

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

£5.20 APRIL 2012

Inside...

CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

All turf pests, not so
bright and beautiful

Featured

DISEASE ALERT

Two new turf
diseases discovered
on UK golf courses

Golf
Course
Feature

Vale of Llangollen

GI visits North Wales, to find a course
ran by the club's next captain in line

ALSO INSIDE... WATER CONTROL : TEMPLE GC : DELEGATION



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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Here comes the sun

With Summer Time now officially upon us we can look forward to longer days and lighter evenings, but if you are in large portions of this country you may well be enduring the headache of water restrictions.

I can only imagine the sleepless nights induced by the helplessness you must feel from not being able to bring some relief to stressed out greens.

While we are supposed to live in a country of moderate climate the occasions when weather seems to be playing a part are increasing, although the anti Climate Change lobby will say that a few years of hotter temperatures and higher or lower rainfall is nowhere near enough to indicate a true change.

I must say it has been strange, living in an area where we have had a decent amount of rain, listening to the weather men and women beginning their forecasts by saying: "Those of you looking for rain are going to be disappointed."

The last major drought caused havoc within the industry with many courses suffering as a result and supplies of water being sought from any available source.

There were even cases of tankers being sent to Scotland to bring supplies of H₂O back down to the home counties to offer relief to some golf courses

This month Dr Kate Entwistle provides information on two new diseases which have emerged in recent times not previously found in this country.

The changes in climatic conditions may well have played a part in their less than welcome arrival within these shores. There are, after all, enough diseases around already to keep you on your toes.

It is clear that water is going to become an ever more valuable resource in the UK and

looking at ways of reducing your need for irrigation will become vital.

Whether that be with the adoption of more drought resistant cultivars or more sophisticated and accurate ways in which to administer irrigation no stone can afford to be left unturned.

To assist in this process this month we also carry an article on Water Management, which looks at variable speed pumps and what you can do to ensure efficiency in your use of an irrigation system.

The spotlight will undoubtedly fall on golf and any use of irrigation – irrespective of whether it is water from your own harvesting efforts or a licensed borehole – will draw adverse comment from some quarters.

In effect it is no different from a householder using water he has gathered from his own water butt, but it is all about perceptions isn't it?

I would like to add to the many tributes that have already been paid to Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, who retires at the end of this month.

He has become a friend to many, as well as a colleague, and has been the main point of contact with BIGGA for hundreds of Scottish based members.

Peter. Enjoy your retirement and keep that superb handicap of yours down as long as you can.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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What happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas, as George Pitts allows us to take a sneak peak inside his diary and tells us what the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Co, got up to at The Golf Industry Show.

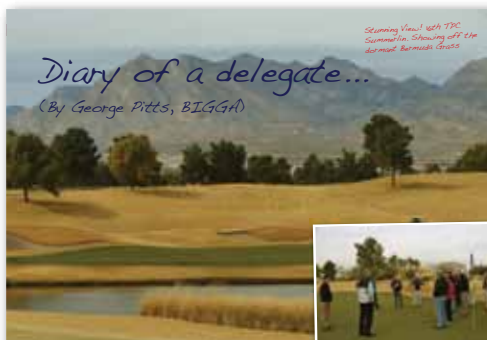
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Less is more as Malcolm Peake found out after attending the "Managing with Less" workshop, which was held at Temple Golf Club.

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James de Havilland continues with his monthly check on the machinery market.

Entry Level



Saturday, February 25 - Polo Towers, Las Vegas

It was an early start for some but everyone was keen to begin this adventure together. We were met at Gateway by Bernhard and Co's Kim Parrell who had organised the trip, and one hour later we were being warmly welcomed at the hotel, Polo Towers - each of us with a one-bedroom apartment. The hotel was right on "The Strip", which was convenient for our first evening together, taking in the sights, having a bit to eat and a few beers.

Sunday, February 26 - Angel Park Golf Club

Today we had the opportunity to play golf or take a walk around Angel Park Golf Club. We were joined by Jim Coonan and Andrew Melles, and we all experienced the high level of customer service. Complimentary golf clubs, cars and even balls and tees were organised by Tom Chastey, Director of Maintenance.

At about 3,000 feet, Angel Park offers spectacular views of Red Rock Canyon and the Las Vegas Valley, and features 36 holes of championship golf designed by Arnold Palmer. The Palm Course was extremely well presented and maintained, and if you missed the green staff you were in the desert! There were a lot more successful, with Andrew Melles topping the scoring.

Monday, February 27 - Coana Visits, TPC Summerlin and Paine

As then spent in the morning discussing the previous evening's events and we were all bright-eyed and ready to start our day of golf course visits. Kim and Steve Nunn, Bernhard and Co, joined the day with the first visit to TPC Summerlin, home of the PGA Tour's "Austin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open", and where Tiger Woods won his first ever Professional Tournament.

We were met by James Selous, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, who happens to be English. James came across as very professional, polished and confident, speaking in front of everyone.

At this stage of the year the Bermuda grass roughs, fairways and tees were dormant. The tees are one-seed with Perennial Ryegrass, but the rest of the course remains yellow with dormant Bermuda grass.

The decision to not over-seed the fairways and rough was made by the club in order to utilize the money saved towards preparing for the PGA tour event. The greens were a more familiar seed mixture, Creeping Bentgrass (Pennisetum AM) Halfway along the back nine, we visited the very impressive maintenance facilities, which was absolutely spotless and probably the best-organised facility I have ever seen. James explained how the staffing is structured and how tools were communicated, including using a Plasma screen in the cove room linked to his computer to communicate tasks for the day.

Our second course visit of the day took us to the desert on the outskirts, Paine Golf Club. Paine is owned by the Paine Tribe, a Native American tribe who have made their money through Snake Houses. The resort consists of three 18-hole courses with each course measuring over 7,000 yards, including the "Red Course" measuring over 7,000 yards. After a morning lunch, Jeff Reid, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, led us down to the Maintenance facilities, which again were first class.

The three courses are maintained by 55 staff. As with both of the courses that we visited, a tremendous amount of emphasis is put on the irrigation of the turf with temperatures regularly reaching 83-84°C and an average of just over four inches of rainfall per year.

At Paine, there are four wells, which are pumped by the tribe, from which the club extracts water to fill reservoirs. In the summer they can use up to 4 million gallons of water per night for all three courses. Annual usage of \$600 million! (Thank you, Jeff and Julie at Paine for making us all feel so welcome.

James Selous, Assistant Superintendent at TPC Summerlin. On the left, Steve Nunn, Bernhard and Co.



Group photo of Delegates at Paine Golf Resort with Jeff Reid (Director of Maintenance) and Kim Parrell, Steve Nunn and Sofia Taylor from Bernhard.



James Selous explaining the specifics of TPC Summerlin.

Jeff Reid discussing irrigation.

Thanks!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Bernhard and all the team for giving us this fantastic trip. It was a credit to the industry and should be applauded for its forward thinking in offering opportunities like this. Special thanks to the amazing Kim Parrell, whose organisation and dedication towards the trip will always be remembered.

To Bernhard and in particular Jim Coonan, Steve Nunn and Andrew Melles, for guiding us through the process and sharing the experience.

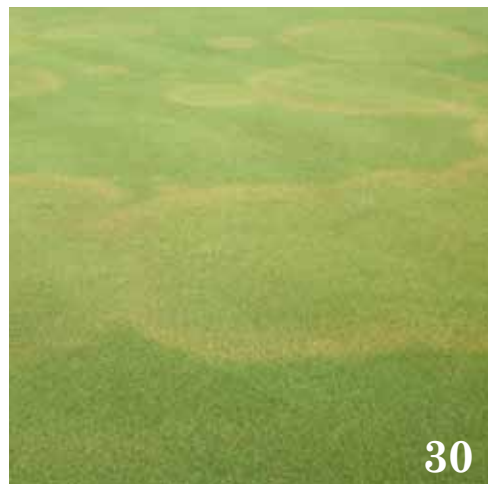
For me, it was a career highlight and I have come away from this trip inspired, better educated, better informed and better equipped to fit in with the global industry. It was the perfect balance between work, rest and fun. A big thank you to all who made this trip possible. This trip was all about experiencing as much as you can possibly take in and making the most of what is a truly unforgettable experience.

George Pitts

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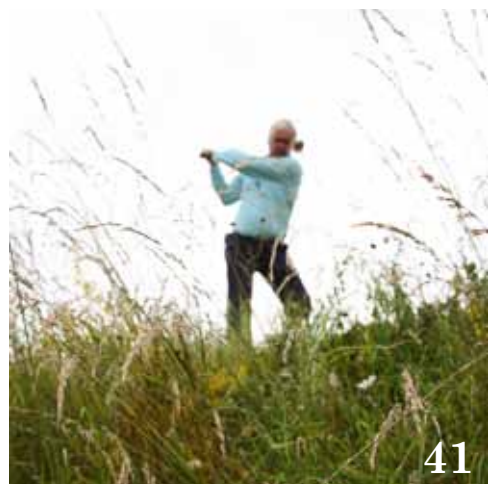
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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

BIGGA and the GCSAA Join Forces



BIGGA and the GCSAA have forged an alliance, which will benefit golf course managers on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.

The formal agreement sees the two largest Associations in the industry working in collaboration to continue to raise standards in course management, demonstrate a global commitment to sustainability and to enhance the professional image and status of Golf Course Managers and Superintendents.

Signed in Las Vegas during The Golf Industry Show, the agreement will see the two bodies promoting and

supporting each other's services and programmes; sharing information and knowledge and providing opportunities for both Associations to learn from each other.

The collaboration will cover education conferences and trade shows; support from industry sponsors and partners; professional development and education and membership products, services and information. All will be carried out with a genuine commitment to sustainability in all areas.

"BIGGA is delighted to have formalised its already excellent relationship with the

GCSAA. We firmly believe that Course Managers around the world face similar challenges so sharing good practice, recognising each others skills and working together jointly to promote sustainability and the fine work done by all of our members will undoubtedly lead to better playing conditions on golf courses around the world.

We are grateful to the Board of Directors of the GCSAA for their progressive approach to this collaboration and I personally look forward to working closely with them in the years to come," said BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Mellon.

GREEN GOLF IN THE KINGDOM OF FIFE AND TAYSIDE

Special one-day seminar at The Scores Hotel, St Andrews April 26, 2012 9.30am-2.45pm

A special one-day seminar, looking at how golf clubs can achieve success in sustainably managing their courses and facilities, is to be held in St Andrews later this month.

The free seminar will feature presentations about the sustainability strategies at world famous golf venues, St Andrews Links, and Loch Lomond Golf Club.

There will be presentations about Waste Management from Zero Waste Scotland, energy usage from the Scottish Energy Efficiency Office, and an introduction to the Golf Environment Organisation OnCourse programme and its ecolabel certification.

Fife Council will also outline the support available for clubs and courses implementing sustainability measures.

The seminar will conclude with a discussion session where a panel of experts in the field will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice.

It will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about this increasingly important aspect of golf club management.

The event is being organised by St Andrews Links Trust and is supported by the Scottish Golf Union, the R&A, the Golf Environment Organisation and Fife Council.

To book a free place at the seminar please visit:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sustainable_fife

John Farrell of Bailey's

Bailey's of Norfolk Technical Director, John Farrell, has died following a long battle with illness.

John had been with Bailey's for 15 years during which time he had taken a great deal of interest and worked unceasingly to help and impart sound

advice to his friends and customers within the turf care industry.

"His input into the success of our business and the friendship he bestowed on us is so special.

"We will never forget our John Farrell," said Alan Bailey.



LACEBY MANOR MOVES FORWARD WITH DEERE



Lincolnshire businessman and former champion motorcycle racer Roger Burnett has a long-term development plan in place to make Laceby Manor Resort & Golf Club near Grimsby the premier golfing venue in the region.

Having taken ownership of the club last May, Roger has invested in improvements to the clubhouse, course and greenkeeping facilities, with the recent purchase of a new John Deere course maintenance fleet from local dealer F G Adamson & Son of Swanland, North Ferriby.

"We now have the opportunity to provide the right golfing experience, with our new machinery fleet, and with a new head greenkeeper in Rob Bradley," said Roger.



Saltford Wall Game

Members at a Somerset golf club have been rolling up their sleeves to rebuild the dry stone walls around their course.

The members at Saltford Golf Club undertook a crash course in the ancient craft of stone wall building from an instructor with the British Voluntary Conservationists to get the project underway.

The golfers who had never been involved in any work

of this kind before included retired schoolteachers, an ex-navy engineer, a former council leader, a steam train fireman and a project manager on the Royal Yacht Britannia, to rebuild walls nearly 300 years old.

Peter Williams, a former accident investigator who was club Captain when the scheme was launched, said: "Our course is more than 100 years old and many of the walls had deteriorated.

"Some areas had to be completely stripped to clear tree roots."

The greenkeeping staff has helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

Head Greenkeeper, Darren Moxham, said:

"I am delighted the members have undertaken this work which has added to the image of this attractive golf course."



New Consultant

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects has appointed Eric Tortelier as their latest EIGCA Consultant Partner.

Eric, who has worked in the irrigation industry for the last 25 years, is an agricultural engineer and MBA. He spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and a further eight years with Toro, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East on many prestigious projects.

For the last four years Eric has been Managing Director at AREO. Julia Green, EIGCA Executive Officer, said; "It is a great pleasure to welcome Eric to the EIGCA. We created this new partnership category specifically for golf course consultants like Eric and I'm sure that, with his wealth of experience in irrigation, he will find a ready audience when he meets up with our members, particularly at our AGM and Conference."



EGEU Launch New Website

The European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is pleased to announce that a new website has been developed to complement the already existing EGEU website (www.eg.eu)

The new website, designed in association with The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) and the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is based on a Quality Assured scheme of centres, and specialist training providers, all having met a criteria and available to offer both formal and bespoke training courses. Employers and greenkeepers are encouraged to view the new website as there are courses and contacts available to assist with successful staff and management development.

The GTC's David Golding, a Director of the EGEU, believes the new website will develop into the independent information portal for the sector as more countries look to establish a greenkeeping education and training structure to allow access to learning for all levels of operatives and managers.

Any centre, college, company or individual involved in delivering greenkeeper education and training based on *best practice* are encouraged to apply to become involved in the Quality Assured Accreditation Scheme.

David added, advice and guidance will be available to help grow the game globally using expertise in all subject areas to ensure best practices are used to maintain and manage a golf clubs greatest asset, the golf course.

To register visit: www.greenkeepertraining.com

Natural Paving Products

Natural Paving Products (UK) Ltd has launch its new brochure and website.

The new brochure includes flagstones and block paving, as well as a range of new products, colours and features. The Cragstone Collection of weathered flagstones and circles is also new for 2012. www.naturalpaving.co.uk



Renovation Work to Witness

The opportunity of visiting Birch Grove Estate, in Sussex (a course which rarely opens its doors) to witness renovation work being carried out, has arisen.

Greenkeepers can visit this closed course while it is being renovated using the latest machinery from Campey Turf Care Systems, on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25, April.

Birch Grove Estate was acclaimed by a select few as the best 18 holes in Sussex. No expense was spared in its construction and the millions spent created a golf course of absolute perfection.

Birch Grove is now under new

ownership and is to be given a new lease of life.

For one week only, an intensive renovation programme will be implemented with machinery from Koro, Imants, Dakota, Omarv, Raycam, Coremaster and Vredo.

Once the work is finished, the gates will be closed and locked by the owner and then the facilities and golf course will be once again reserved for his own private use.

You can apply for your personal invitation. This is the only way you can gain access – so please email your request to julia.campey@campeyturfcare.com or call 01260 224568.

HERBICIDE LABEL CHANGES

New CRD (Chemical Regulation Directorate) label requirements for herbicides approved for use on non-porous, hard surfaces, require increased targeting of spray applications, important in protecting water and optimising application efficiency.

That is the view of Bayer's, Dorin Pop, who has examined the new requirements. "These new label requirements – 'Regulatory Update 42' – will apply to all herbicides used on paved and other non-porous surfaces," explained Dorin.

The new legislation, aligned to the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides and the EU Water Framework Directive, has come into action to help minimise the use of

herbicides and to reduce run-off into drains which poses a pollution risk.

"For herbicides used on such surfaces, the path of movement following application, mirrors that of rainfall, often being directed into drains and gulleys.

"This potential pollution risk is one which must be prevented to deliver environmental protection which otherwise hinders compliance with EU and UK directives relating to pesticide use and protection of water resources.

"The objective is to improve the targeting of herbicide applications and to avoid blanket sprays when controlling weeds on impermeable surfaces," he said.

South East Region Annual Golf Day

After a chilly start once again, members and their guests enjoyed some good weather at Walton Heath Golf Club for the South East Region's Annual Golf and Dinner Day.

All of the large field of competitors appreciated the great condition of the Course and its presentation so early in the season.

It was very apparent that Alan Strachan and his team had been really busy with some good work on the Heath throughout the winter months.

Competitors enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson, of Sherriff Amenity, at the 10th hole. Chairman of the South East Region, Tom Smith, thanked the host Club for, as always, their first-class hospitality and for making everyone so welcome on the day.

Following an excellent meal in the Holderness Dinning Room guests were entertained by the popular Ian Richards. The Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, John Aarvold, then presented the prizes to the category winning competitors.

The Ray Day Memorial Trophy was won by Gareth Roberts, from Hankley Common Golf Club, with some great golf to get around the New Course in a gross score of 72.

This year for the first time there was a



Team Challenge won by the Surrey Section whose top three players had the best combined score to receive the Silver Salver.

The evening ended with the presentation of the Trophy in memory of Ian McMillan by Callum McMillan (left) to the winners of the Members and Guests Glynn Pollard (right) and Matt Strevett (centre) from Beauport Park GC.

The South East Region of BIGGA is most grateful to the following companies for their generous sponsorship and help with this event. Avoncrop Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CWM; Ernest Doe Power; Everris; Golf Mats UK; Grass Roots/Dryjet UK; JSM; P. Tuckwell Ltd; Rigby Taylor; Sherriff Amenity; Speedcut Contractors Ltd; Sisis/Dennis

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Eaton's Mick Hits 40



Michael Lathrope (Mick) shown above second from right, moved from Maylands Golf Club, near Romford, to take the Head Greenkeeper's job at Eaton Golf Club in Norwich in March 1972 – he's still there today.

He left the 'Smoke' with his wife, Lil, who he had recently married at the time and began a new life in Norfolk.

Now, 40 years on, he has three daughters, Jayne, Kate and Tina, and five grand

children - with twins on the way.

With a reputation of hard work and loyalty second to none, he has been East Anglia scribe to the magazine for many years.

He has strong relationships with fellow Greenkeepers and Trade alike.

Mick has successfully worked to get the current young crop of greenkeepers qualified, as he has since 1981.

There have not been many changes within the team at Eaton, testament to the great working environment that Mick creates.

The current green staff has over 130 years of combined service at the club.

His team at Eaton, and everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing Mick wish him all the best on achieving this landmark and look forward to the years ahead.



Supporting the Future

The Golf Foundation supports the development of golf in schools and the links between schools and clubs.

Through its efforts, the Golf Foundation has dramatically increased the number of schools delivering golf in England from 14% to 44% and the number of schools with links to clubs from 9% to 30%. In addition, the Golf Foundation is reaching youngsters in inner city areas and is providing support for projects that involve disabled children. It has also contributed significantly to the growth of junior golf in Scotland and Wales.

However, there is so much more to be done to make it possible for all children to experience our wonderful sport and all the benefits it has to offer. The only limiting factor is the amount of funding available. Therefore, the Golf Foundation has launched a new fundraising campaign – GOLF19.

All those who work in the sport are being asked to support the next generation by texting 'GOLF19 £2' to 70070 and the Golf Foundation will receive 100% of the donation.

We all enjoy being part of the golfing community, and it's important that we acknowledge what the Golf Foundation has done for the sport, especially in its Diamond Jubilee year. This is why BIGGA is supporting the GOLF19 campaign and is encouraging members to make a donation.



Thanks, Angela

BIGGA said farewell to its Assistant Accountant, Angela Wilson, at the end of March.

