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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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The Toro final three

Toro youngsters shine

Congratulations to our cover star Thomas Flavelle of Lingdale Golf Club who triumphed over a very impressive field of fellow student greenkeepers to take the coveted Toro title last month.

As ever it was incredibly inspiring to spend time with the six finalists who are all clearly going to have very successful careers in course management.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the Toro company for their continued long term support of the Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Thomas is the 24th recipient of the award and joins an illustrious Roll of Honour.

There is no doubt that all of the greenkeepers that entered the process have made a key conscious decision to make course management their career rather than it being just a job.

This decision is undoubtedly the first step on the road to success but unfortunately choosing the next one is not always easy.

I'm delighted therefore that within these pages are details of a series of seminars which will be held around the Regions entitled 'So You Want to be Promoted – Essential Skills for your Career Development' which aim to provide aspiring greenkeepers with advice and assistance in developing their careers.

The seminars are being led by a number of successful Course Managers who have all made the journey from novice to expert and I am sure they will be hugely beneficial to all who attend.

The recent Saltex exhibition in Windsor provided many BIGGA members with the opportunity to attend seminars put on by the Association.

We are grateful to the Institute of Groundsmanship for facilitating this opportunity to put on quality education during their event. Attention now turns to BTME in Harrogate and the associated Continue to Learn education

programme. The brochure, to be found within this magazine, contains full details of the Turf Managers Conference, the one and two day Workshops, our new 'Focus On' sessions and the free Seminar programme.

The programme has been put together taking into account delegate feedback from previous years so I expect it to be very popular, don't delay in returning your booking form!

You cannot fail to be impressed by the innovative means that BIGGA members find to effectively manage their facilities and to provide better, more consistent playing surfaces for their customers within budgets that are constantly under pressure.

This edition contains a prime example in Karl Parry from Denbigh Golf Club (page 28) who has not only found an innovative solution to green consistency, he is turning that in to a thriving business opportunity.

We are very keen to feature other examples of innovative or unusual practices that our members are successfully implementing, please let us know if you have stories that will be of interest.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

OCTOBER 2012

FEATURES

FEATURES

20 No doubting Thomas

We find out the secrets behind the success of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Thomas Flavelle

24 Day of the Triffids

Kevin Whitby warns about the dangers of the Giant Hogweed

28 Karl's brush with fame

How does Karl Parry combine his course management role with designing a new product with his bare hands? We find out

32 Small scale drainage products need not be costly

James de Haviland looks at 'DIY' drainage solutions

34 Come rain or shine

How to cope with our unpredictable climate

40 Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt on the bleak future for one of our iconic trees

44 BTME 2013 – Why you must attend

An update on the show of the year

58 Back in Time

1989 Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner David Norton on how the award enhanced his career



No doubting Thomas

TORO

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 is Thomas Flavelle, greenkeeper at Lingdale Golf Club in Leicestershire. Steve Castle spoke to him hours after the 23-year-old scooped the award...

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a well-deserved fried breakfast as he attempts to find the words to describe winning the coveted prize. Thomas, and the other six Student of the Year finalists, endured 24 grueling hours during which they were interviewed by experts, completed an 18-hole course report to a tight deadline and faced an agonising wait to see if they had emerged victorious.

"Wow, it was unbelievable. I was shocked. I was aware there were five other lads who were more than capable of winning the award, so it could have gone to anybody. It's nice to come out on top, but they were all so good - they wouldn't have got this far if they weren't - and I know they'll go on and do great things in their careers.

"Now it's all about looking forward to America. That's a really good chat with last year's winner, Matt Pells, and his advice was just to throw yourself into it and make the most of every minute. It's going to be fantastic for me on both a personal and professional level.

"In under an hour, it's going to be a very, very intense few weeks of incredibly hard work going into highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will help my education massively."

Thomas joins an illustrious group of winners who have gone on to work on some of the UK's finest courses.

His attitude and outlook before his 23 years, and it's immediately clear how seriously he takes both greenkeeping and the sport of golf - he has a backdrop of two professional greenkeepers, and while he's proud to follow in his footsteps he's pleased to be making a name for himself away from his family connections.

"It does help that my dad is a greenkeeper, and it also means that people come up and talk to me instinctively because they know him, but I've never actually worked with him and I'm making my own way in the industry.

"I always wanted to work outdoors, and I've spent most of my life on golf courses either working or playing."

He studied A Levels but admits he was distracted because he was so intent on becoming a greenkeeper, and after completing his exams he started a trainee position at Lingdale. He then took his Level Two qualification and is close to completing Level Three at Mervinough College.

"After I've completed Level Three I'm going to probably look at doing a Foundation degree and also consider other options to progress my career."

So why did he enter the competition?

"I used to look at the faces of the winners on the front of the magazine and think 'I'll never, ever be good enough for that'."

"But, in the last 18 months, I feel I've really progressed as a greenkeeper. I now know where I'm going with my career and just entering the award was a fantastic opportunity. There's a nomination stands out

Message from Thomas

"I'd like to thank both my Level Two and Level Three tutors - Kay McAdams and Jonathan Knowles at Mervinough, who have helped me so much. Lingdale Golf Club have given me time and the support I've needed to enter this competition, as well as now having to allow me two months off to go to America! They've also helped me immensely right from the start of my career as an 18 year old.

"I'd also like to thank TORO and IFGGA, and I have to mention Lingdale's Head Greenkeeper Andy McEneaney. He's pretty much taught me everything I know since I joined the club and he's helped me with my college work, preparing for this competition and has always been there for me. He's very realistic and knows what we have to do to make the absolute most of the budget we have at the club. I wouldn't be the greenkeeper I am now without him."



FACTFILE

Name: Thomas Flavelle
Home: Leicester, 3 October 1988
Mental Status: Engaged to Kathryn
Wandings: 3
Vehicles: Golf, Hunting, Riding
Vacation Sports Team: Leicester City



24



28



32



58



34



6



16

Inside the bag
Find your 44 page guide with this month's GI

REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 13 Chairman's word
- 14 Learning & Development
- 15 Membership
- 16 Industry Update
- 18 New Products
- 48 Around the Green
- 55 Diary of Events
- 56 Greenkeepers Training Committee
- 60 Buyers' Guide
- 64 Recruitment
- 66 The Back Nine



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



John Deere Present £5K Gift to BIGGA at Slaley Hall

John Deere kindly donated £5,000 to BIGGA at their latest Team Championship amid the spectacular surroundings of Slaley Hall in Northumberland.

Richard Johnson, John Deere Limited managing director, presented the cheque to BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton.

John Deere, a BIGGA Gold Key member, works closely with BIGGA to support its educational activities. Team championship donations at previous tournaments amount to over £50,000.

The Slaley Hall final was the culmination of 24 regional finals held around the UK and Ireland that were supported by local John Deere dealers. Teams of three consisting of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper along with two further senior members of the club management compete in a Texas scramble format to reach the final. They are then joined by a dealer representative making a team of four.

The teams battled it out

and after a wet start, the skies cleared for a glorious afternoon of golf on the superb course, expertly prepared by Course Manager Steve Cram and his team.

The format proved popular and after a highly competitive day's golf, the winners with a net score of 58 were West Lancashire Golf Club.

The team were greens chairman Nick Jones, Kevin Pickering of Turner Groundscare, first assistant greenkeeper Jamie Whittle (a late substitute for course manager John Muir) and committee member Ian Kearney. The team (with John) now have the fabulous opportunity to compete in the World Championship at Myrtle Beach, South California in November.

Second on countback with 59 were Royal North Devon Golf Club followed by Selby Golf Club.

Jim said: "We are very grateful for this generous donation from John Deere

who are great supporters of our association and our membership. The funds will be utilised to improve our lending library service and to kickstart a new 'Careers in Greenkeeping' project which we hope will provide a great service to prospective and current greenkeepers.

"It was a privilege to attend the John Deere Team Championship and witness so many golf clubs competing to win the remarkable opportunity to go forward to the Myrtle Beach Grand Final. The format of the Team Championship is superb as it encourages teamwork and communication between the senior management of golf clubs, John Deere are to be congratulated on their support of the event."



BIGGA Commercial Manager Appointed

The recent activity at BIGGA HQ has continued with the appointment of James Cadwaladr as Commercial Manager.



James joins the Association from a similar position at a sports marketing agency, where he worked closely with rights holders in the sports industry advising on commercial opportunity. His arrival completes the management team at BIGGA House.

James said: "My focus is to coordinate sales, marketing and communications, ensuring these areas work together to serve the needs of our membership whilst delivering first-class support and value to all of our partners and clients."

He has extensive experience in the commercial side of the sports industry, in establishing strategic partnerships and appreciating client needs.

James is a keen golfer, and a passionate supporter of Everton FC.

LATEST BIGGA RECRUIT

Everyone at BIGGA extends a warm welcome to our new Commercial Administrator Susannah Williams.



Susannah - known as Suz - has an impressive 12 years of administration experience, including working as a Personal Assistant to The Ministry of Education's Director General in the United Arab Emirates, and more recently as a Commercial Administrator for a construction company.

Outside of work she enjoys walking through the glorious - if frequently wet and windswept - Yorkshire countryside, and lives in York. She said: "I'm delighted to be joining BIGGA at such an exciting time for the Association, and am particularly looking forward to putting my experience to good use assisting the Commercial team and the rest of my new colleagues. Everyone's been extremely welcoming and supportive."

STRI Research 2012

STRI Research 2012 once again took place in Bingley and featured a range of fascinating presentations to turf professionals from across the UK.

The Institute works with a number of companies each year on Research & Development projects for the sportsturf industry and invited a selection of these companies to support the free two-day educational event.

This year Bayer, Everris, R&K Kensett & Rigby Taylor, Ransomes Jacobsen, Sherriff Amenity & Plant Impact and Syngenta were in attendance.

Seven demonstrations took place on the fields overlooking West Yorkshire including a Frequency of Cut demonstration from Ransomes Jacobsen. This was presented by Matt le Brun – who we profiled in last month's Greenkeeper International.

A particularly popular presentation was a look at the STRI's work at Wimbledon and the Olympics, featuring an explanation of the science behind grass selection.



Other interesting discussions arose from Syngenta's lively introduction to their new Turf Nozzle system, Sherriff Amenity & Plant Impact's new liquid turf fertiliser 'iNTrench' and a sneak preview of Bayer's new turf fungicide – officially to be launched at BTME 2013.

Over 250 delegates attended including greenkeepers, course managers, fine turf managers and ground staff. Gordon McKillop, STRI Chief Executive, said: "The event provided sportsturf managers with invaluable insight and knowledge from industry experts to improve and sustain the quality of their turf.

"Attendees learnt firsthand how STRI's long term research has helped to optimise the performance of sports surfaces at many of this year events including Euro 2012 and the Olympics.

"The event also enabled delegates from a whole host of sporting disciplines to see the commitment and dedication of STRI and all the supporting companies."

Brian Story, Course Manager at Silloth on Solway Golf Club, commented:

"The information we gained stimulated much debate and gave us a bit of much needed inspiration".



RETIREMENT

After 44 years of employment, David Wilson has retired from the Greenkeeping team at St Andrews Links. When he started in 1968, things were very different from what they are currently with only 16 green staff looking after the 4 courses that made up the Links.

As he recalled, his job that summer was cutting tees, from May until the end of the season. With another member of staff, they would begin on the 1st tee of the Old and when they were finished the Old Course they would move onto another course. The following day they would start back where they finished off until the tees on all 4 courses were cut, then begin on the 1st of the Old again and repeat the process all summer!

David was one of the first greenkeepers in the UK to gain a recognised qualification in greenkeeping which he obtained at Elmwood College in Cupar, where they started a greenkeeping course with the assistance of the then Links Supervisor Mr JK Campbell.

During his time on the Links, David worked on all the courses. He was a foreman on the Eden Course for a spell but the longest period of time he spent on one course was as head greenkeeper on the Jubilee. This spell included during the major alterations in the mid 1980's until 2007. He was also head greenkeeper on the New Course and latterly was course manager on the Straththrum and Balgove courses. He has also probably been involved in The Open Championship more than any other Greenkeeper on the Links.

A large group of colleagues and friends turned up to wish him a happy retirement including past employees and Greens Committee Chairmen.



SALTEX Support

BIGGA were once again delighted to support the IOG SALTEX event at Windsor – and even happier to enjoy the exhibition over three days of glorious late summer sunshine.

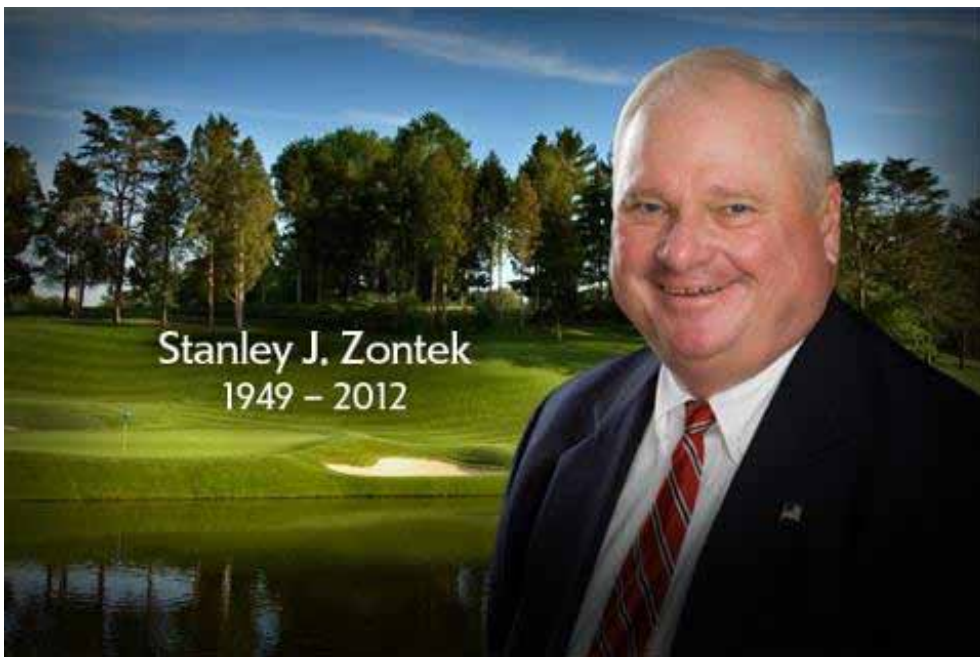
We were inundated with positive feedback from our seminars which featured three of our most popular experts from Continue to Learn at BTME 2012.

David Cole, left, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club, kicked off with an inspirational and informative session on managing winter kill after his club was severely affected by this in 2009.

Next up was Chris Haspell, Course Manager at Castle Stuart Golf Club, who entertained the audience with his experiences of building a links golf course and hosting the rain-lashed Scottish Open in 2011.

Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager from Symbio, rounded things off with a debate entitled 'Organic Matter – Friend or Foe?' analysing how to decipher between thatch and organic matter.

All in all, a highly enjoyable and worthwhile few days – and attention now switches to BTME in January.



Stanley Zontek

It is with regret that we have been informed of the death of BIGGA member Stanley Zontek, director of the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic region, at the age of 63, after suffering a heart attack.

Stanley was the son of a golf course superintendent – playing his first round aged just five - and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management.

He became one of the most respected agronomists within the industry and was a frequent speaker at BTME as well as other seminars in the UK and worldwide where he delighted audiences with his knowledge and enthusiasm. One of his more unusual responsibilities was maintaining the putting green at the White House.

He also received many awards including the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, the GCBA Don Rossi Humanitarian Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State – recognising his outstanding lifelong contribution to greenkeeping.

Everyone at BIGGA would like to extend their deepest condolences to Stanley's family and friends at this sad time.



FLOODING HITS THE UK

The Indian Summer was sadly brought to an abrupt end in mid-September by a three-day deluge which swamped courses across the UK.

Nowhere was this more evident than at BIGGA HQ, where the River Ure burst its banks and flooded half of the Aldwark Manor course.

This amazing picture shows the 4th green at the height of the flood.

Norman Fenwick

It is with great regret that we have been informed of the death of Norman Fenwick, Course Manager at Ipswich Golf Club.

Norman, who leaves partner Julie and sons Alan and Jacob, was taken ill while cycling. He was a hugely popular and well-respected member of BIGGA and tributes have poured in.

Neill Ellice, General Manager at Ipswich Golf Club, said: "We have been very fortunate to have benefitted from Norman's passion, skills and knowledge since he joined us 13 years ago from Sandford Springs Golf Club..

"It has been a privilege to work with him. One of Norman's great qualities was that despite having led the team that has produced one of the finest courses in the east of England he was never satisfied with its progress and was always looking for ways to improve the course and its environment yet further.

"He was also determined to develop the next generation of greenkeepers by giving his team ample opportunities to undertake training

and educational courses. His enthusiastic leadership inspired his team to take up the challenge of improving their skills and knowledge, leaving us in a strong position to deal with the aftermath of his tragic and untimely death.

"Norman will be sorely missed but his legacy will live on not only in the form of two fine golf courses but also with a team of greenkeepers dedicated to building on his outstanding achievements".

Mick Lathrope, Head Greenkeeper at Eaton Golf Club, added: "We shall miss him a lot – a true gent and a first class greenkeeper. He would always have a laugh – sometimes a translator would have been handy (that's rich coming from me, but you know what I mean!). I'm sure his skills would have been passed on to the youngsters at Purdis and they will remember them, and him, forever. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this sad time."





NORTH SECTION SCOOPS NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY



Robert Patterson accepting the trophy of behalf of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

Norrie Whytock was a trade representative for a Scotland Region patron who passed away in 1997. In memory of Norrie, the patron provided funds for a Trophy to be established in his honour with Bayer CropScience now firmly established as the sponsor of this competitive and enjoyable team event.

John Young, BIGGA's Regional Administrator for Scotland & Northern Ireland, fills us in on this year's contest;

"The 2012 competition was held on Thursday 16 August at its spiritual home of Auchterarder Golf Club. Teams of four members represent each of the five Scottish sections in this stableford competition. Team members qualify through their participation and subsequent success at sectional outings along with representation from the section's committee.

"Competitors were provided

with a bright yet breezy start to their round. However as has been experienced by many this particular summer, the optimism for a dry round of golf proved unfounded with heavy rain, thunder and lightning disrupting play over the last six holes. Indeed, the course began to flood and the 15th green was unplayable for the last couple of groups.

"The weather during 2012 has certainly not been the greenkeepers' friend but it is testament to the dedication of all our members that the care and attention to detail is present everywhere we look. Archie Dunn and his team must be congratulated for the excellent course provided for this competition. It was in immaculate condition as commented by all participants with Stuart Taylor, Scottish Regional Chairman singling out the manicured shape to the fairways as one of the many

highlights on the course.

"Scoring was excellent even with the unfortunate restriction of only counting the scores over the first 14 holes. The best three scores from each team are combined to determine the competition results. Only one point separated the top three teams with the Central Section just missing out on the top two places with a combined score of 77 points.

"Reigning champions, the North Section and the West Section, both returned a score of 78 points resulting in the 4th team member's score to be counted to determine the winner but they could not be separated on a total of 102 points. In this situation, the winner is determined on countback from combining all scores over the last five holes with the North Section being crowned Norrie Whytock Trophy winners for 2012.

"Congratulations are due

to the winning team of Robert Patterson and Stewart Brown (both Royal Aberdeen Golf Club), Douglas Elrick (Newmacher Golf Club) and Scott Ribbeck (Kings Link Golf Club)."

Stuart Taylor, Scottish Chairman, thanked all competitors for taking part and their continued support of the association. The chairman thanked Bayer, represented by their National Accounts Manager Eleanor Jenks, for their continued support of this prestigious event in the Scottish Region's calendar. He concluded his comments by thanking the host club for the courtesy of the course and their excellent hospitality.

