual for the manufacturer's herbicide label to stipulate higher dosage rates and a tighter weed growth stage restriction for commercial control of bird's foot trefoil, yellow suckling clover and black medick.

That said these herbicides used at recommended rates have one thing in common.

That is selective action against broad-leaf dicotyledonous weeds like clovers without adverse effect on the monocotyledonous grasses in fine turf.



# TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF SALES

David Peat  
Company Director  
& Managing Director

**Wiedemann**

Wiedemann UK is selling a one-off Platinum Terra Spike 600 HD and all the proceeds are going to the charities, Cancer Research and the MS Society.

**MS**  
Multiple Sclerosis Society

**WIEDENMANN UK**  
**20 YEARS**  
**OF EXCELLENCE**

For further information contact: 0143 824 5505

## Professional Turf Care & Amenity Solutions

Chemicals  
Fertilisers  
Soil & Plant Conditioners  
Grass Seed  
Top Soil & Aggregates  
Line Marking  
Total Weed Control Solutions  
Sprayers & Spreaders  
Technical Advice  
and much more

Newmarket, Suffolk  
Tel. 01638 721888  
Lymm, Cheshire  
Tel. 01925 758886

**Perth, Scotland**  
Tel. 01738 622152  
web: [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com)  
email: [info@sherriff-amenity.com](mailto:info@sherriff-amenity.com)





# Treading the boards

Scott MacCallum examines the value and success of BIGGA's Website Bulletin Boards

**Where would you think to go if you wanted some information on out of bound markings; or whether smooth or grooved rollers are preferable for fairway mowers, or even help with problems with herons?**

Of course, you could visit your local library (if it still exists!) or Google it and take your chances with what that turns up, or, much more sensibly, you could log onto the Members' Area of the BIGGA website – [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) – and place a posting on the Bulletin Board.

Those three issues were recent topics on the Boards and for each one of them the poster was rewarded with some excellent responses and some superb advice.

The Bulletin Boards were introduced to the website around six years ago and quickly established themselves as a popular feature, offering the chance for members to pass comment; share the odd joke with fellow greenkeepers and, perhaps most importantly, request advice or information from the wealth of human resource within the Association.

"The Boards are not limited to technical information. They are also heavy on the human issues in greenkeeping," explained regular Bulletin Board visitor and Past BIGGA National Chairman, Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club.

"Anyone under pressure or stress at work can find instant empathy and helpful feedback on dealing with the situation. We may work alone in isolated golf clubs but there is no need to isolate ourselves from the world. The old adage is very true 'A problem shared is a problem halved'," said Paul.

Another regular visitor and contributor is De Vere Mottram Hall Hotel & Golf Club Course Manager, Stuart Stenhouse, who says he visits the Boards three to four times a week.

"I'll have a general read or follow up on an interesting thread if there



have been more replies since my last visit," explained Stuart, who has also posted questions.

"I always find that you get pretty well thought out responses and in general terms they are courteous. I am also surprised at how often I get a reply and it turns out to be something that has never crossed my mind before. It has had a practical impact on how I have done things on my course," he admitted.

He is a huge fan of what the Bulletin Boards can offer.

"They are invaluable because it is a great way to learn and it doesn't cost a penny, other than your membership subscriptions. They are a source of education and I think that fact is sometimes lost on people.

"Some see them as Ideas' Boards; some see them as Solutions' Boards; others see it as somewhere to go and sound off, but fundamentally it is a free source of education."

Paul is even more effusive in his praise of the Boards.

"I was recently asked by the President of a well-known Kent golf club what I felt was the biggest change, or innovation, I'd seen during my career. I think he was

**"Some see them as Ideas' Boards; some see them as Solutions' Boards; others see it as somewhere to go and sound off, but fundamentally it is a free source of education"**

**Stuart Stenhouse**

expecting me to say the strimmer or plant growth regulators but I replied, almost without thinking because to me it was so obvious, that it was communications – the speed at which we can contact a colleague or industry professional to gain assistance," he said.

And the great thing about the Bulletin Boards is that they can be viewed from anywhere and comment can come from any part of the world.

One of the most regular contributors is Sean Sullivan, Superintendent at The Briarwood Golf Club, in Montana, who says he logs on at least four times a day.

"I've posted questions several times when I'm looking for techni-



cal information that I feel the UK greenkeepers will have a unique answer or solution to,” explained Sean.

“Following the responses I’ve received I’ve re-formatted my maintenance programme and blended some American methods with some UK methods and my members have made positive comments concerning the condition of the golf course which coincides with me joining BIGGA and starting to gather information from the Boards.”

Sean has posted questions about the use of fescues on golf courses, the use of seaweed extract, fertiliser usage and about rain gear.

“I have even used the Boards to find a greenkeeper to come to the States and give a presentation on sustainability and I have asked greenkeepers to post pictures of their courses for me to look at,” he said while he also admits to having made a controversial post concerning club pros, which generated a large number of views.

“If someone has a problem or a question there is almost always an answer or solution generated in less than 24 hours. If there are several qualified greenkeepers corroborating info then I feel confident to follow their advice. For me, I normally look at the solution, then check to see if there is an American equivalent. If not I have had product shipped from the UK.”

The most popular thread in the history of the Bulletin Boards came under the heading “2mm all summer” on the Talking Shop Forum. So large it eventually came in two parts the first containing 111 replies and the second containing



ABOVE: TOP TO BOTTOM: Paul Worster, Stuart Stenhouse and Sean Sullivan

101 replies. Such was the interest generated that it was the catalyst for a major seminar on the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate in 2010.

“I got involved in the 2mm debate on the Boards and actually went down to visit Greg Evans (who promotes cutting at 2mm) at Ealing Golf Club to see it first hand,” said Stuart.

“I do believe that Greg came in for unfair criticism. He makes people think and it is just another option. No-one is actually forced down that route.”

Stuart has also formed firm friendships with members of the Gingerbread Men group, despite taking opposing agronomic views on the Boards.

“I remember my little spats with the Gingerbread men from a few years ago, but to be honest we are all great friends and there is a lot of mutual respect but people don’t see that side of it.”

On the other side of the Atlantic Sean would heartily recommend the use of the Boards to anyone, with one reservation as being the only BIGGA member in his region gives him a competitive advantage over his neighbouring golf clubs.

“At some time or other we all need help or information so why not get it quickly from qualified experienced individuals. I would suggest that everyone uses the information on the Boards as a starting point but that you must also do your own research to make sure the solutions are safe and have merit.”

Paul also offers some advice to those who may be reticent about “opening up” in public.

“Rest assured the Boards are monitored and instances of inappropriate or bullying responses are very rare.”

Indeed Paul comes in for praise from Stuart for his contribution to the Boards.

“One guy who always stands out to me is Paul Worster. No matter who it is who is asking a question Paul’s answers are always very courteous and to the point. In fact I really like reading his answers myself and I get a lot practical help out of them.”

If there was one tweak Stuart would like to see it is something to assist the younger members.

“I’d like to see more of the younger guys posting but currently it is difficult for them as the response when they ask a question is often ‘Why haven’t you asked your Course Manager?’.

“I’d like to see a section of the Bulletin Board purely for them with a small panel of established members designated to answer their questions. That way they can build up their confidence and they can move on to making greater use of what is out there,” said Stuart.

So if you want to know about nemasys, or log splitters, or just want to share something that’s been on your mind log on to www.bigga.org.uk and head for the Bulletin Boards.

**BIGGA is committed to developing the Website and the Bulletin Boards, so if you any ideas or comments to make about them, please email Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk**



Harrogate  
week

# The ultimate turf maintenance exhibition

BTME

ClubHouse

Continue  
to learn



Over 6000 sports and recreational turf specialists  
showcasing their latest products

Plus, *Continue to Learn* - 22 to 26 January 2012

Five days of education workshops and free seminars



mate

24 to 26 January 2012

# Management in Europe

at the Harrogate International Centre  
North Yorkshire, UK



For free entry and to register, log onto  
[www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)

Organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association





# Continental shift

Mark Alexander finds out how an Irish greenkeeper ended up at a Dutch course run by a group of Scottish golf pros











**Driving across Holland, you don't get the sense that this is a golfing nation. As you would imagine, the place is falling down with windmills, canals and tulips, but flagsticks are conspicuous by their absence. It's a strange omission considering the country claims it can trace its golfing heritage back to the very origins of the sport.**

In fact, the relentless flat plains of this low-lying country provide no hint of the fervour with which the Dutch have rediscovered the game in recent years. According to KPMG's 2010 Country Snapshot, there are more than 360,000 golfers in the Netherlands with 12 times more people playing the sport now than 20 years ago. This impressive rate of growth (10% per annum) has outpaced the growth in supply (5%) which has produced 192 courses.

With this fevered backdrop, it is perhaps unsurprising that Holland recently put together a bid to host the 2018 Ryder Cup. And it wasn't just any bid. Of the five countries to make it to the final selection stages of the bidding process, only two presented their case based on the merits of existing courses. The French bid was one - the Dutch was the other.

Opened by Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie in May, the Dutch - as it has been officially named - is for all intents and purposes a rough-and-ready links-style course.

"Radical shaping has been used to create a rugged golf-course character where undulating fairways, featuring many bumps and hollows, are framed by dramatic mounding," explains a note on Montgomerie's website, who lent his signature to the course.

In between the bumps and hollows, the course stays true to its origins by incorporating a host of water features which are an inevitable byproduct of building a course on land below sea level. The transformation, masterminded by European Golf Design (EGD), has been absolute with straight and angular canals magically remoulded into meandering streams and sweeping lakes.

The man in charge of the grow-in and ongoing maintenance of the course, which was opened shortly before the Ryder Cup announcement in May, is Niall Richardson. Talented, focussed and possessing a wicked sense of humour, Niall arrived in Holland three years ago following a challenging stint at Moyvalley Golf, Hotel and Country

House in his native Ireland. "I was banging my head against a brick wall trying to produce the highest possible standards," he admits.

The EGD-designed Darren Clarke-signature course was the third high-profile build he had been involved in. His first had created one of Ireland's most acclaimed resorts - Carlton House. "That was a special place," he recalls.

"The owners were custodians of a 13th century estate and developed two fabulous golf courses. They had real passion and drive."

The 36-hole complex featured Mark O'Meara and Colin Montgomerie-signature courses and established a clear pattern that Niall has followed ever since. Typically involving big-name players and the input of EGD, Niall naturally gravitated towards new developments and the lure of the grown-in.

"This is my fourth grow-in. I must be a gluten for punishment or something," he jokes.

"I love it - the excitement and the buzz of creating something new. The enthusiasm of everyone involved is infectious."

He certainly caught the bug when he met the team behind The Dutch, who collectively operate a networking company based around organised golf days. Devised and operated by golf pros, many of whom originate from Scotland; Made in Scotland was formed a decade ago with the idea of taking corporate clients to play some of the world's most iconic courses. The team cornered the Dutch corporate market, but their success was dependant almost entirely on access to and the service of their hosts.

An idea was duly hatched to form a golf club especially for Made in Scotland and its clients, and Niall was drafted in as the man on the ground.

"I arrived on a very dull, misty April day and met about 11 of the guys, who were all high-fiving each other and chatting away," he recalls.

"I remember thinking these are the kind of people I want to work with. And then I went to the site. It was just farmland; terrible, wide-flat open farmland. I thought they were having a laugh."

They weren't. The soggy terrain was to provide the foundations for a championship course, and Niall was the man to make it happen.

The featureless and sodden ground would be a problem, but looking closer at the project, Niall found there were more issues below the surface.



**"When building a USGA-spec green, the sub-base must be identical to the gravel layer and the root zone. You have to have a stable foundation"**  
Niall Richardson

ABOVE: Niall Richardson, Course Manager (right) with the course's Architect, Ross McMurray (left)

"When I looked at the tender, I saw there was no reference to a stone burier, and asked who was going to bury the stones. They didn't know what I was talking about," he says.

"There are no such things as stones over here. The only stones on this site are the ones in the rubble mixed in with the filling ground. It's sand, silt and organic material deposited over a hundred years; that's what they have here."

In terms of construction, the saturated ground would clearly be an issue, especially in terms of settlement and especially around the greens.

"When you're building a USGA-spec green, the sub-base must be identical to the gravel layer which must be identical to the root zone so that everything forms properly. You have to have a stable foundation," Niall explains.

"Our Project Manager, Hubert Lendering who is an industrial engineer, suggested we use floating foam concrete which is used over here to support roads and underground car parks. It would act as a low-weight sub foundation to go under the greens."

The idea was to create three layers of concrete built-up in a pyramid shape beneath the greens. Each covering would be about 30cms deep with the first outer layer spread out to around 1,200m<sup>2</sup>, the second to about 1,000m<sup>2</sup> and the last to about 800m<sup>2</sup>.

"The foam concrete guarantees there is a stable plateau under





each green so there is no sinkage or settlement," Niall explains.

Although the idea was simple, it had to overcome serious ground issues that could literally undermine the course.

With the potential for unstable greens, the completed putting surfaces are surprisingly fast and pleasingly firm. More importantly, they run true.

Equally as impressive is their health which can be attributed to the considered approach adopted by Niall.

"I am always concerned by how the staff treat the greens," he admits.

"For me, the most important priority is the greens. We treat each one as an alter and refer to them as our babies. It's the old policy; start at the pin and work out."

Although golf in Holland can be traced back over many centuries, the expertise needed to maintain championship-standard courses is typically thin on the ground. As a result, Niall's emphasis on green care had to be introduced to a new breed of Dutch greenkeepers.

"I try to instill in my guys respect for the greens," he says.

"But in order to do this project, we couldn't always get fully qualified greenkeepers - three of my guys

had never set foot on a golf course before they started here."

The Irishman's approach wasn't all about teaching respect and parenting skills however; he also introduced some practical steps to safeguard his cherished offspring.

"We fenced each green," he recalls.

"The Made in Scotland boys asked if the fences were to protect the greens from the animals, and I said 'yes, especially the two-legged animals who like to bring clients out here'. I wanted to keep everyone off the greens."

Of course, during a new construction soil can be often brought in from any number of sources with each consignment potentially transporting weeds, disease and unwanted grasses. In order to protect the 100% creeping bentgrass surface, Niall introduced a forensic approach more akin to television programmes like CSI.

"We introduced a policy of tennis-shoes only on the greens," he says.

"The idea was to take the machine up to the edge of the green, make sure it was clean, put the machine onto boards, change our shoes and get on with the job.

"That's for disease management so you're not bringing something from outside, in. It's also for cross-

contamination and it protects the greens from workmen's boots which aren't the most delicate things. I don't want that kind of footwear going across my babies."

Caught short, the greenkeepers at The Dutch have even been known to go about their work shoeless.

"A lot of the lads will take their steel toe-capped boots off and walk onto green surface in their socks. There's probably a health and safety code against that, but I don't argue with them."

The staff of 10 full-time greenkeepers not only tip-toe across the greens, they also hand-mow and hand-spray them, as well as hand-mowing the surrounds and tees, and hand-raking the bunkers.

The finish is spectacular and has worked a treat in attracting and retaining members. Indeed, despite a lavish joining fee of €43,500 and hefty annual subscriptions of €2,500, the number of members at The Dutch has swelled to over 750.

Bearing in mind, 150 of these are corporate members who pay anything up to €250,000 a year, it's clear the greenkeeping staff are doing something right.

Indeed, with a second course in the offing and a boutique hotel planned, the future looks bright for The Dutch.



# Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

## Become a key sponsor

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

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors







# A French Revolution

Thanks to the continuing strength of the Euro, French Clubs are taking advantage of British specialist turfcare companies to make improvements to their courses.

**France boasts some long-established golf clubs in superb settings which have large memberships but also attract visitors and holidaymakers. As a result, these courses are worked extremely hard and many experience long, hot, dry summers. This, together with the topographical features such as trees and mountains which make the courses so attractive, add to the Course Manager's challenge.**

Compaction, poor grass growth and old push-up greens out of clay mean that surface drainage is a problem. And increasingly, French clubs are turning to specialist aerators for help. Their machines can establish drainage ducts to a depth of 31cm and backfill with a sand/soil amendment mixture to improve rootzone and allow surface water to percolate through to the drainage layer beneath.

Golf La Boulie in Versailles, employed Drill n Fill, operated by British Ecosol Turfcare, to carry

out work. Established in 1901, the courses are part of one of France's leading sports clubs, Racing Club de France, and has frequently hosted the French Open. It boasts two 18 hole courses, Le Forêt and the elder, La Vallée.