Angela is moving home, with her partner, to Scotland, for a much deserved early retirement.

Everyone at BIGGA House wishes her well in her ventures North of the Border, and presented her with a new running kit to thank her wholeheartedly for the second-hand gifts she kindly donated upon clearing-out her home!

iPad2 Winner

BIGGA would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the online BTME 2012 Visitor Survey. We had over 500 people provide us with their valuable feedback on this year's Exhibition.

The winner of the iPad 2 is Marcus Phelps, Head Greenkeeper at Filton Golf Club, Bristol. Well done Marcus.

BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Mellon drew Marcus's name out of a hat during his recent visit to BIGGA House and Jane Jones, South West/South Wales Regional Administrator presented Marcus with his prize

Marcus is a long time member of BIGGA and has attended many BTME's during this time, this year Marcus visited BTME on all three days and would say to anyone who is thinking about attending BTME 2013... It's a must not miss! Miss it, miss out!





Chairman's Word

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

The times they are a changing - perhaps

So March broke all records for warm weather and lack of rain, certainly in the East of Scotland, and it was so good to be out dealing with irrigation issues, with sun on your back, and seeing all the golfers with smiles on their faces, in warm weather clothing. The course has greened up, it's beginning to look nice and healthy again and growth is filling out the winter wear areas.

I'd like to start by thanking Peter Boyd for his loyal and dedicated service to BIGGA. We wish him all the best in his retirement and I know he will be missed by all who have come to know him as a friend. I'd also like to wish Angela Wilson, from our accounts department all our best wishes as she moves to Scotland, and to thank her for her excellent work during her time at BIGGA.

Feedback from all the National conferences and events has been very positive, and there is definitely a more positive outlook on the golfing front. I attended the one week SGU Management Development Programme Level II Course, excellently hosted by the SGU and SLGA. It has been developed in conjunction with the Club Managers Association of Europe and approved by the Club Managers Association of America, the Industry leaders in this field. I'm glad to report BIGGA played their part, with Jim Croxton, our CEO and Gordon McKie, St Andrews both doing a great job in representing our Association. Well done to all involved! The other speakers were also excellent and the company of the delegates all working at a variety of clubs made for an interesting week.

We are considering the possibility of running such a course at Harrogate. Whether you decide to move into management at your club or not, having an understanding of the full picture and the management issues facing the club as a whole gives you a very good perspective in considering how you manage the course and the impact of all the decisions you make. It also teaches you the vital importance of good communication.

I am planning my next trip to China, on behalf of Elmwood where I will be teaching Golf Course Superintendents. I'll also take the opportunity to further discuss how



The course has greened up, looking healthy again, and the growth is filling out winter wear areas

Woburn Golf Club, by George Little

BIGGA may be of benefit to International members there.

You may be aware that a private members bill was presented to Parliament to consider moving our clocks forward one hour. This has been delayed due to lack of time, but it will surface again as there is a large body of support behind it. BIGGA had previously been opposed to this about 10 years ago when it first surfaced. Our opinion has once again been sought by various bodies. I would ask you not to rush to conclusions and that we work to form an informed opinion of the impact this may have, looking at positives and negatives if we can.

No doubt, it does not rest on our opinion whether it proceeds or not, but others in the industry would be wise to understand the impact before making their own positions clear. For example: in the shoulder seasons (Spring/Autumn), we will have longer evenings, potentially allowing more golf and a useful revenue stream to the golf clubs. Conversely, preparation time in the morning will be limited if golfers are still to get a round in before lunch, and maintenance schedules could be under severe pressure to keep ahead of play. Potentially secure income at present could therefore come under threat. It would be useful to have a wide consultation and ensure its impact is understood.

On another subject, The R&A is working to protect the enjoyment of the game and

to safeguard the financial operations of golf facilities, in a manner which preserves natural environments and enhances community engagement. Their website has a vast array of content which will help and support you to understand this subject better. You can access it through the BIGGA website under the "Sustainability" page under "Resources" or at www.randa.org/en/TheGolfCourse.aspx

I hope you are all excited and as prepared as you can be for the season ahead, whether its dealing with too dry, too wet, too hot, too cold, turf problems, machinery problems, whatever, you can always seek the help of your fellow members on the forum as there will always be someone else reading it who has faced the same challenges.

The dreaded "M" golf major is just round the corner. Although it leaves many of us facing very high expectation levels, on the plus side it drives golf participation, and revenue and I like to think the gap between what we can all produce now with the skills and resources we have, and what they have done for years, has been reduced.

I hope for all of you your season gets off to a good start. Remember to use BIGGA to seek any advice or support you need, and if you have any suggestions on anything you think BIGGA should be considering, then let me know. My best regards.

Andrew Mellon, Chairman 2012
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk



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Learning & Development

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

At last Spring has sprung. The lighter nights are here, the lambs are bouncing about the fields and the promise of some sunny days (and easter eggs!) lifts the spirits no end. I know that many of you are wishing for rain – I hope your wishes are fulfilled, but that the rain falls at night when I'm sleeping!!



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2012

Nominations for the 24th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year are now being accepted. All sportsturf training providers who offer Level Two, Level Three, National Certificates and Diplomas are eligible to nominate their outstanding students. Applications have been sent to all training providers and are also available to download from the BIGGA website (Education area/Awards).

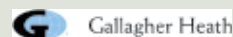
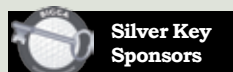
Nominated students will attend a local interview, with up to six candidates being selected to attend the National Final at BIGGA HOUSE in September.

The prizes up for grabs include a six-week scholarship to attend the University of Massachusetts Winter Turf School as well as a trip to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, California and two packages to attend the Continue to Learn Education programme at Harrogate Week in January 2013.

BIGGA Library

The BIGGA Library is having a facelift over the next six months. We are working with our website providers to incorporate an online ordering facility, a simple search facility, a way to identify if books are available to borrow, and a downloadable library list.

With all the books being reviewed to check that they are in the right categories, whether they are still



Gold Key Individual Members:
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers Frank Newberry, Sam Langrick Antony Calvert, Espen Bergmann
Silver Key Individual Members:
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn Douglas Duguid, Ade Archer Jaey Goodchild, Graham Wiley Michael Beaton, Paul Jenkins

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

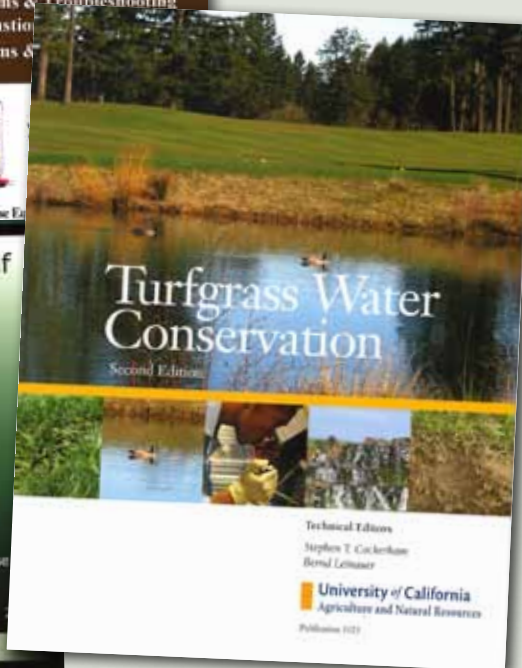
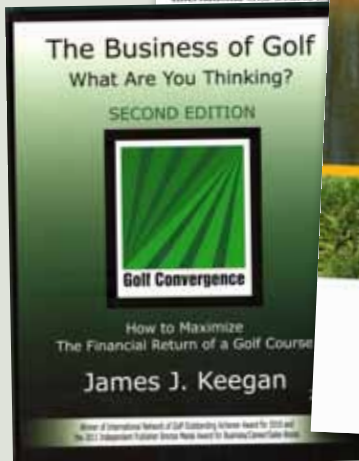


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www.bigga.org.uk



up to date and if they need to be replaced.

We hope that the library, which is a benefit of membership, will be significantly improved.

Part of the project will include the purchase of new books.

We would like to include books that are recommended reading for sportsturf and management qualifications.

If there are any books that you think should be in the BIGGA library, please email rachael@bigga.co.uk with your suggestions.

We would also like to feature reviews of library books, both on the website and in future issues of Greenkeeper International. CPD points will be available to those members who complete a review on our behalf.

If you are interested in reviewing a book, please contact Rachael.

Our goal is to make the Library a great source of information and an invaluable membership benefit, so please give it some thought and get

in touch to help us improve it on your behalf.

Three new books have been added to the library and are now available to borrow:

- Turfgrass Water Conservation
- The Business of Golf – What are you thinking?
- The IGCEMA study guide – Hydraulics, Electrical, Engines and Drivelines

As a member of BIGGA, you can borrow two books for up to six weeks. The only cost is the recorded delivery to return the books to BIGGA House.

Field Guides

The new field guide additions, Trees & Shrubs on the Golf Course and Golf Course Grasses can now be downloaded from the members area of the BIGGA website, listed under Member Resources. They are also still available from the L&D Department, free of charge to Members.

NEW HOLLAND SUPPORT OPEN COURSES

For the last 18 years, a Ford 1920 with a loader has been regularly used at Royal Troon and, although it has provided outstanding service throughout those years, Royal Troon recently decided it was time to upgrade to a sophisticated new machine.

John Condron, from Lanark-based Bryson Tractors Ltd, was involved in the sales process every step of the way. After a short negotiation, a new Boomer 3050 was delivered in mid January. Its main tasks will include deep-tine aeration and trailer pulling.

John said: "Royal Troon has always been very happy with the service that they received, so once they decided to replace the 1920 tractor, it was a relatively simple process for us to conclude the deal.

It's a great pleasure to see a New Holland tractor used on one of the most famous golf courses in the world.



Keep an eye out for future developments with the kit at Royal Troon!"

However, Royal Troon isn't the only world-class golf club using New Holland machines to maintain their pristine grounds.

Campey Turf Care Systems recently delivered a new T4020 to Royal Birkdale Golf Club. The delivery of the new machine is part of Royal Birkdale's five-year rolling plan to provide its greenkeepers with the very best machinery.



Henrik Lund Joins RJ

Henrik Lund, a Danish national, has joined Ransomes Jacobsen as Export Regional Sales Manager for Scandinavia and the Baltic Republics. Reporting to Sales Director Rupert Price, he will be responsible for business development, equipment sales and dealer support across Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Baltic Republics.

Henrik has a Business and Marketing degree from Handelshøjskole Syd in Esbjerg and began his working life at Viking Lifesaving Equipment in Denmark, rising through the ranks to become Managing Director of the Swedish subsidiary company based in Stockholm.

At present Henrik lives near Varna, with his wife Antoaneta and their three young children. The family will be relocating to Denmark in the near future.

Commenting on the appointment Rupert Price said: "Henrik has wide business experience, as an employee, senior manager and proprietor of his own business. For the past two years he has been marketing our products in the Balkans so comes with excellent product knowledge. He will be yet another great addition to the sales team here at Ransomes Jacobsen, as we look to aggressively target the northern European market, going forward."



Turfmech Appoint New Sales Administrator

Turfmech Machinery Ltd, has appointed Linda Reeves to the position of sales administrator.

Working alongside the company's sales director, Leigh Bowers, Linda's principal responsibility is to provide office-based support to the Turfmech and Allett sales and marketing operations, and to the company's appointed dealer networks for Turfmech grounds care equipment, and Allett professional and domestic pedestrian cylinder mowers.

Bringing to her new post, more than 15 years' experience in sales and sales administration, Linda is now handling dealer and customer enquiries. Information requests ranging from product availability and demonstrations to machine despatch, and the provision of factory support at open days, local shows and events.

BLEC Reports Golf Industry Show Success



BLEC Global reported a highly successful GIS (Golf Industry Show) in Las Vegas. Showing the BLEC Multivator and their Laser Grader on the stand, managing director Gary Mumby said: "The mood was very positive.

"We saw visitors from all over the world and have set up several new distributors to handle our range of landscaping and turfcare equipment in the US. As well as huge interest in the Laser Grader and Multivator we also received a high level of enquiries about our seeding machines – particularly the new close-spaced seeder launched at Harrogate."

Gary was on the stand with wife, Sue. "We had a tremendous response to our specialist sportsturf products," she said.

ALLETT MOWER RANGE PUBLISH NEW BROCHURE

Allett has published its first brochure presenting the newly-extended range of Allett domestic and semi-professional walk-behind cylinder mowers.

Resplendent in green and gold livery, the new Allett mowers complement the long-established line-up of Allett professional walk-behind cylinder mowers introduced in 1965 and used today by groundstaff, greenkeepers and discerning gardeners around the world.

Both mower ranges are manufactured at the Staffordshire factory of Allett parent company, Turfinech Machinery Ltd.



What's your number?

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

Name: Rupert Price
Company: Ransomes Jacobsen
Position: Sales Director

How long have you been in the industry?
15 years

How did you get into it? I worked at Ransomes while in the 3rd year of my degree course in Business and Technology at Sheffield Hallam University, and then returned to Ransomes after leaving university.



What other jobs have you done? I taught at Woodridge School, Port Elizabeth, South Africa in my gap year. After I joined Ransomes Jacobsen I had held a variety of different positions within the Sales department, including Sales Manager, UK & Ireland. Then in 2011, I was promoted to my current role of Sales Director with responsibility for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

What do you like about your current job? I enjoy building long term relationships with a diverse group of people, right across our unique industry. It's a great industry sector staffed with passionate and professional people who really care about the maintained environment.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry? Customer expectations of product performance have increased, especially in the last five years. New technologies are coming through, especially the use of electronics for control systems. They are becoming more and more accepted into the industry and will help the turf professional manage individual items of equipment and entire fleets in the future. And, industry education has improved significantly.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I try to keep up with my two children both under 5 years old, play squash and cut grass!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? With a better Golf handicap than I currently have (those of you who know me on the course will know what I mean)!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry? The Ransomes Jacobsen team and of course all our customers!

What do you consider to be your lucky number? 322!

Pick a number 17

Rupert has chosen Peter van Mispelaar, of Vanmac/ Trilo

If the shoe fits...



Next year at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, Jez Hughes (left) will be Course Manager when wearing his boots, and Club Captain when he dons his shoes. As Scott MacCallum found out, it's a quick change act he is looking forward to making



Last year saw Sir Alex Ferguson acclaimed for his 25 years in charge of Manchester United. He received praise from all quarters for the many trophies he had won during his two and a half decades, and the North Stand at Old Trafford was renamed in his honour.

What it demonstrated, and what many rival clubs failed to put into practice, was the benefits of continuity and consistency. Swapping managers can sometimes bring a short term boost, but rarely long term success.

Jeremy Hughes – universally known as Jez – is celebrating 25 years at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, in North Wales, 17 of them as Course Manager.

Just like Man United, the course has benefited from the continuity of management, and while Jez hasn't yet had any part of the club named after him, he is being honoured – as next year's Club Captain!

"I'd been a member here since I was 11 but I can remember the first job I had when I came in for three weeks work in November, 1986. It was mixing top dressing so I was putting sand and soil through a riddler.

As it turned out it wasn't good enough, so in the end it was used to help build the 18th tee," recalled Jez, a BIGGA member since 1990.

It was when he was asked to cut some fairways that his potential shone through and Jez began to see a career stretching out in front of him.

"I'd never considered becoming a greenkeeper. I genuinely believed that I would work with my dad in the family timber business alongside my brothers," said Jez, of his father's company which exported wood veneers to Germany and Austria.

"We used to spend a lot of time in Scotland. We spent a lot of time in Kirkcaldy and I learned to play golf in Fife, on courses like Lundin and Leven Links and Elie."

He was given his first full time contract in April 1987, successfully completing a trial to become Deputy Head in 1990 and doing the same prior to being confirmed as Course Manager in 1995.

"I was the only golfer on the team and I think it meant that I looked at things slightly differently. I was interested in how things could be shaped and cut while I was also hot on attention to detail which has now become common practice throughout the greenkeeping team," he explained, as we sat in



"If I've got my boots on, I'm Course Manager; if I've got my shoes on, I'm Captain. But if I've got my golf shoes on, I'm a golfer, so leave me alone!"



the attractive clubhouse which looks over the course.

Since then Jez and his team have worked tirelessly to raise the bar at Vale of Llangollen to the extent that the course is regarded as one of the finest in North Wales.

"We were the first club in the area to install an on-line booking and automated response system which enables us to build a database and receive feedback on the experience people had when they visited the club," explained Club Manager, Bob Hardy.

"Without exception they come back saying that the course was fantastic, the greens were the best they'd played on all year and that they want to come back," said Bob.

"We used to send the reports down to him, but that was before his head became too big," he joked.



“Seriously, though, it’s good motivation for the team. It’s nice to know that what you are doing is being appreciated.

“We’re all proud of Jez here for the work he’s done and the fact that he is a Director of BIGGA,” said Bob.

With approximately 55,000 rounds a year, keeping the course at its best is a task which keep the five strong greenkeeping team busy.

“Over the years, in addition to ensuring that the greens keep to a high standard, an extensive tree management programme has been on-going as well as a bunker refurbishment programme and a tee refurbishment programme”

When he took over there was some thatch issues and Jez began hollow coring twice a year and he topdressed with sand for the first five years.



“We then progressed with some gravel banding in 2000 and then the Shelton 25 system in 2010 on 13 greens to aid the drainage. With the change now in maintenance procedures we have used the Graden sand injection twice in the last 3 years alongside our monthly aeration, top dressing and liquid foliar feed programme.”

The course, which as its name suggests is in a valley, boasting superb views of the hills and, not to mention, the spectacular River Dee running alongside four of the holes, had some dramatic changes 20 years ago.

“We received two tree grants in the early 90s which stipulated how many trees we had to plant, how close together they should be planted and the species we were required to plant – and not all of

them were types we wanted,” recalled Jez.

Since then they have thinned them out to create shape on the golf course as well as joining them up to define some of the holes.

“We have a lot of tree lined holes which does cause considerable maintenance issues with leaf collection, while during dry summers, like last year, they do draw moisture out of the ground.

“I’ve educated the membership now that trees are in essence a crop and that certain trees have certain lifespans.

“Also, that trees have to be removed for the benefit of the course to aid in sunlight and air flow to certain areas.” said Jez.

Two trees which do hold reserved status at the club appear on the 10th fairway. The oaks are the 4th



and 6th oldest in North Wales and the hole is known as "Twin Oaks".

The bunker work is continual particularly when the course falls victim to weekends like the one early last February.

"We were hit by a mini tornado on the Friday afternoon. It tore out the practice net and ripped off the roof of our Halfway House and dumped it 40 yards away narrowly missing one of our guys, and then on the following Sunday day the dam at the reservoir in Bala was opened to let some of the water out, but too much water was released and it flooded four of our holes – the 1st, 9th, 15th and 16th. It was three feet deep at its worst and lay for some 36 hours.

There was a lot of silt and debris on the greens tees and fairways but it completely washed the bunkers out on those holes," explained Jez, who said that it was something which had happened to a slightly lesser degree three times through the years 2000-2004.

Despite having been at the club for such a period motivation has never been a problem.

"As an active member of the golf club I wouldn't want to go out on a Saturday, play the course and have people complaining about the quality of the course. I like to do it right even if I know it's not going to be perfect all the time," said Jez, who has represented Denbighshire county and North Wales teams.

"I was also the Minorcan Amateur Champion in 2005 and my name is on the board at Son Parc golf club over there. I've never won the Club Championship here though," he said ruefully.

He is really looking forward to his year as Captain and has developed an interesting way of splitting his roles at the club.

"If I've got my boots on, I'm Course Manager; if I've got my shoes on, I'm Captain but if I've got my golf shoes on I'm a golfer so leave me alone I'm playing golf," he joked.



He is certainly not one who is going to add a Captain's Tree or a Captain's Bunker to the course.

"I've seen 25 different Captains many of whom have wanted a tree, bunker or a pond put on the course. After my year I'd just like everyone to say that I was a good Captain and that I did a good job," said Jez, who hopes that, at 42, he will be able to encourage a younger feel to the club.

Listening to both Jez and Bob you can't help but agree that the former's year in office will do nothing to damage their on-going working relationship.

