

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Inside...

BUNKERS

Improving the experience
at Wimbledon Park GC

Featured Inside

TURF FERTILISER

With Dr Terry Mabbett

Project restoration

Golf
Course
Feature

GI visits Moortown GC in Leeds, to find bunker renovation and course remodelling, in progress

ALSO INSIDE... NEMATODES IN TURF : ROUGH MOWING : SMS



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Return to splendour

The number of golf clubs which boast a rich heritage is greater in the UK than in any other country in the world. To have clocked up 100 years here joins a club to a well deserved if not particularly exclusive group, while to have 200 years of history makes a club rare but not unique.

It is fantastic to know that you can often be playing the same course as the legends of the game, but it does also cause problems.

Courses can become tired; they can become too short for the modern equipment and they can become rendered almost indistinguishable from the original as a result of tinkering by well meaning club members - ill placed bunkers and non indigenous trees providing the main evidence.

Returning such courses to their previous splendour is not always easy but the best approach, finances permitting, is to buy in the advice and expertise of the professionals.

That is exactly what Moortown Golf Club has done in bringing Ken Brown, Ken Moodie and John Nicholson to restore the classic Dr Alistair MacKenzie course - the first British course to host the Ryder Cup - to its former glory.

The bunker work, which has been designed by the two Ken's and carried out by the Moortown team and a shaper, is wonderful and the two "new holes", the 6th and the 7th, ensure that there isn't a weak link on the course.

But, as you will see in the Moortown profile on page 16, it's not just as simple as unearthing the old bunkers and rebuilding them in a MacKenzie style to take account of modern equipment a best guess as to where MacKenzie would have placed the bunkers if he had been designing for the modern golfer has to be made - although there is some of that.

As Ken Brown says in the article, you have to take account of how far the ball will be travelling in another 30 to 50 years and that is influenced by both technology and regulation - should the R&A be minded to take a stand. The great Mystic Meg, on her best form, would struggle to predict that, but professional expertise certainly gives the greatest chance of coming up with the best results.

I watched the last round of the Honda Classic last night and was delighted on two counts. One, it was great to see how well Rory McIlroy played the back nine - scrambling superbly and, although he was missing greens, never really looking out of control despite the intense pressure. He fully deserved his win, with the added bonus of reaching the top of the World Rankings. He might take some shifting.

Which brings me to my second reason, as the man, most likely to knock Rory off the perch, made a stunning return to form to tie for second two shots behind.

Tiger Woods has been showing glimpses of his old form, but last night with a magnificent eight under 62 in less than perfect conditions, he demonstrated that he was well and truly back.

That Rory held off his charge so well makes his own achievement even more laudable but won't it be great to watch the rivalry over the next few years?

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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COURSE FEATURE

Back to the future

Scott MacCallum visits Moortown Golf Club, which hosted the first Ryder Cup match on this side of the Atlantic, and discovers a restoration project which is returning the course to its best

Six months from now the world of sport will have turned its attention away from the Olympics and will be focused firmly on Medinah Country Club in Chicago, and the Ryder Cup. Golf fans, general sports fans, even non-sports fans, will be kept enthralled as fortunes sway throughout the three days and 28 matches, but among the most interested observers will be the members of Moortown Golf Club which played host to the first Ryder Cup on this side of the Atlantic in 1929.

The tournament which surrounds the most recent playings of the Ryder Cup wasn't quite the same at Moortown in Leeds, West Yorkshire, that May, but getting a sense of the times would have been interestingly impressed that the American team containing such legends as Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, Herman Smith and Jim Duggan was beaten 7-5 to level the series at one all. The British team, containing, among others Henry Cotton, Abe Mitchell, George Duncan and the Whitcombe brothers, came from 2-3-1 down in the 1920s to win the Stages 1-5 to 2-5.

Prior to settling down in front of the TV to watch the latest chapter in the Ryder Cup saga, the Moortown members decide to play a few holes they will do so on a course which has been modified and modernised, yet retained the style created by Lord Dufferin, Alistair MacKenzie, who heard his skills in the UK and Australia before heading to the US and designing Augusta National and Cypress Point.

The Club has worked closely with architect Ken Moodie, a man

who has studied MacKenzie thoroughly - travelling far and wide to experience golf courses first hand and reading everything the great man wrote on the subject of golf course design. He has also worked at other MacKenzie courses including Moortown's near neighbour, Albury, proving that knowledge is good use.

Ken was originally brought in by Moortown in 2004, along with landscape architect, former Ryder Cup player and now BBC television commentator, Ken Brown, and woodland management expert, John Nicholson, with the brief of improving the challenge for the better golfer. Over time that brief has expanded and the current work includes an extensive bunker renovation and the remodeling of

"In war times, I don't think that the course would have changed much since MacKenzie last visited for the Ryder Cup in 1929" Ken Moodie, Architect



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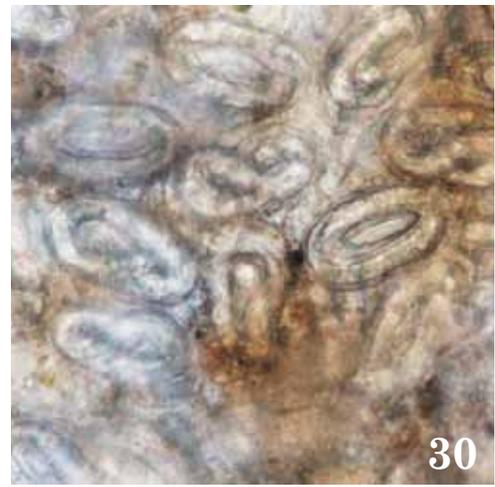
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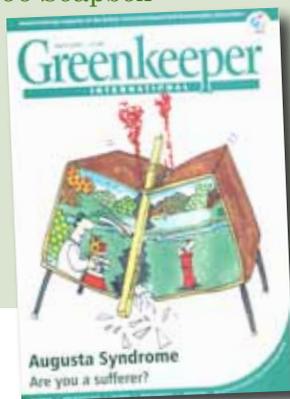
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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

BIGGA Member to Ride in Aid of Prostate Cancer Research

Berkhamstead Golf Club's, Myles Wood, is to undertake the Wiggle Dragon Ride, an arduous 78 mile cycle ride, in Wales in aid of prostate cancer research.

"My goal is to make £500 and I've been building up my training steadily. It currently includes regular weekly rides ranging from 15km - 65km with varying speed and time targets dependant on distance, I am also utilising a roller mechanism so I can continue with training indoors on a day to day basis," said Myles.

"During the coming weeks heading up to the ride I have scheduled a training programme, which will increase in intensity and distances leading up to the event date. I have also entered two other 'sportive' events, which will

offer an ideal opportunity for me to accustom myself to this type of distance riding, having only started riding last year."

Prostate Cancer is the most common form of male cancer. Treatment options and prognosis depend on the stage of the cancer, the patient's age and general health.

With greater public awareness, early detection is on the rise and mortality rates are declining.

Additionally, new advances in medical technology are enabling cancer patients to return to active and productive lives after their treatment.

For more information or to donate to Myles' attempt visit: www.virginmoneygiving.com/MylesWoodWiggleDragonRide2012



FIRST CANDIDATES PASS AMENITY FOUNDATION AWARD

Thirteen delegates from across the UK took and successfully passed the newly introduced BASIS Foundation Award (Amenity Horticulture) Course during BTME.

The three day course and exam were sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, with support from Everris and Syngenta.

The training was held as part of the Continue to Learn education programme that ran alongside the Exhibition.

Dr Ruth Mann from STRI ran the three day

training course covering all areas of product management, including application, weed, disease and pest identification and biology and the need for protecting the environment.

The delegates where: Chris Drewery; Paul Copsey; Alex Hawkes; Craig Earnshaw; Ben Adams; Jim Brown; Angus Macleod; David Lovejoy; Rob Worcester; Angus Fraser; Ian Pullan; Nicola Coupar-Marsh and Andy Baker.

Conference Update

BIGGA MIDLAND REGION CONFERENCE

AT FRILFORD HEATH GOLF CLUB
– 29th MARCH 2012

on *CONSTRUCTION & WEATHER IT'S ECOLOGICALLY SOUND*

Further details...

See Diary of Events Page 55



LAWNS FOR YOU

Well known Scottish greenkeeper, Duncan Gray, has launched a new internet based lawncare business, Lawns for You, with the aim of having a network of greenkeepers around the country to provide a quality service to home owners and bowling greens.

"The principle intention is to have greenkeepers, who are employed at golf clubs but are looking for extra work," explained Duncan.

"I have a number of local lawncare companies coming on board, but to cover the country I would really like to have greenkeepers willing to work part time, either with their own equipment or hired equipment, who I can call on to cover work in their own area," added Duncan, who has over 30 years experience in the industry and designed and managed The Pines Golf Centre in Dumfries as well as being Superintendent at Lahinch, in Ireland among other courses.

For further information visit www.lawnsforyou.com



Training Event For Senior Toro Distributors

Toro University, a training event for senior Toro distributors, was held in the UK, at the Wyboston Lakes Training and Conference Centre.

Attended by over 50 representatives from Toro's distributors across Europe and the Middle East, each delegate was given a thorough technical update and introduction to all the latest

models in the Toro portfolio – as well as an insight into all the improvements that continue to evolve the Toro range.

Seventeen products featured over the two days, over half them being brand new models introduced over the past 12 months

Toro's Chris Cooper commented, "Toro University

gives us the chance to present new products to our global distributor network.

With so many products having been, and still being introduced, this year's event has been a fantastic opportunity for education and learning about all the exciting new products particularly as it was just before the Golf Show.'



New Administrator for RIPTA Register

At their recent meeting in Harrogate, RIPTA (The Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists) elected Jeff Perris as the new Administrator of the Register.

Jeff retired from STRI two years ago after being a consultant agronomist for 43 years. He was one of the founder members of RIPTA and has been Administrator of the Register in the past.

"Now that I have more spare time in my retirement, I hope that some of this time can be given to promoting and developing RIPTA both nationally and internationally," said Jeff.

The Register was formed in 2002 to provide a source of agronomic consultancy of the highest standard and was widely welcomed in the sports turf industry. Many Sports Governing Bodies, funding organisations, as well as those involved in sports turf management, now refer to RIPTA as their source of agronomic expertise.

Consultants on the Register:

- Must hold a recognised first degree or MSc in plant or earth science.

- Consultants' recent experience must include at least four years post-graduate experience as a full-time, independent turfgrass agronomist.

- The Consultants must have no association or understanding however informal with any commercial organisation that could influence his or her independence.

- Consultants or their employer must have and maintain insurance including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator.

- Consultants' other business activities will not conflict with their ability to provide advice and Consultants with other business interests need to show the major part of the income derives from turf consultancy.

Consultants or their employer must have and observe a written Code of Ethics.

For further information about RIPTA visit www.ripta.co.uk

My Rugby World Cup Experience



by Peter Larter
(BIGGA Regional Administrator)

Early last year I was invited by Rugby World Cup Organising Committee to officiate as a Citing Commissioner at the 2011 RWC Tournament taking place in New Zealand.

It took me about five seconds to respond and say that I was prepared to go providing I could get time off work! So I was very grateful to the BIGGA Board for allowing me to take nearly two months unpaid leave to enable me to participate.

On Sunday, September 4, I took the 24 hour flight to Auckland with Air New Zealand and landed in the early hours of Tuesday morning, September 6.

My qualifications for undertaking this task are that many years ago I played international rugby for England in the Second Row and am reckoned to know a bit about foul play! I have also been carrying out citing duties for the past 11 years in the Aviva Premiership, the European Rugby Cup, the 6 Nations Championship and also at the Rugby World Cup in France in 2007.

The disciplinary team for the RWC comprised: six Citing Commissioners (CCs), one from Ireland, one from New Zealand, one from Australia, one from Scotland, one from Italy and myself from England; six Judicial Officers from around the world and the RWC Administrative Staff from Dublin.

Our task as CCs was to watch each match live in the Sky TV Studios in Auckland and take action on any foul play

which we thought warranted sending off (i.e. Red Card), and which had been either missed by the match officials or, in our opinion, had not been penalised correctly.

On arrival on September 6 2011 we wasted no time in acclimatising. That afternoon we met with the Match Commissioners who were going to be our eyes, ears and voices at the many venues around New Zealand, and the Judicial Officers who were to chair the disciplinary hearings resulting from a sending off or a citing by the CC. We also received our allocation of matches; one CC per match. I was allocated nine matches and was to be the CC for the first match New Zealand vs Tonga at Eden Park, the venue for many matches including the two semi-finals, the 3rd place play-off and the RWC Final. I ended up with nine matches; my last match being semi-final between New Zealand and Australia. Thankfully the first match went off without incident, and I found that the system set up by Sky was brilliant. At each venue there would be anything from 10 to 24 cameras, depending on the size of the venue and importance of the match.

We watched the match as broadcast to the world and had an audio link to the referee. We were able to obtain all angles of any incident fed over the internet within an hour of the end of the match, and were then able to review any incident that caused concern and decide whether or not any foul play had been committed; we were able to view incidents



at normal speed, slow-motion, super-slow motion and frame by frame. If a citing was required, we had to prepare a detailed report and send it together with DVD evidence to the RWC Disciplinary Office, when a hearing would be convened. Players had to travel to Auckland for hearings and, if found guilty, would usually be banned from playing for a period of time depending on the seriousness of the offence. In total there were 13 citings in the 2011 RWC Tournament and all were upheld.

I had one citing and had a number of near misses; I had to cite the Italian hooker Ghiraldini for "interference with the eyes" and he was banned for 15 weeks.

During my stay in Auckland I had the opportunity to visit Eden Park on many occasions, one of which enabled me to meet Mark Perham, the Head Groundsman. Mark had previously been a golf

greenkeeper at golf clubs in Timaru in the South Island. He gave me a tour of the Stadium and explained how it was used to provide a test venue for both rugby and cricket. For cricket, what happens is that the lower stand tiers are mechanically withdrawn until the playing area becomes oval shaped.

They then drop a cooch grass playing strip into a metal well in the centre of the ground, which is playable for six to eight days, and is a good enough surface for test and provincial matches. Eden Park is the only stadium to host two Rugby World Cup





finals; New Zealand won the World Cup in 1987 when they defeated France, repeating the feat in 2011. The Eden Park area of Auckland has been in use as a sports venue for nearly 110 years, being first the home to Auckland cricket from 1910 and then Auckland rugby from 1925.

We had more spare time during October after the pool matches had been finished, which gave us

many opportunities to see the magnificent scenery New Zealand has to offer.

The local New Zealanders were great hosts and I don't think anyone begrudged them their narrow victory over France in the final. Once again, my thanks are extended to the BIGGA Board of Directors for allowing me the time to participate in this wonderful event.

P.J.Larter



TO THE EDUCATION OF GREENKEEPERS

The Northern Region Administrator Peter Larter presents a plaque on behalf of the Northern Region to Peter Fell the Sales Manager of Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd, thanking them for their many years of generous Patronage of the Region, which goes towards the education of greenkeepers

Peter Fell, who has been in the sportsturf industry for 27 years and has worked for Aitkens for the past 22 years, said that he thought BIGGA had been instrumental in bringing together the many different groups of our industry.

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BARENBRUG APPOINT NEW R&D MANAGER

Barenbrug has appointed Dr David Greenshields as its new Research and Development Manager.

The appointment follows the departure of Jayne Leyland, who has left for pastures new after 13 years with the Bury St Edmunds-based business.

Boasting a Master's degree in Environmental Biology from St Andrews University in Scotland and a PhD in Plant Genetics from Edinburgh University, David has strong technical and practical knowledge across golf, sports and amenity applications.

"I'm delighted to take on the responsibility for our research and development programme. Having been very heavily involved in our Scottish trials programme, as well as having a special responsibility for developing the racecourse



sector, I'm looking forward to transferring my work, know-how and enthusiasm to the whole of the UK," said David.

MD, Paul Johnson, added, "Barenbrug has made a significant ongoing investment in this programme and we're

excited to see how it evolves under David's direction.

"Jayne contributed a great deal to its success and will be sorely missed – I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her the very best for the future."

Event Update

This year's South West and South Wales Region's BIGGA Golf Management Competitions sponsored by TACIT will be taking place at these venues:

South Coast Section Event at Liphook Golf Club on Wednesday, June 20; South Wales Section Event at Newport Golf Club, Gwent on Thursday, June 28; South West Section Event at Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, Calne, Wiltshire on Wednesday, August 15.

This team event consists of four players and must include either the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. The other members may be chosen from the GC Secretary or Manager, the Chairman of the Green, Member of the Greens Committee or GC Committee, the Club or Vice Captain.

Entry forms will be sent to golf clubs in each of the three sections but should you wish to register your interest please contact Jane Jones (BIGGA RA) on 07841948110, 01454 270850 or e-mail: jane@bigga.co.uk



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Chairman's Word

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

Meeting the challenges

This last month since BTME at Harrogate has been very busy at work and in my duties to BIGGA. A nice dry spring has allowed us to progress well with the continued improvements at Elmwood Golf Course, building new bunkers, at our 18th green, and landscaping areas around our entrance way. Students have been heavily involved at all levels, learning the importance of all aspects, eg. planning, resources, effective execution, evaluation, and communication. Preparing the course for another season is also top of the agenda.

In a similar vein BIGGA work continues. The staff have met to evaluate BTME 2012, the members have also been surveyed online and findings will be discussed at the March Board meeting. The Board and the Chief Executive met in early February to continue work on the Strategy and Business plan. This will also be advanced at the March Board meeting.

I attended the FEGGA conference with the CEO in Prague, Czech Republic. The hospitality of the Czech Greenkeeping Association was warm, friendly and extremely well organised. It was good to meet representatives from so many of our European Associations and to hear about the issues affecting them and to discuss potential solutions to address them. We were invited to attend the Board meeting, and we took the opportunity to represent the views of BIGGA's members. We will continue to press for more involvement in order to ensure BIGGA members are represented in the work FEGGA undertakes and can make an appropriate contribution, alongside all the Associations of Europe to our mutual benefit.

I'm just back from the Golf Industry Show hosted by GCSAA in Las Vegas. We had many meetings with our counterparts, to discuss how to help our members. Bob Randquist (President), Rhett Evans (CEO) and The Board took time to meet with us and I'm pleased to inform you that we have formally signed a Strategic Agreement with GCSAA which will strengthen both Associations and enable us to advance our missions and promote cooperation and goodwill between our members.

Opportunities for successful collaboration exist in five specific areas:

- Annual education conferences and trade shows
- Support from industry vendors, sponsors and partners
- Professional development and education, and recognition of qualifications/awards
- Commitment to sustainability
- Membership products, services and information

This is a great opportunity to ensure that we can share good practise, and the spirit and goodwill which was shown to us during this visit gives me confidence that this work will bring real benefit to our members. Our staff will be working together to see how they can best implement these opportunities and we will communicate this to you in due course.

GCSAA has at it heart, the same as BIGGA; passionate, professional and dedicated members and staff, for whom the

The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf must be sustainable in the true sense of the word

camaraderie of a Professional Association provides a network through which we can constantly strive to improve, gain support when necessary, and share our experiences for the benefit of others. I was very proud to witness this professionalism demonstrated by our very own Bernhard's delegation, who thanks to such generous support were able to benefit from this experience. This will be reported in more detail next month.

An International meeting also took place and discussions were held on further collaboration globally among all our Associations. This will be developed further by our CEOs who communicate regularly, and hopefully we will see what progress can be made.

Since Golf's origins in Scotland in the form we recognise, it has spread across the world, and the standards expected and

the demands on Course Managers and Greenkeepers has increased dramatically. As golf courses were developed in increasingly diverse terrains and climate conditions the challenges grew and our profession adapted to cope with these challenges. Many lessons have been learned with tens of thousands of courses being built in the established golf markets. Such vast knowledge, skills and experience has great value and we need to ensure it is shared. The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf developments and maintenance practices must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. This is a vitally important area in which we can all learn from one another, and will be at the forefront of collaborations we seek.

The future of the game of golf depends on growing the game, in a way that it is recognised as a responsible part of the community. Golf can be a leader in sus-

tainable sport and business, universally valued for good environmental and social contributions. I'd encourage you again to visit the website of GEO at:

www.golfenvironment.org/mygeo/register/oncourse

In about 15 minutes, and at no cost to you, you can enter some simple information, which will create an action plan for you and your club, which along with the website will provide you with some great advice and share many good examples of other clubs work in this area.

I'd like to wish you all the best for the coming golf season. Remember to use BIGGA to seek any advice or support you need, and if you have any suggestions on anything you think BIGGA should be considering, then let me know.