The greens are old and were built on a poorly draining base. The soil is clay with a terracotta drainage layer at a depth of 40cm.

"Due to this construction, we have been having problems with greens that were slow to drain after heavy rain," said Director, Jean-Franck Burou.

"The greens were very compacted and the grass growth weak." Ecosol Turfcare was called in to Drill n Fill all 18 greens on La Forêt course, while the following year there was a return visit in 2010 to the older course, La Vallée.

The Drill n Fill aerator can fold back turf and penetrate soil to a depth of 31cm, backfilling instantly with sand and a soil amendment such as the zeolitic Sportslite. This relieves compaction and allows

improved drainage, as the water percolates down the ducts, which remain open for months and accelerates the infiltration rate. Backfill can be tailor-made for each green according to turf conditions to give a soil exchange with sand, zeolitic or ceramic amendments and blends of nutrients.

Removing the soil allows lateral movement in the rootzone, releasing compaction and the increased percolation reduces the spongy, soggy conditions often seen in clay-based greens. Deep holes and good soil amendment encourage deep, strong roots and result in better grass growth on the green. There is a choice of drill depths and diameters.

At La Boulie they needed to improve soil exchange on the compacted, slow draining course which was also showing poor grass growth. Three aerators and a SQRL debris collector were used on the 18 greens, aprons and approaches, two hectares in total. Drills were 31 cm long and 20mm wide. Backfill





was a locally quarried medium-fine French sand, kiln dried to ensure complete hole-filling.

The operation on La Vallée was similar, with three aerators and two SQRLs. Despite being hampered by frozen greens, requiring a late start in exceedingly cold weather, the French greenkeepers were extremely supportive.

“Although we injected 60 tonnes of material, the job was very smooth and efficient,” reported Head Greenkeeper, Guillaume Grall.

It was felt that the local sand used in the first job had been a little fine, so for La Vallée, the backfill was imported from Bespoke Blending and Bagging (BBB) in the UK. It was a 95:5 mix of DA30 Kiln Dried sand and Sportslite, which has the additional benefit of retaining water in the rootzone - important in France where water used for the irrigation of sports grounds is rationed.

“The results have been very satisfactory,” said Jean-Franck.

“At La Boulie there has been a nett improvement in the drainage level and also from being able to introduce sand into these clay greens. This has resulted in a ‘tightening’ of the greens and they are now much firmer with better grass growth. The greens are already firmer and draining faster.”

Golf de Chantilly is another club, which decided to carry out work this summer. The club offers two courses, the elder, is 100 years old. There is a team of 15 greenkeepers and normal turf care includes verti-draining and the John Deere Aero Spike which goes to a depth of 3-4cms

“Although our soil conditions are good, greens are constructed from Loire Sand to a variable depth,” said Director Remy Dorbeau,

“We had a problem with water not moving off the surface because, at 10cm down, there is a layer of chalk and a lot of organic matter. We needed to get down to the gravel drainage layer at 30cm deep which is why we used Drill n Fill.”

The whole of the old course was treated, grass growth has already improved and surface drainage performing well after the first rain of autumn.

Golf de Fourqueux is in the environs of Paris, which offers 27 holes -three sets of nine which are interchangeable and so offer different 18 hole challenges each week.

Superintendent JeanMarie Pardo contacted neighbours Chantilly about the deep aeration and backfill process, liked what he saw and booked four greens, 2000sq m, for treatment.



“We had been struggling with compaction and poor drainage because we have old clay push-up greens.”

JeanMarie also decided to import the sand/Sportslite backfill from the UK.

“It was of a higher quality and more suitable grade than I could get locally,” he said

“Two weeks after the treatment, we had heavy rain and could see that the treated greens were firmer and draining more quickly,” said JeanMarie.

Another club, close to Paris, Golf St Cloud, can lay claim to a bloody battle having taken place on the site of the now 15th green and a view of the Eiffel Tower from the 14th.

Course construction at St Cloud is again push-up greens out of clay, topped with fine native soils. As with the other courses, Director Denis Couture was experiencing slow drainage off the greens due mainly to build-up of top dressing on top of the clay base as our photo shows. He had the entire older course, Vert, Drill n Filled this summer and has booked in the Jaune course for 2012.

“I have seen good results from this process at other clubs and feel sure it will be the answer for us. Paris has experienced some very hot summers recently and the greens have had a lot of use, so drilling down to around 30cm, completely replacing the rootzone and leaving a network of ducts will aid water percolation and improve grass growth,” he said.



MAIN ABOVE: Drill n Fill at Fourqueux

MAIN LEFT ABOVE: Chantilly

Asst Hd Greenkeeper

Christophe shows drill depth

ABOVE: CHANTILLY: Director

Remy Dorbeau (l) describes

his green

LEFT PAGE: Soil sample from St

Cloud showing build-up of top

dressing over clay

RIGHT: St Cloud's Denis Couture

on a finished green.





# Dollar spot and integrated pest management



STRI

Julie Wheater looks at one of the most common turf diseases

**Dollar spot (caused by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* F.T. Bennett<sup>1</sup>) is one of the most common diseases of turfgrass in the USA, and for the unlucky turfgrass manager in the UK it can be devastating to golf greens, tees and fairways.**

The disease symptoms appear initially as hourglass-shaped lesions on the leaves, followed by bleached circular patches in turf the shape and size of a dollar – hence the common name. These patches may coalesce leaving large areas affected. Apart from the detrimental visual effect that occurs, this disease also adversely affects ball roll as sunken patches of turf occur. These symptoms may be mistaken for old pitch marks. Although initial records of the disease appeared to be restricted to red fescues in the UK, dollar spot has since been observed on annual meadow-grass, bentgrass and fescues.

Although not yet very common on UK turf, dollar spot tends to recur at the same UK sites (primarily golf courses and bowling greens) from year to year. Some isolates of dollar spot in the USA have exhibited resistance to fungicides including iprodione and propiconazole<sup>2</sup>, although to date this has not been recorded in the UK. While there are a number of fungicides available for the control of active dollar spot, as the saying goes prevention is better than cure.

The EC Sustainable Use Directive 2009/128/EC emphasises the implementation of integrated pest management programmes to reduce sole reliance on chemical inputs and include other control methods such as cultural control and biological control. Understanding more about the disease can help in developing suitable integrated pest management programmes to

minimise infection, reduce spread of the disease and aid recovery of the turf.

## How the problem arises

Dollar spot is a polycyclic disease which means that there is more than one infection cycle through the season (see Figure 1). In turfgrass, a secondary infection occurs on foliage after initial infection from the soil. The dollar spot fungus survives as resting bodies of masses of mycelia known as stroma. This inoculum may be present within the thatch layer as well as the root-zone. Infection of turfgrass occurs as the active dollar spot mycelium enters the leaves through wounds (e.g. created by mowing), through the stomata (gas exchange pores) or by direct penetration where the fungus actively breaks through the outer cell layer of the leaf.

Within the plant cells the fungus releases chemicals which break down the cells with resultant necrosis. Infection can also occur from dormant mycelia spread by wind, water, clippings and traffic. In addition, studies by STRI of dollar spot populations in the UK have described release of ascospores as a further source of inoculum<sup>3</sup>. The dollar spot pathogen can also adversely affect the roots of bentgrass due to toxins released by the fungus, which results in discoloration and stunting of the roots<sup>4</sup>. This will inevitably reduce the optimal uptake of water and nutrients.

## Influencing factors

Dollar spot symptoms are usually observed when temperatures increase in summer. Initial symptoms may be observed from late June and the disease can be active into late September or Octo-

ber depending on temperatures. At temperatures above 15°C the pathogen grows from its dormant state. Warm, humid conditions are optimal for dollar spot infection as free water aids the spread of mycelium among leaves. Cobweb-like mycelia of the dollar spot pathogen may be observed in these conditions.

Reducing the period of leaf wetness therefore is one method of cultural control. Irrigating deeply and less frequently and timing irrigation to occur first thing in the morning followed by switching to remove excess moisture in the canopy is recommended. Improving light penetration and air movement in the sward by reducing shade will also reduce leaf wetness by allowing quicker evaporation.

Selecting turfgrass cultivars which exhibit greater resistance to dollar spot in areas of recurring problems is another method of cultural control. Disease resistance ratings are reported in the Turfgrass Seed booklet where possible, and some seed producers also report on relative disease resistance.

Dollar spot is observed more frequently where nitrogen fertility is low. Therefore, striking the correct balance in fertility levels is important for turf managers. Supplying enough nutrients to allow recovery of the turf once the infection is under control is also essential to regaining a healthy sward. In STRI trials, regular applications of fertiliser – in particular slow release fertiliser – significantly reduced dollar spot infection compared to unfertilised plots.

## Biological control

Studies have also shown that the use of some biological additives can greatly help in reducing the symptoms of dollar spot,

## References

- Bennett, F.T. 1937. Dollarspot disease of turf and its causal organism, *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* N. SP. *Annals of Applied Biology*, 14 (2), 236-257.
- Bishop, P. Sorochan, J., Ownley, B.H., Samples, T.J., Windham, A.S., Windham, M.T. and Trigiano, R.N. 2008. Resistance of *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* to iprodione, propiconazole and thiophanate-methyl in Tennessee and Northern Mississippi. *Crop Science*, 48, 1615-1620.
- Baldwin, N.A. and Newell, A.J. 1992. Field production of fertile apothecia by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* in *Festuca* turf. *Journal of Sports Turf Research Institute*, 68, 73-76.
- Vargas, J.M. 2004. *Management of Turfgrass Diseases*. 3rd ed. Boca Raton: CRC Press.
- Harman, G.E. and Lo, C.T. 1996. The first registered biological control product for turf disease: Bio-Trek 22G. *Turfgrass Trends*, May 1996, 8-15.
- Ahmed, J.S. and Baker, R. 1987. Rhizosphere competence of *Trichoderma harzianum*. *Phytopathology*, 77 (2), 182-189.
- Harman, G.E. 2006. Overview of mechanisms and uses of *Trichoderma* spp. *Phytopathology*, 96 (2), 190-194.
- Harman, G.E., Howell, C.R., Viterbo, A., Chet, I. and Lorito, M. 2004. *Trichoderma* species – opportunistic, avirulent plant symbionts. *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, 2, 43-56.
- Howell, C.R. 2003. Mechanisms employed by *Trichoderma* species in the biological control of plant diseases: the history and evolution of current concepts. *Plant Disease*, 87 (1), 4-10.
- Lo, C.T., Nelson, E.B. and Harman, G.E. 1996. Biological control of turfgrass diseases with a rhizosphere competent strain of *Trichoderma harzianum*. *Plant Disease*, 80 (7), 736-741.
- Lo, C.T., Nelson, E.B. and Harman, G.E. 1997. Improved biocontrol efficacy of *Trichoderma harzianum* 1295-22 for foliar phases of turf diseases by use of spray applications. *Plant Disease*, 81 (10), 1132-1138.





either applied alone or in conjunction with an appropriate chemical fungicide. The first biological control of turfgrass diseases was registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the USA in 1996. This was a granular formulation of *Trichoderma harzianum* strain 1295-22 (Bio-Trek 22-G). The active product *T. harzianum* is actually a fungus itself, but one that is able to parasitize some other plant parasitic fungi including *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* (the causal agent of dollar spot). This approach, which was developed by researchers at Cornell University over many years, involved selecting a strain which exhibited the best parasitic and inhibitory features, and which also showed the best ability to survive in the natural target environment. In the registered granular product, *Trichoderma harzianum* strain 1295-22 (aka T-22) was shown to be able to grow and function within the root system or rhizosphere<sup>6</sup>.

*Trichoderma* are asexual fungi of the order Hypocreales (Phylum Ascomycota). Some *Trichoderma* species inhibit plant pathogenic fungi and are used for biological control in horticulture. These *Trichoderma* species occur naturally in most soils and are able to colonise plant roots. The active fungus is able to survive and grow in the rootzone where it can come into contact with the dollar spot fungus and inhibit its growth. Studies have shown that *Trichoderma* species have a range of mechanisms to inhibit pathogens, and parasitic coiling of *T. harzianum* has been observed on turfgrass pathogens including dollar spot.

In addition, other mechanisms such as the release of antibiotics and enzymes which inhibit and degrade pathogenic fungi; competition for resources with the pathogenic fungi; the induction of the plants own resistance mechanisms to protect from damage by plant pathogenic fungi, have all been reported in studies on *Trichoderma* fungi as biological control agents. By reducing the amount of pathogenic fungi in the soil the risk of infection is reduced.

Initial trials undertaken in the USA showed that the granular formulation reduced initial disease symptoms occurring from the primary inoculums, but was not effective in controlling subsequent foliar phases of disease infection among the turf canopy. In order to maintain an effective population of the *Trichoderma* fungi in the canopy,

a liquid formulation was developed which survived on the leaves (phyloplane) to provide better control as the disease spreads across the leaves. Combining granular applications to the rootzone with liquid applications onto the turf canopy was shown to improve dollar spot control.

Granular applications must be made preventatively, hence a management plan of applying early in spring once soil temperatures are high enough is recommended. This allows the active fungus to establish in the rootzone and begin reducing the pathogen. Foliar applications can also be applied preventatively in order to ensure that an effective population of *Trichoderma* is present as soon as the dollar spot fungi begins infecting the leaf canopy – prior to disease symptoms being observed.

One of the key requirements for efficacy as a biological control is that control is proven against different isolates of disease. As part of my recent studies I undertook a laboratory experiment comparing different isolates of dollar spot obtained from a range of locations in the UK. When grown on agar plates in the same conditions, different isolates exhibited significantly different growth rates.

Being aware of the reported effect of the *Trichoderma* product on dollar spot in the USA, I tested the effect of growth of the dollar spot isolates when plated in conjunction with spores from the *T. harzianum* strain T-22. For all of the isolates tested, growth of *S. homoeocarpa* was inhibited by the presence of the *Trichoderma*. When examined under a microscope I was able to observe parasitic coiling of the *Trichoderma* fungi around the mycelia of the dollar spot fungus.

There are a number of other biological control products in the USA which have demonstrated varying degrees of control of dollar spot. EcoGuard® (Novozymes) was registered in the USA as a bio-fungicide listed as effective for control of dollar spot in 2003. The active biological ingredient is a specific strain (SB3086) of the bacteria *Bacillus licheniformis*. *Bacillus subtilis* strain QST 713, e.g. Rhapsody®, also has EPA registration as a bio-fungicide for dollar spot on turf.

It is important to be aware that none of the biological products described are at present approved as bio-fungicides in the UK. However, further research into alternative methods of disease management is being encouraged and pursued at present.

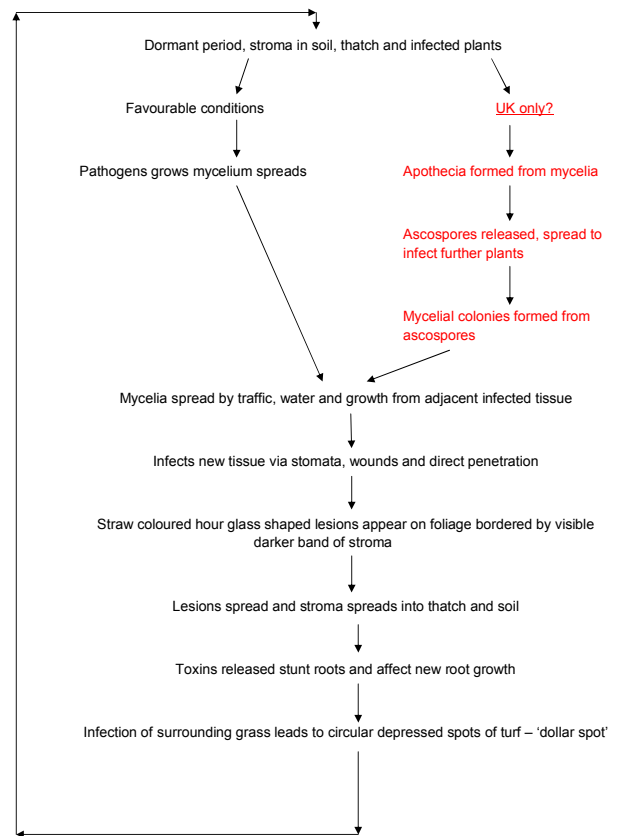


Figure 8: Lifecycle of *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* – 'dollar spot'





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

# The anatomy of...

## Second hand machinery



Items such as a mini excavator can make an excellent used buy. Rather than hire in kit like this for a big, long-term project, buying a sound used unit can make better financial sense. Look after it and it will find a ready buyer when it is no longer required.