"The Captain is just one of the Board here and not in charge of the club. He has a vote along with another six Board Members so invariably only good decisions, for the benefit of the whole club, will be passed," said Bob.

"The days of the Captain coming in and saying 'This is what I'm going to do in my year,' have well and truly gone," he added.

That might just have scuppered one of the current Vice Captain's goals.

"Next year's pay rise might not be as easy as I thought!" joked Jez.

"Seriously, I don't see it being a problem at all. If there are any conflicts of interest which I feel I'd better off not being involved with, as an employee, I'll step back. It wouldn't be worth me getting involved."

The banter between Jez and Bob illustrates just how strong their working relationship is.

"He also knows that the year after he's been Captain he'll be back to normal," quipped Bob, before adding a more serious note.

"Jez comes not only with the respect of being Captain but also with the respect of knowing more than anyone else about the course. He's the expert there."

Jez is looking forward to his "drive in" which will take place on the first Saturday of next January.

"I'll have mixed emotions. I'll be nervous as I'm not playing as much as I used to and I'll want to strike a good one but it'll be quite sentimental as my dad won't be there to see me drive in and he's the man who introduced me to the game."

He may not have part of the club named after him but the continuity and success that Jez has brought Vale of Llangollen Golf Club means just as much to the members as Sir Alex Ferguson means to the Manchester United fans.

That said Jez would like it to be known that despite the references to Man Utd in this article he is a life long Liverpool supporter!



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Green solutions for greenkeepers

Golf clubs are under increasing pressure to save energy and conserve water in the course of their greenkeeping operations. Paul Shute, highlights the role that new technologies can play

Golf clubs can be conservative institutions, used to implementing similar policies and using the same technologies in their greenkeeping operations year after year.

The procurement process often mirrors this conservatism. Traditionally, the Course Manager puts in a request for a new piece of equipment, such as a pump, and the Green Committee signs it off without any real discussion, due to the fact that the Committee is, naturally, made up of golfers not agronomists.

However, there are increasing signs that times are changing as a number of different pressures come to bear on golf clubs across the UK.

These pressures are interlinked, pushing clubs and greenkeepers to embrace new ways of working and forcing many to consider the issue of sustainability for the first time.

The first pressure is operational costs. As golf club memberships fall, committees are coming under increasing pressure to keep running costs down.

A major contributor to those running costs is the myriad of pumps and pipes which feed sprinkler systems alongside fairways and greens.

Each pump is electrically driven and during summer months can be in operation for many hours every day. All of this contributes to a considerable running cost, particularly when rising electricity prices are factored into the equation.

The second pressure is the threat of water bans, which after a dry summer and exceptionally dry winter has left many water companies already fearful of perilously low reservoirs and underground aquifers. What's more, commercial

organisations with water meters, which are now the majority, and that includes golf clubs, are faced with paying for every drop of irrigated water poured onto the course. A dry summer, which cannot be ruled out, could leave many golf clubs with the double whammy of paying high prices for a scarce resource.

So what can be done? In recent years the rise in running costs in particular has begun to lead many golf clubs into embracing two new technologies which together can begin to turn back the clock of rising costs.

Variable Speed Drive Pumps (Hydrovar)

One way of mitigating against the rising cost of electricity is for greenkeepers to incorporate the use of various speed drives into their pumping systems.

Typically, most golf clubs are equipped with a large vessel, circa 500 litres, to keep the water and a fixed speed booster set which starts the pumps at a lower pressure, cutting in at approximately 3.5 bar and cutting out at approximately 4.5 bar. Most clubs will be equipped with up to four pumps within this type of system.

There are two key issues. Firstly, all pumps are usually 15-20% over-sized in terms of the application.

System designers will always choose the next size pump in the range to ensure there is enough capacity, but then the distributor often compounds the problem by going up a further pump size again.

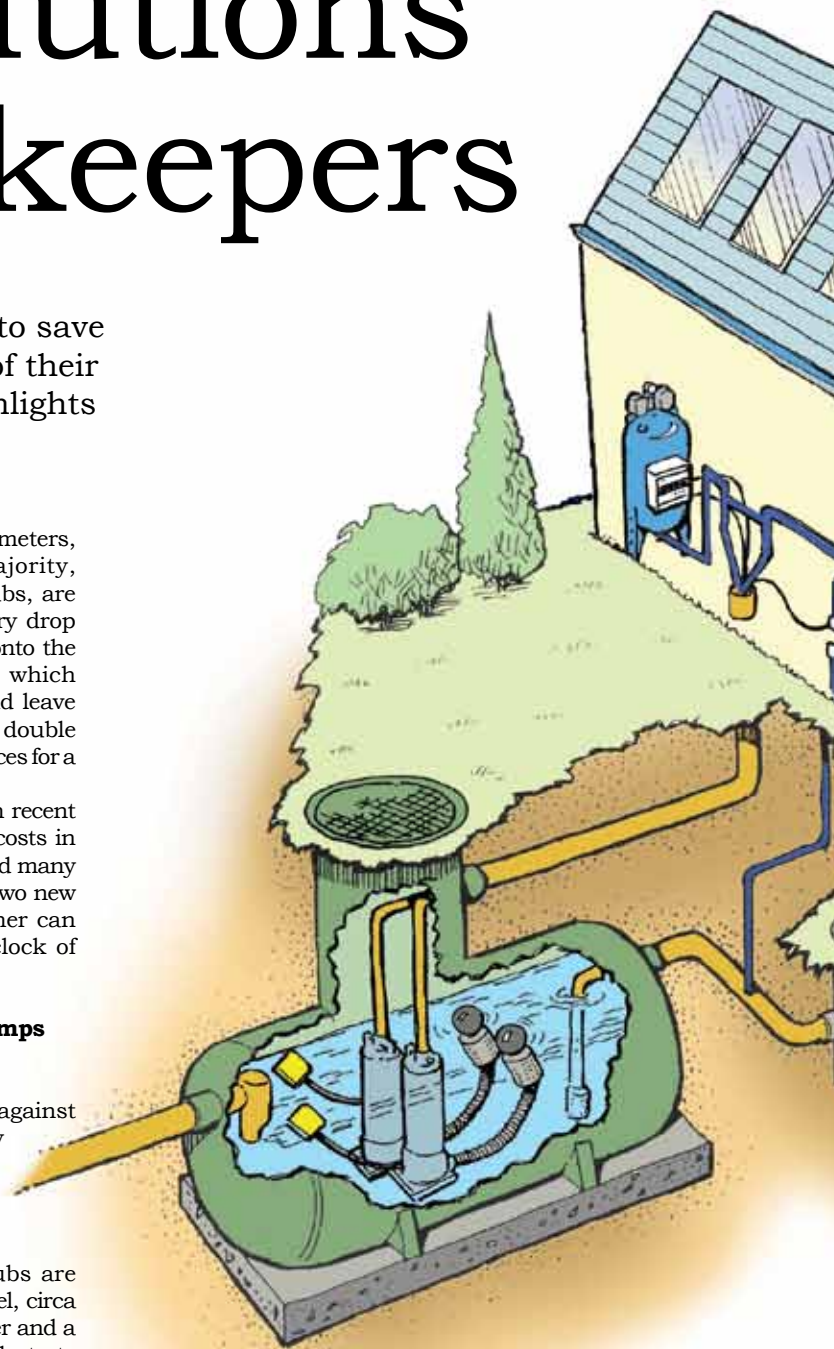
The second problem with this sort of system is that the large pumps have to run flat out when the sprinkler system is turned

on regardless of demand. This is clearly not energy efficient.

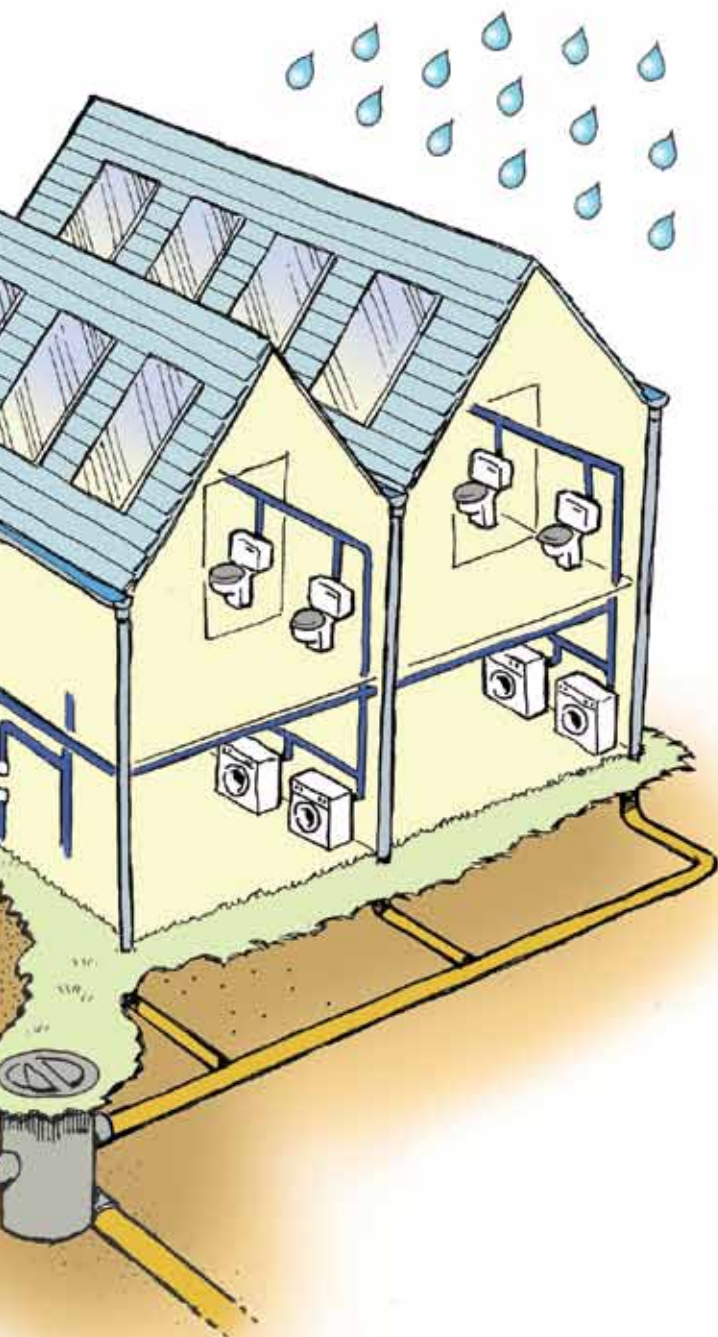
In particular, starting and stopping a pump consumes a lot of energy. Most pumps require five times the full load current to begin rotating. For example, a 10 amp pump will take 50 amps to get it turning.

The answer may lie in the use of variable speed drives (VSDs) which ensures that the pump never has to run faster than it needs to. Crucially, this type of equipment can now be retrofitted onto existing centrifugal pumps.

VSDs work by monitoring output



Paul Shute is the Variable Speed Drive Specialist for Xylem Lowara. For more information, please visit us at www.xyleminc.com



pressure. If a golf course requires three bar pressure on a pump's output, the unit will run the pump at a speed to maintain three bar pressure and no more.

In other words, it never runs the pump faster than it needs to.

For example, a seven kW motor running at a 50 Hz cycle will use seven kW per hour of power. The same motor running at only 40 Hz will use half the kW power, namely 3.5 kW. The same pump running at 30 Hz will use only 1/7th of the power, namely one kW.

If, therefore, the pump is running at 10p per kW hour, the seven kW pump running at full speed cost is 70p per hour. The same pump running at 30 Hz will therefore only cost 10p per hour.

Crucially, variable speed controllers, such as the Hydrovar which is manufactured by Lowara, can be mounted or retrofitted to any

of rainwater as have Maintenance facilities.

With a rainwater harvesting system, rain is collected via the normal rooftop collection system which would normally then go straight into the drains. Instead, the downpipe is diverted to carry the water through a Vortex filter to get rid of any debris.

Around 95% of the water collected is then stored in a collection tank.

As water enters the collection tank it passes through a calmed inlet which calms the inlet flow of water and prevents disturbing any sediment that may build up on the bottom of the tank.

There are a number of fail-safes built into commercial rainwater harvesting systems.

When water is at minimum levels in the tank, after a period without rain, an integral probe set and

“One way of mitigating against the rising cost of electricity is for greenkeepers to incorporate the use of various speed drives into their pumping systems”

existing pump manufacturers unit which is equipped with a standard IEC motor.

Experience suggests that the retrofit option can bring pump speed down to circa 40-42 Hz and pump users can experience savings of circa 50 per cent on their normal pump running costs.

Rainwater harvesting

The second sustainable technology that greenkeepers can consider is rainwater harvesting. This is not a new idea, the traditional water butt has been in use to water domestic gardens for many years, but technology and water meters are increasingly bringing this idea into commercial applications and golf clubs are a key target market for manufacturers.

What's more, the time is right for golf clubs to embrace this technology. Many clubs are increasingly asking themselves the question: why irrigate with clean drinking water when we can use grey water which has been harvested and recycled to save ourselves some money?

Crucially, golf club premises provide the perfect environment for rainwater harvesting systems. Clubhouses have big roofspaces capable of collecting large amounts

transfer pump, with floating suction filter, ensures that water is only collected from the cleanest parts of the storage tank.

During periods of low rainfall, when the collection tank may become depleted in this instance the top up solenoid will be activated by float switch sensing a low level in the collection tank.

The solenoid will open and pass mains water through a type AA air gap to ensure compliance with current water regulations.

When rainwater is available again after a period of rainfall the storage tank will revert to replenishing from the collection tank.

Storage tanks for rainwater harvesting systems are available in multiple sizes from small circa 1,200 litre tanks up to 12,000 litres. However, greenkeepers should not be inhibited by standard sizes. Many systems, such as the Lowara AirRain, offer bespoke tank sizes to suit all applications.

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Turf pest creatures

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Entry Level

This month, if you are new to greenkeeping, read on...

great and small

Dr Terry Mabbett takes a look at all things not so bright and beautiful

What's most surprising about animal pests of professional turf is why any predator of green plants would bother with close-cut grass with so little above ground to feed off.

Indeed this is why the two major insect pests of turf in the UK are essentially subterranean problems. Chafer grubs and leatherjackets the larval stages of chafer beetles and crane flies, respectively, feed on and damage turf grass roots.

The first thing to say about the pests of professional sports turf, in the UK, is that golf courses here get off relatively lightly in comparison to those elsewhere and especially courses in North America. But that's not much comfort to UK greenkeepers waking up to find their greens and tees torn to shreds as an indirect consequence of chafer grub or leatherjacket infestation.

Chafer grubs and leatherjackets

Direct damage to sports turf by these two insect pests is significant and serious in its own right but the real problems arise as collateral damage from the activities of much

bigger beasts of the feathered and furry kind. Birds, especially corvids (mainly rooks, crows and jackdaws but also magpies and jays) will peck at and tear up turf in a frenzied attempt to get at these tasty and nutritious grubs and particularly the creamy white, plump and juicy chafer grubs.

Much bigger beasts, in the form of badgers and foxes, are also major culprits in this connection and the bigger the beast the greater the damage to turf.

Indeed the foraging activities of badgers or foxes in securing an evening meal of chafer grubs or leatherjackets can easily put greens and tees completely out of play for long periods of time and require considerable work and many thousands of pounds to repair and re-lay torn up turf.

Unlike in North America there are not many dedicated insect pests of turf in the UK – chafer grubs and leatherjackets are the main ones, although frit fly can go up a gear to become an economic pest.

Until recently these were the only invertebrates (animals without backbones) recognised and registered as pests of turf in the



ABOVE RIGHT: Leatherjacket the larva stage of the crane fly (daddy long legs) and the second most important insect pest (after the chafer grub) on turf in the UK.

INSET ABOVE: Plump and juicy chafer grubs are prime targets for animal predators which tear up turf to get at them.
Photograph courtesy Syngenta

UK. However, recent years have seen some frenzied interest in even smaller animal pests with root feeding nematodes (microscopic roundworms) very much under the microscope.

Microscopic roundworms (nematodes)

Root feeding nematodes are an enormous problem, throughout the economic plant world, with particular species causing huge losses in agricultural crops from potatoes



to tobacco. Their smallness of size has always hampered identification and recognition as pests and is clearly one reason why they have only recently come to the fore in professional turf.

Nematodes as turf pests are a bit of a conundrum for two reasons. Firstly, the leaf symptoms of nematode presence on the roots of turf grasses is rather diffuse and, in many cases, not a lot different from the symptoms caused by microbial pathogens and in some instances plant nutrient deficiencies.

For this reason, and because early scientists could not see the actual animal pest eating away at the plant (nematodes are too small to see with the naked eye and are underground on the roots), they would assume a microbial pathogen was responsible. For this reason nematode invasions of plant roots were traditionally called infections but, as animal pests of turf grass, nematodes are an infestation of the fibrous root system.

Secondly, not all species of roundworms are 'nasty nematodes'. Many are exceptionally useful like the species currently used in commercial biological control products to control chafer grubs and leatherjackets.

Surface feeding earthworms

The other invertebrate pest not yet mentioned, and like the nematode a worm though much bigger and technically called an annelid (ringed worm), is the earthworm.

The other characteristic that earthworms have in common with nematodes is that not all are damaging as far as the golf course is concerned. Indeed, the vast majority are not only useful but downright essential for improving and maintaining the physical structure and fertility of the soil.

As far as the greenkeeper is concerned it is only the surface feeding species of earthworms which are a problem and specifically when they inhabit the soil underneath the pristine playing surface of golf greens and to a lesser extent tees. Unlike most earthworm species, which deposit their casts in the burrow, these surface feeding species deposit their casts on top of the turf when they come up to feed on dead and decaying plant matter in thatch, or debris such as grass clippings and fallen leaves on top of the turf.

Worm casts on sports turf are not only unsightly but clearly interfere with the run of play across the surface of the golf green. There is also a safety angle because contents of the cast have passed through the worm's gut picking up copious quantities of slimy secretions along the way. This not only makes worm casts difficult to remove without smearing the close-mown turf but may also create hazards for players who may slip on the slimy surface. What's more worm casts act as ideal germination sites for weed seeds coming onto the green. Moreover, the weed seed may already be there having passed intact through the



ABOVE LEFT: Red flag for danger' – a West Sussex golf green 'pecked to pieces' by corvids (rooks and crows) foraging for chafer grubs (Photograph courtesy Chris Humphrey)

INSET ABOVE: Worm casts make ideal germination sites for weed seeds and seedlings like the dock seedling shown here

ABOVE RIGHT: Worm casts on turf are unsightly and interfere with the 'run of play'; Surface worm casts are slimy, from having passed through the worm's gut, and therefore smear freely and easily across the turf to become even more unsightly and cause slippage



worm's gut and ready to germinate in the nutrient rich worm cast.

Bigger beasts

And where there are worms there are moles. Anyone who has seen the movie *Jaws* will surely remember the classic comment made by actor Richard Dreyfuss who played the "shark expert" in describing how the shark is simply an "eating machine". "All they do is feed and make baby sharks," said Dreyfuss.

In many ways the mole is the terrestrial equivalent of this marine predator because all it does is burrow to find tasty soil animals to eat, almost entirely worms but sometimes slugs and other animals, and of course takes time off to make more moles.

Like the badger or the fox on the hunt for grubs this mammal, though much smaller and virtually blind, can do just as much damage to professional turf through its burrowing and inevitable and accompanying mole hills.

The more fertile the soil the more worms it will support and the bigger its attraction to the mole.

Turf damage by birds is usually collateral to chafer grub and leatherjacket infestations but there are particular birds, in certain situations, which can become pests of turf in their own right. These are wild water fowl such as the Canada goose and the pink footed goose which may see the first signs of new grass growth in March and April as an inviting early spring 'bite' and



ABOVE: Collateral damage from wild mammals (badgers and foxes) looking for chafer grubs can put greens and tees out of play for lengthy period of time as happened on this East Anglian golf course (Photograph courtesy Bayer Environmental Science)

subsequently crop the turf even lower than the mower manages to do. At the same time they will inevitably deposit their characteristically loose and slimy faeces across the turf.