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

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, invites you to register on a new website



Last month I updated you all on the work I have been carrying out as the Standards Director to the European Greenkeepers Education Unit (EGEU). This month, I invite you to register on a new website which is designed to become the information portal to give greenkeepers, Golf Course Managers and employers the most up to date advice and guidance on education, training and qualifications within the sector.

As the GTC looks to continue its role to ensure British Golf Clubs and all greenkeepers have a range of qualifications available to employers and greenkeepers there has been an increase in enquiries from outside of Britain from countries relatively new to the game of golf and with little or no greenkeeper education system available.

There is no doubt that in recent years the "game of golf" has woken up to the fact that the golf course is without doubt any clubs greatest asset.

From the prestigious resort courses to your nine hole course the focus on the quality of the playing surfaces always is the number priority of the golfer.

Some will argue that it is the whole experience of the visit to the golf club is how members and visitors judge the facility however while I know many of today's Course Managers know what is meant by this expression but no matter how good the off course facilities may be if the course is, for whatever reason, not up to standard the golfer feels disappointed.

So often I have heard golfers complain about their golf but have enjoyed their day due to the course environment they have just experienced.

This always leads back to the knowledge, skills and competence of the Course Manager, Head Greenkeeper and his or her employer.

The GTC, and now the EGEU, has and will continue to develop and maintain a Quality Assured

Scheme which will allow greenkeepers, Course Managers and employers to access workshops, training courses and for greenkeepers qualifications which will help those clubs looking to provide a quality golf course.

Employers should have access to advice and guidance to ensure their staff have the knowledge and skills to maintain and manage the golf course and employers also need to understand what their Course Manager is proposing when the maintenance policy and budget is under review.

Greenkeepertraining.com has been launched to showcase those Centres including colleges and Training Providers who, having met a criteria, offer quality courses and workshops not only in Britain but as I mentioned earlier much further afield.

The British greenkeeper education, training and qualifications system is held in very high regard abroad as I witnessed first hand at the FEGGA Conference held in Prague.

Some 19 Greenkeeping Associations were represented in Prague and there was a tremendous camaraderie among delegates which again is mirrored on a global basis as it is often the same issues same problems that face both greenkeepers and golf club employers.

It was certainly a privilege to make a presentation on behalf of the EGEU and to share what I called the British Model for greenkeeper education and admit to delegates there have been many barriers and frustrations along the way in establishing a creditable structure supported by the employers.

Some Greenkeeping Associations are in exactly the same position many of us can remember pre BIGGA when there was little or no interest let alone funding support from any other golfing organisations.

How things changed in Britain from 1987!

The R&A and the Home Unions in Britain together with the PGA and PGA European Tour have certainly



The GTC is funded by:



played a major role in supporting greenkeeper training in Britain and I am pleased to say still do.

We will be looking to these organisations and other key golfing bodies to support the EGEU. It is all designed to assist golf developing countries who are looking to establish sustainable greenkeeper education systems.

We will be encouraging countries to ensure the Greenkeeping Association and Golf Federation work together and engage with other professional bodies such as any Golf Course Owners Association, PGA or Golf Club Managers Association operating in the country.

Today there are more and more organisations within golf all having a special role to play within the game and we must all work together hopefully avoiding duplicating roles but complimenting each others work.

The GTC is looking to work closely with the EGEU and all the organisations and companies who offer quality training for greenkeepers and golf club employers especially those looking to become part of the Quality Assured Scheme and be featured on the greenkeepertraining.com website.



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Learning & Development

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

With Las Vegas and the Golf Industry Show over for another year the focus of the Learning and Development team shifts back to planning mode. Believe it or not, for us Continue to Learn 2013 looms large with subjects to consider and speakers to source.

Several projects are also underway, including updating the Library, a review of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, the writing of the new Accreditation scheme, reviewing the CPD scheme as well as coordinating the nominations for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Open Support Team. Yep, we're busy bees!

Golf Industry Show

I've just returned from the Golf Industry Show, which this year was held in Las Vegas. I spent a great deal of my time, when not on the BIGGA Stand, meeting with the GCSAA's education team and representatives from other international Associations.

The 10 members who made up the BIGGA Delegation admirably represented BIGGA and Bernhard & Co.

With a packed week of golf course visits, education seminars, the trade show, manning the BIGGA stand and attending receptions as well as sampling all that Vegas had to offer, they were certainly kept busy.

I'm not terribly sure that there was a lot of sleep, but thanks guys for all your help and your company.

Safety Management System

– supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

In last month's column I talked about the launch of the new Safety Management System (available in the Members Area of the website). I'm pleased to say that the new SMS has received very positive feedback.

The original SMS will no longer be accessible after the end of April 2012. Full details of how to access



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.



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and download your Rick Profiles is shown on page 44 of this magazine. All users of the original SMS will be emailed a reminder of their user name, password and instructions to access their information.

Continue to Learn Education Programme 2013

With planning of the 2013 Continue to Learn education programme underway, we are looking for ideas and suggestions for speakers and topics for the Turf Managers' Conference, workshops and seminars.

If you have a proposal for a seminar that you would like to present, please send the details to me for consideration.

If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers you would like to see on the programme please drop me an email to sami@bigga.co.uk.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships



Higher Education Scholarships are now available to those BIGGA members who are undertaking a Higher Education course. If you meet the following criteria may be eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- Be a Full Member of BIGGA
- Be working as a full-time greenkeeper
- Have been a BIGGA Member for a minimum of two years

Those courses that are eligible include:

NVQ Level 4 or 5, HNC, Foundation Degree/HND, BSc, MSc

There is up to £1000 available to those members who meet the criteria. To download an application form visit the Education area of the website under Resources.

Turf Care Seminar



Dennis and Sisis are taking to the road again.

This time they are giving groundsmen and greenkeepers on the Isle of Man an opportunity to attend a Turf Care Seminar at Ballafletcher Sports Club on Wednesday, March 21.

This development was officially opened in April 2011 and comprises four full sized sports pitches designed for winter soccer or rugby use on two engineered and drained platforms.

Delegates will hear from a range of speakers including Peter Craig, Head Greenkeeper at the Hurlingham Club; Ian Mather Brewster, of

the IOG, and Keith Kent, Head Groundsman at Twickenham.

Delegates will also hear advice on fertiliser selection and application procedures from Tim Le Mesurier, of Isle of Man Farmers, and Matt Williams, of Barenbrug, will share advice on seed selection factors affecting establishment.

Advice on Goal Post safety and Modern line marking technology will be shared by Harrods and Fleet Line Markers.

To register for this free and informative seminar, contact Roger Moore at Dennis on 01332 824777 or email roger.moore@dennisuk.com



DEVON GARDEN MACHINERY WIN UK DEALER AWARD

Richard Campey announced the winners of their UK and European Dealership Awards at BTME.

The Awards are given to the dealership that has delivered the best performance over the previous year, not solely in terms of sales but also in backup, sales and service support.

Best European Dealer for 2011 was won by Danish Dealer Havdrup Maskinforretning A/S and presented to Director Jens-Erik Hansen for outstanding performance.

Devon Garden Machinery won the UK Dealer Award and the plaque was presented to DGM Partner Steven Dommatt by Ian (Poggy) Pogson, UK Product Specialist for the South.

Press contact is Chairman Robinson at ABR Publicity on 07775 876655 or email abr.publicity@virgin.net.

Super Bent Varieties

British Seed Houses is the agent for Super Bent varieties 007DSB and TYEE in Sweden, Denmark and Norway, where climates offer some of the most severe weather seen on the golf course, and where the varieties perform extremely well.

Richard Brown recently visited Sweden and gave a seminar outlining the strengths of these varieties for challenging conditions.

"As I explained to delegates at our Swedish seminar, the bentgrass varieties 007DSB and TYEE become known as Super Bents simply because they far exceed the overall turf performance that one would expect from older creeping bentgrass varieties and have proven performance on greens, tees and fairways," he said.

The key to the success of both these varieties is a broad genetic base, in the case of 007DSB, developed using 24 parent plants.

New Distributor in Russia

Huxley Golf, has appointed a new distributor in Russia.

Huxley Golf Russia will be led by Ostap Lukyanov, the Co-Owner of the business, and his Managing Director Dmitriy Mordasov.

Barriers to extending a golf culture in Russia have been reported as being primarily driven by a lack of training facilities as well as adverse natural conditions which have, until now, required clever course design and significant investment.

"Golf across Eastern Europe is relatively new but it's a game that Russians are really beginning to take to," announced Ostap.

Paul Huxley, Director of Huxley

Golf, which has a growing network of distributors in the UK and abroad, said:

"Ostap is the right man to help develop Russia's budding golfing industry. Having trained in Switzerland and Spain, he's extremely knowledgeable and is dedicated to advancing the sport."

Huxley Golf Russia will offer the full range of Huxley Golf surfaces including course tees, practice tees, greens, indoor and outdoor putting greens, pathways, lawns, mats and practice nets; with hotel, golf clubs, teaching academies, and private clients all targets areas for development



Charity Celebrations

Wiedenmann UK's 20th Anniversary charity Terra Spike has found a home at Ombersley.

In September at Saltex, David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's Managing Director launched a charity auction among Wiedenmann dealers to recognise that the fledgling company he started as a 24 year-old had come of age.

Donating a one-off version of Wiedenmann's newest and fastest selling aerator - painted the 20th anniversary 'colour' platinum - was his way of 'giving something back'.

The bespoke Terra Spike GXi8 HD was 'won' initially by dealer T H White of Redditch. Alun Wright, T H White Key Accounts Sales Manager, said:

"From the outset T H White was keen to be involved. Even when times are tight, charity can't be forgotten."

The Redditch team then found a buyer in the Dowty family who head up Ombersley GC just outside Kidderminster.

Andrew Halfpenny, Course Manager at Ombersley said:

"We were looking for a deep fast aerator that would perform on greens and tees yet still suited our fairways. Guided by T H White's, Simon Bingham, we had established that the Wiedenmann GXi8 HD was the one. Nothing matched it for speed or versatility.

"After Saltex I read in the trade press about the platinum machine and it struck a chord. Uncannily Wiedenmann UK was launched within the same time frame as Ombersley.

"It made me wonder... Within a matter of a few weeks the sale had happened and all the pieces just fitted naturally."

The benefiting charities are Cancer Research UK and The Multiple Sclerosis Society who will both share a donation in excess of £20,000. Representatives of both attended a special presentation event at the Worcestershire club.

What's your number?

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

Name: Andy Cole
Company: STRI Ltd
Position: Head of Stadia Services



How long have you been in the industry? Twenty five years

How did you get into it?
I was lucky. Graduated from Leeds University in 1986, where STRI had a research programme and noticed an advertisement for a trainee agronomist.

What other jobs have you done?
During my university days the usual restaurant and bar work and had two summers working in a market garden- nothing turf related at all.

What do you like about your current job?
The variety of the work is exciting and working at the top level with FIFA and UEFA. I get a lot of satisfaction working as part of a team to deliver a project.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
Training and education have improved immensely in the last 25 years. The industry has become professional and greenkeepers are generally more respected for their knowledge and expertise.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I am a keen golfer and during the last four years my wife and I enjoy ballroom dancing - Strictly Come Dancing has a lot to answer for!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
If the last 20 years are measure I want to continue enjoying the work I do and sharing my experiences across the globe.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
I have so many friends in the industry it would be impossible to single out one individual.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? 7

GREEN TECHNOLOGY ROADSHOW

Etesia UK will shortly be hitting the road, after announcing the dates of their first road show since 2006, with an emphasis on all things green.

The 2012 Green Technology Show series kicks off on Tuesday, March 27, at Merrist Wood College.

Planned as a hands-on, arrive and drive event for all new and existing Etesia and Pellenc customers, the road show will then move on to Edge Hill University, Lancashire on Thursday, March 29, with further dates to be arranged for later in the year.

"Previous road shows we've held have been highly successful and extremely well attended," said Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager.

Anyone keen to come along should contact their local dealer to book a place, or alternatively, you can register your interest by visiting www.etesia.co.uk/roadshow.

What's YOUR number?

If you are an industry figure and would like to appear in this column - or at least be in with a chance of being pulled out of the hat - get in touch with Scott...

01347 833800 Option 510

Back to the future

Scott MacCallum visits Moortown Golf Club, which hosted the first Ryder Cup match on this side of the Atlantic, and discovers a restoration project which is returning the course to its best

Six months from now the world of sport will have turned its attention away from the Olympics and will be focussed firmly on Medinah Country Club, in Chicago, and the Ryder Cup. Golf fans, general sports fans, even non sports fans, will be kept enthralled as fortunes sway throughout the three days and 28 matches, but among the most interested observers will be the members of Moortown Golf Club which played host to the first Ryder Cup on this side of the Atlantic in 1929.

The razzmatazz which surrounds the most recent playings of the Ryder Cup wasn't quite the same at Moortown in Leeds, West Yorkshire, that May, but golfing aficionados of the time would have been extremely impressed that the American team containing such legendary figures as Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, Horton Smith and Leo Diegel was beaten 7-5 to level the series at one all. The British team containing, among others Henry Cotton, Abe Mitchell, George Duncan and the Whitcombe brothers, came from 2.5 - 1.5 down in the Foursomes to win the Singles 5.5 to 2.5.

If, prior to settling down in front of the TV to watch the latest chapter in the Ryder Cup saga, the Moortown members decide to play a few holes they will do so on a course which has been modified and modernised, yet returned to the style created by Leeds Doctor, Alistair MacKenzie, who honed his skills in the UK and Australia before heading to the US and designing Augusta National and Cyprus Point.

The Club has worked closely with architect Ken Moodie, a man

who has studied MacKenzie thoroughly - travelling far and wide to experience golf courses first hand and reading everything the great man wrote on the subject of golf course design. He has also worked at other MacKenzie courses including Moortown's near neighbour, Alwoodley, putting that knowledge to good use.

Ken was originally brought in by Moortown in 2004, along with namesake, former Ryder Cup player and now BBC television commentator, Ken Brown, and woodland management expert, John Nicholson, with the brief of improving the challenge for the better golfer. Over time that remit has expanded and the current work includes an extensive bunker renovation and the remodelling of

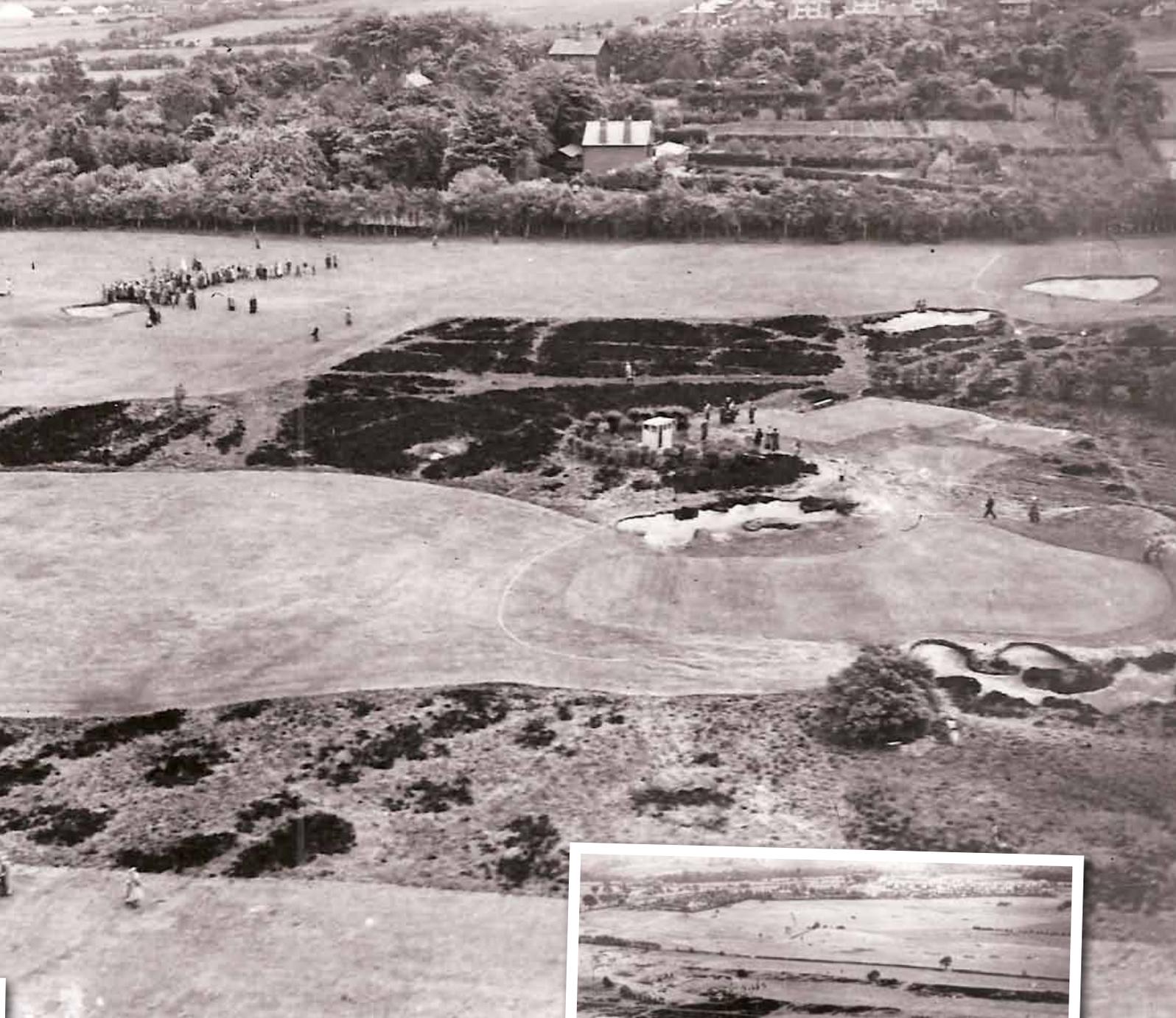


MAIN IMAGE RIGHT: 1937 Aerial Shot of Green's Nursery at the back of the 9th and 11th Greens with 13th fairway in the foreground

The Ryder Cup 1929, with Leo Diegel (BELOW) and Walter Hagen (INSET) driving from the 9th tee

“In war times, I don't think that the course would have changed much since MacKenzie last visited for the Ryder Cup in 1929”
Ken Moodie, Architect





two holes – the 6th and 7th – which will be concluded this spring.

“The impetus for the more recent work coincided with the arrival of Course Manager, Steve Robinson, and some key members of the Moortown Committee visiting other MacKenzie courses, including Cypress Point and Pasatiempo Golf Club, in California.

“They have seen the restoration work that has been done on those courses, as have I, and we wanted to do the same with Moortown,” explained Ken.

Mackenzie styling includes very distinctive longer noses on bunkers and much more intricate and interesting shapes, and the work has been carried out in-house with the assistance of a freelance shaper ensuring that Ken’s plans make the transition from paper to play.

The results so far are stunning.

As a starting point Ken had acquired a 1948 aerial photograph



INSET ABOVE: The Ryder Cup 1929, Scoreboard after the first day, and Ryder Cup Teams (RIGHT)



MAIN ABOVE: 1937 Aerial Shot of Green’s Nursery at the back of the 9th and 11th Greens with 13th fairway in foreground

INSET ABOVE RIGHT: 1937: The Moor Holes seen from above Green’s Nursery



of the golf course which had been taken by the RAF when they flew the country after the war.

"I don't think that the course would have changed much from when MacKenzie had last visited for the Ryder Cup in '29 to then, so we could be fairly sure that it was close to his original design," he explained.

Steve arrived at the club five years ago from Blackmoor, in Hampshire, where he had managed a similar renovation programme.

"After the War, to cut down on costs, many bunkers were filled in and we earmarked where many of these were," explained Steve, who also added that there were some large "waste area" bunkers for which it would have been a step to far to re-produce, while others were in areas which would no longer be in play.

"Since I started in 2007 we've filled in four bunkers and built 29. We've gone from 66 to 91," he revealed.

Steve and the club took the decision that they would undertake the bunker rebuilding work in-house aided by a locally based freelance shaper.

"We felt that given our particular situation with peat subsoil and our weather conditions that it was better to employ a freelance shaper who I could call on, once I've checked the weather forecast for the following day, rather than being charged for big plant and men not being able to work because the conditions don't allow it, which is a downside of employing an outside contractor," said Steve, who added that his team were doing a superb job and that their skills levels were rising all the time.

"It's not purely the cost, it's the damage that can be incurred when you feel obliged to let the work go ahead rather than have men and machines sitting idle."

