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# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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# It's back!

## FEATURED INSIDE

### The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition returns to Harrogate



**John Clarke of Woburn Golf Club**



## ALSO INSIDE...

**BIGGA DELEGATION ANNOUNCED  
WINTER COURSE MANAGEMENT Q&A**





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Turf Managers Conference 2012

## BTME brings New Year Cheer

**A Happy New Year to all, let's hope it brings better weather and economic conditions than the last and that the amazing year of sport we've witnessed leads to an upturn in participation meaning more golfers and more golf.**

Certainly the heroics of the European Ryder Cup team and Rory McIlroy's ascent to being the sport's number one superstar should provide inspiration and I know our industry is desperate to provide the excellent playing surfaces that make the game so enjoyable.

January is BTME month, the exhibition looks buoyant with many of our exhibitors debuting new products and services that will make turf maintenance more efficient or effective. The Continue to Learn education programme is filling up nicely with the Turf Managers Conference on Monday 21st going particularly well. The balance of technical turf matters with management topics is a great reflection of the role of the Course or Facility Manager and I know that all those who attend will leave having gained knowledge and skills that will benefit their surfaces and by extension their customers.

Visitor numbers look very healthy with pre-registrations up on this time last year, I would urge all of you who are intending to come to go through the pre-registration process on [btme.org.uk](http://btme.org.uk) to avoid the queues on arrival. All in all the signs are all pointing to another superb festival of turf management with the suppliers and manufacturers providing the platform for a few days of fantastic networking, I look forward to seeing you in Harrogate.

On a less positive note we have started to hear rumours of non-exhibiting companies who are planning to come to Harrogate and attempt to do business with visitors inside or outside of the Exhibition Halls. The Americans call this practice 'Suitcasing' but I have a stronger term for it – Hijacking. BTME is a brilliant vehicle for getting thousands of greenkeeping and groundsman professionals together and driving standards up. The hundreds of exhibitors who take space in the

Halls provide this platform and any company who seeks to take advantage of this 'Hijacking' is doing the entire industry damage. I would strongly urge any of you who are or have been approached by a non-exhibiting company not just to deny them your time but to make it clear to them that their actions are unacceptable. We understand that BTME is not a viable option for a number of companies but they should have the good grace to respect those who are contributing to the event.

During BTME I am very much looking forward to meeting up with the ten successful BIGGA members (see page 26) who will make up the Bernhards Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month. This initiative is now into its 11th year and I know a high proportion of previous delegates believe that the experience of taking part has had a significant positive impact on their careers. Our thanks again to Stephen Bernhard for his long term support of this fantastic member benefit.

My New Year's Resolution (or at least one of them!) is to stop moaning about the weather but I fear I'm in the wrong industry for this. A look back over the last twelve months of magazines shows that water – either the lack of it or far too much of it – has dominated conversation. In this edition we look at the way one club, Woburn, has chosen to address their particular needs (page 28) and hope to focus in future editions on the many innovative solutions that our members have found.

Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

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## GI NEW PRODUCTS

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BTME SPECIAL

Here's just a small selection of some of the new products, competitions and other surprises you can enjoy at BTME 2013...



### GRASS SUBBUTERO

British Seed Houses is looking to put its own mark on the BTME 2013 by showcasing a grass subbuter competition on the BTME stand. The machine is designed to be used on a variety of grasses and is expected to be a popular choice for the winner of the competition, to be held at BTME.

### New Syngenta Turf XC nozzle launch for BTME

Syngenta is launching its new Turf XC nozzle range at BTME. Designed to improve the accuracy and results from every application, the Turf XC nozzle range overcomes the key issues facing turf spray operators to achieve optimum, consistent results. The nozzle range includes a range of nozzle designs with a wide spray range, to produce an improved droplet distribution, capable of delivering 90% turf coverage at low nozzle heights. This reduces problems with drift and applications that can result in uneven spray distribution.

### Win an iPad!

Enter to win an iPad! The iPad is a powerful tool for turf professionals. It's easy to use, and it's always with you. Enter now to win one of the limited number of iPads available. The iPad is a powerful tool for turf professionals. It's easy to use, and it's always with you. Enter now to win one of the limited number of iPads available.



### GRASS GROUP LAUNCH VACUUM SWEEPER AT BTME

The Grass Group will be exhibiting the Tolo 31 vacuum sweeper for the first time at BTME. Purpose developed for use behind compact tractors delivering 20hp plus at the PTO, the 1.5m machine with Tolo 31 has a large, high-capacity container.

### TRACKING SUCCESS WITH COURSETRACKER

CourseTracker, the new digital business management tool for golf courses, is being launched on the BTME stand. CourseTracker is a cloud-based system that allows golf course managers to track and manage their business operations. The system is designed to be used on a variety of devices, including smartphones and tablets. CourseTracker gives you the power to track and manage your business operations and improve your bottom line. The system is designed to be used on a variety of devices, including smartphones and tablets.



### DLF TRIFOLIUM OFFER PRIZES

Following on from the successful launch of their new Trifolium turf culture, Armonio, within the DLF stand at BTME 2013 will have a chance to win a bag of Armonio turf. The turf is a high-quality product that is designed to be used on a variety of golf courses. The turf is a high-quality product that is designed to be used on a variety of golf courses.



## Destination San Diego

Meet the ten delegates preparing for the next Bernhard trip

<p><b>BRUCE HICKS</b> - Head Greenkeeper, Boston Golf Club</p> <p>Bruce has spent his whole 22 year greenkeeping career at Boston and Hills City &amp; Clubs 2 and 3. He is also a member of the BPGA and has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years.</p>	<p><b>PAUL HADLEY</b> - Head Greenkeeper, Newport Golf Club</p> <p>Paul has worked as a greenkeeper at Newport for 15 years, and became Head Greenkeeper six years ago. He studied for his NVQ in Sports Turf at Newport College and is currently on a distance learning programme at Newport College.</p>
<p><b>RICHARD JENNISON</b> - Deputy Course Manager, O'Connell</p> <p>Richard has been an Assistant Greenkeeper at O'Connell for 15 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years.</p>	<p><b>JAMES PARKER</b> - Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Chose House Golf &amp; Country Club</p> <p>James was a student course until 2007 when he started his career at Chose House Golf &amp; Country Club. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years.</p>
<p><b>ROBERT CLARE</b> - Course Manager, Brough Golf Club</p> <p>Robert has been a course manager at Brough Golf Club for 12 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years.</p>	<p><b>DERRICK JOHNSON</b> - Deputy Head Greenkeeper, The Westwood Club</p> <p>Derrick has been a greenkeeper at The Westwood Club for 15 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years. He has been a member of the BPGA for 10 years.</p>

These are the ten BPGA members who will be heading to San Diego for the Golf Industry Show next month courtesy of Bernhard - what's sure to be a once in a lifetime experience.





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## JERSEY BLOG

We've had a good response to last month's blogging article – and one of the most progressive greenkeeper blogs has emerged on the island of Jersey.

John Critchley, greenkeeper at Les Mielles Golf & Country Club, maintains an impressive blog with frequent updates and images of the team at work on the Championship course which is in a picturesque conservation area of the island.

Read it for yourself at [www.lesmiellesgroundscrow.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.lesmiellesgroundscrow.blogspot.co.uk). It's also pleasing to note that it's given a very prominent spot on the club's website – clearly visible at the top of the text on the homepage.

John says: "I started the blog in October last year to make the members aware of what we're doing and educate them on why we follow certain practices. For example, when hollow coring greens you always tend to hear the same things from unhappy golfers. However when they are informed in advance via the blog, and we explain the benefits, they are more understanding. We also have a busy schedule ahead of us, including rebuilding and adding

a few bunkers, tee renovations, and drainage works, so it's a good portfolio for our greenkeeping team. It has certainly created a good communication link between the members and our team, I believe it's shown them we are dedicated and take pride in what we do.

"The feedback from the Club has been positive. Members who you never thought would come to us say they have been following the blog which is great. I feel the majority of golfers don't understand what our job entails. When the weather's bad some believe we either go home or sit in the break room drinking coffee. Actually we're servicing the machines, setting up mowers, cleaning and organizing store sheds, doing paint work and all manner of other tasks. It's important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

"The members know they have the option to contact me for more information, I am easily approachable. It's benefited the membership, the management and it's created a kind of buzz within our team."





## GCMA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The Golf Club Managers Association is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Bob Williams.

Bob is well known to many within the Association already, having been in golf club management for 20 years, previously Manager at Long Ashton GC and latterly at Chipping Sodbury GC.

He is also an active member in the South West Region, notably spearheading their educational activities in recent years. Bob also played an active part in the Association's planning group for the 2011 National Conference. He is also currently working with the Association's Gill Bridle and Bucks New University to help develop the education programme there, including preparation of the course content.

He was already scheduled to help with a presentation at the BTME Show at Harrogate in January, and will be attending the Regional Secretaries Conference at Weston-super-Mare at the end of January also.

Bob will formally commence work at Weston-super-Mare on the 1st February 2013, initially working closely with current CEO Keith Lloyd for a month's handover period before Keith departs at the end of February.



## GEORGE PITTS BECOMES LATEST MG

George Pitts - Course Manager at Yelverton Golf Club - has been announced as BIGGA's latest Master Greenkeeper.

George, who is also Secretary for the Devon & Cornwall Section, lives in Okehampton and described how pleased he was to have been awarded the accolade, while highlighting how important education is.

He said: "Achieving the Master Greenkeeper certificate has been my career objective since completing my HND in 2000. It's a great process, ensuring you meet the highest industry standards and promote professionalism to the wider golfing community.

"Education and training is key to improving the integrity of the profession and the Association. Thank you to Yelverton Golf Club for their support during the process and to various peers in the industry for their help and guidance."

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

BIGGA volunteers are once again required to help Kenny MacKay and his team at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship between May 23-26 2013. Assistance will be required for any period of time during the tournament - from all four days to just one day.

The last two days will feature bunker raking. It's a great chance to see at first hand the preparation for this European Tour flagship event, which will be held on the West Course. All assistance will be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk) or call Clive on 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.



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## GET ACTIVE UNDER THE SNOW BLANKET

Recent snowfall across England and Scotland, combined with the sudden plunge in temperatures from icy northerly winds, has highlighted the risk of damaging Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch attack, warns Syngenta Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson.

He pointed out that while last December last year was memorable for the incessant rainfall and unseasonably mild temperatures, prolonged periods of snow cover have been more common in recent seasons - resulting in extensive damage to unprotected turf beneath the snow blanket.

"When snowfall threatens, greenkeepers and turf managers must be ready to make a Medallion TL application and get protection in place early," he advised. "Treatment now means they can relax over the Christmas period, with the assurance their turf is protected."

Dr Watson reported that in 2010 the temperatures quickly plummeted, with many areas under significant snow cover by early December. Although temperatures eased in the second week with a welcome thaw, mid-month saw a return to icy conditions and a further 10 to 14 days snow cover for many areas.

"Experiences in 2010 highlighted that when the snow thawed, turf without fungicide protection had been seriously hit. However, turf managers who had applied Medallion TL ahead of forecast snow cover and predicted high disease risk conditions, reported very good results with turf remaining disease free."

In 2010, Hanbury Manor Golf Club Golf and Estate Manager, Stan Power, applied Medallion TL just prior to 10 days of snow cover. When the snow receded, visual results on the treated greens were very good and disease free, whilst Fusarium infection had started to occur on untreated surrounds.