Last, but not least, rabbits are also capable of cropping close-mown turf grass to cause significant damage in large numbers and leave something nasty behind, although in this case small, round and hard droppings which can easily be swept from the surface of the green or tee.

That said, most serious damage from rabbits on the golf course is most likely to arise from their burrowing activities and bark gnawing on young newly planted trees. Rabbits are particularly fond of sandy soils in which to excavate their burrows.

Chemical control

Control of leatherjackets and frit fly was never a big problem once chlorpyrifos hit the market many years ago. Chlorpyrifos is one of the most useful and valuable insecticides on the market. And not only the turf market having been one of the mainstays of pest control

in agriculture, horticulture and forestry, and even public health, for many a year.

Despite its excellent control of leatherjackets it was never recommended for the control of chafer grubs, although not a few people automatically thought it controlled this pest too.

It probably would if it could get down to the chafer grubs but chlorpyrifos does not leach, remaining in the topmost layer and unable to reach chafer grubs lower down.

Several insecticides were traditionally used to control chafer grubs, but they were withdrawn when true extent of their 'poisonous nature' became apparent.

Several years followed with a gaping hole in the turf insecticide market and even bigger holes on greens and tees because greenkeepers had nothing to control chafer grubs.

Respite came with imidacloprid and revolutionising chafer grub control in a short space of time. Imidacloprid is doing the job and excellently too but there is probably room for at least one more insecticide to clobber chafer grubs and deprive the birds and the badgers of their 'free lunch'.

Biological control

Chemical insecticides are not the only option because there are now biocontrol products based on entomopathogenic nematodes which invade the chafer grub or leatherjacket and introduce a pathogenic bacterium that kills these insect larvae.

However, those wanting a quick and complete kill and at any time of the year may be disappointed by biological control.

Biocontrol agents are, by definition, density dependant pest management factors, rising in number and activity alongside an increasing pest population. As such they work much more slowly than do chemical insecticides and will only reduce pest numbers to below economic levels rather than wiping them out.

In addition, these are living organisms with much more stringent environmental requirements (eg temperature, soil moisture and relative humidity and soil pH) for their activity compared to chemical insecticides.

Timing of control is clearly important with greenkeepers needing to catch chafer grub and leatherjacket infestations as early as possible,

and in this context they can put the activities of predatory animals to good use. Not badgers and foxes because these are nocturnal animals which will tear up your turf to get at the larvae without warning, and under the cover of darkness, but the birds are a different matter.

If you notice that birds, especially corvids but also starlings, are taking an unhealthy interest in your turf, like something out of the iconic Hitchcock movie, *The Birds*, then there is almost certainly something 'for the birds' under your turf and it is time for you to move in, lift a sample of turf to identify the pest and to apply the appropriate insecticide.

Managing surface worm casts

While carbendazim remains on the market greenkeepers will have little to worry about in managing surface casting earthworms. However, there are other things which can be done to help the situation and minimise their activity. First and foremost don't encourage surface feeding by leaving debris including grass clippings and fallen leaves on the green.

Always box off clippings and keep the greens and tees well swept especially in autumn when the leaves of deciduous trees fall fast and furiously. Creating an acid reaction in the surface layers of soil using approved soil conditioning products, including those based on sulphur and ferrous (iron) sulphate, will deter surface feeding earthworms. Turf grasses perform best in slightly acid soil conditions but will react negatively if the pH gets too low. It is all a question of balance.

Mole control in hole

Dealing with moles is a 'prickly' problem, not least due to inherent difficulty, but also because the remaining methods, though legal, are not too pleasant for moles which are protected species in other European countries.

Traditional use of worms laced with strychnine and used as mole bait was banned five years ago. Remaining methods are strictly for professional mole catchers and pest control operators.

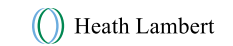
Surprisingly gassing is still allowed but this is strictly for the trained and certificated pest control operator. What's more, the chemicals used are essentially nerve poisons in mode of action and hardly the sort of thing you want wafting around the golf course.



INSET ABOVE: Tell-tale signs of wild rabbits on a North London golf course

BOTTOM RIGHT: Wild water fowl such as Canada geese (Photograph 9) and pink footed geese (Photograph 10) are surprisingly fond of short damp and wet grass for feed, rest and play

RIGHT: Leaves on the green encourage surface feeding earthworms and their casts



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Old timers used all manner of traditional deterrents including moth balls (naphthalene) placed in the mole hole but that is illegal now because naphthalene containing mothballs are banned within the EU. Others would place sprigs of holly down the mole hole attesting to the fact that mole control is a 'prickly problem'.

Perhaps the most innovative old time method was sinking bottles into the turf with their necks protruding marginally above the soil surface. Musical notes thus generated by wind blowing across the open tops of the bottles was claimed to deter the moles but this is clearly a definite 'no-no' from the 'health and safety' point of view.

The Americans claim that playing music down the holes will clear an area of moles.

The only problem is if the moles decide they like the music and stay around to listen.

For bunnies and birds

Similar caution goes out for rabbit control with the clutch of claimed options such as gassing, 'blowing up burrows' and shooting strictly for the trained expert, although as for moles these are not the sort of activities suitable for intensively

used golf courses many of which are also public rights of way. All newly planted trees should be fitted with rabbit proof tree guards or tree shelters.

As for wild fowl tucking in to an early spring 'bite' on your greens, most if not all of these are protected species. All you can do is wave your arms and make loud noises and hope they will not come back. Seriously though if this becomes a persistent problem there are a number of innovative bird scaring devices mainly targeted at the agricultural market but equally ideal for the amenity sector.



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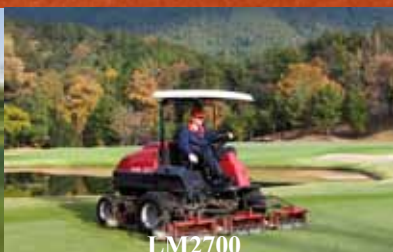
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Course disease alert!

Dr Kate Entwistle offers details of two new diseases which have been identified on UK golf courses

Rapid Blight

Two newly emerging turf diseases have recently been confirmed in samples received from golf courses in the UK and Ireland and it is suspected that they are more prevalent in areas of fine turf than are currently recorded.

During 2012, The Turf Disease Centre will be collating information on turf samples received for analysis that are positively identified with either of these two diseases and a summary will be published later this year to show their recorded regional occurrence.

The most important step in effective turf disease management is the identification of the cause and with the apparent emergence of these new disease problems, this fact has never been more important.

Rapid Blight - A non-fungal disease

In 2004, turf samples were received from a golf course in the UK where the greens were showing a progressive decline in turf quality. Patches of affected turf up to 30cm across were becoming red/brown in colour, waterlogged in appearance and thinning out due to the

loss of *Poa annua* and *Agrostis* spp from the sward.

Analysis of the turf identified the presence of a non-fungal organism called *Labyrinthula* within the plant tissues and a disease known as Rapid Blight was recorded for the first time in Europe. Subsequent collaboration between The Turf Disease Centre and Dr Mary Olsen at the University of Arizona, confirmed the identity of the organism as *L. terrestris*, a new species of *Labyrinthulid* that Mary had initially identified in 2002 as the cause of this increasingly important turfgrass disease.

Over the past three years, The Turf Disease Centre has received a small number of turf samples affected by Rapid Blight that have originated from Ireland, Spain and Portugal but it is believed that the incidence of this disease is much higher than has currently been recorded.

In Spain, the disease showed dramatic development of symptoms on creeping bentgrass greens (with patches up to 2m diameter) and extensive discolouration and turf loss on fairways (Fig. 1 & 2). The severity of the problem is correlated with not only the grass type



MAIN ABOVE: Rapid Blight on creeping bentgrass in Spain

INSET ABOVE: Fig. 2. Fairway damage caused by Rapid Blight in Spain

that is present but also ambient temperature and the level of salinity in the rootzone or applied irrigation. *Poa* species are very heavily affected by this pathogen, as too are *Lolium perenne* and *Agrostis* spp. Warm-season turfgrasses can harbour *Labyrinthula* within the plant tissues but they don't show evidence of any disease.

If these grasses are over-sown with cool-season turf, the young seedlings inevitably become infected and disease symptoms will develop.



Brown Ring Patch

Symptoms can develop when temperatures rise above 15°C and salinity levels are $>2.0\text{dS/m}$ (although *Labyrinthula* has been isolated from turf growing in much lower salinity conditions).

Because the causal organism is not a fungus, most fungicides will have no effect either on the organism or on the development of symptoms. However, research completed by Dr Olsen and others researchers across the USA has shown that the active ingredients pyraclostrobin, trifloxystrobin and mancozeb, can provide effective control but that results are much better if products are applied prior to or at the onset of disease, rather than curatively.

In order for the correct product to be applied effectively, the presence of this *Labyrinthula* sp. must be accurately identified but because it is not a fungus, *L. terrestris* can't be cultured in the laboratory in the same way that fungi can.

During 2011, turf samples in which *Labyrinthula* was again detected, were received from golf courses in Ireland and the UK.

In the UK, the symptoms on the affected course had been considered as being Anthracnose disease and managed accordingly (Fig. 3 &

4), but lack of recovery prompted an analysis that eventually identified the real problem.

Due to the way in which *Labyrinthula* affects the plant, the sward initially becomes yellow, then becomes red in colour before the tissues eventually 'rot' and the sward thins. The symptoms can appear very much like Anthracnose (or Take-all Patch disease in *Agrostis*-dominated turf) but there will be no distinct blackening of the crown tissues, symptoms that are typical of Anthracnose Basal Rot.

Rapid Blight is considered to be a unique example of an emergent plant disease potentially induced by human activity (Douhan et al, 2009) and I am sure that in the future it will be confirmed on more amenity areas where water with high salt content is used for irrigation.

Now that we have learned how to identify this disease, sample analysis can confirm its presence and potentially save significant management time and costs by allowing implementation of effective control options. Detailed information on Rapid Blight disease can be found in the article Rapid Blight: A New Plant Disease, by Stowell, et al, 2005.



Fig. 3(TOP) and 4 (SECOND TOP) . Rapid Blight in the UK, 2011. General symptoms and close-up (photographs courtesy David Stansfield, David Stansfield Ltd)

ABOVE: Fig. 5. General symptoms of Brown Ring Patch (Waitea Patch) in the UK, 2011 (photograph courtesy T Kvedaras, ITS Ltd)

Further information

Douhan, G. W., Olsen, M. W., Herrell, A., Winder, C., Wong, F., and Entwistle, K. 2009. Genetic diversity of *Labyrinthula terrestris*, a newly emergent plant pathogen, and the discovery of new *Labyrinthulid* organisms. *Mycological Research* 113: 1192-1199

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Brown Ring Patch - A non-fairy ring disease (shown left)

During 2007, a sample received for analysis from a golf course in Portugal, was confirmed as having the fungal disease known then as Waitea Patch. This was the first known record of it in Europe.

The disease is caused by a Rhizoctonia-like fungus and although the symptoms closely resemble those of superficial fairy rings or thatch fungi, this Rhizoctonia-like fungus is not related to fairy-ring causing fungi.

Since 2003, this new disease has been increasingly recorded on *Poa annua* turf across the USA and more recently on *Poa trivialis* (Wong & Kaminski, 2007).

However, prior to the recognition of this problem in the United States, the disease was first recorded as developing on *Agrostis palustris* turf in 1994 in Japan (Toda et al, 2005) where the symptoms developed as brown rings and was given the common name of Brown Ring Patch.

On *Poa annua*, the affected turf shows symptoms of coalescing yellow rings, often with a darker green sward inside of the yellow ring. Unlike fairy rings, this new

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disease does not have any 'mushroom' smell associated with the infected turf and a microscopic analysis of the isolated fungus can confirm the clear difference between the causal fungi.

However, if infected turf is incubated under conditions of high relative humidity for 24hr, fungal mycelium will develop in the sward, at the base of the turf and over the surface of the exposed rootzone and these symptoms can appear like those for fairy rings.

Temperatures above 16C can initiate disease development and the symptoms are often more severe where rootzone nitrogen and water levels are low. Because the disease was initially recorded on *Agrostis* turf, the common name of Brown Ring Patch has been increasingly adopted for this disease but *Waitea* Patch continues to be used by some researchers.

In 2010, The Turf Disease Centre received reports of unusual fairy ring developments on golf courses from across Europe (Fig. 5) and DNA analysis completed by AFBI (Northern Ireland) on the isolated fungi, has now confirmed the presence of this new disease in the UK, Ireland and Germany.

Due to the close similarity in symptom development to superficial fairy rings, it is likely that this new disease of Brown Ring Patch is developing more widely across Europe than we are currently aware of but is being understandably misdiagnosed as superficial fairy rings.

As with the non-fungal disease of Rapid Blight, Brown Ring Patch can be confirmed by laboratory assessment but for this fungal disease, isolation of the fungus and microscopic analysis of the developing structures (as well as an DNA analysis) is required for accurate identification.

The realisation that these new turf diseases are developing across Europe is due in no small part to Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers in recognising these atypical symptoms and requesting formal identification and I am very grateful to them for working with me to confirm these diagnoses.

In addition, I would like to thank A. Pereira Jordão, Lda, Portugal for sending the first turf sample with Brown Ring Patch received in 2007, David Stansfield (David Stansfield Ltd) for collaboration regarding the recent Rapid Blight

MAIN LEFT: Fig. 5. General symptoms of Brown Ring Patch (*Waitea* Patch) in the UK, 2011 (photograph courtesy T Kvedaras, ITS Ltd)

outbreak that was confirmed in the UK during 2011 and the Regional Managers of Headland Amenity Ltd and Tony Kvedaras (ITS Ltd) for collaboration regarding the outbreaks of Brown Ring Patch in Ireland and the UK.

During 2012, their continued collaboration on these new diseases will be very much appreciated and in addition, the Technical Representatives and Area Managers at Everris Ltd, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd have also indicated their willingness to notify me of possible outbreaks of these new disease problems.

Collaboration on this work is not restricted – if you believe that either of these new diseases are a problem on your course, please get in touch to discuss how we can help. All Club details will remain confidential and only regional data will be used to identify the distribution of these diseases in any future articles.

Turf disease problems never seem to be too far away but it is hoped that we can all work together for the benefit of our Industry.





Viva Las Vegas



The 10th BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Co, enjoyed a thrilling week at The Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. Delegate, George Pitts, kept a diary...



*Stunning View! 16th TPC
Summerlin. Showing off the
dormant Bermuda Grass*

Diary of a delegate...

(By George Pitts, BIGGA)



Saturday, February 25 - Polo Towers, Las Vegas

It was an early start for some but everyone was keen to begin this adventure together. We were met at Gatwick by Bernhard and Co's Kim Furnell who had organised the trip, and one long flight later and we were being warmly welcomed at the hotel, Polo Towers - each of us spoilt with a one-bedroom apartment. The Hotel was right on "The Strip", which was convenient for our first outing together, taking in the sights, having a bite to eat and a few beers.

Sunday, February 26 - Angel Park Golf Club

Today we had the opportunity to play golf or take a walk around Angel Park Golf Club. We were joined by Jim Croxton and Andrew Mellon, and we all experienced the high level of customer service. Complimentary golf, clubs, carts and even balls and tees were organised by Tom Christy, Director of Maintenance.

At almost 3,000 feet, Angel Park offers spectacular views of Red Rock Canyon and the Las Vegas Valley, and features 36 holes of championship golf designed by Arnold Palmer. The Palm Course was extremely well presented and maintained, and if you missed the green stuff you were in the desert! Some were a bit more successful, with Andrew Mellon topping the scoring.

Monday, February 27 - Course Visits, TPC Summerlin and Paiute

An 8am meet in the morning dictated the previous evening's events and we were all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for our day of Golf Course visits. Kim and Steve Nixon, Bernhard and Co, hosted the day with the first visit to TPC Summerlin, home of the PGA Tour's "Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open", and where Tiger Woods won his first ever Professional Tournament.

We were met by James Seisun, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, who happens to be English. James came across as very professional, polished and comfortable, speaking in front of everyone.

At this stage of the year the Bermuda grass roughs, fairways and tees were dormant. The tees are over-sown with Perennial Ryegrass, but the rest of the course remains yellow with dormant Bermuda grass.

The decision to not over-sow the fairways and rough was made by the club in order to utilise the money saved towards preparing for the PGA tour event. The greens were a more familiar cool season Creeping Bentgrass (Penn A4). Half way along the back nine, we visited the very impressive maintenance facilities, which was absolutely spotless and probably the best-organised facility I have ever seen. James explained how the staffing is

James Seisun, Assistant Superintendent at TPC Summerlin. On the 10th, Penn A4 Creeping Bent Green

structured and how tasks were communicated, including using a Plasma screen in the crew room linked to his computer to communicate tasks for the day.

Our second course visit of the day took us to the desert on the outskirts. Paiute Golf Club Resort is owned by the Paiute Tribe, a Native American tribe who have made their money through Smoke Houses. The resort consists of three 18-hole courses with each course measuring over 7,000 yards, including the "Wolf Course" measuring over 7600 yards. After a stunning lunch Jeff Reid, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, led us down to the Maintenance facilities, which again were first class.

The three courses are maintained by 55 staff. As with both of the courses that we visited, a tremendous amount of emphasis is put on the irrigation of the turf with temperatures regularly reaching 43-44C and an average of just over four inches of rainfall per year!

At Paiute, there are four wells, which are owned by the tribe, from which the club extract water to fill reservoirs. In the summer they can use up to 4 million gallons of water per night for all three courses. Annual usage of 880 million gallons! Thanks to Jeff and Jake at Paiute for making us all feel so welcome.



Jeff Reid showing us around Paiute



Group photo of Delegates at Paiute Golf Resort with Jeff Reid (Director of Maintenance) and Kim Furnell, Steve Nixon and Sallie Taylor from Bernhards



James Seisun explaining the practices at TPC Summerlin



Jeff Reid answering questions



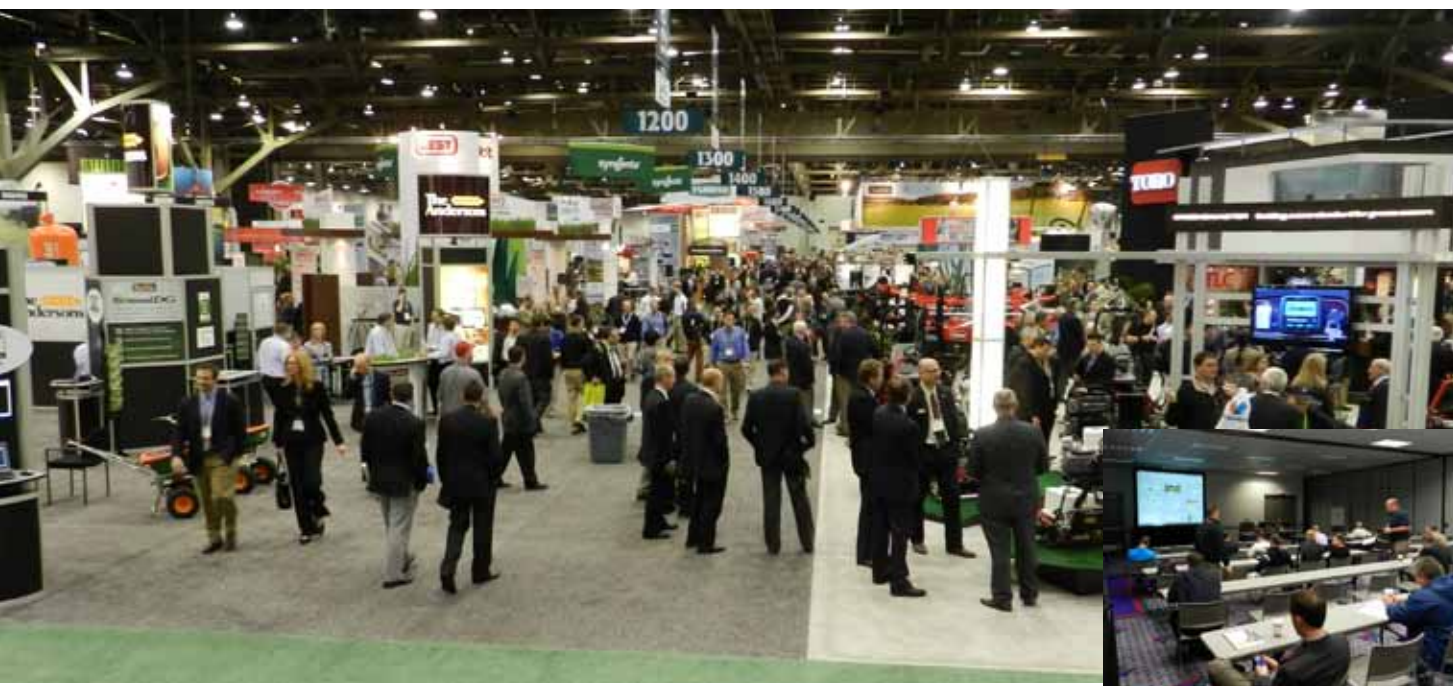
Thanks!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Bernhard and all his team for giving us this unforgettable experience and opportunity. The Company is a credit to the Industry and should be applauded for its forward thinking in offering opportunities like this. Special thanks to the amazing Kim Furnell, whose organisation and dedication towards the trip will always be remembered.