Winning team captain, Robert Patterson, concluded the proceedings by accepting the Norrie Whytock Trophy and passed on his team's thanks to all concerned with running the event and to Auchterarder Golf Club.



ANGUS TAKES UP DREAM POST

Angus MacLeod, former Course Manager at Belton Woods Golf Club, has been appointed Director of the Golf Course at The Belfry.

The born and bred Scot follows in the footsteps of the legendary Kenny Mackay.

Angus, 45, said: "I'm really excited, I'm still pinching myself that I've been given the opportunity to work at this legendary venue. Kenny's left a superb legacy and it's up to me to carry it on.

"I had to make a presentation to the board of directors, that went well and it came down to a choice between me and another lad so it was a nerve-wracking few weeks, and I was just delighted when I found out I had been successful."

Angus will have responsibility for all three courses at the world-famous location – the Brabazon, the PGA National and the Derby – and everyone at BIGGA wishes him the every success in his new role.



GREENKEEPERS HELP THE HEROES

Four intrepid greenkeepers recently completed a unique challenge as they walked over 130 miles from coast to coast...while pushing hand mowers!

Gutsy Stuart Yarwood, Eddie Ainsworth, Tim Johnson and Gordon Irvine amazed onlookers as they 'mowed' three Ransomes Jacobsen pedestrian machines from Liverpool to Hull over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The bizarre idea, the brainchild of Tim, Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, has (at the last count) raised almost £2,000 for Help for Heroes and you can still donate at www.bmycharity.com/TimJohnson

The group, plus two non-greenkeepers, battled steep hills in the Yorkshire Dales, terrible weather and even mechanical problems to complete the challenge in an impressive four days.

They began at Liverpool docks and pushed the mowers – christened 'Trish 1', 'Trish 2' and 'Trish 3' - to Manchester on the first day.

The next day was one of the toughest with the team setting off at 6.30am and arriving, sore and tired, in Wakefield at 7.30pm.

The next leg saw them arrive in Goole before Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Head of Membership Development, gave them a much-needed morale boost by supporting them in Howden en route to Hull.

Tim said: "The idea came to me at work when we were tining the greens, don't ask me where it came from but I immediately thought 'we can expand on this'.

"So I put an appeal on Facebook for other greenkeepers to get involved, Stuart was the first to count himself in and it all went from there."

Stuart, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club, said: "Tim suggested that we do something bizarre to raise money for charity a few months ago. I'm a firm believer that if you don't do something crazy every year you'll go insane, so I agreed.

"The first day was demoralising. We were pushing these mowers at 3mph on the East Lancs Road which is the longest, most boring straight road you can ever imagine.

"On the rest of the days we had to contend with long, steep hills. Funnily enough, going up wasn't a problem because you get the momentum going with the machine – it was going down them that was the worst because you're pushing a dead weight down a hill.

"Towards the end through the Wolds we had some great focal points and when we saw the Humber Bridge we thought we'd done it. However, it was still 15 miles away which meant five more hours of pain."

He added that the highlight was the camaraderie that developed between the gutsy lads – who did not all know each other prior to the challenge.

He said: "You get by on Ibuprofen and adrenaline, but at any one time there will be someone who's struggling so you need to pick them up.

"Failure's not an option, so even though you're in pain you don't think about it because you don't want to affect morale. I had no idea how emotional it was all going to be.

"Ultimately, we were pushing hand mowers. You think it's tough but we wanted to raise money for people who are pushing minesweepers."

The lads would like to thank Tim's dad

Stuart who shadowed them and helped them immensely during the challenge, and also sponsors Symbio, Rigby Taylor, British Seed Houses, Prestige Garden Services, Ransomes Jacobsen and Banks Amenity. They were also hugely grateful for the support along the way of Lymm, Wilmslow and Avro Golf Clubs plus Chris Sheehan and Tracey Maddison.

Watch this space for the lads' next bizarre challenge next summer!



BIGGA

Regional Conferences

Midlands	6 November	Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester
North	7 November	Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham
South East	14 November	Thorpeness Golf Club, Thorpeness
S West & S Wales	15 November	Oaktree Arena, Bristol
Scotland	5 March	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

BIGGA NORTH CONFERENCE

The Northern Conference is scheduled for Wednesday 7 November at The Phoenix Sports Centre in Rotherham at 10am. The price is £10 for members and 350 for non-members.

The speakers are:

David Wilkinson, Course Manager at Windermere Golf Club – ‘Eight Feet Under and Still Surviving’

Melvyn Taylor, Managing Director of Turfdry Limited – Drainage presentation

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager for Everris Limited – ‘The Implications of Nutrition within Integrated Turf Management’

Dr David Greenshields, Research and Development Manager for Barenbrug UK Ltd – ‘Suitability of grass species for golf greens in the UK and Ireland’

A representative from The British Rootzone and Top Dressing Manufacturers Association, Jonathan Knowles, training co-ordinator at Myerscough College - ‘Education pathways and apprenticeships’

SOUTH EAST CONFERENCE

The South East conference is on Wednesday 14 November at Thorpeness Country Club, and we’ve once again arranged a variety of excellent speakers to participate in what should be a very interesting and informative day.

Registration begins at 8.30am and CPD points will be awarded for attendance.

Thorpeness Golf Club is situated off the A12, then take the B1353 following signs to Thorpeness.

Ian Willett of BIGGA East Anglia and

Regional Chairman Tom Smith will welcome attendees before Jim Croxton, BIGGA Chief Executive, speaks.

Other speakers are:

Kate Entwistle – ‘New pest and disease issues’

Richard Stuttard – ‘STRI environment competition’

Nigel Church – ‘Safety equipment improvements’

Ken Moodie – ‘Course improvements case study – Thorpeness’

Mark Hunt – ‘Planning for the future’

For more information please contact Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE

The BIGGA South West & South Wales 2012 conference will take place on Thursday 15 November at Oaktree Arena in Highbridge, Somerset.

The theme is ‘Turf Management in all its Glory’ and features an exciting range of guest speakers. They include:

Dr Colin Fleming, Plant Pathologist, ‘Biology and the Effects of Parasitic Nematodes’; David Cole, Course Manager Loch Lomond Golf Club, ‘Winter Kill In West Scotland’; Cameron MacMillan, Course Manager Queenwood Golf Club, ‘Mission Impossible’; Robert Wills First Assistant Remedy Oak Golf Club ‘Changes in greenkeeping as seen by a First Assistant’; Richard Comely Director of Product and Marketing at Ransomes Jacobsen ‘Perceptions in Greens Management’.

Any further information can be obtained

by contacting Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on 01454 270850, 07841 948110 or jane@bigga.co.uk

BIGGA MIDLAND CONFERENCE

The Midland Conference takes place on Tuesday 6 November at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicester, which is just off Junction 22 of the M1.

The price £15 each for members (Discounted to £10 each for bookings of 3 members or more) and £50 for non members, with a 9am start.

The speakers are:

Daniel Lightfoot MSc, Golf Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club – Presentation TBC

Melvyn Taylor, Managing Director of Turfdry Limited – Drainage presentation

Lewis Blois, Technical Sales Manager and Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager for Everris Limited – ‘The Implications of Nutrition within Integrated Turf Management’

Dr David Greenshields, Research and Development Manager for Barenbrug UK Ltd – ‘Suitability of Grass Species for Golf Greens in the UK and Ireland’

A representative from The British Rootzone and Top Dressing Manufacturers Association

Jonathan Knowles, training co-ordinator at Myerscough College – ‘Education pathways and apprenticeships’





CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORTS TURF ENTHUSIASTS

Young people interested in careers in golf grounds and sports turf management are being invited to take up once-in-a-lifetime internships in the United States, and be paid too!

IEPUK Ltd, in partnership with an American sponsor, Worldwide International Student Exchange (WISE), has launched a national recruitment campaign offering 300 internships at a range of PGA-level golf courses on the East Coast starting from Florida in the south and as far north as New York.

Successful applicants need to be 18-30 years old and will fly out to the US next spring to spend up to 10 months learning everything a job in grounds management entails. They will then have the opportunity to spend some leisure time exploring the country should they wish to do so.

IEPUK Ltd is a not-for-profit educational organisation which has helped thousands of young people to realise their dreams of working abroad over the last 20 years through its international exchange programmes. Partnerships operate in over 35 countries including Europe, the Far East, North and South America, Canada and Australasia.

Director Vanessa Peach said: "We are keen to find young people who are interested in taking up what will be an experience they will never forget and could be their first step towards a fulfilling career. Those who have completed an internship abroad through us always say it

is something they look back on as one of their best experiences. It's up to young people to seize these opportunities when they come up and we'll support them every step of the way."

Augusto from the Philippines, participated in the same WISE programme last year and spoke about his time in the US, saying: "The knowledge and experience gained in the exchange program will help me a lot professionally and to be an excellent leader in my future career."

Although not essential, successful applicants may have enrolled in or recently graduated from a relevant degree programme such as Turf Management or Landscaping, or have been working in the sector. Responsibilities will include managing grounds, cleaning and maintaining golf course equipment and preparation for tournaments. Accommodation is included plus a monthly stipend of \$1100 will be paid. A full, clean driver's license is essential and the use of a shared vehicle comes as part of the package.

Programme and J1 visa criteria need to be met and fees are applicable. Successful applicants will need to pay for their own flights. IEPUK offers full support throughout the application and interview process and during the placement.

To find out more call Emily Baines on 01572 823934, email Emily@iepuk.com or visit www.iepuk.com

Re-alert for Chalara ash dieback disease



Following the initial alert on Chalara ash dieback in the last issue of Greenkeeper International, the disease has since been found at several more different locations around the country.

The initial wider-environment outbreak in Leicestershire was subsequently identified as Birstall Park and Ride near Leicester where 484 trees were uprooted and destroyed. Suspect cases at plant nurseries in Surrey and Yorkshire have now been confirmed, while an additional outbreak in the grounds of South Yorkshire College has also been reported.

However, the most serious outbreak of disease to date is in trees planted during 2009 in woodland managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) at Knockmountain, 2km north of Kilmacolm in Renfrewshire to the west of Glasgow. The 200 hectare (ha) site has 20 ha of mixed broadleaves including 58,000 ash plants that will now be dug up and destroyed.

This is a particularly big blow against any hope of eradicating the disease and could well signal the end of the common ash tree as a British native tree. This is a fast spreading disease and with so many common ash trees in the wider environment the chances of further spread over that three year period (2009-2012) are extremely high. There is no reason to suspect that the fungus and disease will behave any differently here to what has already been done in Europe. Up to 90 per cent of Denmark's common ash trees are infected and almost all are expected to die.

At least five years too late the Forestry Commission has been finalising a rapid pest risk assessment which will provide the necessary initial evidence to inform immediate action against this disease. This will be followed by a public consultation exercise on the rapid risk assessment. All of this will clearly take time as well as the time elapsing during its presentation in Brussels for consideration by the EU.

In the meantime the causal fungus (*Chalara fraxinea*) remains an unregulated pathogen in the EU which means consignments of common ash trees will continue to come into this country from other EU countries like Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and Denmark, where the disease is endemic, without even cursory inspection either at the point of exit or entry. Even with inspection the disease can easily slip through. Healthy looking ash trees with no signs of disease carry latent fungal infections which can explode into disease many months later once the trees have been planted.

Greenkeepers and especially those in areas where the disease is already known to be present would be well advised to check their trees, especially those planted in the last five years, for symptoms of Chalara dieback disease which were described in the last issue.



Chairman's Word

BIGGA National Chairman, Tony Smith, this month focuses on the future of greenkeeping

Young guns (go for it)

Firstly, many congratulations to Thomas Flavelle on becoming the 2012 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

I was hugely impressed by all the finalists and was particularly taken by their knowledge, passion and enthusiasm as well as being a very sociable group.

Well done to all the finalists. It's unreal how much winning this award, or even being nominated, can help your career.

It lifts your profile hugely and stands out a mile on your CV.

If you're not convinced, take a look at the interview with David Norton on page 58.

Just three years after winning the 1990 title, he was Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry.

This says everything about the stature and importance of the award, and he has some excellent tips for greenkeepers taking their first steps in the industry.

It's vital that we educate and inform the younger generation who are the future of this great profession, and after meeting this year's finalists it's clear they are going to progress and become superbly skilled greenkeepers.

However, there is still plenty of work to be done in this area.

I received no formal education until my mid-thirties – it just wasn't available.

You could argue I blagged my way into jobs without any formal training, which was an unsustainable situation. Now, the opportunities are there to be grasped, and I would urge you to get your name down to attend the fantastic educational seminars at BTME.

Speaking of BTME, as I left SALTEX (where the BIGGA seminars were tremendous and extremely well-received) it was clear attentions were now turning to our flagship event in January.



I was particularly taken by the knowledge, passion and enthusiasm of all the finalists

Pre-registration is now open at www.btme.org.uk; sign up now to avoid the queues. Personally, I can't wait for my first BTME as chairman and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

On the course, we had a little bit of a dry period in early September which I hope you also enjoyed.

We were able to cut the whole course twice a week until the rain came again in late September, and myself and all the team at Teesside have been working extremely hard to return it to the pristine condition it should be in.

It really has been a dreadful few months weather-wise – the only positive is that the ponds and lakes are full to the brim!

One of the main issues I've been concentrating on in the first weeks of my chairmanship is communication.

I want people to shout about BIGGA and the myriad benefits we offer our members.

We need to encourage the Sections and Regions to talk to us and tell us what's going on.

We've made the first steps on this mission but there is still more to be done in promoting the association.

I'm going to be visiting as many Sections as is practically possible over the next few months.

But, if you've got any issues whatsoever, don't hesitate to call me on 07988 838956 or email tony.smith48@ntlworld.com

Contact Details

Tony Smith
07988 838956

tony.smith48@ntlworld.com



Learning & Development

Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

October is here, the nights are drawing in, the leaves are coming down and it's less than 100 days until Christmas – but on a happier note it means that BTME and Continue to Learn are just around the corner!

Continue to Learn at BTME 2013

The Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme has been launched with this issue of Greenkeeper International and it features the full line-up of education events.

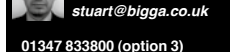
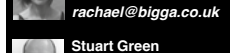
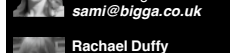
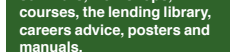
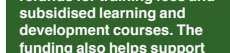
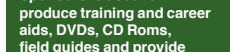
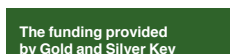
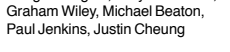
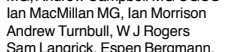
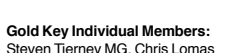
With four days of workshops, seminars, the new 'Focus On' sessions and the Turf Managers' Conference, there is certain to be something for everyone visiting BTME. The education programme will commence on Sunday 20 January and will run until Wednesday 23 January.

A full list of education events is available on www.bigga.org.uk (with an online booking facility) and www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

Seminar Pre-booking for BIGGA Members

Due to the popularity of the Seminar programme in January 2012, some BIGGA members were left disappointed when they were unable to see some of the seminars. To help prevent this happening in the future, we are introducing a seminar pre-booking system, available for BIGGA members only. The pre-booking system will run as follows:

70 seminar vouchers will be made available for each of the Continue to Learn Seminars, held in the Queen's Suite on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 January. BIGGA members can request a seminar voucher for any of the Seminars listed. The seminar voucher must be exchanged for a seminar ticket in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre at least one hour prior to the start time of the pre-booked seminar. If the voucher is not exchanged for a ticket there is no guarantee of a



seat. The remaining seats will be available to all visitors on a first come, first serve basis.

You will be able to request seminar vouchers by completing the application form in the Continue to Learn brochure, by logging into the members area of the website and booking via the Events page or by contacting the L&D Department.

We hope that you will be courteous when pre-booking by only selecting the seminars that you have particular interest in seeing.

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 Final took place at BIGGA House on 16 and 17 September. Following a very close contest, the title this year went to Thomas Flavelle from Lingdale Golf Club representing Myerscough College.

Thomas is the 24th Student Greenkeeper to be awarded the title. He is now looking forward to his experiences in the USA at the Winter Turf School held at the University of Massachusetts and visits to both the Toro Headquarters and the Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

The runners-up were: Christopher Watson from Peterculter Golf Club representing Elmwood College and Peter Thompson from Sunningdale Golf Club represent-

ing Oaklands College. Both will be attending Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 in Harrogate in January.

My congratulations go to all of the finalists. It was a close contest and a challenge for the judges to select the winner and runners-up.

Assistants Development Seminar

Last month we ran a successful training event at BIGGA House, for the Course Managers who will be presenting the pilot Assistant Development seminars.

These events will be advertised as: 'So You Want to be Promoted – Essential Skills for your Career Development' and will initially be free of charge and are open to Assistant and First Assistant members of BIGGA.

The first event will be the Northern Region's, to be held at Lymm GC on Wednesday 24 October starting at 4pm. For further details and news of other forthcoming events around the country, check the events page of the BIGGA website for details.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Phillip Worth - Foundation Degree in Sportsturf (online)

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

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BIGGA Membership

The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member

BTME 2013 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN – AVOID THE QUEUES!

BTME (The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition) is back for its 24th year at the Harrogate International Centre on 22-24 January 2013. You can now apply for your free entry pass to BTME 2013 by visiting the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk click on the BTME banner at the top of the page and select REGISTER NOW!

BTME 2013 is shaping up to be another must-attend event, with many exhibitors having already booked their space months in advance. The countdown starts here with the opening of registration.

Widely regarded as Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals and buyers, BTME offers a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy and seek advice from over a hundred of the top manufacturers and service providers across the world, so don't miss out!

CONTINUE TO LEARN – Discount for BIGGA Members

BTME also incorporates Continue to Learn - a host of seminars and workshops, coming to you courtesy of BIGGA, from 20-23 January 2013. Whether you want to learn about management, basic budgeting and golf course finance, health and safety or putting green maintenance, it's all here at Continue to Learn. See the brochure enclosed with this month's copy of GI.

TURF MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

Back for a third year, the Turf Managers' Conference will be held on Monday 21 January 2013 at The Crown Hotel, Harrogate. Dr Thomas Nikolai - 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University will head up a fantastic programme to include David Bancroft-Turner from 3D Training and Development, a specialist in organisational politics - a very popular subject!



Also Dr Kate Entwistle from the Turf Disease Centre and Lorna Sheldon from CWI International, a specialist in communication and presentation skills will be discussing very topical issues.

Prices are held from 2012 so book early to ensure you reserve a place.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Calling all members in the Northern, South East and South West/South Wales Regions, a Regional Conference will be held in your region during November. Details are:-

Northern Region, November 7th, Phoenix Golf Club, Rotherham, (easily accessed on the A631 from both Rotherham and Sheffield and is within 1 mile of M1 junctions 33 and 34).

Contact Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966

Midland Region, November 6th Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester (With easy access from Markfield Lane, Forest Hill Golf & Country Club is less than 3 miles from the A50, 5 miles from M1 J22 south bound and only 4 miles from M1 J21a north bound. For Sat Nav purposes please use LE9 9FH)

Contact Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966

South East Region, November 14th, Thorpeness Hotel & Golf Club, (From London & the South East - From the M25, exit at junction 28 onto the A12. Follow to

north of Ipswich and then take the A1094. Local signposting will take you into Thorpeness. Post code for SAT NAV IP16 4N)

Contact Clive Osgood Tel: 01737 819343 or Mobile: 07841 948410

South West/South Wales Region, November 15th, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset

(Getting to the OTA Conference Centre from M5 Junction 22 - At the roundabout take the first exit, following brown tourist signs to Speedway Arena. Approximately 50 yards past Greenacres campsite on the right, you will see The Oaktree signposted to your left).



Contact Jane Jones Tel: 01454 270850 or Mobile: 07841 948110

For more information contact the Regional Administrators.