Further heavy snowfall through December prevented further treatment, yet when the snow melted the trial greens still showed no signs of disease. On final inspection - six weeks after application - Stan reported all the greens treated with Medallion TL had come through the harsh winter period with no signs of disease. The untreated green, however, had seen a substantial amount of disease on the main playing surface and collars.

"We have been very happy with the results at Hanbury Manor, and would not hesitate to recommend Medallion TL to other courses as a contact fungicide," he added.

## SOUTH EAST GOLF & DINNER

Walton Heath Golf Club hosts one of greenkeeping's longest running events on Friday 8th March 2013. Please come along and support this hugely popular day.

For more details please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk) or call 01737 819343 or 07841 948410

## WHAT IS PHOSPHITE AND WHAT CAN IT DO FOR TURFGRASSES?

Phosphorous is a major plant nutrient, in plants taken up and used in the form of phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>). Phosphite (PO<sub>3</sub>) is very similar to phosphate, only one molecule of oxygen in the difference. However, where phosphate is vital for plant growth, phosphite cannot be utilised by plants as a source of P nutrition and importantly should not be applied to P deficient plants.

Phosphite, derived from phosphorous acid is phototoxic and has to be modified prior to use with a neutralising substance - most commonly potassium hydroxide, producing potassium phosphite - currently marketed as a biostimulant and promoted as a means to reduce Microdochium nivale.

We have two questions to answer; Does phosphite suppress Microdochium nivale in turfgrasses? And by what means does this occur?

To date field trials and laboratory procedures have produced interesting results. Trial plots composed of three turfgrass species were established in 2010, to which treatments were applied and the effect on disease incidence and turfgrass quality assessed.

Plots are assessed monthly for disease occurrence and turf quality. Results have shown applications of potassium phosphite reduces disease by 50%, compared to untreated controls. Combinations of Chipco Green and PK Plus fully inhibited disease, indicating differing

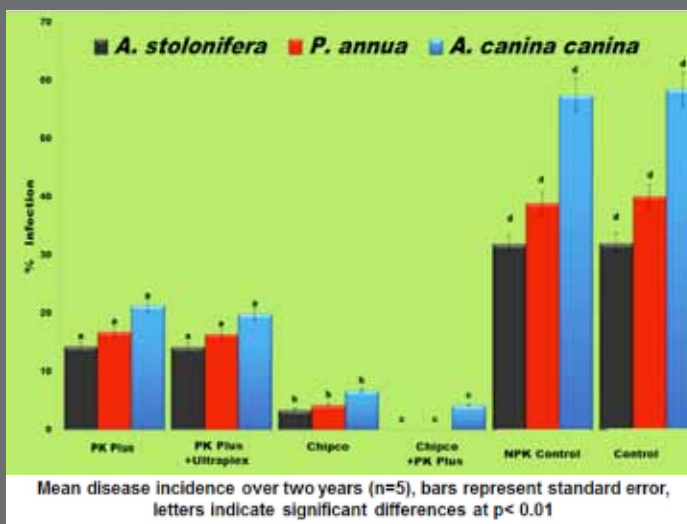
modes of suppression or possible synergistic effect. A significant improvement in turf quality in all phosphite treated plots was also determined. How does this occur? There are two possible methods:

Direct - Phosphite acts as a fungicide - and indirect - Phosphite stimulates the plants natural defences.

To test whether phosphite acts as a fungicide we carried out a range of in vitro studies. Microdochium was grown on petri dishes, amended with concentrations of phosphite and phosphate, the growth then compared to unamended controls. Results showed concentrations of 100µg/ml of phosphite fully inhibited mycelial growth and at lower concentrations caused disruption of hyphal morphology. Phosphate amended samples caused no effect.

Using a range of laboratory procedures we determined that following foliar applications there was rapid assimilation and accumulations in turfgrass leaves, full systemic mobility and no conversion in the plant to phosphate.

In summary, what can be concluded from the results of this research to date is that routine and sequential applications of phosphite, as part of an integrated disease management program, will significantly reduce the incidence and severity of the disease and also gives rise to significantly improved turfgrass quality than untreated controls.







## HOLLAND IN AUSTRALIA

Abbie Holland, a greenkeeper from West Sussex Golf Club, tells GI about an incredible few months working at Lake Karrinyup Country Club in Australia

I applied for a working holiday visa to Australia and emailed every course I could find with my CV. Lake Karrinyup replied offering me an eight-week contract over the Perth International tournament being held in October 2012.

I packed my backpack, said goodbye to my friends and family and travelled to Australia. I started my adventure by diving the great barrier reef, swimming in the rainforest, whale watching, feeding dolphins and camping with dingos – incredible.

When I walked up to the immaculately presented gardens and lush turf of Lake Karrinyup Country Club I couldn't believe my eyes. On my first day I met the 18-strong team and was handed a uniform, safety equipment and immediately offered places to stay and any help I could possibly need. I had landed on my feet for sure!

I was soon asked to hand mow for the first time because I'm used to ride on mowers. I struggled for a bit but the supervisors all showed me different techniques and set me

loose on the practice areas! After a week I was cutting greens.

In the build-up to the big tournament I learnt how to maintain and hand mow bent collars, present bunkers by brooming the face and raking the middle and about the properties of bent, cooch and kygoogie grass. We renovated the bunkers in no time, with one person edging, two flymoing high cut and low cut, one strimming, two using back pack blowers, three raking up, and two brooming the faces, followed by a bunker rake. Before this it was beyond me how bunkers could be done so quickly and efficiently.

We scarified and top dressed the greens and cut out new aprons with triple x mowers - and I had to stop to move the long neck turtle in my way. I also helped out with mulching, weeding, tidying up the rough areas, patching the fairways and general day to day maintenance. Gradually tv crews and scaffolding went up, the course was looking superb and I felt so proud to be part of it.

We were all designated

jobs for the tournament and mine was striping the tees. The third in charge put dots on all the tees at the front and the back so I could line my reel up with them and begin burning in straight lines down the fairway. The same was done for fairways and the greens were being double cut. A few times we had to be up before the sun, but to keep my lines straight I was given a light to stick at the end of the tee. It was a bit surreal at times, especially when I'd be mowing next to a kangaroo. Due to it being so well organised we were all relaxed and had a great laugh. My plans now is stay in Perth because I really have become settled here and enjoy the climate. Pushing up bunkers, cutting holes in the frost and digging through mud is almost a thing of the past due to the sandy soils and hardly ever rains.

I would advise anyone thinking about travelling to do so. Personally, I've had such a positive and happy experience due to the people and their attitude and I hope to take my knowledge with me to my next course.

**RT**  
rigby taylor



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## JOIN THE TURF CLUB

Jack Sims, assistant greenkeeper at the Wentworth Club, has started The West London Turf Club – a series of sessions where greenkeepers learn and chat about hot topics in the industry. The first club that GI knows of was set up by Anthony Stockwell at The London Club. Jack is now urging other BIGGA members to get involved.

Jack said: “I started my NVQ2 in sports turf management while working full-time at Ealing Golf Club under Greg Evans.

“Throughout my studies I felt a little behind compared to some of the other young greenkeepers, but once it was completed I went on to start my NVQ3, again with Distance learning.

“I still felt I was missing out on that ‘classroom effect’ that I witnessed at school, where people would ask questions that others hadn’t even thought to ask, debate different theories and come to a solution as a group.

“Greg then told me of a ‘Turf Club’ that was being advertised on the BIGGA bulletin boards at The London Club. I knew this was what I was looking for, other Greenkeepers in the same situation, going through some of the basics, as well as more advanced areas and some of the hot topics of the time.

“In January 2011, I took part in my first ever turf club at The London Club. The organiser Anthony Stockwell gave a great presentation on Creeping bent grass. This was followed by an exercise in which



involved us breaking down into smaller teams and discussing the pros and cons of different grass species.

“A month or so later I was stood in front of a screen, talking about ‘TurfGrass for putting Greens’, in a room full of other Greenkeepers at Ealing Golf Club. The day was a success so it was announced we would be doing it again the following month at Richmond Golf Club, with a new topic. This was the start of The West London Turf Club’.

“We are still going strong, and with each one, new faces appear. I have learnt a lot, and met a lot of new people. I would urge greenkeepers up and down the country to get together and do something similar.”

The next meetings of the West London turf club are; 9 January at Richmond GC, 6 February at Ealing GC, 6 March at Richmond GC and 3 April at Ealing GC. For more information contact@jacksims1991 on twitter or jacksims91@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Greg Evans at @gregevanmsg on twitter or gregevanmsg@gmail.com

**RT**  
rigby taylor



What will be  
the hot news  
spreading around  
the show?

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# Chairman's Word

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

## BTME will kick-start 2013

**Firstly, I hope you and your families had a very enjoyable festive period, and you're ready for a positive 2013...and BTME!**

BTME is a huge highlight of the year for me, as I'm sure it is for many of you. I'm sure you've all made arrangements for accommodation and what you'll be doing while you're there. If you truly have left it until the last minute, get it sorted now!

At the time of writing there were still places available on our superb education workshops and seminars – visit the BIGGA website or [btme.org.uk](http://btme.org.uk) and if you're lucky you may snap a place up.

I've attended every single day of every BTME since it began and can honestly say I've thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

I've visited as a delegate, Section committee member, Regional/National Board member, Vice-Chairman and am proud that this year I will be representing the Association as Chairman, cutting the ribbon to officially open the exhibition.

I will of course be attending the AGM. It will be held on the Wednesday of the exhibition at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

I really would encourage you to come along, it's an opportunity to find out more about our future plans and the direction we intend the Association to be heading in.

Our CEO Jim Croxton will make a presentation outlining the main strategies for BIGGA over the next year or two and will concentrate, I am sure, on the role that the current membership has to play in helping drive the Association and the profession of greenkeeping forward. As usual he and I will be available for questions thereafter.

January is of course a time for looking forward to the New Year,



Tony (right) with BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, and past chairman, Andrew Mellon at BTME 2012

and I feel that this year it's more important than ever to be positive and really go for it in 2013. We all know 2012 was a tough year, and no-one was immune from the appalling wet weather.

As I write this in mid-December, my golf course, Teesside, has been closed for weeks. It was also closed for a period in summer, and all in all it's been closed for longer in 2012 than it ever has been in the past. Our sewage pipe has also overflowed twice due to the wet weather, and you can imagine the problems that caused (or maybe you shouldn't).

I have great sympathy for all greenkeepers who are giving their all in these conditions.

Of course you can plan for the worst weather and react - up to a point - but there can't be many industries where things are so beyond your control as they have been this year.

To keep our heads above water (sorry about the pun!) we need to pull together, and if we do we'll emerge refreshed, able to give golf-

**BTME always helps the industry come together and I fully expect this to be the case again this year**

ers the courses they expect and hopefully looking forward to a fine and dry spring.

BTME always helps the industry come together and I fully expect this to be the case again this year.

I would like to close by congratulating the ten BIGGA members who have been selected to form the Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month.

As ever the standard of applications was incredibly high and I know the successful candidates will represent the Association with distinction while having an amazing opportunity to improve their greenkeeping knowledge and network.

See you in Harrogate.  
Regards, Tony

### Contact details

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**Contact<sup>+</sup>** action delivers **fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch** along with **outstanding long-lasting protection.**

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TM

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# Learning & Development

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

The jingle bells have been put away, Santa's elves have gone on holiday and we've sung Auld Lang Syne so that can only mean that it's 2013. Happy New Year from all of us in the Learning and Development Department, may it be happy, healthy and prosperous.

You all know what January means in the greenkeeping calendar - BTME, and more specifically for L&D, the Continue to Learn education programme.