To BIGGA and in particular, Jim Croxton, Sami Collins and Andrew Mellon, for guiding us through the process and sharing the experience.

For me, it was a career highlight and I have come away from this feeling inspired, better educated, better informed and better connected to the fantastic network we have within our global industry. It was the perfect balance between Work, Rest and Play. A lot of Work, little Rest and sufficient Play! This trip was all about experiencing as much as you can possibly take in and making the most of what is a truly unforgettable experience.

George Pitts



Tuesday February 28

- Education Conference
- Advanced Stress Management Strategies for Cool-Season Turfgrasses

First of our two day long, educational classes. Held in the impressive Riviera Hotel Ballroom and delivered by Jack D. Fry, Ph.D. and Bingru Huang, Ph.D.

The objective of the day was to understand cool-season turf-grass physiology, understand physiological responses to environmental stresses and collectively to present information on how cultural practices and maintenance philosophies can influence turf quality in unfavourable environments.

We were asked to interact and put forward solutions to counteract environmental stresses and then finally we discussed how fertilisation and the use of PGR's can be utilised in reducing these stresses.

The class was delivered very professionally and in great depth and there were attendees from all over the globe who could exchange ideas and gain something that was relevant to them from the lecture.

After our class we attended the GCSAA Opening Ceremony and Reception. This was a very extravagant affair, which only confirmed how proud and passionate the members are about their Association.

Rhett Evans, CEO, led the proceedings, introducing the Board of Directors and presenting various awards along with President, Bob Randquist, who was also honoured for his term as President.

It was great to see and later meet David Phipps who won the "Environmental Stewardship Award". David, a Delegate from the GCSAA, sponsored by Bernhard's and Co, has attended BTME in the past.

A drinks reception followed, before we were whisked away to a "German Theme Bar" for another reception, held by Turfnet.

Wednesday, February 29/ Thursday, March 1

- Golf Industry Show

Over the next two days, we had the opportunity to attend the Trade Show and the General Sessions at the Golf Industry Show.

The North Halls, were a sea of trade stands as far as the eye could see, ranging from small family developed companies to the likes of John Deere, Toro and Ransomes Jacobsen.

There was a noticeable amount of more natural and environmentally sustainable products and techniques on offer too! A reflection, perhaps, of the growing trend towards a more sustainable approach being embraced and adopted in the US.

The BIGGA stand attracted interest from all over the globe. Sami Collins, Head of L&D, was on hand to pass on information. All 10 delegates were involved in manning the stand during the two days and I am sure that we all came across in a professional manner.

On the Wednesday we were all invited to the Bernhard's "After Show Reception", at the Queen Victoria Pub. A British theme evening with bite size fish and chips, pasties and sausage rolls along with some traditional beer.

Stephen Bernhard was there to host the evening, along with many US and International customers and Industry professionals.

It was great to meet Sean Sullivan CGCS, who is so active on our own bulletin board offering advice and experience.



Friday, March 3

- Education Conference - Plant Growth Regulators for Fine Turf

Our second Class was on Plant Growth Regulators and how they affect plant physiology in order to manipulate growth characteristics and how this can be used to produce high quality surfaces. This Session was delivered by Shawn D. Askew, Ph.D. and Erik Ervin, Ph.D. from Virginia Tech University.

The main objectives of the day was to understand how to achieve consistent clipping suppression, how to achieve consistent Poa annua Seed-head suppression and how to understand and achieve Poa annua Reduction and Control. The product being used for clipping suppression is Trinexapac-ethyl (Primo Maxx) and we discussed how to calculate application frequency and rates determined by "Growing Degree Days"(GDD) calculated by average temperatures each day. By understanding this, correct application frequencies will dictate and avoid a rebound response in the plant where chemical levels reduce in the plant and unused, stored carbohydrates produce a stronger elongation of the plants cell, producing above average clipping yield.

Friday night, we let our hair down a little, so we all headed out for a sweep of the "The Strip", ending up at Planet Hollywood with Stephen Bernhard and the team and enjoying the sights and sounds of Vegas!

Saturday March 3

- Home

Saturday we had the morning to ourselves before all ten of us were treated to a Stretch-Limo ride to the Airport in true Vegas style - a fitting way to end what was a truly amazing and extremely fulfilling trip!



A big thank you from the BIGGA Delegates

The trip was well received by the attendees of 10th BIGGA Delegation, as these positive reports show...

From day one the whole experience was amazing. Getting ten guys together from around the country and for all of us to gel the way we did was fantastic and you couldn't ask for a more enthusiastic and professional delegation party. Seeing the facilities and Creeping bent greens was excellent.

It is the first time I have been able to compare the Creeping bentgrass at Rockcliffe Hall with somewhere else and to be around about the same level as such a quality venue was satisfying to say the least.

Pete Newton, Head Greenkeeper, Rockcliffe Hall G&CC.

Every aspect of the trip catered for all levels of candidates within the industry from Assistant Greenkeepers, Deputies, Course Managers and Workshop Managers. Every BIGGA member should apply for this trip of a lifetime. Not only do you personally benefit, but your employer and fellow work colleagues can feed off the knowledge you have gained.

Daniel McGrath MG, Course Manager, North Foreland GC.

Highlights of the trip for me were the education and the show. Yes, I really did enjoy the American way of greenkeeping and found it amazingly fascinating even though I reckon they're about 40 years behind in real greenkeeping! Lol.

Couldn't believe the chemical reliance! On the flip side, I feel we're about 40 years behind them in the high regard that their public holds all turf professionals. The respect that these guys enjoy is tremendous and they are so professional.

Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager, Lymm GC.

"I've been Greenkeeping now for over half my life and in that time I've made some great friendships and had some fantastic experiences but I have to say being part of this year's Bernhard's Delegation tops them all. The camaraderie within the group was superb and the trip itself gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge base through top class education and networking."

Jaime Acton, Head Greenkeeper, Worlebury GC.

When I was selected to be one of the lucky ten delegates to attend the GIS show, I felt honoured and extremely proud.

It was a trip of a lifetime and has inspired me to expand my educational qualities. Spending a full week with nine other very knowledgeable guys, three of whom are MGs, was a fantastic experience and I have no doubt learned a lot from them and made a great bunch of friends. **David Gray, First Assistant, Ladybank GC.**

"I was very shocked and very happy to receive the news that I was one of the lucky 10 to be selected for the BIGGA delegation to Las Vegas sponsored by Bernhard and Co. It started to seem real when I met the other nine delegates, who were soon to become friends, at BTME in January.

It was apparent within a short space of time that the selection process for the trip had managed to find ten guys who genuinely fitted together well. The camaraderie within the group was fantastic. We went everywhere together and enjoyed sharing our experiences within the industry with each other."

Alan Pierce MG, Course Manager, Ham Manor GC.

My highlights were: meeting the other delegates and reviewing all aspects of Golf Course Management including BIGGA issues; dispelling my beliefs that all US courses were about feeding and spraying chemicals, the three top end courses we visited really were very professionally run, and they do care about the environment; the level of education their Association offer, we sampled two full day seminars, which I look forward to sharing with my Section about some recent helpful research; how willing the superintendents share information..

Graeme Gallimore, Course Manager, Launceston GC.

What a great bunch of delegates, our feet never touched the ground. From a learning point of view our education never stopped, it didn't matter where we were or who we were talking to, the whole group was sharing knowledge, ideas and passion! My personal highlight was the workshops at TPC Summerlin and Piaute, they were big, spotless and professional.

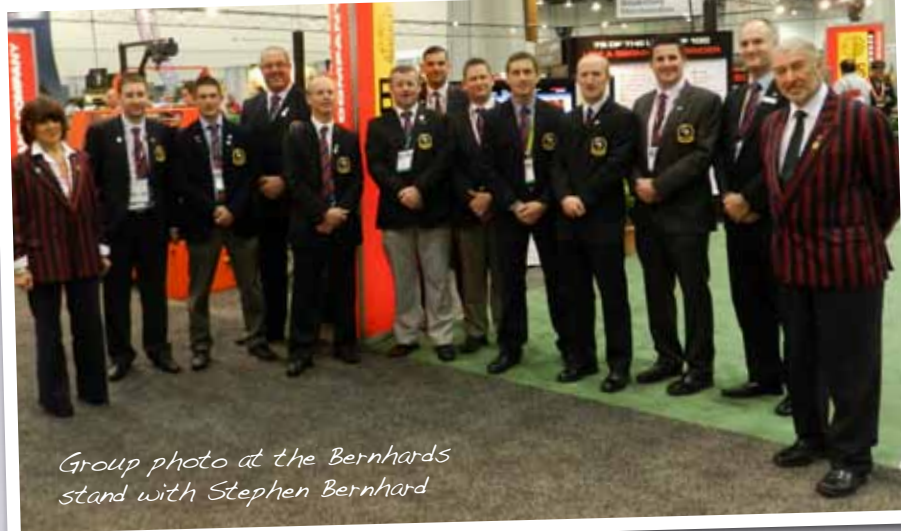
Stuart Hall, Workshop Manager, John O'Gaunt GC.

I love how everyone at work has been asking me how my 'holiday' was but if someone said they were going to a conference in Vegas I may have thought the same, but our agenda was full on. We also found out how well educated our American cousins are with seminar after seminar being presented by professors and doctors from numerous universities and last but not least the fantastic phenomenon that is the Las Vegas strip!"

Neil Ballingall, Course Superintendent, Fairmont-St Andrews.



Under the Microscope...Pete Newton and Neil Ballingall take a closer look at the sword



Group photo at the Bernhards stand with Stephen Bernhard



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Managing with less

Malcolm Peake reports on an enlightening workshop held at Temple Golf Club

Over the years Temple Golf Club has received numerous calls for advice and support from other golf clubs that have adopted, or are considering using, a more natural style of course management.

The Club is now working closely with the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust and the two bodies decided to host an evening workshop entitled, "Managing with Less", sponsored by Symbio, which was at the end of February.

The aim was to explore the economic and environmental benefits of a sound and sympathetic course management policy, while maintaining the quality and playability of the golf course and respecting and positively contributing to the indigenous and social environment.

The workshop drew an audience of Secretary/Managers, Chairs of Green, Course Managers and greenkeepers from a wide area.

Since the early 90s, Temple has worked hard at reducing course management costs and enhancing biodiversity without compromising on the quality demanded by today's golfer. The workshop told the "warts and all" story of the journey.

Michael Barratt, broadcaster and former advisor to the R&A Golf Course Committee, chaired the evening and welcomed the guests, which included the Club President's wife, Strilli Oppenheimer, a world renowned environmental conservationist.

Temple's Secretary, Keith Adderley, spoke, not without a little irony, of the problems currently facing golf clubs. He posed the question "Why do we need to manage with less?" Many clubs are suffering from reduced income, and therefore having to reduce expenditure, yet golfers have increasing expectations.

What golfers see on TV, with tournaments being played around the world in eternally summer conditions and on golf courses especially prepared for one week of





the year, bears little relationship to the real world of golf played in the UK during the winter months.

Keith explained the issues affecting clubs comparing the expectations of the “Old Guard” of traditional club members, the lifeblood of any golf club, and the “New Kids on the Block” being those who were juggling an exceedingly busy workload with family commitments, with retirement seeming further and further away, and trying to squeeze a round of golf in whenever and wherever possible.

The time pressure of work and home life meant that most were unable to commit to joining a golf club full time but when they took to the course their expectations were even higher because their leisure time was so precious.

Keith expressed the opinion that communication was the key and stressed the importance of golf clubs having a robust Course Management Policy Document in order to ensure continuity and protect the Crown Jewels.

Keith talked about the benefits of holding informal members’ liaison meetings and the use of the internet and email to inform and educate members about what was happening on their golf course.

He also reminded the audience, that normal business principles

should apply - even to golf clubs.

Course Manager, Martin Gunn, then spoke eloquently of how a sound course management policy benefited the playing quality of the course and the indigenous natural environment.

He talked of how the low input natural poverty grasses had been restored with as much as 85% fescue/bent present on some greens and at worst 60% on others, and explained the substantial savings this made.

Martin then discussed how some clubs are using mains water at £1.17 per cubic metre, where as at Temple the club is using borehole water at £.09 per cubic metre, and since the early 90’s has reduced the quantities used by nearly 70%.

He also talked of huge savings in fertilisers reduced by nearly 75%, and where Temple used to apply 7/8 applications of pesticide to the Poa dominated greens, it is now normally only one application, which at around £800 a time, is a really big saving.

Martin discussed how course management objectives could best be achieved and provided guidance on quality standards with an emphasis on the benefits of using the measuring tools now available.

Soil moisture content could be measured by a probe, firmness by

“Martin discussed how course management objectives could best be achieved and provided guidance on quality standards with an emphasis on the benefits of using the measuring tools now available”





a Clegg Hammer and trueness by conducting holing out tests using a specially designed HOT ramp (shown).

Martin went on to explain that this information could be used to assist in preparing a golf course for play in sympathy with the way the architect, in Temple's case Willie Park Junior in 1909, intended.

He pointed out the delights of playing the British style of golf on firm, fast greens where shot-making skill and imagination are the name of the game, rather than the American style of target golf to softer surfaces.

He pointed out that this was now even being recognised in the USA where in 2010, the then President of the USGA, stated the need to look at golf differently, where brown, as opposed to lush green, was beautiful.

After supper, Gavin Bennett, of the BB&O Wildlife Trust, took the floor and talked about the benefits, including cost savings, of a less

intensive management style on the biodiversity. He discussed the management of the chalk downland meadow roughs and of their rarity and value as a UK priority habitat, which contain many nationally and internationally rare and endangered species.

Gavin pointed out that the meadow roughs at Temple represented 49% of those present within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and added that as in excess of 80% of the natural grasslands had been lost nationally since 1950, this was a very valuable asset.

He explained the importance of scrub as a crucial component of the habitat mosaic and how it should be maintained sensitively with work completed by the end of March to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

He talked about the restored indigenous hedgerows and of their continued management, as well as grant funding available for scrub

and ancient woodland management. He suggested the woodlands would benefit with varying the structure to promote more diversity particularly for ground flora and suggested most of this work could be achieved when the weather was too bad to work on the primary golf course areas.

He finally talked about the advantages of golf clubs working with their local Wildlife Trusts and to an agreed management plan.

He explained that many rare and endangered species had been identified at Temple eg 425 species of moths and 24 of the 57 species of butterflies found in the UK which proved that Temple was an exceptionally valuable environment although there were still many areas where improvements could be made.

An open discussion and exchange of views, ideas and experiences and Michael Barratt closed the evening, with a vote of thanks to all at Temple.

Malcolm Peake is author of *Confessions of a Chairman of Green and A Natural Course for Golf*, available through STRI

Alternative mowers

Take a look at the range of mowers offered by John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro and it is soon clear that, between them, they will offer pretty much every model to suit the mowing demands of most greens, tees, roughs and fairways. But what if you are looking for something different? James de Havilland investigates...



LEFT: By combining flail mowing, collection and zero turn agility, the Amazone Profihopper is well suited to mowing awkward areas. The powered collection system also enables it to cope with litter and leaves, with the claim that the 700 litre hopper can be fed up to 1,000 litres of material.

RIGHT: Zero turn mowers took time to become established in the UK but now they are widely used in both amenity and sports turf sectors. The pictured SCAG Cheetah is a heavy-duty model is designed to be operated for extended periods, with enhanced levels of operator comfort.



BELOW: Cricket square and bowling green mowing is the typical application for mowers such as the Lloyds Paladin. But as with Allett and Dennis, these British built mowers are offered in designs that may suit your mowing needs for tees and greens.

Sit down and tot up the number of pedestrian cylinder mower models available and you will soon realise that by the time you take every variation into account there are probably nearly 100 different models to choose from.

Sounds a lot, but few of these are designed to keep golf greens and tees in trim. In addition, much of the variety will be down to detail specifications, such as mowing width, cylinder size and blade numbers. Not to mention various options to include groomers et al.

In other words, once you home in upon key demands your walk-behind mower choices are narrowed. Sheffield-made ATT is one of the newer additions to the walk behind market with its patented

So there is perhaps more choice than you may think among pedestrian cylinder mowers. But what about ride-on 'fine turf' cylinder models? Once you remove John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro Hayter from the equation you are left with Shibaura, imported by FGM Claymore, and Baroness, from Kyoeisha UK. At least these two 'brand' offerings are the only ones that spring readily to mind.

What are you looking for?

Where it starts to get more varied is when you look beyond cylinder mowers. Here there is a much more diverse choice to include a wide choice of rotary and even flail mowers. These can include ride-on, pedestrian and tractor mounted variants too. Add sub-categories, such as zero turn, and you soon



The latest generation of walk behind greens mowers from ATT combines leading edge technology with the greenkeeping expertise of its inventor, John Coleman.

INFINiCut comprises the INFINiPower power unit and the SMARTCut grass cutting cassette (above) to create an advanced dedicated greens and tees mower.

cassette cutting system while certain mowers, such as the pedestrian walk-behind models offered by Lloyds, Dennis and Allett, also tend to be associated more with cricket, tennis or bowls than greens and tees. The 'big three' have set a design 'template' for pedestrian greens mowers and because of that have come to represent the default first choice for some. That is not to say the aforementioned British built mowers are unsuitable for mowing greens and tees. Far from it. It is more that they just tend to not be considered. The same could also be applied to other alternatives such as the Baroness LM56 greens mowers. The latter have a loyal following with a growing number of clubs but many courses appear not to have given them a try.

end up with so much choice it is hard to know where to start looking.

As is always the case, choosing the right tool is made easier if you identify your key demands. Take mowing steep banks that cannot be accessed by a ride-on mower. If the area to be cut is relatively small and they are mown to keep growth under control as opposed to be trimmed to a fine finish, you may well use a brushcutter to do the job.

But what about smaller banked areas adjacent to a bunker? A mower like the Allen Hovertrim, now made by Hayter, is a bit like a cross between a 'Flymo' and a brushcutter, with a mowing width of up to 56cm. Handle extensions allow the mower to be operated down a steep bank, allowing the user to stand on level ground.





Another interesting range of mowers is produced by Lastec. The company's out-front Articulator decks come in designs suitable for use with ride on models by companies to include John Deere and Kubota, with rear mount options for tractors too. The company also produce its own ride-on models. A key Articulator feature is the ability of the deck to follow ground contours, as pictured.

These useful mowers may be a better choice than a brushcutter for this type of work.

Need to reduce labour?

Do you have to keep a driving range mown but find it plays second fiddle to main course mowing due to constraints on labour? A mower like the Etesia ETm Robot can be set up and then left to get on with the mowing with very little input. In broad outline, these models just mow away, following no set pattern.

Sensors prevent them bumping into marker posts or other obstacles, including those that may be moved around. A guide wire prevents the mowers straying from a set mowing area, so there is no worry that they will drift off where they are not wanted.

