

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

£5.20 JUNE 2013

**Inside...**

## BLINDED BY SCIENCE?

USGA specification  
for putting greens

**Also Featured...**

# Managing with less

How greenkeepers in New Zealand  
are achieving outstanding results  
in difficult circumstances



## HEYTHROP PARK

Phil Helmn's machinery  
maintenance advice

**ALSO INSIDE... WOOLLEY PARK : LIGHTWEIGHT ROLLING : CPD**

# GP400 SIMPLY BRILLIANT



The Jacobsen GP400 Diesel ride-on greens mower is full of brilliant ideas. To ensure superior turf conditions, our engineers included free-floating steerable cutting heads with Classic XPTM reels along with a complete Greens Management System including verticutters and groomers. To make the GP400 easy to use and maintain, they added a one-touch joystick for lift/lower, a swing-out centre reel, and onboard backlapping. Add some brilliance to your course with the GP400 ride-on greens mower from Jacobsen.

**FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE  
ON YOUR COURSE, CALL 01473 270000**

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

GKI/GP400Simply/06/2013

**JACOBSEN**

## WELCOME FROM BIGGA

### BIGGA



**BIGGA President**  
Sir Michael Bonallack,  
OBE

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

#### BIGGA Past Chairman

Andrew Mellon

#### BIGGA Board Members

Gary Cunningham, Stuart Greenwood, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Hughes, Kenny MacKay, George Barr, John Keenaghan

#### BIGGA Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton

#### BIGGA General Manager

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

#### BIGGA Learning & Development Manager

Sami Strutt  
sami@bigga.co.uk

#### Contact Us

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

### GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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



#### Production

Design & Brand Executive  
Tom Campbell

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



#### Editorial

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



#### Advertising

Business Development Manager  
Jill Rodham  
Tel – 01347 833800  
ext 519  
Fax – 01347 833802  
jill@bigga.co.uk

#### Printing

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

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



ISSN: 0961 – 6977

© 2013 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



Some of the STRI Environmental Awards winners on the 18th at Wentworth

## A thirst for innovation

**Writing this column from the BMW PGA Championship where, sadly, off course issues are overshadowing the one and only Tour event to take place in England this year, it is fantastic to see the world's best players playing a beautifully manicured British course and it feels like the 2013 golfing season has finally begun.** Congratulations to Kenny Mackay and his team at Wentworth for getting the West Course into such excellent condition after such a tough twelve months.

As always an excellent team of BIGGA volunteers assembled at the event to provide support to the home team and I know Kenny and all involved in the event were extremely grateful for their hard work and enthusiasm.

During the event a reception for the winners of the 2012 STRI Environmental Awards took place in the iconic Wentworth clubhouse and it was fascinating to chat to those assembled and hear some of the challenges that have been faced by our members all round the country. There is no doubt that everyone has had to be extremely dedicated and very innovative to get the nation's golf courses playable over the last few months. The innovative approach that our members bring to problem solving and overcoming weather, technical or agronomic issues is something that has really struck me during my two years in this role. It was certainly an issue that I was keen to highlight in a recent article in Golf Monthly that discussed the impact of the last year's weather on the whole golf economy.

This is something I'm keen to celebrate so on that note please see Innovation Corner (page 45, part of the Woolley Park course feature) – which aims to celebrate some of the more unusual approaches to greenkeeping. Additionally we really want to use the pages of this magazine and our website to highlight any successful new methods you have brought in at your facilities. This industry has always grown through the sharing of good practice and new ideas and I hope we're able to continue that

growth through our communications with you the membership.

**As a member's association it is incumbent on us to also be innovative and forward thinking with our benefits and services to you.**

This month we highlight changes to our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme that are intended to make the scheme both more user friendly and suitable to the needs of the modern greenkeeper (page 16). This includes a more modern approach to the different styles of learning that we all undertake as well as extending the qualifying period from the overly onerous annual requirement to a rolling three-year programme.

**This month we also say a fond farewell to one of BIGGA's longest serving employees;** Jane Jones has been the administrator for the South West & South Wales region for over eight years and has served the membership with great enthusiasm and integrity. Her excellent attention to detail combined with a charming manner have made her a joy to work with, we wish her well in her new ventures in the industry.

This edition features articles on a wide diversity of topics, from combining agriculture with greenkeeping (page 42) to the benefits of lightweight rolling (page 30) via the second and final part of Kevin Munt's excellent feature on the keys to career advancement (page 50).



**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**

# GI CONTENTS

A look at what's inside the magazine this month

JUNE 2013

## FEATURES

### 16 CPD – make yourself valuable

What makes good CPD

### 20 Is in-house care key to equipment longevity?

James de Haviland reports from Heythrop Park

### 24 Become the next BIGGA Champion

Enter the 2013 BIGGA National Championship at Frilford Heath GC and win £500 worth of vouchers

### 26 Blinded by science?

A study on rebuilding a putting green to USGA spec

### 30 Top ten reasons to lightweight roll

One of the world's most eminent turf professors gives us the detailed lowdown on lightweight rolling

### 34 Managing with less in the land of the Kiwi

How greenkeepers in New Zealand are addressing their own problems with spectacular results

### 38 An introduction to aeration

A base level look at aeration

### 42 A family affair at Woolley Park

How a proprietary golf club runs in happy union with a farm

### 46 Bernhard delegates... where are they now?

Past delegates explain how it had a huge impact on their careers

### 50 18 steps (Part Two)

The final part of Kevin Munt's essential guide

## Bernhard delegates ...where are they now?

If you're still undecided about applying to join the next BIGGA Delegation to America, read on to find out how much influence the trip had on delegates from the last few years

Jaime Ariza, 2012 Delegate, TIFD Head Greenkeeper, Workbury Golf Club

"I had no idea just how much the trip would impact on me both professionally and personally. It had it has given me the confidence to hold my own professionally, to push myself more in new situations and to move my career to the next level. A few months ago I was offered a new job and took on the challenge of running a busy proprietary club set in several parks on a private estate. The show, seminars and site visits we all attended in the States gave me a real boost in respect to my job."



In August Greenkeeper International will again be asking for members to apply to become a member of the Bernhard Delegation heading to the States and the Golf Industry Show in January.

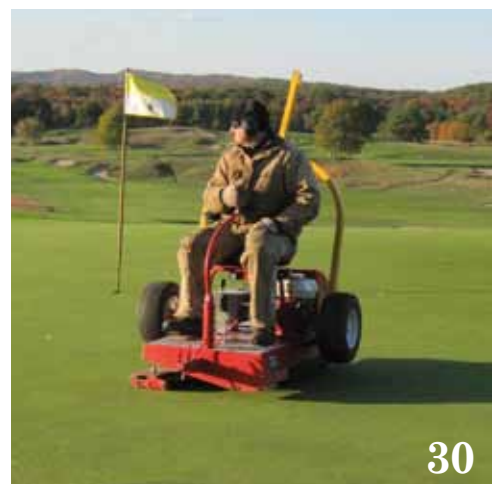
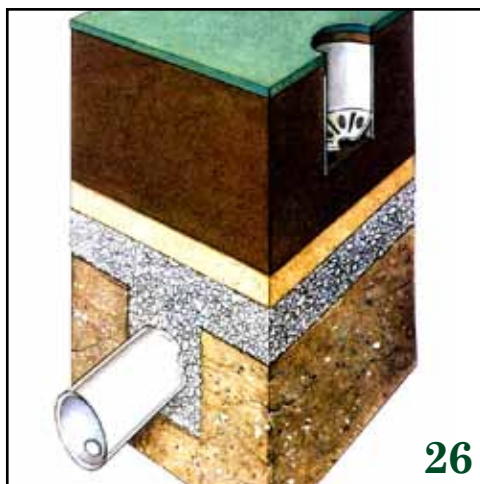
It's a fabulous shared experience, an opportunity to build new friendships and make new business contacts, but most importantly an priceless tool for learning, observing, listening and growing. So don't just take the word for it. Go up to one of our delegates from the last decade to find out how much the trip influenced them professionally and personally.



Richard Jenkinson, 2013 Delegate, TIFD Deputy Course Manager G West NCGW, Sainsbury's

It truly was the most unforgettable experience I had in my career. One real highlight was the tour around Toney House and La Cote. It was fascinating to see the difference between them even though they are only 100 metres apart. The management style is similar but the terrain and composition of the courses are completely different. I now understand why previous delegates described it as a very tough but life-changing week.

BERNHARD DELEGATES  
46





**26** A study on rebuilding a putting green to USGA spec



**38**



**42**

## REGULARS

- 3 Welcome from BIGGA
- 6 Chairman's Word
- 8 Newsdesk
- 12 Membership News
- 14 Learning & Development News
- 52 New Products
- 54 Around the Green
- 59 Greenkeepers Training Committee
- 60 Buyers' Guide
- 65 Recruitment
- 66 The Back Nine



The official monthly magazine of  
**British and International  
 Golf Greenkeepers Association**



# Chairman's Word

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

## Support at Wentworth, and a sad farewell

**I have now officially retired, leaving my position at Teesside Golf Club after 32 terrific years. It seems ironic that I've left after the wettest year anyone could remember, when we had a sewage pipe burst twice and were forced to close on so many occasions.**

Now I've left the sun is shining – maybe it was me! It was a very cold spring – although it was a little drier – but fingers crossed the recent warmer weather will mean you lucky members are all out there preparing your courses with pride as I know you love to do. I say lucky because I am already missing preparing the course at Teesside.

I wish you all a good summer that will help you continue to produce the superb standard of courses which are admired throughout the world by other turf professionals.

At the end of May I was fortunate enough to attend the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth for two days, more for business than pleasure. It was the first to be held with Kenny Mackay overseeing course preparation.

I have to congratulate Kenny and his team on the fabulous presentation of the course. As ever, conditions were not ideal with largely dank and overcast conditions during the week, but Kenny and his team dealt with all the challenges superbly.

I'd also like to congratulate the members of the BIGGA Support Team who gave up their own time and made their own travel arrangements to back up the efforts made by the Wentworth team. Well done – your superb contribution did not go unnoticed.

The Wentworth tournament is the only time the European Tour International Schedule will visit England this year but it is a huge event on the golfing calendar and provided us with the chance to catch up with many industry bodies and individuals during the week.

These challenging economic and climatic times make working together even more essential if we are to ensure the industry survives.