Is a used buy a financially sound buy? Trawl through the Internet, and it is clear there are some used turf equipment bargains to be had. But James de Havilland asks whether a low up-front cost make a used buy a good buy?



**These days, new equipment can be sourced through a raft of schemes that can help spread costs, typically over a pre-set number of years. Even the wealthiest of clubs will exploit some type of 'package' that can 'soften' the blow of funding a new mowing fleet or sustain a rolling equipment replacement programme.**

A lease, rental or well-planned finance package can ensure front-line equipment is kept up to date and of course removes the worry of decreased dependability of worn and ageing kit. Add the ability to keep up with the latest developments – and, of equal importance, giving those who use the equipment all the benefits of improved operating comfort – and it is clear that going for new has a whole raft of attractions. So why buy used?

Regardless of how equipment is sourced or funded, there is the simple truth that you do not get anything for nothing and every deal, lease or finance package will impact the bottom line. So injecting a canny used buy may help reduce some equipment costs without compromising the overall quality of kit used by the course. The trick is to know what to source used and how to best fund such a purchase.

#### **Ex-demo – check the true cost to change**

An ex-demonstrator mower, sourced via a reputable supplier, may have done very little work and, in effect, be as good as new. In some cases, the model in question may be fitted with costly options, some of which are nice to have but would be not added where a new purchase was being made. So the chance of an ex-demo buy can make a really sensible choice.

But that is not to say all ex-demo kit is equal. Some items, such as an aerator, may be run for several seasons and have been left with numerous potential customers for an extended period. It is not unusual for such kit to have covered a lot of ground and be presented more as a used as opposed to an ex-demo buy. So there may be a limited warranty and any wear and tear will all be part of the deal.

Some kit will also be sold off as ex-demo simply because it is 'new old stock'. In some cases you will only know it is the old model by looking at the decals and model number. In others, the model may have been completely replaced. In either instance, the key is working out if the item you are looking at is what you want and not just to buy it due to an attractive saving. Factor in available warranty too.

The most important point is the true cost to change. Where you may get a good part exchange allowance against a completely new machine, the offer against a lower price 'ex-demo' unit may be less attractive. Do a few sums, and it may show going for new to be a better long-term bet.

#### **Used equipment**

A true used buy is just that; an item of equipment that has been used and is now being sold on. If the item in question is sold through a dealer, the equipment will typically have been through the workshop and any obvious faults put right. Extra work may also be carried out. A greens mower, for example, may have a re-grind and some flexible hydraulic hoses replaced if they are showing signs of age. Some manufacturers also have a 'replace by' date stamped on vital hoses. This is to ensure age-hardened

and fatigued hose is renewed long before its integrity is compromised.

A bit of a cosmetic makeover may also be carried out, glossy paint helping to add buyer appeal. But in all cases look beyond the superficial smartening up and instead concentrate on the machine's finer details. Weld repairs, scuff markers caused by impact damage and paint spray over grease points that should routinely see attention are all little warnings that suggest the machine in question may not be all it appears.

Also consider equipment that a club may offer for sale 'privately'. This can be a great way to source equipment. In fact, if your course is on friendly terms with a 'wealthy' club neighbour you could do worse than striking up a relationship that sees about to be traded in kit offered to you first.

It also pays to keep up with local dealers, the nod that a certain item is coming in as a part-exchange often helping you to secure a good deal before the dealer either sells it on or puts it up for auction.

Buying used can allow clubs with restricted funds access to high output equipment. Six years on from when this picture was taken, a mower like this can now make a sound pre-owned purchase. It is worth having a dealer look over the machine before putting it to work and replace age fatigue hydraulic hoses.

Don't be afraid to use your local knowledge to source redundant kit from a neighbouring club. It is surprising how much sound equipment, saved as a back-up, ends up not being used. Also see if any spares are left on the shelf for a specific machine. Bottom blades, bearings, hoses and filters are often different on newer models.







### Refurbished equipment

A quality, refurbished mower may well look every bit as good as new. If the same machine is also backed by a warranty, the higher price you will have to pay over a similar used model could be well worth the extra. That said there are genuine refurbishments and those that merely look the part.

A thoroughly refurbished fairway mower, for example, will really be put through a complete rebuild. As an example, all cutting unit bearings will be renewed, regardless of the condition of the originals. Key hydraulic hoses will also be replaced.

Look also for OEM parts, third party fuel, oil and hydraulic filters suggesting other replaced items made also be spurious. This is not to suggest non-OEM parts are always inferior but more that with OEM replacements you know what you are getting.

### Know the true value of your trade-in

It is all too easy to get tripped up by the cost of new equipment. When replacing a mower, tractor, top dresser or aerator, for example,

the new kit can seem desperately costly. But it is the cost to change that really matters. Just as new kit prices have climbed, the value of well cared for used equipment has also risen.

It therefore follows that you can only really get the best deal by ensuring you know the value of the kit you may wish to part exchange.

It also pays to look after equipment as you can really get more for it if it makes an easy used sale for the dealer.

And remember, if you do not like the part-ex deal you can consider selling your existing kit as opposed to exchanging it.

If you look on-line you can get a good idea of what used equipment fetches.

It also pays to keep service records of all equipment. Just as you would like to know a mower has had its engine oil changed to schedule, being able to show the kit you are selling has been cared for counts for something too.

Those clubs that currently have a rolling equipment replacement programme can also help themselves by looking after any kit on long-term hire or lease. Service records and a clean bit of kit will always be regarded more highly than that

which has obviously been worked hard and not cared for.

### Does a used buy make a sound buy?

For many clubs, the whole reason for keeping key machinery up to date is to ensure the quality of the course is not compromised and that key mowing tasks are not interrupted by equipment downtime.

Modern golf course mowers are for the most part beautifully made and designed for intensive use.

Many courses will swap out kit that still has hundreds of hours of useful life remaining.

And it is sourcing such kit as a used buy that can really help reduce equipment overheads.

If you are on a tight equipment budget – and that will apply to many clubs – then it really is well worth seeking out certain items of used equipment even if you still buy new for certain key items.

But remember the basic rule. It is the whole life operating and ownership cost of any item that matters.

Always do a few sums and work out if a used buy that saves money up front will actually be cheaper than new over a given period.

Certain mowers, such as a wide area rotary, can make a sound used buying choice, particularly where such a machine provides high season back-up. Fresh blades, a thorough service and a good clean can bring a tired mower back into serviceable shape.



Harrogate  
week



Continue  
to learn

# The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

**24 to 26 January 2012** at the Harrogate International Centre (UK)



Over 6000 sports and recreational turf specialists  
showcasing their latest products

Plus, *Continue to Learn* - 22 to 26 January 2012  
Five days of education workshops and free seminars

For free entry and to register, log onto  
**[www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)**

Organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association





# Back in time

## to this month in... 1982

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 a greenkeeper's 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](mailto: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 October 1982

**BGGA Chairman, Harry Herrington, of Lindrick Golf Club, was featured on the front cover, while the Association's newly appointed President, Peter Alliss, wrote an article expressing his appreciation of the work of the country's greenkeepers.**

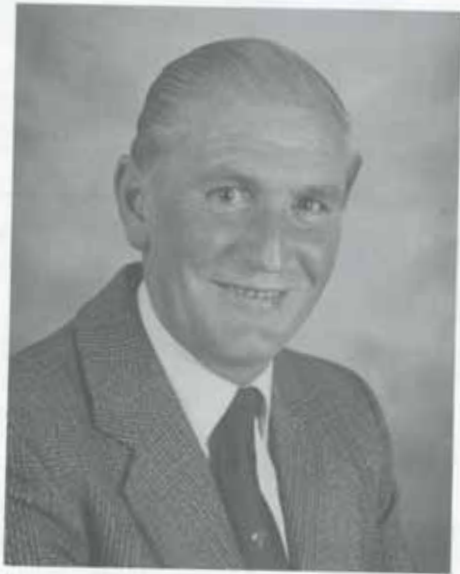
Peter, who was elected for a three year period, also wrote of some of his personal dislikes on golf courses – daisies on the fairways and the need for good housekeeping around the course. He also called for some fresh thinking by both golf clubs and the Association to move the game forward.

The Letters page included contributions from Sid Arrowsmith, urging people to contribute articles to the magazine; Honorary BGGA Secretary and Treasurer, Walter Heeles, welcoming the magazine's new Editor, John Lelean, and Bill Pile describing a problem with a hydraulic pipe on a greens machine.

# GOLF

OCTOBER 1982

## Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance



**HARRY HERRINGTON,**  
Chairman, B.G.G.A. 1982/83

The Official Magazine of the  
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

# GOLF

## Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

**President:**  
Peter Alliss

**Vice Presidents:**  
Gordon Wright, W. Mountain  
F. W. Harrison, F. G. Cartledge  
G. Vaughan, J. F. R. Wilson  
J. Cogan, H. C. Jennings  
T. Scott, D. Craig  
E. Stansforth, J. Purl  
D. B. Hargreaves, D. R. B. Hopkins  
W. Payne, R. Bond  
J. Huxce

**Chairman:**  
H. Herrington  
Greenkeepers Cottage,  
Lindrick Golf Club,  
Lindrick, Wetherby,  
Tel. 0909 476251

**Vice Chairman:**  
P. Wisbey

**Hon. Secretary & Treasurer:**  
W. Heeles,  
T. Temperley House,  
Rearcrossborough,  
N. Yorks.  
Tel. 0423 963851

**Executive Committee:**  
S. R. Arrowsmith, J. P. Findley  
H. Fry, R. Gason  
C. Godley, H. Gilmore  
T. Hartley, E. James  
D. Jones, A. Kile  
W. Pile, H. MacCallister  
G. Malcolm, P. McCarron  
D. Muldon, E. Muir  
J. G. Simpson, N. G. Whitaker  
P. Wisbey

**Advertisers:** L. Patten & Co., 4 York Place, Aberdeen  
**Advertisers:** M. M. Haines, Topham Phillips & Co., 11 Fyfe Street, Seattle



### THE WAY AHEAD.....

#### Peter Alliss talks to the Greenkeepers

May I first thank the members of the Association for electing me as their President for a second term of office. It is a position I regard as extremely important in the international world of golf and an office I am proud to hold. And I would like to thank all those sections within the BGGA who sent me congratulations to their various functions throughout the year, but as I said when I took on the job originally, my life is crowded that is not as a "Working President" is something I am not able to do. My main role, as I see it is to try to stimulate interest and enthusiasm of members and writing. No-one more than I realises that most working conditions for greenkeepers are far from satisfactory. Although appalling might be too strong a word for some of the conditions, primitive certainly is not. The majority of clubs cannot afford to lay out hundreds, may thousands of pounds for their greenkeeping staff, but it has always been my experience that most golf clubs do not budget enough for the actual maintenance of the golf course. This I believe, is very narrow thinking. The majority of income accruing to a golf club is because of the golf

attract future visitors and those members. Once you have the reputation for keeping the course neat and tidy people will say "I like to play at such and such a course, it's no great feat, it's a bit tidy or it's a bit flat, but it is always in such good condition".

In my dealings with golf clubs throughout the world I have found that in many cases the actual standards of greenkeeping leave a lot to be desired. I have visited many golf courses this year, some of them the most famous in the world, and I have seen dandelions and daisies on the greens which, to me, is just sacrilegious. They should not be there. I don't care what anybody says, they should not be there!

I do not particularly think there is any great joy in seeing daisies all over the fairways, some of the prettiest links courses we have are just a carpet of daisies at certain times of the year and nobody really seems to be doing anything about it. I love to see wild flowers growing in the rough and they were very prevalent at Royal Troon this year during the Open Championship, which added to the attraction of the course. I appreciate

and link mowing cost money but at the end of the day it is money well spent. If the seasons can begin with every short hole looking fresh, the tee markers painted and mowed away every day and the old daisies picked up and thrown away, we will be going some way to making the golf course a place to be proud of. I am not a believer in replacing photos on short holes, because one could be playing a month, not notice that your ball is on a loose divot and it could cause you to drop a stroke.

Golf Clubs and the committees that run them need to take a serious look at the state of their courses, the working conditions and remuneration of their employees and methods of improving both to the golf into action now, particularly with regard to pensions, insurance and improved working conditions.

Greenkeepers joining a club at the start of their career may not wish to remain there all their working life, many opportunities for advancement are open to them and a wealth of information and experience is available. However,



# NEWS ROUND-UP

Dear Sir,

Over the past year all Greenkeepers were requested by the N.E.C. to support the Journal by sending in letters, questions and greenkeeping experiences, so that the Journal would become more interesting and beneficial to all concerned.

This request was poorly supported and not only contributed to poor Journal content, but possibly provoked the previous Editor to quit it a day.

Since this happened we have been without a Journal for two months, and how lucky we are to have in consultation so quickly.

So for heaven's sake support the Journal and assist the Editor by feeding him with news, and information, respecting our

Dear Sir,

I would like to wish our new Editor/Publisher every success in his effort to produce a magazine for our association. I know it has not been easy as the magazine was left completely without revenue and he had to start from scratch in obtaining advertising matter.

I would like to apologise to anyone who expected to find their advert placed with the previous management as this was a matter entirely beyond our control.

Members made it clear at the A.G.M. that they wished to continue with a GUGA magazine and I hope that every effort will be made to keep the Editor supplied with news and views.

I was disturbed to learn after the Executive Committee had agreed to support the magazine that certain members appear to be doing their best to

Dear Sir,

An incident occurred on Saturday 28th August which has prompted me to put pen to paper.

My son and I were on the verge of leaving early that morning for a long anticipated fishing trip, when the telephone rang. It was my first assistant to inform me the greens machine had burst a pipe and emptied its hydraulic tank onto our 74th green.

I went straight to the course and we did all we could to minimise the damage, cut a temporary pipe to avoid any leaking at the oil and spreading it, sprayed the area with detergent and water and then washed it. The last three greens were cut with the cortex and then we resealed the detergent and water on the damaged green.

We may have saved it if it may require quite a large re-laying job, causing inconvenience to the PLAYING of the hole.

During the evening while going over the incident in my mind, I thought it was just one of those things. But was it?

The machine in question had been meticulously looked after and through three years old and regularly used in first class condition. So where does the blame lie for our last day's fishing and extra work to come on the green, an improving weather if it isn't with the manufacturer. Without stripping any extra work to come on the green, an improving weather if it isn't with the manufacturer. Without stripping any extra work to come on the green, an improving weather if it isn't with the manufacturer.

I believe I am right in saying all makes of green tractors use hydraulic systems in one form or another. Could not the manufacturers of these expensive machines find another type of fluid to put in the hydraulic system? A vegetable oil perhaps or even a detergent so long as it is not damaging to the turf when leaks or bursts occur. Perhaps the pipes, joints and connections need a revamp to make them more reliable.

If you have had this sort of trouble or know of any other incidents please write. They do not have to be masterpieces of the written word but just the details, not only of green machines, but lawnmower, law mowers, or any hydraulic machine that has given you a headache. We can then judge whether the number of accidents is anything compared with the number of machines in use, although the personal opinion is one disaster is just one too many compared to the high cost of these machines.

BILL FOLEY

Head Greenkeeper, Chelton Golf Club.

OCTOBER 1982  
447

# Greenkeeping

Journal of Greenkeepers' Association

Britain's leading magazine on golf course management.

# CONTENTS

# LETTERS

..... To The Editor

## MAY & BAKER NEW DISPENSER

Following on from the enormous successful Easy Measure Dispenser packaging, May & Baker's new "Tip-n-Pour" and its revolutionary Turfmaster "Dispenser", M & B's Environment Product Department announced the launch of "Tip 'n' Pour".

Designed by May & Baker and designed in association with British Liners this exclusive container brings to you a new advance in safe, accurate and trouble free measuring of chemicals.

A "Flow Tip 'n' Pour" chemical dispenser will be available shortly for a large range of the May & Baker range of chemicals.



The revolutionary "Tip 'n' Pour" dispenser.



The new Triplex Syster II machine launched by Morrison, the New Zealand company, by the UK concessionaire, Fletcher Challenge Ltd.

## 1982 SUPATURF COLOUR PHOTO PRIZEWINNERS

Reg Vickers and his colleagues at Warrington Golf Club, Appleton, Cheshire were delighted to hear that he had won the first prize of hand made decorations and glasses in the 1982 Supaturf Colour Photo Competition.

