

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

£5.20 MAY 2012

Inside...

PGA SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP

Preparing for the Senior
Tour at Slaley Hall

HEATHLAND REGENERATION



We meet
BIGGA Member
Ben Edwards

**Drought
& Water
Special**

Red sky at night, Greenkeeper's delight?

Drought orders and flooding,
Greenkeepers heed warning

ALSO INSIDE... TURF PESTICIDES : AMENITY SPRAYERS



HIS MOMENT OUR MACHINES



In any sport, there are key moments that create legendary status; great reputations are forged at such times. Take the Jacobsen Eclipse 322, bristling with innovative features; it's designed to overcome all challenges. That's why Arnold Palmer specifies Jacobsen for his golf courses.

**FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE
ON YOUR COURSE, CALL +44 1473 270000
www.ransomesjacobsen.com**



JACOBSEN®

WELCOME FROM BIGGA

BIGGA



President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

**Board of Management
Chairman**
Andrew Mellon
Vice Chairman
Tony Smith
Past Chairman
Paul Worster

Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Stuart Greenwood, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Hughes, Kenny MacKay, George Barr

Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton

Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York,
YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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



Editorial/Design

**Design and
Production Editor**
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833801
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise
reproduced without written permission.
Return postage must accompany all
materials submitted if return is requested. No
responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited
materials. The right is reserved to edit
submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no
responsibility is accepted for loss of
manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions
expressed are not necessarily those of the
Association, and no responsibility is accepted
for such content, advertising or product
information that may appear. Circulation is by
subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per
year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World
£95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA
members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf
industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2012 British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited



Photography of High Post GC, Salisbury in Wiltshire by Paul Hope

Water, water everywhere

What a challenge for BIGGA members the last few weeks have been; an amazing early spring that raised golfer expectations was swiftly followed by drought orders, golf courses being labelled 'gardens' and then torrential rain seemingly throughout April!

One thing is for certain, our weather cycles are no longer reliable and that means that golf clubs need to take steps to ensure they have access to essential resources, particularly water for irrigation, in future years.

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to print a softening of the water authorities views on golf course irrigation is emerging which may mean that golf clubs that rely on mains water for their irrigation will be allowed to do so.

It is clear however that the golf industry needs to do more to convince the powers that be that we are responsible users of water and that there is a genuine commercial need to keep grass healthy. In this magazine we focus on some of the work that is taking place behind the scenes to improve the position whilst looking at some examples of good practice that all clubs can learn from.

This month witnesses the 23rd and final PGA Championship to be played on a course managed by Chris Kennedy, this astonishing record is surely unparalleled in British, if not world golf, as is his total of 52 European Tour sanctioned events.

All of us here at BIGGA House wish Chris the best of luck with his final event and more importantly a well-earned retirement.

I know the BIGGA Support Team that will assist the excellent Wentworth crew will enjoy the privilege of being involved in this historic event.

We are committed to a programme of improvements to this magazine and are determined to make it as relevant as possible to you the reader.

In the next few weeks we will be surveying all BIGGA members for their views on how we can achieve this. Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback when the survey arrives or feel free to get in contact with me, or any of the BIGGA team in the meantime.

Finally I'd like to thank Peter Larter for his superb service to the Association as he prepares for his well-earned retirement at the end of the month.

Peter has worked for BIGGA since 1996 as a Regional administrator and latterly has had the tough task of managing both the Northern and Midland Regions. He has done a great job and been extremely popular with members and trade alike. On a personal note to have the chance to work with a former British Lion and Northampton Saints legend has been a privilege.

Enjoy the read
Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO



GI CONTENTS

A look at what's inside the magazine this month

MAY 2012

FEATURES

22 Preparing Slaley Hall

Jim Cook kicks off a series of articles offering an insight in to the preparations for the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship at Slaley Hall

25 The revolving door on turf pesticide products

Dr Terry Mabbett continues his series of articles aimed at a varying readership.

This month for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers

30 Keeping heather on course

For West Hill Course Manager, Ben Edwards, heather regeneration is a passion and golf greenkeeping a way of life, as Mike Beardall reports

34-47 Water restrictions

A series of articles looking at the recent drought and hosepipe ban, plus a look at washdown solutions (pages 42-47)

48 Utility and dedicated sprayers to suit budgets and demands

If you are looking to buy a sprayer, your initial choices may seem somewhat daunting. For most, however, a few key decisions can pretty much determine the main types of sprayer to consider, writes James de Havilland



Water restrictions

Jim Croxton introduces a series of articles on the recent drought...

Water, H2O, water, agua. I'm, call it what you will it has been the main topic of conversation for greenkeepers for the last few weeks and months. We either have too much of it dropping from the skies - some of Scotland amongst other areas are eye watering (raise the price - or for too little, resulting in Temporary Use Bans/Hosepipe Bans and potentially drought orders. Meanwhile, courses are closed due to flooding, but we're assured

that even if it rains all summer, and let's hope it doesn't, that won't be enough to make up for two very dry winters. As ever, BIGGA members will adjust to the varying challenges and continue to strive to produce the best course conditions possible. Many have already taken steps to harvest, store or abstract water, reduce usage and recycle, but there are still golf clubs out there that face the possibility of a long-term ban on irrigation. Water shortages are clearly a serious issue and it is believed the

golf industry to try and claim that it's need is more important than many other deserving areas. But, it is clear that if irrigation is banned then these clubs will be affected in almost certainly suffer significantly as a result, and jobs are very much at stake, not just those of greenkeepers but across the golf employment sector and beyond. Later in these pages we feature some examples of good practice and forward thinking that have taken place but the problem is one that the golf industry needs to address in a united way.

"Courses are closed due to flooding, but we're assured that even if it rains all summer, and let's hope it doesn't, that won't be enough to make up for two very dry winters"

34



BIGGA along with the Golf Club Managers Association is supporting England Golf in its strong attempts to put forward a coherent case for golf clubs to be considered for exemptions. Paul Keeling, England Golf Club Services Manager, explains their position...

Temporary bans are not a new thing. Back in 2006 the last time here and drought orders were in effect England Golf ran water management workshops in the Midlands and South, in which reports by Dr. Jerry Knox from Bang University and Environment Agency, presented highlighted that this has happened for the first time in 60 years, even

tons of thousands of pounds already been a significant loss of income for clubs. This will potentially have a knock on effect to secondary spend within clubs houses and professional shops, secondary suppliers businesses could also be severely affected and employment will be impacted. At the date of writing this article only one water company, Veolia, has provided a response.

We Need You!

If your club is affected by the drought...

it would have on the business if this dropped off due to poor general condition. Signification of Water Use: It is important to show that current water use is efficient (proportionate) to the requirements and necessary to maintain the playing surfaces and that there is no being wasted through carrying out the following: Irrigation Systems Audit: the efficiency and adequacy of your system (using timing controllers, rain gauges, etc.) and the maintenance made to current systems. Records on irrigation

34



42



30



25



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

18 We are pleased to be able to repeat the fantastic offer exclusively for BIGGA Members (times limited)

BIGGA has once again negotiated an exclusive deal with Associated, the nation's largest dining club, to give BIGGA members an exclusive discount on annual membership, helping save a fortune when dining out.

A seasonal membership card gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 6,000 dining establishments nationwide. Restaurants range from LA Tapas, Plaza D'Espagne, Cafe Rouge and C&A to Malmaison and everything in between! Each restaurant featured offers 50% off the total food bill or 2-4 £ across all courses even for groups of more than two diners in most cases.

BIGGA Members can join for a full year membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 (RRP £49.95) from May 15th until 12th October. It is just a few clicks away and an opportunity for you to save a small fortune over the next 12 months.

bert, through the Members area of the website, you have access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

We have already had some great feedback, this is a fantastic resource available to all Full Members and Student Members of BIGGA who are studying at any time. To access the TGC log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Member Resources' from the 'Menu on the left hand side, scroll down to 'Turfgrass Information File (TGF)' and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to use the directly.

provided the tools required to help golf clubs establish their own Safety Management System, another great benefit of being a member of BIGGA.

Member Support Telephone Lines

Many of life's demands can cause stress, especially work, when you feel stressed it can affect everything you do, how you behave, how you think even how your body works.

Help is at hand: a confidential telephone helpline (your details will never be passed on to any third party).

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland
 Tracey Maddison
 01753 462000
 t.maddison@bigga.co.uk

Northern & Midlands
 David Jones
 01273 820000
 d.jones@bigga.co.uk

South East
 Paul Jones
 01273 820000
 p.jones@bigga.co.uk

South West & Wales
 Neil Jones
 01273 820000
 n.jones@bigga.co.uk

Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
 01753 462000
 t.maddison@bigga.co.uk

David Jones
 01273 820000
 d.jones@bigga.co.uk

Paul Jones
 01273 820000
 p.jones@bigga.co.uk

Neil Jones
 01273 820000
 n.jones@bigga.co.uk

17

BIGGA 1st Photo Comp

REGULARS

- 6 ... Newsdesk
- 14 . Chairman's Word
- 16 . L&D
- 17 . BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition
- 18 . Membership
- 19 . Diary of Events
- 20 . Industry Update
- 52 . Around the Green
- 55 . Assistant Profile
- 58 . GTC
- 59 . In the Shed
- 60 . Buyers' Guide
- 64 . Recruitment
- 66 . Soapbox

Are you a Photographer?

BIGGA's Golf Photographer Competition is back for 2012, so if you're a member with an eye for a shot, it's all yours.

BIGGA 1st Photo Comp

GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

ISSUE 20 MAY 2012

Inside...

PGA SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP
 Preparing for the Senior Tour at Staley Hall

HEATHLAND REGENERATION
 We meet BIGGA Member Ben Edwards

Drought & Water Special
Red sky at night, Greenkeeper's delight?
 Drought orders and flooding, Greenkeepers heed warning

ALSO INSIDE... TURF PESTICIDES : AMENITY SPRAYERS

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

Peter J Boyd Retires as BIGGA Regional Administrator for the Scottish Region

At the end of April 2012 I retire from the role of Regional Administrator for the Scottish Region.

In September 1997 Elliott Small relinquished his position when I was fortunate enough to be successful in my application for employment with BIGGA. Elliot and Edna Small were extremely helpful as I was settling into the job. The handover period made it much easier for me and I thank them for that.

During my 14 plus years I have had the pleasure of getting to know many fine folk in the greenkeeping industry. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Association and the best part, without a doubt, was meeting *You*, the members, as I travelled around Scotland.

Working at the Open and our own National Tournament also gave me the opportunity to meet members from other parts of the UK and abroad.

I would especially like to thank

the Scottish Chairmen, past and present for their encouragement and support. I worked closely with the Section Committees and want to acknowledge that their role is vitally important.

I value their service to the Association and thank them for their guidance and help during my tenure. At the Scottish Conference this year I was presented with gifts from the Scottish Regions to mark my retiring. I was honoured and delighted to accept them from Stuart Taylor, Chairman.

The Patrons and Trade in Scotland are very encouraging towards the Association and I would also wish to express my gratitude to them for their support, not only practical and financial to the Scottish Region, but to me personally.

The Scottish Regional Administrator does not work in isolation but has the backing of the team at headquarters. I thank them for their time and talents that they have been willing to share.

Although I will miss the daily routine and contact with you, I now go off to a life of leisure, golf and malt whisky as well as the *To Do* list my wife has for me. I wish each and every one of you success for the future.

Best Wishes
Peter J Boyd



BIGGA Scottish National Tournament at Ratho Park

By courtesy of the Captain and Committee of Ratho Park, the BIGGA Scottish National Tournament will be held on Wednesday 20 June 2012.

Entry fee is £25. Apprentice fee is £12 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll on arrival, plus an evening meal and sweep and prizes.

Please send all entries with remittance to Rachael Duffy, Learning & Development, BIGGA House, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO61 1UF by 7 June 2012.

Cheques made payable to BIGGA HQ.

TORO: THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR NATIONAL GOLF CENTRE

It's all smiles at The National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa as the team renew their five-year exclusive deal with Toro and its distributor Lely UK.

Having used Toro machinery since 1997, Course Manager Sam Rhodes, Director of Golf Operations Richard Latham and Finance Director Craig Wagstaff, didn't hesitate to sign on the dotted line for a further five years with the market-leading turf maintenance machinery manufacturer.

Commenting on the signing, Sam says, "We stick with Toro because we believe it's the best make on the market. We have a nine-year rolling machinery

replacement programme, and find the machines really hold their value and make us a bit of money back at the end of that period. We also have a fantastic dealer in Chris Sellars Groundcare, I can't speak of them highly enough."

The latest machines to arrive at the 'home of English golf' in Lincolnshire are two new Workman MDX-D mid-duty diesel utility vehicles, a Reelmaster 5410-D fairway mower and a Groundsmaster 4300-D rough mower. Sam is also looking forward to the installation of a brand new Toro irrigation system commencing later this year.



BIGGA Member Stan Wins iPod

Congratulations to Stan Shotton, Head Greenkeeper at Durham City Golf Course, who filled in Shelton SDS's greens drainage questionnaire and won himself an iPod.

Sheltons had a great response to the questionnaire. Mick Claxton, General Manager at Sheltons said:

"We have had some really useful information back, which will be used in our research and development."

Stan has been at the Durham club for 28 years and is pleased to be part of their 125th birthday celebrations which are taking place this year and include an anniversary golf competition in August.

Durham City Golf Club has been at the forefront of supporting junior golf for a number of years and has close ties to the local schools and community.

Well done Stan!

A Nice Place to Bee

Dan McGrath MG, Course Manager at North Foreland Golf Club, was this month featured in his local newspaper, The Kent Gazette, as the club joins Syngenta's Operation Pollinator, a national scheme aimed at creating habitats for insects, such as bees, on out-of-play parts of courses.

The hope is to boost the declining bee population and develop valuable ecological resources.

Dan, heading up an eight-strong greenkeeping team, explains how it started back in September, when two out-of-play areas on the course were overseeded with wildflowers:

"This provides pollen and nectar sources for bumblebees and other bee species. We have implemented the project into our ecology and environment plan for the site."

"The Operation Pollinator

Golf club aims to lure swarms of insects to nests in out-of-play areas Site has birdies ... now for bees

By Kathy Bailey

www.thiskent.co.uk

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

11:45 AM



Boost

The hope is to boost the declining bee population and develop valuable ecological resources.

Golf course manager Dan McGrath said: "The scheme is with a company called Syngenta.

They have been trying to get it up and going for the past 12 months on golf courses nationwide.

We are the only one in east Kent to take up the challenge and started last September by choosing two out-of-play areas on the course and over-seeding them with wildflowers.

This provides pollen and nectar sources for bumblebees and other bee species.

We have implemented the project into our ecology and environment plan for the site."

"The Operation Pollinator

initiative and our work with the Kent Wildlife Trust has generated great enthusiasm and interest among players and visitors to the club.

"Creating a vibrant environment and the ecology that we are aiming to attract really adds to the overall playing experience at North Foreland.

"The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

North Foreland.

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem."

"Maybe we will have our own honey!"

Mr McGrath, 55, said: "We are taking it step by step, but if everything comes to fruition, who knows?"

GET INTO GOLF GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

Get Into Golf (the national campaign to grow the game) got down to business when it teed off a taster day in the heart of London's Canary Wharf.

Businessmen in sharp suits and ties joined tourists and shoppers to take on a putting challenge, or to have a quick lesson with a PGA professional.

The Get Into Golf event, featuring brightly coloured inflatable nets and a putting green, proved a huge draw to passers-by who frequently queued to take part.

The one-day event officially launched the England Golf Partnership's campaign to inspire new golfers and support its plan to make England the world's leading golf nation by 2020.

"It's great," said businessman Anthony Doherty, who devoted a chunk of his lunch break to a refresher golf lesson. His colleague and regular golfer, Ross McKie, looked on approvingly. "This is a really

good idea to get people swinging a club," he said.

Another businessman, Nathanael Conn, was also tempted into the nets and said "this is great fun and it's brilliant to have it here. I'd like to think golf is a much more accessible sport than it was years ago."

Birmingham teachers Kiren Rana and Kamal Nijjar both loved their taste of golf and returned home, planning to check out the many taster opportunities in their area.

"I thought I would be really awful but it was good! We both think we might have a go at golf," said Kamal.

The event attracted all ages, from tiny tots to an 85-year-old enthusiast. Members of England's Golf Youth Panel and volunteers who staffed the stand encouraged them, and PGA professionals John McCartney and Paul McNulty offered them taster lessons from the Golf Lab indoor



academy in Canary Wharf.

"This is a brilliant way to raise awareness," said John.

Visitors to the event were given details of the Get Into Golf website, www.getintogolf.org, which features taster and coaching opportunities across the country.

The Get Into Golf campaign is organised by the England Golf Partnership (EGP), which brings together the amateur governing body, England Golf, and the Professional Golfers' Association to grow the game with the support of the Golf Foundation and Sport England.



PGA Catalunya Resort Seals Deal with RJ

Recently voted the No 1 golf course in Spain, The PGA Catalunya Resort, has signed a five-year preferred supplier agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen.

Pictured above with Rupert Price, Sales Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, Miguel Girbes, Golf Director at PGA Catalunya Resort, added:

“We strive continually to enhance the golfing experience for both elite players and visitors on golfing breaks and have recently upgraded our practice facilities which will make a visit to PGA Catalunya Resort even more memorable. We particularly want PGA Catalunya Resort to become the preferred winter training camp for golf federations and clubs around Europe and the signing of this strategic partnership with Ransomes Jacobsen will be a contributory factor to help us achieve this goal.”

Over the next five years, the entire fleet will become orange as the previous equipment is replaced with a range of modern turf maintenance products manufactured in Charlotte, North Carolina and at the company’s European manufacturing base in Ipswich, Suffolk.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, David Batalle, Head Greenkeeper responsible for the two 18-hole courses, the Stadium and the Tour said,

“Our current fleet is seven years old and as Spain’s number one golf experience, course presentation is highly important to us. The quality of cut we get from the 405 played a significant role in determining our choice of equipment. We mow the fairways every day as you would expect from a club of our standing and the finish it’s producing is superb.

“I’ve been impressed with the level of service we’ve received from Ransomes Jacobsen’s Spanish distributor, Green Mowers of Burgos, following the purchase of the Fairway 405 and this was also a contributory factor in our decision to go with Ransomes Jacobsen.”

Bataller has worked most of his life in the Catalan region, starting his career when employed during the construction of Golf Girona in 1991 and later being appointed Course Manager. He subsequently worked at Barcelona Golf Club and Club de Golf Peralada before taking up his position at PGA Golf Catalunya.



CATCH THE DRIFT

The Drift has become the very first golf club in the UK to upgrade to Toro’s brand new Lynx irrigation control system software.

The 18-hole woodland course in Surrey was installed with a full fairways, greens, tees and approaches Toro Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) system last summer.

However, the software controlling the irrigation hardware has since been upgraded from Toro’s SitePro system to a state-of-the-art Lynx

system for improved efficiency and usability. The Drift made the investment in Lynx and GDC despite these challenging economic times for golf clubs, with the directors’ commitment to improving course conditions representing their single biggest financial decision since acquiring the club in 2001.

The club’s previous system, which was 30 years old, struggled to cope in the exceptionally dry summer of 2010, prompting the directors’ decision to replace it.



Carnoustie’s John Philp Awarded

The R & A organised a forum for Course Managers, Greens Chairmen and Golf Club Secretaries from all the Open venues.

At the event, Peter Dawson CEO of the R & A took the opportunity to present John Philp of Carnoustie with a silver salver in appreciation of John’s

contribution to the 1999 and 2007 Opens at Carnoustie.

John is pictured with P Dawson, Graeme Duncan, General Manager, Carnoustie Golf Links and John Gilbert Greens Chairman, Carnoustie Golf Links.

Courtesy of Gordon Reid GSR Photographic.

Central Section Spring Outing



L-R: Stuart Taylor, Andy Mellon, Paul Murphy, Gordon Moir, Kenny Mitchell, Shaun Anderson, Bob Meikle, Tracey Maddison and Peter Boyd.

Over 50 players enjoyed the Central Section outing on the Craighhead Course at Crail on 17th April courtesy of Crail Golfing Society.

The course was prepared in fantastic condition by Bob Meikle and his staff despite the atrocious overnight weather and it was great to see how it has matured and developed over the past 14 years.

Attending the outing were Richard Clifford and David Roy, Captain and Manager of Crail

Golfing Society respectively along with BIGGA National Chairman, Andy Mellon, Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor, CEO Jim Croxton, Head of Membership Tracey Maddison and Regional Administrator Peter Boyd, in one of his last tasks before his retirement.

Our thanks go to Crail Golfing Society and all their staff along with the Trade who always support the section so well on the day. For results in full: www.biggacentralsection.org.uk



Andrew Smith of Fraserburgh Golf Club

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Fraserburgh Golf Club greenkeeper, Andrew (Andy) Smith.

Andy passed away on Thursday 29th of March aged just 30 years old, after a courageous battle with illness.

Andy was a very loyal and hardworking member of the greenkeeping team and will be sadly missed.

He was a proud family man and our thoughts go out to his children, Ashton, Thalia, Korbyn and Devlin and his partner Michelle.

Andy was also a keen member of the North Section of the Greenkeepers Association.

The North Section Committee and Members, and his former colleagues, would also like to express its deepest sympathy to the family and the thoughts of all of us are with them during this difficult time.

MIDLAND AND NORTHERN REGION 2012 GOLF MANAGEMENT COMPETITIONS

This year's BIGGA Midland and Northern Region Golf Management events, sponsored by Tacit Golf UK, for the second year, will take place at the following venues:
MIDLAND REGION: North of the Region: Gay Hill Golf Club on Thursday 12th July.

South of the Region: Verulam Golf Club on Thursday 9th August.