2013 has been hectic year so far for BIGGA and for me in my travels around the Regions and Sections, so a slightly quieter month has come as a welcome change. I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend a Midlands Region board meeting



STRI Environmental Awards winners on the 17th at Wentworth

### I am grateful to all the members who give so much of their precious time to help the Association function

meaning I have now had the chance to spend time with all five Regional Boards during my first ten months as Chairman.

I am grateful to all the Section and Regional officers and board members who give so much of their precious time to help the Association function and remain focused on the needs of the membership.

A sad event last month was the semi-retirement of our South West & South Wales regional administrator Jane Jones, she has served the Association with great commitment and will be missed by many as she takes half a step back in her career.

I am delighted that she intends to stay in touch with the golf and greenkeeping industry and hope that our paths continue to cross. I'm sure all of you, particularly the members of her Region, will join me in wishing her well.

We have recently launched the 2013 BIGGA National Championship, which this year will be held on the Red course at the first-class Frilford Heath Golf Club in

Oxfordshire. This fabulous 54 hole facility is maintained superbly by Sid Arrowsmith MG. Through generous sponsorship from both Kubota and Charterhouse we have been able to significantly increase the prize fund on offer particularly for the overall scratch competition, whilst we have also reduced the entry fee. I want to see a packed field contesting for the various prizes on offer so hope to see you there in October.

Last year's event at Irvine Bogside was a huge success (apart from when I used up about eight shots in bunkers on the 18th) and I'm sure this event will be too, so get your entry form in quick.

As always I am happy to discuss any matter with BIGGA members, my contact details are below.

#### Contact details

Tony Smith / 07988 838956 / tony.smith48@ntlworld.com

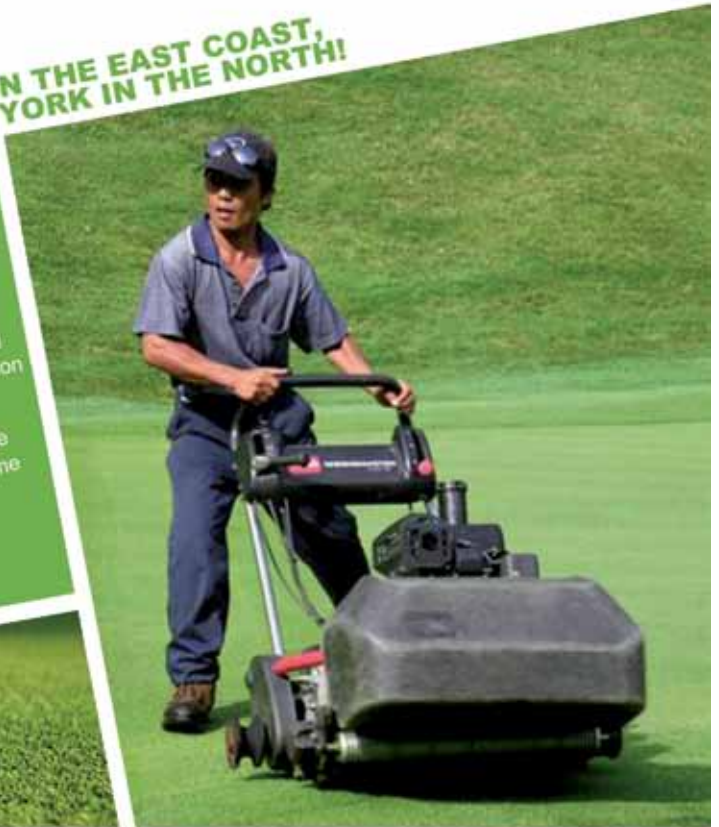
**A NUMBER OF PAID INTERNSHIPS  
ARE AVAILABLE WITH ONE OF OUR  
US SPONSORS  
AT A RANGE OF PGA LEVEL COURSES ON THE EAST COAST,  
FROM FLORIDA IN THE SOUTH TO NEW YORK IN THE NORTH!**

If you have recently graduated from a Turf Management or related course, or have experience in this sector then this could be for you! The placements lengths vary from 8-10 months and successful candidates will receive a monthly stipend of \$1100 plus insurance while in the US.

Duties will include, but are not limited to: course preparation and maintenance – mowing, raking, planting, irrigation, operating and maintaining machinery – and tournament support. Accommodation will be provided and full support is guaranteed throughout.

If you are aged between 18-30 have a full, clean driving licence and want to know more, call or email today. J1 Visa Programme terms and conditions apply as well as programme fees.

**Call Emily Baines today on 01572 823934  
for more information or email Emily@iepuk.com**



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

01572 823934



EAGLE

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

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

01883 344244



## BILLY MCMILLAN LAUNCHES COURSE CONSULTANCY

Former BIGGA National Chairman Billy McMillan has formed an independent golf course management consultancy, with services ranging from project management, staff training and development, and locum greenkeeping support.

With over 38 years' experience in the golf industry, he is offering help and support to any club that has ambitions to fully realise its potential in a competitive market.

Having spent many years at the forefront of greenkeeping and having also run golf clubs as a General Manager, Billy aims to bring a balance to the aspirations of Course Managers and clubs, helping to make a difference out on the golf course.

"I'm bringing something different to the table", Billy explains. "Looking at the club from both perspectives, I'm adept to change and meeting the demands of members, guests and visitors."

"Sometimes a fresh pair of eyes, constructive

feedback, and delivering practical solutions to overcome issues can make a huge difference.

"I hope to help clubs achieve a quality product tailored to most levels of available budget."

Having worked at many fine clubs, Billy has an extensive knowledge of many different course types, from clay-based to sandy heathland and everything in between, each coming with their own and sometimes very demanding issues.

He can evaluate current golf course condition and work alongside the club's greenkeeping team to help with planning for future success.

Billy is keen to take a hands-on approach and never shies away from getting involved at the grass roots to help others develop their personal skills.

Billy McMillan Associates Limited can be contacted on 07774 632747 or by email at [contact@billymcmillanassociates.co.uk](mailto:contact@billymcmillanassociates.co.uk).



## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS

This year's BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota will be held at the superb Frilford Heath Golf Club on October 7-8, with a fantastic first prize of £500 worth of vouchers.

The two-day event will be held on the Red course, a classic heathland test. This was designed by five-times Open Champion JH Taylor, and hosts European Tour final qualifying the week before our visit. It's an authentic challenge at 6,912 yards, with fast and true greens and fairways that demand accurate drives. The stretch between holes five and nine is particularly notable, featuring a memorable par three hitting over a pond.

We've also cut the entry fee to just £90 which includes a round of golf on each day, plus lunch on both days and dinner on the Monday evening. Please note there is no accommodation provided.

To enter please fill in the application form on page 24 of this magazine, or email your details to [rachael@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael@bigga.co.uk) - ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

## COURSE WORK STARTS AT CHERKLEY COURT

A historic site near Leatherhead has been given the go-ahead for an exclusive golf course. Plans for a golf course, luxury hotel and spa were held up by campaigners

who are objecting to the development. But after a hearing at the High Court last week a judge permitted the removal of topsoil and other works to begin.

The par 71, 7000 yard course has been designed by David McLay Kidd, creator of Queenwood, The Castle Course at St. Andrews and Machrihanish Dunes.



# HISTORIC CHANGE AT BRORA



Head Greenkeeper James Macbeath (second left) watches course record holder Jim Miller tee off at the 11th with Jim Casey from Clyneish Distillery and Club President Alistair Risk

A Head Greenkeeper's desire to modernise a historic course has led to a significant and historic change of yardage at Brora Golf Club.

James MacBeath, Head Greenkeeper at the club – which is situated some 50 miles north of Inverness - recognised that the back nine was more difficult than the front nine so recommended it be extended by 50 yards, to ensure it became a par five.

James said: "I play off quite a low handicap and I found that in the prevailing wind, the back nine and front nine were not balanced. Also, there are not many par 69s around these days. We get many American visitors who are looking for a par 70, so I really felt it was time to modernise.

"I brought my idea to our greens committee and it all went from there. Inevitably there were some objections at first, particularly as there have been very few changes since the course was laid out in 1924, but when it eventually went to a vote the members were in favour."

Over the winter James and his team worked to build the new tee on the James Braid designed course, and also extended the fairways to allow for the extra yardage.

To mark the occasion the club and Clynelish Distillery, the sponsor of the 11th hole, invited course record holder Jim Miller to hit the first drive from the new tee.



Chris Thomas, Mike Mayer, Alex Matthews, Craig Campbell

## 100-HOLE CHARITY CHALLENGE

BIGGA member Craig Campbell is joining forces with four pals this month to attempt the incredible charity challenge of playing 100 holes in a single day.

Former Celtic Manor greenkeeper Craig will head to Ridgeway Golf Club in Caerphilly on 21 June with club members Chris Thomas, Mike Mayer and Alex Matthews, and have worked out they have around 16 hours of daylight to succeed – all in aid of Cancer Research Wales.

Craig is now a groundsman at Cardiff's magnificent Millennium Stadium, but golf is very much in his blood.

He worked at several clubs including South Winchester and Stratford Oaks before

moving on to Celtic Manor. He has retained his BIGGA membership as he explains: "Everyone can benefit from what other turf guys are doing. The Millennium Stadium provides a unique working environment, which means we are always looking for ways to improve and take on board ideas from all areas of turf management.

"Regarding the challenge, if we can go round in 998 minutes and play to our handicaps for the whole day this would equate to a shot every 34 seconds!

"We're looking forward to raising significant funds for Cancer Research Wales."

Donations can be made at [www.justgiving.com/RidgewayGolf2013-100HoleChallenge](http://www.justgiving.com/RidgewayGolf2013-100HoleChallenge)

Aerial spraying against OPM first forecast in April's GI got underway in early May. Within hours it was headline news in The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph. Micron Sprayers confirmed aerial application would be carried out by a Robinson Helicopter equipped with Micronair AU 7000 atomisers.

The target is the 10-hectare Herridges and Broom Copses near Pangbourne (West Berkshire) to be sprayed twice with *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*. Stewart Snape at Forestry Commission (FC) said "We know there could be OPM in the woodland environment because we found a nest last year."

Dr Martin Warren, Chief Executive of the charity 'Butterfly Conservation' said: "Blanket aerial spraying of a designated wildlife site sets a very bad precedent and is an extremely crude control mechanism – the approach is akin to using a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut'. We believe a far better method would be to conduct a detailed survey of the conspicuous nests and spray them individually as they have done in other areas."