The outcome has been that the team has done a great deal of the work by hand which has been very

Mackenzie styling includes very distinctive longer noses on bunkers and much more intricate and interesting shapes, ensuring that Ken Moodie's plans make the transition from paper to play

much in keeping with the MacKenzie style and it has meant that skills have developed.

They have also derived great satisfaction from beginning work on what would be a reinstated bunker, which Ken had sited using evidence from the aerial photograph, and discovering sand which had been there since the days of the original bunker.

"It's a bit like archaeology – Time Team stuff," said Ken, who is on site at least once a week during the project.

The Moortown soil structure has caused them a few issues however.

The 11th bunker as it used to be (LEFT) and how it is now (BELOW)



Mackenzie's Bunker (11th hole)



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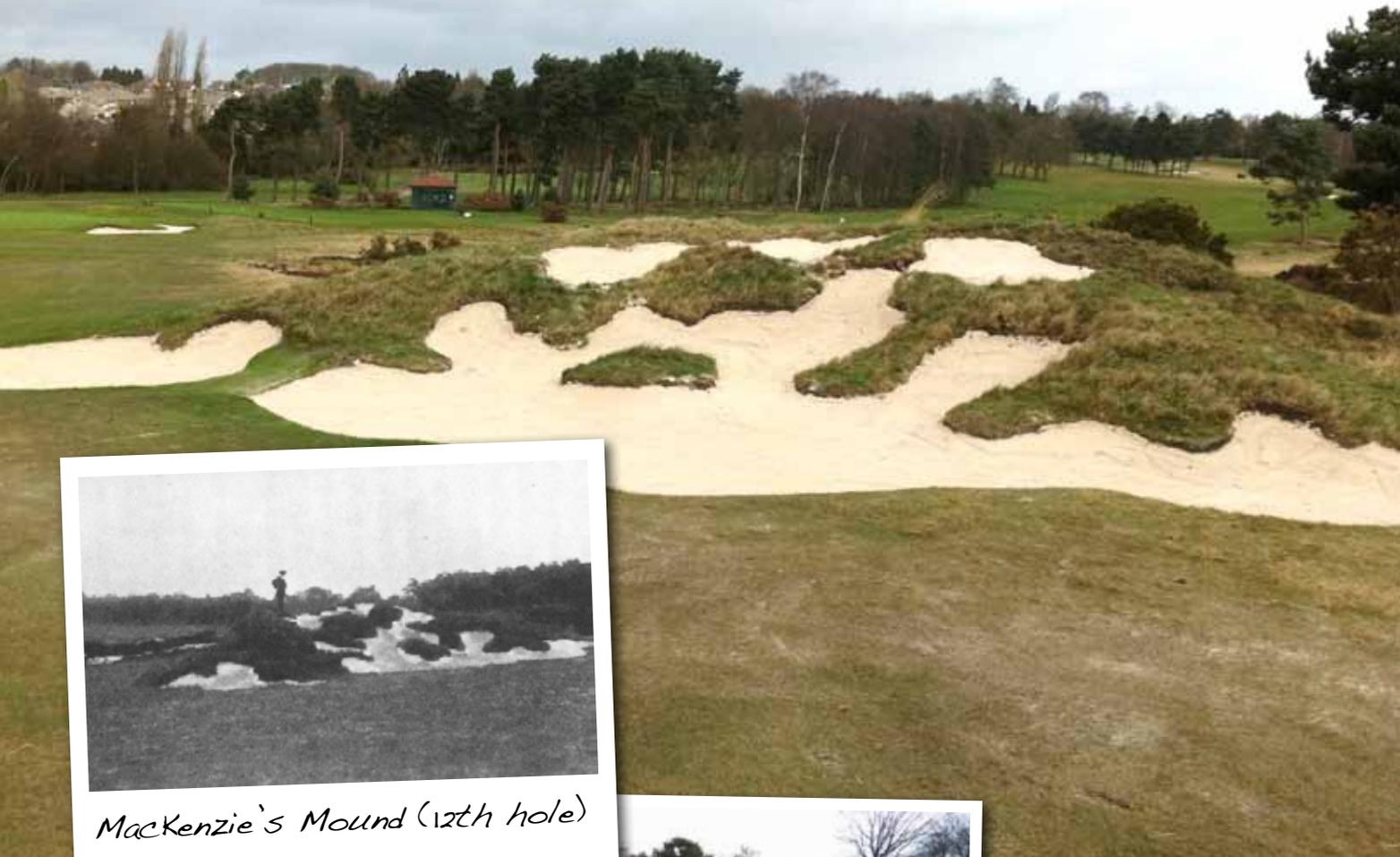
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MacKenzie's Mound (12th hole)

"We are built on peat and we would have situations where the whole base of a bunker would be on the move," explained Steve.

"We would dig out a bunker but if it rained between Ken's visits it meant that the team had to wade into bunkers, which resembled duck ponds, to dig them out. I've got pictures of the guys in wellies and waterproof clothing taking bucket-fuls of what looks like peat soup out and decanting it into Pro Gators. It was stagnant horrible stuff.

"If Ken said he wanted it another four inches deeper we'd then need to go down that, plus an extra four or five inches to accommodate the several inches of angular 25mm-40mm stone which we'd discovered was the best way to firm up the bunker," said Steve.

Ken wasn't unsympathetic, however, and worked with both the land and the crew to find solutions.

"We compromised on some of the bunker depths and built up the banks a bit higher instead. What we are trying to do has got to be achievable and you have to create something that is going to work in the long term. I'm sure MacKenzie



MAIN ABOVE: The 12th bunker and **INSET ABOVE:** How it used to be

OTHERS: The Moortown staff carrying out work on bunkers beside the 6th green



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would have done the same,” said Ken.

Part of the project is the re-designing of the 6th and 7th holes, which have long been recognised as the weakest on the course. They had been a late addition in the late 80s and early 90s, following boundary issues and the removal of other holes on the edge of the course, but restrictions in place at the time meant there was a limit to what could be achieved by the replacements.

John Nicholson has been instrumental in ensuring that the work required to create the new holes is in keeping with the heathland/moorland nature of the rest of the course while at the same time conforming to Forestry Commission demands.

The new holes will benefit from the removal of trees and the introduction of heather which will open up the holes in keeping with the other 16. The new bunkering will also blend in with the others.

Indeed, a couple of days earlier a beech tree had been removed from the side of the 7th green and replaced with wonderful new bunker.

“The club acquired a felling

licence last year and we work closely with the Forestry Commission to ensure that they are comfortable with everything that is being done,” explained John, who also has some interesting views of gorse.

“The reason we’ve got gorse on these courses is that it was introduced in the Middle Ages as fodder for livestock. Women and children collected it in the summer and made it into a rich porridge for their animals. It was man-made and imported from Spain and it has become very invasive and is now probably the biggest danger, along with trees, to the heathland/moorland environment,” he explained, adding that they had already taken out a lot of gorse at Moortown.

When assessing a site John considers the agronomic, strategic and the ecological elements but there is another issue which takes precedence.

“The genius loci – the spirit of the place – is what you’ve got to assess on day one. You’ve got to take on board that whatever we do has to be in keeping with the landscape.”

As we spoke the construction work was around 50% completed but Steve was well aware that it would take time for the results of



INSET BELOW: The 7th (before) and MAIN RIGHT: the 7th as a photomontage for the new design, being held up by Ken Moodie (MAIN BELOW)

much of what has been done to come through.

“Members do appreciate that trees can have a negative impact on keeping and introducing heather, but they also think that once the trees have been removed the heather will come back on its own.

“They don’t always realise that the tree removal is only the first stage and that it still requires work to bring back the heather. We scrape back the soil to expose dormant heather seed, some of which have been buried for 80 years.

“You can be looking at a mini-



“After visiting MacKenzie courses, Cypress Point and Pasatiempo Golf Club, in California, and seeing the restoration work that has been done on those courses, we wanted to do the same with Moortown”

Ken Moodie, Architect (left) who is remodelling the 7th hole (as shown)



mum of two to three years before you see results. It's not like growing grass," said Steve, who has learned to highlight out of play areas for the initial plots.

"If you choose areas in play which are then GUR for a long period of time you will get members coming up to you in 18 months saying, 'It's still not happening, forget it. It's not going to work,'" said Steve, who carries the confidence of knowing that similar work at Blackmoor produced the results and that patience is rewarded.

So what does the third man in the Ken Moodie, John Nicholson, Ken Brown partnership think.

As the only one to have actually played in a Ryder Cup Ken brings a professional golfer's eye to a project, and the experience of having broadcast from 100s of the world's finest golf courses.

"There are three ways of undertaking a project – restoration, renovation or revolution – but by far the best approach is restoration," said Ken, who was key in determining the position of the bunkers on the two redesigned holes.

That is a task which is not as straightforward as the average golfer may believe as Ken is very aware that the one piece of kit not possessed by any golfer or archi-

tect, but which would make life much easier, is a crystal ball.

"You have to look ahead and anticipate how far the ball might be travelling in 20, even 50, years time but that will be determined by a combination of technology and regulation, and really no-one can know for sure.

What we do know is that the tees at many clubs have been pushed right back as far as they can go, but if we were to plan for today, bunkers could be in the wrong place tomorrow and we have to do what is best in the long term interests of the golf course."

We often come across situations where golf club members have



John Nicholson



Steve Robinson,
BIGGA Member for 18 years

made decisions on the golf course and while a lot of them are good ideas, it can be more haphazard than bringing in professionals, who can take all considerations on board," explained Ken.

With its rich heritage and unique link with the Ryder Cup the Moortown members have taken the decision to embrace the professional advice they have been given.

Those interested in all things Ryder Cup, who choose to visit Moortown in this year of the latest match, will receive a warm welcome as well as a wonderful opportunity to play an updated version of the course which faced Cotton, Duncan, Sarazen and Hagen.



Moortown GC Clubhouse



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Turf fertiliser...a question of balance and perspective

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the elements and nutrients that are required for healthy turf

The increasing scope and spread of turf fertiliser in concept and composition is of general benefit to grass and greenkeepers alike. New considerations have nudged the industry away from reliance on traditional short-term, stand-alone quick fix solutions scooped out of the sack, into a longer-term and more broadly based holistic approach.

Being in harmony with the complexity of subterranean and soil surface bio-systems and food webs concentrated in the root zone and thatch is the name of the contemporary game in turf grass nutrition. Soil associated food webs deliver plant-available nutrients in a natural and therefore measured and sustainable way.

Attention paid to pathogenic microbes and invertebrate pest animals has re-focussed onto environmentally friendly relatives which if present in sufficient number and the right balance, goes the argument, help to neuter 'nasty' turf grass pathogens and insect and nematode pests. Essential plant nutrients released at key points

around the food web and immediately available to grass roots is the complementary and interactive benefit.

Plant nutrition the natural way

Fertilising with the flow of natural soil bio-systems should underpin the nutrition and health of any grass sward whether amenity or agriculture. They incorporate friendly fungi such as mycorrhizae, saprophytic and antagonistic fungi, beneficial bacteria including decomposers and entomopathogens [parasitic on insect pests] and other microbial decomposers (protozoa), and the host of invertebrate animals (insects, other arthropods, molluscs, annelids [earthworms] and nematodes), both plant feeders and entomopathogens, most of which chomp away on organic and/or mineral matter and thereby contribute directly or indirectly to improved soil structure and fertility.

Natural soil bio-systems occur and operate at full power in well-structured fertile loams, but the substrates used to establish and support most golfing greens are far



MAIN ABOVE: spring fertilizer applications to turf should contain an elevated proportion of phosphorous for solid and sustained root growth

INSET ABOVE LEFT: Wheat a close relative of turf grass was one of the first plants to 'flag up' sulphur deficiency symptoms following the big industrial clean-up some three decades ago.

INSET LEFT: You only have to investigate the composition of surface worm casts on greens and tees to see just how much sand there is below ground



Another case of how spring fertilizer applications to turf should contain an elevated proportion of phosphorous for solid and sustained root growth

from this description. Golf greens are established on high sand substrates for free drainage. You only have to investigate the composition of surface worm casts on fine turf to see just what a high proportion of sand there is below.

If a sand-based substrate is unable to support the full spectrum and activity of soil associated bio-systems and food webs then the benefits derived are accordingly reduced from what was perceived and anticipated. Soil supplements as humate derivatives act as reservoirs of nutrients and vehicles for their delivery and availability and uptake through bio-stimulatory effects on soil microbes and grass plants. However, without an inherent and appropriate soil structure there is a limit to what they can achieve.

Losing the essentials of plant nutrition

New concepts in turf grass nutrition and health are becoming as complex as the food webs they aim to flow with and here lies a danger of losing sight of the critical importance of individually essential plant nutrients for healthy growth and development, whether of bent grass or beech trees, through 'not being able to see the wood for the trees'.

Turf grasses are simple green plants but do the job they are designed for, creating a uniform planar and cushiony playing surface which is easily and effectively maintained because turf grasses respond well to frequent close cutting. Grass is a chlorophyll-containing plant that traps light energy and converts it into chemical energy for growth and maintenance via a complex series of enzyme controlled reactions collectively known as photosynthesis. This requires a portfolio of plant nutrients, each essential in its own right and as part of the whole in balance with others.

At the end of the day it doesn't actually matter what form of fertiliser is used, and how it is applied, because if the grass sward cannot access the full portfolio of plant nutrients in the right quantities and balance it will fail to perform as professional turf.

Essential turf grass nutrients

Essential nutrients for green plants like grass are macronutrients (Nitrogen [N]; Phosphorous [P]; Potassium [K]) or micro nutrients (Zinc [Zn]; Copper [Cu]; Iron [Fe]; Molybdenum [Mo]; Boron [B]) depending on the exact quantity required for optimum grass growth



The soil dimension can be side-stepped by spraying nutrient solutions in a foliar feeding programme

Iron is ideal for a 'lean and mean' green up in winter



and development. In the middle are several other essential nutrients such as Sulphur [S], Calcium [Ca], and Magnesium [Mg] sometimes referred to as secondary nutrients. These are required in much lower amounts than macronutrients but in considerably higher quantities than micronutrients, which are alternatively called trace elements.

The portfolio of plant nutrients essential for optimum growth, health, vigour and resilience of turf is generally well known, but less well appreciated is the profile of its functions. The best way to appreciate the role of each essential plant nutrient is to recall the reasons why greenkeepers have traditionally applied a particular nutrient during a particular season or at a specific time during the golfing calendar, or equally why they have not.

Nitrogen – the succulent growth and green up nutrient

Nitrogen is required in greater amounts than any other nutrient. On a dry weight basis (grass dried to zero moisture) nitrogen accounts for 3-5% of plant matter. Nitrogen is at the very heart of grass plant genetics and physiology being a component of DNA, chlorophyll and every single amino acid used to build proteins for growth. Effect of nitrogen application is accordingly fast and furious with plants assuming a rich dark green colour and a spurt of vertical shoot growth.

Nitrogen promotes leaf growth and enhances turf density by promoting tillering. When balanced with phosphorous, nitrogen boosts root development and turf recovery from wear and tear. Autumn applications in balance with potassium produce overall growth that should be sufficiently tough to withstand winter conditions.

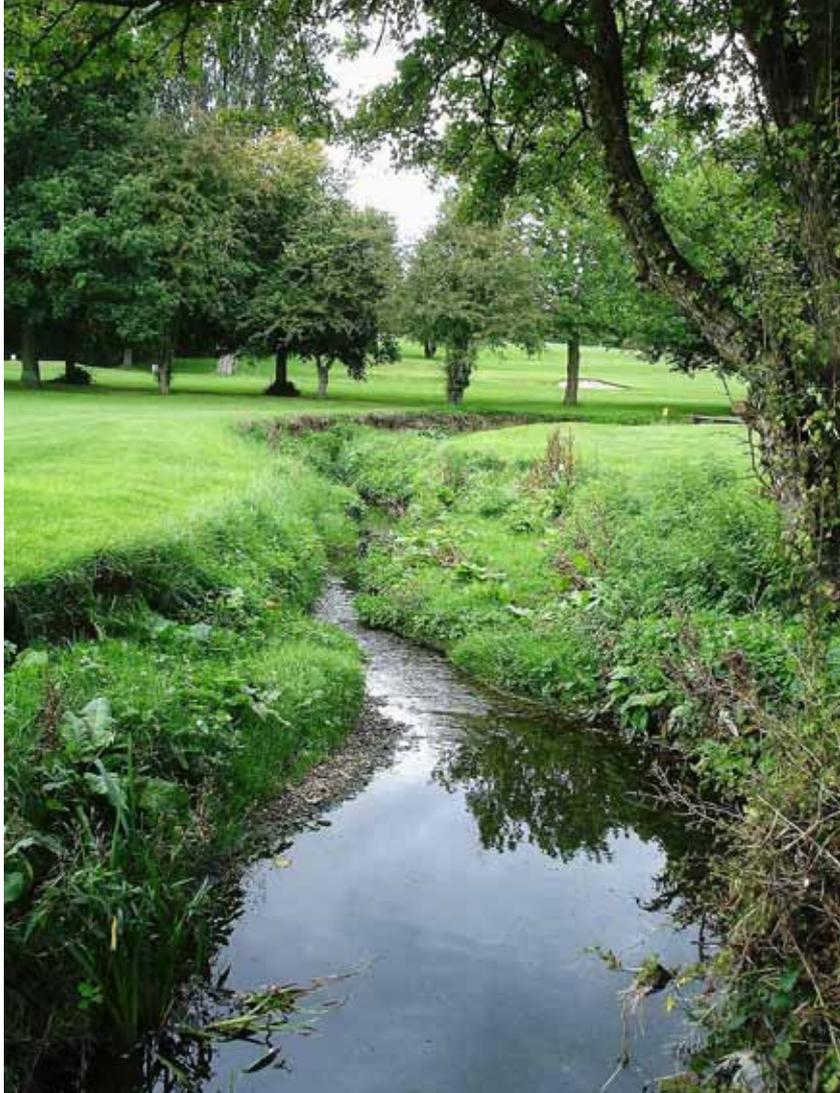
Phosphorous – the anchorage element

Phosphorous is the 'anchorage' element spurring on root growth and development. Phosphorous is generally required in only limited amounts but more liberally when new turf is established by seeding or laying sod.

Phosphorous is important early in the season when turf responds quickly and substantially to warmer temperatures and therefore requires rapid and sustained root development to anchor and underpin rapid spring shoot and leaf growth. NPK formulations used at this time should have relatively high ratios of phosphorous.



Nitrogen applications in autumn provided they are well-balanced with potassium should not lead to excessively soft lush growth



Potassium – the gatekeeper

Potassium is commonly called the 'gatekeeper' nutrient because it controls the opening and closing of stomata on grass leaves and therefore the amounts of water lost by transpiration and carbon dioxide diffusing in for photosynthesis. Sufficient potassium is essential for good drought resistance. Potassium hardens turf against adverse conditions whether summer heat and drought, or winter cold.

Calcium – the strongman nutrient

Calcium pectate cements plant cell walls to form plant tissues and is therefore central to the structure and anatomy of turf grass plants. Together with magnesium, potassium and iron, calcium is known as a hardening and resilience nutrient.

Magnesium – the lightning conductor

Magnesium literally at the centre of the chlorophyll molecule is correspondingly central to photosynthesis. Without magnesium there is no chlorophyll to trap sunlight leaving grass without its natural rich green colour and the ability to power its physiology.

Sulphur – the forgotten nutrient

Sulphur was often called the 'forgotten' element because greenkeepers (like farmers) traditionally received free sulphur spewed from power-station and factory chimneys. The 'de-greening' of plants, which rapidly became deficient in sulphur, rapidly followed the 'greening' of industry. Yellowing symptoms were confused at first with nitrogen deficiency. Wheat, a close relative of the turf grasses, was the first to signal this change and show sulphur deficiency symptoms.

Iron – the lean and mean green-up nutrient

Major roles in chlorophyll synthesis and nitrogen metabolism allow iron to green up turf without the soft succulent leaf and shoot growth associated with nitrogen. Iron is therefore ideal as an autumn or winter turf tonic.

Copper, zinc and manganese – the enzyme co-factors

These are classic metallic micro-nutrients required in trace amounts as co-factors for optimum activity of specific enzymes. Copper

ABOVE: Compacted soils and nutrient loss from run-off pose high risks for water courses



Late summer and long shadows is when soil compaction is most evident and the risk of nutrient loss and especially nitrogen, from run-off is correspondingly high.

is a co-factor for the enzyme polyphenol oxidase.

Boron – the meristem minder

Boron is one of the most 'micro' of all micronutrients but nevertheless plays a critical role in ensuring rapid sustained cell division in apical meristems where shoot and root growth occurs.