NORTHERN REGION: East of the Region: Bingley St Ives Golf Club on Wednesday 25th July.

West of the Region: TBA.
This 4-man team event must include a member of the Green Staff, who must be a member of BIGGA. The other team members may be chosen from the Golf Club Secretary or Manager, Club Captain or

Vice-Captain, Chairman of Green or Golf Club Committee Member. Entry forms will be sent to golf clubs in the appropriate part of each Region.

If you wish to enter a team please contact the BIGGA Midland/Northern RA, Peter Larter on 01476 550115; 07866 366966 or email petelarter972@aol.com

Successor to John Philp Announced

Carnoustie Golf Links Chairman Gordon Wilson, reports that following an interview process that saw many strong candidates at the interviewing table he is absolutely delighted to announce that Sandy Reid has been appointed successor to John Philp as Links Superintendent for Carnoustie Golf Links.

Sandy (35), who is married

to Catherine and has a 1 year old daughter Harriet, hails originally from Blair Atholl.

After graduating from Elmwood College in Fife he worked at Letham Grange for 3 years before making the move to Carnoustie where he has spent the last 7 years as Championship Course Head Greenkeeper. A keen golfer and curler, last year his curling

team were beaten finalist in the Scottish Championships, Sandy said that

"It is an honour to be following on from John and I will do my best to ensure that the high standards set at Carnoustie continue.

"I'm looking forward to working with a fantastic team and meeting all future challenges."



JSM Challenge Cup: The Quest for Glory

Following tournaments in 2008 and 2010, JSM are once again organising a one day five-a-side football tournament to be held on 23rd May 2012.

Entry is open to all greenkeeping and grounds care staff working for organisations located in the company's general trading area of Kent, Sussex, Surrey, South London and East Berkshire. The tournament will take the form of 10 minute matches played in four pools, which will generate the qualifiers for the knock out stages.

Managing Director, David Cole, says: 'We have enjoyed two great events with Sunningdale GC winning the first on penalties in 2008, and then Pyrford Golf Club (right) coming top of a very keenly fought competition in 2010.

The positive feedback from past participants and the continued support of JSM's supplier partners means this bi-annual event is becoming a firm favourite.

Smaller organisations are encouraged to group together with others to make up a team. The day will feature a complimentary barbecue to take place immediately following the trophy and medal presentations.

Entries must be in by early May 4th and places will be limited to keep to the four pool format and time frame intact. More details and entry forms are available from JSM Limited, 0845 026 0061.



ROYAL NORTH DEVON THROUGH TO SLALEY HALL

Royal North Devon Golf Club at Westward Ho! in Devon has won the first regional qualifying tournament of the 2012 John Deere Team Championship golf competition, organised by south-west John Deere dealership Masons Kings.

A total of 18 teams took part in the tournament, which went ahead at Boringdon Park Golf Club, Plympton, near Plymouth in Devon, despite a day of heavy April showers, with BIGGA's regional administrator Jane Jones acting as the tournament's official scorer.

"It wasn't just the rain," said organiser Roy Key of Masons Kings. "Boringdon Park is up on a hill and the wind across the course made it quite a challenging day."

Royal North Devon's net score of 65 in the modified scramble event secures them a place in the next round. St Austell finished on 64 but knew their team format prevented them from qualifying for the final.

The Royal North Devon team – made up of the club's general manager Mark Evans, committee member Robert Fowler and head greenkeeper Neil Crawley – will be travelling to De Vere Slaley Hall in September to play on the championship Hunting course in the national tournament final, together with John Rowe, the dealership's Cornwall depot manager who joins the team as the fourth member.

"I've played in a few John Deere Team Championship tournaments in the past but this is the first time we've ever got through to the final," says Mark Evans, the club's general manager. "The event



was very well organised and we had a great day."

The John Deere Team Championship celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2012, having started in the US in 1987. This is the sixth time the competition has been run in UK & Ireland since the first tournament in 2002, and around 30 regional dealer tournaments are taking place this year.

Meanwhile, Appleby Golf Club recently took receipt of the new John Deere 8000E sit-on mower (right).

"Turning on the tees without marking makes the job so much quicker," said a delighted Steve Campbell, Course Manager.

Here comes the rain...



Although the Drought Order is still in place in many counties, as we went to print, golf courses all over the nation suffered from torrential rain, and many became unplayable. Aldwark Manor GC, situated by the side of BIGGA HQ, proved a handy resource for these pics!

IRON MAN JOSH TO BIKE TO BARCELONA



BIGGA Member, Joshua Webber, is taking part in the Barcelona 'Half Ironman' Triathlon on 27 May in order to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

This charity is close to the hearts of many at Josh's club, Portmore Golf Park.

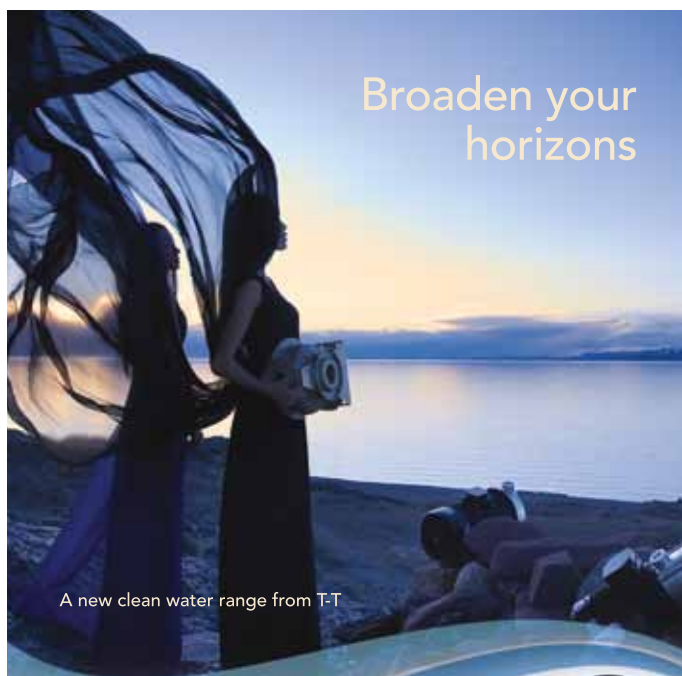
His Half Ironman will consist of a 1.2 mile sea swim, a 56 mile bike ride and a 13.1

mile run. Joshua adds:

"My training has been going well, however the heat is the main thing that worries me, as I'm pretty sure Barcelona has a little more sunshine than the West Country!

"It would be great if anyone could help me out with sponsorship, it really will make a difference to peoples lives."

Broaden your horizons



A new clean water range from T-T



T: 01630 647200
www.ttpumps.com





Playing Consistent, Staying Consistent

Greens smoothness is everything when it comes to giving golfers a better playing experience, according to STRI agronomist, Henry Bechelet when speaking at the 'Playing Consistent - Staying Consistent' spring seminar series, organised by Everris, Ransomes Jacobsen and Syngenta.

He highlighted results of the Syngenta Golf Player Survey that had identified smoothness as the top demand for player satisfaction, with out-and-out speed the least important factor in performance of greens.

The seminars, supported by BIGGA, attracted CPD credits for members who attended the events, which took place at Marriott Dalmahoy Country Club, The Mere Golf Resort and Robin Hood, John O'Gaunt and King's Hill Golf Clubs.

"BIGGA's CPD programme is a valuable, structured process that can maintain and enhance the competence and professionalism of greenkeepers and that's why we - Syngenta, Everris and ourselves - linked this series of seminars to the CPD programme," said Gina Putnam, Marketing Manager at Ransomes Jacobsen.

Speaking at the John O'Gaunt

Golf Club event, Bechelet said that he believes getting it right on the greens can elevate a golf course from simply being good, to being something really special.

"If the focus is on smoothness, it means that we don't have to destroy our greens for the sake of pace. We can work on good agronomy and management that is geared around turf health, and producing surfaces that perform every day, all year round."

The seminars' innovative format consisted of morning presentations and afternoon practical workshops, during which the significant impact of mower set up and adjustment in delivering consistent smoothness of greens was demonstrated as was the importance of balanced turf nutrition, while the problem of dry patch was also addressed.

Using the Jacobsen eclipse delegates were shown that too low a clip rate could lead to a rifling effect that slows ball roll. As the clip rate increases smoothness generally improves, but if it gets too much then the smoothness can begin to decline.

The Ransomes Jacobsen team were able to practically demonstrate and compare the difference in smoothness produced on a single green cut at three different

clip rates by an Eclipse 122 pedestrian all-electric mower.

A green was divided into three sections, each mowed at a different clip rate (3.33mm, 2.71mm and 1.61mm) with each adjustment taking less than a minute.

Physical measurement of the resulting green's smoothness was made using the STRI's Trueness Meter™, which measures and records lateral and vertical deviation.

"BIGGA's CPD programme is a valuable, structured process that can maintain and enhance the competence and professionalism of greenkeepers"

Gina Putnam

tion in the turf's surface by means of a golf ball-sized roller moving across the surface.

The results showed that the 2.71 mm clip rate setting brought the greatest improvement (20 per cent) in smoothness, a result that will translate in practice into putts which bobble and deviate less from the golfer's selected direction.

Dr Simon Watson of Syngenta commented that the company's Golf Player Survey could be instru-

syngenta.

everris.
Driven by Innovation, Inspired by Nature
Formerly known as **Sports Professional**

RANSOMES JACOBSEN



mental in helping greenkeeping teams secure investment in the course.

“The findings of the independent survey are now freely available on the GreenCast website, in a format that greenkeepers can use with club secretaries and Green Committees to argue their case,” he said. “It can help focus efforts on key areas that really influence golfers’ choice in where they play, and the satisfaction that will keep them coming back.”

He highlighted that the new Syngenta wetting and water conservation agent, Qualibra, will have an important role in maintaining consistent playing surface quality this season.

“As an effective water conservation agent, it holds soil moisture deep and evenly and that enables healthy roots to grow more vigorously and it achieves more efficient irrigation use.”

Watson reported trial results have shown that Qualibra is more effective in getting soils back to optimum soil moisture and with significantly less irrigation than other wetting agents tested. A major additional benefit is that it avoids holding too much water that could adversely affect turf health or playability.

Lewis Blois of Everris reinforced the message that relieving stress on turf plants is key to Integrated Turf Management plans that will help maintain more consistent playing surfaces.

He urged greenkeepers to have soils regularly sampled for their nutrient status and to tailor fertilizer applications accordingly. “The aim is to provide a consistent and even supply of nutrients that matches plant growth and demand. Improving efficiency, with more of the nutrients taken up and utilised by the plants, minimises leaching, run-off, lock-up and waste.”

“Avoiding peaks and troughs in nutrient availability with a balanced slow release of nutrients also encourages healthier turf plants, which are more able to withstand stress, wear or disease and will maintain better playing surfaces, he added.

Blois reported results of Everris trials where a SierraformGT slow release fertilizer programme resulted in a 27% reduction in disease infection, compared to just 8% reduction with a conventional fertilizer programme. Furthermore, when a wetting agent was also added to further reduce stress on the plants, the disease reduction was over 46% better than untreated.

A Worthwhile Experience for a BIGGA Member



“My entire team and I attended the seminar and found the content informative and thought provoking. Each presentation stimulated a lot of discussion amongst the attendees which was great because it gave us the views not only of the presenters but of other course managers/greenkeepers.

“It was great for my team to meet the people behind some of the companies we deal with, to interact and learn from people with industry experience. The trainees especially enjoyed the day as they were not aware of what was involved in bringing out new products and innovative solutions to the industry.”

Andy Wood, Robin Hood GC



Chairman's Word

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

Rain or shine, come what May?

Well another strange year underway, very challenging in various ways for our members in different parts of the country. While hosepipe bans have been spreading throughout the country imposed as a result of very low water levels in most areas, the weather has turned a bit nasty in April, and the sunshine we had in March has all but disappeared. The impact is very varied across the country, some would be happier to see it drier (North), while some are happy to get some rain, given that they are prohibited from using mains water (South).

BIGGA will endeavour alongside the other golf bodies to represent your interests and ensure that the impact on our businesses is made clear to those in power that make these decisions.

Please feedback to HQ or myself any input on this matter, including any ideas or ways you have minimised the impact of little or no water for irrigation.

We can collate and share the information with all the members and the other golf bodies.

I attended my local Central Section Spring Outing at Crail, to help with the Prizegiving. My work schedule prevented me from playing, but the course looked fantastic and the feedback from all attending was excellent. Jim Croxton and Tracey Maddison were in Fife to interview for the Regional Administrator position, accompanied by Peter Boyd at his last public appearance in his role before his retirement.

The event was very well run, and all those present were a credit to the Association, commented on by the Club Captain, Richard Clifford and David Roy (CMAE) and Managing Secretary of Crail Golfing Society.

This month sees the retirement of Peter Larter, who has acted as Regional Administrator for our Northern and Midland regions and been with BIGGA on and off for 16 years. He has been a fantastic servant to the membership and we wish him well.

Work has been very busy as usual, as well as looking after the course we have opened a new pro-shop and been busy



BIGGA will endeavour, alongside the other golf bodies, to represent your interests and ensure that the impact on our businesses is made clear

sorting out our Driving Range and putting out new course signage.

I also organised a trip for a group of visiting Finnish greenkeepers, who were fortunate enough to see St Andrews, The Castle Course, Kingsbarns, Auchterarder, Gleneagles and Ladybank. I wish I'd had time to join them, but they were overflowing with praise on the condition of all the courses and the diversity of styles on offer. Thanks to Gordon Moir, Alan Patterson, Innes Knight, Archie Dunn, Scott Fenwick & Steve Chappell and Colin Powrie respectively for showcasing British Greenkeeping so well.

At HQ Jim Croxton and his team have been busy working on and implementing the business plan agreed by the Board.

This involves a period of consultation with the staff as we look at the structure and ensure that we have the best resources in place to support the delivery of the plan and ensure the success of the Association.

This has taken place while we are also in the process of recruiting two replacement Regional Administrators and also continuing with the day-to-day business. I'd like to thank the staff for their excellent teamwork in managing the workload during this time.

Going forward the Association has to ensure it harnesses the necessary resources to provide you with the best

support especially in the area of Learning and Development, which lies at the very heart of BIGGA's mission in serving its members.

The methods of communicating with members are becoming more diverse and modern social media and its role is increasing. We have to ensure that the Association is capable of delivering on all these fronts and we will be increasing support in these particular areas.

In order to do this we also need to ensure that the Association operates a sustainable business model, able to fully understand and operate successfully from a commercial perspective.

The consultation will ensure we best match existing skills, knowledge and experience and identify what skills or roles we need to develop within our staff.

This is a very important stage in this process, ensuring everyone understands what their roles are, how important a part they play and focussing in on the main objectives which will ensure the Association understands and meets the needs of you, its members. We will update you more fully on this as the situation progresses.

Remember if you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me.

**Andrew Mellon, 07780 995602
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk**



KEEP YOUR COURSE ON COURSE

HUNTER TTS ROTORS WITH DECODER-IN-HEAD

Keep play moving with Hunter Golf Rotors featuring Total Top Service technology. Every serviceable element of the rotor can be accessed through the top including the decoder, which can be pre-wired into the head from the factory.

Adding an ICD-HP hand-held unit allows for easy programming, diagnostics, and testing without disconnecting any wires. That means there's no more digging or unsightly scars, and one less thing for a busy Greenkeeper to think about.

GOLF IRRIGATION | *Built on innovation*

Online: huntergolf.com Call for more information: +44 (0)1283 840552

Hunter[®]



Tel: 0845 026 0064
www.jsmd.co.uk





The Turf Pride Core Collector

- Save time & labour costs
- Easy to fit & remove
- Fits most makes of pedestrian & tractor mounted Aerators





Tel: 0845 026 0064
www.jsmd.co.uk





Outstanding Top Dressing and Grooming Brush

- Completely fills aeration holes in 2-3 passes
- Use up to 25% less sand
- Use to groom greens to remove grain
- Increase putting speed
- Promotes healthier denser turf



Learning & Development

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

When looking for inspiration for my May column I decided to Google 'May'. I now know, and so do you, that May is when the Eurovision Song Contest takes place, it's Skin Cancer Awareness Month* (suntan lotion at the ready please), May's birthstone is Emerald and most importantly, it's a great month for Bank Holidays!

CPD

Continuing Professional Development

Are you signed up to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme?

CPD is a process that is used to maintain and enhance competence and professionalism and is achieved by accumulating credits for undertaking education and training that is relevant to your role as a greenkeeper.

The CPD Scheme is free of charge to all Full and Associate Members and offers benefits to the individual and employers alike:

Benefits for the Individual

- Opportunities for career advancement
- Personal development
- Proficiency
- Confidence
- Engagement with the wider industry
- Networking
- Recognition
- Quality standard
- Adapt outdated skills
- In touch with changes in legislation

Benefits for the Employer:

- Professional staff
- Proficiency
- Efficiency
- Confidence in staff ability
- Updated and informed staff
- Motivated team
- Valued team

What activities are CPD credits awarded for?

- Continue to Learn at BTME



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

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



Contact Details

Sami Collins
Head of L&D
sami@bigga.co.uk

Rachael Duffy
L&D Administrator
rachael@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk



- Regional Conferences
- Section Seminars
- Health and Safety training
- Achieving certificates of competence (e.g. Pesticide Application, Chainsaw, First Aid)
 - Work related certificates (e.g. tractor driving, manual handling, fire safety)
 - Formal qualifications (e.g. SVQ/Diploma in Greenkeeping Units, Foundation Degree modules)
 - Master Greenkeeper Golf Course Inspection assessor
 - Presenting a seminar or workshop at a section, region, national or international event
 - Education offered by allied associations
 - Courses, seminars, workshops and training days presented by companies and approved by BIGGA

How do I add credits to my CPD record?

- Sign a register of attendance at the event
- Complete a CPD credit claim form and provide evidence of attendance
- Email evidence of attendance or copies of certificates

A BIGGA Certificate of Continuing Professional Development will be awarded to those BIGGA green-

keeper members who accumulate 10 CPD Credits annually from 1 July to 30 June.

Members who have been awarded five successive Certificates of Continuing Professional Development will receive a Diploma of Continuing Professional Development.

For further information and to download a registration form, or a credit claim form, visit www.bigga.org.uk/education/qualifications/continuing-professional-development alternatively contact Rachael Duffy, Learning and Development Administrator on 01347 833800 or rachael@bigga.co.uk.



Student of the Year

The closing date for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year applications is 11 May.



BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Funds are still available for members who wish to undertake a higher education course.

* For info. on Skin Cancer visit the Cancer Research UK dedicated page: www.sunsmart.org.uk.

Are you a Photographer?

BIGGA's Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2012, so if you're a member with an eye for a shot, read on...



By Paul Hope. "I was out taking photos of the sunrise one morning when this young stag just wandered right into the shot," at High Post Golf Club



By Adam Gilver. Early morning strimming creates mist in the sunlight, to beautiful effect, on the 3rd green bank (Devonshire Course) at The Royal Eastbourne GC



By Gareth Ansell. Spectacular cloud formations compliment the surface shadows and bunker layout on the 15th at Son Quil Golf SS, Palacio Palma de Mallorca

The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions - the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as:

www.mailbigfile.com.

Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: tom@bigga.co.uk, entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2012' as the email subject header.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2012, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.





Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

We are pleased to be able to repeat the tastecard offer exclusively for BIGGA Members (time limited)



BIGGA has once again negotiated an exclusive deal with tastecard, the nation's largest dining club, to give BIGGA members an exclusive discount on annual membership, helping save a fortune when dining out!

A tastecard membership card gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 6,000 dining establishments nationwide. Restaurants range from La Tasca, Pizza Express, Cafe Rouge and GBK to Malmaison and everything in between! Each restaurant featured offers 50% off the total food bill or 2-4-1 across all courses (even for groups of more than two diners in most cases).

BIGGA Members can join for a full year membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 (RRP £79.95). Be quick, as this offer is only available from May 9th until May 23rd 2012.

There are no catches; it is just a great deal, and an opportunity for all 'foodies' to save a small fortune on eating out over the next 12 months.

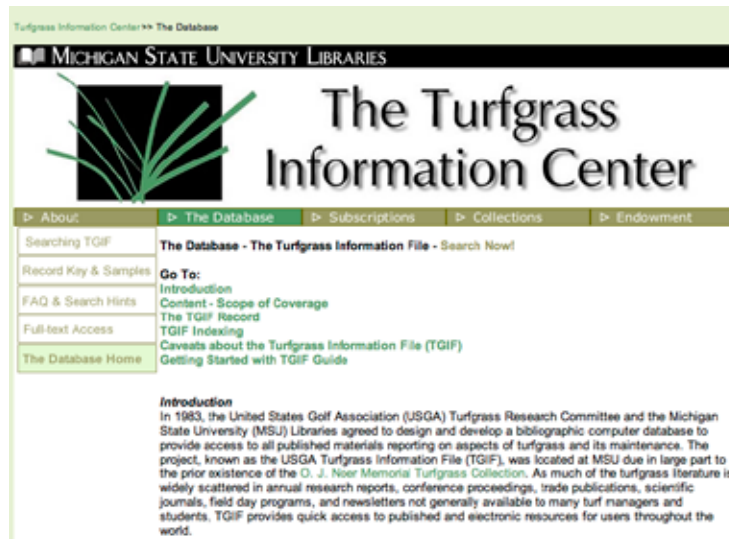
For more information on the tastecard visit www.tastecard.co.uk

How to purchase your tastecard

From May 9th BIGGA Members will be able to purchase a tastecard via the Members Area of the BIGGA Website by paying online or by telephone by contacting BIGGA HQ directly. This exclusive deal is not available directly from the tastecard website.

