

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL



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## Inside...

### A DAY IN THE LIFE

Steve Castle visits  
Immingham GC

### TURNING JAPANESE

A look at  
Japanese  
Knotweed

## Featured

### GOLF CLUB POLITICS

David Bancroft  
- Turner writes

# Fril your boots

GI visits Sid Arrowsmith at  
Frilford Heath, host to the BIGGA  
National Championship 2013

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# Rose blooms as The Open looms

**Justin Rose's serene march to the US Open title was a fabulous story on so many levels; the fulfilling of precocious teenage promise, redemption following the traumatic 21 missed cuts that blighted the start of his professional career, overcoming the huge crowd favourite and the imperious Hogan-esque ball striking down the stretch.**

For the Merion Golf Club Superintendent it was also a career defining triumph. The weather did its worst, which seems to be the case so often these days – particularly in the days leading up to the start of the tournament. But Matt Shaffer and his team presented their classic golf course beautifully and it tested the world's best players to the absolute limit. When the rains came down various commentators opined that the course would be defenceless and that the winning score would be double digits below par, in the end though the sub 7,000 yard challenge defeated all comers. Watching Rose strategically plot his way round to become the first English winner for 43 years and make it the third British triumph in four years was a huge thrill.

The golfing circus now moves on to Muirfield where Course Manager Colin Irvine and his regular and volunteer teams will prepare another world-class layout, the best in many people's eyes, for a superb field of players. I hope the weather is substantially kinder for Colin but that we do get a good coastal breeze to make it a true Open test.

Either way the BIGGA Open Support Team are ready to play their part in the ongoing success of The Open Championship. I look forward to seeing many of you at Muirfield during the week.

**As I write this column the interview stage for the fiercely contested 2013 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year has begun.**

We look forward to welcoming the successful finalists to BIGGA House in September when one will be crowned the 25th recipient of the title. Our thanks go to Toro for their superb and loyal support of this key aspirational opportunity for BIGGA members. A quick glance at the Roll of Honour for the last 24 years shows what a fantastic career boost the Award and the associated educational opportunities that the winner receives can be. May I wish all the candidates luck in the process.

**In this month's edition we take a look at Frilford Heath Golf Club, venue for the 2013 BIGGA National Championship. The Red Course will play host to European Tour**



Justin Rose (Getty Images)

qualifying a week prior to our event and it will be fascinating to see how greenkeeping's finest compare. There are many excellent players in our ranks and I'm really keen that our National Championship becomes a 'must play' event to all those low handicappers in the membership. To that end we have reduced the entry fee this year and substantially increased the prizes on offer for the leading players. I know that Sid Arrowsmith MG is very much looking forward to welcoming all competitors to Frilford Heath in October so I hope you are able to take up the opportunity.

**Elsewhere in these pages** we unveil a new look to Around the Green which I hope meets with your approval, our reader survey highlighted the importance of this 'grassroots' element to our magazine but also raised a number of valid points in terms of style and presentation. As we strive to make this publication the most relevant and informative of the bewildering array of titles that serve our industry it is clear that we must listen to your views. Please feel free to feedback to us any comments you may have on the recent changes or any other area.



Enjoy the read.

**Jim Croxton,**  
**BIGGA CEO**

JULY 2013

## FEATURES

### 18 Fril your boots!

Find out why there's a treat in store for entrants to this year's BIGGA National Championship at Frilford Heath Golf Club

### 23 Become the next BIGGA Champion

How to enter the BIGGA National Championship 2013

### 24 A day in the life

Steve Castle's latest greenkeeping shift at Immingham Golf Club

### 28 Turning Japanese

How lethal injection is the best way to tackle Japanese Knotweed

### 32 Golf club politics

David Bancroft-Turner's realistic and hard-hitting view on how to manage club politics for your gain

### 34 Managing golf courses in the Arabian heat

Laurence Pithie travels to a sweltering United Arab Emirates to discover how greenkeeping teams cope with soaring temperatures

### 40 Bracken ruin?

Our latest BASIS article looks at the positive and negative aspects of bracken – and how to control it

### 44 At the grindstone

An introductory guide to grinding, with key questions answered by an expert

### 46 A helping hand

How a Geographic Information System (GIS) can assist many aspects of day-to-day greenkeeping



## Managing golf courses in the Arabian heat

Greenkeepers are all too aware of the problems caused by excess water – what about the issues posed by heat? Laurence Pithie travelled to a sweltering United Arab Emirates to find out

34



23



28



32



40





24 - A day in the life



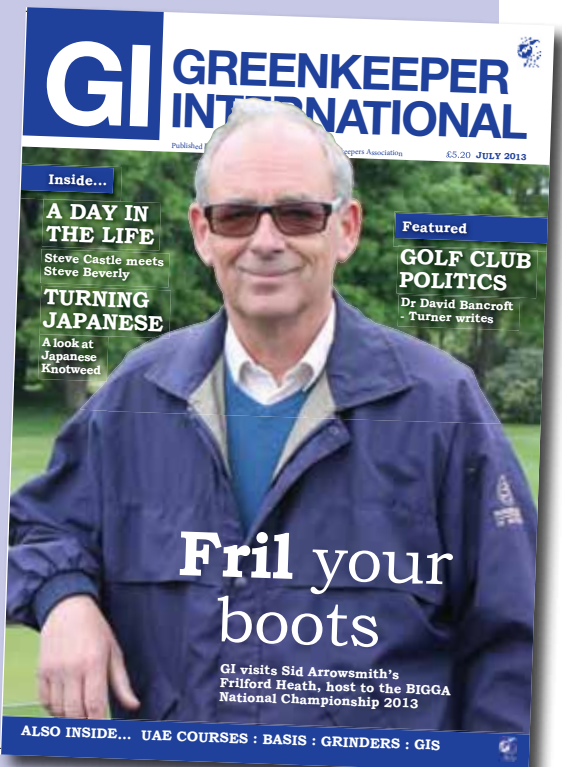
44



46

## REGULARS

- 3 Welcome from BIGGA
- 6 Chairman's Word
- 8 Newsdesk
- 12 Membership News
- 14 L&D News
- 16 Industry Update
- 50 Around the Green  
– a new look for an old favourite
- 58 Greenkeepers  
Training Committee
- 59 Puzzle page
- 60 Buyers' Guide
- 64 Recruitment
- 66 The Back Nine



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# Chairman's Word

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

## All roads lead to Muirfield

**I was glued to the coverage of the US Open this month and was naturally delighted to see a British player claim the crown.**

The moment I saw Justin Rose deservedly lifting the trophy, I realised that all eyes now turn to Muirfield for the next major and started to get excited about The Open.

Other than BTME, I feel The Open really is the year's highlight for us and our best chance to showcase the Association as yet again dozens of our members from across the UK and the world have the unique opportunity to work on the Support Team.

I know from experience how valuable the Team's work is and I'm sure that once again they will provide hugely professional, committed support for the venue's existing greenkeeping team.

It's an extremely intense week, with some incredibly tired members around by the Sunday night, but it's so rewarding on both a personal and professional basis. It's these sort of opportunities that I've repeatedly mentioned as one of the huge benefits of BIGGA membership.

From my point of view, as well as getting involved with the Support Team, it's my chance to meet countless other industry bodies, turf professionals and all manner of old friends and new faces who will be attending – I can't wait.

It will also be a proud week for me as it marks a year in my post as Chairman – which has flown by – and that neatly brings me on to some news regarding the board. Regrettably, Gary Cunningham has resigned from his position as Board Member for the Midlands Region due to his current employment status.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Gary for his terrific commitment, energy and enthusiasm whilst on the Board and wish him all the very best for the future.

I'm sure he will continue to be a prominent and well-respected figure in the industry. Steve Mason, Course Manager at Stocks Golf Club in Hertfordshire, has taken his place on the Board and I know Steve will be able to bring similar enthusiasm and vigour to the role. I look forward to working with him.



**BTME aside, I feel The Open really is the year's highlight for us, and our best chance to showcase the Association**

After 12 months in the role as Chairman I feel it's the perfect time for me to reflect. It has been a busy time including the conclusion of a difficult restructure at HQ and the implementation of our Business Plan.

With the right team at BIGGA House now in place and our business affairs in a more robust state the Board has the opportunity to focus more on the long-term future of the Association, delivering better benefits to membership and really making the industry stronger for the next generation of greenkeepers.

The last few years have been a big challenge for the Association and whilst there are still some major issues for individual members, some of which are worsened by the volatility of both our climate and economy, we have laid the foundations for a more successful future and feel that we are on track towards our ultimate aim of becoming a must-join Association.

I know this is not the case for the whole of the UK, but generally I sense the weather is behaving itself with not only dry spells but also some of the sunshine that was so sadly lacking last year.

The courses that I've seen recently seem to finally be growing and flourishing and we can only hope this signals the arrival of a proper summer.

You could argue it's been six or seven years since the last summer worthy of the name.

Next month I hope to be reflecting on another super Open as the sun sets on the stunning links at Muirfield, although I remember wet and blustery conditions the last time we were there in 2002 so I'm not counting my chickens just yet!

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## BIGGA SEMINARS AT SALTEX

BIGGA are staging a whole day of free education presentations at this year's SALTEX (Sports Amenity & Landscape Trade Exhibition) at Windsor Racecourse – with CPD credits available for those attending.

The BIGGA Golf Education Day on Wednesday September 4 will appeal to greenkeepers at courses of every size and type and will focus on drainage, bunkers, composts and disease management.

The day will start with 'Greens Drainage - Mission Possible' presented by Andy Wood, Course Manager of Robin Hood Golf Club. He will outline a workable solution for transforming soil-based greens with deep thatch and black layer, highlighting the methods used to solve drainage problems on troublesome greens.

Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager of Lymm Golf Club, will then discuss 'Sand Traps and Money Pits'. He will look at managing and constructing golf course bunkers on limited budgets, while revisiting the

past to shape our future. Stuart's presentation will also include the art of compost creation and its role in greenkeeping.

The schedule is completed by the joint Evertis/Syngenta presentation 'Go In Green... Come Out Clean' as Dr Simon Watson, Syngenta Turf and Landscape Technical Manager, points out how winter disease on golf greens is particularly problematic since there is little turf growth to allow recovery and for scars to heal.

This, he says, can impact the playability of greens right through to the spring period leading to dissatisfied golfers.

Simon will highlight how an integrated approach to disease management can reduce the disease pressure, improve turf health and enhance the performance of fungicide applications.

New findings on disease management will also be presented along with practical advice on how to deliver smooth, disease-free greens

right through the high risk autumn and winter periods.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, said: "BIGGA is delighted to once again have the opportunity to work with our friends the IOG and bring top-class greenkeeper education to the SALTEX experience. I hope many of our members take the opportunity to attend the seminar programme.

"BIGGA's revamped CPD programme launches on July 1 so it is great that SALTEX provides the chance for our members to improve both their knowledge and their CPD profile. I hope many also take the chance to view the exhibition; the turf industry is a constant provider of innovation, and opportunities like SALTEX where new products and services can be seen at first hand are always a benefit."

One BIGGA CPD credit is available for each seminar and a CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar. Visit [www.iogsaltex.com](http://www.iogsaltex.com) for full details.



## CHRIS ROARS OFF INTO RETIREMENT

Keen motorcyclist Chris Mitchell has retired after working at Maidenhead Golf Club in Berkshire for 45 years.

Chris – currently a 13 handicapper – joined the club in 1968 as an apprentice greenkeeper, then moved on to assistant and first assistant before taking the Course Manager position ten years ago.

The club have promoted two of Chris's former colleagues with Barry Gardner assuming the mantle of Course Manager and Mark Sweeney the new Deputy.

Chris said: "I've really appreciated the support of the club, the members and management in providing the resources to do the job to the best of my ability."

He added that one of the highlights of his time at Maidenhead was when the members clubbed together to pay for a much-needed full fairway irrigation system several years ago. Chris intends to lower his handicap in retirement as well as indulging his passion of motorcycling, and travelling with his wife Jane.



## TORO MOWER AT THE HART OF WEDDING

A greenkeeper at Newcastle-under-Lyme Golf Club is so attached to his Toro mower – he took it to his wedding.

Darren Hart tied the knot with sweetheart Stephanie on a glorious June day.

He took the opportunity to be pictured with his Toro Greensmaster 3250, which was specially transported to the nearby wedding venue.

Ian Beech, Head Greenkeeper at the Club, attended the nuptials and confirmed a good time was had by all!



## GREENKEEPERS VICTORIOUS

Ashley Wood Golf Club played host recently to the 17th Annual Course Care Cup, this year with the secretaries keen for a win!

Good weather and a fine course ensured good golf with the day thoroughly enjoyed by all. Despite huge efforts the Secretaries could not prevail and the Greenkeepers took the trophy again winning three matches to two. Thanks from all were extended to Highspeed Group Ltd for sponsoring the event.

Highspeed Group's Area Manager Paul Dyter presented the trophy to Tony Gadd, Chairman of BIGGA South Coast Section.



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## AN ISLAND BLOG

The latest impressive blog set up by a BIGGA member is from the Head Greenkeeper at Royal Jersey Golf Club - Ben Blampied-Smyth. Ben has used some spectacular photography of the links course in tandem with pages of in-depth greenkeeping information, all set out in a clear and attractive format.

Ben said: "As a fairly new Head Greenkeeper it's allowed the members to get to know me professionally. It's also been extremely helpful when I've changed maintenance practices to inform the members why I'm changing things and the benefits of these changes.

"For the greenkeeping team as a whole it has hopefully allowed the members to get to know the team better. It's massively improved communication to the members in terms of why certain procedures are necessary, what is involved in carrying out the procedure, timescales and potential inconvenience.

"In my first year we had TPL Thomson Perrett & Lobb golf course architects do an audit of the course. My first winter program involved implementing some of these changes to the course which were fairly major. The blog became very important to a lot of members to keep them up to date with these changes and how they would improve the course long term.

"This winter we also carried out changes to three holes from the TPL proposal and started upgrading our irrigation system which is a massive investment for the club. Again we were able to inform and educate the members on this work via the blog."

See for yourself at <http://royaljersey.getrefined.com>



## JIMMY READ RETIRES

Jimmy Read (above left) has retired from his position of Head Greenkeeper at Hunstanton Golf Club. Jimmy spent 37 successful years at the Championship links, 34 of which were as Head Greenkeeper. Jimmy's son Peter is currently Acting Head Greenkeeper.

Club Secretary Bob Carrick said: "He has overseen many amateur competitions over the years and is

proud to leave the course in superb condition.

He has seen great changes in the course as part of the recent development work masterminded by Martin Hawtree and Gordon Irvine. All members and staff wish Jimmy all the best for his retirement and we would like to thank him for his tireless work over the years."



## BY GEORGE! BIGGA LIFE MEMBER'S DOUBLE ACE

Former BIGGA Chairman George Brown recorded two holes-in-one in the space of ten days - and was rewarded with two exclusive Hugo Boss watches!

Seven handicapper George, 74, began his winning streak by hitting a four-iron into the cup on the 160 yard 6th at Turnberry's Kintyre course during a seniors competition.

He followed this up with an ace in a medal competition on the 175 yard 11th at the Ailsa course - and he is now the

proud owner of two Hugo Boss Watches because the luxury brand is rewarding club golfers with a special timepiece for every hole-in-one recorded during official competitions.

All official competitions are recorded on the HowDidiDo system, so anyone hitting a hole-in-one between April 15 and October 31 can claim a watch.

George, former Course Manager at Turnberry, has now taken his career total of aces to nine.



UK plant health authorities identified sweet chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria fraxinea*) at orchard sites in Warwickshire and East Sussex in late autumn 2011. They waited five months to inform the industry then said virtually nothing until May 2013.

The flashpoint is in Sussex and neighbouring Kent where the vast majority of Britain's sweet chestnut coppice grows. *C. parasitica*, like *Chalara fraxinea*, is a fast moving, spore-spreading fungal pathogen. A lot of golf courses have some sweet chestnut trees but those around the Sussex and Kent Weald often have large tracts of sweet chestnut coppice woods as important integral components of the course landscape. There is nothing 'sweet' about chestnut blight. It is a killer disease just like *Chalara ash dieback*.

No news could be good news but tucked away in a recent Forestry Commission (FC) statement is: "a trace-forward exercise has identified a small number of infected trees delivered to a further seven locations in England." Never mind the 'small' numbers - one infected tree will produce thousands of spores!

Other utterings suggest FC could be about to confirm the disease is already in the wider environment. Given the ease and speed of blight spread in North America and Europe this is the mostly likely scenario.

FC say are following their



disease outbreak contingency plan and developing a strategy for a longer-term response.

Infected material planted in Warwickshire and East Sussex was sourced from the same nursery in France but FC continues to prevaricate.

Sweet chestnut imports from EU countries are subject to plant passporting and since January 2013 are scrutinised by plant health inspectors.

However, FC admits a latent infection phase can still allow diseased plant stock to slip through.

If so, why have EU imports not been subject to a sufficiently long period of plant quarantine (observed isolation) before planting in UK soil, or better still banned just like all *Castanea* imports from non-EU countries? Even risking the importation of sweet chestnut infected with such a fast spreading and aggressive disease is mind boggling.

DEFRA has finally called for a ban on sweet chestnut imports from infected countries.

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson announced the

intention at the government supported "Stop the Spread" garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show. A six-week consultation is underway with expectation of a ban before the autumn planting season, although EU regulations could still thwart these plans.

On past performance I can't help thinking this sudden flurry of interest and activity in sweet chestnut blight is a softening up exercise and a prelude to the government announcing blight is here to stay.

Dr Terry Mabbett

## BIGGA SCOTLAND TRIUMPH (BUT ONLY JUST!)

It didn't look promising for golf to be played as the weather was quite nasty in the morning but thankfully the annual match against the Scottish Section of the GCMA went ahead at Douglas Park Golf Club on Wednesday 8 May.

Although a strong team from the region was assembled, the GCMA managed to win 5 points to our 4 following the completion of the day's play. However, the region managed to retain the trophy thanks to a walkover result for the final game. The board would like to thank all members of the team for taking part.

On accepting the trophy, chairman Andy O'Hara (shown left with Derek Scott) praised the course manager Drew McKechnie for the excellent presentation of the course on the day particularly considering the weather.







# Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

**Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we've revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.**

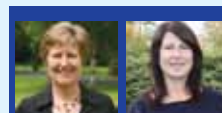
As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you've

found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!