## Continue to Learn

The Continue to Learn programme this year offers more than 180 hours of education with subjects ranging from IT skills to the A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance. The education offerings range from 30 minutes in length to 2 days and everything in between. You can view the full programme on the BTME website [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk).

Our American friends, Thom Nikolai from Michigan State University (aka The Doctor of Green Speed) and Curtis Tyrrell MG, CGCS from Medinah Golf & Country Club in Chicago will both be featuring on the education programme, discussing subjects including the Ryder Cup and putting green speed.

Have you pre-booked your place at the seminars? As a BIGGA member you have the opportunity to guarantee your seat for the seminars that you want to attend. 70 vouchers have been made available for each of the 28 seminars on offer. The remaining 40-50 seats will be available on a first come, first serve basis as in previous years.

Please remember that if you have pre-booked vouchers they will need to be exchanged for a ticket at least one hour before the seminar takes



**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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[stuart@bigga.co.uk](mailto:stuart@bigga.co.uk)

01347 833800 (option 3)  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



place. You can exchange your vouchers in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre.

Bookings can be made through the website, by calling Rachael on 01347 833800 (option 3) or completing the booking form in the Continue to Learn brochure.

The closing date for bookings is Friday 11 January 2013.

We look forward to seeing you all in Harrogate.



## BTME

The BIGGA stand at BTME 2013 (Stand B23) will have an area dedicated to Learning and Development. Stuart Green will be in residence to provide you with information on a range of topics including:

- Apprenticeships
- Continuing Professional Development
- Assistants Development Programme
- Future Turf Managers Initiative
- Master Greenkeeper
- Scholarships and funding
- Online learning provision

## BIGGA James Bond Evening

If you haven't planned your Tuesday night entertainment for BTME week why not join BIGGA at the James Bond Evening?

Held at The Old Swan Hotel from 7.00 pm you will be treated to all things related to Bond, James Bond. Tickets are £25.00 each and include a drink on arrival, dinner and casino chips.

To purchase your ticket call Elaine Jones on 01347 833800 (option 1) or email [moneypenny@bigga.co.uk](mailto:moneypenny@bigga.co.uk).





# BIGGA Membership

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

## Happy New Year and Welcome to 2013

### Pre-register for BTME 2013

Why not start your year off with a visit to BTME 2013? You can still pre-register to avoid the queues, visit [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) and click on the 'Register Now' button.

Opening times for BTME 2013 are: -

**Tuesday 22nd January 2013 - 9am - 5pm**

**Wednesday 23rd January 2013 - 9am - 5pm**

**Thursday 24th January 2013 - 9am - 4pm**

If you have previously used the Park and Ride, please note this will not be in operation for 2013. For a full list of car parks in Harrogate visit [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) or see pages 23 of this issue. The hopper service will still be in use.

### BIGGA Stand - B23

Remember to plan a visit to the BIGGA Stand to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on: -

- Membership and Merchandise
- Member Services and Benefits
- Learning and Development
- Sales and Exhibition information
- Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A, plus an offer where BIGGA members can take advantage of offers from SkyCaddie. Please note: The Showfloor Theatre will now not be appearing at BTME 2013 as previously stated in this column.

### BIGGA Annual General Meeting

The BIGGA AGM, open to all Members of BIGGA (only FULL Members are entitled to vote) will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite, remember to bring your membership card with you. If you are unable to attend and wish to send your apologies please email



[membership@bigga.co.uk](mailto:membership@bigga.co.uk) or visit the BIGGA Stand during the show.

### Personal Accident Insurance Cover for FULL Members

As part of the membership benefits BIGGA cover all full members for personal accident insurance. This means that if any full member has an accident, at work, at home, or even playing sport and is off work through that injury they can potentially claim through the personal accident insurance.

The insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which results in death, loss of limbs or sight, hearing and speech, permanent disability or temporary disability. There are additional payments for medical expenses, funeral expenses, hospitalisation, bodily injury resulting in a coma, retraining and relatives travel expenses.

Temporary total disability is a weekly compensation resulting from bodily injury which temporarily prevents you from carrying out the whole of your occupational duties, e.g. you may have an accident whilst playing football which means you are unable to go to work, an amount of £50 (increased in 2012 from £35), please note there is no amount payable for the first 4 weeks.

### Members Bulletin Boards

All members can gain access to

the Members area of the BIGGA website and gain access to the bulletin boards, if you want to take advantage of a vast network of professional greenkeepers, this is the place to be!

The current top 5 postings are: -

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Keeping a clean shed
- T1 creeping bentgrass
- File sharing
- Rain water harvesting



### Why not pay your membership subscription monthly?

If you want to pay for your membership subscription monthly then why not join our direct debit scheme, if you choose to pay by monthly direct debit you can pay over 1, 5 or 10 instalments spreading the cost of your subscription. There is a small administration charge involved but if you pay by this method your membership will just continue year on year.

### Keep up to date instantly with Twitter and Facebook

Keep up to date with all that's happening BIGGA wise on Facebook and Twitter. You can find us on Twitter on @BIGGALtd and search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA) Facebook group.

Information on all the membership benefits and services can be found at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and log into the members area.





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(option 1 for Membership)

 You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

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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

# BTME 2013

## The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:



**BIGGA Seminars  
& Workshops**

**20-23  
January 2013**



Your essential 8-page guide to the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

**It's now just days until the event of the year – BTME 2013. A host of exhibitors are launching exciting new products during the exhibition – see our sneak preview in our New Product Special on pages 18-21.**

**Here's some key last-minute information.**

### **EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES**

Opening times: Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd (9am-5pm). Thursday 24th January 2013 (9am-4pm).

### **CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE**

At the time of going to press some seminars and workshops still had spare places – however these are limited so please book NOW to avoid disappointment. To reserve your place please click on the Continue to Learn logo at [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk)

### **MEDIA CENTRE**

If you are press and PR, please visit [btme.org.uk/media](http://btme.org.uk/media) for the full timetable

### **CATERING**

Hot meals will be available in Hall C, which will also house a coffee bar, a licensed bar and an internet café. Hot snacks will be on sale in Hall B.

### **WIFI**

Delegates and exhibitors can enjoy free wi-fi access during the show in Halls A, B and C. Please note that the speed of the connection – 0.5MB - will be suitable for checking emails and browsing rather than playing videos or demonstrations.

Any exhibitors requiring a large bandwidth need to order this directly from Harrogate International Centre.

Further details are available at [www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk](http://www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk)

### **BIGGA STAND B23**

Our stand is based in the same spot as last year and we expect it to be a hive of activity – so come and see us. Remember to plan a visit to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on: -

- Membership and Merchandise
- Member Services and Benefits



- Learning and Development
- Sales and Exhibition information
- Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

BIGGA merchandise will also be available, so if you have any ques-

**Win  
an iPad!**  
Come and see  
CourseTracker on  
the BIGGA stand  
(B23) for the chance  
to win an iPad!



# 22-24 January 2013 at the Harrogate International Centre

# BTME

Tuesday 22nd January 9am-5pm  
 Wednesday 23rd January 9am-5pm  
 Thursday 24th January 9am-4pm



## CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

### Sunday 20 January

Continue to Learn Workshop  
 Registration  
 9.00 am – 9.30 am  
 Continue to Learn Workshops  
 9.30 am – 5.30 pm

### Monday 21 January

Turf Managers' Conference  
 Registration  
 8.15 am – 8.55 am  
 Turf Managers' Conference  
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm  
 Continue to Learn Workshop  
 Registration  
 8.30 am – 9.00 am  
 Continue to Learn Workshops  
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

### Tuesday 22 January

Continue to Learn Education  
 Programme  
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

### Wednesday 23 January

Continue to Learn Education  
 Programme  
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm



tions – or just want to put a face to a name! – we'll see you at B23.

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A – and a special offer for BIGGA members from SkyCad-die.

# GI

# NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

BTME  
SPECIAL

BTME

Here's just a small selection of some of the new products, competitions and other surprises you can enjoy at BTME 2013...



## GRASS SUBBUTEO

British Seed Houses is looking to put an extra 'kick' into its stand at BTME by staging a penalty shoot-out competition on a Subbuteo-size soccer pitch made up of real grass!

The UK's largest privately-owned grass seed company is offering 40 kilos of the Bent grass of their choice to the winner of the competition, to be held at BTME.

The pitch is being grown on one of BSH's cultivars, with timing critical to have it in best condition for 'the big kick-off'.

"Visitors to our stand, A45 in Hall A, will be invited to take five penalties against their favourite BSH representative. The highest score over the three days will win," said Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager for BSH.

Richard, who is acting as 'head groundsman' for the pitch, said: "It's a labour of love to get the pitch ready. I'm monitoring it regularly and every few days give it a trim with a pair of clippers.

"In the meantime, my colleagues have been practising being goalkeeper, with varying degrees of success. No-one has yet shown themselves to be the table football equivalent of Peter Schmeichel or Gordon Banks!"



## New Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle launch for BTME

Syngenta is to launch its new XC range of turf sprayer nozzles at BTME. Designed to improve the accuracy and results from every application, the Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle range overcomes the key issues facing turf spray operators to achieve even application.

An entirely new engineered solution incorporates a unique orifice design with a wide spray angle, to produce an improved droplet distribution - capable of delivering even turf coverage at low nozzle heights. This resolves problems with slopes and undulations that can result in uneven spray distribution.

Furthermore, the XC Nozzle design utilises new air induction technology to reduce the risk of spray drift, whilst still creating significantly more droplets to enhance leaf coverage. To deliver more effective results, each nozzle in the range has a specifically calculated and tested rearwards facing spray pattern, which counteracts the forward movement of the sprayer to coat and protect all sides of the turf leaf.

The XC Nozzle range will launch at BTME with three sizes: 025; 04 and 08 - selected to cover most turf applications at appropriate water volumes and typical spraying speeds.

To find out more and see a demonstration of the nozzles, along with calibration tips and practical ideas to improve the Art of Application, visit the Syngenta stand B52 at BTME, or visit [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk)

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



coursetracker  
Monitor your course performance  
Get started

How does my club benefit?

Win an iPad!  
Come and see CourseTracker on the BIGGA stand (B23) for the chance to win an iPad!

coursetracker

## TRACKING SUCCESS WITH COURSETRACKER

CourseTracker, the new free digital business management tool for golf courses, is being launched on the Tuesday of BTME on the BIGGA Stand (B23). It has been developed by The R&A specifically to help your club establish and maintain a secure business model and become better equipped to deal with the growing economic and environmental challenges facing our industry.

CourseTracker gives you the power to track and assess course related revenue streams and course-related expenditure, staff allocation, help with benchmarking and successfully plan for the future.

For a time investment of only one hour a year, and using simple information available from your annual balance sheet, CourseTracker will deliver easy to follow charts and reports that will give you a clear indication of how you are currently performing and will enable you to make the best decisions for future operations.

CourseTracker will provide you with the clear, transparent, specific and direct information you need to make the case for how your course needs to be managed. The tool will help you to justify your decisions and support your proposals for cost effective and resource efficient management. CourseTracker will highlight your contribution and your value to the club.

CourseTracker is completely free and all entered data is totally secure and confidential. As an added benefit, the tool also enables anonymous in-country comparisons for benchmarking your operation against that of other similar facilities. In these tough economic times, it can be of great benefit to have a good understanding of how you are performing compared to other golf facilities of similar size, resources and structure.

Developed by The R&A in direct consultation with hundreds of Course Managers, Club Managers, Secretaries and Owners from around the world, CourseTracker is a pioneering new management tool for decision makers at golf facilities.