Lateral thinking

Other mowing 'systems' can also be worth a look such as the Amazon Profihopper. Think zero-turn ride-on with flail mower and auger fed 700 litre capacity collector and you get the idea.

This type of unit can be used to mow, scarify, collect or mulch. It is the type of machine that can be a real time saver when you need to deal with leaves, litter or divots. Clubs with large areas of non-golf grass can find tools like these a real time saver too.

You do not need to have a collector with a flail mower either,

STM and others offering a range of pedestrian flail as well as ride on mowers that can tackle considerable overgrowth. These are just the sort of machine to bring out to control boundaries beyond the rough, periodic control being the key demand.

Then there are tractor powered rotary mowers, such as the Trimax Merlin and the Progressive series brought in by The Grass Group. As an alternative to a traditional tractor trailed cylinder gang, these mowers can make an ideal partner to a ride-on fairway mower, coping with longer wet grass and being ideal for out of season maintenance mowing. They should follow contours well too.

Those that 'conservation' mow small areas of a course may want to carry out just one cut in late autumn. A traditional cutterbar mower, such as the once ubiquitous Allen Motor Scythe, can be just the tool for this type of work.

A 'two-wheeled tractor' fitted with this type of mower can tackle really long 'meadow' grass. Suppliers include Tracmaster with its BCS models.

As is always the case, it pays to stop and think back to what your mowing needs include. Although there are seldom really new advances, developments such as the Etesia Robot models show there are alternatives to traditional mowing systems.



Kubota modified the pictured 40hp STV mid-mount rotary mower for a disabled operator. Fitted with a hoist and hand controls, the mower operator can mount and dismount the tractor from a wheelchair without help from a third party.

Etesia now markets its ETm Robot models throughout Europe, the pictured ETm 105 featuring five twin-bladed cutting units. Designed to operate day and night, the mower will work with little attention between annual services. Will cover up to 20,000m², adopting a random mowing pattern to prevent developing wheel tracks.



ABOVE: Traditional tractor trailed gangs still have a place on many golf courses, but for some a rotary alternative is preferred. The pictured Trimax Merlin is designed to produce a high quality finish over wide areas to include fairways.



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Section Notes

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All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



Central

On behalf of everyone in the Section I would like to say a massive thank you to Peter Boyd and wish him the very best in his retirement from his role as Administrator for the Scottish Region these past 14 years. Peter, we hope you have many good golfing days in the future and that some of them will be at our outings.

Speaking of which, the spring outing is very nearly upon us at Crail on April 17 and entries, with the entry fee close on April 11. We have no more educational events confirmed for the near future but are trying to set up an evening talk with John Kaminski, a lecturer from Penn State, who will be in the area this summer. Members should keep an eye on the website for this or any other things we set up.

We will mail shot everyone we have an email address for as normal. However, there are a huge number of emails coming back to us undelivered. If you haven't been receiving emails from either Gordon McKie or me on a regular basis, then check the website where we will have a list of these names and you can contact us. Maybe we have typed it in wrongly or you have changed your email address and forgotten to notify BIGGA. One event, which is taking place on April 26 is an Environmental Seminar being staged by St Andrews Links Trust in The Scores Hotel, in St Andrews. Entry is free but you have to register so numbers for food can be calculated. You and your Club Manager/Secretary should have information about this already but if you haven't

then please contact me.

Finally for this month congratulations to John Watson who has become the Course Manager at Downfield GC.

Gordon Moir



East

Here is the April news from the East Section, up here in Scotland land. Hope you are well.

The Committee had its monthly meeting on February 21, where we discussed a number of ideas that could help and improve our Section run smoothly in the coming months.

Our education lads are trying hard to initiate seminars, workshops, or site visits for us to enjoy and our secretary will keep you informed of any future education events.

Hopefully we shall have some social events later in the year, as well as that there has been a couple of different ideas brought to the table.

There has been some feedback collated from green staff in and around the Edinburgh area. These issues will be discussed further at Section level to see if we can improve the level of attendance at BIGGA events in our Section.

We look forward to the Scottish Conference next week in Dunfermline, where we will enjoy many good speakers passing on experiences and expertise in their chosen fields.

It will be Peter Boyd's last event that he will be organising for us and the East Section would like to say: 'THANKS PETER!' for all the help and enthusiasm he brought as Scottish Regional Administrator. Good Luck for the future from us all.

Look out for the invitation for the spring outing at the Glen

Golf Club soon. The course is looking good already, Des! I hope you have got some good hole positions in mind for us.

Remember if you want to be considered for the Patrons' award at the end of the year, the more you attend the better chance you have at picking up this exceptional award.

If you have any news or views please do not hesitate to email me at: s.crawford@live.co.uk.

Stewart Crawford,
Chairman.



Northern

As I am writing this report in early March the weather has been really good to us and I am getting through the spring work, hopefully this will continue into the summer and we can have a good season weather-wise because it has been a few years and the golf course would benefit from it.

I would also like to say on behalf of the Committee thank you to Ben Brookes for all is hard work that he has done for the Committee over the last few years, and to wish him every success in the future as he has left the greenkeeping business. It's a shame because more people are leaving and it's hard to replace them in this financial climate, but that is another story.

There is also some movement in the greenkeeping world. Callum Anderson has left Aspire Golf Centre and joined Newmachar Golf Club as an Assistant Greenkeeper and we wish him every success.

Also, it's not long until the Spring Outing which should be a great day at Royal Aberdeen, hopefully the weather will be kind to us and will look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any information I can put into the magazine please feel free to get in touch with me as it would be helpful to try and get as much information as possible to you. On a final note we have set up a Facebook page, please feel free to like it because we will be posting information on there, and hopefully we can get some suggestions from you.

Ross Macrae

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West

Started to type this up and funnily enough it was raining outside. Oh what a surprise, when are we ever going to get some decent weather, as in dry conditions, whoops! Sorry, I forgot, we had two weeks of good weather in February didn't we? That must be our quota for the year. Guess what guys they're moaning in the East for not having enough rain and how dry it is. Never mind, there is always a bright side somewhere. Don't ask me where, but something will cheer us up.

So what's happening in the Section recently, other than moaning about the weather? Well a recent Seminar held at Renfrew Golf Club took place with 20 plus in attendance, organised by Fraser Ross and Everris, covering subjects such as feeding programmes, fungicide treatment, and sand materials. The day seemed to go very well and all those in attendance found the content extremely interesting, so many thanks to Gary Smith and Craig Aitken for their contributions, and well done to Fraser and Gavin for organising the day.

Next the Scottish Conference at Dunfermline, which saw 190

people attend a very excellent day of speaking from seven key speakers, Graeme Francis and Robert Smith, on irrigation; Robert Patterson, on the Journey to the Walker Cup; Grant Moir, on Setting up your Course; Les Howkins, on Bunker redevelopment, Dave Vrooman on Optimum nutrient efficiency, and, finally, John Philip on The golf ball development. I would say that I found all the talks to be very interesting and there was a good diversity of subject matter, interesting to both young and old. Congratulations to all the speakers and thanks to Ian Macleod for chairing the morning session, and all those who attended which helped make the retiring gift presentation to Peter Boyd all the more poignant.

May I take this opportunity to thank Peter for organising such a successful event, and for his excellent service to the Scottish Region over the last 14 years. He has helped establish a very well organised run region and I hope he enjoys his retirement over the coming years.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the patrons for their continued support of the Scottish Region and I hope this will continue in the future to help build on what has been established.

Finally, thanks to the catering unit and the organisational team at Carnegie Conference Centre for the expert way in which they conduct their business and the attitude they convey with nothing being a problem. Well done, Refa, Janice, Allan, and Stuart.

Please remember the Spring Outing is at Cardross Golf Club on May 10 and the Scottish National Tournament is at Ratho Park on June 20.

Should anybody have any information to pass on then please contact me on 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or by e-mail to stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



North East

Congratulations on a first class February magazine especially the BTME Review. It was good to see so many pages given to photos. Did you see anybody you knew? On page one we had

Terry Charlton of T.S.L, if it's not him then it's a good look-a-like; then Andrew Black and David Common, both from Rickerbys of Hexham, attending the Celebration dinner on Tuesday night, in fact, Andrew is in twice. Lastly, Martin Woods, of Bedlingtonshire Golf Club, attending a seminar, I'm not sure if he's having a catnap or not,

This year the section sees two more Head Greenkeepers retiring, these being Graham Smith of Whitley Bay, and George Gainford of Prudhoe Golf Club. Best of luck to you both, maybe we will see you at section golf days. No excuses now lads, I will continue to send you notifications of future events.

I was expecting some new members to be joining the section from Close House. There was a rumour that four people were going to do just that. Me thinks I'd better chase them up quickly before they change their minds. Also two staff from Longhirst Hall were doing the same, looks like I'm going to be busy. Sorry lads if you have joined already, as this news is for six weeks in advance.

And lastly, when I was helping out at BTME on the Museum, I was reading the BGGGA Minutes from 1912 and came across the following (these are to do with the North East Section by the way): 1946 Mention was made of a Northumberland Greenkeepers Ass, 1957 The N.E. Section, now defunct, where a report came to light that a golf tournament had been held in the North East under the BGGGA banner, the secretary to investigate and a couple more nationally, 1948 wages recommendation: Head Greenkeeper £6-10s to £8-00pw, and finally, 1955 golf clubs to be asked to pay £10 for protective clothing. My how things change over the years.

Jimmy Richardson



Northern

I'll start by making a huge apology to those guys who I offended with the comments in the notes regarding my good friend, James Bentley. I now realise that my sense of humour does not wash with everyone. People who know me come to expect wit and banter as the norm, especially at work and

when we socialise. I had spoken to James before the comments went in and have apologised since. He saw the funny side, as I knew he would, but it was wrong and I regret it. I have said sorry to John and the rest of the Committee and now to you guys. Sorry again.

You should all have the flyer with the fixtures on and entered them on your wall planners. A big thanks goes to Greensman Ltd for their kind sponsorship of this flyer. It's truly appreciated.

I have been up to Easingwold golf club on a reconnaissance mission, to talk shop and menus with the Secretary. It is looking in great nick. The first golf day should be a great day out.

That's all folks, please let me know if you have any goss, movements at your places and so on, and I will gladly pop them in the notes.

Andy Slingsby
07506407867
slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com



North West

Summer should be well and truly upon us by the time you read this!

I am currently sat in my office its 14°C outside and it is March 1. "Unbelievable" for the time of year! The potassium nitrate has been applied, now it's fingers crossed that we get that early kick-start.

One person moving last month was the Deputy at Mere GC who has moved to St Anne's Old Links. Good luck with the move Greg.

Unfortunately there isn't a lot to tell you about this month, combined with the fact I've been out of the country, so sorry about the lack of news. Hopefully I will supply you with a bumper edition next month.

The spring tournament is to be held at Leasowe GC, the times and dates will be sent to you very shortly on your fixture list. Anybody wishing to play in the tournament; please contact Phil Dewhurst – 07768180604 as he is the compiler of the start sheet.

So let's have a good turn out at Leasowe GC, and I will see you there.

Spencer Lloyd-Pye
spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk



North Wales

Here we go the season starts now, with the fixture lists filling up and the grass heading skywards!

On catch up, I hope everyone who went to the Charlie's Groundcare utility vehicle demo day enjoyed themselves as much as I did. The bacon bap was lovely, but that test track they set up was amazing, and if I ever need the use of a laxative I'll only need to think of that track to remedy the situation!

The Spring Tournament takes place at my home course at the Vale of Llangollen on the 25 of this month and it's normally based as an individual Stableford and National Championship qualifier.

I hope you all can play as well as Paul Roberts of Baron Hill did in August last year, when he hit a course record on his home course with a 62; then in the same week went to St Deiniol where he's also a member and hit a course record of 61, and to top it off became Club Champion at both courses.

We're making an appeal for e-mail addresses as we now have our own e-mail address - bnwales@hotmail.co.uk - so if you can e-mail your e-mail address, name, address and any thoughts or needs you have of an educational nature we can then send out fixture lists and seminar/golf day entry forms direct for you to download and better formulate our sections educational needs.

In Section news the aforementioned Paul Roberts, and Rhys Butler, have made it on to this year's Support team at The Open. I know you both will do our Section proud.

I think that's about it for now, please keep your news coming in you've no idea how difficult it is some times to fill a column with no news to use!

All the best until next month,
Pete Maybury e-mail
petemayb66@aol.com
Mobile, phone or text
07756001187
Facebook North Wales
B.I.G.G.A

Around The Green



Sheffield

We now enter April and all our spring renovation will be complete and the golfing season will be creeping up on us quicker than expected. With the continued exposure of golf on our TV sets the expectations of golfers is ever increasing, which can lead to pressures of creating something that is just not ready to be created yet. It all takes time and is a lesson for us all from time to time that patience is a virtue and with the correct management methods the golfers will get the conditions they want, when the course is ready to give it to them.

On the Section front we have found a replacement for our long serving Section Treasurer, Mark Crawshaw from Hallamshire GC has agreed to take on the position and I'm sure he will be a very good replacement for Alan. The role of Treasurer isn't an easy one but with all our support I'm sure Mark will settle into the role with no problems.

I must at this point once again thank Alan for his service. He has covered many roles and has put in a lot of time for the benefit of the Section. I hope you will all join me and thank him for his service and we hope to see Alan at Section events for years to come.

Hopefully you will all have received your fixture cards by now. If you haven't then they will be posted on Facebook and Twitter so check us out.

That's all for now, have a good month,

James Stevens

Follow us at

Facebook [biggasheffield](#)

Twitter [@sheffieldbigga](#)

Midland Region



East Midlands

By the time you are reading this month's notes the vast majority of your Easter eggs will be but a memory and all your April Fool's jokes will be

long forgotten as the workload of the greenkeeper starts to ramp up and we start to think about showing off our courses to their maximum potential to members, visitors and societies.

Maybe you have been at your course for a while and 'know the ropes', always an advantage, or perhaps this is your first summer and you are watching carefully, asking colleagues, listening and learning about the behaviour of your new workplace. For all of us it is a relationship, and like all relationships respect and understanding plays a huge part in that relationship's success.

April is always a month of challenges; just ask Asa English who has recently completed the Brighton Marathon AGAIN! Well-done Asa. Although your abilities are a long way ahead of mine, I know just how much time, effort and commitment it takes to complete the training schedule, let alone the race itself. I have been fortunate enough to complete the London Marathon on two separate occasions, and no it wasn't me in the deep-sea diver's suit. My biggest obstacles on both of those days were a couple of Kenyan runners and a guy on a motorbike in front of me who wouldn't move out the way. Rather selfish of him I thought as traffic is banned on race day?

You should all have now returned your Spring Tournament invites to be held at the end of this month. As stated in previous months' notes, this year there is only one National Championship qualifying competition so, if you haven't, please dig them out and return them ASAP or email your intention to attend to Nick Miles or me at biggaeastmid@gmail.com. In fact, as an inclusive Section, any suggestions or opinions that you have on how the Section should be run please also use this email address to communicate them to the Committee.

Due to 'Pit Crew' issues I am unable to report on the results of our Toro-sponsored Go-Karting event. Hopefully May's edition of GI will let me enlighten you on all the incidents and accidents of the evening.

Finally, my personal note this month is for Pete Larter, our Regional Administrator. Pete is retiring from his role at the end of May after many years of service to BIGGA and the East

Midlands Section. I'm sure that those of you who know Pete will join me in thanking him for his help, support, advice, opinions and jokes over the years. Good luck Pete!

Tally Ho!

Greg Skinner

07970 095264



Midland

Well here we are then, April. The month that is the month before the month that is the month of May (try reading that after a glass or two of Shiraz Cabernet). Such brings me to the full emergence of our courses in their ever-splendid glory, and the hatching of the May Fly (If you're not a fisher, duffers' fortnight).

As I'm sure you can tell, I don't have a lot to report this month so here's a light funny; a greenkeeper (whom shall remain nameless for legal reasons) was brushing greens and an early player asked, "What does that do?" The greenkeeper responded, "It hurts my legs".

Talking about funnies, we come to our sponsor's of this month's calendar page our old friend Nigel Tyler/Sherriff Amenity. Nigel should have been an Otter of Briton, not a Beaver! A little humour is a many splendid thing, and the world without it would surely be a far sadder place. Jest aside, Nigel and the products of Sherriff Amenity can be relied upon. For your fert's and pesticides and other related products please contact Nigel on: 07989 548 058 or visit www.sherriffamenity.com The Section's thanks for your long and continued support.

Chris Stilgoe, Course Manager at Great Barr GC, and his wife, Lyndsay, have had a baby boy, Benjamin, born in February weighing 8lb 4oz. Congratulations to them all.

Don't forget our first golf day of the year coming up at The Chase GC, on Wednesday, May 23. This will also be the day we draw the first round of the Everis Doubles Competition. Please get your entries in for both to Gary Cunningham as soon as possible. Details of all our golf

days and seasonal education events can be found on our website www.biggamaidland-section.co.uk

The klinkhammer addict.

Sean McDade

South East Region



Surrey

Monday March 5. The sun has just thrust his head through the clouds but it is very cold. This is not from personal experience, the kitchen fitters who arrived at 8 o'clock, and woke me, told me from the other side of the letterbox. I have now let them in after checking their ID cards and they are now doing what they do.

Please tell me what's happening in your part of Surrey as Ron Christie has threatened to take my laptop away if I continue writing about my fascinating life at the old people's home here in Dorking. Have you read Ron's yearly report? Tony Bremer has, and was most upset that Ron failed to mention that the England v Scotland match at Hankley Common GC was another resounding victory for ENGLAND. Personally, I have no particular interest as I am now the 10th reserve and not wanted by either team. It is true, I must admit, that my golf is a little poor at the moment but there are few who are as enthusiastic, be it in a rather confused and uncoordinated way.

The programme for 2012 is as follows: May 22. Blackmoor GC, Spring Tournament; Date TBA Worplesdon GC, Cresta Cup. Date TBA Sunningdale GC, McMillan Tankard. October 8&9, Irvine Bogside GC, National Championship; November 6 Hankley Common GC, England v Scotland - does anyone need a caddy? November 21, Section v Secretaries, The Berkshire GC; December 7, Turkey Trot, Guildford GC.

Well that's it for another month except to inform you that, after falling of my ladder, I am now nearly back to my old self and the memory is returning slowly.

Brian Willmott



London

Members, the Course walk at Sandy Lodge proved successful, many thanks to Course Manager, Robert Phillips, next is the Spring Tournament at Stanmore on Thursday, May 24, sponsored by A T Olivers where we will be saying a farewell to Tony Martin as he retires after working at Olivers forever! This event is the qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship.

Then the Summer Tournament is at Crews Hill - a hidden gem as it's a Harry Colt course. This will be on Wednesday, August 1.

The London Section website is now up and running, well done to Robert Phillips. And we now have a Facebook group [bigga london] and also Twitter [@biggalondon] well done to Lee Cox!

Finally here are the committee contact details:

Matt Pledsted [Muswell Hill] Chairman, matt.pledsted@hotmail.co.uk 07818410333

Adam McColl [Crews Hill] Secretary adammccoll@hotmail.com 07886513975

Robert Phillips [Sandy Lodge] Treasurer/website robert.phillips1@btconnect.com 07785791700

Lee Cox [Mill Hill] Golf Organiser/facebook/Twitter l.cox15@btinternet.com 07931927346

John Wells [South herts] Education/Magazinej.wells1@sky.com 07952956857

John Wells



Essex

Just a short one this month, as we are only just getting back into the swing, as they say.

At long last we have some news for you, with golf dates for the year and a few more bits of news for later in the year.

Firstly, the golf; we kick off the season with a bang at Ilford Golf Club, Wednesday, May 16, for our Summer

Trophy, followed by the Essex Trophy, at Rochford Hundred, Thursday August 16 and then the Autumn Trophy, at Stoke by Nayland, Wednesday, September 26, with the Christmas Team Event at The Essex, Thursday, December 6.

The team Knockout competition is back, with entries to Antony Kirwan by May 16, so we can draw the matches at Ilford.

We are planning to run a trip to the Hurlingham Club; details will be posted on our website as soon as we have a date. Plus we are also running a couple of seminars with Howard Swan later in the year, again more details nearer the time.

