

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

*Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA*

£5.20 FEBRUARY 2012

Inside...

## GOLFERS' SURVEY

What every  
golfer wants

Course Feature

## CHIPPING SODBURY

A golf club finding  
the key to progress

Chipping Sodbury GC

Harrogate  
week 2012

The Review



Harrogate  
week



# 2012

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# A boost for the rest of the year

**Ever since I've worked for BIGGA, January has meant just one thing – BTME and Harrogate. It dominates the months leading up to January and for the month itself it is last minute preparations; the actual week then the race to finish the February magazine, which is held back so it can include the Harrogate review (see pages 31-54). January just flies by.**

It has become a way of life and like so many of you, it provides a boost for the rest of the year, something that I can say that with all sincerity as I haven't attended a single show which didn't provide a feel good factor.

However, this year that was certainly amplified and the numbers which thronged to the Halls and took advantage of the superb Continue to Learn education programme were significantly higher than in recent years.

So what made the difference this year? Certainly there was a well targeted marketing plan in place aimed at encouraging visitors both from within the greenkeeping industry but also from the wider fine turf sector. Improved weather also played its part. Over the last two years December and January have been extremely cold, with many courses buried deep under snow and ice for long periods. Indeed, last year the arctic conditions stretched right up until a couple of days before the show and some people who intended to come to Harrogate had to stay back and manage the thaw.

This year one of the main features was BIGGA's 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening and the 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations and 25 Years of BIGGA Museum exhibit in Hall A. These were huge successes and highlighted just how much the success of BIGGA, and its predecessors, was due to the drive, commitment and passion of a few

individuals. The chance of honouring those people was, rightly, not missed.

Also, in this month's issue, you will find a fascinating article on a golfer survey commissioned by Syngenta.

The findings were quite revealing. For example it identified the importance the golfer places on the golf course above other elements of a club, like clubhouse facilities, food and beverage, practice facilities and buggy availability. That can only be strong ammunition when fighting your budgetary corner.

Another of the findings showed that smoothness of role is rated as more important than green speed. Again this might be useful in fending off the "Need for Speed" or the "Race for Pace" lobby.

An interesting set of findings, and thanks to Syngenta for choosing Greenkeeper International to share it with you.

So having come through another Harrogate and reached February the rest of 2012 is laid out in front of us. European Football Championships and the London Olympics which are now with us in a matter of seven months rather than seven years mark this down as a particularly special year and for me, with a 50th birthday coming up in August, it is another reason why this year will be memorable. When you see the number written down it looks very old but, if I'm honest, I don't really feel much older than a fit 48 year old!

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**









**"The education justifies our time here. The workshops give a good mix of courses for all levels, are well delivered and interactive, which means delegates get involved. I attended the Turf Managers Conference for the first time, and enjoyed the individual speakers and mix of subjects."**

Barry Neville, Course Manager, Stannett GC

**Harrogate Week in words and pictures**

**"Congratulations to the BIGGA team for putting on an excellent event. It was great to find a positive mood amongst the industry's movers."**

Steve Edwards, Head K&M, Turf & Landscapes, Hygeia

**"The attendance speaks for itself. It was great to see such a positive turnout, with a large mix of people from a good mix of positivity into the trade."**

Derek Smith, Secretary, Harrogate & Marketing Manager, DLP, Pritchard Ltd & Johnsons Sport, Sand

**"A great evening - a positive atmosphere throughout the event. Wednesday was fantastic and our seminar well attended."**

Karen Roberts, Marketing Communications Manager, K&M, Stannett, Camp, Pritchard

**100 years of Greenkeeping Associations**

**CEO Q&A**

This year's Harrogate was the first that BIGGA CEO, Steve Edwards, had faced in a long and strong time to reflect on BIGGA's recent progress and the state of the year.

**"It was heartening to talk to delegates who were attending the exhibition for the first time as well as those for whom it has become a fixture in their diaries."**

**What inspired you to start BIGGA?**

Steve Edwards, CEO

**What do you see as the future of the industry?**

Steve Edwards, CEO

**What do you see as the future of the industry?**

Steve Edwards, CEO

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**Harrogate Week**  
**The Review 31-54**



# GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

## Wentworth Club Announces Retirement of Chris Kennedy

**The Wentworth Club Golf Courses Manager, Chris Kennedy, is retiring from his position after 22 years exemplary service.**

Chris, who joined the Club in February 1990, will continue to work until June 29 and be responsible for his final BMW PGA Championship in May.

When Chris retires he will have managed the course presentation at Wentworth for a staggering 52 European Tour Professional Golf Tournaments.

Julian Small, Chief Executive of Wentworth Club, commented: "We wish Chris the very best in his retirement. He has been an exceptional member of the team here and overseen significant development of all our golf courses. I don't think there is a Golf Course Manager in the world that can match Chris's record in preparing golf courses for professional tournaments."

Chris's successor, Kenny Mackay will join Wentworth at the end of April. Currently Director of Golf

Courses and Grounds at The Belfry since 2005, Kenny has gained a wealth of experience in golf course management and professional golf tournament preparation over the last 18 years, forging an enviable Curriculum Vitae including previous roles at The London Golf Club, Hanbury Manor and The Forest of Arden. He is also a Past Chairman of BIGGA.

Kenny stated "I am very excited about this new challenge and realise that I am joining a world class venue with a superb tournament history. I look forward to the professional challenges that come with the events along with meeting and getting to know the members."

"Chris Kennedy has achieved much here over the years; and now looking forward, I feel excited for all that lies ahead for me at Wentworth Club."

Chris said of his time at the Club, "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been Golf Courses Manager for the last 22 years at Wentworth Club. I would like to

thank both Elliott Bernerd and Richard Caring, the two owners of the Club during my time here, for giving myself and the team the chance to be involved in all the course changes over the years.

Wentworth is a special golfing venue with three wonderful courses, all different. Working with the Tour for the PGA Championship is the highlight of the year and all the boys have worked hard over the years to help make the event so great.

I would like to welcome Kenny Mackay to the Club as my replacement and working with him during our handover period. I know he will do a great job. Finally after 50 years in the golf industry, Jill and I are going home to Scotland to play some golf and spend time with our families."

RIGHT: Kenny Mackay



Chris Kennedy with Ernie Els on the West Course

## EIGCA Partner

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects has announced that Giles Wardle has become an EIGCA Consultant Partner.

A Chartered Engineer, Giles is a partner with Irriplan.

EIGCA Consultant Partner is a new partnership category for golf course consultants with the aim of increasing interaction between the EIGCA and other professions in the golf industry. The scheme is open to all consultants who are working in a solely fee based, professional practice, associated with the golf course design business.

Julia Green, EIGCA Executive Officer, said: "I would like to welcome Giles Wardle as the EIGCA's first Consultant Partner. I am sure he will enjoy the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with our members, particularly at our conference in Nice and our other official functions. "This new partnership category allows consultants to promote their services directly to golf course architects, as well as our other partners, and helps to bring the various elements of our industry closer together."

For more info: [julia@eigca.org](mailto:julia@eigca.org)





## J.R.D. Palmer (David) 1926 to 2012

David Palmer known across the trade for developing and guiding Supaturf Products LTD through the 60s 70s and 80s, died earlier this month after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

David was a long time supporter of BIGGA serving on the show steering committee for a number of years. His interest and passion for the amenity industry was partly generated through his long and successful rugby career, playing for Coventry, Leicester Tigers and captaining Leicestershire in the 50s.

His many years in the trade as MD and Owner of Supaturf Products LTD saw him build the company through the fledgling years of the amenity industry.

Manufacturing fertilisers specifically for use on golf courses and sports facilities at the G.A Palmer Ltd factory in Peterborough through the early 60s and carrying out important development work in turf nutrition.

David built up the business over a 35 year period and Supaturf became known countrywide with five depots across England through the 80s, offering a vast range of supplies to the industry.

He further increased Supaturf sales across the world through the 90s selling products across Europe and as far afield as the southern hemisphere, before retiring in 2000.

David is survived by wife, Jane, sons, Michael and Marcus, and his five grandchildren.

In memory of David the following website has been set up to help collect vital funds so that modern medicine can get a greater understanding and hopefully a future cure for Alzheimer's disease, that today effects so many people.

[www.justgiving.com/remember/2293/David-Palmer](http://www.justgiving.com/remember/2293/David-Palmer)



## 100 in 100

The 'My Apprentice 2012' scheme was launched at Myerscough College last month by local MP Ben Wallace, well known Lancashire Chef, Nigel Haworth, and Edwin Booth, Myerscough College Patron. It is a year-long campaign dedicated to increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities across both public and private sectors, with a specific focus on targeting the land based (Agriculture, Horticulture and Sportsturf) and sports industries.

The business breakfast was used to launch the College's first major 'My Apprentice 2012' event - a '100 in 100' days campaign. The '100 in 100' concept will see Myerscough College attempt to generate and secure 100 Apprenticeship placements across the private and public sector within 100 days, with a particular focus on targeting the land based and sports industries.

The '100 in 100' campaign was designed to bring together training providers, public and private sector business leaders, the National Apprenticeship Service and local media to work in partnership to deliver a sustained campaign to increase Apprenticeship opportunities and placements.

## NEW ROLE FOR RUSSELL

One of the Sportsturf industries best known faces; Russell Latham, has left the Mansfield Sand Company after 13 years service to take up his new position as European Sales Director for Clive Richardson (International) Ltd.

An amalgamation of two well-known sports turf contracting companies, Clive Richardson Ltd (CRL) and Premier Pitches Ltd formed to identify and develop new opportunities in the increasingly competitive area of sports pitch construction, maintenance and renovation.

Both will still operate independently with existing clients although Russell will also be responsible for forging and maintaining links with new clients under the CRL banner.



**GI**

**NEWSDesk**

The latest news from around the globe

Please email your news items and press releases to The Editor, Scott MacCallum  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

## Graduation Celebration



A total of 28 young service technicians recently graduated from the John Deere TurfTech and Ag Tech advanced apprenticeship programmes, run by national training provider Babcock.

The group of third year students, almost a third of the total of 101 apprentices now undergoing training with John Deere and Babcock, received their certificates during a visit to the company's Mannheim facilities.

The trip also included a tour of the cab manufacturing facility and European Parts Distribution Centre at Bruchsal, and a gradua-

tion dinner with John Deere management.

Bruce Cockburn, of W M Dodds Ltd at Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, was named Apprentice of the Year and presented with a crystal plaque, an additional certificate and vouchers for workshop tools worth £300.

The apprentices can go on to complete their education for a fourth year to gain the John Deere Diploma and register at LTA2 level in the industry's Landbased Technician Accreditation scheme, while starting their adult training within the John Deere University.



## Carnoustie's John Philp to Retire



Carnoustie's Links Superintendent, John Philp MBE is retiring this June after 26 years in charge of the Links

Announcing his retirement, John said: "I consider it to have been a privilege to have been part of a great team effort whose original target was the resurgence of Carnoustie Links in world golf. I have cherished many moments experienced over the last 26 years and none more so than the return of The Open to Carnoustie. That was the major highlight."

During his tenure, the course has also staged the Scottish Open, Dunhill Links, Senior Open and, last year, for the first time, the Women's British Open.

John's last week in post will coincide with Carnoustie hosting the Ladies' Open Amateur Championship on 26-30 June.

## JON JOINS ETESIA

Etesia UK has appointed Jon Welling as Southern Area Sales Manager for its range of Etesia & Pellenc products covering the South East and the South West.

Jon joins Etesia UK with over 20 years experience in the grasscare and amenity sector and has an enviable and extensive knowledge having previously worked at Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd and more recently Vitax.

Jon's responsibilities will include providing product advice, demonstrations and assistance to customers and dealers within his region, as well as attending shows and exhibitions. He will also be responsible in the recruitment of new, approved dealers.



# JOIN THE REVOLUTION!

**TORO**



Toro is proud to launch the revolutionary new Greensmaster TriFlex range. Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex 3400 and TriFlex Hybrid 3420 are both packed with ground-breaking technology and deliver an unrivalled quality of cut and exceptional finish. Check out the unique cutting unit suspension system and DPA cutting units that hug ground contours for superb cutting consistency. And redesigned balloon-style tyres that make tracks virtually invisible. What's more, the TriFlex has been built with the operator firmly in mind. Quick-change cutting units can be switched instantly to other units – all without tools. But perhaps most exciting of all, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system for a greener mower. Discover the all-new Greensmaster TriFlex range for yourself, call us on the number below and join the revolution!

Call **01480 226800** or visit **[www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)**

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GREENSMaster 1000



FLEX 21



GREENSMaster 3250-D



TRIFLEX 3400

# Jacobsen and GEO Sign Global Agreement

Jacobsen, has signed a new global partnership agreement with the Golf Environment Organization. This will see the organisations broaden their collaboration jointly to promote awareness, understanding and solutions in the Americas and Asia as well as Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Through significant, long-standing support for GEO, Jacobsen is also investing in bringing practical and credible sustainability programmes for golf course management, renovation and new development to practitioners around the world.

GEO is a non-profit organisation entirely dedicated to sustainability in golf; building awareness, developing and administering golf's ecolabel, GEO Certified™ and delivering programmes to help clubs and developments achieve the distinction.

Based on a long-standing relationship with Ransomes Jacobsen, that has supported GEO's pioneering work to help the industry embrace the environmental opportunities and challenges in sector, the new worldwide Jacobsen agreement will strengthen efforts and results.

Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive of the Golf Environment Organization, said: "GEO is privileged to have such a dedicated partner, committed to continued investment in the things that make sustainability more accessible and productive to golf businesses. Ransomes Jacobsen has supported GEO from the very start and



has made a significant difference in the development, delivery, and awareness of the solutions we provide for the golf community.

David Withers, President of Jacobsen, responded: "Jacobsen is a global company and GEO has global relevance and solutions, with programmes accessible worldwide in a growing number of languages and a high quality, credible and increasingly recognised international ecolabel for golf. Expanding our partnership to encompass all of the Jacobsen business units around the globe

makes good sense, further aligns our outlook and will multiply many new positive outcomes.

Alan Prickett, Jacobsen Managing Director for Asia Pacific added, "In the Asia Pacific region we are seeing pressure for valuable resources such as land, water and energy and it is vitally important that future golf facilities and resorts are built with sustainable development at the forefront. This has to happen right from the initial planning phase through to completion and then be continued through the life of the course.

## Less is more

'Managing with Less' - Exploring the Economic and Environmental Benefits of a Sound and Sympathetic Course Management Policy seminar, being held at Temple Golf Club on Tuesday, February 28, at 6.30pm.

Chaired by Michael Barratt the evening workshop is aimed at illustrating how best to meet the challenge of maintaining the quality and playability of the golf course while respecting and positively contributing to the indigenous social and natural environment. Since the mid 90s Temple has worked hard to reduce course management costs and enhance biodiversity but without compromising on the quality demanded by today's golfer.

Speakers will be Temple Secretary, Keith Adderley, on the interface between the policy and the golfer; Course Manager, Martin Gunn, on how a sound course management policy benefits the playing quality of the course and the indigenous natural environment; Gavin Bennett, of the B,B&O Wildlife Trust, on the benefits of less intensive land management on biodiversity, and Michael Barratt on the wider issues covered by the R&A Golf Course Committee

Call Stan Edwards on 01628 824795 or by email to stan.edwards@templegolfclub.co.uk

## SYNTHETIC SURFACES ONLINE

Visitors to [www.iogsynthetics.co.uk](http://www.iogsynthetics.co.uk) will now have access to information and advice on everything to do with the selection and construction of synthetic sports facilities, as well as how effective training and maintenance can ensure the longevity and cost-effectiveness of the facilities.

The website offers clear, easy-to-follow, information

for everyone involved in the specification and maintenance of synthetic facilities

- specifically Groundsmen, Bursars and Managers/Owners
- alongside some practical video footage.

The project has been jointly developed by Abacus Lighting, BLc Sports, FieldTurf Tarkett, the IOG, Redexim Charterhouse and Replay Maintenance.







# Chairman's Word

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

## An enjoyable week in Harrogate

**I am not long back from an enjoyable week in Harrogate attending BTME. It was great to catch up with so many friends, get lots of excellent education from first class providers and see first hand all the innovations coming to market from our many suppliers.**

I have been invited by the Board to remain as Chairman for a further year in order to complete and implement the strategic review. It will also allow for some continuity between the Board and the CEO as Jim has not been in place for a full year. I will do my best to ensure that members' interests remain at the forefront of all matters that the Board consider.

I'd like to recognise and thank my employers, Elmwood College, and my team at the golf course for supporting me while I undertake this role. It goes without saying, but I must, that the support of my family is essential, as it is to so many of us working in this Industry.

While we sometimes struggle to get the balance correct due to the commitment required of the job, their support and understanding of the demands placed upon you must never be taken for granted, and they should always come first.

The outstanding success of the exhibition was a fitting way to celebrate 25 years of the Association. Many of the founding members were in attendance. I'd like to thank them for having the vision to form the Association, which has helped all of us working in the industry today, raised the profile of our work and provided the vital education to enable us to constantly develop professionally. It has continued to grow and develop due to the support and hard work of many members at Section, Region and National Level. Those who engage and utilise the many member benefits and support provided, demonstrate that this work is worthwhile.

I would like especially to thank the staff. As is the case in many organisations, they do not always receive the recognition they are due. I've had the privilege of working closely with them over the last two years, as Vice Chairman and Chairman, and I've witnessed the dedication and commitment they provide to ensure the Association delivers what the members need. We were

fortunate to have excellent leadership through our two previous Chief Executives, Neil Thomas and John Pemberton, and I'm confident, even more so after BTME, that Jim Croxton has the qualities to ensure we continue to grow and develop successfully.

An Association is nothing without its members, I was so proud to witness the professionalism of all our members attending the show. The enthusiasm and hunger to learn more is inspirational and I saw many young members who, I'm sure, have a bright future.

I'd like to thank the many Trade companies and Golf Industry Bodies whose support to the Association has been essential in helping us progress to this stage. We work in a great industry and the camaraderie which exists comes to the fore during this week.

The feedback we received was very positive, and the increase in visitor numbers certainly created a really good atmosphere

our members have made to the game of golf was a very humbling experience. Our President, Sir Michael Bonallack, gave a very fitting response and also paid his own tribute to the work of BIGGA. His continuous support is of enormous benefit to the Association, for which we are extremely grateful. I'd like to thank Ransomes Jacobsen who sponsored the event and especially David Withers for the kind words and sense of humour that he brought to the occasion.

Last but certainly not least I would wish to thank and recognise Mark Dobell, from the R&A, for serving as Guardian on the Board for 13 years. His guidance and experience has been invaluable.

We wish him all the best in his retirement. Also to Archie Dunn, Auchterarder Golf Club, Scottish Board Director, who has served faithfully for five years showing great commitment and dedication in representing the members.

**The enthusiasm and hunger to learn more is inspirational and I saw many young members who, I'm sure, have a bright future**

within the halls. I'd like to thank our fellow Associations who were represented, from Australia, Canada, Ireland and the United States, as well as FEGGA. Their willingness to work together with us to better support all our members should show some interesting developments in the near future.

The generosity shown by all at our 25th Anniversary Dinner raised over £2500 towards the Chairman's Charity, "Make Leukaemia History". Gerry Considine, who spoke at the dinner, has sent a letter of thanks and further information, which is printed elsewhere in this magazine. Sincere thanks also to the members and clubs who donated such valuable prizes for the charity raffle.

We were privileged to have Ken Schofield CBE propose a toast to the Association and his recognition of the contribution

George Barr, Worthing Golf Club, steps in to the vacant Guardian role. His previous Board experience and many years of involvement at Region and Section level will be of great benefit to the Board. Stuart Greenwood, The North Berwick Golf Club, takes over the reigns from Archie Dunn, again bringing many years of experience at Section and Region level. Both will serve the Board with the best interests of the members at heart.

The progress made in 25 short years has given us a great foundation. With gratitude and respect for those who brought us to this point, I look forward to making every contribution I can to ensure we build on our success and I would encourage all members to play their part.

**Here's to the next 25.  
Andrew Mellon, Chairman 2012.**

# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, updates us on his work with the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU)...

**As we celebrated 25 years of BIGGA during the recent Harrogate Week, it was very rewarding to see how far the greenkeeping sector of golf has progressed since those days when there was no professional body, only volunteers and Honorary Secretaries running the three former greenkeeping Associations, BGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA.**

I hesitate to go even further back into the history of greenkeeping, as I felt old during Harrogate, when those involved in the pre-BIGGA days kept reminding me of days and events past!

Volunteers are still very much at the heart of any successful Association but I know from my experience, the day to day dedicated professional administrators, coupled with the efforts of the volunteers, make a brilliant cocktail for success.

Without the many volunteers who willingly support the GTC I know my job and that of Fiona's would be much more difficult.

It is not only the volunteers on the GTC Board but those individuals, who are on the three GTC Advisory Panels that help us to maintain greenkeeping National Occupational Standards, monitor the Delivery of Programmes and assist with Marketing the GTC's "products".

