

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

*Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA*

£5.20 SEPTEMBER 2012

**Inside...**

## MEET THE NEW BIGGA CHAIRMAN

Tony Smith is paid a visit by a fresh face at GI, Steve Castle

## MATT-TRICK HERO

A look at Matt Le Brun's 3-hole RJ National course in Ipswich

# Ryder on Curtis

Ryder  
Cup  
Preview

The Ryder Cup rolls into Chicago. GI talks to Curtis Tyrrell, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club

**Featured**

## ASH TREE ALERT

Breaking news on a threat to your course



**ALSO INSIDE... ANTHRACNOSE : BRUSHCUTTERS : DRAINAGE**



# THE MOWER THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE.



The competition doesn't want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens mower. They can't match its **ZERO leak points**. They can't provide **individual reel control** to vary cut patterns. They can't offer **programmable frequency-of-clip** from an LED screen. And they can't get anywhere near the **true hybrid fuel savings** or **legendary quality-of-cut**. When it comes to the ECLIPSE® 322, the competition can't do *anything* except hope you don't see it. I guess we just ruined that for them, too.

FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE  
ON YOUR COURSE, CALL 01473 270000

[www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)

GKI/E322DWYTS/09/2012

**JACOBSEN**

## WELCOME FROM BIGGA

### BIGGA



**BIGGA President**  
Sir Michael Bonallack,  
OBE

**BIGGA Board of Management Chairman**  
Tony Smith  
**Vice Chairman**  
Chris Sealey

**BIGGA Past Chairman**  
Andrew Mellon

**BIGGA Board Members**  
Paul Worster, Gary Cunningham, Stuart Greenwood, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Hughes, Kenny MacKay, George Barr

**BIGGA Chief Executive Officer**  
Jim Croxton

**BIGGA General Manager**  
Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

**BIGGA Learning & Development Manager**  
Sami Collins  
sami@bigga.co.uk

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

### GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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



**Production**  
Design & Brand Executive  
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800  
ext 513  
tom@bigga.co.uk



**Editorial**  
Communications Executive  
Steve Castle  
Tel – 01347 833800  
ext 510  
steve.castle@bigga.co.uk



**Advertising**  
Business Development Executive  
Jill Rodham  
Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833802  
jill@bigga.co.uk

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

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961-6977  
© 2012 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



## An American theme

### With the 2012 majors out of the way the focus now turns to the Ryder Cup matches in Chicago later this month.

The American players had appeared to be in the ascendancy in recent times but Rory McIlroy's stunning eight-shot victory at Kiawah Island in the USPGA Championship coupled with seven of the top ten places being filled by Europeans was a strong riposte from the Cup holders and sets the event up brilliantly. Home advantage may play a part but I'm sure the matches will be close.

The Ryder Cup is an event that attracts interest way beyond the normal golfing audience, we've been thoroughly spoilt by the amazing London Olympic Games and this is golf's chance to make as thrilling a statement.

In this edition we feature an insight from Curtis Tyrrell, the superintendent at the host venue, Medinah Country Club and one of the most recent recipients of BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper award, into his preparations for the most watched golf tournament in the world.

### Another American destination under discussion this month is San Diego, host city for the Golf Industry Show in February 2013.

We are delighted that Bernhard and Company are continuing their support of the BIGGA Delegation to the GIS which will see ten members get a fantastic opportunity to visit the show, experience the GCSAA's excellent education programme, visit some renowned golf facilities and make lasting friendships with their fellow delegates. Witnessing this year's group bond together in Las Vegas was a privilege and having spoken with many of them since I know that the experience is genuinely in the 'once in a lifetime' category.

The flyer on the front cover gives details of how to apply to be considered for the Delegation and I would urge all members who believe their

careers could benefit from the experience to try their luck and complete the online application form. We are hugely grateful to Stephen Bernhard and his colleagues at Bernhard and Company for their generous sponsorship of this activity.

### On September 1st we opened registration for BTME in January, exhibition space is filling up fast and the education programme is bigger and better than ever.

Pre-registration ensures smooth access to the halls of the Harrogate International Centre, go online at [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) and click the **Register Now** icon.

Then, simply enter your details to receive your access badge.

### During BTME the aforementioned Curtis Tyrrell will be joining Jim McKenzie of Celtic Manor and Steve Chappell of Gleneagles for a unique presentation on the greenkeeping demands of the Ryder Cup past, present and future.

Details of the full Continue to Learn education programme will be contained in the October edition of Greenkeeper International.



**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**





16



34



58

## REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 12 Learning & Development
- 13 Membership
- 14 Industry Update
- 48 Around The Green
- 53 Diary of Events
- 54 Greenkeepers Training Committee
- 55 In The Shed
- 56 Agronomy Update
- 58 Back in Time... BIGGA National Championships
- 60 Buyers' Guide
- 64 Recruitment
- 66 The Back Nine

**GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**  
 Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA  
 £5.20 SEPTEMBER 2012

**Inside...**

**MEET THE NEW BIGGA CHAIRMAN**  
 Tony Smith is paid a visit by a fresh face at GI, Steve Castle

**MATT-TRICK HERO**  
 A look at Matt Le Brun's 3-hole RJ National course in Ipswich

**Featured**

**ASH TREE ALERT**  
 Breaking news on a threat to your course

**Ryder on Curtis**  
 Ryder Cup preview  
 The Ryder Cup rolls into Chicago. GI talks to Curtis Tyrrell, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club

**ALSO INSIDE... ANTHRACNOSE : BRUSHCUTTERS : DRAINAGE**

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



## Callum beats Long Odds to Triumph

A promising teenage greenkeeper helped his club scoop a coveted trophy – after being called away from repairing a bunker to play a crucial round.

Trainee Callum Long, 17, had to race to the first tee to compete in the St Ives Junior Cup final after a player dropped out at the last minute. Despite still wearing his work clothes, he held his nerve together with teammate Michael Cato to win the cup in a dramatic sudden death play-off.

Callum, who plays off 12, is currently studying for a diploma in greenkeeping while working at St Ives Golf Club, Cambridgeshire, as part of his work-based training.

He said: “I was repairing a bunker when the junior organizer came over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could

play in the Junior Cup Final.

“It was a bit of a surprise to say the least, but luckily I had my golf shoes at the club. Before I knew it I was in a golf cart heading to the first tee. I still had my work clothes on. It was tiring because I had got up that morning at 5.30am to start work, and because it went to a play-off I didn’t finish until about 6.30pm, but I knew I had to keep my concentration because it was an important competition.

“It just goes to show that maybe you don’t need to do too much preparation, my partner and I played some good golf on the day and I was very pleased to help us win the cup.”

Callum was delighted by his success as was everyone at the club, particularly Course Manager Phil Gates.



## SOUTH COAST DEFEAT SECRETARIES IN CARE CUP

South Coast Greenkeepers achieved a notable victory in the 16th Annual Course Care Cup.

Held at Rushmoor Golf Club, the Wessex Secretaries were keen to reverse last year’s close defeat in fine weather. The match was again hard-fought and extremely close, with the result coming down to the final two holes of the day – and the greenkeepers prevailed winning by three matches to two.

An excellent meal followed and thanks from all were extended to Highspeed Group for sponsoring the event.

*PICTURE: Highspeed Group’s Area Manager, Paul Dyter is shown presenting the trophy to Tony Gadd, Chairman of BIGGA South Coast Section.*

## HOME COMFORTS FOR VERULAM

Verulam Golf Club took full advantage of hosting the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy by winning the competition on home turf. The event, sponsored by Tacit, provided an excellent prize table.

The Verulam team of Robin Farrer, Chris Carpenter, Don Longarvie and Neville Custance triumphed with 85 points. Second place went to Buckingham Golf Club with 81 points, the team included Brian Piggott, Peter Frost, David Barnes and Chris Wilkes. Third place went to John O’Gaunt Golf Club with 77 points on count back.

The format was a stableford, four ball better ball with the best two scores on each hole to count.

Nearest The Pin was won by Paul Toyer from St Neots Golf Club and the Longest Drive winner was Simon Woolley from Brickenden Grange Golf Club. Thanks to all who attended.

## Attention BIGGA Members

Have you got anything that you think might be of interest to other BIGGA members reading these pages? We are always on the lookout for news, stories and goings-on within our membership.

Also, if you are doing something outside of your day-to-day greenkeeping role, let us know about it. Maybe a fun activity or a sponsored run? Please feel free to get in touch with our new Communications Executive, Steve Castle on 01347 833800 ext 510 or email [steve.castle@bigga.co.uk](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) with your news (and photographs!)

# North and South Wales Come Together in Battle



An idea which began over a chat at the last BTME resulted in the first BIGGA golf battle between North and South Wales BIGGA members.

The tournament was the brainchild of Gareth Knight from Trefloyne Golf Course and Rhys Butler of Aberdovey Golf Course – and Rhys agreed to host the inaugural event.

Gareth, South Wales Secretary, takes up the story: “Rhys kindly booked the dormy rooms for the south team and we decided on two teams of eight players.

“We were very lucky to gain sponsorship for both teams, John Mooney of Rigby Taylor organising the North Wales team sponsorship and Peter Holmstrom from Countrywide sponsoring the South Wales team.

“We teed off at 2pm. It was a light breeze at Aberdovey for the North Wales Links Boys, however blowing a gale as far as we were concerned! Strong winds and a tight Links course made it tough conditions for some of the inland parkland green keepers.

“The course was excellent, a beautiful coastal setting, the true untamed elements of the natural rolling links creating an exhilarating rustic and natural course.

“Colt, Braid and Fowler have all had a hand in shaping the course over the years, with tight lies, rolling fairways, natural bunkers, undulating approaches, dry firm surfaces and true, fast greens, a joy for any standard of golfer.

“The match was very close with three of the games heading to the 18th hole, the result being 3-1 to the North Wales team.

“We all sat down to a beautiful meal after and were joined by Richard Dixon of the Golfing Union of Wales who said a few words, speeches were made and the rest of the evening was enjoyed by both teams embracing the delights that Aberdovey had to offer.

“Thank you to Rigby Taylor, Countrywide and Farmura for their continued support and assisting this event, Trade involvement is so important to all section events.

Thank you to all the BIGGA members that travelled far and wide to support the day, and to Richard Dixon of the GUV for his support and Aberdovey for hosting the event.

“The Organisation for next year’s event is already underway and we hope it to be as successful as the last. This proves once again how important networking can be at the BTME show.”



## KINGS OF THE CASTLE

Bothwell Castle Golf Club have appointed a new Head Greenkeeper and an Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

Alasdair McDermid, who has been Acting Head Greenkeeper for the past year at the parkland course near Glasgow, has accepted the permanent role of Head Greenkeeper. He’s been with the club for 20 years.

Stewart Carbray, who has been employed by Bothwell since 2000, is now Assistant Head Greenkeeper. Stewart has been Acting Assistant since last year.

Everyone at BIGGA congratulates Alasdair and Stewart, and wishes them every success in their permanent roles.

*Picture: Stewart (left) and Alasdair*

# Ash Tree Alert

Dr Terry Mabbett reports on an unprecedented potential threat to your course



# Native Common Ash Trees Face Surprise Disease Threat

**Native common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) now faces an unprecedented threat from the latest alien plant pathogen to arrive in the United Kingdom (UK). Chalara ash die-back caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* sailed into the country in style on a consignment of 2000 ash trees exported by a Dutch nursery to nursery in southern England.**

The south of England nursery based in Buckinghamshire subsequently sold the consignment by mail order to 90 customers throughout the UK. Forestry Commission (FC) and Fera (Food and Environment Research Agency), which subsequently intercepted *Chalara fraxinea* on the trees, identified the 90 customers and gave out instructions for them to dig up, chop up and double-bag the trees before taking them to a landfill for deep burial.

This is somewhat surprising since standard biosecurity practice in such potentially catastrophic pest and disease situations is for the destruction of trees on site by burning followed by a thorough clean up including tools, soil and compost by professionals drafted in specifically to do the job. Transporting tree material infected with a new alien pathogen into the wider environment flies in the face of standard biosecurity practice and common sense.

Be that as it may, FC and Fera have since found the disease in the wider environment on some 500 ash trees planted in a Leicestershire car park and sourced from a nursery in Lincolnshire. Fera is also investigating outbreaks of the disease at nurseries in Surrey and Yorkshire.

*Chalara fraxinea* was able to 'walk into' the UK because although it is rampant across continental Europe, including France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, it is not an EU regulated pathogen. That means common ash trees can be imported into the UK from any other EU country with absolutely no restriction, inspection or documentation (an EU Plant Passport) that would otherwise declare a clean bill of health.



The disease is particularly prevalent in Denmark where up to 90 per cent of trees in many locations are infected and all are expected to die. *Chalara ash dieback* has the capacity to inflict on common ash what Dutch elm disease did to English elm in the 1970's. That is to essentially wipe out the species as forest, woodland, amenity and landscape tree in the UK.

So what's the damage? *Chalara fraxinea* infects ash trees of all ages but is more likely to be terminal in ash saplings. Symptoms are seen on the leaves, shoots and branches. Trees with advanced infections have defoliated crowns and profuse epicormic growth on trunk and branches.

Leaves display dark coloured lesions at the base and along the mid-rib, accompanied by obvious signs of wilting. Dieback of shoots and twigs is common.

Small lens shaped lesions form on the bark of stems and branches, subsequently enlarging to form perennial cankers which cause shoot and branch wilt and dieback especially in the upper crown.

The wood underneath bark lesions is brown/grey in colour which often extends longitudinally beyond the necrotic area of bark.

Advanced infections of whole trees is characterised by withered tops and shoots in the crown, marked dieback of shoots, twigs and branches and prolific epicormic growth lower down.

The causal pathogen, which can be isolated from leaves, shoots, stems, branches and even roots of symptomatic trees, is spread by rain splashes and disseminated by insects.

Long distance spread is most likely through trade in living trees and the movement of saw logs from infected trees.

Ash dieback caused by *Chalara fraxinea* may be confused with similar symptoms caused by completely different fungal pathogens, insect pests and even physiological problems caused by environmental factors.

Cankers caused by the fungus *Nectria galligena* and even bark necrosis caused by ash bark beetle (*Leperisinus varius*) could be mistaken for ash dieback.

Other factors which may be confused with ash dieback are larvae of *Prays fraxinella* (bud moth) that mine into shoot bases causing them to wilt and die. Even frost and drought damage could conceivably be confused with ash dieback.



**TOP:** Shoot dieback with wilting leaves on common ash and caused by *Chalara fraxinea* (Picture Forestry Commission)

**ABOVE:** Bark canker on common ash caused by *Chalara fraxinea* (Picture courtesy Thomas Kirisits)



*(Continued from pages 8-9)*

**Impact on golf courses**

Trees are an important and integral part of virtually all golf courses in the UK and their continued health is vital to the structure and appearance of the course as well as the health and safety of members, players and staff.

Common ash is spread throughout the UK. The ash tree population was recently estimated at 80 million but this is almost certainly a gross underestimate.

Common ash is a pioneer tree which freely germinates from naturally dispersed seed to establish in groves where opportunities arise in woodland, copses and rough open land.

Many if not most golf courses will have ash trees that have naturally established in this manner.

Common ash is also widely planted on golf courses, prized for its fast growth, an open and light shade casting canopy which does not kill the turf-grass beneath. And a light leaf load which rots away quickly in autumn and is relatively easy to clear away.

FC and Fera are now recommending that landowners who have planted ash trees in the last five years should inspect them for symptoms of Chalara ash dieback disease.

Greenkeepers should follow this advice even if the trees were purchased from a UK nursery. The nature of trade between EU nations means they could have just as easily come from any one of 26 other EU countries the vast majority of which have endemic chalara dieback disease.



**ABOVE:** Greyish brownish wood of ash branches infected with *Chalara fraxinea* (Picture courtesy Thomas Kirisits).

**LEFT:** Severe shoot dieback on common ash caused by *Chalara fraxinea* (Picture Forestry Commission)



**ABOVE:** Bark canker on common ash caused by *Chalara fraxinea* (Picture courtesy Thomas Kirisits)

**BELOW:** Leaf necrosis on common ash caused by *Chalara fraxinea* (Picture courtesy Thomas Kirisits)



**Help is at hand...**

Greenkeepers who suspect they may have Chalara ash dieback disease on their courses should contact:

**Forest Research Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service.**  
Tel: 01420 23000.  
E-mail: ddas.ah@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Forestry Commission Plant Health Service.**  
Tel: 0131 314 6414.  
E-mail: planthealth@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate.**  
Tel: 01904 465625.  
E-mail: planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk

# BIGGA AND GCMA DATE

The BIGGA and GCMA seminar takes place in the South West Section on Thursday October 18.

Chipping Sodbury Golf Club is the venue for a host of speakers including former British Women's Open champion Vivien Saunders and Toro's Andrew Brown who will be looking at water resource management.

There will also be an afternoon presentation outdoors showcasing the benefits of the Blinder Bunker Liner so outdoor clothes will be required – the dress code for the day is smart casual. Lunch and refreshments will be supplied.

By attending this seminar, BIGGA and GCMA members will receive Continuing Professional Development points.

This exciting seminar costs just £20 per person (or £50 for three delegates) – and the closing date for registration is Friday 12 October. There is a maximum of three delegates per club.

So if you're a golf club secretary, manager or course manager, please send cheques - made payable to GCMA South West Region – to Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Uphill Road North, Weston super Mare BS23 4NQ.

For any queries, or further information about the day, please contact Karen on 01934 626968 or at [wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com](mailto:wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com)

## BIGGA Welcomes Communications Exec

BIGGA are delighted to announce that Steve Castle has joined the Association as Communications Executive.

An appointment that strengthens the editorial team at Greenkeeper International, Steve has bedded in comfortably, finding his feet in his new role, whilst mixing in very quickly and easily with everyone at BIGGA House.

Steve, who even managed a game of golf with his new colleagues, one night, brings with him experience of working as reporter for Ross Parry Agency Ltd, which syndicates news stories to national newspapers and magazines.

"I covered court cases, inquests as well as anything from press conferences with lottery winners to exclusive and sensitive interviews with members of the public," Steve told us.

Looking forward to writing for GI, Steve also expressed interest in finding out more about you, the member.



"Having really enjoyed my first two weeks working at BIGGA House, it is clear that the editorial directive is all about BIGGA members - I'm very much looking forward to hearing about members, what they are doing in and outside the club."

"From the stories I've received so far, it's clear that all sorts of interesting things are taking place, and we encourage every BIGGA member to feel free about approaching me with anything which might be worth a mention on these pages."

## JULIE JOINS BIGGA



Julie Wilkins has joined BIGGA as Assistant Account. Julie has a wealth of experience in the financial area, starting off as an office junior. Her last position was at VMC in Warwickshire as Finance Assistant.

She said: "I'm really looking forward to the opportunity, and have been made to feel very welcome by all the team. I'm particularly looking forward to increasing my financial knowledge working with Finance and Procurement Manager Steve Wragg.

"I've also moved to a lovely part of the world which is a bonus, and am looking to join a local golf club."

Julie, who hails from Staffordshire, is also a keen cyclist



## Jack and Rita award McMillan Tankard to Ernest Doe's Steve

Steve Alabaster scooped the McMillan tankard at the recent Surrey Section golf tournament.

Now in its 23rd year, the popular tournament again attracted many competitors and their guests to the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

Scoring proved tough on a breezy day with many balls finding the heater off the fairways. However, Steve defied the conditions, finishing level on 34 points with Mark Brooks from Sunningdale. Steve emerged victorious after enjoying a better score on the final six holes.

Mark did win the nearest the pin competition with Anthony Freeman from Merrist Wood winning the longest drive.

Many thanks to Murray Long and his team for producing another magnificently prepared course fully appreciated by all on the day.

*PICTURED: Jack and Rita McMillan present the winner's tankard to Steve*

## North East Competition Venue Change

**Please note the venue has changed for the North East Autumn competition. It will be played on October 10 at Tyneside GC. This replaces the original venue of Wooler GC**



# Learning & Development

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

September is turning out to be a busy old month for the members of the Learning and Development team with Saltex, the Assistants Development Programme, the final of the Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the final checks on the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 brochure.

## SALTEX

Rachael will be at SALTEX, along with several other members of the BIGGA team, to answer any questions you may have about your membership or the benefits that BIGGA offer.

BIGGA are also presenting three seminars on Wednesday 5 September, held in the Grandstand, from 10.15 am. Featuring presentations from Chris Haspell from Castle Stuart Golf Club, David Cole from Loch Lomond Golf Club and Paul Lowe from Symbio. CPD points are available for attendance at these seminars.

**The BIGGA Stand is E33. Pop along and say hello!**

## Assistants Development Seminars

The L&D department has been tasked by the Board of Management to develop a seminar to help those in the role of greenkeeper or first assistant who want improve their skills for developing a career in the greenkeeping industry.

The project, being coordinated by our new recruit, Stuart Green, will initially see 10 course managers trained, here at BIGGA House, to deliver the seminar. The seminars will then be run in each region this Autumn/Winter.

The seminar will cover areas including:

- Communication
- People skills
- Responsibilities
- Thinking like a manager
- Career development
- Curriculum vitae
- Interview techniques



**Gold Key Individual Members:**  
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS  
Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison  
Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers  
Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann,  
Nick Gray

**Silver Key Individual Members:**  
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn  
Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild,  
Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton,  
Paul Jenkins, Justin Cheung

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



### Contact Details

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

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

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



Dates of the seminars are yet to be confirmed, look out for announcements in future issues of GI and on the BIGGA website.

## Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year



The National Final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year will take place on Sunday 16 and Monday 17 September here at BIGGA House.

The finalists will be asked to complete a written assignment based on a task that will be given to them at 9.00 am on Monday morning. They will also have a 45 minute interview with a panel of four judges from Toro and BIGGA.

Look out for the Winner on the cover of the October issue of GI. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing "Good Luck" to all the finalists!



The content of the Continue to Learn education programme is now in the hands of our Designer,

Tom Campbell, to turn into a printed brochure providing you with all the information you'll need to plan your educational visit to Harrogate.

The brochure will be dropping on your doormat with the October issue of GI. Full details of the programme will also be available on the BIGGA website where you will also be able to use our online booking system to secure your place for the Workshops, Conference and Focus On sessions.

With over 180 hours of education available, over four days, there is sure to be something of interest for everyone attending.

The Continue to Learn Education Programme at BTME 2013 will run from Sunday 20 January to Wednesday 23 January.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Personal Development Zone at BTME 2013

What information would you like to get from the Personal Development Zone at BTME in January 2013?

Email Stuart (stuart@bigga.co.uk) with your ideas and you might just see them at the show...



# BIGGA Membership

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

**Calling all Full and Affiliate Members of BIGGA, are you ready for the challenge of this years BIGGA National Championship 2012, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota**

Last month's issue of Greenkeeper International gave a great overview of this year's venue for the BIGGA National Championship, The Irvine Golf Club at Bogside in Scotland. A true links challenge, the course sits on sand with fairways divided roughly by thick gorse bushes and heather. Built in 1887 some of the present character of the course comes from James Braid's designs in the 1920s and will provide even the best golfers with an opportunity to shine or despair.

The dates for this year's championship are Sunday 8th and Monday 9th October 2012 and as the course is set in a seaside location, the neighbouring Gulf Stream ensures year round golf.

Why not pitch yourself against some of the best golfing greenkeepers and join us at The Irvine Golf Club and be in with a chance of getting your name on the coveted Challenge Trophy along with last year's winner Jason Hunt (Addington Palace GC) and 2010's winner Paul Frith (Birstall GC).

Entry fee is £95 and this includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening (accommodation is not included).

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member, the greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

For full details see August's magazine or contact Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House. Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

As a BIGGA Member you can access a fantastic study resource in the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) where members can gain



access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

This is a great benefit for all members who are currently in study, so whether you are studying at Level 2, 3 or 4 or studying for a diploma or degree this is definitely a resource you will find useful.

To access the TGIF log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Member Resources' from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to 'Turfgrass Information File (TGIF)' and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly.

## The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) 2013

Dates for your diary - 22nd - 24th January 2013 at Harrogate International Centre (HIC). With FREE entry to BTME 2013 you cannot afford to miss coming along to the must attend event for anybody interested in turf.

## Education Seminars and Workshops

Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 runs from Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd January 2013. With the return of the Turf Managers' Conference on Monday 21st January at The Crown Hotel, Harrogate

and a fantastic choice of one day and two day workshops and various seminars, Continue to Learn 2013 promises to offer everybody something of interest.

Keep an eye on the BIGGA website for details of the full programme.

## Regional Conferences

Confirmation has been received from Jane Jones of the South West and South Wales Region that the theme of this years Conference is 'Turf Management In All It's Glory'.

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

So be sure to put the date of 15th November in your diary at Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset, get your booking in nice and early as this Conference gets busy.



## Contact Details

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Elaine Jones  
elaine@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)



You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

## BIGGA Regional Offices

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

John Young  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

### Northern & Midland

Sandra Raper  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
sandra@bigga.co.uk

### South East

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

### South West & Wales

Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
jane@bigga.co.uk



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

## RJ OUT IN SUPPORT AT THE SCOTTISH OPEN



Ransomes Jacobsen provided tournament support at the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open held at the Castle Stuart Golf Links near Inverness.

The European Tour event was won by Jeev Milkha Singh with a 12 foot birdie putt at the first extra hole during a sudden-death play-off with Francesco Molinari.

Course manager Chris Haspell and his team use Jacobsen SLF-1880 light fairway mowers on the links and these were supplemented with four additional machines plus Cushman utility vehicles.

Chris said: "Having additional technicians on site is fantastic during the week, especially when they have a wealth of knowledge like the guy from Jacobsen. Without the availability of the additional 1880s along with the run-arounds it would make the week much harder to run. We really appreciate the support that Ransomes Jacobsen afford us and look forward to their continued support next year should it be needed."

## Rod retires after 48 years with Bernhard

Bernhard director, Rod Mayes, pictured receiving a retirement gift from Stephen Bernhard, started work with the company nearly half a century ago as an apprentice.

Rod, Works Director at the Haverhill factory, spent 48 years with the firm and said in a final farewell during this special presentation.

Rod said: "This was the only engineering business in the town when I joined, and they took on a number of apprentices and gave them good training.

"We've been at the same factory building for all these years. Mr Atterton, of Atterton and Ellis (now owned by Bernhard), lived in the old house on the original site.

"We are just in the process of moving across to our new

purpose-built site the other side of Haverhill – so it seemed to me to be a good time to take my retirement and hand over to someone else.

"My wife and I love travelling, so would like to spend more time doing that, and enjoying our grandchildren. But, it is hard to imagine life without Bernhard's."

Rod will be sorely missed by everyone – and the staff at Haverhill and the Rugby office came together to celebrate his service to Bernhard's.

The day began at the old factory – where the team gathered, perhaps for the last time – before the move to the new site is complete.

After lunch, and the presentation of a gold watch to Rod, Company Chairman Stephen Bernhard made



a speech of thanks and appreciation at the new factory.

Stephen said, "The team wanted to come and say goodbye to Rod, and it seemed fitting to do that at the old factory.

We wanted to keep the connection.

"Rod has been part of the company's history. He is not only a loyal and committed colleague, but a good friend, and we will all miss him

## WIEDENMANN LAUNCH SIX NEW PRODUCTS IN BERLIN



Wiedenmann UK launched six new products at a special event held at a glorious five-star spa resort on the outskirts of Berlin.

The launch, well attended by 60 dealers from across the UK, was the seventh of its type but the first to feature half a dozen entirely new machines.

Delegates were first introduced to the Terra Clean 100 and the Terra Clean 160 at a '3G' surface. The 100 – a budget level machine – was given a demonstration as was the more advanced 160, which features a sieved separation system with a dust extraction system designed to ensure a completely clean and groomed surface.

The next day saw the attendees take to an on-site golf course where they were again given impressive demonstrations. This time, the stars were the Core

Recycler – which clears cores from greens following hollow coring aeration – and the Super Pro FXL-H230 Commercial Out Front Mower featuring new 'fold on the fly' wings.

Other exciting new products unveiled were the Super 600, a cut and scarify collector, and the impressive Mega Twister, a very powerful large capacity blower.

The delegates listened to a speech from David Rae, Company Founder and Managing Director, outlining his hopes for the continued fruitful working relationship between Wiedenmann and the dealers.

It was then the turn of the amiable Jurgen Wiedenmann, joint managing director, to officially close the meeting. He received congratulations on his products and much gratitude for his team's superb hospitality.



## What's your number?

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

### Name:

Demelza Hartley

### Company:

Low Maintenance

### Position:

Trainer



### How long have you been in the industry?

I have been in the land based sector of over 10 years however far longer if you count that I'm from a farming family.

### How did you get into it?

I have had a varied history to date which started with horticulture, which progressed into environmental conservation, agriculture and arboriculture. You may well ask how this is relevant to greenkeepers, well in the main because I teach pesticides, tractor driving and chainsaw maintenance and felling all skills that are needed on the golf course.

### What other jobs have you done?

I have taught within a land based college environment for over ten years in all the sectors mentioned previously as well as with a local arborist in felling and working on trees.

### What do you like about your current job?

I like the flexibility of being in different places each week. I love meeting new people and teaching them new skills as well as learning new skills and techniques myself.

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

The world of green keeping goes from strength to strength with more women involved slowly but surely.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like working in my vegetable patch, taking care of my many rare breed hens, walks with my little Jack Russell and making cakes.

### Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Still teaching and training hopefully more women in the green keeping industry.

### Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

The green keepers at Shipley West Yorkshire were very helpful, informative and professional it was refreshing to be treated as an equal.

### What do you consider to be your lucky number?

7

*Demelza has picked Steve Dyne at Invicta Groundcare*

A fantastic opportunity for all BIGGA Members, courtesy of **BERNHARD**

# California dreaming



Don't miss your chance to jet off on a dream trip across the Atlantic to sunny San Diego – fill in the form attached to the cover of this magazine

**The 11th BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard's, will be heading to the second-largest city in California for a week in February 2013.**

San Diego is the eighth largest city in the USA and the second largest in California. It's on the Pacific coast and enjoys warm, mainly dry weather – ideal for golf!

You will visit the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, there will be an opportunity for golf course visits and also the chance to attend seminars at the GCSAA Education Conference.

Accommodation and flights are free for the ten lucky delegates. This unmissable opportunity is open to all current BIGGA members – as long as you have not been on a previous trip. All you have to do now is return the form which is attached to the front cover of this edition.

We've had fabulous feedback from past events with BIGGA members returning with magical memories from the likes of Orlando and Los Angeles.

Here's just a small selection of the superb feedback from last year's group who visited Las Vegas...

"Every BIGGA member should apply for this trip of a lifetime.

Every aspect of the trip catered for all levels of candidates within the industry."

Daniel McGrath MG, Course Manager, North Foreland GC.

"I've been greenkeeping now for over half my life, and in that time I've made some great friendships and had some fantastic experiences, but I have to say being part of the Bernhard's Delegation tops them all. The camaraderie within the group was superb and the trip gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge through top class education and networking."

Jamie Acton, Head Greenkeeper, Worlebury GC.

"Spending a full week with nine very knowledgeable guys was a fantastic experience. I've learned a lot from them and made a great bunch of friends."

David Gray, First Assistant, Ladybank GC.

So what's stopping you? Fill in the form and return to BIGGA House and we'll be in touch with details about the next stage of the application process.

You can also apply at [www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2013](http://www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2013)

The closing date for entries is October 7 2012.







## BSH Grade 'A' grass seed mixtures. Make a great approach.

Next day delivery



For an excellent range of high quality fertilisers and seeds designed to meet the specific needs of the amenity industry, simply buy direct from the specialists at [www.bshamenity.com](http://www.bshamenity.com)



## Professional Turf Care & Amenity Solutions

Chemicals  
Fertilisers  
Soil & Plant Conditioners  
Grass Seed  
Top Soil & Aggregates  
Line Marking  
Total Weed Control Solutions  
Sprayers & Spreaders  
Technical Advice  
and much more

**Haltwhistle, Northumberland**

Tel. 01434 322634

**Newmarket, Suffolk**

Tel. 01638 721888

**Lymm, Cheshire**

Tel. 01925 758886

**Perth, Scotland**

Tel. 01738 622152

web: [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com)

email: [info@sherriff-amenity.com](mailto:info@sherriff-amenity.com)





# Ryder on Curtis!



The eyes of the world will be on one particular course this month when the 39th Ryder Cup rolls into Illinois. GI talked to Curtis Tyrrell, Director of Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club...

**Curtis Tyrrell has been eagerly anticipating Friday September 28 2012 since his first day in his current role four years ago.**

On that morning, the first tee shot will signal the official start of his "once in a lifetime" opportunity to host one of the world's greatest sporting events.

However, while Curtis and his team have made many alterations to the course over the last four years with the Ryder Cup in mind, he's keen to stress that the 600 members will also enjoy the benefits long after the circus leaves town.

Ironically, while BIGGA members in the UK have battled one of the

worst summers in memory, Curtis and his colleagues have been left cursing exactly the opposite problem as excitement reaches fever pitch.

He said: "It's a once in a lifetime experience for me, and all my team – it's the pinnacle of all our careers and we're working our butts off.

"I've been on the edge of my seat with excitement for probably a year now.

"The preparation's been pretty intense. We've had the hottest July ever recorded, it's been over 100F during the day and 80F through the night.

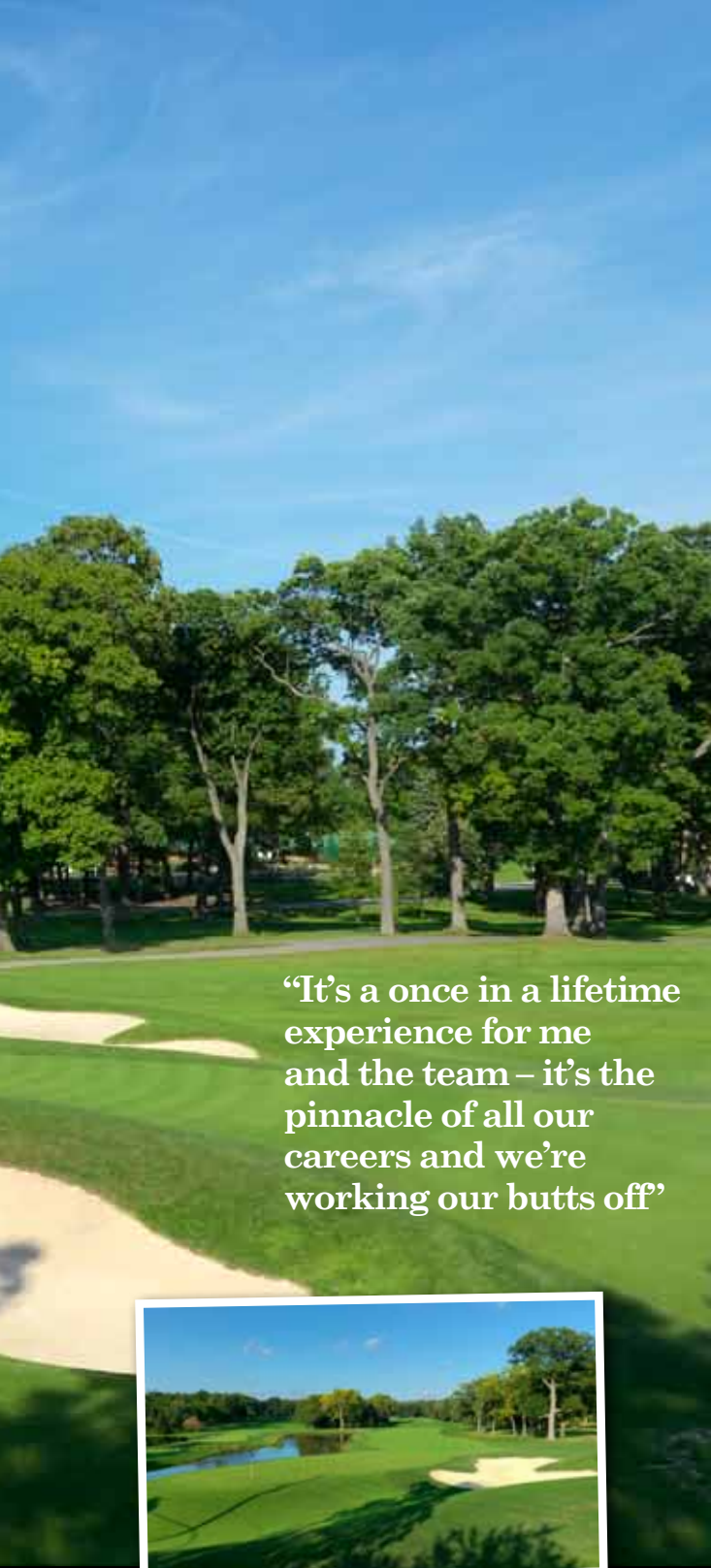
"The greens have come through

okay, although some fairways with high *Poa annua* have suffered.

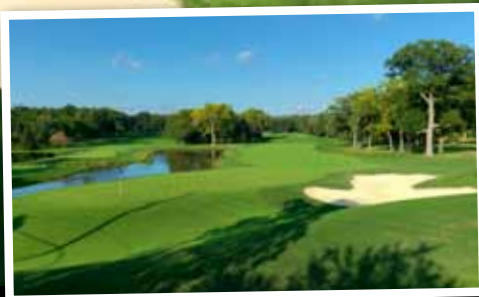
"A lot of people don't realise we have three courses here and it's number three that's hosting the Ryder Cup. To help recovery after the summer's unprecedented heat, we're closing this course a month before the tournament for deep aeration and overseeding, and some areas are being returfed.

"The greens are running at 11 on the stimpmeter and green speed will be decided nearer the time by myself and the US captain Davis Love III."

Curtis was not slow to make alterations soon after his arrival at



**“It’s a once in a lifetime experience for me and the team – it’s the pinnacle of all our careers and we’re working our butts off”**



- The greens are USGA Spec with 100% Creeping Bent of 007 and SR1119 and the tees are also a sand-based construction with a USGA rootzone, also 100% Creeping Bent.
- Greens preparation will involve light topdressing once a week up to ten days before the event with mowing six days a week and rolling five days a week.
- Curtis bases his fertilizer on a solid agronomic philosophy of soil testing and mixing his fertilizer from bulk purchased liquid nutrients, adjusting according to environmental conditions. He also uses an organic fertilizer based on chicken manure for his granular programme.
- Medinah has a significant fleet of equipment including a couple of TruTurf rollers and items from Toro.

the club, which opened in 1925. The all-important third course has previously hosted the PGA Championships and US Opens.

“Medinah is a family club, and when I arrived I felt we needed to set it up for the future. Of course we knew we had the Ryder Cup on the horizon so that obviously played a huge part in our planning.

“But I also want our membership to be proud of the course and proud of how well it plays while the world’s greatest players are here.

“Course three will be open to members the day after the tournament ends.

“We rebuilt all the greens in late 2009. Some were already USGA constructed greens so we brought all the others up to the same standard.

“We then re-grassed all the fairways, rebuilt all the bunkers and entirely rebuilt the 15th hole.

“These changes were mainly for the members’ benefit. They love this course and want it to be the best that it can be.

“We carried out extensive work last winter. We did some fan installation to help us with air movement and temperature management around certain greens.

“Then in June we started bringing in the infrastructure for the tournament – grandstands, corporate hospitality and paths. This will all span 43 acres so it’s quite an undertaking.”

During the tournament Curtis will be assisted by 100 volunteers including BIGGA members Lee Strutt, Course Manager at the new G West Golf Club, and Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper from Gleneagles which hosts the next Ryder Cup.

While some may expect Curtis to have several weeks off to recuperate after the Cup, nothing could be further from the truth. The very day after the champions are crowned,

work will begin on a huge \$6.4m redesign and renovation of course one.

Curtis first caught the green-keeping bug while working at the Country Club in Woodmore, Maryland, and after graduation he moved to Southern California to work as an assistant at PGA West in Palm Springs.

He then took on two superintendent positions before moving on to the Lake of Isles Golf Course in Connecticut, and finally secured his current role in 2008.

Curtis is a proud member of BIGGA and added that his membership is crucial for keeping up to speed with developments in the UK.

“I’m a BIGGA member because I wanted to expand my knowledge, and learn as much about green-keeping on the other side of the pond as I could. I wanted to cover all bases, and that’s exactly how it’s turned out.

“I’ve learned so much from the BIGGA members I’ve met, it’s been awesome.

“The magazine every month has been invaluable, I’m keen to know what challenges are facing people in our industry in the UK and how they’re facing them and tackling them.

“I didn’t think my career would progress to the point where I was preparing the Ryder Cup course.

“There are so many talented guys over here in your average country club, you never think you will get to this level so it really is a dream come true for me.

