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The **BIGGA** Turf Management Exhibition

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BTME SPECIAL... 18 PAGE REVIEW INSIDE

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Reflecting on a successful BTME 2013

When five inches of snow fell on the Sunday night of BTME week I have to admit I was concerned that it would have a significant impact on the few days to come.

Clearly though I had underestimated just how committed to attending and enjoying the annual opportunity to learn, network and interact with the trade so many of you are. I would like to thank all those that made the trip to Harrogate and made it such a success, in fact some of the exhibitors called it ‘the best for some.’

I would also like to thank the 121 exhibitors who were equally determined to ensure they were present to show off their ranges of products and services to such a committed audience. Good planning and innovation were required to make sure all stands were fully built, equipped and manned by the Tuesday morning but happily when BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith conducted the traditional ribbon-cutting at 9am all exhibitors were present and correct and there was a healthy throng of visitors already queuing to enter the Harrogate International Centre.

There were naturally a few hard luck stories, with some of our international visitors thwarted by flight cancellations but generally speaking those that wanted to attend the Continue to Learn programme and the Exhibition itself were able to do so and found all that is good about this great industry gathered for their benefit.

The education programme once again achieved the difficult task of improving on previous editions with the Turf Managers Conference (see page 22) on the wintry Monday a definite highlight, striking an excellent balance between high-level turf technicalities and important management topics. It was also heartening to see so many of the Focus On and Fringe seminars packed out.

BTME affords the Association the opportunity to fulfil constitutional obligations, such as holding the AGM, but also provides a great platform to recognise significant member achievements such as the awarding of hard earned Master Greenkeeper Certificates and CPD Diplomas to the deserved elections to Life Membership for Chris Kennedy and John Philp.

Once again thanks to everyone who came to Harrogate and made BTME 2013 such a success.

In last month’s magazine I discussed the problem of companies who choose not to exhibit but still try and take advantage of the huge gathering of potential customers.

I’m pleased to say that I spoke with many visitors who had taken heed of those words and had reinforced our stance when approached. There is no easy solution to this but I’m confident progress has been made. One or two individuals were asked to leave the Halls for breaching the rules on inappropriate trading and generally our exhibitors gave positive feedback on our actions. The turf industry is complicated, with the supply chain sometimes having many stages in it, some exhibitors do not sell direct to their customers so it is appropriate that their distributors are on hand to provide the link to the end user, but there is a natural distinction between those distributors and the companies who attempt to hijack the Show.

Meanwhile the challenging job of managing golf courses through the winter months continues.

This month’s edition is packed with articles on a variety of relevant topics including two examples of BIGGA members who have made substantial improvements to their facilities meaning better conditions for play and therefore happier golfers. Andre Eralh at Easingwold Golf club (page 44) applied real innovation to find a cost effective solution to tree encroachment whilst East Berkshire’s Matthew Nutter (page 34) successfully tackled the common challenge of bunker inconsistency with a co-ordinated programme of redesign and renovation.

Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton,
Chief Executive**

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BTME 2013

The Review

Sunday 20 to Thursday 24 January 2013
at the Harrogate International Centre



The BIGGA Continue to Learn Education Programme

Sunday 20 to Wednesday 23 January 2013



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

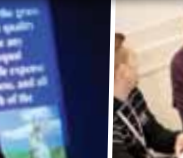
Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition



The BIGGA Continue to Learn Education Programme

Sunday 20 to Wednesday 23 January 2013



"Thom was very engaging, I never fail to be impressed at BIGGA's efforts in securing the best speakers and this presentation was no exception"

Adam McColl, Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill GC



"Motivational speakers such as Lorna will always be well-received at a conference but she was particularly professional"

Lisa Sayers, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club



Third BIGGA Turf Managers' Conference a huge success

An increasingly important focus of BTME is the varied Continue to Learn programme and it's no exaggeration to say 2013 boasted one of the finest ever line-ups beginning with the Third Turf Managers' Conference.

We attended some of the leading experts and more informative and knowledgeable presenters from the turf industry and beyond to make this Conference accessible for sports turf managers keen to advance their education.

The Conference made its first appearance outside the halls of the Harrogate International Centre,

holding place at the nearby Crown Hotel.

We attracted some terrific presenters with the renowned Dr Thom Hutchinson taking charge of his presentation and highly interesting presentation on 'The Top 10 Bunker to Lightweight Ball'. A worldwide industry on turf cutters, Thom's Turfgrass Academic Specialist at Michigan State University and in author of the book 'The Superintendents Guide to Greenkeeping' Green Space.

Adam McColl, Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club said, "Thom was very informative and engaging, I never fail to be impressed at

BIGGA's efforts in securing the best speakers from around the world and this presentation was no exception."

As for Thom, himself, he simply said, "I have never enjoyed myself more at a conference. I have never been in a happier place in my life".

He was followed by Lorna Sayers, a qualified public speaker, who has coached thousands of people across the world in the art of presenting with confidence and credibility. Included in her presentation were a number of practical tips on what

to say and how to say it to become a more professional presenter.

Lisa Sayers, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club, said, "Motivational speakers such as Lorna will always be well-received at a conference that also provides practical information. It's really increased my knowledge of turf care and has made me re-think some of my practices."

After an excellent lunch David Howard-Tanner looked at Managing the impact of different putting green surfaces and different strategies.

Heading off an unmissable day of advanced education, Kate Entwistle, Turf Pathologist at The Turf

Disease Centre, gave the attendees a 'New Disease Update'. She's worked on turfgrass disease since 1990 and this presentation looked at the current and off-the-beaten-path Turf Disease Centre's research, which only presentation was considered with an interactive question and answer session giving delegates the chance to ask research and top experts questions of managers.

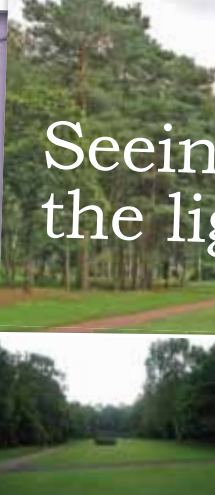
The whole day was summed up well by David Entwistle from Lynher Golf Club who commented, "This Conference gives all turf managers the opportunity to improve their knowledge which will undoubtedly help you to be a better manager."



44



40



Seeing the light



Steve Chatfield visits Eastingswood Golf Club to see how an ambitious tree management project has transformed the course - at very little cost

Take a look at the photographs in this article. Can you believe they have taken just a few months to get? Eastingswood Golf Club has transformed a neglected, abandoned course into a beautiful, first-class playing venue for play.

Steve Chatfield, 55, is the club's manager and has been at the helm since 2004. He is a former professional and has spent his career in the industry. He has been instrumental in the club's success, particularly in the area of tree management.

PROFILER
Name: Steve Chatfield
Age: 55
Position: Club Manager
Experience: 15 years in the industry

Medical advice:
Steve has a few years' experience in the industry and has been instrumental in the club's success, particularly in the area of tree management.

Favorite Sports:
Tennis, Golf, Football

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BIGGA BOARD MEMBER AWARDED CLUB CAPTAINCY

Jez Hughes, Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, has completed an unusual hat trick after being awarded the Captaincy.

Three handicapper Jez, who is also a BIGGA Board Member for the Northern Region, has been at the North Wales course for 25 years. His tireless work has ensured that the Championship venue has become one of the best regarded in the area. His father was also a member at the club for many years.

It now means Jez is Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager, Club Captain and BIGGA Board Member at the same time.

Jez marked the occasion with a drive at the first followed by an event in the clubhouse. He said: "It's a massive honour, and it's made even more special by the fact that I'm a working Head Greenkeeper. It's terrific to be recognised in this way and I'm very proud.

"I hit my drive around 200 yards. It ended up in the rough on the left but I'm blaming the cold weather!"

Everyone at BIGGA congratulates Jez on his appointment.



LACHLAN SCOOPS JIMMY NEILSON TROPHY

The Scottish East Section's annual Jimmy Neilson trophy was contested over Gifford Golf Club in December – the fourth year this excellent competition has taken place, this time in a Stableford format. The winner was Lachlan Imrie, greenkeeper at The Renaissance Club, (pictured above left), who was presented with his trophy by Jimmy himself (right).

Thanks to Jimmy for presenting the now famous trophy and well done to Lachlan who scored an impressive 19 points for the 9 holes played.

SOUTH EAST GOLF & DINNER

Don't forget that Walton Heath Golf Club is hosting this event on Friday 8 March. As well as golf at this finer heathland course, a superb dinner will be laid on for all attendees.

Places are going fast so to book your place please contact South East Regional Administrator Clive Osgood at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk or call him on 01737 819343 or 07841 948410.



DREADED DANDELIONS NOW IN DEMAND

Dandelions with their long deep tap roots are one of the most tenacious weeds of sports turf. Dandelion's low profile means the growing points 'duck under' the mower's blades making herbicide sprays essential. However, every 'dandelion has its day' with a close relative of English dandelion now a strong candidate to become a source of European-grown natural rubber for tyres.

With natural rubber (tapped from rubber trees [Hevea brasiliensis] on huge plantations in West Africa and South East Asia) now in short supply, international consortia are considering alternative sources, including the milky glutinous sap (latex) in the roots of a 'Russian' dandelion (*Taraxacum kok-saghz*). First prototype tyres made from European sourced rubber were rolled out in July 2012 by 'Apollo Vredstein' an Indian Dutch Company.

T. kok-saghz is a 12-inch tall yellow-flowered dandelion native to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. It will grow in

a range of soils and climatic conditions but prefers the cool conditions in its native homeland and areas of northern Europe with a similar climate.

In addition, to its tolerance of cool climates *T. kok-saghz* can be farmed as a short term annual crop according to need. The tropical rubber tree requires at least 10 years of growth before being tapped for latex. Furthermore the dandelion's roots are rich in inulin, a polysaccharide of fructose sugar units. Inulin is peculiar to the dandelions (including English dandelion) and other members of the plant family Asteraceae (Compositae) such as the Dahlia, and is under investigation for use as biofuel.

So where does the English dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis*), originally called 'Dente-de-lion' in Norman French ('lion's teeth' after its jagged leaves) stand in all this development? Apparently nowhere is the answer. English dandelion contains the 'same' glutinous

sap in its roots but there is insufficient to make extraction commercially worthwhile.

Not to worry because English dandelion has drawn its teeth in different directions. Japanese scientists complain how English dandelion, having got into Japan, is spreading like fury and hybridising with another close relative, the native Japanese dandelion *Taraxacum japonicum* called 'Kansai tampopo'. The more vigorous English dandelion is overwhelming its Japanese 'cousin' and the hybrid plants are infertile. However, perhaps Japan is being paid back for giving us 'Japanese Knotweed' currently spreading across the UK environment including golf courses.

Come spring when greenkeepers deliver the first dose of herbicide to dandelions across the green they should spare a thought for the *Taraxacum* genus in general, which could soon be supplying the rubber to make the tyres on their wheeled sprayers.

Dr Terry Mabbett



MG SCOOPS GCSAA AWARD

In recognition of their commitment to environmental stewardship, Golf Park Nuolen in Wangen, Switzerland, and its golf course superintendent, Steven Tierney, MG, an international superintendent member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) have been named the overall winners of the 2012 GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA).

Steven, an International BIGGA member, is superintendent at Golfpark Nuolen. He masterminded a water-farming project that featured seven miles of drains to divert run-off into irrigation ponds. The facility no longer needs water from nearby Lake Zurich, and it has saved the course \$20,000 a year in electricity. The new maintenance facility, due to open in 2015, will be almost completely self-efficient from solar panels and deep-drilled pilings to utilize natural heat. The local wildlife benefits from a tunnel built underneath the main road leading to the golf course. Constructed by Tierney and his crew, the tunnel allows amphibians to safely take advantage of the course's natural areas.

"This year's winners are to be commended for their commitment to environmental stewardship on the golf course," GCSAA President Sandy G. Queen, CGCS, said. "It is evidenced by our overall winner that the idea that golf courses can be compatible with the environment, and in many cases enhance it, is seen around the world."

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE...

In the last issue of GI Tony Martin offered advice for greenkeepers thinking of working in Europe. Well last summer Ben Kebby left his role as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Gatton Manor Golf Club to move to Golf de Joyenval – one of the top courses in France. This was despite not being able to speak any French... here's his story.

I studied the BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science at Myerscough College and worked at various clubs including Royal Melbourne until I applied for the role of Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at this course, which is west of Paris. It was the biggest decision of my life, but the lure of an exclusive Championship 36 hole complex, the challenge, and the opportunity to learn and develop under Steve Okula (who holds both the GCSA and MG certificates) proved too much. So, after long discussions with friends inside and outside the industry and most importantly my partner Francesca, I decided to accept the offer and start learning French!

Golf de Joyenval was designed by R.T. Jones Sr., and opened in 1992. The greens on both courses are sand-based with predominantly Poa/Creeping Bent based sward, whilst the tees are pure Creeping Bent. Both courses are situated on heavy clay throughout, and although the course boasts full fairway and tee drainage, the inherent drainage problems still persist after heavy rains.

Agronomically the course and maintenance practices are very similar to those in the UK, with an emphasis on fortnightly verti-cutting and topdressing alongside core aeration in both early spring and late summer. The main climatic difference to the UK is the disease pressure between the months of October and May.

Fortnightly and even weekly fungicide applications are absolutely essential in



keeping a clean surface, which, alongside the factor of green speed and the finer details, is the most important aspect of the clubs mission statement.

If I were to say the relocation abroad has been easy then I would be lying. Problems with banks, car insurance and pet passports added costs and stress. I took to learning French via audio CDs for a number of weeks prior to the move, but in no way did this prepare me!

This was a complete shock to the system for the initial weeks, with the language barrier and the differences in greenkeeping culture being the most difficult. Unfortunately there is little or no career progression or educational path to follow within France for the trainee greenkeeper and apprenticeships are extremely rare. Most disappointing however, is the attitude towards the position of a greenkeeper, for most it is seen as a last resort.

The UK is extremely privileged to have such a supportive body in BIGGA alongside the various education establishments who offer turf related educational pathways.

Nevertheless, after a few months, I was able to understand and most importantly, be understood. A year on, although far from fluent, I am much more confident with the language,

allowing me to manage the 20-strong team.

By far the hardest issue was leaving friends and family and most importantly for the first three months, Francesca. It was a lonely time, but luckily I was able to immerse myself into the new role alongside the online degree which I am currently studying.

The initial problems aside, the relocation has been fantastic and one that I would recommend to all. On top of everything, it's been a superb opportunity to network and make new friendships.

I feel extremely fortunate to experience and embrace changes that have occurred and do not regret for a moment taking the leap and choosing to relocate abroad.

I'd particularly like to thank Dave Edmondson at The Island Club, Jon White at Morfontaine and of course Steve Okula who has been a fantastic support from the beginning, and of course my incredibly supportive girlfriend.

It is rare to work within an industry that, if you allow it, can take you around the world. Make the most of it.



BIGGA SCOTTISH CONFERENCE ATTRACTS TOP SPEAKERS

The BIGGA Scottish Conference on Tuesday 5 March features an impressive and varied range of speakers from across the turf industry.

To be held at the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline, registration opens at 8.45am and the first speaker at 9.30am will be Ronnie Malcolm, Management Consultant with Malcolm International, who will be presenting on 'The Role of the Modern Greenkeeper'. This will include feedback from a UK survey of Course Managers.

Grant Frogley, Course Manager at The Roxburghe, follows by exploring how he moved from his role as Deputy at G West to his first Course Manager job and will look at the challenges he's already faced.

Next up will be Chris Haspell, Links Superintendent at Castle Stuart, with a fascinating presentation on the unprecedented landslide that hit the course in 2010. He'll also let the audience in on his future plans at the site.

The afternoon will see Bill Lawlor from the Xact Group lead an interactive Q&A session on 'The Importance of Health & Safety for Greenkeepers' using examples which have been documented in the media. Dr Christian Spring from the STRI – a regular contributor to Greenkeeper International - will then look at the facts, root causes and possible corrective measures surrounding Worm Control plus other topical subjects.

A highly interesting day will be rounded off by John Bambury, Course Superintendent at Trump International Links at Balmedie in Aberdeenshire. John will look at the technical challenges experienced in getting this exciting new development up and running.

All in all, a day not to be missed. Places cost just £35 which includes lunch, and refreshments throughout. If you need any further information please contact BIGGA's Regional Administrator for Scotland John Young on 07776 242120 or johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

Our latest featured greenkeeper blog comes from Josh Lester at Longside Golf Club – an 18-hole parkland course in Aberdeenshire. He began writing the blog less than three years ago, and was able to display images of the terrible flooding which recently affected the course. He says the blog has helped communicate with members from his club – and other clubs.

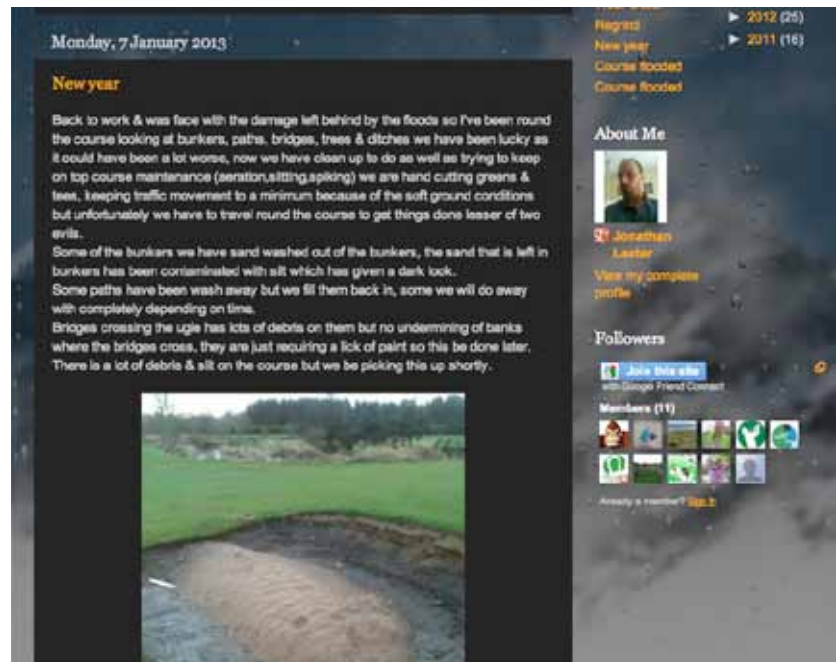
Head Greenkeeper Josh said: "The course is built on a flood plain with river running right through the middle but we managed to reopen five days later.

"We had sand washed out of bunkers, paths washed away and debris on the course. Loads of water came into the shed but everything was already up off of the ground in case there was a flood.

"I take photographs and post updates on my iPhone, so I can post on the blog while out on the course if necessary.