Molybdenum – the metabolism maker

The micro-nutrient with major roles in both nitrogen and phosphorous metabolism

By-passing the soil

The soil is a dangerous place for plant nutrients and an obstacle-strewn course illustrated clearly by the potential fate of the three macronutrients (N, P and K). Nitrogen can be applied and made available as either NO₃⁻ or NH₄⁺. NO₃⁻ as a negatively charged anion. It is not attracted to soil colloids and therefore cannot be held and stored on cation exchange sites. Cation exchange sites are in relatively short supply in the typical sand based soils that support professional sports turf.

High permeability of sandy soils coupled with a relatively low cation

exchange capacity means nitrate is prone to heavy leaching. Heavy traffic building up through the season, coupled with progressive drying out, means summer soils can become compacted with a water impermeable pan. Heavy summer rain, or irrigation, run off the surface carrying any soluble nitrogen along with it.

Phosphorous availability is very susceptible to changes in soil pH. When pH levels fall below 6 (increasingly acid), or raise much above 7 (becoming alkaline), soil phosphorous becomes 'fixed' (tied up) and unavailable for uptake by grass roots.

Clearly there is not much leeway and phosphorous unavailability is one of the first casualties of inappropriate liming.

Potassium levels in soil under turf should be monitored closely and topped up as required because the positively charged cation (K⁺) is particularly prone to leaching from sandy soils with their inherently low cation exchange capacities.

There is one easy way to avoid all these potential hurdles to soil nutrient availability – reach for the bottle instead of the bag and opt for foliar feeding by spraying with an appropriate nutrient solution.

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Glenn Rayfield
Felixstowe Ferry Golf
Club, Suffolk

"Where we had sprayed Qualibra there has been a marked and sustained improvement in sward quality."

Philip Baldock
Ganton Golf Club,
Yorkshire



Compacted soils and nutrient loss from run-off pose high risks for water courses

Fertiliser in balance and perspective

Turf managers should always go as far down the 'fostering the food-web' track as possible, but not rule out the use of rapid remedial action where necessary.

Sports turf is a completely unnatural ecosystem both above and below ground and correspondingly less able to maintain long-term stability both nutritionally and in health without at least some short-term quick fix interventions.

Fertilisation of turf is all a question of balance but in more ways than one.

Applied plant nutrients should always be in balance with each other, according to their intrinsic relative status and turf requirements at particular times of the calendar year and golfing season.

Everything should be done to maintain the natural biological balance in the root zone and thatch while being prepared to weigh this up with quick-fix interventions if necessary, and avoid being convinced that everything out of a bag or a bottle is bad.



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Nematodes in turf

Graham Paul offers you the chance to collect some BASIS points and learn some information on nematodes, the plant parasitic nematodes that affect amenity turf

Nematode as seen through low power microscope

If you have ever seen damage on turf that doesn't fit in with the symptoms of disease, animal or insect attack, then you may have experienced the effects of a nematode infestation.

Nematodes are round worms that belong to the phylum Nematoda - the second largest group of invertebrate animals after the Arthropods (Insects and bugs). Over 80,000 species of nematodes have been described but scientists believe the total number of species on this planet exceeds one million! They occur in a wide variety of habitats existing as both free-living and parasitic species.

This article will concentrate on the plant parasitic nematodes that affect amenity turf.

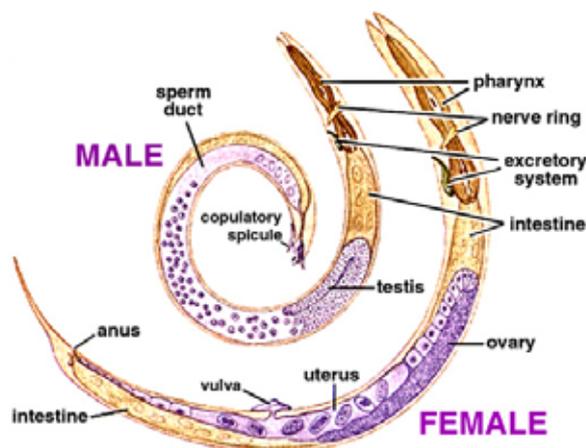
The majority of nematodes are free-living, existing on a diet of dead organic matter. Pathogenic species are known to affect most forms of macroscopic life - including plants, animals, birds, fish, crustacea, insects and bugs.

Most nematodes are so small that they cannot be seen without a microscope or strong hand lens. They are un-segmented and at the

anterior (head) end there is a mouth with three lips and armaments, which may include; teeth, hooks, a spear or stylet.

The nematode body consists of a long hollow tube with another tube inside it, containing the alimentary canal and reproductive organs. The body shape is maintained by holding body fluids between these 'tubes' under pressure (1.4 to 2.4 p.s.i.) A muscular pharynx is needed to propel food through the intestines, which tend to collapse under the force of the internal body pressure. The nematode has no blood circulatory system but it does have a fairly well developed nervous system. There are only longitudinal muscles, so they move with a 'snake-like' whipping motion.

Nematodes species often have both males and female sexes but it is not uncommon for plant parasitic nematodes to reproduce asexually by parthenogenesis - a process in which the unfertilized ovum develops directly into a new individual. Most of the nematode's body cavity is taken up by reproductive organs. Females are typically larger than males, since the production of thousands of eggs takes up much



ISNET ABOVE: Diagram 01 - Anatomy Of The Nematode - see acknowledgements

more body space than the creation of sperm by her partner.

The male introduces sperm into the females vulva with the help of two horny, stiff spicules that are part of his cloaca. Fertilisation is internal and the female lays her eggs over a prolonged period of time. Some species can lay eggs at the rate of 200,000 per day. The eggs hatch and go through four moults before the adult stage is reached.

Almost 4100 species of plant parasitic nematodes have been

RIGHT PAGE: Nematode eggs
Courtesy of Dr Ruth Mann, STRI

studied. They are mostly microscopic - 400 to 3000 microns (0.4– 3mm) in length and most are armed with a stylet or other weapon, which is used to pierce plant cells to enable the worms to feed on the cell contents.

The majority of plant parasitic nematodes feed on the roots of their host and can be divided into two sub-groups: -

Endoparasitic – the nematode invades the living host, entering the root system and moving into the vascular tissue. Some species, e.g. Root Knot Nematode, secrete substances that modify the host plant cell division to create specialised enlarged cells to accommodate the parasites while they feed.

Ectoparasitic – the nematode remains outside the host and pierces the plants cell walls to extract the cellular contents for food.

Many different species of nematodes are known to infest turf throughout the world. An article published in the journal 'Biologist' in May 2008 (see references) lists 14 different species that were found in 272 turf samples taken from European soccer pitches and golf courses during 2006. These included both endo and ectoparasites.

Listed next are the main characteristics of the more commonly found nematodes infesting turf:

a) Endoparasitic species

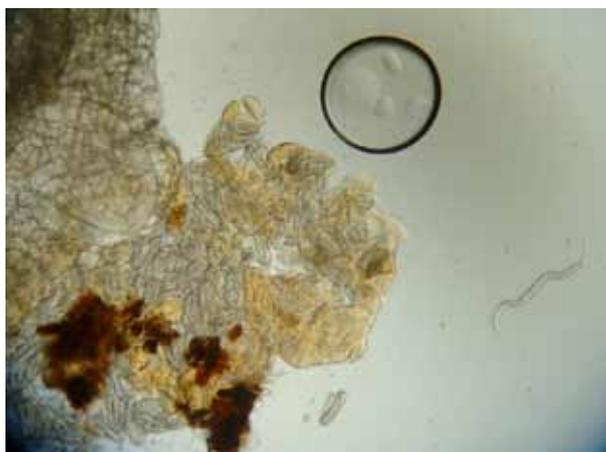
- The Cyst Nematode *Heterodera spp.* causes galls or lumps where the roots swell up. Immature nematodes move through the soil in search of a host. When they find a suitable root, they enter and inject substances that cause the cells to enlarge and provide accommodation and an on-going food source. The female nematode is fertilised inside the feeding cell where she remains and eventually dies. Her dead body becomes a swollen bag of fertilised eggs known as a cyst. As the damaged root breaks up the cyst is released into the soil where it can remain 'dormant' for a long time, eventually releasing the eggs and emerging juveniles.

- The Root Knot Nematode *Meloidogyne spp.* produces 'knotty' galls in the root. It bears similarity to the Cyst nematode in the way it enters and feeds in the root but it does not form an egg cyst; instead the eggs are released into the soil when the root knots break down, where they hatch and develop into juveniles. Damaged roots are often much shorter than unaffected roots.

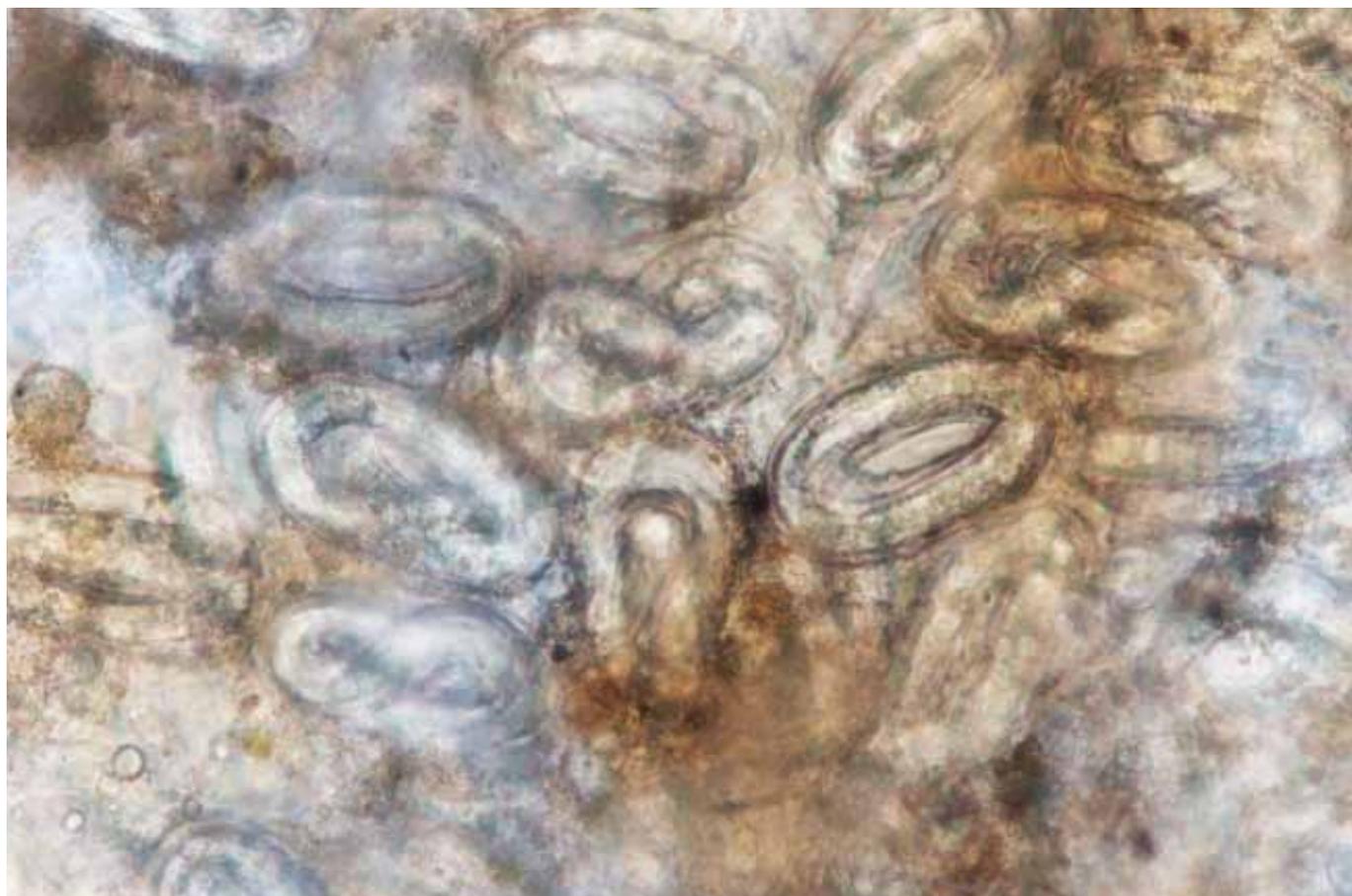
- The Root Lesion Nematode *Pratylenchus* is one of the most damaging and widespread pests in agriculture. This nematode initially attacks roots from the outside, but



Cyst Nematode *Heterodera spp.*
Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre



Root Knot Nematode – *Meloidogyne spp.*
Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre





LEFT: Spiral Nematode *Helicotylenchus* spp.
Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre

RIGHT: Sheath Nematode feeding *Hemicyclophora* spp.
Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre



LEFT: Ring Nematode *Criconemella* spp.
Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre

as death of the cells progresses, it moves into and through the root, destroying tissue as it goes.

b) Ectoparasitic species

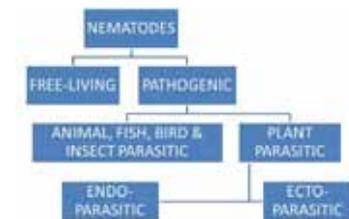
The Spiral Nematodes *Helicotylenchus* spp. & *Rotylenchus* spp. These nematodes typically adopt a spiral posture. They 'graze' around the outside of roots using a short, hollow stylet to pierce cells and feed on the contents. The cells die after this attack, leaving many damaged areas in the roots.

The Stunt Nematode *Tylenchorhynchus* causes the plant to be stunted both above and below ground. Adults feed around the outside of the roots using a short, hollow stylet. Numbers can build up quickly so while individual nematodes do not cause much damage, their combined effect can be significant.

The Sheath Nematode *Hemicyclophora* - so named because the adult female has a protective sheath around her body. This picture below shows the hollow stylet penetrating root cells during feeding.

The Ring Nematode *Criconemella* spp & *Macroposthonia* spp appear to be segmented like the earthworm. However, closer examination reveals this is due to corrugation of the outer membrane.

The Stubby Root Nematode *Paratrichodoros* feeds from the root tips causing damage which



prevents further root elongation, hence its name. The nematode pierces the roots with a solid stylet, sucking up the sap with the mouth. Stubby Root nematodes are known to transmit viruses and have a synergistic effect with *Fusarium*.

SYMPTOMS OF NEMATODE ATTACK ON TURF

From the surface of the turf, the visual signs of nematode infestation are fairly non-specific and depend on the severity of infestation and the species of nematode involved.

Symptoms can vary from a yellow discolouration to wilting and general thinning of the sward. The physical damage to the root system results in a reduction in wear tolerance that can devastate heavily used turf.

Damage is particularly evident with endoparasitic species such as *Meloidogyne* spp., the Root-Knot Nematode and the severity of symptoms can be made worse by external factors such as fungal disease attack and also by low

Claim 2 BASIS points

SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points if answered correctly! Circle the correct answer(s)

1) Approximately how many species of plant parasitic nematodes have been studied?

- a) 80,000,
- b) 1 million,
- c) 4,100, d) 3000

2) What term is used to describe the process of asexual reproduction that can occur with some nematodes?

- a) mutagenesis,
- b) parthenogenesis,
- c) mitosis,
- d) symbiosis

3) Which of the following are endoparasitic nematodes? (More than one may apply)

- a) *Criconemella* spp.
- b) *Meloidogyne* spp.
- c) *Heterodera* spp.
- d) *Hemicyclophora* spp.

4) Why do nematodes require a muscular pharynx?

- a) To keep food in once it has been ingested
- b) To propel the stylet into the host root cell
- c) For respiration purposes
- d) To force food into the intestines against the internal body pressure

5) Problems with nematodes on turf are more likely to occur in . . .

- a) Dry soils,
- b) acid soils,
- c) wet soils,
- d) nutritionally deficient soils

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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light levels that are often found in football stadiums.

In the last 15 years we have seen a dramatic increase in golf construction to the USGA standard, which utilises pure sand or a high sand percentage in the rootzone, seeded with creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). This type of golf green has been found to be particularly susceptible to the root knot nematode *Meloidogyne minor*, its presence affecting both visual appearance and the roll of the ball as a result of turf thinning. Affected turf responds badly to routine maintenance such as aeration and feeding and the wear tolerance is greatly reduced.

Problems with nematode infestations are especially frequent in wet climates. It has been reported that in Ireland 90% of sand-based golf greens built since 1977 are infested with *Meloidogyne minor*. It is believed that the parasite is distributed in the sand used for construction, since it has been found to occur naturally in sand dunes all around the UK.

In many cases the presence of a nematode infestation can go unnoticed if the attack is less severe. Due to their small size examination of a soil core may not reveal the true cause.

Control of nematodes in turf

There are no chemical pesticides approved for nematode control in turf. However, a natural product based on garlic extract and sold under the brand name 'Eagle Green Care', has CRD approval for use on established turf in the UK.

Research has been carried out on the use of plant bio-stimulants to relieve the stress caused by nematodes feeding on the roots. Such products can improve the health (depth and thickness) of the root system and enable the grass to endure nematode attack without showing adverse visible symptoms. Of these, seaweed extracts obtained from *Ascophyllum nodosum* e.g. 'Seavolution' appear to give the best results. Research on some soil amendment products, such as Bio-Mass sugar and mustard bran, has also revealed benefits to the health of turf that is being damaged by feeding nematodes. The effect is deemed to be similar to that experienced with the use of bio-stimulants, encouraging the development of strong roots that can help to compensate for the damage caused by the nematodes. But, it must be stressed that these products are not authorised nematicides for use in reducing nematode numbers in turf.



ABOVE: General yellowing and thinning
RIGHT: Root knot symptoms

Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre



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Improving the golfing experience

Wimbledon may be most associated with another sport altogether but, as Barry Heathcote discovered, the golf club which carries its name is building a reputation for itself in its own right

Wimbledon Park Golf Club has just completed the first phase of works that will transform the course.

Course Manager, Dave Langheim has been the driving force behind a project which will see the complete renovation of the course and installation of a state-of-the-art Toro Links irrigation system.



Course Manager, Dave Langheim

Dave moved to Wimbledon, across the road from the famous All England Club, in 2008, having previously been Course Manager at the Bernhard Hunt course at Foxhills.

“Wimbledon Park was looking for a person to improve the course and during my first few months I put forward a five year plan which took account of the members concerns with the inconsistency of the greens tees and bunkers.”

He also put together a proper



labour structure, took on an extra member of staff and turned the mechanic's role from part to full time.

“A programme of general good practice was put into place to improve the playing surfaces of greens and tees and a major emphasis was put into machinery purchase with an investment with Toro machinery to ensure the correct machinery was available to carry out the works required,” said Dave.

He also initiated a wildlife and environmental plan working closely with the wildlife and wetland trust. In addition a tree planting programme.

Within year three of the five year plan a course audit was put into place.

Initially the club decided to appoint a Golf Course Architect and after a process of interviews with a number of qualified architects, in February of last year Thomson Perrett and Lobb was appointed to



undertake a full design review of the course.

Part of the brief was to strengthen the finishing holes of the course and add further interest for the members. Adding interest for members is often the greatest challenge for a golf course architect as the ability and expectation of golfers vary enormously. Tim explained that expectations of golf include the competitive challenge of the game on the one hand to a social walk as a form of exercise and catching up with friends. Therefore creating a golfing experience which is fun and challenging is a difficult thing to achieve.

With that in mind Tim began the process of undertaking a full strategic review of the existing course. He made numerous visits to the club, walking the course and discussing the issues with members of varying playing ability. This helped to solidify some of the initial design concepts Tim wished to adopt. One of the overriding observations he made from the course analysis was that the existing course frequently punished the higher handicap golfer. This was prevalent from some of the bunkering being situated quite a distance from the

green, penalising the more inaccurate shot.

Tim's initial concepts were presented to the club and following a process of discussion with the board and membership were approved.

The course is built around a 85,000m³ lake and a number of the holes are low lying.

It was apparent that ground water may become an issue, particularly with drainage outfalls and potential depths of the proposed new bunker bases. A detailed GPS survey was carried out to the entire site. This provided a contour plan that assisted Tim with his proposals and design.

"That survey enabled us to plan accurately the works and have a logical approach to drainage and outfalls. Interestingly within the final design the net sand area of bunkers was reduced from the existing course and the team were happy with the proposed placement of the new bunkers," explained Tim.

The final design and tender package was completed during the summer of 2011 at which time the tender package was sent to three approved contracting companies. Following tender submission each

IMAGES: Bunkers at Wimbledon Park Golf Club showing various stages of completion





ABOVE: A renovated bunker under construction at Wimbledon Park Golf Club

company was invited to attend a meeting to discuss their bid.