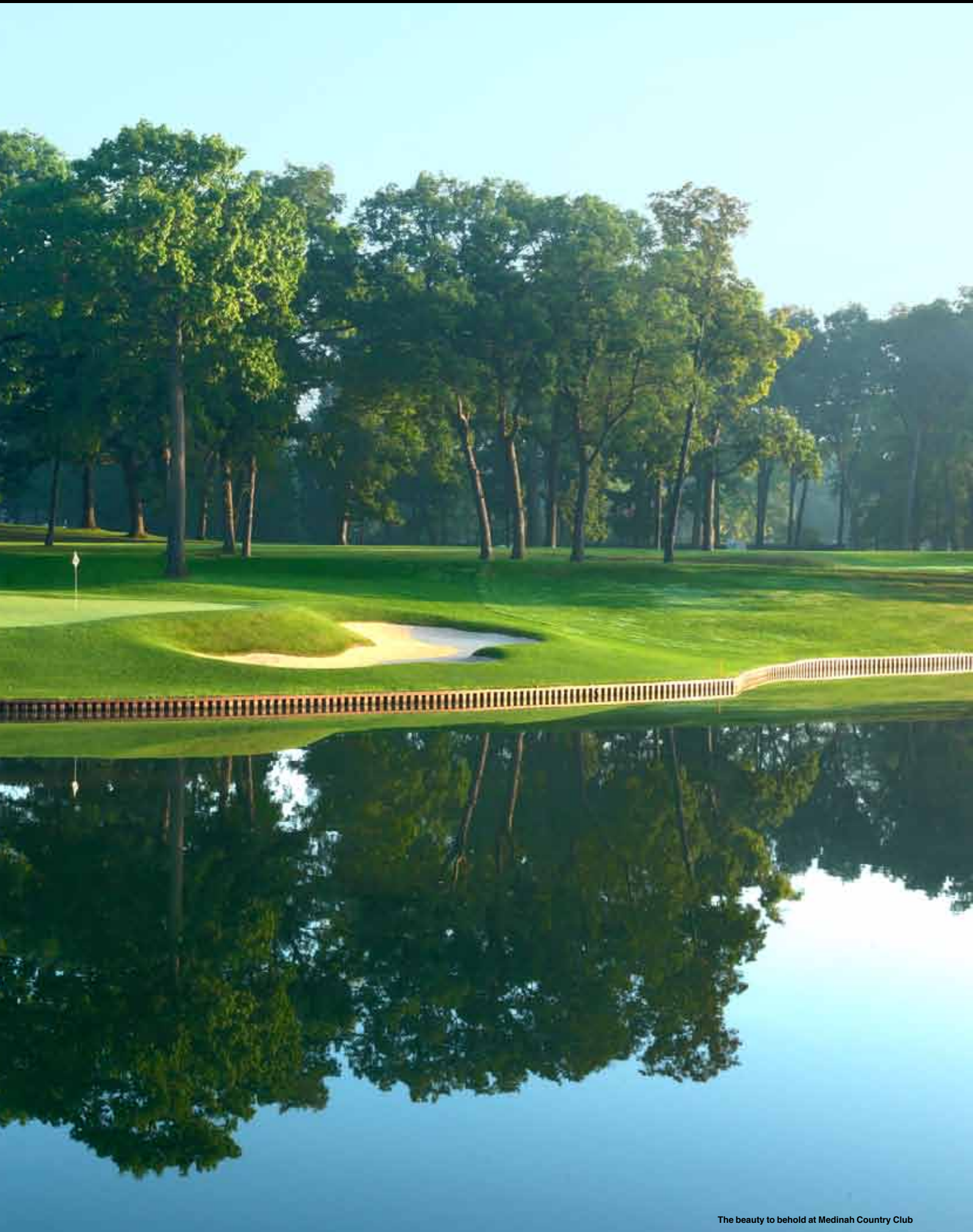
“I want everyone here to be proud of their contribution towards the Ryder Cup.

We’re lucky to have a fantastic team and they’re really excited, everyone’s really enthusiastic and energetic.

“After that, my only remaining wish is for an American victory!”







The beauty to behold at Medinah Country Club



**“Golf courses will get over this recession, we have to find ways to tighten our belts – and this must not mean laying off skilled men”**

# Tough at the top

New BIGGA chairman Tony Smith may be 64, but his passion for greenkeeping has, if anything, increased over a remarkable career spanning nearly half a century. Steve Castle met him at his pride and joy

***“In summer, this can be the greatest golf course.”***

**The new BIGGA chairman’s words could be mistaken for those of an enthusiastic teenage greenkeeper as he takes me on a whirlwind tour of Teesside Golf Course.**

The incredibly flat site – with a natural fall of just eight inches from its highest to lowest point – has been Tony’s workplace for over 30 years.

He poured his heart and soul into the role of Head Greenkeeper. He planted a staggering 32,000 trees by hand, obtained a tipping licence to create a six-metre high mound to screen the course from nearby roads and constructed ponds and bunkers amongst countless other innovations.

On an idyllic sunny day, so rare this atrocious summer, it’s easy to see why Tony describes the parkland course as “beautiful” as he poses for photos close to the picturesque pond, teeming with carp, which crosses the first and last fairways.

However, he’s honest enough to admit they’ve suffered terribly with the relentless rain this year and he’s equally candid on all issues, particularly the desperate economic climate. It’s clear he intends to bring this openness to the chairmanship.

He says: ““This is the toughest time I’ve ever known. We did have difficult times in the mid seventies when we had a bad winter and people were laid off. Also, in the late eighties and early nineties we had a lull in membership, mainly because of the boom in golf courses being built. It was all pay and play with nomadic golfers playing a different course every weekend instead of paying membership.

“But the last few years have been the worst, and the amount of rain this year has just topped it off. I know it’s been the same for every-

one in the country, not just here.

“We’ve had floods before, but in April we even had a burst sewage pipe we had to sort out, and we’ve repeatedly had to close holes because of the damage the water has done to the fairways. It’s been one thing after another.

“Golf courses will get over this recession, what we have to do is find ways to tighten our belts – and this cannot and must not mean laying off skilled greenkeepers.”

These are not just empty words. Like many clubs, Teesside has had serious cash flow problems – so Tony came up with a radical idea.

“We had a meeting with every single member of staff invited, from the cleaners to the pro, to come up with ideas on how to save the golf club money.

“We had a few brainwaves such as selling land but they weren’t sufficient for the amount of money we were trying to save and it was clear we were looking at one or more redundancies.

“So I suggested they make me redundant, and I could then work part-time two or three days a week

until retirement – and that’s what we agreed. I was lucky in a way because I’ve only got a year before retirement so it was something I was able to offer, but you sometimes need to look for more unusual solutions.”

So, in a role reversal, Tony now reports to his previous protégé Gary Evans – who is now Head Greenkeeper.

“I thought it would be odd stepping back and letting Gary take over but it’s not – in fact he’s been here a year longer than me. He probably found it strange at first telling me what to do, but it works well. We’ve been able to save money

## FACTFILE

Name: Tony Smith

Born: Sheffield, 20 August 1948

Marital Status: Married to Lorna with a son, daughter and three grandchildren

Handicap: 14

Hobbies: Amateur dramatics – recently played ‘Buttons’ in Cinderella!

Favourite Sports Team: Sheffield Wednesday





**“Driving membership is the number one item on the BIGGA agenda”**



BELOW: Gary Evans, Head Greenkeeper, is second from left, with his team



and go forward in the right way.”

Born in Sheffield, he learnt his trade at various golf clubs across Yorkshire, surviving a redundancy in his twenties. He cites lack of education as one of the reasons behind this early setback, which goes some way to explaining his passion for greenkeeper learning and development.

He admits: “I was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Hallowes GC near Sheffield when I was just 21, vastly inexperienced and big-headed. I didn’t get on with the captain either and eventually was let go.

“I worked at Abbeydale Golf Club twice, Hillsborough Golf Club, and spent a brief period fitting swimming pools after Hallowes until I saw the job of Head Greenkeeper advertised here in 1979.

“I turned up for the interview and my only qualifications were two STRI certificates and one night school certificate – that was it. There was no proper formal training available. I managed to get the job and I’ve been here ever since.

“Our biggest asset, without a shadow of a doubt, is education. Whenever I speak with young greenkeepers now I urge them to take advantage of BIGGA’s many educational opportunities.”

Tony’s formal training began in the mid-nineties when he attended supervisory management courses organized by BIGGA. At that time sessions were held annually, and covered a range of training areas essential for any greenkeeper such as managing people, resources, course development and IT skills.

He explains: “I wanted to improve my skill range and make myself more employable. I wanted to become a wiser greenkeeper with a greater understanding of my staff, golfers’ needs, the environment and also understand issues like budgets and health and safety, and this is how it turned out.

“This was absolutely crucial and all stood me in good stead throughout the rest of my career, I couldn’t have done without it.”

Appropriately, Tony officially replaced Andrew Mellon as Chairman on the first day of golf’s biggest weekend – The Open, held this year at Royal Lytham St Annes. He couldn’t be clearer on his main priority – membership and increasing member engagement.

“Driving and engaging the membership is the number one item on everybody’s agenda, as it should be. And it is down to our current membership to encourage the next generation to join.

“BTME is buzzing, HQ is buzzing

and we’ve got terrific RAs inspiring the regions. But we don’t brag enough about what we do and our successes. I want the members to tell everyone about the education we offer, and examples of what they’ve been doing. I want the members who went to The Open to shout about how great it was. I want them all to be talking about BIGGA.

“As long as we have members the association will always be there, we shouldn’t lose sight of that, and in the past I think we have. I’m not afraid to shake things up to get us where we should be.”

Tony began his rise in the Sheffield section in the early part of his career, in a bid to increase his involvement and also gain a greater understanding of the theories behind greenkeeping.

He then moved on to the Cleveland section committee where he organized tournaments and attended meetings and lectures, continuing to develop his knowledge. Eventually he took over as chairman of this section before joining the board after a brief period as a deputy to the board.

Is he surprised to have risen to the role of chairman?

“I’m gobsmacked really, for a lad from my background. Several people who know me from outside greenkeeping say ‘Why you? There must be someone from St Andrews or Carnoustie who would take it on!’

“We’ve reached a stage where Teesside Golf Course is in first-class condition, there’s a fantastic team in place here so I have the capacity to take the role of chairman on, and I’m delighted to do so.

“The team have been 100 per cent behind me throughout my time here – although they’ll have to put up with me for a little while longer! They’ve looked after the course when I’ve been away on Association business and have done a superb job.”

He admits that some of his social activities – he treads the boards in panto and also enjoys tutoring young actors and actresses, as well as spending time with his wife Lorna and his grandchildren – will have to be scaled back now he’s chairman.

“Being on the board is not as easy as some may think. We give up a lot of our own time and holidays. I wouldn’t like to know how many hours I’ve given up with my various roles at Section, Regional and National level.”

With that, he takes instructions from the Head Greenkeeper Gary and heads off to work on his beloved course.





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

[www.eagle.uk.com](http://www.eagle.uk.com) 01883 344244

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED



- Golf course construction
- Remodelling & renovation
- Grow in & maintenance
- Sportsground construction

Bratch Lane • Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB  
Tel. 01722 716361 • Fax. 01722 716828  
[www.mjabbott.co.uk](http://www.mjabbott.co.uk)

**SWEEP-N-FILL**

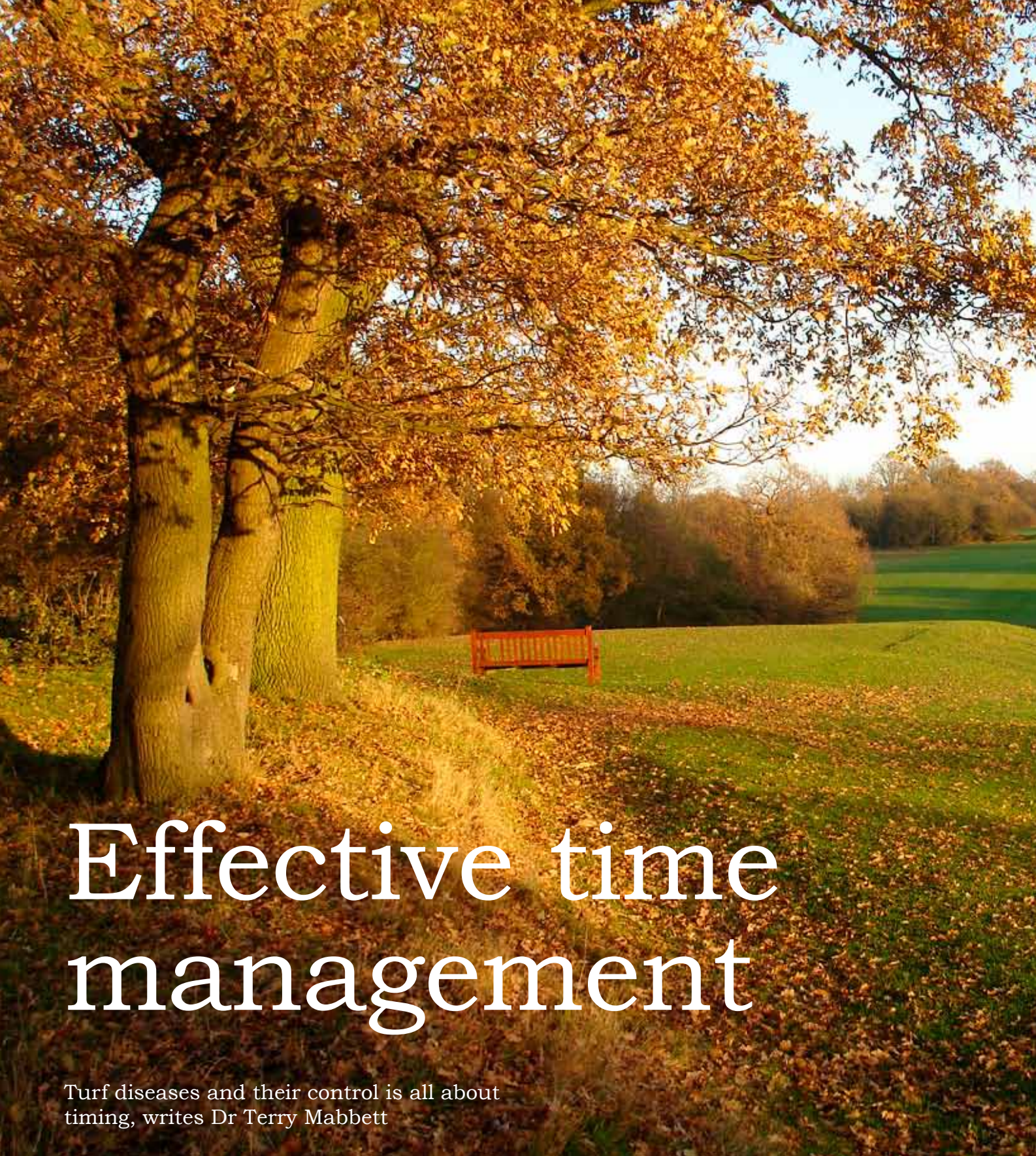
Tel: 0845 026 0064  
[www.jsmd.co.uk](http://www.jsmd.co.uk)

**JSMD**  
DISTRIBUTION

## Outstanding Top Dressing and Grooming Brush



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



# Effective time management

Turf diseases and their control is all about timing, writes Dr Terry Mabbett

**It never ceases to amaze why professional sports turf is so prone to disease. Why a sward of prostrate plants with shallow fibrous root systems and green foliage mown and manicured to just millimetres in length is such a worthwhile target for so many fungal diseases appears at first sight to be a mystery.**

The answer is deeply embedded

in professional turf's role and function as a sport playing surface, a sequence of events taking place and conditions experienced throughout the calendar year. Unlike swards of green plants grown in agriculture, fine turf grass plants are trampled on and acutely injured on a very regular basis by the blades of the mowing machine.

Like all green plants, turf grasses are least able to fight off fungal

pathogens and manifestations of disease when an 'open door' (cut ends of grass leaves and shoots) is presented for fungal infection against a background of general debilitation (stress) which means grass plants can't mount an effective fightback.

Replenishment management practice including nourishment with nutrients (fertilization) and water supplementation by irriga-

'A' was for anthracnose always appearing in autumn. Fusarium and fallen leaves often appear together although the roots of this disease would have invariably been put down during the previous summer of high traffic and drought



tion, aimed at the recuperation and regeneration of grass, can unwittingly trigger plant pathogenic fungi into action on the rapidly growing, lush and highly attractive turf grass plants.

These are clearly important reasons for the prevalence of fungal disease in turf but the primary underlying reason for sports turf's

proneness to disease is the ever-ready presence of fungal pathogens on the thatch. Thatch as the name implies is a layer of entwined dead and dying grass stems and leaves strategically placed in between the actively growing green grass plant and the soil surface.

Main components of professional sports turf are perennial grasses (persist from year to year). The few which are not (e.g. *Poa annua* – annual meadow grass) seed, germinate and regenerate so easily and quickly that there is essentially no seasonal gap in the sward as a whole.

Accumulation of dead and dying plant matter in such a long term perennial and persistent sward is unavoidable. What's more, thatch is an essential part of the sports playing surface as a cushion and is therefore encouraged up to a point of optimum depth and density. The fungi which live and feed as saprophytes or very weak parasites on the readily available supply nutrients contained in and released by thatch are also encouraged, albeit unavoidably.

Some of these fungi are highly versatile feeders able to 'step up to the plate' as full-blown aggressive parasites and pathogens, when the environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, humidity and surface wetness) are right and the state of turf-grass growth (e.g. soft and lush nitrogen-fed growth) is ripe for the taking.

Thatch is home to many different fungi but the two most damaging to professional sports turf, and specifically golf greens, are *Microdochium nivale* and *Colletotrichum graminicola*, the causal pathogens of, respectively, Fusarium Patch and Anthracnose.

Once upon a time no other disease could match Fusarium Patch on UK turf in occurrence or damage caused. Anthracnose was a purely autumn problem and essentially confined to *P. annua* as a basal stem rot disease.

Fusarium patch is still 'top dog' disease on UK turf. Meanwhile anthracnose has 'spread its wings' and is now seen in summer as foliar blight on a broader range of turf grass species, in addition to its traditional position as a basal rot of annual meadow grass in autumn.

Underpinning the position and status of both fungal pathogens as the most damaging diseases of UK turf is a permanent presence in thatch and a capacity to 'cash in' on favourable sets of environmental factors, including microclimate conditions inside the turf canopy

and largely created by the thatch component.

### Facing up to Fusarium Patch

The status of Fusarium Patch as UK's number one disease of sports turf is unquestioned. Surveys show over 90% of all UK greenkeepers can expect to come face to face with Fusarium Patch in any one calendar year. Over 50 per cent of all professional football pitches record Fusarium at least on an occasional basis and even 20 per cent of local authority sports pitches where disease monitoring is less.

A similar picture unfolds on the disease control canvas with four fifths of all fungicide applications made to UK sports turf primarily targeted at Fusarium, although given the broad spectrum activity built into contemporary commercial product other diseases including Anthracnose, Dollar Spot and Red Thread are clearly controlled at the same time.

A whole raft of factors combine and contribute in sending quiescent populations of thatch dwelling *M. nivale* into turf disease causing mode and invariably with roots in a particular period of summer stress before the disease actually shows in earnest in autumn.

*M. nivale* is present in thatch year round in saprophytic feeding mode (dead decaying organic matter) or in a weakly parasitic mode. The fungus can spring into intense pathogenic activity over the widest range of temperature is (21 °F [-6 °C] and up to about 86 °F [30 °C] ) which means greenkeepers can face Fusarium on turf at any time during the calendar year of a cool temperate climate like the UK.

Last but not least is its ability to infect right across the turf grass species spectrum (*Agrostis*, *Festuca*, *Poa* and *Lolium*) and a liking for fertile soils, especially where autumn fertilizer applications heavy on nitrogen give a burst of soft green growth after the summer drought. Simultaneously occurring cool temperatures, mists, dews and accompanying high humidity of during this autumn period are ideal for infection and disease spread.

Slow growing turf over deep thatch later in late autumn/winter provides the ideal substrate for *M. nivale* especially under cool wet conditions (32 to 46 °F [0 – 8°C]) and when turf grass is covered with snow, when Fusarium symptoms often display a characteristic pink coloured tinge.

Conditions that promote the spread of *M. nivale* include dew, drizzle, mist, fog, frost occurring



on previously dry and compacted summer stressed turf suddenly refreshed by autumn rains and flushed with fertiliser. Grass growth resumed in earnest but so did the anthracnose fungus having lain 'dormant' in the thatch during the dry summer months. That has changed, with a new and additional form of anthracnose disease (caused by the same fungal pathogen) now first appearing during the summer months as a foliar blight on a much wider range of turf grasses.

Anthracnose is now firmly established as the second most important disease of UK turf after Fusarium Patch. Contemporary Anthracnose is much heavier, presents problems over longer periods and on a much wider range of turf grasses. The measures needed to avoid, manage and control Anthracnose, including use of fungicide sprays, have been reassessed accordingly.

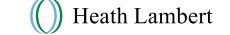
The foliar blight form of Anthracnose was widespread in North America long before it took off in the UK. Infection occurs, symptoms show and disease spreads during spells of high humidity with temperatures over 22°C, especially on turf struggling to grow over a dry root zone. Summer irrigation or watering to alleviate drought stress may aggravate the Anthracnose problem. Water unable to percolate through the dry compacted soil lays on the surface to soak the thatch and generate high humidity, the very conditions which set scene for anthracnose.

night after night with alternating daytime thawing and also snow cover. Poor drainage favours Fusarium Patch as does long uncut grass leaves becoming matted down to create a humid microclimate within the turf grass canopy.

When Fusarium patch strikes in autumn the greenkeeper may look back and see how the 'seeds' of disease were set in summer but that is of little consolation or use until the next time round. More than any other turf pathogen *M. nivale* and Fusarium Patch disease requires an integrated turf management programme that covers and caters for the entire calendar year.

### 'A' was for anthracnose and always in autumn

'A' was for anthracnose always appearing in autumn as a dark-coloured basal (crown) rot of *Poa annua* (annual meadow grass)



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA L&D Fund.

**TOP:** The foliar blight form of anthracnose which can appear as early as July (Photograph courtesy Syngenta)

**BELOW:** Early development of Fusarium Patch from thatch (Photograph courtesy Syngenta)

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Timing is the key to preventing infection with Fusarium Patch disease. Close up on symptoms of a well-established Fusarium infection shown here. (Photograph courtesy Vitax)

Affected patches of turf are yellow at first, then bronze with affected grass assuming a dull and darkened appearance. Annual meadow grass and creeping bent grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) are the prime targets but smooth stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) and creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are also affected. This foliar blight stage creates inoculum (spores) for more infection as basal rot in the autumn.