Turfgrass Info. File (TGIF)

Last month I told you about the agreement BIGGA have secured with the Michigan State University Libraries, whereby *BIGGA Mem-



bers, through the Members area of the website, now have access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

We have already had some great feedback, this is a fantastic resource available to all Full Members and Student Members of BIGGA who are studying at any level. To access the TGIF log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Member Resources' from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to 'Turfgrass Information File (TGIF)' and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly.

*Access available to BIGGA Full Members and BIGGA Student Members

BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System



Just to remind you about the 'new' updated and more simplified Safety Management System (SMS) sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, which is accessible through the members area of BIGGA's website or the library area of the GCMA's website.

A new area has been added for Fire Safety. It is a legal requirement in the UK for employers to provide a safe and healthy working environment and BIGGA/GCMA have

provided the tools required to help golf clubs establish their own Safety Management System, another great benefit of being a member of BIGGA.

Member Support Telephone Lines

Many of life's demands can cause stress, especially work, relationships and money problems, when you feel stressed it can affect everything you do, how you behave, how you think even how your body works.

Help is at hand; a confidential telephone helpline (your details will never be passed on to any third parties) is available to all Full Members of the Association.

For 24/7 advice ring a freephone line for Greenkeepers Support Services or advice on Finance Difficulties - Tel: 0800 174 319.

A personal thank you...

Peter Larter, BIGGA's Northern and Midland Regional Administrator is retiring on 31 May.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter from the membership department, all HQ staff and myself for being a valuable member of the BIGGA Team, we will all miss him immensely. I would like to wish him and his wife Jan my very best wishes.




Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Elaine Jones
elaine@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland
BIGGA House
Tel: 01347 833800
info@btinternet.com

Northern & Midland
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07866 366966
peterlarter972@aol.com

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

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




Peter 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
MAY 2012			
May 10th	West Section Event	Cardross Golf Club	Fraser Ross email: Karen.ross@tesco.net
May 23rd	Midland Section Event	Chase Golf Club	Andrew Smith email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
May 24th	East of England Section	Cleethorpes Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel: 01205 353925 or 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
May 30th	South West Section Event	Clevedon Golf Club	Wayne Vincent Tel: 07958 630590 or email: wayne.vincent@cotswoldhills-golfclub.com
JUNE 2012			
June 20th	South West Section Event	Cumberwell Park Golf Club	Adam Matthews email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
June 20th	BIGGA Scottish National Tournament	Ratho Park Golf Club	Rachael Duffy Tel: 01347 833800 or email: rrachael@bigga.co.uk
June 21st	East Anglia Section Event	Haverhill Golf Club	Ian Willett email: info@thorpeness.co.uk
June 21st	South Coast Section v's Wessex Secretaries	Rushmore Golf Club	Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
June 27th	Northern Section Event	Scarcroft Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
JULY 2012			
July 4th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event	Launceston Golf Club	George Pitts email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
July 4th	North West Section Event	Stand Golf Club	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
July 11th	North West Section Event	Ashley Cricket Club near Tatton Park	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
July 11th	Midland Section Event	Oxley Park Golf Club	Andrew Smith email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
July 11th	South Coast Section Event	Blackmoor Golf Club	Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
July 12th	Northern Section Event	Meltham Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com

great for greens

zero-turn mowers & accessories
recommended

reco
agricultural & groundcare machinery

www.reco.co.uk/grasshopper



Speedcut Arrive at Leatherhead

Speedcut Contractors are carrying out extensive work as part of a large renovation program at the prestigious Leatherhead Golf Club in Surrey.

The club, which celebrates its 109th anniversary this year, is a fine example of a mature parkland golf course with ancient oak trees lining the fairways.

Speedcut are creating new tees, ditches, streams and ponds, improving bunkers, pathways and drainage on the course, while working alongside the club's architect, James Edwards.

The three-year six-hole renovation program is part of a continuing improvement process.

"James has designed some cracking bunkers and features and they will help make this a good, but fair, test for golfers. Along with the drainage, tee and path works it will enhance the whole experience for members and visitors.

"Speedcut are also working on a number of other golf courses in the south, including Chislehurst Golf Club in Kent and Sundridge Park Golf Club, also in Kent.



'How to' Videos Online

Bayer have announced the launch of their first in a series of concise, free, instructional videos aimed at providing users with useful best practice information relating to the application of their turf related products.

"We're keen for people to get the best out of our products and as a result, we provide a lot of written guidelines relating to best practice as well as safety," explains Bayer's Turf Product Manager, Claire Matthewman.

The first of the videos can be viewed at www.escience.bayercropscience.co.uk

The other videos in the series include Bayer's turf fungicide Chipco Green and their herbicides, Pistol and Finale.

Versatility and Multi Tasking for Open Space Jobs

The Grass Group's MD, Tim Merrell, extended an invitation to the press to visit Trilo's manufacturing facility during their 'Dealer Week'. The first of the more competitively-priced products is the B7 blower.

The Leaf Blower range begins with the pedestrian model that has an Airflow rate of 108 m³/min for the smallest parks and garden leaf clearance, up to the largest trailed version with 385 m³/min suitable for large open spaces and road verges.

Boasting 2 models with either 400 or 600 mm centrifugal fan blades, the advanced design means they create less noise and low resistance. The manually operated collection tube is statically and dynamically balanced for easy operator functionality, and there are a total of 6 versions to suit various collection units.

Versatility comes to the fore with the Vacuum Sweeper units in that material can be drawn up and conveyed into a collection unit in one pass. Volumes of 2 m³ to 18 m³ can be accommodated over 11 models.





Keeping the greens in play

A drainage and sand banding combination keeps the greens in play at Robin Hood Golf course.

Three years after joining Robin Hood GC, Course Manager Andy Wood is delighted with significant improvements that have been made in that time.

When he first joined the team, he was concerned with the poor drainage on the course that kept it out of play.

With development funds at his disposal, Andy was able to make several improvements.

Previously, the greens staff had employed various aeration

techniques to improve the flow of moisture through the root zone, but none have been as effective as using the AFT 45 at installing drainage lines at 1.5metre centres, followed by diagonal adjoining lines with the Sandbander, to provide even greater opportunity for the water to flow into the main drainage system.

“The AFT 45 is an excellent, easy to operate trencher. Coupled with the Sandbander, it is a perfect combination of equipment to keep our course in play all year round,” said Andy.



Shelton Super Trencher

It is just over a year since sportsturf drainage specialists Shelton SDS launched what has become a worldwide bestselling machine; the Shelton Supertrencher+ 760.

This trenching machine was built as a result of customer feedback. Drainage specifications in some countries called for deeper and wider trenches for the pipe work, so the team enlarged the design of the Supertrencher+ 675 by using a CAD program to create the Supertrencher+ 760.

According to Sheltons customers, the success of the Supertrencher+ 760 is largely down to its versatility. It is ideal for installing both primary and secondary drainage systems on any amenity grass. The machine has digging capabilities of up to 760mm deep and 155mm wide, so a chain trencher may not even be required for the primary system and it can also dig a trench as narrow as 50mm. For more information please visit: www.sheltonsdrainage.com

What's your number?

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

Van is the man, as this month What's your number goes Dutch



Name:
Peter van Mispelaar.

Company:
Vanmac/Trilo.

Position:
Owner/director of Vanmac (50% shares).

How long have you been in the industry?
23 years.

How did you get into it?
After practicing from school.

What other jobs have you done?
I worked with dairy, I was born on a dairy farm and I still like this industry.

What do you like about your current job?
Selling the equipment and managing people, so things go as they're supposed to go.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
The market forces us to build cheaper machines because the budget is smaller. Also we don't see new machines, but existing machines that are fine-tuned and made in a wider range.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to mountain bike in the forest.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
I see myself as director of the company still, but at a different scale.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
My best friend in the industry is Leo van Loen, my partner in the business.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
I don't really have a lucky number but, 44 is a nice number.

GI

INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

Email tom@bigga.co.uk with your press releases and news items

With the Masters out of the way our attention now turns to the high profile international tournaments that will take place in the UK this year.

In future editions Greenkeeper International will feature the excellent work undertaken by BIGGA members Chris Kennedy, Paul Smith and Curtis Tyrrell MG for the BMW PGA Championship, Open Championship and Ryder Cup Matches respectively.

This month, Jim Cook kicks off a series of articles offering an insight in to the preparations for the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship at Slaley Hall

Preparing Slaley Hall



Slaley Hall Golf Club will, for the fourth year running, host the De Vere Club PGA Seniors Championship event this summer.

Steve Cram, Course Manager at Slaley Hall, spoke about the preparation involved for this Seniors Tour event and improvements made since Andrew Oldcorn secured his Maiden Senior victory last year

He said: "Last year we got really good feedback from all the players, who said the greens were running well and the tournament officials were pretty happy with it.

"We did a lot of drainage work on fairways with our Sandmaster and saw improved surfaces all around the course.

"Our 9th fairway was a big problem so we used the Sandmaster on that and put about 80 tonnes down into the landing area. Four years ago you couldn't walk on it, it was so wet you could nearly roll the turf up and now we've sorted all that," he added.

Slaley Hall sits 1000 feet above sea level, in Northumberland, and the conditions are often cold and wet. The weather has been dreadful this year with almost continuous

rain except for two weeks in March and even snow in the middle of April. Since the previous tournament last summer, the team at the club have been putting a lot of effort into improving drainage especially around the greens.

Steve said: "We had some greens areas that weren't draining very well so we got a drill and fill machine and we've done some major work on them, so they will drain pretty well now if we have any downpours.

"When we were hollow coring some of the problem areas, we brushed in crumb from shredded rubber tyres to keep them moving and we've had great results with that as well. I'm willing to try anything to keep them draining," he continued.

Of the two championship-standard courses at Slaley Hall, it is the Dave Thomas designed Hunting course which will see the action in June this year.

The course is challenging and long, measuring over 7,000 yards from the back tees and is considered one of the toughest tests on the European Senior Tour.

Steve went on to explain some of the changes made in preparation

for the tournament. He said: "The bands around the green, the surrounds, are cut at 7mm and then were up to 25mm on the areas out from that. The PGA wanted that lowering a little so it was a bit easier for the guys to chip onto the greens. So we've lowered that.

We've also widened a few of our approaches because some of them were previously quite narrow going into the green. We widened the 4th and the 18th so the players have

"The weather has been dreadful this year with almost continuous rain and even snow in the middle of April!"

a chance to run the ball on rather than fly it all the way to these tricky holes. The 18th is one of our most difficult so with it widened they can fly over the left-hand trap and get a bounce onto the green."

Tournament officials have also asked Steve to make some changes to help them as well as the players. Rhododendrons have been cleared





for this year's event in certain areas to allow for more accurate water hazard definition. On the 8th hole they have also been removed to provide a fairer, more visible landing area which will make one of the Senior Tour's toughest holes a little easier whilst helping considerably with pace of play.

The early June position on the schedule is a little early for the latitude and altitude of the course so Steve has had to bring forward his usual routines and programmes including verti-draining the greens and top dressing in March and verti-cutting regularly from then on. The fertiliser programme was also brought forward considerably to late February and has certainly paid dividends.

He added: "Unusually for a high profile televised tournament we don't close the course to general play until the Sunday prior to the event. Because we're so busy divots are a major issue so we do a lot of preparation work about six weeks before the tournament on the fairways and especially on the landing areas.

"We have ten full-time staff and two casual workers over the 36 holes."

Steve has prepared both courses for numerous European Tour and Seniors Tour events in the past. So does he still get a buzz preparing the course for a tournament?

"Oh yes! That's what it's all about and I think it tests you out. That's the way I look at it, to see how good we can make the course look with whatever conditions are thrown at us. Each year we strive to make it better."



The PGA Seniors Championship, is organised by the PGA, who along with BIGGA and the GCMA are jointly working together in the Golf Club Management Partnership, which aims to improve the interaction between all these who are involved in the management of golf clubs

Entry to the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship is free if tickets are downloaded in advance, go to www.devere-hostels.com/pga-seniors

Win the ultimate golfing experience at Slaley Hall

This June will see the return of European Senior Tours flagship event, the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship, to De Vere Slaley Hall in Northumberland.

Taking place over the venue's stunning Hunting Course from the 7th – 10th of June, the event promises to boast one of the strongest fields of the season.

We've teamed up with De Vere to offer one lucky reader the ultimate golfing experience, as the winner and guest receive a complimentary Sunday Driver at Slaley Hall. They will enjoy luxury accommodation at the stunning Slaley Hall Hotel and golf on the venues two championship courses, The Priestman and The Hunting.

For your chance to win this great prize, simply answer the following question:

Who won last year's PGA Seniors Championship at De Vere Slaley Hall?

- a. Barry Lane**
- b. Andrew Oldcorn**
- c. Ian Woosnam**

Please email your answers to comps@bigga.co.uk with your full name and membership number, by June 30 2012

www.devere.co.uk/golf

* Prize valid until end of October, subject to availability

BATHGATE

SILICA SAND

New Bunker Sand Range

01270 762828

sales@bathgatesilica.co.uk

www.bathgatesilica.co.uk

Top Dressing - Root Zone - Redway - Gravel



EAGLE

zyplex a PVC Timber that can be relied on
to outperform all competition.

www.eagle.uk.com

01883 344244

The revolving door on turf pesticide products

A series of articles aimed at a varying readership.

Advanced Level

If you're a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, read on...

A cohesively managed turf pesticide market started to evolve somewhat later than in agriculture where agrochemicals, albeit few in number, were already in full flourish as foliar sprays and seed treatments by the 1930's.

The turf chemical pesticide market has always been dynamic growing in product range and tonnage but more recently consolidating as increasingly tight environmental and safety legislation takes its toll across the board on fungicides, insecticides and herbicides.

Many 'household names' in turf's pesticide portfolio have already gone and the days of many more look numbered, but greenkeepers and groundsmen can relax for the moment at least. Evidence suggests pesticide manufacturers are designing and developing new actives specifically for the turf market and much better targeted to provide superior control in smaller amounts.

The revolving door opening and closing on contemporary turf pesticides is not altogether logical. It certainly isn't always the case of oldest pesticides in being the first ones

out because hormonal herbicides like 2,4-D and MCPA, with pesticide pedigrees now approaching 75 years, are still widely used. The products may have changed with 2,4-D and MCPA now commonly used in two-way and three-way pre-formulated mixtures with other actives. However, at the end of the day these two 'household' herbicides have achieved their three score years and ten by continuing to provide good selective control of broad leaved weeds in turf, the job they were designed and developed to do in the 1940's.

There are many more products with a considerably shorter pedigree and commercial life span but already consigned to the history books. How many people remember the fungicide thiophanate methyl (a precursor of carbendazim) with systemic activity and heralded as a new beginning for disease control when it came onto the market in the 1970's. Thiophanate methyl was also a highly effective wormicide and gave short shrift to surface casting earthworms. However, all that was inconsequential when medical researchers found thiophanate methyl wanting on human toxicological grounds causing its

withdrawal from the marketplace more than five years ago after only 25 years use on turf.

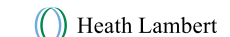
Different factors at work

The credentials of contemporary pesticides including those used on managed turf are under fire from four EU directives coming at the market from different directions and using different criteria. They are:

- Revision 91/414 Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Sustainable Use Directive
- Machinery Directive

Revision 91/414 requires re-registration on a 10 yearly basis and forces manufacturers to face up to contemporary conditions and concerns around pesticide usage ten years on. And a lot can happen in one decade in today's fast moving arena of scientific research and public concern around the use of chemical pesticides. Toxicological research may have uncovered indications of endocrine disruption or carcinogenesis while environmental investigations may have un-earthed possible effects on useful soil organisms such as decomposers and natural enemies

Dr Terry Mabbett reports, with a high level analysis of pesticide products...



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

Thank you to all our key sponsors



ABOVE: 2,4-D and MCPA with their 70 year pedigrees are still used with other herbicides in pre-formulated mixtures for the selective control broad-leaved weeds in turf. Parsley piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) is the main weed shown here.

BELOW: Preserving and expanding biodiversity such as water margin plants is a top priority. Marsh marigold also called 'king cup' (*Caltha palustris*) is shown here.



or perhaps pollinating insects.

Chemical pesticides up for re-registration are invariably faced with more and higher hurdles to negotiate. Some are unable to meet requirements. Others can but the manufacturer faced with mounting costs of carrying out new trials and providing more data to the registration authorities may look at the cost benefit ratio and decide to let an active go. And turf being a relatively small niche market doesn't help, especially if there is no wider application in the much larger agricultural market. Perfectly good pesticides with many more years of safe and effective use in managed turf have already been lost in this way.

The Water Framework Directive is the watery grave for pesticides caught 'red-handed' at an excessively high concentration in ground water. High water solubility and soil leaching is clearly a disadvantage although other factors including widespread intensive use and run-off from hard surfaces are clearly critical. Use on managed turf is a 'red herring' because big use in broad-acre arable crops and weed control on hard surfaces are the two key factors that tend to trap pesticides in this watery grave.

Water flows where it wants to. Streams meandering across golf courses may have already passed through miles arable farmland where cereals and oilseed rape are intensively sprayed with selective herbicide and then afterwards hit industrial sites where total herbicide is sprayed on hard surfaces. When water is tested all that matters is the concentration in ppm (parts per million) of a particular herbicide (or insecticide/fungicide), with little consideration to exactly how it got there. This is clearly of no consequence to managed turf when a pesticide is purely agricultural in use such as the herbicide IPU which 'fell foul' of this directive, but a different matter if there is parallel use on managed turf.

As far as 'Sustainable Use' is concerned greenkeepers and groundsmen could reasonably be forgiven for believing this directive is custom-designed and targeted to specifically clobber the sports turf and amenity sectors. The Sustainable Use Directive targets pesticide use in public places (and those places used by the public) which is essentially what sports, amenity and leisure turf is all about.

The Machinery Directive immediately brings to mind the old adage 'there are more ways of killing a chicken than choking it'. This

directive deals specifically with the machinery and equipment used to apply pesticides and now requires every new turf and amenity sprayer to achieve certification to a required level of environmental protection before being released onto the market. Clearly there is no attempt to directly target pesticides but end result is the same. Without an approved application method there is no way of delivering a pesticide product.

Turf and amenity sprayers can be found wanting due to intrinsic design factors such as inappropriate droplet size and droplet size distribution causing spray droplet drift and high volumes of spray mixture leading to excessive run-off. Or manufacture and maintenance faults leading to leakage and nozzle drip.

Inherent design problems in hydraulic sprayers are being overcome by the design and development of a new breed of sprayers based on controlled droplet application from rotary atomization nozzles applying ultra-low volumes of spray mixture to eliminate run-off, and shielded or shrouded to completely eliminate the inherently minimal amount of droplet drift. Pesticide manufacturers are playing an important part too through on-going design and refinement of their own 'low drift' hydraulic nozzles.

Forward and lateral thinking

Some of the first turf pesticides to disappear many years ago did so for good reasons. A succession of insecticides applied to turf to control chafer grubs including organo-chlorine insecticides like chlordane and gamma HCH (lindane) and carbaryl (a carbamate insecticide) were unmitigated environmental disasters. To be fair they were doing a 'good' job (on chafer grubs) which became immediately apparent when the last of these was withdrawn but before imidacloprid (Merit Turf) was released onto the market.

For some years there was a gaping hole in the market and even bigger holes in turf up and down the country as chafer grubs severed grass roots. Rooks, crows, badgers and foxes finished the job by ripping up already loosened turf foraging for the grubs.

But the pendulum has swung the other way and pesticides that no-one thought in a million years would disappear or suffer from restricted use have fallen foul of EU legislation or suffered collateral



ABOVE: Even a small patch of Fusarium is enough to throw that vital putt off line (Photograph courtesy Syngenta)



LEFT: Worm casts will not be a problem as long as carbendazim is around

BELOW: Any potential effects on wildlife (wild mallard duck shown here) is a key consideration for the use of any pesticide

damage from high costs associated with re-registration.

Multi-national pesticide manufacturers are thinking ahead and laterally. Classic case is Syngenta which saw chlorothalonil, universally used over a long period of time as a contact fungicide, coming under scrutiny. By dispensing with chlorothalonil as a single-active product (Daconil) on managed turf, in favour of registration in a three-way product with fludioxonil and propiconazole (Instrata), Syngenta is helping to keep this valuable 'workhorse' fungicide alive for future use on turf, as well as in agriculture and horticulture. Any anticipated downside for turf disease control was more than compensated for by Syngenta's introduction of fludioxonil, as a brand new single active contact fungicide (Medallion TL) with a much superior overall profile.

Chlorothalonil is not the only pesticide to have lost some aspects of its traditional application and use and remained alive to fight another day. Carbendazim the last remaining wormicide approved for control of surface casting earthworms, and the mess they create on professional sports turf

including golf greens, was originally released as a turf fungicide for the control Fusarium patch and other turf diseases and a highly effective one at that.

Essential difference is there being nothing to replace carbendazim as a wormicide should it eventually fall by the wayside. It is inconceivable to imagine the registration of any other chemical to kill surface casting earthworms will ever be considered in future, either by legislators or commercial companies, irrespective of what will always be a clear need on professional turf. Earthworms are key soil fauna included in the increasingly broader and higher environmental hurdles erected for all types of turf pesticide.

New environmental mind-set and language

The example set by fludioxonil shows quite clearly the new era of thinking and language when it comes to chemical pesticides in the twenty-first century. Dosage was the traditional language used to describe the label recommended amount of pesticide required to control the pathogen, pest or weed,



with these targets clearly at the fore-front of thinking. Not so now with contemporary terminology changed to 'loading' and the environment now uppermost in mind and consideration.

Big plus point claimed for fludioxonil is an efficacy as good if not better than chlorothalonil but with a loading which is ten times less. On a weight for weight basis fludioxonil weighs in with loading of just 375g a.i. (active ingredient)/hectare (ha) compared with around 5000g a.i./ha for long established contact fungicides like chlorothalonil and iprodione with their 30-40 year pedigrees on turf.