Profusion Environmental Ltd was chosen and awarded the contract. Dave felt that it was clear during the interview that Profusion had a passion and approach to the project which impressed the committee.

While Profusion is a new name in this sector the people behind it have a level of experience second to none. Nigel Wyatt, Simon Hatcher and Ian Martin have been working in the golf construction industry for 30, 20 and 40 years respectively.

Nigel was delighted with the appointment saying that this opportunity will be invaluable for Profusion, this being the company's first major course reconstruction.

"We were pleased to have the opportunity of working with the club, Tim Lobb, Dave Langheim and his team to achieve the club's goals," said Nigel.

The site was mobilised and the works commenced last October on the first phase of the works which included holes 1-3 and 12-18 a total of 10 holes. Tim worked closely with Ian Martin, Profusion site manager in order to achieve his design philosophy in the build.

Bunkers were rough shaped initially and then tweaked following Tim's visits. The site is made up of London clay, which not only is challenging from a drainage point of view, is enormously difficult to shape. Having completed the final shaping a sand line was sprayed within the bunkers and a ledge created for the revetted edge. This revetted turf edge gives a very distinctive appearance and really helped the new bunkers be visually striking.

Knowing his course and problems that had been experienced with the existing bunkers Dave recommended that the club install a bunker lining system, something that would prevent sand from being contaminated with the clay, associated problems with drainage and other issues. He trialled a number of bunker lining systems and found that the best solution was Blinder.

Penny Long, a director of The Blinder company, said that working with prominent Course Managers and industry professionals Blinder has been created to provide the perfect solution to consistent playable and easy to maintain bunkers.

Blinder enabled Tim to design very steep faces up to an angle of 45°

as Blinder has proven to minimise sand wash from the faces. Blinder uses environment agency approved recycled rubber granules mixed with a binding agent throughout. The rubber granules are placed in a pan mixer together with the binding agent which gives the product great consistency and strength.

The mixed product is wheeled into the bunker and laid by hand trowelling. This ensures consistency of depth and allows the product to be laid on steep faces and intricate shapes created by the golf course architect.

"The product drains effectively throughout and once it has cured is durable and resistant to club strikes. Importantly being a rubber based product will not cause damage to the golfer or the club," said Penny.

Phase One of the works has now completed and Dave is delighted with the results.

"The Profusion team have been excellent in what have been some extremely trying conditions."

Phase Two commences this October and while Dave will have the course to himself over the summer is very much looking forward to completing his five year plan.

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Rough mowing to a high standard

James de Havilland presents the rough guide to rough mowers

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of cut adjusts between
a nominal 2.5cm to
10cm*



Rough mowers have evolved to the point where modern rotary models offer good contour following and an excellent finish. In some cases, a wide area model can be drafted in at certain times to mow a fairway too. So what should you look for?

As is so often the case, it is dangerous to generalise. However, it is fair to say a large proportion of golf courses will mow roughs with a rotary mower. Versatile, robust and able to operate with minimal maintenance, a rotary mower can combine a good finish with moderate operating costs.

The trick when looking at a new model is to consider exactly what you want the mower to achieve. A lot will depend upon the way in which the fairways are bounded by the roughs and how your mowing passes are set up to optimise productivity.

Is your priority to have a model to mow around bunkers without the risk of damage or do you need the ability to cover a wide area?

It of course follows that a wide area cylinder mower can cut the roughs; some courses will have moved from a 'heavy fairway' model to a lighter design and relegate the 'old' fairway model to taking care



John Deere 7400 mowers work at a variable width of 1.73m to 1.88m. The front units can be swung out when mowing next to a bunker to help prevent the mower's wheels damaging the edges. Each of the three units is 68.6cm in width



Each measuring 53.3cm, the rear discharge cutting units fitted to the John Deere 8400 feature anti-scalp front- and full width rear-rolls to leave a striped finish. Designed to follow undulations, the units are 'narrower' than those of the JD 7400.

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Jacobsen offer a range of mowers suitable for cutting roughs, the 2.30m five-gang AR-522 featuring 56cm Trim Tek decks that will mow down to between 1.9cm to 13.3cm. At the other extreme, the company's HR-9016T offers a 4.90m mowing width, will cut down to 2.5cm and offers the potential to cover around 6.7 ha – or 16.5 acres – an hour.



of the roughs. But where a rotary mower is the key choice, there are a few pointers that can help when trying to select the right model.

- Total area to be mown: Not always as simple as it seems. A 'new' mower may end up being employed differently once it is in service.

The key is to establish primary mowing duties and the area it will need to cut. Remember, theoretical mower performance is based upon a clear run. Halve these rates to get an idea of true performance.

- Terrain: Undulating ground and slopes may influence choosing between smaller individual cutting units and wider multi-blade decks.

On sloping ground, all-wheel drive may provide improved traction but it is overall stability that will be of primary importance.

A wide track mower may be a good choice but will it suit all the work required?

- Finish: Modern multiple 'gang' rotary mowers have improved contour following, individual cutting unit sizes varying between makes and models.

Smaller units will tend to suit undulating ground but a lot will also depend upon height of cut. How rough are your roughs?

- Height of cut: A rough mower that can be used as part of a fairway mowing regime may be very useful at certain times of the year.

Can the mower be used to help reduce grass height following a prolonged period of heavy spring / summer rain?

How important is height of cut and finish? Do you need a mower that can deliver a really fine cut or will a more conventional wide area rotary be more in line with your demands?

- Variable width: The ability to push out the outer units of a mower to increase mowing width goes beyond helping increase productivity over wide, flat areas. It can also be used to push the units out around bunkers or tuck more easily under bushes and hedges.

As with all mowing equipment, the key is to try different models and work out how the mower integrates with existing equipment.

Modern rotary mowers can achieve an excellent finish, particularly when exploited on a 'little and often' regime in periods of fast grass growth.

But some rotary models will also enable you to tackle much heavier growth that can include light scrub. The best mower will always be the one that is right for your individual needs.



Toro Groundsmaster rotary models include the seven gang GM 4700D. Offering a 3.80m cut, the mower can be operated with the two outer units raised. As with other rival designs, the rear discharge units can be fitted with a mulch kit. Note wide track width for stability on slopes. US style 'bump cap' a good idea when mowing around trees.



HIS MOMENT OUR MACHINES

Working alongside his father at Latrobe Country Club, the legendary Arnold Palmer learned the value of the unsung heroes of golf. Jacobsen has always provided greenkeepers and technicians with machines that perform every time, so when Arnold Palmer bought Latrobe, it's no wonder he specified our equipment.



www.ransomesjacobsen.com





David Greenshields is Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager

The Alchemist

When it comes to getting better cultivars into your sward, don't be bamboozled by what's on offer. David Greenshields, lifts the lid on the art of grass seed breeding and blending

A common question I'm asked by greenkeepers and turf professionals is if and/or when they should change the grass seed mixture they're using.

The advice from leading independent advisors is, quite rightly, to consider changing what you're using from time to time in order to add to the diversity of your sward to improve overall performance.

And it is also understandable that many turf professionals are bamboozled when told they should change a grass seed mixture that has performed well over the years. But it's important to understand that you can still follow this sound advice without necessarily needing to 'change' your mixture. So how does this work?

'Change' can take place over time in the form of the individual cultivars that make up your preferred grass seed mixture, rather than moving away from the mixture or brand itself. For example, we regu-

larly test new cultivars in mixture synergy trials prior to introducing the re-formulated mixture into the market, thus ensuring users can enjoy improved performance year-on-year by selecting what can be perceived as the 'same' mixture.

So let's take a closer look at this issue...

Breeding breakthroughs

Let's start with the role of the breeder. Grass seed breeders work to improve and update cultivars on an ongoing basis, providing turf professionals with characteristics like disease and drought tolerance, cool-temperature germination and rapid recovery from wear. You name a problem, you can be sure there's a breeder out there pioneering a new cultivar to solve it!

That's why it's vital that these breeding breakthroughs are introduced into our playing surfaces – they contribute not insignificantly to providing the protection we so

need from disease incidence or adverse climatic conditions. Without them, a surface left unseeded for a prolonged period, or reseeded with an unchanged mixture, will become increasingly susceptible to stress.

Once one of our global network of plant breeders has produced a cultivar that, say, provides improved tolerance to Leaf Spot disease, it's then up to us to make the most of that breakthrough.

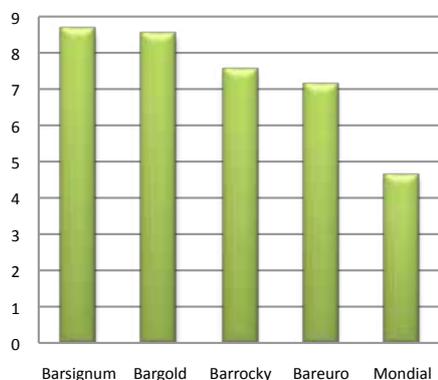
How individual cultivars are selected, trialled and harnessed within a mixture aside for a moment, this brings us to the key point of difference between breeding companies and grass seed importers.

Only a breeding company that understands the value of applied research and development – i.e. a grass seed company investing and involved in the process of developing new cultivars through a comprehensive trialling programme





The improvements in Fineness of Leaf:
Barenbrug cultivars in BAR Extreme versus
bottom of Table L1 Turfgrass Seed 2011



– can provide you with the latest solutions and all the benefits these bring. We are constantly looking at how we can better our mixtures with the latest Barenbrug-bred cultivars – to do so takes time and money, hence we are a premium-priced product with added value in terms of performance capability.

Compare this approach with those who buy-in grass seed from various sources either ready-blended or blend it themselves without the benefit of a breeding, and research and development programme – without expertise or passion.

This means products from breeding companies will include the latest cultivars as a matter of course. So, perhaps you've been using the same mixture – let's say our BAR Fescue – for several years. But, as we'll see, it's changed and evolved over time. If you're buying seed from a breeding company, you are replenishing your sward and improving disease tolerance without necessarily knowing it!

Mixture synergy

Let's say, at the other end of the scale, you do know your cultivars from your mixtures, breeding companies and marketing blarf. A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, as they say!

Lots of turf professionals, understandably, look at individual cultivar characteristics – perhaps consulting the British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) Turfgrass Seed guide – to solve problems. It makes sense – you want a bent grass mixture for your greens, so you naturally gravitate towards the top-performing cultivar on that particular table and give the 'agent' company a call.

This may sound surprising coming from a company whose cultivars regularly top the tables. but, finding the perfect grass seed blend is a kind of alchemy.

That's where mixture synergy comes into its own.

By carefully selecting desirable characteristics, and considering how different strengths and traits might complement or compete with each other, we research and develop the mixtures that eventually make it to market. This is a long process – it can take a full 15 years to develop a new cultivar, through breeding, in-house research, in-field trials with turf professionals and official testing systems; each a vital and valuable part of the process.

Along the way, we might discover a cultivar that scored well in the Turfgrass Seed guide for fineness

of leaf improves a mixture dramatically – and gives, let's say, added cool temperature growth or extra disease resistance to boot. It's fascinating.

Buy right

We all need to remember that you can't look at key characteristics of cultivars in isolation to find the optimum solution to a particular problem, be it recurring disease or a salt-ravaged links course. Nor can the constant chopping and changing of products, or – more worryingly – brands, magically replenish and revive your playing surface.

So what can you do? Well, you can educate yourself about the differences we've discussed here and make informed buying decisions. Ask questions. What new cultivars does your chosen grass seed mixture contain? When was it last refreshed? How often has it been reformulated in the last five or 10 years? When you take into account the wider relationship-building and problem-solving role of grass seed breeding companies, it's unfortunate to see venues make poor product choices.

Let's take a look at a couple of examples of mixtures we've evolved to show just how much products can change over the space of a few years...

- BAR Fescue has changed significantly in the last five years. We've most recently seen the introduction of innovative new cultivars like Viktorika (25%), Barswing (20%) and Bargreen II (15%), together with 25% Barcrown and 15% Barbirdie, to create the mixture's current composition. Compare this to its 2006 formulation of 50% Bargreen, 25% Barcrown and 25% Barpearl. These latest additions bring improved desirable characteristics – combined disease tolerance and cool soil temperature germination – that are an improvement on the previous incarnation.

- BAR 7 is currently undergoing something of a revolution. Having developed a unique Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass (RPR), we soon saw how its creeping growth habit, with a capability to establish quickly and tolerate wear, could particularly benefit football and rugby applications. After successful trials at a number of top football venues during 2011, BAR 7 RPR has now been launched as an added option to the standard mix. And with production of our new top-rated variety Barorlando in the pipeline, this popular blend is likely to take another step forward very soon!

BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System



Membership Benefit

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The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System (SMS) sponsored by Ransomes Jacobson has been developed to provide:

- All golf clubs with Golf Industry Standard Risk Assessments.
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- Golf Club Managers with practical help to meet their legal obligations.

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The Safety Management System contains help and guidance to enable golf clubs to:

- Prevent avoidable accidents.
- Meet the best standards of the golf industry.
- Reduce the costs.

The new, updated, Safety Management System (SMS) has been available to BIGGA and GCMA members since mid January. The original SMS will no longer be accessible to members from 30 April 2012.

STORED RISK PROFILES

To ensure that you have downloaded your stored Risk Profiles you will have to follow these steps:

1. Login to the Members area of the BIGGA website.
2. Click on Member Resources.
3. Select Safety Management System website.
4. Click on the button 'Click here to visit the older site'.
5. Click on the Login/Register tab at the bottom of the page.
6. Insert your user name (email address) and password.
7. Select the Risk Profile area that you wish to view.
8. When the Risk Profile is visible select the 'Click here to Download' option at the top right of the page.
9. The Risk Profile for the selected area will have saved to your selected download area.
10. Repeat steps 7, 8 and 9 for each Risk Profile area.

As you may not remember your username and password, they will be emailed to the address that is registered on the SMS website.

The new SMS does not feature the facility to store the Risk Profile online. All of the documents (Risk Profile and Risk Assessments) are downloadable so that they can be saved to your own computer, a memory stick or printed out and filed away. You do not require a password (other than the login details to enter the Library on the website).

HAZARD REFERENCES

To transfer the information to the new SMS you will need to re-code your hazard references on your Risk Assessments and Risk Profiles. To do this:

Risk Profiles

Download the Risk Profiles from the old SMS (as described above 1 - 9).

Hazards

As part of the review, Hazards have been re-coded e.g. Hazard 'A' across all seven areas (Greenkeeping Activities, Maintenance Facility, Golf Course, Clubhouse, Kitchen, Pro Shop and Fire Safety) is Hazardous Substances where appropriate.



To check how the new hazards are coded, download the Excel document at the end of each hazard page eg 4. Clubhouse – Old to New Hazards.

Both Risk Assessments and Risk Profiles can be updated with the new hazard references as part of your regular review process over the coming months.



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Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



East

Well just back from Harrogate BTME and what a show it was, 800 up on the Tuesday and more than 1000 up on the Wednesday, good attendances you would have to say. It seemed that every corner, even in the town, had a greenkeeper to speak to.

Stewart Ferguson, Robbie Murdoch, George Oliver, and I attended the AGM, and it seems like the way forward will have a lot of discussion behind it. Remember any questions or queries you may have about any BIGGA matters can be taken up with myself, or even Mr Stuart Greenwood, our new Scottish representative on the Board.

The Section committee will meet in mid February and get this year's diary complete, with hopefully some new ideas coming from our new committee members there to discuss.

Other than BTME lately there has been very little happening within the Section to speak of, but be sure to let me know if there is anything you wish to put in this column for the magazine.

Stewart Crawford
s.crawford@live.co.uk



Ayrshire

The Ayrshire Section golf outing was held at Turnberry recently. A fantastic venue, but not such fantastic weather. This resulted in a much lower turn

out than usual, but we all set out on a very windy but fairly dry afternoon after enjoying a hot bacon roll and coffee in the clubhouse. Things were pretty tough but the Weather Gods decided to play their strongest hand when we were all at the farthest and highest point on the golf course - even wilder winds accompanied by torrential rain lasting for about twenty minutes. It says a lot about us greenkeepers that not one person gave in, everyone just getting their heads down and plodding on, water running out of everything. It also says a lot for the golf course, as there was not a puddle in sight on any of the greens during this spell. The strong wind continued for the rest of the round but was at least helping to dry us out a little.

After a very fulfilling high tea and some refreshments in the clubhouse the presentation of prizes was carried out by George and Derek, who conveyed the thanks of all the participants to the catering and bar staff for looking after us so well, the Turnberry Resort Management for the courtesy of the course, and in particular Ewan and his greenkeeping team for providing such good playing conditions, especially at this time of year.

The prize winners were as follows: Harry Diamond Trophy for best Spring and Autumn aggregate, George Morrison (for the second time). First class handicap: 1. Derek Wilson; 2. David Nelson; 3. George Morrison; 4. Willie McMeiken. Second class handicap: 1. John Wilson; 2. Stewart Clayton; 3. Ewan Grant; 4. Gareth Rogers. I haven't mentioned the scores because just completing the round was challenge enough.

That's it for this month, by the time you read this the Ayrshire AGM will have passed and my stand in duty with this report may be over, but please let me know any news regarding people, places and happenings

in the Ayrshire greenkeeping area for inclusion in the next magazine, and I will ensure it is passed on.

All the best,
Duncan Gray



Central

Congratulations to Paul Murphy who has gained the position of Golf Courses Manager with the Fife Golf Trust, responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the seven courses previously under the auspices of Fife Council.

The Section was hoping to put on a practical course on irrigation troubleshooting in March but due to work commitments this has had to be postponed until later in the year. We hope to see a good turnout of members at the evening talk by James Cobb on native tree selection and planting at the training room at Elmwood GC on Wednesday, March 21. The details for the Spring outing at Craig Craighead, on April 17, and the 2012 Pairs' competition will be emailed out to everyone shortly and an entry form will be available on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk for members to print off. These are the only methods we shall be using to notify members. St Andrews Links and GEO are staging a seminar on Environmental issues in the Scores Hotel, St Andrews, on April 26. More details to follow.

Finally, thanks to the many companies and individuals who have again sponsored our website. Their names appear on the site and clicking on their logo takes you directly to their own websites.

Gordon Moir



West

As the festive period has passed and we are all busy completing the work we were unable to do prior to Christmas due to the rainfall I hope we can look forward to a better few months over the coming period. I write this note with heavy frost conditions prevailing outside allowing drainage works to progress and the course is open for play instead of the constant rumblings of when will the course be open and I've never seen the course so wet. Last year was my heaviest rainfall ever in the last 12 years of recording at over 1600mm beating my previous figure by over a 100mm. So to all in the West I wish you well as the rest of the country don't fully appreciate how bad it has been. I hope this season will be dry for a change and the future of the golf industry picks up slightly.

Well what's been happening is very little really but I do have a couple of things to mention. Symbio ran a small seminar on January 18 discussing the benefits of embracing soil biology and over 15 people attended with delivery of the subject being given by Graham O'Connor and Paul Lowe. I was unable to attend due to dealing with fallen timber but it appears to have been very informative to all those who attended and I would like to thank Symbio for helping to stimulate conversation on the subject.

Harrogate was the next thing on the agenda and I saw numerous faces at the show and conference which was very exciting to see - a lot of old acquaintances were made and some new ones, but it was nice to see so many in attendance over the three

day period. The exhibitions were first class and the talks I attended were extremely busy and informative, so well done BIGGA. The staff at head office were always there to help and I had the chance to meet up with the new CEO and listen to his views for the future.

Up and coming events are the Scottish Conference on March 6 and the spring outing which you will be notified about in the coming weeks, please remember to inform me of any small interesting items for the future months. You can contact me on 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914 or by e-mail on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Here's to a good summer,
Stuart Taylor



Northern

I would like to start this month off with the weather and how frosty it's been for the last month. So winter has finally arrived but we can't complain to much as the snow has been to a minimum so far. There has been some movement in the Section, which see Scott Davidson, from Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, move to Newmachar Golf Club as Deputy Head Greenkeeper and we wish him all the best and I am sure he will do a great job.

That leads me to the next part of the Section news in which George Mitchell has had his operation and everything has gone well, and I wish him a speedy return to work.

On a final note I would like to speak about Harrogate Week, which was a great experience, and it was good to meet with my fellow greenkeepers and also catch up with a few familiar faces that I had not seen from my college days. I would encourage anybody thinking about going next year to make the trip because it's very worthwhile. Also, I am led to believe that there were two people who had a different train journey this year to previous ones, but I am sure they will rectify that next year.