The charity is concerned for rare butterflies in this woodland including silver washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*) and white admiral (*Limenitis camilla*), as well as the purple emperor

# AERIAL SPRAYING ...ON TIME (IF NOT ON TARGET)



(*Apatura iris*) known to be on sites nearby.

Early May featured strong winds and falling temperatures slowing oak re-foliation even more. Calm conditions for accurate deposition of droplets are required. And 40-60 per cent leaf expansion, to ensure sufficiently good leaf coverage and a lethal dose of Bt insecticide through larval ingestion.

Wind turbulence and insufficient tree canopy cover increase chances of droplets landing on non-target plants. Dog violet and honeysuckle both common woodland and hedgerow plants are the food plants of silver washed fritillary and white admiral, respectively.

Pangbourne appears a strange choice of place to begin aerial bombardment with insecticide. After three years of ground spraying only three nests were found last year.

One surprised observer told Greenkeeper International: "If FC wanted maximum impact against OPM they could have closed down Richmond Park for a day to treat the area's high OPM infestation."

This would clearly assist sites nearby. OPM has been successfully controlled on Richmond Golf Course (GI January 2012) but threats from female moths flying in to lay their eggs remain.

*Dr Terry Mabbett*

## FAREWELL JANE JONES

Jane Jones, who left her position as Regional Administrator for the South West & Wales on 31 May, was presented with a series of gifts by everyone at BIGGA House to thank her for eight and a half years of sterling service. She's intending to remain in the golf and greenkeeping industry. Everyone wishes her well and hopefully she will continue to attend events within the industry and keep in touch with many of the members, particularly in her Region.



## TORO/LELY MATCH

B,B&O triumphed 4-1 over Kent in the annual Toro/Lely Home Counties Football Final at Upton Park, home of West Ham United.

Kent Section secretary and part-time goalkeeper (!) Rob Holland reports: "It was truly a game of two halves. B,B&O scored four quick fire goals between the 12th and 20th minutes despite the heroic actions of the cat-like keeper.

"We scored a penalty in the second half and relentlessly pressed to narrow the scoreline. Unfortunately time ran out. Well done to Ben Adams, Russ Bain and Adam White who were superb in Kent's rearguard.

"Many thanks to B,B&O for a great game played in a very friendly spirit. Thanks especially to Larry Pearman and Toro/Lely for sponsoring - your generosity was very much appreciated. Thanks too to West Ham and particularly Head Groundsman Shane O'Brien for the quality of the pitch. Finally thanks to Kev Morris for arranging everything from organising the players, transport, sideline heckling, post match speeches and evening beverages back at Redlibbits. Thanks for the great company and another amazing day guys."

Ali Barrett with the drone



## ST ANNES OLD LINKS SOARS THANKS TO DRONE

For most Golf Clubs, like most businesses, marketing has become a key component of success and longevity. So when the St Annes Old Links (SAOL) Course Manager, the Professional and a club member chatted over a beer at the Club prizegiving, none of them thought that marketing and greenkeeping at the club would take such an innovative step forward so quickly.

Positioned within yards of Lancashire's Irish Sea coastline, the club prides itself on having one of the best maintained true Links golf courses in the UK; but maintaining this standard comes at a significant cost. Two of the key individuals responsible for ensuring the viability of the Club are the Club Pro Daniel Webster and the Course Manager Stuart Hogg.

It was whilst discussing the need to market the Club to a wider audience and bringing in visiting parties that Peter Barrett, a club member, suggested an innovative idea. Peter's son Ali had been developing a helicopter drone which he had used for filming extreme sports. So why not use this same technology to film the course and allow prospective visitors to see the quality and standard of the greens and fairways before they visit?

Stuart then suggested it was not only useful for marketing, but would also enable him, as Course Manager, to gain a more holistic view of the course using the aerial perspective to track progress of the course over time and to help the development of future short and long term improvement projects.

Working with Daniel and Stuart, a plan was put together to film the course during the Easter holidays.

The whole course has now been filmed and the results can be seen at the SAOL website [www.stannesoldlinks.com](http://www.stannesoldlinks.com).

SAOL is one of the first golf clubs in the UK to have a full aerial video of the complete course available on its website.

The results speak for themselves. As Club Captain John Gallacher said:

"I am extremely impressed by the end results. Utilising this innovative

technology enables us to showcase our wonderful course, providing an enhanced service offering to our visitors and guests. Equally as important it provides valuable information to our Course Manager in terms of course maintenance and development."

Work is ongoing to refine the videoing techniques and Ali and Peter have now set up a new business - [www.heliphoto.biz](http://www.heliphoto.biz) - to further promote the use of lightweight, high tech drones for aerial filming of golf courses and other sporting events and venues.

St Annes Old Links clubhouse





# 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!



**Recently we've focused on the terrific work of The Open support team – but this month it's time to turn the spotlight on the members who helped out at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship.**

Congratulations to those who were accepted, and to those who missed out – try again next year and hopefully your luck will be in.

Similar to The Open, the team were required to rake bunkers as well as early morning prep plus assisting Kenny Mackay's existing team at Wentworth, and were available in case of bad weather.

One of the team is Craig Kilgour, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Ponteland Golf Club. He drove over 300 miles from Newcastle to Wentworth to take advantage of this membership opportunity, so we spoke to him beforehand:

**What was your reaction when you found out you'd been selected?**

"I was really, really pleased and excited. I'm a massive golf fan and I've been to Wentworth for the last couple of years as a spectator, but I wanted to get more involved and get inside the ropes so I applied to join the team. It's a long journey but I think it will be well worth it."

**What are you hoping to gain from the experience?**

"It's a great opportunity to see how an event like this operates up close. I'll be able to see the quality of the turf, some of the machines, and how it all comes together. I'm also looking forward to meeting greenkeepers from across the country. I speak to a lot of them on Twitter, but it will be good to meet them in person."

Congratulations to the following who supported on the Saturday and Sunday:

Russ Bain – Deputy Course Manager, Chislehurst Golf Club; Dylan Rennick – Deputy Course

Manager, Northwood Golf Club; Phil Worth – Greenkeeper, The Mere Golf Resort & Spa; Jaey Goodchild – Head Greenkeeper, Bowood Golf & Country Club; Iain Jones – Head Greenkeeper, Leighton Buzzard Golf Club; Myles Wood – Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club; Gary Britton – Greenkeeper, Notts Golf Club; Darren Burton – Head Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club; James Boorman – Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club; Phil Slater – Greenkeeper, West Herts Golf Club; Simon Bell Tye – Head Greenkeeper, Botley Park Hotel Golf & Country Club; Darren Heskins – Greenkeeper, Botley Park Hotel Golf & Country Club; Kevin Armstrong – Head Greenkeeper, John O'Gaunt Golf Club; Martin Brown – Greenkeeper, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club; Kevin Weller – Head Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club; Mark McCann – Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park




**Contact Details**  
 Tracey Maddison  
 traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk  
 Elaine Jones  
 elaine@bigga.co.uk  
 Tel: 01347 833800  
 (option 1 for Membership)  
 twitter   
 You can follow BIGGA on  
 Twitter @BIGGALtd

**BIGGA Regional Offices**

**Scotland & Northern Ireland**  
 John Young  
 Mobile: 07776 242120  
 johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

**Northern & Midland**  
 Sandra Raper  
 Mobile: 07866 366966  
 sandra@bigga.co.uk

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

**South West & Wales**  
 Jane Jones  
 Tel: 01454 270850  
 Mobile: 07841 948110  
 jane@bigga.co.uk




John Young Sandra Raper




Clive Osgood Jane Jones

**OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS**  
 (Full Members only)

**Personal Accident Helpline**  
 0207 2048952

**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
 0800 177 7891

**Lifestyle Counselling Helpline**  
 0844 770 1036  
 www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst

Golf Club; Jamie Waitt – Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club; Sam Bethell – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Golf Club; Craig Kilgour – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ponteland Golf Club; David Smith – Greenkeeper, Links Newmarket Golf Club; Glenn Rayfield, Head Greenkeeper, Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club; Andy Baker – Head Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club; Rob Boyce – Head Greenkeeper, Links Newmarket Golf Club; Dan Breden – Greenkeeper, Surrey Downs Golf Club; Jason O'Keefe, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Gatton Manor Golf Club; Peter Hogan – Head Greenkeeper, Eccle Riggs Golf & Leisure Club; Paul Simpson – Greenkeeper, Winter Hill Golf Club; James Lomas – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Hadley Wood Golf Club; Steve Mason

– Course Manager, Stocks Golf Club; Richard Saunders – Course Manager, Mowsbury Golf Club; Rob Elliott – Greenkeeper, Bath Golf Club; Josh Dunn – Greenkeeper, Bramcote Waters Golf Club; Andrew Weeks – Greenkeeper, Hockley Golf Club; Steve Hopkins – Greenkeeper, Burghley Park Golf Club; Mike Lake – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club; Will Law – Greenkeeper, Aldeburgh Golf Club; Dan Perring – Greenkeeper, Aldeburgh Golf Club; Niall Gibb – Groundsman, Fawley Parish Council; Mark Burniston – Deputy Course Manager, Old Fold Manor Golf Club; Andrew Hart – Greenkeeper, Old Fold Manor Golf Club.

Also, the following members offered terrific support on the early morning prep team for

either five or six days:

James Briggs – Greenkeeper, East Sussex National Golf Club; Joseph Dormer – Greenkeeper, West Sussex Golf Club; Andy Haskell – Greenkeeper, Farnham Golf Club; Dan Woodcraft – Greenkeeper, Bradfield College Golf Club; Nick Hull – Greenkeeper, Shirley Park Golf Club; Nicholas Chapple – Greenkeeper, Woburn Golf & Country Club; Simon Torr – Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club; Joe Clark – Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club; Adam Brown – Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club; Tony Bartram – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Club; Peter Corrick – Greenkeeper, Weymouth Golf Club; Geoff Fenn – Course Manager, Bedford & County Golf Club.



## ENTER THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT LARGS GOLF CLUB

The Scottish National Tournament takes place on Thursday 13 June at Largs Golf Club.

It's a long-established private golf club with a superb 18 hole parkland course, situated in front of Kelburn Castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde with the islands of Cumbrae, Bute and Arran in the background, with Arran's Goat Fell and the 'Sleeping Warrior' dominating the landscape.