The Support Team celebrate with Matteo Manassero



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John Young Sandra Raper



Clive Osgood

## BIGGA Support at the BMW PGA Championship

**This month we focus on the superb work of the BIGGA Support Team who assisted Kenny Mackay and his team during the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.**

Due to print deadlines we were unable to fully cover their efforts last month so here are details from a testing week which featured a row between two of the sport's leading lights, erratic weather and a young Italian winner celebrating with our team.

Clive Osgood, BIGGA's South East Regional Administrator, worked tirelessly to assemble the team and was in attendance for the whole week. He said:

"Once again a team of volunteer Greenkeepers travelling from all

parts of the country were on hand at The Wentworth Club for the European Tour's flagship event.

"This year in addition to the usual requirement a small team of volunteers were available for six days of the tournament including the official Practice Day and the Pro-Am. Volunteers were also on stand-by duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather.

"Fortunately apart from the very cool conditions and a short burst of heavy rain on the Friday things improved for the weekend with relatively mild conditions and even some sunshine on occasions.

"A full contingent of forty volunteers were on hand for

bunker raking duties covering all the pairings on the last two days.

All agreed that Kenny and his team had produced an immaculately prepared course with absolutely no help at all from the appalling weather experienced by all greenkeepers over a long wet winter and cold spring."

Joe Dormer, Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, supported the team at Wentworth for the entire week – the first time he had attended such a prestigious event.

He said: "It was the best week of my career. I'd worked on smaller tournaments before but this was something else.

"On the final day James Briggs from East Sussex National Golf Club and myself ended up raking a

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Joe Dormer



Kenny (in grey jumper) and team at Wentworth

bunker on the 18th for the play-off, right in front of the grandstand. That was just amazing.

"It was great to meet the other BIGGA guys who were all really like-minded, we all had the same levels of excitement and the same focus to do a professional job and get the most from the week.

"The home greenkeeping team at Wentworth were incredibly welcoming and happy to go into great depth as they told us what they were doing and why they were doing it.

"I learnt so much, about bunker presentation in particular and the use of different rakes. The bunkers were so consistent with one inch of sand on the face and three inches

on the bottom. Each one must have played exactly the same.

"I'm soon going to be presenting a debrief to our committee on what I learnt, what I can bring back to my own course and it's all going to help my career enormously. I have to thank my Head Greenkeeper Ian Streeter for allowing me the time to go to Wentworth. I'd encourage every BIGGA member to try and get involved in opportunities like this."

Other members of the team echoed Joe's thoughts. James Briggs, Greenkeeper at East Sussex National Golf Club, said: "I had an amazing time and also gained so much from this experience.

"I met some amazing guys from other golf clubs and have kept in contact with, along with the Wentworth team who made us feel so welcome."

Phil Worth, Greenkeeper at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, said: "Thank you for a brilliant four days at Wentworth. It was a fantastic experience and a real eye opener for me."

Kevin Armstrong, Head Greenkeeper at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, added:

"I had a fantastic time meeting some new faces and got to see some brilliant golf and a wonderful course.

"I will definitely apply again next year."

## Assistant Profile



**Name:** Michael Llong  
**Age:** 25  
**Club:** Littlestone Golf Club  
**Position:** Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** Bruce

**How long have you been greenkeeping?**  
 8 years

**What was it about the career that attracted you?**

My dad is a groundsman and I used to go to work with him in the summer holidays

**If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?**

A farmer or a job involving animals

**Which task do you most enjoy doing?**

Hand cutting. The aesthetics of a hand cut green, approach or tee can't be beaten

**Which task do you least enjoy doing?**

I don't think there is one.

**What one thing would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**

To be recognised for the hard work that goes into maintaining a golf course and not just be seen as a grass cutter.

**Hobbies?**

Karate

**Which team do you support?**

England cricket team

**What is your claim to fame?**

With any luck being on the Assistant Profile

# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

This month we're delighted to point you in the direction of David Bancroft-Turner's article on **Managing Politics in the Golf Club** on page 32.

David has worked with huge global corporations and was a big hit at the last Turf Manager's Conference, and here gives his honest view on how to

control politics which you may encounter in your club.

The Back Nine this month (page 66) also features the second part of Justin Ruiz's social media advice as he looks at the benefits and potential pitfalls of Twitter and Facebook.

Also – remember the new BIGGA CPD scheme officially

launched on 1 July. There's a reminder of this below – for much more refer to Stuart Green's articles in the previous two magazines.

We're also very pleased to announce the speakers for the BIGGA seminars at SALTEX 2013 – CPD credits are available for attending (page 65).



## A NEW DAWN FOR BIGGA CPD

As of 1 July 2013, the BIGGA CPD Programme is changing. Using feedback from members, the programme has been revamped to allow greater flexibility, more ways to get credits and enhanced recognition.

The new structure will be a three-year rolling programme rather than an annual programme, allowing members the flexibility to fit their professional development into their lives.

The value of a credit has risen to one per hour of education plus the type of activity that can be claimed for has been expanded.

CPD is a fantastic way to help

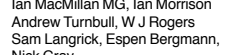
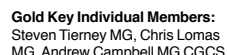
keep yourself motivated towards your career goals and ensures that you are a valuable asset to your current and any future employer.

Sami Strutt, BIGGA's Learning and Development Manager commented:

"We're excited about the new developments to the CPD programme. Member feedback has been important in helping us to shape the new programme and we feel that the enhancements that have been made will make CPD more attractive and attainable for our members. We're now concentrating on making the process of registering CPD credits

less cumbersome – watch this space!"

For more details on the new programme and how you may be affected by the changes we have created a Frequently Asked Questions section on the website that can be found at <http://www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development/cpd-frequently-asked-questions/>. We will be informing everybody how they will be transferred onto the new programme once the 2012/13 CPD scheme has been closed down. However, if you have any questions that are not on the website please call HQ.



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





## TAKING STOCK

Hadlow College have appointed Anthony Stockwell as a full-time Greenkeeping Assessor to work alongside their team, which include some of the most experienced individuals within the industry.

Anthony gained his BSc (Hons) in Greenkeeping and worked for both The New Zealand and London Golf Clubs. He's currently working with a Premier League football club and studying with Penn State University towards his Masters in Turfgrass Management.

Hadlow can offer Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeship as well as stand-alone Diplomas at Levels 2 & 3, all are delivered as much as possible in the workplace. Level 4 is being set up, which they will be able to offer in the not too distant future.

Experienced assessors from Hadlow visit learners in the work place every five weeks.

The assessors guide the learners through their qualifications, delivering underpinning knowledge and assessing practical skills. Apprentices do need to attend college, although this is kept to a minimum, and there are qualification requirements that have to be adhered to.

The Government have identified how important Apprenticeships are and as such are offering employers grants of £1500 per new Apprentice employed, if you have not employed an apprentice in the last 12 months (other criteria may apply). Anthony can be contacted on [anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk) or 07791087069



## JACOBSEN CONFIRM FURTHER SUPPORT FOR FTMI IN 2014

Following the fantastic success of this year's Future Turf Managers Initiative, Jacobsen will be running this worthwhile programme again in 2014.

With topics ranging from

budgeting and finance to CV writing and interview techniques over the three days, this is a wonderful opportunity that any aspiring turf manager should consider applying for.

The quality of the training and feedback from the delegates proved just how valuable they felt the programme was.

Keep an eye on L&D News for further details.



## ANDY'S REASON TO CELEBRATE

Congratulations to Andy Reason, Deputy Course Manager at North Hants Golf Club, who has achieved his Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management from Elmwood.

Andy will officially graduate following a ceremony later this year.



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George O'Grady (left) with Jonathan Smith

## NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

The European Tour has taken a further significant step forward in the promotion of sustainability in golf, sport and events through European Tour Green Drive.

This is a new initiative to support and showcase environmental and community action across the organisation's operations, venues and tournaments.

With a reach across over 45 countries, the Green Drive initiative has the potential to make a real impact both on the ground around the world, and as an example and inspiration.

Speaking at Wentworth during the BMW PGA Championship, European Tour Chief Executive George O'Grady expressed his commitment to the initiative. He said:

"The European Tour has long recognised the importance of environmental stewardship, resource

efficiency and positive community engagement for golf.

"We're very proud of the staging of The Ryder Cup and our significant investment in GEO (Golf Environment Organization) since 2006. Developing Green Drive across The European Tour is an important step further.

"We look forward to working with our many venue, staging, media, government and commercial partners to make a genuine contribution, and adopt a leadership position in sustainable sport".

The first Partners to come forward as leaders in their support of Green Drive are Rolex and Lioness, with Toro as a Sponsor.

European Tour Group Marketing Director Scott Kelly added: "We're very grateful for this early support – which matches the ET's own continuing investment in sustainability, and which

enables us and GEO to ensure the quality and credibility of the initiative. The European Tour provides a platform for governments and companies to showcase their own policies, corporate responsibility and technologies in the unique arena of professional golf."

The European Tour Green Drive has a strong long-term ambition based on continual improvement and is built on a credible foundation of policy, guidelines, programming and industry ecolabel from initiative partner GEO.

Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive of GEO, added: "This exciting initiative will help a diverse range of people and companies linked to The European Tour to get even more involved in credible sustainability action. There is an opportunity for every venue and tournament, and we're ready to support as they get involved and help the initiative grow".



## RT MAKE DOUBLE APPOINTMENT

Rigby Taylor have announced two appointments to their sales team. Mark Whiting (above) has been appointed to the position of Sales Director, and will assume responsibility for the implementation, direction and coordination of the company's sales strategy across the whole spectrum of the sports, amenity and landscape industries.

Working closely with his team of regional sales directors, Mark brings a wealth of sales experience to this role.

Tito Arana (below) has been appointed to the new role of Business Development Manager. Tito will assume responsibility for identifying and developing new market and business sector opportunities with the objective of achieving new revenue streams for the company. Tito is Basis qualified and has a wide range of experience within the amenity industry.





## DEEP AERATION FOR FREE DRAINING GREENS

Opened for play in 1896, Maidenhead Golf Club has obviously evolved over the intervening years, but it is still based around its original construction.

This means the greens have not been constructed to modern standards but are essentially constructed on natural clay over gravel base. Over the years, the clay has formed a moisture-retaining bowl that needs careful management to prevent greens becoming waterlogged.

A loan of a Redexim Verti-Drain, from Charterhouse Turf Machinery, that worked down to a greater depth than



nine inches, has had a marked impact upon improving the speed at which water drained from the greens.

Course Manager, Barry Gardner, above, said: "We have already seen an improvement in how the greens drain since using the new Verti-Drain, but we can only use the machine at its full depth when our members allow. We are an

extremely busy course, so will need to time deep aeration accordingly."

"It's not that the Verti-Drain causes a difficult to remedy heave after an aeration pass at maximum depth," Barry is keen to point out, "it's just that more aggressive aeration will cause some disruption to the surface and the green will take time to settle."



## ONE SPRAY, COMPLETE CONTROL

Cold and wet weather during the early spring slowed the growth of grass and without the competition weeds have become established. However, with moisture in the soil and warmer temperatures, excellent control can now be achieved with the use of Greenor.

Greenor achieves effective translocation into the roots ensuring a more thorough kill of the root occurs and a greater level of weed control. The product provides excellent results against a wide range of weeds, including daisies and both white and yellow suckling clovers but really comes into its own in swards containing tougher, more difficult to control species.

Following application, the active ingredients of Greenor rapidly penetrate the plant through the leaf surface and moves deep into the root system. Once absorbed, they cannot be washed off and are readily translocated around the whole of the weed, including the roots.

This unique formulation increases herbicide activity, resulting in a more thorough kill with lower amounts of active ingredient.

## BTME TRIGGERS WIEDENMANN PURCHASE AT KEDLESTON



A new Wiedenmann Terra Spike GX8i HD was the stand-out choice when the team at Kedleston Park Golf Club, Derby needed a new aerator. After a visit to BTME in Harrogate and a very thorough on site demonstration, the deal was struck.

Head greenkeeper David Leatherland, who has held his post for over 35 years said: "For lots of reasons the GXi8 HD just suited us ... its size; our type of course – our greens are built on sand with everywhere else

clay-based; and the fit with our tractor. It was simply the right one."

"Since its arrival at the end of May, its main focus so far has been to pencil tine all greens which we plan to do on a monthly basis."

James Robson, Area Sales Manager at Wiedenmann dealer, Henton & Chattell, said: "Kedleston Park is both an exceptionally well-tended and busy course so the versatile GX8i HD at 1.8m wide combines high coverage with precision and really will do what they require."



# Fril your boots!



The BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota is heading to Frilford Heath Golf Club. Steve Castle discovered why players can expect a treat in rural Oxfordshire







#### PROFILE

**Name:** Sidney Arrowsmith MG  
**Role:** Course Manager  
**Born:** Wigan, 22 October 1953  
**Handicap:** .....9  
**Hobbies:** Gardening, walking,  
watching sport.....  
**Favourite sports team:**  
Manchester United .....





**An increased prize fund...the chance to play on a course which hosts European Tour qualifying a week previously... picturesque heathland surrounded by rare flora, fauna and wildlife...what further incentives do you need to enter the 2013 BIGGA National Championship?**

Most of the impressive 700-acre, 54-hole complex is a Site of Special Scientific Interest – so while you're hitting over the pond and dodging the greenside bunkers on the par three 9th, or attacking the long par five 10th, you may catch sight of a red kite, woodpecker or some of the rare orchids.

Frilford Heath was first awarded European Tour qualifying three years ago – a real feather in the club's cap. The qualifying – and the BIGGA National – take place on the Red Course with the Green and Blue courses remaining open throughout. Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith was quick to insist that nothing radically changes during that week although he acknowledged it is a big test for the team.

"Some may think it's daunting to host these events, but we run at a high standard all the time so for a European Tour event it's not as if we have to lift it up by, say, 25% - we're always at tournament

standard so it just requires a bit of fine tuning.

"This may mean double cutting on a morning with a double or single iron but nothing too major. The height of cut remains the same at around 2.5mm.

"October is a challenging time of year to host prestigious events, because of course the light is limited in the morning and in the evening.

"There are 240 players starting the qualifying at 7.45am, yet sunrise is at around 6.45am so we've only got an hour to work on the course, so we try and do as much work as possible the evening before.

"To help I direct most of our available resources to the Red Course.

"It's all about the team ethic. I've got some wonderful guys here who have never worked anywhere else and they deserve great credit. We have a Head Greenkeeper on each of the three courses, five assistant greenkeepers on each and two full-time mechanics."

So what else can BIGGA members bidding to win the first prize of £500 - and the BIGGA Challenge Trophy – expect?

"It is a very stern test of golf – a true heathland challenge. There are lots of obstacles such as gorse just off the fairways which can really hurt you. You've got to hit long and straight, it's a demanding 6,912



Rank	Marker's Name	White Tees	Yellow Tees	Par	Score	Strokes	Handicap	Nett
1		384	369	4	9			
2		534	510	5	3			
3		416	373	4	13			
4		197	189	3	15			
5		425	414	4	3			
6		500	480	5	11			
7		119	106	3	7			
8		469	448	4	1			
9		186	173	3	17			
OUT		3530	3476	3338	36			
10		551	516	5	8			
11		183	133	3	18			
12		474	474	4	4			
13		192	155	3	10			
14		328	305	4	14			
15		421	400	4	2			
16		324	319	4	12			
17		105	106	3	8			
18		305	292	4	16			
IN		3343	3229	3148	36			
OUT		3530	3476	3338	36			
IDEAL		3913	3778	3686	72			



yards. There's a lot of risk and reward golf – if you want to take the big stick out and try and get the distance there are birdie opportunities.

“But, if it doesn't quite come off you will be heavily penalised. It's a varied challenge from hole to hole.”

Sid explained the changes they've made in a bid to regain the Red Course's place in the Top 100 Courses in the UK list. They have built new tees, put in some new bunkers and replaced old sand with new in others, as well as putting drainage sumps in some of the sand traps.

He added: “The greens are a blend of Agrostis grasses and poa annua – and the vast majority are natural heathland greens. We've tried to produce better performing greens by reducing organic material – thatch – then diluting it with pure sand so the greens become firmer, faster and improved. The thatch coverage has never been bad but it's just been a little more than I would ideally like.

“We've also started using a Clegg Hammer as well as the stimpmeter and moisture meter to check the smoothness, trueness and firmness.

“The Clegg Hammer measures impacts on the surface which gives you a firmness reading. We got some readings of 120 which was too hard so we aim for 100 – really firm, fast greens.

Last year at the European Tour qualifying the greens were running at 11 and we were asked to slow them down – it made my day! So we missed the second cut out and we took the turf iron out to take them down to 10.5.”

The team follow identical aeration programmes on each course. They micro hollow tine twice a year – usually in March and then in July or August, and aerate deep with the aid of a machine they've recently purchased called GP Air. This is basically a spear which has compressed air pumped into it.

It's then plunged into the turf and shatters the soil underneath, allowing quick and easy drainage.

Sid explained that over time, the silt particles in the greens migrate and settle at various depths, so this

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### Some of the key machines in the team's fleet...

#### GREENS MOWING:

TORO 3150 x 12, TORO FLEX 21 x 3

#### SURROUND MOWERS

TORO 3100D x 4  
FAIRWAY MOWERS, TORO 5510 x 3  
SEMI ROUGH MOWERS, TORO 4500D x 2  
JD OUT FRONT MOWERS x 2

#### AERATION

TERRA SPIKE x 1  
TORO PRO CORE SR72  
PLANET AIR x 1  
GP AIR x 1  
TORO HYDROJECT x 1  
SHATTERMASTER  
JD AERCORE

#### SPRAYERS

TORO MULTI PRO 5800 x 1  
GAMBETI BAR x 3

#### BUNKER RAKERS

TORO 3400 x 3

#### BLOWERS

TORO PRO FORCE x 1  
TORNADO BLOWERS x 2

#### TURF ROLLERS

TRU TURF x 2  
VIBRATING ROLLERS x 1

#### CUT AND COLLECT/LEAF COLLECTION

AMAZONE GHS 180 x 2

#### UTILITY VEHICLES

TORO MDX WORKMAN x 6  
JD GATORS x 4  
TRACTORS x 13 ALL JOHN DEERE

#### BERNHARD GRINDING EQUIPMENT

EXPRESS DUAL 4000  
ANGLEMASTER 4000

#### TOP DRESSING

DAKOTA 410 TURF TENDER



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  - Improves ball roll consistency
  - Increases greens speed
  - Promotes the rapid healing of ball and spike marks
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# SPIKE

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“Last year at the European Tour qualifying the greens were running at 11 and we were asked to slow them down – it made my day!”



machine ‘blasts’ this layer to help the infiltration.