Too many to mention individually, however a full list of current volunteers can be viewed on the GTC website but a personal thanks to all of you.

It is through the collective work of all who are associated with the GTC, that John Holliday, GTC Finance Director, and I were invited to join the Board of the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU).

This relatively new organisation has been established through a Special Project funded initially by the European Golf Association (EGA), the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association (FEGGA) and The R&A.

A working group has established

a set of occupational standards and I am pleased that both the EGA and member Associations of the Federation of Golf Greenkeeping Associations (FEGGA) have adopted the three levels of standards, which will be maintained by an Advisory Group administered by myself and approved through the EGEU Board.

The key to the success of this Special Project will be the advice and support the EGEU and its advisors can give to golf developing countries where there is little or no structure for greenkeeper education, training or qualifications.

The EGEU, now fully financially supported through a short-term special project by The R&A, has already played an important advisory role for several countries looking to establish their own structure and system of greenkeeper training.

Without looking to impose the British model of establishing an employer led GTC on other countries, our advice would always be to involve the Golf Union or Federation in a country together with the Greenkeeping Association, if there is one.

The establishment of a Centre or Centres similar to the structure we have maintained in Britain is also advised but at all times, quality of the delivery has to be paramount.

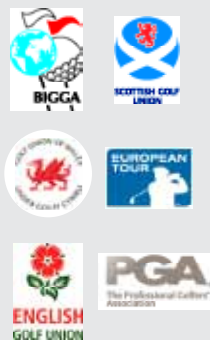
Whilst in Britain to date we have worked closely with colleges and one private company to deliver the formal qualifications, other countries, especially those new to golf who have no college or Institute to deliver greenkeeper education, are considering a golf club as a Centre for education and training.

It is really what "best suits" each country and it really comes back to having Standards and access to quality education and support documentation.

The GTC Board has approved the use of GTC products such as the Training Manual and Learning Materials being translated, under a strict licence and copyright agreement, but again this was following a formal request from a golf developing country.



The GTC is funded by:



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You can follow the GTC on  
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

A spin off from the initial request was that the country is also looking to register their trainees for a British qualification!

That request is a clear indication to me that the British formal qualifications for greenkeeping have great respect and credibility throughout the world.

We are also aware that several of the GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers are already involved outside of Britain and there is no doubt there will be further opportunities to export their expertise, training programmes and products over the coming weeks, months and years through the GTC and EGEU.

It is the experience of the GTC and its advisor network that is acknowledged through the project and we hope that the EGEU over the next few years, becomes recognised and established to promote best practice in all matters greenkeeping throughout Europe.

Visit the EGEU website [www.eg.eu](http://www.eg.eu) to see how Standards and Advice are the focal points of the organisation







# Learning & Development

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

**Wow, that was quite a Harrogate Week! The last of the L&D teams energy was taken up doing a little jig following the most successful education event that BIGGA has ever presented.**

We saw 2359 visitors through the doors of the Queen's Suite, representing a 17.4% increase on last year's Continue to Learn attendance. Working on the attendance figures and multiplying it by the number of hours we scheduled (152.25 hours) we delivered 3,894.50 hours of education over five days.

It's not surprising that Rachael, Jane Jones, BIGGA's South West and South Wales Regional Administrator; Simone Staples, Events and Education Manager from the Australian Association – AGCSA, and I were all exhausted by the end of the week.

With many sold out workshops and seminars full to capacity - and beyond on several occasions! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the speakers and companies who delivered workshops and seminars on BIGGA's behalf. An event such as Continue to Learn would not be possible without their experience and expertise.

The initial planning for Continue to Learn 2013 is now underway. If you have any suggestions please email them to [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk).



**Higher Education Scholarships**  
(supported by Ransomes Jacobsen)  
The last scholarship of 2011 was awarded to:

*Martin Turna – HND in Golf Course Management*

I am delighted to announce that Ransomes Jacobsen has agreed to continue to support the Higher Education Scholarships in 2012 by pledging a further £8,500 to the fund. Applications are now being considered.

An application form can be downloaded from the education page of the BIGGA website.



**Gold Key Individual Members:**  
Steven Tierney 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.



## Contact Details

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[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



## New Field Guide Additions

At Harrogate Week we launched additions to two of our existing field guides:

*Trees & Shrubs on the Golf Course, Golf Course Grasses*

The additional pages for the Grasses field guide includes:

*Meadow Foxtail, Small-Leaved Timothy, Quaking Grass, Marram, Purple Moor-grass, Bristle-Leaved Bent, Upright Brome, Yorkshire Fog, Sweet Vernal Grass, Cocksfoot, Red Fescue, Sheep's Fescue and Bentgrasses.*

The additional pages for Trees & Shrubs now includes:

*Sea-Buckthorn, Beech, Elm, Birch, Hornbeam, Guelder Rose, Sycamore, Dogwood, Sweet Chestnut, Spindle, Wayfaring Treed, Blackthorn, Horse Chestnut, Ivy and Heathers.*

The additional pages are available to members, free of charge. To get a copy of the new pages, please email [rachael@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael@bigga.co.uk) or telephone the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 (option 3).



## Safety Management System

sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen

Last month we announced the launch of the new Safety Management System. BIGGA and the GCMA have spent several months updating the system to make it much simpler to use. Available through the Members' area of the BIGGA website, the updated system allows users to download and save to their own computers, Risk Profiles, Risk Assessments and access to Hazard information for seven areas of the golf club: *Greenkeeping Activities, Maintenance Facility, Golf Course, Clubhouse, Kitchen, Pro Shop, Fire Safety*

The original SMS will remain available for several months and users will be contacted with information on downloading and updating their Risk Profiles.

## Golf Industry Show

For those of you attending the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas at the end of the month, don't forget to drop by and say hello. The BIGGA stand number is 2707 located near the International Resource Centre.



## BAILOY APPOINTS NEW TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

Bailoy Products has announced the appointment of Phil Chadwick as its new Technical Sales Manager.

Phil has worked with the Bailoy team for 17 years – 10 of which were spent in his previous role with the company's product distributor Lely UK, where he offered technical support across both the Bailoy and Toro irrigation brands. But

with Phil's particular passion for Bailoy's Gemini-Trident Irrigation (GTI) system, this specially-created position was a natural progression of his technical expertise and dedication to contractor and customer support.

Commenting on his appointment, Phil says: "I've always had a bit of a soft spot for GTI – in fact, I've been affectionately known as 'Mr GTI' at times! This new challenge allows me to specialise in a smaller product range, as well as offer more direct, dedicated support to GTI

contractors and end-user customers. I'm also looking forward to having more input into product development."

Phil's role will see him develop sales, nurture contractor relationships, and provide training and support to end-users as part of Bailoy's active business-expansion programme.

In the long-term he is also keen to extend the high standards of product knowledge and installation among UK and Ireland contractors into Europe and other countries worldwide.



## Promotion for Nick

Having given 22 years service, Nick Darking has been rewarded with promotion to General Manager of Surrey based Charterhouse Turf Machinery

CTM are the UK arm of Redexim, the Dutch manufacturer of many leading types of groundcare equipment including the iconic 'Verti-Drain' aerator.

Nick, 41, began working in the workshop in 1989 and has moved up the sales tree through being a Demonstrator; Territory Manager and latterly Sales Manager.

"Nick has been our 'man on the ground' for over 22 years now and it is fitting that he steps up to General Manager status. His solid understanding of our unique product range has helped the company maintain its market leadership in Aerators, especially large scale ones that we have pioneered," said Herman de Bree, Sales & Marketing Director.

In any spare time that Nick has he likes to play a round of golf and take in as many music concerts as he can.

"Now having the responsibility of being General Manager will limit free time, but will be worthwhile as we project CTM into the next phase of its history," he said.

## FGM Claymore to distribute Walker range



FGM Claymore Ltd has been appointed UK Distributor for the Walker commercial, zero-turn, out-front, direct-collect mower range.

"We are delighted to have secured this agreement, the Walker range has a reputation as a premium brand offering quality, performance and reliability," said Managing Director, Paul Butterly.

"We are very excited about the addition of the Walker name to our stable and welcome enquiries regarding dealership opportunities.

"We are also actively establishing all necessary sales support and spare parts infrastructure to deliver the best service possible for the UK professional grounds care sector," added Paul.





## A FIRST CLASS ADDITION

AJ Scamblers has confirmed their appointment as dealer for the AS Motors ride-on and pedestrian commercial mowers range throughout the Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and North London region.

Ed Scambler for the company

commented: "We see the AS Mower commercial range as a first class addition to our expanding professional groundcare offering."

Scott Lelliott of PSD Groundcare hands the first part of the AS Motors stock order to Gordon White of Scamblers



## Speedcut celebrates 35 years

Speedcut Contractors celebrated 35 years in the sportsturf business at BTME.

The company completed five major football projects last year and built golf course tees, greens, ponds and bunkers at major golf clubs, including Foxhills Golf Club and Resort and Kingswood.

Other golf clubs worked on included, among many others, Staverton Park, Piltdown, Sandown Park, Wimbledon Park in London, Worthing, Sundridge Park, Lee-on-Solent, Nizels, The Oaks, Lingfield Park and Burgess Hill Golf Centre.

"This has been one of our busiest years ever," said Speedcut Managing Director Dick Franklin, who founded the business at his Oxfordshire base in 1977.

"BTME is very important for us because it is an opportunity to meet up informally with many clients and machinery suppliers who we work with during the year."

## What's your number?

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

**Name:** Adrian Abbott

**Company:** MJ Abbott Ltd

**Position:**

Technical & Sales Director



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

I have worked for the company since 1988, but I didn't set foot on a golf course until 1995.

**How did you get into it?**

Working for a family business, my career has pretty much followed the company's progression. In the early days, I worked as a mechanic looking after the plant and equipment. I was then the Workshop Manager before working on one of our first irrigation projects at Disneyland Paris in 1991. I then headed up the local water engineering department before becoming the Technical Director overseeing system design and the after-sales support for all our irrigation customers.

**What other jobs have you done?**

Mechanic, Workshop Manager and Water Engineer.

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

I have recently changed roles and now head our direct sales division and oversee our recently launched webshop. This has taken me fully out of my comfort zone and I am really enjoying the new challenge, particularly the procurement of new product lines and the increased contact with our customers.

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

The relentless progress in computer and pump technology. When I first started supporting irrigation systems, not every customer had a phone line at the maintenance facility, let alone an internet connection! Now I can support the irrigation controllers and pump stations of more recent clients from my smartphone.

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

I have a young family of three girls and have become a taxi service to take them to a myriad of parties and other activities.

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

Hopefully still in the industry and with a full head of hair!

**Who do you consider best friends in the industry?**

Over the years I have made numerous friends with both suppliers and customers. I have also enjoyed watching green keepers that I worked with years ago progress and become course managers in their own right.

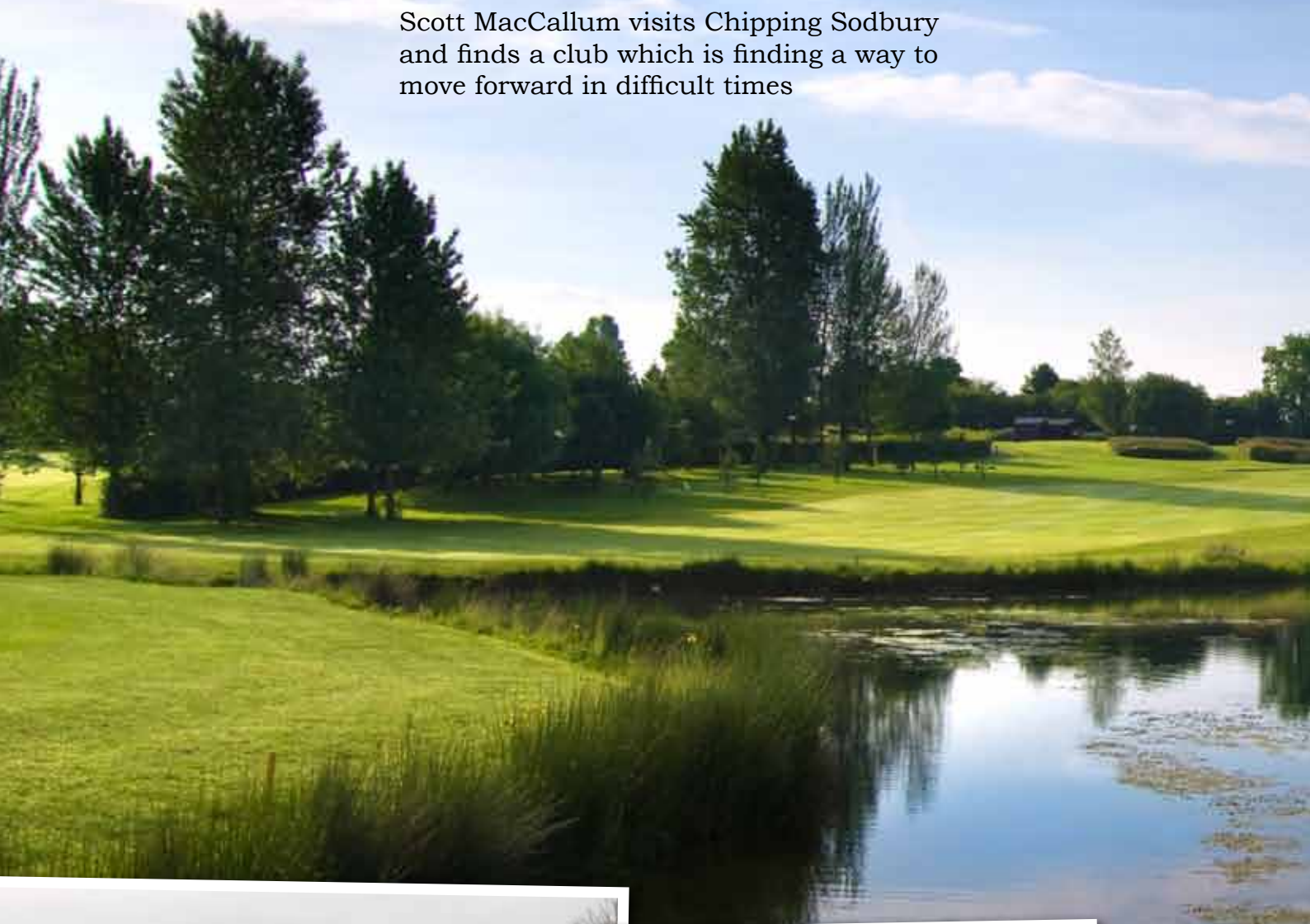
**What do you consider to be your lucky number? 3**

*Find out who Adrian has picked next month*



# Finding the key to progress

Scott MacCallum visits Chipping Sodbury and finds a club which is finding a way to move forward in difficult times







LEFT: MJ Abbott working  
MAIN IMAGE: 9th hole  
RIGHT: MJ Abbott putting in  
irrigation systems





**Arriving in Chipping Sodbury Golf Club's car park on a mid week morning in early January, off season, what struck me was the activity.**

There was barely a parking space to be found, while a glance out to the golf course highlighted a course full of players, comfortably working around the diggers and 360s which were doing the donkey work on a large irrigation installation project.

You didn't need to be Sherlock Holmes to deduce that here is a successful go-ahead golf club. But how is it able to ride against the tide, at a time when many clubs are struggling to make ends meet?

Club Manager, Bob Williams, doesn't claim to have all the answers, but he has been extremely pro-active in identifying the problems and coming up with potential solutions.

One thing he is very sure of, however, is the need for the Club Manager and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper to have a good and close working relationship.

"The golf course is the most important asset any golf club has," said Bob, who works extremely closely with Head Greenkeeper, John Keenaghan, as well as the Club Chairman, Mike Darby.

"I do think this is where a lot of clubs get into difficulties – when the relationship between the two main people in the club is not cemented and they are not moving forward, together and at the same level," said Bob, who also wears another hat as Chairman of the EGU Marketing & Sponsorship Committee.

That level of commitment has led to the investment in a new Toro irrigation system; however, it is the

preparatory work that has gone into changing the club and making it all possible that is particularly impressive.

"About three years ago we got to a stage where we felt that things had to change or the club was going to be faced with serious problems. Membership was declining, and the lack of new enquiries was becoming a worrying factor, it was a trend that we just could not allow to continue – and survive!" said Bob, who added that at the time the club operated a straight forward full, five-day, junior plus a number of senior categories.

"After reviewing the options and looking at what was happening in different parts of the country we managed to persuade the committee and the membership that we needed to review and change our membership structure completely. The main change was the introduction of the 'Flexi-Play' category, which at that time, was £350 per year, plus £10 for every round played – an ideal opportunity for the 35-50 age group who cannot justify £800 and only play once every weekend.

"We marketed this category as 'F100' with the intention of limiting the number to no more than 100. It was important that this category did not see themselves as being discriminated against, hence the 'F100' members have always been entitled to full voting rights.

Full membership was marketed as 'F1', and to emphasise that this was the pinnacle of the membership categories a number of add-on benefits were created including free range balls throughout the week, two free lessons with the pro each year and a discount busi-



MAIN ABOVE: 6th hole  
INSET ABOVE: John Keenaghan (left) with Bob Williams (right)

ness card which gave discounts to local companies," explained Bob, who also explained that a Family membership had been introduced with children up to the age of 14 becoming a junior member at no additional charge.

With the new categories in place for the last two years on-going research has revealed that 'Flexi-play' members average approximately 15 to 20 rounds a year, which ultimately suggests that their membership is costing around £550 per annum.

In needing to counter the high weekend usage the club also reduced the membership fee for five day memberships as an encouragement to senior members to play between Monday and Friday, thus freeing up the weekends for those unable to play during the week. This then allowed the final piece of the membership jigsaw which was designed as an incentive for younger members who wish to play at weekends.

"We then created the 'Golf Club 18-30' category which is a reduced





**“We created the ‘Golf Club 18-30’ category, which is a reduced fee that increases year by year until the age of 30. The objective to reduce the age profile of the club, which at present is having positive results”**

**Bob Williams**

fee that increases year by year until the age of 30. The objective to reduce the age profile of the club, which at present is having positive results. A lot of the younger guys who are members of other sports clubs in the area have joined, and for the last few years we have run an inter sports club golf tournament, which has proved very popular,” said Bob, who revealed that the club had brought in 88 new members in the last year.

But this is not a time to let the grass grow under their feet (excuse the pun), the intention this year is to profile their green fee charges between high usage periods and off peak.

“We will have a peak time Wednesday and Friday when visitors will pay the full fee. If you want to play Monday, Tuesday or Thursday you will pay another fee and after 2.30pm it will be another rate. In the summer after 6pm you will be able to play for just £12.”

Having set about revamping the membership structure the on-courses issues could now be

addressed in earnest. John had been coping with a failing irrigation system for several seasons – the early ‘80s Watermation system coming to the end of its useful existence, helped along the way by a freak weather event.

“We think we had a lightening strike which took out the automated system about three years ago. A power surge burned the computer right out and took out all the decoders,” recalled John.

The consequences of this were that for the last two years hand watering or manually operating the irrigation was the only way forward. “We were able to use the sprinklers on the green but we had to turn them on and off by hand and, as you lose so much by evaporation doing it during the day, I ended up working through the night just watering greens.”

John would start around 11.30pm – driving to a green, turning on the sprinklers, letting them do their stuff for around 10 to 15 minutes before switching them off and moving on to the next green.

“I’d get finished around 6am, go in, brief the team before going home for a sleep before getting back to the course a couple of hours later. At its worst I did it for two weeks in the late spring early summer of last year, these were desperate times that needed desperate measures, fortunately it wasn’t a dry summer,” said John, a BIGGA member for 15 years.

Knowing this was not a situation that could be allowed to continue for too long, Bob, together with John, began looking at ways of funding a new system.

“When we had the blow-out we didn’t have the cash to put in a new system straight away and we took that conscious decision to hand water and hope that we didn’t have a burning hot summer,” said Bob.

“We then had to make a decision whether to go for another year knowing that it was extremely labour intensive and the system, which was failing, might not hold out for another year.”

To move the process along Bob commissioned irrigation consul-



**ABOVE:** Irrigation system layout  
**MAIN ABOVE:** New 16th hole



**“The golf course is the main product of a golf club. We had to make sure that the product was right”**  
**Bob Williams**



tant, Roger Davey, of Irritech, in 2010, to draw up plans and specifications for a new system.

“It meant that even if we couldn’t afford it at least we’d have the drawings in place and we’d be ready to go when the time came,” he explained.

The decision to go came last year and the contract was put out to tender.

“The view was that it was essential, we couldn’t fudge it for another year and we had to fund it somehow. We’d held the English County Finals in 2009 which was a great success. Chipping Sodbury was on the map and there was no point in letting it slip back,” said Bob.

“The golf course is the main product of a golf club and then everything else falls in behind it. We had to make sure that the product was right.” But finding the funding for such an extensive project was not a simple process and a degree of lateral thinking was employed to make it happen.

“We work closely with a local brewery and organised a loan in the form of a retrospective discount for the beverage that we would be buying from them.”