The manufacturer as much anyone else now regards chemical pesticides as intervention agents rather than foundation products for turf pest, disease and weed control. The latter is increasingly seen as the function and responsibility of the myriad of living organisms and their biological systems in the root zone and thatch.

Around this new thinking is growing a whole new field and industry encompassing biological control and natural soil systems designed to set the nutrition and health agenda on and under turf. Integrated pest and disease management is the name of the game but the essential meaning of 'inte-

grated', which was coined and used in agriculture and horticulture long before it became established in turf, is inclined to get lost.

In this context 'integrated' means using everything at your disposal including where necessary chemical pesticides but only in highly interventionist and targeted ways for minimal impact on natural biological systems in the root zone and thatch. Be that as it may, there is increasing pressure within the industry to dispense with the use of all chemical pesticides.

Proponents of pesticide free turf wax lyrical about what is happening on and under the turf as though they are actually there observing these complex and often microscopic systems at work. Danger for greenkeepers, who clearly want to do right by the environment, is to 'sign the pledge' on pesticides and embark on a course of chemical pesticide-free golf course management. And then find it is practically impossible to achieve depending on the situation – e.g. location, local topography, level of wear and tear on turf and the expectations of club management and members.

Being wedded to organic (no chemical pesticide or synthetic fertilizer) turf management is not much fun and consolation when birds and badgers are tearing up

your turf because there is an infestation of chafer grubs underneath the grass that requires prompt intervention by chemical control. A biological control product based on entomopathogenic nematodes may suffice if both time and temperature are on your side otherwise chemical control is the only option.

Even a tiny patch of *Fusarium* or a wobbly grass tiller with its roots cut by chafer grubs is enough to throw that vital putt off line. Some greenkeepers have already paid the ultimate price for doing the 'right green thing' on their golf course but not according to their management and members.

An entire golf course covers a huge area in relation to the 18 greens where the 'make or break' of the game of golf tends to occur. Surely there is a sufficient area out there for the biodiversity-driven pesticide-free course management we all want to see, while allowing the greenkeeper a large measure of leeway on his greens.

To criticise greenkeepers as environmentally unfriendly for spraying greens with fungicide to fend off *Fusarium*, spreading insecticide granules to kill chafer grubs and applying wormicide to prevent worm casts is highly hypocritical given the amount of synthetic turf elsewhere in the sports sector.

The Water Framework Directive is already becoming a watery grave for significant numbers of herbicides



Microsoft® online learning



Only £10
to BIGGA
members
per Skills Collection
(+VAT)

Microsoft Office 2007 and 2010 Skills Collections Now Available

- There is no limit to how many times you complete the course
- You have 12 months access to the programme
- All your learning takes place online and can be taken at a place and time to suit you

Microsoft online learning packages have been updated and now offer **Microsoft Office 2007** or **2010** applications as a **Skills Collection**.

Each Skills Collection includes beginners, intermediate and advanced training for each of the following applications: *Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook*.

Thanks to the support of the **Gold and Silver Key contributors** to the Learning and Development Fund (shown below), each of the Skills Collections is available to BIGGA Members for £10 + VAT.

For further information, contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 Option 3.



JOHN DEERE



syngenta



HAYTER



Keeping heather on course

For West Hill Course Manager, Ben Edwards, heather regeneration is a passion and golf greenkeeping a way of life, as MIKE BEARDALL reports

BEN EDWARDS is one of those individuals you immediately empathise with as a sportsturf professional.

As Course Manager at West Hill Golf Club, a Surrey heathland course near Woking, he has very rigid criteria for maintaining the course “to the very highest standards possible.”

At the age of only 31 he has certainly fast-tracked in greenkeeping, becoming a course manager when he was only 23 at Sand Martins Golf Club in Berkshire.

West Hill, an 18-hole course founded in 1909, is kept looking incredibly smart. “It has to be at its best, as a good advertisement for the club and for the greenkeeping staff,” says Ben, who has been at the club for a year and a half.

His current demanding job is a far cry from his original plan as a teenager to join his father in his printing company in London.

“After three hours of driving every day I just decided there had to be more to life,” says Ben, who now lives only 20 minutes away from work at Binfield in Berkshire.

“I went off to America at 18 to work with a friend running a pool-cleaning business and started playing golf most days. That’s when I developed a deep affection for the world of golf.

“When I came back to Britain I saw a job advertised for a trainee

greenkeeper at Sand Martins Golf Club and applied for it. I have never looked back.

“After 18 months I was made deputy course manager and at 23 became course manager. I know I was young but I took it very seriously and went on training courses at Merrist Wood College in Surrey and joined BIGGA. I was fortunate to be given the opportunity at such a young age and owe a great deal to Andrew Hall, the owner of Sand Martins Golf Club.

“I think I have only missed one Harrogate show in all that time and I have been to the US shows for the last six.”

West Hill Golf Club is a typical Surrey heathland course with the lucky advantage, in times of drought, of having two boreholes from which the club is allowed to extract water for irrigation.

“The Environment Agency simply asked us to cut down a little during the drought period,” says Ben, who says the club is planning to build a reservoir to further help with irrigation and sensible water use.

A sprinkler system is controlled from a central computer which Ben can operate from his mobile phone, using data supplied from the on-course weather station.

The course is on typical clay-sand for the area and, ironically, suffers from wet greens which Ben is tackling through a programme





of severe scarification and double coring. This is to make the greens playable the whole year round.

“We used a Koro on the greens and were quite amazed at the amount of thatch we lifted,” he says. “The greens are of original construction, but we are gradually going to introduce more sand to change the profile.”

With 82 bunkers on the course, most remodelled about 12 years ago, Ben is keen that they retain the look and shape suitable for a heathland course.

But his major work is on heather regeneration, which has been paying dividends. Vast swathes of vanishing heather have been revived through a process of rotavating, scarifying and turfcutting to bring heather seeds to the surface.

The main problem with heather is that if it spends any length of time under leaves it will die off as the leaves release nutrients – which heather hates.

“We spend a great deal of our time from autumn to spring clearing leaves from the heather with blowers,” says Ben. “Because we are surrounded by trees we also do a lot of thinning in the woodland, removing as many of the oaks and silver birches as possible to reduce leaf drop damage to the heather.”

This thinning also promotes air movement across the course and helps to allow light through

to greens and other areas of the course.

“This area was once called New Copse,” says Ben, “so it is not surprising that we have good tree coverage. They do act as a wind-break and certainly add to the look of the course.”

West Hill is keen to encourage wildlife on the course and in the woodland there are owl boxes, with some tawny owls currently nesting. Hawks and deer are regular visitors and the diverse habitats encourage butterflies and smaller birds.

The 450 members of West Hill are anxious to keep the heather regenerating. “It is the one thing that crops up in most conversations, because some of the members have been here for many years and have seen the heather go through various stages,” says Ben. “When it is all in flower it is a beautiful purple that looks spectacular against the mown grass areas.”

Ben has eight staff, including a mechanic, and his deputy, Matt Foster, was also previously at Sand Martins. “He is also my best friend, which helps when you are in the same profession,” he says.

“We have a very young staff here, all members of BIGGA, some of whom have very good single figure handicaps and our latest recruit, who’s only 20, plays off three.

“I don’t play as much as I should do but my handicap is about 16 – I



play football three times a week, but when my legs tell me to stop I will certainly play more golf. I really believe you have to play golf to appreciate what a golf course is all about.

“I know there are many greenkeepers who don’t play golf, and that’s understandable – but golfers who are greenkeepers look at the course from a different perspective.”

Ben believes that golf is all about

“The main problem with heather is that if it spends any length of time under leaves it will die off as the leaves release nutrients – which heather hates”

people. “This is one of the nicest sports to work in and I have a very good relationship with the members and the staff,” says Ben.

Chairman of the greens is David Hargreaves, who has been a member of West Hill for about 30 years. “We have a major meeting about twice a year to make a plan of action,” says Ben. “But David and the club secretary, Gina Rivett, rely on my experience to keep the course running smoothly.

“This is an incredibly busy club



BELOW: The team...

Back row: Richard Kuban, Jack Cleaver, Adam Mortimer, Matt Foster, Ben Edwards

Front: Simon Bonner, Sean Bullock and Honey the dog. Missing team members are David Alexander and Adam Wicks



and we host so many society events that there is never a week when there is not a tournament of some sort.

“Our biggest event of the year is a famous father-and-son tournament which takes the best part of a week and has been running since the Thirties, with 156 pairs starting off on the first day.”

West Hill has a strong artisan membership – members who help with divotting and tidying.

Ben is not short of equipment at West Hill having a fleet of Toro mowers and Workmans, including pedestrian mowers for the greens including Triplexes and Toro five-unit Reelmaster 55-10s for the fairways.

He also has a John Deere tractor and two New Hollands. In the workshop he has three Bernhard grinders including an Express Dual and an AngleMaster.

“We have been tied in with Toro equipment for five years through John Shaw machinery and we do review the situation from time to time,” says Ben. “The service from David Cole and his team has been fantastic since I have been at West Hill.”

Grass seed suppliers for the course are Rigby Taylor using their Mascot brand mixes from Top Green.

“I went with a party of greenkeepers to see their trial grounds in France with Stephen Alderton of Top Green and we were incredibly impressed by the amount of research and work done on perfecting seed varieties for golf and other sports,” says Ben.

“This business is all about networking which is why greenkeepers tend to head for Harrogate to meet up with old friends, attend seminars and see the latest products.

“I went to Las Vegas with Murray Long from Sunningdale and Chris Lomas from Worplesdon Golf Club, and we had a good week catching up with all the latest news.

“I usually attend a few seminars at the US show and visit a few of the local golf courses. It is important to see what greenkeepers are doing in other parts of the world.

“The one thing about greenkeeping is that you are always learning and that is a very important lesson in itself.

“Greenkeeping is about doing your homework, knowing what works best on your course and seeing problems before they happen – if you are able to see them.

“Being in BIGGA has been a major advantage for all our staff because they go on training courses, get the qualifications and can use them to develop their careers.

“Working outside in fantastic surroundings is a privilege and I never dread going to work. I always look forward to reaching the course.

“There are very few jobs which you can say that you look forward to doing every day.”

The next year will be busy because the club hopes to get planning permission for a new practice range.

“We are always looking forward and the members know that we have their interests at heart,” says Ben. “This is a superb course and we work hard to keep it that way.

“The greenkeeping staff are dedicated and passionate about golf. It makes all the difference.

Ben has a busy year planned for himself – he is getting married in September to Alice.

“She’s not really into golf so we won’t be arguing on any golf courses,” laughs Ben.

approved distributor



WEST COUNTRY
STEEL BUILDINGS

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURAL HORTICULTURAL

Visit us online to see our full range of services and products www.westcountrybuildings.com

QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS

DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED
TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS

West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK and Ireland. Working together means that we are able to provide the very best, cost effective buildings designed specifically to suit your needs

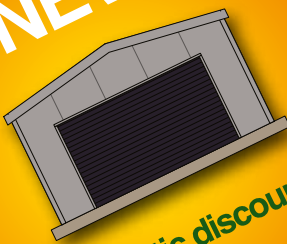
We offer a fantastic service and clever design solutions. Over the past twenty years we have built up a fantastic reputation of excellence and professionalism with a fine personal touch

Our expert team have a wealth of experience in both the design and construction processes and this comes with a proven track record

Mention that you saw us in Greenkeeper International magazine when you contact us

steel garages from as little as £1908.86

NEW!



fantastic discounts

SPECIAL OFFER!

New range of steel garages

unbeatable special offer prices on our range of standard steel workshop garages

01633 782 684
07980 818 364
07970 827 085

To find out more, visit www.westcountrybuildings.com or email us at sales@westcountrybuildings.com

Water restrictions

Water, H2O, wasser, agua, l'eau, call it what you will it has been the main topic of conversation for greenkeepers for the last few weeks and months.

We either have too much of it dropping from the skies – some of the rainfall statistics for the West of Scotland amongst other areas are eye watering (excuse the pun) – or far too little, resulting in Temporary Use Bans/Hosepipe Bans and potentially Drought Orders.

Meanwhile, courses are closed due to flooding, but we're assured

that even if it rains all summer, and let's hope it doesn't, that won't be enough to make up for two very dry winters.

As ever, BIGGA members will adapt to the varying challenges and continue to strive to produce the best course conditions possible. Many have already taken steps to harvest, store or abstract water, reduce usage and recycle, but there are still golf clubs out there that face the possibility of a long-term ban on irrigation.

Water shortages are clearly a serious issue and it ill behoves the

golf industry to try and claim that it's need is more important than many other deserving areas. But, it is clear that if irrigation is banned then those clubs affected will almost certainly suffer significantly as a result, and jobs are very much at stake, not just those of greenkeepers but across the golf employment sector and beyond.

Later in these pages we feature some examples of good practice and forward thinking that have taken place but the problem is one that the golf industry needs to address in a united way.

“Courses are closed due to flooding, but we're assured that even if it rains all summer, and let's hope it doesn't, that won't be enough to make up for two very dry winters”



HOSEPIPE BAN FOR MILLIONS

By Tamara Cohen
Science Reporter

TWENTY million people will be hit with hosepipe bans tomorrow to cope with the worsening drought, the Daily Mail can reveal.

Water companies in the South and East of England, where rainfall has been too low for nearly two years, will announce restrictions affecting one in three homes in the UK. Other areas could soon follow.

The move follows months of concern about the arid conditions, which have seen rivers run dry and reservoirs at record low levels.

In some areas, this has been the driest winter since records began a century or more ago, and weeks of sustained rainfall would be needed to get levels back to normal.

Source: Daily Mail 12th March 2012



IMAGES show the drought of 2006, in that year's Open at Royal Liverpool. Courtesy of Alan C. Birch



BIGGA along with the Golf Club Managers Association is supporting England Golf in its strong attempts to put forward a coherent case for golf clubs to be considered for exemptions. Paul Keeling, England Golf Club Services Manager, explains their position...

Temporary Bans are not a new thing. Back in 2006 (the last time bans and drought orders were in affect) England Golf ran water management workshops in the Midlands and South, at which experts such as Dr Jerry Knox from Cranfield University and the Environment Agency, all presented historical data that this has happened every five or six years, even before global warming was considered. At the workshops, advice on measures clubs should implement to protect themselves for the future were disseminated.

But here we are in 2012, so what are England Golf doing?

In anticipation of temporary bans, England Golf has made representation to the seven water companies with bans in place, advising of the damage the restrictions will have to golf club **BUSINESSES**, highlighting that an inability to maintain the biggest business asset (the greens) to a usable standard could result in repair and replacement costs of

tens of thousands of pounds alongside a significant loss of income for clubs. This will naturally have a knock on effect to secondary spend within clubhouses and professional's shops, ancillary supplier businesses could also be severely affected and employment will be jeopardised.

At the date of writing this article only one water company, Veolia, has provided a response.

What does England Golf suggest?

We would encourage each club affected by the ban to make individual representation to their water company, and to back up our representation.

I would congratulate Patrick Dawson, General Manager at Burnham Beeches Golf Club, who has also asked the question of the Thames Water Public Consultation Department and received the following reply; an irrigation system is not classed as a hosepipe.

Plus collate supporting information to strengthen your case;

Visitor Income - calculate the income to the Club and the impact

We Need You!

If your facility is affected by the Temporary Use Bans and you have either received an exemption or have had no joy so far please email us at info@bigga.co.uk with your details and the potential impact on your course to enable us to build a clearer picture of the overall effect on the golf industry.

it would have on the business if this dropped off due to poor greens conditions.

Justification of Water Use - It is important to show that current water use is efficient (evapotranspiration replacement) and necessary to maintain the playing surfaces and that water is not being wasted through carrying out the following:-

·Irrigation System Audit - the efficiency and adequacy of your system / water storage measures.

·Reductions made to Current Demands- Records on reductions made to irrigation inputs e.g. watering greens only.

·Agronomic Advice - Specialist advice to help strengthen your case in proving what water use is essential to keeping your turf alive and showing the Club are taking all possible measures to take to reduce drought susceptibility. Also, budget costs associated with remedial work in the event of loss of grass cover.

England Golf working with the Associations, BIGGA, GCMA, PGA etc, will continue to represent golf and support our affiliate clubs in securing access to the ever more valuable resource...WATER.



Water pressure

How do BIGGA members cope with the mounting pressure from Water Authorities to limit irrigation on the course? Jim Cook interviews four Course Managers from areas affected by the recent hosepipe ban

The water restrictions imposed throughout much of the south of England in April have caused much confusion amongst greenkeepers in the affected areas.

Whilst water shortages were not unexpected, some of the sudden and varying messages from water companies were. The news that some golf courses are now categorised as 'gardens' and subject to the same restrictions was a prime example.

This article hopes to highlight the varying experiences of course managers in dealing with increasingly adverse weather conditions as well as muddy regulations from authorities.

Ian Streeter, Course Manager at West Sussex Golf Club, has a limited amount of water in a borehole. He said readings taken from this borehole indicated the aquifer that they pump from was at the same level as last year and therefore had not recharged through winter. Ian then is in the position of having water available, but how much he does not know.

He said: "We are limited to 2.5 million gallons, so we can't use any

more than that from the borehole. I've spoken to the Environment Agency and at the moment they're quite happy for us to pump from that well."

Ian had spoken to his water company, Southern Water, about using mains water if the borehole dried up and continued: "Apparently if I need to use mains water, they're quite happy for me to do so on greens only and that is only to maintain them, to keep the grass alive. So that is their take: greens only to keep them alive."

Some golf clubs that draw all of their water from the mains have fallen into the unenviable position of being unable to use their irrigation systems.

In the past weeks, though, a number have already successfully lobbied their water authorities into granting them an exemption from the ban. One example was a club that did not want to be named, in the Thames Water region, and was given an exemption up until June.

The course manager from this club said: "My problem is, is that the exemption we've got currently is right and in place, but if they suddenly come to us and say "no it's

Woburn GC, showing the effects of a drought ridden fairway. Courtesy of Alan C Birch

not" then things become difficult. I think it's a very grey area at the moment."

As the exemption is only up to June, the course manager was thinking about how to water their greens after this time.

"At the moment we've started to collect rainfall, but I would require a minimum of 20 cubic metres per day through the hot weather just to keep the greens alive. After that they would deteriorate and probably quite rapidly," they continued.

Alan Pierce MG, Course Manager at Ham Manor GC, in West Sussex, is in Southern Water's region. Alan has an abstraction license from the Environment Agency for 1.6 million gallons per year, for what they determine as the growing season from April until September.

The license applies to the Black Ditch which runs all the way through Sussex to the River Arun and then out to sea. This ditch runs through the course and is water table controlled, so is always at the water table level. As this is Alan's only source of water, he is completely at the mercy of nature when it comes to watering his course.



INSET ABOVE AND LEFT:
Splendid views of Ham Manor

He said: "As it stands at the moment it is slightly lower than it has been previous years but not so much so that it's causing me any great concern at the minute."

Alan explained that because his club has an older abstraction license, the Environment Agency's 'Hands off Flow Restrictions' do not affect his allowance of water.

"In terms of the position that people are in the one we're in here I'd rather be in than any other because of the older license and being able to physically see how high or low the water level in the ditch is just by going down and having a look," he continued.

Alan gave some figures for how much rainfall had fallen at his course between January 1 and April 1 for the previous three years. In 2009 there was 240mm, in 2010, 249mm, in 2011, 186mm and in 2012 just 54 mm.

Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at Richmond Golf Club, in Surrey, is under Thames Water and said: "They're currently saying that you're not allowed to water gardens. Their description of a garden now includes any sports or amenity surface and the only exemption is for national or international sporting events. The only other exemption is on health and safety grounds so

you could possibly argue that if you don't water your greens it's going to be an unsafe playing surface because of the dangerous bounce."

The Environment Agency has sent out questionnaires to all of its license holders, including farmers, golf clubs and sports grounds, asking if they would be willing to reduce the amount of water they extract.

Les extracts water from boreholes for irrigation and has offered to voluntarily reduce his extraction by 25%.

"We'll just have to be more careful. Use wetting agents and ensure aeration is completed regularly so water gets in there. As it happens, since they've imposed the hosepipe ban, it's rained every day. I think for some golf courses it could be a long summer if they're not allowed to water," he said.

Billy McMillan, Course Manager at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, in Surrey, recalled previous drought orders in 2006. He said: "It was probably one of the toughest green-keeping years of my career. One of the toughest things to overcome was explaining to my membership why our course wasn't in as good a condition as they expected."

With a hosepipe ban in place and unable to draw from the mains



“Coping with the drought in 2006 was difficult. One of the toughest things to overcome was explaining to my membership why our course wasn’t in as good a condition as they expected”

Billy McMillan, Tyrrells Wood GC

supply, the club successfully lobbied for a limited, yet valuable, supply from their water company.

He went on to explain how lessons learnt from that experience could now be applied to the current situation with regards best practice.

“All those days of deep aeration, organic matter reduction and it has to be said, sometimes painful, operations in the eyes of the golfer will result in a kinder transition through a drought situation. Additionally under drought conditions we wouldn’t want to make for ourselves any additional problems by introducing further stress to the grass plant. Therefore at our club we follow a fairly simple philosophy to include a reduction in mowing levels coupled with slightly higher cutting heights than would be deemed normal in the main playing season. Sometimes we let clippings fly and use them as a mulching on some areas.”

Another interesting point he highlighted was that of public perceptions. He mentioned that when their newly-commissioned irrigation system was being tested during March 2006, it had been raining at the same time. The club received a letter from an irate passer-by who was disgusted to see irrigation on during rainfall. Billy continued:

“So it is important what the general public perceive and can show us in a bad light, so we always have to be mindful of these things in tough times.”