The site also features acid grassland and ancient fenland, and some of the older trees were felled recently to rehydrate the fenland. In turn, this encouraged natural flora and fauna to return, which allowed various species to flourish. Burrowing wasps, rare beetles, treecreepers, buzzards, red kites and kingfishers can be spotted by the more eagle-eyed golfer.

Lancastrian Sid worked at various courses in the UK before becoming part of the team constructing Golf D’Apremont, a course 40km north of Paris. He was then Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland before joining Frilford Heath in February 1994. He turns 60 this year – so what advice would he give young greenkeepers?

“It’s absolutely vital to keep abreast of all issues, developments and changes – whether they be environmental, technical or mechanical. I achieved my Master Greenkeeper Certificate in 1997. It’s not made me a better or a worse greenkeeper – I did it for my own personal CPD.

“The whole picture is important – the way you dress, portray yourself at meetings and social events, how you speak to the members...if you want respect you have to conduct yourself in the right manner.

“I never stop seeking ways to educate myself further and keep

improving. I remember going to BTME, sitting with the likes of Walter Woods, Jack McMillan and George Brown and just letting their knowledge rub off on me.”

Sid and I then headed up to the clubhouse balcony which overlooks the 18th green, and his thoughts returned to the BIGGA National.

BIGGA members hoping to follow in the footsteps of current champion Oly Browning can play two rounds of golf plus dinner on

the Monday evening for just £90. There are prizes for best gross and nett scores plus various prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive.

“I’m looking forward to hosting the guys even though I’m sure some of them will be picking holes in elements of the course!

“That’s natural for greenkeepers and I’m looking forward to meeting them all. I’m also playing in it so we’ll see what happens there!”

See you in October.





This year's BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, is at the superb Friarford Heath Golf Club on October 7-8, with the first prize of £500 worth of vouchers



# Become the next BIGGA Champion

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## **2014 National Championship 2014, Friarford Heath Golf Club, October 7-8 • Entry Form**

### **Name (write in block letters please)**

**Club name**

**Club no. (if any)**

**The competition is open to all men and women who are members of a club affiliated to the British Golf Federation and who are aged 18 years or over on the 1st January 2014.**

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

.....

.....

**Mobile** .....

**E-mail** .....

**Membership No.** .....

**Handicap** .....

**2014 Profile** .....

**Club Card** .....

### **Payment method (please tick)**

**By cheque (please send payment to BIGGA 0203 261234)**

**By card (Mastercard, Visa or Visa Electron) (please tick)**

**Card name** .....

.....

**Card Exp.** .....

**Card security code** .....

**Month, year & PIN exp.** .....

**Signature** .....

**Date** .....

### **Club and membership**

**Club name** .....

**Membership no. (if any) or club card no.** .....

**Profile for entry to the 2014 National Championship**

**Completed entries should be sent to: BIGGA National Championship, c/o The Friar Golf Club, Friarford Heath, Friarford Heath, Leamington Spa, CV32 3JF**



**There is a maximum of 100 entries per club. Entries should be sent to the club secretary or club professional. Entries should be sent to the club secretary or club professional. Entries should be sent to the club secretary or club professional.**

**There is a maximum of 100 entries per club. Entries should be sent to the club secretary or club professional. Entries should be sent to the club secretary or club professional. Entries should be sent to the club secretary or club professional.**

# A day in the life

Six months after his first greenkeeping crash course in Cheshire, Steve Castle joined the team at Immingham Golf Club the day before a major event with hundreds due to attend. What could possibly go wrong?







## PROFILE

**Name:** Steve Beverly  
**Position:** Head Greenkeeper  
**Born:** Wirral, 20 July 1979  
**Handicap:** 13  
**Hobbies:** Golf, spending time with wife and two young children  
**Favourite sports team:** Tranmere Rovers

**Back in November I experienced my first proper day in the life of a greenkeeper at Lymm Golf Club which featured digging drainage trenches in torrential rain – so I was extremely pleased to see the sun shining brightly as I headed for Immingham Golf Club, near Grimsby in Lincolnshire.**

The club's four greenkeepers – Steve Beverly, Robin Portess, Rob Bemment and Malcolm Holden – arrived well before I turned up at 7am to continue preparations for the next day's Charity Golf Day, with 130 people expected to play.

My first impression was that the parkland course – which opened in 1975 as a nine-hole venue before being extended to 18 holes in 1985 – genuinely looked superb, taking on a vibrant green hue in the sunshine.

However, I quickly discovered there was still much hard work to complete behind the scenes to fine-tune the course ahead of one of its most important days of the season.

Head Greenkeeper Steve said: "It's vital to have the course looking its absolute best. As well as the money that will be brought in tomorrow, we want to convince some of the players to return and ultimately to become members. It's all about word of mouth, if they tell people they've enjoyed it and it's a

first-class course more and more people will come and play here."

It would be no exaggeration to say the club exists on a shoestring budget, and have had to deal with problems ranging from disastrous floods to vandalism. It's been a challenging time for Scouser Steve who joined the club from Cleethorpes Golf Club (where he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper) in 2006.

"In June 2007 this area suffered horrendous flooding. We had 331mm of rain that month, to put that in context the next highest since I arrived was 154mm in June last year. Part of the course is below sea level and that flooded very badly, and it's clay-based so the water had nowhere to go. Everyone described it as a once-in-a-lifetime month, I just hope they're right!"

My first task was to help Steve empty the bins and ball washers next to the tees, and we began just yards from the impressive clubhouse. He then paused to point out a strange track running through a bunker. I was bemused until he wearily explained the cause.

"Someone's cycled through this. We've really suffered with vandalism. We've had flags stolen or chucked in the pond and greens dug up – but what can you do? We have CCTV, but we can't put a huge fence around the entire course. We just have to deal with it when it happens."

ABOVE: The team: Robin Portess, Malcolm Holden, Rob Bemment, Steve Beverly

As we worked our way around the course he showed me how to trim the holes – exactly the sort of task I did not appreciate as a casual golfer before I joined BIGGA but am now well aware of. It was clear attention to detail was absolutely vital as the club sought to convince many of the next day's punters to return.

This brought us on to the inevitably thorny issue of money in an area which is one of the least prosperous in the UK.

**“Machines are expensive to buy new so generally we all muck in and repair them when something breaks”**

Steve confided that the team had to take a pay cut at the height of the club's financial problems in 2010, and the newest machine the club owns is a five-year-old Toro Groundsmaster 7210. He added: "You have to balance out the cost of continually repairing against the cost of new machinery. These machines are expensive to buy new so generally we all muck in and repair them when something breaks."

After lunch in the shipping container which doubles as a mess room, Steve risked letting me loose



on parts of the course. I attempted to mow the 18th green with a Ransomes Jacobsen Greens King 6, but sadly

I failed to lift the mower up quickly enough and took a bite out of the side of the green – something I stupidly replicated later on a tee box. I've definitely still got some way to go in my greenkeeping education.

My favourite machine was the Toro Groundsmaster 7210. It's controlled with an unusual (to me) pair of hand-held levers. This took a little bit of time to adjust to, but within a few minutes I was confidently driving it around and having more fun than was strictly necessary.

Later, Steve and I spent much of the day painstakingly raking the club's 44 bunkers. He showed me the correct technique – and also showed me how to take the soil temperature, something he does every day – before he continued on the financial theme.

He said: "At BTME I heard a greenkeeper say he'd spent £7,000 on a single bunker. That's fair enough if you've got the money but that's a different world to us. Sustainability is all very well. But we haven't got years to implement it, plus, of course, it all costs money.

We're proving here that you don't need a massive budget to create a great course."

The team have a genuine affection for the club and each other. At 3pm, you might have expected them to have sprinted off home after another tough day, but in fact the opposite was true. Robin quickly got some practice in on the putting green (the whole team are very keen golfers with low handicaps) and we then headed for a well earned drink in the clubhouse.

A couple of members were very keen to praise the course despite the harsh economic realities. Comments included "it looks and plays fantastic", "these lads are doing a great job" and "it's the best course in the area". I've been made well aware that BIGGA members feel their tireless work is sometimes



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*"Greens treated with Qualibra were clearly healthier and provided better playing surfaces."*

**Ian Coote**  
Royston Golf Club,  
Herts

*"From what I have seen, using Qualibra would mean I may only need to irrigate once a week – a big saving in time and money."*

**Glenn Rayfield**  
Felixstowe Ferry Golf  
Club, Suffolk

*"Where we had sprayed Qualibra there has been a marked and sustained improvement in sward quality."*

**Philip Baldock**  
Ganton Golf Club,  
Yorkshire



**AERATION PROGRAMME**

Steve says: "We have two 'maintenance weeks' when aeration and heavier top dressing is carried out, with routine aeration regularly carried out throughout the year.

"The greens maintain slightly higher levels of thatch than we'd ideally like so a mixture of hollow coring, solid tining and verti-draining is carried out.

"The greens are solid tined at 3-4 week intervals depending on the golf calendar using a mixture of 8mm and 14mm tines at varying depths. They are fed using granular fertilisers from spring to autumn and liquids in winter. We use lawn sand in the spring, 12-0-9 in summer and 3-0-22 in the autumn. We're trialling two different types of bio-stimulants which comprise sugars and seaweeds amongst other elements.

"We've reduced fairway verti-draining due to the high cost of fuel, and fairway scarification is required but unfortunately is not financially viable."

**MACHINERY LIST**

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 Jacobsen G-Plex 2 fitted with 2002 thatchaway units  
 Jacobsen LF3800  
 Jacobsen TR3  
 Kubota 5240 tractor  
 TYM 390 tractor with loader  
 Toro Workman 3300  
 Toro Groundsmaster 7210  
 Dakota 410 topdresser  
 John Deere 220 handmower  
 Hardi 200 litre sprayer  
 Charterhouse 7416 verti-drain  
 Turfmec 360 tractor mounted blower  
 1x Knapsack sprayer  
 1x flymo  
 1x backpack blower  
 2x trimmers

MAIN LEFT: Steve Beverly changing the ball wash  
 INSET LEFT: Steve Castle trimming the hole



unappreciated by many golfers at their clubs, so it was refreshing to hear this positivity. The only complaint I heard was that Immingham – with its tough par threes and fours, some blind tee shots and undulating fairways – was too hard!

Steve says: "It is a tough course and probably doesn't get the credit it deserves. Like any course if you take care with your course management - and hit it down the middle - you won't end up in trouble!"

I then noticed that a window on the second floor of the clubhouse was being repaired. I feared another

sad tale of mindless vandalism until Robin started laughing, and tried to explain how one visiting golfer had managed to whack a ball through it while practising in a net far below.

He said: "He must have accidentally hit it back off the iron frame, it's sailed just past his head, shot 20 feet up and gone through the window. It was like CSI Immingham the next day with us all trying to work out how he'd done it."

All in all, a hugely enjoyable and informative day and I left knowing I'd discovered a hidden gem of a club.

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# Turning Japanese



How lethal injection is the best way to tackle Japanese knotweed – one of the most invasive weeds you will come across

**Invasive weeds are damaging and difficult to control but Japanese knotweed, the general name given to a group of species belonging to the genus *Fallopia* (family Polygonaceae), and native to Japan and parts of China, stands head and shoulders above the rest. In their native Asian range they are primary volcanic colonisers and generally far less vigorous because plant growth is kept in check by co-evolving natural biological control agents, including arthropod natural enemies and pathogens.**

The species of Japanese knotweed usually found in the UK is *Fallopia japonica* var. *japonica*, introduced from Japan two centuries ago.

Japanese knotweed continues to destroy ecosystems and urban infrastructure and is one of few

herbaceous weeds requiring direct placement of herbicide inside the plant to ensure quick complete control.

The introduction of Japanese knotweed as an ornamental plant into early Victorian gardens must have seemed like a good idea at the time but it has left a huge and growing weed legacy. Capacity for vegetative spread in situ through enormous fast growing and resilient rhizomes, made easier by the very nature of its favoured riparian and urban environments, is the secret of Japanese knotweed's success.

Dense growing stands restrict access for riverbank inspections and increase flood risks through large quantities of dead stems and leaves washed into rivers and streams. Attempts to remove established stands from riparian areas can cause instability in river banks and increase the risk of soil erosion.

Urban site infestations cause







considerable damage to hard surfaces. With stems that can penetrate concrete tarmac is no barrier to Japanese knotweed. The severity of Japanese knotweed is clear to see from the legislation used to limit spread and damage. It's scheduled under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act making it an offence to plant or cause it to grow in the wild. It is also classified as 'Controlled Waste' under the Environment Protection Act (1990) and must be disposed of at a licensed landfill site in accordance with the Environment Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991.

**A multi-faceted weed**

Red-coloured, spear-like aerial shoots emerge in spring - reaching 30cm by April and forming a massive foliar canopy two to three metres tall by summer's end. Plants produce large numbers of white flowers in summer but hardly any viable seed, probably due to UK climatic restrictions on sexual reproductive development.

Above ground stems die back and dry out in autumn, but overwintering rootstock and rhizomes

**PAGE 28 MAIN LEFT:** Japanese Knotweed produces lots of flowers but hardly any viable seed

**INSET LEFT:** The 'Injectordos' from Micron Sprayers in action. The robust needle is inserted into a stem near to ground level and pushed in until halted by the brass 'stopper'. The hole which is visible is now lined up with the cavity in the hollow stem. The herbicide passes through this hole and into cavity of the hollow stem.

**PAGE 29 TOP LEFT:** New shoots in spring look innocent enough but by summer's end they could be 3 m high

**LEFT ABOVE:** Even the worst native weeds like greater bindweed (vining plant in the background) are no match for Japanese Knotweed

**RIGHT ABOVE:** Jointed stems of Japanese Knotweed. Some of last year's stems, now brown and dead, are still very much in evidence

(underground stems) are so fast growing, all pervading and consuming that nothing else stands a chance - even during the only 'knotweed-free window' during late autumn and winter. Dead stems and leaves decompose very slowly to form a deep litter that prevents the germination of other seeds.

Failure to produce viable seed is more than compensated for by a fast growing and robust system of rhizomes allowing Japanese knotweed to exploit and dominate environments through vegetative propagation.

Rhizome systems may extend up to 7m from the parent plant and to a depth of 3m. Rhizome fragments as small as 0.7g can generate new plants and pieces of fresh aerial stem will grow shoots and roots in soil or water. Plants achieve up to 3m of aerial growth and 6m of rhizome growth in a single growing season.

New shoots arise from the tiniest pieces of rhizome and cut stem-sections will root at the nodes. Crowns can survive drying or composting to produce new canes once in contact with water. Attempts to mechanically control Japanese

knotweed using strimmers, flails or diggers can aggravate spread.

**Herbicide application**

Application of herbicide is the only sure and safe way to manage Japanese knotweed but this is easier said than done due to the sheer size and resilience of its rhizomes. A number of herbicides are effective against Japanese knotweed but by how much and for how long depends on the application technique used. Application technique will ultimately determine the success of chemical control against Japanese knotweed.

Spraying with contact herbicide will burn off the leaves but rhizomes survive and produce new stems. The only sure and safe way to dispatch Japanese knotweed is by placing a systemically acting herbicide (most usually glyphosate) into the plants by injection of intact standing stems low down and at the most appropriate time of the growing season.

Target area is the lower part of the aerial stem to minimize the distance for downward translocation into the rhizome system. Best time is



from late summer through autumn when rhizomes become sinks for soluble food and nutrients which is translocated downwards from the leaves before these senesce and fall off. Injected systemic herbicide is subject to this same strong basipetal (downward) translocation into the rhizome system which is subsequently killed.

**Death by lethal injection**

Japanese knotweed’s hollow stem is its ‘Achilles Heel’. Professional stem injection applicators designed and dedicated to control of hollow-stemmed weed plants such as Japanese knotweed are available.

Stem injectors used to control Japanese Knotweed include:

- ‘Injectordos’ from Micron Sprayers at Bromyard, Herefordshire.
- ‘JK Injection Tool’ from Stem Injection Systems at Stockport, Cheshire
- ‘Stem Master’ from Nomix Enviro at Andover, Hampshire.

The advantages offered by the stem injection technique focus on effectiveness, ease of access and use and all round safety for operators and the environment.

Use of these relatively lightweight and small applicators mean operators can access and treat the most dense stands of Japanese knotweed. By providing a closed delivery system the technique can be safely and effectively used at any time including during rainfall. The closed highly targeted delivery system means there is no danger of product escaping into the environment to damage nearby plants. Also, by delivery of a measured dose into the hollow stem, the injection technique can usually achieve ‘death by lethal injection’ in one application.

Stem injection does a truly ‘inside job’ on Japanese knotweed and is used with good effect on other invasive weeds such Himalayan balsam and Giant Hogweed which also have hollow stems. Stem injection is something most golf courses can carry out using their own resources.

However, taking into account equipment, expertise and safety – including the need for an appropriate operator’s licence if application is made near water and safe disposal of any debris - then employing the services of a specialist company advertising this expertise may turn out to be the most convenient and effective option.

**RIGHT:** Japanese Knotweed forms extensive dense weed stands  
**BELOW:** Close up on the heart shaped leaves and white flowers  
**BELOW RIGHT:** Stem injection can also be used to control other weeds with hollow stems like Himalayan Balsam shown here alongside a stream on a Hertfordshire golf course

**about the author**



**Dr Terry Mabbett**

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



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# Golf club politics

Are you frustrated with constant political bickering at your club? Here's David Bancroft-Turner with a realistic and hard-hitting view on how to manage it all



**Golf Club politics - surely there aren't any? Members come together to enjoy and share the game that they all love, hosting old and new friends, eating and drinking at the 19th hole, generally getting along and telling tales of the various shots that were great or not so great...sounds idyllic doesn't it?**

But let's go behind the scenes... Committees populated with the same people year after year, groups formed around various personalities, the member from hell that complains about everything, greenkeeping staff that seem to delight in making it as difficult for members as possible... oh the joys of working at a Golf Club. The frustration, angst, time wasting...argh!

Golf Clubs are like any other formalised groups of human

beings – where there are three or more gathered together, thou shalt have politics. But actually it's worse than that, as Clubs have an added dimension that companies and the like don't have – people who have time on their hands. A group, generally retired, with agendas only known to themselves interacting with the paid service providers within the club who don't have this time luxury, in fact the opposite.

So let's take a step back and get some clarity on what we are talking about here – Club politics. Note the small 'p'. So we are talking about the behaviour of all people associated with the Club, but what actually is 'politics'?

One definition would be the informal way of getting things done, as opposed to the formal. An example - when I was a Committee member and was keen to propose

a new way of doing things I chose to approach all of the other Committee members for their views and ask for their support. When I had that support I attended the Committee meeting to put forward my idea – but I already knew the outcome! The question to you is this – in your opinion was I skilful or manipulative?

View One: You're skilful.

Get others people's views first, tweak your idea as a result of their input and get clarity of direction before you get the official rubber stamp of approval at the meeting.

View Two: You're manipulative.

Why didn't you present your ideas in the open at the meeting where we could all discuss the relative merits, all have a say and then vote on it?

I don't subscribe to the idea that one is good and two is bad (or vice versa) they are just different ways

## about the author



**David Bancroft - Turner**

David Bancroft-Turner has worked with BIGGA for many years, has worked in the area of influencing for 15 years and has presented to some of the world's leading organisations such as NatWest. He is the author of 'Workplace Politics'.

David will be writing another article soon covering information on the four different personality types. If you would like further information and/or support on this article then contact David at [dbt@tafpi.com](mailto:dbt@tafpi.com)



of getting to the same end point. I don't find it helpful to argue which is right and which is wrong. We will just end up arguing. The key question is:

**DO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE IS HAPPENING AT YOUR CLUB?**

In fact - are you aware of how your Club really works? Not how it says it works, but how it REALLY works. This is the art, science and process of managing Club politics. And you know what? If you don't manage the Club politics, they will manage you. And do you know what that means? You will be sidelined, left out of decisions, ignored, your ability to influence reduced, your power to bring about change deflated, and your voice a quiet whisper in the vocal morass that is your Club.

What this means in practice is; depending on how other people go about their business you will need to use different skills and behaviours to make sure you are not a victim of however they go about their decision making.

So - are you convinced yet that you need to be on top of your Club politics?

I wasn't, until something happened to me working in my first job - in a bank (yes, I know, I know, I used to be proud of this until some idiots in pinstripe suits started ruining the whole industry. Anyway, back to the story). My good friend Neil and I had joined the bank on the same day, on the same grade, on the same employment scheme. After a promising start I thought I was doing quite well and seven months into my new job Neil was promoted, walk-

ing into the office with his letter, proudly showing it to anybody who would listen and talking about what he was going to do with his pay rise. "Congratulations, well done, fantastic news" I said. Inside I was in turmoil. How did he manage that? I'm better than him, aren't I? Where's my letter?

Two days later I found myself at the coffee machine with the Admin Manager and raised the subject. In that very British apologetic way (!) he said "Well, if you had spoken up about the good work you have been doing, like Neil, perhaps the big boss would have recommended you as well for that promotion".

"What do you mean" I thought, "doesn't my work speak for itself?" Obviously not! The next day I accidentally bumped into the big boss (actually I had waited outside

do you do next? Here are some ideas for you to think about:

- Find out from colleagues, members and trusted friends which people have power in your Club and develop excuses to connect with them (connect is trainer speak for talk to them, listen to them, have a chat, find out what is on their mind etc)
- Ask your boss about his or her agenda and what they really want out of working at the Club
- Network (meet, talk, bump into, have a chat, whatever you want to call it) with people that you don't know. Introduce yourself and be interested in what they think about the Club
- Learn the four different personality preferences that exist and practice saying the same thing in four different ways

**“Golf Clubs are like any other formalised groups of human beings – where there are three or more gathered together, thou shalt have politics”**

the staff restaurant for 55 minutes waiting for him to turn up and then accidentally bumped into him), he asked me to join him for lunch which gave me the opportunity to tell him how brilliant I was (in that British way again of course!). Skilful or manipulative? - Your choice!

The point being I was relying on the formal processes in the organisation to look after me when actually it was the informal processes that I needed to learn and to make sure I am tapped into as much as possible.

That was my first lesson about politics - do not rely on what they tell you are the processes for making decisions - the real way your organisation works is via the informal processes.

So, less of banking and me, let's get back to you and your Club. Take a look at the questions inset left.

Any answer which is 'No' to any question gives you a plan of action. An answer of 'No' to question 10 means you have no hope. If you don't believe that politics needs to be managed, there is nothing I can do for you. Apart from giving you my respect for making a decision that is going to be really tough for you and your career in the future. But hey, good luck!

If you've decided that you need to become more involved in Club politics then the question is what

- Think back on times that have gone well and not so well - what can you learn from them?
- Ask people that you trust at the Club about how decisions really get made
- Take time with the 'little people' at the Club (bar staff, receptionist, secretaries - with a small s) and develop a relationship with them so you can obtain information and knowledge when you need it (forewarned is forearmed)
- Practice managing the key political skill of 'Time and Place'. Know when to raise an issue and learn when to keep quiet
- Focus on outcomes, possibilities, solutions and not problems, difficulties and worries. Develop a reputation for positivity and action
- Stop avoiding people you don't like - the best politicians interact with everybody, otherwise they are not going to have the vital information that they need
- Start to use the informal processes that exist - identify them, where do they happen, when, who and what is covered?
- Accept that it is not only 'What' you do that is being watched by others but also 'How' you do it
- Learn to talk about yourself and your colleagues in the positive. If you don't, then no one will
- And if all else fails, go back and start again. Or go home. Back to the most political human group of all - The family!

**You and your Club...**

1. Are you clear on how decisions really get made in your Club?
2. Do you know how information flows in and out of the Club?
3. Are you connected with the people who have access to the power in the Club?
4. Are you aware of the key people in your Club and what their REAL agendas are?
5. Are you able to flex your approach depending on who you are dealing with?
6. Do you know when to shut up?
7. Are you able to make a bad situation look as if it can be improved, or do you see the downside in everything?
8. Do you take time out to be really interested in what is important for other people?
9. Do you make the agenda of your boss, your agenda?
10. Do you really believe that the politics need to be managed?







# Managing golf courses in the Arabian heat

MAIN: 2nd hole at The Els Club Dubai

LEFT: 5. Sea Isle Paspalum grass at the Al Hamra Golf Club

INSET LEFT: The 11th tee at The Els Club Dubai

Greenkeepers are all too aware of the problems caused by excess water – what about the issues posed by heat? Laurence Pithie travelled to a sweltering United Arab Emirates to find out



**The UAE is a federation of seven Emirates or principalities, the capital and largest being Abu Dhabi. Gaining immense revenue from oil, areas of the desert have been transformed as investment has been used to create a modern city and infrastructure consisting of commerce, retail, residential and tourism, not to mention golf courses, marinas, sporting arenas, race tracks and so on.**

Travelling within the UAE is relatively cheap, thanks to fuel costs that the western world can only dream of. Filling the car for £10 is quite a novelty along with the seven lane Sheikh Zayed highway that bisects Dubai.

The UAE's population of almost 8 million inhabitants, 2 million of whom live in Dubai, is served by 19 golf courses, albeit with some nine hole layouts.

The Emirates Majlis course was the first grass course in 1988 followed by almost one each year until the downturn in the global economy took effect.

Most of the newer courses are integrated into larger housing communities or linked to hotels that help guarantee success.

Fortunately this market is again on the increase and Dubai reputedly enjoys one of the highest hotel occupancy rates in the world. Peak season is from October to April with annual roundage varying from 20,000 to 60,000.

Some of the more popular sites are also floodlit, allowing golf to be played until midnight as darkness occurs much earlier throughout the summer than in the UK.

Winter temperatures are around 20C, whereas summer temperatures are frequently above 40C and therein lies the considerable challenge of keeping the turfgrass alive, especially when rainfall is negligible.

## **THE GOLF COURSES**

I visited several courses with Richard Crocombe, BIGGA International Member and Course Superintendent and Project Manager for Orient Irrigation in Dubai.

The majority of courses I explored were designed by Harradine Golf, making best use of the flat desert landscape and enjoyable for all levels of golfer.

Along the coastal fringes of the UAE where the golf courses are located the land largely consists of dune sand which is high in salt content, of a fine particle size and



**“Winter temperatures are around 20C, whereas summer temperatures are frequently above 40C and therein lies the considerable challenge of keeping the turfgrass alive, especially when rainfall is negligible”**





prone to wind blow in the form of sand storms. The warm season grasses consist of either Bermuda or Paspalum although some high-end courses overseed with cool season rye in the winter on tees, fairways and semi-roughs for either tournaments or presentation.

Drainage to greens is standard and on the fairways, this can range from soakaways to piped networks. Fairway drainage is important in order to allow effluent irrigation water to move through the profile as quickly as possible, thus avoiding the build-up of high sodium levels.

Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE) from adjacent housing communities, hotels or from the municipality is widely used for irrigation purposes.

On the Jebel Ali resort course, an on-site desalination plant provides clean drinking water for the hotel, apartments and clubhouse which is then recycled as TSE for the golf course and hotel grounds - good use of this precious commodity.

At the height of summer up to 12mm of water will be applied each night to replace the amount lost in ET. This equates to over 1 million gals (4,545m<sup>3</sup>) of water per night being used per 18 holes.

Compared to the amount used on a typical UK course this equates to just two nights watering!

More than three nights without water in the summer would place the turf under serious stress. Whereas northern European courses tend to have around 48Ha of natural turf, a typical course in Dubai will have well under half that amount due to water availability.

Apart from narrow strips of semi-rough, all external areas are of a 'desert' landscape and are managed as such. Great use is made of bunkers for similar reasons, with washed sand sourced from the dunes or imported silica sand from neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

**GREENS**

Most newer greens are of a good size throughout the UAE, being largely built to USGA standards or similar. Either local 'red' or 'sweet' sand is used for construction or imported silica sand. pH levels are generally high, often between 7.5 and 8.0.

Bermuda TifEagle or TifDwarf are the most common grass types, although newer courses are switching to Paspalum Sea Isle varieties or Platinum TE.

The latter has higher heat and salt tolerances which gives it an advantage over Bermuda, but it has

to be managed more aggressively to combat thatch levels. In both cases, superb putting surfaces can be attained with mowing heights varying from 2.5mm in summer to 3.5mm in winter.

Root depth typically varies between 75 and 150mm in depth with OM levels dependent on thatch control measures. Green speed averages around 9 feet for visitor play to well over 11 feet for tournaments.

Mowing is by walk mowers only with up to 14 cuts per week; this in addition to 'turf ironing' 3 times per week. Fertiliser input is considerable compared to the UK, since these are 'hungry' grasses and growing all year round.

Nitrogen input can vary from 350 to 500 kgs/Ha per annum, likewise Potassium, whereas Phosphate levels are low. All greens tend to receive high levels of Calcium (various sources) to combat the sodium build-up with applications being 'little and frequent' namely every week but depending on the time of year.

Aerifying and top dressing practices are similar to the UK but with far more verti-cutting and light scarifying required. Insects are more of a problem than disease, with leaf feeding cutworms, army worms and root feeding white grubs being the chief pests followed by nematodes.

The key challenge with greens is to manage salinity levels within the root-zone by regularly flushing or drenching the greens to force downward movement of salt accumulation. The other main challenges are to control thatch and firm up surfaces and to maintain this during the peak winter season when the growth rate is relatively slow.

**MANAGEMENT**

All courses in the UAE require intensive labour; with 18 staff for every nine holes being the norm. Around 20% of the time is taken up managing the peripheral desert landscaped areas which involves weeding, trimming, pruning and watering.

These areas vary in style and can range from palm trees to lower growing shrubs that can tolerate the heat of the desert sun. Presentation and attention to detail such as bunker and cart path edging is intensive, especially with prices of up to £200 a round.

Most Superintendents are either British, Australian or Kiwi, with the rest of the crew from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.



MAIN: Desert style landscaping at Jebel Ali Golf Resort  
BELOW: Feeding green with walk boom



On some of the larger properties, the deputy may also be from the 'west'. Staffing structures are very different to that of the UK and it is fairly common for the majority of staff to be limited to just a few different tasks, such as bunker raking, fairway mowing or hand watering.

Language can be a challenge but most will have a basic understanding of English since it is the second language throughout the UAE.

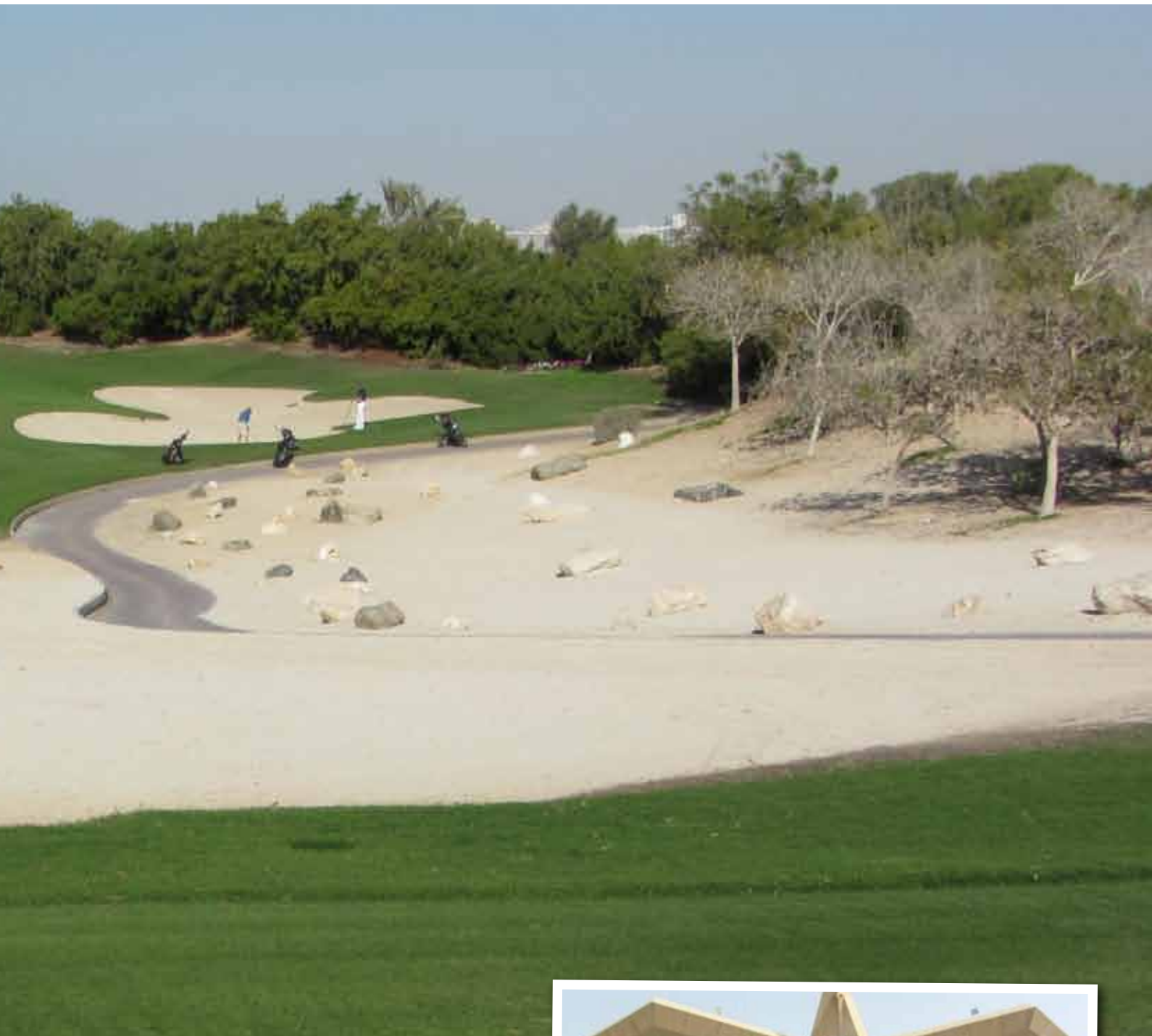
Superintendents need to have good management and organisation skills when working with large crews as well as a sound agronomical understanding of managing warm season grasses and the aspects of salinity.

This is not something that is likely to be encountered in the UK. Just surviving in temperatures in excess of 40C is a challenge in itself!

Whereas grass has to endure these temperatures 24/7, at least staff and golfers can take periods of shelter in air conditioned buildings or cars.

It was a strange experience to witness about 30 staff suddenly appearing in a fleet of run-arounds late in the morning and after quick refreshments, discovering that they had all gone to sleep for about an hour in adjacent housing accommodation. I've never seen a maintenance compound with so many people so eerily quiet!





**SUMMARY**

Managing golf courses in this environment is indeed a challenge, with turf wholly reliant on receiving water, which in the heat of the summer, may not always be available in sufficient quantities.

Superintendents working in the UAE require a high level of skill and dedication, often working six days a week or more.

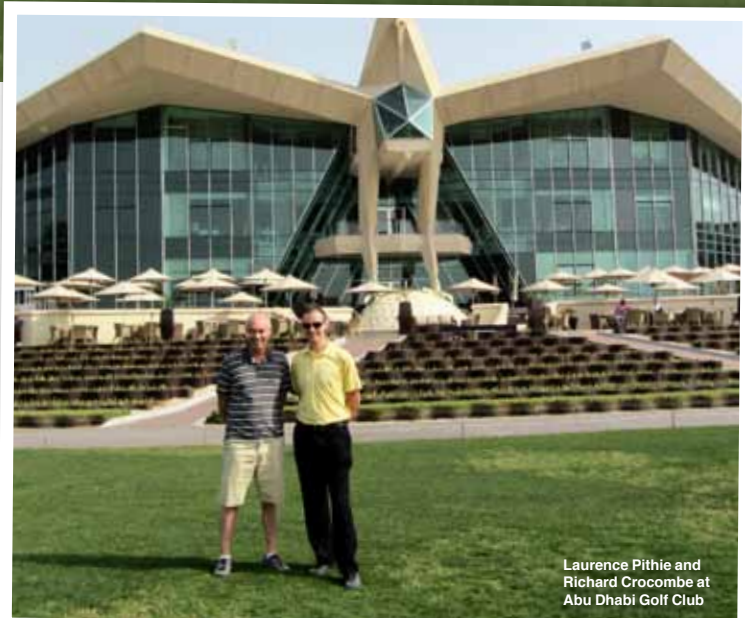
The rewards and experience gained can be high and everyone I met during this time had produced golf courses to a high standard in turf quality and presentation.

**about the author**



**Laurence Pithie MG**

Laurence Pithie MG is grateful to Peter Harradine of Harradine Golf who helped in arranging the course visits to the UAE and to Richard Crocombe for taking the time out of his busy schedule and for his considerable knowledge of turfgrass management in Dubai.



Laurence Pithie and Richard Crocombe at Abu Dhabi Golf Club



# Bracken ruin?



Graham Paul's latest BASIS article looks at the invasive fern bracken and how to control it

**Bracken is a rhizomatous species of fern belonging to the Dennstaedtiaceae family that are characterised by large, highly-divided fronds. Fossil records show that it's been around for 55 million years and for almost half of that time has enjoyed worldwide distribution.**

Originally classified as a single species *Pteridium aquilinum*, bracken has now been reclassified into about 10 species.

It's a survivor – able to adapt to a wide range of climates and conditions, so it needs to be kept in check for the benefit of the environment, wildlife and those farmers whose livelihood depends on grazing livestock on clean pastures. In this article I shall look at the plant; how it spreads, its positive and negative attributes and measures available to control it.

There are about 12,000 species of fern that belong to the plant kingdom group Pteridophyta. They reproduce by spores rather than by flowers and seeds and have an alternating life cycle but, like flowering plants, they do have a vascular transport system (xylem and phloem), roots, stem and leaves (known as fronds). Once established bracken will spread and colonise an area with fronds sprouting directly from the rhizomatous root system.

Bracken thrives in most habitats except for deserts and poorly drained land, occurring in all parts of the world except Antarctica. In the UK it was originally an inhabitant of woodlands, moorlands and lowlands but today it can also be found in upland regions, where the removal of large areas of trees to make way for sheep pastures has allowed it to become more invasive.

Bracken will tolerate soils with

a pH ranging from 2.8 to 8.6 and is found growing in the saline mists of coastal areas, although a combination of high winds and salt can cause scorching of the young fronds. Cold inhospitable climates in the higher regions of the UK limit the spread of bracken to those areas below 600 metres.

In cooler climates, bracken is a deciduous plant dying back completely in the autumn and sprouting again in late spring from the underground rhizomes. The first shoots are often referred to as the 'crozier' or 'fiddlehead' stage as they resemble a shepherd's crook or the curved end of a violin.

The underground root system for bracken consists of thickened storage organs found deep in the soil that are attached to thinner rhizomes growing much nearer the surface (see Figure 1 on page 42), from which the bracken fronds sprout.

These young fronds have a covering of bronze coloured hairs and are easily damaged by late frosts. The emerging shoots develop into large individual triangular fronds, each growing directly from the rhizomes and forming dense thickets. The fronds may grow up to 2.5m or more in height.

Bracken conquers new ground mainly by extension of the rooting system, however there is also a sexual stage involving the spores. These are microscopic and produced in structures known as 'sori', located in a linear fashion on the undersides of the fronds.

Production of spores takes place only in bracken that has been established for three to four years. The spores ripen from July to August but are not released until the autumn – usually in October.

A single frond can produce several hundred million spores



but many do not survive to become new bracken plants, as successful development of the sexual stage of the life cycle is dependent on frost-free conditions with adequate moisture, and without fungal attack on the germinated spores. Those spores that do germinate will eventually form a small immature sporophyte stage to complete the life cycle but, due to the size, these are rarely seen.

Once established in a new area, bracken will dominate and squeeze out the existing vegetation by a combination of tactics.





One of these involves the release of allelopathic chemicals into the soil. These are antagonistic molecules that discourage other plant species from taking root and may remain in the soil long after the bracken has been removed.

Allelopathic chemicals, together with the dense shading canopy produced by the fronds and deep litter on the surface from several years of decaying bracken, will make it difficult for other vegetation to get established again even after total loss of cover by fire damage.

Looking at some of the positive

characteristics of this plant, it has provided man with a source of food - the immature fronds have been eaten as a delicacy after thorough cooking to remove toxins.

The deeper rhizomes that contain stores of starch were used in baking by some cultures in remote parts of the world and both fronds and rhizomes have been used to brew beer.

However, medical authorities and toxicologists advise against consuming any part of the bracken plant as it is known to contain substances toxic to humans and

**“Once established in a new area, bracken will dominate and squeeze out the existing vegetation by a combination of tactics”**

animals. Today bracken is still harvested in parts of the UK to make commercial composts.

Bracken can offer the right conditions of shading and humidity to support several plants normally found in woodland areas such as wood anemone, bluebell,



chickweed-wintergreen and common dog violet. The presence of dog violets and bracken on south-facing hillsides provides a valuable habitat for the pearl-bordered fritillary – a rare butterfly listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This is also an important habitat for reptiles, such as adders.

Two British birds, the whinchat and nightjar, have adopted bracken as their preferred habitat as it provides good cover and a degree of protection for their young.

Some other birds such as the skylark, lapwing and yellowhammer use thick bracken as a protected feeding site.

However, where bracken has invaded moorland it then excludes many bird species that are common to this habitat.

Apart from the invasive characteristics of bracken the main negative aspects of this plant are its poisonous properties when consumed by man and other animals.

Bracken may poison some grazing animals although they will normally avoid it when alternative food

## “Apart from the invasive characteristics of bracken the main negative aspects of this plant are its poisonous properties when consumed by man and other animals”

is plentiful. It is in times of hardship that sheep may suffer blindness and cattle can get severe stomach ulceration from consuming significant quantities of the plant.

Raw bracken contains the enzyme thiaminase, which can cause a vitamin deficiency in horses, leading to a condition known as ‘staggers’. The young emerging fronds contain the most toxins with levels decreasing as the plant matures through the season.

The discovery of carcinogenic substances in the spores and in the plant tissues of bracken is a major concern.

The microscopic spores are readily spread by wind that might blow them towards nearby human habi-

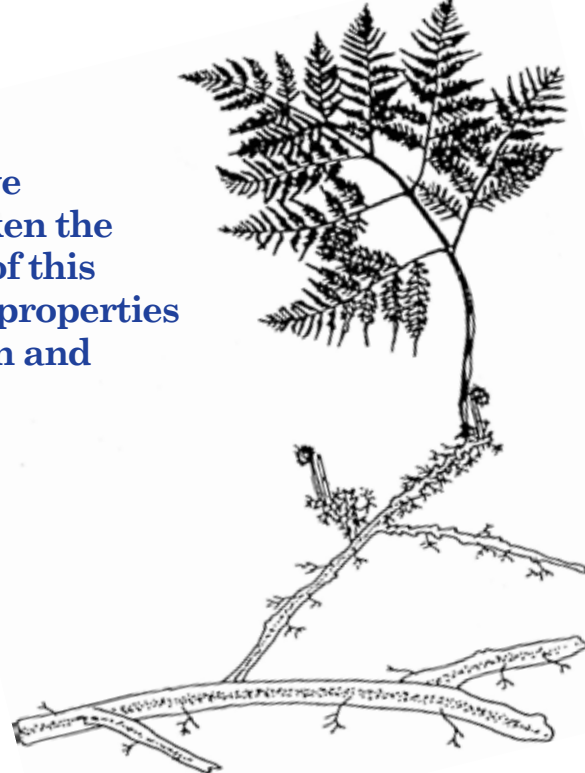


Figure 1

Bracken at the crozier stage



### SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly!

- 1) According to the fossil records, how long has bracken been on this earth?
  - a) 12 million years
  - b) 300 million years
  - c) 55 million years
  - d) 350 million years
- 2) What is the approximate altitude limit for bracken in the UK?
  - a) 600 feet
  - b) 12000 feet
  - c) 1000 metres
  - d) 600 metres
- 3) What is the name given to the structure on the bracken frond that bears spores?
  - a) sori
  - b) sporangia
  - c) acervulus
  - d) sporoglyph
- 4) What is the name given to the carcinogen that has been isolated from bracken?
  - a) Cyclosporine
  - b) Phenacetin
  - c) ptaquiloside
  - d) Etoposide
- 5) How long will the emergency approval of ‘Asulox’ last?
  - a) 12 months
  - b) 120 days
  - c) 2 years
  - d) 6 months





Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*  
early stag

tations, whilst decaying bracken can release a carcinogen known as 'ptaquiloside' that can leach into water supplies. Factors that are now being linked to the high incidences of oesophageal and stomach cancer in many areas of the world where bracken is abundant.

### Control measures

Ecologically, a small amount of bracken can be a benefit to the biodiversity of an area. However, the other side of the argument suggests that the careful removal of bracken will encourage displaced species to return, which is ultimately more beneficial to man and to wildlife. Mechanical methods of control include:

- Damaging the fronds by partially cutting or bruising each stem several times. This can be repeated through the summer as the fronds grow back and if such treatments are maintained for several years, it can have the effect of reducing the reserves of the underground rhizome system causing a gradual weakening of the growth.

- Use of livestock to trample down the fronds. The animals must be provided with sufficient food (hay/silage) to prevent them from grazing the bracken. This can open up the ground and allow frost to penetrate the soil and damage the rhizomes. This method is not usually applicable to amenity situations.

### Chemical control

- Glyphosate – e.g. 'Roundup ProBactive 450' Bracken should be treated after the frond tips are fully

unfurled, but before senescence. Apply using a suitable sprayer depending on the situation and take care to avoid treating desirable vegetation.

A knapsack sprayer or weed-wiper may be most suited to difficult and remote sites. Before choosing glyphosate for bracken control, the user should make sure there are no valuable plants or wildlife sheltering under the cover of the fronds.

- Asulam e.g. 'Asulox' is probably the best chemical treatment for bracken control as it is selective for ferns.

General use of this active ingredient was withdrawn completely in 2012 by the EEC.

However, UK emergency approval was granted to come into force on 20 May 2013 when it will last for 120 days. It will allow 'Asulox' to be advertised, sold and used solely for the control of bracken and will have a new label putting restrictions on the methods of application and dose rate.

Full label details will not be available until the approval start date but some details have been released by the Chemical Regulations Directorate in a special briefing. For details see [www.brackencontrol.co.uk/Documents](http://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/Documents).

Application through weed-wipers and drift sprayers will not be allowed under this emergency approval.

The Bracken Control Group intend to make further requests to the CRD for subsequent years bracken control, until a decision can be made on a more permanent approval.



GREENOR\* is the result of more than five years research into micro-emulsions. It's unique technology increases herbicide activity, resulting in a more thorough kill with lesser amounts of active ingredient.

There's more...

The micro-emulsion of GREENOR has a low odour.

Weeds do not exhibit that burnt appearance as GREENOR will not scorch the leaves.

It has a unique safety to fine turfgrasses, even on worn patches that have been recently re-seeded.

# Greenor

SELECTIVE SYSTEMIC  
WEED CONTROL



\*GREENOR is a trade mark of Dow AgroSciences LLC. Greenor contains 40g fluroxypyr, 20g clopyralid, 200g MCPA per litre. Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. For further information including warning phrases and symbols please refer to the product label.



# At the grindstone

**BERNHARD**  
grinders

Have you ever wanted to know the benefits of grinding but were too afraid to ask? Ben Taylor, Technical Training Manager from Bernhard Grinders, gives you a guide to the practice and answers key questions



**What is grinding? Do we need it? How can blade sharpness affect the health of turf? These are just some of the key questions many turf professionals ask about grinding – read on for the answers!**

Any agronomist or Master Greenkeeper will tell you that a sharp blade cuts cleaner. In fact you don't have to be an agronomist to know that. We have all used a blunt knife at some time or another, and we know how it hacks and tears at whatever we are cutting, be it bread, hair or grass. The simple fact is a clean cut is just that. Clean.

Surgically sharp mowers slice cleanly through grass blades, severing the tissue cleanly and with minimal damage. Because all the grass blades are the same height and uniform in their appear-

**BERNHARD**  
grinders

ance, the overall definition of the turf is improved and the ball roll is smoother, more consistent and often faster.

## How a grinder works

To help you understand the process let's look at the two different components of the cutting unit: the bedknife and the cylinder (reel)

## Spin or relief?

Spin grinding puts the cutting edge on the leading (front) edge of the cylinder blade and makes the reel cylindrical and even.

Relief from friction between the bedknife and cylinder is also essential. A 'no-contact' set up gives relief from this friction, whereas a relief grind (or blade thinning) removes metal from the back of the cylinder blade so there is less metal to come into contact with the bedknife, also reducing friction.

## The bedknife

The bedknife is the most important part of any cutting unit and although it looks simple, is actually a very complex piece of steel. When you have your hair cut (if you have any!) the hairdresser doesn't just take the scissors and cut randomly away at your hair.

What they do is use one hand to hold on to the hair, at equal height and present the hair into the scissors.

The bedknife in a cutting unit is the hairdresser's hand. It gathers the grass and holds it in to position until the reel blade comes around to cut the grass evenly.

The bedknife is not just a flat piece of steel that needs to be sharp to cut grass. In fact, the bedknife is only sharp as a by-product of why you actually grind it. The main



reason for grinding a bedknife, is to create or maintain two angled faces on it, which make the difference as to whether the grass is cut or not.

The first of these, the "top face" angle, is ground on the top of the bedknife as its name suggests. It is a negative angle which slopes backwards, away from the actual point of cut on the unit.

This is ground to allow the grass to eject away from the point of cut and clear from the grass coming into the mower. The degree of angle required varies, depending on the size and condition of the grass being cut.

Obviously the clippings from a golf green are tiny and only require a very small angle. Once this angle becomes worn and therefore creates a narrower gap, the grass isn't ejected correctly and hangs around the cutting area, clogging the point of cut and therefore not allowing the incoming grass to be cut cleanly and leaving a bad finish.

This is the point at which the untrained operator would "tighten" the cutting unit down, bringing the reel and bedknife closer together to try and improve the cut. What they are actually doing is wearing the bedknife angle even more, closing the ejection gap even more and making the whole process worse.

The second angle is known as the front face angle. If the bedknife is the most important part of the mower, then the front face is the most important part of the bedknife, so good maintenance of this is critical.

The front face is simply a ground level even face on the front of the bedknife. It's there simply to push the grass up evenly and stand it up in front of the reel blades as the cutting unit moves forward. This is the 'hairstresser's hand'.

The front face needs to be flat and even. If the face becomes worn or rounded, which it will do over time because grass and especially top-dressing are very abrasive, then grass which is designed to grow horizontally rather than vertically such as creeping bentgrass will not be presented evenly toward the cutting blades of the reel.

It is essential that this front face is maintained so it can carry out its job correctly. This can be done with a file, a facing tool or with a precision grinder while renewing the angle on the top face.

### The cylinder

Often overlooked are the reasons we spin grind the reel. Yes it is to make each blade sharp, but it is

also to make it cylindrical and even. There is no point having all the blades sharp, if only every third blade cuts because they are not of even height.

### The importance of an even reel

We are often asked, when do you know a reel is finished grinding? The answer is not when it's sharp, but when it's even.

A reel that is maintained and ground more regularly is going to be easier and quicker to grind than one that is only ground once a year because it is going to be more even. The actual sharpening of a blade only takes seconds.

Sharpening is an essential process that has to be done regularly in order to guarantee golfers who judge the course the playability they demand today, so these machines have to be very simple to use, and fast and accurate in order to deliver such high standards and save the course money.

Let's look at what happens if you cut grass with blades that are not sharp enough.

Your cutting machine will tear at the grass leaving uneven and poorly cut blade tips.

These ripped and ragged blades of grass will bleed losing plant moisture and nutrient.

This also leaves the tips open and vulnerable to disease from spores such as *Fusarium* and other leaf-spot diseases.

The moisture lost through damaged tips has to be replaced. Repairing and regenerating plant health requires accelerated growth and that means a greater demand for food, which often means more fertiliser and water too.

Both these are very costly to supply and to deliver.

"I don't have the budget" is the cry we hear constantly, but sharpening need not cost the course money.

Savings come from two main areas – agronomic and mechanical.

Agronomically speaking, clearly a reduction in the use of water, fertiliser, fungicide and top dressing can be a massive gain for the club.

Not only are these expensive consumables reduced but also the labour costs of handling the materials, electricity to pump the water and places to store the chemicals – can all be dramatically reduced.

Mechanically, trials at several training colleges have demonstrated fuel consumption reductions of between 17% and 21% – massive in today's competitive climate.



### BERNHARD GRINDERS - Who are we?

**BERNHARD**  
grinders

Our business dates back over 150 years. We are an unusual company insofar as we are horticulturalists.

We don't just sell grinders, we believe strongly in education, working alongside turf professionals, course and club managers, associations and technical colleges in an ongoing programme of education and development.

We give presentations and seminars all over the world, and we have a dedicated training centre at our new factory in the UK where we welcome visitors from across the globe.

We are involved with many turf associations and support the IGCEMA Certificate Programme and GTC as Quality Assured trainer Providers.

Translate fuel reduction into mower life, engine wear, fewer parts to be replaced and so on – and it soon becomes clear that the benefits are very attractive to the bottom line profits of the course. Also, of course, if you burn less fuel, you create fewer emissions.

Now add the improved appearance and better playability factor into the mix and you have customer appeal and satisfaction. And that affects revenue.

Finally you have to think about 'cost of ownership'.

Bernhard Grinders are well known for their build quality and long life. Always evaluate the speed, ease of use and accuracy provided by our machines, but now add the life expectancy of fifteen years of trouble free use and a warranty of ten years and you can see the cost of owning Bernhard grinders can be less than £300 per month.





Panasonic CF-U1

TOUGHBOOK

Windows 7 desktop environment showing a GIS application. The application window has a title bar that reads "Carto.com 12.8.8 (Carto) - TOUGHBOOK". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Layer, Settings, Plugins, Tools, Format, Database, Help, Help), a toolbar, and a main map area. The map shows a golf course with green and yellow overlays. A left sidebar contains a tree view with folders like "GPS Location" and "Carto.com 12.8.8". A right sidebar shows a map navigation panel with "APP" labels. The taskbar at the bottom shows icons for Internet Explorer, File Explorer, and other applications. The system tray shows the date and time as "9:17 10/2/2013".

Full QWERTY keyboard with various function keys (ESC, PgUp, F1-F12, etc.) and a numeric keypad. The keyboard is integrated into the laptop's chassis.



# A helping hand

Golf Course Consultant Ian Phythian explains how a Geographic Information System (GIS) can assist many aspects of day to day greenkeeping, from irrigation to health and safety

**Have you ever wondered where your drains, irrigation, utilities actually are? You should know their correct locations - virtually everything else at a golf club is documented so why not everything on and under the golf course itself?**

When contractors have left your golf course has the work been accurately documented? Technology can be a huge turn-off for some but it can make a big difference at your club even with the minimum of time and effort.

There has never been a better time to use technology as a helping hand out on the course - and in any weather. GIS (Geographic Information System) is software that belongs out on the golf course where it matters. When set up correctly you will be amazed what can be achieved when combined with GPS (Ground Positioning System).

GPS uses satellite technology to fix a position anywhere on earth. There are many software systems for greenkeepers that help with many aspects of modern golf course management, but there are few



The Glamorganshire Golf Club

## “GIS offers a central hub of golf course information that outlasts any greenkeeper or committee”

that focus in on the most important asset - the physical golf course.

What differs with GIS is when combined with a rugged GPS tablet it offers a true field-to-base solution for greenkeepers to tackle head on many problems and tasks out on the course. When it rains you go out with it and plot surface water GUR. When you install that drain or irrigation go out and get dirty with it and plot the trench. When you re-contour that cutting template go out and plot it because it now has a different area value! Ask your golf

club for any old paper maps, plans or data that can be imported into the GIS, turning paper to data.

There are many instances where GIS can be a very practical tool for the modern greenkeeper. What your golf club will like about GIS is that it offers them a central hub of golf course information that outlasts any greenkeeper or committee, therefore offering consistency for your golf club's sustainable future.

For example your trade contacts, course guide companies, drainage and construction contractors and architects may already be using

### about the author



Ian Phythian has worked in greenkeeping for 15 years and golf course construction for five years. He has worked abroad as a greenkeeper and more recently has been involved in promoting awareness of GIS technology for the golf course industry.

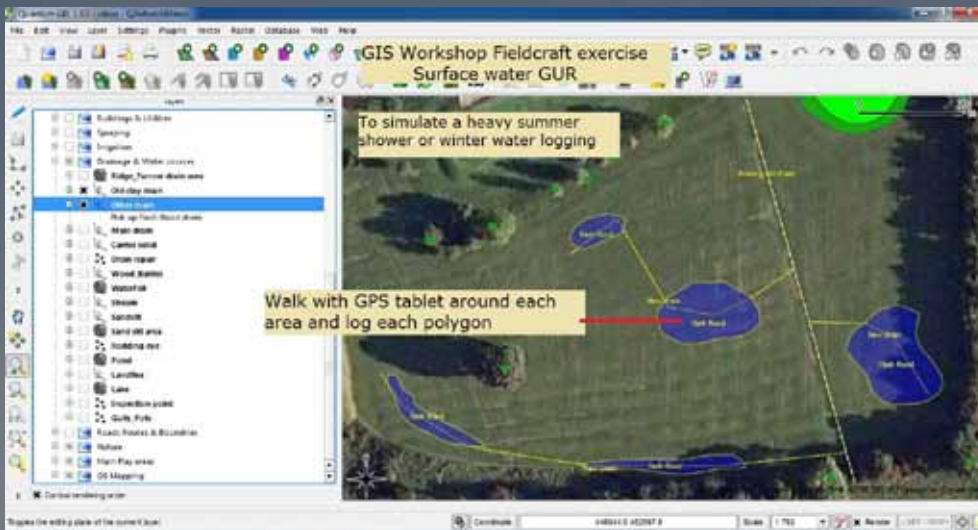
For a free consultancy you can contact Ian Phythian golf course GIS Analyst on 01482 669913 or 07983 815671 [gipsystem@gmail.com](mailto:gipsystem@gmail.com)

### GIS at Glamorganshire

Following last year's heavy rainfall, The Glamorganshire Golf Club (above) explored GIS to help them document their course, and plan their extensive drainage extension and upgrade programme. Course Manager Mike Williams said:

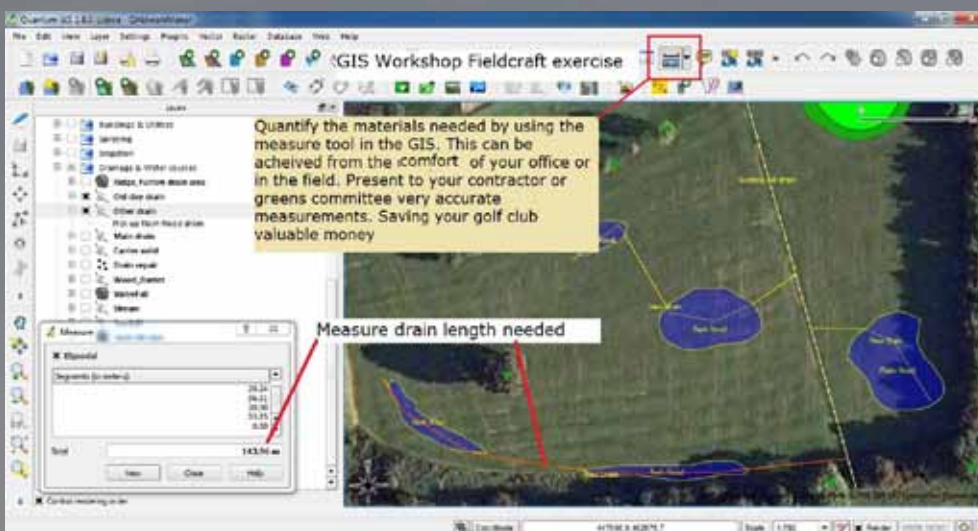
“We began by installing the freeware system which mapped the contours of the course, and then approached a surveyor with this data to discuss the location of drainage solutions. We're likely to take it to the next stage which involves plotting drainage sites using



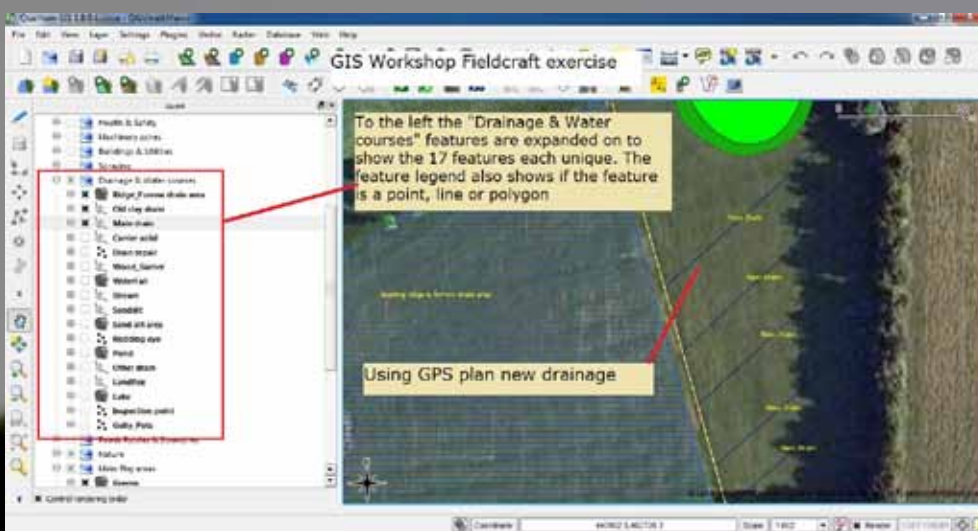


**Find it –**  
 With ‘GIS fieldcraft’ you can log all the surface water in real time to all your cutting templates even the greens. You can even geo-tag the problem area with the built in cameras or your geo-tag function on your mobile phone. Either option will show the location of the image in your GIS. Saved as a layer in your GIS you have exposed and documented important intelligence of your golf course.

**Measure it –**  
 You can use the measure function to accurately measure distance and area in metric.



**Fix it -**  
 This will empower you to quantify materials and look at tapping into existing drainage nearby that is in the GIS for your team or a contractor to look at.



The GIS is very good at organising the various feature groups I like to call modules. I have named up to 25 other modules to cover every aspect of greenkeeping using GIS - importantly they are GPS active.



GIS and GPS and may welcome the opportunity to offer your golf club extra by sharing data - reading off the same hymn sheet if you like. This could open up all sorts of data transparency and sharing opportunities. This can only be beneficial for you and your golf club. The result - using GIS will equate to saved time and money in the future for your golf club. Here are some of the key benefits of GIS:

#### Adaptable

GIS can be set up for 9-45 holes.

#### Health & Safety

Locate all your risk assessment areas like using GIS to plot wet and dry routes for your machinery fleet.

#### Professionalism

Using GIS you have your golf course literally in your hand, take it to your meetings.

#### Accurate

Updated area values for all your cutting templates. *Geo tag* photographs (fixing the image to a location) then display them in their correct location on the GIS screen.

#### Output

Produce a detailed print out of your entire course. Useful for Golf club owners, secretaries, greens chairman, course managers, greenkeepers and trainees.

#### Do you have a course policy document?

Golf club officials are considering GIS as part of a course policy document so the GIS can be the central hub to all activities present and future regarding the golf course infrastructure and an archive source.

#### Smooth transition of office

Imagine your course manager leaves, if not documented much information about the course goes too. Using GIS this results in a smoother transition of office saving valuable time.

#### Central hub of information

Now is your chance to collect old paper to data maps, install them into the GIS system, and start to move forward with all the previous data viewable in one safe place! GIS will become your single most important data map over time.

#### Total field-to-base solution

Plot surface water, find it, log it, measure it, and drain it, save money.

#### Professional integrity

Accepts industry standard survey grade data. GIS has the integrity to handle your golf club's future.

#### Environmental benefits

We are experiencing frequent extremes in the weather. The golf course infrastructure is expected to cope at both ends of the spectrum. Irrigation needs to be documented for repairs and maintenance. Drainage needs to be located for maintenance and for adding new drainage too. GIS with GPS enables you to do this.

The Environment Agency have a DataShare scheme which is GIS friendly enabling you to access various datasets such as gas, water, electric grids and up to date flood risk areas for the whole of the UK.

This information could be critical for your golf club, especially if your location is near water.



#### Ordnance Survey Open Data free Mapping

Ordnance Survey Open Data is free of charge to order by post or to download from their website. This mapping data covers the UK and provides the background mapping layers including, every lake, stream, building, forest, road vector layers as well as the familiar OS street level maps in different scales.

Rob Andrews from Ordnance Survey said: "OS OpenData allows free access to a range of detailed Ordnance Survey datasets.

The accurate and up to date products provide an ideal mapping backdrop for users to plot additional features, including drains, greens, bunkers, tee positions and access points.

Through OS OpenData users can also access a new terrain dataset which accurately displays the 3D landscape of the land."

#### Quantum GIS

There are many GIS to choose from ranging from expensive professional systems to low cost and even 'freeware' systems that have the same professional integrity to accept survey grade data.

One such freeware is Quantum GIS.

With no download and licence issues to worry about this is the perfect introduction into GIS.





## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[steve.castle@bigga.co.uk](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 10th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section,  
in your new-look notes pages...



# Around the green

## Scotland

Contact your Section correspondent with news,  
events or anything else for Around the green...



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## Events Coming Up

**Central** - Next educational event is at Elmwood on 23 July where John Kaminski of Penn State will be giving a talk on the recent US Open at Merion GC. A flyer will be sent out shortly and details are on [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk). The recent talk by Mike Jouson on communication skills unfortunately was poorly attended with only 9 people present, thanks to those who did come along. We appreciate that Elmwood isn't the best venue for everyone but it's difficult to get a golf club with a private room on an evening during the golfing season.

**East** - The Willie Woods Trophy will be played at Mortonhall GC on 21 August, this tournament is played in a Fourball better ball format.

**North** - The next event is the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder on the 15 August so if you had a good round at Duff House Royal you might get a call. Robert is unable to make the event so he has asked myself Dale Robertson to Captain the team. I will be in touch with the other three members in due course to see if we can get a winning team together.

## News

**Central** - Earth moving is well underway on the new course at Feddinch by St Andrews which is calling itself the St Andrews International Golf Club. It will be interesting to see how the planning application for a new Links course between Elie and Leven materialises over the coming months.

Congratulations to Paul Teviotdale on his recent hole in one at Arbroath GC. Paul hit a spanking 3 iron at the 154 yard 16th on his way to scoring 69 in the Links Championship qualifying. Good job it was downwind Paul, well done.

Congratulations also to Gary Tough from Letham Grange on winning the Angus County championships at the 30th time of trying. Okay, I know Gary's a North section member but he works and plays most of his golf in the Central section area. Unfortunately, neither Paul or Gary did so well in the Scottish Greenkeepers Championships at Largs where Kenny Mitchell was the only winner over a very enjoyable course which was in superb condition.

Good luck to everyone who has events coming up, the teams at Muirfield for the Open, Castle Stuart for the Scottish, St Andrews for the Womens and everywhere in between, whether is your Pro Am, Club championship or Captains day. Let's hope the weather is kind to everyone and we see some great examples of well-prepared golf courses.

**East** - Major drainage work in the form of a newly constructed burn/ditch is coming along nicely at Bathgate GC, this has been installed to improve drainage and to enhance a couple of golf holes.

**North** - An Educational Seminar was held at Dornoch Golf Club and this was attended by over 15 people mainly from the Dornoch, Tain and Brora area. I'm sure they all enjoyed the day and hopefully we could have more in the future.

It was good to see section members making the long journey to the Scottish National Tournament at Largs Golf Club. Thanks to Billy Craig, Jim McCormack, Gary Tough and Pat Allan for their company. I would also like to say a big thanks to Course Manager Ian Barr and his team for a really well presented golf course with superb greens.

**West** - Best wishes to David Carson who was going in for a knee operation recently so I hope all went well. David Gall Junior has been unwell recently and I would like to pass on my best wishes from myself and all on the committee hoping he gets better and his treatment is a success.

Ryan at Nairn Brown I hope your knee is better quickly after all the work on it, no more footy for you, and I hope Mike Dooners wife is allowed back in the country after getting her passport stolen while on holiday in Greece.

Section outing was held at Buchanan Castle GC the first time I've played it and I think a first for an outing which is excellent, I just wish more clubs could volunteer their services. The course was in great condition for the time of year although the recent rains had caused a few soft areas like us all.

Ronnie Mills and his staff are to be congratulated for their efforts unfortunately Ronnie could not attend but Mark his assistant filled in handsomely, the welcome and service was first class and the club are to thanked for all their assistance.

The results (which you can see in the 'Results' section) have been on the blog for a few weeks now along with other information and I would encourage all members to keep up to date by visiting the site regularly, congratulations to our Chairman for his hard work in posting the information.

The outing was attended by 43 people - only 35 played but this is good and I would encourage more members to come along and



play, have a chat about the weather and discuss the different courses and methods of presentation.

The other event was the annual match against the secretaries which was held at Douglas Park GC, a great day was had by all in attendance and the final result was a draw meaning the greenkeepers retain the trophy. Thanks to Drew and his staff for the course presentation and the club for allowing us the use of their facilities.

## Movers & Shakers

**Central** - Lee Strutt has resigned from the Committee. Everyone would like to thank Lee for his contribution over the past few years and will gladly accept his offer to help out at events.

**East** - Congratulations to John Watson at Deer Park who has taken over as Course Manager with Stuart Cruickshank now taking the role of General Manager, the section wish you all the best.

New section members this month are Craig Darling (Renaissance) and Neil Hogg (Bruntsfield Links), welcome aboard guys.

## Results

**West** - Outing at Buchanan Castle. Scratch prize; Gordon Sangster (Cathkins Braes) 70 First class winner; Stuart Taylor (Glasgow) 37pts; Second Chris Prior (Bearsden) 36; Third Douglas MacIntosh (Cathkin) 35; Second class winner; David McBride (Vale of Leven) 35 bh; Second Brian Logue (Vale of Leven) 35; Third Jack Steadward (Blairbeth) 33; Third class winner John Barr (Cardross) 37; Second Gareth Rodgers (Fairways) 30; Third John Steele (Buchanan Castle) 25; Visitor prize Robert Hart (Glasgow); Nearest pin 4th John Barr; Nearest pin 8th Chris Prior.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**East** - Thanks to Mussleburgh Race Course for their recent hospitality afforded to our section at their last race meeting, unfortunately we had a low turnout on the night, but everyone had a good time and we look forward to a complimentary drink at Mortonhall thanks to Shaun Cunningham's substantial winnings!

## Welcome New Scotland Members

Gregor Mackintosh, Greenkeeper, Turnberry Hotel & Golf Course  
 Scott Thomson, Greenkeeper, Strathmore Golf Centre  
 Antony Burnett, Greenkeeper, Balnagask Golf Club  
 Robert King, Assistant Greenkeeper, Mortonhall Golf Club  
 Kyle Cruickshank, Greenkeeper, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses  
 Christopher Miller, Assistant Greenkeeper, Scoonie Golf Club  
 Lewis Fraser, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fairmont St Andrews  
 Liam McWilliams, Greenkeeper, Loch Lomond Golf Club  
 Craig Darling, Greenkeeper, Renaissance Club  
 Neil Hogg, Greenkeeper, Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society  
 Paul Miller, Affiliate Member, SRUC (Elmwood)  
 John Bowers, Greenkeeper, The Golf House Club  
 Elie Nigel Buchanan, Greenkeeper, Drumoig Golf Club



Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**NORTH EAST**  
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jamesrichardson17@sky.com



**NORTH WEST**  
Chris Sheehan  
jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk



**NORTHERN**  
Andy Slingsby  
andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



**SHEFFIELD**  
James Stevens  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com



**NORTH WALES**  
Pete Maybury  
petemayb66@aol.com

## Events Coming Up

**North East** - The summer stableford competition at Percy Wood is on 21 August NOT 17 August as previously mentioned. Booking forms will be sent out to all members.

**Northern** - The invitation day at Wetherby is on 12 August NOT 19 August as quoted in last month's notes. The Sheffield match-up is at Howley Hall on 31 July.

**North Wales** - Apologies to everyone who was looking forward to playing in the North Wales v North West match at Lymm GC but the fixture had to be cancelled, further information as to whether it will be rearranged has not made it to me as yet but keep watching our Facebook group or the main BIGGA website events area for updates. The North Wales v South Wales match is at Borth and Ynyslas GC on 26 July, I believe we do have a team but if you want to check or be on stand by please contact Rhys Butler - contact details on your fixture list.

## News

**North East** - Baby boom recently at Close House GC with four new arrivals in just three days! James Parker's wife Sarah gave birth to India 23 April; Nathan Charlton's partner Laura gave birth to Tyler 24 April; Andrew Sweeney's wife Rachel gave birth to Milyssa also on 24 April and Simon Harding's wife Tanya gave birth to Theo on 25 April.

**North East** - Close House GC have had MJ Abbotts in again to do some alterations, constructing and altering two greens plus building new tees enlarging water hazards and have also added a lake in front of the 18th green on the new course.

Edinburgh Landscapes are currently laying all the turf, the majority of the heavy gear has now left the site and the course should be ready for play by July 1.

## Movers & Shakers

**North Wales** - David Vaughan the professional at Vale of Llangollen retired on 30 June after 32 years of service to the club, we wish him all the best.

## New Members

George McCoy, Greenkeeper, Vale Royal Abbey GC; Brian Griffiths, Greenkeeper, Baron Hill GC Ltd; Richard Malthouse, Greenkeeper, Malton & Norton GC; Kevin Irving, Greenkeeper, Carlisle GC; Scott Baxter, Groundsman, Roundwood GC; Adam Mayren, Ass Greenkeeper, Leyland GC; Guy Welding, Greenkeeper, Leyland GC; Charles Bevan, Greenkeeper, Leyland GC; Scott Newton, Course Manager, Astbury GC; Richard Breese, Affiliate Member, Shipley GC; Joshua Fowler, Ass Greenkeeper, Meltham GC; Chris Shally, Greenkeeper, Hessele GC; Phillip Robinson, Ass Greenkeeper, Close House GC; Graham Dawson, Greenkeeper, Close House GC; Peter Macniak, Ass Greenkeeper, Macclesfield GC



## Midland

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**BB&O - The Stick**  
bboscribe@gmail.com or Matt Nutter  
bbosecretary@gmail.com



**MID ANGLIA**  
Darren Mugford  
d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com;



**MIDLAND**  
Sean McDade  
sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk;



**EAST OF ENGLAND**  
Steve Beverly  
steveimingham@aol.com



**EAST MIDLAND**  
Greg Skinner  
greg.skinner92@btinternet.com

## Events Coming Up

**BB&O** - Summer Comp at Caversham Heath GC, near Reading, 1 August. Stableford with coffee and bacon rolls, free range balls and two course buffet dinner afterwards.

Smart casual attire required after golf. Event doubles as a qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship at Frilford Heath 7-8 October. See [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk) for further details.

**Mid Anglia** - Summer Golf Day at Brookmans Park GC on 6 August. Get your entries in asap to avoid missing out on this popular pairs event.

## News

**BB&O** - Andy Ewence, Course and Grounds Manager at the Buckinghamshire GC, is looking for support staff for the Ladies European Masters held on 26-28 July live on Sky.

Last years event was a great success and hopefully as many of you as possible will volunteer again to experience the work and involvement of a Professional Tour event. Andy can be contacted on 07725277952 or [Andy.Ewence@Buckinghamshiregc.co.uk](mailto:Andy.Ewence@Buckinghamshiregc.co.uk)

East Berkshire played host to the Players Tour. Held over 36 holes the tour offers club professionals the chance to play and win a place at the European Qualifying School. Conditions were ideal for scoring with warm sunny weather and a course in great condition. Scoring was tight with Lee James the eventual winner with -2.

Section team beat the Kent Section 4-1 in the final of the Toro/Lely Home Counties Football Final held at Upton Park. Congratulations to both teams for a great game and especially to Larry Pearman and Toro/Lely for sponsoring the event. A special mention must go to head groundsman Shane O'Brien on the quality of the pitch and surface presented for the event.

**Mid Anglia** - The Centurion Golf Club in St Albans/Hemel Hempstead is very close to opening and looks to be a very fine course and a real challenge of golf so looking forward to its late summer opening.

## Movers & Shakers

**Mid Anglia** - Congratulations to Neil Carter for being appointed as Head Greenkeeper at Mentmore GC - all the best for your role.

## Results

**Mid Anglia** - Results from Spring Golf Day and National Qualifier held at Bedford & County GC. 1 A Butler 36pts, 2 G Bruce 34, 3rd O Browning 33 with nearest Pin winners L Owen and A Butler. Our thanks go to Geoff Fenn and his team for providing us with the course in fantastic condition which was enjoyed by all who attended on a lovely day.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**Midland** - Our long running supporters of our excellent calendar, now in its 6th year, this month is sponsored by North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for both your irrigation and drainage requirements. Email: [NSIrrigation@aol.com](mailto:NSIrrigation@aol.com) Tel: 01785 812 706.

**Mid Anglia** - A massive thanks goes to Vassgro Amenity, Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop Amenity, ALS, Amtech and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section.

## Welcome New Midland Members

Alex Brougham, Assistant Greenkeeper, Trentham Golf Ltd  
Jack Hawkes, Greenkeeper, Leamington & County Golf Club  
Jeremy Saunders, Mechanic, Mentmore Golf & Country Club  
Simon Colebrook, Head Greenkeeper, Pitcheroak Golf Club  
Paul Foley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Whipsnade Park GC  
Jareth Watkin, Greenkeeper, Greetham Valley Golf Club  
Alex Porter, Greenkeeper, Greetham Valley Golf Club  
Nico Geldenhuys, Greenkeeper, Grove Estate Golf Club (The)  
Daniel Harris, Greenkeeper, Tytherington Club (The)  
Christopher Horne, Affiliate Member, iQube Marketing  
Ian Burnage, Greenkeeper, Bedford & County Golf Club

## Photographs wanted



We would welcome any photographs to go into the new look Around the green section, so if you're feeling snap happy, contact your Section correspondent...

## South East

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**SURREY**  
Mark Day  
mark.day@tacitgolf.co.uk



**KENT**  
Rob Holland  
grassyards@hotmail.com



**SUSSEX**  
Chris Humphrey  
chris@collier-turfcare.co.uk



**EAST ANGLIA**  
Mick Lathrope  
lil.lathrope@ntlworld.com



**ESSEX**  
Arnold Phipps-Jones  
essexbigga@talktalk.net

## Events Coming Up

**Surrey** - McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale GC on 12 August.  
Course Walk at Sunningdale GC 16 July 2pm with a talk on Heathland Management by Murray Long. Contact Scott Roberts - 07810 472067 - £10 includes lunch with numbers limited.

Our next open event will be held at Piltdown Golf Club on 1 August with a 1pm start, with bacon rolls and a meal after with plenty of prizes for just £15! Please contact Pete Smith if you want to enter or for more information on 07748776761 or on pds1@btinternet.com

After a successful opening, Corinthians Golf Club (formerly Fawkham Valley Golf Club) will be hosting a Foot Golf event in mid to late July. Date to be confirmed but will be followed by barbecue and beverages at Redlibbits Golf Club next door. Date will be sent out via e-mail and text and will also to be found on website and Facebook page.

## News

**Surrey** - Seminars over the winter period are in the planning process, dates TBA, intention to have 5 or 6 educational events at Merrist Wood College.

**Sussex** - A good turnout of 27 for the Sussex section's spring competition and national championship qualifier at the Dyke Golf Club. Although a challenging wind was blowing a good day was had by all on a wonderfully presented and maintained course, congratulations and sincere thanks go to Rob Hudson and his team. Also thanks to Jim Croxton for taking time away from the BMW PGA at Wentworth to come along and introduce himself to our section. His attendance was appreciated and his company was far better than his golf! He will, from now on, always be known as "Just Jim" (pause) "on days like this!"

## Movers & Shakers

**Surrey** - Graeme Roberts has been appointed the new Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Tandridge GC.

## Results

**Sussex** - Spring comp and National Qualifier; Division 1 nearest the pin, nobody! With notable praise to Pete Smith for showing the Division 1 boys how its done! Nearest the pin in Division 2; Jon Cole (JSM); Nearest the pin in 2; Chris Wells (Seaford); Longest drive Jim Russell (Grass Roots)

Division 1 winner; Glynn Pollard (Beauport) Nett 72; 2 Dave Allen 74 (Pyecombe); 3 Chris Wells 76 (Seaford). Glynn and Dave also won a place at the National championships. Division 2 winner; Pete Smith (Birch Grove) 38pts; 2 Rob Hudson 36 (Dyke); 3 Matt Hutchinson 34 (Hassocks). Pete Smith will also go on to represent the section at the National.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**Surrey** - Winchester Garden Machinery for the Surrey Bowl.

**Sussex** - Thanks to all our sponsors of the Spring comp who allowed us to put on a fine day for just £10 a head.

## New South East Members

Kevin Francis, Greenkeeper, Lamberhurst Golf Club  
Jamie Harman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hankley Common GC  
Simon Holland, Greenkeeper, Hankley Common Golf Club  
James Waitt, Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club  
Zach Halsey, Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club  
Alfie Harrison, Assistant Greenkeeper, Playgolf Northwick Park  
Robert Sutton, Greenkeeper, St Clements Golf Club  
Nicholas Chase, Assistant Greenkeeper, RAF Marham GC  
Alex Foreman, Affiliate Member, P Tuckwell Limited  
Aaron Fitt, Greenkeeper, Bay View Golf Course  
Nicholas Howes, Greenkeeper, RAF Marham Golf Club  
Raymond Ward, William Watkins, Ben Morris, Chris Pendry, Dan Martin, David Scott, David Bass, Jack Upton, James Grimes, Nathan Wolfe, Student, James Goss, Richard Larkin, Dan Clark, Daniel Burland - Hadlow College  
Shaun Humphrey, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cowdray Park GC  
Bradley Dalton, Affiliate Member, SX Building Specialist Ltd  
Richard Warlands, Greenkeeper, East Brighton Golf Club  
Lucas Pierre, Greenkeeper, Sunningdale Golf Club

## A new look Around the green

Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we've refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month





## South West & Wales

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**SOUTH WEST** –  
Jaey Goodchild  
j.goodchild@bowood.org



**SOUTH COAST** –  
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**DEVON & CORNWALL**  
George Pitts  
gpitts@yelvertongolf.co.uk



**SOUTH WALES**  
Peter Holmstrom  
pholmstrom@countrywidefarmers.co.uk

## Events Coming Up

**South Coast** - Forthcoming events Army GC 4 July. Match v S West at N Wilts GC on 26 September. Autumn Tournament at Meon Valley GC on 9 October and our Christmas Turkey trot is at Weybrook Park on 10 December. As always let Tony Gadd know if you are available to play in the match.

News from the committee, we are planning a separate venue and mini seminar for the AGM away from a golf event. This will be in early November, the venue and speakers to be confirmed.

**South Wales** – Patrons Cup 4 July Radyr GC 1pm tee off. 2.30pm course walk with Julian the Head GK. All to sit down for a meal afterwards jacket and tie required - all paid for as a goodwill gesture by our patrons. The first two will be entered into the BIGGA National Championship.

28 July match at Borth and Ynyslas GC teams to be picked by match captain and last year's winners.

**South West** - SW Section v Welsh at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club on 15 August. SW Section v South Coast Section at North Wilts GC on 26 September. Enquiries to Wayne Vincent. Paul Worster is organising an update session for excavator licencing, please see the BIGGA Bulletin Boards for further details.

## News

**Devon & Cornwall** - Last event was at The Point at Polzeath, North Cornwall. Superb weather added to a great day. The course was in great condition, thanks to Tom Collings (Head Greenkeeper) and his team. Winning the Golf was one of the team, Mike Ellis who will go on to represent the Section at the National Championships. Thank you to all involved.

**South Coast** - The annual match against the secretaries was held at Ashley Wood GC where we were again triumphant with a 3 to 2 win. Thanks to Ashley Wood for hosting the day and a particular thanks to Mark Sharwood and his team for presenting the course in excellent condition. Results of the Summer tournament will be in the next issue.

We are again sponsoring a place to BTME, this is open for anyone to be nominated. Send your nominations along with merit and reasons to Alex McCombie at southcoastsecretary@gmail.com This can be anyone so put your thinking caps on! Finally, I had the pleasure of playing in the Basingstoke Bowl in early June, a truly great day, well done Colin and his team the course was at its best.

**South Wales** - Congratulations to Ian Kinley and his staff at Royal Porthcawl GC on hosting the fantastic Speedy Wales Seniors Open. The event was a huge success just a shame Ian Woosnam couldn't hold on for a home victory.

Following our Summer Tournament at Kingsdown Golf Club on 12 June in weather conditions that truly sorted the men from the boys our Section representatives for the National Tournament in October have been selected. Net winner was Lee Whyte from Bowood GC and gross winner was Paul Garland from Lansdowne GC, well done men and good luck at Frilford Heath. Mention must be made of second place net Darren Moxham and second place gross Tim Morgan.

Welcome to new section member James Carash who joins us from Cricklade Hotel Golf Club.

## Movers and Shakers

**Devon & Cornwall** - At Polzeath, a presentation was made to Jane Jones (Regional Administrator) in recognition for all the work she has done for the Region and for the Section. Accommodation, a meal and golf at St Mellion has been arranged for Jane along with some gifts on the day. On behalf of the Section, I would just like to thank Jane for all the work she has done. She is most fondly thought of by the Section and will be greatly missed. Thanks Jane and best wishes for the future, we look forward to catching up with you.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**Devon & Cornwall** – Thank you to Everris and Reel Grinidng South West for sponsoring the event at The Point; **South Coast** – Thanks to Course Care for their ongoing support of the annual match against the secretaries; **South Wales** – Many thanks to all our section's patrons: Countrywide, Farmura, Rigby Taylor, Sports Metals, Powercut, Ted Hopkins, Avoncrop, Inscapes, David Evans, Complete Weed Control, Divot Bag and Osprey; **South West** - Many thanks to all of our section patrons and HQ who contributed to a fantastic prize pool for the Summer Tournament's participants.

## New South West & Wales Members

Mark Jarrett, Greenkeeper, Teignmouth Golf Club  
Philip Jonas, Greenkeeper, Newport (Pembs) Golf Club  
Kevin Wilkins, Greenkeeper, Hilton Puckrup Hall Golf Club  
James Morgans, Greenkeeper, Southerndown Golf Club  
Paul Errington, Affiliate Member, Groundscare Products  
Daniel Hardy, Deputy Course Manager, Cams Hall Estate Golf Club  
Dominic Gibbard, Greenkeeper, Trethorne Golf Club  
Jack Hodge, Assistant Greenkeeper, Old Thorns Manor Hotel Golf & Country Estate; Lee Mitchell, Greenkeeper, Milton Abbey School  
Oliver Tanton, Assistant Greenkeeper, Royal North Devon Golf Club  
Stephen Thorne, Greenkeeper, Rushmore Golf Club  
Dan Ritchie, Assistant Greenkeeper, Gosport & Stokes Bay Golf Club

## New International Members

Kevin-John O'Riordan, Brian O'Tuama, Mark Holland, Paul Desmond Coen, Sean Kingston, Kevin Kelly, Conor Clancy, Darren Walsh, Michael O'Dwyer, Adam Phelan, Steven O'Leary, Francesco Sau, Colin Sheehan, Dwane Martin, Paul Collins, Shane Horgan, John Joe O'Connor, Alan Furness – all students at Colaiste Stiofain Naofa in the Republic of Ireland; Mark Fuller, International Member, The Connecticut Golf Club, USA; Ray Dufty, Affiliate Member, Tru-Turf Equipment, Australia



# Greenkeeper Training



**A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK**

**BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.**

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper.

This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards.

This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo



**Sami Collins**  
**Head of Learning & Development**  
**BIGGA**  
**01347 833800**  
**sami@bigga.co.uk**  
**www.bigga.org.uk**

## SCOTLAND


## ENGLAND





**Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB**  
**Contact: Michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk**

Full-time National Certificate Greenkeeping, Block Release/Fast Track and Work-based Learning options for SVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf. SVQ Level 4 & 5 Management (online learning). HNC/D Golf Course Management (full time and distance learning), HNC/D Golf Facility Management (full time). Short course in Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Plant Operations, Pesticide Spraying and Noroso Certification/Courses



**Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR**  
**Contact: Central admissions 01904 772211 enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk www.askham-bryan.ac.uk**

Extended Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Sports Surface Management, Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time.  
*Block release courses:* WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Groundsman Sportsturf Maintenance.  
*Short courses:* FEPA spraying, irrigation, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.




**50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB**  
**Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-556-3999**  
**Fax: 0141-556-4999 learn@gostatraining.co.uk**

SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/Sportsturf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery training, First Aid and many more. Candidates may use their Individual Learning Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.



**GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS**

**A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.**

**For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk**



## ENGLAND



**Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB**  
**Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB**  
**Contact: Liz Clarkson 01579 372345/07785105087**  
**liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk www.duchy.ac.uk**

A range of courses delivered throughout the South West: Levels 2 and 3 Workbased Diplomas and Apprenticeships in Horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture (Management). Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture (including Sustainable Horticulture) FdSc and BSc (Hons) Horticulture. HND/HNC in Garden and Landscape Design. RHS Level 1, 2 and Advanced Certificate. Also short courses in pesticides, plant machinery vehicles, and chainsaws. Distance learning available via e-portfolios.




**HADLOW COLLEGE**

**Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL**  
**Contact: Mike Dodd**  
**01732 853163**  
**mike.dodd@hadlow.ac.uk**  
**www.hadlow.ac.uk**

City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses, such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide Application.

Additionally full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects.



**Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE www.merristwood.ac.uk**  
**Contact: Philip Mayes 07896 67 47 89 pmayes@guildford.ac.uk**  
**or Andrew McEvoy 07896 67 47 86 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk**

Part-time courses: New Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 4 - on-line distance learning course, Sports Turf Diploma Level 3 - on-line distance learning, Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 3, Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Groundsmanship Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Automatic Turf Irrigation Systems NPTC Certificate, NPTC courses including Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, FEPA Spraying and others. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the College.



**Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY**  
**Contact: Course Enquiries team on 01995 642211**  
**www.myerscough.ac.uk Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk**

Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Sportsturf Science and Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Sportsturf Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based learning team offers apprenticeship opportunities throughout the UK.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE**

**Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA**  
**Contact: Andrew Wight 01277 737735**  
**andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk**  
**www.oaklands.ac.uk**

Oaklands College offers on demand, on-line learning in City and Guilds levels 2 (Craft), 3 (Supervisory) and 4 (Management) Greenkeeping, Sports Turf Management and Horticulture throughout the South East. In addition we provide on-demand workbased apprenticeships at Levels 2 and 3. Full time courses on offer include Level 2 in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management and Horticulture Entry L3 to Level 3. We also offer short courses for PA1, 2 and 6.



**Plumpton College**

**Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Nr Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE. 01273 890454 www.plumpton.ac.uk**

Diploma in Horticulture, Levels 2 and 3. Part time courses: Work based Diploma: Level 2: Greenkeeping. Groundsmanship, Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Landscaping and Horticulture. Apprenticeships offered at Levels 2 and 3. Level 4 : Horticulture. RHS Levels 2 and 3, both Theory and practical. Short courses available, including FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke Training, e.g: Manual handling. Mower use and Maintenance. Risk Assessment. Strimmers and Hedgetrimmers.



**Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF**  
**Contact: Gareth Phillips 01270 613236**  
**enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk**  
**www.reaseheath.ac.uk**

Block release industry tailored courses include Level 2 and 3 Work Based Diploma in Horticulture / Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. Also: NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf (distance learning) and apprenticeships plus full-time Level 2 / Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture. Short courses include pesticide application, chainsaw operation, safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programmes available on request. Campus facilities include a commercial golf course, rugby and football pitches.



**Sports Turf Apprenticeship**

**Study at: Pershore or Moreton Morrell Centre, one day fortnightly.**  
**Qualification: Intermediate/Advanced Apprenticeship in Horticulture, specialising in Sports Turf.**

The apprenticeships in Sports Turf Management have routes in groundsman and groundkeeper. Apprenticeships are a great way for students to earn and learn and fantastic for employers to have trained and skilled staff. Short courses also available at both sites, covering PA1, PA2, PA6, Chainsaw, P & D, First Aid, Landscape design and many more.

Ask about training delivered on-site and bespoke courses for employers.

**Contact: Helen Dickson**  
**Call Pershore: 01386 551185 / Moreton Morrell: 01926 318307**  
**Mobile: 07864 933651. Email: hdickson@warkscol.ac.uk**

# GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

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For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

# BE SEEN HERE

Your training provider could appear here, as an advert or listing, in our next edition of Greenkeeper Training

Get in touch with our Sales team on 01347 833800 to find out more



## Full-time and online study

Myerscough College invites applications for our popular range of Degree courses starting in September 2013.

**Foundation Degree in Sportsturf**

**BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management**

**BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management – top-up programme for students with an HND or Foundation Degree**

**R&A Bursaries available to many students**



Myerscough College's Degree programmes are validated by the University of Central Lancashire

Facebook.com/MyerscoughColl @Myerscoughcoll



Myerscough College

**MyfutureMystudiesMydegreeMyerscough**

For more information call **01995 642211** or visit [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk)





# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David looks at why and how British educated and trained greenkeepers are still very much in demand worldwide and how international students are still looking to attend British colleges. Plus, how the GTC is now helping golf developing countries

**It gives me great pleasure when I receive an email from a familiar name reminding me that they were a British apprentice and are now working abroad as Course Manager or Director of Golf.**

It is very rewarding to see how the British greenkeeping education and training system has been the foundation for many, to not only progress to be Course Managers throughout Britain, but ply their trade overseas and enjoy the experience.

There are also many of today's non-British Course Managers who have travelled from far and wide to gain knowledge from a British college and who have also enjoyed the experience of gaining skills from working on a British golf course.

The same can be said of young greenkeepers who have travelled abroad to gain new life experiences. I've lost count of how many greenkeepers have enjoyed the Ohio State University programme managed so expertly my 'old' friend Mr Mike O'Keefe, since the initiative started back in 1989! Mike only recently informed me that American Superintendents love the young British greenkeepers who have completed Level 2, as they are "so multi-skilled when they arrive in the States". A true testament to the British structure of greenkeeper training and one many people have worked on to develop and continue to maintain.

This is just one example of how sharing knowledge and experiences throughout the world of greenkeeping has benefited so many who choose greenkeeping as a career.

Turf college lecturers are now working closer than ever with Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to develop apprentices to

become the future custodians of golf courses. Course Managers, Deputies and in fact all levels of greenkeepers have more access to knowledge and qualifications, as online learning becomes so much more accessible. A Degree in Sports Turf Surfaces is no longer just a dream for many greenkeepers, it a reality. The internet has obviously helped and communication across the world of greenkeeping appears to be going from strength to strength.

Having mentioned the formal qualifications, it must not be forgotten that the two key elements - knowledge and experience - are the very foundation which underpin any education structure.

Through my involvement in advising an increasing number of countries within my role as Standards Director to the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (or as it will soon become, Greenkeeper Training Europe), it is apparent that with very few exceptions, many countries as yet have no formal greenkeeper education system.

Some countries do not have a greenkeeping association, however, the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association (FEGGA) supports those established Greenkeeping Associations in Europe and is also helping countries where golf is developing to start an association.

BIGGA, as a founder member of FEGGA, also plays an important role, with former BIGGA Chairman Paul Worster, now a FEGGA Director, offering to assist the younger Greenkeeping Associations.

It is apparent in many countries that Greenkeeping Associations have little or no support from their Golf Federation or Union to promote greenkeeper education. This is

something that the European Golf Association (EGA) are currently looking to address and Richard Heath, the General Secretary to the EGA and the EGA Board, is looking at how best they can support their affiliates.

Thankfully there is no such problem in Britain with The GTC established as the organisation where BIGGA and the British Home Unions meet to discuss all aspects of greenkeeper education, training

**“Turf college lecturers are now working closer than ever with Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to develop apprentices to become the future custodians of golf courses”**



The GTC is funded by:



and qualifications. It is a success story and one we are sharing as a blueprint with other countries.

Ultimately, it is the golf club employer who benefits most from having well trained staff and to have the major employer bodies around the table with the professional body for greenkeepers certainly has great benefits for British golf clubs and greenkeepers alike.

The Government still looks to employers to take the lead on establishing Occupational Standards for their particular sector.

What follows are funding incentives such as apprenticeship allowances which in Britain have benefited many employers and greenkeepers over the years.

In summary, British trained and educated greenkeepers are operating in many countries and the sharing of best practices amongst golf organisations, associations, education establishments and companies within the sector must bode well for the future standards of golf course maintenance and management.

For all the latest information on greenkeeper education, training courses visit the GTC's website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

## Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director  
and European Greenkeeping  
Education Unit Standards  
Director

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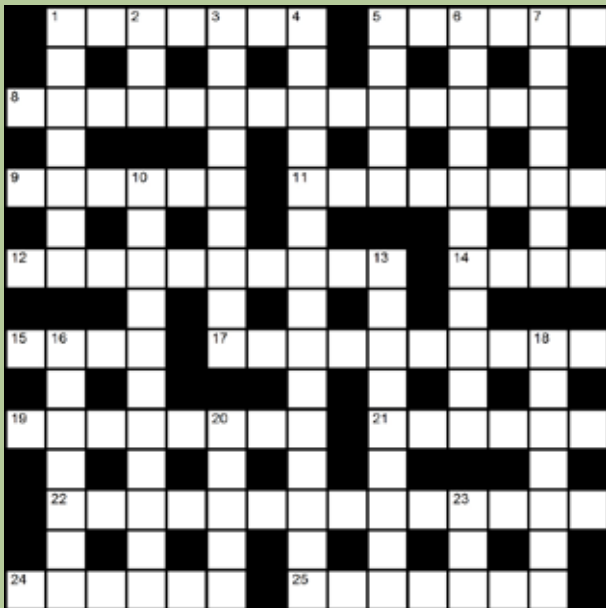
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# puzzlepage

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Unintentionally comic out-take from TV, film etc (7)
- 5 Drink, absorb (6)
- 8 British actor and director who co-founded United Artists (7,7)
- 9 Animal or plant in its earliest stage of development (6)
- 11 In turn; individually (3,2,3)
- 12 British pop band who reached No1 in 1983 with Too Shy (10)
- 14 America's Mormon State (4)
- 15 Pop group whose popularity re-emerged through films such as Muriel's Wedding (4)
- 17 1966 hit for The Who (10)
- 19 The world's longest-running current affairs TV programme (8)
- 21 Conspicuously indecent (6)
- 22 County in which Mallory Park racing circuit is situated (14)
- 24 Ancient Anglo-Saxon kingdom (6)
- 25 Trade name of the drug

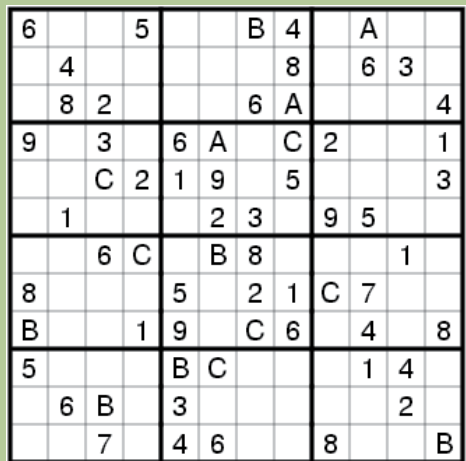
methylphenidate, a treatment for narcolepsy (7)

### Down

- 1 Former kingdom of Czech Republic; name associated with unconventional lifestyle (7)
- 2 Rowing blade (3)
- 3 Toxic (9)
- 4 Racehorse whose part-owners included Sir Alex Ferguson (4,2,9)
- 5 Visual representation (5)
- 6 The 'Fat Owl of the Remove' (5,6)
- 7 Stroke of luck or source of wealth (7)
- 10 Political policies associated with America's 1981-89 president (11)
- 13 Consecutively (2,3,4)
- 16 Writing system for the visually impaired (7)
- 18 Iran's capital (7)
- 20 In French, of or between two (1,4)
- 23 --- 9000, Arthur C Clarke's Space Odyssey computer (3)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

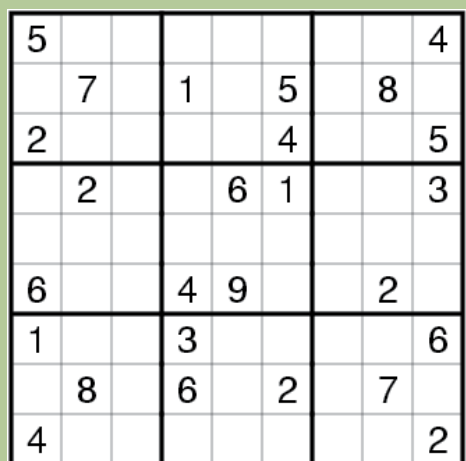
- 1) Name the 12 players who represented England in the 2005 Ashes.
- 2) Which League Two side play pre-season matches against the likes of Blackpool, Sheffield United and Huddersfield?
- 3) Which American tennis player was kicked out of Wimbledon in 1995 for verbally abusing an umpire?
- 4) Which Sheffield-based tennis player won last year's Men's Doubles at Wimbledon with partner Frederik Nielsen?
- 5) Which cricketer scored 766 runs in the last Ashes series?
- 6) Name the two tennis players involved in the record match at Wimbledon which ended 70-68 in the final set.
- 7) Who are the reigning County Cricket champions?
- 8) Name the five venues for this summer's Ashes.
- 9) Who is the current Australian cricket captain?



Monster Daily SuDoku: Wed 19-Jun-2013 easy

## MONSTER SUDOKU

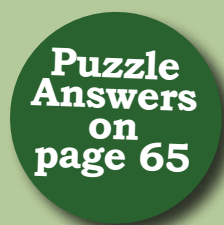
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



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## SUDOKU

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





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# Photographic competition

How you can win our coveted members' competition, and see your photography grace Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA Calendar 2014, following in the footsteps of recent winner – Craig Boath, Head Greenkeeper of the Carnoustie Championship Course

**Are you a BIGGA member and do you fancy yourself as a budding photographer? The competition offers you the chance to portray your course in a variety of publications, with the winner receiving a full course feature in GI**

Our industry offers terrific opportunities for stunning photography across the year – and now is the time to send in the images many of you have captured from the autumn and winter. The forthcoming weeks also offer another chance for great spring and summer shots.

The competition is judged by a panel of experts including professional photographers Alan Birch

and Eric Hepworth – and the winner will receive a framed image of their choice from Eric's super selection of golf course photography ([www.hepworthgolfphotography.com](http://www.hepworthgolfphotography.com)), as well as one of your own entry. Two runners-up will receive an unframed print, and the final 12 will all be featured in next year's calendar.

To enter, please send your images to [comps@bigga.co.uk](mailto:comps@bigga.co.uk) - the closing date is the 31st July 2013.

Please write "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2013" is the subject header of your email, and label your entries with your name, club/college currently at, membership number and a brief caption of the course.

Images need to be high resolution and landscape shape (at least 30cm wide at 300dpi) suitable for an A3 calendar.

Please avoid reducing the file size as this will reduce the quality – we recommend one image per email if file size becomes an issue – or use a compression facility such as winzip or an ftp site such as [www.mailbigfile.com](http://www.mailbigfile.com)

There is no limit to the amount of images you can send us., but please seek permission of the club before sending your entries – we are sure they will be delighted with the potential coverage.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter. Good to luck to all.

# BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX 2013

The Grandstand, Royal Windsor Race Course

Wednesday 4 September 2013

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEX 2013.

**10.15 am – 11.15 pm**  
**Greens Drainage - Mission Possible**

A workable solution - Transforming soil based greens with Deep Thatch and Black Layer at Robin Hood Golf Club. Discover the methods used and the solution to draining troublesome greens.

*Presented by Andy Wood, Course Manager, Robin Hood GC.*

**11.30 am – 12.30 pm**  
**Sand Traps and Money Pits**

This session will look at managing and constructing golf course bunkers on limited budgets, whilst revisiting the past to shape our future. It will also include the art of compost creation and it's role in modern traditional greenkeeping.

*Presented by Stuart Yarwood MG, Golf Course Manager, Lymm Golf Club.*

**1.00 pm – 2.00 pm**  
**Go in Green.....Come Out Clean**

Winter disease on golf greens is particularly problematic since there is little turf growth to allow recovery and for scars to heal. This can impact the playability of greens right through into the spring period leading to the dissatisfaction of golfers. An integrated approach to disease management can reduce the disease pressure, improve turf health and enhance the performance of fungicide applications. New findings on disease management will be presented along with practical advice for how to deliver smooth, disease free greens right through the high risk autumn and winter periods.

*Presented by Dr Simon Watson, Syngenta Technical Manager, EAME Turf and Landscape.*

**BIGGA CPD Credits**  
- 1 CPD credit is available for each seminar.  
A CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar.



## puzzlepage answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) East Stirlingshire
- 2) York City
- 3) Jose Mourinho
- 4) Oxford United
- 5) Lee Martin
- 6) Peterborough
- 7) Teddy Sheringham & Ole Gunnar Solksjaer
- 8) 13
- 9) Chapman

### CROSSWORD

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### MONSTER SUDOKO

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

Monster Daily SuDoku: Wed 19-Jun-2013 easy

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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

Daily SuDoku: Wed 19-Jun-2013 hard



# The Back Nine

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

Last month Justin looked at the perils of social networking. Now in the second part of his educational look at the medium, he considers content and the increasing influence of Twitter and Facebook

**The first question I'm usually asked when I speak about blogging is "How much time does it take?" The answer depends on your preference on what information you want to get out.**

Remember more and more people get information in bits and pieces to their phone or tablet.

So if you post a ten page document on soil respiration and throw in a few Latin names you are likely to lose your audience, plus it is going to be a big commitment for you to write.

Try to keep the posts short and to the point and better yet add some pictures.

A picture is worth a thousand words. It will definitely help your members and guests understand better how a machine goes across the green, or how you are dealing with a layering problem in the greens.

The other fear that superintendents have is content. Here are a few topics that seem to keep the blog flowing and still get some variety.

- Projects – Aerification, renovations, drainage...
- Employee spotlight – Take a person on the crew and give the members an idea of who they are and what they have done
- Frequently Asked Questions - Talk about things that people have come up to you and asked you about, and why you do these things
- Environmental – Golf course superintendents are stewards of the environment, promote your practices that conserve and reduce
- Did you know – Explain a more complicated topic that is behind the scenes

New content will keep your followers interested and also understand more about your profession. Instead of the golfers yelling at one of your guys to get out of the way, they might

know a little more about that staff member and introduce themselves. They can better understand your work and issues on the course.

Twitter is another way to blast information out with short messages. This is a good way to direct members and guests to your blog and post live information like weather, project info, course closure etc.

If the golf shop wanted to get involved as well it could be a good avenue to post deals on rounds or specials on equipment.

When I first got involved in Twitter I didn't really know what I was going to post and if anyone would really care.

Now a few years later I have gathered quite a few followers and it has become a great resource for me to post quick bits of info to inform our membership about what is happening in real time. It also has doubled as a good place to learn more about turf management.

I follow other superintendents that post information about their practices. I can ask quick questions and get fairly quick responses from many different people.

Now onto Facebook and Google+. These are both borderline time suckers. Facebook can be a great tool to connect with many people - after all, 72% of the UK uses Facebook.

That means for every ten people that play your course or that are members, seven of them are updating their status and it may be about your course.

Facebook seems much more personal, can become a sinkhole for time and I feel it's better for revenue seekers like the golf shop.

Google+ on the other hand does have some value.

The instant upload from your smartphone's camera makes it easy to post pictures and the hangouts can be ideal to do meetings with



**For every ten golfers on your course, seven of them are updating their Facebook status and it may be about your course**

other superintendents in your area or across the globe.

This is becoming more popular and ideal to get advice or new ideas for your course.

Social media can become confusing if you don't keep it simple.

You can end up wasting your time posting to several accounts with the same information or not gain traction if you fall behind on posting content.

Keeping your investment to a blog and Twitter is a great start. These two go hand in hand and can be updated quickly and provide a lot of information to your golfers.

Use Twitter for instant information and your blog for more detailed presentations.

If you keep these two accounts simple and to the point, you should be able to keep your time commitment to a reasonable level.

Remember, you don't want to get stuck wasting your time. You just want to increase your communication and visibility.

## about the author



Justin Ruiz CGCS MG is Golf Course Superintendent at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club in the US state of Washington. He runs a detailed blog on work on his course at <http://indiansummerglasspot.co.uk/> and has won awards for previous articles looking at social media.

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