That raised a significant sum but was still a long way short of the lowest tender that had been received for the irrigation contract.

“We had in mind what our financial ceiling was, so more work was needed. We decided to remove tees from the irrigation system, at least

for the time being, leaving it just as greens and approaches, and by doing this it meant that we were in the ball game,” said Bob.

Then, with their existing five year Toro agreement coming to an end, the club negotiated a new deal, including the irrigation materials which generated an extra discount. This, coupled with an additional agreement with Toro’s financial arm, brought about another favourable deal over the next eight years and meant that the financial target had been reached.

Or it would have been had it not been for the VAT partial exemption issue.

“A membership club doesn’t charge VAT on fees so therefore it can’t claim all of its VAT back so that meant that we were going to be around £20,000 short. “To compensate we went out and sold a number of Life Memberships which took us over our target,” said Bob. Having secured the finance MJ Abbott was awarded the contract, on a fixed price basis and work started in December.

“I was secretary at Long Ashton Golf Club when we did a similar irrigation project about ten years ago and I would say that potential contractors are an awful lot more competitive now. They have had to sharpen their pencils otherwise the work would be priced out of everyone’s market.”

With work due to be completed

this month or early next, John is excited about the new system.

“It will transform the course. We are based primarily on clay and this has meant that our approaches are prone to cracking in dry weather. With the ability to water I’ll be able to top dress and overseed them and bring the height of cut down, which will be a huge improvement with the added bonus of being able to use them as temporary greens in the winter. At the moment they have had to go on lush areas around the green,” said John, who felt that it was far easier to hand water tees than greens and approaches without being interrupted or get in the way of golfers.

An infectious enthusiast for the industry John arrived in it slightly later in life, having started out as a carpenter, but he has wasted no time catching up. “I took up golf at Filton Golf Club when I had to retire from rugby as a consequence of fracturing my skull twice. Head Greenkeeper, Nick Wilson asked if I’d build him a driving range bay which I did and then started helping out on the course when I could.

“The building trade was quiet at the time and Nick asked if I wanted to join the green staff and that was it. I took quite a pay cut but I was put on Level 2 at Cannington and really found a passion for the work,” said John, who is now a category one player and playing off a handicap of 4.

His route to Chipping Sodbury, initially as Deputy, came via Filton, The Kendleshire, The Players and the Manor House at Castle Coombe, and he was promoted to Head Greenkeeper five years ago.”

He has also been a member of several BIGGA Open Support Teams and credits that for some of the course preparation he was able to employ for the English County Finals.

In addition to the irrigation project an on-going tree removal programme is being carried out. “We have a lot of leylandii planted to give quick definition in the 60s and they are coming to the end of their time and we are removing them and replacing them with indigenous trees.

“We have taken out over 250 leylandii and 30 poplars and planted over 450 native trees in the last five years,” explained John.

Chipping Sodbury Golf Club is a fine example of a regular members’ golf club where the management team is pulling together for the greater benefit of everyone.

It shows just what can be achieved.

MAIN ABOVE: 3rd hole  
 INSET ABOVE: Chipping  
 Sodbury team





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# What every golfer wants

**Understanding exactly what attracts players to a course is essential for greenkeepers and club managers to prioritise their efforts in enhancing the golfers' playing experience.**

**The Syngenta Golf Player Survey has sought to identify what players actually want, reports the Syngenta Turf Business Development Manager, Rod Burke**





Golf players say focus on turf quality. Enhancing the playing experience is crucial to attracting and retaining payers at golf courses, thus ensuring the financial sustainability of the club. With golf clubs under intense economic pressure and the increasing trend for 'nomadic' golfers to move between clubs and courses, it's more important than ever to find out what they really want. Attracting membership, visitors and 'pay and play' golfers is critical to the economic success of any golf course.

Syngenta commissioned international independent market research specialist, GfK Kynetec, to survey over 300 golfers from clubs across the UK, to find out what aspects of turf and club management are most important

to them and, importantly, how satisfied they are with existing practices on their clubs.

The results have clearly reinforced the essential need for clubs to focus on turf playing quality - and most specifically greens - as the most important factor for players, along with offering a fascinating insight into some of the areas where greenkeepers can focus their time and investment.

Without exception for course type or skill level of players - the survey separated out members clubs, municipal courses, private businesses and hotels, as well as high and low handicap players - the condition of greens, fairways and tees always appeared in the Top Five factors, and always in that order.

Other elements identified were the design of the course,

which was the second most important factor for players with a low handicap (<10), but less important for those of higher handicaps. Inevitably the price of membership or green fee was also high on the list, but rated of more importance among the high handicappers, compared to low handicap players. Price was most important for players who play most often at municipal or private clubs.

The survey also revealed that elements that could be grouped as 'clubhouse services' - elements such as food and beverage, shop facilities, practice areas and buggy availability - all scored of the lowest importance in the factors questioned.

For greenkeepers it is a powerful argument to ensure that clubs continue to invest in their turf, if they are to attract new players.





Out on the course, it will come as no surprise that the quality of the greens is clearly of paramount importance and most critically appraised by players. But, interestingly, there was generally better satisfaction with the condition of greens, compared to condition of fairways, tees and, to an even greater extent, rough.

With green performance, the players rated smooth ball roll as the most important factor, with 92% of players questioned scoring it 7/10 or more. Of the 12 questions asked which addressed playability, fast ball roll - which is frequently quoted as the Holy Grail for greenkeepers - actually scored lowest with players, including both high and low handicaps.

Some other aspects of greens management where players prioritise importance include (in order), freedom from weeds; free of scars or disease; a firm playing surface and consistent pace between greens. Turf density was seen as significantly more important at members, private and, especially, hotel, courses, compared to town or municipal clubs.

Greens free of brown dry patch areas was also highly desirable, with 50% of players rating it of the highest importance (>9/10). However, it was this issue that gave rise

to the greatest levels of dissatisfaction with current performance of greens management, with less than 30% very satisfied.

The lower levels of satisfaction among players in fairway condition indicates clubs that can provide higher quality stand to get the best results in attracting new players. The most important factor which players of all standards want is for the ball to sit proud on the turf, along with even and consistent grass height and cover. Again the presence of dry, or drought affected areas, gave rise to the highest levels of dissatisfaction, along with levels of divots, scars and bare patches.

Tackling thin or bare patches is also of the highest priority for players for management of tees; over a third of players were not satisfied with the level of divots and scars.

However, turf colour and having turf stripes and clearly defined on tees is of much lower importance.

In rough areas, the survey has shown that the ability to find a ball easily is highly important, which links to one of the players' major gripes around the speed of play. Rough that appears managed and even is of the highest importance - with the desire for fine wispy grass species and not thick and tangled, highlighted.

However, with around half of all

players reporting not being satisfied with current rough management, it highlighted that these desires are not typically being met.

Outside of the actual playing area, the survey showed that a course that looks natural is the most important environmental aspect. For over 70% of players, being able frequently to observe birds and wildlife is highly important, with a similar number supporting environmental initiatives at

**With green performance, the players rated smooth ball roll as the most important factor, with 92% of players questioned scoring it 7/10 or more**

the course as highly important.

Indeed, the aesthetics and environment of the course is second only to its design as the prime factor most likely to attract new players.

This survey, the first of its kind identifying player desires and satisfaction in such detail, provides a wealth of information to enable greenkeepers and club managers find a way to enhance the playing experience, with the potential to attract more players to their clubs.



## Syngenta Golf Player Survey – who and what was asked?

- Broad section of golf players, course types and handicaps
- Assessing factors that influence the playing experience: turf quality; environment and club facilities
- All areas of the course
- Satisfaction levels with current course performance?
- What attracts golfers to new courses?
- 305 golfers
- Nationwide survey:

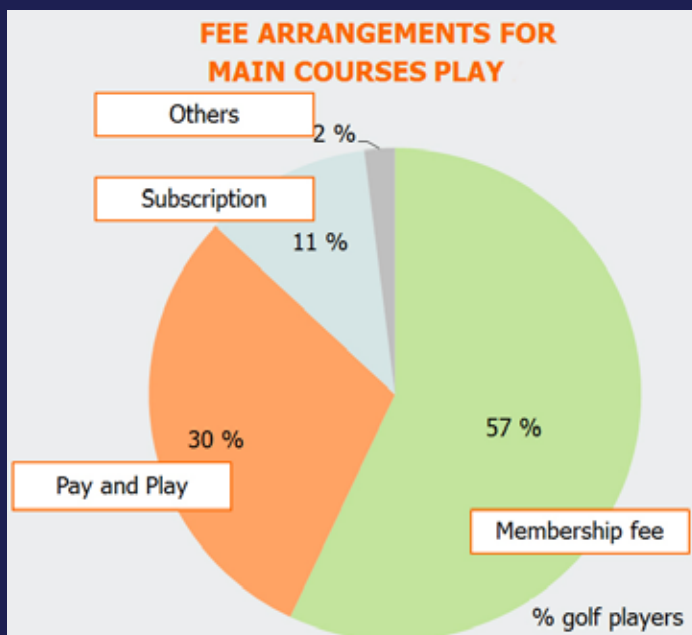
Scotland ..... 17%.....North of England ....18%  
 Midlands .... 18%.....Easter counties.....15%  
 South East . 14%.....South West .....7%  
 Wales ..... 6%.....Northern Ireland.....4%

- All ages: < 35 - 13%; 36–50 - 32%; >50 - 54%
- Main course holes: 18 holes - 81%; 27 holes - 7%; 36 holes - 5%; others - 7%

### COURSE OWNERSHIP



### FEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAIN COURSES PLAY



Survey source: GfK Kynetec: Study of golf player perceptions, satisfaction and desires for golf course management; 305 golfers; January 2012

### Syngenta Golf Player Summary – Fairways

- Ball lie is the most important factor for fairway performance
- Players are significantly less satisfied with fairway condition, compared to greens
- Even and consistent turf height a highly important factor; but only 64% satisfaction rating
- Over 40% not satisfied with levels of scars, bare patches and divots
- Brown and drought stressed areas give the highest levels of dissatisfaction

### Syngenta Golf Player Summary – Greens

- Greens condition is players' Number 1 factor in judging a course
- Smooth ball roll is the most important factor
- Fast ball roll is the least important factor surveyed
- Only one third of players are 'very satisfied' with the condition of greens; 40% 'quite satisfied'
- Greens free of weeds and disease or scars is the second most important factor for players
- Dry brown patches give the highest levels of dissatisfaction in greens condition

### Syngenta Golf Player Summary – Out-of-play rough

- A natural looking course is most important to players
- Aesthetics and environment of the course is second only to its design to attract visiting players – more important than quality of greens and turf
- Three quarters of players rate viewing birds and wildlife as high importance
- 70% of players want to see environmental initiatives on the course
- Turf quality and condition on the playing part of the course far exceeds importance of other factors

### Syngenta Golf Player Summary – Tees

- Tee condition is the turf area of greatest dissatisfaction among players
- Avoiding thin or bare patches is of the greatest importance for players
- 40% of players are not satisfied with levels of bare patches, divots and scars
- Half of players are not satisfied with dry patch and areas affected by drought on tees
- Turf stripes and definition is of least importance on tees

### Syngenta Golf Player Summary – In-play rough

- Over half of players are not satisfied with most aspects of rough management
- Managed and even rough is the most important factor
- Ball location and playability is the second factor – Speed of play is a major issue
- Players want fine wispy grass species, not thick tangled rough

# A first for Bulgaria



BIGGA member, Jordan Fairweather, describes his time working in one of the world's newer golfing destinations







**“Bulgaria is a relatively new country to the game of golf but in 2011 it has taken further steps in recognising itself as a golf destination.**

The country has recently been awarded the 2012 “Undiscovered Golf Destination of The Year” by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators and now has six 18-hole facilities open, offering two Gary Player Signature designs, a Peter Harradine, a Paul McGinley and two Ian Woosnam’s, all excellent facilities with teaching academy’s, residential apartments, hotels and spa resorts. Pravets Golf Club is the first to offer a fully flood light range and short game area.

Back in April, 2010, the then soon-to-be opened Pravets Golf Club, designed by Peter Harradine and managed by Braemar Golf of St Andrews, was awarded the “PGA Professionals championship of Europe” by the PGAs of Europe, to be staged annually for three years from last September. This would not only be a return of a tourna-

full six months earlier than ideally preferred. Due to the geographical location of Pravets the weather changes dramatically and temperatures will rise from 3 degrees to 18 degrees in little over 10 days and will never drop below that until autumn. Summer temperatures rise to approx 36 degrees Celsius, coupled with high humidity, and during 2010, I had witnessed all kinds of disease on the turf from Dollar Spot, Pythium, Take All and Fusarium in a six week period.

Warm season grasses would grow here for three to four months with this climate. Pravets is the first golf course to be seeded with traditional fescue bent in Bulgaria rather than creeping bents found on all other courses. When specifications for the course were drawn up, long term management costs had to be considered.

With a country which only has 250 registered golfers grass varieties were chosen with keeping agronomic inputs and in turn costs manageable. If the choice had been to use creeping bent with rye grass roughs, maintenance costs would

**“With a country which only has 250 registered golfers grass varieties were chosen with keeping agronomic inputs and in turn costs manageable. If the choice had been to use creeping bent with rye grass roughs, maintenance costs would be significantly higher”**

ment to the yearly calendar after a six year absence but the first professional tournament to be held in Bulgaria.

The final fairway and greens at Pravets were seeded in September 2010 with construction completed on December 11, and snow fall then covering the course from December 14 until early March. Grow-in of the last fairways had to be quick before temperatures fell, so a quick release ammonium nitrate product was sourced from local agriculture. Fairways were sand capped but suffered from erosion damage before being handed over to the maintenance team.

With limited supply of fungicide available in Bulgaria we managed to get together enough to apply Azoxystrobin to all surfaces prior to snowfall. When snow melted all surfaces were 100% free of disease and the first goal was to be ready for a grand opening on May 15 by the Bulgarian Prime minister, a

be significantly higher.

With a greenkeeping team of 19, of whom 50% speak English, we worked towards opening. This was a task which was problematic due to four greens receiving major contamination from erosion of soil and clay before being handed over to us by the contractor along with some fairways, and also lack of access roads and infrastructure hindering us until mid July did not make it easy. A total of 1025 tonnes of sand was spread on the course in conjunction with needle tinning and hollow-coring to smooth out surfaces and remove soil contamination. Always In the back of our minds was the tournament in September and if we had not committed to the grand opening in May we probably would have re-laid four greens and three fairways.

One thing we are very fortunate is our client, Terra Tour Services, wishes to see its golf course at the same level as their hotels, all luxury



4 star resorts. Due to this TTS signed a deal with Toro, a partner of Braemar Golf, for the biggest fleet of Toro equipment in Eastern Europe along with a state of the art maintenance facility.

With grow-in near complete and the golf course open six months earlier than we would have liked we turned our minds to an agronomic programme to, not just suit our fescue turf, but to cope with the unknown stresses of the site.

With no history of the site we have dealt with outbreaks of which at the time were unknown grasses germinating which had been in the native soil below the sand cap and worked their way up due to rotovating of the surfaces before sand spread, a lesson learnt for future construction!

Common Bermuda grass encroachment from adjacent land, which thrives in our summer tried to invade; the need for golf carts on a relatively new sward in 35 degree heat has been a big stress but, with the revenue they provide, it is not something we can ban.

Changing roller types and HOC on certain fairways and greens, a combination of hand watering and day watering being required to micro manage situations which were not only dealing with daily

stresses but still at a growing in stage.

With September approaching, and the greens and fairways now near a year old and having matured to the comfortable stage, we moved into more education.

After having introduced the locally recruited staff to the nature of golf course management in the matter of months we moved on to furthering their knowledge by introducing them to tournament preparation.

The "PGA Professionals Championship of Europe" event was to be filmed by Golfing World TV and shown to a TV audience of 350 million including 18 international in-flight entertainment TV, along with social media networks. We had been monitoring our fertility and pesticide programmes and after we were comfortable with the micro management of the grow-in we then started to tailor this to achieve consistency throughout surfaces.

One thing professional golfers want is consistency, not colour and not always speed, but consistency. The PGA's of Europe use the same set of agronomy guidelines as the European Tour so the standard was to be the same as you would expect to find on any Tour event.

Green speed has never been a



Jordan Fairweather has been working in the greenkeeping industry for 14 years. Originally from Scotland where he spent seven years at Loch Lomond Golf Club while working on 11 European Tour events. Working at the 2007 US Open at Oakmont Country Club and 2008 Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Club he then moved to the Middle East- Dubai, and Abu Dhabi saw him take the position of Construction Superintendent.



concern of mine for our members as with average 30 degree heat and only 18 days of rain from June through September our fescue greens were more than quick enough.

The PGA's of Europe asked us to set them at 10-10.5, which was not far off daily speeds. In the lead up to the tournament we were single cutting at 3.6mm and grooming at 3mm twice weekly. On the first day's practice we followed up a single cut with a roll using salsco greens irons and with the mid afternoon temp around 28 the greens were stimping at 11.2 - 11.4 so the rollers were only used once later that week.

Instead we preferred to cut morning and evening. The fescue bent mix was never really stressed through the week and received only some hand watering in the evenings. I had my reservations as to whether the fescue being the dominant grass would cope in a country where we would deal with temps over 30 all summer.

With a client's expectations for a green, aesthetically pleasing course while maintaining the firm surfaces with speeds required for an event like ours, but it has been excellent

and shows that with preventative stress measures and still with very little fertility input it can be done.

Here at Pravets we tissue test every six weeks and base our foliar and drench applications of fertility around this. We mix up our own fertiliser on site which not only allows us to tailor the needs of the plant exactly what it wants when it wants but actually reduces our fertiliser costs and wastage. We have found this essential this year to deal with our surfaces where leaching is very high with higher irrigation water usage.

Fertilisers like potash, calcium, manganese and magnesium are very easy to source here in Bulgaria due to the large agricultural produce of cucumbers, tomatoes etc so helps us greatly. Environmental Turf Technology, in the UK, is very helpful in not only helping us source and what we cannot source locally but helping us to analyse the makeup of certain fertilisers available in Bulgaria.

Controlled release fertilisers have to be imported from the UK, Germany and Holland and sometimes transport costs outweigh the fertiliser costs. Due to this the only granular application we applied

after the grow-in phase to tees and greens was a controlled release potassium nitrate in the autumn, which we will stick with in 2012.

Working abroad always brings new challenges and you either have a bug for it or you don't. There are many great opportunities for greenkeepers out there in the market, you just need to find them, as the new countries to Golf and Sports

## Controlled release fertilisers have to be imported from the UK, Germany and Holland and sometimes transport costs outweigh the fertiliser costs

Turf are numerous. The grasses are the same along with the methodology.

I know greenkeepers in Tatarstan, Azerbaijan, Oman, Russia, Morocco and many other countries with few golf courses' or turf surfaces. They all love their job as we do. The willingness to succeed and a love of Turfgrass keep us abroad!

