

Remember, Remember the Moustaches of Movember

The results of the moustache growing activity of staff at two clubs during Movember can be now assessed.

Staff at the Buchanan Castle Golf Club, near Glasgow, and the Roehampton Club, in London, put away the razors for the month and attempted to cultivate their best moustaches.

The Movember charity, which raises money for testicular cancer, is gaining in popularity hence the number of rugby players, growing moustaches, of varying qualities, through the month of November.

"I got the idea last year when I picked my daughter up from the child minder and her husband had a big Mexican moustache. He explained that he was growing it for charity and I thought that this would be a good idea for our greens staff to get involved with as we have quite a large membership who are potential sponsors," said Mark Cummine, First Assistant at Buchanan Castle.

"When I put the idea to the rest of the guys they were all up for it and were counting down to the following November! We also thought we could have a play on words and call it MOWvember!" said Mark, who added that, thanks to the Buchanan Castle members, they raised over £700.

A few hundred miles south, staff - including one lifeguard - at the Roehampton Club were also working away on their facial hair and they too raised a considerable sum for the charity.



ABOVE: Buchanan Castle GC after and INSET LEFT before Movember



ABOVE: the Roehampton Club

JOHN DEERE LEAVES THE IRRIGATION MARKET

John Deere has announced that the company is withdrawing from the turf irrigation business, which has been developed over the past six years in partnership with US manufacturer Signature Control Systems Inc (SCS).

SCS will sell existing and new irrigation products through its own distribution network, which may include selected John Deere dealers worldwide.

Under the terms of the agreement, irrigation products will no longer be a part of the John Deere range, but the company will continue to support all customers who have installed its irrigation systems and parts.

This strategic realignment will enable both John Deere and SCS to focus on their core equipment competencies in the worldwide golf and turf markets.

"John Deere's existing irrigation customers will continue to receive our support," said Gregg Breningmeyer, John Deere's Global Golf Segment Manager.

"In addition, our European Parts Distribution Center in Bruchsal, Germany, will continue to stock and provide replacement parts across the region for the foreseeable future."



Lifetime Achievement Award for Richard Campey

Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems of Macclesfield, has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the IOG Industry Awards at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton.

Richard has spent the past 25 years promoting a strategy of best practice in sports ground renovation and maintenance, which has not only enabled him to build a successful company but importantly also help ensure that young people especially have the best possible playing surfaces at their disposal.

In addition, Richard's 'natural instinct' for the turf care business has also earned him a reputation as someone who sets industry standards – he was, for example, the person who introduced, in 1997, the Koro machine to this country.

The impact this has had on the way sports pitches are managed today is profound – and koroing is now a recognised generic term in the industry.

The Award was presented, in Richard's absence, to Campey Turf Care Systems Sales Director, Simon Gumbrell, by Richard Walton from category sponsor Everris

and Richard responded via a video and skype link.

"I am surprised and delighted to receive this award and would like to thank the IOG and all those who voted for me." said Richard

"I have been in this industry for 35 years, 25 running my own business.

"I learned a lot in those early days but I owe thanks to two people in particular, both Head groundsmen at the time; Archie McTaggart, of

University of London Motspur Park and Bert Flack from Old Trafford.

"I have never forgotten how they taught me the importance of instilling your knowledge in the next generation.

"Educating the young in the methods of 'best practice' is as important today as it was back then, and this is integral to the way we operate at Campey Turf Care.

Thanks again to everyone for their recognition."



James Snow Retires

James T. Snow, National Director of the USGA Green Section since 1990, has announced his retirement effective at the end of this year.

Jim began his career with the USGA Green Section in 1976. He served as an agronomist in the Northeast Region from 1977 to 1982, and then as director of the Northeast Region from 1982 to 1990.

In 1990 he assumed his current role as national director. During his tenure, his numerous responsibilities included overseeing the Turf Advisory Service and a staff of 18 agronomists, the Construction Education Program, the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program, and the Green Section Education Program. A prolific writer, he also guided the Green Section Record magazine as its Editor.

One of Jim's strengths is fostering partnerships. In 1991, he vigorously supported the creation of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Under his direction, the USGA contributed more than \$1.5 million since the program's creation to assist its growth in becoming an award-winning education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment and the natural heritage of the game of golf.