Continuing good practice was something other course managers believed important to prepare for environmental stresses.

Alan Pierce said: “We use wetting agents every month and we’re trying to be as pro-active as we can. We’ve made a conscious effort to go round and check that every sprinkler is only doing the area intended and no more. We do monthly aeration with 8mm solid tines to keep the surface open and the water penetrating through. A big thing for us is that we don’t let anyone play in adverse conditions, such as frost, throughout the winter, so we’re not asking the surfaces to cope with more than they can handle.”

Alan had written a letter to his local water authority highlighting how pro-active and efficient the club was at managing their water, with no unnecessary irrigation. It also stated that irrigation equipment was monitored to ensure its fully working order.

He said: “I’m sure they’re aware that golf courses aren’t just throwing water on, but I wanted to highlight to them that just throwing



MAIN ABOVE: Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, how it normally looks (LEFT) and under drought stress (RIGHT)

ABOVE and BELOW: more shots of Tyrrells Wood GC



water at our surfaces can be detrimental to what we want to achieve anyway.”

We all know that a staggering amount of water is lost by water companies through leakages, so it is important for golf courses not to be tarred with the same brush.

Ensuring nozzles are not worn, sprinklers are spaced properly and water is distributed efficiently has never been more important. Being sure that irrigation pipes are not leaking is also key to good practice. New Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) guidelines have been published relating to marking systems used to convey non-drinkable or non-potable water.



Some water companies are already stipulating that pipework used for these purposes should have WRAS recommended markings. Currently the SportsPro PE100 pipes, by Revaho, are the only PE pipes to come with this mark as standard.

As drawing water becomes less reliable, clubs were looking at contingency plans for the future.

Ian Streeter said his club had installed two 74,000 gallon hold-

ABOVE: Images kindly supplied by Revaho

BELOW LEFT: Dried out turf gives a free hand to drought resistant weeds like creeping cinquefoil and yarrow shown here

BELOW RIGHT: Drought leaves turf with large patches of white clover which continue to grow

ing tanks, late last year, because of water shortages in the past. He added:

“So now we have got a bit more storage, but not enough to last us long-term. We’re thinking about going through planning to try and get our own reservoir put in.

“We think with these water shortages, it’s not going to get any better long-term and we don’t want to risk trying to beg steal and borrow from the water authority or rely on a well that we may get stopped from pumping out of, so we will try and put our own reservoir in if we can get planning. Hopefully from that we can be self sufficient.”

Les Howkins said: “I’ve asked for a quote from a few companies about getting water brought in in tankers just in case we do get cut off. I’ve had prices up to £65 per cubic metre, so if I was going to water just greens I’m looking at about 25-30 cubic metres per day.

“So it soon adds up. I’m lucky at where I work because we could probably afford to do it for a few months if we needed to, but not everywhere could.”

Alan Pierce said he had looked into the feasibility of having facilities for the future where they use their abstraction license on days when it was not needed, to fill up an alternative supply like a tank or reservoir. These were in the early stages of planning.

One of the main causes of contention is how the water companies have dealt with the situation. Les Howkins said: “The water companies should have gone into more consultation with sports grounds, golf clubs and bowling greens. At the end of the day, they are businesses employing a lot of people and if clubs, in the worst case scenario, fold, there will be people out of jobs.

They said that car washers are still allowed to use hosepipes, well for me the golf course is a commercial business and if you can’t maintain the quality of your surfaces, you’re not providing the service to your customers.”

A course manager said: “The water company has now come up and said that you can still use water if you’re cleaning patios down or cleaning cars for a business. So they’re effectively choosing which businesses can use water. This is the problem I have, but they’re not actually writing this down.

If all these ways of getting water are taken away from us and we do have a big heat wave, will there be clubs switching on their irrigation systems regardless because they’re going to lose customers?”

Another course manager echoed this idea and said: “The maximum fine for breaking the restriction is £1,000 so it could almost be worth doing that instead of buying it in.”

The extreme likelihood of mains and other water sources becoming unavailable in the coming months means preparation and action is now the key.

Lobby your water authority, from a business perspective, with the reasons why golf courses need water to operate and highlight your responsible usage.

As examples in this article have shown, lobbying does work and will continue to yield results, which may provide a lifeline for clubs through the summer months.

Because drought problems are not going to go away, it is becoming increasingly more important to store water and a self sufficient club with its own supply would have peace of mind during future restrictions.



SETTING THE GOLF INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR P.E. PIPE



MILLIONS OF METRES HAVE ALREADY BEEN
INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE UK & EUROPE!

SportsPro PE100, the pipe with green stripes, surpasses BS EN 12201-1 and WRAS* standards as well as passing all slow-growth crack propagation tests. With a guarantee for 10 years and an expected 50 year life, it's little wonder that so much has been sold for all golf and sports applications. The design and formulation of SportsPro allows for:

- Significantly improved water hammer resistance and increased flow capacity
- Increased tensile strength, stretch resistance and increased resistance to scoring damage
- Reduced coil weight for better on-site handleability

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SEE WHY YOUR CONTRACTOR OR
CONSULTANT SHOULD SPECIFY SPORTSPRO FOR YOUR NEXT PIPEWORK PROJECT



SportsPro[™]
IRRIGATION PIPE

Penketh Place, West Pimbo, Skelmersdale, Lancs WN8 9QX
Tel: 01695 556 222 | Email: info@revaho.co.uk
www.revaho.co.uk

*WRAS information and guidance note number 9 – 02 – 05 issue 2 referring to pipe work for irrigation / non-potable water

WRAS
APPROVED
PRODUCT

Washdown Areas – what are your requirements?

Richard Stuttard, Environmental Consultant of the STRI, writes...

The issue of contaminated water discharge from golf course machinery washdown areas is one that is quite rightly currently receiving a great deal of attention throughout the golf industry.

There is an increasing acknowledgment at club level of the need to ensure golf facilities are operating within the confines of what is increasingly stringent legislation. There is however a great deal of confusion surrounding what exactly is, and is not, acceptable practice. As is frequently the case, the legislation encompassing this issue is quite complex and baffling, leading to many clubs choosing to ignore and claim ignorance, rather than act.

This article sets out exactly what the legislation means to golf and guides you through the options available to your club to ensure compliance.

The legislation

The key piece of legislation relating to the discharge of contaminated water is the Environmental Permitting Regulations (2010). Replacing the Groundwater Regulations (1997) the purpose of this legislation is to govern the level of pollutants entering surface and groundwater. Environmental Permits to Discharge (issued by the Environment Agency) determine the permitted limits of pollutants, with differing limits set dependant on pollutant type and site location. Pollutants most relevant to golf are nitrates and phosphates (present in grass clippings with levels enhanced by fertiliser applications) which have limit levels typically set at one part per million (ppm) and pesticides, with limits of typically one part per billion (ppb).

If you're thinking that doesn't sound like a lot, you'd be right, however, only minute amounts of these

pollutants are enough to damage ecosystems. The discharges from golf facility washdown areas are typically around twenty times the legal limits specified above. It must be stressed that concentrations of contaminants will vary significantly depending on the amounts of chemicals and fertilisers used on the course, time of year and the extent to which best practice is followed when applying chemicals, but it is certain to be the case that your club is exceeding legal limits by some margin frequently during the course of the year.

Are you compliant?

If your current practice is to wash machinery on waste ground, or in front of the sheds and allow water to discharge away (with no prior cleansing) to a ditch / other surface water, or allow it to soak away to groundwater you are not complying with legislation unless you have been granted an Environmental Permit to Discharge by the Environment Agency. This is something that all clubs who discharge water (whether it is cleansed or not) should have. This comes at an annual cost to the club and will only be granted if the level of contaminants within the clubs discharge is below the legal limits set for your area, which, in almost all cases, clubs will find it won't be.

To be certain of compliance, your club must be adopting one of the following options:

1. Machinery is washed down on a bunded washpad with all contaminated water collected in a sump, which is then collected and disposed of by a licensed waste management contractor.

2. Machinery is washed down on a bunded washpad with all contaminated water fed into a mechanical water recycling system where it is cleansed and can be re-used or discharged.





3. Machinery is washed down on a bunded washpad with all contaminated water fed by sealed pipe into a dedicated and bespoke reedbed system, where it is cleansed sufficiently for discharge or re-use.

The above options will be legal requirements for the vast majority of golf clubs in the UK, however there are circumstances, relating to the type of substrate water is being discharged to, where a club may be permitted to discharge without prior cleansing. As such, it is well worth a call to the Environment Agency to have your individual situation confirmed.

Equally if you are discharging to foul sewer, the issue is no longer the concern of the Environment Agency and it is down to your local water board to determine whether they are happy for the discharge to be sent through their systems without prior cleansing. It is the duty of the golf club to inform the relevant water board and confirm permission.

There has been a certain degree of scaremongering going on throughout the industry in recent times with threats of quite exorbitant fines being instantly imposed on golf clubs found to be contravening regulations.

The claims of six figure penalties are quite outlandish and should be taken with a pinch of salt. That, said, it is certainly the case that action will be taken against clubs found to be non-compliant with, at the very least, a requirement made for the club to rectify the problem immediately. As legislation tightens over the coming 2-3 years it is likely that fines will be used more frequently as a method of encouraging compliance and as such now really is the time to establish your clubs requirements and begin to set aside funds to fulfil your club's needs.

Best Practice is important

Following best practice guidelines relating to pesticide and fertiliser application is essential for all users of such products and will ensure that the amount of pollutants being discharged from your facility is kept to a minimum. As such it is crucial to ensure that all operators of spraying equipment are appropriately trained and are fully aware of best practice operating.

Reedbed Systems

Many of you may not have previous knowledge of the option of reedbed systems to solve your waste water problem. Reedbed

water filtration systems bring with them a raft of benefits to the golf club thanks to their low cost, low maintenance attributes and their natural appearance.

Reedbed systems, when designed correctly, are highly effective cleansing systems with reductions in contaminants facilitated through sedimentation, filtration, chemical precipitation, microbial interaction and plant uptake. Now, you may think I'm trying to blind you with science and that this is some hair brained 'muck n magic' idea with no substance behind it. The truth is however that this is by no means a new technology. Such systems have been in use in a variety of industries for more than 30 years and, over the last 5 years or so, have gained an ever increasing following in the golf sector.

Design and installation of these systems will cost typically between £5000 and £7000 and once installed their maintenance requirements consist simply of an annual clean out of any decaying vegetation at the base of the reeds and a cutting operation every few years to keep the reeds healthy.

Additionally, their attractive appearance means that they can be situated out on the golf course (within areas of rough etc) if space within the maintenance area is short, thereby further enhancing their appeal.

There are a significant number of examples of reedbeds in use within golf facilities throughout the UK and further afield with numbers rising rapidly. As such these systems are certainly worth considering as a viable solution to this pressing issue.

In Summary

Don't panic! The purpose of this article has been to provide you with a definitive answer to the question of wastewater discharge on the golf course, not to instil panic in those of you who now fear you may not be complying with legislation.

In essence, each facility is different and as such a call to the Environment Agency, or to STRI, who will act on your behalf, will be the first step towards determining your requirements. Once you have answers, you can act accordingly.

The topic is an important one however, and I would urge those of you who have doubts regarding your clubs compliance to look into this issue at the earliest opportunity.

More information can be obtained by contacting Richard Stuttard at STRI on 01274 565131.

Alternative Washdown Solutions

Authorised water recycling systems for washdowns are exempt from the drought order bans. Two providers of these systems give their thoughts on the situation below..

Historically, we have always relied on our reservoirs being refilled during the winter. However, two unusually dry winters has left reservoirs, aquifers and rivers well below normal levels in many parts of the country.

The start of the drought was largely restricted to the south east of the country, which has been in the grip of the worst drought in 30 years since last year. This is now spreading across large swathes of the country, with rivers such as the Tern, Sow and Leaden at their lowest ever recorded levels and the river Lathkill in Derbyshire drying up, requiring an emergency rescue of the fish.

In an effort to preserve water supplies seven water companies covering south-east England and East Anglia implemented hosepipe bans commencing in early April and the Environment Agency are warning water use restrictions may need to be imposed as far north as Yorkshire if the prolonged dry weather continues.

Despite recent rain the drought has continued to spread with official drought zones being declared in a further 17 counties in mid April,

coupled with the warning from the Environment Agency that water shortages could now last until Christmas!

Environment Secretary, Caroline Spelman said "As more areas of the UK move into drought it is vital that we use less water to protect the public's water supply."

With the population of the UK now well past 60 million and heading towards 70 million pressure on water supplies is only going to continue to increase, whether it rains or not. Prudent use of water will be expected by everyone to try and avoid future shortages. The authorities are actively promoting a number of initiatives, including the use of recycled water wherever possible, to assist the efforts to avoid future water shortages.

Golf courses need to ensure they are environmentally responsible and yet many continue to 'waste' up to a million litres per course undertaking the (necessary) task of washing-off golf course maintenance equipment using mains water.

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System is the perfect answer for washing your equipment in Drought conditions:

- The Recycling Wash-Off System continually reuses the same water, reducing water usage by a massive 90%!

- Is fully authorised for use even during periods of a Drought Order.

With the anticipation that the hosepipe bans and official drought zones will be upgraded to full Drought Orders in the near future, now is the time to upgrade to a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System. If imposed, a Drought Order will ban washing-off vehicles and equipment unless a Recycling Wash-Off System is used. Installing a Waste2Water system ensures you can continue with necessary equipment cleaning operations even during periods of drought.

For more information contact Waste2Water
Tel: 01782 373 878



Mix & Spray

Paint a brighter future for your course

Mix & Spray has been introduced to make the best possible use of Farmura products.

Identifying and selecting the key products from our range will save both time and provide superb results.

Do you require colour? Porthcawl + Ferrosol produces a wow factor wherever used.

Want to improve turf density? Farmura Liquid Organics + Super Nitrogen or Premium N improve surface playability.

Need to increase root mass? Farmura Liquid Seaweed high in cytokinins can be combined with Farmura Liquid Organics or Super Concentrates.

You select the combination that suits you and your course.

Tel: 01233 756 241 info@farmura.com www.farmura.com



farmura
environmental

Individual products or Mix & Spray
- the choice is yours!

ESD Waste2Water

With Drought on it's way...



Critically Low Reservoir Level

The Recycling Wash-Off System Specialists

You need one of these...



Turnhouse Golf Club

THE "DROUGHT-PROOF" RECYCLING WASH-OFF SYSTEM

Authorised for use in drought restricted areas

Regular equipment cleaning is vital – don't be forced to compromise!

Remove the threat of water restrictions - install a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System now!

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel : 01782 373 878 E-mail: info@waste2water.com Web: www.waste2water.com

Will it take hose pipe bans and drought orders to see legislative compliance? David Mears reports

The duties and responsibilities of anyone operating a washdown system, the legal requirements and the latest penalties for non-compliance have been covered at length in the media for some time, yet still a number of businesses and golf clubs don't see the need to take action.

Why? The Groundwater Regulations 2009 are not a recommendation, they are law. Compliance is mandatory and to claim ignorance will not be seen as a defence.

Perhaps the time is right to invest in a biological washpad water recycling system, save precious water and meet your legal duty.

It is potentially only a matter of time before hosepipe bans implemented on 5th April 2012 by seven water companies in the south and east of the UK become Drought Orders. Already the south-east of England and East Anglia are reported to be suffering the worse drought for 30 years. Areas as far north as Yorkshire and as far west as Wiltshire and Hampshire could

be affected we are told.

It was in 2006 that Drought Order powers were granted to only three water companies (Sutton and East Surrey Water, Mid-Kent Water and Southern Water) to limit or prohibit non-essential uses of water and a number of golf courses were badly affected.

Only golf courses that recycled water were able to continue washing off machinery. One such course was Woodcote Park in Surrey using their ClearWater system and featured on BBC TV news. This time, the drought appears to be more serious and widespread.

It seems clear that drought conditions, regrettably, are here to stay probably affecting us each year. Like it or not, we must strive to conserve water and the sooner the better.

Washing off machinery with water running to waste is not only causing pollution but is costly and irresponsible in these times. Water meters fitted to recycling installations have shown that around ¼ to ½ million litres of water could be

wasted washing down equipment at golf courses if not recycled. National Trust's Andrew Mudge calculated their ClearWater recycling system at Cliveden would save them in excess of 200,000 litres of water. Installing a biological recycling washpad system would therefore appear to be a sensible move right now, especially as there are special offers to be found from the major players.

Often the expense of a completely new washpad can be saved by upgrading an existing one too and finance is usually available. Self-installation is possible also in some instances. Further savings can be made if purchasing approved systems.

A system approved and on the UK government-backed Water Technology List (WTL) qualifies for 100% first year capital allowance under the ECA (Enhanced Capital Allowance) scheme. This means that companies / clubs buying and installing such a system can write off 100% of the total cost of their investment against taxable profits in the year of purchase!

For more information contact
Highspeed Group Ltd
08456003572

Not all washpad solutions are the same. ClearWater definitely isn't.

- * It is a full biological washpad water recycling system
- * It is on the Water Technology List, fully approved as a water saving technology
- * It qualifies for 100% first year capital allowances under the ECA scheme
- * It is probably the most cost effective system and is safely below ground



Scan QR Code or
Call us for more details



Highspeed Group Ltd Newbridge Ind.Est.
Pitt Street Keighley BD21 4PQ
Tel: 0845 600 3572 info@highspeed.co.uk
www.highspeed.co.uk www.clearwatertv.co.uk



North Staffs Irrigation

DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

*"If you are choosing a quality irrigation system...
...make sure you choose a quality irrigation company"*

North Staffs Irrigation
Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone,
Staffs ST15 8TB
Tel: 01785 812706 Fax: 01785 811747

RAIN BIRD
TORO **Hunter**
The Irrigation Innovators

www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk
Email: nsirrigation@aol.com

KEEP YOUR COURSE ON COURSE

SPRAY SAFE WITH A WINDFOIL BOOM

- Tighter ground contour hugging in both positive and negative contours
- Height adjustable to cope with greens, fairways and semi rough
- More clearance around the nozzles to avoid run off from the covers
- LERAP 3 Star Jet rating

contact: 01361 884288
info@bargam.co.uk www.gambetti.co.uk

HUNTER TTS ROTORS WITH DECODER-IN-HEAD

Keep play moving with Hunter Golf Rotors featuring Total Top Service technology. Every serviceable element of the rotor can be accessed through the top including the decoder, which can be pre-wired into the head from the factory. Adding an ICD-HP hand-held unit allows for easy programming, diagnostics, and testing without disconnecting any wires. That means there's no more digging or unsightly scars, and one less thing for a busy Greenkeeper to think about.

Hunter®

GOLF IRRIGATION | Built on innovation

Online: huntergolf.com

Call for more information: +44 (0)1283 840552

Utility and dedicated sprayers to suit budgets and demands

If you are looking to buy a sprayer, your initial choices may seem somewhat daunting. For most, however, a few key decisions can pretty much determine the main types of sprayer to consider, writes James de Havilland



Take a look at the range of amenity sprayers on the market and you can soon shortlist units that are suitable for work on a golf course. Key requirements include stability, a low boom operating height and a low ground bearing pressure.

Dedicated sprayers are also becoming a more popular choice for golf courses. Designed around a purpose developed chassis, dedicated sprayers are built just to spray and are ready for work pretty much as soon as they are filled and the booms unfolded.

Smithco from Ransomes Jacobsen

The Smithco Spray Star range of self-propelled sprayers is marketed throughout Europe by Ransomes Jacobsen, with the Spray Star 1000 targeting those looking for a manoeuvrable, lightweight sprayer. With a boom width of 4.5 metres it should deliver decent productivity too. Power comes from a 25 hp (19 kW) twin-cylinder petrol engine with traction power to the rear wheels.

Offering a travel speed of up to 20 km/h, the Spray Star is fitted with an elliptical 416 litres tank made

from cross-linked polyethylene with UV inhibitors to prevent degradation. Filling access is via a 41cm diameter hinged lid with nylon debris strainer basket. Tasked with tank agitation for even chemical distribution is via what Smithco describes as its 'Quadra-Jet' four venturi system. Agitation is an important aspect of sprayer design, some powders needing quite a bit of work to ensure they are thoroughly mixed prior to starting spraying.

Application rates can vary between 38-265 litres per minute with pressures ranging from 0.7-7.0bar and delivering anything between 180-2,050 litres per hectare. Productivity is put at 2.6 hectares per hour at 5.6 km/h. Users suggests 18 greens can be sprayed in well under 3 hours, this including the time taken to do a clean tank wash.

Spray control systems offered can cover fully automatic through to basic manual operation with boom types include a design with ground contour following wheels. Options and accessories include a choice of 12-volt electric or hydraulic boom lift, an electrically-operated foam marker system and clear water wash tank.

Built on the same platform, the

Spray Star 1000e drops petrol power in favour of solid-state 48-volt electric power. This model eliminates the chance of hydraulic fluid leaks and is also extremely quiet – a plus for those who wish to exploit still mornings for spraying. Features include positive ground speed control for the vehicle speed while spraying, a Raven SCS440 computerized spray control system coming as part of the package.

The next model up is the mid-size Spray Star 1750 which is claimed to be the only hydrostatic-drive model in its class. Fitted again with an elliptical polyethylene tank, the 1750 boasts a higher 662 litre capacity. Power comes from a 34hp (25.5 kW) three cylinder diesel engine.

Despite its higher capacity, the Spray Star 1750 has a ground bearing pressure of approximately 0.7 bar, hydraulic power steering easing manoeuvrability. The spray pump is a stainless steel centrifugal design equipped with a low volume warning horn and automatic air bleed. A choice of a Raven SCS440 computerised rate controller is offered, the sprayer having an electrical boom and pressure control system as standard. Simple manual boom and pressure control is the third choice.