”





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# Harrogate week 2012

## The Review

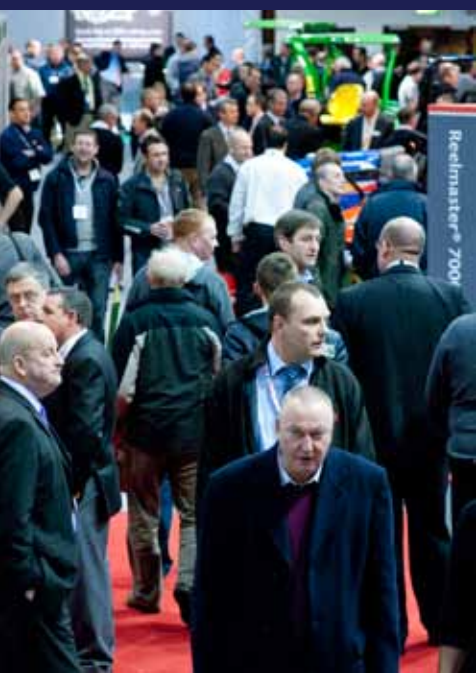


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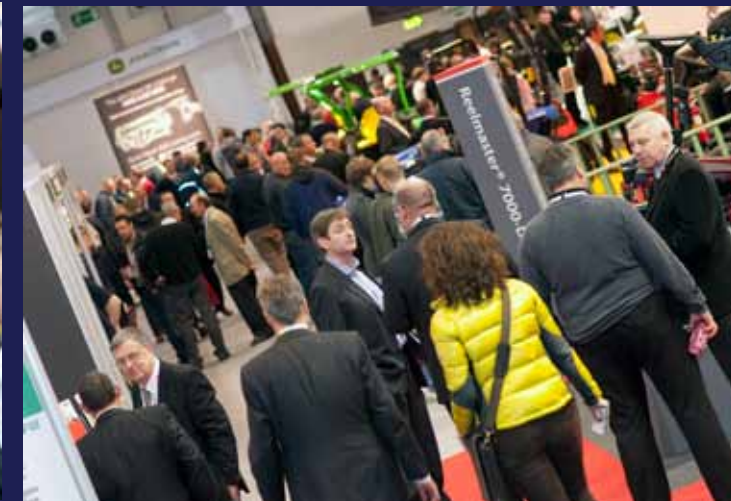
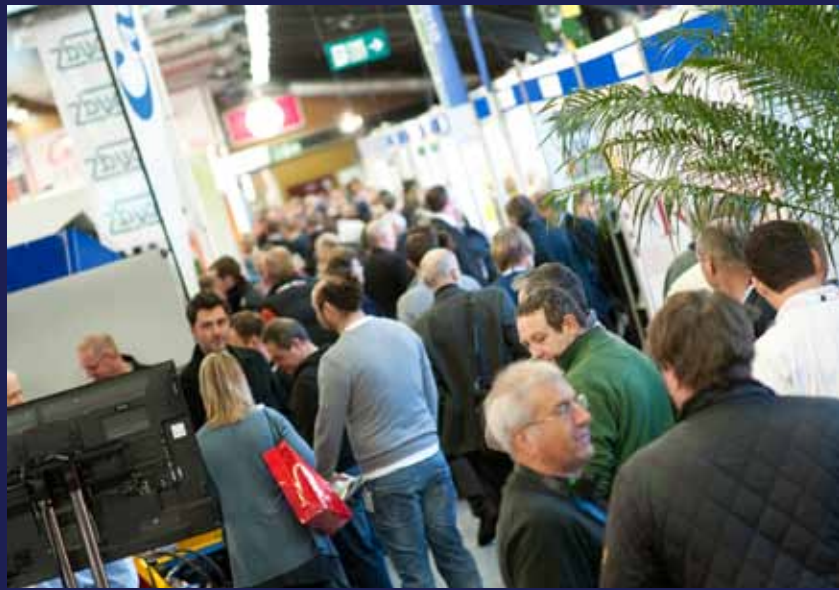
**TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2012 9AM - 5PM**  
**WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012 9AM - 5PM**  
**THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2012 9AM - 4PM**













# BIGGA

The British and International  
Golf Greenkeepers Association



## A week like no other

Scott MacCallum takes you through events at Harrogate Week 2012

**When BIGGA's Chairman, Andrew Mellon, expertly snipped the famous green ribbon to announce the opening of BTME 2012, it was to herald the start of three days which would go down as among the most successful in the 23 year history of the Show.**

But even before that ribbon was sliced, all the signs had pointed towards a successful week.

The Continue to Learn programme, which had kicked off two days earlier on the Sunday, had seen high quality speakers attracting impressive numbers of delegates eager to take the opportunity to learn.

Additionally, weather, which had been extremely poor in advance of the two previous Shows, was much better and visitors could leave their golf courses safe in the knowledge that freezing or thaw damage was unlikely and that the roads to Harrogate would be passable!

In the Halls themselves there was so much to take in, the only issue being how to negotiate the crowds to get there. Indeed the queues to

enter the Halls at both Hall A and Hall M, were a great sign of what was to come during the week.

The first scheduled event was of particular significance as it marked the debut of BIGGA's latest addition to the week – the Showfloor Theatre, which was situated to the rear of the BIGGA stand in Hall B.

The venue for all of the Award presentations, as well as Personal Development Zone events, the first function was the presentation of the Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The IGCEMA (The International Golf Course Equipment Managers' Association) Award recognises individuals who go above and beyond for the turf equipment management profession.

The 2011 winner was Wes Danielewicz. Wes, from Illinois, USA, has been involved in the industry for over 25 years and much of that time has been spent with the Turf Equipment Technicians Association a volunteer organisation, where Wes continues to serve as Executive Director.

Wes who attended BTME as part of his prize was presented with the

Award by Dave Withers, President of Jacobsen, and former IGCEMA Board Member, Chris Minton, of The Belfry.

This was followed by the presentation of the STRI Golf Environment Awards, where Loch Lomond Golf Club and Anthony Wainwright, of Turton Golf Club, were honoured as Overall Achievement Award and Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year winners, respectively.

An excellent Personal Development session on "How to write a CV and covering letter" followed, before another set of presentations.

This time it was for some of BIGGA's very own programmes - CPD Diplomas and then three of the five latest Master Greenkeepers were honoured.

Dan McGrath, of North Foreland GC; Mike Bush, of St Mellion GC and Steven Tierney Golfpark Nuolen, Switzerland, received their certificates recognising their achievement.

Two others, Justin Ruiz, from Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, in Washington State, USA, and Curtis Tyrrell, from Medinah Country Club, in Illinois, USA, will







be awarded their Certificates at the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Collectively they bring the total number of Certificates awarded to 60. Incidentally, Curtis will fly the Master Greenkeeper flag while preparing for the Ryder Cup later this year.

Elsewhere in the Show, the Museum was proving to be a big hit.

Celebrating 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations and 25 Years of BIGGA the Museum, was situated at the rear of Hall A. It featured a Timeline stretching back to when Fred Hawtree launched the GGA in 1912, right through to the present day.

The Museum, which was conceived and organised by BIGGA Past Chairman, Elliott Small, and run during the week by Past BGGGA Chairman and BIGGA North East Section Secretary, Jimmy Richardson, also boasted displays of trophies, minute books, photographs and other sundry items which had been donated by members. Jimmy was elected a BIGGA Life Member at the AGM. Our thanks to everyone who assisted in creating a very interesting and successful

2012 feature, which proved popular with BIGGA members old and young alike.

Legendary English goalkeeper, Peter Shilton (right), was kept busy on the Everris Stand on Tuesday, signing footballs for visitors and posing for pictures. He was followed on Wednesday by rugby league star, Barrie McDermott (above) who signed balls of a different shape.

Down in the Media Centre, under Hall A, Headland Amenity, The Grass Group, Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey and the IOG were briefing the press on the new products and initiatives they were launching during the week, while Syngenta used its stand to unveil its latest addition to the product portfolio.

The range of Seminars (left) going on all this time in the Queen's Suite, as part of the main or fringe programmes was extraordinary, and by the end of the week 2359 delegates had experienced a combined total of 3,894 hours of education.

Andrew Mellon; Vice Chairman, Tony Smith and Jim Croxton met with the press in the afternoon, thanking them for attending and giving them the opportunity to ask

**Legendary English goalkeeper, Peter Shilton was kept busy on the Everris Stand on Tuesday, signing footballs for visitors and posing for pictures**





## Letter of thanks from Gerry Considine on behalf of Make Leukaemia History

*I would like to thank all of you for your incredible generosity for donating £2500 at the BIGGA 25th Anniversary dinner on 24th January.*

*Every penny of the money raised will go to the Leukaemia Research Centre in Glasgow, which incorporates the latest research technologies and attracts international leaders in leukaemia research who translate laboratory findings into new medicines for patients.*

*You may recall I mentioned a 3 year-old boy at the dinner whose parents I spoke to before travelling to Harrogate. Unfortunately he died on Sunday 29th January.*

*Progress is being made but just not fast enough for some of us so your generosity that night will allow us to invest further in our quest to make leukaemia history. I thank you once again and note that some of you indicated that your golf club would offer a round of golf for an auction prize at some of our forthcoming events and if that remains the case please contact me at [gc@fitzpatrickandco.co.uk](mailto:gc@fitzpatrickandco.co.uk)*

*Our website is going live at [makeleukaemiahistory.org](http://makeleukaemiahistory.org) and 100% of money donated will go directly to funding research.*

*Gerry Considine*



any Show or BIGGA related questions.

But for many the highlight of the day came later with BIGGA's 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening in the Old Swan Hotel.

A total of 340 guests enjoyed a hearty meal and special birthday cake at the evening which was kindly sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The main speakers were BIGGA's President, Sir Michael Bonallack and Ken Schofield CBE, the former Executive Director of the PGA European Tour who both paid tribute to BIGGA and its members for raising the standards of golf course condition over the last 25 years.

It was wonderful to hear that such work was appreciated by the two men, who were at the top of the R&A and Tour respectively for the bulk of BIGGA's existence.

Dave Withers, of Jacobsen and Andrew Mellon spoke passionately and amusingly on the industry, while the nominated Chairman's



charity, and recipient of the raffle, for the evening, Make Leukaemia History, received a boost from the inspiring words of Gerry Considine, himself a leukaemia sufferer.

Over £2500 was raised for the charity through a raffle which boasted some fabulous prizes giving the winners their very own Red Letter Day experiences!

Many, many organisations supported the evening, including the R&A, PGA, GCMA, CMAE, FEGGA, STRI, IOG, the Greenkeeping Associations of the United States, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Ireland, UKGCOA and the Golf Unions







Wednesday is traditionally the busiest day of the three and 2012 was no exception. If many felt it had been hectic on the Tuesday they were to be amazed on Wednesday when 800 more visitors came through the doors than on the previous day.

With positive comments coming from exhibitors, many of them hoarse from talking with visitors at their stands, there was a genuine feel good factor at work within the Halls.

Down in the Media Centre, Rigby Taylor/Top Green; DLF Trifolium; Charterhouse; British Seed Houses; Complete Weed Control; the European Seed Association and MJ Abbott's were briefing the press while Bernhard & Co introduced the 10 BIGGA members who will comprise the latest BIGGA Delegation which will attend The Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. Bernhard & Co has now sponsored 100 BIGGA members in 10 separate Delegations, as well as bringing 20 GCSAA members over from the States to Harrogate.

A truly wonderful commitment to the industry.

On the Showfloor Theatre the winners of the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition were honoured while any student interested in entering the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award could learn all about it from some successful former entrants.

Another great opportunity for younger members could also be investigated by listening to Mike O'Keeffe, the man in charge of the Ohio State Internship Programme.

With the Show closed for the day BIGGA held its AGM in the Queen's Suite where Andrew Mellon reported on the previous year and Jim Croxton outlined plans for the Association's future development.

It was also an opportunity to pay tribute to BIGGA Guardian, Mark Dobell, who retired after 13 years of service. Mark is soon to retire as the R&A's Financial Director and the BIGGA members were warm in their thanks of all he had done for BIGGA.

Mark's successor as Guardian was George Barr, Course Manager at Worthing Golf Club.

The other Board change was the standing down of Archie Dunn, Course Manager at Auchterarder GC, as Scottish Regional Director, after his full five year term to be replaced by Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager of North Berwick Golf Club.

Archie was thanked for his time on the Board and George and Stuart welcomed.

Thursday dawned and the flow of visitors continued. Over 1500 came through the doors, a figure which exceeded recent final days and expectations, and business continued to be conducted.

At 4pm the announcement that BTME 2012 was now closed heralded the usual breakdown and everyone who had enjoyed the privilege of attending could reflect on their experiences and what they had learned during the most ultimate turf management week in Europe.

See you next year - January 20-24, 2013



# Continue to Learn in pictures









“The education justifies our time here. The workshops have a good mix of courses for all levels, are well delivered and interactive, which helps delegates get involved. I attended the Turf Managers Conference for the first time, and enjoyed the individual speakers and mix of subjects”

Barry Neville, Course Manager Stanmore GC



# Harrogate Week in words and pictures



Just to say a big thank you for last week, the hospitality at the BIGGA dinner was superb.

The conference and education continues to improve every year, so congratulations on a great show. Everyone I spoke to at the show was extremely positive and buoyant.

David Cole  
Golf Course Superintendant/  
Estate Manager  
Loch Lomond



“A great success – a positive atmosphere throughout the event. Wednesday was fantastic and our seminar well attended”

Karen Roberts  
Marketing Communications  
Manager EAME, Syngenta Crop  
Protection



*100 years of Greenkeeping Associations*





**“Congratulations to the BIGGA team for putting on an excellent event. It was great to feel a positive mood amongst the industry its members”**

Simon Elsworth, Head EAME  
Turf & Landscape, Syngenta



**“The attendance speaks for itself, it was great to see such a positive turnout, which I hope will help to inject a good dose of positivity into the trade”**

Derek Smith  
Amenity Sales & Marketing Manager  
DLF Trifolium Ltd & Johnsons Sport Seed



I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the team for another great show and education programme. I thoroughly enjoyed the event and the Tuesday night dinner was a joy and honour to attend.

Congratulations to everyone there at HQ and all your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dan McGrath MG  
Course Manager,  
North Foreland Golf Club



I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Harrogate, and found it a really worthwhile experience. I live and work in a very remote area, and it is all too easy to become detached and isolated from the rest of the industry. Spending two days at the show allowed me the opportunity to not only catch up on advancements in machinery and agronomic technology, but also to meet a lot of professional people who I had either never had the opportunity to speak with before,

or who I had met previously but had not seen for a long time.

I came back to Machrie with renewed enthusiasm and increased product knowledge, and I have no doubt that my employers and the members of the Islay Golf Club will benefit from this experience.

Simon Freeman  
Course Manager  
The Machrie, Islay  
First time visitor















“Having exhibited at every BTME show since the beginning we have always found meeting customers and the opportunity of networking to be extremely valuable - 2012 was an excellent show for us. See you in 2013!”

Jonathan Harmer,  
Managing Director,  
Farmura Ltd



This was my first time to attend Harrogate Week and I couldn't be happier. I found it to be very beneficial for us to attend.

I made many contacts that I am sure will lead to increased business. The traffic through the show was excellent on all three days.

The BIGGA staff were very helpful, the show facilities are excellent and my hotel was only a few minutes walk from the Convention Centre and the many local dining options. I'll be coming back. Thank you again for organising such a great event.

Ted Fist  
Product Manager  
[www.SandMat.com](http://www.SandMat.com)







**“I met several greenkeepers I haven’t met for a few years, and it was great to catch up. I am getting to meet a few guys each year and starting to become good friends with some now, just through Harrogate Week”**

**Barry Neville, Course Manager  
Stanmore Golf Club**

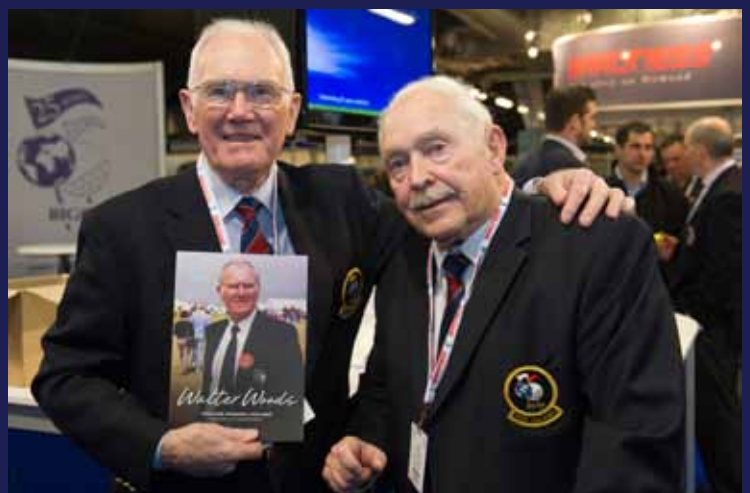


BTME is always an important event for Ecosol Turfcare because it puts us in front of a predominately Golf audience that is international in its make-up.

This year’s Show was definitely buzzing – Tuesday was more like a Wednesday in terms of the activity and leads we took, and Thursday

seemed to have more of a bustle about it. I have been delighted with the level of interest we have experienced and there are some very strong business opportunities to be grasped, so I rate the Show as having been a huge success.

**Bretton King  
Ecosolve Ltd**





# CEO Q&A

This year's Harrogate was the first that BIGGA's CEO Jim Croxton had faced in the role. After a long and tiring week he took time to reflect on BIGGA's most important event of the year

## A few days on from the Show, what are your thoughts?

I'm genuinely very proud of the efforts of the BIGGA team. It was a big week and everyone worked extremely hard and effectively to make it a success. I'm very satisfied that all the areas in which we, as a staff, had a direct influence we controlled well. Without ever being complacent, it shows that when we do what we do properly we can put on a really good "show" - in its broadest sense.

We need to make sure that we build on that and take the good will that we received for all parties and push on. The overall outcome was a positive well attended show, enjoyed by exhibitors and visitors alike.

## How important was it for the Association that not only was it successful but it was perceived to be a success by the people who attended?

It is absolutely vital because BIGGA members have such an important role to play in the golf industry in terms of presenting quality playing surfaces in a professional way for their employers. The show itself - BTME - is a really important service to our members. It is a festival of greenkeeping, but it is also a superb shop window for the profession. The week is our opportunity to get like-minded individuals together who are involved in fine turf management.

So it is important to have a good week as it also gives us some momentum going into the new year.

I'd looked at the stats from previous years and there are many visitors from outside of golf because so many of our exhibitors are relevant to the whole of turf, but I was surprised to see how important it was to other sports. For example, I understand that the ECB Head Groundsman held a meeting during the week. So I was pleasantly surprised to see that our efforts to attract people from other sports had paid off and that other people do see it as an important week for them as well.

I also believe that our members, indeed all visitors, stepped up and presented themselves in a positive way. It doesn't really matter how many people come through the doors if they are not having productive conversations with exhibitors, but the feedback from the exhibitors has been very positive. Their feedback was that they had a lot of constructive conversations with turf managers about how they will spend their budget, and that they feel that that is a major reason to attend our Show.







**“It was heartening to talk to delegates who were attending the education for the first time as well as those for whom it has become a fixture in their diaries”**



**What surprised you as an organiser, having attended as a visitor in the past?**

Mainly how tiring it all was! My feet have never been so sore and by the end of the week I'd lost my voice. You are involved in a huge amount of talking and listening.

I was genuinely amazed at what goes into building the stands. I hadn't seen them being built from scratch before and watching these huge structures grow out of empty halls on Saturday evening is quite staggering.

I was also very impressed by how choreographed the whole process is – the detailed pre-event management to make sure trucks arrive at the right time and everything goes to plan is not appreciated by those who turn up to see the final results.

The other major surprise came when I witnessed the queues of people waiting patiently to get in at 9am for the Show and Education. I'd only attended as a Day Visitor previously so I'd arrive around 10am and hadn't ever seen the queues. It amply demonstrates

just how committed our visitors were to making their trip to Harrogate worthwhile. I was impressed by that.

**What sorts of things did you find yourself dealing with during the week?**

My job was very much to have conversations, put names to faces and make sure that the Association was well represented in all areas. It was fascinating to watch the whole BIGGA team look after their particular areas of responsibility and see everything that goes into it – Education, the Organiser's Office, the Media Centre and our own BIGGA Stand. Everyone was dealing with their own issues and very little of it actually had to be dealt with by me although I was made aware of all the things that went on behind the scenes.

I was actually very pleasantly surprised by how little I had to deal with. My job was to be a Front Man and make sure that anyone who needed engagement with BIGGA was able to do so.

**What did you make of the Continue to Learn Programme that runs alongside the Exhibition?**

Well, I think the numbers speak for themselves, nearly 4,000 hours of education took place with numbers up 17.4% on the excellent programme in 2011. We should congratulate the Learning and Development team for putting on such a first class programme - there was something on it for everyone, meaning all sections of our membership had the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills.

Again it was heartening to talk to delegates who were attending the education for the first time as well as those for whom it has become a fixture in their diaries. I had dinner with the various speakers and trainers on the Sunday night and they were all incredibly positive about the willingness to learn of the delegates and the overall organisation. The Seminar programme was another huge success with a record number of full rooms.





## What was your personal highlight of the week?

There were three actually.

Our 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening on the Tuesday and having the opportunity to listen to two legends of golf who have brought the game to where it is today.

Our President Sir Michael Bonallack and Ken Schofield both spoke passionately about the importance of our members in getting the game to where it is right now, and then the role they have to play in the future. It was quite inspiring.

The whole evening was a great celebration and there was such genuine warmth towards BIGGA and its members.

But there were two other things which were memorable to me. The first one was seeing a Course Manager who had told me a few months before that he hadn't been to BTME in 35 years of greenkeeping and never really thought that he would.

But there he was with his boss and two Deputies, and saying that they couldn't believe that they've not been before and what a fantastic time they'd had.

That was a highlight because it showed that we don't spend all our time preaching to the converted.

The other was to have an exhibitor come to me on the final day, someone who had been critical in the past of some of our activity, and telling me that it was the best show that he'd have the privilege of attending in 20 years.

We have many clients who are very engaged with BIGGA, but to find someone who was, not totally convinced, to be that positive about what we'd done was a highlight.

Those three things stand out for me.

## Attendance figures were very encouraging and positive. What do you put that down to?

Two things. One is transparency. I've been very open and I think we should all be very open about what the Show is about for us – what's important and why people attend.

I don't want people to think that they have had their arm twisted or that we are begging them to attend.

I think they should want to attend and we worked hard to explain to them why it is important that they do. It is important to them and also good for the Association.

I think the other thing is that we've very much tailored our marketing to the appropriate audiences.

We've explained to our members why they should come and how to convince their employers if necessary why they should come and our exhibitors have embraced that and communicated to their own customer base and explained why their attendance is important to the whole event.

## What would you say to someone who hasn't yet been to a BTME to encourage them to come next year?

I think it is very simple. A well planned visit to BTME makes you a better turf manager and if it were me I wouldn't be comfortable letting my competition – the thousands of other turf managers out there – improve themselves that week while I didn't.