"The members tell me that they find my blog interesting as they like to know what's going on, ask questions or find out when I'm doing things. As well as the blog, I also use Twitter, which is also pretty helpful. I have a good number of followers including members from other clubs who have commented that they wish their greenkeepers would do similar work to what we've achieved here. In this day and age we need to be into social media and it's growing so quickly that we need to adapt. On a more personal note, I feel that a blog is great CV and most greenkeepers would benefit from keeping one."

Check out Josh's blog for yourself at <http://headgreenkeeperlongsidegolfclub.blogspot.co.uk/> - and remember to contact steve.castle@bigga.co.uk if you have a blog, or know of a greenkeepers' blog that has proved invaluable to you.



IT'S A WRAP

BIGGA have been speaking to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) about the level of interest and debate among members about the use of compost on golf courses. As it happens, WRAP has been seeking information from a range of land managers about the use of compost & anaerobic digestate (biofertiliser). As part of this, they are keen to get the opinions of golf greenkeepers, so we have joined forces to set up a short online survey to

capture your opinions and experiences. We would really appreciate you spending five minutes completing this survey. Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WRAPBIGGAsurvey> to complete a quick and simple questionnaire.

Once we've got your responses we will publish an article covering your views and some data from WRAP's technical team. WRAP will use the information to help them understand what needs to be done to provide information and support to the whole range of potential users of recycled organic material for land management.

If you have any queries about the survey you can contact Tricia Scott, in WRAP's Research & Evaluation team, on 01295 817887. For further information about WRAP's work, please visit: www.wrap.org.uk/category/sector/landscape-and-regeneration





Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

A memorable week at BTME 2013

I'm putting these notes together as BTME 2013 comes to a close, and it's no exaggeration to say it's been an incredible week on so many levels.

Ahead of this week, it has to be said things looked a little gloomy with 2012 being such a poor year for weather and also economically. My heart sank when I saw the snow fall on Sunday before the show, but the sun truly shone for the rest of the week and people started to flock in.

Cutting the ribbon to open the exhibition was a great honour and I can honestly say one of the highlights of my life. I've bumped into a few people who I haven't seen since I became chairman and their kind wishes for success in the role were very much appreciated.

The exhibition itself has been exceptional. There's been a good buzz throughout all the halls, a great atmosphere, and I've spoken to many exhibitors who have done really good business this week.

It has to be the best BTME ever from an education point of view. Taking the Turf Managers' Conference to a larger venue with better conference facilities was a great success and the quality of the presentations was unbelievable. I can't believe any Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper wouldn't benefit from attending. I also thoroughly enjoyed the Ryder Cup seminars with Curtis Tyrrell, Steve Chappell and Jim MacKenzie MBE, and the fact that so many questions were asked afterwards was a good sign.

I made a point of spending an afternoon visiting all the individual workshops in the Queen's Suite. I wanted to thank the lecturers for their exceptional presentations, and also all the delegates for making the most of these vital educational opportunities. They were coming out saying how much they had learnt and would be returning



Turf Management Conference, BTME 2013

It has to be the best BTME ever for education. Taking the Turf Managers' Conference to a larger venue with better conference facilities was a great success

next year. Hearing them say that really was another big highlight of the show for me.

I know that some of the seminars were standing room only at certain times which is hugely encouraging and shows that members are taking advantage of our educational offerings.

I also found our Press Briefing midway through the show in the Media Centre to be very valuable. I was very pleased to see so many of the turf industry press in attendance asking honest questions, and receiving honest responses.

I'd like to all thank all the team at HQ and the Regional Administrators who have done a fantastic job in preparing for this show and working so hard during it. The James Bond Night which they organised was a great success – everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed it.

I feel this week has proved once and for all that BTME is THE show to visit, the feeling everywhere is positive. Now our focus shifts to next year's show which promises to be even bigger and better. Before that however, we need to continue to drive for membership.

The association is strong but we need to continue to engage with younger greenkeepers and those that are new to the profession ensuring they know the value that BIGGA membership brings.

I want members who came to BTME to spread the word about how good the show was and how much there was on offer. I know next year's show will be fantastic, and I can't wait for it already.

Contact details

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07988 838956
tony.smith48@ntlworld.com

Cheers
Tony



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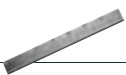
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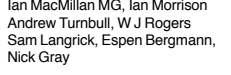
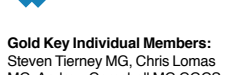
Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

Bon Jovi wrote a song called "I'll sleep when I'm dead" - I certainly slept the sleep of the dead the weekend following the most successful Continue to Learn education programme ever! Now that I'm back at my desk, it almost feels as if it never happened although I now have the figures in front of me to prove that it did.

We saw over 2,400 people through the doors to the Queen's Suite to attend the education programme, breaking all previous records. A big thank you must go to all of you for your continued support of the education.

Thom Nikolai 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University proved to be a big draw, selling out his workshop, 'The A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance', attracting the largest audience at the Turf Managers' Conference and giving us a capacity audience for his seminar 'Managing for Green Speed'. To quote Thom "I have never enjoyed myself more at a conference, I have never been in a friendlier place in my life".

The Ryder Cup seminars were extremely popular with near or capacity audiences. Featuring course managers Jim McKenzie (Celtic Manor, 2010), Curtis Tyrrell, MG, CGCS (Medinah, 2012) and Steve Chappell (Gleneagles, 2014) entertaining the audience with behind the scene stories, photographs and experiences. Curtis



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.

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thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the UK - I think we might be seeing him grace the BTME show again in the future!

The introduction of the "Focus On" sessions proved to be a successful addition to the programme with the majority sold out. Hopefully you will see an increase in this type of session in future years.

The seminar pre-booking for BIGGA members worked fairly well, but will have a polish for next year to improve the system. My thanks go to those patient attendees who had to stand in queues and experience my loud voice!

My personal thanks go to all the presenters who provide professional and quality education and make it look so easy. The challenge now begins again to develop the programme for 2014. Send your ideas to: sami@bigga.co.uk.

Future Turf Managers Initiative



Jacobsen turf equipment and BIGGA have developed a highly interactive, professional development conference, designed to provide younger greenkeepers with the tools to go further in our industry.

You can be selected by showing initiative in your current position, by demonstrating an interest in the industry or being actively involved in education at region and national level.

The FTMI will take place at Ransomes Jacobsen's headquarters in Ipswich from 3 - 5 April 2013. It will be an intensive three days of seminars, talks and workshops covering:

- communications
- budgeting
- team management
- CV writing and interview techniques
- volunteering
- Plus break-out sessions on other subjects

Apply now by visiting the Members Area of the BIGGA website and following the link to complete an online application form.

There are only 20 places available for this inaugural event. Get online and complete your application before the closing date of 15 February 2013.

All applications must be endorsed by the manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative.

If you have any queries, please contact Stuart Green on 01347 833800 (option 3) or stuart@bigga.co.uk.





BIGGA Membership

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

@BIGGALtd
#BTME2013
#success

BTME 2013

Having just returned to BIGGA House after an excellent #BTME2013 Elaine and I would like to say how much we enjoyed meeting so many members past, present and future.

It really helps us to put names to faces and it's a perfect opportunity to meet so many of you, so thank you for taking the time and making the effort to come and say 'hello'.

The BIGGA Stand was busy the whole three days, the Regional Administrators, John Young (Scotland), Sandra Raper (Northern and Midlands), Clive Osgood (South East) and Jane Jones (South West/South Wales) were all on hand to welcome members from all five regions.

A section/region map displayed showed how all 26 sections play a huge part in communicating information from across the membership through section committees, region committees and to the national board.

Watch out for information on the regional roadshows 'Working together for the future success of BIGGA', they are taking place throughout the five regions during February and March, contact your Regional Administrator for details. Jim Croxton (CEO), Tony Smith (Chairman) and Tracey Maddison (General Manager) will be travelling around the regions to engage with sections and explain the key role they have to play in the future success of BIGGA.

The BIGGA Stand this year displayed some clothing, the navy blue jumpers, the navy blue windshirts and the fantastic navy blue fleeces all displaying the BIGGA logo were on sale, if anybody wishes to purchase any of these items please contact Elaine Jones in the Membership department by email membership@bigga.co.uk or by telephone 01347 833800 select option 1.



Membership

We had a lot of interest in membership on the BIGGA stand from new enquiries and renewals to past members returning, it was encouraging to see. We are now in the process of administering all the enquiries plus all the enquiries we received during our time out of the office at Harrogate, please bear with us whilst we catch up during this busy period. If your membership is urgent please contact Elaine Jones and we will aim to action your request as soon as possible.

Golf Course Changes

BIGGA are working with SkyCaddie to help them update their course information. If your Golf Club is planning or has made some alterations to your golf course recently, please let SkyCaddie know, please take a few minutes to complete their 'Course Update Form' by following this link remap.skycaddiegps.co.uk



Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI)

The Jacobsen Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) will target

the next generation of greenkeepers who demonstrate the ability and drive to become leaders of their profession in the future.

A maximum of 20 students will be selected for FTMI in any one year to attend a three-day residential course in the early part of the year and then be mentored throughout by a high profile course manager.

To apply log into the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Future Turf Managers Initiative' from the options down the left hand side and select the link to the online application form.

Fill in the questions over the next few pages and provide details of your nominator.

This could be your manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative. The application process should take 15-20 minutes.

Once your application has been submitted, a form will be sent to your nominator to complete and return to BIGGA.

The deadline for your application is 15th February 2013. Your application will be reviewed by a panel from BIGGA and Jacobsen and you will be informed by the 1st March 2013, if you have been successful.



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John Young Sandra Raper



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319



NEW FACE AT FARMURA

Farmura are pleased to announce the appointment of Graham O'Connor as Field Sales and Technical Specialist for Scotland. His role will be to highlight the benefits of using the well established Farmura range of Liquid Organic fertilisers, Aquatrol water management products, liquid fertilisers and other specialist turf products.

Graham initially trained as a production engineer and this was the field in which he worked until he moved to Glasgow in 2004. Then under the watchful eye of Stuart Taylor at Glasgow Golf Club, Graham retrained as a greenkeeper.

In November 2008 Graham was appointed a Technical Sales Manager at Symbio and it is from this role that he takes his passion for sustainable greenkeeping to Farmura.



INFRACORE GOLF BRIDGES

“Knowing that the bridge requires no attention for decades after installation gives me peace of mind, so I can focus on the more important matters of course management and presentation,” said Matt Beaver, superintendent at Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club & Lodge.

InfraCore Golf Bridges are a revolutionary new product for the golf and landscape business. Based on both a proven technology and more than 10 years of bridge development, construction and sales to the civil engineering sector across Europe, this highly sustainable fibre-resin composite material is stronger than steel whilst being lighter and far easier to install.

The bridges offer considerable advantages over other more traditional materials such as:

- 50 year warranty
- Maintenance free
- Environmentally friendly with a very low carbon footprint
- 10x stronger than steel
- Easy half day installation.

Bridges are available as either single span, multi span or modular system swamp bridges and come in a wide variety of colour schemes and railing options as can be seen at www.infracoregolfbridges.com/bridge-builder

InfraCore Golf bridges is the smart, durable, economical and sustainable solution for golf course design, new construction or renovation.

NEW WASTE2WATER SYSTEM

The Recent civil powers awarded to the Environment Agency provide additional measures to ensure compliance with the new EU Water Framework Directive.

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System ensures full compliance with this new legislation. Equipment wash-off, vehicle refuelling, degreasing, chemical mixing and any other

potentially polluting activities can all be safely undertaken on the wash pad. Better still, the Recycling Wash-Off System also reduces wash water usage by up to 90%+!

The Above-Ground Systems allow easy maintenance and the innovative design means you don't need to install our systems in a building or a container.



Rigby Taylor
introduces
the ultimate
in fertilizer
precision



THE **NEW** Microlite RANGE



Super micro-granulation, the incorporation of zeolite with the addition of Activate XL biostimulant and ERD technology, make Microlite fertilizers the most advanced turf fertilizers available from Rigby Taylor.



- * Enhanced granule flowability
- * Superior application accuracy
- * Improved shoot mass and length
- * Rapid granule breakdown
- * Consistent nutrient release
- * Six different analyses

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BTME 2013

The Review

Sunday 20 to Thursday 24 January 2013

at the Harrogate International Centre



**The BIGGA Continue to Learn
Education Programme**

Sunday 20 to Wednesday 23 January 2013



**The BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition**

Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition



Harrogate diary

Steve Castle runs through the week at his first ever BTME...

SUNDAY

My first BTME began early on the Sunday morning. After briefly helping out with registration I joined a group of ten greenkeepers – mostly deputies - in the ‘So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager’ Workshop in the Queen’s Suite on the first morning.

This two-day Workshop was jointly presented by Peter Jones, Principal Consultant at PJA Golf Consultancy and Kevin Munt, Principal Consultant at KMGc – and they immediately instigated an ‘ice breaker’ where the delegates interviewed each other to put everyone at ease.

What struck me immediately was how forthcoming and honest the attendees were. All manner of subjects – from politics in the golf club to health and safety issues – were discussed within the framework of a series of modules designed to prepare you for a Course Management role. It was well-paced and highly informative – and the group of ten meant that all the attendees mingled well and had considerable input.

After the sessions Craig Wilson, greenkeeper from St Andrews Links Trust, said: “It’s been very worthwhile. The presenters were very well-prepared and I can take so much knowledge from it as I progress my career.”

All the other sessions covered a huge range of the skills required at all levels of the industry including ‘Improve Your IT Skills’ hosted by Jacky Lowe from Training Gem, ‘Irrigation System Design and Water Management’ with Adrian Mortram of Robin Hume Associates and Frank Newberry’s ‘Moving Into Management’.

The evening saw turf professionals from across the world mingling with BIGGA HQ staff at Albert’s restaurant.

Remarkably, the restaurant was marking its final night of business. It was a microcosm of BTME – board members mingling with greenkeepers, international turf experts and motivational leaders. I took the opportunity to have a quick chat with Curtis Tyrrell, who revealed he had thrown himself into British culture by sampling curry, then fish and chips for the first time in his life!

MONDAY

The Workshops continued on Monday and overnight snow did not deter greenkeepers from across the UK attending the third Turf Managers’ Conference – held for the first time outside the main Halls at The Crown Hotel, a mere snowball toss from the Harrogate International Centre.

Some delegates showed superb commitment to drive long distances to Harrogate in tricky conditions and were rewarded with an opening presentation from the charismatic Dr Thom Nikolai concentrating on lightweight rolling.

Meanwhile, the HIC was a hive of activity as the final preparations were made to transform the previously empty halls into a suitably impressive showcase for new products and machinery.

It was remarkable to see how physical exertion and meticulous planning combined as contractors worked throughout the afternoon and early evening to build stands, roll in machinery and prepare for the biggest turf exhibition in Europe.



TOP: Kevin Munt and Peter Jones present the ‘So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager’ Workshop

SECOND TOP: Adrian Mortram in full flow at the ‘Irrigation System Design and Water Management’ Workshop

ABOVE: The Soils for Fine Turf workshop

RIGHT: Final preparations on the Wiedenmann stand

RIGHT: A final lick of paint at the British Seed Houses stand





The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013



TOP LEFT: BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith opens the exhibition with CEO Jim Croxton and Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey
LEFT: A packed press briefing on the Everris stand



BELOW: Myerscough College Stand
RIGHT: The impressive hall and dancing the night away at the BIGGA James Bond Evening

TUESDAY

As the education continued, BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition itself – joined by Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey and CEO Jim Croxton. He would later describe as one of the “greatest honours” of his life. Visitors immediately poured into the halls, with a real buzz developing through the morning as hundreds of greenkeepers, exhibitors and all manner of turf industry professionals mingled to talk business, examine new and exciting products, or catch up over a quick coffee.

The Media Centre – lighter and more spacious due to its new home in Hall E – swung into action with a packed schedule offering the likes of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Charterhouse and Rigby Taylor the chance to showcase new products and initiatives. Personally, I was rapidly realising that snatched half-conversations were likely to be the best way to network this week as people busily moved through the halls.

After a successful yet tiring day, a celebratory evening was required and the main hall at the Old Swan Hotel – the BIGGA team’s base for the week – was transformed into an impressive 007-themed arena.

The ‘Golden Girls’ proved predictably popular, as did the professional dancers and the excellent meal. As the evening progressed various curses could be heard emanating from the busy gambling tables – fortunately no real money was frittered away.

For the more competitive, a virtual Aston Martin driving game was also on show with a few controversial corner cutting manoeuvres resulting in the odd ‘road rage’ incident on the track!

Top gambler proved to be Helen Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who won a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Carl Chamberlain from Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne – was Phil Chadwick from Bailoy Irrigation Controls.

WEDNESDAY

With the roads clearing and snow warnings vanishing, the middle day of the exhibition saw things really accelerate in the halls. I attended a packed media briefing mid-morning on the Everris stand and was genuinely staggered to see how busy the halls had become, with some visitors having to jostle for space. As Lee Price from Myerscough College commented – the halls were “saturated” as unique visitors arrived joining those who were returning for a second day.

The evening saw success rewarded at the STRI Golf Environment Awards dinner at the terrific Hotel du Vin, while the hardier visitors continued enjoying the restaurants, pubs and bars of Harrogate. It’s no exaggeration to say the local economy enjoys a considerable boost when BTME rolls into town.

THURSDAY

Traditionally the quietest day, visitor numbers held up in comparison with previous years and with



ABOVE: From the BIGGA James Bond Evening:
TOP: Are you feeling lucky?
ABOVE: Drama on the virtual track



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013



no activity in the Media Centre it gave me a chance to speak to some of the exhibitors to gauge the mood. I was pleased to see many still busy and deep in conversation with visitors, although I had chance to grab a quick chat with Richard Fry of Rigby Taylor, who pronounced himself "very, very happy" with how the week had gone.

Another feature of BTME 2013 was the proliferation of international visitors – statistics showed 10% of delegates had flown in from overseas reinforcing the association's claim it was truly a global show.

It was a tired but happy BIGGA team that slowly returned home after the event which the rest of the year always leads up to. There was a real feeling of a job well done – but it would be foolish to be complacent. Trade shows must continue to evolve, and the hundreds of comments gathered this week – both positive and negative – will be taken on board as preparations begin for what promises to be an even bigger show next January.



Exhibitors thrilled with BTME

121 exhibitors travelled from far and wide to BTME 2013. The staggering variety of exhibitors is unsurpassed in the turf industry – from colleges to major machinery companies, from sustainability and charitable organisations to golf art stands. I finally took the opportunity to tour the halls as the exhibition due to a close on Thursday and was amazed to see the variety of stands, products and items on offer.

We were very grateful to Baroness – who were located close to the BIGGA stand in Hall B - for sponsoring the promotional bags and lanyards and it was clear that they were enjoying a successful BTME.

Baroness Managing Director Ian Kerry, below, said: "I can honestly say it's been a fantastic show. We've had quality visitors expressing genuine interest, for example we've had enquiries about demoing some of our products in February with a real view to buying in March and April.

"The exhibition really is complemented by the education BIGGA put on, which in my opinion is the pinnacle of the turf industry, it attracts greenkeepers who then attend the exhibition later in the week."