Reg, who has been Head Greenkeeper with the club for five years, entered a view of No. 9 putting green, through the fall of an oak tree.

Second place is awarded to J. Booth, Assistant Groundsman of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, and third place goes to D. Clark, of Moorown Golf Club.

The runners-up included:

- G. E. Lloyd, Head Greenkeeper of Hildon Golf Club.
- J. Dykes, Assistant Greenkeeper of Gorse Hill Golf Club, Huddersfield.
- K. F. Kettle, Assistant Greenkeeper of Bilsington Golf Club, Coventry.
- P. Palmer, Head Greenkeeper of Holton Golf Club, Co. Durham.
- D. S. Gould, Golf Course Manager of Langley Park Golf Club.
- S. Conant, Head Greenkeeper of Houghton-le Spring Golf Club, Durham.

## FREE GOLF TO THE UNEMPLOYED

Sheffield, a city well-known for its policies of providing a full free municipal service, is now offering free golf to the unemployed. But some municipal courses are said to have become a battleground according to a newspaper report. Will they be indiscriminately all over the course have made the upkeep of the golf courses a very hazardous occupation.

These tractor cab windows have been smashed with the drivers of the wheel and greenkeepers constantly run the risk of being hit by balls hooped and aimed from the clubhouse.

Some attempt to put the newcomers straight about the rules and etiquette of the game has been made by the employer golfers such as an introduction to the "club" and "cups", whereas a shot is heading off line, but a curious member of the Hensley Golf Club has said that in his view it was not safe to let on to the course when some of the free golfers are about.

Sheffield's Recreation Committee are concerned that course maintenance cannot be carried out without serious risk to the greenkeeper if they are allowed to play between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm to allow time for greens to be cut and regular golfers are able to work to have their round in peace.

## A CO-OPERATIVE

With the British Prime Minister calling for a greater environmental awareness by the UK, Walsley WVO and Honda are announcing a Honda style Water brand of cylinder roller.

Unfortunately this announcement coincided with the U.C.'s with the result that there is a paper published to report effect a major event.

Walsley WVO will make mower models at their factory following joint design the Honda engine. The 75 cc engine substantial additional UK and sea looking opportunities to expand in overseas.

WVO cylinder rollers will be marketed by Walsley's traditional colours of gold and white Honda's house colour silver will provide a distinct identity for the "H21", "H22" models available through Honda's Power Products Dealers from December 1982.

The new Honda WVO range mowers were introduced at the Groundsmanship Exhibition.

The 18" and 18" wide powered by a Honda G100 engine. The 21" wide model is a Honda G125 for 4 stroke. Prices are still to be announced.



One of the new Honda WVO cylinder mowers.

# PUT LIFE BACK INTO THE SOIL!

Soil is your most valuable asset... look after it with **Alginure**, the organic seaweed soil improver. **Alginure** helps break compaction, improves soil structure and moisture retention, and encourages soil microbial life to work FOR you by improving soil health.

**HEALTHY SOIL MAKES FOR STRONG, HEALTHY GRASS**

To see how Alginure really works contact: **ALGINURE PRODUCTS LIMITED, Leywood House, Groombridge, Kent TN3 9PH. Telephone: Groombridge (0892 76) 782.**

**"It's natural to use Alginure"**  
ORGANIC SOIL AND PLANT CARE PRODUCTS



# PLAY ROLAWN, WELL UNDER PAR FOR THE COURSE

For the finest texture, hardest wearing and smoothest greens, Rolawn supplies the highest quality turf in square yard rolls. Various types available from carefully selected seeds matured in specially prepared soils to ensure consistency. Laying information and written guarantee supplied. Full details from



# Rolawn

Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd  
Dept. G/GC Elington, York YO4 5AA  
Telephone: (904) 85406  
Telex: 52294

# YES you can! Master the turf and the budget

The Nickerson Turfmaster Range gives you the best of both worlds with outstanding performance and reliability.

## YES! TURFMASTER 84 everything you asked for!

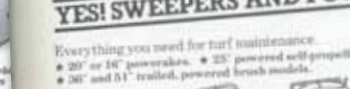
This ever popular 7 ft. machine is now up-dated, restyled and has a host of new features to give better performance with the same reliability which made it famous. It's the large acreage machine that gives you everything you need at a price that makes sense.



## YES! TURFMASTER 360 the British-made 70" triple cut mower

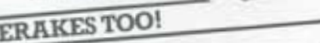
For golf courses, large estates and large public lawns the new British built 360 is the innovative answer of forward speeds, 3 mph road speed, 1, 2, 3, 4 mph cutting speeds, 5 or 7 blades putting extra. Automatic tension. Large front tyre. High clearance for better etc. Exceptional stability. Cutting into lifted in and out of work from the driver seat. Optional grass catchers.

THE NEW TURFMASTER 360 is the one you've been waiting for!



## YES! TURFMASTER 2001 50 acres a day cylinder - 30 acres a day rotary

For rotary and performance of rough grass with the 2001 wide rotary deck and 15 minutes later you can be giving a second beam blade to the front turf with the 15" cylinders. Durable, fully hydrostatic drive, rear wheel steering. The next advanced non-hiss available today.



## YES! SWEEPERS AND POWERAKES TOO!

Everything you need for turf maintenance: 20" or 16" powerakes, 23" powered self-propelled sweepers, 36" and 61" trailed, powered brush models.



**GREAT BRITISH GRASSMAINTIP**  
**NICKERSON TURFMASTER LTD.**  
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.  
Telephone: Gainsborough (01472) 4774  
Telex: 56429

SEND I want to know more about:

- Turfmaster 84
- Turfmaster 360
- Turfmaster 2001
- Turfmaster Sweepers and Powerakes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...





## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scotland



### East

I missed last month's news but here is the next issue.

Well, as I write August is over and we may wonder if we have had a summer of any kind. The links at North Berwick have never been so green for so long, the white dormant colour that is authentic links, has never even looked like materialising - so no dry patch on the greens.

Anyway, here is the winners of the Willie Wood's Tournament which was held on August 8, at Mortonhall Golf Club. A great day was had by all and the weather was very kind to those who played. The following day was torrential rain, which hit the Lothians pretty hard.

Winners were the favourites, my good friend, and Celtic fan, Shaun Cunningham and Colin McArthur, Mortonhall Golf Club, with a 58 better ball. Yes 58, you read correctly! The runners-up were Pat Allan, Symbio, and Derek Scott, Scoonie. Longest Drive was Andrew Tillie, Mortonhall, and the Nearest the Pin was Dougie Archibald, Thomas Sherriffs. A total of 34 played on the day and we were joined by our Scottish National Chairman, Stuart Taylor, who also enjoyed the day.

A big thank you to David Fraser, Course Manager, and his staff for the quality of the course, and thanks also to the Captain and Council of Mortonhall for courtesy of the course. My guess is that the last time we attended Mortonhall GC could have been 1980 or 81. However we will be back next year as confirmation has been received. Thanks guys.

Stewart Crawford



### West

Sorry for not submitting something last month but it was due to a typing error that I sent the 2010 article to head office instead of the 2011 version. There really wasn't a great deal to report other than the Spring outing held at Cowglen Golf Club on May 19, which, surprisingly, experienced a lovely sunny day, unlike many of the other days in that month.

The course was in excellent condition for the time of year after all the difficulties and for that I would thank Michael Slack and his team for their efforts and the Council for allowing the Section to play the course.

The results were as follows Scratch Prize. A. Reid, Williamwood, 74, 1st Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes, 32 pts; 2. J. Brown, Bearsden, 31 ps; 3. G. Bruen, Williamwood, 30 pts. 2nd Class. 1. M. Slack, Cowglen, 34 pts; 2. B. Sommerville, Helensburgh, 27 pts B.I.H; 3. D. McBride, Vale of Leven, 27 pts; 3rd Class. 1. D. Reid, Lenzie, 32 points; 2. C. Boyd, Helensburgh, 15 pts; 3. S. Reid, East Kilbride, 14 pts, Apprentice Prize. A. Orr 27 pts, Trade Prize, as usual, D. Duthie, Aitkens.

The only disappointing issue from the day was a lack of numbers, with 22 in attendance, unlike our normal amount of 35-40. So where were all you guys and what are you up to? Is the cost too much, or are we having to take days off to attend? I would appreciate if members could contact me or any Section committee member to discover reasons for the absence.

A wee match has been arranged for the North of the river verses the South, which I will report on at a later stage.

The intention was to contact a few people who haven't been attending things over the last years with the idea of socialising and get together for a chat about different aspects. If you wish to be involved then give me a call on 07790823914 or contact Gerry Bruen on the blog and we can include you.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at The Duke's course on June 15, which had an excellent turn out of 70 to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff for all their assistance in helping to make a successful day. As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O'Hara, the Vice Chairman, I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

I played at the East Section Willie Wood tournament over Mortonhall Golf Club in August and was very pleased with my first experience of the course, the layout created a variety of interest and tested the golfing ability by altering the club selection throughout. The course condition couldn't be faulted absolutely first class, congratulations to David Fraser and his staff for the course presentation. May I extend a well done to two of his staff members for retaining the trophy meaning I will be back next year, this time I might even have a partner.

The Everris Seminar held at Hampden in August turned out to be very informative with information about new pests in turf, growth regulator rates of application, new fungicide treatments, and over-seeding practices. I don't know the full figures of attendees but there looked to be somewhere around 50 turn up to enjoy the talks and then a guided tour of the stadium. Well done to all involved

for a very enjoyable day.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy, held at Auchterarder, was represented by myself, Cecil George (retired), David Reid, Lenzie, and Stuart Cameron, Loch Lomond. On the day we finished in third place out of five teams on 88 points which apparently in the past has won this event but nowadays 104 is the winning total.

Well done to the North Section for a fantastic score and hard lines Central Section (103). Thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff for producing a beautiful golf course in excellent condition considering all the recent rain. I like the improvements to the course Archie and was interested to see the sleeper-faced bunker which I landed in. And no, I didn't get up and down. The whole course has improved over the years and well done to you and your staff.

Finally, if anyone has anything to say give me a call on 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914 or e-mail me on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com) I hope everyone has a good remainder to the season and eagerly await your calls.

Stuart Taylor



### Central

The Section AGM will be held at the Training room at Elmwood College, on October 26, at 2pm and will be preceded by a presentation from Cale Bigelow at 1pm.

Cale is a professor at Purdue University in the USA and is currently over studying at St Andrews University for one semester. He will give a talk on soil science and biology.

Congratulations to Jon Wood, the Deputy on the Old Course,



who leaves to take up the position of Course Manager at Trevoise.

Also a warm welcome to the Section to Steve Chappell who has taken over as Course Manager at The PGA Centenary Course, at Gleneagles, in preparation for the Ryder Cup in 2014. The Section had a great outing at Kingsbarns on 14 September and the results/prizewinners are on the website, [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Thanks to Kingsbarns Golf Links for hosting us, Innes Knight and his team for the preparation of the golf course - a much harder group to please than those competing in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and Sue Hutcheon and her catering team.

Gordon Moir



## North

Sorry for there not being much news last month but there was a bit of a mix up at Headquarters with our report but in the end we did manage to thank Ben Brookes for all his efforts which was the main thing we wanted to get in the magazine. Robert and myself are still finding our feet with the Section news report but here goes. We would like to start by saying congratulations to the North Section team for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder on August 17.

In what was a very close match the team on the day was Captain and Committee regular Ross Macrae, of Newmachar, Richard Pirie, also of Newmachar, Dave Middleton, from Deeside, and, last but not least, Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir. So well done to them all, they all said it was a great day and many thanks to the Tournament Director, Peter Boyd, and to Bayer for their continued support. The Autumn Outing held at Peterculter GC will have been and gone by the time you read this report so all the results will be in the next issue. The Section AGM will be in a few weeks time and it will be held at Longside Golf Club, near Peterhead, on October 20. It will be the same format as before just turn up and pay on the day. The entry

fee is £10 and this will include coffee bacon roll on arrival and soup and sandwiches. Hopefully we will get a good support from the membership. Two of our regular members Brian Hunter and George Simpson have been poorly lately with heart problems both needing a bypass operation. Our thoughts are with them and we wish them both a speedy recovery. If you have any news please get in touch with Chairman Robert Patterson on 07931639548 or Secretary Dale Robertson on 07784517534.

Dale Robertson

## Northern



## Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well. It seems only five minutes ago we had the start of the hot dry spring weather, now looking out over the golf course at the leaves changing colour, and some deciding to fall, autumn is here. On August 31 we held our Invitation Day at Bingley St Ives GC.

The Section's thanks go to the club for allowing courtesy on the course, also Alan and his team for providing a good test of golf. The golf was followed by a fantastic buffet meal, our thanks go to Gary and his staff. The winners on the day were, G. Potter & P. Davies; 2. K. Christie & A. Christie; 3. S. Rothwell & E. Shaw; 4. R. Hayward & S. Smith; 5. P. Rowbottom & T. Calvert. Nearest the Pin - T. Calvert. Nearest the Line - M. Bulmer.

Thanks to everyone for making it a great day, and to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. Congratulations go to Bingley St Ives for winning the Golf Management Trophy Northern Section held at Cookridge Hall GC.

The next Section event is the Christmas golf to be held at Selby GC on Wednesday, December 7. Tee time to be confirmed. That's all for this month, any news or gossip please pass it on to me F. Stewart 72 West Park Grove Roundhay LS8 2DY. mob 07947401278. email [frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk).

Frank Stewart



## North Wales

I have to apologise for the lack of columns in recent months. There are various reasons for this but I'm not going to bore you with the in's and out's. So let's get on with this month instalment.

There have been a couple of things going on since the last column. First of all the annual North Wales/North West match took place at Heaton Moor GC on June 16 and, with our Section only able to produce a team of five on the day, it seemed we were destined to play only for honour as most of our better players were unable to play that day. However, luckily, Jason Moody and two players from the North West Section played for the North Wales team, making up the sheet as an eight a-side four match game. We were extremely lucky that the day ended with a score of 2-2 and with the match halved and North Wales, as holders, retained the trophy. However, I personally believe we didn't

really deserve it as we showed up as poorly supported as we did. A big thank you goes to Jason Moody, and Amenity Technology, for sponsoring the day and taking as much care of the players as you did. A big thank you also to, Heaton Moor for the fantastic course and great welcome from all at the club.

Secondly, on July 6 a 20/20 cricket match took place at Ashley Cricket Club, I didn't attend this event and I'm afraid the North Wales team got a good thrashing. It's a good job we Welsh don't really count cricket as our first choice sport but a thank you has to go to Nick Gray, and Bathgate's, for organising and sponsoring the event and also to Carl Crocher for putting a team together.

The Autumn Tournament is on our doorstep, this year it is being held at Porthmadog golf club and by the photographs I've seen the course looks an absolute picture and would I'm sure be a beauty to play too! The Northern Region Seminar this year is being split into two venues to encourage attendance, with our Section being covered by Birchwood golf club on November 30, so please try your best to attend with entries at only £15 to members and £20

## BUNKER EDGER CUTS YOUR TIME



The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, this tough machine is easy to use and maintain.

Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK. Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

DJ Turfcare: 01483 200976  
[www.djurfcare.co.uk](http://www.djurfcare.co.uk)



to non-members. It's not out of our transport catchments or out of our budgets. Entry forms and seminar details to follow through the post.

Harlech Golf Club held the British Boys' competition in August and it was by all accounts a roaring success so congratulations go to all concerned.

Please feel free to get in touch with your news, personal or club related. I'm only too pleased to know that you're out there reading this column and even more pleased to get input from you.

I think that will do before I bore you to tears, so all the beat until next month

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



## North East

By the time you have read September's magazine autumn will be upon us and I can just see all those leaves dropping off; frosty mornings and, to top it off, going to and from work in the dark and the start of winter around the corner.

I will not miss that time of the year - out on the course for six continuous weeks of leaf collecting in all weathers. I wish I had a penny for every leaf that was collected, I would have retired long ago.

Right, back on to some news. Unfortunately my roving reporter Mal Lathan, from Hexham GC, has failed to send in his report of the Sunderland/Newcastle Utd derby match so suppose either he will submit it later on or leave it until the return game at St James Park.

Next up we have had new members joining the Section those are as follows: Ross Young, Linden Hall GC; Victor Cox, Percy Wood GC; Thomas Alexander, Parklands GC; Sean Harrison, Close House GC, and Daniel Egan, Bishop Auckland GC.