## Conversely how would you encourage those who are regular attendees to keep doing so?

I would ask those people who are regular visitors, and who have already penned in next year's date, how can we make it more relevant to you in 2013?

The key is that our show is not static. It needs to evolve, it needs to improve and it needs to meet the needs of both markets – the visitor and the exhibitor – and we welcome all feedback.

## What can you think of that could go towards improving it for next year and beyond?

One disappointment this year was that some of our seminars were so successful they were oversubscribed and people were turned away. I know that disappointed some, who had perhaps based their day around attending a particular seminar.

So we need to work hard in conjunction with the venue to find a cleverer way of meeting demand.

It's hard to know what the demand will be for the free seminars but it is always a disappointment when someone can't achieve what they wanted to achieve while at the Show.

We have also got to find a way of making the final day more vital for all parties.



**“I would ask those people who are regular visitors, and who have already penned in next year's date, how can we make it more relevant to you in 2013?”**







**We celebrated BIGGA's 25th anniversary during the week. Looking into your crystal ball what do you see for BIGGA's next 25 years?**

As the golf industry toughens up and the facilities – the owners, management and committees – really come to realise that their unique selling points are their golf course and the customer experience that BIGGA, and more importantly its members, will become more and more at the core of the golf industry and that the skill of the profession will be properly recognised.

I think alongside that we will become increasingly recognised as one of the leading education focused bodies within the game.

We will also become more recognised as good stewards of the environment and resources as well as the playing surfaces themselves.

That is something I've taken from the week – there is a massive focus on sustainability and looking after the environment and natural resources and also this huge desire to present courses as well as they can be presented.





# GI

# NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products at BTME 2012 reviewed



## Cushman Turf Utility Vehicles

Ransomes Jacobsen, presented a new range of turf utility vehicles at BTME 2012 with the launch of the Cushman Hauler.

Cushman is a name synonymous with rugged, versatile utility vehicles; they introduced the first purpose designed utility vehicle for the golf sector – the Turf-Truckster – in 1969 and this latest range of vehicles continues that heritage.

When the job requires a vehicle that can navigate over and through the toughest terrain, look to the Cushman Hauler 1200X (above).

The Hauler 1200X is available as a fully electric model powered by a 48-volt drivetrain that offers 15.2 cm of ground clearance and a total carrying capacity of 454 kg.

Both models feature rugged tyres and a 0.27m<sup>3</sup> cargo bed; for jobs that require more capacity, the vehicle is also offered with an optional 0.42m<sup>3</sup> aluminium cargo bed. Light dispersion in front of, and around, the vehicle's front providing high visibility at dawn or dusk.

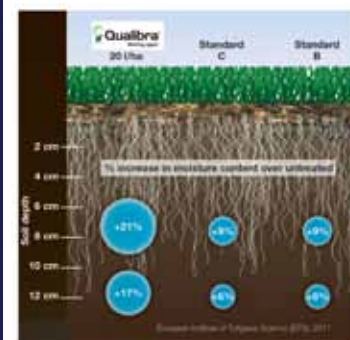
[www.textron.com](http://www.textron.com).



## Xtreme

Shown at BTME for the first time were the Coremaster Xtreme aerators. These produce vertical aeration holes with no distortion or disturbance of any sports turf surface including fine turf or fairways.

The Imants GreenWave takes the tried and tested 'Shockwave' principal and applies it in a moderated form to fine-turf playing surfaces such as greens, tees and bowling greens. It has been adapted and designed specifically to tackle compaction in fine turf areas where minimum disruption is essential.



## Qualibra

A new concept in wetting agent technology from Syngenta was launched at BTME.

Qualibra combines the best attributes of both the penetrant and polymer type products, into one easy-to-use solution - quickly moving water away from the surface to optimise playing quality, and then holding soil moisture more efficiently, evenly and deeper within the root zone.



## Breaker Dynamic

Breaker Dynamic is the new generation wetting technology from Rigby Taylor

Introduced alongside six other new products at Harrogate Week, Breaker Dynamic is the latest wetting agent from Rigby Taylor to offer water-related problem management, including the control and prevention of Dry Patch.

Blending surfactants and penetrants, Breaker Dynamic alters the structure of water molecules, allowing them to spread out and move through the soil profile and thatch layer to where they are needed in the rootzone.

The complex chemistry used in the product provides a long-term link between water repellent soil and irrigation.





## Verti Cutter

Charterhouse Turf Machinery introduced the the new Verti-Cut 1200 dethatcher, which employs specially designed Verti-Cut blades that cut the lateral growth of grass roots and remove dead plant material, allowing better water penetration and more room for healthy roots to grow.

Equipped with a 5.5hp Briggs & Stratton engine or driven from a tractor PTO, the Verti-Cut 1200 offers a 1.2m working width and depending on ground conditions can work to 25mm deep.

The latest addition to the Verti-Drain range was also presented at BTME.

The new high speed 2216 can decompact to 24cm. Combining the Verti-Drain design with the latest technology, the 2216 can decompact much more quickly and efficiently, while giving the opportunity to work deeper when required and at 1.6m wide it is the ideally suited for the golf course.



## BSH to Charm the US Open Course

AberCharm has been UK-bred for UK conditions. It boasts excellent shoot density and summer and winter greenness, offering the opportunity to improve the visual quality of their greens year round.

The Slender Creeping Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* ssp *litoralis* produces rhizomes and a very dense compact sward with strong dark green colour which is maintained throughout the year. It also resists the major fungal diseases.

Highlighted in the British Seed Houses catalogue's dedicated section on bentgrasses, TYEE & 007 'Superbents' also created interest at the show.

The 007 was developed using 24 parent plants which enables these varieties to deliver the same results all around the world from the extreme heat of Morocco to the harsh cold of Western Siberia.

All parental clones were selected for a medium bright green leaf colour which does not display purple discolouration in cold weather and their vigorous uniform growth habit, as well as improved Dollar spot resistance

TYEE is widely adaptable to both warm summers and cold winters and produces fine leaf texture and turf with extra density which outcompetes poa annua. It provides excellent disease resistance, especially to Dollar spot and Fusarium and offers the benefit of reduced fungicide application. For use on greens and tees, TYEE produces superior putting greens.

Both varieties have made a strong impression on leading Course Managers and Superintendents and their qualities will be in the spotlight on the US Open course at the Olympic Club in San Francisco and at the Medinah Country Club, Chicago, the Ryder Cup venue for 2012.



## New Trilo

Trilo and The Grass Group has introduced the new Trilo B7 three-point linkage mounted blower at BTME,

Featuring a hydraulically operated 180 degree reverse spout, the B7 has wide castor wheels and the anti-scalp roller on the back to follow the most extreme undulations on the golf course.

This lightweight blower has a statically and dynamically balanced impeller to ensure smooth and vibration free operation. It also has a 340 cubic metres/min airflow. Weighing in at 210kg, it can be operated by tractors from 30hp with a Cat I or II linkage.

# GI

## NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

More New Products next month





## AerAid

Dennis and Sisis presented their turf care machinery ranges on the companies' joint stand at BTME, demonstrating how they complement each other for the care of fine turf.

Production of Sisis product moved to Dennis' Kirk Langley, Derbyshire base last year when parent company Howardson Ltd purchased Sisis.

Latest in the line-up of technologically advanced mowers from Dennis is the Razor Ultra, designed to give a

tournament finish even on undulating greens.

Developed specifically to cut golf greens and tees, cricket pitches and bowling greens, the Razor Ultra has an 11-bladed cutting cylinder, tungsten tipped groomer for lateral growth control and 56cm cutting width.

Its ultra-short wheelbase improves manoeuvrability on the green and the operator-friendly design includes 'no tools' click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels.

Heavy duty independent

cutter and roller clutches give a smooth take up for ease of operation and a consistent finish while powered transport wheels make for quick transit between greens.

The Javelin AerAid aerates up to 127mm deep with minimal surface disturbance while injecting compressed air into the soil for the ultimate decompaction effect.

Its cam trigger mechanism ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, enabling treatment to be targeted precisely and consistently.



## Clipless

Headland Amenity announced two new products at the Show - Elevate Fe and Clipless.

Elevate Fe offers a user-friendly and cost effective liquid iron feed, ideal for tees, approaches, fairways and semi-rough but also for use on all coarse and close-mown areas including racecourses and sports pitches.

Clipless reduces turf height, improves sward density and cuts down on mowing frequency.

Suitable for use on all turf areas, Clipless contains 120g/litre trinezapac - ethyl and works by blocking the production of gibberellic acid within the plant leaf, stopping cell elongation and upward growth.

The turf requires less mowing, with potential savings of manpower and cutting machinery costs. Clipless is also a useful tool to help reduce mowing frequency in difficult or dangerous areas such as steep banks etc.



## Total Eclipse of the Mower

Ransomes Jacobsen unveiled a refreshed version of the popular Jacobsen Eclipse walking greens mowers, the Eclipse2. Building on the quality-of-cut and control of the original Eclipse, it allows Course Managers to customise and control mower settings to varying course conditions.

Retaining the electric motors for traction and cutting reel drive, they are available in three cutting

widths 45.7cm 55.9cm and 66cm all with an optional petrol engine or drop-in battery pack.

The patented floating head allows the lowest heights of cut without scalping, even on the

most undulating greens, and a wide array of frequency of cut (FOC) settings combine to produce a smooth and consistent playing surface. The Eclipse2 features a true automotive differential, which provides excellent tracking by driving the traction drum from one point, making it easier to track straight across the green.

On the hybrid version, with a Honda petrol engine powering a 48-volt generator, the engine has now been mounted through 180 degrees giving a better balance to the machine. The mounting slots for the generator and battery pack have been extended giving greater flexibility to increase or decrease the weight on the front roller.



## PowerStar



New Holland unveiled its new T4 PowerStar utility tractor equipped with turf/amenity tyres this week at the Show.

The powerful machine, which is available in three models from 55hp – 75hp, includes the revolutionary new VisionView Cab – a market leader, which is 20% larger and includes a hi-vis roof panel, ensuring excellent operator

comfort and visibility.

Complete with turf/amenity tyres and compatible for an integrated front-end loader, the new T4 PowerStar makes an ideal loader or utility tractor, and includes a passenger seat as standard to enable two people to travel securely and in comfort.

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



## Kioti

RECO showcased the latest addition to the Kioti range of compact tractors at BTME which is now available exclusively from RECO.

The introduction of the RX tractor sees Kioti bridging the gap in its existing horse power offerings with this 59hp compact.

The RX6010 is fitted with a streamlined one-piece bonnet hood, providing easy access for servicing and maintenance, along with a large capacity (90 litre) fuel tank. A deluxe air-conditioned cab helps keep the operator comfortable whatever the weather and new projection headlights offer increased visibility and safer operating conditions whilst working or travelling in the dark.

The tractor features 12 x 12 speed manual transmission with a dashboard mounted lever for ease of use, along with an Auto PTO for increased safety when using implements.

Featuring a heavy duty three-point linkage system with cat II ball hitch with a lift capacity of 2,378 kg, the RX is suitable for use with heavier implements thus increasing the versatility of the tractor.

## Green Master



New from Toro for 2012 is the Greensmaster eFlex, an all-electric pedestrian greensmower that boasts a lithium-ion battery for an unbeatable performance from a 'greener' power source. This also makes it Toro's quietest greensmower ever.

The inclusion of a lithium-ion battery provides a consistent performance over its five-year life expectancy and is capable of cutting up to nine greens on a single charge.

Improved operator controls, including an automated 'EZ-Turn' feature, provide operators with even better control and comfort at all times.

Fitted as standard, EZ-Turn is selected according to the user's preferences and pace, and automatically slows the mower down at the end of a pass and speeds it up again on the return pass.

Visit [www.toro.com/eflex](http://www.toro.com/eflex)



## Grand Master

Kubota presented its Grand L40-Series, which offers a range of tractors for all groundcare and greenkeeping operations.

The range includes five models with a choice of ROPS or air-conditioned cab, three transmissions and numerous tyre sizes, so there is a Grand L40 tractor to match any task.

At the heart of the Grand L40 series is the E-TVCS water cooled diesel engine which provides increased air flow into the combustion chamber to produce greater power, efficiency and cleaner emissions.

Models are the 37hp L3540, 44hp L4240, 52hp L5040, 54hp L5240 and 59hp L5740, representing an excellent range of horsepower for tasks such as aeration and decompaction, seeding and topdressing, handling high capacity mowers and of course, towing and loading.

Glide Shift Transmission can be specified on the 52hp L5040, giving 24x16 speeds and clutchless shifting for more demanding operations.

Kubota's new HST Plus transmission is featured on the two top of the range models, the L5240 and L5740.

More New Products next month





See you at  
BTME 2013



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# Turf diseases

## *When and where to look and how to identify them*

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the **five most common turf diseases** in the UK and offers advice on how to identify, or more ideally avoid, them

### Fusarium



ABOVE: Fusarium patch is still 'top dog disease' in UK turf (Picture [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk))

RIGHT: Close up on a typical water soaked area of Fusarium patch disease (Picture Vitax)

BELOW: Aftermath damage caused by anthracnose infection and disease (Picture Headland Amenity)

INSET BELOW: Close up on basal rot anthracnose infecting older leaves at the crown (Picture Headland Amenity)



### Basal rot anthracnose



**Fine turf suffers from a surprisingly large number of different diseases given the limited number of grass species involved and the minimal amounts of grass, stem and leaf available for infection by plant pathogenic fungi.**

The inherent nature of fine turf and the management practices required to maintain the close-cut condition as a professional playing surface is why fine turf is so susceptible to disease. By the same token it becomes difficult to distinguish between different turf diseases and non-disease symptoms on such tiny areas of stem and leaf.

A fuller appreciation of the factors which pre-dispose turf to disease can help turf managers spot problems early on by knowing when and where to look. Fungi responsible for turf disease are invariably present as saprophytes living on dead and decaying plant debris comprising the thatch at the base of the turf grass sward.

Thatch exists at varying depths and densities depending on turf grass species and the extent to which it is controlled. Thatch is a vital component within the turf grass sward imparting springiness for playability and player comfort but simultaneously harbouring disease, holding moisture and generating humidity to provide ideal conditions for infection.

By nature fine sports turf suffers wear and tear and, therefore, stress from acute and chronic

damage during normal every-day use. Laceration, bruising and soil compaction all contribute to increased disease susceptibility. For instance, anthracnose (*Colletotrichum cereale*) often starts as a discrete spot of diseased grass where the fungus has invaded leaves and is left bruised when golf balls land on the green.

Mowing to maintain turf grass at optimum heights for premium playability, according to species composition, function (green, tee, fairway) and the time of year, is the core of turf management. But the very act of mowing opens up the sward to fungal entry via the cut surfaces of grass stems and leaf blades at which oozing drops of nutrient-rich sap provide ideal infection sites.

*Microdochium nivale* the causal fungal pathogen of Fusarium patch uses these easy points of entry especially when mower blades are incorrectly set leaving jagged rather than clean-cut ends. Mowing of heavily infected turf can spread *Microdochium inoculum* (spores and mycelium) across the turf especially if wet with resulting infection patterns corresponding to wheel movements.

Cutting turf injures grass plants a regular basis and removes any fungicide that was on or inside the clippings. Mowing also takes away nutrients that were inside the severed leaf ends. Need to replenish nutrients lost in this way is one key reason why sports turf requires a continuous balanced programme of nutrition.

Plant nutrition and disease are closely related and turf grass is no exception. Plant health and resilience to disease is essentially a question of year-round continuity in nutrient balance. Simply unzipping the fertiliser bag in spring and autumn may simply accentuate any imbalance and aggravate thatch residing fungi like *Microdo-*







## Red thread disease

chium nivale and Colletotrichum cereale into action.

Fine turf on the golf course is clearly exposed and pre-disposed to disease. Due thought and consideration given to these facts about fine turf should help turf managers on the look-out for diseases. Knowing when and where to look is just as important as deciding what pathogen is responsible by allowing early identification and, therefore, timely action.

### Fusarium Patch

Fusarium patch is still the 'top dog' disease of fine turf in the United Kingdom. Over 90 per cent of greenkeepers are reckoned to encounter Fusarium patch during any one year. Eighty per cent of all fungicide applications are targeted at Fusarium irrespective of the disease range quoted on the fungicide product label.

Fusarium patch can appear at any time. Prime times are spring and autumn when grass growth dynamics and environmental conditions are most conducive to infection, disease development and spread, and especially autumn when turf recovering from stress inflicted by summer-season traffic adds yet another dimension to overall disease susceptibility. Over-enthusiastic application of nitrogen based fertilizer is another factor making spring and autumn prime times for Fusarium.

The disease typically appears as orange-brown water-soaked patches some 2.5 to 5.0cm wide. Under ideal conditions including prolonged high humidity and surface wetness, and failing prompt remedial action (application fungicide with some curative action), these can quickly coalesce to cover large areas of turf.

Poa annua (annual meadow grass) is the most susceptible species followed by bent grasses

(Agrostis). Others including fescues are susceptible, especially under snow cover or just after snow has melted when the pathogen is most active and therefore less discerning of turf grass species. Differing species susceptibility to Fusarium Patch is largely down to thatch with Poa annua and Agrostis classed as moderate to high thatch-forming grasses.

Golf courses receiving substantial snow cover in most years may find this the worst time for Fusarium. Symptoms are more specific and characteristic with obvious orange-brown rings surrounding a pale straw coloured central area with a distinct pink tinge, hence the alternative common name of 'Pink Snow Mould' for infections occurring at this time.

Some key pre-disposing factors for Fusarium are:

- Deep dense thatch with high water holding capacity and humid microclimate.



## Dollar spot

### ABOVE LEFT: Red thread disease

Red needles (strands or threads) attached to grass leaves and a sure sign of red thread disease caused by the fungus Laetisaria fuciformis (Picture Bayer Environmental Science)

### ABOVE RIGHT: Dollar spot

Straw coloured patches of dollar spot disease (Picture Bayer Environmental Science)

- Excess nitrogen available during mild and moist autumn conditions generating lush grass growth and high pathogen activity
- Periods of prolonged high humidity and/or surface wetness and impeded drainage
- Incorrectly set mower blades which tear rather than cut the grass.

### Anthracnose

Basal (crown) rot of annual meadow grass appearing during a late autumn window was the only type of anthracnose that UK greenkeepers traditionally had to contend with. More recently the Colletotrichum cereale pathogen has stepped up a gear, starting earlier in the year and extending its disease activity into a broader range of turf grass species.

In addition to basal rot anthracnose UK greenkeepers now face 'foliar blight' first appearing as

### BELOW: Fairy rings

MAIN BELOW: Type 1 fairy rings showing a ring of killed grass (Picture Bayer Environmental Science)

INSET BELOW: Type 2 fairy rings and a circle of grass showing stimulated growth (Picture www.greencastr.co.uk)



## Fairy rings





**ABOVE: Dollar spot**  
Straw coloured patches of dollar spot disease (Picture Bayer Environmental Science)



**LEFT: Red needles** (strands or threads) attached to grass leaves and a sure sign of red thread disease caused by the fungus *Laetisaria fuciformis* (Picture Bayer Environmental Science)

**BELOW:** Identifying diseases on agricultural crops like wheat, which is essentially a grass allowed to grow and develop fully, is a whole lot easier than dealing with diseases on turf grass (Pictures Dr Terry Mabbett)



early as July at the height of the summer season. This new dimension has elevated anthracnose into the second most important disease after *Fusarium* on UK turf.

The 'seeds' of basal rot anthracnose are sown in summer on deep thatched turf stressed out from seasonal wear and tear on compacted soil, but symptoms of disease do not appear until autumn. Cool moist October weather encourages the anthracnose fungus out of its saprophytic existence on thatch to infect living *Poa annua* plants refreshed by rain and flushed with fertiliser.

Basal rot on *Poa annua* begins with infection of the older leaves on the crown. They go yellow and then orange/red to produce water soaked bases on the infected grass tillers which become easy to pull out. Later formation of dark spore-containing structures appear as black stained areas at the base of the plant which is why the disease is called 'anthracnose' (means like coal).

*Poa annua* is the only species acutely susceptible to basal rot so greenkeepers with a high proportion of annual meadow grass on greens should be on 'autumn watch' for anthracnose especially if 'starving out' of *Poa annua* is part of an on-going management programme.

Compacted summer swards with too deep and dense thatch are similarly the source and origin of anthracnose foliar blight. Only difference being is that foliar blight develops straightaway. The disease is triggered by summer rainfall and irrigation water impeded by thatch and dry water-repellent soil and therefore unable to percolate through to the root zone. As a result the water remains on the surface and gets soaked up by thatch to create high humidity and ideal conditions for fungal infection and development of foliar blight.

Turf patches blighted by this form of anthracnose are yellow at first and then bronze with affected grass becoming dull and darkened in appearance as spore-bearing structures mature. Subsequent transfer of disease to previously healthy areas is by spores spread by rain splashes, wind, on wheels and footwear. Annual meadow grass and creeping bents are prime targets with smooth-stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) and creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) significantly affected.