Ross Macrae
Mobile: 07588896635

Northern Region



North West

Hi all, Just a couple of things to wrap up from last month's notes; the Richard Campey sponsored Bert Cross Memorial Trophy, from Wilmslow GC I didn't mention the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin winners so well done to Eddie Ainsworth (LD), from Avroe GC, and Craig Morris (NP), from Fairhaven GC.

As you read this month's notes summer is well and truly just around the corner, although it has rained every day for five weeks in December and January followed by four days of frost, course closures must be high in the North West.

It is now mid March and the pressure will be starting to mount from our members to get that quick start to the season we all desire! And a small matter of Augusta is a couple of weeks away. Do we dive in early with a feed on the greens, tees and aprons and hope for the best weather wise or do we wait and potentially fall behind on all of those questions going around your mind?

Gut feeling is a tremendous part of greenkeeping. So, as those Sales Reps start to build up at your door, just remember it is your course and you live and die by your decisions! So as that Rep tries to sell you the latest product that will make your course the best in the area, ask him a couple of questions back. Drag him onto your course, show him your concerns, if you have any, and ask him for solutions, just remember a "Special offer" is only Special if it works for you!

Harrogate is a distant memory, except as I pen this it was only last week and very fresh in my mind. It is great to spend a couple of days catching up with people who you may not see from one year to the next). Apart from my staff, who always arrive on the Wednesday and stay until Thursday and who keep dragging me to Hales Bar for a drink (I wonder why?) Well the ones who can last past 9 o'clock.

The final part of the fixture list

for this seasons tournaments has now been completed and will be with you soon, if it doesn't arrive please contact me and I will sort you one. Anyway, here are the places and dates for your dairy: Spring. Leasowe GC, April 12 (TBC); Summer. Stand GC, July 4 (TBC); Autumn, Penwortham GC, September 19; Winter. Bert Cross Memorial – Wilmslow, November 22 (inc AGM)

Not a bad set of golf courses so please try your best to support your Section and hopefully I will see you at one of the above events if not all of them! And remember any news of people leaving the area or people joining our area please let me know!

See you at Leasowe GC,
Spencer Lloyd-Pye
spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk



Northern

Yet again I sit looking out of my window and it's snowing!

So glad I gave the Saturday Stableford comp at Baildon a miss today. The golf course was still frozen, yet 30 or so still went out and played... must be bonkers! I love my golf but there is a limit, so I am sat in my front room watching sky sports news, loaded up with snacks and goodies, no kids until tea time... bliss.

So, I hope you all enjoyed the show this year, for me it had a freshness to it and a good buzz all round, so many old mates to chat to but not enough time in the day!

I'm afraid not much to tell you this month, the golf days are all booked and confirmed and tee times sorted too... Easingwold, April 25, 10am;

Scarcroft, June 27, 1.30pm; Horsforth, Aug 22, 1pm; Ogdens, Sept 26, 10am; Bracken gill, Dec 12, 10am

So guys the President's Day, at Scarcroft, and Invitation Day, at Horsforth, are afternoon starts, we can put in a shift and still make it, so hoping for a good turn out!

Andy Slingsby,
07506407867
slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com

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North Wales

Spring is around the corner with lengthening days and warmer temperatures, I'm sure even the grumpiest of us must be finding it easier to get up in the mornings.

Stu Yarwood MG went to the GCSAA show in Las Vegas as part of the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhards in February; I hope he found it very educational and will be willing to share his experiences with us, perhaps at a Section seminar in the not too distant future.

The new Section committee held its first meeting in the beginning of February and while I can't give anything away at the moment, I know there are some very bright ideas being raised along the lines of future education and training seminars, watch this space as they are rolled out.

As a Section may I also make an appeal for venues to host our golf days in 2013, and also venues for educational purposes for 2012/2013, we always appreciate it when clubs give us a venue as it isn't always easy to fit us in on their busy schedules.

The coach did run to Harrogate in January, with 20 passengers. We will endeavour to let you know earlier next year so we can make this trip even more successful.

The Spring Tournament isn't that far away with it being held on my stomping ground at the Vale of Llangollen golf club on April 25, the usual format is an individual Stableford and National Championship qualifier. The competition entry forms and fixture lists should already be with you if not don't worry they're on their way.

On March 6 and 7, in conjunction with Osman Groundcare, there is an educational and factory visit to Textron, in Ipswich. Places are limited so it will be by invitation only.

Nick Gray, and Bathgates, are holding an evening cricket match in the summer, I know there is an interest in this sport from within our Section, we have six players already signed up to play but we do need more, if you are interested please contact me

or Nick Gray.

Please keep checking our Facebook group, North Wales bigga, for latest additions to events and news.

I think that has just about covered my scribbles for now, so, all the best until next month!

Pete Maybury. E-mail petemayb66@aol.com mobile 07756001187 or message me on Facebook.



North East

Harrogate BTME 2012, what a show this was with record attendance, even up on the last time the big boys were there in 2010.

It's the first time I had ever seen the show busy on all three days; I am sure all the exhibitors were happy bunnies, not forgetting how busy the Education seminars etc were too.

Education - you cannot beat it, you're only going to better yourself on attending these courses.

I have been doing BTME for 19 years and I have seen greenkeepers coming back several times over the years, it just goes to show that there is life after NVQ Level 3, you don't have stop there. Get on to your Head Greenkeeper or Secretary and tell them you want to continue to learn. Having said that, it was good to see Head Greenkeeper, Martin Wood, and Andrew Wright, of The Bedlingtonshire GC, as they were both on a two-day course. And last but not least thanks to all the North East Section members who called in at the stand I was helping out on.

As I had mentioned in January's magazine I told you that Tyneside Golf Club had in the renowned Dutch Architect, Frank Pont, to change the bunkers at the 1st and 18th holes. Well they are now finished and what a difference it has made to these holes, when playing the 1st you can now see all the bunkers from the tee box.

It's been clarified that further work will be done on other holes at Tyneside next autumn.

The spring comp South Shields GC, on April 18, tee off 11 to 11-30.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

Welcome everyone and welcome to March.

The month when all the hard work is over and winter falls into place, and preparations begin for our upcoming seasons. I'm sure many of you will be ready for coring and tickling your greens and courses into tip-top shape. The relatively mild winter we have had will, I'm sure, have helped us look after our greens and courses over the winter months, and helped us in our upcoming work.

I'm sure that all of you who attended our recent lecture will have had a very enlightening day and left Rotherham full of ideas and new thoughts to help yourself and stimulate those around you. We at Sheffield Section will be looking to develop our partnership with Myerscough College and introduce a better standard of lecture and educational events for our members. Hopefully all members will endeavour to attend these events and encourage their staff to attend, as we are all capable of learning something new.

I haven't spoke to you all since our AGM and as predicted we didn't find a replacement for our Treasurer who has kindly offered to stay in the position till a replacement can be found. If anyone is interested or would like to recommend anyone, then please get in touch. All other Committee members carried on their roles for the upcoming year.

The Committee is busy organising for 2012 and fixture cards will be delivered soon. We are also working on several ideas/projects to improve the Section for members and to improve the capabilities of the Section.

That's all from me for now. Good luck for March and don't be too hard on those greens they will get there in the end.

James Stevens
07738719614

Section Notes

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

Midland Region



East Midlands

Late February saw our annual, Toro sponsored, Go-Karting event held at Wymeswold. Stefan Carter, from Forest Hill Golf Club, was the 2011 champion and, assuming his hair didn't get caught under the wheels, he was a hot favourite for this year's event too. Other pre-race questions that were floating around the pit area were: would Gary Thurman have finished his lap allocation from last year? And, would Ben Cumberland be sporting a new matching helmet and race suit this year with 'Please feel free to barge me into the side' emblazoned across his back? These questions will be answered in April's Magazine along with the results and other highlights.

All East Midlands members should now have received their invites to Scraftoft Golf Club for the East Midlands Spring Competition. If for some reason you haven't, or you know someone who wants to play, then please either ring/text me or email the Secretary at biggaeastmid@gmail.com. Don't forget that there is only one competition this year to qualify through the Section for the National Championship in October, and Scraftoft gives you the opportunity to have your entry fee paid for and for you to follow in the footsteps of Paul Frith and Derek McJannett, our recent National Champions from the Region.

I have two personal notes to mention this month, firstly I would like to thank Pete Smith, who stood down as Chairman of the East Midlands Section at the beginning of February, for all his hard work and effort over the last couple of years. Pete is one of the most enthusiastic and passionate greenkeepers who I have ever met and I do hope that he is able to continue supporting the Section with our golf days and social events. Secondly I would like to congratulate Kenny Mackay on his appointment at Wentworth. Kenny continues to be a great influence on my career

and has always encouraged the progress of committed and driven greenkeepers within the industry. I sincerely wish him well with the challenge that lies ahead at Wentworth.

So, all cylinders have been reground, all filters have been changed, all winter servicing is complete and greenkeepers across the country are preparing themselves for the smell of freshly cut grass in their nostrils. British summertime begins on the 25th of this month and then the season should really start to kick off. The mild winter for the vast majority of us has made this winter seem very short, and with the exception of the cold snap at the start of February there has been a steady level of growth enabling some recovery from the winter wear and tear. Fingers crossed we get a good flush of spring growth, something that we severely lacked in 2011, which would set everyone up nicely for the coming season.

This of course is our greenkeeping utopia, which we have no control over, but we live in hope.

Happy Greenkeeping!
Greg Skinner
07970 095264



Midland

As I sit here in February with snow and freezing conditions all around, I am heartened by the fact that I am writing March's notes, and such can only mean that spring should be well on its way. Fingers crossed ay! As we are on the subject of spring, our thoughts are concerned with the repair and reinstatement of damaged areas from the preceding winter's play. Luckily this month's calendar sponsor is Matt Gresty, Amenity Grass Seed Specialist. Tel: 07767 278335 or 0121 458 6646. Email: matthew.gresty@limagrains.co.uk. Please consider Matt for all your seed requirements, our thanks to him for his continued support of our Section.

Spring of course also brings the beginning of our new golfing

season for 2012, and I find the Tournament Programme Card invaluable in sourcing information regarding upcoming golfing dates and educational events, our thanks to Headland Amenity for sponsoring such (www.headlandamenity.com <<http://www.headlandamenity.com>>). Our first event is to be held at The Chase Golf Club on May 23 with tee times from 12:30. Please get your entries into Gary A.S.A.P. The format is to remain as Stableford scoring system, one I only recently learnt the origin of while sitting in the dentist's waiting room reading anything to keep my mind of the inevitable scaffold pole injection within my head. Such was devised by Dr. Frank Stableford and first used for official competition in 1932.

Also at the Spring event the long running and very successful Everris Doubles competition (re-named from Scotts) will be drawn. The date and fixture for the final is yet to be arranged, but I'm sure such will be in keeping with the prestige prior years of excellence has afforded us. For further information and entry forms please visit our web site: www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk>>.

Now I come to some lovely news to finish, after too many a year, I recently received a text from my old mate Steve Wenlock, from North Worcester GC, informing me that he and his lovely wife Emma now have three children; Josh, Kieran, and new daughter, Millie. Congratulations to you both, I look forward to seeing you in the spring, the little ones will love the butterfly farm, or will we be fly fishing? I doubt it.

Sean McDade



B, B & O

Spring cannot be far around the corner, although as I write this we are literally snowed under! It seems winter has returned with a vengeance. I'm sure many of you will be thankful that the golf courses have been given some brief rest bite

following a busy period since the start of the year, despite pressure from members and owners to open. With this in mind it won't be long until attention turns to formulating and preparing spring maintenance programmes as we gear up for the season ahead. Hopefully courses have suffered little disease in comparison to previous winters and spring will get off to a flying start.

By all accounts Harrogate Week was a success with good numbers reported. Hopefully many of you got to experience the week and all that was on offer.

Congratulations must go to Andrew Thrift, who has left Newbury and Crookham after four years, to take over as Course Manager at Donnington Valley, where he replaces Alistair Higgs who has taken on the reins at Windlesham Golf Club. Michael Cox, formerly of Donnington Valley, has stepped in to become Deputy at Newbury working alongside Alec MacIndoe. We wish all of you the best as you take on your news roles and challenges.

Dates and venues for this year's Section events will be confirmed next month. The format will follow last year's schedule: Spring and Summer meetings, plus the Turkey Trot. Last year's golf days were well attended and we hope to see many of you again this year. Invites and information will be emailed out rather than posted in an attempt to curb costs. If you wish to receive news and or any information regarding golf days and all section events then please send your email address and details to Matt Nutter: bbosecretray@gmail.com. The Section website has been updated and now features the latest jobs from around the area.

The BIGGA Midland Regional Conference is being held at Frilford Heath Golf Club on March 29. The theme of the day is 'Construction and Weather its Ecologically Sound'. An impressive line up of speakers include: BIGGA CEO, Jim Croxton; Mark Hunt, of Headland; Les Howkins, Course Manager at the Richmond GC; Dr Keith Duff, and Cameron McMillan, from Queenwood. Hopefully many of you will be able to make it along for what promises to be

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Barry McCulloch
Age: 31
Club: Whitecraigs Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Beebes



- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 14 years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Different tasks everyday.
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** Mechanic or a Joiner.
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Hand cutting greens, because of the instant result.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Diving fairways in the rain, it feels like its never ending.
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** For greenkeepers to receive the recognition they deserve.
- 7. Hobbies?** Golf, Football, Socialising.
- 8. Favourite Band?** Coldplay.
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?** Glasgow Celtic.
- 10. What is your claim to fame?** My wedding pictures were in a magazine

Are you an Assistant Greenkeeper?

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

Around The Green

an interesting and informative day. Again information/application forms can be found on the section website and will be emailed out to members.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O Section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: bboscribe@gmail.com. Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the web site: www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk



Surrey

Sunday February 5. "Hello and g'day possums". Yes, I did go and see Dame Edna in Dick Whittington at the Wimbledon Theatre and he/she was very, very funny: "Oh no he wasn't. Oh yes he was".

Dick was not the normal long legged girl in men's clothing but this Dick was a guy.

The first snow of 2012 fell last night and I imagine most of Surrey's golf clubs were closed. My other part time job as a starter at St George's Hill GC was not required, so I was able to concentrate on refurbishing my new home in Dorking. The property is only five minutes walk from the High Street and apart from being in close proximity to a certain member of our committee we are very pleased with the new chateau 'Willmott'. My little accident, while on a ladder repairing the garage roof, resulted in a bloody head, a sprained wrist and a black and blue left buttock. Be not concerned for I am well on the mend but it does make one realise, OAP's should stay on terra firma. I couldn't take my own advice and was up and finished the job a few days later.

Enough of Dorking, let's talk Isle of Wight. Yes it's still there and so were we for the New Year. I am told that I danced and drank the night away and that observers of my Cha Cha Cha are recommending my appearing on Bruce's programme with a suitably under dressed, young and nubile member of the opposite sex. That, on reflection, could be more dangerous than

being up a ladder but I'd still give it a go.

Lee Gatland, Course Manager at Banstead GC, is the only member to contact me with a news titbit and even that is out of date, but I am grateful to report on the birth of Daisy, 7lb 4ozs, on November 2, 2011. Congratulations to Katie and Lee from Surrey Greenkeepers.

Lingfield Park GC is hosting a PGA Euro Pro Tour event, and Course Manager, Kevin Weller, mobile 07814012533, needs volunteers from qualified greenkeepers to assist him. Free accommodation and food from April 29 to May 4. They also get a PGA jacket and shirt.

Brian Willmott
Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Kent

If you have managed to avoid the snow that we have at the time of writing this then you are very lucky! Hopefully it will soon clear and the course management teams can get to work on preparing the courses for the coming season. At least we can see a pattern developing with the seasons now with snow in February becoming a regular feature. This should allow us to prepare ourselves, and our club finances for the worst.

Many of you will have taken advantage of the winter period to catch up on your own CPD's and staff training. We are very fortunate to have Hadlow College providing regular free seminars to all BIGGA members and I hope many of you were able to take full advantage, many thanks to John Millen for organising these evenings for us.

You should all now be in receipt of our season's fixture list, which we circulated at the AGM last year, and notice that our first event is at North Foreland Golf Club on March 28. This is one course that never fails to impress, as I'm sure many of you would agree. Hopefully Dan McGrath MG will have picked up some tips on his recent trip to the GCSAA show in Vegas as part of the BIGGA Delegation

to further enhance his course. Full details of the day's agenda will be on the website by now so please do your best to come along and enjoy the course and the company. Please respond to the e-mail invitation to let us know if you are able to attend.

Many thanks to those companies who have offered sponsorship for our coming year, we really appreciate the help you all provide.

Please remember to visit our webpage for more up to date news and views and don't forget we have a forum there for you to leave any comments or questions.

Best of British
Rob Holland



London

Hello to all members, and when you read this I do hope we have moved into spring and are starting to see some growth so we can start to shape our courses for another season.

For my sins I have taken over from Matt Pledsted for writing this monthly around the green, so any information you members may have please let me know.

The London Section had its winter meeting/AGM at Old Fold Manor back in early December, so I would like to thank Ian Semple, Course Manager, for presenting the golf course so well on the day, and congratulate the Finchley team on winning who were well lead by their Course Manager Craig Newton, his two assistants and just a little help from yours truly, and I also thank Old Fold Manor for hosting the day. Once the food and prize giving was complete, it was straight into the AMG which was a long drawn out affair. The following committee members were selected to serve the section, and, apart from me, the committee serving you are young and enthusiastic. So, your committee and their contact details are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

The committee are keen to improve communications so members are better informed and become more involved in Education and golf. The section will have a website by the end of April, we now just have group on Facebook (Bigga London) and are also on twitter (@BiggaLondon).

The next event is the spring meeting at Stanmore GC on May 24 (sponsored by A T Oliver), this is the qualifying event for the BIGGA National Championship and Barry has promised that the course will be in good playing order! This will be followed by the summer meeting at Crews Hill in early August (date to be confirmed) so you will be sent an entry form or you can email Lee on the above email address.

I will be running some Education meetings from October to March and this will be shown in a future article, any members with ideas on training can contact me, or any of the other committee members as we are keen to run a varied course of training to help develop staff and help them manage to a higher level.

John Wells

South West and South Wales Region



South West

Harrogate week...what can I say (that I can get away with...). We all know how good the show was, we all know that the numbers were brilliant and those of us who did the education seminars know how amazing and well organised they were! I'm not going to drag on about Harrogate week too much, because as you've scanned through the magazine you'll

have read everything that you need to know already. But what else goes on during Harrogate Week... yes, we get to catch up with many of our mates... yes, we get to have a few beers... and yes, what happens in Harrogate stays in Harrogate (I hope that this brings back some happy memories and puts a few smiles on your faces!)

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

Very shortly the 2012 fixtures will be with you, and 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 fingertips.

See you all very soon,
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855

Devon and Cornwall



Hello all, Our January Meeting was held at Trevoze Golf and Country Club, Cornwall. The day was very well attended with 70 members either enjoying golf or course walks with Jonathan Wood, Course Manager. Jon took up post at Trevoze only three months ago, having 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 Andrews, where he was also involved in the course preparation for The Open Championship in 2010.

Jon has settled in very well, making a good impression with the members and staff and achieving a lot in a short space of time! During the course walks the members saw some for the winter work being done, including bunker revetting and

alterations to the back of the 1st green. Jon also looked at future work to the course, this included extending the 4th tees back and changing the 13th hole trying to make them tougher par 5's.

The Course was in fantastic condition and played really well. The competition format was Individual Stableford playing for the Barenbrug Cup. 1. Lloyd Overy, Lake View; 2. Graham Clarke, Chulmleigh; 3. Mike Ellis, Lake View. The winner of the Longest Drive was Adam Bridgewater, Yelverton, and Nearest the Pin went to Jason Brooks, Torquay. Thanks to our sponsors for the day, Barenbrug and Martyn Lane Golf, for both sponsoring the event and providing the prizes for the day. After lunch there was an educational presentation delivered by Steve Gingell, of the STRL. The topic was on managing thatch and discussed the results from trials being conducted in conjunction with Keith Kensett using the Sand Injection Graden. A big thank you to Steve for giving up his time to deliver the presentation.

It was great to see a good number of Section members up at Harrogate again this year and it was great to see that numbers on the whole were significantly up on previous years. The feedback from both members and trade was very positive. A huge thank you to Graeme Gallimore and Anthony (Jacko) James for organising the minibuses for 18 members to travel up to Harrogate. Also a big thank you to all the sponsors who helped with the costs, full details of which, will follow in the April edition.

Congratulations to Colin Webber and Graeme Gallimore for achieving their Continued Professional Development Diploma after five years of 10 or more CPD points.