### Thatch residing diseases nipped in the bud

Dozens of different turf fungicides have come and gone including classic contact-protectant fungicides, which must be on the leaf before infection takes place, and systemically acting curative chemicals that can enter the grass plant to eradicate established infections.

These pathogens continue to place sports turf under considerable disease pressure but commercial fungicides are under equally considerable pressure from the regulation authorities and related to all aspects of use and environmental loading. These are versatile, fast-moving diseases with greenkeepers invariably waking up to find an unexpected existing infection. Established infections take a lot longer to control with more sprays and larger amounts of fungicide.

Insurance sprays of purely contact-protectant fungicides are all very well but turfgrass is frequently mown. Every time the grass is mown protectant fungicide on the clippings is lost leaving new unprotected growth with severed ends as prime points of entry and infection by pathogenic fungi.

In a completely new departure from traditional thought and practice in fungicide activity and application, Syngenta have introduced a new product called Medallion TL based on the fungicide fludioxonil. Fludioxonil not only targets spores of *M. nivale* and *C. graminicola* on green grass leaves but also in the thatch and soil. These disease problems are therefore nipped in the bud with spores destroyed before they have time to germinate and infect the living grass leaves.





A Fusarium Patch trial which shows a heavily diseased control plot which has not been treated with fungicide. This is surrounded by a large treated kept 'clean' by targeting the thatch with fungicide to prevent leaf infection  
(Photograph courtesy Syngenta)

## Tackle Anthracnose more effectively

**Syngenta and Everris have published a Turf Science in Action guide: An integrated approach to Anthracnose control.**

The booklet explains why we need a new approach to Anthracnose control, information on the key products to use to protect against infection and advice on when to apply treatment. It's also packed with details about combining fast-acting nutrition and fungicide applications plus results of STRI research into Anthracnose.

A copy of the guide can be downloaded from the GreenCast website, or email [caroline.scott@syngenta.com](mailto:caroline.scott@syngenta.com) to receive a copy.



## GRADEN CONTOUR SAND & SEED INJECTION



Close up inspection by Keith Kensett and Allen Blizzard, Course Manager Royal Blackheath 14 days after Graden Sand Injection and Overseeding Works

**Firmer,  
faster,  
smoother  
greens**



R & K KENSETT LTD

Tel: +44 (0) 1883 342632  
[www.kensettsports.com](http://www.kensettsports.com)  
Email: [info@kensettsports.com](mailto:info@kensettsports.com)

## Get a step ahead with the TB 200 Commercial Turf Brush



**The ultimate in  
strength, quality,  
durability and  
ease of operation**

To see for yourself visit:  
[www.sgindustries.com/promo\\_video](http://www.sgindustries.com/promo_video)



R & K KENSETT LTD

Tel: +44 (0) 1883 342632  
[www.kensettsports.com](http://www.kensettsports.com)  
Email: [info@kensettsports.com](mailto:info@kensettsports.com)

# BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX 2012

**Wednesday 5 September 2012**

at The Grandstand, Royal Windsor Race Course

**BIGGA** is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEX 2012. This year we will be bringing you some of the greatest hits from the extremely successful **Continue to Learn at BTME 2012**.

**10.15 am – 11.15 am**  
**Managing Winter Kill**

David Cole, Golf Course/Estate Manager,  
Loch Lomond Golf Club

In the winter of 2009/10 the greens at Loch Lomond suffered from devastating winter kill. This session will give an insight to the damage that occurred and the precautions that were taken in 2010/11 to prevent similar problems.

**11.30 am – 12.30 pm**  
**From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years**

Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Castle  
Stuart Golf Club

In this session Chris will discuss his experiences of building a links golf course and it's grow in. He will also describe the journey towards the Scottish Open 2011, the event, the rain and the recovery.

**1.00 pm – 2.00 pm**  
**Organic Matter – Friend or Foe**

Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager,  
Symbio

Measuring organic matter levels is becoming very popular, almost an industry standard procedure. This information can be invaluable to green keepers and grounds men. However, how do we decipher between thatch and organic matter and why it is important to do so. This seminar will discuss the various differences between problematic thatch and beneficial organic matter, the problems with working to a figure, the difference between drainage and percolation rates and how you can turn the thatch to your advantage.

## **BIGGA CPD Credits**

**0.5 CPD credits are available for each seminar.**  
A CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar.



# Matt -trick hero

Matt Le Brun is head greenkeeper at the RJ National, a three-hole, GEO certified course on the outskirts of Ipswich. Kevin Marks visited him recently to see how he maintains the course for his employers, Ransomes Jacobsen, a BIGGA Gold Key Sponsor

**Matt is the head greenkeeper (and the only greenkeeper) looking after the three-hole golf course at the European headquarters of the international turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, Ransomes Jacobsen.**

Seasoned greenkeepers may think a three-hole course would literally be a walk in the park - but in just 18 months, Matt has made this job into a vocation.

He dreamed of becoming a professional golfer and recorded his first hole in one aged just 11 - but eventually realised he was not quite



up to professional standard.

So, he joined Milton Park Golf Club in 2005 as an apprentice professional, and began taking a real interest in the 'other' side of the business.

"I became more involved and more interested in what was going on around the course," he said, "so in 2007 I got a job at my home club of Ely. I subsequently achieved NVQ level 2 and obtained my spraying certificates, as well as gaining excellent experience of general greenkeeping duties.

"After a spell at Heijman's Contractors in the Netherlands I saw this job advertised on BIGGA's

website, and after a rigorous interview process I began my two-year contract in January 2011.

"Being a GEO certified golf course puts us in such illustrious company as courses at St Andrews, Celtic Manor, and the Montgomerie in Turkey."

The RJ National was the brainchild of David Withers, the managing director at Ransomes Jacobsen, now president at Jacobsen in the USA, who wanted to build a small golf course close to the company's manufacturing facility. He reasoned that if he could produce a course that had different grass species on each of the holes



and fairways, then it would be ideal for testing the company's mowers and demonstrating their capabilities to customers and prospects. He also wanted to use the course as an educational and training opportunity for young, aspiring greenkeepers and that's exactly how it's turned out.

He persuaded golf architect Howard Swan to design the course and with input from the STRI, who return every six months to evaluate the course, there was a determined effort to construct the course in accordance with the highest environmental principles. The ground was broken in June 2007, seeding commenced in the autumn and it was officially opened in October 2008.

"I inherited a young golf course following a very harsh winter with snow mould damage on the greens," Matt says. "But I'm not left completely alone to manage the course as I'm mentored by Norman Fenwick, course manager at Ipswich Golf Club.

"His advice has been invaluable. He's from Wearside with a very direct manner, but he knows the art of greenkeeping inside out. I can honestly say that I would have made more mistakes if it wasn't for him."

Matt has relished his unique chance to try out up-to-the-minute equipment on the course.

"One of the great things about this job is the opportunity to use some

of the latest and most innovative equipment in the industry. We have a large demonstration fleet, so I get to use a whole range of machinery from pedestrian mowers to large tractors.

"We have a close working relationship with Wiedenmann and they have been a great help with my aeration programme. After aeration I then top dressed with pure sand.

"In the first six months I was working long hours to bring the course round; I was scarifying and overseeding and I changed the fertiliser programme reducing the granular and introducing a liquid input.

"Because of the large number of customer visits and product testing I didn't want to leave granular fertiliser on the course and have it re-distributed by the footfall of visitors, so I changed to liquid applications.

"As part of my job I've been able to test the enhancements to the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid and all-electric riding greens mowers.

"I've evaluated all the GreenTek range – vibrating roller, scarifiers and de-thatchers and I tested the new three-wheel drive system, long before it went to market.

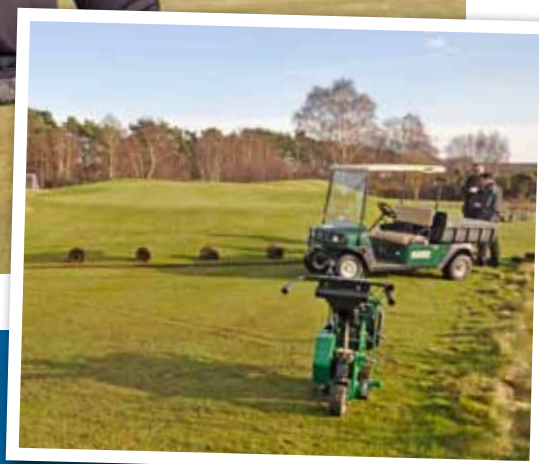
"One of the real highlights so far was a product video, filmed here. It involved a remote controlled helicopter filming from various angles.

"I had to drive across the course with the helicopter fast approaching





“One of the great things about this job is the opportunity to use some of the latest and most innovative equipment in the industry, from pedestrian mowers to large tractors”



and swooping over my head as I drove by. It was being controlled by a guy some 30 metres away and was quite scary!

“I’d like to think that under my short tenure, the course has become more established and has certainly got a lot more definition.

Without a doubt, it’s the best place I’ve ever worked; the people are so professional, everyone is willing to help and give their time and there is so much knowledge here.

From the engineering team, who keep coming up with new and innovative equipment, to the guys who actually build the mowers in the factory, the trainers who have collectively hundreds of years experience and knowledge, and the sales and marketing people who make sure that we keep putting the professional ace of the business to the marketplace.”

It’s very clear that despite only managing a three-hole course, Matt has thrown himself into what is a hugely varied and full-on role.

So, if you’re a young and aspiring greenkeeper, still on a college course with the aim of forging a career and you see an advertisement for this post, don’t hesitate; send in your application!

## The types of grass seed at RJ National

### Tee 1: Bar 10

45% Barlexas 2 tall fescue  
25% Perennial Rye grass  
30% Rhizomatosis tall fescue  
Trial grass that did not work as well.  
Overseeded with dwarf perennial rye grass and removing tall fescue

### Green 1: Bar 2

25% Viktorika slender creeping red fescue  
25% Barcrown slender creeping red fescue  
15% Barbride chewings fescue  
10% Barking browntop bent  
10% Heriot browntop bent

### Tee 2: Bar Platinum

30% Bargold dwarf perennial ryegrass  
25% Barpearl slender creeping red fescue  
25% Barcrown slender creeping red fescue  
20% Barbirdie chewings fescue

### Green 2: Bar fescue

25% Barbirdie chewings fescue  
25% Bargreen chewings fescue  
25% Barcrown slender creeping red fescue  
25% Barpearl slender creeping red fescue

### Tee 3: Bar 4

40% Chopin strong creeping red fescue

30% Bartwingo dwarf perennial ryegrass  
15% Bartender smooth stalked meadow grass  
15% Barpearl slender creeping red fescue

### Green 3: Bar all bent

50% Barking brown top bent  
50% Heriot brown top bent

### Fairways: Bar 5

30% Slender creeping red fescue  
25% Baroxi chewings fescue  
25% Bargreen chewings fescue  
15% Julius smooth stalked meadow grass

### Test area/Football pitch: Bar 8

35% Romance dwarf perennial ryegrass  
30% Barlennium dwarf perennial ryegrass  
15% Barcrown slender creeping red fescue  
20% Julius smooth stalked meadow grass





Andy Wood, Course Manager at the Robin Hood Golf Club in Birmingham, chats to Laurence Pithie of Turf Master One about the results of his drainage work on the greens, most of which was completed in 2009/2010

# Greens drainage ...a case study

**Like many courses formed over a century ago, Robin Hood Golf Club is not blessed with natural free draining soil. Originally designed by Harry Colt and opened in 1893, the club is located just five miles from Birmingham city centre.**

Although surrounded by housing and a primary school, this parkland style course of around 6,500 yards is largely tree lined yet does not feel enclosed. The club is a regular host for local tournaments with a desire to act as a future regional qualifying venue for the Open Championship.

## Challenges

With greens drainage in particular being the weakest aspect of this course, a report was commissioned in 2001, advising the reconstruction of all 18 greens. The club rejected this and for the next eight years, the greens gradually accumulated a greater level of thatch, which led to a worsening drainage situation. By 2009, the club was faced with the dilemma of having a shorter playing season, dissatisfied golfers and a gradual decline in membership numbers. It was in desperate need of a solution

to a problem that was not going to disappear.

Enter Andy Wood, a young Course Manager with the vision to take the course forward and a growing reputation from the likes of Andy Cole of the STRI who was urging the club to address this worsening situation. The 35-year-old had previously spent six years as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry before managing and improving the Cosby course in Leicestershire for a further seven years.

Andy said: "Soon after arriving and taking various turf and soil samples, it was apparent that drastic action was required. The greens contained a thatch level of over 60mm, a serious black layer problem, heavy reliance on fungicide applications and suffered closure due to waterlogging of between 20 and 30 days each year.

A Clegg hammer reading of 48 was one of the worst ever recorded by the STRI.

Previous efforts to improve drainage and reduce the level of thatch included the use of the Graden Sand Injector and limited aeration work. Even after just 10mm of rain, water would remain on the

surface for over a day, with prolonged rain leading to complete loss of turf."

## Planning and Approval

Soon after commencing work as Course Manager, Andy made a presentation to the club, highlighting the problems and then recommending a plan of action to address the issue with the greens once and for all.

After the inevitable questions being raised from the membership on the effectiveness of the plan, level of disruption, timescale and cost, there was a strong desire to overcome the problem in the most cost effective way possible.

Andy was given full club approval to drain 15 of the greens over the autumn and winter of 2009 and 2010.

"The first step was to locate suitable outlets for the drain water to exit the course or to be reused for irrigation water.

"The next requirement was to provide a series of main drains that would allow connection from the greens and then entry into

Turf Master One Ltd is grateful to Andy Wood and Robin Hood GC for their support in producing this article.



Sand banding and subsequent top dressings was additional to this”.

**Surface reinstatement & ongoing surface improvement**

“Much of the first winter was spent on reinstatement work whereby drainage lines were constantly being raised, levelled or adjusted to ensure a smooth finish. Coring, deep tining and sanding of the areas between the drain lines were completed along with other work which included rolling and brushing in order to bring the greens back into play as soon as possible. By April 2010, this was achieved after a period of between six and seven months of work and recovery”.

During 2010, the greens and collars were sand dressed on average every two weeks, applying around 15 tons per application.

This amounted to almost 400 tons of sand being applied, followed by around 350 tons in 2011. At around £30 per ton, the cost in top dressing alone was £12,000 and £10,500 respectively for the two years. This year the amount is likely to fall to around 300 tons, reducing further to around 200 tons in 2013.

**Unfinished business**

Work on the 18th green had been deferred since other landscaping work to the bunkers and surrounds were required.

Before work started in September 2011, the club purchased an AFT Trencher which would allow the staff to complete all the necessary work in house.

Another member of staff was also employed since other project work was planned which included the reconstruction of the 16th green and the inclusion of a small timber edged lake.

The 18th green was drained in exactly the same way, the work was completed on time and the green brought back into play earlier this year.

The total cost of the project was around £2,250 inclusive of a connecting drain to the main line.

The remaining 6th green not requiring drainage had previously been rebuilt several years earlier to a modern sand based construction.

Nearly two years on from the initial work, the difference in playability and greens performance is remarkable.

The greens have drained very well with no standing water remaining

after heavy rainfall.

Following extensive aerifying, top dressing, brushing, grooming and rolling, the greens are firm, smooth and consistent. Stimpmeter readings on the day of this visit averaged ten and this pace has been maintained throughout the summer.

Recent data taken by the STRI supports the transformation in performance and a substantial reduction in Organic Matter content as seen in the green profile photograph. Nutrient input has been lowered from around 130kgs Nitrogen in 2008 to 105kgs in 2011 and less is expected this year, probably ending with applying around 95kgs of Nitrogen per Ha and a lesser amount of Potassium.

**“The club now has a small but healthy waiting list”**

Fungicide applications have been reduced to three per year, two being applied as a preventative.

In financial terms, there has been a halt in membership loss and the club now has a small but healthy waiting list. Green fee income has improved, although it has stalled somewhat due to the exceptionally wet summer.

One interesting aspect is that a small band of members give some voluntary time on the course for work such as pond clearance, divoting fairways, tree trimming and so on. Pride in their course has been re-established and there is strong desire to make Robin Hood Golf Club one of the best courses in the region.

**Conclusion**

The challenge of finding a workable solution to draining soil based greens will be one that is familiar to many within the industry.

Andy Wood accepted this challenge and with the support and investment from the golf club and a great greenkeeping team alongside him, they were able to deliver on time and within budget, while also raising the performance of the greens to a standard not witnessed previously.

His enthusiasm and commitment from start to finish, from planning and presentation to implementation and communication has been an





**ABOVE:** Greens drained via Wizz wheel trencher

**RIGHT:** Sand slitting and drainage completed before turf is replaced

**BELOW:** Newly installed drain lines at 2m centres

**ABOVE LEFT:** Green profile on 17th

**LEFT:** Putting on 18th green 10 months after drainage





Last year, Eddie Mills had a severe outbreak of Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch on his Penn A4 & G6 creeping bentgrass greens, which quickly took hold and proved difficult to eradicate.

Working with his Evertis Technical Area Sales Manager, Emma Kilby, they devised an iTurf integrated turf management programme that focused on improving the overall health of the turf and preventing disease.

The programme combines SierraformGT slow-release fertilizer, Greenmaster Pro-Lite granular fertilizers, Greenmaster Liquid fertilizers including Blade biostimulant and Effect Iron Fe, and Primo Maxx plant growth

regulator to provide optimum nutrition that meets the grass plant's requirement, encourages strong, healthy rooting, and helps maintain a healthy rootzone.

To prevent disease, Eddie also took advantage of Evertis's **Maximum Protection** packages, the first of which combines Banner Maxx broad-spectrum fungicide tank mixed with Greenmaster Liquid for proven results.

New research undertaken at STRI and supported by R&D at Evertis and Syngenta research facilities has demonstrated that, where there is a risk of Anthracnose attack, a rapid response with fast uptake fertilizer and fungicide inputs can effectively minimise damage from infection. The trials highlighted the synergistic effects of fast-acting Greenmaster Liquid fertilizer and





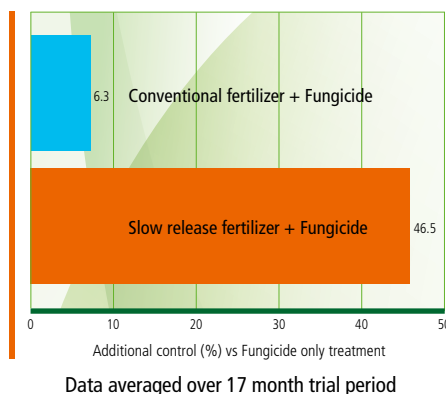
“Our iTurf programme has helped us set a new standard for our greens this summer, despite us experiencing some of the most challenging weather conditions in the club’s history.”

Eddie Mills, Course Manager, Edgbaston Golf Club

rapid uptake of Banner Maxx. When used together, the results produced excellent control of disease and improvements in turf health and quality.

This autumn, Eddie will follow up with an application of Heritage Maxx systemic strobilurin fungicide and SierraformGT with slow-release nitrogen and potassium plus Silica and trace elements. Data averaged over a 17 month trial period showed that disease reduction was increased by 46% when combined with a SierraformGT programme compared to a fungicide-only treatment.

#### Improved fungicide efficacy vs *M.nivale*



To discover what an iTurf programme can do for your golf course, contact your Everris Technical Area Sales Manager or visit [www.everris.co.uk](http://www.everris.co.uk).

For more information about the Maximum Protection packages, visit [everris.co.uk](http://everris.co.uk) and click on 'special offers'. Offers end 28th September 2012.



# A cut above



**When did you last try a different make of brushcutter? Brushcutters targeting professional users may have grown over the years, but for some brand loyalty sees a reluctance to consider anything other than just one make. Unless you try a range of alternatives, however, you may miss out on the tool that is best suited to your needs**



**As with any item of equipment, brushcutter designs have evolved. You may not notice this when you take a casual look at what is on offer but compare similar models made a few years apart and the chances are the newer machine will be more pleasant to operate.**

This will typically be down to lower vibration and noise levels, two key improvements that can really help reduce fatigue. Power to weight ratios have steadily improved too, some nominal 25cc units seeming to pack a punch well above what you could have experienced per-

with a greater degree of adjustment, are more common. So too is a longer line of mounting points for a harness, enabling more operators to select a balance point to suit how they want to work the machine.

That said, key developments relate to noise and vibration. What is often not considered is that the level of vibration produced will be influenced by the task being carried out. Large brushcutters, with the right blade type, can be used as a clearing saw to tackle heavy growth to include small saplings.

This type of work will produce different levels of vibration than when the same tool is used to clear



*Choosing a brushcutter is not easy – there is not only the choice of engine type and power to consider but price, make and local support too. Although you can play it safe by sticking to a big name, there are alternatives that may well fit your specific needs better.*

haps just a few years back. But do not expect a dramatic improvement over more recent designs; much changed when power units were brought into line with legislative demands made in the 2000s.

Detail developments have of course continued. On loop handle trimmers, not only has the shape of the loop altered on some machines but so too has the material from which they are covered; soft finish grips are increasingly common to help improve comfort. Similarly, anti-vibration systems have evolved.

Fire up a new 'pro quality' brushcutter with cow horn bike handles and then revert to an older machine from the same maker. Notice anything different? Offset handles,

bracken or brambles.