Anthracnose is a self-perpetuating turf disease. Tillers and plants killed by basal rot and

leaves destroyed by foliar blight add to and stoke up thatch thereby offering even more opportunities for *Colletotrichum cereale* as a saprophyte. Factors pre-disposing turf to anthracnose attack are similar to those for *Fusarium*

## Dollar spot

*Fusarium* patch and anthracnose are first and second in UK turf disease rankings but most smart money is on dollar spot to become disease of the future. This view is based on experience from North America and *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* being a warm season pathogen, cropping up in mid to late summer and lasting through to early autumn when soil fertility and turf vitality is at lowest ebb.

If widely predicted UK climate change materialises, with earlier springs, warmer steamier summers and extended autumns, this fungal pathogen will be presented with more favourable environmental conditions and turf grass swards with reduced vitality and rootzone fertility. *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, like the pathogens responsible for *Fusarium* patch and anthracnose, 'hides away and hitches a ride on thatch' but this pathogen prefers 'low nitrogen' soils and swards.

Dollar spot appears as small tan coloured spots usually the size of a 1 US dollar coin, round and rarely larger than 7.5cm wide. Dollar spot most often affects fescues although additionally attacks bent grasses and annual meadow grass.

## Red thread

Red thread is fast becoming the 'Cinderella' turf disease being dwarfed by *Fusarium* and anthracnose and overlooked by current interest in dollar spot. However, red thread is widely spread amongst turf grass species including fine leaf fescues, especially red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), and perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). Like dollar spot, red thread is a warm season disease appearing in summer and extending with ease through autumn and often into mild winters. Like dollar spot red thread thrives on nitrogen deficient turf.

Red thread is one of the easier diseases to recognise due to its distinct pink to reddish hues and colourations expressed in the foliar symptoms as the common name suggests. Overall symptoms appear as ill-defined patches of bleached grass with closer inspection revealing pink mycelium visible under



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**ABOVE/LEFT:** The seeds of diseases like basal rot anthracnose and Fusarium patch are sown in summer stressed turf (left) but the diseases do not show up in intensity until the grass greens up (above) during cool moist autumn conditions (Pictures Dr Terry Mabbett)



**LEFT:** Most mainstream turf pathogens lurk in the thatch at the base of the turf grass sward in a saprophytic mode of existence (Picture Dr Terry Mabbett)

**BELOW:** Identifying diseases on agricultural crops like wheat, which is essentially a grass allowed to grow and develop fully, is a whole lot easier than dealing with diseases on turf grass (Pictures Dr Terry Mabbett)

morning dew cover. Extending from the tips of leaf blades is red-needle or strand-like structures that become brittle and break on drying to spread red thread into new areas.

But nothing is as simple as first seems. What is commonly called red thread is a disease complex involving two distinct fungal pathogens but quite easily distinguished in situ using a hand lens or magnifying glass. *Laetisaria fuciformis* is responsible for the 'red needles' (threads) extending from the leaf blades and *Limonomycetes roseipellis* is characterised by pink tinged gelatinous mycelium and cottony 'candy tufts' of spores visible under early morning dew cover and more correctly called 'Pink Patch'. The two pathogens require similar conditions and are often found together.

### Fairy rings

Fairy rings are mired in mystery and mystique both in folklore and science. Unlike the classic foregoing foliar diseases fairy rings have an indirect and incidental effect on turf. What's more there are three distinct types generally designated Type 1, 2 and 3.

Fairy rings 'disease' is caused

by Basidiomycete fungi in the rootzone restricting the availability of water and nutrients. That said fairy rings downgrade turf through disfiguring symptoms and spore bearing structures (toadstools or puffballs) appearing in circles just as the name implies.

Type 1 – recognised by a circle of dead or dying grass inside a larger band of dark-coloured grass and due to toxins produced by *Marasmius oreades* in the rootzone. Damage to grass is aggravated by a thick layer of waxy fungal mycelium inside the rootzone of the affected turf that prevents sufficient water from above percolating down to the roots. Net result is complete death of the affected ring of grass and eventual appearance of reddish tan to buff coloured toadstools or 'caps' arranged in ring.

Type 2 – characterised by a ring of visibly stimulated grass growth in which toadstools may appear at particular times of the year. Not as damaging as Type 1 since it does not kill the grass but still leaving disfiguring scars on close mown turf. Type 2 is particularly prominent and damaging during long hot summers when the dark bands or 'ribbons' of stimulated grass stand out within turf that otherwise lacks





colour. Type 2 fairy rings are generally caused by *Lycoperdon* fungi producing physiologically active chemicals that stimulate grass growth.

Type 3 – most easily recognised by the prominent circle of stand-alone toadstools or puffballs with no visible effect on the associated ring of grass, either through toxins killing plants (Type 1) or chemicals stimulating grass growth (Type 2). Type 3 is caused by different fungi including *Hygrophorus* and is the easiest type of fairy rings to live with, being temporarily removed during mowing.

### No easy task

Experienced greenkeepers can instinctively recognise and identify the main diseases of turf, just like my first GP could do with childhood diseases. Already in his seventies and practicing since the turn of twentieth century he could stand at the bedroom door and tell a mother what disease her child was suffering from. Naturally he would examine the patient to confirm his initial diagnosis from a distance, just as a greenkeeper will get down 'on all fours' to inspect his turf and consult his local agronomist

if unsure.

The situation for younger and less experienced greenkeepers is altogether different. Dealing with diseases in fine sports turf is much more difficult than crops in agriculture. The farmer inspecting wheat, which is essentially a grass allowed to grow naturally and completely, is looking at a sufficiently large leaf area that allows him/her to observe discrete and easily identifiable disease symptoms.

The greenkeeper does not have that luxury being essentially reduced to looking at fine turf in its entirety for spots or patches of discoloured and dying grass. That is why guideline descriptions for turf disease are generally reduced to simple statements like 'round straw coloured patches'. That one straw coloured patch, whether caused by a fungus or associated with parasitic nematodes, is very much like another is clearly cause for confusion and misidentification. Insect pest damage and even spilt mower fuel can add to the confusion. What's more wear and tear during play and unauthorised traffic, which may include the public with dogs delivering toxic urine and even foxes, can further complicate an already confusing situation with

additional 'straw coloured patches'.

Of course there is always the local distributor at hand to offer an expert opinion and only too pleased to provide something in a bottle to solve the problem. If in doubt always ask for a second opinion but I would additionally invest in a microscope and some basic knowledge of microscope slide preparation and fungus staining techniques. With this facility at his/her fingertips the greenkeeper is now inside an altogether different disease dimension, able to observe for himself/herself mycelium, spores and spore bearing structures that he/she otherwise only reads about.

From then on identification with the help of a sound text book on turf pathogens and diseases is not rocket science. Given the quality of contemporary turf management courses and teaching I would be surprised if most young and academically qualified greenkeepers have not already been introduced to these basic techniques in plant pathology. They allow greenkeepers to be more resourceful and not totally reliant on the turf 'medicine man'.



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.

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# Evolution in Action

**The light and super light fairway mower offering has evolved over the years. A combination of reduced sized cutting units and a lower powered and lighter ride-on 'tractor units' can mean you can buy a true precision cut wide area mower**

**James de Havilland takes a look at the new breed of light fairway mower which have arrived on the market**









**Manufactures typically offer a choice of 'light' fairway models within a range to give a choice of engine and cutting units. These models will be based around what amounts to pretty much the same ride-on unit.**

A key to differentiating between light fairway mowers is to concentrate on the cutting units and to match these to the desired mowing height of your fairways. It follows that light and narrow units are better suited to high frequency 'light' mowing, so obviously how the fairways are managed will have a major impact upon model selection.

It also follows that larger units offer improved ability to tackle less frequent mowing and coping with a heavier cut when it has not been possible to mow for a more extended period than would otherwise be adopted.

Conversely, a light mower may be able to work on fairways that would otherwise be too wet to take the weight of a heavier model. It is one of those subjects that can lead to a somewhat circular argument. There are no simple 'if you do this, this type of mower is best' rules.

So how a light fairway mower, or

more often than not two or more light models, fit into the mowing and management of a course is in itself a subject. But the key is that there is a choice of equipment on offer, starting from narrower width, small unit 'super light' through to more conventional 'light' fairway mower designs. It is the latter that have seen a growth in popularity over the past decade.

#### Super light mowers

Introduced in the UK in late 2003, the now well-established five-gang Jacobsen SLF 1880 was the first of the true super light fairway models. Fitted with 5in/12.7cm diameter cylinder reels of just 18in/45.7 cm in width, this mower will cut 82 inches or just over 2.0m in a pass. A choice of 8- of 11-blade units are offered together with a choice of 25 or 33hp diesel engine.

And how much does the SLF 1880 weigh? From 959kg in 2WD and 998kg in 4WD form. This is spread between 24x13-12 front and 18x9.5-8 rear tyres - which should mean a really light footprint. By way of comparison, the latest 'light fairway' Jacobsen 2WD LF 550 weighs in at 1287kg with its

five 22in/56cm units raised. That is a significant difference.

That said, Ransomes Jacobsen suggests that the super light SLF 1880 - which has had a few design nips and tucks over the years - remains more of a niche player. It is the company's LF 550 and LF 570, which replace the LF 3400 and LF 3800, which are the key sellers as they both cater for more 'mainstream' light fairway mower needs.

The Jacobsen SLF 1800 no longer has the super light niche to itself, the five-gang John Deere 8000E E-Cut hybrid matching its 5 inch/12.7cm diameter by 18 inch/45.7 cm wide cylinder reels to offer an 80 inch/2.0m mowing width. The 37hp Deere mower drives hydraulic pumps for the mower's traction motors, steering and lift rams, with a generator powering the cutting units electric motors - the same system as employed on existing E-Cut Hybrid models in the company's line up.

Of equal interest is that the three-wheel tractor unit has smooth tyres as standard, John Deere suggesting the 8000E will leave a striped finish that will be similar to a ride-on greens mower. A choice of 7- or 11-blade QA5 units are

*As with its competitors, Toro offers its Reelmaster 5010 series fairway models in specs to suit different needs. The pictured 5410 sits above the less powerful 5210, with both the 5510 and 5610 alternatives having larger cylinder reels. In outline, as you go up the range you get more power and larger DPA cutting units but also more weight. A 28hp 2WD 5210 will weigh from 1087kg.*





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offered, height of cut spanning 2 to 28.5mm dependent upon bottom blade bedknife and roller specified. Those heights of cut are not a typo either, reflecting the use of 'greens' cutting units on a mower that has the width to tackle a wider area.

#### Light fairway mowers

Toro Reelmaster 5010 models are the company's light fairway models, the four model line-up comprising the five-gang, 100in/2.54m cut width 5210 and 5410 with 5 in/12.7cm diameter cylinder reels and the 5410 and 5610 with 7in/17.8cm diameter units. Apart from cutting unit size, the remaining model differences are engine outputs of 28, 35.5, 35.5 and 44.2hp respectively.

Jacobsen LF 550 and LF 570 models essentially have the same unit stats as the Toro models, the 22in/56cm wide individual cutting units having the further option of a 9-blade cylinder. Power choice is 35.5 or 44.2hp for both models.

John Deere 7500 and 8500 PrecisionCut Fairway mowers, together with the 7500 and 8500 E-Cut Hybrid again they offer the same size units as the models from Jacobsen and Toro and same 100in/2.54m width of cut, the engine output of 37.1 and 43.1hp determining the model number.

*ABOVE: The Sunningdale Golf Club, Berkshire, currently operates four Jacobsen SLF 1880 fairway mowers. These 'super light' models have a height of cut range from 7.62 to 17.78mm (or up to 23.8mm with a high cut kit). Narrow units and small cylinder reels allow good contour following. It all adds up to offering the potential for a really good finish.*

*BELOW: Superseding the established LF 3400 / LF 3800, the LF 550 and LF 570 have a range of new features to help cut maintenance and boost productivity. Power to the wheels is controlled by a 'drive-by-wire' electronic system designed to reduce travel pedal pressure and help eliminate wheel spin.*





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## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
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All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green

## Scottish Region



### East

Well I hope you are all well and prospering in 2012. The winter months are almost over and spring is just around the corner (we hope!)

The committee had our first meeting on December 13, at Rigby Taylor's HQ, in Newbridge, specifically to have a Cabinet reshuffle, as it were.

Mr George Oliver has the reigns of Social Convenor and is busy thinking of ideas to bring some welcome cheer for the year ahead - if any of our members have any ideas or input please contact George - Tel: 07824557041. He will be glad to hear from you.

The Vice Chairman and Education Convenor, Mr Scott Corrigan, has the honour of Philip Butler as an assistant. Both Scott and Philip will bring to the table fresh, inspiring ideas to discuss and both young men will work well together, I am sure, in this difficult, but highly rewarding, role. Please contact Scott on 07877098237 or Philip on 07841759080.

Jim Smith 07841316864 will be calling in on you throughout the spring period to establish any information about any BIGGA matters you may have to gauge the feedback and give us some indication as to how we, as your East Section Committee, can best serve you as a member.

I would ask that you help us to help you, by contacting and contributing in these matters - your opinion counts.

Stuart Ferguson 07961630553 - [stuferg@btinternet.com](mailto:stuferg@btinternet.com), as ever will be on hand as our hard working Secretary. The experience he has

amounted over the last three to four years is crucial in the smooth running of the Section.

It was suggested by me to bring back the summer knock-out comp whereby two members or member and guest, play against a similar set up at the top named venue or neutral venue, to establish the Section's Champions. Any input or opinion would be gratefully received.

Our Patrons' Award, Messrs Philip Butler and Jamie Martin, should have enjoyed their Harrogate BTME experience, (well done boys). We look forward to hearing about your trip.

Once again please inform us of any questions or queries you have and we look to hearing from you.

Yours in golf  
Stewart Crawford  
Chairman 07873464097 - [s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)



### Central

Congratulations first of all to Grant Frogley, who is leaving gWest to take up the position of Course Manager at The Roxburgh. We wish him well in his new job. Before he left, Grant and Lee Strutt MG gave a presentation to a full house of greenkeepers hoping to make the step up to Deputy or Course Manager, at Auchterarder GC, on January 11.

A few things coming up in the Section. On February 9, Agrovista is staging a Vermin Control course at St Andrews Links Practice Centre and will happily run a second course in the west of the Section if there is sufficient demand. Also in February, we still hope to stage a practical training course on how to rectify irrigation faults with Tony Barnett, of Bar Systems. On Wednesday, March 21,

James Cobb, a retired lecturer, will give a presentation on planting of native species of trees and shrubs for maximum environmental benefit and our Spring outing will be over the Craighead course at Crail on Tuesday, April 17. For all information on these and other events look on [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook. All correspondence for events will now be done by email so please provide us with your email address. Finally, thanks to all those companies who have again sponsored the website which allows us to stage these educational events. Their logos are all listed on our website and a click on them gives you a direct link to their website.

Gordon Moir



### Northern

I would like to start off this month with the weather and I am sure everybody has experienced the baw bag and I hope you have not had too much damage on your course with fallen trees etc.

I was told a very funny story about an excuse for being late which I would like to share with you. It starts off with the certain person phoning his boss and letting him know that he was going to be late because his parrot had a heart attack and he had to wait for the vet to come to give him an injection. The worst part of it all was when he got the bill through the door. Believe it or not this was a true story.

Also there has been some movement with the greenkeepers starting with my good friend and work mate, Dennis Grant, who is leaving Newmachar Golf Club to become Head Greenkeeper of Huntly Golf Club. We wish him all the best for his

future, also I (Ross Macrae) am leaving Newachar Golf Club to become Head Greenkeeper of Turriff Golf Club. On this note I wish to thank Dale Robertson and George Mitchell for having me at Newmachar Golf Club again (I'm going to miss the banter and the rest of the staff).

Ross Macrae

## Northern Region



### Northern

I hope everyone is enjoying these mild conditions for this time of year. The fact that I played in the weekend comp on New Year's Eve was fantastic considering this time last year we were under snow! As always I'm looking forward to another good year in the Section. We have some great courses to play and with The Open at Lytham this year it is always a great week to look forward to.

Since my last notes we had our final golf day at Selby in December. Frank Stewart and I were sitting having a brew in the clubhouse that morning fearing the worse. The black clouds and the very strong winds were a concern but us northern boys are made of strong stuff. Gordon and his lads were out cutting away while we were trying to work out the coffee machine in the warm lounge talking to nice ladies!

The weather all week had been horrible and it's a massive credit to Selby, Gordon and his crew, for turning out a fantastic course for us. It was hard going, but very enjoyable all round. A big thanks to Gordon and his team again; to all you guys who braved the conditions and, as always, our sponsors.

Last, but not least, I bumped



into an old chum of mine who I have not seen for a long time - James Bentley, who I had the pleasure of working (???) with at Hollins Hall and Moor Allerton. He moved to Oslo in Norway and has moved up to Deputy at Miklagard Golf Club. It just goes to show all those afternoons sitting and listening to me have finally paid off!

No, it's great to see young lads, who have a bit of ambition in them even if they can't hold their beer, pull girls and are bone idle.... Sorry, that was harsh. His girlfriend was very nice.

So, as always, any news please pass it on and I will bid you a great month. Take it easy.

Andy Slingsby



### North Wales

With the winter competition calendar in full swing it's a rush in the mornings to get ahead of play and be able to see the course in the late dawns.

I hope you all tried your best to get to Harrogate. At the time of writing this month's column, I don't know as yet if enough people booked seats on our Section's coach to make the trip viable. I always enjoy my time spent there and I hope you get as much enjoyment and information from your time there.

The Christmas Competition and AGM took place at Heswall Golf Club on December 7, with good weather (although more than a little windy), a great course and extremely friendly clubhouse staff and membership. A good day was had by all.

The results of the day were as follows: 1. Stuart McCall, Paul Stanley, Callum Roberts and Simon Whitley, 73 pts; 2. Jez Hughes, John Evans, Andrew Cornes and Jim Croxton, 71 pts; 3. John Morris, Miles Todd, Barry Wright and Darren Anderson, 70 pts. Nearest the Pin went to Jez Hughes, on the 7th, and Charlie Land, on the 14th.

I think we all owe a big thank you to Guy Cannings and team for the fantastic course they set up for our day.

The AGM also took place on the day and we welcome three new members to the Committee, two greenkeepers and one from the trade, the new Greenkeeper members are; Rhys Butler of

Aberdovey GC and Neil Oxtan of Heswall GC. The new trade member is Paul Lowe, of Symbio. We hope your time on Committee is a long and fruitful one!

In January my Course Manager Jez Hughes took up his position as Club Vice Captain at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, which coincides with him also celebrating 25 years as a Greenkeeper. Well done, Jez!

I think that just about does it for this month, please remember to send your news to my contact details at the bottom of this and every column so all the best until next month!

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



### North East

Here we go again. It's that time of the month for Section News. I always struggle this time of the year. In fact, I had sent out a couple of e-mails to members to see if they could fill me in on news from their course, even telling me what they were doing for their winter programme. I mean to say how hard is that to reply to. Anyway God loves a trier.

Well I do have some news but now having been informed by Newcastle College recently I see that not only greenkeepers James Curry and Tony Callan, of Prudhoe GC, are attending, but also Michael Hall and Stuart Imeson, both from Dunstanburgh Castle, and Grant Burton, of Gosforth GC, and lastly Harry Carvey, of Heworth GC. Well done to those golf clubs on sending them onto further education in greenkeeping.

I have recently just received confirmation on the Spring and Autumn comps. They are as follows: Spring. South Shields GC, April 18, tee off time 11am-11.30am. Autumn. Wooler GC, October 10. Now for those people who have not played South Shields, leave home earlier than normal as it's not easy to find first time around unless you use Sat Nav. It's been a long time since we have played there and it would be good to have a few more people turn up the same goes for Wooler. This will be the first time we have played

there I am sure you will enjoy both courses. Members will be notified in due course to these events.

Jimmy Richardson

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

Come on now, be honest, did anyone manage to continue their New Year Resolutions through Harrogate Week?

How great to see so many greenkeepers, old and new, at the show and also socialising at organised events and in the hostilities of Harrogate. For an industry that is under great pressure from the media and bank-fuelled recession the vast majority of people seemed upbeat with a positive outlook for 2012 and beyond.

Having already thanked Andy and Danny, at Lingdale, in my January notes for their hospitality in early December I am now able to report the results of the windswept East Midlands Christmas Tournament. Firstly, the Greenkeepers' Nearest the Pin prize was won, with a majestic strike of a 7-iron to four feet of the pin on the 16th hole, by..... Greg Skinner. Nearest the pin for the trade was won by Carl Chamberlain, of Rigby Taylor - some say quite fortunately, but I didn't see it! Nick Miles partnered Simon Banks (marking their own card...hmmmm and with Mr Banks playing his 15th day of consecutive golf) to victory with 44 pts. Pete Smith and Sam Voss were runners-up. Longest Drives were won by Chris 'Plus Fours' Weir for the Greenkeepers while Matt Court took the Guest/Trade prize. Both Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive prizes were sponsored by Tacit, so thanks go to them along with Symbio and Farmura for their support of the day.

