



Turf science brought to life at The Belfry

The Belfry played host to the second Turf Science Live in July - an interactive event that showcases the latest research, development and technological innovations in turf agronomy.

Organised and run by Everris (formerly named Scotts) and Syngenta, the educational day of presentations and practical demonstrations was attended by 96 golf course managers, head greenkeepers, turfgrass consultants and contractors.

Small groups of delegates spent half an hour at each one of seven learning stations discovering more about turfgrass seed development, the art of application, irrigation management systems, the science of stress, optimising greens for performance, the latest electric greens mower technology and converting annual meadowgrass greens to bentgrass greens using the Graden.

The technical teams at Everris and Syngenta worked with Course Manager, Kenny McKay, and industry specialists Complete Weed Control, Rain Bird, Harper Adams University College, STRI, Jacobsen and Kensett Sports to provide a hands-on experience that brought learning onto the golf course.

Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf

Club, was attending his first Turf Science Live. He said the format was a great way for turf managers to learn.

"It was a really enjoyable and informative day. I found the station about turf stress, presented by Dr John Reade and Harry Mbah, particularly interesting. I work at a course with red clay greens, so springs for me are very difficult, but this year we've gone from dry and cold, to dry and hot with little rainfall, so the turf has stayed stressed and I've hit a time of the year when I want it to be actively growing. They explained about stress, its impact on

turf and how to alleviate it, as well as showing us about some practical solutions to help manage performance under difficult environmental conditions."

Neil Ballingall, Superintendent at Fairmont St Andrews, made the journey south to the West Midlands to attend his first Turf Science Live.

"Everything I've learnt today will help me when I return to my golf course," he confirmed.

"I much prefer this interactive format to sitting in a seminar, it was great to get out on to the superb course here at The Belfry."



IGCEMA Support

BIGGA has signed on in full support of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Certificate Programme.

The programme is part of the IGCEMA's commitment to educating its members around the world. The Certificate Programme consists of six core competencies including: hydraulic troubleshooting, electrical troubleshooting, internal combustion engines, drivelines, soon-to-be released are sprayer troubleshooting and cutting unit technology and set-up.

IGCEMA's CEO, Stephen Tucker, stated: "It gives us great pride to know that golf greenkeepers around the world are signing on in support of our programme. A lot of effort went into making this available to everyone. Having the support of BIGGA shows that greenkeepers are behind what we are doing. The support of BIGGA in this way will give the programme much credibility."

BIGGA's CEO, Jim Croxton, said: "BIGGA is committed to recognising excellence and giving recognition to those that strive for it so we are delighted to support the IGCEMA Certification Programme and appreciate the benefits that come from a close working relationship between our two bodies.

"Top quality greenkeeping is only possible if the machines used to do the job are maintained and repaired to the highest possible standard and the work that the IGCEMA does to raise the bar in this regard is to be applauded." BIGGA has not only signed on in support of the IGCEMA programme but has pledged to become an invigilator and also assist with promotion of the programme in the UK and across Europe by accrediting the programme for its CPD scheme. The IGCEMA's President, Patrick Callaby, Workshop Manager of the Celtic Manor Resort, said: "I am so pleased that BIGGA, under the leadership of their newly-appointed CEO, Jim Croxton, has come out in support of the certificate programme."