Thanks to all the exhibitors who defied some difficult travelling conditions before the exhibition to make the journey to Harrogate. For more exhibitor viewpoints, please turn to page 26 where Jim Cook speaks to several at the show.





The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

Exhibitors in pictures

A snapshot of the exhibitors on show in the packed halls of the Harrogate International Centre



A Ryder Cup flavour



Amongst the many highlights of our Continue to Learn Programme were the Ryder Cup themed sessions on the Tuesday.

This began in the early afternoon as Curtis Tyrrell MG, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club, presented 'Ryder Cup 2012 – Preparations, Challenges, Outcomes!'. The audience was enthralled as the amiable American explained the incredible level of preparation, and attention to detail required to host one of the world's biggest sporting events.

Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, then took things a step further by revealing his challenges and aims as the legendary venue prepares for the Ryder Cup next year. Later in the afternoon, Curtis and Steve were joined by Jim McKenzie from Celtic Manor, who led his team through atrocious conditions during the 2010 tournament. They were asked a series of questions by the attendees rounding off a truly unique day of industry education.

Greg Skinner from Forest Hill Golf and Country Club spoke for many of the delegates when he said: "It was compelling and exceptionally well presented. Curtis's experience is almost a different world to what some of the guys here are involved in on a day to day basis, but it really was a fascinating afternoon."

The one and two day workshops held on the Sunday and Monday were very successful with Thom Nikolai's 'ABC's of Putting Green Maintenance' and Paul Miller's 'The Turfgrass Plant' and 'Soils for Fine

Turf in particular receiving rave reviews.

The new for 2013 bite size 'Focus On' sessions on the Tuesday and Wednesday were another success looking at specific subjects within the areas of Management, Technical, Computer Skills and Ecology.

These sessions complemented the ever popular fringe seminars. One such seminar was 'New XC Technology – a Breakthrough in Application Technology for Golf'. This looked at Syngenta's specially designed new XC nozzles which are designed to revolutionise the application of foliar applied products to golf courses and other sloping areas. Syngenta's Technical Manager Simon Watson was joined by Technical Sales Manager Henry Bechelet to explore its possibilities and answer questions.

Lee Relf travelled from Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent and said: "It's been brilliant. I did the Diagnostics and Problem Solving workshop on Monday, which was really good and have been to a lot of the seminars. The education is always first class."

Curtis Tyrrell added: "I've had the greatest feedback on my presentation. It's a great setup you've got here, I've seen some cool stuff and it's been a first class show."

Thanks to everyone who attended the seminars, workshops and the Turf Managers' Conference and to the speakers who made the week so memorable. Over 180 hours of top-class education took place with the Queen's Suite buzzing throughout. Rest assured planning has already begun for another superb education programme at BTME 2014.



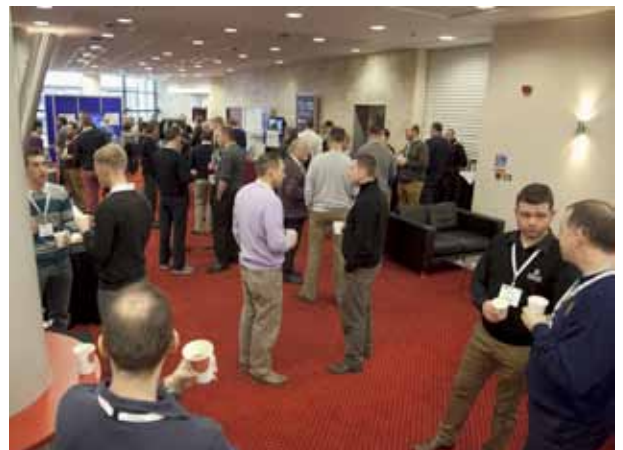
TOP LEFT: Past, Present and Future of the Ryder Cup

TOP RIGHT: A packed room for Steve Chappell's 'A Journey to the Ryder Cup' seminar

ABOVE: Curtis Tyrrell

RIGHT: Henry Bechelet (left) joins Simon Watson for the Syngenta seminar

BELOW: A busy Queen's Suite





Third BIGGA Turf Managers' Conference a huge success

An increasingly important focus of BTME is the varied Continue to Learn programme – and it's no exaggeration to say 2013 boasted one of the finest ever line-ups; beginning with the third Turf Managers' Conference.

We attracted some of the leading experts and most informative and knowledgeable presenters from the turf industry and beyond to make this Conference unmissable for sports turf managers keen to advance their education.

The Conference made its first appearance outside the halls of the Harrogate International Centre,

taking place at the nearby Crown Hotel.

We attracted some terrific presenters with the colourful Dr Thom Nikolai kicking things off with a passionate and highly interesting presentation on 'The Top 10 Reasons to Lightweight Roll'. A worldwide authority on turf matters, Thom is Turfgrass Academic Specialist at Michigan State University and is author of the book 'The Superintendents Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed'.

Adam McColl, Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club said: "Thom was very informative and engaging. I never fail to be impressed at

BIGGA's efforts in securing the best speakers from around the world and this presentation was no exception."

As for Thom himself, he simply said: "I have never enjoyed myself more at a conference, I have never been in a friendlier place in my life".

He was followed by Lorna Sheldon's 'Professional Presentations'. A qualified public speaker, Lorna has coached thousands of people across the world in the art of presenting with confidence and credibility included celebrities and cabinet ministers.

She covered everything from body language to technical tips on what

TOP LEFT: Dr Thom Nikolai

ABOVE TOP: Adam McColl, Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club

ABOVE LEFT: Kate Entwistle

“Thom was very engaging. I never fail to be impressed at BIGGA’s efforts in securing the best speakers and this presentation was no exception”

**Adam McColl,
Head Greenkeeper
at Crews Hill GC**



“Motivational speakers such as Lorna will always be well-received at a conference but she was particularly professional”

Lee Sayers, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club



to say and how to say it to become a more professional presenter.

Lee Sayers, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club, said: “Motivational speakers such as Lorna will always be well-received at a conference but she was particularly professional. It’s really increased my knowledge of that area and has made me re-think some of my practices.”

After an excellent lunch David Bancroft-Turner looked at Managing Politics in Golf Clubs. David is an expert on workplace politics and has worked with the world’s leading organisations, and gave an engaging 90-minute seminar - including introducing the audience to the four

different political animals which certainly caught the imagination.

Ian Semple, Course Manager at Old Fold Manor Golf Club, said: “David used animals to look at different personality traits and also looked at improving your day-to-day focus. I found it very interesting and beneficial to me and I know my colleagues I attended with did too.”

Thom Nikolai then returned with ‘60 Minutes on Surfactants’ – looking at the impact surfactants can have on different putting green root zones and different irrigation schemes.

Rounding off an unrivalled day of advanced education, Kate Entwistle, Turf Pathologist at The Turf

Disease Centre, gave the attendees a ‘New Disease Update’. She’s worked on turfgrass disease since 1990 and this presentation looked at the occurrence and distribution of new turf diseases and results of the Turf Disease Centre’s research.

Crucially, each presentation was concluded with an interactive question and answer session giving delegates the chance to ask reasoned and topical questions of the experts. The whole day was summed up well by David Everett from Lyme Regis Golf Club who commented: “ This Conference gives all turf managers the opportunity to improve their knowledge which will undoubtedly help you hugely in your job.”



ABOVE LEFT: David Bancroft-Turner addresses the delegates

ABOVE RIGHT: Lorna Sheldon during her ‘Professional Presentations’ seminar

BTME 2013 Newsdesk



Members at the BIGGA AGM

So much was going on at BTME we could have filled these pages several times over! The BIGGA AGM was held in the Queen's Suite on Wednesday afternoon, featuring various major awards.

Firstly, all attendees were asked to stand for a moment's silence to commemorate members who have sadly passed away during the last 12 months. Various awards were then presented by Chairman Tony Smith. David Langheim from Wimbledon Park Golf Club and George Pitts from Yelverton Golf Club who were honoured with plaques marking their terrific efforts in achieving Master Greenkeeper status. – bringing the total number of MGs to 62.

Ten members also achieved their first Diploma of Continuing Professional Development: Stuart Cagle MG, CGCS, Mark Evans, Greg Evans MG, Andrew Flemmings, Jaey Goodchild, Colin Jones, John Parr, Matthew Rolls, Peter Smith and Paul Worster.

The Past Chairman's Plaque was awarded to Andrew Mellon, who is now enjoying slightly warmer climes as General Manager for Hydroturf International in Qatar.

John Philp and Chris Kennedy were then unanimously voted life members of the Association.

A Press Briefing was held earlier in the day where the assembled media were updated on the show, the Association's future plans and much else by CEO Jim Croxton, Tony Smith and Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey.

They fielded a range of questions ranging from opinions on the show to recent redundancies concerning experienced greenkeepers.

The consensus was the responses had been direct and honest, and it was a welcome opportunity for senior members of the association to chat openly with the press who had a packed schedule for the week.

BIGGA Photographic Competition winner Craig Boath from Carnoustie was earlier presented with the image he had chosen from the gallery of judge Eric Hepworth – a framed image of the second hole at Carnoustie.

He said: "I'm really pleased to have won the competition, I enjoy photography so it's a real honour. It's quite a large picture I've won so I may have to rearrange some items in my house but it's going to look fantastic!"



ABOVE: Craig Boath, BIGGA Photographic Competition winner
BELOW: The BIGGA Briefing in the Media Centre



Chris Kennedy



John Philp



BTME 2013 Newsdesk



George Pitts with his MG plaque



David Langheim achieves Master Greenkeeper status



Andrew Mellon is awarded the Past Chairmen's plaque

Education was again the buzzword in the Media Centre early on Wednesday morning as Bernhard & Company announced a partnership with the GTC. Present at the conference was Pat Finlen, the incoming President of the GCSAA, and fellow board member John J. O'Keefe.

Bernhard were again to the fore as the ten members of the BIGGA Delegation – preparing to head to San Diego – all met up for the first time at a reception in the evening.

Elmwood Golf Course was also officially awarded the GEO Certified ecolabel at BTME.

Many of the exhibitors had new 'signings' to unveil at BTME, such as Tillers Turf who introduced their new stockist for the South Wales region in Dave Pearce. The draw to win an iPad in association with the R&A's CourseTracker launch was also made on the BIGGA stand with the lucky winner announced as David Braid from Fife.

TOP RIGHT: Pat Finlen, incoming President of the GCSAA; **ABOVE RIGHT:** Adam Pounds of Tillers Turf with new face Dave Pearce; **BELOW:** Elmwood Golf Course is awarded the GEO Certified ecolabel and **BOTTOM:** Bernhard & Company announce partnership with the GTC



Exhibitors' viewpoint

Jim Cook toured the halls during the week speaking to as many exhibitors as possible as the visitors poured in. Here are their views on BTME 2013

The exhibitors once again reminded us why we enjoy organising this event as much as we do and their knowledge and universal professionalism helped make the show the success it was. It was also fascinating to hear their different perspectives.

Duncan and Christine Clarkson, from County Sport Surfaces, had made the journey over from Stockport. It was their second time as BTME exhibitors and it would be fair to say they had a good one! Speaking towards the end of the show Duncan said: "It has gone very well, we wanted to get orders from the show and we got them. We are a small company and don't have representatives out on the road so this show is vital for us so that people can put a face to the name. This show has turned us from a northern company to a national company. In fact it is international now as we had two orders from Germany. The biggest no-brainer of all is booking for next year. We are just wondering whether or not to get a bigger stand."

Many exhibitors had been concerned about weather conditions leading up to the event affecting visitor numbers and Sue Mumby, from Blec Global Ltd, said: "Obviously the weather this year was a factor and we were worried people might not want to travel. In some ways the weather may have helped people decide to come."

Sue said the company did not always make a lot of direct sales from the show itself and the main objective was to generate business for the future. She continued: "It is a commitment for everyone to

return every year and you have to feel that we are getting some return on that. I believe we get this return partly because of the timing of the show at the beginning of the year, so you can catch people who may need to buy things at the start of the season. Also I think having the seminars helps to guarantee high visitor numbers which are specific to the industry."

Syngenta again attracted a lot of attention with their stand, this year in Hall B. The company had launched a new nozzle and a demonstration of this was drawing people in. Caroline Carroll, from Syngenta, said: "We wanted to make our stand big and bold and ensure when people walk past they are interested. Our partner Everris reported back to us that we already had some orders of the new nozzles, so it must be working. We were a little bit worried that the weather would put people off but we have been really, really busy. This is my first year of doing BTME but my colleagues have been saying it has been one of our best years."

For some of the companies or organisations exhibiting at BTME for the first time it can be a case of putting the feelers out and seeing what interest they may be able to generate. Art 4 Golfers was one such example. Speaking on the Wednesday afternoon, Peter Forshaw, from the company, said: "Mine's a novelty business really and very different to the tractors and machinery around the show."

And how had it gone?

"The jury's out at the moment and I'm testing the water. It's the first time I've exhibited at BTME and I've taken several enquiries and



ABOVE: Duncan and Christine Clarkson, from County Sport Surface; INSET: Sue Mumby, from Blec Global Ltd; BELOW: Caroline Carroll, from Syngenta





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will follow those up. Everybody has been very complimentary, but it's not an impulse purchase."

Another company at BTME for the first time was Compo Expert UK. Mike Butler from the company said: "Last year our turf consultant gave a presentation here, he'd never been here before, and he reported back that this was the best show in Europe he'd seen, so we decided we should have a stand for this year. We've had a lot of interest in our products."

Certis was another first-time exhibitor and enjoyed a very successful week in Harrogate. Alan Hogan said their main objective was to speak to customers who plan to use their new product, Mogeton, and continued: "We believe that BTME is the Mecca for if you have a new product, this is the place to come to."

The exhibition halls at BTME are not only filled with turf industry companies, and it gives a chance for colleges and other organisations to meet members and potential students.

Philip Mayes, from Merrist Wood College said: "This is the second year we have been here and the set-up has been really easy. When I first started with the college ten years ago we did a couple of BTMEs, but we haven't been up for a while because of budget constraints. We pushed to come this year and it has definitely been worthwhile. We need to promote our courses and this show definitely helps us to do this."

It was interesting to hear some exhibitors state they were using BTME to try and break into the golf industry after having specialised in other areas. Dave Burgess, from

UK Bundled Fuel Tanks, said: "We are aiming to get our name into the golf sector and generate interest in our smaller products. We have had some return customers from last year which was nice, as they obviously like our products. This is our second year and I'm very pleased we came back again this year."

It was a similar goal for British Sugar Topsoil's, Andy Spetch, who said: "It's all about getting brand and product recognition and specifically to try to make contact with people in the golf industry because that's a market that we, in the last 18 months, have worked towards entering. So the aim is to meet as many people from the golf world as I can. Traditionally landscaping has always been our prime market. We joined BIGGA nine months ago and over the years I had always had it in my mind to come to BTME, but we wanted to wait until our product was right."

"I do quite a lot of exhibitions and I must say when we were setting up, the people on the gate at the entrance were first class. They were so helpful and made everything easy with no hassle. Sometimes things can get quite fraught at exhibitions when everybody is trying to build up, but here everything was very easy and everyone was very accommodating and helpful."

A great deal of thanks must go to all the exhibitors at BTME 2013 for supporting BIGGA. Whether it was a company new to the exhibition who came along to see what the fuss is about and potentially build new customers, or an organisation that wanted to offer a face to existing members, without them BTME could not have taken place, and been such a success.



ABOVE: Dave Burgess, from UK Bundled Fuel Tanks



RIGHT: Alan Hogan from Certis, second right


BOTTOM LEFT: Philip Mayes, from Merrist Wood College

BOTTOM RIGHT: Compo Expert UK's Mike Butler



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BTME 2013 New Products

New turf fungicide Interface from Bayer

BTME 2013 hosted the launch of Bayer's innovative new turf fungicide Interface. Building on the trusted excellence of Chipco Green, a staple fungicide in any greenkeeper's repertoire, Bayer have improved upon this market leading product and formulated a truly superior product, proving that they are leaders in innovation.

Introducing StressGard Formulation Technology

Bayer is proud to introduce the UK's first turf fungicide with the company's innovative StressGard Formulation Technology. This new optimised formulation has taken over 15 years of Research and Development and has been specifically developed to support Turf Managers in their quest to achieve the ultimate playing experience.

Tailor-made for sports turf, the formulation has been fine tuned to upgrade the performance of the product, providing superior disease control leading to visibly healthier turf.

Interface delivers unsurpassed disease control

Not only does Interface deliver unsurpassed disease control against 6 key turf diseases but the StressGard Formulation Technology helps the turf to thrive under disease stress conditions. Interface™ alleviates disease stress improving quality leading to visibly healthier turf.

But what do the Turf Managers think?

In addition to STRI trials, Bayer has conducted nearly 40 field trials with Golf Course Managers, Greenkeepers and Spraying Operators to ensure that their new fungicide will meet their needs in the real working environment. It is through close collaboration with Turf Managers that Bayer can develop products which address unmet customer and market needs.

In a year when Fusarium patch has been a serious problem, Steve Privett, golf course manager at Alresford Golf Club and one of the early product triallists, decided to treat three greens out of the eighteen on his golf course with Interface; the rest were treated with his regular fungicide. "In order to give it a fair trial, I applied the product to the greens which are most susceptible to fusarium in early spring," says Steve.

"I applied a second treatment about six weeks later and over the June bank holiday the disease on the three trial greens vanished; whereas fusarium appeared as two inch scars on the greens that hadn't been sprayed with Interface.



The trial turf recovered very well, potentially quicker than normal, which I think is evidence of the StressGard Formulation Technology doing its job."

Dorin Pop, Bayer's Technical Manager stated: "With preventative, curative and eradicator properties, Interface can be used at any stage of disease and at any time of the year offering Turf Managers complete flexibility."

He continued: "Bayer's mission is to help Greenkeepers to achieve better playability. This means controlling turf disease, managing turf stress and maintaining turf quality."

Finally, Product Manager, Claire Mathewman commented: "Interface offers a new standard in turf protection and is an exciting addition to our turf fungicide portfolio. We anticipate that it will quickly become the mainstay fungicide in the turf professional's armoury against turf disease." She continued: "Bayer is proud to use BTME 2013 as their launch platform. An exciting new product needs an exciting stage, and BTME was the obvious choice. Interface is available in a 5L pack, and can be purchased through all major distributors.



Headland Amenity

Accurate weather forecasting tailored to a specific location is one of the most useful tools for greenkeepers and groundsmen aiming to plan course maintenance operations.

Headland Amenity offers Weathercheck, a personalised weather forecasting service allowing turf managers to access information on temperature, wind speed and direction as well as rainfall, with the choice of a general seven day forecast or a more detailed projection."

The innovative 'RainNow' option produces a 25km 'rain radar map' with their sports facility at the centre, and by using the Agronomic module, which combines anticipated rainfall, wind strength, precipitation, air temperature and evapotranspiration, they are able to accurately judge spraying conditions over the coming week.