The Regional Conferences are a great opportunity of meeting other greenkeepers, exchanging information and learning something in the process, many people, mostly volunteers have gone to a lot of time and trouble to make sure these Regional Conferences happen, please, if you can, support them.

Section AGM's

It's getting to that time of year again when Section AGM's and Section Education and Golf Events are happening. In order to keep up to date with all the dates of the Section Events visit the Events Section on the BIGGA Website (www.bigga.org.uk) or see them listed on the 'Diary of Events' page.





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John Young Sandra Raper




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



Campey Marks 35th Vredo Anniversary with Tribute in Holland

Dutch agricultural, golf fairway and grassland machinery manufacturer Vredo Dodewaard BV marked a double celebration last week; 35 years of manufacturing Vredo Overseeders and 25 years of producing slurry equipment.

The anniversary was celebrated with two open days at their HQ in Dodewaard, Holland. The opening day was attended by importers and dealers, followed by a demonstration day for end users and suppliers on the second.

Director Hans de Vree and his team welcomed guests from across the globe. This included a party from UK and European Distributors for

Vredo Overseeders Campey Turf Care Systems.

Managing Director Richard Campey presented Director of Vredo Hans de Vree and Vredo Export Sales Manager Pieter-Teunis Hoogland with a wonderful gift of a mirror etched with a photograph of a Vredo Overseeder in action at St. Andrews Golf Club in recognition of their achievements.

"We are delighted to be here to celebrate Vredo's 35th anniversary", said Richard. This is a tribute to the enormous dedication and hard work, which has ensured that the Vredo brand is renowned throughout the grounds care industry for innovation, quality and

performance. We are proud to be associated with Vredo and look forward to many more years of collaboration."

Vredo had already started producing the now famous Vredo Overseeders in the 1970s. That initial well-designed technology of two sharp discs which cut a V-shaped slit in the ground and precisely places grass seed into it is still a winner today.

The high quality products have enabled Vredo to develop into a professional organisation that thinks purely in terms of quality and performance. They combine modern technology with recognised best practice techniques to meet the exacting demands of the professional groundsman and greenkeeper.

FORCES JOINED

Sherriff Amenity, the specialist amenity division of Agrovista UK Ltd, the leading agronomy specialist, crop protection and product distributor are delighted to announce an exclusive arrangement has been agreed with leading sports turf maintenance company Sports Turf Services Ltd.

Mark Pyrah, head of amenity for Sherriff Amenity, said: "We are delighted that STS have entered into this exclusive arrangement, STS will now supply all contracting services to the golf market in Scotland through Sherriff Amenity."

Peter Campbell, Managing Director of STS said "I'm very excited about the future, working with a company of Agrovista's stature and with such an experienced sales team calling on Golf Courses the length and breadth of Scotland".



AUTUMN FINANCE DEALS

John Deere Financial has announced two new finance programmes for UK golf club customers this autumn.

These include a 'buy now, pay later' scheme designed to help the cash flow of clubs who may need immediate delivery of new machinery, but who want to wait until next year to pay when their annual membership subscriptions are due.

The second scheme runs from September 2012 to the end of April 2013, with customers making 1 + 1 annual payments at zero per

cent interest for new golf and turf equipment orders placed with a dealer between now and January 2013.

"Finance is more important than ever for golf courses in the current economic climate," says John Deere Limited's turf division sales manager Joedy Ibbotson.

Eligible equipment for both programmes includes John Deere walk-behind and ride-on cylinder and rotary mowers, compact and utility tractors, turf aerators and sprayers, and the full Gator utility vehicle range.



Blinder Bunker Liner Links with Rigby Taylor

Blinder Bunker Liner, the unique system designed to improve the lifespan of bunkers and reduce maintenance costs, is to be sold by the industry's largest sales force.

Launched in 2010 Blinder Bunker Liner has already installed bunkers on many golf courses throughout the country, but the new agreement will ensure that the benefits of the system will be highlighted to many more clubs.

"We expect many more sales enquires to be generated through this exciting new agreement," said Murray Long, Director of Blinder Bunker Liner.

Speaking on behalf of Rigby Taylor, Managing Director Andrew Robinson, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Rigby Taylor and adds a unique system to our product range. Product development has been at the forefront of our company philosophy and we are pleased to be working with Blinder Bunker Liner to offer this solution to bunker maintenance issues."

What's your number?

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

Name: Steven Dyne
Company: Invicta Groundcare Equipment Limited
Position: Director / Salesman



How long have you been in the industry?
17 years

How did you get into it?

I did an Agricultural Engineering Apprenticeship and had two or three positions maintaining agricultural and horticultural machinery and this lead me to Golf Club

What other jobs have you done?

I've been a Greenkeeper and Golf Course Mechanic

What do you like about your current job?

My job takes me all over the UK visiting many new areas and meeting many interesting people and there is never a dull moment. It is very satisfying to find the right equipment for customers' requirements

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

I've seen Greenkeepers and machinery improve and become more specialised producing higher standards

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy foreign holidays, visiting historical sites, walking and cycling. I also enjoy cooking, Indian being a current favourite.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Continuing to give a personal input to customers requirements but on a wider scale

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

I have been lucky enough to make many friends contacts and customers around the UK and internationally all too numerous to mention

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

As I was born on 7.7.77 at Sevenoaks it has to be 7

Steven has picked Brian Tebbutt of Tebbutt Associates

JACOBSEN AR250 ROTARY MOWER PROVES ITS WORTH



A Jacobsen AR250 five unit rotary mower is proving its worth on the 18-hole golf course at Mount Murray Hotel and Country Club at Santon on the Isle of Man.

With over 5,300 hours on the clock, the AR250 is used to maintain the semi-rough and surrounds at the 6,356 yard, par 71 course.

Gary Corlett is the head greenkeeper and manages a team of six full time staff, two seasonal

staff and a gardener. He has been a user of Jacobsen equipment for the past 11 years and has worked in Ireland, China and UK. He has a Foundation degree in Turfgrass Science from Myerscough College.

Commenting on the AR250 he said: "We have a huge area of maintained grass, including the grounds of the hotel, so it's vitally important that we get maximum productivity and reliability from our mowing equipment. And,

that's exactly what we get from the AR250. It's reliable, quick to set up and the quality of the finish is superb, even when handling large volumes of grass in wet conditions.

"Our 11th hole is adjacent to the hotel, so it's important that the presentation is always at its best.

"The rear rollers on the AR250 leave a pleasing striped finish, providing a manicured view from the guests' bedrooms and hotel restaurant."

NEXT GEN GOLF CARTS

Next-generation golf cart technology has reached Ryder Cup venue The Celtic Manor Resort, with the news that it is the latest golf club to 'tag' its cart fleet with DSG TAG's GPS tracking devices.

The tags, fitted last month to 20 petrol-driven Club Car carts on The Twenty Ten Course, are designed to help improve pace of play, and to improve the quality of the Twenty Ten experience for customers. Each cart has also been fitted with a DSG TAG TOUCH screen along with the GPS tag.

"Golfers on The Twenty Ten Course can now upgrade their cart to a DSG TAG model," says Golf Operations Manager Matt Barnby. "Buggies are restricted to the cart paths at Celtic Manor, but our new TOUCH screens give golfers an exact yardage while sitting in their cart – removing the need to take two or three clubs onto the fairway."

DSG TAG has also created geo-zones which control where the Twenty Ten carts can and cannot be driven, including a geo-fence around the entire Celtic Manor Resort estate to



ensure that golf buggies are not driven off the property. Golfers are first alerted by a buzzer and on-screen messages, and the cart is automatically

immobilised if the warnings are ignored.

The Celtic Manor Resort operates a fleet of 140 Club Cars in total.

BTME is back for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

NEW TRIPLE DECK MOWERS GO FAR AND WIDE



Wessex ProLine RMX roller mowers have been setting new standards in roller mower design for many years. Now the new triple deck mowers offer the ultimate in wide area mowing, with the significant advantages of cost-efficiency without compromising cut finish quality.

All the features and benefits of the widely used Wessex ProLine RMX range have been incorporated into one triple deck machine, to reduce mowing time and increase output and profitability. Requiring no electro-hydraulics, and with no electric clutches, these professional roller mowers will leave a finish equal to a cylinder mower on fine turf, at a fraction of the cost. The

patented transmission system allows wings to be engaged and disengaged whilst in work, without a clutch mechanism. They offer versatility too.

With independent wing control they are operational with one wing lifted and the folding wings can cut gradients from -30° to $+30^{\circ}$ with the middle deck remaining on the ground.

All the decks have independent float and the patented linkage system allows the rear deck to follow the direction of travel, to minimise tyre and roller scuffing. Turf tyres are also used for minimum ground compaction and independent suspension is incorporated for smooth road travel.

Each deck on the triple mower has full width rollers at the front and rear that restrict airflow, creating a suction beneath the deck chamber in which the uncut grass is sucked up by the blades, leaving a superb quality cut at high speeds.

There are double taper roller bearings in all rollers and they also stripe the grass for a premium finish. The RMX triple mowers are available in 5.6m and 6.8m working widths and, as with all the RMX roller mowers, servicing and maintenance is easy, substantially reducing costs compared to an equivalent width cylinder mower. They will be available for delivery in spring 2013.

ROYAL CROMER GC FIRST TO INSTALL NEW TORO LYNX AND GDC

Royal Cromer Golf Club in Norfolk has become the first course in the UK to fully upgrade to a state-of-the-art Lynx and GDC Toro Irrigation system.

This windswept links course on the North Norfolk coastline struggled to maintain coverage and keep playing surfaces up to par as its previous 35-year-old irrigation system reached the end of its useful life.

Numerous man hours were also being wasted at Royal Cromer as the greenkeeping team hand-watered and nursed the ailing system, while water was lost through leaks and inefficient application.

But the installation of a brand new Toro Irrigation system, featuring Lynx control system software coupled with Toro's proven Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) hardware, has brought the 18-hole course bang up-to-date. In fact, it's become the first club in the UK to upgrade to an all-new Lynx system and thus enjoy its impressive benefits.



Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the **Register Now** icon



No doubting Thomas



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 is Thomas Flavelle, greenkeeper at Lingdale Golf Club in Leicestershire. Steve Castle spoke to him hours after the 23-year-old scooped the award...

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a well-deserved fried breakfast as he attempts to find the words to describe winning the coveted prize. Thomas, and the other six Student of the Year finalists, endured 24 gruelling hours during which they were interviewed by experts, completed an in-depth course report to a tight deadline and faced an agonising wait to see if they had emerged victorious.

"Wow, it was unbelievable. I was shocked. I was aware there were five other lads who were more than capable of winning the award, so it could have gone to anybody. It's nice to come out on top, but they were all so good – they wouldn't have got this far if they weren't – and I know they'll go on and do great things in their careers.

"Now it's all about looking forward to America. I had a really good chat with last year's winner Matt Perks, and his advice was just to throw yourself into it and make the most of every minute. It's going to be

fantastic for me on both a personal and professional level.

"I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a very, very intense few weeks of incredibly hard work going into highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will help my education massively."

Thomas joins an illustrious group of winners who have gone on to work on some of the UK's finest courses.

His attitude and outlook belies his 23 years, and it's immediately clear how seriously he takes both greenkeeping and the sport of golf – he has a handicap of two.

His father Dave is a hugely experienced greenkeeper, and while he's proud to follow in his footsteps he's pleased to be making a name for himself away from his family connections.

"It does help that my dad is a greenkeeper, and it also means that people come up and talk to me instinctively because they know him, but I've never actually worked with him and I'm making my own way in the industry.

"I always wanted to work outdoors, and I've spent most of my life on golf courses either working or playing."

He studied A-levels but admits he was distracted because he was so intent on becoming a greenkeeper, and after completing his exams he clinched a trainee position at Lingdale. He then took his Level Two qualification and is close to completing Level Three at Myerscough College.

"After I've completed Level Three I'm going to probably look at doing a foundation degree and also consider other options to progress my career."

So why did he enter the competition?

"I used to look at the faces of the winners on the front of the magazine and think 'I'll never, ever be good enough for that.'

"But, in the last 18 months, I feel I've really progressed as a greenkeeper. I now know where I'm going with my career and just entering the award was a fantastic opportunity.

"Even a nomination stands out



Message from Thomas

"I'd like to thank both my Level Two and Level Three tutors – Kev McAdams and Jonathan Knowles at Myerscough, who have helped me so much. Lingdale Golf Club have given me time and the support I've needed to enter this competition, as well as now having to allow me two months off to go to America! They've also helped me immensely right from the start of my career as an 18 year old.

"I'd also like to thank TORO and BIGGA, and I have to mention Lingdale's Head Greenkeeper Andy McGreal. He's pretty much taught me everything I know since I joined five-and-a-half years ago.

"He's helped with my college work, preparing for this competition and has always been there for me. He's very realistic and knows what we have to do to make the absolute most of the budget we have at the club. I wouldn't be the greenkeeper I am now without him."

FACTFILE

Name: Thomas Flavelle
Born: Leicester, 2 October 1988
Marital Status: Engaged to Kathryn
Handicap: 2
Hobbies: Golf, shooting, fishing
Favourite Sports Team: Leicester City



on a CV, and I just wanted to be a part of it and increase my knowledge.

“I also thought the experience of interview situations would be vital, and I really focused on that side of it. Toro and BIGGA are looking for someone who can represent them in the States, and I knew I had to present myself well as a greenkeeper and as a person to do well in the competition.”

Was he nervous during the final?

“We’ve been really, really busy at work on the course so I didn’t have time to get apprehensive until the weekend came round. I drove up and was fine until I got within about five miles of BIGGA HQ and the nerves really set in.

“I met all the other lads and they also seemed nervous, but we sat down together and had some food which was exactly what we needed – it calmed everyone down and there was a really good atmosphere.

“As for the task, it’s nerve-racking because you’ve no idea what you’re going to be asked to do. I made the decision to only spend about 40 minutes on the course at Aldwark.

“I must admit I was a little concerned when I saw some of the finalists had brought agronomical equipment with them, but I was confident I would be able to take samples from three of the greens and gain enough information from that. It was quite a stressful couple of days, I have to say.”

Thomas, consumed by golf as a youngster, says he always dreamed of following the family tradition and becoming a greenkeeper. However, from a young age he also displayed a real talent for playing the sport.

He says: “I played all sorts of sports – rugby and football as well as golf – when I was younger. Of course it would have been nice to have been a professional sportsman, no-one would turn that down, but I wouldn’t change what’s happened. Ultimately, my dream was to be a greenkeeper.”

And the future?

“The next step is hopefully a deputy’s job before moving on to being a head greenkeeper or course manager. It would be nice to work for a big, prestigious golf course and I’ve also got an ambition to work in course design and agronomy, although you never know what opportunities are going to present themselves.

“Personally, my fiancée Kathryn and I would love to buy a house at some point, but we’ll have to see how the next few years progress and where our careers end up.”



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

Thomas was presented with his award at BIGGA House on Monday 17 September.

Pictured above are (back row, from left); Rachael Duffy (BIGGA Learning & Development Executive-Administration), Jim Croxton (BIGGA CEO) Chris Sealey, (BIGGA vice chairman), Bruce Jamieson (golf course consultant), Sami Collins (BIGGA Learning & Development Manager), Trevor Chard (TORO Key Accounts Manager), Tony Smith (BIGGA Chairman) and Stuart Green (BIGGA Learning & Development Executive-Technical).

Front row, from left; Neil Ivamy, Stuart Imeson, Peter Thompson, Thomas Flavelle, Christopher Watson, Aaron Launchbury, Matt Perks (2011 winner).



Thomas becomes the 24th winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition

The two runners-up were Christopher Watson, Assistant Greenkeeper at Peterculter Golf Club (Elmwood College) and Peter Thompson, Assistant Greenkeeper at Sunningdale Golf Club (Oaklands College).

The other finalists were Stuart Imeson, Head Greenkeeper at Dunstanburgh Golf Club (Newcastle College), Aaron Launchbury of North Foreland Golf

Club (Hadlow College) and Neil Ivamy of Trevoise Golf & Country Club (Duchy College) – congratulations to all the finalists.

The candidates were interviewed by golf course consultant Bruce Jamieson, TORO Key Accounts Manager Trevor Chard, BIGGA vice chairman Chris Sealey and BIGGA's Learning & Development Manager Sami Collins.

Thomas wins a once-in-a-lifetime eight-week trip to the United States, which includes a six-week study course at the University of Massachusetts and trips to visit the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show in San Diego and Toro's base in California.

Christopher and Peter win an expenses paid trip to the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2013.



Day of the Triffids

Kevin Whitby offers you the chance to pick up basis points as he warns us of the dangers of giant hogweed...

Though not as deadly as the walking plants that feature in the plot of John Wyndham's novel 'The Day of the Triffids', the invasive species Giant Hogweed is not to be messed with. If the sap of this plant comes into contact with the skin it can cause a severe skin condition known as phytophotodermatitis. Worse still, contact with the eyes can cause permanent blindness.

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a non-native invasive species that was introduced into the UK in the late 19th century from South Asia, as an ornamental species for large gardens and estates. Soon after introduction the plant escaped and has now spread to many areas of the country. Giant Hogweed belongs to the Carrot family (known as Apiaceae or Umbelliferae), which has more than 2500 species contained in 275 genera. These include plants native to the UK such as parsnip,

carrot, celery, fennel, coriander, dill, parsley, and the poisonous hemlocks.

Giant Hogweed is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.

What to look for:

Giant Hogweed has very large, coarsely toothed lower leaves (up to 1m long) that will squeeze out most other native plants by competing for space, light, water and nutrients. The stems are hollow, ridged with downward pointing hairs. The lower parts of the stems are thick (up to 10cm) and are characterised by dark red or purple blotches which bear stiff hairs. In the early stages of growth it can be confused with our native Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) that grows to a maximum height of 2m but when it gets above head height there is no mistaking it!

Numerous white flowers are born in large 'umbrella' shaped heads called umbels – up to 50cm across. It has been estimated that each plant can produce up to 50,000 seeds, which are dispersed easily by water or by soil movement, and can remain viable for up to 15 years.

Giant Hogweed prefers a riparian (riverbank) habitat and will readily disperse downstream to populate new ground. The seeds are carried along streams and rivers eventually establishing themselves as they wash up on fresh soil of the riverbed or bank. Giant Hogweed can also be brought onto a site through imported soils containing its seed and will grow very rapidly, sometimes reaching a height of 4 to 5 metres in a few months. The sheer size of the foliage and the vigour with which it grows quickly overpowers and displaces natural vegetation nearby.

The danger to greenkeepers and members of the public is that the sap of the Umbelliferae contain



MAIN ABOVE: Giant Hogweed – can grow to a height of 5 metres

TOP RIGHT: Large, coarsely toothed leaves

TOP LEFT: Red/purple blotched stems with stiff hairs

RIGHT: Lower stems can be up to 10cm thick



toxic substances known as 'psoralens' or 'linear furano-coumarins' which, when exuded by the plant from hairs on the leaves and stems, can cause a severe skin irritation where the affected areas become hypersensitive to sunlight.

Skin irritant reactions are known to occur with several other members of the Carrot family; notably 'strimmers' dermatitis, encountered when operators clearing long grass containing Cow parsnip (our native Hogweed - *Heracleum sphondylium*) get splattered with sap from these plants.

A similar reaction can occur with the sap of Wild Parsnip (*Pastanaca sativa*). The reason why Giant Hogweed produces the most severe skin irritant reaction is probably because the furano-coumarins are present in higher concentrations and due to the sheer size and vigour of this plant means a large quantity of sap is produced.

The toxic components of Giant Hogweed are stored mainly in the

oil channels or ducts in the leaves, stems, roots, flowers and seeds. Therefore all sap bearing parts of the plant can produce a harmful reaction.

Psoralens are naturally occurring substances that appear to serve a universal defensive role in some plants, having activity against; grazing animals, insects, viruses, bacteria, fungi and the germination of seeds from other plants.