Ian Wood would like to hear from any Essex members, who are looking for a training course. He arranged some First Aid courses over the winter, but these were not taken up, so if there is anything else that you need please contact him and he will see what he can do.

Toro's Larry Pearman and Richard Freeman have again arranged a football match for us against another team from our region, if you are interested in playing please contact Mark Stopps or Martin Forrester, but be quick as places are limited for this prestigious game. We played last year, at West Ham's Upton Park Ground against the Sussex Section, which we narrowly won. So if we do draw Sussex again this year, there will be quite a match on, as I'm sure they will want to turn the tables on us.

Lastly ten of our members and Section Sponsors made the trip to the renamed, South East Regional Golf and Dinner day at Walton Heath early in March. Although the weather was overcast, the rain kept away with dry but cold conditions, but what a day. Everyone had a tale to tell. It was my first time actually playing on the course and my second visit, the first being for the 1981 Ryder Cup. Many thanks to my playing partners, Tracey Maddison and Gary Ogilvie, for putting up with my sometimes-erratic golf. I shall be returning again next year to try my hand at conquering this famous golf course.

Just a note of thanks to my colleague and driver, Tom Smith, who helped make the day more enjoyable for me, as I

didn't have to endure the drive around the M25.

For those of you who have not experienced this day it is something not to be missed, you meet old friends and make new ones. Love him or hate him, one friend who will be there again next year for sure is that 36 hole friend called Walton Heath.

The day was finished off with the prize presentation and although Essex were absent from the prize list I'm sure they all enjoyed themselves.

The inaugural Ian McMillan Memorial Trophy was presented by Ian's son, Callum, and was watched by his grandparents, two uncles and many friends.

Congratulations to the staff for producing one of the finest courses I have had the pleasure to play and well done Clive Osgood for organising the day.

Details on contacting any of the above committee are on our website.

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones



Kent

Not much to write about again this month I'm afraid, although with two events in the offing this month, be prepared for a fuller report in May. Don't forget that we have another event at West Kent Golf Club on May 24. This is one that I am particularly looking forward to as I haven't played here before. The e-mail invitation should be in circulation by now, so please get your replies in to Kev ASAP to secure your place.

One piece of news you may be interested in is that I am approaching the first anniversary of my Golf Support company. The fact that I have managed to gain and establish so many friends and professional relationships in my time has meant that I have had quite a successful year. Many thanks to all those who encouraged me

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Ian Scott
Age: 24
Club: Largs Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Jap



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

7 Years.

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

Working outdoors every day.

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

In the military.

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Bunker renovation, because it is a joy seeing the finished article.

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

Raking the bunkers after heavy rain, because they go like concrete!

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

Faster career progress for younger greenkeepers.

7. Hobbies?

Football, Golf and building computers.

8. Favourite Band?

Eminem.

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

Glasgow Rangers FC.

10. What's your claim to fame?

My picture from Harrogate 2011 being in the magazine about six times!

Are you an Assistant?

To appear in this column email scott@bigga.co.uk or ring 01347 833800 Option 510

Around The Green

to climb out of the rut I was in and take the plunge. I wish I had done it ten years ago! Thanks too to all the clients who have employed my services over the year. For details of what I can offer please visit our webpage from the address below.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com

Section Notes

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

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scottish Region

Michael Doris, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Central
Ryan Winton, Assistant Greenkeeper, Central
Shaun McNaughton, Greenkeeper, Central
Scott Logan, Greenkeeper, Central
Thomas Hooke, Assistant Greenkeeper, Central
Samuel Nisbet, Student, Central
Mike Riddell, Greenkeeper, Central
Natasha Repinskaja, Greenkeeper, Central
Fraser Robertson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Central
Scott Watson, Greenkeeper, Central
Gavin Jones, Greenkeeper, Central
Gordon Nimmo, Affiliate Member, Central
James Johnston, Affiliate Member, East
Andrew Houston, Assistant Greenkeeper, North
William Sutherland, Assistant Greenkeeper, North
Stephen Lindsay, Greenkeeper, West
Alan Stewart, Greenkeeper, West

Northern Region

Garry Morse, Assistant Greenkeeper, North East
David Wilkinson, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, North West
Lee Burton, Affiliate Member, North West
Ben Minshill, Assistant Greenkeeper, North West
Richard Hodge, Greenkeeper, North West
Oliver Wood, Greenkeeper, North West
David Hales, Student, Northern
Conrad Cavill, Student, Northern
William Barratt, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern
Mark Jessop, Greenkeeper, Northern
Jason Horner, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Northern
Lewis Pattinson, Greenkeeper, Northern
Tom Haslam, Assistant Greenkeeper, Sheffield

Midland Region

Tim Carlisle, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, East Midlands
Jordan Baker, Assistant Greenkeeper, East Midlands
William Slater, Assistant Greenkeeper, East Midlands
Harvey Brooke, Greenkeeper, Midlands
Richard Turner, Greenkeeper, Midlands
Colin Sanders, Affiliate Member, Midlands
Joe Patterson, Affiliate Member, Midlands
Daniel Stanley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Midlands
Matthew Horton, Assistant Greenkeeper, Midlands
Philip Jones, Affiliate Member, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Scott Fleming, Assistant Greenkeeper, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
David Cliffe, Affiliate Member, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Mark Price, Affiliate Member, Mid Anglia

South West and South Wales



South Coast

Hello everyone, and welcome to April's around the green. Well we finally got there on February 15 with our Section seminar held at Milton Abbey School. I hope you all had a fantastic day, and for many of you it gave me a good chance to show you the life

South East Region

Reece Jones, Assistant Greenkeeper, Surrey
Andrew Ramsay, Greenkeeper, Surrey
Glen Newbold, Greenkeeper, Surrey
Michael Browne, Greenkeeper, Surrey
Sam Moss, Assistant Greenkeeper, Surrey
Daniel McMillan, Assistant Greenkeeper, Surrey
Ross Poulter, Greenkeeper, Surrey
Steve Paterson, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Surrey
Harry Watson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Surrey
Nigel Hosegood, Assistant Greenkeeper, Kent
Michael Caplin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Sussex
Harish Sharma, Affiliate Member, London
Mark Smith, Affiliate Member, London
Joshua Leswell, Greenkeeper, East Anglia
Jack Davies, Greenkeeper, Essex
William Elgood, Greenkeeper, Essex
Daniel Homewood, Assistant Greenkeeper, Surrey

South West/South Wales

Christopher Rose, Assistant Greenkeeper, South West
Jonathan Tulk, Greenkeeper, South West
Lee Beaver, Assistant Greenkeeper, South West
Lewis Woodward, Assistant Greenkeeper, South West
Steven McLaren, Greenkeeper, South West
Robert Elliott, Greenkeeper, South West
Luke Mills, Greenkeeper, South West
Edward Horne, Assistant Greenkeeper, South West
Tom Freeman, Greenkeeper, South West
Iestyn Carpenter, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, South Coast
David Mulcahy, Greenkeeper, South Coast
Ian Lloyd, Greenkeeper, South Coast
Steve Farrant, Greenkeeper, South Coast
David Baugh, Greenkeeper, South Coast
Jack Potter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Devon&Cornwall
Martyn O'Shea, Greenkeeper, Devon&Cornwall
Noel Westlake, Greenkeeper, Devon&Cornwall

Northern Ireland

Chris McArthur, Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland

Overseas

Henry Squance, International, Austria
Carsten Brandt, International, Denmark
Espen Bergmann, Affiliate Member, Norway

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

of a Head Groundsman and our way of life at a private school.

We had excellent numbers in attendance, which was really encouraging for the Section, and I would like to thank all our guest speakers for their time and effort in making such a successful seminar. I just want to say a big thank you to the catering department at the school, who did provide us with a fantastic lunch and I hope you all enjoyed the pork! It was also nice to see so many people interested in the Abbey itself, which holds so much history; even one of our fellow greenkeepers made an inquiry about getting married there, nice one.

April sees our first Tournament of the year, which is on April 26, at Dunwood Manor, and is a 18 hole medal round, which will be our qualifier for this year's National Championship, held at Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Irvine. I do hope we get a good turn out for this day, as many of you will know, this will be the last round of golf to be played at Dunwood manor so I am sure it will be an emotional day for many.

We are now up and running with our own website, address is biggasouthcoast.org.uk so no excuses, you can see what is happening in your Section. All fixtures and flyers will be available to view.

Finally that leaves me to wish you all a Happy Easter, Happy Greenkeeping for the season ahead, I'm just off to check my new born lambs! There's never a dull moment at Milton Abbey, Joe Cooper.



South West

Thursday, March 8, the Section had a seminar, titled Aspiration & Inspiration. Taking place at Chipping Sodbury GC, with a great turn out of over 40 people. With BIGGA's CEO, Jim Croxton, attending, guest speakers also included MJ Abbotts, speaking about their time at Wentworth and the amazing changes that they made. Simon Bush from training express spoke with Paul Worster about course safety. This was a great day, and again just proved how well everyone

supports the Section. Let's keep going!

Also March saw a big day for Matt Workman. Matt works at Minchinhampton GC and has recently got married. From all the guys, we wish you all the very best and hope you have a happy future together.

The fixtures for the coming season are now with you, we have some rather impressive golf clubs to visit this year, please do your very best to attend, don't be that person who says I'll go to the next one. Be that person who goes to every one.

We would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH Whites, Irrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

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

Adam Matthews

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

07732503855



Devon and Cornwall

Our February meeting was held at Bigbury GC, on the South Devon coast. It was an extremely chilly day but we still managed to have 56 attendees brave the conditions of which 24 even braved playing golf. Strong, sub-zero winds made it very challenging but most completed the 18 holes, with Andrew Prouse, Porthpean, coming first with 41 pts. James Sheean, Truro, was second with 38 pts. J. Twitchen, Warren, third with 37 pts on count back. Longest Drive was Graham Clarke, Chulmleigh. Nearest the Pin. J. Twitchen.

Graham Davis, Head Greenkeeper at Bigbury since 1983, led the course walk. He explained that over the years he has been in charge, he has changed quite a lot on the course, enlarging all the tees, planting several thousand trees, extending the 15th green, and building new bunkers, renovating existing bunkers and creating ecological areas. There are a staff of five including Graham, Des Bickle,

David Moulding, Stewart Kent and Robert Hamley. After the golf and course walk, Mick Higgins and Jonathan Skelton, from Sibelco, gave a very interesting educational talk on sands used for sports turf. Mick concentrated on matching particle size distribution and also showed some products which the company have been involved with in recent years.

Many thanks to Graham and his team, and all the staff at Bigbury GC, for their hospitality. Also, Big thanks to the sponsors for the day, Masons Kings and Reel Grinding SW, Gary Tucker, for providing the prizes and sponsoring the day.

On Tuesday, March 6, we held our annual Spring Seminar at St Mellion International, Cornwall. The day was organised by the Section but special thanks goes to Mike Bush MG, who did the majority of the organising of the day, along with his staff at St Mellion.

The day consisted of a round robin of machinery and technique demonstrations in the morning, followed by lunch and then two educational presentations in the afternoon. The topic for the day was "Working the Surface, looking at techniques to improve surface performance. The morning demonstrations included looking at the Graden pedestrian Sand Injection scarifier, the Blec tractor mounted sand fill scarifier, the Campey Vredo overseeder, the Dakota spinner dresser, the new Greentek units including over-seeding and hollow-coring units and the Smith-Co turf iron.

One of the demonstrations included Steve Gingell, STRI, who set up a mini trial on the putting green to establish the relationship between heights of cut, frequency of cut and the use of a turf iron and their effects on green speed. It was interesting to note that increased speed was recorded where a single cut at 5mm followed by using a turf iron as opposed to double cuts or cutting at 4.5mm. The two presentations started with Mike Bush MG, Course Manager, St Mellion, talking through dealing with the thatch problems and reducing the inputs over the years to the strong position they are in now. Steve Gingell summed up the day by looking at the areas covered in the demonstrations, concentrating on thatch and Organic Matter

control and how these areas can influence over-seeding success rates. Thanks to the 75 attendees who attended the day including Level 2 and 3 students from Duchy College. Thanks also to David Chammings and Sherriff Amenity for sponsoring the food for the day. Thanks to Mike Bush and St Mellion for staging the event; a very successful day all round!

Our next meeting will be at Borringdon Park, Plymouth (date to be confirmed, and is likely to be last wed in May!). This will be an afternoon kick off and the qualifier for the National Championship. We also have meeting at Launceston GC on July 4, Devon V Cornwall team Event. This too will be an afternoon event.

I hope you all have a great season and look forward to catching up with you all in the summer,

George Pitts
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



South Wales

Good Morning South Wales, with our Nation at a standstill, our great rugby team on the brink of another GRAND SLAM, time to give the French Rugby Union what they deserve on the pitch after the travesty of the World Cup. A huge congratulation must go out to Lee Evans and his staff at the Millennium Stadium, the pitch has been outstanding this season good luck for the rest of the year and enjoy the matches during the Olympic games.

Our spring seminar will again take place on April 19 at The Royal Porthcawl GC, from what I'm led to believe Gerald Orme has been trying to pull out all the stops this year to ensure we have fantastic guest speakers all to be confirmed. Many thanks to him and his team at Farmura Environmental for their continued sponsorship and support for this event. For booking please contact Gareth Knight on 07595988512.

Keep enjoying the spring guys remember any news or views contact me at any time,

Peter Holmstrom



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

A recurring theme on BIGGA's Bulletin Boards and in my conversations with members is the importance of the relationship between the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and the Golf Club Manager/Secretary.

It is too simplistic to say that when this relationship is good the course is automatically likewise but I'm certain that it can be a contributing factor. I was delighted therefore to be asked by the Scottish Golf Union to attend its innovative Management Development Programme recently. The SGU has identified Club Manager education as a high priority for the on-going health of the game and is offering the opportunity for current and aspiring Club Managers to undertake the CMAE Certified Club Manager (CCM) course at heavily subsidised rates.

The first week of the course is an introduction to the key elements to the job and it is gratifying that BIGGA has been asked to present on the importance of golf course maintenance, how the Association can help and how to get the best out of the course manager. I'm convinced that if the next generation of Club Managers place appropriate value on the skills of our members the game of golf has a healthy future, the SGU is to be commended on its initiative.

The ability to adapt to changing weather, economic forces and golfer expectations has been vital

Another regular discussion topic has been the variety of weather conditions our members deal with across the UK and beyond. A recent Bulletin Board thread on rainfall statistics revealed huge discrepancies in rainfall levels even within relatively short distances. I have been constantly amazed by the resourcefulness of BIGGA members in dealing with all that Mother Nature challenges them with.

In some areas we have drought orders and hosepipe bans being applied from April while in others golf courses are still dealing with the after effects of severe flooding. This is when the renowned adaptability of greenkeepers comes to the fore. I've heard it said that this trait is a curse as it means that occasionally our members are taken advantage of, but there is no doubt that the ability to adapt to changing weather, economic forces and golfer expectations has been vital in surviving the last few years. We at BIGGA HOUSE are doing all we can to ensure the golf industry recognises that.

Finally it was a pleasure recently to attend the Scottish Regional Conference, which was once again expertly organised by Peter Boyd, the Regional Administrator. During the excellent conference, Stuart Taylor, Regional Chairman, presented a gift to Peter to commemorate his forthcoming retirement after 15 years excellent service. It was clear that Peter will be sorely missed by the many friends he has made in the Region and I would like to place on record my gratitude for his hard work and professionalism during the last 15 years and his support during my time with the Association.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

We are excited to launch a new BIGGA Membership benefit available to BIGGA members who are interested in accessing thousands of turfgrass educational materials.

BIGGA has recently secured an agreement with the Michigan State University Libraries (MSUL) to afford *BIGGA Members, through the Members area of the website, access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

The MSUL operate The Turfgrass Information Center (TGIC) which is a specialised unit containing the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world.

TGIC has over 175,000 records in its primary database and now BIGGA Members can access the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), a fantastic resource.

A bit of background information on the TGIF – it is designed to be flexible for all users, from those accessing for the first time to the more sophisticated researchers/users. TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive records of all types of works related to turfgrass culture.

TGIF was established in 1983 by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee and the Michigan State University Libraries and is now maintained by the TIC, a division of MSUL. The ultimate goals of TGIF is to:

- 1) identify all available print or online materials reporting on turfgrass and its maintenance;
- 2) to provide access to records representing each item; and
- 3) to provide a direct link to the full-text or actual content of each item when possible.

This is a fantastic resource available to all Full Members and Student Members of BIGGA who are studying at any level.

To access the TGIF log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Member Resources' from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to Turfgrass Infor-

mation File (TGIF) and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly. Happy researching!

*Access available to BIGGA Full Members and BIGGA Student Members

BTME 2012 Visitor Survey

We recently carried out a survey of visitors to this year's BTME, thank you to all those people who completed the survey, we had a great response, and we appreciate and value your feedback.

BIGGA's Chairman, Andrew Mellon, drew the winners name out of a hat at the recent National Board Meeting. I'm pleased to announce the winner is Marcus Phelps, Head Greenkeeper at Filton Golf Club in Bristol. Congratulations Marcus and thanks again to all who completed the survey. All those who responded were eligible for a prize draw to win an iPad2.

Tastecard offer

Watch out for an update regarding the tastecard offer on the BIGGA website and BIGGA Facebook Group. Last April and October BIGGA negotiated an exclusive deal with tastecard, the nation's largest dining club. A tastecard gives you 2 meals for the price of 1 or 50% off your bill at over 5,500+ restaurants!

Membership Subscription 2012/2013

The subscription rates for 2012/13 are:-

- Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper - £134.00
- Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head GK - £79.00
- Greenkeeper member aged 21 yrs & over - £79.00
- Greenkeeper member aged 20 yrs & under - £79.00
- Unqualified member aged 21 yrs & over - £59.00
- Unqualified member aged 20 yrs & under - £29.00
- International Member - £93.00
- Affiliate Member - £90.00
- Student Member - £26.00
- Retired Member - £31.00





A personal thank you...

Peter Boyd, BIGGA's Scottish Regional Administrator, is retiring on April 20.

I have known Peter Boyd since my first stint at BIGGA back in 1998.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him then and now. I would like to thank him for all his support, help and humour!

Peter has always been very professional in everything he has done for BIGGA. I wish him and his wife, Eleanor, my very best wishes.