It's been along time since we have had that many join let's hope it continues as there are a lot of greenkeepers out there still not members, mostly at the corporate clubs.

Tom Snedwin has moved

from Foxhills in Surrey to Hexham GC as an Assistant Greenkeeper. We wish him well in his recent appointment.

Congratulations to Jon Watson, of Burgham Park GC and Myerscough College on reaching the final of the Toro Student of the Year Competition held last month at BIGGA HQ.

Reckon that's the lot for this month.

Jimmy Richardson

## Midland



## East of England

Our latest golf day was the bi-annual match against the Secretaries from the GCMA.

Boston Golf Club was the venue for the match. The course was in excellent condition, possibly due to the fact that Course Manager, Bruce Hicks, was away sunning himself in Portugal!

The result of the match was a 3-3 draw, but as the GCMA were holders then they retained the trophy.

Nearest the Pin was won by Tom Windred; Nearest the Pin in two shots was won by David Dalby.

Many thanks to all at Boston Golf Club for their hospitality; also to Burdens Groundcare for the company's continued support of the Section.

Our next golf day is the annual AGM at Orton Meadows Golf Club on Wednesday, October 12. Tee off is 11am. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Bruce Hicks for further details.

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly  
Immingham Golf Club.



## BB&O

"Summertime and the living is easy, fish are jumping and the cotton is high". And so the song goes!

I can hear you all singing away, strimming and cutting around bunkers, over the hills near and far as the Summer growth ends and the autumn colours kick in. I apologise for not providing a report last month.

As usual, I push the deadline button with Scott, the Editor, to the limit every month in the hope that my journalistic talents will finally be recognised and scoop the biggest story in the history of the BB&O.

But, this time, no excuses, suffice to say, my workload has increased and my area has changed and I will now cover the South East after the retirement of Brain Willmott, a colleague and fellow reporter who I have known for over 20 years.

With this new area to cover I will be passing my ink well and quill to a new scribe and make this my last report for the magazine. "Finally," I hear you say, "at least something good to read - at last."

The BB&O first event of the year, sponsored by Golf & Turf, was at Studley Wood GC, one of Oxfordshire's best kept secrets, and simply a hidden gem set in 177 acres and only a few 7-irons from the centre of Oxford.

Studley Wood GC presented us with a stimulating challenge, as we meandered through beautiful undulating countryside with natural woodland and 13 lakes to navigate and to try to keep the loss of balls to a minimum.

Results were as follows: 1. Ted Lewis, retired, Oakland Park GC; 2. Richard Davies, The Berkshire; 3. Gordon Payne, retired, Maidenhead GC.

Nearest the Pin was won by Dave Goodchild, Ellesborough GC, and Ted Lewis, with Richard Davies whacking a good one to win the Longest Drive.

A big thank you to owner, Ken Heathcote, for looking after us and providing courtesy of the course for the Section; to Tom and Belinda the caterers and to Ian Hodgkinson and greenkeeping team for great playing surfaces which managed to test our skills and produce a worthy winner for the Golf & Turf Cup.

Dave Lyons known as the "Newbury Pussycat" has recently been awarded first prize in a local modern hair stylist competition after using himself as a model. If any member needs help or advice on their "height of cut" Dave can be contacted at

the Deanwood Park Hairdressers.

On August 24 the BB&O National Qualifier Competition was held at Donnington Grove Estate, with its stunning views over Newbury. This classic parkland course is comprised of acres of beautiful parkland with woodland and water hazards that can unnerve the bravest.

The River Lambourn winds its way through the course and this provides an ideal setting and great challenge for the golfer to compete for the Tacit Claret Jug and the great trek up North to the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at West Lincs GC.

Results were as follows: 1. The Newbury Hairdresser; 2. John Bowness, Hairdresser Assistant at Deanwood Park; 3. Richard Davies The Berkshire, 4. Carl Small, Ellesborough GC, (registered disabled but still playing off 9)

Thanks to Dave Knight and all the Donnington Grove Estate management team who gave the Section courtesy of the course and insured we were looked after very well in and out of the clubhouse.

Dave, and his greenkeeping team, clearly put a huge effort into the course and this made for another great BB&O day out to remember.

I thank the Section for allowing me to be the scribe and representative in the magazine. It has been a privilege writing and serving on the Section committee, where occasional banter and camaraderie from all over the three counties is represented. This truly has been an enjoyable experience and one I know that your replacement, Matt Nutter, East Berks GC, will relish very much.

I thank Peter Larter, Adam King, Sid Arrowsmith and all the committee present and past who have been supportive and a great help in pioneering the section forward over the years and also for choosing the fine Stellenbosch wine which was greatly received and very much appreciated.

Thank you all  
Mark Day





## Midland

Well did you spot the deliberate mistake in last month's notes (deliberate my backside, plain stupid more like) one should spell all ways as always! This error reminded of a comment that Steve "Chopper" Harris relayed to me at one of our past Christmas golf days at South Staffs GC. After general conversation between Steve and I he said that he "always" remembered a tenet I imparted to him as the then Deputy at Harborne. "When you finish a job, just stop and look at what that has been done and say to yourself 'Am I proud?' Then consider how could it have been done better? It doesn't matter whether it's mowing or rebuilding a green."

Steve had obviously been listening, as he then told me the great news that he had just been promoted to Deputy. There can be many rewards within our profession and that was one of them, but also humility can be a great tool by re-teaching us that to which we have taught.

Now we come to our ever-successful Scotts Doubles knockout tournament, which, by the time you read this, the final will have been just contested at the fantastic venue of the West Course at Wentworth.

I shall report the results in next month, but, of course, all are winners. In the preliminary rounds we play the great courses of the Midland Section and then for the lucky four finalists Wentworth, at the grace of Scotts. What's the entry fee? A fiver! Our thanks to Scotts for the company's continued support of our Section, and also for this month's calendar page. For all of their fertiliser and turf maintenance products please visit their web site: [www.scottspromotional.co.uk](http://www.scottspromotional.co.uk) or call Mark Raynor: 07796 192 724.

Right, I must go, bits and bobs to order from the net for my upcoming fishing trip, should only be £20 or so, probably be £320. Boys' toys and all that, what a sucker, it's what we work for though.

Sean McDade.

## South East



## East Anglia

I may have said this before, but I'll say it again (one of the privileges of getting old), "If the sun shines on the righteous, why did it rain all day at Weston Park in early August?" Perhaps we are not as good as we thought we were!

Despite the rain, we all had a good day and we could still appreciate the hard work that 'Barney' and his team put in to prepare an excellent course. I always thought his name was Barney (as in Barney Rubble) but after all this time, I found out that his name is actually Mike Barney - sorry mate.

Some of us actually played quite well, even me, as you'll see.

0-9 Handicap; 1. Mike Virley 37 pts; 2. Mike Buck 35 pts; 3. Peter (The Veteran) Howard 34 pts; 0-18 Handicap; 1. Toni Thacker 36 pts; 2. Richard Plummer 35 pts; 3. "The Old Man" Roger Plummer 34 pts; You can never find a 'Plummer' when you want one, then two turn up, just like a London bus.; 19-28 Handicap - Real Golfers; 1. Andy Baker 35 pts; 2. Lyndon Upham (The Welsh Wizard) 31 pts; 3. Mick Lathrope (I've been trying for over 40 years to get 30 points - next time!) 29 pts; Trade & Guests; 1. Mike Fitzgerald 36 pts; 2. Ewart Hughs 35 pts; Greenkeepers Longest Drive: Mike Buck; Greenkeepers Nearest the Pin: Ian Willett; Trade & Guests Longest Drive: Terry Mills; Trade & Guests Nearest the Pin: Glen Smart;

Guess who won the Loo Seat again? You guessed - Ian Willett, but I can't remember what he did to deserve such an honour. Sometimes I think all he's got to do is turn up!

The main sponsors of the day were Ben Burgess, well supported by Aitkens, Scots, Bartram Mowers, Toro and Lymogram.

All prizes were presented by Weston Park Captain, Keith Bowyer and our thanks once again Weston Park for your hospitality and excellent food.

I heard a phrase the other day, I think it was Prime Minister's Question Time! Someone said "Egos and diplomas don't get the work done". I think they were talking about a Green Committee somewhere.

Mick Lathrope



## Sussex

Apologies for not writing previously but we have not really had much news. I resorted to reading Brian Willmott's notes just for entertainment.

Well, what a good day we all had at Piltown Golf Club. The weather stayed dry; the course was in fantastic condition and the heather looked great (but not so good when we were in it though) and the food and hospitality excellent. Thanks to John and everyone at the Club for making it a special day.

The results were: 1. Steve Vogals, John Cole, David Cole; 2. Eric Green, Glynn Pollard, Stewart Elford; 3. J Sheppard, H Lin, D Welfare. Nearest the Pin. Matt (Homer) Crossley and the Longest Drive. Big hitter, Alex Anderson. Once again, many thanks to our sponsors for the day, Dave Bush and Ernest Doe.

The Mitchell's Groundscare Coarse Fishing match took place recently at Framfield Fishery with 35 anglers and 20 spectators enjoying the fine weather and a barbecue.

It was a great day with everyone catching at least one fish. The winning overall angler was Peter Ray, from Haywards Heath Golf Club, with a nice weight of 72lbs 13oz, second was last year's champion Keith Bean, from Reeds Plant Hire, with 70lbs 0oz and third was Phil, representing Chart Hills Golf Club, with 67lbs 0oz. The amateur section was won by Nick Rouke, from Seaford Golf Club, with 60lbs 2 oz closely followed by Simon Wells, from Pyecombe Golf Club, with 53lbs 13oz and third was Richard, from Pyecombe Golf Club, with 49lbs 9oz. The junior section had four entrants this year with anglers as young as three fishing with their dads. The winner with 51lbs 8oz was Bill

# Assistant Profile

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

Miles Todd, Toro Student of the Year 2011 runner-up, is top dog for this month's Profile...

**Name:**  
Miles Todd

**Age:** 23

**Club:**  
Rhuddlan GC

**Position:**  
Deputy Course Manager

**Nickname:** H (From Steps)



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** Seven years

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

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** Boy Band Member

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Presenting the golf course

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

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** More respect from members regarding the skills that are required to do our job.

**7. Hobbies?** Football, golf mountain biking

**8. Favourite Band?** The Courteeners

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

**10. What is your claim to fame?** None to speak of.



# Around The Green

Wager. Well done to all those that attended and to a few people who haven't fished for years but now have the bug again.

Plans are in place for the Mitchell's Groundscare Invitation Sea Fishing match to be held in mid December. Though an invitation match, any greenkeepers interested should contact Darren on 07533 476878. Again, it will be a roving match in the Pevensy area. Last year this was won with an impressive weight of 24lbs 10oz. Mitchell's Groundscare has proudly announced their move to new premises in Hailsham with new fully fitted out workshop to service and repair a full range of golf course and grounds care machinery.

Congratulations to Gordon Bell, who leaves Effingham Park Golf Club, for pastures new as Course Manager at Woodcote Park Golf Club in Surrey. Gordon is no stranger to Woodcote as he was one of my assistants there for about eight years. We wish him all the best.

Eric Green  
TheGreens837@aol.com  
Tel: 01424 - 214600



## Kent

October already. Not sure what happened to the summer but as the nights draw in again it's time to put the Hawaiian shirts away and unpack the thermals ready for the onset of winter.

It has certainly been an interesting year. We all know that nobody can second guess what Mother Nature throws at us but experience has taught us all that the key to providing an optimum playing surface at all times is to have the ability to react to changing weather conditions when they occur and understand the consequences of all our actions.

Most of us have accepted now that there is unlikely to be any "normal" years any more. Modern day greenkeeping now is about thinking on your feet and rising to the challenge. One of our notable stalwarts reported to me that he had gone 15 weeks without rain during a period that should have been

considered as springtime. News on TV now reports that we have endured the coldest summer for twenty years. Try and plan your work schedule for next year with those facts in mind!

It certainly makes things difficult when trying to explain to Secretaries and Green's Committees that maintenance weeks' dates cannot be set in stone. Ultimately, our skills in communication and diplomacy are becoming increasingly important to the overall mission of managing our turf.

By the time you read this, our Autumn event at Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club will have been and gone. Sincere thanks to Dave Horn and the Club for hosting our event, which also included the final of the Summer Pairs Knockout. All results to follow next month or see our website for up to the minute news.

One piece of very noteworthy news is that one of our tour regulars, Darren Burton, of North Foreland Golf Club, has had a very successful season with his clubs as well as his mower. Earlier in the year, Darren was short listed for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. A great achievement on its own I'm sure you will agree but an even bigger highlight of his unprecedented golfing year was undoubtedly being part of the Pairs team which narrowly defeated yours truly and Darren Child in the first round of our Summer Knockout Competition. Spurred on by this monumental victory, Darren decided to try his luck on the Trilby Tour and proceeded to romp home to outright victory in the Sussex qualifier at Goodwood Golf Club. Amongst the 119 also-rans trailing in his wake, Darren defeated last year's Trilby National Champion in a play-off sinking a six foot putt at the last to take the spoils. He has now competed in the televised National Finals which were screened on September 26 on Sky Sports 4 (look out for the repeats).

Even I'm not party to the results at this stage having been told, in no uncertain terms, to watch it on the telly along with everyone else. My report next month will include an as yet undeterminable level of detail to Darren's exploits on TV. Suffice to say, if he wins then I shall continue to wax lyrical about his

mercurial talents. Anything less and, well, he may get a mention in dispatches.

If nothing else, Darren has automatic entry to next year's Trilby Tour having qualified as Sussex Champion. Needless to say, seriously for once, we all offer whole-hearted congratulations to Darren and, reassured, his handicap for our events has been dramatically reduced following the publicity.

Please don't forget that we are in the process of compiling a fixture list for 2013. If you are able to offer to host any of our events then please contact myself or Kev (details on website). If you have any news items that you would like posted here or on web then please do similarly. This is your report for your section. If you want it to include your news then please tell us.

Rob Holland  
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



## Surrey

Monday, September 5 - Being an OAP and semi-retired isn't all bad. It has given me more time to consider where next to go on holiday, cutting the grass can happen any day and I don't have to contend with mums on the school run. The van and stock have gone and my garage is empty for the first time in 21 years. Willmott's International Traders, golf with all the South-East Sections, the Surrey committee and writing this very report are keeping me busy now and in the foreseeable future. Many thanks to you all for your support in the past. My mobile number remains the same, 07879 474038 as does my e-mail, brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

So don't be afraid, this gentle and kind old bloke is waiting to serve you - and just like Arkwright I am 'Open all Hours'.

Sunningdale, August 15, was as usual the venue for the McMillan Tankard. It was good to see Jack and Rita McMillan looking well and Jack's comment at the prize giving that the golf course was the best that he has seen it was very true. Well done Murray and his team for the magnificent condition and

the perfect weather. The Longest Drive was driven by Dan Nordsworthy and John Davidson (who?) was Nearest the Pin. The McMillan Tankard went home with Tom Brearley. Tony Bremer was runner-up and Aaron Crittenden was third on countback. Thanks to Roger Tydeman for organising the food and thanks to all those that took home the many odd trays that were left.

By the time this article appears in the October edition, Craig Earnshaw, Course Manager at Oaks Park GC will have hopefully finished his Windsor Half Marathon, while carrying 20lbs. of golf bag and clubs. He estimates a time of under two hours and proceeds will go to the Seve Ballesteros Foundation which carries out research on brain cancer. Should you wish to sponsor, please e-mail Craig on oakpark-greens@crowngolf.co.uk.

Mark Fry has had a movement from The Drift GC to Worplesdon GC where he will be Deputy to that charming and well certified Course Manager, Paul Robinson.

That concludes this month's bits and pieces, except to remind you all that your contributions to this monthly missive are very important and will be given priority at all times unless my latest holiday report is available.

Brian Willmott.



## Essex

Firstly may I, on behalf of the Section, congratulate Andy Cracknell on his appointment to the position of Head Greenkeeper at Frinton Golf Club. Andy leaves Orsett Golf Club after an eight year spell, one year on work placement from Writtle College then three years as an Assistant, when he then moved up to Deputy under the leadership of Don Clarke. We all wish him well in his new position and hope to play at his course in the near future.

This month we announce the speakers at the forthcoming Regional Conference, hosted by us, the Essex Section and to be held at Stock Brook Manor on Wednesday, November 16.