If you have any news from the Section, then please contact me.
George Pitts
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South Coast



First an apology for missing an entry last month, I think



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

This time of year is a whirlwind with our own Exhibition and Educational conference in Harrogate swiftly followed by the FEGGA Conference and the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show. During this time the Canadian Superintendents Association has also held an exhibition, whilst closer to home many Regions and Sections are coordinating conferences and seminars. The quest to share best practice continues apace!

All of these events are loyally supported by our supply industry and indeed could not take place without them. I would like to place on record our gratitude for the fantastic on-going support that we as an Association and you as members receive from the industry. Their investment in what we do is hugely important and I sincerely hope that our membership continues to support those who support them.

Following BTME we issued an online survey to all of our exhibitors and the responses have been both encouraging and informative. It was a successful event but needs now to become the minimum standard we aspire to for future Shows.

The ten delegates, who were drawn from a wide variety of roles and facilities, gelled extremely well as a group and were a credit to their Association and their employers

One area of feedback that was in some ways inevitable but disappointing nonetheless was to hear that some companies who chose not to exhibit at BTME came in to the halls and attempted to do business with our visitors. I fully understand that BTME is not the right vehicle for every company but it is incredibly disrespectful to the companies that do choose to exhibit to be hijacked in this way and I would urge all of you to ensure that any supplier you know of who does this is told that such activity is unacceptable. BTME allows BIGGA to invest in first class education and member services and if we allow it to be undermined by a few we will all suffer in the long term.

On a more positive note it was a privilege during the Golf Industry Show to spend time with the BIGGA members who made up the Delegation sponsored by Bernhard and Company. The ten delegates, who were drawn from a wide variety of roles and facilities, gelled extremely well as a group and were a credit to their Association and their employers. The opportunity to take part in the very high level education on offer and to visit two fantastic golf facilities – TPC Summerlin and Paiute – and have full tours of the maintenance facilities, the courses and to be able to interact with the respective Superintendents was hugely valuable. It was interesting to see just how many photos were taken and notes made by the delegates as they witnessed the different operational methods that are used.

I would like to thank Bernhard and Company for continuing to provide this fantastic opportunity for our members. I know that the trip was extremely worthwhile and certainly memorable for all concerned.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO

Around The Green

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Stuart Greenshields, Greenkeeper, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses, Central Section

Northern Region

Ian Campbell, Affiliate member, Campey Turfcare Systems/ Turfworks International, North West Section
Peter Colgreave, Head Greenkeeper, West Lancashire Golf Club, North West Section
David Owens, Greenkeeper, West Lancashire Golf Club, North West Section
Mark Ashworth, Greenkeeper, Preston Golf Club, North West Section
Ian Brown, Head Greenkeeper, Skipton Golf Club, Northern Section
Matthew Prosser, Assistant Greenkeeper, York Golf Club, Northern Section

Midland Region

Hoyle Swager, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hurst Golf Course, BB&O Section

South East Region

Gavin Mason, Greenkeeper, Wisley (The) Golf Club Plc, Surrey Section
Aaron Fuller, Greenkeeper, Horsham Golf & Fitness Club, Sussex Section
Kris Shale-Martin, Greenkeeper, Muswell Hill Golf Club, London Section
Robin Toovey, Greenkeeper, Muswell Hill Golf Club, London Section
Ben Shipp, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club, East Anglia Section
Peter Sjøberg, Assistant Greenkeeper, Epping Golf Course, Essex Section
Bradley Bonner, Assistant Greenkeeper, Epping Golf Course, Essex Section
David Pinner, Assistant Greenkeeper, Epping Golf Course, Essex Section

South West/South Wales Region

David Taylor, Greenkeeper, Mendip Spring Golf Club, South West Section
Anthony Pitcher, Affiliate member, GK Direct, Devon & Cornwall Section
Greg Williams, Greenkeeper, Newport Golf Club, South Wales Section

Overseas

John Ryan, Ballykisteen Golf Club, Republic of Ireland
Barry Wright, Rijswijkse GC, Netherlands

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

BIGGA Regional Conferences

Scotland

6 March 2012, **Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline**
Contact Peter Boyd, RA,
0141 616 3440

Christmas and planning for Harrogate all got the better of me.

As I write this there are light snow flurries and the ground is frozen solid, my staff are out with rakes on their shoulders although I am not sure why. Our resident Robin that hates the cold is sat on the edge of my desk looking for food.

The Section committee met early in February where final plans were made for the upcoming seminar. By the time you read this it will be history but I am sure it will have been a great day at the new venue.

A very successful course on pesticide update was held at Remedy Oak Golf Club just before Christmas. Jon Allbutt Associates run the course, which brings anyone with spraying qualifications up to date with all legislation. We hope to continue with more educational courses this year so anyone with a request or suggestion please contact Robert Hogarth or myself.

Our next golf event is at Dunwood Manor Golf Club, on April 26, this has a slightly sad note as the land has been sold for housing development and we will be the last event taking place there.

We are guaranteed a warm welcome and a great day so try to be there, usual email glassy2003@hotmail.com for your application. The cost will be £25, which must be paid before the day. Payment on the day is no longer acceptable as this puts pressure on the organiser and it is impossible to give accurate numbers to the club for catering. So if you want your name on the start sheet, pay before the day!

Out on the course there is very little happening, no trees to cut down and no leaves to blow away (but I do have a blower-Phil). The verti-drain sits in the shed complete with new tines, waiting for better conditions.

The machines are all ready for some spring growth although there is not much hope of that for the next couple of weeks. I am putting together a job-sheet of things I would like to see done while the wife and I find some winter sun in the Maldives.

Until the next time,
Tony Gadd



South Wales

What a fantastic Harrogate this year. I have never seen the show as busy as it was Tuesday and Wednesday and more importantly I've never seen so many guys from South Wales make the over 500 mile round trip to join and support the show. Without you guys attending and supporting the trade stands many of the things we are able to do within BIGGA wouldn't be possible. The seminars were great providing you arrived early enough to enter the room I was turned away twice as they were already full.

Good old Welsh weather! Comfortably into February now and we're only just seeing temperatures heading below zero many of you haven't had more than two frosts all winter, so at last with the first winters frost and a little snow many of our greens may get that little bit of rest they deserve (don't

tell the members that part). We may even get the disease pressures down a little as what a winter it's been for disease pathogens perfect!

I can now at last report our winter golf tournament held at Royal Porthcawl. What a day! A slight easterly wind made the perfect international links play that little bit easier, I say that I did manage to score 28 points! Ian Kinley, his staff and the golf club staff deserve a huge thank you, the golf course was outstanding and the service and food in the club house was second to none, please can we return here next winter?

The Results. 1. Rhys Williams 42pts; 2. Andy Roach 38pts; 3. Paul Handy 38pts; Nearest the pin 4th Rhys Williams; Nearest the pin 7th Steve Lloyd; Nearest the pin 11th Wayne Benger; Nearest the pin 14th Paul Handy; Longest Drive 5th Nick Rawlings. Silver Salver (best aggregate yearly total) Andy Roach

Again a big thank you to Huw Thomas from Baroness for sponsoring this event, and thank you again to Wayne Benger for your support.

Peter Holmstrom

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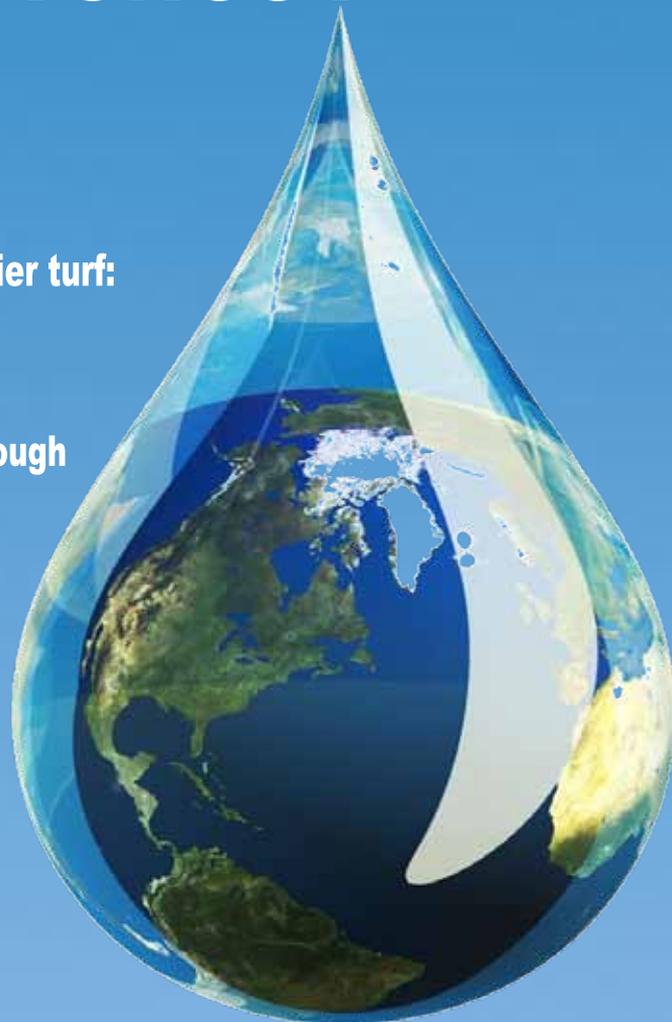
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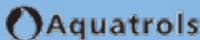
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Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

March at last! This year, the light mornings and evenings have felt like they would never arrive, but we are finally getting there.

Your Section events will soon be gaining momentum, so make sure you have the dates in your diary, check out the Events Section on the BIGGA website for information, or log in to the Members Area, select 'Regions & Sections' from the menu on the left hand side and select your Section from the menu on the right hand side. Don't forget you can contact your Section Secretary directly.

BIGGA Sections and Networks

The Association's Sections and networks are active throughout the UK, with 26 Sections hosting events there is literally something for everybody.

Current members of BIGGA can gain access to the Bulletin Boards where members can gain access to a vast amount of useful, important and vital information for greenkeepers and other sports turf professionals, golf clubs and businesses involved in the fine turf industry. Here you can discuss popular topics and keep updated about Section seminars and events, recent topics discussed are: -

- Growth regulator on shaded greens
- Animal Control
- Thatch products, do they work?
- Hollow core removal
- Greenkeeper appraisals

The Importance of Networking including Social Networking

Whether you are just starting out as a sports turf professional (greenkeeper or groundsman) or at the pinnacle of your career, networking is likely to play a large part in your success.

Networking is about creating a set of contacts and subsequently building a trust and creating a genuine relationship with the people you meet. It provides the opportunity for you to discover people who may be able to help with



queries/problems you encounter during your career as well as the opportunity for you to offer your assistance to others.

For people new to networking, it might seem a daunting prospect. But by investing time in other people you might soon find that your career is reaping the rewards.

Social Networking



Social networking, also referred to as social media, encompasses many Internet-based tools that make it easier for people to listen, interact, engage and collaborate with each other. Social networking platforms such as Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter, blogs, message boards, Wikipedia and countless others are catching on fast.

People use social networking to share recipes, photos, ideas and to keep friends updated on our lives. In many cases, you can use social networking tools from mobile devices, such as Blackberrys and iPhones, as easily as from a PC or Mac.

By its very nature, social networking is interactive. You can tell

anyone (that you want to talk to and that wants to listen to you) anything about your opinions and experiences—and vice versa—through blogs, Facebook pages, videos and even 140 character messages called tweets. You can also build communities based on common interests, causes and concerns.

Many BIGGA Sections now have Facebook Groups or Pages 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 your Section Secretary to find out if your section has a Facebook Group/Page.

Membership

If your membership expired some time ago, you can renew immediately and your membership will be updated from the month you re-commence your membership. It's never too late to update your membership, don't wait until you need one of the great membership products or services BIGGA provide or you need to contact experts within BIGGA's membership and find that because your membership has expired you can't tap in to these invaluable resources.

Make sure your membership is up to date.




Contact Details

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traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Elaine Jones
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Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)

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cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

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




Peter Boyd Peter Larter




Clive Osgood Jane Jones

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 2012 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
MARCH 2012			
March 6th	Scottish Regional Conference	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	Peter Boyd Tel: 0141 616 3440 or by email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com
March 6th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event	St Mellion Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
March 7th	The Turf Club	The Richmond Golf Club, Surrey	Les Howkins Tel: 07871 193495
March 8th	South West Section Afternoon Lecture	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
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 14th – 16th	SGU Rules Course 2012	Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot Watt University	Scottish Golf Union Tel: 01334 466477, email: events@scottish.org.uk
March 26th – 29th	BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection Amenity Horticulture	Pro Green, Kellington House, PE10 0DN	Jane Glassett, Jon Allbutt Associates, Tel: 01959 575575, email: jane@jonallbutt.co.uk
March 28th	Kent Section Event	North Foreland Golf Club	Rob Holland Tel: 07843 410755 or email: grassyars@hotmail.com
March 29th	Midland Regional Conference	Frilford Heath Golf Club	Peter Larter Tel: 01476 550115 or email: petelarter972@aol.com
March 29th	Surrey Section Event	Epsom Downs Golf Club	Ron Christie Tel: 02086 543061/07778 170077 or email: lazyassron@btopenworld.com
APRIL 2012			
April 3rd	Scottish East Section Section Event	Glen Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson Tel: 01501 825760/07961 630553 or email: stuferg@bitinternet.com
April 17th	Scottish Central Section Section Event	Crail Golf Club	Gordon Moir tel: 01334 474021/07850 139799 or email: gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk
April 18th	North East Section Event	South Shields Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson Tel: 0191 413 5232 or email: jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com
April 19th	South West Section Event	Thornbury Golf Centre – Spring Tournament AM-AM	Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
April 25th	North Wales Section Event	Vale of Llangollen Golf Club	Jez Hughes Tel: 01978 860109/07876 776265 or email: jezpro69@aol.com
April 26th	Scottish North Section Event	Royal Aberdeen Golf Club	Dale Robertson Tel: 01651 863002/07711 274525 or email: daleturnberry@aol.com

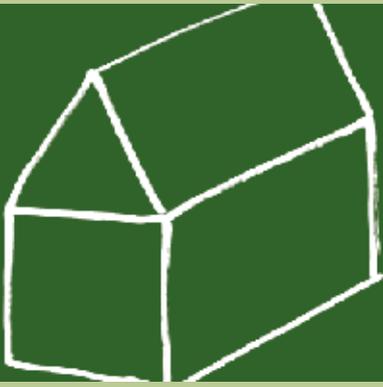


BIGGA Midland Regional Conference

Construction and Weather
It's Ecologically Sound

At Frilford Heath
Golf Club
29th March 2012

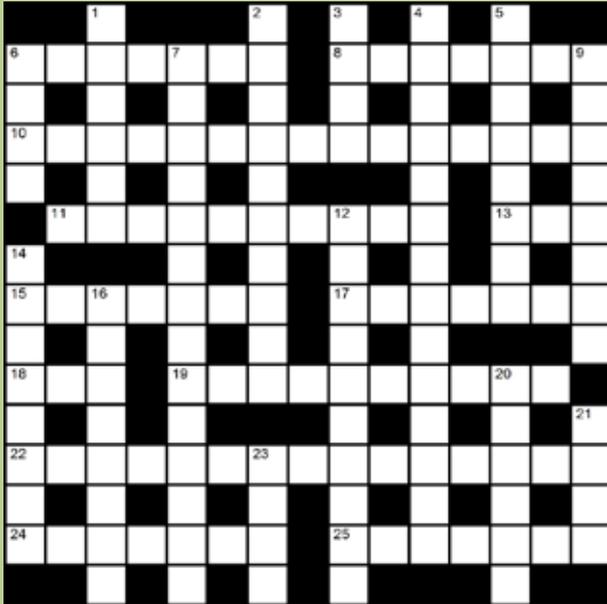




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 6 1988 Sting single, a tribute to Ben Linder who was killed by Nicaraguan Contras in 1987 (7)
- 8 Nickname for a charlady (3,4)
- 10/18/19
The fourth book of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy "trilogy" (2,4,3,6,3,3,4)
- 11 One who compulsively commits arson (10)
- 13 Assist (3)
- 15 Small air-breathing arthropods (7)
- 17 Small piece of toasted bread used in eg soup (7)
- 18 See 10
- 19 See 10
- 22 The use of both eyes (9,6)
- 24 US family, including Woody and Arlo, of folk singers (7)
- 25 Small bunch of fragrant flowers (7)

Down

- 1 Food preparation area on a ship or aircraft (6)
- 2 Bone of the foot between ankle and toes (10)
- 3 In the thick of (4)
- 4 By the shortest and most direct route (2,3,4,5)
- 5 Despondent (8)
- 6 Meld together (4)
- 7 London buildings formerly used as law student hostels (4,2,8)
- 9 Californian city which hosts the Rose Bowl football game (8)
- 12 Unintelligible (10)
- 14 Proprietary name for a padded envelope (5,3)
- 16 Power, vigour (8)
- 20 Tight-fisted (6)
- 21 Covetousness, personified as one of the deadly sins (4)
- 23 Allium porrum, a plant related to the onion (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

World Number 1s (as of February 29)

1. Golf Male
2. International Rugby Union
3. Tennis Female
4. Indoor Bowls
5. International Football
6. Golf Female
7. Snooker
8. Tennis Male
9. Test Batsman



		9		4	2	C	F	8	A
F		7				0	1		
E		4			3	6	A	5	9
C	0	6			F	A	E	4	8
A	E	0	2					6	D
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4	D	5	6				0	8	7
	3	1		8	5		4		7
5				0			6	C	4
6			C	2	A			E	9
2		C	9		E		A		6
3		F						9	D
9			D	3	C	1	5		2
5	2			F	B	8	A		0
				7	1			0	9
B	A		0	2		D	8		C

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.

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

SUDOKU

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



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- ✓ Tank mixable.
- ✓ Reduces spray applications from 6 to 3.

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- ✓ Tank mixable.
- ✓ Hydro-Flow used through the Autumn Winter and Spring periods will firm up the a waterlogged root zone. This is achieved by drawing the water down through the soil.
- ✓ Disease is greatly reduced.

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- ✓ Tank mixable.
- ✓ Strong penetrant will help any feed or nutrient programme that needs to be taken into the soil profile.
- ✓ Uniform movement of water.
- ✓ Economical in use.
- ✓ A superb compliment to pH Bi-Carb and FX 30 Seaweed, for use on areas where you need to stimulate growth.

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- ✓ Encourages uniform water movement
- ✓ Reduces surface tension

HYDRO-LAST 90

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- ✓ As excess water builds on the surfactant ammended soil surface, it is pulled downwards by gravity and capillary suction. This continues for 90 days through the soil matrix.
- ✓ Tank Mixable
- ✓ Economical in use
- ✓ Encourages recovery of turf when under stress
- ✓ Labour saving
- ✓ Ideal for sand based soils

HYDRO-LAST 150-240

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- ✓ Economical in use
- ✓ Labour saving on spray applications

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- ✓ Turfgrass that is preconditioned to better withstand the stresses associated with extended periods of high temperatures and water defecit stress.

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Ransomes Jacobsen Introduce Refreshed Walking Greens Mowers

Retaining the electric motors for traction and cutting reel drive, they are available in three cutting widths 45.7 cm, 55.9 cm and 66 cm, all with an optional petrol engine or drop-in battery pack.

The 45.7 cm and 55.9 cm can be specified with fixed or floating head cutting reels with 11 or 15 blades.

The wider 66 cm version has a 7-blade fixed cutting reel, giving a total of 18 models to choose from.

The patented true floating head allows the lowest heights of cut without scalping, even on the most undulating greens, and a wide array of frequency of cut settings combine to produce a smooth and consistent playing surface.

The Eclipse2 features a true automotive differential, which provides superior tracking by driving the traction drum from one point, making it easier to track straight across the green.

The Eclipse2 delivers a maximum mow speed up to 6.1 km/h (3.8) mph while maintaining the tightest frequency of clip.

The mowing speed can be set through a PIN-protected menu on the Eclipse2's InCommand control system.

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 and also making starting easier, presenting the pull cord directly in front of the operator.

www.jacobsen.com

Syngenta Turf Nozzles in Prototype Testing

A new range of Syngenta turf nozzles specifically designed to cope with spraying on undulating golf courses and to aide lower water volume applications is now in prototype testing.

Also on show at BTME was the completely new design of the Syngenta Turf Nozzle XC 08 has been developed with a 127 degree fan pattern - which gives a wider spray and ensures adequate coverage even when the nozzle spraying height is reduced when spraying over undulating ground.