You can begin using CourseTracker today at [www.golfcoursemanagement.randa.org](http://www.golfcoursemanagement.randa.org)



## GRASS GROUP LAUNCH VACUUM SWEEPER AT BTME

The Grass Group will be exhibiting the Trilo S3 trailed Vacuum Sweeper for the first time at BTME. Purpose developed for use behind compact tractors delivering 28hp plus at the PTO, the 1.5m working width Trilo S3 has a large, high tip 3m<sup>3</sup> capacity container.

Suitable for the collection of grass clippings, leaves and litter, the full floating brush head sweeps and gathers material that is vacuumed into the container to leave a clean finish. A key design feature is the unit's low ground bearing pressure. This enables it to be used on fine turf with minimal surface disturbance and allows operation in conditions where heavier designs may be compromised.

Among other equipment on display will be the Rota-Dairon RGD140 Disk Overseeder. Well-proven in the care and renovation of all types of turf, to include fine turf, the 1400mm working width machine uses discs to cut a slice through the turf, a coulter opening the groove out to allow the accurate placement of seed. The opening is then closed and firmed by a rubber press. A key advantage of the unit is that it leaves a surface that can be pressed back into play immediately. Pay us a visit at Stand A35.

## DLF TRIFOLIUM OFFER PRIZES

Following on from the successful launch of their new 'Tenuis Bent' cultivar, Arrowtown, visitors to the DLF stand at BTME 2013 will have a chance to win a bag of Johnsons All Bent mixture that includes this top performing cultivar. In fact everyday will see a winner walking away with a bag, with one lucky person over the three days picking up a Virgin Experience day for 2 people!

Whilst a Virgin Experience day will allow the winner to experience one of many activities, a bag of Johnsons All Bent will show how Arrowtown delivers the tight, dense surface that is demanded of a high-speed modern green. With the added benefit of high disease tolerance, Arrowtown has a natural vigour that enables it to recover quickly from renovation, with improved drought stress and colour retention in a dry summer.

Also on stand will be the new 2013 Johnsons Sport Seed catalogue and a chance to discuss the latest mixtures, and review the cultivars, with a free copy of the 2013 Turfgrass Seed booklet.



Visit [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) and click the Register Now icon



## HEADLAND HEAD TO BTME

Headland Amenity is bringing its range of innovative turf nutrition, health and management products to BTME 2103 at Harrogate.

Using the latest technology to offer greenkeepers practical solutions to turfcare issues, Headland will introduce Xtend 10-10-10+2Mgo at the show. This is a unique pre-seeding fertiliser ideal for use on golf tees, fairways and surrounds as well as winter sports pitches, cricket outfields and racecourse turf.

Suitable for application after any renovation work and after cutting, Xtend 10-10-10 uses Crystal Green, a new source of slow-release phosphorus, nitrogen and magnesium recovered from UK waste water. With additional slow release nitrogen providing release for up to three months, a composted organic base, seaweed meal and humic acid, the product is able to aid germination and gentle establishment of new grasses.

Xtend 10-10-10 will provide natural, effective nutrition over a long period while helping to cut workloads for greenkeeping teams with its slow release action.

Headland will also feature its mini prilled fertiliser formulations, Multiverdo 13-0-46 and Multigreen 24-0-24.

Multiverdo is a fine prilled potassium nitrate suitable for all turf, providing immediately available nitrogen along with good levels of plant hardening potassium. The sulphur free formulation works rapidly under cooler temperatures to aid early establishment, and plant hardiness.

Headland Amenity's Sales and Marketing Director Andy Russell comments: "We have some exciting products to show to Course Managers and Greenkeepers at BTME, spearheaded by Xtend 10-10-10 which takes the latest technology to utilise a waste product which can really enhance establishment and turf recovery. Headland fertilisers not only offer great results from the turf but can also help to cut greenkeepers workloads by providing nutrition over a longer period."

## Aquatrols: The Creation of an Industry

Roughly 60 years ago, Robert A. Moore pondered over a puddle in a friend's garden – a seemingly minor moment that would go on to forever change the water management practices of green industry professionals worldwide.

A chemical engineer in research at Mobil Oil, Moore's science-driven curiosity led him to experiment with various surfactant blends to remedy water movement issues.

Recognizing that using surfactants to improve water penetration and reduce water waste had implications beyond the garden, Moore decided to patent and market his novel discovery.

In 1954 he founded Aquatrols Corporation of America, the first surfactant company specifically tailored to the needs of the Green Industry. Nearly six decades later, Aquatrols remains the market leader.

There have been plenty of changes in the field of turf management since Aquatrols introduced Aqua-Gro as the first commercially produced surfactant solution for turf maintenance. Aquatrols has over the years continued to develop Water Management products with Primer 604, Revolution and Dispatch.

There have also been changes for Aquatrols. After Robert Moore's retirement and subsequent passing, his three children helped navigate Aquatrols through a period of increased competition by channeling his spirit of innovation.

Though it no longer stands alone in an industry it created, Aquatrols continues to set itself apart with a commitment to science, education and conservation of precious resources. Today Aquatrols is proud to offer a line of cutting-edge surfactants and other specialty technologies that address a wide variety of turf managers' needs.

With its own fully staffed research and development department, a technically knowledgeable sales force, and a long history serving turf professionals, Aquatrols has no fear of the great number of competitive products that have flooded the market since the early days.

In an age of large corporations and constant mergers, it's refreshing to see a family owned and operated business that has not only survived for 58 years but has maintained a strong position of leadership in the industry. And to think it all started with a single puddle.

Demie Moore, Daughter of Robert A Moore will be talking on "The Evolution of Soil Surfactant Technology for enhanced Water Management" at BTME 2013 on Wednesday 23rd January 9.45am – 10.15am.

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



## ENVIROMONITORS CAN HELP YOU AT BTME

EnviroMonitors' measurement tools can help you save resources such as time, water and fertiliser applications. EnviroMonitors are exhibiting for the third year on Stand B5 at BTME 2013. Visit them to see how you can get the best out of your turf using science based handheld meters and weather monitoring.

EnviroMonitors' measurement technology partner Spectrum Technologies Inc shall be attending BTME 2013. Spectrum's Turf Specialist Greg Zumdahl is running the "World of Measurement Technology within Turfgrass Management" seminar on Tuesday 22 January 2013. We encourage you to come along to confirm and/or expand your knowledge and consider the tools you can put into practice at your club. The seminar will provide in-depth understanding of soil, plant, and environmental measurement technology tools available for turf custodians. Learn how to best use the tools available to solve turf problems and help maximise playability and profits. EnviroMonitors will be happy to talk you through the products Zumdahl shall be covering in this seminar on their Stand B5.

EnviroMonitors always enjoy BTME as visitors are enthused by the range of measurement tools available to assist with their daily decisions and improve their courses. Increased sales of FieldScout TDR100 and TDR300 Soil Moisture Meters have been seen throughout the UK and Ireland as they are quick and easy to use whilst being robust and accurate. Read Course Managers' experiences of FieldScout TDR meters on our website in case studies from Greg Evans at Ealing Golf Club, Daniel Lightfoot at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, and the Course Manager at gWest.

As well as FieldScout Soil Moisture Meters, the range EnviroMonitors offers includes weather monitoring on site or remotely using MeteoVue, and meters for measuring light, pH and chlorophyll levels to assess the health of your turfgrass. Stuart Hogg at St Annes Old Links has owned a Davis Instruments Vantage Pro weather station for many years and shares his thoughts on its use on our website.

## BLEC to launch new Sandfiller at Harrogate

BLEC GLOBAL will use BTME to launch new products for the grounds care and sportsturf marketplace.

As well as the new products, under wraps until the show, the BLEC team will be showing the proven GKB Sandfiller.

The Sandfiller has been specifically designed for aerating and draining sports turf. This tractor-mounted scarifier and sandlitter removes and collects spoil and fills grooves with sand in one pass.

Says BLEC managing director Gary Mumby: "Harrogate is a very important show for us where we get the chance to start the year by showing all our innovations for sportsturf and landscaping professionals.

"It is a great place to catch up with customers and old friends and we look forward to seeing them on Stand A40."



**Sandcat**

**Rotoknife**

**Shockwave**

**Greenwave**

**Get in touch for no obligation practical advice**

Call: +44 (0)1260 224568  
 Email: info@campeyturfcare.com  
 Web: www.campeyturfcare.com

**Campey**  
 TURF CARE SYSTEMS  
 QUALITY KNOWLEDGE EQUIPMENT

Campey Turf Care Systems – Specialist suppliers of groundcare equipment

Visit [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) and click the **Register Now** icon

# BTME: KEY INFO

## PARKING

The park and ride service has been discontinued, but the hopper service remains.

Also, there are several public car parks within easy reach of the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) – please see the map.

## ACCOMMODATION

The map shows the location of the main hotels within the town.



## How to find the HIC

Harrogate is located centrally on the UK map with ready access to London and Edinburgh.

A first-class motorway network, mainline rail, sea and 24-hour air links ensure that Harrogate is able to offer all the benefits expected of a truly global location.

Harrogate has excellent rail and air links with regular train services to and from London King's Cross via York and Leeds

([www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)) and Leeds Bradford International Airport is only 20 minutes from Harrogate with a regular bus service into Harrogate.

For details about travelling to Harrogate by public transport visit [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

Car

From London:

M1 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the North: A1 - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the East: M621 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the West: M56 - M62 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.



## Car Parks in Harrogate



**300 CAR SPACES**  
**8 BLUE BADGE**  
**HOLDER SPACES**

### HIC car park

- Pay & Display operation.
- Allocated spaces for Blue Badge Holders.
- Access to HIC.
- CCTV monitored entrance/exit.
- Open as required for events Monday to Sunday.
- Opening times displayed next to ticket machines.



**440 CAR SPACES**  
**30 BLUE BADGE**  
**HOLDER SPACES**

### Jubilee multi-storey car park

(Closest car park for Royal Hall, Hall A and Hall M entrances)

- 'Pay on foot' operation.
- Lifts to all floors.
- Toilets and baby changing facilities.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 11.59pm (vehicles can be left overnight subject to an appropriate fee on exit).



**803 CAR SPACES**  
**24 BLUE BADGE**  
**HOLDER SPACES**

### Victoria multi-storey car park (5 min. walk)

- 'Pay on foot' operation.
- Lifts to all floors.
- Covered walkway to town centre.
- Toilets and baby changing facilities.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7.30pm (Mon-Sat) 10am to 7pm (Sun & Bank Holidays) (vehicles can be left overnight subject to an appropriate fee on exit).



**331 CAR SPACES**  
**4 BLUE BADGE**  
**HOLDER SPACES**

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**88 CAR SPACES**

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**78 CAR SPACES**

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- Parking for 78 cars.



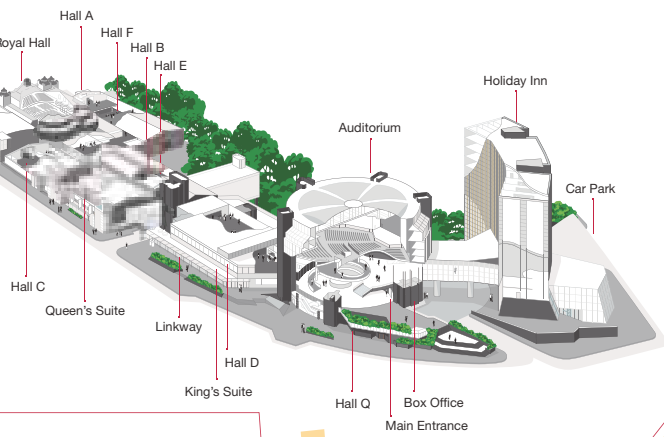
**65 CAR SPACES**

### Montpellier Shoppers car park (5 min. walk)

- Pay & Display operation.
- Parking for 65 cars.