Speakers on the day will be



Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club; Peter Craig, The Hurlingham Club; Richard Whyman, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison, Essex County Cricket Club, and Greg Evans, Ealing Golf Club.

The subject is "Dead or Alive". Section members can come along free of charge, but must pre-register. There is a £10 entrance fee to all non Section members and members from other Sections. Three CPD points are available for attendance.

View our website for more information and an application form. This is a not to be missed event. We have arranged for a good selection of speakers from Golf, Cricket, Tennis and Football to speak about how they look after there veering lengths of grass and how they manage it on a year round basis under the diverse kind of playing conditions they all encounter. After which, you have your chance to put your views. Full details elsewhere in this edition of GI magazine.

Chelmsford Golf Club played host in mid August to the Essex Trophy this year, there was strong field of 40 taking to the course. Fortunately the weather didn't live up to its expectations, rain fell but we were saved from the worst of it, as the really heavy rain managed to hold off until the evening.

The results were as follows:- Overall winner . Ray Clark, Channels, 40 pts. Cat 1: 1. Anthony Kirwan, Lexden Wood, 33 pts; 2. Barry Mann, Three Rivers, 32 pts; 3. Liam Springett, Stoke By Nayland), 32 pts. Cat 2: 1. Dougie Fernie, Upminster, 36 pts; 2. Malcolm Smith, Channels, 33 pts; 3. Keith Chinnery, Colchester, 31 pts. Best Trade:- Andy Turbin, 40 pts. Best Guest. Peter Cracknell 34 pts. Nearest the Pins:- 4th Hole - Andy Turbin 18th Hole - Olly Stubbings.

A big thank you to Chelmsford Golf Club for hosting the day, to the greens staff for presenting the course to a high standard and the bar and catering staff for looking after us all so well.

If you have to go in GI or on the Sections Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)  
Arnold Phipps-Jones

## South West and South Wales



### South West

Firstly, I have to start by congratulating Section captain Wayne Vincent on another impressive season. We recently had two games in two weeks. Our first game saw us at Chippenham GC, where we had a rather strong Welsh team to face. Last year's fixture resulted in a very impressive 6-0 win, so this time the pressure was on for a repeat performance.... However, I think we'll happily take our 4-2 victory this time (although my partner in crime Tim Morgan and I didn't come home with a win, we still lapped up the teams glory!) Our second game took us to West Wilts GC. For those of who have never played West Wilts, please don't let its distance take anything away from its difficulty, this course has many of its own defences, the wind coming to mind! With 360 degree views where you can see for miles, this really is a very picturesque golf club! This is where our faithful Captain decided to take a holiday (I hear Wayne spent two weeks on a luxury cruise floating around the Med....NICE!) so up steps vice captain and long time county player, Paul Garland, aka GARFIELD. Well done Paul and the rest of the guys...so proud!

An important date for your diary....October 5, South West Section's AGM. This year we visit the north of the Section and home of Wayne, at Cotswold Hills...I look forward to seeing you all there.

Can you believe it. It's pretty much the end of the summer already, autumn conditions are very much with us already! But it's not all bad news...is it?

I realise that by the time you read this, Saltex will have come and gone, people I do hope you did your very best to support this event, Saltex should not be looked at as competition but something that we should embrace!! If you did attend I do hope that you had an enjoyable worthwhile time and that the weather did not spoil this.

I would like to thank our



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

**September afforded me my first opportunity to visit the IOG Saltex exhibition at Windsor Racecourse and it was good to see a number of members taking the opportunity to attend the BIGGA organised educational offering that took place there for the first time.**

We are committed to working in collaboration with the IOG and other bodies in the Grounds and Turf Care Industry and were therefore delighted to have the chance to provide some informative and entertaining seminars, our thanks go to Cale Bigelow, Les Howkins and Jim McKenzie MBE for taking the time to deliver them.

After Saltex our thoughts inevitably turn to BTME at Harrogate next January.

Plans are well advanced for what will, we hope, be a very successful event next year.

Stand space has sold well and it is clear that the event is now firmly in the minds of the industry as we have received strong interest for the remaining stand space in the last few weeks. As you know the major machinery manufacturers will all be in attendance this time, so the show will be back to four full halls and we anticipate excellent attendance.

I have been a regular visitor to BTME throughout my career and am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in January now that I have an even keener interest in the event.

**I have been a regular visitor to BTME throughout my career and am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in January now that I have an even keener interest in the event**

The combination of top class exhibitors, a huge range of educational workshops and seminars and the networking opportunities that start at breakfast and only conclude once each evening is over makes for a unique opportunity for anyone with an involvement or interest in the maintenance and management of golf courses and other sports facilities.

Every member I speak to who has visited the event assures me that it always provides them with excellent knowledge, information and good practice while also giving the opportunity to share thoughts and experiences with a vast network of other greenkeepers and interested parties.

I would urge anyone who hasn't attended before to mark the dates in your diary and make a point of visiting in 2012.

Elsewhere in this magazine and in previous issues you will have seen some testimonials from visitors and exhibitors and over the next few weeks and months we will be providing you with further examples of why a visit to BTME will be of tangible benefit for you and the facility that you maintain.

I hope to see you in Harrogate in January if not before.

**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive



patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol, Irritech Ltd, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop, Martyn Lane Golf Signs, your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

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

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



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Our season of events will be starting with our AGM at Portmore Park, on Wednesday, October 5. This will be a great opportunity to see the great work that has been done at Portmore in order to achieve the "Overall Achievement Award" in the Golf Environment Awards. Members will have the opportunity to play the course or attend a course walk lead by Colin and Josh Webber. After lunch, the Section will be holding its Annual General Meeting in the clubhouse. It would be great to see a good number of the Devon and Cornwall members in attendance and contributing to the meeting.

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 safactant based products.

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 courses, please contact me asap.

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



## South Coast

Hope the season is going well for you all, by the time you read this we should be into a calm warm October!

Firstly, the Section played the annual match against the South West, at West Wilts Golf Club, in late August. As always our opponents fielded an exceptional amount of talent on a very testing day. For once we were not whitewashed and managed to scramble a half, it does mean that the South West retains the Cup, but at least we got closer than we have in many years.

The course was in perfect condition and a joy to play. Well done Neil Bungay and his team.

My next point is the Section Seminar, which has caused more than a few headaches over the year. The committee have decided not to run the seminar this autumn as co-ordinating dates with the venue and speakers has proved impossible. We will be pursuing the same format at Milton Abbey School in Dorset in February, 2012. The date will be confirmed later on but it will be during the half term week, Feb 13-18. Our guest speaker will be Jim McKenzie, from Celtic Manor venue of last year's Ryder Cup. The full format will be published nearer the date.

Changes afoot in the Section Committee, our Secretary, Chris Bitten, has decided to call it a day. Although Chris will stay on Committee he does not want the responsibility of the Secretary's role. Thanks for all you have done, Chris, the time you have put in has been much appreciated over the years. The role will be filled by Alex McCombie, currently working for Symbio. Alex served on the committee for several years before he took a job in Denmark so is well versed in

how the Section works.

I have also decided to stand down from the Chairman's position that I have held for several years. I would like formally to hand over to a new Chairman at the 2012 AGM so the Section has a year to find my replacement. As always anyone interested in the committee should make contact with me or any of the team to let us know.

The Autumn tournament is at Waterlooville on October 6, if you aren't down to play get in touch with Kev Glass on glassy2003@hotmail.com. Remember this is a new venue for the section and our AGM. See you there!

Tony Gadd



## South Wales

Our annual match against the South West took place at Chippenham GC in Wiltshire. After last year's disaster at Ashburnham we where all determined to put up a better fight this time round. We arrived at Chippenham on a typically Welsh summer's day (overcast) and enjoyed the hospitality shown to us by the South West guy's. Team Captain, Andy Roach, told us of the pairings and gave us our instructions and off we went.

On what's best described as a tight golf course, all of the matches seemed to be nip and tuck until myself and Big D saw Andy Roach and Colin Thomas walking down the 10th as we headed up the 9th. "How you getting on?" we asked. "4 down," was the reply, which wasn't great as we had just seen Paul Handy and Wayne Bengner, who were in the group behind us and they where also trailing by the same score. Anyway to cut a long story short Paul & Wayne managed to turn their match around and won by 1 hole. Andy & Colin lost their match by 1 hole, Ian Kinley and Rhys Williams won their match, Big D and I halved, Huw Morgan and Mark Anderton lost theirs as did Rhys McDonagh and Mirrion Griffiths. The final score being a win for the South West by 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. Despite the defeat it was a good afternoon's golf

and the meal that followed was first class. Inscapes sponsored the day so our thanks to James Rees for his continued support.

We've had a number of fixture re arrangements so anyone looking out for the results of the match against the GCMA can find out those in next month's magazine and also the result of the Rigby Taylor finals. Hopefully my partner and I come out on top.

Saltex this year has been a huge success. Many thanks to those of you who managed to brave the elements and travel up many of you from deepest darkest Wales and hopefully we can even double the number of you guys and get you all up to Harrogate this year Jane Jones is already starting to take names and numbers of those wishing to attend.

I heard yesterday that congratulations are in order for Rhys Norville, of Newport GC, who is heading off to a new job and a new life in New Zealand. Rhys, of course, won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award last year and we wish him all the very best in the future. Make sure you keep in touch mate.

(Steve Chappell writes)

Finally, in case you haven't heard, I am also on the move. I will be leaving South Wales after seven and a half years to take on the Head Greenkeeper position on the PGA Centenary course at Gleneagles. I don't start until October 17, so will be around for a while but, in case I don't catch you before I go, I would just like to say that it has been a pleasure working with you and all the guy's here in the Section. There are some great golf courses here in South Wales and we have some great greenkeepers looking after them.

Steve. On a personal note, thank you for all the support that you have given to all of us in the South Wales Section. Peter Lacey certainly had a big pair of boots to fill but you turned them into size 14's! South Wales will be at a huge loss without you on board and may we wish you every success in the future. Thanks Steve.

P.S. Don't come looking down here for any squeegee guys in 2014 most of us are still recovering from 2010 mate.

Peter Holmstrom and mainly this month again Steve Chappell.





# Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...

**BIGGA**  
welcomes the  
following new  
members

## Scotland

Anthony Barnes, West Section  
Howard Swan, Essex Section  
Paul McClearn, West Section  
Darren Marshall, West Section  
Dale McNeil, East Section  
Thomas O'Hara, East Section

## Northern

Shaun Harrison, North East  
Section;  
Danny Cotterill, Sheffield  
Section  
Thomas Alexander, North East  
Section  
Ross Young, North East  
Section  
Robin Little, North West  
Section  
Robert Webb, Northern  
Section  
Kenneth Brown, North East  
Section  
Sean Markey, Northern  
Section

## Midland

Jeff Mason, East Midland  
Section  
David Gilmour, East of  
England Section  
Daniel Halfman, Berks/Bucks  
& Oxon Section  
Robert Patton, Berks/Bucks &  
Oxon Section

## South East

Matthew Craig, Surrey Section  
John Andrews, East Anglia  
Section  
David Smith, East Anglia  
Section  
Sam Seymour, London  
Section  
Ross SurrIDGE, Essex Section  
Lee Whyte, Surrey Section  
Roy Woodage, East Anglia  
Section  
Kevin Vidler, Surrey Section  
Simon Edwards, Kent Section  
Thomas Newell, Surrey  
Section  
Robin King, Kent Section  
Jacob Rous, Surrey Section

## South West/ South Wales

South West and South Wales  
Dale Athey, South Coast  
Section  
Moirá Hoath, South Coast  
Section  
Tom Smith, South Coast  
Section  
Mike Harris, South West  
Section

**For more info on  
new members  
log in to the  
Members' Area at  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)**

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>OCTOBER 2011</b>			
October 3rd and 4th	BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota	West Lancashire Golf Club	BIGGA HQ on 01347 833800 or <a href="mailto:info@bigga.co.uk">info@bigga.co.uk</a>
October 4th	Ayrshire Section	Turnberry Hotel	Derek Wilson on 07770 734360 or email <a href="mailto:derwlsn@aol.com">derwlsn@aol.com</a>
October 5th	Midland Section Autumn Golf Event	Sandwell Park Golf Club	Andrew Smith on 07977 145091 or email <a href="mailto:andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk">andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk</a>
October 5th	South West Section Autumn Event and AGM	Cotswold Hills Golf Club	Adam Matthews on 07732 503855 or email <a href="mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk">adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk</a>
October 5th	Devon & Cornwall Section AGM/Golf and Course Walk	Portmore Park Golf Club	George Pitts on 07929 754401 or email <a href="mailto:gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com">gpitts.yelverton@googlemail.com</a>
October 6th	GTC Chairman of Green/Secretary Managers Workshop	Northumberland Golf Club	Fiona Lyttle on 01347 838640 or <a href="mailto:Fiona@the-gtc.co.uk">Fiona@the-gtc.co.uk</a>
October 6th	South Coast Autumn Comp & AGM	Waterlooville Golf Club	Chris Bitten on 07796 887633 or email <a href="mailto:chrisbitten@bitinternet.com">chrisbitten@bitinternet.com</a>
October 12th	East of England AGM and Golf	Orton Meadows Golf Club	Bruce Hicks on 07931 714922 or email <a href="mailto:brucehicks1@gmail.com">brucehicks1@gmail.com</a>
October 12th	Cleveland Section Event	Eaglescliffe Golf Club	Ian Pemberton on 07791 695768 or email <a href="mailto:ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk">ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk</a>
October 13th	East Midlands Section Autumn Golf Day and AGM	Forest Hill Golf Club	Nick Miles, email <a href="mailto:biggaeastmid@gmail.com">biggaeastmid@gmail.com</a>
October 13th	Tree Safety Management	Alnwick Castle & Park	Kat Wright – IOSH on 0116 257 3245 or email <a href="mailto:kat.wright@iosh.co.uk">kat.wright@iosh.co.uk</a>
October 14th	South Wales Section Autumn Competition and AGM	Trefloyne Golf Club	Steve Chappell on 07970 980899 or email <a href="mailto:chappell124@hotmail.co.uk">chappell124@hotmail.co.uk</a>
October 18th	One Day Pesticide Update Course	Beaconsfield Golf Club, Bucks	Jane Glassett on 01959 575575 or email <a href="mailto:jane@jonallbutt.co.uk">jane@jonallbutt.co.uk</a>
October 18th	Amenity Basis	Kilmarnock Golf Club	Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721888 or email <a href="mailto:Kevin.whitby@agrovista.co.uk">Kevin.whitby@agrovista.co.uk</a>
October 19th	Amenity Basis	Fairhaven Golf Club	Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721888 or email <a href="mailto:Kevin.whitby@agrovista.co.uk">Kevin.whitby@agrovista.co.uk</a>
October 20th	East Anglia Section Event	Aldeburgh Golf Club	Ian Willett on 07929 205398 or email <a href="mailto:info@thorpeness.co.uk">info@thorpeness.co.uk</a>
October 20th	Amenity Basis	Prior Hayes Golf Club	Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721888 or email <a href="mailto:Kevin.whitby@agrovista.co.uk">Kevin.whitby@agrovista.co.uk</a>
October 25th	One Day Pesticide Update Course	Beaconsfield Golf Club, Bucks	Jane Glassett on 01959 575575 or email <a href="mailto:jane@jonallbutt.co.uk">jane@jonallbutt.co.uk</a>
October 31st	5 day Chainsaw Course CS30/CS31	Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, Berks	Jane Glassett on 01959 575575 or email <a href="mailto:jane@jonallbutt.co.uk">jane@jonallbutt.co.uk</a>





# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

## Countdown to BTME

### Register now for BTME 2012

Harrogate Week is fast approaching, if you haven't already, register now.

Visit [www.harrogateweek.org](http://www.harrogateweek.org) and click on the 'Register Now!' button.

### Dates for your diary are Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26, January 2012.

Look out for your copy of the 2012 Continue to Learn Brochure sent with this month's copy of Greenkeeper International. Contained within the brochure is a comprehensive list of all seminars and workshops available from Sunday January 22 through to Thursday January 26.

Book early to avoid disappointment, with a 24% increase this year in people taking part in the Continue to Learn programme we are expecting a busy week!

By popular demand the Turf Managers' Conference will make its return for a second successive year and with one and two day workshops and seminars to choose from there is guaranteed to be something to interest you.

All BIGGA members will be entitled to Member rates and discounts taking advantage of some fantastic savings.

