



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 Straththyrum 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.

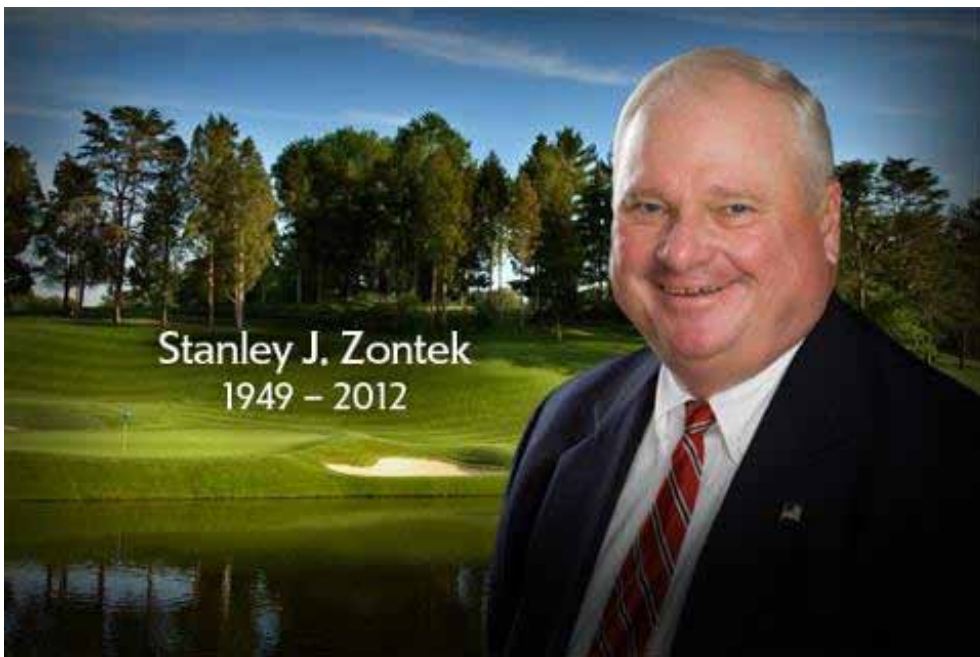
We were inundated with positive feedback from our seminars which featured three of our most popular experts from Continue to Learn at BTME 2012.

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!





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.