INSET ABOVE: Spray Star sprayers are filled via 41cm diameter hinged lid.

MAIN ABOVE: Dave Callanan of Beech Park Golf Club uses a Smithco Spray Star 1000 and suggests he can spray 18 greens in around 2½ hours. Small, dedicated sprayers are ideal for those seeking to exploit spraying 'windows' quickly.



The Toro MultiPro 5800-D clearly illustrates how a dedicated sprayer differs from a demount alternative, doing away with the need for a demount structure reducing weight. Powered by a 35.5hp (26.5kw) Kubota diesel, the sprayer is fitted with Toro's Pro Control XP spray console

Wide choice from Toro

The Toro MultiPro 5800-D clearly illustrates how a dedicated sprayer differs from a demount alternative, doing away with the need for a demount structure reducing weight. Powered by a 35.5hp (26.5kw) Kubota diesel, the sprayer is fitted with Toro's Pro Control XP spray console.

The sprayer choice offered by Toro includes units designed to fit both its own Workman utility vehicle - as well as alternative makes - and a unit that will also mount on a trailer.

Among its more established designs is the Workman 200 Sprayer with a 757litre tank. Although it is a fully integrated fit to the Workman, the sprayer 'skid' mounts via an easy on/off system that is claimed to allow the unit to be fitted or removed in 20 minutes.

The aim is to have all the advantages of a dedicated design with the ability to free up the Workman for other work if required.

Equipped with a 5.6m boom, features include a mechanically-driven controller that is designed to automatically maintain the set application rate over varied

terrain and also accommodate variations in speed.

Toro has entered the dedicated sprayer market with its recently launched 1,136litre capacity MultiPro 5800-D. Powered by a 35.5hp (26.5kw) Kubota diesel, the sprayer is fitted with Toro's Pro Control XP spray console.

This is designed to provide an instant response to changes in the sprayers speed for greater application accuracy.

The sprayer is fitted with an exclusive six-diaphragm pump - claimed as an industry first - that offers twice the flow of more conventional designs to meet an increasing demand for high spray rates.

The sprayer also features a 'Cleanload Eductor' chemical induction system and an automated fresh water rinse system.

The standard 5.6m boom can be equipped with a lightweight Drift Reduction Boom Shroud.

This extends 30.5cm below the boom to minimise chemical drift. A further option includes an Ultra Sonic Boom Leveling System, which automatically adjusts the boom to the correct spraying height in undulating turf conditions.

Rounding off the company's line-up is the MultiPro 1250, a dedicated turf sprayer styled on Toro's Workman utility vehicle. Fitted with a 662litre tank, the machine is powered by a 20hp/15kW Kohler petrol engine and features a proportional drive spray-control system.

This adjusts the application rate in proportion to changes in vehicle speed. An optional enclosed boom is available.

BELOW: British made Team Sprayers are offered in a choice of demount designs and can be supplied with a range of standard or shrouded booms. Note the clean water tank for hand washing and induction hopper on pictured unit.



How a sprayer sits on the chassis of a utility vehicle can have a noticeable impact upon its centre of gravity. John Deere HD200 SlectSpray low profile sprayers are a good example, keeping weight low helping when traversing slopes.



Hardi Boss range demount models are offered with a wide specification choice, as well as models tailored to fit a range of utility vehicles. It is cheaper to specify what you want from the outset as opposed to upgrading to more advanced features at a later date.



The level of break back protection and contour following offered by booms varies. Wheels are designed to push the boom up if the terrain alters, but not run on the ground. Booms that break back in reverse as well as direction of travel help prevent damage when backing up to banks or other obstacles.



John Deere turf sprayer benefits from recent updates

The John Deere HD200 SlectSpray is an upgraded version of the company's 750-litre low profile sprayer first introduced in 2003. The HD200 can be specced with a choice of centrifugal or diaphragm pumps, manual or automatic rate controls and a range of boom options – the latter now come with electro-hydraulic boom lift and lower as standard. A common wiring harness is standard for all specifications, allowing the control system to be changed easily if required at a later date.

A CleanLoad chemical induction system is an option, the standard jet agitator ensuring the tank solution is mixed thoroughly. An integral tank wash system is also standard.

Designed as an attachment for John Deere's established 24hp ProGator utility vehicle, the 757 litre HD200 can be easily and quickly removed without tools. An optional storage stand incorporates wheels so that the demounted sprayer

can be moved around in a shed for storage and wheeled out for re-attaching. The HD200 utilises the whole of the ProGator's load space to provide a low centre of gravity for stability. The design also provides the operator with good visibility.

All booms options have standard triple nozzle bodies and are offered in 5.5m or three-way folding 4.6/6.4m sizes. A bi-directional safety breakaway system is standard.

The boom operates at up to 50cm above ground level and at ground speeds of up to 16km/hr. Individual boom sections can be selected as required, and boom height can be adjusted manually if necessary. The sprayer also comes as standard with a throttling valve to deliver constant pressure no matter how many boom sections are operating at any one time.

In addition to the main tank, the sprayer features a 75 litre rinse tank, operator clean water tank and clothing boxes, plus foam marker and chemical tanks. Options include a 60m hose reel and spray gun.



Gambetti UK continues to hone its products to match the specific needs of golf courses. As an example, it has improved the Windfoil boom for tighter ground contour hugging on both positive and negative contours, made it height adjustable to cope with greens, fairways and semi rough and also added more clearance around the nozzles to avoid run off from the covers. Gambetti also offers BRAVO 180 sprayer rate controllers customised for use with golf course sprayers. The operator can select up to 5 different spray rates at the touch of only 2 buttons. The display shows application rate and speed.

THE NEW PRECISION SPRAYER FROM TORO. PUMP UP THE VOLUME!

TORO[®]



Introducing the MultiPro 5800-D, a technically advanced dedicated sprayer, new from Toro. Designed to deliver superior spray accuracy and precision, the MultiPro 5800-D features an innovative new Pro Control XP console that responds instantly to ensure the correct spray rate is applied from start to finish, pass after pass. The sprayer's speedy response time is further enhanced with an exclusive six-diaphragm pump, an industry first. This unique pump has twice the flow to satisfy the highest of spray rates, together with 'aggressive agitation' for optimum mixing of the 300 gallon (1,136 litre) tank's contents. The 5800-D also features a generous 18.5ft spraying boom, with a Drift Reduction Shroud, and the new Ultra Sonic Boom Levelling System. The new MultiPro 5800-D sprayer from Toro, simply the best performing turf sprayer on the market!

Call **01480 226800** or visit **www.toro.com**



OFFICIAL
SUPPLIER



TORO Commercial Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: toro.info.uk@lely.com www.lely.com www.toro.com



WORKMAN HDX-D



PROPASS 200



MULTIPRO 5800-D SPRAYER



WORKMAN MDX-D



PRO FORCE DEBRIS BLOWER



partners in turfcare

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
info@bigga.co.uk
by the 10th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



Central

We had a good turnout for our seminar on 21 March to hear James Cobb tell us about the species of trees he has planted at Craill GC and the habitat they provide.

We have potentially another couple of seminars lined up for the summer.

Eric Lyons from Guelph Uni in Canada and John Kaminski from Penn State are visiting in June and July respectively and we are trying to fix up evening presentations for them.

Information will appear on the website and an email will be sent out as soon as we have more details. Members can also get the information from our Facebook page.

If you haven't been receiving emails from either Gordon McKie or me on a regular basis, then check the website where we will have a list of these names and you can contact us.

We will update this periodically, maybe we have typed it in wrongly or you have changed your email address and forgotten to notify BIGGA.

As I write this in early April, just before our spring outing at Craill, winter seems to have returned with a vengeance after the balmy March.

Twenty teams entered the pair's competition this year so we had to change the format slightly.

The results will appear regularly on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Gordon Moir



East

I should start this article by reporting our spring meeting at the Glen Golf Club, but as you all know, the weather beat us with rain, snow and cold winds and is to blame for the postponement.

Our secretary Mr Ferguson made the re-scheduled date for Tuesday 24 April, so I hope all who were due to play, can make this date, plus more if possible?

The section committee met last Tuesday to discuss business and there are several ideas that should interest our membership, both educationally and socially; thanks to the guys for getting that together for discussion.

We shall arrange future dates for these proposals and give details so that you can plan well in advance.

Mr Philip Butler, our education member, is to be married this year and our congratulations go to him and his fiancée. Remember to text me the relevant details Phil.

I heard of a greenkeeper, who's name I don't know yet, down in Kelso who was injured in an accident going to his work, but the details are very sketchy at the moment.

We all wish him well and a speedy recovery. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please let me know.

So, see you all on the 24 April at the Glen Golf Club and bring your shorts and sun cream as I booked plenty of sunshine this time.

Stewart Crawford
s.crawford@live.co.uk



Northern

As I am writing this report at the beginning of April there is several inches of snow lying on the ground, which is a shock to the system especially as the last week of March was breaking records for how hot it was, but that is mother-nature for you.

There is some movement in the greenkeeping world again; Chris Wilson has left Huntly Golf Club for Turriff Golf Club to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Michael McLeod has joined Huntly Golf Club after previously working at Spey Bay Golf Club, so I wish them both every success in their new jobs, and also my old work mate Steve Still of Newmachar Golf Club is leaving to start up his own business and I wish him every success.

I am looking forward to the Barenbrug open day at Castle Stuart Golf Links as I have not been there yet and it will be very good to get a walk round.

I will have all the results from the spring outing at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club in the next issue.

Also it was good to hear that the Scottish Open has secured its future short term, which is good for the game in Scotland, lets hope it can stay in the North of Scotland.

That's all for now but feel free to get in touch with me if you have any news because it's difficult sometimes to get enough in the magazine report some months, you can get in touch with me via my mobile or the Facebook page, which is BIGGA North Section, and hopefully we can get more people liking the page.

Ross Macrae, 07588896635.
ross.macrae@hotmail.com

Northern Region



North East

What do we have in store for this months report, I'm afraid not very much, but it's better to have some than none at all, I like to try and have some in no matter how small.

Firstly, let's welcome the following new members to the section, those being Jack Maddison of Arcot Hall, Garry Morse of Close House and the return of Steve Cram of Slaley Hall.

We are slowly getting more members from Close House, but I thought I would have had more since I had dropped several membership forms off as I had heard that about six were wanting to join, ah well let's hope they change their minds in the near future.

Next, congratulations to Ashley Marshall of Matfen Hall GC, having been chosen to work with the support team for this years Open, now that's an experience in itself; long hours but good rewards seeing the best golfers in the world, and best of all making new friends while you're there.

And lastly, I bet the greenstaff at Hexham GC are pleased that they have finished working on the second hole, The Somme as they had nicknamed it for obvious reasons from the end of October through to mid March.

This was the last hole to have the bunkers re-shaped and an extra one added as well as widening the path and altering the bankside too.

That's it for this month,
Jimmy Richardson



Northern

Afternoon chaps. At last the summer has arrived and I'm enjoying the lovely sunshine up in Halifax... I spoke too soon I'm afraid, the next week we got a foot of snow!

Hope you all are well and getting ready for a good golfing year. By the time these notes appear we will have played Easingwold and got the difficult medal out the way!

I would like to pass on my best wishes to Peter Larter, our regional admin chappy, who retires this summer. Since I've got back into the industry and the committee Peter has always been there to give advice and help me. He is a great bloke and will be missed.

Also a big thank you goes to my old buddy at Otley, Adam, who has had to stand down as treasurer for the section. Another great bloke who will also be missed. We will hopefully fill Adams position very shortly, but until then myself and John Watts will look after things.

Thank you Mr Guy for your emails...

That's it for now folks, any news or goss please let me know.

Andy Slingsby
07506407867 slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com



North West

Hi all. Firstly let me welcome a new starter at Davyhume GC, Peter Hartley has started an apprenticeship under the guidance of Nick Marner the Head Greenkeeper. So good luck Peter and I hope all goes well with your chosen career.

We have literally had all weathers in March from top temp's of 23°C to -1°C this morning on the 4 April, thankfully all that feed that went down had the desired effect and we are certainly off and running here at Penwortham GC.

It's the spring tournament here in a couple of weeks, so fingers crossed for good weather, and hopefully I will meet a few

people who I haven't seen for the winter months who will be able to give me some information to make the column a little more interesting.

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



North Wales

What a late winter and early spring we faced, one of the hottest March's on record followed by a reminder that winter hadn't quite given by giving us snow and frost to start April off!

The spring tournament took place at the Vale of Llangollen golf club on 25 April, as always this column goes to print before the actual day so a full write up will be in next month's column but if you're impatient, pictures of the day will be galleried on our Facebook group, North Wales BIGGA.

There are a few upcoming events to bring to your attention, firstly the North Wales / North West match taking place at Lymm golf club on 11 June, secondly there's the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match on 27 July at Aberdovey golf club, I hope that most of our best players will be available for these dates to help prove how good our Greenkeepers are at playing as well as being good at their work. Finally we also have an evening cricket match at Ashley cricket club on 18 July, we have 6 players but we still need more, please contact me or Nick Grey of Bathgates if you would like to join the North Wales team.

I'm sure you all join me in wishing Emyr Price of Royal St Davids golf club a speedy recovery after he suffered from a heart attack back at the end of March.

I think that's about it for now, so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury, e-mail
petemayb66@aol.com

Mobile calls and text
07756001187 Facebook group,
North Wales BIGGA.

Midland Region



East Midlands

Wednesday 28 March saw the Toro sponsored East Midlands Section Go Karting event held at Wymeswold in Leicestershire. Andrew Humble of Lely hosted the evening and thoroughly looked after all of us that raced on the night.

After the abnormally high seasonal temperatures that week everyone was just itching to pull on a sweaty race suit and helmet and bomb around the indoor track for an hour! It was a Forest Hill one, two and three on the podium, with Sam Voss the overall winner. At times he reached speeds of over 50 mph in his cart, second was Pete Thornton, and third Conner Gamble.

Unfortunately all three of them forgot who their boss was as I was bumped and nudged into fifth place, an issue that may be raised at their next appraisal.

Go Karting has traditionally been a very popular social event for the section and due to Andrew Humble and Toro's generosity we have always been able to offer great deals for our section members. With this year's event we offered two hours of racing plus fish 'n' chips and a pint for just £20, an offer we felt was incredible value? However the very poor response suggested otherwise and leaves future plans for social events in a very questionable position. Non golfing members of the section have always asked for non golfing events to be organised, yet when this happens there is little interest and sends a message to the committee that its efforts are perhaps best spent concentrating on golf competitions where attendance is far better. Food for thought? Any comments on this are welcome to biggaeastmid@gmail.com

As I write this article the players are preparing to have their final practice round at The Masters, and members and golfers around the UK are preparing their comparative comments to their clubs and Augusta. I do enjoy the questions and suggestions that the first major of the year brings.

Should I mention the

BUNKER EDGER CUTS YOUR TIME



The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, this tough machine is easy to use and maintain.

Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK.
Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

DJ Turfcare: 01483 200976
www.djturfcare.co.uk

Around The Green

weather? Everyone else does. Ah yes, the weather. It's impossible to go a day without something on the television or radio referring to the weather, or rather its unpredictability.

The South East is now officially part of the Sahara, river levels are at 1976 levels, rainfall is at 1921 levels, bore hole licences are being revoked, whereas the North West is sloshing around in a plentiful supply. It's a shame that fuel prices aren't comparable to the prices in those years too!

We had record temperatures in March enabling an earlier than usual chance to gain a 'man tan', and just as it was turning a nice golden colour snow swept southwards from Scotland in the first week of April! Bonkers.

Whatever the weather throws at us I'm sure we'll find a way around it. At the moment the freezing North Easterly wind is lashing sleet and rain against our sheds, time to see the status of my kettle finger.

Greg Skinner
07970 095264



Midland

I would like to firstly congratulate Mr C.Beet (C.M. at Stourbridge G.C.) on passing his H.N.C. with "A" grades at Elmwood through its distant learning opportunity. I myself also embarked on such at the same college in 1996, the first time H.N.C. was made available via distance learning. Such was of course then via mail and hand written.

Imagine the amount of times a spelling error forced re-writing! I soon parted with £360(then) for a fancy word processor, which would now be considered as stone-age, but it greatly reduced the time spent on errors and thus afforded more time to actually study. I note that Andy Cole was featured in last month's G.I. and stated that "Greenkeepers" are the best educated within our field.

Andy greatly helped me, and Craig, within our proud accomplishments of education, at his own wish and personal time. My thanks Andy. And Craig, once

again, well done, I know the commitment required.

Now then, what have we coming up in our events? Nothing less than the great opportunity of playing the wonderful course at "The Chase Golf Club" on 23 May. Start time of 12:30. Please ring Gary for your late entries: 07780 953 764.

Hoping that June brings me more news, you know the numbers, they are on our excellent calendar, which, this month is sponsored by our old friends T.H.White Grasscare. For your Jacobsen/Ransomes machinery please consider them. They can be contacted at www.thwhitegrasscare.co.uk

Sean McDade.



East of England

Here we are in May already, I'm not quite sure where the year is going. As I write the Masters is in full swing on the TV; that green oasis of golf being broadcast on HD into everyone's homes just to make life easy for us all! But hey, at least with HD TV you can now find that one blade of grass left out of place!

We now also have a hosepipe ban in place, cue the wettest spell of weather this year. Let's see what the summer brings.

Once again it was good to see a good turnout from our Section members at Harrogate for BTME. Our Section Cocktail Party for all our Trade sponsors once again proved popular, despite there not exactly being a cocktail in sight.

Many thanks again to Gary Cooper of STG Amenity Supplies for his continued sponsorship of this event and also to all our sponsors that support us throughout the year.

A belated congratulations from our Section to all at BIGGA that helped with the organising and running of yet another excellent show.

Our Winter Section Seminar day this year was held on Wednesday 29 February at Newark Golf Club. The day was kindly sponsored by TORO and thanks go to Nigel Lovatt for his continued support. The day started with Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity talking

about how climate change will influence spring maintenance practices and also gave us an insight into weather forecasting and interpreting weather charts.

Clive followed him from TORO reel maintenance and spoke about the importance of regular reel maintenance and the benefits it gives to the presentation of the golf course. Newark Golf Club's famous Cow Pie did not disappoint everyone for lunch.

This was followed by Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club talking about his club's bunker renovation project.

Les told of the numerous processes involved in the ambitious project to change every bunker from the unmanageable poorly designed 90s style bunkers they had, to return them to the style of bunkers that were present when the course was first built.

The amount of work involved was immense, however the results achieved are stunning.

The day finished with an outdoor demonstration from Tom Shinkins of Blec. He brought along their Multi-Vator and their Multi-Seeder 2, two excellent machines for ground and turf renovation.

The Multi-Seeder was even demonstrated in reverse by Newark Course Manager Graeme Macdonald! Chris Sellars also brought along the Sweep 'n' Fill brush, again an excellent piece of kit for brushing in topdressing especially. An excellent and informative day was had by all, and once again thanks to Newark Golf Club and all the speakers, demonstrators and sponsors for the day.

Our first golf day this year is at Cleethorpes Golf Club on Thursday 24 May, tee off at 1PM. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you are able to play. I am sure that Rob will have the greens lightening fast for us, and the Fish & Chips normally goes down well after doing battle with the wind!

Think that is all for now. I have been told to write more in this piece so if anyone has anything then let me know, otherwise I will have to enlighten you in the technical details of my new hobby, tropical fish keeping! A whole lot more than a bowl of water and a few fish!

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

South East Region



Surrey

Thursday April 5. Will my redecorating never end?

Yesterday the lounge/dining room ceiling, 2 coats of the finest matt white emulsion and my neck is killing me.

The rear garden has recently been turfed just in time for the hosepipe ban but it's the first time that my lawn has no weeds, moss or buttercups and with little rain expected in the next few weeks, probably no grass.

Epsom GC was the venue for our spring meeting and a beautiful, warm and sunny day for the Texas scramble.

The greens were excellent and a great credit to Mark Harvey and his team.

My playing partners, Messrs Weston and Pennells, studied every green, admiring the fine grasses and excellent putting surfaces, but it was little help to us when we had to get that little ball in the hole.

Derek Cunliffe captained the winning team, with the Davey Bros' team a close second. Nearest the pin was Rob Barrow and the longest drive was Kevin Boxall.

There are two daddies of the month and congratulations go to Aran and Caron Crittenden and their first daughter Kacey, 7lb 8ozs, born on March 28, and to Ashley and Nicole Allpress on the birth of their second daughter, Gemma Rose, 9lb 7ozs, on March 16.

Some of you will have received an unusual email supposedly from me but my computer has been hacked by persons unknown.

This has been dealt with and I am safe again.

My apologies if this has caused any problems.

You will all be pleased to read that my next visit to the Wight Isle is next week so curb your anticipation, as my full report must wait until next month.

Brian Willmott.

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Essex

As reported last month in this magazine we have lost a very dear friend in John Farrell (Baileys of Norfolk), The Essex Section wishes to express its sympathy to the family and work colleagues of John. He will be sadly missed. John lectured at very short notice at one of our seminars held at Stock Brook a couple of years ago, and through Baileys of Norfolk supported the section as he did others in our Region.

Entries for our first Golf Day at Ilford Golf Club (11.00am start, and dress code is smart/casual) Wednesday 16 May, are now due, if you have not already done so. Entry forms to: Antony Kirwan at Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU or by email to antz16@btinternet.com.

If you wish to enter the Team Knockout this year, entries are FREE. All you have to do is get your entry to Antony by 16 May when the draw will be made on the evening at Ilford.

We are again being treated to a stroll around West Ham's ground for a game of football. The match this year is against the Kent Section. Venue is again at West Ham United's Upton Park ground on Monday 21 May, arrive at 1.00pm for a 2.00pm kick off. Satellite Navigation: Set address and post code to Green Street, Upton Park, London E13 9AZ.