## BIGGA Celebrate 25 years

On January 1st 2012 BIGGA celebrate its 25th anniversary.

To mark this celebration a celebratory dinner will take place in Harrogate on the evening of Tuesday, January 24.

The dinner will be celebration of all that has been achieved over the 25 years of BIGGA's existence and will represent the focal point of the Association's Anniversary Celebrations.

Details of venue, format and how to purchase tickets will be available shortly.

## Regional Conferences

Calling all members in the Northern, South East and South West/South Wales Regions, a Regional Conference will be held in your region during November. Details are: -

### Northern Region

#### November 29

Cookridge Hall Golf Club  
Contact Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

#### November 30

##### Birchwood Golf Club

Contact Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

### South East Region

#### November 16

Stock Brook Manor Golf Club  
Contact Clive Osgood  
Tel: 01737 819343

### South West/South Wales Region

#### November 17

Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset  
Contact Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850

For more information contact the Regional Administrators.

Please make every effort to attend if you can, many people, mostly volunteers have gone to a lot of time and trouble to make sure these Regional Conferences happen, please, if you can, support them.

## Section AGM's

It's getting to that time of year again when Section AGM's and Section Education and Golf Events are happening.

In order to keep up to date with all the dates of the Section Events visit the Events Section on the BIGGA Website

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

Or see them listed on the 'Diary of Events' page in this month's Greenkeeper International.

Dates of some Section AGM's as follows, contact Section Secretary for details: -

#### October 5

##### Devon & Cornwall Section

Portmore Park Golf Club

#### South West Section

Cotswold Hills Golf Club

#### October 6

##### South Coast Section

Waterlooville Golf Club

#### October 12

##### East of England Golf and AGM

Orton Meadows Golf Club

#### October 13

##### East Midlands Section

Forest Hill Golf Club

#### October 14

##### South Wales Section

Trefloyne Golf Club

#### November 15

##### Cleveland Section

Teesside Golf Club

#### November 17

##### North West Section

Wilmslow Golf Club

#### December 6

##### Surrey Section

Hankley Common Golf Club

#### Essex Section

Orsett Golf Club

## Members' Forum

Last month's topical debates on the Members' Forum included: -

- Information on purchasing or otherwise machinery
- Greenside bunkers
- Walker Cup (well done GB&I)
- How to cure iced tee mats
- Mackenzie Greens

If you are a member of BIGGA make sure you have activated your account to ensure you have log in details to the Members area of the BIGGA website.



### Contact Details

Tracey Maddison  
[traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk](mailto:traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)

## Regional Offices

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd  
Tel: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
[pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

### Northern & Midland

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
[petelarler972@aol.com](mailto:petelarler972@aol.com)

### South East

Clive Osgood  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
[cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)

### South West & Wales

Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
[jane@bigga.co.uk](mailto: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

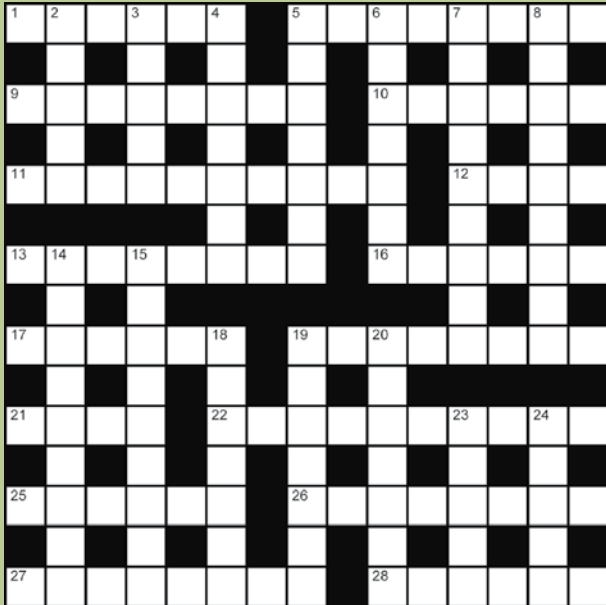




# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Biblical doubter (6)
- 5 Grass roots, right wing political movement in the US (3,5)
- 9 Unofficial England 1998 anthem by Fat Les (8)
- 10 Irish plc, noted for their bananas (6)
- 11 Lib Dem politician with a love of ballroom dancing (5,5)
- 12 Water (4)
- 13 Sir Clive, inventor of the C5 (8)
- 16 E-book reader from Amazon (6)
- 17 Scratch (6)
- 19 Do it well (2,2,4)
- 21 Against (4)
- 22 Potential consequence of subcontinental cuisine (5,5)
- 25 Japanese martial art (6)
- 26 BBC consumer affairs programme (8)
- 27 Mode of transport for Laplandish philanthropist (8)
- 28 Dennis the Menace's pet pig (6)

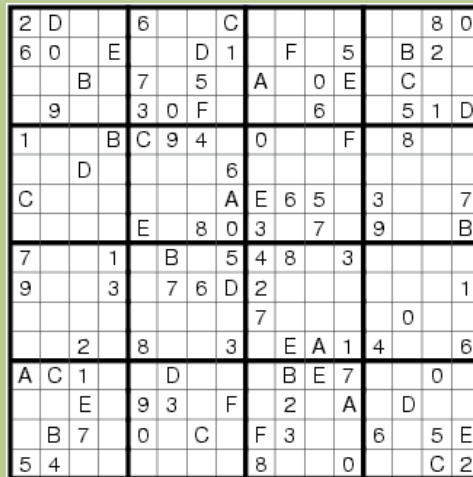
### Down

- 2 Caribbean country, scene of 2010 earthquake (5)
- 3 Traditional army call for assistance for the wounded (5)
- 4 Caribbean island, birthplace of Derek Walcott (2,5)
- 5 Graphical user interface for onscreen buttons and menus (7)
- 6 Acting siblings Ben and Casey (7)
- 7 Till Death Us Do Part character played by Warren Mitchell (3,6)
- 8 1943 western starring Jane Russell (3,6)
- 14 Carrot (9)
- 15 Form of government unknown in the UK from 1946-2009 (9)
- 18 American football scoring area (3,4)
- 19 Conflict featuring Operation Desert Storm (4,3)
- 20 Tweet based microblogging site (7)
- 23 Tenor (5)
- 24 Free and easy (5)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - Countries

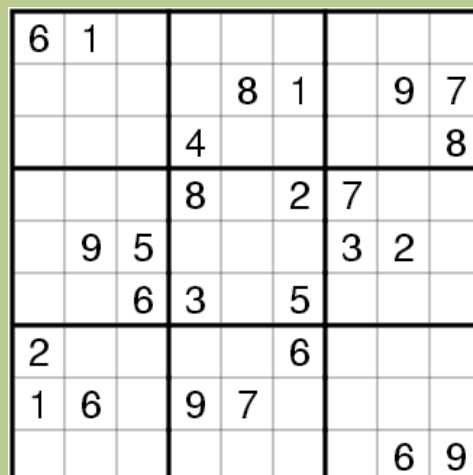
### Can you name which country is the answer to these nine questions?

1. Which country has won the most Football World Cups?
2. Which country won the very first Rugby World Cup?
3. Which country has won the most Olympic medals?
4. Which country will host the next Commonwealth Games?
5. Which country holds the men's athletic sprint relay world record?
6. Which country is the only one outside of the USA to provide a golfer who has won the modern Grand Slam of Majors?
7. Which country is the current holder of the 20/20 cricket World Cup?
8. Which country has produced the most Champions' League wins since it stopped being the European Cup?
9. Which country lent its name to what became Golf's World Cup?



## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU

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





# BUYERS' GUIDE



## A Quick Trim

**Introduced to the UK market 18 months ago by JSM Distribution, the TAS Trimmer range is gaining in popularity with clubs around the country.**

Sprinkler head and marker maintenance is now made easy, with various sizes to cover all popular makes of sprinkler head, valve boxes and yardage markers. One happy convert is John Scoones, Head Greenkeeper at Caversham Heath Golf Club. 'I heard about the TAS blades on the BIGGA website and ordered one to try. It arrived at 10.00am the next day and fitted straight onto my Stihl strimmer within 5 minutes. We had half the irrigation heads on the course (300) trimmed that afternoon. This is a real time saver which has made a previously laborious job a breeze!'

The TAS Trimmer will cut approximately 1300-1500 sprinkler heads when used for the first time, after which subsequent replacement units should have a trimming life of 1500-2000 heads. JSM Parts Manager, Peter Biddlecombe, says 'The TAS Trimmer fits any brand of straight shaft strimmer or brushcutter on the market and mounts easily like a brush cutter attachment. The feedback we are receiving from owners has been extremely positive, mainly informing us how easy to use it is and how neat the finished job looks. They also appreciate what good value it is with a relatively modest price and long-life.'

JSM stock a full range of TAS Trimmer sizes to cater for all makes of sprinkler head and valve box, a quick reference chart is available to help the customer match the right blade diameter to their make and model of pop-up head.

JSM Distribution  
0845 026 0064  
info@jdms.co.uk  
www.jsmd.co.uk

## BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION
- LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
- USED MACHINERY
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

## ALL WEATHER SURFACES

**Huxley Golf**  
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF

Huxley Practice Tee at St Andrews Links

Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222  
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk  
www.huxleygolf.com

**PGA**  
Official Supplier

## BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

**blinder** BUNKER LINER

The bunker lining solution  
01344 621654  
www.theblinder.com

## AERATION

## TERRAIN AERATION

**Turf and Trees**

- 10" drill aeration
- 1m air injection
- 1m soil coring
- Air excavation

**AERATION**

Tel: 01449 673783  
www.terrainaeration.com  
terrainaeration@aol.com

Look at the latest...

**Second Hand Machinery**  
...for sale  
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



## CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR

## ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250** for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**, full colour, please call Jill on **01347 833 832** or email [jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

## CONSTRUCTION

Photo courtesy of Rudding Park Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

**JOHN GREASLEY LTD**  
Specialists in Golf Course Construction  
Tel. 0116 2696766

**CONSTRUCTION**

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED



**GOLF COURSE SPECIALISTS**

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- GROW IN & MAINTENANCE
- SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**DRAINAGE**

Look at the latest...  
**Second Hand Machinery**  
...for sale  
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds



**Duncan Ross Ltd**  
Sportsurf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE  
Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems  
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding : Landscaping  
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrainage : Topdressing : Overseeding

**If it's drainage, it has to be Duncan Ross!**

Willow Farm,  
Red Cat Lane, Burscough, Ormskirk L40 0RF  
01257 255321  
office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk  
www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

**HEDGES / TREES**

**Hedgeworx Ltd**  
Hedging • Topiary • Ornamental Trees

**Mature Hedge Suppliers**

- Hedging, Topiary, Ornamental Trees.
- Nationwide planting service.
- Highest quality plants available.
- Expert horticulturists.

Call, Steve Moul or Mark Jones  
Tel: 01491 826 925  
Mob: 07764 405 335  
www.hedgeworx.co.uk  
info@hedgeworx.co.uk

**IRRIGATION**

**The TAS TRIMMER**  
SPRINKLER HEAD MAINTENANCE  
AND SAFETY MADE EASY  
from £23 +VAT



All popular  
sprinkler,  
valve box  
& marker  
sizes

www.jsmd.co.uk  
tel. 0845 026 0064



**DRAINAGE**

**Traditional  
drainage and  
Lytag banding  
of greens and fairways**

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

**IRRIGATION**

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED



**IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS**

- DESIGN & SUPPLY
- INSTALLATION
- MAINTENANCE

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**RAIN BIRD**

THE INTELLIGENT USE OF WATER™



Tel: 0845 459 2403  
Email: rbuk@rainbird.eu

www.rainbird.eu

**IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS**

**irritech limited**

Independent Irrigation Consultants

- Specialising in:-
- Existing system evaluation
  - System design & upgrade
  - Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:  
**01823 690216**  
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

**Harrogate week**

**EDUCATION**

22 - 26 JANUARY 2012

**EXHIBITION**

24 - 26 JANUARY 2012

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)  
and check out the  
latest chat  
from the  
greenkeeping  
industry



**SPEED CUT**  
CONTRACTORS LTD

**SPORTSTURF &  
GOLF COURSE**

- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- RENOVATION

Oxford 01865 331479  
www.speedcutcontractors.co.uk

**Philip Dixon Contractors Ltd**

Established 1978

Sportsurf Drainage Specialist

Drainage • Construction • Renovation



Slitting • Banding • Maintenance

Tel 01772 877289 (Preston, Lancs)  
Email: info@dixonrainage.co.uk  
www.dixonrainage.co.uk

Scotland Based

**Meiklem Drainage  
Contractors Ltd**

Sportsurf Drainage  
Specialists

Golf Courses - Sportsfields  
Drainage \* Construction  
\* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:

T: 01383 830217

M: 07808 897 300

E: Meiklem@btopenworld.com

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED



**DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS**

- DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- PRIMARY SYSTEMS
- SAND SLITTING
- GRAVEL BANDING

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**ADVERTISE HERE**

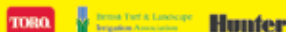
from as little as **£250**  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
Jill on **01347 833 832** or  
email  
**jill@bigga.co.uk**

Design  
Installation  
Service  
Irrigation supplies

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk





# BUYERS' GUIDE

## IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

### Intelligent Watering

Practical Impartial  
Comprehensive Advice



07889 006812

irrigation@intelligentwatering.co.uk  
www.intelligentwatering.co.uk

## LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS

Supply and installation of plastic liners for golf lakes and ponds

Tel: 01206 262676  
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

To advertise within  
Greenkeeper International  
please contact Jill on

01347 833 800

or email

jill@bigga.co.uk

Advertising rates:

1/4 page - £570

1/2 page\_ £790

Full page - £1500

Look at the latest...  
Second Hand Machinery  
...for sale

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

## MACHINERY WANTED

**Invicta Groundcare**  
Equipment Ltd

**We buy used golf  
course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne  
Tel No: 01474 874 120  
Email: invicta@groundcare@five.com

## RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on grass as top dressing has been granted a PATENT in the UK and Ireland under Number EP0788301B1

**TEBBUTT ASSO.  
ARE THE LICENSEES**

with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso.  
on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644  
e-mail: tebbuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk  
www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk

## TOP DRESSINGS

**LOVIE**  
QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR  
Tel: 01771 653777  
email: sales@lovie.co.uk  
www.lovie.co.uk

*Banks Amenity Products Ltd.*

FOR ALL YOUR BULK SUPPLIES  
NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES  
01858 464346 / 433003  
www.banksamenity.co.uk

## TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT

**GROUNDSMAN**<sup>®</sup>  
INDUSTRIES LTD  
Leaders by Design

Specialists in the design  
and manufacture of...

**TURF AERATORS**

**TURF SOD CUTTERS**

Visit us online at:

www.groundsmanindustries.com  
email: bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com

## TURF

### INTURF

Developers and producers  
of specific Golf Course Turf

Our range of products include

- Custom grown Greens turf to match any construction profile and maintenance regime, fine leaved Ryegrass Tees turf and hard wearing grades for pathways. NEW 'Carbon Capture Turf' now available!

All of our grades are available in square metre rolls or the Big Roll format.

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



20 years of golf turf experience

5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance,

Wildflower Turf,

and new Low Maintenance turf

Tel: 01904 448675

www.turf.co.uk

**Tillers Turf**  
growers of fine turf

**Specialist Growers of  
Turf for Golf Courses**

**Rootzone Turf for Greens**

Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.

Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds,  
Approaches and Fairways**

Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

**Bunker retvetting turf**

40mm thick

Small or big roll

Free loan of big roll  
laying frame

Tel: 01652 678 000  
www.tillersturf.co.uk

## VERTIDRAINING HIRE

### PETER MANNINGTON



**Professional Verti-Drain and  
Earthquaking Contractor**

Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211

or Mobile 07850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hazel Green, Edingham, East Sussex TN11 7QA

## ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**

for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,

full colour, please call

**Jill on 01347 833 832** or

email

**jill@bigga.co.uk**

Look at the latest...