For all the Chairmen, Green Committee members, Proprietors and golfers in general who get to read Greenkeeping International magazine I can reveal that having whipped all my colleagues at cards, darts, pool and Wii in the shed over the winter I am now looking forward to warmer days next month. There is only so much Jeremy

Kyle and Loose Women that you can watch before you develop shed fever. In addition to this my doctor says that the strain of kettle finger I have contracted over the winter is immune to my winter flu jab. Odd?

Leicestershire has, like a lot of areas, (not you Pete 'Arctic Circle' Smith) enjoyed a very mild, Long John-free winter, which has enabled winter projects to be completed ahead of schedule and allowed a more frequent than usual winter mowing programme. This has kept the golf course looking like a golf course which in itself is motivational and most importantly keeps our salary providers (the golfers) happy (ish)!

So here we are in early February with less than 180 days to go to the 2012 London Olympics, will Greenkeeping ever become an Olympic event like beach volleyball. I wonder?

TTFN

Greg Skinner



### Midland

The Section's Christmas Tournament was held at Woburn Golf Club, on December 9, around the Duchess course. The weather was perfect as was the golf course, as presented by the Course Manager, John Clarke and his fine team. Our thanks to Woburn for allowing us courtesy of the course once again. The main prize sponsor on the day was Crocodile Golf, with thanks to Ian Marshall and Paul Tanner, for their continued support of our Christmas tournament. Thanks also to the chocolate and "sloe gin" on the 10th tee courtesy of Kevin and Russ, from Farols. Thanks also to all the other trade members who brought so many prizes for the Nearest the Pins and raffle on the day.

The result of the day: 1. Steve Scott & Aaron Saunders, 40 pts (back 9 22pts); 2. Ed Stant & Clint Woodall, 40 pts (back 9 21pts); 3. Tony Cheese & Simon White, 37pts. Nearest the Pin winners: Vince Gilroy, Steve Scott x2, Rich Lloyd.

Please make a note of the next education day coming up, hosted by Sherrieff Amenity, at Walsall Golf Club, on March 14. With some first class speakers



# Around The Green

on show and lunch provided please contact Nigel Tyler on 07989 548058 to reserve your place or for further information.

Yet again our committee has produced a great calendar for 2012, and our thanks must go to our many sponsors. This month's page is sponsored by Farol Ltd. Please consider them regarding your John Deere needs, and indeed many other machinery requirements. Please contact either Kevin Pugh: 07943 192498 pughkevin@farol.co.uk, or Russ Tomlinson 07943 192588 tomlinsonruss@farol.co.uk.

My thanks to our Chair, Ed, for the above,  
Sean McDade



## East of England

Happy New Year to all.

By the time you read this maybe we will have actually experienced some winter weather! At the time of writing I can count the number of frosty mornings we have had on one hand. Couple that with mild temperatures and well below average rainfall and once again we have another upside down season of British weather. Quite when we are going to get all the indoor and off course jobs done I do not know.

As I write this before, and you read it after, BTME has been I am sure the entire event will have passed off as the success it usually is.

Our Christmas golf event this year was held at Belton Park Golf Club, in Grantham, on Thursday, December 8. This year saw a change to the format with a Team Texas Scramble, made up of members and invited golf club officials.

The golf course was presented in fantastic condition as always by Gary Poole and his team, although we all could have done without the gale force winds that accompanied the day. An excellent meal was also provided by the clubhouse staff who all made us feel welcome throughout the day. Many thanks also go to the sponsors of the day, Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands, for providing an excellent prize table and their continued

sponsorship of the Section.

The results of the day were as follows: Nearest the Pin. Bruce Hicks; Longest Walk. G. Poole, N. Smith, L. Carratt, L. Smith; 3. A. Kitchenson, R. Moody, A. Hill, D. Grundy; 2. P. Wilkinson, I. Mawer, R. Mawer, O. Gurney; 1. R. Welford, A. Cox, M. Sutherland, N. Fox.

Once again many thanks to all concerned for an excellent day.

The Midlands Region, Inter-Section Championship was held in October at The Belfry. For the third year in a row the East of England Section team of Rob Welford, Ash Cox and Rob Bemment were victorious.

Unfortunately this "Dream Team" will not be able to defend their title in 2012 as Ash Cox has now left the industry. We wish him all the best in his new career.

Belated congratulations also go to Brian Robinson (spelt it right this time, Mrs Robinson!) for his exploits at the 2011 National Championship winning the BIGGA Challenge Plate for best Stableford score on Day 2.

Finally congratulations go to Gary, from Burghley Park, and his wife on the birth of their son, Edward.

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

## South East Region



### East Anglia

Lovely day at Thorpeness (bit breezy!) Course, as usual, in excellent condition thanks to Ian and his men. The bunkers look fantastic.

A total of 128 Players took part in the annual Turkey Trot sponsored ably by CMW as ever.

After the bacon rolls and the launching of the Aldeburgh Lifeboat, battle commenced. The battle was against the wind, frostbite and trying to swing a club in a space suit!

However, some of us (the few) managed to score some points, they are as follows:

1. Titchells Terrors, 56.7 pts
2. The Fielders, 56.7 pts

3. The Usual Suspects, 58 pts
4. The Lemmons, sorry Lemmons Lads, 58.1 pts

Nearest the Pin 2nd: Sponsored by Aitkens – Nick Ashman

Nearest the Pin 7th: Sponsored by Symbio – Steve Crabb

Nearest the Pin 10th: Sponsored by Bartram Mowers – Andy Curson: Nearest the Pin 16th, Sponsored by Tomlinson Groundcare – Tom Melvin

Nearest the Pin in two on the 6th, Sponsored by Baileys of Norfolk – Trevor Hurn

Nearest the Pin in two on the 11th, Ray Foreman

Nearest the white line 5th Sponsored by Ransome Jacobsen Ltd – Alan Sharp

Longest drive 1st 14-28 Handicap, Sponsored by Ernest Doe & Son – Gavin Rayford

Longest drive 18th 0-13 Handicap, Sponsored by Lely UK – Nick Staff

Longest drive 8th Trade & Guest, Sponsored by Prime Irrigation – Eddie Jack

Longest Drive 14th Trade Mat le Benn, Longest Drive 13th Guest, Warren Goddard

The Ernie Hart prize for Outstanding Greenkeeper of the Year went to Glen Rayfield, of Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. Well done mate. Colin Rushbrook, President of our great Section, presented this prize.

Some trade members not mentioned above but still as valuable to us were Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Headland, Collier Turf Care, Toro, Tacit and Ben Burgess.

We could not do this event without the tireless (and sometimes thankless) efforts of our exceptional Secretary, Ian Willett, and the support of our trade friends.

We thank you all.

Must mention the 'Halfway House'. Well supplied with warming sustenance and the usual banter. Thank you Bartrams/Ransome Jacobsen

Our thanks once again to Thorpeness and their Captain, Chris Scott, for a great venue and great hospitality.

By the time you read this you will probably have forgotten most of the AGM. I say most because although the minutes of the last meeting, the Chairman's report and Treasurer's report were all passed without too much fuss. The Secretary's report did cause some concern from at least three people. Ian was explaining quietly and

professionally why there had been an increase of £5 to cover rising costs of our golf days. These people wanted to upset a very tidy apple cart. They do, however, need to look back and see just how far we have come in the last 15 years. They also need to show some professionalism, and at least get enough people to form a new committee and call an EGM. Our BIGGA Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood, has also stated that ours is the best run and supported Section and we should be proud.

It was also very noticeable that when our President and Treasurer asked if anyone wanted to take over, no one stepped forward. Good Luck.

On a happier note, our fixtures for 2012 have already been sorted out. They are: Waldringfield, Royal Norwich, Haverhill and Ely. How many other Sections can say that. Cheers Colin.

Our present committee was also re-elected en-bloc.

Pause for thought: To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years; to destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.

Are you listening?

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

As I write this at the start of January, wind has become a real issue. Many of you, I'm sure, would expect me to follow this line with a throwaway gag about the underlying reasons being copious amounts of brussel sprouts at Christmas. However, having seen that there are people being killed by falling trees and weak building structures I won't be doing that. Please bear in mind the trees and structures that are on your courses. Regular surveys on both are essential in order to safeguard yourselves and your customers.

On to issues in our fair county. Well, as usual, no-one has contacted me with any news so I guess everything is fine. Harrogate would have been and gone by the time you read this. I hope those of you that made the trek up enjoyed the experience and feel suitably enlightened by the



seminars.

Our events calendar for 2012 has been in circulation for a few months now. If you want to see what we've got planned then please see our webpage. Also, Hadlow College are still running their monthly evening seminars on our behalf so please try to get to as many of these as possible. Thanks very much to John Millen for hosting these free evenings for us again.

Many thanks to those companies that have chosen to sponsor us again. Your support is much appreciated and we wish your businesses well for the coming year.

Don't forget to call me if you need any help with your courses. Details on webpage.

Best of British

Rob Holland [www.kent-greenkeepers.com](http://www.kent-greenkeepers.com)



## Sussex

The Turkey Trot was again played at Worthing Golf Club and a big thank you goes out to George Barr and his crew for presenting a delightful course and also to the catering staff for their hospitality and a great meal. Many thanks to Dave Bush, and Ernest Doe, for the BBQ and drinks at the half way point. I know it was much appreciated. The competition resulted in a grand win in first place for Dave Allen, Simon Wells, Richard Evans and Tony Muzzal.

The Mitchells Grounds Care Sussex Bowl was won by Mike Gould and Richard, from Copthorne Golf Club, defeating George Barr and Gary Ogilvie. Well done to Mike and Richard. More support is needed for the competition this year so PLEASE ENTER. I am sure the entire Section would want to join me to once again thank our sponsors because without their help our events would not be as grand as they are. So please show your support for them and our section and support this year's coming events. Our thanks to: Darren and Scott, at Mitchells Grounds Care Machinery; Mark Day from Tacit; Gary Ogilvie, from Avoncrop Amenity; Dave Bush,

from Ernest Doe, and Steve Vogells and John Cole, from John Shaw Machinery.

Congratulations to Richard and Beth Evans, of Pyecombe Golf Club, on the birth of their son on Christmas Day at 3am. Jake weighed in at 6 lbs 8oz and all are doing well.

Conditions were calm and the sea smooth for the Mitchells Groundscare five-hour sea match held at Pevensey Bay. Twenty-seven anglers fished the competition which saw the whiting size limit raised to 30cm to save weighing in too many fish as there is a glut of whiting at this time of year. In 1st place (and now banned from fishing his own competitions) was Darren Mitchell, from Haywards Heath GC. Second place went to Steven Lusted, Third place to Keith Bean and Fourth place to Paul Giles. The biggest fish pool money went to Steven Lusted, which netted him prize money of £155. Darren honourably stepped down as overall winner and Steven Lusted was presented with the winner's trophy. Everyone weighed in at least one fish so a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone that attended. A special thanks goes to Colin Martin, from Lewes GC, as he has fished all the matches, both sea and fresh water with a posse of five with him. The next Mitchells Groundscare Machinery course match will be in late June. Anyone interested should book in once a date is announced as numbers might be limited or a larger lake may have to be found. Contact Darren on 07533-476878.

Cheers for now,  
Eric Green Beauport Park Golf Club  
01424-214600  
07805-024001  
[TheGreens837@aol.com](mailto:TheGreens837@aol.com)

## South West and South Wales Region



### South Wales

I hope everyone is well and

have enjoyed BTME. Please find reports and gossip in next month's edition. A warm but wet welcome to Mark Tucker, who has successfully headed north up from Saunton Sands, North Devon, as the new Head Greenkeeper of Neath Golf Club. We would like to wish him all the best in his new role.

I wrote in last month's magazine about the winter golf tournament being played unfortunately due to gale force winds and some extreme hails stone the event has been postponed until January 17 we are all hoping for better weather then! All results are to follow.

That's all from me this month please any news, gossip or any dramas please without hesitation contact myself at anytime.

Peter Holmstrom



### South West

During December, the South West had its Christmas competition. This year we visited Burnham & Berrow GC and what an amazing day it was! Unfortunately the weather was awful, I couldn't say one nice thing about the weather, we arrived at Burnham for our pre round bacon roll and coffee and at that time, the rain was coming in sideways! I remember seeing about 30 greenkeepers standing looking out the clubhouse window, many of them thinking exactly the same as me! By the time it was our turn to go out, I must say the weather did improve slightly, and many of us had an enjoyable round of golf. With this said, the condition of the golf course was brilliant, many of you will know Burnham and will already understand this. We had just played a golf course in December, in awful conditions but I still left the 18th green thinking "Wow, that was an enjoyable to walk."

Many of you will know how popular the South West Christmas Golf Day is, this year was no exception... with over 45 playing golf 15 more for the course walk and sitting down with 70 guests for the meal, this really was a fantastic day! Many

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Tom

Wood

**Age:** 23

**Club:**

Outlane GC,  
Huddersfield

**Position:**

Assistant

Greenkeeper

**Nickname:**

TomTom,

Tomoose



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

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**  
Preparing sportsturf and being outdoors.

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

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**  
Course improvement projects and hand mowing.

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

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**  
Club managers and Course managers steering clubs forward would lead to improvements in all areas.

**7. Hobbies?**  
Cricket, Football, Golf, Photography, Gigs and Dog walking

**8. Favourite Band?**  
Right now. The Black Keys

**9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**  
Yorkshire Cricket Club

**10. What is your claim to fame?**  
None. Yet.

**Are you an Assistant?**

Please email [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) for a list of Qs...

# Around The Green

thanks for Burnham & Berrow GC and special thanks to Richard and his team. The results of the day were – 3. Ollie Bruce 29 pts; 2. Chris Butcher 30 pts; 1. Chris Trott 35 pts.

Eco-sol, very kindly presented two prizes to the South West, Remedy Oak was successful first time round winning a free drill & fill operation to one of their greens. Chipping Sodbury had the joy of the second prize winning a free sand banding to one of their greens. I'm sure you'll all agree when I say two fantastic prizes! Further to that, as a Section we also raised £430 on our famous raffle, this money is to be split between two charities, Dorothy House Charity and Burnham & Berrow Captain's Charity.

Very shortly, the 2012 fixtures will be with you, looking back on last year, each event had such a great turn out, please do your very best to support at least one Section event during 2012, your support is the driving factor behind the whole section.

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 have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips.

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

07732503855



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all and Happy New Year!

Our Christmas meeting this year was held at Ashbury Golf Club, near Okehampton, Devon. A total of 70 attendees enjoyed either golf or a course walk. The golf was a Greensomes format playing for the "Ransomes Jacobsen Cup" and the "Irritex Winter Challenge Cup". In what were very testing conditions, 1st place went to Andrew Prouse and David Daw from Porthpean. It was testament to Steve Harris and the greenkeeping team that the golf was played at all, after heavy rainfall.

The Course Walk was led by Steve Harris, Course Manager; Pete Gross, Deputy Course Manager, and Stewart Partridge,

Head Greenkeeper, Kigbears Course. Steve started the walk with a tour of the facilities including all the various departments he is in charge of. Ashbury have 400 Electric Golf Buggies with a two storey indoor parking and charging facility. 90 of these are now fitted with full winter cabs to accommodate year round golf. These cabs have been designed and built in-house and they plan to convert another 60. These buggies are required to facilitate the volume of golf experienced at Ashbury, which can be close to 1000 potential golfers per day. Ashbury boasts 148 holes in total, including 3 x full 18 hole, 1 x 27 hole (these holes are rotated to provide 3 different 18 hole layouts) and there is a 18 hole par 3 course too. Steve is in charge of 29 staff including five full-time mechanics.

Thanks to our sponsors for the day MST and Irritex Ltd. A special thanks to MST for providing a halfway house to be enjoyed by the golfers and the course walkers. Refreshments including Pasties, coffee or something stronger if required.

After the golf and course walk, a 3 course Christmas lunch was served followed by our annual Christmas raffle and the presentation of the prizes. Congratulations to Mike Ellis from Lakeview GC for winning a trip to Harrogate with travel and accommodation met by the Section. On this note, congratulations to Paul Gerdes, Staddon Heights, and Neil Ivamy, Trevose, for securing their places to Harrogate nominated through Duchy College and funded by the College and the Section. Also, congratulations to Greg O'Reilly, St Mellion, for being selected by the Section for a place to Harrogate with the cost met by the Regional Board. It is great that these four members can attend Harrogate and I hope that they have enjoyed their experience.

After the presentations, the members made use of the many other facilities and activities available, including Ten-pin bowling, Indoor bowls and Snooker. There was "friendly" competition between the Devon and Cornwall members playing for a Cup kindly donated by Ashbury GC. A huge thanks to Steve and Pete for organising the day including the activities, it was a fantastic day enjoyed by all the members.

Our next Meeting is at Bigbury

GC, on Wednesday, February 8. The day will be the normal format of either golf or a course walk followed by lunch and an Educational presentation. The day will be sponsored by Mason-Kings and Reel Grinding SW. The Presentation will be delivered by Sibelco. Please contact me asap to secure a place.

Congratulations to Mark Tucker who has secured his first role as Course Manager at Neath GC, in Wales, moving from Saunton GC. Mark has always been a very strong supporter of BIGGA and the Section wishes Mark every success in his new role. Also the Section welcomes Jonathan Wood as the new Course Manager at Trevoise G&CC. Jon has previously worked as First Assistant Greenkeeper at Portmarnock Links Golf Club before spending the past five years as Deputy Course Manager at The Old Course, St. Andrew's – where he was also involved in the course preparation for The Open Championship in 2010. Again, the Section wishes Jon every success in his new role.

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

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

George Morrison, Student, West Section  
Alistair Morrison, Student, West Section  
Sam Allan, Greenkeeper, Central Section  
Gerard Nicoletti, Student, West Section  
Jamie King, Student, Central Section

### Midland Region

Joe Frigot, Greenkeeper, Mid Anglia Section  
Aaron Saunders, Greenkeeper, Midland Section  
Chris Newman, Greenkeeper, Midland Section  
Jack Foulds, Assistant Greenkeeper, Midland Section

### South East Region

Robert Brewer, Affiliate Member, Surrey Section  
Darren Mintern, Mechanic, Surrey Section  
Darren Cuddihy, Greenkeeper, Kent Section  
Kevin Woolgar, Greenkeeper, Sussex Section

### South West/South Wales Region

Richard Morris, Greenkeeper, South West Section

### Overseas

Michael Turner, USA  
Nick Launer, Australia  
Sean Duffy, USA

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

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

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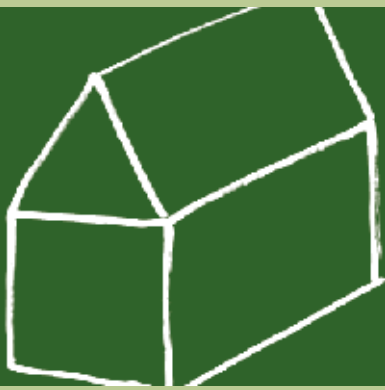
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**WT & RJ JONES**

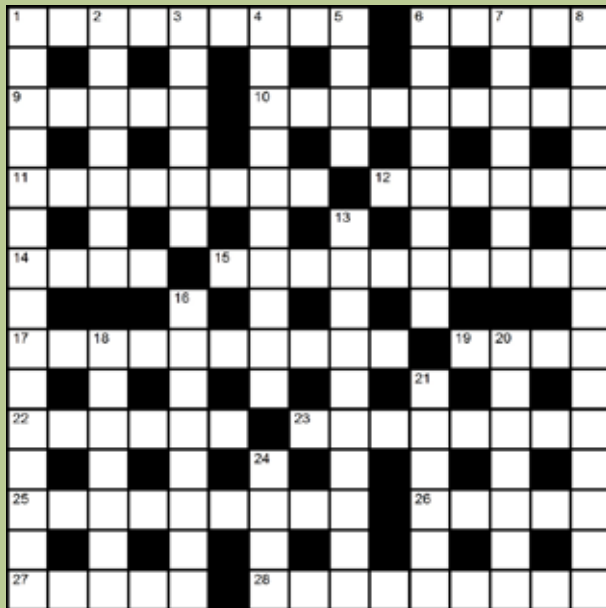




# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Supporting politically conservative principles (5-4)
- 6 Water discharge from eyes or nose (5)
- 9 Unit of weight used to measure gems or, especially, gold (5)
- 10 Be more than (9)
- 11 The X Factor runner up in 2009 and co-presenter, from 2011, of The Xtra Factor (4,4)
- 12 British drama series starring Sean Bean in the title role (6)
- 14 Pleased (4)
- 15 Children's TV show which launched the careers of Ant & Dec (5,5)
- 17 In advance (10)
- 19 US sitcom in which Danny DeVito played Louis De Palma (4)
- 22 In a different country (6)
- 23 Familiarise (8)
- 25 Korean form of martial art (3,4,2)
- 26 Official language of Finland, also the name of the country itself (5)
- 27 Showily opulent (5)
- 28 Scots' term, usually

derogatory, for an English person (9)

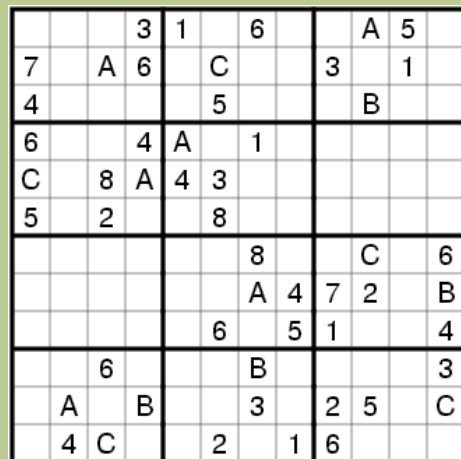
### DOWN

- 1 Racehorse whose ownership was the basis of dispute between Sir Alex Ferguson and Susan Magnier (4,2,9)
- 2 The largest of the anthropoids (7)
- 3 Japanese domestic floor covering (6)
- 4 Gershwin song from the musical Girl Crazy (1,3,6)
- 5 Through which air passengers embark or disembark (4)
- 6 Coarse plant food low in nutrients (8)
- 7 Trade stoppage (7)
- 8 US actress born Maria Magdalene von Losch (7,8)
- 13 Malevolently destructive (10)
- 16 Manhattan street famed for its theatres (8)
- 18 That which is surrendered as a penalty (7)
- 20 US state which contains the Grand Canyon (7)
- 21 Go after (6)
- 24 Burden, responsibility (4)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

**To commemorate BIGGA's 25th Birthday the theme for this month's Quiz is 25.**

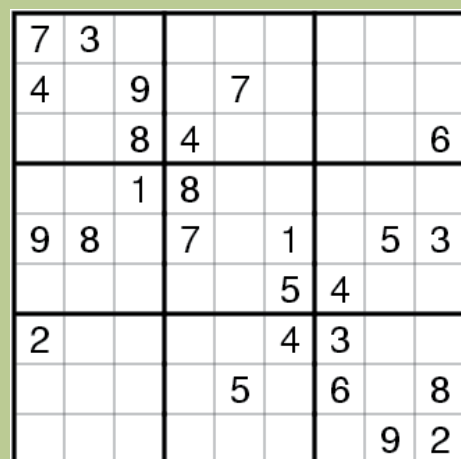
1. Which Yorkshire football team won the 1925 FA Cup?
2. Which Russian tennis player will be 25 later this year?
3. Who has currently spent 25 years as manager of the same English Premiership side?
4. Which England striker scored more than 25 league goals in four consecutive season from 1993-94?
5. Dunblane's favourite son was born in 1987. Can you name him?
6. The 25 yard line in Rugby Union changed with the advent of the metre. What is it now called?
7. Who won the Open Championship 25 years ago?
8. Which legendary Liverpool midfielder of the 70s and 80s finished with 25 caps and three goals?
9. Where were the 25th Summer Olympics held?