The course is enduringly popular with visitors, who return regularly year after year. The well-balanced layout offers an interesting and challenging experience to golfers across the broad spectrum of enthusiasm and ability, with positional play rather than big hitting paying dividends.

If you would like to take part in this year's event then please visit the 'Events' section of this

website where the entry form is attached, and complete the form along with your entry fee payment and return to John Young, Scottish Regional Administrator at 2/1, 19 Cardwell Road, Gourrock, PA19 1UG.

If you would like to pay electronically then please contact John via his email address of [johnyoung@bigga.co.uk](mailto:johnyoung@bigga.co.uk) or call him on 07776 242120 for further details.

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** Steven Morris  
**Age:** 26  
**Club:** Royal Dornoch Golf Club  
**Position:** Assistant Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** 'Big Man'



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

**What was it about the career that attracted you?** Working outside, interest in maintaining sports turf areas, using machinery

**If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** Snowboard instructor, or working at a ski resort in Austria

**Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Working tractors, changing hole positions as you can decide where it goes!

**Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Cutting greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job!

**What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** More respect from the golfer and general recognition for what we do as greenkeepers

**Hobbies?** Golf, skiing/snowboarding, cycling, hill walking, camping, working on cars

**Favourite Band?** Changes but at the moment Mumford and Sons

**Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?** I follow the golfers Paul Lawrie and Darren Clarke

**What is your claim to fame?** None as yet



# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

This month Stuart Green explores how to get more from CPD and explains changes to BIGGA's CPD Programme on page 16, and you'll find the second and final part of Kevin Munt's essential '18 hole' guide to becoming a Golf Course Manager on page 50. The Back Nine on page 66 also had an educational angle with tips on effective social media use



## ADVANCED LEARNING LOAN AVAILABLE

If you're over 24 you can now apply for an Advanced Learning Loan to help with the costs of a college or training course.

The course must start on or after 1 August 2013 and be a Level 3 or Level 4 course such as an advanced or higher apprenticeship. Similar to student loan, loans have to be repaid but repayments do not start until April 2016 and when you're earning more than £21,000 a year.

How much you get depends on the type of course, course fees and the maximum loan available – the minimum loan is £300.

It's paid directly to your college or training provider. The first step is to check with them that your course qualifies.

Then ask them for a 'Learning and funding information letter' to help you complete the application, and apply online at [www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk](http://www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk)

## EU EMERGENCY APPROVAL GIVEN FOR ASULOX® UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2013

The 2011 EU wide ban of the active ingredient Asulam was met with great disappointment by many of those involved in bracken control. Asulam, found in products such as Asulox had established itself as the primary choice of contractors who treated bracken and many have found it difficult to find a successful replacement. So it is great news that EU Emergency Approval has been given for the use of the active ingredient Asulam in the product Asulox for 2013.

The product is now available for

pre-order and can be purchased up until Sunday 18th August 2013. The Emergency Approval will allow for the product to be used up until 31st October 2013. As yet is it unknown as to whether approval will be given for next year, but at least this year there is a control solution for Bracken.

More information on the EU Emergency approval can be found on the Asulox listing on the following website [www.progreen.co.uk](http://www.progreen.co.uk) or you can call them for a fuller update on 0800 032 6262.

[www.brackencontrol.co.uk](http://www.brackencontrol.co.uk)



## MORE SUCCESS FOR THOMAS

Reigning Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Thomas Flavell is celebrating again after securing a new job.

Thomas has moved on from his post at Lingdale Golf Club in Leicestershire to Luffenham Heath Golf Club, a private members club in Rutland.

He said: "It's a great opportunity to advance my career at a top golf course which is due to hold Open Qualifying for the next five years. I can't wait to help the team prepare for these events. Winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award certainly helped me land this position, as I was able to use the knowledge I gained in the USA and through my Level 3 studied at Myerscough college.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale Golf Club for the support they had given me over the last six years. Without this help and support I would not have had the skills and knowledge to be able to win the Toro Award and to progress my career by moving to Luffenham Heath. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Lingdale making some fantastic friends and unforgettable memories."

In the meantime, thanks for all the nominations for this year's award. We will be in touch...



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

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

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

## Contact Details

Sami Strutt  
L&D Manager  
[sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

Rachael Duffy  
L&D Executive  
[rachael@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael@bigga.co.uk)

Stuart Green  
L&D Executive  
[stuart@bigga.co.uk](mailto:stuart@bigga.co.uk)

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

# CPD

## - Part Two

### Make yourself valuable, not vulnerable

Last month BIGGA's Learning & Development Executive Stuart Green defined what CPD is. Now he moves on to discussing what makes good CPD and changes to the BIGGA CPD Programme



**They say doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome is the definition of madness! To put that in the context of a professional, if you are not updating and improving your knowledge and skills or investigating better ways of doing things, then you won't be standing still, you will be going backwards. In this day and age, that is madness!**

So what makes good CPD? Simply anything that is relevant to you, your work and your future.

The reason for having a plan is you need to know where you want to be before you can decide what you need to do.

CPD is a vast subject with scholars writing numerous papers dedicated to it.

However, there is one overriding concept that needs to be maintained when carrying out CPD.

That is - what's in it for me? That's all you need to remember. CPD is a personal journey and everything you do needs to help you towards that goal you have set. So be selective. Choose only what will get you to where you want to go.





### Types of CPD

CPD can be divided into two categories - formal and informal. Formal CPD is professional qualifications such as NVQs, work-based diplomas, HNC/Ds, foundation degrees and degrees or skills qualifications such as certificates of competence like PAs and Chainsaw courses. These need to be updated regularly to ensure the licence is maintained. For PAs, I would recommend joining the NASoR or National Amenity Sprayer Operators Register.

Informal CPD is more difficult to quantify, but it is still essential to your growth and personal development.

It can be many things. It may be something you have never thought could be CPD such as volunteering. This could be at a golf event, as a football or cricket coach, helping out at a scout group or being on the committee of your local allotment

society - been there and done the last one!

What has this got to do with greenkeeping, I hear you cry? Everything, according to major studies conducted by the Carnegie Foundation, Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Their research showed that to be successful at home or work your technical skills will only cover 15% of the knowledge you need. The other 85% will be people skills and self-knowledge.

Therefore, investing in understanding ourselves, others and having the ability to adapt to different behavioural characteristics of others, is the basis of personal and career success.

By investing your time in informal CPD activities, as mentioned above, you are in fact developing those people skills. If you've been a sports coach, you are the motivator, the organiser or the counsellor. Or if you are on a local committee, you

**“So what makes good CPD? Simply anything that is relevant to you, your work and your future”**

will be learning the skills of communication and managing meetings. All these skills are vital, but are generally overlooked as opportunities for learning.

### The Next Question...

I have discussed what CPD is and the types of CPD you can do. The next question is “What do I do with it?”. Many of you will already be registered on BIGGA's CPD programme and, after reading these articles, I hope many more of you choose to sign up.

The BIGGA CPD Programme has been running for 13 years and has now been reviewed. Due to the changing nature of our work envi-





ronments, the review highlighted the need for the Programme to have greater flexibility in what could be claimed for and the period for claims.

Therefore, BIGGA's CPD Programme is going to change from 1 July 2013. All members on the current Programme will be informed, during June, how they will cross over onto the new structure. The most significant change is the move to a three-year cycle. This was a fundamental requirement to a flexible system especially when there may be periods when CPD isn't an option, such as redundancy or starting a family.

1. On 1 July 2013, the BIGGA CPD Programme will change from an annual to a rolling three-year Programme.

2. Membership numbers will now be used instead of CPD numbers.

3. Credits will move from half a point to 1 point per hour of education.

4. A member must gain a minimum of 60 CPD credits within a three-year period.

5. There will be more options to obtain credits.

6. Between 1-59 credits, a member will be a CPD Active Member of BIGGA.

7. Once 60 credits have been achieved, they will become a CPD Approved Member of BIGGA.

8. The member will be

recognised with a CPD Approved certificate, with the year achieved, recognition in GI, the website, the Handbook and a discount on BIGGA's education opportunities.

9. All CPD credits will be recorded in a Lifetime Transcript (continuous credits forever) and Milestones will be recognised and awarded for achievement of 180 credits and at increments of 180 after that.

### Categories of Credits

To allow better understanding of CPD and to provide a fair and transparent credit system, credits have been divided into different categories for members to claim for. In the meantime, it's worth remembering that one educational hour = one credit.

• **Professional credits (max 10 credits)** – Association questionnaires; section & region committee work, Advisory Panels

• **Networking credits (max 10 credits)** – exhibition attendance, section meetings, tournament support teams

• **Education credits (min 30 credits)** – education event attendance; presenting workshops and seminars; sports turf qualifications; management qualifications; short courses;

certificate of competence; writing magazine articles; book reviews.

• **Personal learning credits (max 15 credits)** – Those activities that aren't automatically eligible for credits or do not fit the educational requirements of the CPD Programme may be claimed if the you complete a Personal Learning Statement. Within this, you must identify what you learnt, how it has changed you or your work and how you will use this knowledge to improve and develop in the future.

Some of the credit categories have minimum and maximum levels. So, for example, you could claim for attendance at a golf day as a Networking credit. However, these will be limited to 3 credits per CPD cycle. It's a bit like weight watchers, you can have loads of education credits (vegetables) but are limited in the Networking and Professional credits (carbs)!

Credit claims are not limited to what is suggested here. If you feel that you have gained valuable knowledge to aid and further your development, then submit a Personal Learning Statement. In future articles, I will outline credit values for professional and skills qualifications and how to fill in Personal Learning Statements.

***CPD is yours, plan it, do it, own it, think about it!***

**Registration forms can be found at:**  
[www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development](http://www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development)



Patience. Not an easy virtue to possess when temperatures are only just reaching double figures weeks before a major tournament.

**Sierraform<sup>®</sup>**  
**GT**

 **Qualibra<sup>®</sup>**  
Wetting agent

**H<sub>2</sub>Pro<sup>®</sup>**


But Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds at The Wentworth Club, was confident that the late start to his tournament preparations wouldn't prevent his greens providing a true challenge for the world's best golfers.

"We were in a far from ideal position, but I wasn't unduly concerned," he confirms. "Our greens overwintered well, due largely to two applications of SierraformGT K-Step 6-0-27+2MgO+TE with low Nitrogen and

high Potassium to harden the turf and bring it through the winter stresses."

Kenny used a combination of two wetting agents to help him achieve a level of firmness in his greens that will challenge the ball striking of the professionals competing in the Volvo PGA Championship.