Contact Details

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traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Elaine Jones
elaine@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
 (option 1 for Membership)

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South West & Wales
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 Tel: 01454 270850
 Mobile: 07841 948110
jane@bigga.co.uk




Peter Boyd **Peter Larter**




Clive Osgood **Jane Jones**

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Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
APRIL 2012			
April 3rd	Scottish East Section Event	Glen Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson Tel: 01501 825760/07961 630553 or email: stuferg@btinternet.com
April 12th	North West Section Event	Leasowe Golf Club	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
April 17th	Scottish Central Section Event	Crail Golf Club	Gordon Moir tel: 01334 474021/07850 139799 or email: gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk
April 18th	North East Section Event	South Shields Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson Tel: 0191 413 5232 or email: jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com
April 18th	Cleveland Section Event	Hedlam Hall Golf Club	Ian Pemberton email: ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk
April 19th	South West Section Event	Thornbury Golf Centre – Spring Tournament AM-AM	Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
April 24th	East Anglia Section Event	Waldringfield Golf Club	Ian Willet Tel: 07929 205398 or email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
April 24th	BB&O Section Event	Kirtlington Golf Club	Matthew Nutter email: bbosecretary@gmail.com
April 25th	Northern Section Event	Easingwold Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
April 25th	North Wales Section Event	Vale of Llangollen Golf Club	Jez Hughes Tel: 01978 860109/07876 776265 or email: jezpro69@aol.com
April 26th	Scottish North Section Event	Royal Aberdeen Golf Club	Dale Robertson Tel: 01651 863002/07711 274525 or email: daleturnberry@aol.com
April 26th	South Coast Section	Dunwood Manor Golf Club	Alex McCombie Tel: 07561 001299 or email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
MAY 2012			
May 1st	Ayrshire Section Event	Ayr Bellisle Golf Club	Derek Wilson email: derwlsn@aol.com
May 10th	West Section Event	Cardross Golf Club	Fraser Ross email: Karen.ross@tesco.net
May 23rd	Midland Section Event	Chase Golf Club	Andrew Smith email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
May 24th	East of England Section	Cleethorpes Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel: 01205 353925 or 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
May 30th	South West Section Event	Clevedon Golf Club	Wayne Vincent Tel: 07958 630590 or email: wayne.vincent@cotswoldhills-golfclub.com

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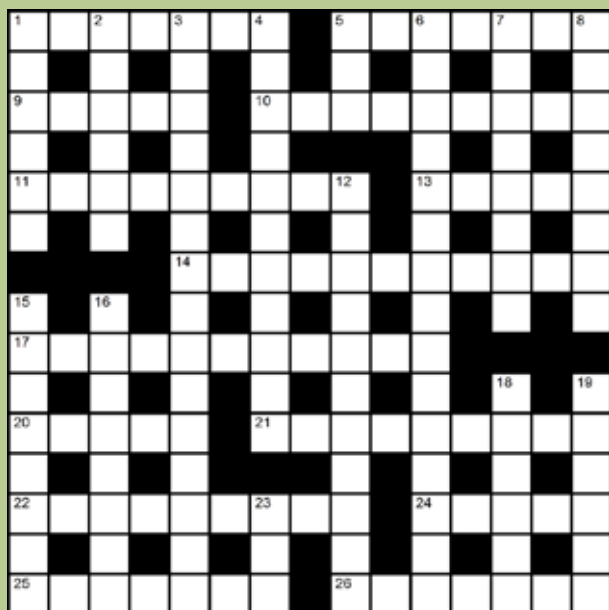
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intheshed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Open vessel with a spout for pouring (7)
- 5 Black garment worn by priests or choristers (7)
- 9 Mediterranean island approximately 50 miles south of Sicily (5)
- 10 Cosmetic preparation for the removal of body hair (9)
- 11 Class of shelled, mostly aquatic, animals (9)
- 13 Ascend (5)
- 14 US soap opera described by some as "Dallas with grapes" (6,5)
- 17 Normal brainwave of a person who is awake and relaxed (5,6)
- 20 Dr Who 'baddie', a cyborg from the planet Skaro (5)
- 21 Foster the growth of (9)
- 22 Nickname of the German howitzer gun developed for the first World War (3,6)
- 24 In homosexual parlance, a boyish-looking man (5)
- 25 Brazilian who played for Middlesbrough (1996-7) and Rangers (2003-4) (7)
- 26 Bob Marley song whose full title concludes "/People Get Ready" (3,4)

DOWN

- 1 Type of glassy lava (6)
- 2 Rabbinic texts constituting Jewish canon and civil law (6)
- 3 1903 Joseph Conrad novella whose main character is Charles Marlow (5,2,8)
- 4 Fashionable affectation of left-wing views and lifestyle (7,4)
- 5 Large edible mushroom also called porcino (3)
- 6 Group of MPs chosen to report and advise on a chosen matter (6,9)
- 7 Uninitiated person, layman (8)
- 8 Pacific island nation whose official languages are English and Gilbertese (8)
- 12 Spanish medium sherry (11)
- 15 The jawbone (8)
- 16 Short piece at the end of a novel, usually describing later events (8)
- 18 Gambling establishment (6)
- 19 To barrack or interrupt a performer (6)
- 23 Silvery metallic element, Sn (3)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Coaches, Managers or Captain

1. Name the last English manager to lead a team to the old First Division title.
2. Who is the current British Davis Cup Captain?
3. Who was the coach when England won the Rugby World Cup in 2003?
4. Who was Captain (Skip) of Britain's Gold Medal winning curling team in the 2002 Winter Olympics?

5. Who was the Captain of England during the infamous Bodyline Series?
6. Which England Manager is known for the phrase: "Do I not like that."?
7. Name the European Ryder Cup Captain who revitalised the competition in the '80s.
8. Who was the Manager of the first British team to win the European Cup?
9. Who was Captain of the R&A in 2003?

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

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.

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

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle Answers on page 65

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See p. 128, a coastal town in South Africa where
many of the beaches are surrounded by the Indian

compiled by Sophie Richmond

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Drainage

It's a job nobody wants to talk about

By Dick Nugent, Dick Nugent Associates, Lincoln, Nebraska

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Re for Turf Health

Ideally, the combination of drainage and irrigation allows a well-timed watering system to keep the golf course dry and playable, providing more playing time than a normal system. A drained course has the added advantage that it can be played more often with less risk of damage.

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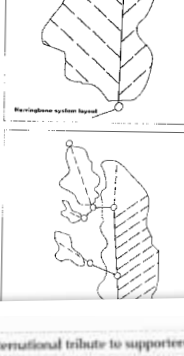
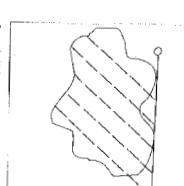
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Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, explains the role of QA Accredited Centres and Training Providers



While there appears to be an ever increasing number of organisations and individuals looking to offer greenkeeper training courses, the GTC continues to promote only those colleges, private companies and individuals who have chosen to become GTC Quality Assured.

The GTC introduced the Quality Assured Scheme in the Autumn of 2010, having introduced a new criteria aimed at ensuring golf club employers and greenkeepers have a level of satisfaction when choosing a GTC accredited Centre or Training Provider.

So what is the difference between a Quality Assured Centre and Training Provider?

Quality Assured Centres offer education and training courses all designed to underpin Government accredited certificates and qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme.

So if it is a formal greenkeeping qualification or apprenticeship you are looking for, look no further than the following Centres. They all have met the GTC's Quality Assured Centre criteria.

England

Bridgwater College, Somerset. Contact: Jake Waites Tel: 07912 555592, Email: waitesj@bridgwater.ac.uk Website: www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Duchy College, Cornwall. Contact: Ron Skinner Tel: 01579 372220, Email: Ronald.skinner@duchy.ac.uk Website: www.duchy.ac.uk

Hartpury College, Gloucestershire. Contact: Mark Harwood-Browne Tel: 01452 702377, Email: Mark.Harwood-Browne@hartpury.ac.uk Website: www.hartpury.ac.uk

Myerscough College, Lancashire. Contact: Stewart Brown Tel: 01995 642305, Email: sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk or Paul McGrail Tel: 07740 819415, Email: pmcgrail@myerscough.ac.uk Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Newcastle College, Northum-

berland. Contact: Wayne Reid Tel: 0191 2004704, Email: wayne.reid@ncl-coll.ac.uk Website: www.ncl-coll.ac.uk

Oaklands College, Hertfordshire. Contact: Andy Wight Tel: 01727 737735, Email: Andy.Wight@oaklands.ac.uk Website: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Plumpton College, Sussex. Contact: David Blackmur Tel: 01273 890454, Email: david.blackmur@plumpton.ac.uk Website: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Reaseheath College, Cheshire. Contact: Gareth Phillips Tel: 01270 613236, Email: garethp@reaseheath.ac.uk Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Scotland

Elmwood College, Fife. Contact: Mike Clark Tel: 01334 658800

Email: MClark@elmwood.ac.uk Website: www.elmwood.ac.uk

GOSTA Training, Glasgow. Contact: Lesley Lowrie Tel: 0141 556 3999, Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk Website: www.gostatraining.co.uk

Wales

Bridgend College, Mid-Glamorgan. Contact: John Sullivan Tel: 01656 302691, Email: jrsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk Website: www.bridgend.ac.uk

Deeside College, Flintshire. Contact: Jenny Pitts Tel: 01244 831531 Ext 6132, Email: pittsj@deeside.ac.uk Website: www.deeside.ac.uk

The above Centres are constantly regulated by the Government Inspectors, Awarding Bodies Verification representatives and also monitored by the GTC against the Quality Assured Criteria.

All of the QA Centres have Sports turf Advisory Panels and if you feel you can assist the staff at these Centres with either feedback or offering to join the Panel please contact them directly. Centre staff also welcome feedback from students and employers as it is a very important aspect of the monitoring of the education and training provision by the Centre itself.



The GTC is funded by:



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



You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

GTC QA Training Providers offer education and training courses, all designed to give added value to the courses and qualifications offered by Quality Assured Centres.

Short courses, seminars, workshops and bespoke training are all available from the following companies and individuals, and the GTC encourages its QA Centres and Training Providers to liaise to ensure the sectors employers, greenkeepers and Course Managers are having their education and training requirements met.

The vast range of subjects involved in maintaining and managing golf courses can be offered by QA Training Providers and Centres:

For up to date information please visit the Quality Assured link on: www.the-gtc.co.uk, www.greenkeepertraining.com or call the GTC.

The GTC, in addition to ensuring the quality of greenkeeping education and training provision is delivered to an agreed criterion, has introduced a series of workshops for golf club employers and volunteers all supported by the Home Unions, EGU, SGU and GUW.

Chairman of Green workshops have proved very successful and following feedback by delegates attending these workshops, the GTC has added workshops on Health & Safety, Communication within the golf club, Renovation and Design.

All of the above Training Providers have specialist knowledge to share and all their training is designed to compliment the formal qualifications for greenkeeping and Course Management as well as helping employers understand and support their Course Manager achieves the aims of the business, hopefully to a Course or Companies Business Plan.

The GTC believes in Continual Professional Development for all and that includes employers, volunteers, as well as greenkeepers and Golf Course Managers, and through the various courses and workshops offered by GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers there is something for everybody.

Recruitment



Greenkeepers & Assistant Greenkeepers Throughout the Netherlands

Greenkeepers and assistant Greenkeepers for various assignments throughout the Netherlands, up to 4 month contract. Accommodation is included in this contract. Must have minimum of two years experience. Be conversant with modern green keeping methods. Be skilled in the use of tractors, mowers and other golf course equipment. Possess all current spraying certificates i.e. PA1 PA2 PA6 NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Assistant green keepers and season workers do not need all qualifications. Experience required in similar working environment is preferable. Travel assistance if needed. Own transport essential

Please send your CV indicating availability and your motivation to work away from home to: denise.haines@roevin.co.uk or call Denise on 0161 233 1564

Please mention BIGGA in your application for these roles



Winchester Garden Machinery Sales Person



JOHN DEERE

Winchester Garden Machinery has a position available for a highly motivated sales person within our Golf & Turf and Commercial grounds care department. Technical knowledge and experience in demonstrating turf equipment would be an advantage. The position is based at our Winchester location and the sales person will primarily cover the Hampshire and West Sussex area.

The successful applicant will be looking after existing customers whilst promoting our company and a wide range of grounds care products to potential new customers.

Contact Robin Nettle with a CV and cover letter.

By Email: robin.nettle@wgmtd.co.uk

By Post: WGM Ltd, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5DL



EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

A vacancy exists for a Greenkeeper.

The candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience, be hard working and reliable.

Qualified to NVQ level 2 an advantage as would be a PA1 PA2 or PA6 qualification.

A working knowledge of Health & Safety at a Golf Club would also be of advantage.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Doug Fernie, Course Manager, Upminster Golf Club,
114 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AU



South Staffs Golf Club Head Greenkeeper



South Staffs Golf Club is a private members golf club founded in 1892. The Club is an 18 hole Harry Vardon designed parkland course set in 160 acres maintained to the highest of standards and is regarded as one of the finest challenges in the Midlands.

We are seeking a Head Greenkeeper to manage daily operations and provide effective service in all aspects of golf course management for the benefit of the membership.

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic and experienced, displaying a genuine commitment to excellence and will:

- Be responsible for all aspects of course management and development.
- Have an eye for detail and how to present an excellently manicured course.
- Hold a recognised industry qualification or show some progress in achievement
- Ability to lead, motivate and develop a greenkeeping team
- Knowledge of all areas of turf grass science and golf course maintenance

- Knowledge of Health & Safety legislation, ability to carry out risk assessments and complete relevant associated paperwork
- Some computer literacy would be useful with the ability to manage to budget
- Ability to work with and provide written reports to the Greens Committee.

This is a 'hands-on' position with applicants demonstrating leadership and communication skills with a proven track record of high standard course presentation

An generous remuneration package is available for the right candidate coupled with attractive accommodation

Please forward your application by email with your C.V. including current salary and benefits to Club Manager Sue Lebeau; by 16th April 2012

suelebeau@southstaffsgc.co.uk
www.southstaffordshiregolfclub.co.uk

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FOOTBALL CLUB MECHANIC

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club's thriving Grounds Maintenance Department require a Mechanic to be responsible for the full maintenance of a fleet of brand new, predominantly Jacobsen, equipment at our new state of the art training ground in Enfield (due to be finished June 2012).

The successful applicant will be required to maintain a large fleet of professional groundcare machinery to the highest standard and must have sound knowledge of grinding equipment, with a high standard of mower setup.

This position requires a person who has had previous experience in a similar environment with a full driver's licence. The successful applicants should be happy to work as part of a team but also be able to work on their own initiative with good communication skills and an ability to keep up-to-date records. A flexible approach is very important.

All applicants should supply a full CV stating current salary to:

Mrs A Vetere, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, Bill Nicholson Way,
748 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 0AP
ann.vetere@tottenhamhotspur.com

Closing Date: 27th April 2012

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FOOTBALL CLUB IRRIGATION ENGINEER

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club's thriving Grounds Maintenance Department require an Irrigation Engineer to be responsible for the operation and upkeep of its brand new irrigation system installed at our new state of the art training ground in Enfield (due to be finished June 2012).

This position requires a person who has had previous experience in a sportsturf and landscape environment with a full driver's licence. The successful applicants should be happy to work as part of a team but also be able to work on their own initiative with good communication skills and an ability to keep up-to-date records. A flexible approach is very important.

All applicants should supply a full CV stating current salary to:

Mrs A Vetere, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club
Bill Nicholson Way, 748 High Road, Tottenham, London, N17 0AP
ann.vetere@tottenhamhotspur.com

Closing Date: 27th April 2012

HESSLE GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Hessle Golf Club is a private members golf club founded in 1898. The Club is an 18 hole rural parkland course set in 127 acres with extensive practise area including a driving range.

For further course information please visit our website:
www.hesslegolfclub.co.uk

The successful candidate will be highly motivated and widely experienced displaying a genuine commitment to excellence and will:

- * be responsible for all aspects of course management and development.
- * hold a recognised industry qualification and have knowledge of modern machinery/maintenance
- * be computer literate with the ability to formulate and manage budgets, also providing written reports to the Club Committee.
- * possess a full knowledge of and ability to implement Health & Safety Legislation.

This is a 'hands-on' position with applicant demonstrating proven leadership, staff management and communication skills with a proven track record of high standard course presentation.

Please forward your application by email with your C.V. including current salary and benefits to Paul Haddon at:
manager@hesslegolfclub.co.uk by the 1st May 2012

Hessle Golf Club, Westfield Road, Raywell, Cottingham,
East Yorkshire HU16 5ZA.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT JILL RODHAM

ON 01347 833 800
OR EMAIL jill@bigga.co.uk

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All applicants must have a minimum of five years' experience installing, servicing and/or maintaining Toro irrigation products; and the ability to communicate and demonstrate the technical features of upgrades and new releases to consultants, contractors and end-users, including via seminars and presentations.

To be successful, applicants must be able to work on their own initiative and manage their own workload.

The right candidate will attract a generous remuneration package that includes entry to the company's pension scheme after six months, as well as a company vehicle and expenses.

If you have the qualities we are looking for, please apply with CV to **Robert Jackson** at the address below, or email rjackson@lely.com

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Friday, 04 May

Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St. Neots, Cambs. PE19 1QH
Tel: 01480 226800 Email: rjackson@lely.com



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in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Howard Wilkinson, Leeds United 1991-92
2. Leon Smith
3. Sir Clive Woodward
4. Rhona Martin
5. Douglas Jardine
6. Graham Taylor
7. Tony Jacklin
8. Jock Stein
9. HRH Duke of York

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1	8	2	9	C	6	5	A	4	3	7	B
5	C	3	4	1	2	7	B	A	8	6	9
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B	1	9	2	7	3	A	C	6	5	4	8
7	4	6	8	2	1	B	5	3	C	9	A
C	A	8	6	3	4	2	7	B	9	1	5
9	2	B	5	A	C	1	8	7	4	3	6
4	3	1	7	B	5	9	6	8	A	2	C
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Monster Daily SuDoku: Fri 30-Mar-2012 medium

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

Daily SuDoku: Fri 30-Mar-2012 very hard



On the Soapbox

A stage on which people within the industry can express their viewpoint

Felling Trees

It always amazes me how many times I see "dubious" felling on a golf course and when asked usually the management are unaware that permission is required if you fell more than five cubic metres of timber in a calendar quarter (two cubic metres if you sell it).

So what is five cubic metres of timber?

A tree in the eyes of the law is determined by its diameter at 1.3 metres from the ground - if the diameter is above eight centimetres then it is classed as a tree.

Penalties can be severe for illegal felling and apply to all parties involved; on conviction a fine of up to £2500 or twice the value of the trees whichever is higher may be imposed and generally a restocking order will be issued. (The fine could potentially be per tree)

Further restrictions may also apply if you have a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the site. These are made by the Local Planning Authority (normally the local council). TPO's prevent the felling, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree without permission from the planning authority.

A similar situation occurs if you are within a conservation area where again you would have to apply to the local authority for permission for any work on a tree.

In reality the best way to gain permission is through a felling licence which is obtained from the Forestry Commission (FC) and can last up to five years. However, as there have been so many cases of illegal felling on golf courses the FC are now reluctant to issue a licence without some sort of plan.

It is therefore best to seek professional advice before applying for a licence as sustainability, timber volume and the impact on the environment and landscape are all considered by the FC when assessing applications.

Also, an experienced forester will know what is required for an application (mapping and measuring areas, timber volume and percentage thinning, etc) and perhaps more importantly what will make the FC reluctant to grant a licence!

The other advantage of professional advice is that you will have a plan to work to enabling the club to cost the work

effectively and undertake the management of their trees and woodland efficiently.

Felling trees can be a sensitive issue with club members for whom sometimes logic goes out of the window.

Therefore, any substantive evidence is a help in convincing the membership that tree management is an essential part of the agronomic management of the course.

The misconception that trees and woodlands will look after themselves still abounds, however there is a huge difference between conservation and preservation and many golf clubs have a vocal minority who want to preserve everything.

They don't realise that they are not actually preserving what they find so dear, because it is ever changing, it is a living entity which will evolve and change naturally if left unmanaged.

Heathland, is a transitory ecosystem which will revert to woodland if left unmanaged, it is therefore essential to manage both the woodland and heath if the status quo is to be maintained.

Woodland will normally regenerate at

As well as creating landscape and wildlife interest. However care has to be taken as to their effect on the agronomy, strategy and landscape of the golf course.

They form a strong three dimensional hazard which can easily destroy the intended strategy of a hole.

Trees are a dynamic entity, increasing in size over time, often encroaching into the line of play.

They can reduce air and light penetration to the grass sward pre-disposing it to disease and can cause uneven wear on tees as players naturally favour the un-impeded line of play.

It is therefore essential to have a planned holistic approach to the management of the trees and woodlands on the course.

All clubs which have trees and woodland should have a management programme which assesses the arboreal landscape taking into account the appropriateness of trees in relation to their location.

Further information is available from the FC website

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-6dfkus

A living entity which will evolve and change naturally if left unmanaged

its edges but with modern day pressures this is often impossible and the woodland therefore requires intervention in order to redress the balance if it is to remain sustainable.

However, where it adjoins heather it will cast seed into the heath and will regenerate vigorously especially in the case of birch and oak.

We have been managing the woodlands of Britain since before the Roman invasion and what is often perceived as natural woodland is actually highly managed woodland; an under-storey of bluebells for instance requires light to the woodland floor and a lack of aggressive shade casting ground flora such as bramble or bracken. Management is therefore required if the ecosystem is to be maintained.

Trees provide many benefits whether it is individuals, small woodlands or large forests. They provide many tangible benefits such as screening, shelter, noise reduction and seclusion.



John Nicholson

For further information please contact John Nicholson Associates, 18 Douglas Gardens, Durham DH1 3PT
01913842556, 07967818719

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

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