The skin irritant condition caused by Giant Hogweed is a form of phytophotodermatitis resulting from contact with the toxic components of the sap in the presence of sunlight. The initial reaction to the sap usually occurs 24 to 48 hours after skin contact, so people who are not aware of the danger can become seriously contaminated without a chance to minimise the effect by washing the skin. Large watery blisters are commonly formed and the skin feels very itchy. After the blistering subsides, a dense post-inflammatory hyper-pigmentation

Claim your basis points

SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly!

Circle the correct answer(s)

1) Giant Hogweed belongs to which family of plants?

a) Pea b) Rose c) Onion d) Carrot

2) What type of habitat is preferred by this weed?

a) Woodland b) Riverside c) Marined) Heathland

3) What is the potential seed yield for each Giant hogweed plant?

a) 5000 b) 500 c) 25,000 d) 50,000

4) What type of chemical present in the sap of Giant Hogweed produces the condition known as phytophotodermatitis?

a) saponins b) alkaloids c) psoralens d) carotenoids

5) Apart from phytophotodermatitis, what other health threatening effects can arise from contact with Giant Hogweed? (more than one may apply)

a) diarrhoea b) blindness c) respiratory difficulties
d) osteoporosis



becomes visible after 3-5 days and may persist for years.

It is thought that when significant quantities of furano-coumarins penetrate the skin in the presence of ultraviolet radiation, localised corruption of DNA occurs, resulting in damage to the 'melanocytic' skin cells that produce pigments to protect the body from harmful radiations in sunlight.

Those affected by this condition will become hypersensitive to sunlight and even relatively weak exposure will cause sunburn. This painful condition can persist for a number of years.

The sap can also cause an allergic reaction in the airways, causing potentially life threatening respiratory problems; if it gets in the eyes it can cause temporary or even permanent blindness, so there is a real danger of serious health risk if it becomes airborne during cutting operations.

The threshold concentration of furano-coumarins (10-100 µg/ml) for a phytophotodermatitis reaction is well exceeded during the active growing season. The highest concentration is in the leaves, the lowest in the stems.

Contact with the Giant Hogweed sap in sunlight produces a reaction in almost everyone. The degree of symptoms will vary between individuals, but children are known to be particularly sensitive. Sap leaking from cut plants will remain active for several hours. I know of one greenkeeper who was injured on the wrist by contact with sap on the outside of some items of pro-

TECTIVE clothing his staff had been using to deal with the weed on a golf course. For this reason, when the plant is identified growing in a public place it should be dealt with swiftly to prevent harm to others. On a golf course if the plant is 'in play' it should be designated as either 'temporary out-of-bounds' or 'Ground Under Repair' (GUR) to prevent golfers from slashing at the leaves/stems in search of their missing golf balls. In other areas with public access, such as parks or play areas, the weed should be isolated by roping off and a suitable warning posted nearby. Removal or control of the plant must then be carried out without delay.

CONTROL MEASURES

Complete eradication of the weed can only be achieved by controlling all sources of infestation from upstream. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for as long as 15 years so many retreatments will be required to prevent seedlings from reaching the flowering stage.

Chemical control

The most effective method of chemical control is achieved by spraying with formulations of 360g/L glyphosate such as Roundup Pro Bi-active, applied at 6 litres/ha. Plants may be sprayed as soon as they reach 1.0m in height (usually from March to early April) but due to the size and vigour of Giant Hogweed, several applications may be needed to kill

the plants completely. Watch for seedlings that germinate and grow very rapidly, spraying these before they get beyond 1.5m high.

Giant Hogweed can compete with other vegetation to such an extent that blanket spraying with glyphosate could cause serious soil erosion in winter, especially on riverbanks. In these situations it would be better to use a weed wiper or a stem injection system to apply the chemical.

If plants are well established when discovered, they can be carefully cut above ground (using full protective clothing to avoid sap contact) and then the stems injected below the first node with a 10% solution of glyphosate in water.

Mechanical Control – Full protective clothing required when cutting and handling the plant.

Flowering heads may be carefully removed by cutting before they have set seed. The whole plant can be removed by digging below 20cm and removing the crown. Alternatively make an angled cut with a sharp spade and sever the tap roots a few inches below soil level. Mechanical equipment for slashing or strimming is best avoided due to the risk from the sap.

Flower heads should be carefully placed in marked polythene bags and disposed of along with any other cut plant material, in accordance with the rules for controlled waste.

Bare soil left after removing the plants should be re-sown with a fast establishing grass seed to discourage re-colonisation.

ABOVE LEFT: Flowers born in umbels – up to 50cm across

ABOVE: Each plant can produce up to 50,000 seeds

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Karl's brush with fame

Jim Cook talks to the Course Manager who has designed a **new brush system** from scratch with his own bare hands

It's no surprise that Karl Parry admits to relying on the odd energy drink to help him through the day.

Not only does he manage Denbigh Golf Club, he's spent countless hours developing, launching and marketing a new brush system which is designed to improve playing surfaces.

He's also a nine handicapper, has established a separate lawncare business and is the proud dad of a two-year-old girl – so how does this enterprising 27-year-old fit everything in?

He says: "I start at 5am so I can fit in appointments for Turf Brush Systems later in the day, then go home to my daughter and girlfriend who's so supportive.

"It might sound a bit cheesy but I just love my job, I've got a real passion and drive for it and enjoy it so much.

"Denbigh is a great golf course and we've got a fantastic team here.

"Then, when I go out to do demonstrations later in the day or fit a new machine, I get to meet new people and greenkeepers from across the country.

"It's fascinating to chat to them, find out why they're doing what they're doing and look at their courses.

"You can pick up so many tips or ideas from other greenkeepers."

Karl had the idea for the brushes while working in 2008 at the PGA Greg Norman Shootout, at Tiburon Golf Club, Florida.

He said: "We had very grainy grass fairways there.

"We mowed the fairways every two days and every other week we would send out extra machines using verticutters and extra labour in an attempt to control the severe grain issues.



"This obviously was very expensive to do and labour intensive, so I thought there must surely be a better more productive method of controlling grain.

"We did have groomers but they didn't really have much effect and due to the aggressive nature of grass constant breakdowns occurred.

"So I came up with a heavy duty stiff brush attachment to fit individually to each cutting unit.

"I spent my spare time working on a prototype for one unit and once completed I went out and tested it to great effect. I soon left to come home and was very keen to pursue my idea."

Karl was working as a greenkeeper at Mold Golf Club at the time

For more information about the Turf Brush System visit the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/brushsystem



"I stayed up all hours into the early mornings, fitting, gluing and drilling"

and lacking finances or industry contacts, so decided to make the brushes himself.

"I started making my own brush systems from blocks of wood cut by hand and drilled thousands of holes for the bristles to fit into.

"To get the bristles I bought push brooms from B&Q, pulled them out and counted out hundreds of thousands of bristles and divided them equally into all the holes.

"At this point my girlfriend was heavily pregnant at eight months and we had a fair few orders to get through.

I drafted in her friends when they came around by getting them to count bristles while I stayed up all hours into the early mornings, fitting, gluing and drilling. It was a great time looking back now but very hard back then."

After Karl was appointed course manager of Denbigh Golf Club he had the opportunity to develop the idea further and has now found a business partner.

Karl added: "To take my business to the next level I needed some investment and the facility to make prototypes on various types of equipment.

"This is where my new business partner and friend John Osman came to the rescue.

"I now have the facility to test on any machine mower on the planet, facilities to make custom design on site in minutes and a great base to operate from."

Whilst the idea of brushes in front of blades is not new, there are a number of original features on the system.

The brushes are independent units that can be fitted to work in front of the mowing blades of most cylinder cutting machines including greens, fairway and semi.

The Greens TurfBrushSystem has two separate sections which have been designed to overlap each other so that the width is identical to that of the machine and so that there is no gap in the brushed area of grass.

They move to the contours of a green, which has been reported to give an improved cut.

Two wide-tread castor wheels on each section are designed to give control, with little ground pressure, and each section is adjustable depending on the aggressiveness of brushing required.

The castors have seals on each bearing and in the centre which should improve their lifespan, especially if they are used immediately after topdressing.

The brushes can be removed or

fitted in a few minutes and each brush is reversible, again, to lengthen their life.

The aim of the brushes is to improve the overall quality, performance and health or condition of the turf's surface.

The theory behind the brushes is that they glide along the surface in front of the blades, removing dew and debris and helping to stand up grass.

This in turn leads to a cleaner cut and also smoother ball roll. They may also be used to brush material after topdressing.

Karl also said they help reduce thatch build up over time.

Alister Beggs, STRI's Northern Area Manager and Official Consultant to the R&A Committee, said:

"They will help with meadowgrass management because at the time of the year when it is producing seed head in the spring, these units seem to help lift seed head off.

So if you're trying to control the spread of meadowgrass then taking seed head off is an important part of it.

"Because you are effectively taking more grass off with any one cut, then essentially over time you are going to help reduce organic matter and thatch build up at the base of the turf.

Whilst you're not probably going to use a brush to deal with thatch directly, the use over time, as with groomers, helps to keep the turf surface healthy and keep organic matter and thatch development under control."

"The only potential negative would be stress on the turf.

"I understand you can set these brushes in terms of the aggressiveness of them.

"The only danger as with any turf refinement tool is that if you use them too much and set them too aggressively you can add to turf stress and turf decline.

"If you use common sense and set them properly and use them at the right frequency then they shouldn't be detrimental to turf.

"It's another tool for greenkeepers to get the objective they're looking for.

"And of course every course is different with different grass mixes, so the way you would use them and set them would be different.

"There are other brush systems out there but I was impressed with what I saw."

Used in the correct way and at the right time, the brushes will prove a valuable asset to any club.



MAIN TOP: Turf brush system in action
ABOVE LEFT: The brushes can be fitted onto most machines
RIGHT: The system can be hooked with chains when not needed



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Before and after the application of rubber mats



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Small scale drainage projects need not be costly

This month James de Haviland looks at 'DIY' drainage solutions...

If water is collecting in areas that were once free draining, the first job is to find out why. Digging a small hole with a spade or taking a core sample can help identify if there is a compaction layer and its depth. Regular spike tests can also help spot when a compaction problem is building. Deep aeration may cure the problem.

In other cases, an existing primary drainage system may not be functioning as well as it could. Blocked, collapsed and silted up main drains obviously will not work as well as they should and will struggle in a really wet period. If these drains feed into open ditches, it also follows that water needs to be able to get away.

With the basics in place, supplementing an existing system with additional drainage to cope with localised problems need not be difficult or too costly. This can be done by installing a slit or trench backfilled with sand, gravel or purpose developed material such as Lytag. Or a new run of drainage pipe can be installed and linked to an existing pipe.

Tools that can be used to create backfilled drainage slits include the AFT Sandbander that comprises a 1.0 cubic metre stainless steel hopper and hydraulically powered vibrating single filling blade. It can create a 25mm wide slit to a depth of 250mm.

The Shelton Gravel Band Drainer will again produce a slit, which can be 6 or 25mm wide, and will deposit a band of kiln dried sand, gravel or Lytag at depths adjustable between 100mm to 350mm.

For either type of blade slitter to work effectively, ground conditions need to be just right; too wet and there is a risk of damaging the turf and smearing the soil. In soils with high clay content side smear can lead to 'lateral' compaction along the sides of the slit. If the soil is too dry, the slits can be difficult to produce cleanly and the ground may be too hard for the blade to ease through the soil.

'Microband' drainage using sand, gravel or other infill medium

will typically comprise slits of between 250 to 300mm in depth, with spacing at 400, 600 or 800mm centres. Buying a system may cost upwards of £9,000, but hiring in the equipment on its own or with an operator experienced in doing the job is another option. With support from club staff, hiring in a slitter and operator for several greens could see a costs average out at as little as £650 per green.

Taking powered slitters one step further, Shelton and AFT also offer larger trenching units. Trenching machines can do a great deal more than produce a 'slot' into which a drainage medium can be backfilled. They can be used to lay drainage or irrigation pipe as well as be used to install underground services including water and electric cables.

Although it is tempting to compare this type of kit with 'microband' drainage tools, the way in which trenchers can be used is different. For a start, a chain trencher such as the AFT 45 can produce an opening that ranges in width from 40 to 200mm and can be up to 1.20m deep. There are also pedestrian powered chain trenchers available. These include machines from Barreto, Vermeer and Ditch Witch.

Small project work

It follows that you do not need to use a trencher to dig a trench; short runs can be dug by hand and need not be as onerous as you think. It follows that some simple planning will also help.

- Keep backfill dry. Removed soil needs to be kept dry and should be sheeted if left in a heap that is likely to be rained on

- Use a turf cutter. This will help speed reinstatement as well as provide a clear indication of the trench direction and size. You can hire in a suitable 'sod cutter', with entry level machines that will help cut a turf slice costing from around £1,500

- Use boards and planks. When working on greens and tees, boards and planks can help protect the playing surface

- Tyres and compaction. If possible, reduce the inflation pressure of equipment tyres to the permitted minimum. With trailers and turf trucks, avoid overloading



Using a probe to pick up compaction can help when there is a localised draining problem; if there is no compaction, why is it that water is not draining away? The trick is to see if water is held up in its passage to a main drain and to work out the best way to speed its passage through the soil.

- Timing. Try to plan small drainage jobs so they can be completed in as short a time frame as possible

- Plan supplies. When ordering drainage project supplies, seek advice to source the most appropriate materials



LEFT: Slit trenchers come in a variety of designs and can be used to apply a band of material from the turf surface down to the water table. Operated correctly, these tools can help improve local drainage issues economically, but sound primary draining is also important. On larger jobs it pays to work with a drainage specialist.

RIGHT: When carrying out 'small' drainage projects, planning ahead will help get the job completed, even when the trenching tool is a spade! Clearing turf with a 'sod cutter' helps and can make restoration considerably easier. Pictured is the start of the drainage work carried out by Matt Le Brun at the Rasomes Jacobsen course at the company's Ipswich base last year.



Turfdry remedies waterlogged golf greens

Rob George, Head Greenkeeper at the scenic Thorndon Park GC in Essex has been most complimentary about the Turfdry Drainage System:

"For some time we had some drainage issues on seven greens. The problems were highlighted more over the wet winter months and after much deliberation it was decided to do something to ensure golfers could enjoy the beauty of Thorndon Park Golf Club all year round.

The Turfdry system was presented well, the materials used are of excellent quality and the entire package is delivered very professionally.

The club decided to do a trial green first which just happened to be our chipping green which is right outside the club house and in full view of everyone, so the pressure was on to not only ensure

the job ran smoothly but the system worked as well.

True to form and word the Turfdry installation and system has worked perfectly. Comparing this green to the remaining problem greens, the chipping green is miles ahead. It has certainly been put to the test this summer with copious amounts of rain being thrown at it and the new drainage system has performed superbly.

Whilst the installation of the system may look invasive and scary the results speak for themselves, this green was back in play within 4 weeks and has not had any adverse comment or defect. The Turfdry Drainage System is highly recommended and Turfdry is a very professional organisation".

The remaining six greens at Thorndon Park GC will be drained in October 2012, and



in September Turfdry will be installing similar systems at Great Barr GC, Birmingham, and Wyke Green GC, Middlesex, where the system was first installed on other greens eight years ago.

For further information please visit www.turfdry.com or phone 01283 551417.





Climate control

Climate unpredictability makes it far tougher for courses to stay on top of weather extremes. John Sutherland chats to those in the know to gain a keener insight into what needs to be done to ensure clubs stay on course





Following one of the hottest ApriIs on record, which saw barely a drop of rain in some parts of the UK, we were hit with the year's first hosepipe ban.

Not only was it unseasonably early but almost immediately after the announcement was made, the nation fell victim to two months of perpetual precipitation with rainfall that entered the record books.

This pattern of monsoon-like rainfall and scorching heat would be more at home in India than the UK but the reality is that this pattern of weather is likely to continue, coupled with colder, snowier winters.

We've seen the impact on sports such as football, with top-flight games cancelled, such as Sunderland's fixture in August. In golf, the issues are arguably greater because of the variety of turf types and a more varied landscape. So how can greenkeepers put in place contingency plans for Britain's weather extremes?

"The main issue is managing wet weather and ensuring adequate drainage," explains Richard Windows, a turfgrass agronomist for STRI (Sports Turf Research Institute) who works with Scottish clubs.

"It comes down to adequate

Images show Sunningdale GC, 18th green on Old Course (TOP RIGHT) and 13th green (INSET RIGHT)

soil management and effective drainage. With good organic matter reduction and regular sand topdressing, clubs can better arm themselves for the onset of poor weather."

Windows talks of the "increasing need" on soil-based greens for underground drainage systems. Such installations need not cost the earth either, he says, At £3,000 to £5,000 per green, the works are within the reach of most clubs' budgets and compare favourably with the £30,000 he says covers complete reconstruction.

He works extensively with clubs in the Glasgow area, one of the wettest parts of the UK with 1,600mm to 1,800mm of rainfall annually. He adds: "I always recommend this method as it's very successful and allows improved year round performance". He advises digging narrow trenches and laying closely-spaced drainage pipes at 2m to 3m centres. "On top of this, implement an accurate organic matter management programme involving regular sand top dressing (at a rate of 120-150 tonnes per hectare per year), hollow coring and Graden sand injection scarification. The combination of drainage and accurate organic matter management will ensure courses can minimise the effects of severe wet weather. Improving

sward species composition is also important to minimise the effects of changing and more extreme weather patterns.

"Finer grass species like brown-top bents and fescues are better able to cope with climatic extremes and also perform better throughout the year. By improving the sward species composition you will help reduce the chances of disease, which thrive in wet, mild conditions."

At Sunningdale, course manager Murray Long knows that the best form of attack is a stout defence. "You have to plan your maintenance regime so when poor weather hits, you don't grind to a halt. A good soil maintenance plan has been key in the seven years I've been in the post, which means the right soil and turf conditions are set out for the whole season, including regular aeration, organic matter testing – and at its heart, good drainage. "It sounds obvious but planning is the only way to prepare for what the weather throws at you.

Historically, golfers have viewed the Berkshire club as a pure sand course, but this isn't the case, Long insists, as it has an underlying clay structure in many areas - an enemy of free drainage. "Our annual plan is based around our many ditches. Primary drainage takes excess



“The reality is that this pattern of weather is likely to continue, coupled with colder, snowier winters”

water from the ditches into our reservoir and we then work out from that point, and highlight problem zones, which can then be tackled in isolation.

“Once the primary drainage does its job, the secondary drainage networks, gravel banding and sand slitting work more efficiently. We have a well thought out aeration plan tailored around the golfing calendar in the summer. We also slit greens weekly, alternating the depths throughout the winter months.”

Greenkeepers’ fear during wet weather is that the playing qualities of greens cannot be maintained to the desired standards. “Providing good drainage and firm surfaces is the foundation for delivering high quality and consistent surfaces whatever the weather,” insists Windows. “On top of this, good turf husbandry and regular refinement involving brushing, grooming and rolling will maintain optimum playing conditions and healthy turf without having to mow turf short.”

Long agrees, after discovering that the drainage practices at Sunningdale are vital in ensuring year-round play. “Fundamentally, if the greens are free draining they can be maintained throughout the year at any time. We can get on to our greens 99.9% of the time

because we plan long in advance. We’re averaging 600 to 650 tonnes of topdressing, split between the two courses which, combined with slitting and primary and secondary drainage systems, means the weather hasn’t forced our hand.”

For some of the major events held at Sunningdale, such as the international final qualifying for the British Open, a contingency plan is always in place, so if bad weather does descend, play doesn’t suffer unduly. “By recognising the areas that are most at risk, we can pre-empt problems. We’ll ensure there’s enough staff, enough wet weather resources and the right knowledge of what the problems are beforehand, so we’re not faced with an issue that we can’t handle. We’ve now addressed most of the minor issues, so we need to do increasingly less to prepare for major events.”