Similarly, a light trimmer used to cope with long grass around trees, benches and marker posts will behave differently when dealing with docks and thistles. It is for these reasons that it is important to try out different makes and models in the key environment in which they will be operated.

Most professional users tend to target top spec models with a full harness and wide bike handles. This type of tool can be used all-day and everyday. But is it the right tool to fit with a nylon line cutting around obstacles?

A light loop handle trimmer may be the better choice for this type of work.

When it comes to power units, you have more choice. Still most popular are two-stroke engines. Proven, simple and reliable, modern two-strokes are not only quieter but cleaner too. But to get the best from these engines it is important to use a high quality two-stroke oil.

A 50:1 'petrol' mix is pretty much the default with a synthetic oil, but more advanced oils not only lubricate better at a low mix rate but burn more cleanly too. This reduces fumes and, of equal importance, helps keep the engine internals cleaner too. A modern 'green' Pro or Ultra oil can cost three times as much as a decent 'bulk' two-stroke oil but you get what you pay for.

Conventional two-stroke alternatives include the now familiar 4-Mix designs from Stihl and C4 from Shindaiwa plus four-stroke engines from companies to including Makita, Honda, Ryobi and Hitachi. Jonsered and Husqvarna offer two-stroke brushcutters with a catalytic convertor and... well you have far more choice with regard to engines than you may think. You can also opt for battery power.

With this in mind, it is perfectly fine to admit to not really being fully up to speed on what would make the best choice. And nothing beats getting your hands on a given unit and trying it out. Take four-stroke power. When the first four-stroke brushcutters were introduced over a decade ago, uptake among professional operators was low. And it still is.

But the latest four-strokes, such as the MM4 models from Makita are impressive tools, the company claiming its 33.5cc EM4340L models can consume up to 60% less fuel than a two-stroke alternative with lower noise and vibration too.

Entrenched brand loyalty is another point. Nothing wrong in sticking with the same make but insisting that a given brand is better needs to be tested occasionally. You may be surprised to find a different brand actually fits your demands perfectly – and if it doesn't you can use this to prove your loyalty point.

There are no best buy recommendations; the right tool is the one that suits your business and no two operations will ever be exactly alike. But now is a great time to consider trying before buying. There are some really good brushcutters out there and some will be made by companies you may not have considered before such as Echo, Tanaka, Sanli, Efco, Solo and Kawasaki.



*Emission controls have driven small engine developments, the Stihl 4-Mix cutaway diagram showing its four-stroke 'breathing' combined with two-stroke lubrication simplicity. A four-stroke engine runs on straight petrol, with a sump full of oil for lubrication. Two-strokes can have a catalyst fitted to reduce fumes, but the best oil you can buy will also help.*

*RIGHT: Modern cow or bike handle designs are 'offset' to the right, a degree of adjustment allowing the operator to set up the machine to suit personal preferences. Vibration control varies between makes and models, so it is worth trying a few alternatives; the best designs are much less tiring to operate over extended periods.*



*ABOVE: Modern cow or bike handle designs are 'offset' to the right, a degree of adjustment allowing the operator to set up the machine to suit personal preferences. Vibration control varies between makes and models, so it is worth trying a few alternatives; the best designs are much less tiring to operate over extended periods.*



*LEFT: A grass blade can tackle heavier growth than a line and, dependant upon design, also cope well with docks, light brush and bracken. There are so many designs of blade available that it is worth trying a few different types. The reversible four-blade unit pictured produces very little mulch and suits long grass that is raked and cleared separately.*



## MEGA TWISTER

Introducing a unique 270° swivelling blower with whisper turbine. Blows continuously in one direction without the need to back up or turn around.

**Really quiet. Truly effective.**



For more info call 0141 814 3366  
[www.wiedemann.co.uk](http://www.wiedemann.co.uk)



## SUPER 600

Our largest and most versatile 4-in-1 collector. Combines as a flail mower, scarifier and sweeper. Huge 4500 litre capacity, 2.1m high dump and in-cab remote control. Ingenious wheel locking system allows the four swinging axle wheels to float and pivot during work but lock into a fixed position when the tank is raised for tipping.

**Four outstanding machines in one.**

For more info call 0141 814 3366  
[www.wiedemann.co.uk](http://www.wiedemann.co.uk)



## BUNKER EDGER CUTS YOUR TIME



The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, this tough machine is easy to use and maintain. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK. **Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.**

DJ Turfcare: 01483 200976  
[www.djturfcare.co.uk](http://www.djturfcare.co.uk)

**AgriMetal**

Tel: 0845 026 0064  
[www.jsmd.co.uk](http://www.jsmd.co.uk)



## THE REAL AIR FORCE



Our heavy duty product line of blowers and collectors is packed with features to get the clean up done quickly and efficiently.

**With the renowned AgriMetal build quality, isn't it time you saw the real air force at work.**



# BTME 20

## The BIGGA Turf Management

incorporating:



**BIGGA Seminars  
& Workshops**

**20-23  
January 2012**



# The BIGGA show heats up

A look ahead to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, and Continue to Learn educational programme for 2013

**BTME is back at Harrogate for 2013, and is shaping up to be another must-attend event, with many exhibitors having already confirmed their spaces, months in advance, as the countdown to 22-24 January 2013 begins.**

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, incorporating Continue to Learn Education Seminars and Workshops, which start the weekend before and run for five consecutive days, is the ultimate experience for golf greenkeepers.

BTME, widely regarded as Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals and buyers, offers a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy and seek advice from over a hundred of

the top manufacturers and service providers across the world. To pre-register for your free visitors pass, visit [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) and click the **Register Now** icon. Then, simply enter your details to receive your access badge.

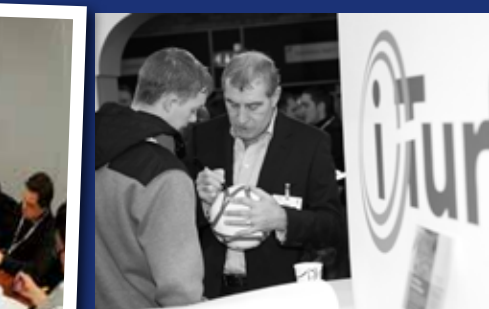
**REGISTER NOW!**  
Sign up now for Harrogate week  
[CLICK HERE](#)



# 2013

## 22-24 January 2013 at the Harrogate International Centre

### Exhibition



**IMAGES:**  
A selection from BTME 2012,  
courtesy of SiRA Studio  
[sirastudio.com](http://sirastudio.com)

# Continue to learn

# 5 days of education 20-24 January 2013

## BIGGA Seminars & Workshops

# Continue to learn at BTME 2013

BIGGA can already confirm a host of education seminars and workshops, coming your way in January 2013...

**Turf Managers' Conference 2013**  
Monday 21 January 2013  
The Crown Hotel,  
Harrogate

**The Turf Managers' Conference 2013 will make its return to the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme.**

Taking place at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on Monday 21 January 2013, the new venue will offer delegates a more comfortable learning environment whilst cementing the success of the Conference as it enters its third year.

The programme will feature some familiar industry names and will introduce new subject specialists to provide an interesting and thought provoking range of topics for Turf Managers':

- **Dr Thomas Nikolai** - 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University, a specialist in putting green management to maximize turfgrass health, investment and customer satisfaction.

- **David Bancroft** - Turner from

3D Training and Development, a specialist in organisational politics.

- **Dr Kate Entwistle**, Turf Pathologist from the Turf Disease Centre, a specialist in disease and pest identification.

- **Lorna Sheldon** from CWI International a specialist in communication and presentation skills.

With prices held from 2012, this must attend event is being offered to BIGGA members at £99 + VAT (£195 + VAT for non members). To reserve your place at this popular event, telephone or email Rachael Duffy, Learning and Development Administrator on 01347 833800 (option 3) or [rachael@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael@bigga.co.uk).

## Continue to Learn Workshops

**The Continue to Learn Workshop programme will make its return to the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre on Sunday 20 and Monday 21 January 2013.**

Featuring a series of one and two-day workshops including:

### Two-Day Workshops

- Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers





- Irrigation System Management and Design
- Moving into Management
- So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager

#### One-Day Workshops

- The A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance
- The Grass Plant
- Basic Golf Mechanics
- Health and Safety Documentation
- How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 2)
- How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 4)
- Diagnostic and Problem Solving
- The Soil
- Basic Budgeting and Golf Course Finance
- Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders

### Continue to Learn Seminars

**The Continue to Learn Seminar Programme will feature more than 25 sessions, all of which are free of charge to all visitors.**

There will be feature sessions including presentations from:

- Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University
- Curtis Tyrrell MG CGCS, Superintendent from the 2012 Ryder Cup venue, Medinah Country Club, Chicago, USA
- John Philp, retired Course Manager from Carnoustie
- Steve Chappell, Course Manager, PGA Centenary at Ryedales, host of the 2014 Ryder Cup
- Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager, Lymm Golf Club
- Richard Jenkinson, Deputy Course Manager, gWest



- Rob Wills, Assistant Greenkeeper, Remedy Oaks Golf Club

- Les Howkins MG, The Richmond Golf Club

This year we will be introducing a seminar pre-booking system for BIGGA members. Look out for further details in the Continue to Learn brochure.

2013 will see the introduction of 'Focus On' sessions. These 1.5 – 2 hour sessions will home in on specific areas, split into different strands including:

- Management
- Technical
- Environmental
- Information Technology

For further details on all of the education on offer, see the full Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme that will be delivered with your October issue of Greenkeeper International.

ABOVE: The Turf Managers' Conference from Continue to Learn 2013

### Accommodation

**Are you planning your trip to BTME and Continue to Learn 2013?**

Reservation Highway is the officially appointed accommodation agent for BTME 2013 providing a centralised point of contact for all your accommodation and travel enquiries.

By following the link on the BTME website you can gain instant access to all of the accommodation rates that have been specially negotiated for the event. All of the rates shown are what you will pay, with no hidden extras. In addition to special nightly rates, Reservation Highway also offers special deals such as 3 night specials, advance purchase and early bird rates.

Reservation Highway can be contacted on +44 (0) 1423 525577.

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[media@bigga.co.uk](mailto:media@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### East

Well it's mid August and the temperatures are up the rain has subsided and the grass is at its most vibrant. Golf courses are at their best in East Lothian at the moment and there is no sign of disease from the wet weather in June-July.

We wish our team good luck for Norrie Whytock event at Auchterarder on the 16th. S Ferguson, P Butler, A Holmes and G Moran make up the East section team (Bring it home boys!). I met the new Regional Administrator John Young last week and look forward to working with him in the Autumn golf tournament.

Stewart Crawford,  
[s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)



### Central

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation course presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) and members will be emailed details in the normal manner.

This is being partly sponsored by the BIGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will be great value. The results of the autumn outing at Piperdam on 19th Sept will also be on the website as soon as practical. This magazine might just be out

before the closing date so any last minute entries, please get in touch pronto. The pairs event will have reached the final stage by then.

On behalf of everyone in the Section, a huge thanks to Andy Mellon for all he did for the section in his time on Committee. As well as his stint as Secretary/Treasurer he was always helping in other areas particularly in the use of the training room at Elmwood. His actual leaving date crept up on us and took us a little by surprise and we didn't have the time to organise a farewell. We did manage to get him a nice bottle of malt on behalf of all the members so by the time he reads this he will hopefully have had the opportunity to grab a seat and sample a drop. Best wishes from us all Andy, I'm sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at BTME.

Gordon Moir



### West

Just a couple of things to mention for the coming months as autumn comes upon us and the sun is shining outside for a change, why do Scots always talk about the weather I wonder? Ross Fraser our new Secretary has confirmed the autumn outing venue at Ferenze Golf Club on 18 September. The AGM will once again be at Renfrew Golf Club with a date and speaker still to be confirmed but this will be sometime in October as usual.

Disappointingly the Scottish outing held at Ratho Park golf club was poorly attended by the west section as only five people from our area managed to go along to an excellent venue and educational days golf, the sec-

tion did however did reasonably well picking up some prizes.

As Chairman of the Scottish section of the Association I was asked to sit on the panel to select the candidate to represent Scotland at the Student of the Year competition sponsored by Toro. I was very impressed by the quality coming through and the enthusiasm expressed by all the candidates and I hope Christopher Watson is successful in his bid to achieve this award.

Congratulations to Alasdair MacDiarmid on being appointed Head Greenkeeper of Bothwell Castle GC, the section wishes him well in his new role and hopes he enjoys a successful tenure at the club.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper of Helensburgh GC which was disappointing to hear but I hope he enjoys his new venture and we wish him all the best from the section for the future.

The results for the Norrie Whytock trophy held at Auchterarder golf club on 16 August will be included in the next edition of the magazine.

Please remember to contact me with any information you may want included for future additions, I can be contacted on 07790823914 or 01419 425554, or by e-mail on [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com).

Best wishes for the rest of the season.

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### Northern

Afternoon sports fans...I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling

the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course...unbelievable.

Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us at the hotel everything was top drawer. Rachel, Tracy and Sandra were brilliant and even Mr Young had his moments, nothing was too much trouble for these guys and the whole event ran very smoothly. The early starts to the late bedtimes took its toll but just having the chance to walk with the players and watch them play more than made up for it. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson and getting a signed golf ball after he commented on my bunker repair! I think back to being shown how to rake bunkers many moons ago by Mat Bulmer at Ilkley who I worked, sorry turned up with at Hollins Hall, good training old boy!

So to the section golf, it's invitation day at Horsforth next followed by our rearranged Sheffield match up in September, at the moment the numbers are good for them both!

If any of you guys are interested of playing in the Nationals in October please get in touch and maybe we can share cars to make it easy for us.

That's it for this month folks, one last thing the missus is coming out of retirement and helping out the boys at Baildon golf club for a couple of weeks...

Andy Slingsby  
07506407867  
[andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com](mailto:andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com)



### North East

First on the agenda this month is the news of Head



Greenkeeper Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club on making into the final six in the Toro Student of the year. Stuart, aged 20, has now been in this role for a couple of years and is attending Newcastle College. He's currently studying for his level 3 and wants to continue on to level 4 - last year Jon Watson of Burgham Park had also qualified for the Toro Student of the year, well done our local College.

Last month I had the pleasure and the company of our new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper on board to start going around the section to visit courses who had members and those who didn't. Our first stop was Tyneside GC who once had five members. We had an interesting meeting with staff and a meeting with the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

Out of all this we had very good news from Tyneside and Dunstanburgh as both clubs are joining the section so not a bad days work in all - nine new members. Further visits are planned in the coming months in fact by the time you read this we will have been around the Newcastle area.

It was recently decided at a Section Committee meeting that the venue for the Autumn Comp be changed. It was felt that at this moment in time we are not likely to get many to make a 100 mile round trip. A letter was sent to the Secretary of Wooler GC a few weeks ago, now a new venue has been booked this will be at Tyneside GC on October 10th tee booked from 11am to approx 11.45 at the latest. Well that's it for another month.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

As we close in on the end of another golf season we can all reflect on our performance over it. When we see such big competitions on tv constantly raising the standards golfers demand, it is important sometimes to take a step back and look at what we have on our own courses and evaluate if we are achieving the most from it.

We are reminded often of the importance of being the keepers of the land and the responsibility we have to maintain the land and to maintain the land in the most natural way we possibly can which all adds pressure to the job. If we do take the time to take a step back and reflect I'm sure most of us will appreciate what a wonderful profession we are in, even though we all have something to complain about now and again we are very lucky to have a wonderful office to work in each day.

On the section front I would like to thank everyone at Phoenix Sports and Social Club for what was an excellent day for our summer competition. Everyone who attended commented on how good the course was and they were all very pleased with the food at the end. Results for the day are on our Facebook page. We would also like to thank the sponsor on the day and also thank all our sponsors for their support of the year.

I would also like to congratulate Stewart Piggott on completing his 24 hour golf challenge. Stewart completed six and a half rounds in the 24 hours. If anyone did sponsor Stewart can you please get your money to him as soon as you possibly can and if anyone would like to sponsor him then there is still time. Congratulations to Stewart once again on what was a fantastic achievement and all the proceeds will go to a very worthy cause.

That's all from me at the minute but I will be back next month with news on upcoming golf matches and some news on our winter lecture programme.

Bye for now and just take some time one day soon and have a minute to look round your office and realise how lucky you are.

James Stevens  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
07738719614



North Wales

This time of year we parents give a grateful sigh of relief as we wave our increasingly bored children back off to school and in work we also know club finals and the autumn season are only just around the corner.

A cautionary tale from Darren

Anderson MG at Abergele GC. Make sure your fuel tanks are safe, his diesel tank at Abergele got drained and the thieves cut through two gates and a lock to get to it!

27 July we played the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match at Aberdovey GC and we won! Many thanks to all who played and of course the sponsors, Rigby Taylor, Countrywide and Farmura. Without you all this event would not be possible. Many thanks again. And a special thanks to Richard Dixon from the golf union of Wales who gave a short speech on the importance of greenkeeping in Wales.

On 7 August we also played the annual North Wales v North West match at Lymm GC and although Stu Yarwood MG gave the lads a course to be proud of they lost. I'm sure the lads looked resplendent in their new BIGGA t-shirts.

The North Wales v North West cricket match which was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we'll keep you posted through this column or the Facebook group 'North Wales BIGGA'.

Just a quick reminder that

the autumn tournament takes place on the 11 September at St Melyd GC, I hope to see you all there.

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

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com text or phone 07756001187

## Midland Region



Midland

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away 'gone fishing'. Some may be relieved thinking they might be able to understand the content this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean's notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and no, it's not true he and David Haselhoff are related!

Unfortunately for Sean we have received some news from a greenkeeper this month. Sean has been waiting for some genuine greenkeeper news

## BUNKER EDGER CUTS YOUR TIME



The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, this tough machine is easy to use and maintain. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK. **Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.**

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

# Around The Green

directly from a greenkeeper for years, and when it arrives he is not here to report it, better luck next time pal! David Bevan, Course Manager at Overstone Park GC in Northampton would like to share some wonderful news that he and his partner Rachel have just had their first child, Mia weighing 6lb 15oz. Congratulations to you all and thank you for sharing the news with us.

The rearranged summer tournament at Oxley Park has just taken place, the results will be in next month's notes. Please be aware that the Autumn Tournament and AGM is fast approaching, venue being Druids Heath GC in Aldridge on Thursday 25 October. This is preceded by the Section's Autumn Education Day on Wednesday 24 October featuring Headland Amenity at the Forest of Arden. A full programme of events for the day, as well as entry forms for the golf days can be found on the website [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk).

September sees the final of the 'Everris' Doubles competition. At this moment the semi-finals are being contested between the remaining four pairs. The final is being held at The Belfry, around the magnificent Brabazon course, on Wednesday 26th September. Good luck to the lucky finalists. We would like to thank Emma Kilby and Everris for their continued support of this event, and for this month's calendar sponsorship. Please consider them for your fertiliser, chemical or seed needs. You can contact Emma on 07748 111965.

Glad that's over, come back Sean all is forgiven!

Ed Stant, Section Chairman  
Tel: 07535 712232



## East Midlands

It has been two months since my last magazine notes as I have been spending my time finishing building an ark to rescue the whole of Leicestershire from the biblical storms and rainfall that we have experienced. Just as it was ready to set sail the waters retreated, the sun appeared in the sky and a kind of summer

commenced. And then our work this year really began!

Competitions, Societies, Captains' Days, Ladies' Opens and Mixed Opens have been postponed/cancelled/abandoned/rescheduled, then suddenly within a matter of a few days everything was drying out and a well presented golf course was required. Not an unreasonable request in the middle of 'summer'. A nice little sideline in hay production would have brought in some of our club's lost revenue such was the volume of grass clippings being produced and a doubling of man power would also have proved beneficial too.

Chatting to local greenkeepers who are in the same boat (no pun intended), does give you hope. This is something that I would strongly advocate to all greenkeepers as networking amongst colleagues gives you the opportunity to exchange ideas or simply put the world to rights and you put the phone down and feel some of the weight lifted from your shoulders.

No golf to really report on at section level this month, although we will have had our Par 3 competition at Nailcote Hall by the time you read this, and we will be planning for our AGM competition at Glen Gorse GC on September 20. Invites for this will be emailed only as the spiralling cost of postage will impact the section greatly unless we modernise our approach. This does impact on people who do not have internet/email facilities but I would ask anyone who knows any of the other 195 greenkeepers in the section to forward the information or advise them in whatever way they can that the event is happening. It will appear on the BIGGA website as well.

Glen Gorse is a beautiful course, kept in fantastic condition by Frank Kempster and his team and everyone there will no doubt makes us all extremely welcome. The profile of members attending these events has changed dramatically over the last few years and some of the 'old' faces would be very welcome to come along, swap stories, have a laugh and enjoy some competitive golf. As I have said many times the committee want to include as many members as possible in all our events and the golf events are the best supported so please come along if you can.

News in the area really centres around our new Regional Administrator, Sandra Raper who has rejoined BIGGA to take over from the retiring Pete Larter. Sandra has been out and about within her new section getting to know people and understand the needs and requirements of the members. She is already planning an Autumn Seminar for November and is having a big impact within the Midlands/Northern Region that she is responsible for.