To maintain the desired level of surface firmness, he managed the soil moisture content in the upper profile with Qualibra, which provides deep and even distribution



“Choosing an Everris iTurf programme is about more than the products we use. It’s about producing the playing qualities that top-flight sport demands from our surfaces.”

Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds,  
The Wentworth Club



through the profile, and H<sub>2</sub>Pro Maximise, which aids the quick penetration of irrigation water and rainfall through the profile on the run up to, and during a tournament.

“On a recent course visit, we checked that moisture levels and firmness were progressing towards our tournament targets and were consistent across each green,” explains Henry Bechelet, Technical Manager for Everris. “We took Clegg hammer and Theta moisture probe readings at the end of April and during May and the results were as we’d hoped – 110-120 gravities on the Clegg at 15-18% moisture in the top 60mm of the profile.”



“By managing the turf with an integrated approach, measuring the effects and recording the data, we work together to achieve the conditions needed to test the best players in the world.”

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





**HP**  
HEYTHROP PAL  
RESORT

**“Choosing one manufacturer to supply all the mowers was down to more than just securing a good finance deal”**

# Is in-house care key to equipment longevity?

In the recent GI survey, you told us you wanted to see machinery in action on BIGGA members' courses. So, we sent James de Haviland to Heythrop Park to discover how they care for their machinery

**Although you would not know it from its mature setting and well-established greens and tees, the 7,100 yard golf course at Heythrop Park Resort, near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire only opened in April 2010.**

Part of an estate that covers over 400 acres, the course is maintained with a fleet of Toro mowers. Phil Helmn MG, Estate Manager, was brought in to oversee construction, grow-in and ultimately set up the maintenance structure for the new course.

"Choosing one manufacturer to supply all the mowers was down to more than just securing a good finance deal", he explained. "I wanted to get to know one supplier and supporting dealer well enough

to minimise the number of calls I would have to make when I needed replacement parts or ran into a problem.

"We tried all the key makes and models of mower and settled on Toro because the company offered models that suited our particular needs. This doesn't mean I have ruled out buying from another manufacturer or even that the Toro kit we use is the 'best'. It is just the complete fleet met our needs and we have been extremely pleased with the equipment's dependability and performance in the four years it has been with us."

Of course, a key to reliability is ensuring it's properly maintained, set up and cared for. A critical element is having good in-house workshop facilities and a mechanic

to keep everything in order – which Heythrop have in the shape of Dave Capes. Phil admits this is not something all golf courses could justify but he suggests it makes practical and financial sense.

Toro has honoured the two-year warranty it set out when the mower fleet was purchased, Lely UK having been satisfied that Heythrop could indeed maintain the mowers to a standard that would enable it to meet any warranty claim.

"We purchased additional warranty on all the Toro mowers as it seemed a good idea," Phil says. "As it turned out we had just the odd minor issue. But we wanted to buy peace of mind. As it now stands, the mowers have all completed four years and we hope to keep them for two further years once the HP fees

BELOW: The Toro fleet on delivery in 2009



have been paid off next year.”

Adding that the chances are that the whole fleet will be replaced at the same time, both Phil and Dave suggest the key to continuing to get the best from the mowers is ensuring not just that they are looked after but that their respective workloads are also evened out.

“I keep a close eye on each mower’s hours,” adds Dave. “As an example we run two 5610D fairway mowers. One will be set up to mow the fairways, the other the aprons. As this means one machine will do a lot more hours, I will swap them over to even out the hours over the season.”

All the mowers are given the nicknames of famous golfers - Phil believes operators tend to be more sympathetic to a machine with a name as opposed to just a number.

The current fleet comprises four Toro 1000 pedestrian greens mowers, two Toro 3250 ride on greens mowers, two Toro 3100 sidewinder apron/tees mowers, two 5610 fairway mowers, two Toro 4100 semi rough mowers, four Toro workman MDX utility vehicles, a Toro workman HDX utility vehicle, three Ford tractors, one Charterhouse verti-drainer, Bobcat woodchipper, three Sisis slitters, a Sisis fairway scarifier and a Blec multi seeder.

**Stimpmeter and Trueness**

All this talk of equipment does not get in the way of delivering what golfers want; consistent greens, defined approaches, manageable roughs and true fairways.

The team have all worked hard to ensure the greens deliver a reliable and consistent playing surface. They adapted an old petrol powered Toro greens mower to carry three GreenTek True-Surface Vibe V rollers to consolidate the greens.

“The greens are both hand and ride-on mown, but we did struggle to come up with consistent green speeds,” says Phil. “Since we have used the greens roller, our stimp-meter values have improved to make the greens a lot faster. The variable degree of vibration delivered by the rolls enables the firming to be altered to suit a specific green.

“The greens are currently running at 11 feet 9 inches. To measure trueness, we simply set up a stimp-meter so a golf ball rolls in the hole, then roll a further ten balls down it. Trueness is simply calculated by how many times the ball drops. We then broadcast the green speed and trueness results on a Powerpoint presentation in the pro shop.”

**In-house grinding**

At the end of 2012, Dave’s wish to have Bernhard Express Dual cylinder and Anglemaster grinding equipment installed in the workshop was realised, a move he feels will really help in getting the best from the mowers. Towards the end of last season he was forced to turn out mowers with dull cutting units, the rapid growth of the fairways in particular not allowing him the time to send units out for attention by a third party.

“It took me a bit of time to really get to grips with the grinders,” he says. “Now I know what to do for each type of cutting unit and at present I am working out a regrinding cycle for each mower. But I can now sharpen a given mower as soon as it is necessary as opposed to hanging on until I can see a period when it may be in less demand. Sharp blades are obviously critical to a good finish but sharp cylinders and on-cut mowers draw less power. This boosts longevity and economy.”

**Is the equipment up to the job?**

The list of changes the team at Heythrop would like to see made to its Toro mowers is not a long one. The roughs and fairway models, two rotary Groundsmaster 4100D and two 5140 Reelmaster units, have had net ball guards added to help protect operators when mowing and unable to see a ball being played. A guard option was not offered when the mowers were commissioned.

On the two rotary Groundmaster models, the folding outer section pivots have needed replacing as they get worn in transport. Bigger pivots would help although they are easy to renew.

The Greensmaster 3250 would benefit from offset units – to prevent tyre marks (or ‘tramlining’) when mowing the greens - an easier to access central box and unit for emptying and cleaning. Both these issues are addressed on the current Triflex 3400 models.

The Sidewinder mowers used to mow the tees and aprons were found to scuff when making tight turns. Replacing the turf tyres on one of the two mowers with ribbed semi-smooth alternatives solved the problem. On a service note, the cost of front brake pads for the Workman utility vehicles raised an eyebrow but is countered by other parts, such as wheel bearings, having a very reasonable price tag.



ABOVE: Ribbed tyres have replaced the original turf tyres on one of the Sidewinder mowers. This enables the unit to turn with minimal scuffing when mowing tees



RIGHT: Each mower has its hour, service and repair record listed on this white board. Naming the mowers and applying large decals to their flanks may seem eccentric but it personalises the machines. Operators wash the mowers after use with a high volume hose



BELOW RIGHT: Converting a petrol powered greens mower to operate a triple set of True-Surface variable vibration rate rollers has proved worthwhile, increasing green speed while ensuring they’re consistent

**“The key to getting the best from the mowers is ensuring not just that they are looked after but that their respective workloads are evened out”**



The 17th century Heythrop House (above) provides an impressive backdrop, the green itself emerging from a tough winter when pictured in mid-April.

The rootzone is made up of 80% sand and 20% fensoil and seeded with a traditional bent and fescue seed mix. Greens are currently running at 90% fescue and 8% bent. A joint overseeding schedule and very labour intensive removal programme is carried out to ensure the remaining 2% rogue grasses that ‘creep in’ over the year don’t stand much of a chance.

**TORO**

LELY & TORO

**30**  
years

count on us

**Toro® Greensmaster TriFlex™**

# Cuts Greens Beautifully

**The remarkable TriFlex riding greensmower is packed with ground-breaking technology to give your greens a flawless finish.**



**Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex range provides unsurpassed consistency and quality of cut.** Innovative features, such as Toro's unique Flex double A-arm suspension system, Dual Precision Adjustment (DPA) cutting units and redesigned balloon-style tyres, all combine to produce an outstanding greensmower with the lightest of footprints. What's more, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 model is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system, for an even greener mower.

Full product details at [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)

Experience TriFlex for yourself, with a free onsite demonstration. Call Lely on 01480 226800



GREENSMASER 1000

FLEX 21

eFLEX

GREENSMASER 3250-D

TRIFLEX 3400



**Lely. Your partners in turfcare. Call 01480 226800.**

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors, Otterbine water management systems, and Solo backpack sprayers, brushcutters and other outdoor maintenance equipment.



partners in turfcare

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



# Become the next BIGGA Champion

Fill in the form below to book your spot

2012 winner Oly Browning at The Irvine Golf Club

## BIGGA National Championship 2013, Frilford Heath Golf Club, October 7-8 • Entry Form

**Please select the relevant category:**

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of **£90** includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name .....

Address.....

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

Mobile .....

E-mail.....

Membership No. ....

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club .....

**Payment method (please tick)**

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£90**
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of **£90**

Card number .....

.....

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

Last 3 security digits.....

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

Signature.....

Date.....

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

**Deadline for entry is 6th September 2013.**

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



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

There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.





Frilford Heath GC



This spring, BIGGA members can take advantage of 3 exclusive offers on the powerful and highly versatile GL40 series tractors Available until June 30th 2013.  
\*\* / ++ Terms and Conditions apply – see dealer or website for details.

**£1000  
CASHBACK  
FOR BIGGA  
MEMBERS**

**6** months  
payment  
holiday

**PLUS** 0% FINANCE OVER 2YRS  
2% FINANCE OVER 3YRS\*\*  
2 + 22 monthly repayments

**FREE** KUBOTA DRIVERS KIT ++  
WORTH £50 WITH EVERY DEMO  
Includes Kubota travel mug, key ring, cap and body warmer.

FIND YOUR LOCAL DEALER OR BOOK A TEST DRIVE TODAY:  
 Tel: 01844 268 000 [www.kubota.co.uk](http://www.kubota.co.uk)

**Kubota**  
 For Earth, For Life

# Blinded by science?

If you're rebuilding a putting green to a USGA spec you need to be aware of the various specifications – here Andy Stanger and Stephen Prinn discuss the pros and cons of using the intermediate 'blinding' layer

**Despite the USGA's restrictive specifications for putting green construction, golf course managers are presented with a multitude of choices when faced with the task of building new putting surfaces.**

The decision to eliminate the coarse sand intermediate layer is often made to reduce construction costs, but the long-term cost of its exclusion must be fully understood before such a decision is made.