For clubs in the South-east such as Sunningdale, the biggest hurdle has usually been retaining water, not trying to remove it. So for Long, the wet weather has in some ways proved a blessing in disguise, allowing him to store more water than he would normally. “We’re pretty much self-sufficient now,” he states, “and collect as much as we can in our reservoir, which minimises the quantity we need to



draw from boreholes and mains suppliers.”

Not all clubs have the resources of Sunningdale. What does he suggest for those on a smaller budget? “My best piece of advice would be to improve water collection, which is also part and parcel of having effective drainage systems.”

Good course management is not only about hands-on work but also about knowing your weak links. Every course will have its hotspots, so minimising footfall can play a critical role. Course vehicles assume a big part in the modern game, and it’s no different at Sunningdale. “To ensure good grass cover in the winter months, we rope off sections of the course to avoid damage from buggies. Winter planning is as much about traffic management as anything else. We’ve fitted a GPS tracker to all our buggies, which notifies us of where they are at all times, and

allows us to send a warning to one if it strays into restricted zones. If this happens too often the buggy will cut out, preventing damage and saving us money.”

While it’s increasingly difficult to predict the weather, what we do know is that sound planning is paramount.

The growth in weather forecasting technology is proving a useful tool short-term in the golf club’s armoury and one that Sunningdale makes the most of. “We’ve used Headland Amenity’s Weathercheck for some time, and with some pretty good results,” explains Long.

“What forecasting does do is give you further ammunition to prepare, and the Met Office’s forecasting phone app also comes in handy when walking the course. With our location, and the fact we have a lot of high land around us, neighbouring courses can sometimes get the rain and not us.

Ultimately, it allows us to put better contingency plans together, which is really the key to dealing with poor weather.”

The application of weather forecasting could become more widespread thanks to a new computer model from the Met Office that can better predict cold winter weather a season ahead.



Sunningdale GC, 5th on the new course (below)

While these developments are significant, experts were quick to play down the idea that it is a solution to the problem. Met Office spokesman Dave Britton said: “We don’t want to over-egg new developments. It’s moving us one piece forward in the very complicated jigsaw behind the weather.”

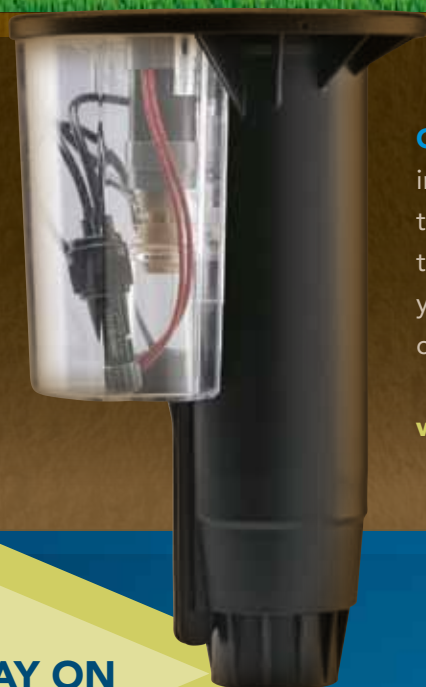
Judah Cohen, director of seasonal forecasting at the US-based Atmospheric and Environmental

Research (AER), said: “The research is potentially very important. Winter forecasting remains a difficult challenge and much work is needed to improve our forecast models.”

The Met Office had shown “great creativity” in exploring gaps in our knowledge and deficiencies in the models, she added. “But frankly, the bar for seasonal forecasting is set pretty low so any advance is very welcome.”



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Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt reports on the bleak future for one of our iconic trees

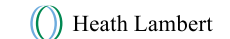
White flowering horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) are iconic trees, not native but with a long, distinguished and healthy UK pedigree.

That was until the first few years of the new millennium when the species was hit in quick succession by an alien insect pest and an exotic disease, which essentially sealed their fate after some 500 years as top amenity and landscape trees in the UK. White flowering horse chestnut has consistently been planted for beautiful candelabra like blossoms and its well-shaped canopy frequently used in avenue tree planting. Fruits and seeds (conkers) have provided enjoyment for countless generations of children.

White flowering horse chestnut is native to a broad swathe of south-eastern Europe and Western Asia, having being introduced from Turkey during the middle of the sixteenth century. The less common but equally fine looking red flowering horse chestnut (*A. x carnea*) is a naturally evolved hybrid between white flowering horse chestnut and a related North American horse chestnut (red buckeye – *Aesculus pavia*), the original hybridisation probably taking place in Germany in the early 1800's.

Until recently both were popular trees for planting in all sorts of amenity, landscape and sporting situations including golf courses. However, virtually no horse chestnut is now being planted due to activity of the horse chestnut leaf miner, which although not fatal ruins the summer canopy of white flowering horse chestnut, and bacterial bleeding canker a bark

RIGHT: Horse chestnut 1. White flowering horse chestnut



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disease fatal to both white and red flowering horse chestnut.

Greenkeepers with horse chestnut trees on their golf courses will have undoubtedly noticed these problems and may have already been forced to prune and even fell affected trees. However, there is widespread confusion about the different symptoms and ultimate effects caused by horse chestnut leaf miner and bacterial bleeding canker and what can actually be done to avoid and alleviate these problems if and when they arise.

Horse chestnut leaf miner

Horse chestnut leaf miner (*Camraria ohridella*) first appeared on white flowering horse chestnut trees on Wimbledon Common (south west London) soon after the dawn of the new millennium having entered the UK as the overwintering pupa stage inside dead horse chestnut leaves attached to the wheels of cross channel road traffic.

Its appearance was not surprising the insect having spread across Europe from its native Balkans (e.g. Macedonia and Greece) in less than 15 years. Once in the UK the insect spread rapidly with well-known golf courses in London Boroughs like Richmond, Merton and Kingston among the first to experience this new insect pest problem.

Within several years it had spread out of London across southern England and into East Anglia and the Midlands. The insect is still spreading and has now reached as far as Cornwall, West Wales and the Scottish borders. However, infestations occurring in the more northerly areas of the country are apparently held in check by cooler summer temperatures not allowing as many generations of the insect and the build-up of pest populations in the canopy.

The tiny adult moths with white and brown barred wings hatch in late April from pupae which



TOP LEFT: Horse chestnut 2.
Red flowering horse chestnut

LEFT: Horse chestnut 3. Adult leaf miner moths aggregating on the trunk for mating in late April

TOP RIGHT: Horse chestnut 3A. Tiny adult leaf miner moths are hardly visible to the naked eye

MIDDLE RIGHT: Horse chestnut 3B. Canopies affected by leaf miner gradually dry out and brown from the bottom up through the summer months

BELOW RIGHT: Horse chestnut 3C. Mined areas of horse chestnut leaves are white and bleached like at first



have overwintered in fallen horse chestnut leaves under and around the tree. Both male and female moths aggregate on the tree trunk where they mate, the females flying to the nearest foliage where eggs are laid on the undersides of the newly emerged horse chestnut leaves. Hatching larvae bore into the leaf and proceed to mine the tissues, systematically eating the chlorophyll-rich palisade and spongy mesophyll packed between the upper and lower epidermis (outer layers) of the leaf.

Mined areas of the leaf initially turn white as if bleached then progressively dry out and turn brown in the sun. Having lost their turgor (pressure exerted by water in living cells), tension and physical integrity they eventually roll up inwards to resemble crisp brown brandy snaps still attached to the tree. Several generations of the pest develop through the spring and summer, especially in southern England, gradually moving up through the canopy to mine unaffected green leaves. The larvae are very small and cannot be seen with the naked eye but if you hold an affected leaf up to the light and view from the underside you will see the insect frass (excreta) deposited by larvae in the mined and bleached area of the leaf.

By August, when trees should still be in full green leaf, the canopy looks as though it has been scorched by fire. Leaf miner is not fatal but brings the green canopy to an early end in late summer thus destroying one of the main reasons why white flowering horse chestnut is preferred and selected over many others as an amenity and landscape tree.

Leaf miner only affects white flowering horse chestnut there being a chemical in the leaves of red flowering horse chestnut, inherited from the red buck-eye parent, which prevents the growth and development of larvae hatching from eggs laid on this tree species.

Bacterial bleeding canker

Bleeding canker caused by several species of *Phytophthora* (a fungus like pathogen) had affected white and red flowering horse chestnuts for many years but was sporadic and slow moving and in no way a threat to trees on a large and long term scale. However, soon after the horse chestnut leaf miner appeared in south west London in 2003 plant pathologists at Forest Research (the research arm of the Forestry Commission) started to find similar bleeding canker

symptoms but on a much larger and wider scale.

The causal pathogen of this new disease was clearly much faster spreading between trees. What's more it moved much more quickly in the bark, rapidly girdling affected main branches and trunks to the extent that full grown horse trees could be dead within several years.

Research finally isolated and identified a bacterium (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*) as the causal pathogen. This had only previously been recorded in India as a very minor leaf spotting problem on Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*). Bacterial bleeding canker is fatal to both white and red flowering horse chestnut trees, the latter apparently more susceptible to infection and succumbing more quickly due to its much thinner and less robust bark.

Bleeding lesions (cankers) with widely spaced drops of yellow-brown, rust-red or even black gummy fluid exuding from affected areas of bark on the stem or branches are usually first symptoms of the disease. At the start of the growing season the ooze is dark coloured but still transparent. As the temperature rises through late spring and early summer more bleeding occurs with increasingly rusty red and cloudy/opaque ooze running down the stem. During dry summers the ooze dries out to leave a dark-coloured and brittle crust near the point of exudation. Bleeding may resume in autumn indicating highest pathogen activity under milder moister conditions.

Bleeding cankers caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* vary widely between trees in extent, frequency and position on the trunk (bole) and/or branches. Most bleeding occurs during mild wet periods during spring and autumn. Ooze may dry up in summer on one side of the tree only, depending on aspect, air temperature and light and heat from the sun. Bleeding cankers may appear anywhere from root flares at the collar to positions high up on the scaffold branches. And especially in the forks of main branches which are ideal traps for the bacterial cells as well as taking longer to dry out after rainfall.

Disease and symptoms are cumulative. Within two to three years the fungus grows through the inner living bark (phloem and cambium) on multiple bleeding cankers which coalesce to girdle the branch or bole, cutting off vital functions above and below. At this point foliage starts to yellow and the crown



BOTTOM LEFT: Horse chestnut 3D. By late summer the leaves are completely dry, brown and rolled up to look like 'brandy snaps'.

LEFT: Horse chestnut 4. Active bacterial bleeding canker on a red flowering horse chestnut tree

ABOVE: Horse chestnut 5. Infections caused by the bacterial bleeding canker pathogen commonly occur in the forks formed between scaffold branches and the trunk



thins out. Large parts of the canopy fail to re-foliate in spring and the remaining leaves yellow and drop prematurely as the tree dies.

Affected trees become 'stag-headed' and may require severe pruning or felling in sensitive situations. Horse chestnut wood is inherently soft, moist and fractures easily when compromised. Dead phloem (inner bark) will show as a watery orange brown necrosis distinctly mottled and zoned and the wood (xylem) underneath may have stained blue black. Fungal mycelium visible under dead and dying bark is usually that of the honey fungus (*Armillaria*) invading diseased and weakened horse trees as a secondary pathogen. *Armillaria* can attack healthy trees to cause stem bleeding but only as a root or collar invader.

Bacterial bleeding canker can now be found on horse chestnut trees throughout the United Kingdom including Scotland.

Advice to greenkeepers

First realistic advice to greenkeepers is not to plant anymore white and red flowering horse chestnuts. Leaf miner which doesn't affect red flowering horse chestnut and is not fatal to white flowering horse chestnut is not an insurmountable problem but at the moment bacterial bleeding canker essentially is and for both white and red flowering horse chestnut trees.

Diagnostic kits called Lateral Flow Devices are available to determine whether bleeding canker symptoms are in fact caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* or less pressing and serious *Phytophthora* pathogens. A positive result indicates the presence of a *Phytophthora* while a negative result, by default, is strongly indicative of bacterial bleeding canker. All trees including horse chestnuts may sometimes exhibit stem bleeding which has nothing to do with disease.

Greenkeepers should not preemptively fell healthy trees but certainly check horse chestnut trees mainly for bacterial bleeding canker but also leaf miner throughout the year every year. There is no immediate need to fell a tree showing bleeding canker symptoms because there is strong evidence to suggest that some trees are overcoming infections by vigorous production of bark wound tissue which surrounds, isolates and eliminates the infection.

Trees showing early signs of disease and indeed healthy ones may benefit from specific management

practices, in addition to good all round tree care. This includes use of soil de-compaction to alleviate physiological stress and the application of phosphonates which are fertilizers with claimed additional disease protection benefits through inducing trees to produce natural anti-fungal and anti-bacterial chemicals.

However, these chemicals do exist as dedicated fungicide products approved for use in plant nurseries and other situations but not on horse chestnut trees in amenity and landscape situations. Greenkeepers wishing to utilise the fertiliser benefits of phosphonates to bolster tree growth, health and protection should consult their supplier or a professional arborist to make sure they stay within current PSD guidelines.

Trees with active bacterial bleeding canker, and especially those with advanced symptoms including branch die-back, should be monitored carefully and be pruned or even felled accordingly.

Leaf miner infestations occurring year after year clearly weaken trees and almost certainly reduce the amount and quality of fruit and seed (conkers). However, leaf miner infestations are not fatal unless associated with something else that is. Individual trees can be protected to a large extent by clearing up and destroying all shed horse chestnut tree leaves in autumn. With no dead leaves under or around the tree there are no pupae for continuity of pest infestations into the following spring and summer.

The pest will invariably return but can be kept at minimum levels by clearing up and destroying fallen autumn leaves every year. Burning the leaves is the quickest and safest option providing it does not infringe Environment Agency Regulations. Greenkeepers unable to or not wanting to burn leaves for whatever reason can make sure all pupae are killed by deep layer composting, the leaves achieving a sufficiently high temperature during rotting to kill any leaf miner pupae inside.

Those who still want to plant horse chestnuts could do worse than trying Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*), a tree similar in size and stature to white flowering horse chestnut and with equally beautiful blossoms.



ABOVE: Horse chestnut 6. Horse chestnut wood is already inherently weak and infections with bacterial bleeding canker can cause major tree failure

RIGHT: Horse chestnut 7. Advanced infection with major bark cracking, sloughing and loss on a red flowering horse chestnut tree

BELOW: Horse chestnut 8. Leaf miner and bacterial bleeding canker significantly reduce both the yield and quality of 'conkers'



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For 2013, several exhibitors have taken the decision to increase their stand space. Bayer have followed this encouraging route as they plan launch a new product at the show.

Claire Matthewman, Product Manager at Bayer, said: "We are looking to maximise publicity for the new product and believe that BTME is the best platform to kick-start our launch campaign.

"We're also hoping to demonstrate a new iPad App which is designed to help greenkeepers and groundsmen to identify turf weeds, diseases and insects so we're really looking forward to it."

Amazone have extended their stand space for BTME 2013, and Groundcare Sales Manager Joe Weston said: "It's our annual shop window to advertise our products

to golf clubs and the turf market as a whole, we simply couldn't afford to miss it."

Farmura Managing Director Jonathan Harmer struck up a new business relationship at BTME 2006, and says: "If you're in the golf business you have to be there, it's as simple as that." He urges you to attend the event in 'The Back Nine' article on page 68.

We're also pleased to welcome some brand new exhibitors to BTME 2013 including John Nicholson Associates, George Interiors, Greentek (associated with True Surface), Sustain Natural Fertilizer and Spectrum Technologies (associated with Enviro Monitors), Ceres Turf, British Sugar Topsoil, Creative Golf Designs, Nomix Enviro and Art 4 Golf.



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Section Notes

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Around The Green

Scottish Region



North

As I write this report the weather has been slightly better – I'm hopeful we will get a good dry spell before winter comes in. I am pleased to say the north section retained the Norrie Whytock trophy so well done and I'm hopeful we can retain it next year.

Also we got the trades final played at Hazelhead and the Greenkeepers beat Tullochs by 11 holes so well done George Mitchell, Doug Elrick, Dennis Grant and myself first time since 1999 so well done boys.

The results for the autumn outing will be in the next report and lets hope we will have a good day and hopeful the weather will be good.

That's it for this month.

Kind Regards

Ross Macrae

e mail ross.macrae@hotmail.com mob 07588896635



Central

I start off this month's report with the sad news of Joe Oliver's death. Joe just recently retired as Head Greenkeeper at Pitreavie GC in Dunfermline although he had been ill for some time before he retired. He was at Glenberrie for many years and latterly spent close on 25 years at Pitreavie.

He was instrumental in setting up the Central Section (SIGGA) and was the first section Chairman in 1980. A large number of people from the

industry attended his funeral service where the Captain of the golf club spoke, just two points which demonstrate the high regard he was held in and our thoughts go out to his family.

Section members were also sorry to hear recently of the sudden death of Stan Zontek who was well known to so many of them from the numerous presentations he gave to the section while holidaying in the area.

Many members from the section have been out and about this past month. A few course managers from the area enjoyed a great trip to Berlin over a weekend for the launch of some new products developed by Weidenmann and their thanks go to David Rae and Mikey James for arranging that. It was great to see how a relatively small company has built itself up over the years and the investment they put into research to develop their equipment.

Greenkeepers have also been to the fore in helping out at some key events across the globe including the US Womens Open at Blackwolf Run, the Swiss Open at Crans-Sur-Sierre while Steve Chappell and Lee Strutt were in Medinah to help with the Ryder Cup. And that just after Steve held a very successful tournament over the PGA course at Gleneagles where the last Ryder Cup places in the European side were decided.

Spaces for the one-day irrigation courses on 12 December are filling up fast and we are limited to 20 people with course fees required to confirm your place. The pairs competition has reached the final stage where Leven players Kevin Webster and Paul Armour take on Kenny Mitchell and Scott Mackintosh from St Andrews. The results of the Piperdam outing are on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk <<http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk>> and will appear on the next addition of around the green.

Gordon



East

We had another successful Willie Woods Tournament at Mortonhall GC on Wednesday 21 August. A big thank you goes to Tom Mowbray (Club Captain) and the committee for hosting the event for us for two years in a row now. Thanks also go to David Fraser (Course Manager) and his excellent staff as the course was in top condition for us - well done lads!

The results are as follows:

Winners: Sean Cunningham, Colin McArthur

Runners Up: Scott Corrigan, Gordon Thompson

Third: Lachlan Imrie, Stuart Clayton

A huge congratulations to Sean and Colin for making it a third consecutive win, I do not believe this has been done before in the tournament's history! Scott and Gordon gave you a run for your money but you held on well done! The tournament was sponsored by Henderon Grass Machinery Ltd, and thanks to Robin Duncan for the presentation after the evening meal.

On a less positive note Graham Wood was admitted to the ERI following fluid on his lung, that has been treated- we wish him all the best and hope he gets back to Roodlands very soon.

On a final note, Congratulations goes to Jamie Martin and his wife on becoming parents for the first time with a new baby boy called Callum - another Greenkeeper in the making!

Stewart Crawford

s.crawford@live.co.uk

Northern Region



Northern

Afternoon all, I wish to start my notes by way of an apology to my fellow greenkeepers from the Sheffield section, once again my sense of humour has offended and I'm truly sorry for this. I realise that not everyone knows me and what I'm about which is understandable as I'm from Barnsley! The comments are not in personal way and were only put as banter, sorry again.