Her impact was also felt by one of my member's cars when she visited Forest Hill in July. Unfortunately his stationary five week old car appeared to jump out and hit Sandra's three day old moving car. Seriously though on behalf of the East Midlands Section I would like to wish Sandra all the very best for her new role and hope her efforts benefit BIGGA as an organisation.

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat...

Greg Skinner  
07970 095264

## South East Region



### Mid Anglia

Hello everybody I hope everyone is feeling more upbeat after the change in weather to more normal summer conditions. I am putting this together as the Olympics draws to close and feel that the efforts of Team GB has put some pride back into our great island and really captured the public's imagination - plus we totally stuffed the Aussies which is always nice!

Moving on we had our second tournament of the Year a Pairs competition hosted at John O'Gaunt GC. 36 players took part on a very warm day which made for very testing and draining conditions.

Results: 1 R Dowling and D Gass from Mid Herts GC 43 points; 2 P Rolfe and R Goddard from Ashridge GC 41 points; 3 N Broadwith and G Merrison from John O'Gaunt GC 40 points

Nearest the Pin in two shots on 11th went to A Butler. Near-

est the Pin on 16th went to S Boittier

Well done to Rob and Dave on winning this despite having to spend most of their round looking for my ball in the rough or trees on most holes. They were great company and we had a giggle which is what these days are all about. Our thanks go to Nigel and his team for the fantastic condition we found the course in it was appreciated by all who attended.

Mid Anglia's next outing will be at Verulam Golf Club on October 25 so please get your entries in nice and early as I am sure it will be very popular and is only £15 entry fee so excellent value for money at such a lovely venue.

Darren Mugford - [d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com](mailto:d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com)



### East Anglia

I don't miss many of our golf days, but I couldn't be in two places at once. By all accounts, Haverhill Golf Club was the place to be. About forty souls turned out to play an immaculate course thanks to Glenn Norris and his crew. The catering was second to none.

The prizes were presented by Steve Ward club captain to:

0-10 Handicap; 1 Mat Gill 35 Points; 2 Jonathan Smart 33 Points; 11-20 Handicap 1 Andy Baker 34 Points - OCB; 2 John Andrews 34 points; 21-28 Handicap; 1 Ian Willett 31 Points; 2 Martin Myson 25 Points

Guests & Trade; 1 Edward Fairhead 32 Points; 2 Steve Creasey 31 Points

Longest Drive - Peter Sissons  
Nearest Pin - Jonathan Smart; Loo Seat Recipient - Martin Myson for nearly killing his captain (no Christmas box this year then!)

Last, but not least - Captain & Greenkeeper Shield was won by Mike Virly and Steve Creasey - 64 Points. 2nd was Ian Willett and Chris Scott - 60 Points. The main sponsors were Leyley UK/Toro.

Other loyal sponsors were:- Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Tacit, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ben Burgess, Rigby Taylor, Tex-

tron, Ransomes and Headland. Thanks again Haverhill Golf Club. Sorry I missed it.

Pause for thought. My old boss, Phil Staines, passed away last week. In 1964 I was his apprentice at Maylands Golf Club in Essex. I became his first assistant four years later under his guidance, expertise and patience. One day early on, I asked him what a committee was – he'd had a bit of a run in with the chairman. He said "It was the unfit, appointed by the unwilling, to do the unnecessary". No change there then. God bless you mate.

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

If I could write songs I would be penning one right now entitled "I got those post Olympic blues".

The unbridled joy of watching a multitude of diverse sports thanks to the BBC's superb coverage has converted me totally to the worlds of gymnastics, athletics, archery, cycling and, of course, beach volleyball.

Before these momentous games the scaremongers in the media had us all believing that the whole event would be a disaster because of issues surrounding security, transport and tickets but Britain truly delivered the best games ever on every single level to confound and silence the most hardened critic. A wave of pride swept the nation as the medal tally grew out of all proportion to the geographical size of our country as the public embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes. A heady cocktail of success, pride and excellence has left many of us hungover after the greatest two weeks of sport ever witnessed.

It wasn't just a success for our athletes either. The now proven organisational capabilities of a driven committee who refused to be bogged down in a sea of scepticism and bureaucracy was a credit to the nation.

The expected lull in green fees during the games never materialised either. Many of

us, through some ingenious marketing were able to capitalise on the period by having Olympic themed events and products on our courses. With golf featuring in the next Olympics it never need suffer again.

Go Team GB!!

On to news from our section and our summer pairs knock-out competition is well under way with early preliminary rounds seeing the progression of Russ Bain and Adam Marable from Chislehurst who beat Darren Burdis and Alan Harvey from West Kent 3 & 2. Also last years' champion, Tim Maynard now paired with Lee Austin of Wildernesse scraped to victory against myself and Darren Child. Obviously, two weeks of watching beach volleyball did my golf swing no good whatsoever!

Good luck to our victors and everyone still involved in the competition.

We have another golf day approaching on September 27 at Boughton Golf Club. Please let Kev or I know asap if attending so we can make the necessary catering arrangements.

I'll leave it there for now but don't forget to check our website for up to the minute news and events. Enjoy the rest of your summer and may the very best of British fortune shine on us all.

Rob Holland

[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## South Coast

As you read this another season is drifting by, lets hope we get a settled end to the summer. It has just started to rain "again" so I thought I would profit and write this article.

Not much to report on the golf side, only the annual match against the Wessex Secretaries for the coveted Course Care Cup. This year we played at Rushmore Park where the course was presented in excellent condition, well done to Clive Browning and his team for their great work. Clive and Tony Crouch both retire from the greenkeeping team at Rushmore this year so may I

take this opportunity to wish them both the best possible retirement doing whatever they like.

Back to the match where the Greenkeepers triumphed again 3 games to 2 to take the tally for the cup to 9 ½ to 6 ½ well done all of the team, especially the final pairing of Robert Hogarth and Ed Carey who were 4 down with 5 to play and won! As always our thanks go to Course Care for their generosity in sponsoring the event, long may it continue. Finally thanks to Rushmore for their hospitality and excellent food.

The next match against the S Westgreenkeepers at SWilts GC on 20 September so if anyone wants to play let me know. The Autumn tournament is on 4 October at Weymouth GC. As usual contact Kevan Glass with your entry [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com), the cost will be £25, please remember to pay well in advance of the day. If food is booked for you and you don't turn up, there will be no refund, as we are charged for the booked number.

The committee are working on next years seminar that will be held at Milton Abbey school again, an event not to missed, more on the speakers in the next issue.

Here at Barton we have just got through the club championship weekend, very warm with a strong easterly wind, no better conditions for a cliff top location. Aerating this week to help relieve the stress we put the greens under last week and then it rains again! Think I might go fishing to take my mind off the golf course, that is if I can get the beach hut door open for the first time this year. Until next month, keep on cutting.

Tony Gadd



## Surrey

Wednesday August 15. It's raining for the first time after summer has visited us for several days and therefore the erection of my gazebo must cease until it stops. Chateau Willmott is still being renovated and I am never anything but busy.

## Assistant Profile

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

### Name:

John Day

### Age:

37 years old

### Club:

Gaudet Luce

### Golf Club,

Droitwich

### Position:

Assistant Greenkeeper

### Nickname:

Big John



### 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

16 Years

### 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Working in the outdoors

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

Merchandise sales or roadie for rock and metal bands on tour

### 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Cutting greens. This is often the most important from a golfer's perspective and a job well done creates a good impression and sets the standard for the whole course.

### 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

There isn't any particular task that I dislike.

### 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

Sun all year round!

### 7. Hobbies?

Concerts, films and Ebay

### 8. Favourite Band?

Can't choose one favourite but it is between Aerosmith and Megadeth

### 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

The A Team! (remember that?!)

### 10. What is your claim to fame?

Losing 5 and a half stone and becoming a helper at my local slimming club.

# Around The Green

## **BIGGA welcomes the following new members**

### **Scotland**

Ryan Shannon, Ayrshire Section  
Michael McLeod, North Section  
Scott Crawford, West Section  
Neil Paris, West Section

### **Northern Region**

Stephen Millar, North West Section  
Daniel Drake, Northern Section  
Matthew Alderton, Sheffield Section  
Christopher Hill, Sheffield Section

### **Midland Region**

Robert Andrews, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Adam Lovejoy, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
David Patterson, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Mark Carter, East Midland Section  
Gavin Keyworth, East Midland Section  
Bradley Blacker, Mid Anglia Section  
David Collins, Midland Section  
Matthew Emslie, Midland Section  
Emma Kilby, Midland Section  
Gareth Waite, Midland Section  
Kenny Wright, Midland Section

### **South East Region**

Robert Barnard, East Anglia Section  
Andy Spetch, East Anglia Section  
Grant Hedley, Surrey Section

### **Sth West/Sth Wales Region**

Martin Cornish, Devon & Cornwall Section  
James Jones, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Robert Sadler, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Paul Dutton, South Coast Section

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

I thought that I had reached an age when life slowed down and warm summer afternoons were spent sipping champagne on the lawn. No, at a time when I should relax I find that am still laying said lawn, decorating and writing next month's article for this fine magazine. Sipping champagne is a pipe dream and will have to wait until my first harvest of grapes is picked, fermented, bottled, and left to age in my cellar. Of course, you've realised I am joking, I do not have a cellar and the garden shed will have to do.

The McMillan tankard at Sunningdale GC was played for on July 16 and was won by Steve Alabaster and Mark Brookes was runner up. Anthony Freeman secured the longest drive and the nearest the pin was again Mark Brookes. Many thanks to Sunningdale GC for allowing us our yearly visit and also many thanks to Jack McMillan who presented the tankard and prizes. The barbecue that followed was burnt by yours truly with the aid of Paul [Oliver] Weston and the only cases of food poisoning left the local dogs determined never again to beg from strangers.

Brian Willmott

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



### **South West**

I want to say a huge well done to all the support workers that were involved at Royal Lytham & St Annes for this year's Open championship. During some very tough times weather wise and with over 200 bunkers, you guys did us very proud.

On Friday 10 August captain Wayne Vincent took his team to Royal Porthcawl GC, and this was unfortunately coming on the back of a defeat. Not playing myself (getting that part in early...) the team travelled over the bridge and onto Porthcawl

in high hopes! This being a very hot day, I hear that some of our guys left their clubs at home and thought their sun lounges would be a better option. I hate to say this, but we lost this very important fixture 4-2, however I have been promised this won't be happening again next year.

I write this while watching the closing ceremony from London 2012, and it made me realise that as a nation we really do know how to put on a show. The opening ceremony was fantastic, during the games Great Britain were awesome, beating any previous medal count. I'm sure many of you spent hours watch the games, and found it equally motivating. With the games closing in such a great fashion, we come together as a nation. Very proud times!

As for the section, Thursday 4 October will be our next event, this is our AGM and will take place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club. I would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Irrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

I would like to finish on a very positive note, and one that the section is very proud of. Chris Sealey is now BIGGA vice chairman, this is very well deserved. Chris, as a section we wish you all the very best in your future role, good luck!

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

07732503855



### **Essex**

After a couple of months of inactivity in the section we are back with a vengeance.

Tom Smith, Ben Scrivener

and I went up to the Open Championship as part of the support team and what a time we had, long days, up early and to bed late but a feast of memories to stay with us for many a year.

The Olympics are a thing of the past, and what a joyous period it was, more medals than were expected and some surprises to boot.

Grass seems to keep growing and that dormant period around July, August has not materialised, at least for the time being the rain seems to have subsided.

We have just held our Summer Trophy and National Qualifier, Rochford Hundred Golf Club was the venue and what a day they had, the course was set up by Head Greenkeeper, Dave Rand and his staff, comments such as fantastic were regularly heard and every one there thoroughly enjoyed the event. The sun shone and so did the golf as the results show.

Results for the day are as follows.

Division 1. 1st Antony Kirwan, 40 points. 2nd Andy Cracknell 36 points.

Division 2. 1st Dougie Fernie, 40 points. 2nd Ross Bennett, 38 points.

Trade/Sponsors. 1st James Tuckwell, 35 points; Guest. Tony Rand; National Qualifier: Dougie Fernie

The next golf day is the Autumn Trophy at Stoke by Nayland Golf & Spa on Wednesday 26th September, entries to: Antony Kirwan by 20th September please. At - Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU. Entries are £20 Members/Sponsors and £25 Guests.

It's just a short one this month, but exciting news to come next month, on two seminars to be run by the section and our overdue trip to the Hurlingham Club.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net) Arnold Phipps-Jones

# BTME is back for it's 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre

► BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION ► 22-24 JANUARY 2013



# Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sep 5th	BIGGA Seminars	Saltex, Windsor Racecourse	BIGGA House, 01347 833800 option 3 or info@bigga.co.uk
Sep 11th	North Wales Section Event	St Melyd Golf Club	Jez Hughes, Tel mobile: 07876 776265 or email: jezpro69@aol.com
Sep 13th	North West Section Event	Penwortham Golf Club	Chris Sheehan, email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
Sep 13th	East of England Section Event	Blankney Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel mobile: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
Sep 13th	Scottish North Section Golf Day	Granton-on-Spey Golf Club	Dale Robertson, email: daleturnberry@aol.com
Sep 18th	Scottish West Section Golf Day	Fereneze Golf Club	Fraser Ross, email: Karen.ross@tesco.net
Sep 19th	North West Section Event	Penwortham Golf Club	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
Sep 19th	Scottish East Section Autumn Event	Murrayfield Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson, email: stuferg@btinternet.com
Sep 19th	Scottish Central Section Golf Day	Piperdam Golf & Leisure Resort	Gordon Moir, email: gmoir@standrews.org.uk
Sep 20th	South Coast Section v's South West Section	Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club	Alex McCombie, email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
Sep 20th	East Midlands Section AGM and Texas Scramble	Glen Gorse Golf Club	Nick Miles Tel: 07842 960686
Sep 26th	Essex Section Event	Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club	Antony Kirwin, Tel: 07887 780065 or email: antz16@btinternet.com
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Oct 4th	South West Section Event	Bristol & Clifton Golf Club	Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
Oct 4th	East of England Section Event	South Kyme Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel: 01205 353925 or mobile: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
Oct 4th	South Coast Section Autumn Event	Weymouth Golf Club	Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
Oct 8-9th	BIGGA National Championship 2012	Irvine Golf Club	Sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Contact Rachael Duffy at BIGGA HQ 01347 833800 option 3 or email rachael@bigga.co.uk
Oct 10th	North East Section Autumn Event	Tyneside Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson Tel: 0191 413 5232 or mobile: 07500 528542 or Email: jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com
Oct 11th	Midland Region – Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day	Greetham Valley Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
Oct 16th	East Anglia Golf Day	Ely City Golf Club	Ian Willett Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
Oct 17th	Northern Region Inter-Section Golf Day	Bingley St Ives Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
Oct 18th	BIGGA & GCMA Educational Seminar	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Email: wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com
Oct 18th	Midland Section Event	Druids Heath Golf Club	Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
Oct 23rd	East of Scotland NPTC Update	Murrayfield Golf Club Edinburgh	Stuart Ferguson Tel: 07961 630553 or Email: stuferg@btinternet.com
Oct 25th	Mid Anglia Section Golf Day and AGM	Verulam Golf Club	Richard Saunders Tel: 07773 206553

# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director,  
with a monthly update



This month David updates us on how the UK's Further Education Colleges once again have to cope with more funding cuts from the government

**The GTC is constantly monitoring the situation to ensure there is still access to specialist greenkeeping education and training courses for all levels of greenkeepers.**

For many years the sports turf sector has relied on traditional land based colleges throughout Britain, to deliver a variety of education and training courses, all leading to the formal accredited qualifications.

The highly acclaimed Apprenticeship Scheme continues to provide the sector with many of today's top Course Managers and with distance learning and an on-line Degree available, you might think our employers and greenkeepers are well set for the long term.

In terms of a suitable range of formal qualifications the UK is fortunate as there are the vocational work based and higher education options delivered in a variety of modes.

The Centres have certainly tried their best to meet our industry's request for flexibility for learners to gain access to formal certificates and qualifications.

They've featured the very popular delivery of qualifications for learners in their workplace, to the traditional part-time option, plus distance and online learning.

In recent years we have also seen several private companies enter into the delivery of greenkeeper training, hence, the GTC's policy to introduce the Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers.

Many readers will be aware of the various changes within Further Education colleges in recent years.

Mergers, often prolonged and unsettling for the staff, have affected almost all parts of Britain and very often policy changes at a

college has resulted in sports turf courses being subject to ongoing viability reviews.

Sadly for many friends working in the colleges, despite their best efforts, delivery of quality programmes has become increasingly difficult.

There are still colleges, private companies and individuals who are totally committed to delivering quality education, training and qualifications for our sector.

The GTC intends to work closely with them and to promote their courses and workshops to employers and all levels of greenkeepers.

Clearly the Government's policy of the early nineties, to encourage industries to become involved in vocational qualifications, required a total rethink by the colleges.

Some did, and still do promote, manage and adapt to deliver quality programmes, but sadly many failed miserably across many sectors.

Fortunately many of today's top Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers fully understand the range of courses and qualifications available.

As funding in Further Education colleges continues to be reduced, we as an industry have to work with these Centres to not only support them with students but to discuss the best options for them to deliver the various courses and qualifications.

Through the GTC's employer representative bodies, we hear that the majority of golf club employers will pay for quality education and training as long as it is relevant to their staff and business development needs.

There is still Government funding available to specific age groups, plus approved courses and qualifications including the apprenticeship scheme and the

## GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES

**England**  
Bridgwater College  
Contact Jake Waites Tel: 07912 555592

**Duchy College**  
Contact Ron Skinner Tel: 01579 372220

**Myerscough College**  
Contacts Stewart Brown, Centre based courses Tel: 01995 642305

**Newcastle College**  
Contact Wayne Reid Tel: 0191 200 4704

**Oaklands College**  
Contact Andy Wight Tel: 01727 737735

**Plumpton College**  
Contact David Plumpton Tel: 01273 890454

**Reaseheath College**  
Contact Gareth Phillips Tel: 01270 613236

**Scotland**  
Elmwood College  
Contact Mike Clark Tel: 01334 658 800

**GOSTA Training**  
Contact Leslie Lowrie Tel: 0141 556 3999

**Wales**  
Bridgend College  
Contact John Sullivan Tel: 01656 302691

**Deeside College**  
Contact Jenny Pitts Tel: 01244 831531

## QUALITY ASSURED TRAINING PROVIDERS

**Bernhard & Company Ltd**  
Contact Ben Taylor Tel: 07720 460026

**Cutting Edge Training**  
Contact Jason King Tel: 01473 276205

**Frank Newberry - Seminars for Golf Clubs**  
Contact Frank Newberry Tel: 01908 520202

**John Nicholson Associates**  
Contact John Nicholson Tel: 0191 384 2556

**Jon Allbutt Associates**  
Contact Jon Allbutt Tel: 0208 325032

**Sports Turf Research Institute**  
Contact Carolyn Beadsmoore Tel: 01274 567201

**Swan Golf Designs**  
Contact William Swan Tel: 01277 896229

**Symbio**  
Contact Martin Ward Tel: 01428 685762

**TORO**  
Contact Dave Jackman (Lely) Tel: 01480 228600

**Turf Master One Ltd**  
Contact Laurence Pithie Tel: 01666 505233



The GTC is funded by:



## Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



You can follow the GTC on  
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

colleges and private companies will continue to assess whatever funding support they can.

The GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, all dedicated through formal courses and informal workshops, are looking to serve our sector and we should look to support them.

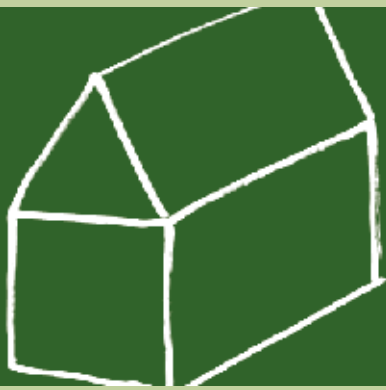
Many will remember when there were over thirty "GTC Approved Training Providers" offering greenkeeper training courses but following a 2010 review the GTC has currently seven Quality Assured Centres in England, two in Wales and two in Scotland.

In summary, the GTC are continually working with the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

We want to ensure there are not only the formal qualifications and apprenticeship available but also short course.

These are often the employers' preferred training courses for their staff not ready for a more formal full qualification e.g.

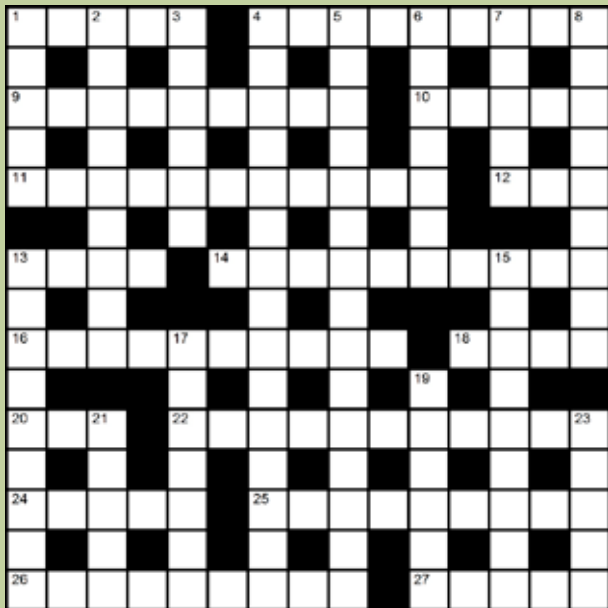
Level 2, 3, 4, HNC or Degree.



# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Lightweight wood whose name is Spanish for 'raft' (5)
- 4 Vehicle's instrument panel; fascia (9)
- 9 Island south of the Malay Peninsula, also the name of its capital (9)
- 10 Norfolk-based manufacturer of sports cars, owned by Proton (5)
- 11 Telly addict (5,6)
- 12 Enemy (3)
- 13 White inner skin of eg an orange (4)
- 12/14 Famous George Bush quote from his 1988 Republican National Convention speech (4,2,4:2,3,5)
- 18 Capital city whose name is also part of the NATO phonetic alphabet (4)
- 20 A complication (3)
- 22 Expert in, or collector of, old objects (11)
- 24 Forced labour camp of the Soviet Union (5)
- 25 The common people, from the Greek meaning 'the many' (3,6)
- 26 US state known the Garden State (3,6)
- 27 Instant message service launched in 2003 (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Elementary; unsophisticated (5)
- 2 The first professional cricketer to captain England in a Test match (1952) (3,6)
- 3 1960 instrumental #1 single whose B-side was Quatermaster's Stores (6)
- 4 In one way, to speak somewhat lazily (4,4,7)
- 5 In horse-racing, examination of evidence after a race (8,7)
- 6 Gallery above the dress circle in a theatre (7)
- 7/23 80s/90s synthpop group featuring Anne Dudley and Trevor Horn (3,2,5)
- 8 Medical name for indigestion (9)
- 13 Title to given to an ancient British tribal chief (9)
- 15 At first (9)
- 17 Noisy dispute (7)
- 19 English-based regional dialect of, especially, Jamaica (6)
- 21 Underneath (5)
- 23 See 7

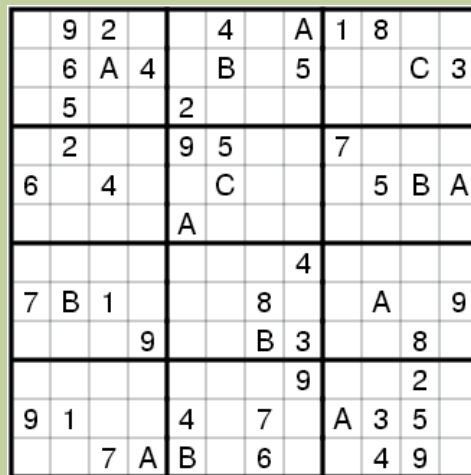
## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Man City player seen 'caddying' by the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Lytham
2. Which team (and manager) won 5-0 away on the opening day of the new Premiership season?
3. New Spain forward signed by Arsenal
4. These two international Premiership players were recently fined for actions at Euro 2012 for France
5. Top scoring Southampton forward who came off the bench to score within minutes of the first home league game at Man City
6. Name the four first team forwards at Man Utd, plus the 5th who seems headed for the exit

**New Season Soccer Special**

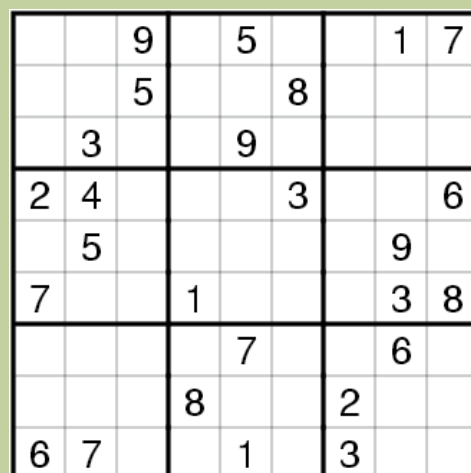
door, and the 6th who is looking for a new Premiership club.

7. Name the top three in the Championship for 2011/12 (in order)
8. Which team came runners up in the League Cup final, and what decided the outcome?
9. What number shirt does Gareth Bale currently wear for Tottenham?



## MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



## SUDOKU

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

**Puzzle Answers on page 65**

## Greens rolling

**Like many turf maintenance operations, the rolling of putting greens has yo-yoed in and out of fashion over the years.**

As technology and the design of rollers have advanced from those used in years gone by, the rolling of golf greens has grown in popularity again. This is the result of the demand for consistently quicker greens, as well as the reduced risk of surface compaction and potential turf damage as a result of using modern rollers.

Rolling has a number of benefits in the preparation of golf greens. Both research trials and practical experience has shown that rolling putting surfaces leads to increased green speeds without having to reduce the height of cut and all the possible negative effects associated with excessively low mowing heights. In addition to the benefit of increased green speed, rolling also tends to improve surface smoothness, as any small inconsistencies associated with immediate turf surface are ironed out.

If the desired green speeds can be achieved through a combination of mowing and rolling it is possible that the frequency of cut could be reduced. Some of the existing research on greens rolling has demonstrated that alternating between rolling and mowing can lead to speed improvements without the need to mow every day.

However, there are a number of pieces in the rolling jigsaw that are still missing. Whilst we understand that rolling increases green speed and smoothness we don't have any consistent data on the optimum conditions for rolling. It is hard to imagine that the conditions under which rolling is carried out will not significantly affect the end result. The key questions that we currently don't have scientifically rigorous data on include:

- *How do ground conditions, especially soil moisture content,*

*influence the effect, the magnitude and longevity of effect of rolling?*

- *Does the optimum window for rolling, in terms of ground conditions, vary based on construction type (sand-based greens versus natural soil greens)?*

- *What effect does moisture presence on the leaf blade at the time of rolling have on the resultant green speed and smoothness? Does rolling when the leaf blade is moist affect the longevity of any improvements in green speed?*

- *What is the effect of different roller types under any given set of conditions? In other words, do different types of roller perform at their best under slightly different conditions or is their performance similar under all conditions?*

- *Does the use of plant growth regulators with an alternating rolling/mowing regime lead to reduced plant stress, whilst producing the same, if not improved, level of performance at a reduced cost?*

- *How consistent are the effects of rolling, in terms of surface performance improvement, and what factors influence these effects?*

If we could answer these questions we'd certainly be in a better position to optimise rolling regimes to get the best out of this important maintenance operation.

One of the interesting questions that often gets asked is which roller is best, the dedicated ride on roller or the triple mounted vibratory roller. From experience, it seems that both types of roller can be highly effective but differences may exist in their optimum window for use, especially on different green constructions.

This is why it is important that we can investigate which factors need to be taken into account when it comes to implementing an effective rolling regime.

If we had more information we could give better advice to help greenkeepers make more informed decisions on when and how much rolling they do.



This kind of information can be gained for individual courses if enough monitoring is carried out to identify when the rolling is most effective. However, this is not really an option for many golf courses. We require universally applicable advice on the appropriate conditions and the effect that conditions have on rolling efficacy. This can be achieved by investigating, under controlled field trial conditions with an intensive testing programme, the influence of various environmental conditions on greens rolling. It would also allow a thorough examination of the effect of rolling on both the smoothness and trueness of golf ball roll.

If I can leave you with one key message from this column, it is that rolling can have real benefits on playing surface performance. The evidence is out there on many golf courses around the world. What we still need to do is make sure we are maximising the benefit from greens rolling by understanding the effect that surface and turf conditions have on its efficacy.

### about the author



**Dr Christian Spring** BSc (Hons), PhD Soil Scientist

STRI Agronomist





# BIGGA National Championship 2012

The quest to find BIGGA's best golfer returns in 2012 when the National Championship moves to The Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Ayrshire, on October 8-9, 2012

(Visit the club website at [www.theirvinegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.theirvinegolfclub.co.uk))

Fill in the form below to book your spot

The 14th green at The Irvine Golf Club

## BIGGA National Championship 2012, The Irvine Golf Club, October 8-9 • Entry Form

### Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of **£95** includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name .....

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership No. ....

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club .....

### Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£95**
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of **£95**

Card number .....

.....

Start Date ..... Expiry Date .....

Last 3 security digits .....

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only) .....

Signature.....

Date .....

Or E-mail your details to:  
**rachael@bigga.co.uk**  
Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

### Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

Completed entry forms should be sent to:  
**BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.



# Back in time

to this month in 1987

## BIGGA National Championship Special

*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. Each month we usually look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. In this special feature, however, we are focusing just on the history of October's National Championship, from its conception in 1987, to the present day

**Not only is 2012 a milestone as we celebrate 25 years of BIGGA, and the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, it also marks a quarter of a century of the BIGGA National Championship. This month's 'Back in time' focuses on the competition's longevity...**

October 1987 was the month of Michael Fish's notoriously inaccurate statement "there will be no hurricane" – hours before a devastating storm which brought down trees across the UK.

That month's cover of *Greenkeeper International* graphically illustrated this, featuring a photograph of a partially flooded course and a large tree lying horizontal close to the green.

Fortunately, the weather abated for the inaugural event – then called the 'BIGGA Annual Tournament' – at Verulam Golf Club in St Albans, and was proclaimed a "resounding success."

The tournament review stated: "More than seventy greenkeepers turned out over three days to take part over a course kept in fine fettle by head greenkeeper Geoff Smith and his staff."

Black and white images show "some of the competitors and their wives" enjoying the sunshine in front of the clubhouse.

By 1990 the tournament was well-established annually and had already become one of the highlights of the golfing calendar. Competitors basked in "baking sunshine" over three days at Ganton Golf Club in East Yorkshire.

The tournament – now called 'The Hayter Challenge' – celebrated its 10th birthday at the same venue in 1997, and all attendees compli-

mented Head Greenkeeper David Spurden on the outstandingly prepared course.

However, this was totally overshadowed by the tragic news just days later that David had died in a shooting accident on the course.

The turn of the century saw The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship held at the venue for this year's Open Championship, Lytham St Annes. Emerging triumphant from an extremely challenging course, and defying wet conditions, was 'Rain Man' Dustin Houghton from Seaford Head in East Sussex.

The 20th event was held across two venues – Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock Barassie, with David Simpson from Crieff Golf Club earning the title of BIGGA National Champion.

As the years have rolled by the championship has retained its huge popularity and prominence. 2010's tournament took place at the spectacular surroundings of The Berkshire and featured a similarly spectacular prize.

Any holes in one on the 10th (Blue course) or the 16th (Red course) would scoop a £20,000 Mini Clubman courtesy of Rigby Taylor.

Unfortunately, this went unclaimed despite "some gallant efforts".

This brings us to last year's event, held at West Lancs, and the current championship holder Jason Hunt from Addington Palace Golf Club near Croydon.

The 2012 National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, will be held at Irvine Golf Club in Scotland on 8 and 9 October.

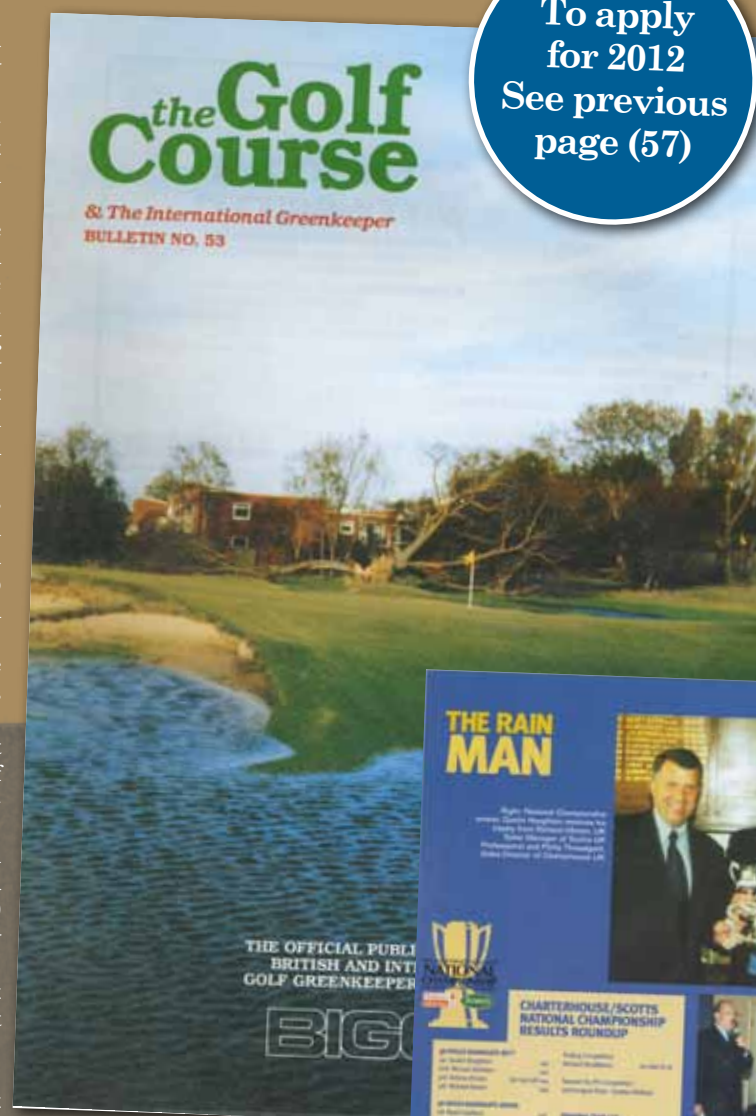
Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

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

To apply for 2012 See previous page (57)



As you will have seen in the last issue, the club celebrates its 125th anniversary so it should be a particularly special couple of days – keep an eye out for the November issue to find out the winner of the coveted prize.

# Survival of the fittest

Jason Hunt coped with the exacting conditions best of all to become BIGGA's 2011 Champion Golfer



The BIGGA National Championship 2011 is sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota



**The wind was blowing hard and the formidable West Lanes course was having its considerable teeth, but one man stood firm to clinch the 2011 BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.**

Jason Hunt, a 29-year-old Assistant at Addington Palace Golf Club, near Croydon, kept his cool and carefully two putted the final hole for a single shot victory and the biggest win of his golfing career. "I have won a few Open tournaments but the quality of the field here makes this the biggest win I've had," explained Jason, for whom it was the culmination of a fine year which has seen his handicap drop from two to scratch.

"These were the toughest conditions I've ever faced in a top tournament and it is one of the hardest courses I've played. I had to strap for every par," he revealed.

"I had it in mind that it was between our three ball on the second day, me, Garry Duncan, from Carnoustie, and Kevin Boodle, from Guildford. Kevin had a good front nine and was in front at that stage, but Garry was leading by the back nine. I just hung in and on the final green I thought I might have two for it and that proved correct," said Jason, who is self-taught, and who has never changed from the left hand below right grip he adopted when he took up the game.

The opening round was perhaps the difference when, in calmer conditions Jason shot a two over par 74 to hold the clubhouse lead by a single shot from Kevin, and two from Garry. It proved to be the difference when both Jason and Kevin shot 79s on the second round and Garry, dropping a few shots in the closing holes, shot 80 to complete the first second and third in the main competition.

"I thought West Lanes was a fantastic golf course and in superb condition. I'm looking forward to going to Scotland next year to defend my title at Irvine Duneside," said Jason.

"I'd like to thank West Lanes Golf Club, BIGGA and our sponsors, Charterhouse and Kubota, for making it such a wonderful event."

The handicap competition for the BIGGA Challenge Cup produced some real fireworks and one has to feel a little sorry for Mark Tucker, of Saunton Golf Club, who finished third, but had the same 151 score as Mark Blacknell and Gary Burgess.

He did lose out though to two players who, remarkably, both holed 4-irons during their second rounds.

Gary was the most spectacular as it produced that rarest of birds, an albatross! The Grange Park man, had exactly 200 yards to go on the 478 yard 5th hole and his 4-iron was pinpoint accurate.

"I watched it all the way and thought I saw it drop in but you can never be sure from that distance," said Gary, a three handicapper, for whom, needless to say, it was his first ever allstroke.

Mark Blacknell, who won the BIGGA Challenge Cup, was in a purple patch when he arrived at West Lanes, having just won his Club Championship at Leen Valley, but he could not have expected how his 36 holes would pan out.

The 5 handicapper shot a 10 over par 82 on the first day, without making a birdie, but when he set out on the windy second round he soon made up for it.

A 6-iron to eight inches on the



## BIGGA ANNUAL TOURNEY A GREAT SUCCESS



Some of the competitors and their wives enjoying the sunshine in front of Yorkshire's clubhouse.

Annual... at Albans... was a... green-... three... course... heat... and... den with... which were... rman of... es. Mr... a keen... is. The... fated by... (Ford UK... Materials... Baker... in Strutt... as, SWS,

Sports Turf Institute, 5Al Long Life, T F Parker of Worcester Park, the Golf Course, Golf Landscapes Ltd, Husleys, Brian D Pierson (Contractors), Digby Taylor, Farmura Ltd, DASF UIL, Lloyd's of Letchworth, Synchemicals, CMW Equipment, Kingston House (Mowers) Ltd and A T Oliver & Sons.

The greenkeeper's team for the 1987 Kubota Challenge, being held at The Belfry this month, was announced at the end of the tournament - the qualifiers being the first eight over 54 holes.

The team consists of - P. Wentworth (Handicap 14), I. Toon (9), E. West (9), M. Guy (6), R. Barker (5), N. Whittaker (16), G. Payne (7) and M. Sheeham (7).

### MAJOR PRIZEWINNERS

**18 HOLE NET GROSS DASH**  
1st: J. Hunt, 60  
2nd: P. Burgess, 67  
3rd: G. Payne, 66  
4th: D. Blacknell, 68

**Over 60's**  
1st: R. Hunt, 73  
2nd: E. Thompson, 79  
3rd: M. Gales, 90

**90 HOLE SCRATCH**  
1st: R. Barker, 149

**90 HOLE NET (9-11)**  
1st: I. Toon, 139  
2nd: M. Guy, 140  
3rd: M. Sheeham, 141  
4th: M. Smith, 142

**90 HOLE NET (12-14)**  
1st: D. Roberts, 138  
2nd: P. Wentworth, 140  
3rd: M. Whittaker, 143  
4th: M. Gales, 146

**JURILEE CUP (3-A-SIDE TEAM)**  
Northants, 423  
- M. Guy, D. Roberts, J. Hancock

**CHIEFMAN UNDER 25<sup>th</sup> CUP**  
R. Gales, 146

**18 HOLE NET**  
1st: M. Sheeham, 65  
2nd: R. Barker, 66  
3rd: P. Hunt, 65  
4th: M. Guy, 67

**PART CHAIRMAN'S CUP**  
D. Roberts, 140

**90 HOLE PUTTING COMPETITION**  
P. Hunt, 17

## BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

### BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT . . . BIGGA

David Wood's 61 proves too hot to handle



All set for the trophy table laden with 'goodies' awaits the lucky winners.

I wasn't just the sun that burnt up the August Ganton course at the year's BIGGA National 54 hole Tournament. David Wood set the course alight with a second day net 61 (gross 75) to scoop the Maxwell Hart 18 hole medal play prize, easily eclipsing Mark Lavin's score 69 and Dick Murtigh's 69.

A modest David gave credit to the course for his marvellous score. "The green really keeps you on the forebay, you just haven't play a fast shot off the line. And with the fairways so fast and the greens muzzing this everything just seemed to come off. I didn't miss a putt."

Home course head greenkeeper David Spurlin produced Ganton in top con-

dition, a fact both commented on and appreciated by everyone's local ground staff. David also did himself great credit returning net rounds of 77, 72, and 69.

**Greenkeeping Management's Editor MIKE MCLENNAN**, reports on the year's BIGGA National Tournament held at Ganton Golf Club, East Yorkshire, a tough, uncompromising but beautiful venue.

80 to put him well up on the leader board at 229.

Ganton's sunshine baked the safety East Yorkshire venue, but a series of hot breeze did managed to prevent the 83

competitors' heaters overheating completely. A cold beer afterwards in the clubhouse also did wonders!

"One set of delicate stemware brought from the head waters tournament" was a change - BIGGA Executive Director Neil Thomas, Chairman for Scores and Education Officer, David Gidding.

An eleven day to keep the tournament kicking over in a calm and organised fashion. All credit too to the local Yorkshire boys who mowed the most impor-

tant. See Page 13



HEAT UP... David Wood collects the Maxwell Hart Trophy and Pennington Cup from BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scores.



Mark Lavin picks up the William Hargreaves (SWS) Trophy from Terry Dickinson.

Photographs by Alan Birch

# BUYERS' GUIDE



## Green innovation

Golf courses are facing challenges on three fronts - climate change, difficult economic climate, and environmental pressures. Selecting the right products that can stand up to these challenges is key. With this in mind, Lindum Turf has developed a range of high quality products to suit the particular needs of golf courses with a focus on innovation in grass technology.

### CHOICE OF TEES

With the renovation season fast approaching, Lindum can supply a choice of tees grade turf to suit your course and preferences. LT4 Smooth Stalked Tees is a high quality mixture of a fine bladed cultivar of smooth stalked meadow grass with fescues, combining fine appearance with hard wear and recovery. LT5 Rye Tees is a hard wearing mix combining the repair and recovery of wear tolerant ryegrasses with a dense smooth stalked meadow grass/fescue base.

### SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHING NEW GREENS

New greens can fail to establish successfully because of soil particle size incompatibility. Lindum has developed several ways to combat this and can supply Washed Turf or greens turf grown on a USGA spec Rootzone. Both avoid the development of a layer that inhibits root growth and water percolation, leading to more successful establishment.

### GO WILD!

More and more golf courses are recognising their contribution to the environment and planting natural wildflower areas to create interest, attract wildlife and give year round pleasure. Lindum Wildflower Meadow Turf produces an instant wildflower area and is easy to establish - ideal for enhancing biodiversity on the course.

### NO MORE MUDDY WALKWAYS

Stabilise high traffic areas with Lindum Lokturf - a hard wearing mix of ryegrass and smooth stalked meadow grass, growing in a fibre reinforced rootzone. Lindum Lokturf provides superior reinforcement to reduce the impact of trolleys and golf shoes in all weathers.

Contact us on 01904 448675 for technical specifications of the full Lindum Golf Turf range or visit our website [www.turf.co.uk](http://www.turf.co.uk)

## BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
- USED MACHINERY
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

## ALL WEATHER SURFACES

**Huxley Golf**  
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF

Huxley Practice Tee at St Andrews Links

Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222  
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk  
[www.huxleygolf.com](http://www.huxleygolf.com)

**PGA**  
Official Supplier

Look at the latest...  
**Second Hand Machinery**  
...for sale  
[www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds](http://www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds)

## ALL WEATHER SURFACES

**Verde**  
SPORTS LIMITED  
Est. 1988

All-Weather Surfaces For Your Golf Club

- \* Pathways
- \* Tees
- \* Putting Greens
- \* Golf Mats
- \* Fairway Mats
- \* Accessories

Ensure the course is playable all year round

Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066  
Email: [sales@verdesports.com](mailto:sales@verdesports.com)  
[www.verdesports.com](http://www.verdesports.com)

## BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

**blinder** BUNKER LINER

The bunker lining solution  
01344 621654  
[www.theblinder.com](http://www.theblinder.com)

## CONSTRUCTION

Photo courtesy of Ridding Park  
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

**JOHN GREASLEY LTD**  
Specialists in Golf Course Construction  
Tel. 0116 2696766

**Lakeland Earthworks**

Golf Course Construction  
Greens, Tees, Bunker  
Renovation and Alterations  
Earthworks  
Lakes/Ponds/Water Engineering  
Drainage Solutions

01400 251605 07900 693705  
[info@lakelandearthworks.com](mailto:info@lakelandearthworks.com)  
[www.lakelandearthworks.com](http://www.lakelandearthworks.com)

## CONSTRUCTION

# MJ ABBOTT

LIMITED

### GOLF COURSE SPECIALISTS

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- GROW IN & MAINTENANCE
- SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

## DRAINAGE

Look at the latest...  
**Second Hand Machinery**  
...for sale  
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds



**Duncan Ross LTD**  
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE

Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems  
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding : Landscaping  
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrainning : Topdressing : Overseeding

**If it's drainage, it has to be Duncan Ross!**

Willow Farm,  
Red Cat Lane, Burscough, Ormskirk L40 0RF  
01257 255321  
office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk  
www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

## FIRST AID

# JKSONICS

Remote First Aid Solutions  
PPE and Safety Products

**Defibrillator Supply & Training.**  
Range of First-Aid Kits specifically  
designed for greenkeepers.

0844 682 6055  
info@jksonics.co.uk  
www.jksonics.co.uk

in conjunction with **Safe 4 Golf**

## IRRIGATION

**The TAS TRIMMER**  
SPRINKLER HEAD MAINTENANCE  
AND SAFETY MADE EASY  
from £23 +VAT

All popular  
sprinkler,  
valve box  
& marker  
sizes

www.jsmd.co.uk  
tel. 0845 026 0064



## DRAINAGE

**Traditional  
drainage and  
Lyttag banding  
of greens and fairways**

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

## GOLF COURSE MACHINERY

Coring without the mess!

# THINK GreenTek



Scan here for the solution  
or call us on  
0113 267 7000  
www.greentek.org.uk

# Turfdry

### Golf Course Drainage

Survey / Design / Installation / Greens /  
Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses  
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417  
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com

www.turfdry.com

## IRRIGATION

# MJ ABBOTT

LIMITED



### IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

- DESIGN & SUPPLY
- INSTALLATION
- MAINTENANCE

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

# irritech limited

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:  
01823 690216

www.irritechlimited.co.uk

# SPEEDCUT

CONTRACTORS LTD

### SPORTSTURF & GOLF COURSE

- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- RENOVATION

Oxford 01865 331479  
www.speedcutcontractors.co.uk

# Philip Dixon Contractors Ltd

Established 1978

Sportsturf Drainage Specialist

Drainage ◦ Construction ◦ Renovation



Slitting ◦ Banding ◦ Maintenance

Tel 01772 877289 (Preston, Lancs)  
Email: info@dixonrainage.co.uk  
www.dixonrainage.co.uk

# MJ ABBOTT

LIMITED



### DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

- DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- PRIMARY SYSTEMS
- SAND SLITTING
- GRAVEL BANDING

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**Design  
Installation  
Service  
Irrigation supplies**

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk



Scotland Based

# Meiklem Drainage Contractors Ltd

Sportsturf Drainage  
Specialists

Golf Courses - Sportsfields  
Drainage \* Construction  
\* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:  
T: 01383 830217

M: 07808 897 300

john.meiklem@meiklem.com

## LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS



Supply and installation of plastic  
liners for golf lakes and ponds

Tel: 01206 262676  
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

## ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
**Jill on 01347 833 832** or  
email  
**jill@bigga.co.uk**

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## RABBIT CONTROL/ MANAGEMENT

### ERS Developments Ltd

Wildlife Management Specialists

- Rabbit control/ Management
- Japanese Knotweed Eradication (guaranteed in one growing season)

01296 468514

e-mail: ersoffice@btinternet.com

[www.ersenvironmental.co.uk](http://www.ersenvironmental.co.uk)

## MACHINERY WANTED

### Invicta Groundcare

Equipment Ltd

**We buy used golf course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne

Tel No: 01474 874 120

Email: [invictagroundcare@live.com](mailto:invictagroundcare@live.com)

## NON-SLIP



### SAFETY ON THE TEE

Composite anti-slip panels provide a hard wearing, long term safety solution for railway sleeper steps. Resistant to spiked shoes, weather and chemicals.

[www.gripclad.co.uk](http://www.gripclad.co.uk)  
enquiries@gripclad.co.uk  
Tel: 01489 576384

## RUBBER CRUMB

### TEBBUTT ASSOCIATES

RUBBER CRUMB

Crown III rubber crumb for natural grass reinforcement by mixing with the root zone or verti draining in from the surface Rubber Crumb 0.5-2mm for infilling of synthetic turf on tees and pathways Rubber Grass Mats for severe wear areas

Contact Tebbutt Associates on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644 e-mail: [tebbuttasso@btconnect.com](mailto:tebbuttasso@btconnect.com) [www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk](http://www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk)

## TOP DRESSINGS

**LOVIE**  
QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR  
Tel: 01771 653777  
email: [sales@lovie.co.uk](mailto:sales@lovie.co.uk)  
[www.lovie.co.uk](http://www.lovie.co.uk)

*Banks Amenity Products Ltd.*

FOR ALL YOUR BULK SUPPLIES  
NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES

01858 464346 / 433003  
[www.banksamenity.co.uk](http://www.banksamenity.co.uk)

## TRACTORS

**reco**  
agricultural & groundcare machinery

[www.reco.co.uk](http://www.reco.co.uk)

## TRAINING

**Low Maintenance**  
*For all your training needs*

We offer courses that are recognised qualifications certificated through City and Guilds. We can come to you for a range of courses which include: Pesticides (PA1 and PA6), Brushcutter, Strimmer, Hedge trimmer, Pole Saw, Tractor Driving, Chainsaw Maintenance (CS30), Felling Small Trees (CS31)

Contact Phill Lowe at  
[pglowe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pglowe@hotmail.co.uk)  
or [www.low-maintenance.co.uk](http://www.low-maintenance.co.uk)  
or Call 07974812736

## TREES

**Stourton Forestry**

Woodland management & consultancy

- Creative new woodland design
- Tree planting & maintenance
- Management plans for existing trees & woodland
- Tree safety surveys
- Small-scale timber harvesting

Tel: 01507 578 080  
[www.stourtonforestry.co.uk](http://www.stourtonforestry.co.uk)



## TURF

**Tillers Turf**  
*growers of fine turf*

**Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses**

**Rootzone Turf for Greens**  
Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.  
Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds, Approaches and Fairways**  
Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

**Bunker revetting turf**  
40mm thick  
Small or big roll  
Free loan of big roll laying frame

Tel: 01652 678 000  
[www.tillersturf.co.uk](http://www.tillersturf.co.uk)

**Lindum**  
*taking grass a step further*

20 years of golf turf experience  
5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance, Wildflower Turf, and new Low Maintenance turf

Tel: 01904 448675  
[www.turf.co.uk](http://www.turf.co.uk)

To advertise within Greenkeeper International please contact Jill on 01347 833 800 or email [jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

## TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT

**GROUNDSMAN**  
INDUSTRIES LTD  
*Leaders by Design*

Specialists in the design and manufacture of...

**TURF AERATORS**

**TURF SOD CUTTERS**

Visit us online at:  
[www.groundsmanindustries.com](http://www.groundsmanindustries.com)  
email: [bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com](mailto:bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com)

## USED MACHINERY

[www.usedturfmachinery.com](http://www.usedturfmachinery.com)

## VERTIDRAINING HIRE

**PETER MANNINGTON**

Professional Verti-Drain and Earthquaking Contractor  
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service  
Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211 or Mobile 07850 612061  
1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingham, East Sussex TN11 7QA

## WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

**Waste2Water**  
BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.  
Tel: 01782 373 878  
Fax: 01782 373 763  
E-mail: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com)  
Web: [www.waste2water.com](http://www.waste2water.com)

## WORKWEAR

[www.greenkeepersdirect.co.uk](http://www.greenkeepersdirect.co.uk)

## GREENKEEPERS WORKWEAR

[sales@greenkeepersdirect.co.uk](mailto:sales@greenkeepersdirect.co.uk)  
T:01752 896851  
M:07731 757675

## ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250** for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**, full colour, please call Jill on **01347 833 832** or email [jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

# BTME is back

for it's 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre, 22-24 January 2013



# The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:



20-23 January 2013

**BIGGA Seminars  
& Workshops**

- ▶ Over 150 exhibitors showcasing the latest products
- ▶ Network with over 7000 sports and turf professionals
- ▶ The annual must-attend event for golf greenkeepers

**FREE ENTRY  
TO BTME 2013**

**REGISTER  
NOW!**

Sign up now for  
Harrogate week

AND A SIMPLE ONLINE  
REGISTRATION PROCESS  
- CLICK REGISTER NOW! AT...

[www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)



# Recruitment



## Assistant Greenkeeper Lamberhurst Golf Club, Kent



Applicants must be able to undertake all basic greenkeeping tasks and be qualified to NVQ Level 2. Chainsaw and Spraying qualifications would be an advantage.

Works on the course cover a wide range of duties so this position requires an individual who can apply their skills to all aspects of course maintenance. You must be a good team worker, highly motivated, be able to make decisions and able to operate a full range of equipment associated with the post.

*Salary is negotiable dependant on experience.*

To apply in writing please enclose your CV with a covering letter to the Secretary, Lamberhurst Golf Club, Church Road, Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8DT or email your CV to [secretary@lamberhurstgolfclub.com](mailto:secretary@lamberhurstgolfclub.com)

Closing date: 16th September 2012

**Lamberhurst Golf Club Ltd is an equal opportunities employer**

## LYDD GOLF CLUB

ROMNEY MARSH - KENT

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Package on application

Lydd Golf Course require a competent Head Greenkeeper – or First Assistant who is looking for career progression - to manage and maintain their 18 hole members' course and 6 hole academy course. Applicants must have the ability to demonstrate a passion for Greenkeeping alongside meticulous attention to detail and excellent communication skills.

A proven track record of high standard course presentation – day to day running of a course and effective staff management are all essential attributes of the successful applicant. Experience of links management would be an advantage.

Application is by Curriculum Vitae and covering letter to:

Gary Debenham, Group Golf Course Manager via [gary@pentlandgolf.co.uk](mailto:gary@pentlandgolf.co.uk)

Closing date: 22 September 2012

[www.lyddgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.lyddgolfclub.co.uk)

## Greenkeeper required Northumberland Golf Club



Northumberland Golf Club is seeking a full time Greenkeeper to work as part of a progressive team.

NVQ level 1 and 2 along with PA1 and PA11 or equivalent required.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV to the Course Manager or alternatively e-mail details to [sec@thengc.co.uk](mailto:sec@thengc.co.uk)

The closing date for applications is Monday 17 September 2012

Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, NE3 5HT

# Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month

at [www.bigga.org.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.org.uk/careers)  
from £540+vat for an 1/8 advert  
Contact **Jill Rodham** on  
01347 833 800 ext 519

# BIGGA

are delighted to be at  
**IOG SALTEX**  
4-6 September 2012  
Windsor Racecourse  
Berkshire

# Stand E33

*Come and  
say hello!*







## TWO-YEAR SPONSORED PLACEMENT

*Your springboard to a successful career*

Ransomes Jacobsen Limited manufactures and markets a range of turf maintenance equipment for the golf course, municipal and professional lawn care markets. To demonstrate our products to new and existing customers, we have built a three-hole golf course, which is now in its fifth season.

We are currently looking to recruit a Greenkeeper on a two-year sponsored placement. The successful candidate will be responsible for the routine maintenance of the golf course and a 7-a-side football pitch, in accordance with our Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policies.

As the ideal candidate you will have been working for at least a year on a golf course or fine turf environment, studying at NVQ level 2 in a turf or horticulture-related subject and be prepared to continue studying to achieve NVQ level 3 in this subject. We will actively encourage and support you in these studies and honour day-release obligations.

This is a varied role with other responsibilities that include:

- Maintaining the golf course including furniture and decking



## GREENKEEPING VACANCY

- Maintaining and operating the water irrigation system to meet the seasonal growing requirements of the grass plant, whilst managing the resource by monitoring rainfall and forecast weather conditions
- Maintaining trial grass plots for our business partners
- Operating and maintaining machinery to the standards set out in the operators and maintenance manual for each piece of equipment
- Cleaning, preparing and storing each piece of equipment after use in line with the manufacturers' recommendation to maintain its quality and precision.
- Pruning trees, trimming hedges and cutting

back shrubs, as required.

- Assisting with customer visits, demonstrations and product training, as required

- Assisting with the test and trial of newly developed equipment

**This could be your springboard to a successful career in the turf care industry, so if you're looking to progress and are interested in this career opportunity, please send or email your CV to:**

Carol Mellelieu, HR Director, Ransomes Jacobsen, West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9TT

Email: [cmellelieu@tip.textron.com](mailto:cmellelieu@tip.textron.com)



## intheshed answers

### QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Carlos Tevez
2. Swansea City, Michael Laudrup
3. Carzola / 4. Ben Arfa, Sami Nasri
5. Rickie Lambert
6. Van Persie, Rooney, Hernandez, Welbeck (5th) Berbatov (6th) Owen
7. Southampton, Reading, West Ham
8. Cardiff, penalties
9. Number 11 (was 3, and 9 in a pre-season friendly!)

Compiled by tom@bigga.org.uk  
Let him know how well you did!

### CROSSWORD

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

### MONSTER SUDOKO

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

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

# The Back Nine

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

Robert Laycock calls for a simple approach to golf green nutrition.

**I was thinking about Jim Arthur the other day. I often do. It may be because I was traumatised by his attacks on me 20 years ago when I first set up as an independent agronomist and was “the new agronomist kid on the block”.**

However, I think we eventually achieved mutual respect, and he inscribed my copy of his ‘Practical Greenkeeping’ book with the phrase “From one agronomist to another”, which is something I treasure.

Jim Arthur was well known for having a minimalist approach to golf course agronomy, which did not go down well with some people but in the right circumstances it produced fantastic results.

Although he was highly qualified in plant and soil science, Jim Arthur did not need soil chemical analyses to determine the nutrient requirements of turf.

The healthiest golf greens I visit as an agronomist are managed in a “Jim Arthur” style. They are old links greens with a high content of red fescue and browntop bent - completely aerobic with deep roots.

They are fed once a year and receive very little fungicide treatment. The club car park is always full, so they must play well too!

But not every course can be like that. Some of my other clients’ greens require much more fertiliser - if this is necessary to get the best golfing surfaces for that course.

But it is always best to aim to achieve the optimum, as applying too little or too much can be detrimental and can contribute to triggering disease outbreaks. Get the plants healthy by getting the nutrition right and you reduce the risk of disease, saving money on fungicides.

Some greenkeepers make it hard for themselves by adopting complicated programmes of fertiliser and chemical applications, planned in advance with their fertiliser sup-

plier and which are intended to be adhered to. What makes it worse is that some golf course advisers, who should know better, also want to appear more knowledgeable by producing over-complicated plans.

In my opinion, it is better to adopt a simpler and less prescriptive approach, working with the turfgrass plants, the soil they are growing in and the local climate and tailoring inputs to the greens in a flexible way as the season progresses. This is certainly the cheapest approach.

It is important to understand the technical stuff so that you can decide which products are best for you. But you also need to be able to encourage plants to grow to their optimum.

Remember that it isn’t just fertiliser that stimulates growth. Aeration encourages rooting and better rooting allows the turfgrass plants to take up more nutrients.

So I advise my clients to take advantage of analyses of soil and tissue from their greens, but not to rely on analysis alone to decide what treatments they need.

If the turf on the greens is healthy, with a proportion of fine grasses, an aerobic rootzone and deep roots, that tells you it has all it needs and it may be possible to reduce inputs, which is a great advantage in these straitened times.

BUT only reduce fertiliser applications if this is not going to damage the turf. Some greens need more fertiliser than others and reducing it too rapidly can lead to poor green surfaces (and, in the worst cases, the issuing of P45s to those in the firing line).

At the end of the day, the purpose of golf greens is for golfers to putt on them. If putting surfaces are poor, the greens are not being looked after properly.

Fertiliser reduction can become a “macho” thing - seeing who can reduce the most. But at the end of

the day, all greens are different and all have their own optimum treatments.

Know how your turfgrass plants grow. In order to get the best from his turf, a greenkeeper needs to understand the relationship between plants and soil in the same way as a gardener or a plant ecologist does and this is more important in achieving healthy turf than being a great golfer.

“Keep it simple. Less is more”

It is interesting to note that because he was not a keen golfer, the great Jim Arthur was sacked many years ago as the club agronomist by one of my client golf clubs - but that might have been an excuse!

Think about what you are doing, and retain a balance between supplying too little and too much. For example, most soils contain adequate amounts of phosphorus for plant growth.

If you feel this is the case, drop it from your fertiliser programme, though you may have to shop around to find a fertiliser without phosphorus these days. Just apply what is necessary.

The healthiest greens need to receive nitrogen as the only major nutrient applied to them and if you can produce good greens by doing that, don’t allow yourself to be convinced that you need to apply phosphorus and potassium.

This isn’t something you can learn from a book but only from experience.

It is how Jim Arthur was able to advise on nutrition without using analysis results. But if you can’t do that you need the figures to back you up.

As Jim Arthur would have said, “If in doubt, don’t feed”.

Keep it simple. Less is more.

## about the author



Robert Laycock has had a wide-ranging career as a turfgrass scientist, beginning with MSc research at Imperial College, London. This was followed by six years cutting edge research at the STRI and then working with a plant breeder in the grass seed industry before becoming Technical Director of Rolawn and General Manager of Karsten Turf Science. He is a Chartered Biologist and a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture and first began working as an independent professional agronomist 20 years ago. Recently relocated to the North York Moors National Park, Robert is mainly occupied advising on golf courses of all types across the UK.  
[www.robertlaycock.co.uk](http://www.robertlaycock.co.uk)

# BARONESS

Quality on Demand

**M**ore than 100 years of experience goes into the making of Baroness products, giving unrivalled cutting quality and the very lowest running costs.

[www.baronessuk.com](http://www.baronessuk.com)



BARONESS LM56—THE BEST WALKMOWER MONEY CAN BUY!



LM315

For all your golf course machinery needs try Baroness. More than 100 years of the finest Japanese manufacturing skills and quality go into the making of all our products.



Baroness products are made by Kyoisha Co. of Japan, an ISO 9001 company.



KYOEISHA quality, since 1910!

**F**

or more information or to book a demonstration contact:-

[sales@baronessuk.com](mailto:sales@baronessuk.com)

[www.baronessuk.com](http://www.baronessuk.com)

01256 461591



SP05



LM2700



GM2800



LM283

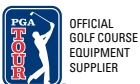
Distributed throughout Europe by Kyoisha UK Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Kyoisha Co. of Japan

# Whole in one



One range of products for everything you need. One dealer for all your parts and servicing. One account to administer. One number to call. One person to speak to. There is a lot of beauty in one. John Deere has more than 150 professional golf and turf products to choose from. We can make your life easier, freeing up your time to do what you do best. It's one decision you won't regret.

Freephone 0800 085 25 22



JohnDeere.com

C699.1 E\_LET\_PCA