He also secured a \$1 million grant from the USGA to help fund and support the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University, the largest turfgrass database in the world. He has been a longtime advocate of turfgrass research issues concerning golf turf. Thanks to Jim's leadership, since 1983 the USGA has provided more than \$31 million to fund turf and environmental research across the country, effectively impacting golf courses around the world.

SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2012 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 6.

Speakers include Grant Moir, Director-Rules of Golf, The R&A; Robert Smith, Souters Irrigation Services Ltd/Graeme Francis, Revaho UK, and Les Howkins MG, Course Manager, Richmond Golf Club.

Other speakers include Robert Patterson, Course Manager, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, David Vrooman, The Anderson's, Turf &

Speciality Group, and John Philp, MBE, Course Superintendent, Carnoustie Links.

Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J.Boyd, Regional Administrator.

Tel 0141 616 3440
or pj.boyd@btinternet.com.

Myerscough College Technical Seminars 2012

Next year's Myerscough's seminars start with a comprehensive programme of technical seminars aimed at professional greenkeepers and groundsmen.

With topics covering irrigation, root zone technology and soil science; there is plenty of opportunity for professional development and stretching your sports turf knowledge in 2012.

In January and February the regional seminars will cover the North East, South Yorkshire and the Midlands, and with guest speakers from RainBird, Irritech and Symbio there is certain to be excellent presentations on the latest research, technologies and biotechnologies from the sports turf industry.

These are opportunities for career development, in terms of networking with peers from across the world and accruing BIGGA CPD points, as all these seminars are a GTC Quality Assured.

For Myerscough College enrolled students all these events are free to attend. Non-students can attend for a fee of £15.00. If you are interested in attending any of the Technical Seminars please book online at www.tinyurl.com/myform2011

A list of all events can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/myercal

Golf and Dinner Day for South East Region

The South East Region's Annual Golf and Dinner Day, at Walton Heath Golf Club, is being held on Friday March 9. It is one of greenkeeping's longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Phone 01737 819343 mob 07841 948410

LONDON SECTION SEMINAR DATE SET

The London Section Seminar will be held on February 14, at Oaklands College.

The programme includes Chris Wood, English Cricket Board's Pitches Consultant; Charles Henderson, of the STRI; Gareth Roberts, Course Manager of Hankley Common GC, and Cameron McMillan, Course and Estates Manager at Queenwood GC.

Cost: £12 in advance (including VAT). Cost includes lunch & refreshments. Places are limited to 140.

Please make cheques payable to Oaklands College and send to Andrew Wight, Oaklands College Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL4 0JA.

For further information contact andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk or call 01727 737735



ALBATROSS FOR ANDY

Northern Section Secretary, Andy Slingsby, looked to be just out of the running at a Stableford Competition at Baildon Golf Club when he came to the par-5 18th.

Two shots later and he'd pipped the clubhouse leader on countback with 41pts.

"I hit a great drive and had 230 yards to the hole. I then hit a 3-wood which pitched 10 feet from the hole and went in," said the 13 handicapper.

"It was an albatross 2 and with the shot I had on the hole it was a six pointer!" said Andy.

It is the second albatross scored by a BIGGA member this year with one made by Gary Burgess during the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at West Lancs GC in October.



Retirement

Arthur Bayfield has retired from Buchanan Castle Golf Club after 48 years at the club.

He started work in September 1963 aged 16 years 8 months and has completed 48 years and four months to date. He was his third apprentice under a new scheme brought in by the SGA.

He worked under Bill Bradford until he died in 1969. When Arthur's father became Head Greenkeeper, he then became his father's First Assistant. When his father became ill, Arthur worked as 'Acting' Head Greenkeeper until his father retired in 1979. Arthur then became Head Greenkeeper.

Son, Stuart, is now a third generation greenkeeper working at Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Despite retiring Arthur will continue to work at the club during the Summer months part-time to look after the Academy Course and to continue to assist Ronnie Myles and the Team.

Volunteers wanted for BIGGA Support Team

Volunteers are once again required for the BIGGA Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club, May 24-27.