We had the pleasure of playing and chopping up Horsforth golf club for our Autumn golf event last month and a great day was had by all, our massive thanks to Andy and his chaps for a fantastically presented course and the club itself for the courtesy shown to us. In fact all my dealings from day one have been excellent, a very friendly welcoming golf club truly first class. Also Tito and Glen from Masstock and Rigby Taylor for a outstanding prize table, once again boys your generous sponsorship is fantastic. To finish the day off was the tucker, my god there was enough food to go round again, lovely food ,great service great company thank you all guys for supporting the section. Fitting it was though Mr Baxter and his playing partner Mr Stokes cleaning up his own prize table with a winning score of 44 points! Second place was Mr Davies and Mr Potter with 41 points and third was Alan Baxter and Mr Dixon with 40. Glen also won the longest drive but gladly gave up the prize to the runner up which was me! The nearest pin prize was won by Mr Liddle. The day was a total success with Ben Jackson from Scarborough managing to get in

and out of the car park without hitting anybody's car.

Looking forward to the next gig at Halifax golf club already, which we will have had our AGM and hopefully got the fixtures for next year for you.

And finally Mike Brier from Rigby Taylor has got a little trip planned to PB Kents fertiliser in November if anybody is interested, the day will be subsidised by the section and we are looking in to a local site for a pick up point. Limited places so please let me no if you want to pop along.

Cheers chaps once again nearly forgot to mention the slight cock up with the raffle at Horsforth, sorry our little oversight, won't happen again.

Andy Slingsby
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Sheffield

We reach the end of another golfing year and the presumably hard winter is about to set in once again, as I write these notes I have been reminded once again that we are due for a beautiful

September. I hope this comes true for us all because we certainly deserve it after the so-called summer we have had. It is years like this when we hope that some of the recognition for what us greenkeepers achieve is finally seen by golfers and committees.

I'm sure many of you will be aware that Derek Neve has finally put away the mower and is set to for a wonderful retirement after a very long and successful career in the industry. Derek has been Course Manager at Brough GC for many years now, it's that many that I can't work it out to put a figure down! Derek has also been a very strong supporter of our section over the years and was a popular face that many could speak to and ask for a little bit of advice now and again. I know that everyone at Brough has given Derek a terrific send off and we at Sheffield will hope to do the same soon. I would on behalf of the section like to wish Derek a wonderful retirement.

On the section front we are

close to organising several events over the winter months and all members will be informed of these events soon. The Northern region conference will this year be held in our section at Phoenix Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 9 November this is a full day conference with a wide range of speakers covering a host of subjects. All attendees will get tea and coffee throughout the day and dinner will be provided. All this can be yours for the minimal amount of £10. I hope to see many of our section attending as it will be a very insightful day for whatever level you are at. If anyone requires further information then please get in touch.

I also recently attended a Northern region meeting (on a Saturday) and I am pleased to say it was a very successful meeting. BIGGA HQ has now reorganised staffing and is working on a lot of fantastic new ideas that will benefit all members. It was also pleasing to see that many ideas from members are being listened to and considered at management level, so if you do have anything to say or any ideas then please get in touch.

Last but not least I must make an apology. In my haste I missed out some congratulations over the last few months, for both our spring and summer comps I missed out the winners in the magazines. Congratulations to Neil Peters who was the winner of both competitions - well done Neil. I must apologise for the mistake and can someone have a look at his handicap.

That is all from me, I hope to hear from some of you soon.

Jim
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com
07738719614



North West

Not much has happened in the section or so it seems as no-one is contacting me. We played the North Wales section at Lymm and after a really good match we managed a very rare win. The North Wales lads as always were very sporting and a good day was had by all. Stuart Yarwood the course manager at Lymm was fantastic and took a number of the players up to his

offices and gave us the grand tour including compost corner. All in all it was a great day.

The Whitelaw bowl was played at the Penrith golf club on 12 September and once again, a great day was had by all. The rain stopped and the sun came out. Many thanks to Penrith golf club for their hospitality and use of their fantastic course, also thanks go to Phil Dewhurst and Rigby Taylor for organising and sponsoring this event.

The winners are as follows;

William Whitelaw bowl - Mike Crabtree; runner up Peter Hogan; Category 2 winner Steve Moyes; runner up was Chris Sheehan. The nearest the pin and the longest drive was won by Grant Docherty. The next tournament is the AGM and Bert Cross trophy at the Wilmshlow golf club on Thursday 15 November. Please contact Phil Dewhurst if you wish to attend, if you are attending please bring a bottle or prize to the value of £5.00 so everyone goes home with something.

Chris Sheehan



Midland Region

Firstly, I would like to thank Ed for composing last month's excellent notes, beautifully written, I think? With 'I think' in-mind, shall we have another instalment of 'The Marcus Chronicles' (16 year old trainee). It's 'Sean...Sean...Sean...' every two minutes. I made the fundamental error of stating that "there is no such thing as a stupid question", but omitted what in hindsight should have followed, "so long as such is of relevance and not completely random".

Yet, when the question is answered or the process required explained the response is inevitable and delivered with such certitude "I know". Such presents my strange mind with the 'thought' of, if you know why ask the question and also with this knowledge how come the task is not fully completed? I shall let the man work it out for himself, we were all 16 once upon a time and perhaps wish we were again. So just like my mother use to say "I'm changing my name", so am I. Please don't tell Marcus. The chap's doing

well and brings a freshness to a team of a load of old fogies.

The belated summer tournament was held at Oxley Park Golf Club on Wednesday 5th September. The course was presented beautifully by the Head Greenkeeper Ian Holborn and his team, congratulations to you on a job well done. The results from the day were as follows:

1 Nett A Brougham 35pts; 2 M Cutler 34pts; 3 S Thompson 32pts; 4 C Woodall 32pts; 5 E Stant 31pts. Best Gross: E Stant. The 4 nearest the pins on the day were won by S Thompson x2, E Stant and M Chamberlain.

Many thanks to all our sponsors on the day, especially Peter Lacey and Farmura Environmental who sponsored the main prize table. Also many thanks to Sherriff Amenity who provided the drinks and chocolate at the half way house and Sherriffs again along with Whitemoss who provided the nearest the pin prizes.

We have two events coming up in October to look out for. Firstly our Autumn education day which is being held at the fabulous Forest of Arden on Wednesday 24th October. This event is provided by Headland Amenity Products which will prove to be a fascinating day's education, provided by one of the leading innovators in the field of speciality fertilisers and turf management products. Details of the day will be on the website, so please register an interest with Nia Lisseter on 07747 686526.

Our Autumn Golf Tournament and AGM is the following day on Thursday 25th October, a week after the published date on the calendar and fixture card, due to a clash of dates. Please get your entries into Gary Cunningham or Rhys Thomas by post or phone. The venue of Druids Heath Golf Club is an ideal central location to many and it would be nice to see as many greenkeepers as possible on the day.

This month's calendar sponsor is our old friends North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for both your irrigation and drainage requirements. They can be contacted on 01785 812706, or visit their website at www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk.

So what's the photograph that graces this month's calendar page? It's been named "Shaun the sheep" for obvious reasons. It was taken by my own lucky

Around The Green

finger, and has been awarded winner of 2012's photo comp with the prize of a very nice bottle of champers. If you wish to be in with a chance of a very nice tittle and indeed the prestige of having your photo published in our excellent calendar for 2013, please send you entries to, via email: rabforevergreen@gmail.com , or preferably send a disc to: Mr R. Beacham. 49 Eastwood Drive, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 2LY. I feel that our thanks must go to both the sponsors of our section's calendar, and of course our committee. Well done, yet again gentlemen.

The Hoff, totally random dude.



East Midlands

So September has come and gone with some very good weather bringing smiles to the faces of golfers and greenkeepers alike. Rearranged Golf Society days, club invitations and the last of the season's notable club competitions have now passed and our focus is on autumn renovation work in preparation for the end of BST, the onset of frosts and the leaf collecting season. As a nation we do have a reputation for talking about the weather but this year has been so exceptional that absolutely everyone has been banging on about it.

Our annual Par 3 competition sponsored by Rigby Taylor was held at Nailcote Hall and won by 'Team Committee',,,hmmmm. As a section we are very grateful to Carl Chamberlain for organising this event and putting in the time and effort to set it up and offer a very generous prize table. With this in mind it is such a shame that it was again poorly supported by the greenkeepers of the section. This did include me admittedly, but the numbers for events are rapidly dwindling, although I am hoping that workloads will afford people the time to attend more events next year.

As I'm sure you will have read in GI, one of our East Midlands members Tom Flavell won the very prestigious Toro Student of The Year competition. This is

an incredible achievement for Tom and on behalf of the section I would like to congratulate him.

In next month's notes I will be able to report on our AGM and the Autumn Competition at Glen Gorse Golf Club and also my annual fortnight's holiday which is long overdue. So until then I bid you farewell.....

Greg Skinner
07970 095264



East Of England

Our most recent golf day was held on August 2nd at Belton Woods. The day was kindly sponsored by TORO with Nigel Lovatt and Chris Sellars once again putting on an excellent day. Sandra and Tracey from BIGGA were also in attendance, Tracey joined in the golf competition while Sandra watched the Olympics...I mean assisted with the running of the day!

The results of the day were as follows

1st	Rob Welford
2nd	Rob Bemment
3rd	Ben Lowery
Trade	Ian Collett
Nearest Pin	Roy Brittan
Longest Drive	Rob Bemment

The course was presented in excellent condition by Angus and his staff and the hospitality in the clubhouse afterwards was excellent.

Once again thanks to everyone at Belton Woods and TORO for an excellent day.

Many congratulations from the section are due to Angus MacLeod as he has now actually left the section to take up the prestigious role of Course Manager at The Belfry. When he said at the end of our day at Belton Woods that he looked forward to welcoming us all again we will now certainly be holding him to the offer!

Congratulations this month also go to Rob Welford of Cleethorpes Golf Club. He has won a place in the World Finals of the Audi Quattro Cup in South Africa in December this year. All the best wishes from the section in your endeavours out there.

Congratulations also go to Rob Bemment of Immingham

Golf Club who is part of the team from Immingham that have won through to the National Finals of the annual Mail on Sunday golf competition. They are now one win away from a trip to Portugal. Again best wished from the section to him too.

Looks like we could be clocking up some air miles this winter! All the best for the onset of the autumn.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



North Wales

We are well and truly heading into autumn; I can already see the leaves turning colour and the addition of a backpack blower to the setting up tools also bears witness to the seasonal change. Talking of the oncoming season the autumn tournament was played at St. Melyd GC on 11 September and the results are;

1st Kieran Graham and Paul Sandals 39pts; 2nd Charlie and Colin Jackson 37; 3rd Paul Roberts and Chris Stewart 36pts; nearest the pin Andy Darlly. Only 24 played which was such a shame as an immaculate course with good weather and an excellent meal thanks to St. Melyd for the hospitality they showed us big thank you to Eifion Ellis and Jacob for the excellent condition of the course.

Please note Christmas tournament is on 21st November at Oswestry golf club not the 7th December as posted on our fixture cards. Northern region seminar will be held on November 7th all details will be available soon.

In other news Garry Hugget has moved from selling Textron at John Osman groundscare to still selling Textron at Burrows groundscare with a new stomping ground around the North West area. He has also been chosen to play for the Welsh senior, that's two consecutive years an accomplishment of which I know he is exceedingly proud.

I think that's about enough for now or I'll have nothing to write about next month, although I do keep hoping to hear from you about your news, contact details

follow as usual.

Pete Maybury. e-mail petemayb66@aol.com phone 07756001187 also keep logged into our section Facebook group "North Wales B.I.G.G.A"

South East Region



Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Temple Golf Club played host to this year's BB&O Tacit Cup. The event was well supported by the section with a considerable number of trade representatives. With the talk of sustainability in the industry at the moment it was interesting to play and see first-hand a course managed in such a way.

Conditions were blustery and windswept although it stayed dry! The long rough also meant scoring proved challenging.

Results: Keith May (The Berkshire) 34 points; Mark Green (The Berkshire) 33; Matt Short (Sand Martin) 30; Phil Beeny (JSM) 29 and Richard Fortmuller fifth also with 29 on countback.

Simon Mallock won nearest the pin with a thundering tee shot on the 8th and Graham Down smashed his tee shot on the 12th to take the longest drive. The guys from the Berkshire produced a strong showing on the day taking four of the top seven places. It was nearly a clean sweep with the longest walk prize going to apprentice Anthony Myles!

Johnny Beck of Sherriff Amenity provided some much welcomed refreshments at the 13th Hole assisted by the Midlands new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper who has replaced Peter Larter.

Congratulations to Keith and Mark who go forward and will represent the Section at Irvine Golf Club in the BIGGA National Championships.

Our thanks must go to all the staff at Temple who did a fantastic job of catering and looking after everyone on the day and to Tacit for their continued support and association with the BB&O section. The support

and commitment shown by our sponsors is greatly appreciated and without them the golf days could not happen. Full results can be viewed at www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

The next Section golf day is the Christmas Turkey Trot. Dates, entry form, jobs and information can be found on the BB&O website.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch at bboscribe@gmail.com or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: bbosecretary@gmail.com

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the website.

The Stick

East Anglia



So, we all set foot on a golf course very few of us could remember playing. Must be 20 years since we last played Royal Norwich Golf Club and what a treat it was. The course was in top condition thanks to Mark Dingell and his team. The catering team also played their part, as did the weather for a change.

The main sponsors of the day were Ben Burgess. Unfortunately, the halfway house went missing but it didn't spoil our day! The prizes were presented by Stewart Edge (from Ben Burgess) to the following desperadoes.

1 - 10 Handicap: 1 Michael Buck 40 points; 2 Richard Plummer 34 (on countback from his dad - and he also pipped Roger for nearest the pin on the 9th. What a ride home that must have been!)

11 - 19 Handicap: 1 Andy Baker 36; 2 John Andrews 33

20 - 28 Handicap: 1 Ian 'The Maestro' Willett 38; 2 Steve Freestone

Trade & Guest: 1 Graham Kemp 2 T Mills

Nearest The Pin: 1st Reg Claydon; 9th Richard Plummer (still raking bunkers); 12th Mick Pryke

Longest Drive: 18th Graham Hurran

Other loyal supporters were Bartram Mowers, Toro, Headland, Aitkens, Scotts and Rigby Taylor. Incidentally, if anyone brings prizes could you please let Ian, or me know so that we can include you all in the notes.

Thank you Royal Norwich for a super day. Hope it's not 20 years until the next time - I'll only be 84!

Pause for thought:-

It may be comforting to now that it's not only greenkeepers that suffer the 'committee syndrome'. Groundsmen get it as well. A friend of mine was overruled on a job he was doing (they knew best!)

Surprise, surprise - it went wrong and he got the blame for it. I asked him how many were on the committee and he said "six". I said that's your problem mate, a committee should always be an odd number and three are too many!

There was also a Bartrams Day at Eaton and about 50 souls turned up. Quite an eventful day and we were all pleased to hear that Danny Lake, Bartrams equivalent to 'Del Boy' became a father the day before - well done mate.

In the next breath, we were remembering our dear friend Norman Fenwick who sadly passed away the week before. We shall miss him a lot - a true gent and a first class greenkeeper.

He would always have a laugh - sometimes a translator would have been handy (that's rich coming from me, but you know what I mean!)

I'm sure his skills would have been passed on to the youngsters at Purdis and they will remember them, and him, forever. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this sad time.

I was going to give the scores for the Bartrams Day, but it just seems a bit irrelevant, except to say it was a good day and we all raised a glass for the man who was missing.

Mick Lathrope



Mid Anglia



Hope you are all well and enjoying the dry weather we are experiencing in September which is making a nice change, allowing many to get their greens renovations completed after a very difficult wet season. I hear that the fairways etc are at last starting to slow down and have even seen signs of drought stress which never seemed likely a few months ago.

2012 has been the wettest summer in 100 years and 2nd wettest since records began. I am sure that you are all well ahead of the game and have applied Fungicide to help prevent the onslaught of Fusarium which will be rearing itself around the time of year... prevention is definitely better than cure so along with all the correct cultural measures a preventative programme is really essential to keep your greens disease and scar free for the rest of the season and beyond.

I hope that you have all received your application forms from Gerald for the Autumn Golf Day and AGM at Verulam GC on October 25th. If you haven't and would like to enter please email me for a copy of the application form. Once again the entry fee is only £15, exceptional value for money, so hope to see as many of you there as possible as it's sure to be a great day. So come on dust down the sticks and join us.

I would like to make you all aware of an amazingly loyal servant to greenkeeping and Mid Anglia Section - Mr Peter Robinson Head Greenkeeper at Knebworth GC. He's reached an amazing milestone in achieving an unbelievable 50 years of greenkeeping service to the club after starting out as a 15-year-old in 1962. This is a feat that I doubt will ever be repeated and can announce that as he loves his job so much has taken the option to stay on for another three years. Well Done Peter you are a credit to the industry.

Lastly please let me know of any news worthy or events at your clubs so we can help spread the word. Darren.

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com

Kent



Afternoon everyone and autumnal greetings.

Now that summer is well and truly behind us and the sun starts to fade work continues in earnest with our seasonal renovations and construction programmes.

That is if you can fit it in between leaf sweeping!

The shifting daylight hours and consequent dark mornings are a timely reminder of all the mower headlights we promised ourselves we would fix before the inevitable resultant extended putting surfaces.

Our Summer Pairs Knockout competition is still going and some great matches have been enjoyed by all entrants. See the website for up to the minute results.

Also, by the time you read this we shall have played our autumn event at Boughton Golf Club so read results here next month or on website if you can't wait that long!

The football season is in full flow again and my spare time is occupied totally by running my three kids to their matches all over the south east putting my ever-elusive low-teens golf handicap out of reach for yet another year. I wouldn't have it any other way though. You can't beat seeing the honest passion kids put into their football week in week out.

Don't forget our annual shindig/Turkey Trot/AGM at the pristine fairways of Redliffs on the 29th November. I know that's a few weeks off yet but please make a note in your diaries for what, in my opinion, is the highlight of the year.

Please call me if you have any news for this column, including any personal achievements or news from your clubs.

Don't forget to call me if you need any additional help over the winter with any of your projects. Again, see website for details of services on offer.

Best of British
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Assistant Profile

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



Name: Anthony Stockwell
Age: 24
Club: The London Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Stocky

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 5 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? I love golf and anything practical in nature

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? Teacher

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Hand watering to try and create as consistent surface as possible

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Hand watering with soggy boots!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Further improvement in training and education for all

7. Hobbies? Spending time with my family and 2 dogs

8. Favourite Band? Supergrass

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? My hometown Woking FC

10. What is your claim to fame? I beat Monty in a recent putting challenge

Sussex



The Summer Tournament was recently held at Pyecombe Golf Club, but unfortunately it was once again poorly attended. The results were... well, well, well:

1st place - Dave Allen, Rich Evans, Pete Smith

2nd place - Matt Hutchinson, Chris Ahier, D Burchell

3rd place - Nigel Everett, Pete Crossley, Mel Ward

The longest drive went to John Cole from John Shaw Machinery. It was the only fairway John found. Nearest the pin was won by Dave Hinks and the longest drive on the 9th to Larry Lamb Pearman. Well done everyone! Many, many thanks to Mark Day from Tacit who were our sponsors for the day. Once again Mark provided brilliant prizes. Our thanks also go to Pyecombe Golf Club for their wonderful hospitality and great food.

The next event will take place on Thursday, 11th October at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club with tee times starting at 11:50. The cost will be £19 per head. All enquiries should be sent to Competition Secretary, Pete Smith at pds@btinternet.com. I would personally like to welcome Pete to our section. I know he will bring some great ideas from his previous section where he was Chairman and Treasurer.

Our AGM will be held at the Dyke Golf Club on Thursday, 29th November. A nine hole competition has been organised with tee times from 12 noon and the AGM commencing at 2:30pm. Rob Hudson has arranged both the golf and a buffet tea at no charge to our members.

