

# GI CONTENTS

A look at what's inside the magazine this month

SEPTEMBER 2011

## FEATURES

**16 The place to be**  
Harrogate Week 2012 Preview

**24 One man bands**  
Jim Cook finds out that working as a lone greenkeeper can be a tricky yet rewarding business

**30 What's at stake for newly planted trees?**  
Dr Terry Mabbett with his in-depth look at how to look after your trees

**36 History in the making**  
John Deere are the Gold Key Profile

**38 Smart management**  
Kerran Daly MG looks at how you can keep a well maintained golf course in times of austerity measures

**44 Oh Carolina!**  
Rob Clare tells us about his trip to North Carolina

**46 Tank Mixing**  
Graham Paul offers another opportunity to earn valuable BASIS points

**52 The Anatomy of... Top dressers**  
James De Havilland looks at Charterhouse machinery

**57 Don't miss out on the trip of a lifetime**  
Find out what the cover wrap is all about! Your chance to be part of the Bernhard's Delegation trip to the States



## One man bands

Working as a lone greenkeeper on a nine-hole course can be a tricky yet rewarding business, as Jim Cook found out, after speaking to Chris O'Dowd, of Cambridge Lakes Golf Club, and Miles Skehan, of Ampleforth College Golf Club, in North Yorkshire

**The number of bicycles which can usually be seen parked outside Cambridge Lakes' clubhouse give a sound indication of the state of the club, everybody is welcome.** From students cycling down to a meal before lessons, to groups of children coming to get the guns on the town at the club, which is just one-and-a-half miles south of Cambridge city centre, public domain on giving all a warm greeting. "Townwork is the key at this time, but, par-dance club and although Chris O'Dowd is the lone greenkeeper, he has the backing of a support network to help deliver quality throughout the year. Chris mentions he has duties outside "Normally first thing on a morning I come out, there are dew, water pitch marks, check the fens and tiller the bushes while cutting the grass. I usually prepare during the week and on a weekend we have some school children come in and do more work around the course. Then I'm back in Monday morning getting the course ready for the following weekend. We handle around 20,000 rounds a year here and cover for everybody. Anyone can stroll in and play so we try and make it a bit of a challenge but also fairly generous to any standard of player." Cambridge Lakes' greens now contain around 500,000 plants and Chris said he, Club Owner, Bob Burton, and the rest of the team at the club worked hard to bring them up to standard, with minimal use of nitrogen. "To limit our use of nitrogen on the greens, our main supplier is Synliss and we work with them to try and improve the soil biology. We've been at it for about a year now and it's going really well. "It has reduced the number of times we need to cut the greens as well because you don't get the unsuitable growth from the nitrogen. It's more sustainable. We can compare to once a month to help with some recovery. It sends a bit of a message to the club greenkeepers. "You get a lot more involvement in what goes on. I made a decision before what I think and brought it out and I know what needs to be done." For handicapper, Chris also happens to be the joint holder of the course record, along with the club's pro, James Burton. A qualified greenkeeper himself, James has been mentoring Chris since they began working on the course and as a team along with Bob, they are a positive example of how a group can work together at a



LONE GREENKEEPING

24

Harrogate The place to be **FDU** Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 January 2011 at the Harrogate International Centre

BTM presents to the Harrogate International Centre until January and things are hotting up already! This special event features many of the best of what is to come!

Whether you're looking for a new way to improve your business, or a new way to improve your life, this event is for you!

**How to get to Harrogate** **New 2012**  
Direct Train Service from London Harrogate

**Park & Ride**

**Personal Development Zone**

**CPD**  
Awards and Competition Winners

**BIGGA 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner**

16



36



30



44



20



46

## REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 10 New Products
- 13 Chairman's Word
- 14 GTC
- 15 Learning and Development
- 20 Industry Update
- 21 What's Your Number?
- 22 New Products
- 50 Back in Time – 1972
- 58 Around the Green
- 61 Assistant Profile
- 63 Chief Executive's Column
- 64 Membership
- 65 Diary of Events
- 66 Letters
- 67 In the Shed
- 74 Soapbox



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