Volunteers are wanted to help Chris Kennedy and his team at The Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated. Bunker raking duties on the last two days.

A great chance to see at close hand the Course preparation for the European Tour flagship event on the West Course at Wentworth.

For more information please contact:

Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

NEW GUIDE AIDS TURFGRASS CULTIVAR CHOICE

The new Turfgrass Seed 2012 guide, published later this month contains all the information needed to help professional users assess the suitability of different cultivars for a range of applications, and to determine which grasses best suit their particular needs.

The guide provides comparative information based on the results of comprehensive trials designed to test suitability in three key areas of application:

- *Winter sports pitches and municipal recreation areas*
- *Lawns, summer sports pitches, tennis courts, turf and general landscaping*
- *Intensive, close-mown surfaces such as golf and bowling greens*

A wide range of characteristics are assessed to test and score the performance of different species and cultivars, ranging from physical attributes such as colour, fineness of leaf and sward density to agronomic factors such as disease resistance,

re-growth rate and recovery from wear.

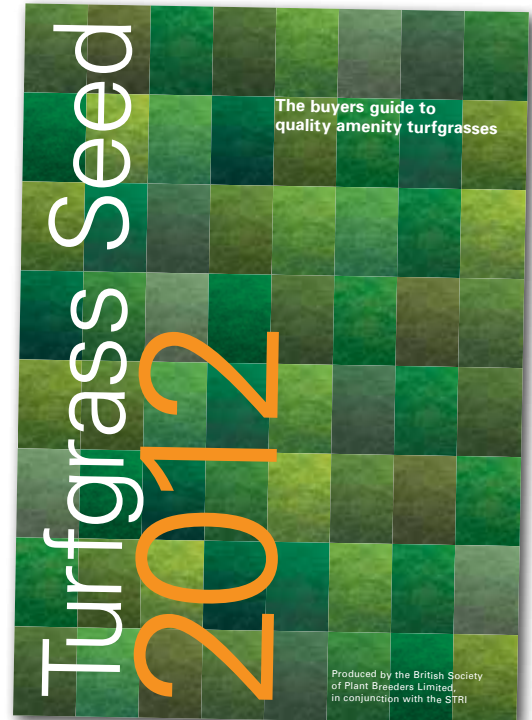
“Breeding new improved grass cultivars is a costly and time-consuming business, taking at least ten years of crossing, selection and pre-commercial trials to reach the market. For professional amenity users, making the most of the investment and innovation by plant breeders requires expert guidance and advice in cultivar selection.

“Turfgrass Seed is the best available source of reliable and impartial data on high quality amenity grasses, based on trials conducted by the UK’s leading independent centre in turfgrass research,” said Robert Jackson BSPB Trials Co-ordinator.

The new guide will be available online from 24th January 2012 at:

www.bspb.co.uk/news.html

Alternatively place your order for a hard copy (priced at £4 per copy) via Robert Jackson at BSPB - robert.jackson@bspb.co.uk or tel. 01353 653202.



BIGGA Director to be Club Captain

Vale of Llangollen Golf Club Course Manager and BIGGA Director, Jeremy Hughes has been elected Vice Captain, and will be the 2013 Club Captain.

“I was honoured to be approached by the Captain’s Committee to become Vice Captain of the golf club firstly from the view that it shows that the club respects me as the Course Manager as an employee and as a member of the golf club,” said Jeremy, who has been a member of the golf club for 31 years.

Jeremy was offered a job on the green staff in April 1987 and progressed to take over as Course Manager in 1995.

“I will be one of the youngest Captains to hold office at the club and it will be interesting wearing both hats on general day to day events and then sitting on the Board as greenkeeper and Captain.

Kawasaki Expands Dealer Network



Kawasaki, is expanding its Power Products dealer network with the appointment of Northallerton-based Brian Robinson Machinery. The company will supply Kawasaki’s full range of Power Products to professional customers located throughout Teesside, Durham and North Yorkshire.

“We are delighted to add the Kawasaki range to our portfolio of grounds care and estate management equipment. The products are renowned for their excellent build quality, legendary reliability and strong warranty back-up, just what our customers have been asking us for,” said Sandy Ellis, General Manager of Brian Robinson Machinery: