

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 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 that 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 various washdown workshops in the Midlands and South, as which reports Dr. Jerry Knox from Midland University and Environment Agency, presented solutions that have been tried for six years, even

tens of thousands of pounds alongside a significant loss of income for clubs. This will generally have a knock on effect to secondary suppliers within clubshouses 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

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) made to current standards. 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 organised 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 £10 discount, but an opportunity for you to save a small fortune on over 120 restaurants.

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 TGF 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
 01454 462000
 d.jones@bigga.co.uk

South East
 Paul Jones
 01454 462000
 p.jones@bigga.co.uk

South West & Wales
 Neil Jones
 01454 462000
 n.jones@bigga.co.uk

Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
 Head of Membership
 01454 462000
 t.maddison@bigga.co.uk

The Turfgrass Information Center

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.