# Harrogate International Centre



# Hotels in Harrogate

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
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| 2 Majestic Hotel   | 9 Holiday Inn Hotel  |
| 3 Old Swan Hotel   | 10 Cairn Hotel       |
| 4 St George Hotel  | 11 Cedar Court Hotel |
| 5 Crown Hotel      | 12 Studley Hotel     |
| 6 White Hart Hotel | 13 Yorkshire Hotel   |
| 7 Hotel du Vin     |                      |

# Harrogate Town Centre



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Tel: 01423 568600  
Modern English

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Tel: 01423 502610  
Indian

Betty's  
Tel: 01423 814008  
Traditional English

Bistro Pierre  
Tel: 01423 533070  
French

Cattleman's Association  
Tel: 01423 516456  
Tex Mex

Chez La Vie  
Tel: 01423 568018  
Traditional English

Drum & Monkey  
Tel: 01423 502650  
Seafood

Harrogate Brasserie  
Tel: 01423 505041  
English

Joe Rigatoni  
Tel: 01423 500071  
Italian

La Tasca  
Tel: 01423 566333  
Tapas

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Thai

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# Destination San Diego

**BERNHARD**

**These are the ten BIGGA members who will be heading to San Diego for the Golf Industry Show next month courtesy of Bernhard – what’s sure to be a once in a lifetime experience.**

As well as the GIS, the delegates will visit golf courses in California and attend educational seminars at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of

America Education Conference.

Many thanks to all members who applied, and to all those who travelled for interviews. BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: “Once again the standard of applicants was extremely high and the decision on the final ten delegates was a very tricky one.

“The successful group will enjoy a fantastic development opportunity on both a professional and a

personal basis in San Diego and will, I am sure, represent the Association with distinction.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the support from Bernhard & Co who have now allowed over a hundred BIGGA members to enjoy this valuable experience.”

Here are the successful delegates currently making plans to jet off to San Diego in February...



**LEE BRADY – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Muswell Hill Golf Club**

Lee has been greenkeeping for seven years and has gained his Level 2 and Level 3 in Sports Turf. He says he’s really looking forward to going to the States as he believes it will be a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to meet different people across the industry. He expects to be particularly interested to hear different ideas, visit the show and “promote all the good work BIGGA are doing.”



**ASA ENGLISH – Deputy Course Manager, Rothley Park Golf Club**

Asa began his greenkeeping career in 2002 as Assistant Greenkeeper at Charnwood Forest Golf Club, before moving to his current club. He’s been part of BIGGA’s volunteer support team at The Open Championships on several occasions which he says is “fantastic” for networking and improving as a greenkeeper.

He’s really looking forward to the trip which he hopes will be an excellent educational experience.



**ROBERT CLARE – Course Manager, Brough Golf Club**

Born in Dublin, he worked at several clubs in and around Dublin before leaving to further his education at Myerscough College, and over the course of 12 years completed his National Certificate, National Diploma and Foundation Degree.

He travelled to the USA to join the Ohio State Intern Programme and spent a year working on a course in Perth, Australia. After two years as Course Manager at Skipton Golf Club he then joined Brough Golf Club.

He’s married with two young sons, and as well as playing golf is a member of a target shooting gun club.



**DANIEL NORSWORTHY – Deputy Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club**

Daniel began his career at Cranleigh Golf & Leisure Club, and after gaining his Level 2 qualification he joined The Richmond Golf Club. He continued his development, gaining his Level 3, and was offered his current position. He says he’s learnt much from Les Howkins MG at The Richmond.

His dream is to run his own golf course, and in his spare time he enjoys going to the gym, catching up with friends and attempting to play golf!





**BRUCE HICKS – Head Greenkeeper, Boston Golf Club**

Bruce has spent his whole 22-year greenkeeping career at Boston and holds City & Guilds 2 and SNVQ 2 qualifications. He is also Secretary and Treasurer for BIGGA's East of England Section, something he says he gets "enormous satisfaction" from. He adds he feels "very honoured" to have been chosen as a delegate. He has many hobbies including swimming and amateur theatre, and says he's "kept sane" by his wife and "driven crazy" by his two teenage kids.



**PAUL HANDY – Head Greenkeeper, Newport Golf Club**

Paul has worked as a greenkeeper at Newport for 15 years, and became Head Greenkeeper six years ago. He studied for his NVQ in Sports Turf at Pencoed College and is currently on a distance learning programme at Elmwood College.

He's been on the BIGGA South Wales Section Committee for five years and is in his second year as chairman. He was a volunteer at the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor in 2010, and says he's a firm believer in sustainable greenkeeping using traditional greenkeeping practices alongside new techniques. In his spare time he enjoys golf, fishing and motorcycling.



**RICHARD JENKINSON – Deputy Course Manager, G West**

Richard, born in St Andrews, spent 13 years at the famous Old Course before moving to Archerfield Links. He then returned to full-time education, studying his HNC in Golf Course Management at Elmwood College. After completing this he joined the team at G West and was involved in all aspects of the final construction stages of the course. He's married with two young daughters, enjoys golf and football.



**JAMES PARKER – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Close House Golf & Country Club**

James was a student nurse until 2007 when he changed his career path to greenkeeping. He joined Blackwell Grange Golf Club as an apprentice, then three years later was hired by Close House. He's now been on the support team for four European Tour events. He's completed his NVQ Level 3 and is about to begin studying for his Higher National Certificate, and is hoping to gain a greater understanding of American training techniques in San Diego. He's married to Sarah with one young son, and the couple are excitedly expecting another child in April. When time allows he plays golf and follows Leeds United.



**TIM JOHNSON – Assistant Greenkeeper, The Wilmslow Golf Club**

Tim's looking forward to seeing how greenkeeping practices in America compare with the sustainable golf course he works on. He also can't wait to meet greenkeepers from across the world and see the differences - and similarities - in how they overcome daily problems on their courses.

He enjoys playing golf, football and was featured in October's Greenkeeper International after he helped raise thousands of pounds for charity by pushing hand mowers across England with other crazed greenkeepers!



**DERRICK JOHNSTONE – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, The Wentworth Club**

Derrick started greenkeeping straight from school at 16, and studied for his National Certificate and Higher National Certificate, achieving Student of the Year on both courses. He worked for four years on the West Course at Wentworth before being promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper on the Edinburgh Course.

He's worked on 25 televised professional tournaments and been awarded Employee of the Year. He's married with a six-month-old son, and enjoys playing golf, watching football and travelling.



# Water idea

Steve Castle discovers how Woburn Golf Club's long-term water resource strategy is dealing with recent usage restrictions which can hugely affect golf courses

## PROFILE

**Name:** John Clarke

**Born:** Ulverston, Lake District

**Marital status:** Married with nine-month-old daughter

**Handicap:** 12

**Hobbies:** Walking springer spaniel Hesper, mountain biking

**Favourite sports team:** Liverpool FC





Archaeologists working on the new reservoir site

**It's tempting to visit Woburn and depart waffling about the various legends who have graced the fairways before waxing lyrical about the fact all three of their courses have been rated in Golf Monthly Magazine's top 100 in the UK and Ireland and name-dropping Ian Poulter.**

But you'll already know all of this. However, did you know that the club are embarking on a water resource project of staggering ambition and size? That they're building a huge reservoir where archaeologists have recently located Roman kilns? That they're aiming to drastically reduce their annual water bill?

volume usage and we were to be classed as an 'industrial user' along with factories and breweries. We would have to forecast our peak usage over the year – known as the Maximum Daily Demand (MDD). Essentially we were being charged all year round for the one day when we used the most water.

"In theory, this would allow water companies to forecast demand and promote water efficiency measures – but with potentially disastrous financial consequences for golf clubs."

John adds: "It's certainly a contentious move, charging industrial prices without removing the possibility of drought restriction seems very punitive.

The drought restrictions were never intended to negatively impact upon businesses, but a blanket ban does exactly that for many UK golf courses.

"The change in tariff gave us the added incentive to push forward with plans for bulk storage as we would have a considerable return on investment alongside the environmental benefits of using less water."

Spring 2010 saw Woburn working closely with Rainbird Irrigation to bring in tools to measure meteorological data and soil moisture levels quickly and easily.

"We also wanted to be able to manage our systems remotely so we could shut down applications and fill when significant weather events allowed. We checked application rates, nozzle run times and replaced sprinkler heads on our oldest system on the Marquess' course.

"We also looked at the minimum requirement we would need per night at the height of the season

**"Under the Maximum Daily Demand scheme, essentially we were being charged all year round for the one day we used the most water"**

utilising the highest recorded evapotranspiration rates for our site. These figures then had to be balanced with how much storage we had available and how many nights' use this would provide without filling the tanks on demand.



“We have 1500 cubic metres storage across the site held in three separate tanks, which is barely one days’ water for the courses in dry periods because we are able to water wall to wall. We needed something big enough to take the seasonality out of filling and watering and through meticulous planning and design came up with a plan for a tank holding 105,000 cubic metres’ capacity – in other words, a reservoir.”

We then join John’s springer spaniel Hesper to see the reservoir construction at first hand. It’s staggering to see the massive scale of this and it’s fascinating to see teams of archaeologists excavating what will soon become a water storage facility capable of holding so much of the stuff. The archaeologists have even located several ancient Roman kilns, (a type of oven for metal work) which need to be painstakingly removed.

To the right of the five hectare site are huge mounds of earth removed, probably 25 feet high showing the extent of the project so far - and the excavators are yet to move in! The reservoir is due to be completed in time for the 2013 season.

All in all, it’s a vast project and John acknowledges an undertaking of this scale is only possible at a large club with significant financial backing and a supportive and knowledgeable owner. However, he’s also eager to stress that a progressive long-term water management strategy is critical and achievable, at any golf club as water bills inevitably climb.

He says: “A smaller model could be adopted in a different location. The bottom line is, we aim to get our water bill down to roughly £25,000 a year. This year, following many mitigation measures we still spent £125,000 so the return on our investment will be within six or seven years.

“The individual Head Greenkeepers and I have had to be extremely diligent and flexible in managing the consumption for three championship courses, using 500m<sup>3</sup> across all three courses each night.

“Our Irrigation Manager Lee Murdoch reads all of our meters, sets up all of the night time irrigation programmes and forecasts the weekly usage using weather forecasts and soil moisture readings. This gives him the information required to split the MDD figure between the three courses.

“At the start of the project our entire focus was watering the course according to the bill. We are now trying to get to a point where

we water the course in the best interests of the turf, because we’ve eliminated the billing issues.

We’ve learned a lot along the way about how best to manage this precious asset and I’m sure we’ll need to continue using these principles as our climate continues to change.

“This project would not have got off the ground without the support of our consultants WRA, Paul Williams from the Bedford Estates and of course from the Duke of Bedford and the Woburn Board of Trustees.”

The Club, which is part of the Bedford Estates, aerate monthly with light top dressing and annual hollow coring each August to keep them dry. They aerate into the night under lights and close each of the courses a week in every month of the winter for drainage, aeration and bunker reconstruction. As John says “The healthier the greens are, the harder we can push them.”

When I pulled into Woburn’s car park earlier, I vowed to leave with a much greater understanding of the water resource project, increased knowledge of the water-based challenges facing golf clubs and to refrain from mentioning Ian Poulter at any point in the subsequent article. Ah well, two out of three ain’t bad.