Mark Wilshire, Head Greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club says that Headland Weathercheck's accuracy is impressive. "I use Weathercheck on a daily basis, if not hourly. Weathercheck is always the most accurate. I apply my pesticides and fungicides through a sprayer and Weathercheck helps me pinpoint the best weather window for spraying. Our time window for spraying isn't huge so an accurate weather forecast is invaluable. Weathercheck proved very useful last summer with all the rain."

Eric Olson, Estate Manager at The Royal Automobile Club in Surrey also added: "I use Weathercheck 3 to 4 times a day as it is updated regularly and is most accurate for the local area."

Two Bunker Solutions in One

Two of the country's top bunker construction companies have formed an alliance to ensure that golf clubs across the country will receive the best possible advice and service when it comes to developing bunkers on their golf courses.

Envirosports Ltd and Blinder Bunker Liners have each developed unique bunker products which have been warmly embraced by golf clubs over the last two years and between them the two companies have solved many of the bunker problems that have bedevilled golf clubs during that time.

The two concepts are different. EnviroBunker is a bunker face and edge solution which is resistive to all forms

of erosions while Blinder Bunkers provide a rubberised, flexible free draining liner which prevents contamination of sand. Both are developed from 100% recycled material, have a design life of 20+ years and together offer a completely maintenance free bunker solution.

EnviroBunker Blinder can be used jointly as seen at a recent collaborative project between the two companies at Royston Golf Club in Hertfordshire where the two products were used together to produce a fully sealed bunker solution.

There are also occasions when one or other will be the best solution to a club's bunker issues.

"We know that our product

is suitable for bunkers with faces over 45 degrees and that Blinder works best with faces that are under 45 degrees so we are more than happy to recommend Blinder if we believe that is the best option. Blinder also offers a base solution, we do not, and likewise we offer a finishing revetted edge solution which is unique to our product" said Rhydian Lewis, Envirosports Director.

"Once we've taken a look at the bunkers in question we will offer the best solution and should that be EnviroBunker we will be more than happy to recommend that option to the golf club," said Murray Long, Blinder Director.





JSM SWEEP N FILL BRUSHES COMPETITORS ASIDE

The latest version of the original and unique Sweep N Fill brush – the SNF III – has built on the legacy of the original with enhancements to make it even more user friendly and convenient. These include a narrower transport width, higher & faster transport lift with more ground clearance and a fully enclosed drive mechanism which allows for adjustment without removal of the protective covers.

The ground driven brushes can be towed by a golf cart, bunker bike or any small utility vehicle. The brush action mimics a 'push-broom' action – gently flicking the plant leaves upright while moving sand and topdressing into aeration holes and the crown of the plant.

Jim McKenzie MBE, Celtic Manor Resort said, 'Having been told about the SNF by existing users we arranged a demonstration while visiting BTME last year. The demo immediately proved the point as to how effective this brush is. It has transformed a laborious task.'



GreenTek showcases TuffTek

GreenTek, the well-known mower attachment manufacturers, used BTME to showcase a wide range of security equipment from their TuffTek division.

The True-Surface Select-A-Vibe rollers supplied by GreenTek are well known for their ease of use and their ability to create outstandingly smooth fast

putting surfaces.

What not everyone is aware of, is that they are also uniquely effective for vibrating topdressing into the turf and down hollow coving holes. GreenTek therefore focused their 2013 BTME stand around a working demonstration display that shows how this is achieved.



CourseTracker

A free and easy to use new online system that helps golf courses manage themselves more sustainably and efficiently has been launched by The R&A.

CourseTracker was unveiled at BTME 2013 in Harrogate. It's designed for golf course managers and club secretaries to record the income derived from the course and what is spent on its maintenance.

The secure system allows golf clubs to monitor their performance over time and identify strengths, weaknesses and areas where savings could be made in terms of energy and water, for example.

CourseTracker also enables golf clubs to anonymously benchmark their performance against that of other clubs of a similar size in their country. It produces accurate performance reports for the use of course managers and club secretaries and can be used to keep committees informed and to aid decision making.

The system has been extensively tested with course managers, club secretaries and industry bodies and their feedback has been used to develop and refine its range of functions. It has been endorsed by England Golf, the Golfing Union of Ireland, the Scottish Golf Union and the Golfing Union of Wales.

Steve Isaac, Director – Golf Course Management at The R&A, said, 'There is more pressure than ever on golf clubs to make the right

decisions to manage golf courses sustainably, efficiently and cost effectively. CourseTracker can help them do that through recording, monitoring and reporting their activities and inputs. We know this is an area where many clubs struggle due to lack of time and resources.

'CourseTracker is free, completely secure and can enable clubs to compare their performance on an anonymous basis with other clubs of a similar size and situation. The aim is to give clubs more information and understanding of their course maintenance activities to enable them to improve performance.'

Paul Keeling, Club Services Manager at England Golf which has supported CourseTracker, said, 'CourseTracker is an excellent new resource for golf clubs which can really help them get a grip on their expenditure on course maintenance. It is so important to manage golf courses sustainably both to protect the environment and reduce costs. This is a quick, easy to use system which can deliver accurate and useful management information for golf clubs. We will certainly be recommending CourseTracker to courses we work with in England.'

CourseTracker can be accessed online at www.coursetracker.org. Golf clubs need only spend a few minutes registering before using the system. It is simple to use and there are full online tutorials available for guidance.



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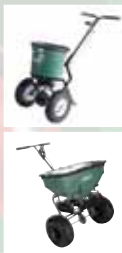
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BTME 2013

Thanks to all for attending - see you next year

A generation devoted to turfgrass testing

Dr Andy Newell this year celebrates 25 years of unbroken work compiling independent test data for the TurfGrass Seed booklet. Jim Goodwin spoke to him

turf – which links the sea and land – possessed finer characteristics, hence the preference for using this type of turf in a non-links setting grew.”

The STRI recognised that a better range of grass species was needed for golf and sport at large. “We started to look at breeding grasses for golf, and our first success was with Dawson Slender Creeping Red Fescue, bred at Bingley and eventually sold to a manufacturer.

“We were also trying to find grasses from other sources, as well as developing some early commercial elements. Today, you couldn’t rightfully breed grasses for golf yourself and then test other manufacturers’ breeds. The commercial world back then wasn’t what it is now. Needless to say, it probably took us 25 years to produce a grass worth cultivating.”

When courses began to be built inland, course architects moved grasses inland from their links environment, which worked well in some instances. But the necessity of a scientific focus to seed testing was accelerated by companies selling grasses and heightening claims for their performance without any independent trialling to back them up.

The STRI began testing more widely and invited growers to submit their grasses for trialling alongside other manufacturers. The first competitive trial took place in 1965 and five years later, the STRI and growers came together and decided that a publication should be assembled to collate all the results. The first booklet was launched in 1978 and has grown to become the industry ‘bible’ it is today. “When I started the brochure was very much based on opinion. Part of my remit was to move the science of the industry forward. In the early days the respect for my predecessor John Sheldrick’s analysis proved sufficient for con-

sumers but as the business side of the industry moved on, it became more pertinent to have quantifiable data, numbers and rankings. The numbering system currently in place can be traced back, allowing today’s consumer to see exactly how and why a cultivar has been given the rating it has. Ultimately, our job is to help the breeder sort the champions from the also rans.”

If his 25-year association with the Institute has taught him anything, it’s that you should never advocate using a poor cultivar, in any circumstance, even if it’s just down to a cost consideration.

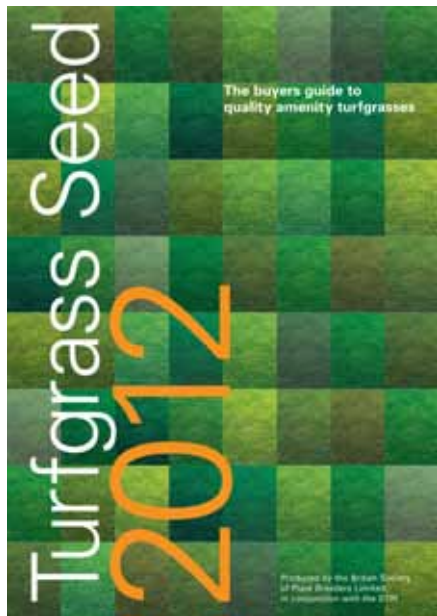
The quality of your turf has to be a long-term factor, so any differential in price should be thought of over a longer period, in which case the price difference becomes minimal.

“If you use the booklet superficially, merely going by who tops the table, you won’t get any rubbish but if you’re an educated greenkeeper you can make some far more well-informed decisions based on the specifics of the course and the environment.”

Although the turfgrass industry is constantly evolving certain grasses differ little from the 1970s, he says. The slowest evolving grass in his quarter of a century stint has been bent grasses. “Some of them on the list now have been there for over 20 years, largely unchanged. In stark contrast, the perennial species and red fescues are big business for breeders, so the turnover of new cultivars within these categories is frequent.”

The nature of this vitally important reference work has changed and evolved as much as the industry has in a quarter of a century. But what does the future hold?

“The tall fescues are where we predict the major evolution will occur. They’re at the stage where perennial ryegrasses once were and the breeding potential is vast. If we can improve the attractive-



It’s been a staple of the industry for generations, has continued to shape current trends and given us a scientific footing concentrating on impartiality and quality.

The Turfgrass Seed Booklet is at the heart of sports and amenity turf breeding and is the UK’s most trusted source for independent grass cultivar trials data.

Since the first booklet was published in 1978, one man has exerted perhaps more influence in its evolution than any other – and this year he celebrates 25 years of compiling the catalogue of turf performance data that characterises the publication.

Dr Andy Newell, Head of Turf Grass Biology at the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, West Yorkshire, has been responsible for data analysis and the assembly of trial results as performance ‘league tables’ since 1988.

In that time, aspects of seed trialling have changed beyond recognition, while others have varied remarkably little.

“When the STRI was formed in the 1920s, one of the core aims of the Institute was to create a scientific base for testing and trialling turf,” he explains. “There was very little science behind the way turf was used prior to this but what they did know was that sea-washed



The patchwork of trial plots where STRI conducts tests on cultivars provided by growers.



“The quality of your turf has to be a long-term factor, so any differential in price should be thought of over a longer period, in which case the price difference becomes minimal”



ness of them, there’s huge scope for commercial growth from breeders. You wouldn’t recognise a perennial ryegrass now from 20 years ago, and the same could be true for tall fescues.”

He claims the most pressing issue would be to stop talking about *Poa annua* and start doing something about its prevalence in turfgrass.

“*Poa* really needs some investment and for decent research to be done, the end game of which would be to understand the relationship between *Poa* and other grasses so users can exploit its weaknesses better,” he argues.

The whole thrust of the Turfgrass Seed booklet is a willingness to adapt and evolve, take on new practices and welcome new cultivars into the increasingly multi-faceted repertoire of greenkeeping skills.

In the UK, more senior grounds professionals have grown up with a host of chemicals at their disposal - treatments that they could fall back on to keep the ills of turf maintenance to a minimum. Or as Andy puts it: “We’ve moved from nuclear weaponry to small arms, and in the future were likely to just be using bow and arrows. We have to adapt and it’ll bring real greenkeeping skills to the fore.”

He offers an example of what modern greenkeepers have to contend with. “You might sow what you believe to be a preferred seed mix, but in reality, you can never guar-

antee that that’s what you’ll get. If you sow a mix of bents and red fescues, for example, one or more will come to prominence depending on the weather. Nature will start to select the best cultivars for the environment and that’s where the art of greenkeeping comes in to play – working to the strengths of the desirable grasses and to the weaknesses of the undesirable.”

The longevity of the booklet is

proof enough of its impact on the industry but for Andy, it’s the reward of knowing that you’ve helped produce something of worth that’s praise enough.

“We’ve prevented a free for all among breeders, and guarded against those with bigger budgets producing poor seed but enjoying the biggest consumer base.”



Richard Brown, amenity sales manager at British Seed Houses, said: “The BSPB Buyers guide is an invaluable guide to turf professionals as it records the results of independent and thorough trials which accurately reflect a cultivar’s performance. A variety that does well in these trials is taken seriously in the market place and gives greenkeepers added confidence. We have a reputation for quality and investment in developing cultivars and understand the real worth of the guide.”

The sands of time

Laurence Pithie MG met up with Matthew Nutter, Course Manager at the East Berkshire Golf Club and a BIGGA Section Secretary, to find out more about the recently completed bunker renovation project

Now celebrating its centenary, East Berkshire GC is largely tree lined, with housing and a main rail line to London around its perimeter.

Although relatively short by today's standards at just over 6,200 yards, playing the course requires accuracy with numerous ditches, bunkers and heather awaiting an errant shot. Most areas of the course are blessed with fine indigenous turf, overlying an acidic soil which although not sandy in nature, does provide reasonable natural drainage and sufficient growth.

In terms of layout, little has changed in a hundred years except for the inevitable growth of trees, loss of heather and the impact this has had on the character and playability of the course. Both shade and limited air movement are issues that constantly have to be addressed and achieving a balance between the needs of the turf and the wishes of the golfer can be a constant challenge at any club. Trees apart, turf conditions have remained relatively consistent on most playing areas of the course. However it was the 54 bunkers which were increasingly bearing the brunt of members' concerns. As turf conditions have generally improved at most clubs throughout the UK, it is bunkers that are often at the top of the agenda for improvement. The three main criticisms at East Berkshire were inconsistency in sand depth caused by irregular shaping to the bunker bases, poor internal drainage caused by a membrane wrapped around drainage pipes, and an uninteresting style and loss of shape over a period of time. On a number of holes, the location of the odd fairway bunker

about the author



Laurence Pithie MG

Laurence Pithie MG runs his own training and consultancy company, Turf Master One Ltd. Previously he spent 17 years managing multi-site golf operations in the UK. With 42 years in the golf industry, Laurence has used his experience and knowledge to produce a number of recent 'case study' articles.

RIGHT: Typical bunker style prior to renovation work

BELOW: Matthew (4th right) and his team who carried out the finishing work





was also not relevant to the modern game although this was generally regarded as less of an issue.

In 2008, Matthew Nutter was appointed as Deputy Course Manager, having previously gained an HND at Myerscough College while working at The Wisley Golf Club. After a spell at Pelican Marsh in Florida, under the auspices of the Ohio State Program placement scheme, Matthew progressed to East Berkshire and became Course Manager in 2009.

He says: "With continued improvements to the course, in terms of turf conditioning and presentation as well as project work on tees and paths, the bunkers were the one area of the course which fell below the standard expected. After initial consultation with the club, Howard Swan from Swan Golf Designs was appointed as Course Architect to make an assessment of the golf course and form a strategy for bunker improvement. Having received his in-depth course report and recommendations for all bunkers, the club then presented the plan to the membership, receiving full Board approval to complete the work on 11 bunkers over three holes with the remainder to be completed in a further two years.

"The plan included the appointment of John Greasley as the external contractor to carry out the main renovation work, while

all turfing and final sanding of the bunkers was to be carried out by the six greens staff. Work started in 2009 and the 11 bunkers were completed largely as planned for a total cost of just over £30,000. The basic objectives were to produce bunkers that were more in keeping with the natural character of the course, being better shaped and giving consistent playing standards throughout the year. They also had to be as maintenance friendly as possible in order to keep future costs to a minimum and that meant being well drained and free from wash-out and sand contamination.

"After initial success and positive feedback from the members, full consent was given to complete the remaining 40 or so bunkers over the next two years. Completely remodelling 20 bunkers per year was no easy task and it meant that all other winter course work over those two years would be kept to a minimum. Member competitions in 2010 and 2011 would finish on 30 September, enabling work to commence in October when ground conditions were still favourable.

"We estimated the contract work would take three months with final turfing to be completed around six weeks later. This worked out at one bunker being completed every three days. Snow cover and very low temperatures throughout December and early January delayed the work



MAIN ABOVE: Greenside bunkers largely completed and ready for turfing

ABOVE MIDDLE: Bunker shaped, drained and turf wall inserted

ABOVE: Extensive turfing work around the bunkers carried out 'in-house'

for six weeks. However, work was finally completed in late March just before the start of the season. With over half the bunkers now completed and the membership pleased with the results, the third and final phase started in October 2011 and

was completed on time by the end of February 2012. A much more favourable winter with low rainfall certainly helped to make life easier.”

All shaping and mounding was carried out by the contractors with soil being retained on site. Fortunately most of the soil was used ‘in-situ’ which meant very little had to be moved any great distance. As a result, any damage to the turf was restricted to small designated areas which were then re-turfed. Existing bunker drains were replaced with standard plastic perforated pipe and stone and connected to existing outlets, except for a few that either had to be replaced or have new laterals installed. This ensured each bunker would drain efficiently. The method used within the bunker was to shape the base with existing soil, sloping gently into the drain and to consolidate the entire area with a wacker plate. Fortunately the soil was of reasonable quality and free of stone which negated the use of any liner, saving time and money. A turf wall formed the

fully re-turfed with heather added to a number of bunker banks to give a more natural look. During the first phase of work, existing and designated areas of heather were removed by the excavator in large sections but this was difficult to work with. Afterwards, areas of heather were cut with the turf-cutter at 50mm depth, removed and laid as per turf. Once the newly laid turf had established, sand was placed in each bunker and spread to a consolidated 100mm depth. It took approximately one day to complete the turfing on each bunker using four staff. For the entire project, around 500 tons of Kingsley Washed Sand were used, 50 tons of drainage stone, 500m of plastic drain pipe and about 10,000m² of Bargold Classic turf from Inturf. 10 bunkers were relocated and six removed or amalgamated into one. The total cost of the project was just under £150,000 which worked out at less than £3,000 per bunker - this included architect fees, contractor cost and all materials.

Drainage and playability have been fully tested this year following record levels of rainfall and the work completed by Matthew and his team have served as an indication for other clubs as to what can be achieved

perimeter and gave each bunker a distinctive shape and defined edge.

The native soil was then replaced to form the newly shaped mounding in line with the architect’s recommendations. The style of the new bunkers consisted of a ‘rolled’ turf edge with moderate sand faces featuring a short but moderate slope and visible from the main playing area. Each bunker surround was

This was an ambitious project to undertake but one that was well planned and completed to an excellent standard throughout. Along with fairway re-shaping to accommodate the renovated bunkers, the project has been an outstanding success and greatly appreciated by both members and guests.

Drainage and playability have been fully tested this year follow-



ABOVE TOP: Fairway bunker complete and base consolidated prior to sanding

ABOVE: Raking the ‘new’ 18th bunker after heavy rain. No wash-out or sand contamination

BOTTOM LEFT: Greenside bunkers on 6th

BOTTOM RIGHT: Bunkering by 17th green

ing record levels of rainfall and the work completed by Matthew and his team have served as an indication for other clubs as to what can be achieved. Bunkers are no longer an issue at East Berkshire and the work completed has raised the standard of a club that continues to have a waiting list and an entrance fee for membership; an investment that has clearly paid off.