The rapid growth in demand for golf after World War II quickly identi-

fied a weakness in the construction methods of the time as surfaces were failing under the increased amounts of play.

As a result, the USGA commissioned several research projects in the 1950's to identify the most successful rootzone mixture for putting green construction, which subsequently led to the first putting green specification being published in 1960. (Fig. 1)

The specification required the intermediate layer to be 35-50mm thick and contain sand particles

that were at least 1mm in diameter or greater.

A particle size contrast ratio for the sand and gravel was recommended at this stage but it was made purely on the grounds of preventing particle migration, no perched water table or water retention properties were mentioned at this time.

The difficulty of sourcing such material, sieving costs and installation time quickly lead to this layer being recognised as a very costly element of the specification and



A soil modification procedure for greens involving a perched water table



© Medinah Country Club/Evan Schiller

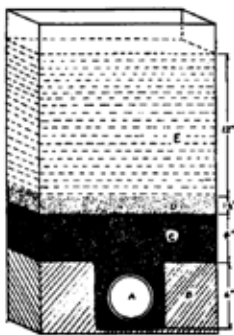


Fig.1, 1960 USGA Construction Specification Profile (USGA Greens Section Staff, 1960)

the necessity of its inclusion was brought into question.

Accepting that the blinding layers had a role in preventing particle migration, the focus of several studies in the 1960's found its ability to increase the water holding capacity of the overlying rootzone material through the creation of a 'perched water table', although the USGA had not listed this as a reason for its inclusion. Humel (1993) cites that and Miller and Bunger, (1963), observed increased water retention in the overlying soil when placed

over a either a sand layer or gravel layer and that having any coarse textured layer within the profile will result in a 'perched water table', increasing the soil water retention of the entire profile.

As the USGA had never listed water retention as a feature for its inclusion, the coarse sand layer remained in the second edition of the specification published in 1973, on the original grounds of its role in preventing particle migration and insisted that absence of an intermediate layer meant the green

would not qualify as a USGA green.

The focus of study then reverted back to the original claims to ascertain whether the intermediate layer actually did prevent particle migration. Brown and Duble (1975), Johns (1976) and Brown et al. (1980) all found particle migration into the gravel layer to be minimal in the absence of an intermediate layer, (Fig.3).

These studies alluded to the fact that a 'proper sized gravel' must be used in order to prevent particle migration and suggested that pre-



Fig.2: Time consuming installation of a coarse sand intermediate layer (Hummel, 1993)

vious construction failures in the absence of an intermediate layer may have been due to mistakes being made during the construction process itself.

Brown et al. (1980) also incidentally identify the turfgrass roots as being instrumental in binding rootzone mixture materials and contributing to a lack of particle migration.

Despite the fact that the research conducted over the last two decades dispelled the idea that an intermediate layer was necessary to improve moisture retention and prevent particle migration, albeit with suitable chosen materials, the USGA included it again in their third edition published in 1989. This was the first occasion that the intermediate layer was listed as an integral part of the perched water table concept.

However; by this time it was common knowledge that hundreds, possibly thousands, of putting greens had already been installed without an intermediate layer (Hummel, 1993).

Many of these greens had proved to be successful though in some cases, greens had failed within the first two years of construction due to particle migration and drainage failure. As the exclusion of the intermediate layer from construction was likely to continue, it was suggested that the USGA should provide a specification for greens that did not intend to include one.

The USGA published its fourth edition of the specification in 1993 with the express aim of making putting green construction more affordable.

This was the first specification to offer an option to omit the intermediate layer from the construction process and the first time the term 'bridging' was used to describe the prevention of particle migration in the absence of the intermediate layer.

This alteration was later described

by Jim Moore, the USGA's director of construction education as, "The biggest change the USGA had ever made to its guidelines", (Willnerd, 2005).

This change, however, came with a very clear caveat, "Strict adherence to these criteria is imperative; failure to follow these guidelines could result in greens failure."

Following publication of the fourth edition, previous studies, conducted in the 60's and 70's, were replicated using the most modern specifications for rootzone material to allow a true comparison to be made between two and three layer construction methods.

All found that the absence of the intermediate layer significantly increased the moisture content and decreased the air filled porosity levels within the overlying rootzone, Taylor et al. (1994), Snyder and Cisar (1997) and Baker and Binns (2001 a,b). In addition, two studies also tried to quantify and value the additional water held in the rootzone in the absence of an intermediate layer.

Both studies explained how the additional water held would allow the turf manager to delay irrigation by one or two days in temperate climates but suggested that this would probably not be of significant agronomic importance, Taylor et al. (1994), Baker and Binns (2001 a,b).

The USGA's most recent edition published in 2004 has continued with the option to omit the intermediate layer and broadened some of the particle size ranges in all categories of the construction materials as a result of further research funded

by the USGA in a bid to make construction more affordable.

The evolution of the USGA putting green construction method has undergone intense scrutiny and rigorous testing since it was introduced in 1960.

The USGA may have revised its specification to allow the absence of an intermediate layer but that in turn has presented the turf manager with two methods of construction and offers no bias toward either method.

Table 1 (Advantages and disadvantages of the intermediate layer) highlights desirable characteristics that would support the decision to select either form of construction method. The presence of a coarse sand intermediate layer would provide the turf manager with a free draining rootzone that if built

Table 1: Advantages and disadvantages of the intermediate layer

USGA	Specification	Putting Green
	Intermediate Layer	No Intermediate Layer
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced moisture retention</li> <li>• Improved air filled porosity</li> <li>• Insurance against particle migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced construction costs</li> <li>• Shorter construction period</li> <li>• Increased moisture retention</li> <li>• Available water held in closer proximity to the roots</li> <li>• Reduced irrigation demands</li> </ul>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased construction costs</li> <li>• Higher irrigation demands</li> <li>• Lower water retention around root proximity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer construction period</li> <li>• Reduced air filled porosity</li> <li>• High risk potential for particle migration if improperly constructed</li> </ul>



correctly would provide a layer of insurance and safe guard against particle migration and ultimately drainage failure.

The decision to opt for the reduced moisture retention within the profile may appeal to some turf managers in order to reduce the likelihood of fungal disease outbreaks.

However, it could be argued that the evapotranspiration rates (ET) used to equate this water to practical use are theoretical maximums and that under average ET conditions in temperate climates, with appropriate crop coefficients applied, this additional water could potentially provide sufficient water for grass growth for perhaps three or four days.

With increasing water usage restrictions and rising water

costs, this attribute of a putting green without an intermediate layer could be an extremely desirable characteristic to the turf manager.

The weight of evidence would suggest that a putting green will cost less to build and cost less to maintain after installation if the intermediate layer is left out of the construction process.

This appears to be a very easy decision to make except for one overriding factor, the cost of getting it wrong.

If mistakes are made when selecting the construction materials or during the construction process, the green will undoubtedly fail and eliminate all the short and long term cost savings made by omitting the intermediate layer.

Whilst cost is an important factor



Fig.3: The absence of an intermediate layer showed minimal particle migration into the gravel carpet (Brown et al, 1980)

in the decision process it should not be the only one that influences the decision to leave out the intermediate layer.

Geographical location, availability of materials, irrigation capabilities and contractor experience should all be considered before selecting the most suitable and appropriate method of construction to suit the needs of each individual situation.



© Medinah Country Club/Evan Schiller

## REFERENCES

- Baker, S.W. and Binns, D.J. 2001a. Vertical distribution of moisture in golf greens following gravitational drainage: the effects of intermediate layer and drainage layer materials. *Int. Turfgrass Society Research Journal*. Vol.9. p463-468
- Baker, S.W. and Binns, D.J. 2001b. The influence of grain size and shape on particle migration from the rootzone layer to the drainage layer of golf greens. *Int. Turfgrass Society Research Journal*. Vol.9. p463-468
- Brown, K.W and Duble, R.L. 1975. Physical characteristics of soil mixtures used for golf green construction. *Agron. J.* 67:647-652
- Brown, K.W., Thomas, J.C. and Almodares, A. 1980. Organic matter sources and placements during root zone modification as they affect seedling emergence and initial turf quality – preliminary report. USGA Res. Rep PR-3851
- Hummel, N.W.Jr. 1993. Rationale for the revisions of the USGA green construction specifications. USGA Green Section record. March/April. P7-21
- Johns, D.Jr. 1976. Physical properties of various soil mixtures used for golf green construction. M.S. Thesis. Texas A&M University
- Miller, D.E. and Bunger, W.C. 1963. Moisture retention by soil with coarse layers in the profile. *Soil Sci. Soc. Amer. Proc.* 27:586-589
- Snyder, R.H and Cisar, J.H. 1997. The choker layer. USGA Green Section Record 35 (4):14-17
- Taylor, D., Williams, F. and Nelson, S. 1994. Water retention in golf greens: Sub-root zone layering effects. USGA Green Section Record. March/April. P17-19
- U.S. Golf Association Green Section Staff. 1960. Specifications for a method of putting green construction.
- USGA Journal of Turf Management. 13(5):24-28
- U.S. Golf Association Green Section Staff. 1973. Refining the greens section specifications for putting green construction. USGA Green Section Record. 11(3)1-8
- U.S. Golf Association Green Section Staff. 1989. Specifications for a method of putting green construction. USGA. Far Hills, N.J. 24 pages
- U.S. Golf Association Green Section Staff. 1993. USGA Recommendations for putting green construction. USGA Green Section Record 31 (2):1-3
- Willnerd, S. 2005. Building a better green. *Golfdom*. August. 61(8): p. 86, 88, 90.

# The top ten reasons to lightweight roll

One of the world's most eminent turf professors – and a huge hit at the Turf Managers' Conference – gives us a detailed lowdown on lightweight rolling



When I initiated my first lightweight rolling putting green study at Michigan State University (MSU) in 1993, I had no idea I would still be researching it 20 years later. In the nineties, the initial objective of lightweight roller research was to gather data to determine whether the practice was safe. Questions abounded about whether rolling frequency should be limited because it might increase the possibility of compaction and plant tissue bruising or contribute to the movement of diseases spread by mechanical means.