MAIN ABOVE: 10th hole on the Marquess’ Course  
 LEFT: The plans for the reservoir  
 RIGHT: One of the Rain Bird control boxes



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# Winter course management Q&A

As the UK shivers through another cold snap, Jim Cook finds out what plans greenkeepers have been putting in place for the winter months

Moortown GC, taken by Michael Joyce, a top 12 winner in the BIGGA Photo Comp 2012

## Andrew Geddes – Clitheroe GC



### 1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?

Fairway drainage, levelling and improving tee surfaces, bunker renovations, improving walkways, woodland management and dealing with e-mails from members.

### 2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?

We discuss the programme of work six months in advance with the appropriate committee, and produce a monthly course report informing members of the winter projects. Depending on the size of the project, holes may be closed down or shortened.

### 3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?

Ground conditions at Clitheroe aren't suitable for contractors in the winter, although we have used Duncan Ross to install drains in the summer.

### 4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?

Yes, provide discreet hard standing access areas to the parts of the course where the winter project is taking place, also use boards and ground guards for shorter runs. Try not to leave soil exposed to the elements.

### 5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?

We focus on finishing our major ground work before Christmas, smaller projects and woodland management commence in the New Year.

## Andrew Mannion – Southerndown GC



### 1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?

Mostly bunker rebuilding work; we are currently installing EnviroBunker using old Astroturf which will take us about three winters to complete the whole course. We'll also be resurfacing and building several tees and managing gorse on the golf course.

### 2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?

Before any work starts it will be advertised on notice boards and also the club's website. Because the bulk of our work is bunker related at the moment we use drop zones on any bunkers that are GUR to speed up play and stop any confusion.

### 3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?

We're lucky to have a good selection of equipment to enable us to carry out everything in house, I'm also very lucky to have a good team of greenkeepers to work alongside who are able to facilitate the work.

### 4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?

Yes we have become very reactive to the weather, being proactive and planning has gone out the window the last few years as it's too hard to stick to a plan, so we go flat out in good weather conditions.

### 5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?

We tend to just prioritise and anything that can be carried over to the following autumn/winter season will be. I'm lucky the club understand that over the last few years the weather has played a significant part in what we can complete.



## Gordon Brammah – Hallamshire GC



### 1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?

Many and varied depending on a number of factors including course development policies, budget restrictions, available equipment and the weather. We have built new tees, putting greens and stone walls, installed drainage systems and improved paths, and every bunker on the course has been rebuilt.

### 2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?

Communication. Members are more likely to complain about disruption if they are not kept informed about work on the course. A monthly greens report posted in the clubhouse or better still on the club's website will head off many awkward questions later on.

### 3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?

Contractors would be used for three main reasons – if specialist equipment is required, if specialist skills are required and if a project has to be completed within a limited timescale. An honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

### 4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?

Planning is the key. Getting major projects completed early in the autumn/winter before the weather closes in will give more time for the course to recover. Have contingency plans for if the weather causes serious delay and don't be overambitious with the number and scale of projects planned.

### 5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?

Developing a good relationship with the members and the greens committee is essential. Course managers should resist taking on projects that are not properly planned and funded and they must fit into a realistic winter programme.

## Robert Patterson – Royal Aberdeen GC



### 1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?

Bunker work, rebuilding and extending teeing areas, and an intensive aeration programme on all areas with vertidrains and hollow coring machines. We started a five-year plan last year to rebuild seven greens on the main links, to remove the very old root zone material. We are doing the 18th green at the moment.

### 2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?

All our work plans are discussed at committee level three to five months prior to being done. The information is then fed to the members through the notice board, website and newsletter. If temporary greens are required they are prepared well in advance and the membership will be aware of the conditions to expect.

### 3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?

Normally we would do all our work in house but we are using contractors to rebuild our greens as they have the proper equipment and expertise to do the work alongside the architect employed by the club. Any large drainage work would also be sub contracted to someone in that field.

### 4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by weather?

To a point but normally the weather dictates how much you can achieve. We always try and get the bulk of our winter work done before Christmas. We start projects early in October to make the best of the good weather. We would normally leave aeration work for wetter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

### 5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?

Get it done early. We need to have these greens we are rebuilding back in play by April so we have completed the work by the end of November. Planning work and communication is very important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.

## Robert Ransome – Diss GC



### 1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?

During the winter months we'll complete a variety of projects such as building and erecting nesting boxes, tee box construction, drainage installation and ecology rough and woodland management.

You get real satisfaction from completing a project and knowing that however big or small it has made an improvement to the course.

### 2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?

We always plan ahead to ensure that everything is done to minimise time and disruption to play. We communicate to our members via notice boards, emails and newsletters and in most of our construction projects we also provide pictures of what these areas will look like once completed.

### 3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?

Although we make every effort to keep as much project work in house, plant machinery, irrigation installation and tree spading contractors are brought in. The expertise, knowledge and experience that come with the contractors we use are invaluable.

### 4 Are there ways to minimise winter projects being affected by the weather?

For the last 3-4 years we've balanced out our winter programmes to give us options, so if projects get put on hold, we can temporarily switch over to another until we can resume. Generally, if a project is safe and ground disruption is minimal we'll stick with it.

### 5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?

I dedicate two or three members of the team to daily course preparation. When monitoring progress, if we come under pressure to complete I have the options of either additional hours or increasing project staff numbers. This may come at a temporary cost to the course.

# It's snow joke as winter bites

**We chat to a technical expert to find out how to prevent turf diseases as the snow falls**



**With a hard winter forecast for this year, the chance of snow cover is a strong possibility. Greenkeepers are reminded not to underestimate the risk of *Typhula incarnata* to cause Grey snow mould or *Fusarium patch* (*Microdochium nivale*) developing into Pink snow mould, should greens be subject to snow.**

Dorin Pop, Technical Manager at Bayer, explains that snow cover prevents photosynthesis, reducing the plant metabolism which weakens the turf's natural defence system.

The snow cover also encourages contact with the snow mould pathogen. Pink snow mould may occur following growth of *Fusarium patch* from the organic matter in conducive conditions.

He adds: "The snow also incubates the turf to an extent. This creates a microclimate which will keep the turf surface moist and unfrozen providing an ideal habitat for disease to thrive.

"The two diseases most commonly associated with the winter months are Grey snow mould and Pink snow mould.

"Both Grey snow mould and Pink snow mould require periods of cold, wet weather to develop, but Grey snow mould is very localised in the UK. This is because the turf needs to have prolonged snow cover in order for the disease pathogen to develop. For this reason it tends to occur in Scotland and the north of England."

He adds that Pink snow mould is actually the same strain of *Fusarium patch* that normally occurs during the year when the conditions are favourable but as the snow melts, white to pink mycelium develops around the margin of patches. Unlike Grey snow mould, this can occur quite quickly under the snow as the pathogens take less time to develop.

"The disease pathogen can survive adverse conditions in plants or organic matter but the disease symptoms are only observed in the winter and early spring encouraged by low temperatures, high moisture in the turf, long grass, excessive nitrogen and excessive top dressing just prior to snow cover. Just like controlling *Fusarium patch* at any other time of the year, applying a fungicide at the very early stage of disease will avoid any potential scarring of the turf. This is especially important in the winter due to the slow rate of turf growth. Any scarring will take much longer to repair in the colder months and with the expectation now to be

able to play golf all year round, prolonged periods of unplayable turf conditions are unlikely to be met favourably."

During the autumn, golf courses tend to undergo renovation. The activities associated with renovation put a great deal of stress on the turf. Dorin explains that good practice is to maximise their maintenance programme prior to this period. Activities include applying the correct fertiliser, avoiding heavy top dressing, removing any fallen leaves in the autumn and adjusting the height of cut as well as reviewing the sward composition.

He adds that the fundamentals for preventing winter turf disease lie in maintaining good practices throughout the year. "If due diligence is paid to cultural practices throughout the autumn, alongside a robust fungicide programme, greenkeepers will really help safeguard their turf throughout the winter."

As well as delivering appropriate cultural practices in the run up to the cold weather, Dorin advises greenkeepers to apply the fungicides preventatively before the first snow when the ground is not frozen. "Providing the label instructions are adhered to, this treatment should protect the turf while the snow is lying on top."

However, he notes that if a greenkeeper does experience a situation where snow has fallen on an unprotected green, a contact fungicide can be applied just after snow melt, directly to where the disease symptoms are visible. "Providing the snow hasn't been lying too long and the disease isn't too advanced, this should help prevent any further development."

When considering appropriate products to use in these situations, he explains that Bayer's product *Dedicate*® has both a contact and systemic mode of action which offers long-term preventative and early curative control of turf disease.

"I'd recommend that *Dedicate*® should be used up until the stage when the temperature drops significantly and the turf ceases to grow. After that, once the soil temperature drops, I'd suggest using *Chipco*® Green. It's a contact fungicide which will remain effective following snow melt and will offer a good level of protection throughout the snow cover."

He adds that if there is sign of disease after the snow has thawed, then an immediate application of *Chipco*® Green is recommended. "*Dedicate*® can then be used once



the weather begins to warm up and the grass begins to grow again."

Although there may be a temptation to remove the snow from the greens, doing so will inflict added stress and damage to the turf beneath and should be avoided. Walking on the greens when there is heavy snow or frost cover is also not recommended due to compaction.

Dorin adds that frost presents an entirely different challenge to the turf. "Frost actually halts the development of disease pathogens, so in that respect it actually works in a greenkeeper's favour. However it is often counterproductive because although the disease is restrained,



ABOVE: Examples of pink patch

## **"Greenkeepers will face much less of a challenge if they adopt a preventative approach to combatting disease"**

it is essentially dormant. In the meantime, the frost significantly weakens mainly *Poa* swards, therefore making it more susceptible to the disease pathogens that are still there and that become active once the conditions become favourable.

"Greenkeepers will face much less of a challenge if they adopt a preventative approach to combatting disease.

"While Bayer's *Chipco*® Green and *Dedicate*® have curative properties, the fact that snow could remain on the ground for long periods of time preventing greenkeepers from getting to the turf could have damaging results.

"By the time it melts, the damage could be quite significant and during a period of slow growth, its repair could be long and difficult. In this instance, prevention is certainly the best approach."



Dorin Pop, Technical Manager at Bayer

# Future shock?



James de Haviland urges you to keep up to date with developments in the machinery world

**Take a look back over the past 10, 15 or even 20 years and it is clear that whilst some equipment has just got larger and more sophisticated, other items of kit have helped introduce new techniques such as precision overseeding and precise aeration. But what is the next big thing you should be aware of?**

At present, the market for totally autonomous mowers is still in its infancy with models, such as the Etesia Robot, having won favour with those seeking a straightforward maintenance mowing system. But the Etesia can be set up to collect golf balls as it mows and only cut grass where it is needed. It's fitted with five discs running at 3,500rpm. The unit is designed to leave a clean finish over frequently mown turf. Height of cut can be adjusted to between 22mm to 88mm. Workrate is put at 3,600 m<sup>2</sup>/hr, one machine having the potential to keep up to

20,000m<sup>2</sup> under control. The unit only mows grass that needs cutting, working at random and returning to a fixed charge point when it runs low on power.

Twenty years ago, a self-propelled fairway mower was seen as something only well-off golf clubs could afford. For some, even a powered hydraulic gang was considered something of a fairway mowing luxury, drag gang sets earning their stripes on many a fairway well into the nineties and beyond. These days, trailed gangs still have a place but ride-on fairway mowers dominate, their cost to performance ratio making them 'affordable' for even less well-off courses.

