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SEPTEMBER

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## Ryder on Curtis!

"It's 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 eyes of the world will be on one particular course this month when the 99th 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 54th year old will sign the official letter of his 'vote in a lifetime' opportunity to host one of the world's greatest sporting events.

However, when Curtis and his team have made many decisions to increase over the last four years with the Ryder Cup in mind, he now believes that the 600 members will also enjoy the benefits after the curtain has been drawn.

Recently, when BIGGA members in the UK have hosted one of the worst summers in memory, Curtis and his colleagues have been looking exactly the opposite problem as an enthusiastic member's letter.

He said "It's a shame in a lifetime experience for me, and all day long 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 100°F during the day and 80°F through the night."

"The grass has come through already, although some fairways with high the greens have suffered."

"A lot of people don't realize we have three courses here and it's number three that's hosting the Ryder Cup. To help everything else the summer's unprecedented heat, we're closing this course a month before the tournament for deep aeration and overseeding, and some areas will be reseeded."

"The greens are running at 11 on the temperature and grass speed meter. We've had the hottest July ever recorded, it's been over 100°F during the day and 80°F through the night."

Curtis was not slow to make alterations soon after his arrival at the club, which opened in 1925. The all-important third course has previously hosted the PGA Championship and US Open.

"Medinah is a family club, and when I arrived I got to meet and get to know the members. I know we had the Ryder Cup on the horizon so that obviously played a huge part in our planning."

Tyrell also noted the membership of the course and proud to be a member of the course and proud to see it play with the world's greatest players are here.

"Course three will be open to members for our new fee based membership."

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

"We then re-grassed all the fairways, which are all the bunkers and entirely rebuilt the 15th hole. These changes were made 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 fairway installation to help with the movement and temperature management around critical greens."

"Then, after we started being on the infrastructure for the tournament, grasslands, repair, topsoil and paths. This will all give us a great quality of play."

"There are so many talented guys over here in your average country club, you never think you'll get to this level so it's a real privilege to host."

During the tournament Curtis will be assisted by 100 volunteers including BIGGA members Lee Stratton, Course Manager at the new O West Golf Club, and Steve Chapman, Head Greenkeeper from the Glengale 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 champagne is consumed, work will begin on a huge \$6.4m redrains and renovation of course one."

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

The team took one hour appointment positions before meeting on in the fair of the Old Course in Carnoustie, and finally secured his commitment in 2006.

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 greenkeeping on the other side of the pond as I could. I wanted to cover all bases, and learn as much as I could."

"The standard so much from the BIGGA members I've met, it's been amazing."



"The magazine every month has been invaluable. It gives us some what challenges are facing people here in the UK and let's see if they're facing them and how they're solving them."

"I didn't think my career would progress to the point where I was prepared to host the Ryder Cup. I was never really in the UK and let's see if they're facing them and how they're solving them."

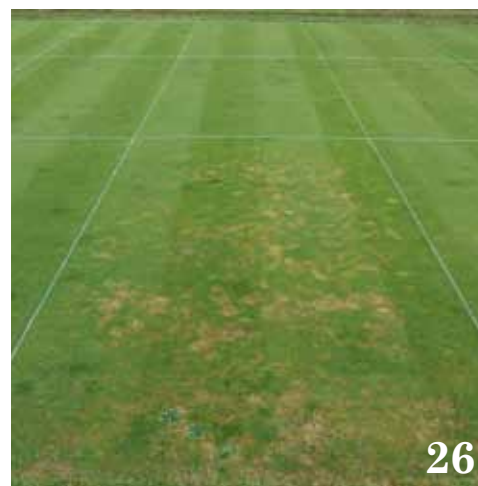
"There are so many talented guys over here in your average country club, you never think you'll get to this level so it's a real privilege to host."

We're lucky to have a fantastic team and they're really excited, everyone's really enthusiastic and engaged."

"After that, my only remaining wish is for an American victory"



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**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**



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