Just ten years ago lightweight rolling was primarily used to alleviate frost heaving, prep seed beds or increase green speed for tournaments - if it was used at all.

Today, because of unexpected results from numerous studies, lightweight rolling has been embraced as a means of creating healthy turfgrass and increasing customer satisfaction.

Because of my extensive research with the practice, I have repeatedly been asked to list 'The Top Ten Reasons to Lightweight Roll.' I'll admit to originally scoffing at the idea, but the truth is, I was the perfect individual to create such a list, and I finally gave in to the requests. So here we go!

## 10. Alleviate heaving and minimise scalping when climatic conditions dictate

The numerous freeze/thaw cycles that occur in temperate regions of the world result in soil frost heaving which leads to bumpy soil surfaces in the spring.

It is customary to roll turfgrass surfaces before the first spring mowing to minimise the potential of scalping.

Similarly, when heavy rains are followed by hot humid weather, thatch can swell, creating puffy turf that is more prone to scalping. Under these climatic con-

ditions, rolling before mowing can decrease the potential of scalping.

## 9. Seed bed preparation

Rolling is important for the establishment of turfgrass sites for several reasons. First of all, on high value areas, it is imperative to roll the site multiple times before seeding to compress the root zone and reduce or eliminate soil settling during or following establishment.

Second, numerous turfgrass books rightfully preach the importance of having good seed-to-soil contact during the establishment of turfgrass sites, and the best way to have good seed-to-soil contact is to roll the site immediately after seeding.

Additionally, in a putting green establishment study performed at MSU, plots rolled multiple times per week filled in quicker and were ready for play sooner than putting green plots that were not rolled.

### 8. Broadleaf weed, moss, algae reduction

No research plots have ever been designed to examine the impact of lightweight rolling on broadleaf weeds, moss or algae encroachment, yet related research has documented that lightweight rolling decreases each of them. In an MSU study in 1996, putting greens rolled three times per week had fewer broadleaf weeds and less moss than greens that were not rolled.

Furthermore, in 2008, University of Arkansas Masters student Jay Richards reported that lightweight rolling decreased algae encroachment.

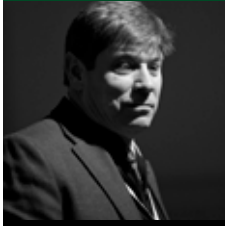
Exactly why regular lightweight rolling would decrease these pests is not known, but two different theories have the most merit.

The first is that regular rolling increases turfgrass density thus reducing the potential of the pests. The other theory is the pests (especially moss) simply cannot tolerate the traffic put upon it by continuous rolling.

### 7. Decreased localised dry spot

A lightweight rolling study per-

#### about the author



Thomas A. Nikolai, Ph.D., is an academic specialist at Michigan State University and is world renowned as being the "Doctor of Green Speed". He is also the author of the book, *The Superintendents Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed*.

BELOW RIGHT (TOP): Seeded plots. The plot in the middle is rolled 3x per week to its left never rolled and to the right rolled 5X per day during establishment after seeding

BELOW RIGHT (BOTTOM): Plot on left has never been rolled the plot on the right is rolled 3X/week

BELOW LEFT: Figure 1

MAIN IMAGE LEFT: Courtesy of Mike Morris CGCS

formed at MSU from 1995 to 2000 revealed that greens rolled three times per week displayed significantly less localised dry spot than greens that were never rolled. Soil samples from the study showed that rolled plots retained more moisture and had more root mass than root zones that were not rolled.

Obviously, increased soil moisture content and root mass could lead to less localised dry spot on the turfgrass putting surface.

In the past several years it has become easier for researchers and golf course superintendents alike to measure volumetric soil moisture content because Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR) technology has been vastly improved. TDR measurements taken on lightweight rolling studies have consistently shown that lightweight rolling does increase soil volumetric moisture content.

### 6. Height of cut raised and green speed retained

Figure 1 (below left) shows green speed measurements from the very first mowing height/rolling study. Plots mowed at 0.5cm were rolled three times per week and were compared to plots that were not rolled

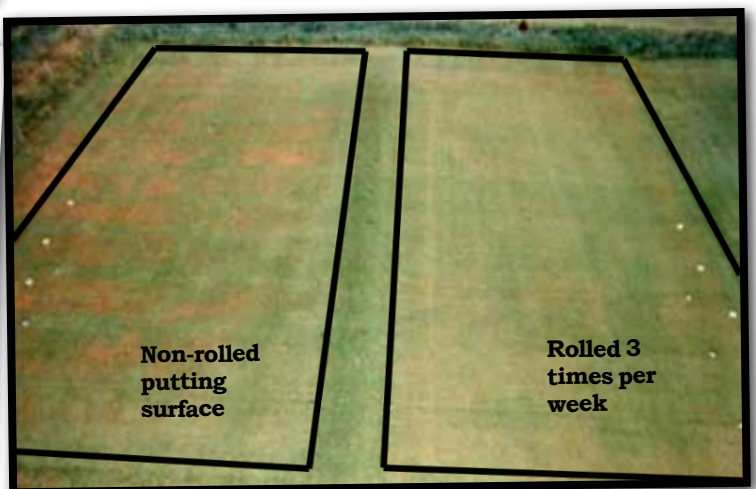
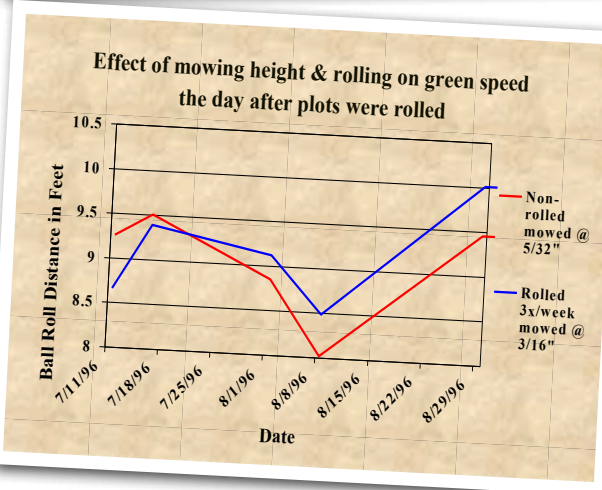
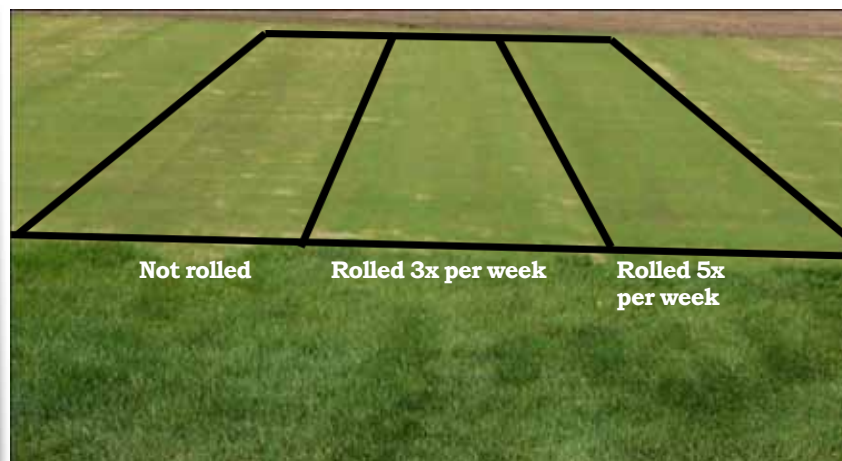
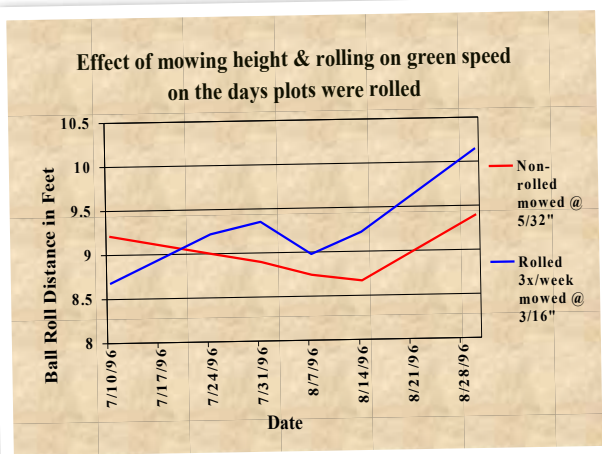
and were mowed at 0.4cm.

At the beginning, plots maintained at the higher height of cut had slower green speeds compared to plots mowed at the lower height of cut. However, after a week and a half of rolling, plots maintained at the higher height of cut achieved green speeds as fast as (and in some cases faster than) plots mowed at the lower height.

Interestingly, rolling resulted in enough residual green speed that the higher height of cut maintained the green speed of plots at the lower height of cut the day after rolling. Since that original study, several other studies have been performed that validate those findings. Furthermore, Rutgers University has documented that rolling and increasing the height of cut decreases anthracnose, and MSU has reported decreases in brown patch.

### 5. Decreased cutworm activity - maybe!\*

OK. This might be a stretch, but bear with me and, if nothing else, you'll learn I am an honest individual. At the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center at Michigan State, we usually do not get enough black



cutworms to warrant an insecticide spray.

However, over a period of years I had observed cutworms, along with their unmistakable chewing damage, on my plots, and both of these coincided with increased bird feeding. Therefore, I hypothesised that the birds were going after the cutworms.

The three years this happened I counted bird-beak holes in the turfgrass before mowing/rolling. Plots rolled three times per week had significantly fewer bird-beak holes (and therefore fewer cutworms). Interestingly enough, the decrease in bird beak holes was 55%-60% in each of the years, which seems pretty consistent.

I now feel comfortable stating that I think rolling decreases cutworm activity, but in all truth I did not count cutworms, so I cannot say it with 100% confidence. I'll leave that up to you until a turfgrass entomologist performs a more conclusive study.

*\*Further research is required into how this relates to the UK & European model, however rolling is a recognised method of disposing of chafer grubs.*

#### 4. Improved topdressing incorporation

In 2006 MSU performed a lightweight roller/sand incorporation study on creeping bentgrass putting green plots. Treatments included control plots that were never topdressed with sand, topdressed plots with the sand brushed in when dry, and plots that were brushed and then received a single pass with the True-Surface vibratory roller.