Last year we played the Sussex Section and what a fantastically close game we had. It was a great afternoon for both players and spectators, thanks to the support of sponsor Toro and West Ham.

This year we would like to see more of you there to support the teams, so if you're not playing come along and support the boys.

There is news soon to come of a trip to have a look around the Hurlingham Club with Peter Craig. This will most probably be mid-year. Later we will have a couple

of one-day seminars with Howard Swan. The first will be sometime in the autumn. If demand is high we will then run a second seminar in the early part of 2013.

We have three new sponsors this year; Toro, Farmura and Billericay Farm Services joining our section. Along with continuing sponsorship from: Amenity Technology, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Blade Amenity, CMW Equipment Limited, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Son, Everris, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Irrigation and Water, Limagrain, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton, P. Tuckwell Ltd, Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation, RainBird, Rigby Taylor, Sea Nymph (Chaingreen Ltd), Tey Farm Services, Toro, Writtle College.

The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above for their help with running our golf days and the education seminars that we run for the benefit of the section members.

Just a reminder to all those members collecting CPD credits, you need to have a minimum of 10 credits by the end of June 2012 to qualify.

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

Arnold Phipps-Jones



Kent

There's a couple of events to tell you about this month. Firstly the South East Region's Annual event at Walton Heath superbly organised, as ever, by Clive Osgood.

A glorious course beautifully presented in the early spring by Alan Strachan and his crew awaited over a hundred of the Region's finest greenkeeping talents. The work Walton Heath has undertaken to dramatically regenerate the heather is nothing short of incredible.

And, despite my own personal best efforts to thin it out, will be a lasting legacy to the club and its exceptional management of today's course and completely restoring its historical values.

It was great to see very many old friends on the day and enjoy their company well into the evening. Well done to my playing partners, Neil Peachey, Roy Spong and 'The Colonel' for such an enjoyable game and also to Gareth Roberts on winning the Ray Day Memorial Trophy. Notable victories from our Section on the day were from Darren Child who shot 39 points to win the 0-9 handicap category and to Kev Morris who picked ticket number 328 to win the raffle. A worthy mention for the comedian too. I was laughing all week.

Our Kent Section has just played our first event of the year at one of the best courses in our region, North Foreland Golf Club. Unfortunately, I had to sit out my first event for seven years so the following report was prepared for me by Kev Morris:

North Foreland Golf Club, what can you say? A credit to everyone involved, from Tony Adams, the General Manager, Dan McGrath, the wonderful Course Manager, all the dedicated Greenstaff to hunger busting catering staff.

With the sun beating down on the assembled field, with Vic Maynard, of Ernest Doe, and his trusty "beverage wagon" on hand to quench even the fiercest thirst, the day began.

The Course was presented in pristine condition and was appreciated by all. The greens were great, tricky to read, but putted perfectly, unfortunately I didn't!

The weather remained glorious all afternoon and was even being enjoyed by the 2 wheeled dog!

The days' triumphant winner, on count back, was the emigrating, well Cornwall bound, Steve Gunner with 36pts, who pipped Forelands own Daz Burton, with Melvyn Tassell in 3rd place with a very creditable 35pts. Longest Drive went to Wayne Syres and nearest the pin to Russ Bain.

We would like to extend a

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Seb Cavilla

Age: 27

Club: The Manor House Golf Club, Castle Combe

Nickname: Sebbyl!

How long have you been greenkeeping?

Five years, plus a previous two as a groundsman

What attracted you to the career?

The attention to detail required on the course

If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?

Probably a chef!

What task do you most enjoy and why?

Double cutting fairways - it has one of the biggest visual impacts on the course, and done well, looks fantastic.

What task do you least enjoy and why?

Pressure washing!
Spent nearly a month doing the golf club and hotel patios over the winter

What one thing, other than a payrise, would improve a greenkeeper's lot?

More respect and recognition from golfers for the job we do

Hobbies?

Trips to Anfield, and cooking

Favourite band?

Anything from Radiohead to Braintax

Football team?

LIVERPOOL!

Claim to fame?

I have a football signed by Pele



BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Christopher Thomson, Central Section
David Angus, North Section
David Inglis, North Section
Sandy Lays, North Section
Christopher Polson, North Section
Jordan Shaw, North Section
Dougie Elrick, West Section
Graeme Stoddart, West Section
Barry Walker, West Section

Northern Region

Jack Maddison, North East Section
John Baines, North West Section
Timothy Dixon, North West Section
Allen Foster, North West Section
David Lippiatt, North West Section
Mark Odgen, North West Section
Daniel Ashelby, Northern Section
Harry Daighton, Northern Section
Paul Dookerty, Northern Section
Jonathan Hill, Northern Section
Graham Oxley, Northern Section
Daniel Thornton, Northern Section
Colin Handy, Cleveland Section
Richard Bee, Sheffield Section

Midland Region

Bradley Birch, Midland Section
Jon Lewis, Midland Section
Norman Lovell, Midland Section
Jonathan Webster, Midland Section
Andrew Dormer, BB&O Section
Stuart Giddings, BB&O Section
Simon Hole, BB&O Section
Michael Nianko, BB&O Section
Craig Sinclair, BB&O Section

South East Region

Joshua Thomason, Surrey Section
Daniel Banks, Sussex Section
James Grimstead, Sussex Section
Ben Wright, Sussex Section
Joshua Reely, London Section
Vernon Beeby, East Anglia Section
David Jackman, East Anglia Section
David Byron, Essex Section
Richard Freeman, Essex Section
Nicholas Horsewell, Essex Section
Tom Platt, Essex Section
Chris Weaver, Essex Section

South West/South Wales Region

Shaun Radford, South West Section
Kyle Stubley, South Coast Section
Andrew Weeks, South Coast Section

Northern Ireland
Adam Davis, Northern Ireland Section

Overseas
Allan Tolan, France
Thomas Sonnenberg, Germany
Julio Garcia DeTejada, Spain
Morteza Shamsai, Sweden
Anders Stalberg, Sweden
Burak Curuk, Turkey
Melissa Lopez, USA
Sean Tully, USA
Robert Vaughey, USA

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

special thanks to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring the day and laying on an impressive array of prizes. We would also like to thank the catering staff for the sumptuous carvery, including seconds, and subsequent pudding!

Thanks North Foreland! And thanks Kev.

Don't forget that we are continuing on last year's success of our Summer Pairs Knockout Trophy so please put your names forward as soon as possible for what turned out to be such great fun last summer.

See the website for details.

Finally, the big one! I learned yesterday that the Essex Section have challenged Kent's finest to a football match which shall be played in May at the absolute mecca of football, Upton Park! Obviously, Big Sam has been alerted to the fact that the cream of greenkeeping talent will be lovingly caressing the hallowed turf at the Boleyn Ground so the presence of some scouts (and possibly some Girl Guides) will be inevitable.

At this time of writing we are still in the early stages of assembling a squad so please call if you wish to be a part of such a momentous occasion.

And, if anyone could provide an outsize kit I may have a friend who requires one...

Thanks to all for making this section such a pleasure to be associated with.

For more details of all of the above please visit the website.

Best of British,
Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com
07545 424880

South West and South Wales



South Coast

As I was getting ready for work this morning I could hear the rare sound of rain hitting my kitchen window which brought a smile to my face.

Once up at the maintenance

block I discovered we had the grand total of 2mm.

Wow, wettest night for 8 weeks, who knows by the time you're reading this we could be praying for sunshine...

Overall the weather has been kind to us along this part of the south coast, in an average winter we could lose 20 days to closure with Brokenhurst being on a typical clay soil structure, but with us losing just 4 days, 2 of them due to snow, the membership are happy, so that's one less thing to worry about.

On a personal note I'm now a qualified retained fire-fighter at Brokenhurst fire station.

In my time away from managing the golf course, being on call for evenings/weekends when I can, I'm really enjoying being part of it all and helping the community.

On another note I'm looking forward to being part of the Open support team again, this time at Royal Lytham, it's hard work, but great being there inside the ropes and rubbing shoulders with the best golfers in the world as well as getting to meet fellow greenkeepers from all over Europe.

Well enough about me...

The South Coast Spring comp at Dunwood Manor GC is 3 weeks away.

This will be a rather sad day for all involved as we will be one of the last societies to ever play there as it closes its doors on May 1 for good.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout to say goodbye to a lovely course and unique clubhouse.

A couple of dates for your diaries; please can we have good support.

The Tacit Management Trophy rolls into Liphook GC on Wed 20 June, I'm sure Mr Murdoch will be setting the golf course up to his excellent standards (with no worries of lack of irrigation this time).

The following day, great organisation as usual, the annual fixture between South Coast Greenkeepers vs Wessex Secretaries sponsored by Course Care is being held this year at Rushmore Park GC, please make yourself available if possible and let myself or Tony know.

Those of you that have seen Crane Valley's head greenkeeper Mark Gordon recently

will have noticed that he has removed the famous long locks of hair and is now sporting a new look.

The ceremonial cutting took place in the clubhouse and aimed at raising as much money as possible for CLIC sergeant, which is a fantastic charity raising funds to help children and young people with cancer, also their families, either in hospital or in the community.

Well done to Mark who raised over £500 for this wonderful cause as well as raising awareness of the charity.

Knighton Heath's assistant greenkeeper Mark Diment has also been in the news and was on the front cover of Carp Talk after catching the first 50lb carp of 2012 in Britain.

Mark landed the carp near Blashford and although very proud of his efforts is quick to tell about the one that got away! Congratulations Mark.

That's all from me for now, so goodbye and happy watering... if you can!

Kevan Glass
Tel 07729 373065
Home 01202 246590
Email southcoastsecretary@gmail.com



South West

What crazy weather we have been having recently...

Record breaking temperatures for March, even having to use the irrigation system for a couple of nights...

THEN they forecast snow in April, what's this all about...

I promise you, my dreams aren't even this wild! Joking a side, it has been a great couple of weeks and I do hope that you have enjoyed them.

Many of you will remember the golf day that was arranged by T.H.

White last year, and I do believe that it was a great day that many of you enjoyed.

With this mind T.H. White has decided to organise another day for this year, being at Marlborough G.C, dates and times will be with

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
info@bigga.co.uk
by the 10th
of the month

you shortly I'm sure, look out for your invitation!

As I was driving around in one of the golf carts the other day, with another member of staff, I realised that he wasn't smoking! Nothing unusual about that I hear you say, but this guy had made smoking his hobby over the years, but for the last 4-5 has battled through and to date not smoked a single "fag".

I had found this pretty impressive!! This left me thinking, I wonder what I could give up that could help me to improve my lifestyle? I'm finding it difficult to think about something to give up, I just wonder how difficult it would be to actually continue with this? Chocolate, no way, I need that in my life! I'm going to go with takeaways, unhealthy food and being too lazy not to cook.

I'll keep you all posted on how this goes.

In the meantime, why don't you think about something that you could "give up" to help improve your lifestyle, look for inspiration to, the before smoker has inspired me and I've seen the improvements that has come from him giving up!!

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

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

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



South Wales

Good morning South Wales, I must start by saying well done to our rugby team.

Our battle hardened youngsters winning in Dublin then London and finally beating the French on what was an outstanding pitch in Cardiff I can say I am very proud to be Welsh.

I have been enjoying these

last few weeks, as many of you know my trading area heads across the border to our neighbours and it is always nice to cross over when we win!

With greenkeeping news fairly quiet at the moment I will, unfortunately, have to tell you about the 6 & 5 golfing defeat that Ian Kinley and Big D inflicted on myself and Paul Handy at Cardiff Golf Club.

Unfortunately the golf course was in fantastic condition, it's just a shame I couldn't keep the ball inside the playing areas instead of heading them off into nearby front and back gardens and just missing the odd car passing by! This small match was just a warm up as the 4 of us have signed up to take part in the golfs longest day challenge, which consists of 72 holes to be played in one day in aid of Cancer Research UK.

We will be asking for donations and sponsors' throughout the year, so if you could spare a pound or two to any of us (or any Sudocrem for myself) that would be fantastic.

Spring Seminar, in association with Farmura Environmental:

Royal Porthcawl G.C
Wednesday 19 April 9.00AM Meet

Spring Meeting: Green Meadow G.C, Wednesday 16 May 1.30PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: St Mellons Thursday 14 June 1.00PM Tee

Summer Meeting: Creigau G.C Wednesday 11 July 1.00PM Tee

North V South Match: Aberdovey G.C Friday 27 July 2.00PM Tee

Match Against The South West: Royal Porthcawl G.C Thursday 16th August 2.00PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Final: Glynneath G.C Friday 14 September 9.30AM Tee

Autumn AGM: Clyne G.C Thursday 11 October 11.00AM

Autumn Meeting: Clyne G.C Thursday 11 October 12.30PM Tee

Winter Meeting: Southerndown G.C Friday 14 December 10.00AM Tee

Please contact Gareth Knight if you would like any further information on 07595988512
Kind Regards

Peter Holmstrom

BERNHARD
grinders



DUAL MASTER INTEGRATED SPIN & RELIEF

The Dual Master 3000iR integrates the dual functions of spin and relief grinding, returning cutting units to manufacturer's specification.

Building on the technical foundations of the renowned Express Dual and Anglemaster system, the Dual Master incorporates auto-indexing relief to deliver the fastest, easiest and most accurate spin and relief grinding.

With rapid change from spin to relief or relief to spin mode in 60 seconds, the Dual Master 3000iR saves you time in the workshop and takes the grind out of sharpening.

See it in action at: www.bernhard.co.uk/dualmaster

+44 1788 811600 · www.bernhard.co.uk



SHARPER SOLUTIONS

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, looks at club investment in training



There is little doubt that whether it is golf course playing conditions in Britain, or the "other" sports turf playing surfaces, great strides have been made in recent years to maintain and present both sustainable, all year round playing surfaces and pleasing on the eye.

Not always easy, with increasing restrictions on water use, increasing costs of products, all of which are designed to assist the Course Manager meet the demands for his or her course, to attract members and visitors and to keep the business healthy.

We often focus on how continual greenkeeper education and training is a must for any golf course to survive. Few can argue with this statement, however, what about the employer's continual education and training?

The GTC continues to maintain its Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers, where apprenticeships, workshops, seminars etc. are all available to ensure golf clubs can access greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

Colleges and private training providers all carry out a vital role to deliver quality education and training courses but they would all pay tribute to the increasing number of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, many of whom have gone through the modern training system in recent years, and who now are willingly sharing their knowledge and experience with their staff and at local and national events.

There was much criticism when vocational training appeared in the Sports Turf industry, but I believe the campaign that commenced in the early nineties is really paying dividends now.

Formal and informal on the job training is now very much taken for granted at golf clubs and carried out to National Standards, which are freely accessible for all to see.

Take a bow all of those Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers

who host in-house training sessions. Knowledge is so much more accessible and the suppliers, dealers and manufacturers are all there to support you with information, website links and attendance at seminars and workshops.

BIGGA local section, regional and national have all played a major role in educating greenkeepers as well as the formal qualification route. Turf Clubs are appearing, all driven by passionate, knowledgeable greenkeepers and I am sure these will also grow from strength to strength.

So, if we are relatively content that greenkeeper education and training standards are in safe hands why don't we also collectively look at how best we improve the Course Manager/greenstaff relationship with their employer?

Surely this relationship is crucial for the business to be successful?

We could add the Professional, Secretary Manager, and Catering Manager into this debate as they surely are the Management team at any golf club?

All the various Professional bodies from the PGA, GCMA and BIGGA in Britain, also have seen European Organisations emerge in recent years, all striving to ensure their members and member bodies are well educated, trained and qualified to the highest standards.

But what about the employers?

We all would like to think all golf club employers will recruit professional staff to manage their facilities and many do, however we have to respect the Proprietor and Committee person(s) who have the overall responsibility for the business.

During the last twelve months, the GTC with the excellent support of England Golf, has hosted seven

employer-led workshops with Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, delivering the training on behalf of the GTC.

These pilot workshops were designed to give employers an overview of all aspects of course maintenance and management.

We report that all workshops had a mix of delegates from Chairman of Green, Secretary Managers, Golf Professionals and Course Managers!

Credit must go to Laurence for pitching all the workshops at a level that all delegates enjoyed the day.

The GTC Board of Directors are continually looking at engaging golf club employers into improving their business through investing in greenkeeper training



The GTC is funded by:



The feedback from all 100+ delegates has been very positive and plans are in hand to extend the workshop into Scotland and Wales with the support of the Scottish Golf Union and Golf Union of Wales.

The Home Unions are all working very hard to support the golf clubs and golfers they represent in many areas and Chairman of Green, Green Convenor workshops hosted in association with the GTC are proving very popular.

Now we are past the original pilot workshops, and taking into consideration feedback from delegates the GTC has already hosted a Health & Safety workshop courtesy of The Mere Golf and Spa in Cheshire.

Jon Allbutt, the respected Health & Safety Consultant and Toro were the QA Training Providers and were supported by the local Toro dealer Cheshire Turf Machinery.

Further employer focused Health & Safety workshops are being planned as well as the subject of Improving Communication within the golf club and Renovation and Design of the golf course being delivered by Frank Newberry and Swan Golf Designs respectively.

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



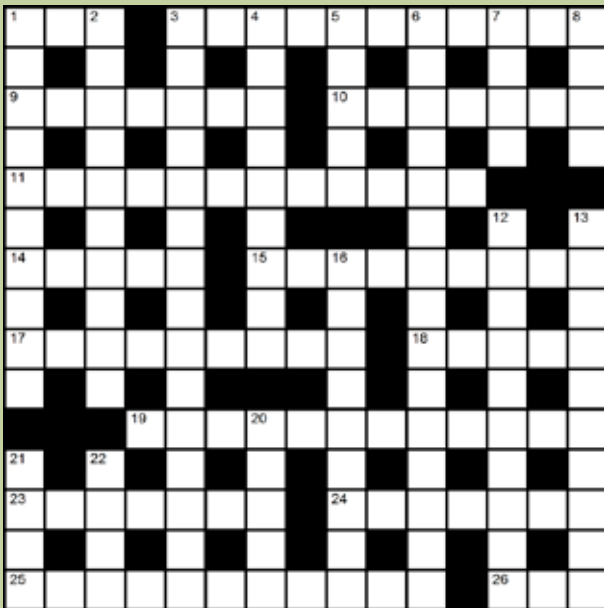
You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC



in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



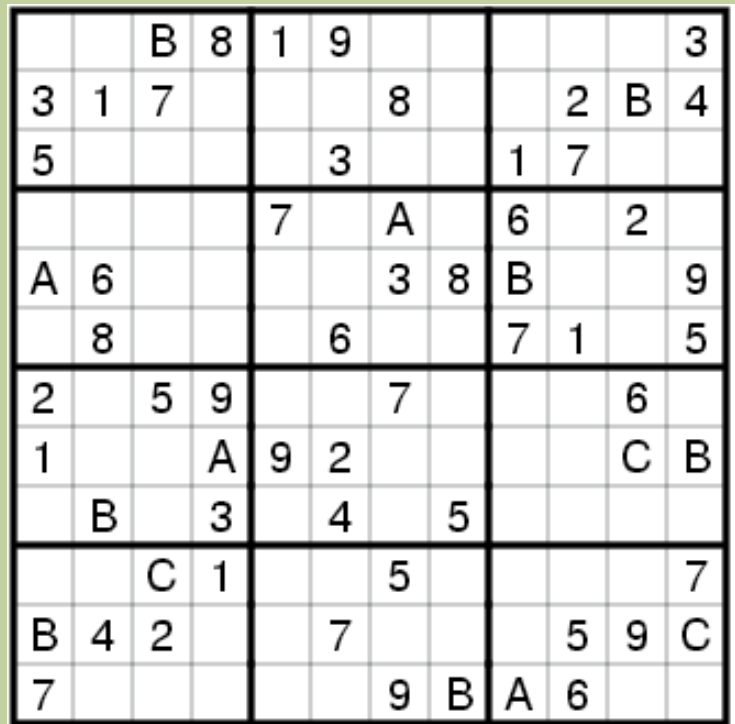
ACROSS

- 1 ..The alimentary canal (3)
- 3 ..Group who had UK hits in 1992 with Little Miss Can't Be Wrong and Two Princes (4,7)
- 9 ..Italian town in Lombardy, birthplace of golfer Constantino Rocca (7)
- 10 To plunder (7)
- 11 Germany's currency before the Euro (8,4)
- 14 Of an area or establishment, sordid or disreputable (5)
- 15 Bring back to union or friendship (9)
- 17 Skilled anecdotist (9)
- 18 Sharp mountain ridge (5)
- 19 Insensitive to criticism (5-7)
- 23 1962 instrumental single, the first by a British band to reach #1 in the US (7)
- 24 City whose soccer team was the first to be relegated from the English Football League in 1986-7 (7)
- 25 Spider-like, or cobweb-like (11)
- 26 Cathedral city of Cambridgeshire (3)

DOWN

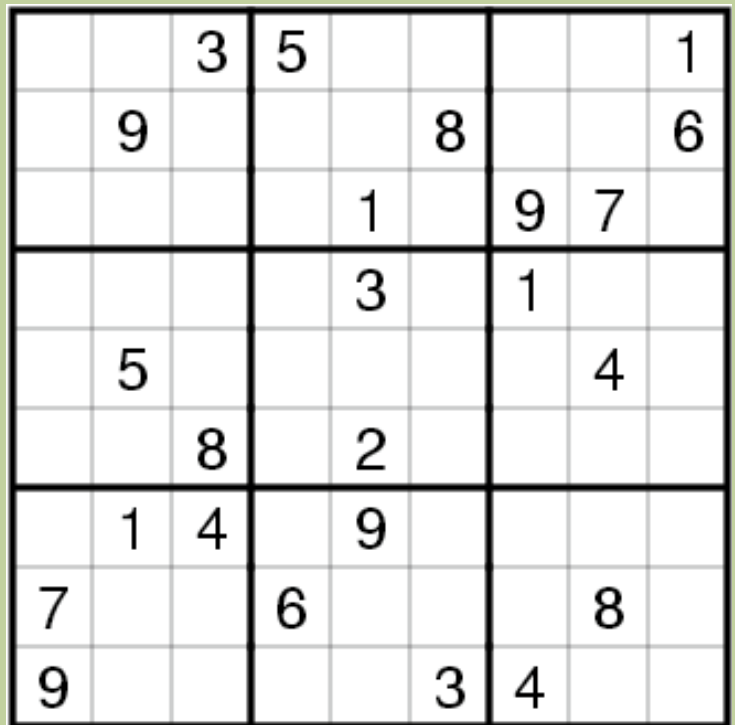
- 1 ..Vast arid region of China and Mongolia (4,6)
- 2 ..Irregular atmospheric air movement (10)
- 3 ..1970s US police drama series reprised in a 2004 film (7,3,5)
- 4 ..Early term for a steam locomotive (4,5)
- 5 ..Type of wheat commonly used to make pasta (5)
- 6 ..Aggressive, uncompromising (15)
- 7 ..Egg-shaped (4)
- 8 ..Follower of a religion established by former Hindus in the 15th century (4)
- 12 To classify rigidly, often without justification (10)
- 13 Excessive reliance (10)
- 16 Resembling a pupa (9)
- 20 Freight (5)
- 21 Covered colonnade of ancient Greece (4)
- 22 The larger of the two bones in the forearm (4)

Puzzle
Answers
on
page 65



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.