Other items of kit that have become 'mainstream' include aerators. Again, some may get the forks out to aerate a green but not many. And by aeration it is also worth remembering that hollow coring, deep aeration and the manner in which wide area aeration to include fairways can now be carried out is

something a previous generation of greenkeepers would wonder at.

So, what is the big news in machinery development these days? That is not an easy question to answer. As an industry, the golf sector saw great expansion from the 1980s and with it the levels of mechanisation rapidly increased. The last three decades have really seen some new ideas make their mark. Now, however, it could be argued that product development has perhaps overtaken innovation.

If you could drive a 1990s era fairway or greens mower alongside a 2012 model you would appreciate that development is every bit as important as innovation.

For some this may be seen as an opportunity to suggest you can quietly overlook machinery developments and concentrate upon other aspects of course maintenance. This is to overlook those developments happening all the time. Some are not going to make a revolutionary change to the way

ABOVE: Baroness LM283  
BELOW: the Etesia Robot



# UNSEEN INNOVATION

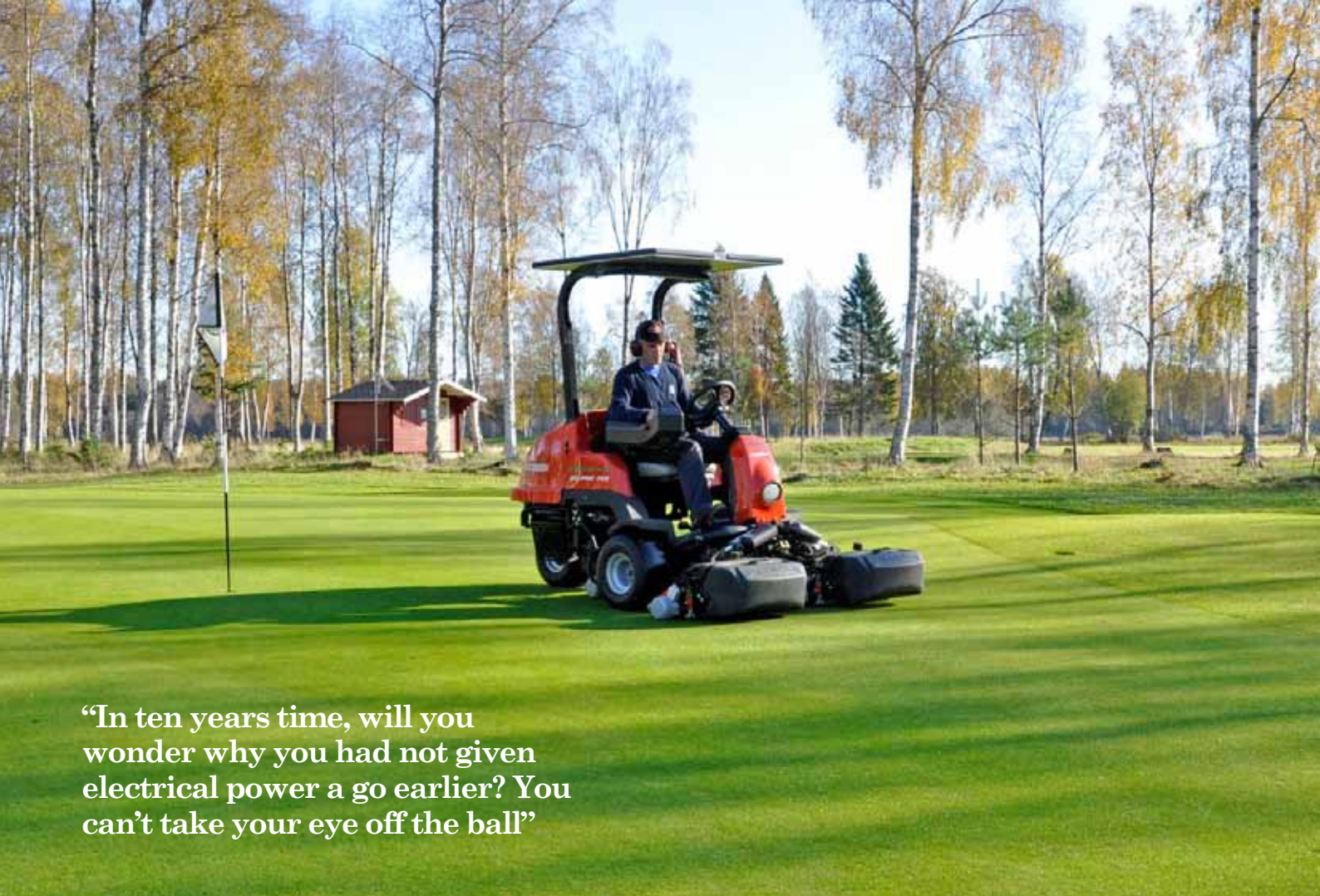


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**“In ten years time, will you wonder why you had not given electrical power a go earlier? You can’t take your eye off the ball”**

a course is tended, but they could help save some time or do a job more efficiently.

The key is to keep an eye out for changes, be prepared to try new equipment and not shy away from demonstrations. A good example is to consider a hybrid mower or one with full battery power. Think gang mowers versus ride-on and petrol versus diesel fuelling.

In ten years time, will you wonder why you had not given electrical power a go earlier? You can’t take your eye off the ball.

With a 49hp engine and five gangs, the Toro Reelmaster 7000-D is right at the heavy end of fairway mowers, with the capacity to cope with fast growing grass in a season typified by 2012. It offers a 3.07m width of cut and can be set to mow between 6.35mm to 63.5mm. Of course this model is not for everyone but never has there been so much choice. Unless you look you may miss out on a model that is best suited to your specific needs.

Now consider a mainstream model, the John Deere 8500E E-Cut Hybrid mower followed the 2500E greens mower to the UK market, the former first being launched back in 2005. Although this type of mower is not fully electric, hybrids have done a lot to help the all-electric cause, the motors

powering the cutting units having proven dependable and efficient.

The Jacobsen Eclipse 322 in its all-electric guise was first seen in 2009, this mower doing away with not just an internal combustion engine but hydraulics too.

Plug in mowing may take a while to become mainstream but few can argue against the appeal of the technology. It has variable mowing speeds to a maximum of 9 km/h and transport speeds up to 14.5km/h. The all-important frequency of cut or clip rate can be adjusted from 1.27mm to 6.35mm for the 11-blade cylinder and 2.03mm to 9.91mm for the 7-cylinder option.

Utility vehicles have long had the option of electric power, but those looking for a general purpose unit that is at home in easy going as it is coping with tougher terrain may prefer a petrol or diesel engine.

The Cushman Hauler 1200X electric model could change that with its 450kg capacity and power to cope with steep going. Payload is a generous 450kg and maximum speed will be around 25km/h.

Do you know what has changed in the utility vehicle market? Have you tried an e-Gator from John Deere or Toro MDX with battery power?

Baroness mowers, such as



LM283, have no electronics and employ simple levers to raise and lower the units. Options run to 5, 7 or 9 blades and collectors. No groomers or brushes, just easy to adjust and well made cutting units. It has straightforward hydraulics and simple all-wheel traction, but do not confuse this with poor mowing ability. The units are precision items.

So the question remains - do you know just how much equipment choice you have these days?

**INSET ABOVE:** Cushman Hauler 1200X electric and **MAIN ABOVE:** the Jacobsen Eclipse 322

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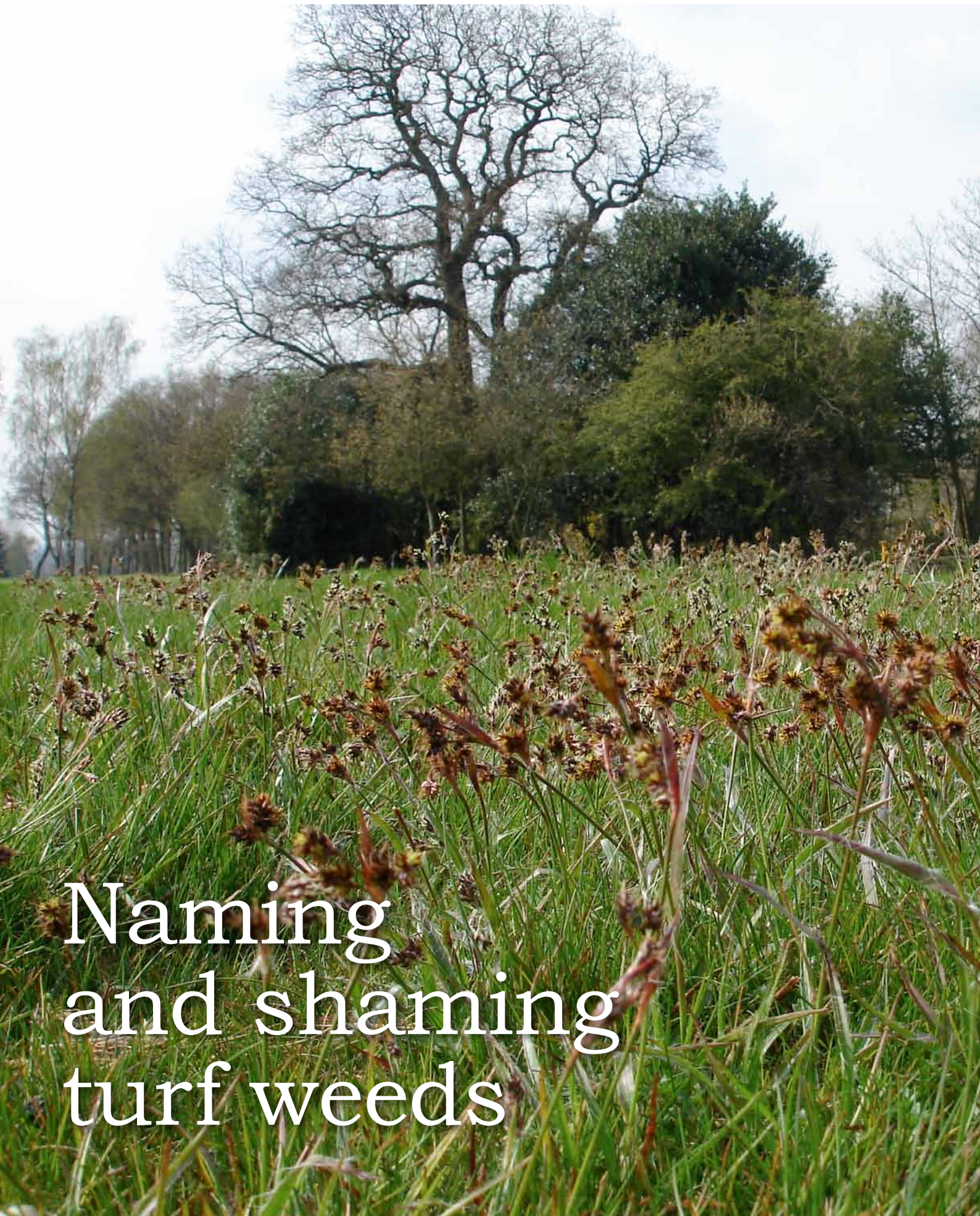
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# Naming and shaming turf weeds





Dr Terry Mabbett offers guidance in spotting and dealing with the most troublesome weeds you'll encounter on and around the course

**Weeds are plants in the wrong place and all broad-leaved plants are weeds in managed turf. Rough grasses such as (Yorkshire fog) and Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernal grass) and even perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne), the latter widely used in amenity and non-fine sports turf, are weeds in professional sports turf.**

Managers wanting greens dedicated to fine turf grasses like bents (Agrostis spp) and fescues (Festuca spp) regard Poa annua as a weed, 'cut and dried'. Others happily tolerate and use Poa on golf greens and tees.