I would once again ask all in the Sussex Section to drop me line, ring me or email me with any news of interest to the section. Let's hear your news!

Cheers for now,

Eric Green

Beauport Park Golf Club

01424-214600

07805-024001

TheGreens837@aol.com

Surrey



Monday September 17. I have not been recently to the Isle of Wight but have used the time in not going to finish building my home made wooden gazebo. The builders are in making lots of dust converting our separate WC into an en suite shower room for our second bedroom and also refitting our bathroom. All donations to the make Brian's Dorking property liveable will be very gratefully received. The front garden now needs some turf so I hereby apologise to any local club that loses a small part of one of their greens, my gardener has only recently been released on probation.

That is it for this month for no-one out there in greenkeeper land has contacted me with any news but in next month's edition there will be a full report on the match between Surrey, Essex and Sussex at Lingfield Park GC and Surrey greenkeepers v the Reps at Richmond GC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any advice or news as my Tacit mobile phone no continues to be 07879474038 or by email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

Brian Willmott

South West & Wales Region

South Wales



Good morning all, firstly apologies for missing last month's deadline not to be missed again! How fantastic and inspirational has the last eight weeks been with the Olympic and Paralympic games. I have never seen so many people enthusiastic and uplifted by some many sports. For me being a grown man jumping out of my seat

watch us win gold in the dressage competition unbelievable! There wasn't a dry eye left in the house when our British hero Jonny Peacock beat his sporting hero Oscar Pistorius in the 100m Paralympic final.

Back to greenkeeping the last eight weeks for us have followed exactly what we've had all year. No consistent temperature, multi weather fronts coming through - how can any of us plan end of season renovations and preparations for all our finals events! When times like these come around ie tighter budgets and not being able to prepare our courses the way we know how, we all need to stick together. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call your neighbouring golf club ask to borrow bits and pieces, and pick each others brains because between us we can prevail.

Team Match results

North Wales 3 South Wales 1 - thank you to sponsors Countrywide and Farmura Environmental.

South Wales 4 South West 2 - again thank you sponsors Countrywide and Farmura Environmental.

Thanks also to all patrons of the section, without your support prizes and events like these couldn't take place thank you.

Our Next Event

October 11th at Clyne Golf Club AGM starts at 11am followed by golf at 1pm. Please guys book this time in your calendars and try and support the AGM to air your views and support section golf event.

October 26th St Pierre Golf Club our inaugural South Wales Dinner and Dance will take place. Many tables have been taken by patrons and other sections - if you would like a table please contact Gareth Knight 07595988512 to reserve your place.

Many thanks for reading any news or views please contact me at any time.

Kind Regards

Peter H

Section Notes

Please email your notes to steve.castle@bigga.co.uk by the 15th of the month

Devon and Cornwall



We now have all dates and venues confirmed for this upcoming season of events. All events will be advertised on the BIGGA website and in the GI magazine. Fixture lists will be sent out to all members. If you have not received one, then please contact me.

Please make sure that all your contact details are up to date with BIGGA HQ, this year we plan to reduce our costs by only emailing details of events to our members. If you are not receiving invites to our events, then please contact BIGGA with up to date contact details.

Our first meeting is at East Devon GC on Thursday 11 October. Paul Newcombe, Course Manager, has made some significant changes to the course in the last few years and has agreed to do a short presentation to the attendees explaining why these changes have been made. Paul will be leading a Course walk for those who are not playing golf. Golfers will be playing for the "Don Hunt" Trophy and Avoncrop Amenity and Sibelco will be sponsoring the Event. Our Section AGM will be held at the end of the day's events. This will be a very interesting and enjoyable meeting at one of our best courses in the Section. Please contact me asap if you wish to attend.

Our November event will be held at Bowood GC, Cornwall, on Wed 7th November. Rob Cook, Course Manager, is a regular attendee at our meetings and has worked hard to improve the surfaces at Bowood. Golfers will be playing for the "Bayer Cup" and the day will be sponsored by Bayer Environmental and Sports Metals. Again, please contact me asap to secure a place at the event.

Look forward to seeing you all at our events!

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

BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

Scotland

John Marshall, West Section
Andrew McDonald, West Section

Northern Region

Jamie Baggley, North West Section
Jack Butterworth, North West Section
Aaron De'Avalon, North Wales Section
Gwyndaf Lewis, North Wales Section
Christopher Pinkney, Northern Section
Stephen Smith, North East Section

Midland Region

Kristian Allen, Midland Section
Stephen Ball, Midland Section
Tom Coulson, Midland Section
Nigel Green, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
William Green, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Adam Hallifax, Midland Section
Liam Harris, Mid Anglia Section
Sharon Morris, East Midland Section
James Percy, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Jamie Wright, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section

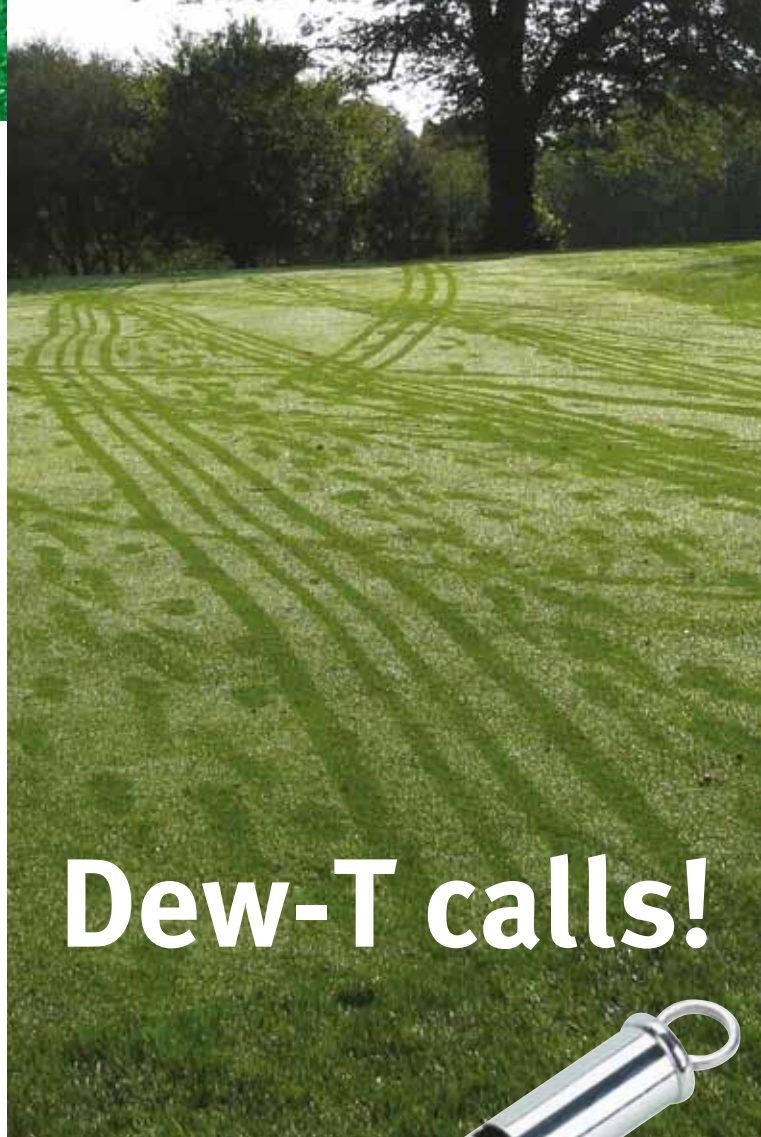
South East Region

Tom Emmence, Sussex Section
Paul Fagg, Kent Section
Oliver Hook, Kent Section
Ivor Isted, Surrey Section
Carl McCreath, East Anglia Section
Craig Peterson, Surrey Section
Alasdair Spence, Kent Section

South West/South Wales Region

Ian Barnett, South Wales Section
Philip Bowler, South Coast Section
Jon Funnell, Devon & Cornwall Section
Phill Hughes, Surrey Section
Daniel Partridge, South Coast Section
Adam Rogers, Surrey Section
Joseph Sexton, Surrey Section
Stephen Springthorpe, South West Section
Tim Vines, Surrey Section
Sean Welch, South Coast Section
Adam Young, South West Section

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



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Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
OCTOBER			
October 11th	Midland Region – Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day	Greetham Valley Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
October 11th	Devon & Cornwall Section Don Hunt Trophy & AGM	East Devon Golf Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or Email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
October 16th	East Anglia Golf Day	Ely City Golf Club	Ian Willett Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
October 17th	Northern Region Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day	Bingley St Ives Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
October 18th	BIGGA & GCMA Educational Seminar	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Email: wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com
October 18th	Midland Section Event	Druids Heath Golf Club	Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
October 23rd	East of Scotland NPTC Update	Murrayfield Golf Club Edinburgh	Stuart Ferguson Tel: 07961 630553 or Email: stuferg@btinternet.com
October 25th	Mid Anglia Section Golf Day and AGM	Verulam Golf Club	Richard Saunders Tel: 07773 206553
NOVEMBER			
November 6th	Midland Regional Conference	Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 7th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event Bayer Cup	Bowood Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or Email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
November 7th	Northern Regional Conference	Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 12th	STRI Regional Training – Pests, Weeds & Diseases	Moor Allerton Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 12th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Best Western Gleddoch House Hotel & Golf Spa – West Scotland	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 13th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Moor Allerton Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 13th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Castleknock Hotel & Country Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 14th	South East Regional Conference	Thorpeness Golf & Country Club	Ian Willett Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
November 15th	South West & South Wales Regional Conference	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones Tel: 01454 270850 or Mobile 07841 948110 or Email: jane@bigga.co.uk
November 15th	Midland Region TEAM CHALLENGE	Burton on Trent Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 15th	North West Section Event	Wilmslow Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at Email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director, updates readers on his work within the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) and why the British greenkeeper training structure seems to be now attractive to more countries...



Whilst Britain has battled for many years to have a Government and employer recognised greenkeeping specific education and training structure, we must never be complacent, even though 'our' system is now much sought after especially in golf developing countries

The message therefore is that employers and greenkeepers must continue to work in harmony to maintain standards for greenkeepers

That is why the GTC, through the Home Unions and BIGGA, are an ideal model for other countries to consider

It is now nearly 20 years since I 'left' BIGGA to front the GTC although many have questioned the reasons for two separate organisations, BIGGA and the GTC

A brief reminder is that, whilst BIGGA admirably represents greenkeepers, it is the Home Unions who represent the golfers and golf clubs - the employers

In the main, the Home Unions have traditionally only represented the private members clubs but, as Golf Course Owners Associations have been established to represent the proprietary clubs, the Unions have become very much aware of the need to ensure that all employers are represented when it comes to such matters as greenkeeper training

Here in the UK, in order to achieve Government recognition and, with it, any funding support for training, the industry has to show employer support

The GTC has certainly punched its weight in meetings to ensure greenkeeping has an education, training and qualification structure developed and maintained by the

industry for the industry

In maintaining the National Occupational Standards (NOS), the GTC has an advisory panel with representatives from BIGGA and the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers

The NOS ranges from the basic tasks an apprentice would learn on their first day of employment to the knowledge and skills a competent manager should possess

The NOS can be viewed on the GTC website and it is from the NOS that certificates, qualifications and workshops can be developed

It is this British model that, in my role as Standards Director for the European Greenkeeping Education Unit, I am promoting to other countries looking for advice and guidance

I guess, after many years in the sector, I shouldn't be surprised to learn that, in many countries, the employer representative bodies are nowhere to be seen, leaving any greenkeeper training to the Greenkeeping Association, if there is one!

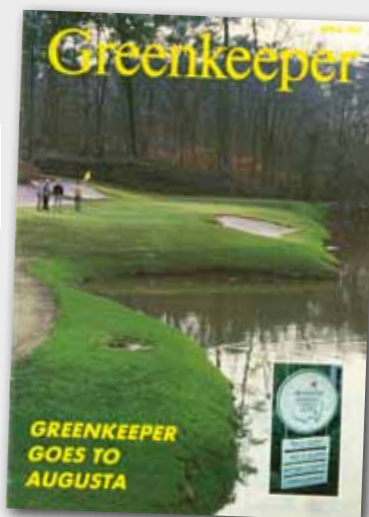
It has to be said that there is still the same commitment from the greenkeepers in many countries to improve the standards of education and training

However, sadly, I have to report that it is a picture all too familiar with the pre-BIGGA days and the restructured GTC in 1993

Prior to the golfer per-capita levy of 2p, introduced by the UK Home Unions and matched by The R&A in 1987, it was through the efforts of many volunteers working tirelessly in the days of the BGGA, SIGGA and EIGGA that thankfully, BIGGA, with professional administration, really came to the fore

Indeed, 1987 was a momentous turning point for greenkeeper training BIGGA was formed and

RIGHT: The 1987 issue of Greenkeeper featured BIGGA's first ever educational event



The GTC is funded by:



the per-capita levy introduced

25 years on, greenkeeper training in Britain still benefits from funding to the GTC by means of annual grants from the three British Home Unions, the PGA, the PGA European Tour, BIGGA, special projects with The R&A and income from the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers

In recent years, we have seen new organisations established to represent the Golf Course Owners and they too, are very important, as the percentage of proprietary clubs has increased in Britain

The GTC and the EGEU will engage with all organisations that have a stake in the standards of greenkeeper training

The education and training options for both golf club employers and greenkeepers in Britain range from work-based to residential, online, seminars, workshops, and conferences, together with tremendous support from those companies with specialist staff, all committed to quality standards

The outcome is that we are now in a position to help our colleagues in the world of greenkeeping and also learn from those countries where there is a structure that works well

Regrettably, these are very few but we must be willing to share best practice and the GTC and EGEU will be doing just that at every opportunity

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

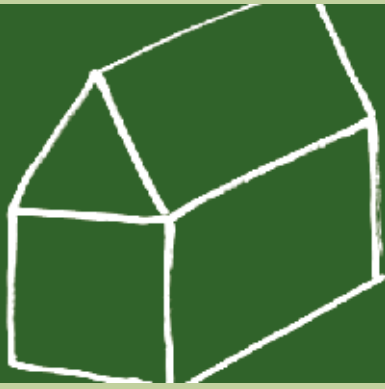
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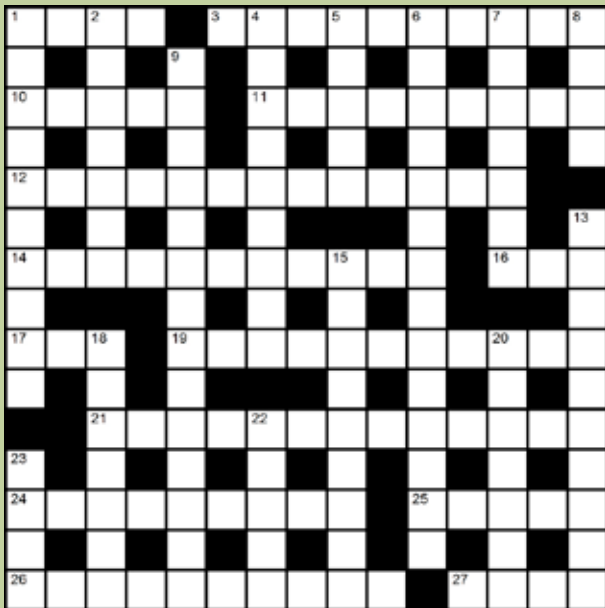
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intheshed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you take a break...

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Globular underground plant stem (4)
- 3 Book used by a philatelist (5,5)
- 10 Become liable to (5)
- 11 Other name of Haile Selassie (3,6)
- 12 Presenter of Gardeners' World from 1979 until his death in 1996 (5,8)
- 14 In full, WC (5,6)
- 16 Fast food chain founded by Colonel Harland Sanders (3)
- 17 Floor mat with deep pile (3)
- 19 US general-interest publisher, quoted as the world's largest (6,5)
- 21 Planned murder of, especially, a public figure (13)
- 24 Issuing forth (from) (9)
- 25 Brand of fine English porcelain and bone china (5)
- 26 French island territory of the West Indies (10)
- 27 Destructive disease of cereal grasses (4)

DOWN

- 1 (Fitting of a) false tooth anchored to adjacent teeth (10)

- 2 Management tactic of barring employees from the workplace until terms are agreed (7)
- 4 Waterproofed canvas (9)
- 5 African people of Kenya and Tanzania (5)
- 6 Presenter of Gardeners' World following the death of 11a (4,10)
- 7 Unconventional youth of the 1950s (7)
- 8 Surname of comedy writer who had a long-standing performing partnership with Denis Norden (4)
- 9 First and most successful single from the 10cc album How Dare You! (3,3,4,4)
- 13 Children's quiz show hosted by Michael Rodd (6,4)
- 15 Making an appearance; embarrassing (7,2)
- 18 Ford car whose third-generation model was re-badged Scorpio (7)
- 20 Type of clothing which is part of the NATO phonetic alphabet (7)
- 22 Town of NW Ireland, birthplace of W B Yeats (5)
- 23 Large mass of floating ice (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1) Where was the first Ryder Cup held? most European teams in the Ryder Cup?
- 2) Which European has played in at least five Ryder Cups without losing a singles match? 7) Whose image is featured on the top of the Ryder Cup trophy?
- 3) Who is the youngest ever Ryder Cup player? 8) Ben Crenshaw snapped his putter in half during a match at the 1987 Ryder Cup. Which two clubs did he use to putt with afterwards?
- 4) Name the only two-time major winner in the last 50 years to have never played in the Ryder Cup. 9) Who has served as a Ryder Cup captain the most times?
- 5) How many majors had Jack Nicklaus won before he played in his first Ryder Cup?
- 6) Which player has featured in the

Quiz compiled by Steve Castle – drop him a line on steve.castle@bigga.co.uk and let him know how you got on!

B	1				A					
	9	6			1	7		2		B
		8	C		2				9	
				B	4	6	A			2
			A		9				3	8
				A	7	6	4		C	
5		C	8	1		B				
A	3						9		B	
2			B	8	4		5			
	7				1		B	6		
8			6		B	9		5	A	
				A					4	9

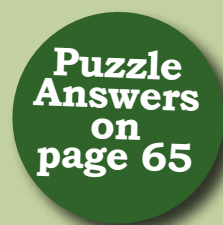
MONSTER SUDOKU

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.