Laurence is grateful to Matthew Nutter and East Berkshire GC for their support in producing this article.



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I think the knowledge and experience gained in the exchange program will help me a lot professionally and will help me to be an excellent leader in my future career.



Augusta from the Philippines, 2011



Roderick, from Moldova, 2011

In the time I have been here, I have learned different irrigation techniques, various soil conservation methods, different methods of fertilizer application, and equipment maintenance and operation. I believe I will be able to get a good job in this field when I return home.





Temperate turf

Microdochium nivale is the universal plant pathogen of temperate turf. Wherever turf is sown, laid and managed, as a professional playing surface in temperate climates, then M. nivale is never far behind. M. nivale is the well-known and well-worn disease of grass stems and leaves popularly known in the UK as Fusarium Patch.

Younger greenkeepers may wonder why a disease caused by a fungus named *M. nivale* is called Fusarium Patch since *Fusarium* is a fungal genus in its own right with dozens of different species.

The reason is that for many years this fungus and pathogen of turf grass plants was officially called *Fusarium nivale*.

Greenkeepers can blame mycologists (people who study fungi) to thank for this 'neo-Orwellian name game'. They will have changed the name in accordance with some obscure characteristic (like 'bumps' on the microscopic spores) which placed the fungus closer to the *Microdochium* genus than the *Fusarium* genus. In fact the change from *F. nivale* to *M. nivale* was simply the last of many name changes 'ordered' by mycologists since the fungus was discovered

and described in 1825 as *Lanosa nivalis*.

Microdochium in a maritime climate

M. nivale performs best and leaves turf looking its worst in maritime countries with a classic mild, moist climate maintained by the benign influences of the 'surrounding' ocean and its associated currents and winds. For the UK and the Republic of Ireland, where turf damage caused by *M. nivale* is as bad as anywhere in the world, the environmental influences on which this fungus relies are The North Atlantic Drift (Gulf Stream)

about the author

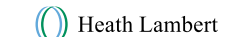


Dr Terry Mabbett

Dr Terry Mabbett is a disease, pest and weed control specialist with forty years international experience covering research, advisory and journalism. His current fields of focus are professional turf and alien insect pests and pathogens of Britain's native and naturalised trees.

Microdochium nivale: the Canadian conundrum of turf pathogens

This month Dr Terry Mabbett looks at *microdochium nivale* – with a nod to our Canadian cousins



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.

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and predominant south-westerly (Prevailing) moisture-laden winds.

This geo-climatic preference closely matches the most favoured environmental conditions documented for *M. nivale* – namely cool to mild periods (0°C to 15°C), with leaf wetness periods greater than 10 hours a day for several days on heavily thatched and slow growing turf.

However, *M. nivale* as a pathogen of turf is a lot more versatile than this. The fungus is capable of growth even at temperatures between 21°C to 25°C and as low as -6°C. This means the disease can be a significant problem on turf in most temperate climates, e.g.

continental type climates with very cold winters but hot dry summers (central Europe and large parts of North America) and Mediterranean type climates (large parts of Australia and New Zealand) with their classic hot dry summers and mild wet winters.

M. nivale will clearly not be a problem all year round in these climates with their winter and summer extremes, but most will have at least one season or time of the year when weather and turf condition is conducive to high pathogen activity, manifested and expressed as Fusarium patch.

For instance, *M. nivale* is essentially a disease of Spring and Fall

(Autumn) turf in many parts of Canada and the so called 'winter grasses' (temperate grasses), used to sustain and maintain turf during late autumn, winter and spring in the Adelaide area of South Australia with its classic Mediterranean type climate.

More specifically and separately, the capacity for activity at sub-zero temperatures allows *M. nivale* to cause a completely different disease under snow cover and called 'Pink Snow Mould'.

The Canadian Conundrum

Situation surrounding *M. nivale* on professional turf in North America, and particularly in comparison

MAIN LEFT: Pink mould develops more quickly with slower snow melt

INSET ABOVE: What lies beneath

with the UK, is especially interesting. With snow cover a certainty in many US States and Canadian provinces much more attention is paid to the pink snow mould disease dimension of *M. nivale*.

UK greenkeepers can expect turf to carry on growing right through winter to a greater or lesser extent depending on the area of the country. In contrast those managing golf courses in countries like Canada must cater for and cope with turf growth and activity completely shutting down during winter.

Turf grass plants respond to extreme low temperatures by going into 'dormancy' for their own protection and to ensure survival until the next growing season in spring. This will clearly affect the 'nuts and bolts' of any fungicide spray programme used, including timing of the last summer/autumn application and the first application in spring in anticipation of the resumption of grass growth.

For instance, if autumn fungicide application in Canada is delayed until after extensive symptoms of Fusarium patch become apparent it may be hard if not impossible for greenkeepers to get rid of the disease because grass growth is slowing rapidly with the grass plants going into dormancy.

Separated by a common language

North American scientists and turf managers appear less 'Luddite' in their attitudes to changing the common names of turf diseases to suit the semantics of mycology and mycologists. The playwright George Bernard Shaw once said that Americans and British were separated by a common language. The potential confusion created by the many different names created for this turf disease either side of the Atlantic shows this to be true.

North American scientists and turf managers now invariably talk about 'Microdochium Patch'. The turf industry in Britain allowed mycologists to change the name of the fungus from *F. nivale* to *M. nivale* then carried on calling the disease Fusarium Patch as though absolutely nothing had happened.

The Canadians are in an even bigger quandary and conundrum being faced with the choice of the different spellings used in common names for turf diseases either side of the Atlantic Ocean (in US and UK).

In Britain we talk about 'Pink Snow Mould' while to the Americans it is 'Pink Snow Mold'. Simi-

larly the Americans refer to a turf disease caused by *Typhula* spp as 'Gray Snow Mould' whereas in Britain we call the disease 'Grey Snow Mould'. Prevailing advice in Canada is to use either but not to mix and match. Thus 'Gray Snow Mould' is a definite 'no-no'.

Pink Snow Mould or Microdochium Patch

Whether or not Pink Snow Mould and Microdochium Patch should be considered as different and separate diseases, albeit caused by the same pathogen, is a vexed question. It has certainly exercised the mind of Dr Tom Hsiang at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, a country which clearly knows more and better than most about deep prolonged snow cover and the development of Pink Snow Mould under snow cover. The disease is more pronounced under longer snow cover and slower melts in spring enhance disease development.

There was an attempt in the late 1990's to consolidate all common names (Fusarium patch, Microdochium patch and Pink Snow Mold) into 'Pink Snow Mold'. But as Dr Hsiang points out this began to cause a very awkward and indeed meaningless situation for regions of North America that very seldom experience snowfall, yet were having outbreaks of what was called a 'snow mould disease'.

A more recent and equally unsatisfactory trend, especially in the U.S., uses Microdochium Patch for symptoms caused by *M. nivale*, whether they developed with or without snow cover.

Message from Canada is that despite Microdochium patch and Pink Snow Mold being caused by the same fungus the conditions under which they develop and spread and the type of symptoms expressed are entirely different. As such they should be regarded as completely different and separate diseases of turf.

However, the real clincher in Canada comes in spring and especially if the turf went into winter dormancy carrying extensive symptoms of Microdochium patch, and subsequently developed Pink Snow Mold under prolonged snow cover. As the snow melts in spring and the grass resumes its growth, classic symptoms of Microdochium patch develop on the turf grass around the edges of Pink Mold patches.



ABOVE: *Microdochium nivale* as Fusarium patch the disease caused in the absence of snow cover. Picture courtesy Vitax

BELOW: Nothing is patch on Fusarium when it comes to universality. Picture courtesy Syngenta



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Chalara 'genie' out of the bottle so what comes next?

Dr Terry Mabbett, who broke the news about the chalara ash dieback outbreak in GI September, returns with an update on this constantly evolving issue

The chalara 'genie' is out of the bottle. By year end chalara ash dieback caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* was recorded at 323 sites covering plant nurseries, recent ash tree plantings and established woodlands.

Golf courses anywhere in the UK are now at risk. There is now no chance of eradication so what's the situation and what comes next?

Many courses have young common ash trees along fairways or in the rough. Others have old ash trees in prominent positions as hedgerow relics from previous farmland. Some courses have tiny ash copses because the pioneering trees are adept at colonising any vacant land.

Under no circumstances should greenkeepers plant any more common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) or related species like *Fraxinus angustifolia* (narrow leaved-ash) because many are also at risk. Disease is spread by spores formed in fruiting bodies on infected leaf litter from June to October which then infect the current seasons' foliage during wet weather.

Woody tissue may already be infected thus requiring removal and destruction of affected trees, but the only symptoms are bark lesions on young trees. Even these may be absent because the pathogen has a long period of hidden infection.

Potentially infected mature ash trees are more difficult to assess. They may show crown dieback in summer - but don't jump to conclusions because many fungal diseases produce similar symptoms.

Start to inspect all ash trees now. Suspected outbreaks should be reported to the UK plant health authorities (details at the end of this article) who will advise. Young trees are relatively easy to deal with as they can be dug up and inciner-

ated on site. Leaf litter under and around infected trees should be gathered and incinerated. Biosecurity including disinfection of boots, tools, equipment and transport will be required.

Large mature ash trees could present a problem. DEFRA advises that mature trees should not undergo sanitation felling. That's fine for woodland owners but not so clear cut for golf clubs with members' safety to consider.

Common ash does not have the longevity of English oak. Trees do not have to reach a grand age and dimensions before they are designated as veteran or ancient specimens. At best, open-grown common ash trees attain 200 years before declining and dying in the following fifty years. Greenkeepers should consult local authorities, the Forestry Commission or conservation organisations like 'Ancient Tree Forum' before undertaking work on old ash trees.

Pre-emptive measures to prevent valuable old ash trees from infection are desperately needed. Dr Glynn Percival, a plant physiologist with Bartlett Tree Experts (a commercial company at the forefront of oak processionary moth control) has proposed micro-injection of pesticide, used in North America to control diseases and insect pests of trees.

During this process, ash trees are injected with a pre-determined dose of truly systemic fungicide. The fungicide moves to all parts of the tree via xylem and phloem tissue and protects the tree from infection and disease development and may eradicate existing infections providing they are not too well advanced.

Tree injection is not new and was used to manage Dutch elm disease in the 1970's, but the injectors damaged to bark to encourage

secondary pathogens. MBC (benzimidazole) fungicides had only just come onto the market and were not truly systemic (by modern systemic fungicide standards). They were unable to reach the top branches of big elm trees where bark beetles were discharging fungal 'cargoes' (spores of the *Ophiostoma novoulmi* fungus) into trees. These drawbacks were not due to any deficiency in tree injection as a concept but still left a legacy.

Modern micro-injection is obtrusive and not accompanied by collateral bark damage. Contem-

Start to inspect all ash trees now. Suspected outbreaks should be reported to the UK plant health authorities

porary systemic fungicides are like that well known beverage, accessing those parts others cannot reach.

Two problems stand in the way, one practical the other political. There are no fungicides approved by CRD (the UK's Chemical Regulations Directorate) for tree injection. Word on the grapevine is that the plant health 'mafia' is opposed to the idea. This may more to do about private sector experts treading on their 'private' turf rather than sound scientific objections.

However, they do appear to be quietly listening to what Dr Percival has to say. DEFRA has since contacted agrochemical manufacturers and asked them to put forward candidate fungicides for appraisal. If micro-injection comes to fruition, one or more of the [systemic] fungicides currently used to cure *Fusarium* patch of turf may be used to control chalara dieback in ash trees.

Reporting chalara ash dieback and obtaining information

In England and Wales:
Chalara helpline: 08459 33 55 77 (open 8am - 6pm every day) or plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Scotland:
Forestry Commission
Scotland: 0131 314 6156 (9am - 5pm weekdays + out-of-hours messaging system) or fcscotlandenquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

BELOW: Shoot dieback and leaf necrosis may start to appear in June
Picture courtesy Forestry Commission



Bark lesions on young trees are the only real sign of *Chalara fraxinea* in winter
Picture courtesy Forestry Commission



Steve Castle visits Easingwold Golf Club to see how an ambitious tree management project has transformed the course – at very little cost

Seeing the light



THIS IMAGE: 5th hole before the work
MAIN IMAGE: 5th hole after the work

Take a look at the photographs in this article. Can you believe they were taken just a few months apart? Easingwold Golf Club has transformed a stagnant, shrouded course into a healthier, brighter, blooming vista for play.

Course Manager Andre Erlah joined the six-strong greenkeeping team at the parkland course in 2001, and began by introducing a full aeration programme.

He explained that previously the club were stuck in a vicious circle.

“They knew they should aerate but the members didn’t want their rounds to be disrupted so they just put fungicides down”.

However, the looming long-term issue, which was literally preventing the club’s growth, was the sheer proliferation of trees on and around



PROFILE

Name: Andre Erlah
Born: Stoke-on-Trent, 2 March 1971

Marital status: Married with a five-year-old daughter

Hobbies: Thai boxing, travelling, reading

Favourite Sports Team: Stoke City



the course in this rural corner of North Yorkshire.

Andre admits it was impossible to accurately gauge how many there were - but there was no doubt there were far too many and they were largely in the wrong places, threatening the very future of the course.

"There had been no tree management at all since it first opened in 1930", he says.

"A lot of planting had been done in 1976 and over the years the course became very dense and dark, giving me problems keeping the tees, greens and fairways in good shape.

In fact it was so dense some areas of the course never received any natural light at all because of these big scrub oaks, birches and pines.

Even on the brightest summer



The team at Easingwold: George Edwards, Robin Cornforth, Andre Erlah, Guy Borthwick, Lee Frost, David Raper, Scott Needs.
Photograph by Rebecca Erlah



days the course was dark due to this immense foliage.

“The flags on some of the greens would flutter in the breeze, but when you squatted down to ground level there was no air movement whatsoever.

“This meant the greens became stagnant leading to disease and poor drainage - if you’ve got a mature tree in competition with grass for water and nutrients the tree is going to take everything.

“Also, the sheer number of trees meant we had very limited traffic routes around the course which were leading to problems with compaction.

“Yet another reason was from a golf strategy point of view – certain trees were continuing to grow and preventing our members from playing certain shots.

“I turned to the greens chairman and told him I’d gone as far as I could with the course until we solved the tree problem.”

The club met with renowned woodland consultant John Nicholson who produced a report which supported Andre’s beliefs, and outlined which trees required removal.

However, the club soon realised the cost for the work would be very

substantial which was out of the question – particularly with the recession biting.

But they came up with an ingenious solution with the help of a nearby timber merchant.

“In the autumn of 2011 we approached the merchant literally opposite the course, wondering if they would be interested in doing the job.

“We worked out that he could take the brush away and sell it to power stations, saving us thousands of pounds.

“Luckily as he was so close this removed the haulage costs which normally absorb all the profit from the timber.

“He would then make money on selling the felled timber as logs.

“This meant we could confidently go to our committee explaining how this was the ideal opportunity to go ahead with the plan and they were 100% behind us.

“We got permission from our landlord, and enlisted John to obtain the necessary felling license from the Forestry Commission.

“We placed a big sign at the first tee spelling out clearly to our members what we were doing and why we were doing it.

“The contractors came in and worked solidly for five months removing the trees we had highlighted as problems.

“Luckily we had a reasonably dry winter which helped.

“It was staggering to see how much timber was produced.

“There was an industrial chipper here filling up three lorries a day.”

Crucially, because Andre and his team had communicated the project to members, they were mostly on board – some even giving up their time to help out grinding the tree stumps left behind.

“Our main outlay was £9,000 for a stump grinding machine.

“We were quoted around £400 a

ABOVE: 6th tee before the work and RIGHT: afterwards

Woodland Management Workshop

A seminar to showcase the work at Easingwold Golf Club will be held on Thursday 21st March 2013 beginning at 9.45am. Speakers will include Andre and John.

Full details can be viewed at www.the-gtc.co.uk and www.greenkeepertraining.com. The cost is £65 per person with lunch included.



week to hire one so it was far better to buy, and we would be able to sell it later.

"I was trained up to use it, and when members came forward offering their help one day a week I trained them up.

"There must have been 2,000 stumps to grind but with everybody mucking in we kept to our schedule."

Andre and all at the club were well aware of the potential controversy associated with removing certain trees.

Some members complained that they had a particular affinity with certain trees which they had enjoyed watching flourish over decades.

"It's a strange issue - I heard an agronomist say removing a tree reminds people of their own mortality! We did check before removing certain trees that had been planted as a memorial.

"Of course some people were nervous about the project, but we were absolutely convinced it would be hugely beneficial for the club long-term."

After five months of perspiration - removing around 2,000 trees -

the changes were dramatic, and embraced by all but a tiny minority at the club.

Andre, who trained at Reaseheath College in Cheshire, says: "Admittedly, when the work was ongoing it looked terrible with all this heavy machinery and piles of timber, but when it was done almost everyone liked it.

"We were getting feedback from members who had been here for years amazed they were finally playing in daylight!

"There have also been other bonuses.

"Last year we saw new flora and fauna never seen before.

"There are foxgloves everywhere, bluebells are blooming that never had a chance before.

"One member was even encouraged to plant hundreds of bluebells, confident they will grow in this environment.

"Mature oak trees with real character have flourished.

"It's also helped us stay open for longer during the extremely wet year we've just had.

"Removing the problem trees has helped drainage across the course."

Ultimately the course is healthier, drier and more aesthetically pleasing

The pictures graphically show the difference.

Taken on similar bright afternoons, the previous jungle has been transformed.

When the sun does come out the course is bathed in dappled light instead of darkness.

"Ultimately the course is healthier, drier and more aesthetically pleasing when previously it was stagnant and you can actually appreciate individual trees.

"You look back at the photos of the course before this project and you can't believe how messy and dark it was.

"It's still ongoing - we've broken the back of it but still need to thin some trees out and make other amendments.

"But we're on top of it now.

"I've loved doing it, it's made a huge difference to the course and I feel I've made my mark.

"I've left a legacy here now which makes me feel extremely proud."

Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



SCOTLAND



Central

Very little news to report from the Central section this month. We had a full compliment of attendees on the irrigation design seminar in December and the feedback was positive. Thanks to Adrian Mortram for presenting this. If you haven't received an email about this year's Pairs competition yet, it will be with you shortly. Providing entries are around the same number then the format will be similar to the past two years. Entries for the spring outing at Carnoustie Burnside on Wed 17 April will be with you by the end of March. If you don't receive emails from me on these matters then please check we have your correct email address or get in touch and let me know. Both entry forms will appear on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk or join us on Facebook. We have no educational events confirmed at the time of going to press but still hope to fix something up before the start of the season.