Weeds may have completely different growth habits outside of managed turf. Creeping buttercup (Ranunculus repens) hugs the ground, its runners slipping unobtrusively through turf, while plants may reach 40cm or higher in uncut grass. Bird's foot trefoil's (Lotus corniculatus) behaves in the same way with creeping stems becoming vining stems and using long grass stems for support.

Deciding which plants are weeds is the easy part - identifying them is the harder part. Grouping plants, whether by weed characteristics or plant family, is the easiest way to proceed. Sorting out the Asteraceae (e.g. dandelions and daisies), Fabaceae (clovers), Ranunculaceae (buttercups), Rosaceae (cinquefoils) and Plantaginaceae (plantains) takes around half of turf weeds out of the identification equation.

That done you are left with small distinct groups and individuals such as the plantains, slender speedwell, self-heal, mouse-eared chickweed, sorrels, parsley piert, dove's-foot cranesbill, and field woodrush (main image) to identify and deal with.

#### **Common weed characteristics**

Turf weeds have one or more characters in common:

- Ground hugging habit with growing points close to the soil surface to escape the mower's blades

- Rosette arrangement of leaves and/or mat growth habits blocking light and shade out grasses

- Underground food storage organs like tap roots for anchorage and survival under adverse conditions. Ability to grow new plants from pieces of tap root left in the ground after unsuccessful attempts at physical removal

- Efficient vegetative reproduction by stolons (creeping stems) that 'slip' through the turf rooting as they grow to make new plants. Ability to grow new plants from stem pieces detached during mowing

- Choreographed sexual reproduction with flower heads at ground level, a long flowering period sometimes throughout the year (ephemerals). Short seed maturation period, efficient seed dispersal, no special seed germination requirements and accumulation of large seed banks outside of turf

- Resistance to drought and tolerance of herbicides

#### **Weeds in managed turf**

##### **Dandelions and lookalikes (Asteraceae)**

A common characteristic of the Asteraceae is composite flower heads of many individual flowers called florets. Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) and daisy (Bellis perennis) are the most well-known of this plant family.

Dandelion's success is down to a strong deep seated tap root and a rosette of large light blocking leaves. Dandelions flower through spring and summer to generate large seed banks outside turf. Prostrate biotypes growing in fine turf bear short-stalked flowers which escape mowing.

As summer turf dries out dandelions are matched by weeds which closely resemble dandelions and have the same weed credentials.

Most common is cat's ear (Hypochaeris radicata) with rosettes of leaves close to the ground and long fleshy tap roots with similar capacities for regeneration following unsuccessful attempts to dig them out. Prolific seed set and efficient

wind dispersal of hairy-fruits, like those of dandelion, allows efficient colonisation of threadbare turf.

Smooth hawk's beard (*Crepis capillaris*) with rosettes of jagged leaves is very hard to distinguish from dandelion, but the flowers are smaller with several per stalk. Like dandelion it has a long fleshy tap root and is just as difficult to shift.

Mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*) lacks a tap root but has creeping stems arising from a rosette of stiff leaves curved and furry just like the rodent's ear. Mouse-ear hawkweed is the easiest of the 'dandelion-like' weeds to control.

Common daisy has rosettes of spoon shaped leaves with scalloped edges. Creeping stems produce an extensive mat of leaf rosettes especially in 'shaved' and compacted turf.

The composite flower comprising outer white ray florets and bright yellow inner disc florets closes at night, hence the old English name 'days-eye' from which the contemporary name 'daisy' evolved.

That's not quite the end of the Asteraceae because a number other plants which are not generally found in fine turf can invade and exploit damaged turf on tees by using un-replaced divots as germination sites. These include common ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*) and sowthistles (*Sonchus* spp), both frequently found on tees close to large seed-banks such as those on railway embankments.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is the worst weed the Asteraceae has to offer and one of the most difficult turf weeds to control. Creeping stems root at intervals facilitating fast spread, while the finely divided waxy leaves make yarrow high resistant to drought. Yarrow leaves are hard to wet making it difficult to effectively cover this weed with herbicide spray.

### Close up on the clovers (Fabaceae)

White clover (*Trifolium repens*) – A perennial mat-forming weed colonising turf by creeping stems which root at the nodes. Dark green trifoliate leaves are borne on slender and erect leaf stalks and each leaflet has a white band or 'halo' near to its base. White clover has a long flowering period from May to October. White flower heads sometimes tinged with pink are borne on long slender pedicels (flower stalks).

Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) – Also a perennial 'clover' with creeping stems which do not root, even though they grow just beneath

the soil surface. A sturdy taproot anchors the plant and confers high resistance to drought. Leaves appear trifoliate, but actually bear an additional pair of bract-like leaflets close to the stem to make five leaflets in all.

Bird's foot trefoil is fast-spreading and mat-forming especially on well-drained soils derived from sand, chalk or limestone. It flowers from May to August with attractive yellow/orange heads streaked with red and comprising 5-8 pea-like flowers.

### Lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*)

Though only an annual weed lesser trefoil (yellow suckling clover) is more difficult to control than white clover. Creeping stems are slender and fast growing but do not root like those of white clover. However, it still manages to colonise large patches of turf especially on dry non-acidic soils when the grass is sparse. A long flowering period from May to October produces a succession of small, round and pale yellow flower heads

Black medick (*Medicago lupina*) – Black medick is not a common weed but will show up on dry impoverished turf. With slender creeping stems, a prostrate habit and well-defined trifoliate leaves it is difficult to distinguish from lesser trefoil. Unlike lesser trefoil each leaflet ends in sharp point and is hairy and feels sticky to touch.

### Ranunculaceae, Rosaceae and Plantaginaceae

Three species of buttercup may crop up in turf although creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) with its ground hugging habit and rooting runners is the biggest problem for fine turf, spreading aggressively in neglected swards especially on heavy wet soils. Bulbous buttercup (*R. bulbosus*) does not have runners but a bulbous base acting as a food store and survival organ.

Meadow buttercup (*R. acris*) is more of a problem in amenity grassland, growing fast in uncut swards to produce a mass of tall yellow flowers starting in May.

Not all bright yellow flashes in turf grass are buttercups because the cinquefoils belong to the Rosaceae. Trailing stems root at regular intervals for fast spread in under-nourished turf irrespective of whether the soil is saturated or desiccated.

Leathery leaves of the plantains and arranged in rosettes crop up in turf wherever there is neglect.

The very broad-leaved *Plantago major* (broad-leaved plantain) and *P. media* (hoary plantain or lamb's tongue), with oval prominently ribbed leaves, are distinguished by the latter having 'no' leaf stalk. *P. lanceolata* (ribwort plantain) has a rosette of lance-shaped leaves. All thrive in shaved turf on dry compacted soil.

### Die-hard duo

Slender speedwell and self-heal, two totally unrelated weeds, are among the most frequently occurring and difficult to shift from fine turf.

Slender speedwell is not the sort weed you notice until its mauve-blue flowers appear in spring. Though rarely setting viable seed it is one of fastest spreading weeds of managed turf. Mowing spreads slender speedwell, the pieces of cut stem carried on grass cutting equipment to fall off and root elsewhere.

Self-heal is one of the smaller members of the mint and nettle family (Labiatae) with prostrate biotypes common in managed turf. Prostrate creeping stems root at the nodes to make compact spreading plants. Self-heal is unlikely to go unnoticed in turf. From June to October erect and square cross-sectioned (angular) flowering stems bear thick, tubular clusters of tiny bright blue flowers.

### Tiny trio

Tiny turf weeds are difficult to spot in the cold light of late winter afternoons, when greenkeepers get first insights into what spring will bring.

These include parsley piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) with bunched parsley-like leaves and creeping hairy stems; dove's foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*) a tiny wild geranium with spreading stems, pink flowers, long-beaked fruits and prominently lobed flat leaves which give the name; and tufted leaf rosettes of pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) the most diminutive of all.

### A rush which looks like a grass

Field woodrush (*Luzula campestris*) looks and grows like a grass which makes it difficult to distinguish virtually impossible to control with herbicides without damaging turf grasses.

Field woodrush shows up during spring as large patches of chestnut coloured panicles (flower heads) evident on fairways, especially if mowing is delayed by very wet weather.

RIGHT PAGE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

COLUMN ONE (LEFT):

Self-heal in full flower with a lone white clover

Yellow pea like flowers of bird's foot trefoil

Yellow suckling clover is a drought resistant weed

Dove's-foot cranesbill is a tiny wild geranium

COLUMN TWO (RIGHT):

Slender speedwell already spreading fast in the cold light of a late January afternoon

White clover flowering in earnest across the fairway in June

Yarrow is the ultimate drought resistant turf weed



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

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# Open Support Team Volunteers 2013



**How you can follow in the footsteps of golfing legends at Muirfield 2013**

**Do you fancy the chance to work at The Open Championship 2013...with the once in a lifetime opportunity to walk alongside the world's leading golfers at one of the finest courses in the world?**

This was the amazing reward for several days of extremely hard work – and lack of sleep – for BIGGA members from across the UK, America and Australia at the thrilling Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club last July.

In 2013, the legendary links at Muirfield in East Lothian host the tournament which will be eagerly followed by tens of thousands behind the ropes and millions on TV.

But we're giving you the opportunity to get inside the ropes - working alongside the excellent team at Muirfield led by Colin Irvine and with support from the team at BIGGA HQ.

We need 54 volunteers who will all play their part in ensuring a successful tournament.

The application process is transparent and we'll then allocate various roles from the selected candidates.



Darren Abbs Royal Norwich GC



Tom Smith Colne Valley GC

As anyone who has previously worked as a member of the Support Team will tell you, it's extremely hard work with early mornings preparing the course for the likes of Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and reigning champion Ernie Els.

There may also be late nights on 'divot duty'.

But, as previous attendees testify, the experience is one to tell the grandchildren about – not to men-

tion a chance to enjoy the superb camaraderie within the team and meet members from across the world.

You will receive accommodation, food, daily transport to the course, a waterproof suit and polo shirts – all you have to do is make your way to Muirfield.

The first tee shot will be struck on Thursday 18 July, with the final putt sunk on Sunday 21 July.



John Geddes, McDonald GC



LEFT: Rhys Norville Newport GC

Steve Mason, Stocks GC

Kevan Glass Brokenhurst Manor GC

**IMPORTANT INFO**

Name .....

Golf Club .....

Position .....

Age .....

BIGGA Membership Number .....

Home address .....

.....

Email Address .....

Mobile Number .....

.....

**Passport photo attached?**.....

**Waterproof measurements; waist.....leg length.....**

**Polo shirt measurement; chest.....**

**Are you available for the Early Morning Prep team from Tuesday 16th July?**.....

**Sunday final night (21st July) accommodation required?...**

.....

**Any specific dietary needs?**.....

**If so please state** .....

I have applied for/ appeared on the team at:

	Applied	Successful
Royal Lytham & St Annes, 2012.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal St George's, 2011 .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St Andrews, 2010 .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turnberry, 2009.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal Birkdale 2008 .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years....  Yes  No

I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee.....

I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme .....

I have attended three of the last five BTMEs. ....

I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team .....

I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.).....

I am an overseas Member .....

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. **Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.** To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. **Closing date is 31st January 2013.** You will be notified in February if you have been successful.