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

SUDOKU

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



Back in time

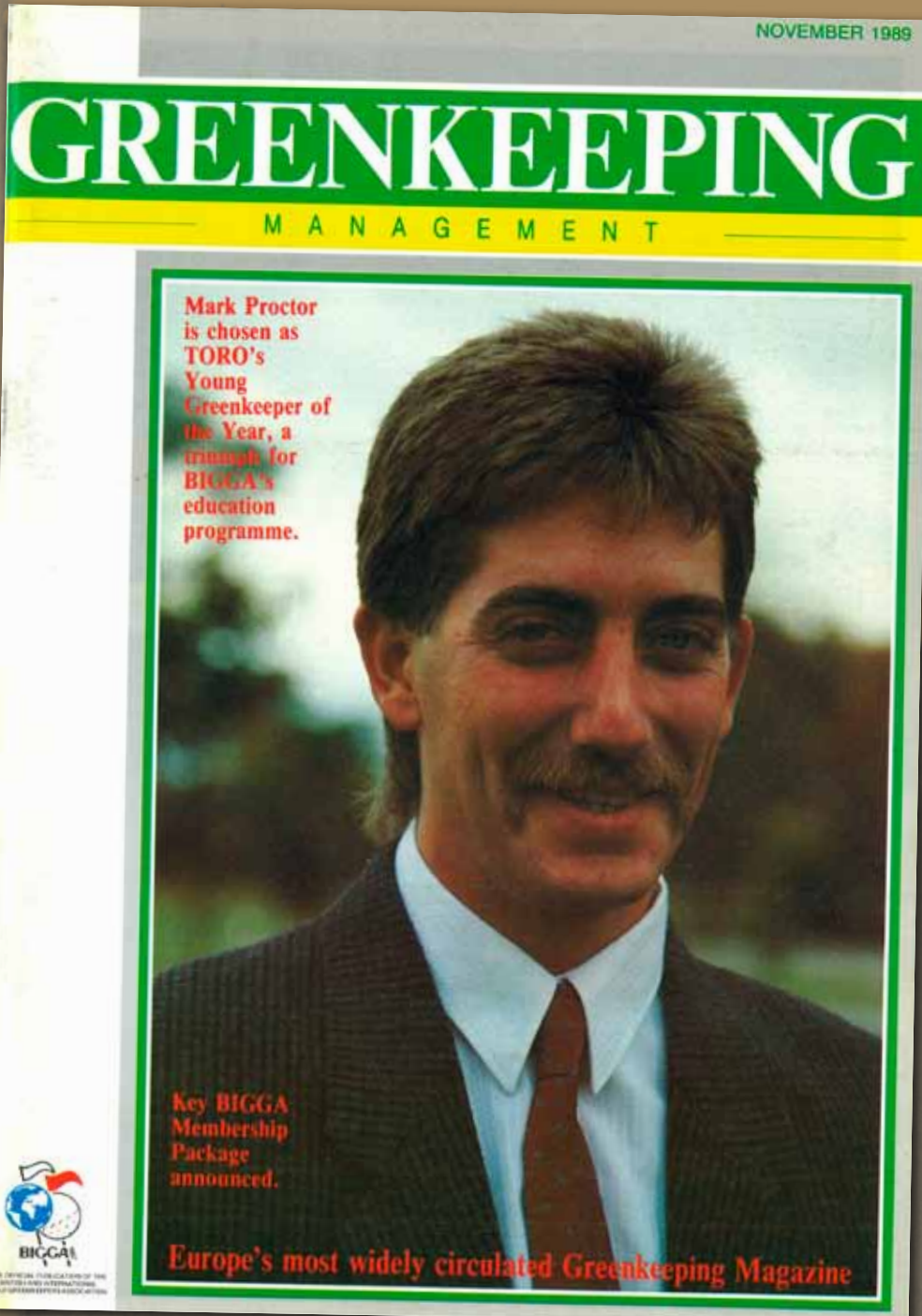
Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Special

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century, but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 is a landmark year, being the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. This month, in another Special Feature, we take a look back at over two decades of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award – and speak to one of the very first winners who explains how his victory gave his fledgling career a huge boost



1989 saw the opening broadcast from little-known satellite TV station Sky, the Church of England vote to allow female ministers to be ordained and Nick Faldo become the first ever English winner of the Masters.

The last year of the eighties also saw the first winner crowned of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year – a delighted Mark Proctor.

The accompanying piece in the November edition of 'Greenkeeping Management' – as this magazine was then known – described how Mark would partake in the 'Winter School for Turf Grass Managers' at the University of Massachusetts.

The article added that Mark was looking forward to his first plane journey, and also tucking into an American 'whopper'!

1992 winner Barry Rhodes was pictured on the front cover with the winner's shield – and the first winner this century was Jonathan Cleland, now Course Manager at Elderslie Golf Club.

Celebrating in 2005 was Alan Pierce – who is now a Master Green-



keeper – and in 2007 the victor was Avon Bridges.

Above all, the long-term success of many of the winners proves that all the finalists have a bright future in greenkeeping.

DAVID NORTON'S STORY

Just three years after winning the 1990 Student Greenkeeper of the Year title, David Norton (main right) was Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry.

This graphically demonstrates the impact the competition can have on a fledgling career.

He was a 21-year-old assistant greenkeeper at Beverley & East Riding Golf Club when he clinched the title, and the following January he headed to the Winter School for Turfgrass Managers course at the University of Massachusetts.

Over two decades on David can still recall the details of the “fantastic” trip stateside – and describes how it played a huge role in both his personal and professional development.

He said: “Firstly I was flattered to be nominated, then on the day of the final I made sure I was honest. I think it’s tempting to say what you think the interviewers want to hear, but I didn’t do that. I tried to give logical answers.

“I was delighted to win it, and the trip to America was fantastic in every way. The educational side was terrific, and the social side was too. I was only 21, it was my first trip to America, and I learnt so much. It stood me in good stead professionally and personally. It genuinely helped me develop as a young adult.

“It also gave my career a big boost. I was offered a job at Mid Yorkshire Golf Club in Pontefract off the back of it, which I accepted, and I then applied for a job at Gleneagles.

“Technically, I didn’t have enough years of experience to go for that job but they considered me because they saw I had Student Greenkeeper of the Year on my CV. They had around 500 applicants and I got down to the last two but just lost out.

“However, getting that close to a job at such a prestigious course helped my confidence massively and I soon got the job at The Belfry.

“Also, don’t be despondent if you get to the final and don’t win. A nomination still does wonders for your CV and I know many of the finalists have gone on to have superb careers.”

In 1995 David moved to Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Resort close



INSET ABOVE: 1992’s winner Barry Rhodes



to his home town of Beverley, where he is still Head Greenkeeper today. He’s also Group Golf Course Manager for Q Hotels who have four courses across the UK – including the course at Aldwark Manor. Finalists are still asked to produce a report on a specific aspect of this course as they were in 1990.

David has plenty of sound advice for young greenkeepers at the beginning of their careers.

“Being able to see things logically from both a golfer’s perspective and a greenkeeper’s perspective is vital. So play golf! It doesn’t matter whether you’re good or bad, it increases your appreciation of courses.

“Look at as many different courses as possible and think about what’s good and what’s bad. That ensures you can avoid the bad and try and implement the good on your course. You also have to remember every golf course is different – what works on one may not work on another.

“The biggest thing is don’t be afraid to ask questions. Get as much knowledge as you can and use this to your advantage.”

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Stourton Forestry also undertake a wide range of woodland management operations, including small scale work with low impact machinery – ideal for sensitive sites such as golf courses. We can help you manage your existing trees by thinning overcrowded areas, felling and restructuring. If you have significant areas of woodland, a long-term management plan may be appropriate and we can also advise on the grants and licences that are applicable.

Timber can often be sold to offset costs. Hardwood timber is particularly in demand for firewood, and large, straight trees can be valuable for planking. If you have sufficient quantities, timber can be marketed as roundwood or we can advise on adding value yourselves, including processing material for biomass boilers.

While mature trees contribute enormously to the landscape and wider environment, they can also become unstable and dangerous. Landowners have a legal duty to protect people from harm caused by their trees. A survey by our professionally qualified tree safety expert will identify any trees that pose a significant risk and make sensible, pragmatic recommendations to manage your liability.

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COURSE MANAGER

Wharton Park is a Proprietary club having an 18 hole championship course designed by a course architect, Howard Swan. The Club is situated in the beautiful Wyre Forest area on the edge of the historic riverside town of Bewdley in Worcestershire www.whartonpark.co.uk

The Club is looking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Course Manager. The successful candidate will:

- * Be suitably qualified to NVQ3 with spraying certificates PA1, PA6 & PA2A.
- * An up to date knowledge of H & S legislation & best practices
- * The individual will need to lead by example & have outstanding knowledge on how a Golf Course should be set up in all aspects including presentation & cosmetics.
- * Possess knowledge of modern machinery & maintenance
- * Be computer literate with the ability to provide written reports & budgets etc...

MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER

- Applicant to be experienced in general maintenance of modern Golf Course machinery
- Qualified to NVQ level 2 (Chainsaw & spraying qualifications would be an advantage)
- Must be a good team worker & highly motivated
- Applicants to be able to undertake all Green Keeping tasks & take pride in their work
- Possess a clean driving licence.
- Be able to play golf will be an advantage.

Candidates should apply in writing or by e-mail enquiries@whartonpark.co.uk providing a comprehensive CV including all relevant qualifications and references to: **Allan Umbers, Director, Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Longbank, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2QW**

Worlebury Golf Club Head Greenkeeper

Worlebury Golf Club is a private members golf club, founded in 1908, situated on Worlebury Hill, 2 miles from the centre of Weston-super-Mare. Its location, at the gateway to the Southwest, affords stunning views overlooking the Severn Estuary and the South Wales coast to the north and the Mendip Hills to the south.

We have a progressive outlook and take pride in both maintaining and developing our magnificent course. The well manicured 5,843 yard par 70 parkland course flows through several, slightly undulating, stone walled and tree lined fields. It has an excellent mix of holes providing a challenge to the lower handicapper without intimidating the less proficient golfer

For further information please visit our website: www.worleburygc.co.uk

We are now looking for a Head Green-keeper. The successful candidate will be suitably qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent, experienced and self motivated demonstrating a genuine commitment to providing an excellent playing arena for Club Members. The main duties include:

- The responsibility for all aspects of course management and development;
- An ability to source, operate and maintain state of the art course maintenance equipment;
- An ability to control expenditure and work within budgets;
- An ability to lead, motivate and develop a small full-time team;
- An up-to-date knowledge of H&S legislation and best practice;
- An ability to communicate effectively with staff, Club management and Members.

This is a "hands-on" position with the applicant demonstrating a track record of producing high standard course presentation in a cost-effective manner. A full Role Profile will be available on application. Candidate should apply, in writing or by e-mail, providing a comprehensive CV including all relevant qualifications, to:

Mr. Andrew Horsburgh, Managing Secretary, Worlebury Golf Club, Monks Hill, Worlebury, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 9SX or secretary@worleburygc.co.uk by no later than Monday 12th October 2012.

Recruitment

BATH GOLF CLUB COURSE MANAGER

Bath Golf Club, built in 1880 and designed by Harry S. Colt is one of the oldest and finest courses in the country.

The Club is looking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Course Manager.

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate an excellent knowledge of agronomy, a desire to make a difference and the leadership skills to drive and motivate the green keeping team. The individual will also need to lead by example, have an outstanding knowledge of how a golf course should be set up in all aspects, including presentation and cosmetics. Suitable candidates will need to be qualified to NVQ Level 3 with spraying certificates PA1, PA6 & PA2A and should also be competent golfers. The salary offered will be commensurate with the importance that the Club attaches to this role. If you feel you have the qualities, experience and the dedication for this demanding role, please send your CV, with covering letter by post to Mr. Anthony Roberts, Bath Golf Club, and Golf Course Road, Bath BA2 6JG www.bathgolfclub.org.uk
Closing date 12th October 2012



Groundscare Technicians

Winchester Garden Machinery have a vacancy for two groundscare technicians based in Winchester.

One vacancy is for a technician to be based full time in the workshops and the other is for a mobile technician visiting golf courses and site customers. A good knowledge of groundscare equipment is essential. Additional training will be given, particularly on John Deere equipment. Please post or email your CV for the attention of Andy Hoskings.

Winchester Garden Machinery Ltd, Fair Lane, Off Alresford Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HF.

andy.hoskings@wgmltd.co.uk

Tel: 01962 857946.



SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB Assistant Greenkeeper

Sunningdale Golf Club wishes to recruit an Assistant Greenkeeper to assist in raising and maintaining the World Class standards required at the Club.

The candidate should have:-

- NVQ2 or equivalent
- PA1, 2A and b
- CS 30,31 preferred
- Over 3 years practical experience in turfgrass maintenance and golf course construction techniques
- Experience in working within a large team
- International experience preferred

Sunningdale is dedicated to achieving truly World Class standards:

- European venue for the Open Championship, International Final Qualifying
- Old course ranked 7 in UK & Ireland (Golf monthly 2012)
- New course ranked 22 in UK & Ireland (Golf monthly 2012)
- Investors in People Silver Award

Applications with full CV, should be sent to:

Julie Watts, PA to the Secretary
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire, SL5 9RR
email juliew@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 19th October 2012



GREENKEEPER / GROUNDSMAN SALES

Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd is looking to recruit a greenkeeper / groundsman to join our team of technical sales representatives. Due to expansion we are looking for the successful candidate to call on Golf Courses and Sporting Clubs in and around the North West of England.

Candidates would require experience in the turfgrass industry and no sales experience is necessary. You should be able to communicate effectively at all levels and have the drive and self motivation to succeed in a strong marketplace.

If you feel you have the necessary skills, experience and enthusiasm to succeed in this role, please send your CV to:-

Richard Aitken, Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd, Aviation Road, Sherburn In Elmet, North Yorkshire LS25 6NB



Field Sales and Technical Specialist - Scotland

Do you want to be part of a successful, innovative and market leading manufacturing company? For over 40 years Farmura has grown its business and portfolio to provide a range of Organic, Water Management and Nutritional products suitable for fine turf within the UK, Ireland and Europe. These products include market leaders such as Porthcawl, Revolution and Ferrosol.

As part of our planned growth we are seeking an individual to support Gerald Orme our Northern Sales and Technical Manager to service both existing and new customers.

The successful applicant will need to be highly motivated, well organised and have good interpersonal skills. You will be part of a small team headquartered out of Kent whose main goals are the continued growth of the company and delivering the highest possible customer service and satisfaction for our clients.

Salary is negotiable depending upon experience and will be reviewed after a successful qualifying period. Experience of working in the industry would be an advantage but not essential.

Interested candidates should e-mail their C.V. which should include current salary to info@farmura.com. If you would like an informal discussion prior to applying please contact Gerald Orme on 07739 800916 or for further information please visit our website www.farmura.com

Closing Date: 16th November 2012



Centrally located in a beautiful setting and with three championship courses of quite distinct character, **Woburn Golf Club** is an unrivalled golfing venue. The club is part of the Bedford Estate that includes Woburn Abbey, Woburn Safari Park and the Inn at Woburn. We are looking to recruit two key members to join our highly motivated and experienced Greenkeeping Team.



HEAD GREENKEEPER

Reporting to the Course Manager you will be accountable for the preparation, maintenance and presentation of the Dukes golf course and surrounding woodland landscape. The successful applicant will have the personal drive to deliver exceptionally high standards of work, good attention to detail and the ability to lead and develop a team. A proven track record of producing first class course presentation is essential for this role along with a genuine commitment to solid agronomic practices. Educated to a minimum of NVQ level 3 or equivalent in Green Keeping, relevant chainsaw & spraying licences, a supervisory background within a similar role and tournament experience is required.

Excellent working knowledge of Health & Safety regulations and the ability to motivate others is an integral part of this role. Candidates will have demonstrable communication, time management, decision making and computer skills along with a flexible approach.

ASSISTANT MECHANIC

The successful candidate will be required to service, maintain and repair the Golf Club turf machinery fleet and associated equipment. Previous experience and demonstrable working knowledge as a recognised mechanic/engineer within horticulture or agriculture is required. A City & Guilds or NVQ qualification in machinery or engineering is essential for this role along with the relevant up to date training on specific tools such as grinding equipment.

Potential applicants should possess exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, ability to manage your own workload and be a team player. Accurate electronic recording of statutory and service records is a requirement of the role.

Closing date: 31st October 2012

A full clean driving licence is required for both positions. We are looking for people who can demonstrate integrity, and who continually strive for excellence. **Please send full CV's including salary expectations to personnel@woburn.co.uk** explaining why you feel you would be suitable for these roles.



in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Worcester Country Club
- 2) Colin Montgomerie
- 3) Sergio Garcia
- 4) John Daly
- 5) Seven
- 6) Nick Faldo
- 7) Abe Mitchell (Samuel Ryder's swing coach)
- 8) A one iron and a sand wedge
- 9) Walter Hagen

CROSSWORD

B	U	L	B	S	T	A	M	P	A	L	B	U	M	
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MONSTER SUDOKO

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7	A	8	C	6	2	3	B	4	1	9	5
3	C	7	5	B	8	4	6	A	9	1	2
6	B	A	4	9	C	2	1	5	7	3	8
1	8	2	9	3	A	5	7	6	4	B	C
5	4	C	8	1	7	B	3	9	2	6	A
A	3	1	7	2	6	C	9	8	B	5	4
2	6	9	B	8	4	A	5	1	3	C	7
9	7	4	A	C	5	1	8	B	6	2	3
8	2	3	6	7	B	9	4	C	5	A	1
C	5	B	1	A	3	6	2	7	8	4	9

Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 2-Oct-2012 medium

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

Daily SuDoku: Tue 2-Oct-2012 very hard

The Back Nine

A new column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

Jonathan Harmer of Farmura gives us another example of why BTME is unmissable

The annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is not just an opportunity for the turf industry to show Europe's practitioners their wares, it also acts as a key gathering of movers and shakers and leads to innovation and partnerships that help grow and shape the industry itself.

For example, after a chance conversation at BTME seven years ago Farmura and Aquatrols decided to join forces. As the build-up to this year's event gathers pace, Farmura's Managing Director Jonathan Harmer outlines why BTME 2013 will be another unmissable event...

As well as all the terrific educational opportunities, BTME is the place to get out and about and meet as many people as possible – and the 2006 event resulted in Farmura establishing a critically important business partnership.

That year I attended an evening dinner with dealers and manufacturers from across the world. I then bumped into Tom Malehorn from Aquatrols in America – the world leaders in water management technology.

Over a beer, Tom mentioned that they were looking to change distributors for their products, so realizing that their product range would ideally complement ours, naturally I encouraged him to consider Farmura. We had a very valuable discussion and exchanged details.

Two months later I received a phone call from Tom, saying he had various offers on the table to distribute Aquatrols water management products. At this time, the factory next to ours had come up for rent and I felt it would be ideal for us to use in partnership with them. This is how it turned out, and from that one productive discussion at BTME we officially signed the contract confirming our partnership in the October of 2007.

Many other businesses use the opportunity BTME presents to hold sales meetings, distributor gather-



ings or spend quality time with their industry colleagues.

All the major players in the turf industry are at BTME, often all in the same room at the same time. That's just impossible to achieve anywhere else at any time in the year. It almost feels as if you are looking 'behind the scenes' into the industry and that's very exciting.

If you're in the golf business you have to be there, it's as simple as that.

However, it's not just about establishing new partnerships. If you have an issue or problem, you can resolve it in person which is infinitely preferable to calling or emailing.

Our partnership with Aquatrols continues to go from strength to strength. It's been fantastic for both companies and also tremendous news for golf clubs who have benefited from the products.

I will once again be at BTME in January, along with many of my colleagues, and I hope to see as many turf professionals and greenkeepers

about the author



Farmura was established to develop the Farmura system of converting cow manure into organic fertiliser. Jonathan joined the company in 1976 as a rep and subsequently moved its offerings into the amenity market.

Farmura pioneered Liquid Iron into the European market with Ferrosol, introduced the first successful Spray Pattern Indicator and was one of the first to promote the benefits of true liquid fertilisers. The company pioneered the development of sustainable products to manage golf courses, and this year are celebrating their 40th birthday.

“If you're in the golf business you have to be there, it's as simple as that”

there as possible. If you're a greenkeeper, you can't afford to miss out for two main reasons.

Firstly, the superb educational opportunities are not to be missed and a must for any greenkeeper who cares about being engaged, involved and informed about their career.

Secondly, it's a tremendous chance to discover and investigate new products and innovations within the industry.

Come and see us at Stand A18 in January – and over the course of the week who knows, you may also forge new business partnerships, and friendships.

The views expressed within this column are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

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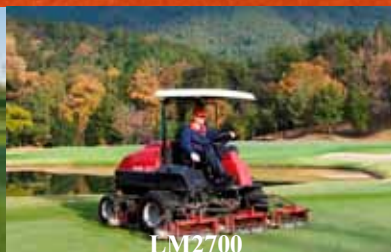
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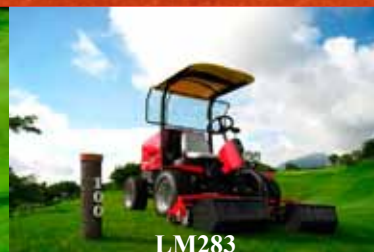
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