SUDOKU

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

BUYERS' GUIDE



Pic 1: Before treatment (May 2011)



Pic 2: after treatment (December 2011)

E.R.S. Developments Ltd

E.R.S Developments Ltd is one of the country's leading wildlife management and invasive weed control specialists. We are focused on satisfying our clients bespoke needs and have I.O.S.H. (Institute of Safety and Health) and City and Guilds trained technicians. We are also recognised by the Environment Agency for our unique treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

Rabbits (*oryctolagus cuniculus*) are now considered the UK's major vertebrate pest. Recent figures suggest that the UK rabbit population has reached 47 million, and still counting. This is a very emotive subject so management has to be precise and handled with the utmost discretion. As one of the leading specialists in wildlife management we offer a bespoke service to all clients.

Japanese Knotweed is without a doubt among the biggest challenges for our industry today. It is a highly invasive weed, which can spread exceptionally fast from only a small fragment, and cause extensive damage to property and displace native species of flora. It will grow through concrete, tarmac, and almost any weakness in a foundation. In addition the plant can regenerate from rhizome fragments as small as 0.7gram and can remain dormant in the soil for over four years making a professional and scientific approach to its eradication vital if 100% success is to be guaranteed. The 'FAST' system has been developed for eradicating Japanese Knotweed. It uses a range of application techniques developed by E.R.S Developments Ltd, which significantly increases the effectiveness of a standard herbicidal treatment method, to the extent that complete eradication can be achieved within one growing season of the treatment programme. When used alongside E.R.S's tailor-made site solution, they make a formidable partnership, sometimes even allowing the development program to continue un-affected. 1:

For further information please contact the office on 01296 468514,
email: ersoffice@btinternet.com
www.ersenvironmental.co.uk

BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
- USED MACHINERY
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

AERATION

TERRAIN AERATION



Turf and Trees
10" drill aeration
1m air injection
1m soil coring
Air excavation

Tel: 01449 673783
www.terrainaeration.com
terrainaeration@aol.com

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

Visit www.bigga.org.uk
and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



ALL WEATHER SURFACES



Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com



All-Weather Surfaces For Your Golf Club

* Pathways	* Golf Mats
* Tees	* Fairway Mats
* Putting Greens	* Accessories

Ensure the course is playable all year round



Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066
Email: sales@verdesports.com

www.verdesports.com

BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Jill on 01347 833 832 or
email
jill@bigga.co.uk

The bunker lining solution
01344 621654
www.theblinder.com

CONSTRUCTION

MJ ABBOTT
LIMITED

GOLF COURSE SPECIALISTS

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- GROW IN & MAINTENANCE
- SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Tel. 01722 716361
www.mjabbott.co.uk

Photo courtesy of Ridding Park
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.



JOHN GREASLEY LTD

Specialists in Golf Course Construction

Tel. 0116 2696766

Lakeland Earthworks

Golf Course Construction
Greens, Tees, Bunker
Renovation and Alterations
Earthworks
Lakes/Ponds/Water Engineering
Drainage Solutions

01400 251605 07900 693705

info@lakelandearthworks.com
www.lakelandearthworks.com

DRAINAGE

**Traditional drainage and
Lytg banding
of greens and fairways**

North Staffs
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

DRAINAGE

SPEEDCUT
CONTRACTORS LTD

**SPORTSTURF &
GOLF COURSE**

- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- RENOVATION

Oxford 01865 331479
www.speedcutcontractors.co.uk

Scotland Based

**Meiklem Drainage
Contractors Ltd**

Sportsturf Drainage
Specialists

Golf Courses - Sportsfields
Drainage * Construction
* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:

T: 01383 830217

M: 07808 897 300

john.meiklem@meiklem.com

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds



HAAS LDCA

Duncan Ross LTD
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE

Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding : Landscaping
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrainage : Topdressing : Overseeding

If it's drainage, it has to be Duncan Ross!

Willow Farm,
Red Cat Lane, Burscough, Ormskirk L40 0RF
01257 255321
office@duncanrosslandrainage.co.uk
www.duncanrosslandrainage.co.uk

Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage

Survey / Design / Installation / Greens /
Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com

www.turfdry.com

DRAINAGE

Philip Dixon Contractors Ltd

Established 1978

Sportsturf Drainage Specialist

Drainage • Construction • Renovation



Slitting • Banding • Maintenance

Tel 01772 877289 (Preston, Lancs)

Email: info@dixonrainage.co.uk

www.dixonrainage.co.uk

MJ ABBOTT
LIMITED



DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

- DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- PRIMARY SYSTEMS
- SAND SLITTING
- GRAVEL BANDING

Tel. 01722 716361
www.mjabbott.co.uk

IRRIGATION

MJ ABBOTT
LIMITED



IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

- DESIGN & SUPPLY
- INSTALLATION
- MAINTENANCE

Tel. 01722 716361
www.mjabbott.co.uk

The TAS TRIMMER
SPRINKLER HEAD MAINTENANCE
AND SAFETY MADE EASY
from £23 +VAT



All popular
sprinkler,
valve box
& marker
sizes
www.jsmd.co.uk
tel. 0845 026 0064
JSM DISTRIBUTION

Visit www.bigga.org.uk
and check out the
latest chat
from the
greenkeeping
industry



IRRIGATION

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Jill on 01347 833 832

or email

jill@bigga.co.uk

**IRRIGATION
CONSULTANTS**

Intelligent Watering

Practical Impartial
Comprehensive Advice



07889 006812

irrigation@intelligentwatering.co.uk
www.intelligentwatering.co.uk

irritech limited

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:

01823 690216

www.irritechlimited.co.uk

**Design
Installation
Service
Irrigation supplies**

North Staffs
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706

E: NSIrrigation@aol.com

www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk



BUYERS' GUIDE

IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Jill on 01347 833 832
or email
jill@bigga.co.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk
and check out the
latest chat
from the
greenkeeping
industry



LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS

Supply and installation of plastic
liners for golf lakes and ponds

Tel: 01206 262676
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

RABBIT CONTROL/ MANAGEMENT

ERS Developments Ltd

Wildlife Management
Specialists

- Rabbit control/ Management
- Japanese Knotweed Eradication
(guaranteed in one growing season)

01296 468514

e-mail: ersoffice@btinternet.com
www.ersenvironmental.co.uk

MACHINERY WANTED

Invicta Groundcare
Equipment Ltd

**We buy used golf
course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne
Tel No: 01474 874 120
Email: invictagroundcare@live.com

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

RUBBER CRUMB

TEBBUTT ASSOCIATES

RUBBER CRUMB

Crown III rubber crumb for natural grass
reinforcement by mixing with the root
zone or verti draining in from the surface
Rubber Crumb 0.5-2mm for infilling of
synthetic turf on tees and pathways
Rubber Grass Mats for severe wear areas

Contact Tebbutt Associates
on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644
e-mail: tebbuttasso@btconnect.com
www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk

TOP DRESSINGS

Producers of quality Top dressings,
Specialist sands, Rootzone soils,
Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials
for Golf Courses, Playing Fields
and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh,
Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR
Tel: **01771 653777**
email: sales@lovie.co.uk
www.lovie.co.uk

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.
FOR ALL YOUR BULK SUPPLIES
NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES
01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

TRACTORS

www.reco.co.uk

TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT

GROUNDSMAN[®]
INDUSTRIES LTD **GI**
Leaders by Design

Specialists in the design
and manufacture of...

TURF AERATORS

TURF SOD CUTTERS

Visit us online at:
www.groundsmanindustries.com
email: bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com

TURF

**WHERE GREAT GROUNDS
& COURSES ARE GROWN.**
FAIRWAYS TEES PATHWAYS
IN SMALL ROLLS, BIG ROLLS
& LAY 'N' PLAY FORMATS

T: 01759 321 000 · F: 01759 380 130
e: alex@inturf.co.uk or stephen@inturf.co.uk
www.inturf.com

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

**Specialist Growers of
Turf for Golf Courses**

Rootzone Turf for Greens
Grown on USGA rootzone,
top-dressed throughout the year,
and mown at 6mm.
Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds,
Approaches and Fairways**
Various mixtures including
ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue,
and bent/fescue grown
on sandy loam topsoil.

Bunker revetting turf
40mm thick
Small or big roll
Free loan of big roll
laying frame

Tel: 01652 678 000
www.tillersturf.co.uk

To advertise within
Greenkeeper International
please contact Jill on
01347 833 800
or email
jill@bigga.co.uk
Advertising rates:
1/4 page - £570
1/2 page - £790
Full page - £1500

TURF

20 years of golf turf experience
5 golf grades including high bent
Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for
stabilisation/drought tolerance,
Wildflower Turf,
and new Low Maintenance turf

Tel: 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

USED MACHINERY

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

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

**BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS**

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.
Tel: 01782 373 878
Fax: 01782 373 763
E-mail: info@waste2water.com
Web: www.waste2water.com

WORKWEAR

www.greenkeepersdirect.co.uk

GREENKEEPERS WORKWEAR

sales@greenkeepersdirect.co.uk
T: 01752 896851
M: 07731 757675



Exclusive Offer to BIGGA Members

A 12 month **tastecard** for just **£29.95** (RRP £79.95)



50% OFF
or 2 FOR 1
across all courses



Save £100's on
dining out at 6000+
UK restaurants
over the next year!

For more information on this exclusive offer, or to order,
please visit <http://www.bigga.org.uk/login>

HURRY...Offer ends 23rd May 2012

La Tasca
GRAND PAPA RESTAURANT AND BAR

PREZZO



CAFÉ ROUGE
RESTAURANT BAR CAFE



www.tastecard.co.uk

it's a dining revolution

Tel: 0800 5677 241



Recruitment



AUSTIN LODGE GOLF CLUB GOLF COURSE MANAGER

Package on application

Austin Lodge Golf Club is an 18 hole down land pay and play course, running along the beautiful countryside of the Kent North Downs Way.

Applicants must have the ability to demonstrate a passion for Golf Course Management alongside meticulous attention to detail and excellent communication skills.

A proven track record of high standard course presentation – day to day running of a course and effective staff management are all essential attributes of the successful applicant.

Application is by Curriculum Vitae and covering letter to:

Gary Debenham, Group Golf Course Manager via gary@pentland.co.uk
www.pentlandgolf.co.uk/austinlodge



ASSISITANT GREENKEEPER

We are pleased to be able to offer an opportunity for an enthusiastic Assistant Greenkeeper. The successful applicant will have a can do attitude and keen eye for detail and will play a major role in assisting the Course Manager to continue to improve the course and its surroundings.

You will be qualified to NVQL2 (spraying certificates are desirable). You will carry out routine golf course and grounds maintenance tasks as directed by the Course Manager, Deputy or 1st Assistant, in accordance with the Club's Golf Course Risk Assessments, its Health and Safety & Environmental Policies & the club's Greenkeepers Training Manual.

Conditions:

- Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.
- 40 hrs per week in a Rota averaged over 14 day period with at least 2 full rest days.
- All uniform will be supplied.
- Staff meals will be supplied whilst on duty.
- Opportunity for further support with training.

Apply by e-mail or in writing to with covering letter, CV & Salary expectations:-

Alastair Higgs, Course Manager, Windlesham Golf, Grove End, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5HY
alastair.higgs@windleshamgolf.com



Qualified Greenkeeper

Trent Park Golf Club is an 18 hole Pay and Play Golf Course with a 32 bay driving range.

We are looking for a Qualified Greenkeeper who is Hardworking, Enthusiastic and Reliable.

Suitable candidate will be qualified to a minimum NVQ 2 PA1 PA2 PA6
Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience.

To apply send your CV, with covering letter to the Course Manager
Greenkeeper@trentparkgolf.co.uk

Any further information please email me.

Andy Copeland, Course Manager, Trent Park Golf Club

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



Learning and Development Executive

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 BIGGA's commitment to provide standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession a new role has been created and we are therefore searching for an outstanding candidate to join our Learning and Development Department.

Learning and Development is fundamental to the future success of BIGGA and its members.

This role will be key in developing, upholding and maintaining quality of the delivery of the Learning and Development pathway for BIGGA members.

The pathway is the key focus to ensure that the high standards applied to greenkeeper education are understood and acknowledged as the benchmark throughout the golf industry.

Successful applicants should have a good knowledge of the sports turf education system, an understanding of

greenkeeping practices and possess good organisational, written and verbal skills. Attention to detail, the ability to multi-task and meet deadlines, good administration skills, IT literacy and the ability to work on their own initiative are required.

Reporting to the Head of Learning and Development, the Executive will be instrumental in the future of greenkeeper advancement. Good communication skills are required to establish and maintain good relationships within the office environment and with members and suppliers.

This is a full time position and will be based at BIGGA House, near York, North Yorkshire.

Salary and package commensurate with the position. Details available on application.

Applications, including a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter, should be forwarded, by email only, to: info@bigga.co.uk by Monday 21 May 2012.



Based high on the chalk of the Cranborne Chase in some of the most beautiful scenery in the South of England, Rushmore Golf Club is a Proprietary Club with a growing reputation for excellence both on the course and in the clubhouse.

Built on Ancient Parkland the course first opened in 1995 as a 9 hole pay and play facility and has evolved into an outstanding 18 hole course utilising the spectacular grounds of the Country Estate.

Due to retirement, we will be looking to recruit the following positions:

Head Greenkeeper

Reporting to and working closely with the General Manager, the Head Greenkeeper will have direct responsibility for presenting and maintaining the course and immediate grounds on a day to day basis throughout the year including, the supervision of the Greenkeeping team to ensure a first class product is available at all times.

With an exceptional eye for detail, you will be able to present an excellently manicured Golf course whilst always looking to improve the product, you will be a good leader and work in a hands on manner with the team, motivating and developing as you go. You will have good expertise in all areas of turf grass science and golf course maintenance. You will be comfortable with Health and Safety legislation and will ensure all relevant paperwork and training is complete and up-to date. You will be responsible for maintaining the budgeted spend and ensuring best practice on a daily basis. The position will be available in October 2012.

Greenkeeper/Mechanic

Reporting to and working closely with the Head Greenkeeper, you will be responsible for both maintaining and presenting the Course, but also maintaining the fleet of equipment used on a daily basis.

The fleet is primarily John Deere equipment and is of varying ages. You will have experience of working on a Golf Course and will be qualified to service and repair grounds vehicles.

You will have a good knowledge of Health & Safety legislation and will be able to work within these constraints. You will be able to thrive in a team environment, but also work using your own initiative to ensure course presentation is always achieved. A flexible approach to the job is essential. The position will be available from August 2012.

Both positions will offer a competitive remuneration package and excellent working conditions

Please send a CV and covering letter with salary expectations to:

Declan Healy, General Manager, Rushmore Golf Club, Tollard Royal, Wiltshire, SP5 5QB
or email to golfmanager@rushmoreuk.com



in the shed answers

CROSSWORD

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

MONSTER SUDOKU

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

Monster Daily SuDoku: Thu 3-May-2012 easy

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

Daily SuDoku: Thu 3-May-2012 hard



On the Soapbox

A stage on which people within the industry can express their viewpoint, this month taken by William McKechnie

Many golf clubs have over the past three years found themselves in uncharted territory and as a result the financial climate has led many to reduce essential course maintenance, hoping to extend the window of full price golf and maximise revenue from free-paying visitors.

Although the problems are not always immediately evident, as we know the potential for damage or harm is ever present as aeration is postponed or cancelled to minimise disturbance and rollers are continually used on green surfaces to either speed up greens or level softer playing surfaces after excessive rain.

Indications are that these trends may be set to continue, potentially placing greenkeepers in a difficult position.

We are all guilty at times of being eager to see achievement, sometimes at the expense of quality, however unrealistic demands placed on employees in difficult times to provide visual evidence and reassurance that achievement has been made can be a recipe for long-term problems.

Numerous employers are now investigating areas in which they could reduce costs or generate new forms of income.

For this to be successful it is essential that both employers and employees are fully engaged in discussing financial constraints and investigate opportunities for income generation and move forward together with a common goal and understanding.

For a greenkeeper, balancing the demands of an employer with the requirements of essential preparation work can be difficult when aesthetic appeal is more readily recognised and appreciated than the unseen sound management practices which are essential operations, not merely options.

Achieving long term quality and good all year round playing conditions requires a consistent approach aimed at providing reliable playing conditions from year to year, providing the quality assurance that visitors rely on when booking an outing a year in advance.

For this to be achieved it is essential that employers give a commitment to understanding the operational demands of golf course maintenance, while a golf course manager must also strive to meet and understand the employer's management target to generate income and provide financial stability.

This provides an excellent basis for revisiting management structures and strategies as one coherent group, developing where required a management team structure, which formulates a business plan.

To help achieve this, a list of inputs and outputs provides a level of clarity and purpose to both employers and employees, which can too often be taken for granted by some and go unidentified by others.

Inputs

1. Financial investment should be provided to maintain and develop the golfing facilities; consideration should also be given to financial investment, which can extend the range of services available.

2. Provision for staff training is essential and contributes to a level of quality assurance.

3. Provide equipment, suitable to maintain and develop the courses, where possible aiming for state of the art provision ensuring that you can compete in the market.

4. Create and support a good working environment and welfare facilities, improving staff and member morale is essential in difficult times.

5. Create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for members, guests and staff, which builds a culture of customer and staff loyalty and trust.

6. Investment in clubhouse facilities should take into consideration the changes in culture and expectations of the leisure and tourism industry.

Outputs

1. Provide well presented golfing facilities where a high priority is customer satisfaction.

2. Ensure changing rooms, restaurants and on course facilities add to the comfort and enjoyment of the golfing experience.

3. Practice areas and driving ranges increase the capacity to stage events and add to the customer experience.

4. Golf buggies and improved on course facilities can provide a positive experience that help to exceed customer expectation.

Marketing

1. What has the club done to attract business seasonally or each month?
2. What marketing materials are

available to attract attention and are they easily accessible?

3. Marketing materials must attract customers and inform clients what is available, emphasising any special attributes. It is important to check that they serve a purpose and achieve an objective.

4. Online booking systems can be very popular as can clubhouse Wi-Fi for business users making information very accessible. Exceeding the expectations of clients can be relevant to the success of a golf course and clubhouse.

5. Where possible use local suppliers as they are stakeholders in your business and benefit from your success, providing a good service and recommending your product is in their best interest.

Organisational Structure

Developing commercial opportunities is now essential for many clubs and the benefits of having a commercial organisational structure and fully utilising the wealth of knowledge available can be invaluable. Further benefits can be achieved by creating a Hierarchy chart that can serve to identify the roles held within a management structure.

Creating a good culture between management and staff and carrying out a skills audit can be a great place to start and can unveil hidden talents which may have otherwise gone unrecognised.



Bill McKechnie

Elmwood College Assessor / Training Associate

BARONESS

Quality on Demand

More than 100 years of experience goes into the making of Baroness products, giving unrivalled cutting quality and the very lowest running costs.

www.baronessuk.com



BARONESS LM56—THE BEST WALKMOWER MONEY CAN BUY!



LM315

For all your golf course machinery needs try Baroness. More than 100 years of the finest Japanese manufacturing skills and quality go into the making of all our products.



Baroness products are made by Kyoisha Co. of Japan, an ISO 9001 company.



KYOEISHA quality, since 1910!

F

or more information or to book a demonstration contact:-

sales@baronessuk.com

www.baronessuk.com

01256 461591



SP05



LM2700



GM2800



LM283

Distributed throughout Europe by Kyoisha UK Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Kyoisha Co. of Japan



It can be a minefield without Merit[®] Turf



- Curative AND preventative action against chafer grubs and leatherjackets
- Fast acting with proven chemistry
- Season long control with very flexible application timings
- Low risk to operator and non-target species



Merit[®] Turf

Bayer CropScience, 230 Cambridge Science Park,
Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WB
Tel: 00800 1214 9451 Fax: 01223 226635
www.escience.bayercropscience.co.uk

USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY.
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION BEFORE USE..
MERIT[®] TURF contains 5g/Kg imidacloprid (MAPP 12415) (PCS 02896).
Merit is a registered trademark of Bayer. © Bayer Environmental Science 2012.