**Second Hand Machinery**

...for sale

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

## WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

**GREENSMAN**  
WATER TREATMENT

**GRASSGRABBER G6**

- \* Wash Down Water Recovery System
- \* Positive Filtration - Non-Biological
- \* Simple, Low Cost Installation
- \* Low Running Costs
- \* 200+ Systems Installed Worldwide

**Tel: 0845 603 6441**

www.grassgrabber.co.uk

Email: sales@greensman@btconnect.com

## USED MACHINERY

www.  
usedturfmachinery.com

**Waste2Water**

**BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &  
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS**

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel: 01782 373 878

Fax: 01782 373 763

E-mail: info@waste2water.com

Web: www.waste2water.com

# DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

## Lister Wilder

### Location and size:

Ashford, Bristol, Cirencester, Devizes, Guildford, Reading and a head office in Wallingford

### Employees and size of premises:

148 across 7 branches

### Number of service vans: 51

### Brief history of company:

Lister Wilder is a very straight forward company which specialises in supplying and maintaining machinery for four key markets; Agriculture, Construction, Arboriculture and, of course, Groundcare.

Established in 1947, it remain a wholly owned family business, and this has certainly been a factor in attracting and retaining excellent sales, parts and service staff.

It's their knowledge and expertise that allows the company, in its own words "make the leap from being 'just another machinery dealer' into one of the most focused, customer friendly, and forward thinking Dealerships in the South of England".

The franchises play a big part in any dealership and Lister Wilder has worked hard to build up a significant portfolio of some of the leading names in Groundcare. Kubota plays a large part in the business and the company has developed an extremely good working relationship with them over the years. Lister Wilder is now Kubota's largest dealer in the UK.

The company has a branch in each of the key counties in which it operates, and runs 51 fully equipped mobile service engineers, and operates with seven parts departments that hold over £2 million of parts on the shelf.

The company puts its success down to a combination of some great franchises, prime locations, brilliant staff (and a few



lucky breaks!) which has allowed them to grow over the past 60 years to become a committed dealer and supplier of state of the art machinery, parts and service and a very strong partner for their customers.

### Specialist services offered:

Spin and Relief grinding, Chipper blade grinding, Winter servicing and breakdown response

### How has the dealership changed over the years?:

Core values haven't altered at all over the years and the company remains committed to its staff, its franchises and its customers.

Expectations of service have steadily got higher, true of just about every industry, and one that Lister Wilder has investing in and embraced.

### Franchises

Kubota Tractors, Kubota Mowers, Kubota Excavators, Hayter, Toro, Timberwolf, Charterhouse, Baroness, Dennis, Allet, Dakota Spreaders, Stihl, Husqvarna

### What would you like to see changed?:

We would like to see Golf Courses given more choice to pick the best of what's available, rather than being pushed towards package deals where they sometimes have to accept second best on certain product lines.

### Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (i.e. OEM parts supply):

We would like to see one of our strengths as our flexibility and willingness to meet our customers' individual needs.

With this in mind we already work with a number of key accounts where they hold what we call impress stock.

This is stock owned by Lister Wilder but held at the customers' premises that can be used and subsequently invoiced as we move through the year.

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](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)



# Recruitment



The UK's leading Drainage, Irrigation and Specialist Construction Company  
Requires an

## IRRIGATION SERVICE ENGINEER

Ideally based in the south of England you will work on land drainage, irrigation and golf course construction contracts throughout the UK and Europe.

You will have extensive experience of the irrigation industry and an in depth knowledge of irrigation and control systems.

You will be fully computer literate and experienced in using Microsoft Office.  
You must hold a full UK driving licence.

This is an exciting opportunity leading to a rewarding career with a well established yet dynamic company.

Excellent pay and benefits package for this permanent position.

Please contact for an application pack before Friday 28th October 2011:

Mr M Regan, M J ABBOTT LTD, Bratch Lane, Dinton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 5EB

Email: [mick.regan@mjabott.co.uk](mailto:mick.regan@mjabott.co.uk)

[www.mjabott.co.uk](http://www.mjabott.co.uk)

(M J Abbott Ltd is an equal opportunities employer)

## Wrotham Heath Golf Club HEAD GREENKEEPER



This Members Club comprises of an 18 hole Heathland Course set in the delightful heart of the North Weald of Kent.

The Club seeks someone with the following skills and attributes:

- ♦ 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, maintaining and encouraging growth of fine grasses.
- ♦ Computer literate and capable of developing and tightly controlling a green budget.
- ♦ Understanding of ecological management.

Salary is negotiable based on previous experience.

Please apply in writing to  
The Secretary, Wrotham Heath Golf Club,  
Seven Mile Lane, Comp, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 8QZ.



## CROYDON BOWLING CLUB Ltd.

### Greenkeeper



This 400 member club founded in 1749, has a vacancy for a greenkeeper to maintain 2 six rink and 1 two rink outdoor greens. The successful applicant will receive a suitable remuneration according to qualifications and experience. Duties would include maintaining the bowls green surrounds and completing various maintenance tasks within the club building, which has a six rink indoor facility. This position offers accommodation, consisting of a three bedroom flat on the club premises.

Applicants should apply in writing, enclosing a current C.V to  
Vice President Gill Harrison, Croydon Bowling Club Ltd,  
10 Nottingham Road, South Croydon, CR2 6LN

or e-mailing the above documents to:  
[croydonbowlingclub@btconnect.com](mailto:croydonbowlingclub@btconnect.com)

# LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN...  
[www.bigga.org.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.org.uk/careers)

THE WEBSITE IS UPDATED REGULARLY WITH NEW VACANCIES, SO DON'T DELAY, A NEW JOB IS ONLY A CLICK AWAY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTIN BLACK

ON 01347 833 832  
OR EMAIL [kirstin@bigga.co.uk](mailto:kirstin@bigga.co.uk)

# LOOKING TO RECRUIT?

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN...  
[www.bigga.org.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.org.uk/careers)

ADVERTISE IN GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL FOR A MONTH FROM £480+VAT FOR AN 1/8 PAGE ADVERT, OR GO DIRECTLY ONLINE FROM £300+VAT FOR A PART MONTH & £500+VAT FOR A FULL MONTH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTIN BLACK  
ON 01347 833 832  
OR EMAIL [kirstin@bigga.co.uk](mailto:kirstin@bigga.co.uk)

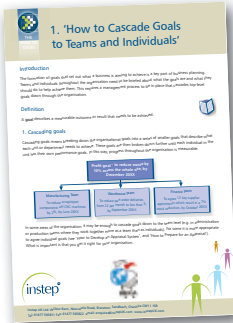


THE  
HOW TO  
SERIES

# Download and learn

- How to conduct a one-to-one meeting
- How to conduct a team briefing
- How to prepare for an appraisal
- How to recruit the right staff
- How to write a job description

Exclusive  
to BIGGA  
members



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

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

To access the "How To..." guides, log on to the **BIGGA Members Area** at [www.bigga.org](http://www.bigga.org) and click on **Member Resources**.



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



JOHN DEERE

Kubota



RANSOMES JACOBSEN  
A Tennant Company

syngenta



ORC  
legal assistance



HAYTER

Gallagher Health

RAIN-BIRD



Vitax

Wiedemann



## in the shed answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Brazil
2. New Zealand
3. USA
4. Scotland
5. Jamaica
6. South Africa
7. England
8. Spain
9. Canada

### CROSSWORD

1	T	H	O	M	A	S		5	T	E	A	P	A	R	T	Y	
	A	E	T	O					F	L	H						
9	V	I	N	D	A	L	O		10	F	Y	F	F	E	S		
	T	I	U	L	L				G	Q	O						
11	V	I	N	C	E	C	A	B	L	E		12	A	R	T	A	
13	S	I	N	C	L	A	I	R		18	K	I	N	D	L	E	
17	S	C	R	A	P	E			19	G	O	T	O	T	O	W	N
21	A	N	T	I			22	D	E	L	H	I	B	E	L	L	Y
25	A	I	K	I	D	O			26	W	A	T	C	H	D	O	G
27	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R		28	R	A	S	H	E	R	

### MONSTER SUDOKO

2	D	F	5	6	E	9	C	1	7	3	B	A	4	8	0
6	0	C	E	A	4	D	1	9	F	8	5	7	B	2	3
3	1	B	4	7	8	5	2	A	D	0	E	F	C	6	9
8	9	A	7	3	0	F	B	C	4	6	2	E	5	1	D
1	3	6	B	C	9	4	7	0	A	2	F	D	8	E	5
E	7	D	8	F	5	3	6	B	1	4	9	0	2	A	C
C	F	9	0	D	2	B	A	E	6	5	8	3	1	4	7
4	2	5	A	E	1	8	0	3	C	7	D	9	6	F	B
7	6	0	1	2	B	E	5	4	8	9	3	C	F	D	A
9	A	8	3	4	7	6	D	2	0	F	C	5	E	B	1
F	E	4	D	1	C	A	9	7	5	B	6	2	0	3	8
B	5	2	C	8	F	0	3	D	E	A	1	4	7	9	6
A	C	1	9	5	D	2	4	6	B	E	7	8	3	0	F
0	8	E	6	9	3	1	F	5	2	C	A	B	D	7	4
D	B	7	2	0	A	C	8	F	3	1	4	6	9	5	E
5	4	3	F	B	6	7	E	8	9	D	0	1	A	C	2

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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





# On the Soapbox

As part of a mini series, people from the industry discuss what they have gained from attending Harrogate Week. This month, Tim Merrell, MD of The Grass Group gives his thoughts



Tim Merrell, MD, The Grass Group

*Tim Merrell*

## I first visited BTME in the mid 90s and have been coming ever since.

Initially we operated under the wing of Kawasaki UK, and our Trillo products were used on Kawasaki Mules, which had just been launched onto the golf course market.

My first impressions of Harrogate were that I was genuinely surprised at how busy it was. At that time I had no experience of this market sector, but it was lively with a very good atmosphere.

At that time our products didn't automatically drop into this market and we had to amend our range to meet the requirements of the greenkeeping world. The Show gave us the opportunity to meet greenkeepers and discuss exactly what they were looking for.

Even if we produced a product which wasn't precisely what they wanted, the Show gave us valuable information and allowed us to develop the product from there.

As our range started to develop it became clear that we needed to take a stand in our own right and since then there has never been a doubt about our attendance in Harrogate every year.

As a growing company we haven't been drawn towards exhibiting on a biennial basis as that model doesn't fit with how we wanted to do business.

Indeed, in the years when some of the large manufacturers have not been there we have had some of our better shows. Perhaps it is a case that when the larger exhibitors are there they tend to draw people to their stands and when they are not there we are top of people's agendas rather than second.

During Show hours we just don't get off the stand at all. Over the years we've worked our way to the front of the Show and our stand is now at the front of Hall A and it is manic from minute one.

I remember about three years ago that it got to around 3 o'clock in the afternoon and my colleague and I were feeling awful. It then dawned on us we hadn't even had a chance to have a drink, never mind something to eat since 8 o'clock that morning and we'd worked straight through. Our bodies were saying "Hang on a minute, you've got to have something to eat".

We do enjoy the evenings. We go for a drink straight from the show then, in the evening, we need to catch our breath so we usually meet our suppliers for a meal, talk through the day and generally catch up.

The days are so full, and I don't want to sound lightweight, but if I did now what I have done once or twice in the past and

gone right through to the next morning I'd be in no shape for the next day's onslaught.

However, Harrogate does give some great opportunities to meet customers after the Show and we have looked at how we can utilise what the town has to offer. We have come up with some creative ideas, some of which didn't get past the planning stage!

I have some wonderful memories of Harrogates in the past and one of the main ones was the occasion, I think it was in 1995, when the snow came and many people were trapped in Harrogate.

I remember looking out at around 2pm and seeing snowflakes the size of 50 pence pieces. The entire town became gridlocked. Lucky we were driving a Range Rover Discovery, which was about the only way to get out, and we joined our Kawasaki colleagues in Knaresborough. We found a restaurant and were the only people in it but we made it worth their while to remain open.

Year on year we evolve and our Stand size increases and or activities broaden and Harrogate takes on a new dimension for us.

I was particularly pleased last year that more recognition was given to the exhibitors. We are an integral part of the success of the Show and our views should be considered. We are fundamental in the development

of Harrogate, particularly at a time when things are so difficult in the market place.

It is a very fluid situation at the moment and those who are not questioning themselves are mismanaging the situation. I don't believe that the way things are at the moment that there is a road map to guide us through.

Change can happen so quickly, just look at the money market. Things can turn on their head in no time at all.

I always feel the year has started when we get to Harrogate and we can look forward to the new season. We always find it a little frustrating that we can't go out immediately and demonstrate the kit. We've got to wait six to eight weeks until the weather is kind enough to let us out, but it certainly sets up the on-coming season and allows you to consolidate any business that you have been negotiating.

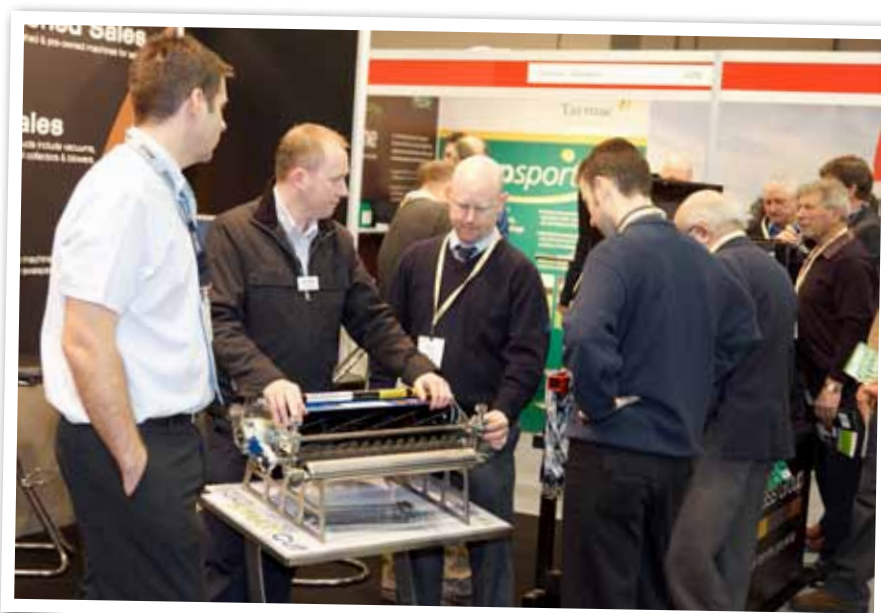
What was very apparent last year was that it was the education that was bringing in the greenkeepers. Education is very much what it is all about.

We look forward to Harrogate each year.

Let's shake off Christmas and the New Year and get some business done.

Tim Merrell, MD, The Grass Group

## Year on year we evolve and our stand size increases and / or activities broaden and Harrogate takes on a new dimension for us



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

DOMESTIC

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

AGRICULTURAL

HORTICULTURAL



**Subsidised  
Solar Barns!**

Upto £35,000 towards  
your building!

Talk to us today



We have a new website! Please take a look and let us know what you think. [www.westcountrybuildings.com](http://www.westcountrybuildings.com)

## HIGH QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS

DESIGNED AND  
CONSTRUCTED TO  
YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK and Ireland. Working together means that we are able to provide the very best, cost effective buildings designed specifically to suit your needs.

We offer a fantastic service and clever design solutions. Over the past twenty years we have built up a fantastic reputation of excellence and professionalism with a fine personal touch.

Our expert team have a wealth of experience in both the design and construction processes, this comes with a proven track record.

Mention that you saw us in  
Greenkeeper International  
magazine when you contact us.

**01633 782 684**  
**07980 818 364**  
**07970 827 085**

[www.westcountrybuildings.com](http://www.westcountrybuildings.com)

Head Office  
15 High Cross Road  
Rogerstone  
Newport  
NP10 9AE



# JOIN THE REVOLUTION!

**TORO**



Toro is proud to launch the revolutionary new Greensmaster TriFlex range. Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex 3400 and TriFlex Hybrid 3420 are both packed with ground-breaking technology and deliver an unrivalled quality of cut and exceptional finish. Check out the unique cutting unit suspension system and DPA cutting units that hug ground contours for superb cutting consistency. And redesigned balloon-style tyres that make tracks virtually invisible. What's more, the TriFlex has been built with the operator firmly in mind. Quick-change cutting units can be switched instantly to other units – all without tools. But perhaps most exciting of all, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system for a greener mower. Discover the all-new Greensmaster TriFlex range for yourself, call us on the number below and join the revolution!

Call **01480 226800** or visit [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)

GREENSMaster TRIFLEX



TORO Commercial Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: [toro.info.uk@lely.com](mailto:toro.info.uk@lely.com) [www.lely.com](http://www.lely.com) [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)



partners in turfcare



GREENSMaster 1000



FLEX 21



GREENSMaster 3250-D



TRIFLEX 3400