Each nozzle will feature a backward facing spray pattern, with prototype research having calculated the optimum angle for the different nozzle sizes, in order to deposit the maximum spray in the target zone.

The range is currently being subjected to testing in independent spray testing facilities and in practical use on golf courses. The nozzles are planned for sale release in late spring 2012.

Also new from Syngenta at BTME was an easy to use three-step Art of Application

Calibration Guide. It includes full information and guidance to accurately set-up and calibrate a sprayer, along with a quick reference card for operators to keep in their wallet or sprayer cab, to encourage regular calibration checks to maintain accurate application.

The Guide can be downloaded from the website, with cards available direct from Syngenta or at any of the regular Syngenta seminars and events over the year.

www.greencast.co.uk



New Golf Irrigation Control System

Bailoy Products launched its latest golf irrigation control system at BTME.

The GTI EC is a simple-to-use, cost-effective wall-mounted irrigation control system. Bailoy created this product for all those who want a modern solution with more features than a basic wallmount, but which is less expensive than a full PC system. Importantly, GTI EC has been designed as the perfect upgrade or replacement for existing SC3000 and TW2 wallmount controllers.

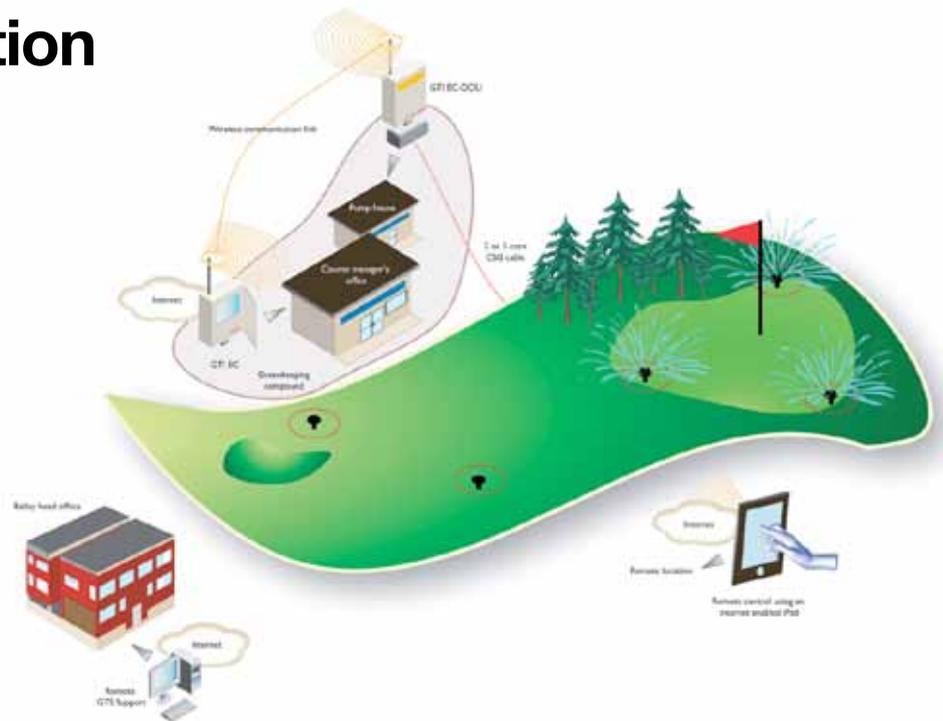
Bailoy designed and built the Toro-branded SC3000 system in the early 80s.

The GTI EC also offers an extremely effective, value-for-money solution for new irrigation installations of a more straightforward design.

For example, smaller golf clubs and courses, and nine-hole courses or municipal sites with less complex watering needs, will appreciate its cost-effectiveness in these economically tough times.

It's equally adaptable for irrigating sports surfaces such as football and rugby pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, too; as well as commercial landscapes and large residential gardens.

After installation and initial set up, the



user is guided through a series of short multiple-choice screens to set the system according to their needs, and then it's ready to irrigate.

Ten straightforward watering programmes and other simplified features ensure GTI EC is foolproof. It can be operated from the wallmount itself or

users can opt to access the system via an internet-enabled iPad or tablet device, or through an existing office computer. This option mirrors the GTI EC screen on the remote device, giving the user control from any location on or off site

www.bailoy.com



INFiNiCut

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

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

INFiNiCut has one of the shortest footprints of any walk behind mower on the market allowing ultra-low heights of cut, on even the most undulating greens without scalping. An all new dual power source – Hybrid Engine/Generator Power system or battery power – reduces noise and improves fuel efficiency.

ATT's INFiNiCut™ is a constituent part of the INFiNiPower walk behind total turf maintenance cassette system - the SMARTCut™ cassette can be withdrawn and replaced with any other cassette in the system such as SMARTVibe, THATCHMaster, and Ultra-Groomer.

www.grassgroup.co.uk



Doosan Portable Power

Doosan Portable Power has introduced a new branding scheme for the company's ranges of portable air compressors, generators and lighting towers.

These products were added to the Doosan range when the company acquired several of the construction equipment businesses of Ingersoll Rand in 2007, along with the Bobcat, Geith and Montabert ranges.

The portable compressor range from Doosan Portable Power comprises 25 models running from the compact 7/20 portable compressor to the large 10/425 Oil-Free machine covering free air deliveries from 1.9 to 45.5 m³/min at output pressures from 7 to 25 bar.

www.doosanportablepower.com

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Lakeland Earthworks

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Lakeland operate and own a wide range of specialist plant, machinery, transport and equipment including 360 excavators with the latest power tilt attachments, dumpers with low ground pressure tyres and bulldozers. Some of this machinery has been manufactured to individual specifications in order to ensure improved efficiency in service provision.

Lakelands experienced management team and skilled technicians pride themselves on being able to deliver projects to the highest standard, on time, within budget with minimal disruption to golf club members and the environment.

Golf course construction services include project design, planning and management, earthworks, shaping, drainage installation, water engineering, final preparation, surface installation, aftercare and seasonal maintenance.

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1. 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals'

Introduction
The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning. Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top-level goals down through the organisation.

Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

1. Cascading goals
Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual in the unit has their own performance goals. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

Profit goal - to reduce waste by 10% across the whole site, by December 20XX

- Manufacturing Team** - To reduce scrap/reject components off CMC machines by 2% by June 20XX
- Warehouse Team** - To reduce part order deliveries from 21 per month to less than 5, by September 20XX
- Finance Team** - To agree 12 key supplier agreements which result in a 2% stock reduction, by October 20XX

In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams where they work together more as a team than as individuals). For some it is more appropriate to agree individual goals (see 'How to Develop an Appraisal System' and 'How to Prepare for an Appraisal'). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

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It is highly manicured parkland Golf Course set in excess of 200 acres and is recognised as one of the best conditioned championship courses in the South East.

We are looking for a highly motivated Greenkeeper to join our excellent, flexible hard working team. Someone who is used to, or wishes to learn, to work at a high standard of presentation & commitment. The applicant should be qualified to at least NVQ2, preferably hold PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates, though not essential, be able to work under pressure, a team player and prepared to be flexible in methods of working and hours.

In return we offer a competitive salary based on experience and qualifications and a chance to work at a forward thinking, proactive Golf Club.

Please send your CV and covering suitability letter to geoffabridge@tiscali.co.uk or post it to: The Course Manager at Abridge Golf Club.

Closing date for applications is Friday 30th March 2012.

www.abridgegolf.com

We are an equal opportunities club.



Liberton Golf Club

A prestigious, 18 hole parkland golf course, established in 1920 and set in the heart of Edinburgh with circa 600 members, is seeking a new, creative and dynamic

Head Greenkeeper

Salary negotiable

Application Form and further information available from

The Secretary, Liberton Golf Club, 297 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh EH16 5UJ

E Mail: info@libertongc.co.uk

Tel 0131 664 3009

Web www.libertongc.co.uk

Closing date for Applications: Friday 30th March 2012

STOURBRIDGE GOLF CLUB ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Stourbridge Golf Club, founded in 1892, is a prestigious golf club set on the outskirts of Stourbridge town. Stourbridge Golf Club is steeped in history and whilst our total yardage is only 6,231 yards, it is a very good test of golf.

This busy Private Members' club is looking to recruit a self-motivated person keen on delivering a high standard of work and being a positive Member of the greenkeeping Team.

The successful candidate will be highly motivated with very high standards of work, an eye for detail, flexible and with the ability to work as part of an enthusiastic team.

Suitable candidates will be qualified to minimum NVQ level 2 or equivalent and preferably holding spraying certificates PA1 and PA6a.

A good understanding of general greenkeeping practices and knowledge of health and safety requirements is essential.

Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience.

To apply send your CV, with covering letter by post to Mr Craig Beet, Head Greenkeeper, Stourbridge Golf Club, Worcester Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 2RB

Closing date:- 30th March, 2012

Qualified Greenkeeper Olton Golf Club, Solihull

Olton Golf Club, Solihull was founded in 1893 and is a very attractive 18 hole parkland golf course spread over about 95 acres set 1 mile away from Solihull town centre.

Our main aim is to keep the course in excellent playing condition throughout the year and significant investment has taken place over many years to achieve this objective.

We are looking to recruit a qualified Greenkeeper to our team who is self motivated, enthusiastic and can work to the highest standards.

The candidate will need to have a good sound knowledge in all aspects of Greenkeeping, Health & Safety and a good eye for detail.

The candidate would need a minimum qualification of NVQ level 2 and preferably PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates. Chainsaw licence would be preferred but not essential.

Salary will be dependant on experience and qualifications.

Please send your application letter & CV to:

Mark Smith, Course Manager, Olton Golf Club, Mirfield Road, Solihull B91 1JH

coursemanager@oltongolfclub.co.uk

www.oltongolfclub.co.uk

Closing date - 31st March



Course Managers

Crown Golf invites applications for the Course Manager Positions at;

**Merrist Wood Golf Club,
Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey**

&

Oak Park Golf Club, Nr. Farnham, Surrey

The successful applicant will be responsible for the management & implementation of the golf course maintenance practices & preparation of the golf courses, within the organisational & operational structure of Europe's largest golf course operator, reporting to the General Manager & the Group Courses Manager.

In addition to being experienced & highly motivated individuals, applicants will also;

Possess man management skills to organise, lead, motivate & train staff.

Be computer literate & have the ability to manage budgets.

Have the appropriate agronomic knowledge & understanding.

Be qualified to NVQ Level 3 & Possess PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certification.

Be able to manage & implement Health & Safety Policy within the greenkeeping department.

Understand & manage the fleet of greenkeeping equipment.

Be experienced in construction drainage, irrigation system operation & maintenance, landscaping & woodland management.

Remuneration will by agreement, reflect the importance of the position, & the successful applicants' skills, abilities & experience.

Please apply in writing, with CV & a covering letter (preferably by email) to;

Mr. Paul Copsey, Group Courses Manager, Crown Golf.
p.copsey@crown-golf.co.uk Mobile: 07774 823119

C/O Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 9AA

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT JILL RODHAM ON 01347 833 800 OR EMAIL jill@bigga.co.uk

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



Regional Administrator: Scotland and Northern Ireland Region Regional Administrator: Midland and Northern Regions

With 6,000 members located mainly in the UK but also in Europe and worldwide we are the largest greenkeeping association in Europe.

As part of our ongoing business partnership BIGGA and Colt Mackenzie McNair are working in conjunction to search for excellent Regional Administrators to be based in the Scotland and Northern Ireland Region and the Midlands/Northern Regions.

Due to retirements we are looking for organised, self-motivated individuals for these full-time home based positions. As the successful applicants will oversee the administration of Regional affairs, organise and attend Regional Board meetings, prepare agendas, take minutes and manage the finances of the Region amongst other responsibilities, they will have a good knowledge of office practices, administration and customer service skills and have good knowledge of IT software including word processing, databases and spreadsheets.

BIGGA is known for its excellent education programme and the Regional Administrators will be responsible for organising Regional Conferences (in conjunction with the Learning and Development

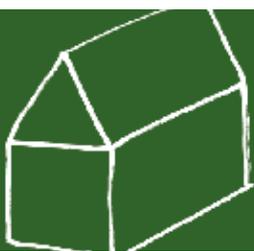
Department), seminars, lectures and golf tournaments. Experience and interest in golf or the golfing industry is desirable but not essential.

Reporting to the Head of Membership Services, the Regional Administrators will work with the membership department on the implementation of membership drives and initiatives. Good communication skills are required as establishing strong lines of communication with all Golf Clubs in the Region and with Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their staff is essential.

As these are home-based posts, all appropriate expenses will be paid together with a company car.

If you require further information on the post before applying please email Tracey Maddison, General Manager/Head of Membership Services or to apply please forward your Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter indicating which position(s) is of interest, by email only, to traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 31st March 2012



in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

CROSSWORD

	G		M		A		A		D											
F	R	A	G	I	L	E	M	R	S	M	O	P	P							
U	L	O	N	G	A	N	T	I	T	H	W	A								
S	O	L	O	N	G	A	N	D	T	H	A	N	K	S						
E	E	S	T											A						
P	Y	R	O	M	A	N	I	A	C		A	I	D							
J		F	R		N		R		S					E						
I	N	S	E	C	T	S		C	R	O	U	T	O	N						
F	T		H		A		O		W					A						
F	O	R		A	L	L		T	H	E	F	I	S	H						
Y	E		N											E						
B	I	N	O	C	U	L	A	R	V	I	S	I	O	N						
A	G		E		E									N	V					
G	U	T	H	R	I	E								N	O	S	E	G	A	Y
H	Y		K																	Y

MONSTER SUDOKO

3	1	5	9	B	E	4	2	7	C	F	D	8	0	A	6
A	F	8	D	7	C	9	6	0	B	1	3	E	4	2	5
E	7	B	4	0	D	8	3	6	A	5	2	1	9	C	F
C	0	6	2	1	5	F	A	E	9	4	8	7	D	B	3
8	A	E	0	2	4	3	7	F	1	B	5	6	C	D	9
7	2	F	6	9	1	D	0	C	E	3	A	B	5	8	4
B	4	D	5	6	A	C	F	9	0	8	7	2	1	3	E
9	C	3	1	E	8	5	B	2	4	D	6	A	F	0	7
5	E	9	7	3	B	0	D	8	6	C	1	4	A	F	2
D	6	1	B	C	2	A	4	3	F	7	E	9	8	5	0
2	8	0	C	F	9	1	E	5	D	A	4	3	7	6	B
4	3	A	F	8	6	7	5	B	2	0	9	D	E	1	C
0	9	4	8	D	3	E	C	1	5	6	B	F	2	7	A
1	5	2	3	4	F	B	8	A	7	9	0	6	E	D	
F	D	C	E	A	7	6	1	4	3	2	0	5	B	9	8
6	B	7	A	5	0	2	9	D	8	E	F	C	3	4	1

Monster Daily SuDoku: Thu 8-Mar-2012 hard

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

Daily SuDoku: Thu 8-Mar-2012 hard



On the Soapbox

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

The 'Green Illusion'

Are you familiar with Augusta home of the US Masters, which for many players is the classic example of a perfectly manicured golf course?

Before the season starts at Easter, many northern European golfers dream after seeing 'The Masters' on television, of perfect, manicured greens, which is, unfortunately, far from reality. To think that their own golf course may provide the same opportunities for so called 'perfect playing conditions', causes members to question how their course is being maintained.

This situation can bring the greenkeeper into conflict with the membership. Because the golfers demand something from him that is unsustainable and, yes, unrealistic.

If not resolved such differences can lead to serious conflict. On most newly built courses, *Agrostis / Festuca* grasses are chosen for ecological and economic reasons. Because the greenkeeper tries to please the members by providing green, holding surfaces Annual Meadow grass (*Poa Annua*) becomes the dominant grass species after a few years.

This grass is to be found on the greens of most of the golf courses worldwide and dictates the greenkeepers maintenance programme. The result is turf prone to disease as well as having very limited tolerance to stresses such as heat and cold.

The solution to this problem is clear: Anyone who wants green grass usually uses water, fertiliser and chemicals. Now the responsible, straight thinking greenkeeper faces this dilemma: He pleased the members in the short term, but in the long term he let the wrong grasses strengthen. If he follows his conscience about sustainability and its ecological requirements, he will have to make a difficult decision regarding his approach to course management. There is need for more information.

If the greenkeeper does not change the way manages his turf the golfers will soon meet difficult conditions. Soft, green and slow putting surfaces make the game less attractive than firm and not so green surfaces. Such surfaces will not be playable throughout the whole year.

The golfers wish for a good putting surfaces is well known, if the greenkeeper tries to fulfill the idea that a lush green putting surface is good, the quality of the green usually falls by the wayside,



certainly 'green' greens will never provide to faster putting speeds demanded these days. Because of these procedures, the very shallow rooted spring seeding annual meadow grass (*Poa Annua*) is susceptible to disease. On top of that, *Poa Annua* needs multiple chemical applications each year, just to protect this undesirable grass from total failure.

In this situation many golf clubs have to deal with increased costs in addition to the mechanical maintenance and an additional expense for fertilizer, water and chemicals. All this is not in the interest of the members, committees and golf associations at home or abroad.

To break this vicious circle, it needs hard work and targeted use of, for example, hand watering. However, this is only possible by adequately staffed greenkeeping teams, but it is here that spending of money will be saved.

The question remains, what happens if the EU bans chemicals for the golf courses, as the national authorities in Denmark already have done? What lies ahead are probably restrictions on water consumption.

Unfortunately we lack the arguments that might help in the long run. A logical consequence for this problem is for

the Greenkeeper to go back to more sustainable, ecological and economic golf course maintenance.

For the golfer this results in a new color palette, a mix of green, yellow and brown color than green grass, which is usually better as well as a healthy alternative putting surface that the 'Green Illusion' offers.



Norbert Lischka

Norbert Lischka, Master Greenkeeper,
GC Hamburg Falkenstein

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

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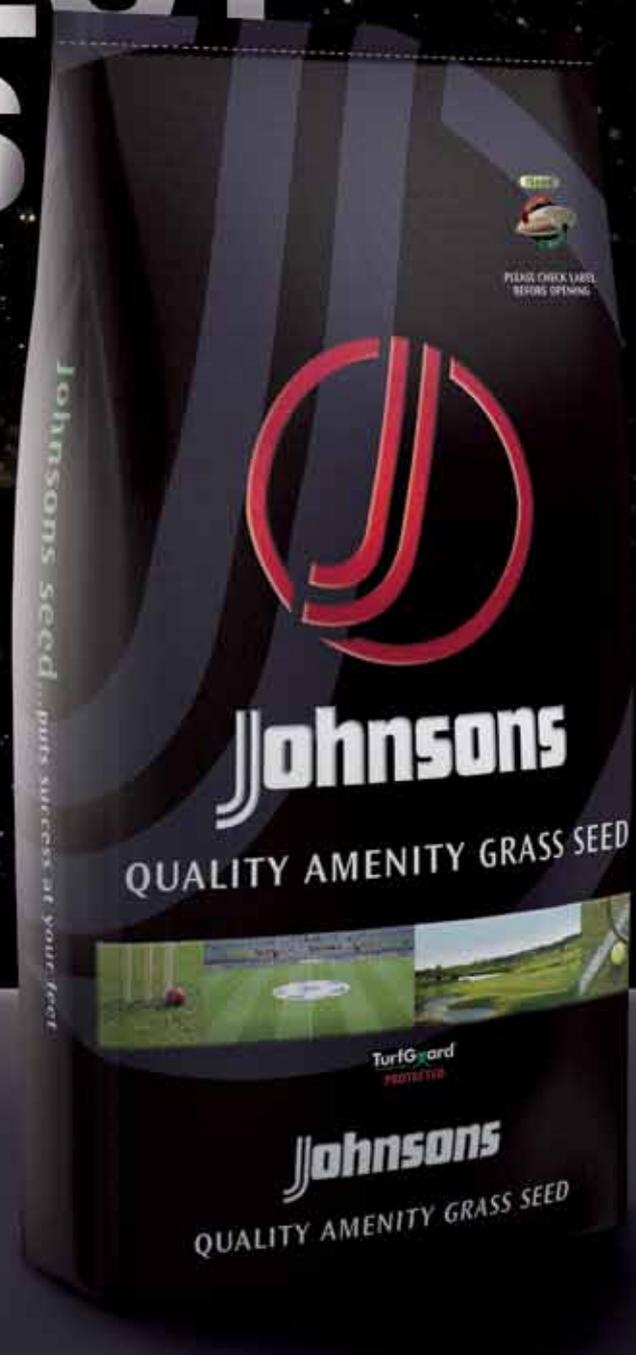
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