Congratulations to John Watson CM at Downfield GC who has just become a father. If anyone has any news they would like to share or suggestions of educational events we could run then please let some of your committee know.
Gordon Moir



North

On behalf of the committee we hope everybody got through January ok and got back into

the swing of things after the holidays. The months just seem to fly by now and it won't be long for some of us before the season starts. Paul Sharp will soon be sending out the 200 club tickets so hopefully you will buy your own and maybe a few more and send the money back before the first outing. The two outings this year are now confirmed and we will be at Duff House Royal Golf Club on Thursday 25 April and then Edzell Golf Club on Tuesday 24 September. The Scottish Conference this year is on Tuesday 5 March so hopefully we will see a good turn out from the North Section as it is very worthwhile attending. Robert would like to add that his colleagues have been very busy working on the 18th green at Royal Aberdeen as it has been completely rebuilt and the surrounds re-shaped. Robert added that this is part of an ongoing programme to rebuild 7 greens at the club over the next 4 years. The committee was wondering if any members have any pictures of last month's terrible flooding, if they would like to forward some pictures we could put them in the magazine. Well that is the news again as things are still a bit quiet in the section but if any member has any news big or small please get in touch with Robert Patterson mob 07931639548 or Dale Robertson mob 07784517534.



East

Not much on the go within the section this month, as I write this report the snow is lying on the ground again, but I am sure the spring is just around the corner! The section had a social night out over the festive period in Edinburgh with all welcome, we had a low turnout

but we hope to up the numbers next time and get a good catch up going. The Open Support team should be notified over the next month, so good luck to all who have put their services forward from the sections, if any members of the East section are lucky enough to be selected could you please get in touch if you are interested in doing a daily blog etc. of the experience. The section has looked into the option of putting a bus on for our spring golf outing being held at Seahouses on 23 April, please can all who are interested in travelling with the bus contact myself or our section secretary to register your interest and we can get it booked if required. A reminder also that if any members have educational topics they wish to see being set up or have any other opinions on what they think the section could offer them then please drop me a line. As I finish of this report spare a thought for poor Rory McIlroy and his new club deal with Nike \$120m, do you think he is taking a chance with this change or do you think he will tame the Tiger? Go Rors bring it home for the East Section.

Scott Corrigan
scottcorrigan4@aol.com or
07877098237



West

New year greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for the keen golfers who were unable to play for so long due to the wetness and frost conditions over the festive period.

There is not a lot happening at present except preparing things for the start of next year. I should bring to your attention the Scottish Conference to be held once again at Dunfermline

on 5 March, some excellent speakers have been found so I would recommend attending. Cost will be £35 per ticket with lunch included as usual.

Spring outing will be held at Buchanan golf club and the date is sometime in May, hopefully not when I'm in Turkey playing golf. The Autumn outing is planned for September with a date still to be set but the venue will be Eastwood Golf Club.

The site visit for Loch Lomond which was cancelled back in November will be rescheduled for February or March so please contact David McBride to book your place.

A couple of congratulations to be handed out, firstly to Graham O'Connor who moves from Symbio to take up the position of Scotland area manager for Farmura and secondly to Kerr Hunter from Gleddoch who moves into that vacant position at Symbio, the west section would like to wish both every success in their future roles.

The Section would also like to pass on their best wishes for the future happiness of Alex Cruickshank and his new wife Angela who recently tied the knot, may you both have many years of happiness together.

And last but not least, I will report on how things went at BTME in the March issue, but until then I hope everybody has a good start to the year and keep well.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any events pending, you can get in touch by phoning 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914, or by e-mail on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

The next west section committee meeting is 18th February should any member have a relevant question then please supply this by that date.

Thanks again
Stuart Taylor

NORTHERN



North East

As I'm writing this section news there's some large snowflakes falling. Once upon a time I used to enjoy this white stuff but now prefer it on a Christmas card. At least I don't have to work in it now - that's one of the bonuses when you're retired!

I see in January's magazine that James Parker, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Close House, has been chosen to go to

Bernhards trip to San Diego - now that is a once in a lifetime experience. I remember when I was chosen for the very first one to Vancouver way back in 2001, the amount of people you meet and courses you visit is

Tremendous - have a good time James - mind you your weather will be warmer than ours was.

Membership is slightly improving mainly due to myself and the Regional Administrator Sandra Raper making a few calls last summer in Alnwick and beyond. Further visits are planned in the early part of the year south of the Tyne. These are not just about membership, they're about the benefits you get and believe me there are lots.

I often wonder whether members read all of the magazine, we all look at the recruitment pages, but do many read the Greenkeepers Training Committee page? The monthly update from David Golding, GTC Education Director recently addressed the 'old chestnut' of why clubs looking to save money do so by reducing or withdrawing any staff training. His November article addressed this and is well worth a read - he mentions how training can be a tremendous morale booster for an individual and additional skills and knowledge will always contribute to a team's performance thereby adding productivity to the business - well said.

Golf competitions for this year are at Heworth GC on April 17 and at Westerhope GC on October 9, members will be informed in due course of tee off times.

Finally by the time you have read this BTME will be

Over. I hope many of you paid a visit to the show I know some of the major machinery suppli-

ers were not there but it's not all about them it's about Education - it's the way forward.

Congratulations to Head Greenkeeper Brian Hughes of Whickham GC who will have worked there for 25 years on 7 February. How

time flies I remember that day well as I was Head Greekeeper. Other members of staff included John Rippon who moved to

Birtley GC, Jim Hagen and Carl Gallagher - I wonder what happened to those two. Never mind at least Brian stuck it there through thick and thin.

That's it for another month, remember any news for me just get in touch.

Jimmy Richardson



North West

By the time you get these notes I am hoping that those that could attend BTME had a very informative time there. At the moment at my golf club we are suffering as I'm sure many are with the effects of the weather over the last season. These times are hard for many of us and I am hearing of many clubs trimming budgets to make ends meet. We have just got to get stuck in and try and give the members a really good course this season, but if mother nature conspires to throw more of the wet stuff at us then we face a near impossible task. I am sure that the golf courses in this country are in great hands and we will deliver what is expected of us. Hopefully I will have the venues for the golf sorted by the next issue of the magazine. I have been asked if I can arrange a training course for the use of excavators, I have passed this information on to HQ so if any more of you are interested watch out for it appearing on the forum or website. If anyone has anything to share or any gossip please contact me on 07840706738 or e-mail jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



North

On behalf on the committee

may I wish you a happy new year and hope for a dry season ahead! We cant have another year like the last one...as I write these notes the doom and gloom merchants from the weather centres tell us that we are going to have a bad few weeks of very cold weather and I'm looking out of my window at big flakes of snow.

As normal for this time of year it's very quiet on the news front but BTME next up I should have a bit more gossip for you soon. I won't be there this year as I'm in for a bit of knee surgery. Hopefully you should be getting your fixture list for this season this month so please have a good look at it. You will agree that we are playing top notch courses (as always) so make a good effort to attend some of them. We start the fun at Hornsea Golf Club on the 24 April and we have a new format to find our scratch champion with the combined scores from Hornsea and at Woodsome Hall in September to count. Most of the events this year are an afternoon start so we can get in a shift at work before we play, yes I understand it's going to be a late finish but at least we get a chance to work on the course beforehand.

That's all folks for now, feet up for me for a couple of weeks and I will look forward to seeing you at Hornsea, any news and gossip from BTME please let us know.

Andy Slingsby
07506407867

Andy.slingsby98@google-mail.com



Cleveland

Hello everyone, my name is Martin Woods, if you don't know me I'm the only Mackem working at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club and your guest writer for February.

News from my course this month - chainsawing! Yes it's too wet to do much else, but to be honest I'm enjoying the exercise after my usual glutinous Christmas. Why did I buy all those biscuits? If Ian Pemberton is reading this and wondering what a chainsaw is, they're used for chopping down trees. Yes, trees Ian, they look like your cooling towers with leaves on in case you've forgotten! Lucky

man!

Special thanks to Terry Charlton for putting on a fantastic quiz back in December and thanks to all the greenkeepers who came, a great night and a great victory, happy retirement TC. Barry Walker should hopefully put his quiz on at the end of February; look out for details in the section newsletter. Please come along, it's good crack, pretty informal and teams are made up on the night.

I hope everyone attended BTME last month and enjoyed it. The lads and I did a couple of one day courses and two days of seminars. For those of you who walked the show and went for a pint, you're missing out! Sami and Rachael run the education like clockwork and a lot of it is free! For the price of a twin room, two lads can have two full days of seminars. Make sure you badger your course manager or greens chairman next year, if they're a forward thinking club like mine then they will snap your hand off. It's obviously going to be a difficult year money wise, so I think the more education the better. I know that nobody is irreplaceable, but with redundancies looming for a few of us let's try and make ourselves a little less disposable.

Well that's it from me, thanks for reading. Martin



North Wales

The shortest month deserves a pretty short column so let's see how few words I can do this in, here goes; Jez Hughes started his captaincy at the Vale of Llangollen golf club with a drive in on 5 January, best of luck trying to wear two caps as course manager and captain for the next year. The early winter seminar at Deeside College was an extremely informative and enjoyable half day; we have another seminar coming up on 13 February please try to attend as I know Paul Lowe and Rhys Butler have worked hard to bring you another great day.

The bus to BTME ran with just enough passengers to make it viable, but only just - please try to support our endeavours as you may just find that if you don't use them, you'll lose them! I hope that was few enough

Around The Green

words, so that just leaves me to say, all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com, phone or text 07756001187 Facebook North Wales B.I.G.G.A

MIDLAND



East Midland

So Harrogate, sorry BTME, has been and gone again. It's like an annual family gathering of both close and distant relatives... 'We really must keep in touch more' – means 'Same time next year?' I think the standard of education at BTME was, as good, if not better than ever. As I always point out, it's good to know that the day to day problems we experience aren't exclusive to ourselves and they seem far less worrying when you hear that your peers are going through the same things, sometimes on a much larger scale. There for the grace of God go I... I want to take the opportunity of blowing the proverbial trumpet of the section that I'm proud to be a member of. Over the past handful of years the East Midlands Section has produced TWO BIGGA National Golf Champions in Derek McJannett and Paul Frith, TWO Toro Students of The Year in Matt Wormwald and this year Tom Flavelle and FIVE representatives of the Bernhard Delegation including Nick Miles, Nigel Colley, Andy de Wet, myself and this year Asa English. Wouldn't you agree that that is a pretty impressive record from a section comprising around two hundred members? For what it's worth, I do. So I would encourage you to come along to events, both golf, non-golf or education that the section puts on, and reap the rewards on offer. In the words of Delia Smith (at half time on the pitch at Carrow Road having sipped several glasses of Merlot)... 'Come on where are you?!

Now there's only so much admin that one can find to do at this time of the year but as long as the kettle is within reach it makes the task of Health & Safety updates etc that much

more bearable. One job I will be pulling in soon will be to update my new BIGGA calendar with birthdays and other memorable dates for 2013. And looking at the list I can see I need to be writing a birthday card for Ipswich Town's biggest (some say only) supporter Simon Banks. Apparently he is twenty-one again this year but I have been doing my homework and have discovered the truth behind this false claim. Having recently bumped into the ever suffering Mrs Banks (shopping with Simon's gold Amex card, her, not me), on the high street of Market Harbour-ough I asked her what her plans were for the man of the house's 'special' birthday. She put her Harvey Nicks bags down and said 'Keep this to yourself but I've booked us a box for Norwich versus Reading on Wednesday night, I've picked myself a 'top dress' for the occasion so I hope he appreciates the effort that I've gone to for his fiftieth!

On that bombshell I'll sign off for now and start thinking about what I can get my mother for Mother's Day....

Greg Skinner
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greg.skinner92@btinternet.com



Midland

Well what's this I hear through the grapevine? My old mate at Harborne GC, Alan Shore, at the tender age of 58 went down on one knee on Christmas day and proposed to his girlfriend Lorraine. All this following Alan's determined mindset that he would never marry again, never say never Schwalan. Once the love bug gets you, you're doomed. Good for you my old china. I wonder if your first dance with the blushing bride will be your impressive Cossack dance, and trust me folks I tried it and nearly broke my back. I wish you both the greatest of happiness. I know Alan will consider himself the lucky one. In my humble opinion Lorraine is such. My thanks to Steve Harris for the above.

This month's calendar page sponsor is Burrows Grass Machinery. Please consider them for your sales, service,

and spares for Ransomes and Jacobsen products. Tel: 01785 666 100.

It is now my saddest of duties to report that Sue Blake, wife of our old friend Kim at Fulford Heath has lost her courageous battle with the big C. I was fortunate to have met Sue on many occasions and found her to be a most wonderful lass. I'm sure that all of the section will join me in sending our most sincere condolences to Kim and his family in this most difficult of times.

Sean McDade



Berks, Bucks & Oxon

By the time you read this we shall be well on the way to spring with winter behind us and a drier summer and golfing season in prospect! Hopefully many of you managed to attend BTME and experience the show and all the week had to offer. For those of you preparing to head to San Diego for the GCSAA Show I'm sure it will be a fantastic week and an invaluable experience.

In other news the Oxfordshire Golf Club hosted the 2012 Turkey Trot back in December. (Due to deadline dates for the magazine results have been delayed) A magnificent turnout saw 112 players and 24 teams battled it out over a very frosty course. A great day was had by all with The Young Bucks being crowned the winners with a net score of 59.2; second were We Are Only Here For The Raffle net 59.5; third The Berkshire B net 60.0; fourth The Hack Bandits 60.6. The best gross score of the day was won by John Ryan with a 63. A thank you must go to all of the staff at the Oxfordshire who looked after everyone fantastically. In particular a big thanks must go Course Manager Sean Wilson and his team. The event was very kindly sponsored by T H Whites. Without the continued support of our sponsors these days could not happen. Nearest the pins and longest drives were sponsored by: Swan Golf Designs, Par Aide, Banks Amenity, Rigby Taylor and Pin Point Visualisation.

Barry Holt and Bill Paterson of Burford GC and Beconsfield

GC respectively have reached retirement age! Both have seen many changes in the industry and we wish them a long and happy retirement.

If anyone is interested in or needs any training be it chain-saw or spraying courses etc. then please get in touch with our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper sandra@bigga.co.uk As a reminder if anyone wishes to have their current email address added to the BIGGA HQ system then please drop Sandra an e mail with your contact details.

Dates and venues for this year's section events will be confirmed in the coming months. The format will follow last year's schedule: spring and summer meeting plus the Turkey Trot. Last year's golf days were well attended and we hope to see many of you again this year. Invites and information will be e mailed out rather than posted in an attempt to curb costs. If you wish to receive news and or any information regarding golf days and all section events then please send your e mail address and details to Matt Nutter.

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

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the web site: www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk



Mid Anglia

Hello everybody I hope all are well and looking forward to what 2013 has to throw at us... hopefully it will be a little less testing than what was endured in 2012 which has officially gone down as one of the wettest years in the last century. But, I'm sure you were all well aware of that fact and glad to see the back of 2012. The snow is lying on the ground and golf is not really an option at this point. With BTME looming I hope everybody who is making the long journey up to Harrogate enjoys the show and let's see what new tools and innovations

are available for improving our surfaces for the coming season and beyond.

Short and sweet - I look forward to seeing many of you in the near future. If you do have any news for future editions please get in touch as it really helps.

Darren - d.mugford@rigby-taylor.com

SOUTH EAST



Surrey

The beast from the east, bad weather has returned to haunt our roads and golf courses with some of the coldest and harshest temperatures to test our resolve for some time. This monsoon style of weather just continues, as we start to slither towards the start of the Chinese year of the water snake, yes I did say water, which starts on February 10. According to ancient astrology predictions, new inventions, outstanding medical breakthroughs and worryingly, the devastating and dangerous weather patterns we experienced in 2012 look set to continue and possibly intensify. Let us just hope that myth and Chinese wisdom get it wrong. Roll on the summer.

Congratulations to James Lewis who has just celebrated his birthday at Camberley Heath GC at the young age of 60, this keen but anxious Everton supporter is known for working with surgeon-like precision around the course giving inspiration to his fellow greenkeepers. All of them have told him its been statistically proven that birthdays are good for you. The more you have the longer you live. Happy Birthday James.

Three-wheelers have been rolling around my mind recently - not because I've been watching Del Boy run his errands in repeats of Only Fools and Horses - but because I paid a visit to North Hants GC and found myself intrigued by Rob Schofield's recent investment in a purchase of a new vehicle. This vehicle has can be seen flying in and around the

North Hants area, described as the yellow peril, the vehicle is a cross between a Reliant Robin and a French passion wagon. Far from Trotter's beaten up old car, this new iconic design has a modern twist and is crammed full of technology. Test drives are available if you are brave enough.

A note for your diary: the annual regional dinner at Walton Heath GC will take place on 6 March 2013 and it is sure to be once again a fantastic event and a chance to let you hone your golfing skills at one of the greatest venues on the golfing calendar. Regional Administrator Clive Osgood can be contacted on 07841948410 who will be able to provide more details on this event, updates on the section website.

BTME - recently passed and packed with memories to treasure, an education feast to savour and friendships to last a lifetime, magic and sparkle makes this North Yorkshire venue a favourite throughout the industry, all of which characterise and set benchmarks of excellence in the world of greenkeeping. Long may it continue.

Mark Day



Kent

It would be very easy to theme this month's column around the recent weather issues being experienced by one and all. However, I shall resist the temptation as I'm sure none of you need reminding how cold and bleak conditions have been of late. I always find that this time of year is ideal for developing teams. Much of the work being carried out during cold snaps is done with multiple numbers of staff and encouraging team relationships during these periods is ideal for staff bonding and trust which, in turn, pays dividends by helping to ensure the playing quality and condition of the course in future months. Morale in teams can be quite low at these times of year so I think it is important to, where practical, encourage as much staff interaction as possible

to get us through the winter months.

Individual appraisals and team meetings are also often enlightening experiences for managers and staff alike. And all educational opportunities should be exploited to the max until the frozen tundra starts to defrost itself. Staff development is something many of us struggle to find time for when the season is in full swing so it is important to make the most of quieter times of the year when more attention can be given to each individual.

On to issues in our fair county. Well, as usual, no-one has contacted me with any news so I guess everything is fine. Harrogate will have been and gone by the time you read this. I hope those of you that made the trek up enjoyed the experience and feel suitably enlightened by the seminars.

One noteworthy item I have experienced when I was working at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club recently was that one of the greenstaff, Dean Read, has an ambition to become a hair-stylist and regularly practices by honing his mercurial talents during breaks on the rest of the greenstaff at the club (the ones with hair anyway!). Consequently Dean's skills have resulted in surely the most coiffured group of greenstaff in the region! Dean has set up a freelance sideline business now and I'm sure will soon be a stylist to the stars! Good luck mate.

Just want to say thank you to those companies who have chosen to sponsor us this year. Your names and links to your homepages should now be on our webpage.

That's it for now. All news on fixtures etc. online at webpage below.

Don't forget to contact me if you need any help on your courses. All details on webpage.