Monster Daily SuDoku: Mon 13-Feb-2012 hard

## 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.



Daily SuDoku: Mon 13-Feb-2012 medium

## 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 81**



# Membership

**Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update**

Last week BIGGA experienced a record number of visitors to BTME and Continue to Learn 2012 where almost 8,500 people visited Harrogate International Centre to take advantage of a packed week of learning, networking and the opportunity to wander around four halls packed with leading suppliers of products and services all to do with the fine turf industry.

BTME 2012 also saw the introduction of the new 'Showfloor Theatre' which meant that all visitors could watch the presentation of various Awards – including the Edwin Budding Award, STRI Environment Awards, BIGGA CPD Diplomas and Master Greenkeeper Awards and the BIGGA Photographic Competition – and take part in a range of interesting seminars while passing by the BIGGA Stand.

The whole week had something for every greenkeeper whether an Assistant Greenkeeper, an aspiring Head Greenkeeper or a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. If you didn't attend and are thinking of attending in 2013, why not go along to a Section event this year and talk to other members about the show and education conference, it is well worth a visit. Also, many Regions and Sections organise trips to Harrogate Week, keep an eye out for notices later this year.



## Membership Benefits

We saw the launch of the 'new' BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, which saw a lot of interest on the BIGGA Stand.

BIGGA and the GCMA have spent the last year updating and simplifying the SMS and is accessible through the members area of BIGGA's website or the library area of GCMA's website.

Key elements of the SMS are:

1. Policy
2. Organising
3. Planning and implementing
4. Measuring performance
5. Reviewing performance
6. Auditing occurs at each stage

A new area has been added for Fire Safety. It is a legal requirement in the UK for employers to provide a safe and healthy working environment and BIGGA/GCMA have provided the tools required to help golf clubs to establish their own SMS.

## Field Guides

Thanks to the support and contributions of our Gold and Silver Key Supporters we have been able to produce additional pages for the Trees and Shrubs field guide and the Grasses found in Golf Course Rough field guide. To receive the updates please contact HQ.



facebook

## Social Networking

Many BIGGA Sections now have a Facebook Group as do BIGGA itself, we now have over 400 members, search for the GROUP British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA) and ask to join.



## Contact Details

**Tracey Maddison**  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

**Elaine Jones**  
elaine@bigga.co.uk

**Tel: 01347 833800**  
(option 1 for Membership)

## Regional Offices

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

**Peter Boyd**  
Tel: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

### Northern & Midland

**Peter Larter**  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
petelarter972@aol.com

### South East

**Clive Osgood**  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

### South West & Wales

**Jane Jones**  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
jane@bigga.co.uk



Peter Boyd



Peter Larter



Clive Osgood



Jane Jones

## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

**Personal Accident Helpline**  
02075 603013  
**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
0800 177 7891  
**Greenkeepers Support Services**  
0800 174 319  
**Debt Counselling Helpline**  
0800 174319







# Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>			
February 15th	Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Turf Renovation	Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus	John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
February 21st	Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil Seminar	Reaseheath College, Nantwich, Cheshire	Polly on Tel: 01428 685762
February 22nd	Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Environment & Sustainability	Hadlow College	John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
February 29th	Devon & Cornwall Section	St Mellion Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
February 29th	Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Outing (All Day Visit)	Hadlow College	John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
<b>MARCH 2012</b>			
March 6th	Scottish Regional Conference	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd Tel: 0141 616 3440 or by email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com
March 9th	South East Regional Annual Golf & Dinner Day	Walton Heath Golf Club	Clive Osgood Tel: 01737 819343/07841 948410 or email: cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
March 29th	Midland Regional Conference	Frilford Heath Golf Club	Peter Larter Tel: 01476 550115 or email: petelarter972@aol.com
<b>APRIL 2012</b>			
April 18th	North East Section Event	South Shields Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson Tel: 0191 413 5232 or email: jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com
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



## BIGGA Midland Regional Conference

Construction and Weather  
*It's Ecologically Sound*

At Frilford Heath  
Golf Club  
29th March 2012

### Programme

0815 - 0900: Registration (Tea And Coffee)  
0900 - 0910: Welcome & Introduction  
- Allan Walker, Midland Region Chairman  
0910 - 0930: BIGGA - Jim Croxton, CEO  
BIGGA  
0930 -1015: Disease Management &  
Climatic Changes - Mark Hunt, Technical  
Director, Headland Amenity

1015 - 1115: Bunker Reconstruction At The  
Richmond Golf Club - Les Howkins (MG),  
Course Manager Richmond Golf Club  
1115 – 1130: Coffee  
1130 – 1230: The Wild Side Of Golf &  
Environmental Good Practice  
Dr Keith Duff, Golf Environment Consultant  
1230 – 1330: Lunch

1330 – 1430: Course Walk - Dr Keith Duff  
1430 – 1530: Queenwood Greens Project  
2011 - Cameron Mcmillan, Course Manager  
Queenwood Golf Club  
1530: Wash-Up And Questions

Cost: £25.00 members,  
£30 non-members



# BUYERS' GUIDE



## GROUNDSMAN INDUSTRIES

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### Turf Cutting

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Contact: Billy Warke, Director, Tel: +44 (0)28 2766 7049  
bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com  
www.groundsmanindustries.com

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- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION
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- MACHINERY FOR SALE
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- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
- USED MACHINERY
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

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Photo courtesy of Ridding Park  
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## EXHIBITION

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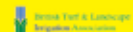
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## Carnoustie Golf Links Links Superintendent



**A unique opportunity has become available at Carnoustie Golf Links. We are seeking an outstanding Links Superintendent to replace our current superintendent John Philp who is retiring at the end of June.**

The successful candidate should be highly motivated and widely experienced displaying a genuine commitment to excellence and will be responsible for all aspects of course management and development for the 3 courses comprising Carnoustie Golf Links. Applicants for the position should possess qualification to S.V.Q.

Level 4 Management or equivalent along with the following attributes:

- Relevant agronomic experience with an ability to develop effective course management strategies, which will ensure that the Carnoustie Golf Courses continue to be of the highest standard.
- Proven leadership and man management skills that foster staff development.
- Good communication and team building skills.
- Computer literacy and ability to formulate and manage budgets.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper position, preferably with international tournament experience.
- Possess a full knowledge and ability to implement Health & Safety Legislation.

The remuneration package offered will be commensurate with the importance of the post.

If you feel that you are suitably qualified for this post then please forward your application in writing along with your CV to the General Manager at the address below, a full job description is available on request.

**Carnoustie Golf Links  
20 Links Parade  
Carnoustie  
Angus  
DD7 7JF**

**01241 802270  
golf@carnoustiegolf-links.co.uk**

*Closing Date for applications is 16/03/2012*



## Regional Sales Manager

**We have a vacancy for a UK Regional Sales Manager to join our expanding sales team, based at our European headquarters in Ipswich. With new products launches coming on stream throughout 2012, this is an exciting time to be joining the Ransomes Jacobsen organisation.**

As a Regional Sales Manager you will be required to implement our sales strategy across your territory, analyse market potential and consistently achieve your sales targets. New Business development will be a major function of this position with a focus on increasing market share within your region.

The successful candidates will have excellent interpersonal and written and spoken communication skills. The working week is 37 hours and in this role some overnights stays away from home will be required. Prior field sales or sales management in the turf care industry is a requirement.

This position requires a highly motivated, enthusiastic and energetic person who would like to join a progressive industry leader. We offer regular performance appraisals, a pleasant working environment and salary and additional benefits that you would expect from a company such as ours.

If you meet these criteria and are seriously interested in this position, please send your CV to:

**Carol Mellelieu, Human Resources Director  
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd  
West Road  
Ransomes Europark  
Ipswich IP3 9TT**

**To arrive no later than Wednesday 29 February 2012**  
(No agencies)

# Recruitment



## DUBAI opportunity for TORO machinery trained Superintendent

The TORO Machinery Distributor in Dubai requires a Superintendent to assist with sales of machinery.

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Please send your CV and covering letter to:  
office@hydroturfinternational.com

## Llanishen Golf Club

### Head Greenkeeper

Llanishen Golf Club, Heol Hir, Cardiff CF14 9UD

Llanishen is a traditional private members' Golf Club founded in 1905. The Club is an 18 hole parkland course set in 75 acres, with wonderful views over the Bristol Channel, and has undergone extensive irrigation and drainage works from 2006 to 2009, with bent and fescue now a dominant grass sward on most golf greens. For further information please see website: [www.llanishengolfclub.com](http://www.llanishengolfclub.com)

Applications are invited from an experienced and motivated Greenkeeper with the following skills, knowledge and attributes:

- A positive and can do attitude, where customer focus drives thinking and improvement.
- This is a 'hands-on' position but the successful applicant shall also demonstrate proven leadership, man-management and communication skills with the ability to motivate a team of 4 experienced full-time greenstaff.
- Recognised industry qualifications, knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance, relevant spraying experience: PA1, PA2 and PA6 certification preferred.
- Capability of producing and controlling an annual greens budget.
- Experience in the construction of tees, greens and bunkers.
- Enthusiasm to become part of the planning process and then to oversee renovation programmes.
- Computer literate with the ability to provide written reports to the Club Committee.
- The successful applicant would be joining a golf club committed to excellence. A competitive remuneration package is available to the successful applicant, although no accommodation is provided.

Applications are by Curriculum Vitae with a covering letter, which should include salary and benefits expectation, ideally by email to: [manager@llanishengolfclub.com](mailto:manager@llanishengolfclub.com) or by post to;

Mr Colin Duffield, Secretary/Manager, Llanishen Golf Club  
Heol Hir, Cardiff, CF14 9UD

Applications close on Wednesday 29th February, 2012



## Greenkeepers x 2

The Centurion Club is situated in Hertfordshire, set to open in 2013. We are looking to add two qualified green keepers to our existing team.

The successful candidates will be highly motivated with very high standards of work, an eye for detail and passionate about their chosen career. They will also be flexible and able to work on their own or as part of a young enthusiastic team.

The candidates should be qualified to a minimum NVQ level 2, and also hold PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates. General knowledge of modern irrigation systems, machinery competence and experience of creeping bent greens would be an advantage.

Salary is dependant on qualifications and experience.

To apply send your CV, with covering letter via email to [agarland@centurionclub.co.uk](mailto:agarland@centurionclub.co.uk)  
Or by post to: Course Manager, The Centurion club Hemel Hempstead Road  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 8LA



## ACCOUNT MANAGER

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Henton and Chattell, the UK's leading garden and professional machinery distributor based in Nottingham are recruiting for an additional Account Manager to join our turf sales team.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in ground care machinery sales. A good technical knowledge and experience demonstrating turf machinery would be a distinct advantage. First and foremost you must be self motivated, able to organise yourself in an efficient, professional manner and communicate appropriately at all levels of the business. Computer skills, a clean driving licence and a helpful professional approach are essential.

**For the suitable candidate we offer:** - An established sales area - Competitive salary - Pension contribution - Private medical insurance - Company vehicle

Contact Peter Chaloner in the strictest confidence, with your CV and covering letter including details of your current salary to: Henton and Chattell Ltd, London Road, Nottingham NG2 3HW or email: [pjc@hentonandchattell.co.uk](mailto:pjc@hentonandchattell.co.uk)

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Training is provided but you must already be highly motivated, a good organiser, practical and bright.

If you wish to apply for this exciting sales position then please email your CV to:

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

Jason Scott - [jason@listerwilder.co.uk](mailto:jason@listerwilder.co.uk)

Or post to: South End Farm, Long Reach, Ockham, Surrey, GU23 6PF



TORO





## FOREST OF GALTRES GOLF CLUB Moorlands Road, Skelton

We require an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER who is enthusiastic, reliable, hardworking and able to use their own initiative to join our team.

The applicant must be qualified to NVQ Level 2 . Spraying Certificates PA1/ 6 an advantage but not essential.

**Applications in writing to:**  
**Forest of Galtres Golf Club, Skelton**  
**Lane, Wigginton, York, YO32 2RF**

Apply in writing or e-mail  
**secretary@forestofgaltres.co.uk**  
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## THE SHIRE LONDON

### Greenkeepers x 2

*The Shire, London* is the only course in the UK designed by Seve Ballesteros, situated on the

A1081 2minutes from Junc 23 M25 South Mimms.

We are looking to add 2 qualified green keepers to our existing team

The candidates should be qualified to a minimum of NVQ level 2 .Either

Mechanical Skills,PA1,PA2 and PA6 Spraying Certificate or Modern Irrigation

experience would be an advantage

Salary is dependent upon qualifications and experience

Please send your CV and Covering Letter by email to

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## GOLF COURSE MANAGER

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Applicants must have the ability to demonstrate a passion for Golf Course Management alongside meticulous attention to detail and excellent communication skills.

A proven track record of high standard course presentation – day to day running of a course and effective staff management are all essential attributes of the successful applicant.

Application is by Curriculum Vitae and covering letter to Gary Debenham, Group Golf Course Manager via [gary@pentlandgolf.co.uk](mailto:gary@pentlandgolf.co.uk)

For further details, please visit [www.harleyfordgolf.co.uk](http://www.harleyfordgolf.co.uk)



## in the shed answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Sheffield United
2. Maria Sharapova
3. Sir Alex Ferguson
4. Alan Shearer
5. Andy Murray
6. The 22
7. Nick Faldo, at Muirfield
8. Terry McDermott
9. Barcelona

### CROSSWORD

R	I	G	H	T	W	I	N	G		R	H	E	U	M
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R	I	T	Z	Y		S	A	S	S	E	N	A	C	H

### MONSTER SUDOKU

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

Monster Daily SuDoku: Mon 13-Feb-2012

hard

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

Daily SuDoku: Mon 13-Feb-2012

medium



# On the Soapbox

Sam Lennox, of Horsley Lodge GC, looks into his crystal ball and uncovers some interesting developments

## A look at the future of Greenkeeping...

### 2014. The Self Maintaining Bunker.

Looking like a huge silver dish filled with sand and available in every conceivable shape the self-contained bunkers are lowered into place and sculpted around so they seamlessly blend in with their surroundings. A few of the key features include; automatic raking through a set of traversing metal prongs that rise up through the sand, unsurpassable water dispersion through superheating, compaction by vibration offering superior play and 'no more wash downs' with its patented Magna-Sand. It becomes the 'must have' for golf courses worldwide.

### 2020 Summit Sward.

A dominant grass that self-regulates its growing height from nine millimetres upwards and can be adjusted using sound frequency. With its 'No More Mowing' tagline. Summit now accounts for 99% of all Sports Turf and 100% of all Tees, Fairway and Outfields globally.

### 2030 The use of Light instead of Metal for mowing.

Inexpensive, robust and able to outperform cylinder mowing in every trial - the laser age comes to Greenkeeping. The greens mower retrofit photon cutting units become the industry standard.

### 2037 Tranquillity Lodge Opens.

The first lunar golf course opens to complement the new settlements. This development causes BIGGA to add 'Galactic' to its title and the BIGGGA magazine Issue 1 announces the first Greenkeeping vacancy.

### 2044 The GML Takeover.

With its popularity soaring, and a 10 million strong membership, the Golf Members League buys up the struggling International Golf Federation and, by hostile takeover, disbands the Intercontinental Golf Union. It rebrands itself as The Golf Authority Institution of Fairness.

### 2065 I Mow Robotics.

The mouse sized Greens Mowers are released at a price of £4.40 per unit and are the first fully automated mowers that are IQ200 powered. The little machines work in packs of 90 and can identify report and discuss any problems that affect optimum

play and advise the Greenkeeper of potential solutions. They use an innovative Swarm Mowing technique based on Chaos Theory that out-performs quadruple cutting by 907%.

### 2079 Electronic Education.

From March new Trainee Greenkeepers have to be skilled in both microelectronics and ACI Level Computer Programming to achieve Sports Turf NVQ-S level 2. This perpetuates a recent slump in new apprentices and concerns traditionalist's about the professions future.

### 2091 The Big Rename.

With Greenkeeping becoming office based and increasingly reliant on computers Greenkeepers are galactically rebranded as 'Golf Course Game Admins'. New trainee levels rise dramatically.

### 2102 Solid-O-Gram Forests.

The Solid Hologram technology is finally cleared for use on Golf Course obstructions and replaces every tree, wall and hedge with maintenance-free responsive replicas. The catchy slogans include:

A Resolution That's Better Than Real Life and Unobtainable Perfection?

### 2110 The GAIF Ban.

After a particularly bad round involving a noisy Greenkeeper chainsawing, the head of the Golf Authority Institution of Fairness declares new legislation Banning Game Admins from working on the Golf Course at any time for the benefit of Golfers. It is approved by all of the members and is set to begin in two years.

### 2110 The Alliance.

To establish all the products necessary to control a Golf Course fully remotely, the major Sports Turf companies form an alliance and create a central computer system called SPHERE.

It handles all the updates and key decision making for all the Alliance machines and creates an industry standard in digital communication. Many fear that the product has been rushed to market but the claims are refuted by GAIF.

### 2112 The Ban Begins.

All Greenkeepers are given a brand new job description which reads: To maintain the Golf Course to the highest standard by watching over the machines that watch over the machines.

### 2112 The Sphere Crisis.

Loss of data, rolling blackouts and incomprehensible glitches plague the SPHERE servers and the whole golf industry grinds to a freighting halt with I-Mows rendered useless in the middle of greens, Summit fairways growing over a meter high, Solid-O Gram trees in the shape of elephants, self-raking bunkers actively attacking golfers and GNOME 2 swallowing up huge areas of land. After four days SPHERE is turned off.

### 2112 Four Days Later.

Mr P Smith (81), Head Greenkeeper of Sudden Valley GC is seen on the 7th raking a bunker by hand. It spawns a new revolution in Greenkeeping.

**After reading this my only advice is to give your apprentices a heads up on soldering, don't do anything hasty with your hand tools and look forward to no more bunker raking for 90+ years.**

## Don't let progress devalue traditional greenkeeping



Sam Lennox

Sam Lennox is Deputy Head Greenkeeper and IT Systems Administrator at Horsley Lodge Golf Club Derbyshire

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International



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