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Sussex

I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Assistant Profile

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



Name: Rich Morris

Age: 28

Club: Brickhampton Court Golf Club

Position: Greenkeeper

Nickname: Footlong

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? Seven years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Being outside and being involved in golf

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting the greens, for the instant result.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Raking bunkers, we have a high population of foxes and they use our bunkers for business and pleasure

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? More availability of job progression

7. Hobbies? Golf and fitness

8. Favourite Band? Oasis

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

10. What is your claim to fame? Granddad played rugby for Gloucester

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland Region

Lewis Milne, Scotsraig Golf Club, Central Section
 Finlay Sillars, Machrie Bay Golf Club, Central Section

Northern Region

Jamie Hardy, Brough Golf Club, Northern Section
 Kristian Smith, Brough Golf Club, Northern Section
 Chris Hall, Alwoodley Golf Club, Northern Section
 Steven Bennett, Alwoodley Golf Club, Northern Section

Midland Region

James Sergeant, Sudbrook Moor Golf Club, Midland Section
 Gary Firkins, Landmark Media International, East of England Section
 Chris Barber, Stockwood Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia Section

South East Region

Alexander Bernadello, Woodcote Park Golf Club, Surrey Section
 David Fraser, Wisley (The) Golf Club Plc, Surrey Section
 Daniel Rice, Wisley Golf Club, Surrey Section
 Joshua Umney, Wisley Golf Club, Surrey Section
 Daniel Fisher, St Augustines Golf Club, Kent Section

South West/South Wales Region

David Mitchell, Osprey Water Management Ltd, South West Section
 Ian Trott, Salford Golf Club, South West Section
 Ben Gregory, South Cerney Golf Course Limited, South West Section
 Charlie Cripps, Wickham Park Golf Club, South Coast Section
 Martyn Lane, Martyn Lane Golf Signs, Devon & Cornwall Section
 Collin Shaw, Grassed Up, South Wales Section

Overseas

David Bigsby, Landshut GC, Germany
 Carl-Johan Lonnberg, Swedish Golf Federation, Sweden
 Peter Edman, Swedish Golf Federation, Sweden

The annual Turkey Trot was held on November 30 at Worthing Golf Club. George must be thanked for producing a wonderful course for the day and in particular for arranging such beautiful weather. A super day was had by all and thanks go to Ernest Dow for the most welcoming halfway barbecue. The overall winning team for the day was Gary Ogilvie, Alan Pearce, Matt Perks and Paul Bodle. There was a spectacular hole in one for Mike Gould that cost him a bit in the bar!

It was a cool, clear winter afternoon on 10 December that saw the section's AGM, held again this year at the Dyke Golf Club. The business was preceded, as

is now the custom, by 9 holes of golf. Eric Green won with 21 points and yet again Glynn Polard achieved the longest drive. Although the strong northerly wind brought an unpleasant chill to the day, the course was in spectacular condition and the cloudless skies rewarded players with stunning views out across Brighton to the channel. Many thanks to the Dyke Golf Club for the golf, meeting venue and vast quantities of refreshments. The election of officers is as follows: Chairman Rob Hudson; Vice chairman Matt Crossley; Secretary Pete Smith; Treasurer Dave Allen. Thanks and appreciation was given by all to Dave Allen for all his work as Secretary over the past few years. Many thanks also went to Eric Green for writing this column month in and month out and I shall now be taking on this pleasure. I would be grateful if you could contact me with any news. Thanks, Chris Humphrey. 07912 669457 or chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk



Essex

2013 has hit us hard with snow and ice being the main feature of the year so far, but we are used to all this adversity and I'm sure we will be back at it and working solidly in the next few weeks.

The main event for the greenkeeping fraternity so far this year, has been the very successful BTME and education program, held in Harrogate. A few members from our section made the long trip up to Yorkshire, revelling in the workshops and seminars that were on offer, some just for a couple of days, others for the full week. It was good to be there and meet up with old friends and spend time talking and networking with college representatives and the trade.

The Pairs Knockout final was played back in early December. The Venue was again Purdis Heath Golf Club. The finalists this year were Sam Cook and Craig Serafin, Colchester GC, Liam Springett, Braintree GC, and Campbell Murdoch, Stoke by Nayland GC. They were blessed with a fresh, but dry

(bit of rarity at the moment) winter's morning at Purdis and with three of them not having played the course before it was going to be an interesting day out. Campbell and Liam drew first blood and took the early lead and led 2 up at the turn, the next 4 holes went the way of Sam and Craig to put them 2 up after 13 holes. Campbell and Liam then came back again and levelled the match. They stood all square on the 16th tee, this hole was halved and with the light fading by the minute, play off holes were looming. The 17th hole went to Sam and Craig, who then managed to hold on and halve the 18th to nick a very close match 1up. A big thanks to Tony Kirwan and Purdis Heath Golf Club, for sorting out the day for them, good company and great day out.

www.essexbigga.co.uk Contact details 07764-862.337 or essexbigga@talktalk.net

SOUTH WEST & WALES



South West

Despite a brief lapse last month we're back with the latest from the South West. As of this month I have taken over the helm from Adam Matthews, many thanks to Adam for his hard work every few weeks in keeping everyone up to date on, a tough act to follow. Being reasonably new to the Section I am slowly getting to know everyone through either Section events or if any of you have been up to Bowood in the last two seasons but please don't hesitate to drop me a line with any news or events.

All the way back to December now, and our Christmas Tournament kindly and successfully hosted by Bath Golf Club and despite arctic weather conditions we had a great turnout of both golfers and course walkers with well over 50 seated for Christmas dinner. Well done to the team at Bath who turned out a fantastic course under such difficult conditions and (it must have been coincidence!)

who also took the honours on the day. Through some fierce competition between two unnamed but well known section members to corner the prize pool and bolstered by a brilliant effort from the rest of us less serious rafflers the world famous South West Section Christmas raffle raised over £260 in aid of Dorothy House Hospice, many thanks to all who contributed.

With the new year firmly under way now is the perfect time to let you know that our tournament schedule is almost complete and includes some great venues such as Salisbury GC, Minchinhampton GC, Filton GC, North Wilts GC, Chipping Sodbury GC and The Manor House. Please keep an eye on your inboxes and the South West Section Facebook page for details or get in touch with Adam or myself for further information.

Congratulations to section members Lucy Sellick from Saltford GC and Joe Curtis from South Cerney GC who were selected to attend BTME as part of a programme of attendance sponsored through contributions from both Section and Regional patrons whose support is invaluable. The sponsored places offered by our patronage partners offer a brilliant opportunity for our members to attend an outstanding event, many thanks to Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop and Martyn Lane Signs for their continued support.

Well done to the group who recently completed the Excavator Safety Training course organised by our training team Adam and Paul, a valuable opportunity to sharpen specialist skills. Please keep your eyes on your specialist equipment tickets as these may require update training to maintain validity. If you do have any concerns or specific training ideas please get in touch with Adam or Paul at Minchinhampton GC to let them know.

That's all for now, as I wrote earlier don't hesitate to drop me a line with any news or events at your clubs or anywhere in the section.

Jaey Goodchild
 07984422295
j.goodchild@bowood.org



South Coast

Hi all,

Some very sad news to start, Alex McCombie's wife Margaret passed away on Christmas Eve following a short illness, she died peacefully in her sleep from heart failure. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you Alex at this devastating time.

Not a lot happening in the section, most of us are looking forward to some settled weather and being able to get on with outstanding jobs. I have never seen the course so wet, lakes in places that have never been wet before. In fact one pond that has formed in a hollow that gravel was extracted from years ago is so spectacular that I would like to keep it as another feature.

The section seminar is at Milton Abbey School on Wednesday 20th February. Speakers for the day are Chris Haspell from Castle Stuart Golf Club in Inverness, John Lockyer from the Roehampton Club, Darren Baldwin Groundsman from Tottenham Hotspur FC and Paul Lowe from Symbio. A great line-up of speakers so please try to be there. Flyers will be out by the time you read this, so if you haven't already booked do so now. Cost for the day will be £20 for members and £25 for non-members. Contact Alex on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com for more information.

Our golf meetings this year start with a visit to the amazing Remedy Oak Golf Club for the Colin White Memorial, Spring Trophy, sponsored by Avoncrop on the 16 April. The cost for the day is £35, this is going to be popular so you need to get your booking and payment in to Kevan Glass well in advance of the day. Remember payment on the day is no longer acceptable if you have not paid in advance your name will not be on the start sheet and you will not be playing. Entries to glassy2003@hotmail.com, you can also pay on line.

That's about it for this month, look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Seminar and the golf events.

Tony

Devon & Cornwall



Hello all.

It's been a busy period since I last posted notes on here, so here goes!

Firstly we would like to welcome a new member on to the Committee, Cameron McMorrin from East Devon GC. Cam was a part-time green-keeper at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club in East Sussex. It was there he decided greenkeeping was the career for him! He's been at East Devon for 5 years and has successfully completed his NVQ Level 2 and aims to complete his Level 3 to gain more experience and improve professional knowledge. It is going to be great to have a younger member on board and get his perspective on the industry, well done for volunteering Cameron!

Our Christmas meeting was held at Ashbury Golf Club, Okehampton. A very frosty but stunning day greeted us, which was fantastic for the 48 attendees on the day. The golf format was Greensomes playing for the Ransomes Jacobsen Cup and the Irritect Cup. The course walk was led by Pete Gross, Deputy Courses Manager at Ashbury. The walk was actually a drive looking at parts of the Kigbeare Course and the Forrest Course. Pete showed us some of the unique problems a business like Ashbury has because of the sheer volume of golf the site has to cater for. There seems to be an endless list of projects being carried out to combat drainage and traffic route issues. The courses were in great condition and a testament to Steve Harris (Courses Manager) and the rest of the team at Ashbury. A special mention to one of our sponsors for the day - MST - who set up the 'Halfway House' which catered for both the golfers and the course-walkers. We were all treated to a pasty and a beverage courtesy of MST, thanks to Lee Kirk and the team. The course drive culminated in a tour around the maintenance facilities which were of a very high standard. Thanks to all involved in the course walk and especially Pete for leading the way and answering the questions. Tra-

ditional Christmas lunch was served with the obligatory wearing of cracker hats and eating of sprouts. This was followed by the presentation of prizes and the Christmas raffle. The winners of the golf were Justin Austin and Andrew George (Tretborne GC) 40 points' 2nd Jon Bullen and Shaun Warren (Staddon Heights GC) 38; 3rd Andrew Prouse and David Daw (Porthpean GC) 35. Nearest the Pin on the 12th and Longest Drive on the 16th went to Adam Bridgewater (Yelverton GC) and Longest Drive on the 10th went to Garry Foster (Tavistock GC). A huge thank you to our sponsors for the day MST and Irritect Ltd for donating all the prizes and for their continued support of the Section.

After the presentation, the members participated in a variety of activities ranging from Snooker to Indoor mat bowls. The teams were naturally divided into Devon and Cornwall and the friendly rivalry began. Thank you to Steve and Ashbury for organising the activities. A tremendous day all around and a great way to finish the year.

Our January meeting was held at Perranporth Golf Club in Cornwall. For those of you who do not know, Perranporth is one of the most natural links in the country on a unique dune system that is placed well above sea level. Perranporth is more famously known in our circles for its Head Greenkeeper, Billy Mitchell. Billy has been at Perranporth all his working life (50 years) and has always been heavily involved with BIGGA and the industry. He's been very influential to younger greenkeepers in the Section and has also been at the forefront of many trials and philosophies regarding new products and techniques. Having said that, Billy works from a foundation of simple and natural greenkeeping, encouraging, promoting and sustaining fine grasses on his surfaces. Billy is a very popular character within the industry and the section, and this was always going to be a popular event, backed up by a total of 73 attendees for the day. The golf format for the day was individual Stableford and the conditions were perfect, bright sunshine (on the most part) and hardly a breath of wind, no excuses then! The Course walk

entertained 40+ of the attendees and a quick bit of delegation that morning saw Nick Dash and Shaun Trudgeon take the helm and lead the way. The course and site was looking fantastic and especially for January in light of the year we had just had. The greens were very firm with high percentages of fescue dominating the swards. Nick and Shaun took the group around the course stopping off at some key areas and explaining where recent work had been carried out and why. One of the key areas that Perranporth have addressed in recent times is the reduction of hard material path systems and instead reverting back to natural turf where possible using various types of turf stabilisation and reinforcement materials. The Course walk and Golf was followed by a Carvery meal and presentations. Jon Wood, Course Manager at Trevoze Golf and Country Club, kindly gave an educational presentation on his experiences leading up to and being involved with the 2010 Open Championship at St Andrews, where at the time he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper on the Old Course. A huge thank you to Jon for agreeing to this, not knowing he would have such a large audience on the day, Jon gave a very professional and enlightening presentation which all the attendees enjoyed, thank you Jon!

Billy was presented a plaque from the Section to mark his 50 years in the Industry and his involvement and help with the Section over the years. He also received a bottle of Whisky and a Season ticket to Cornish Pirates Rugby Club. Thank you Billy for a fantastic day and for all your help with the Section.

A big thank you to all involved in organising the day and to all the attendees for making the effort to attend, especially those who drove long distances, it really made it a special day!

George Pitts, 07929 754401, gpitts@yelvertongolf.co.uk



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director,
with a monthly update



David Golding, GTC Education Director, looks back at BTME 2013's educational success

The ongoing success of the Continue to Learn programme during BTME showed once again that the week is much more than an exhibition and the recipe of education, exhibition and annual gathering for all associated with sports turf is still a great event.

It was very pleasing to see so many visitors braving the snowy conditions to attend BTME and every year BIGGA's education programme attracts increasing numbers which has to be good news as more golf clubs see the benefit of investing in staff education.

The Turf Managers' Conference and the range of workshops and seminars covered such a vast range of subjects there was something for every level of greenkeeper and manager.

The increase in international delegates is also very pleasing and I am pleased to report the number of countries the GTC are involved in through our role within the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is also increasing.

The GTC, for the first time, hosted a Reception for our Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers and with all the GTC representative bodies present, the Home Unions of England, Scotland and Wales together with BIGGA we can continue to work closely together to ensure we provide golf clubs and all levels of greenkeepers access to quality education and training courses, workshops and seminars.

The GTC promotes only those Centres (9 colleges plus GOSTA Training) to the approximately 2,300 golf clubs the GTC represents and greenkeeping enquires also are directed to the GTC's QA Centre.

QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES – 2013

ENGLAND:
BRIDGWATER COLLEGE (CAN-

NINGTON) – JAKE WAITES Email waitesj@bridgwater.ac.uk Tel: 07912 555592

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MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE – STEWART BROWN (COLLEGE COURSES) Email sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk Tel: 01995 642305

LEE PRICE (Employer Services Manager – Work Based) Email lprice@myerscough.ac.uk Tel: 01995 642193

OAKLANDS COLLEGE – ANDY WIGHT Email Andy.Wight@oaklands.ac.uk Tel: 01727 737735

PLUMPTON COLLEGE – DAVID BLACKMUR Email david.blackmur@plumpton.ac.uk Tel: 01273 890454

REASEHEATH COLLEGE – GARETH PHILLIPS Email garethp@reaseheath.ac.uk Tel: 01270 613236

SCOTLAND:

SRUC ELMWOOD COLLEGE – MIKE CLARK Email Michael.Clark@sruc.ac.uk Tel: 01334 658800

GOSTA TRAINING – LESLEY LOWRIE Email learn@gostatraining.co.uk Tel: 0141 556 3999

WALES:

BRIDGEND (PENCOED) – JOHN SULLIVAN Email jrsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk Tel: 01656 302691

DEESIDE COLLEGE – JENNY PITTS Email pittsj@deeside.ac.uk Tel: 01244 831531 ext 6132

The current 10 Quality Assured Training Providers were all in attendance at the Reception offering to support the Centres, Home Unions and BIGGA should there specialist knowledge, experience and resources be useful to help delivery of the various courses, seminars and workshops for greenkeepers and golf club employers.

The QA Training Providers specialist subject areas cover many aspects of greenkeeper education and training:

From golf course design, renovation, course and machinery maintenance, ecology, management and health & safety we have the experts to help you.

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FRANK NEWBERRY – Email info@franknewberry.com Tel: 01908 520202

JOHN NICHOLSON ASSOCIATES – Email nicholsonj@btinternet.com Tel: 0191 384 2556

BRITRISK SAFETY inc Jon Allbutt Associates – Email jon@britrisky.com Tel: 0208 325 0232

STRI-CAROLYNBEADSMOORE Email carolyn.beadsmoore@stri.co.uk Tel: 01274 567201

SWAN GOLF DESIGNS – WILLIAM SWAN Email william.swan@swangolfdesigns.com Tel: 01277 896229

SYMBIO – MARTIN WARD Email Martin@symbio.co.uk Tel: 01428 685762

TORO – Lely NEIL ADAMS Email nvadams@lely.com Tel: 01480 228600

TURF MASTER ONE – LAURENCE PITHIE Email turfmasterone@aol.com Tel: 01666 505233

The Quality Assured Reception was successful and the GTC will continue to maintain a network of Centres and Training Providers and please contact any of the above direct as all are committed to serving our sector based on quality provision.

For all the latest information on apprenticeships, qualifications, training courses and workshops on offer through GTC Quality Assured Centres & Training Providers visit www.the-gtc.co.uk or www.greenkeepertraining.com alternatively call the GTC on 01347 838640



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

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GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
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www.the-gtc.co.uk



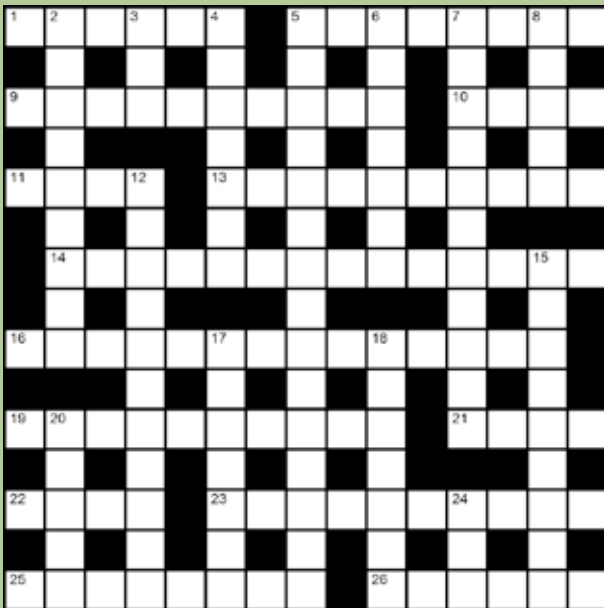
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in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Egyptian city known locally as Waset (6)
- 5 Non-alcoholic mixed drink (8)
- 9 'Audience Reaction Indicator' (10)
- 10 Forearm bone (4)
- 11 Request to reply to invitation (4)
- 13 In the bag (4,3,3)
- 14 Prison whose frontage features in the opening sequence of Porridge (8,6)
- 16 BBC3 'makeunder' show presented by Jenny Frost (4,5,5)
- 19 US state which contains Yosemite National Park (10)
- 21 Short nail; gear for a horse (4)
- 22 Spanish painter noted for his Nude Maja and Clothed Maja (4)
- 23 Final struggle between good and evil (10)
- 25 Semi-precious mineral from Castleton, Derbyshire (4,4)
- 26 Gorgon slain by Perseus (6)

Down

- 2 Midlands town at whose college comedian Frank Skinner once taught (9)
- 3 Bread roll (3)
- 4 In a manner not specified (7)
- 5 Bob Dylan song, The Byrds' most successful single (2,10,3)
- 6 Slaughtered animal body (7)
- 7 Flash of lightning (11)
- 8 Part of target next to bull's eye (5)
- 12 Travel around, especially on foot (11)
- 15 Slang word meaning extremely good or attractive (9)
- 17 Tropical fruit whose name is used to describe a yellowish green colour (7)
- 18 Combination of different things (7)
- 20 Island of reef around a lagoon (5)
- 24 Ineffective, useless (3)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

There's been plenty of first-class sport already in 2013...how closely have you been paying attention?

- 1) Which League Two football team reached the Semi-Finals of the Capital One Cup?
- 2) Which British women's tennis player defeated Alexandra Cadantu in the First Round of the Australian Open?
- 3) Who won the Men's BDO World Darts Championship?
- 4) What's his nickname?
- 5) Which football club are

- nicknamed the Minstermen?
- 6) On Saturday 12 January, a football club recorded an attendance of 44,976 despite playing in their country's fourth division. Who?
- 7) How many times has Lionel Messi been crowned the best footballer in the world?
- 8) Which country cricket team are reportedly considering playing a woman in their Second XI?
- 9) Who did Liverpool defeat in the Third Round of the FA Cup?

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

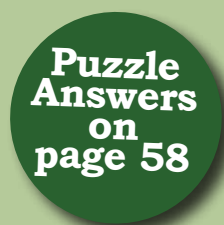
MONSTER SUDOKU

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.

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

SUDOKU

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



Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2013 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
FEBRUARY 2013			
February 5th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event – CHANGE OF DATE	Thurlestone Golf Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
February 12th	NAsOR – Keep It Clean & Legal City & Guilds	City & Guilds Office, Taunton	City & Guilds, email: Itptraining@cityandguilds.com
February 13th	North West & North Wales Section Seminar	Deeside College, CH5 4BR	Paul Lowe, Tel: 07554 668423
February 19th	London Section – The 4 T's Seminar, Trees, Technology, Torrential Rain & Timing	Oaklands College, AL8 6AH	Andy Wight, email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk or call 01727 737735
February 20th	IOG/WRAP Workshop – Benefits of using quality compost for Sports Turf Maintenance	Cleckheaton Sports Club, BD19 3UD	Rod Heyhoe, Phone: 0113 285 2962 or 07748 653639 Email: Rodheyhoe@talktalk.net
February 27th	Devon & Cornwall Spring Seminar	St Mellion Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
February 28th	East of England Seminar	Newark Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
MARCH 2013			
March 1st	NAsOR – Keep It Clean & Legal City & Guilds	City & Guilds Office, Wakefield	City & Guilds, email: Itptraining@cityandguilds.com
March 5th	BIGGA Scottish Regional Conference	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	John Young, Tel: 07776 242120 or email: johnyoung@bigga.co.uk
March 5th	NAsOR – Keep It Clean & Legal City & Guilds	City & Guilds Office, Stareton	City & Guilds, email: Itptraining@cityandguilds.com
March 15th	NAsOR – Keep It Clean & Legal City & Guilds	City & Guilds Office, Glasgow	City & Guilds, email: Itptraining@cityandguilds.com
March 21st	Woodland Management Workshop	Easingwold Golf Club	The GTC, David Golding, Tel: 01347 838640 or email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk



in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Bradford City
- 2) Heather Watson
- 3) Scott Waites
- 4) Scotty Too Hottie
- 5) York City
- 6) Rangers FC
- 7) Four
- 8) Sussex
- 9) Mansfield Town

CROSSWORD



MONSTER SUDOKO

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

Monster Daily SuDoku: Thu 31-Jan-2013

hard

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

Daily SuDoku: Thu 31-Jan-2013

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For further information, contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 Option 3.



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 John Deere 2520 c/w: 200CX loader, 60" RD deck, turf tyres, 26hp, 783hrs.....£11'750
 John Deere X740 c/w: 54" SD deck and collector, 24hp - choice of 3.....from £6'250
 John Deere X748 c/w: 48" RD deck, 24hp, turf tyres - choice of 8.....from £10'000
 John Deere X748 c/w: 48" SD deck + Hi-Tip collector - choice of 5.....from £8'000
 Kubota B2410 c/w: 54" SD deck + collector, 4WD, 2239hrs.....£4'500
 Kubota BX220 c/w: SD deck + collector, 22hp, 2328hrs.....£5'500
 Kubota G1700 c/w: 48" SD deck + collector, 15hp, 783hrs.....£3'500
 Kubota G18 c/w: 48" RD deck + collector, 18hp, 597hrs.....£6'750
 Kubota G23 c/w: 48" RD deck + collector, 23hp - choice of 8.....from £ POA
 Kubota G26 c/w: 44" RD deck + Hi-Tip collector, 26hp - choice of 4.....from £6'500

Compact Tractors

Iseki 330, 30 hp, c/w: roll bar, turf tyres, 1213hrs.....£6'500
 Iseki TK546, 46hp, c/w: cab, turf tyres, 1556hrs.....£8'495
 John Deere 3320, 33hp - EX DEMO, c/w: industrial tyres, roll bar, 2hrs.....£12'000
 John Deere 3720, 45hp, c/w: cab, turf tyres, 1030hrs.....£15'500
 John Deere 3720, 45hp - EX DEMO, c/w: industrial tyres, roll bar - choice of 2.....
from £13'000
 John Deere 4720, 66hp - EX DEMO, c/w: cab, turf tyres, 85hrs.....£29'800
 John Deere 4115, 24hp, c/w: turf tyres, roll bar, 1927hrs.....£7'000
 Kioti DK551C, 54hp, c/w: cab, turf tyres, 612hrs.....£15'500
 Kubota 3250, 40hp, c/w: cab, turf tyres, 3873hrs.....£4'750
 Kubota L3830D, 38hp, c/w: turf tyres, roll bar, 306hrs.....£11'000
 Massey Ferguson 1528, 28hp, c/w: front brush, turf tyres, 430hrs.....£11'750
 New Holland TN75s, 72hp, c/w: cab, turf tyres, 3353hrs.....£12'500
 Yanmar FE280H, 28hp, c/w: turf tyres, roll bar, 96hrs.....£9'500
 Yanmar KE160, 16hp, c/w: front loader, turf tyres, roll bar, 28hrs.....£8'500

Ride-On Rotary Mowers

Ferris TS1500Z Zero Turn mower, 44" deck - choice of 2.....from £3'250
 John Deere 1445 out front mower, c/w: 62" RD deck - choice of 10.....from £7'000
 John Deere 1445 out front mower, c/w: 60" SD deck, cab, 2126hrs.....£9'750
 John Deere 1445 out front mower, c/w: NEW 60" snow blade, 1949hrs.....£9'750
 John Deere 1445 out front mower, c/w: 62" SD Flex deck.....£4'500
 John Deere 1445 out front mower - Power unit only (no deck) 3142hrs.....£7'000
 John Deere 1545 out front mower, c/w: 62" RD deck, 251hrs.....£15'500
 John Deere 1545 out front mower, c/w: 72" RD deck, 544hrs.....£16'000
 John Deere 1565 out front mower, c/w: 62" RD deck, cab, 1044hrs.....£10'500
 John Deere 1600T wide area mower, c/w: cab - choice of 3.....from £8'500
 John Deere 997 zero turn mower, c/w: 60" RD deck, 151hrs.....£12'000
 John Deere F1145 out front mower, c/w: 60" Trimax flail deck, 1744hrs.....£4'500
 Lastec Articulator aide area mower, zero turn, 916hrs.....£6'500
 Ransome HR6010 Batwing wide area mower - choice of 2.....from £12'000
 Etesia H124DS, c/w: 48" RD deck, Hi-Tip collector - choice of 2.....£4'750

Ride-On Cylinder Mowers

John Deere 2500 greens mower, c/w: 22" 11 blade cylinders, 2881 hrs.....£6'000
 John Deere 2500E Hybrid greens mower, c/w: 22" 11 blade cyl - choice of 2 ..from £6'000
 John Deere 2653A triple mower, c/w: 26" 8 blade cylinders, 890hrs.....£11'500
 John Deere 3235B fairway mower, c/w: 5 x 8 blade cyl, FTC's, RR brushes.....£7'500
 John Deere 8400 triple mower, c/w: 3 x 6 blade 30" cylinders, 105hrs.....£22'000
 John Deere 900 triple mower, c/w: 30" cylinders - choice of 5.....from £4'500
 Roberine 900 triple mower, c/w: 30" cylinders - choice of 2.....from £6'500
 Hayter 749 trailed gang mower - choice of 2.....from £3'000
 Hayter LT324 triple mower, c/w: 30" cylinders - choice of 11.....from £5'000
 Hayter T424, c/w: 5 x 30" 6 blade cylinders.....£9'000
 Hayter T424, c/w: 5 x 30" cyl, deluxe cab, air con, cab tilt kit, 2659hrs.....£12'500
 Hayter TM539 trailed gang mower.....£5'000

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Recruitment



Bird Hills Golf Centre Assistant Greenkeeper



Bird Hills Golf Centre invites applicants for the position of Assistant Greenkeeper to work within the green staff team. Qualified to a minimum of NVQ 2 and would preferably hold Pa1, Pa2, Pa6 and chainsaw certification. Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper, a full uniform and P.P.E is provided with salary to be discussed at interview. Applications with covering letter should be submitted by 22nd March 2013 via email at groundsmen@birdhillsgc.fsnet.co.uk or by post to: Dave Summerfield – Head Greenkeeper, Bird Hills Golf Centre, Hawthorn Hill, Berkshire, SL6 3ST

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01347 833 812**

Mechanic/Greenkeeper

An experienced Mechanic/Greenkeeper position available at a privately owned, established golf course in the Home Counties. Working as part of a 7 strong team the applicant will be responsible for the repair and maintenance of golf course equipment, general green keeping duties, special projects and ensuring the golf course's smooth operation. The successful candidate will have further career opportunities and the position will report directly to the course manager.

Membership of BIGGA and further training is included within the role and an attractive remuneration package is available to the right applicant.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter by post or email to:
Matt Short, Sand Martins golf club, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3RQ
or Email: coursemanager@sandmartins.com
Closing date - 28 February

MOOR PARK GOLF CLUB

We are currently seeking to recruit an experienced and qualified green keeper to join our existing team. The successful candidate will hold NVQ level 2 or above with PAs 1, 2 and 6 preferable but not essential. You will be highly motivated, a team player, and be able to work to the highest standards.

Moor Park Golf Club, the premier club in Hertfordshire, boasts two established parkland courses designed by Harry Colt that regularly hosts national EGU events such as the Carris Trophy, English Seniors as well as the Hertfordshire County Championships.

In the first instance please apply in writing including a current C.V. to:
Ms B Duffy, Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1QN.
Email: Bernadette.Duffy@moorparkgc.co.uk

Closing date - February 28

HORTICULTURAL MACHINERY SALES TRAINEE/DEMONSTRATOR

Rickerby Limited is one of the largest Horticultural and Agricultural dealerships in the UK with eight outlets across the North of England and Scotland.

WE ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING FOR OUR HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

The successful candidate may well have a background in the golf and turf industry or experience of operating, repairing or knowledge of Horticultural machinery. He or she will enjoy dealing with people, be of tidy appearance, be willing to work as part of a busy team and have a clean driving licence.

Working out of Hexham your duties will include: supporting the established sales team in demonstration, delivery and preparation of machines as well as calling on customers to make them aware of our product portfolio. As this is a trainee position the duties will evolve as experience is gained and both external and internal training is undertaken.

As well as Ransomes Jacobsen we represent several other premium manufacturers such as Claas, Iseki, Charterhouse, Kawasaki, Shibaura, Major, Bailey and McConnel.

If you would like to move forward with one of the largest independent agricultural machinery dealers in the UK and would like a confidential discussion please contact Alistair McRobert on 07836 259261. For an application form contact Keri Ellis on 01228 614242 or email keri.ellis@rickerby.net

All enquires are treated in the strictest confidence. Closing date is Friday 22nd February 2013



Hallamshire Golf Club Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for an Assistant Greenkeeper to join the hard working, committed team at one of Yorkshire's finest courses. Experience is necessary although training and education will be given. Excellent working conditions. Applications in writing please to

Gordon Brammah,
Course Manager, Hallamshire Golf Club
Sandygate, Sheffield, S10 4LA
Tel. 0114 2302526

Closing date - February 28



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Applicants should be qualified to a NVQ Level II.

Please apply either by email to matt@lilleybrook.co.uk or in writing
together with a full CV to:

The Course Manager, Lilley Brook Golf Club,
Cirencester Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 8EG
Closing date - February 28



Headingley Golf Club Head Greenkeeper

As the oldest golf club in Leeds, Headingley Golf Club sits proudly amongst the many fine clubs in area and the unique layout was shaped by both Harry S Colt and Dr Alistair McKenzie.

The Club is in an extremely positive phase at present and now seek an experienced Head Greenkeeper with a proven track record who can bring the course to its full potential.

The successful candidate will have gained at least 5 years' experience in the post of Head Greenkeeper at a recognised golf club and be qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. In addition you will need to demonstrate that you possess all the management competences associated with modern role of the Head Greenkeeper.

An attractive remuneration package will reflect the ability of the successful candidate as well as the ambition of the Club.

Please apply in writing including your CV addressed to
The Secretary, Headingley Golf Club, Back Church Lane,
Adel, Leeds, LS16 8DW
or e-mail to manager@headingleygoldclub.co.uk

Closing date for applications 1st March 2013

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Head Greenkeeper

East Brighton Golf Course

£27,500 – £32,000 per annum based on experience & qualifications
(Full-Time 40 hours per week averaged across seasons)

We are looking for a qualified, enthusiastic person to take on the role of Head Greenkeeper at East Brighton Golf Course. With some of the most lovely views in Sussex, East Brighton Golf Course is an undulating downland/links style course on the South Coast which was designed and constructed in 1893. You will be responsible for leading the team who maintain the course to high standards using modern horticultural techniques and machinery. You will also be responsible for managing all aspects of the maintenance and up-keep, reporting to the General Manager.

For an informal discussion please contact James Malliff, Club General Manager on 01273 604838. Applications MUST be made on our application form and should be accompanied by a CV.

For an application form please contact Jane Wood on office@ebgc.co.uk or call 01273 604838.

Closing date for applications is Friday 15th February 2013 at 12 midday.
Interviews will be held week commencing 24th February 2013



InterActive Management Agency

Sweden is one of the worlds top golfing nations with around 500 golf courses and half a million players. Our clients are in a rapid phase of expansion and are now managing 126 golf holes at 5 different locations. There are therefore exciting opportunities for experienced and up and coming turf professionals, who will thrive on the challenge of working within an international environment.

We are **now** seeking,

GREENKEEPERS

 (for the 2013 season),
for our clients Golf Course management division:

The positions are based at several locations in the middle and south of Sweden. Contracts are for 6 months commencing beginning/middle of April 2013. (Starting dates can be flexible) Working in an environment where the main language is English and where the majority of Head Green keepers are from the UK or Ireland. There will be other native English speakers at all locations.

Opportunities are open to all with a genuine interest in sports turf and who are looking to broaden their horizons both on a professional and personal level. Formal qualifications in Turf management would be beneficial

Applicants able to assist in the day to day maintenance of either turf machinery or irrigation are of particular interest.

Applicants need to be flexible with a positive attitude to working in a dynamic environment within the requirements of a successful golfing business.

A competitive remuneration, work clothes and accommodation (free of charge) will be included in the package

Please send a current CV and covering letter to:

email: derek@interactive-management.co.uk

Telephone +44 (0) 7799 315255

Alternatively mail to:

Derek Judd

InterActive Management Agency Ltd.

Chantry House, 8, Lombard Street,

Old Portsmouth,

Hants, PO1 2HX

The Back Nine

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

Logan Ferguson, Course Manager at Nøtterøy Golfbane in Norway made his regular pilgrimage to Harrogate for BTME. He tells Jim Cook exactly why

The annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is always a highlight on the calendar for me as it starts off the New Year in such a positive way. I first came to BTME in 1999 and since then I think I have only missed one year.

The show has always been an impressive way to showcase the tremendous technological advances in this industry.

Especially the developments with the small bits like strimmer heads and bunker liners.

The machines and units will advance anyway with technology, but the advances with smaller things members at clubs tend to take for granted like bins and ball washers and tee markers is phenomenal.

Presentation on the course is 99% of this job and to see the new tools and equipment to help us do this on display at BTME is always impressive.

I believe one of the biggest things about BTME is the networking. That is the part of it that is second to none.

For me it is not easy because we have a six-month season in Norway and everything is quite spread out geographically, so the networking part here is important.

The basis for where I am now came from BTME. It was from knowing someone that knew someone else and all I said at the time was that I would love to work in Switzerland.

This was in conversation - a few emails later and I was on my way there for the season.

It is vital in this industry to have a good, solid circle of friends. This is because it is a tight-knit community and if a job comes up knowing the right people can be a stepping stone and you don't get that without coming to these shows and building a reputation.

I am always impressed by the education programme here and especially the timing of them at about 45 minutes each, as it is



perfect to keep your attention. It is not an unlimited budget for me at all, so the more information I can bring back from BTME to Norway the better.

You can report back to the greens committee with information and leaflets and it can make defending budgets a lot easier.

I think BIGGA does well to have BTME in Harrogate because the town has such a charm about it. It is not as formal as the American shows and is relaxed and casual.

You can get lost in some of the American ones as the focus is on everything from napkins in the clubhouse to ball-washers and everything in between. It is also great how BTME is not dependent on the bigger companies to make the show a success.

BIGGA does a great job with things like the James Bond night and I think it is a bit of a thank you to the members and I am sure people really appreciate that sort of stuff.

“BTME is the only show which is specifically aimed at us, the greenkeepers. It is worth its weight in gold and should definitely be supported”

about the author



Logan Ferguson is Course Manager at Nøtterøy Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course which was recently voted as one of the top 100 courses in Europe. It lies on the coast of Vestfold County in Norway. He is an international member of BIGGA.

I see the biggest reason people get on a plane and come to Harrogate from all over the world is because it seems like you are appreciated when you get here.

You are genuinely welcome when you come in and the staff and exhibitors are always so helpful.

BTME is the only show which is specifically aimed at us, the greenkeepers.

It is worth its weight in gold and should definitely be supported. That so many multi-nationals come here shows the reputation and size of the organisation. Anyone is welcome here.

The views expressed within this column are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

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