The day after topdressing, the plots were mowed with a walk-behind mower with buckets intact. Approximately 40% less topdressing sand was collected in the buckets when plots were rolled after brushing (Figure 2).

These plots also had a faster green speed several days after topdressing and decreased organic matter content at the end of the season. To my knowledge, no university research study has tested whether non-vibratory rollers increase sand incorporation after topdressing.

#### 3. Decreased dollar spot

In 1995 I noticed that research greens rolled three times per week had less dollar spot than greens that were not rolled. None of the data was statistically significant, and I was certain I would never

make a similar observation. The following year, the rolled plots on my research greens had significantly less disease each time a dollar spot outbreak occurred. To say I was surprised would be an understatement. Since then I have made similar observations year after year in my lightweight rolling studies.

Additionally, in 2011 Paul Giordano, a Michigan State graduate, reported that increasing the frequency of rolling significantly decreased the incidence of dollar spot. The obvious question is, "Why does rolling decrease dollar spot?" The answer is lengthy and a bit elusive, and heck, this is just a top ten list. The important fact is that regular use of lightweight rolling does decrease dollar spot.

#### 2. It's the economy (rolling/mowing frequency programs)

I published the results of my dollar spot observations in a scientific journal in 2001, and understandably many of my peers seemed sceptical.

In 2002, I gave a presentation on the subject at the GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando and several roller companies were so delighted that they have continued to fund my lightweight rolling research to date. Support from those companies (and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation) has allowed us to study the effects of various rolling/mowing frequency programs over the years including the three listed below.

#### Alternating daily mowing and rolling.

In 2004 Michigan State initiated the first mowing/rolling frequency study by comparing mowing every day with alternating mowing and rolling on a daily basis.

On research greens, alternating mowing and rolling improves turfgrass wear tolerance and produces green speed measurements equivalent to mowing daily. If you are thinking this might result in an economic saving, you are correct.

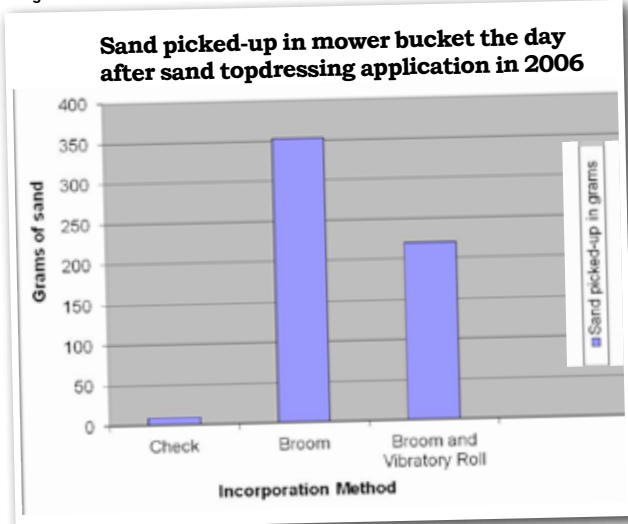
University of Tennessee graduate Dan Strunk performed a cost-analysis study comparing daily mowing to alternating mowing and rolling on a daily basis and concluded that alternating mowing and rolling could save the average golf course in Tennessee approximately \$13,000 annually.

This can be a very nice economic option especially when heat stress is high on cool-season grasses or cold stress is high on warm-season grasses.



Courtesy of Mike Morris CGCS

Fig 2







“Lightweight rolling produces smoother putting surfaces, which result in truer ball roll and faster green speeds”

mowing every other day. When I initiated a study to exam this method a lot of individuals scoffed.

However, of all the mowing/rolling frequencies I have researched, this one results in the most consistent green speeds from day to day, very good wear tolerance compared to mowing alone, and better dollar spot control than mowing every day and rolling every other day.

Obviously, this program can result in some economic savings as well.

With all the programs listed above I have never observed an increase in compaction, however, all my research plots have been on frequent sand-topdressing programs (every two to three weeks).

An additional caution: when I rolled plots every day of the week, I always used the lightest rollers available on the market (that is, TruTurf, DMI Speed Roller and True Surface vibratory rollers) because they have been continuous supporters of my research.

I don't want to imply that rolling seven days per week with a roller heavier than 550 pounds would cause compaction and therefore weaker turf, I am just cautioning that we do not know whether heavier rollers used daily would result in compaction or not.

Although I am a big advocate of lightweight rolling and encourage every superintendent to roll greens, I am an even a bigger advocate of proceeding with caution when making any changes to a putting surface management.

### 1. Increased customer satisfaction

Golfer survey after golfer survey indicates that the condition of the putting surface is the number one thing golfers care about.

Lightweight rolling produces smoother putting surfaces, which result in truer ball roll and faster green speeds.

No other cultural or mechanical practice can increase customer satisfaction as much as frequent use of a lightweight roller.

Finally, no other mechanical practice allows the superintendent the possibility to adjust the green speed to make his clientele happy.

To quote Walter S. Harbin from 1922: “I cannot conceive how a perfect putting surface can be developed or maintained without rolling.” I think Mr Harbin would be happy with the current use of the practice today.

BELOW: The plot on the left has never been rolled and has a lot of disease (dollar spot) the plot on the right is rolled 3 times per week.



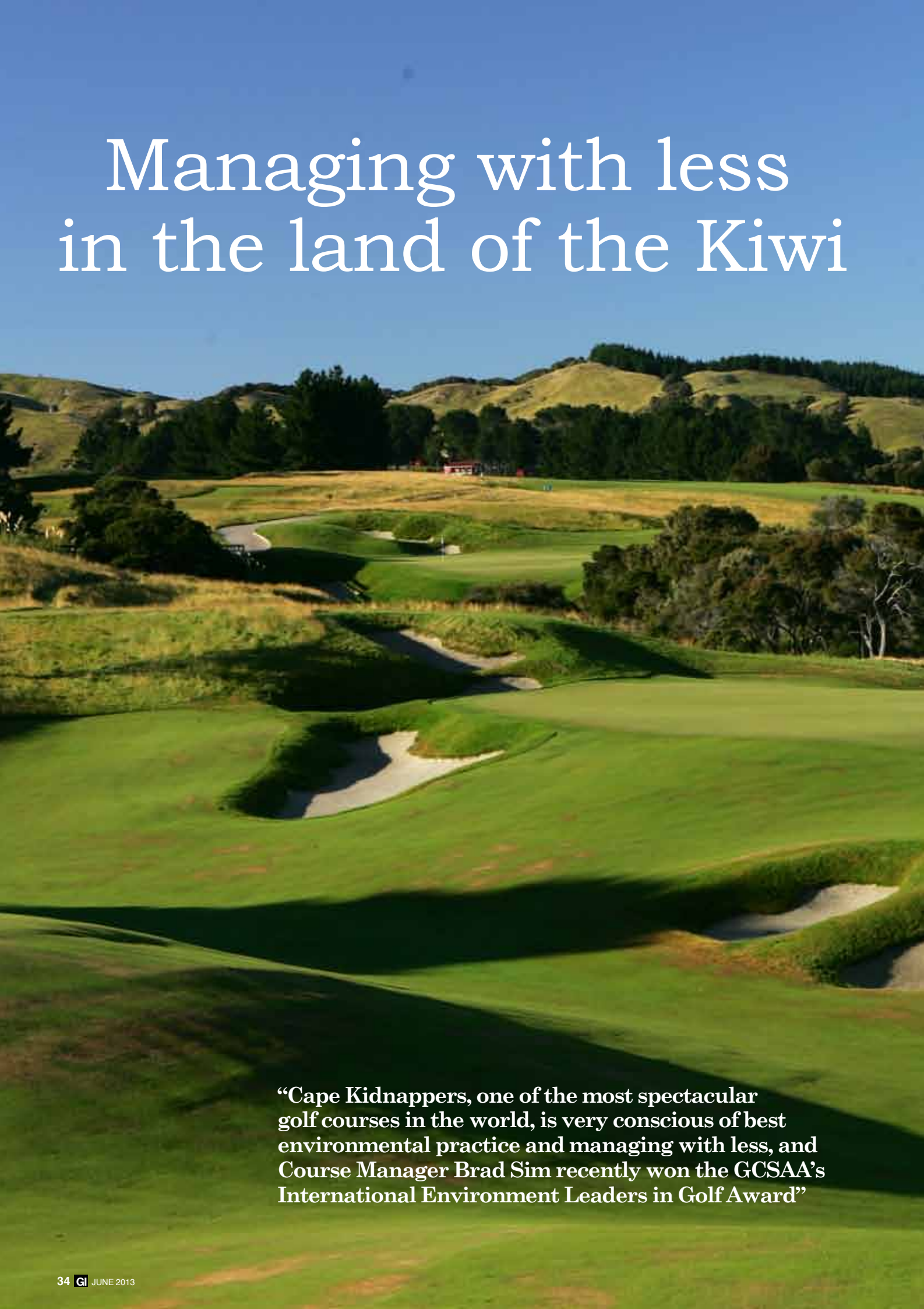
### Mow and roll every day.

We certainly are not considering saving money with this option, however, results indicate that both mowing and rolling every day produces consistent green speeds from day to day, possibly allows raised mowing heights for better turfgrass health and wear tolerance, and results in significantly more dollar spot control than mowing every day and rolling every other day.

### Roll every day and mow every other.

That's right, rolling every day and

# Managing with less in the land of the Kiwi



**“Cape Kidnappers, one of the most spectacular golf courses in the world, is very conscious of best environmental practice and managing with less, and Course Manager Brad Sim recently won the GCSAA’s International Environment Leaders in Golf Award”**

Greenkeepers based in New Zealand are facing as many tough challenges as their UK colleagues. Here Malcolm Peake gives an insight into how they're addressing problems and achieving outstanding results with their creative style of management

The glorious Cape Kidnappers  
courtesy of David Cannon

**Golf clubs in New Zealand are finding it difficult to survive meaning superintendents and committees have to think outside the box. There are over 400 golf courses in the country, and some of the smallest clubs cannot even afford green staff, so members are pulling together to maintain the course.**

### **Wairoa Golf Club**

Wairoa Golf Club is an 18 hole 5700 yard course and has 70 members who pay a \$410 subscription - about £200. It's a great little course, and right at the heart of the community with a mix of Maori and Pakeha (not of Maori decent) members.

A team of five members mow the course, and one has taken a New Zealand Sports Turf Institute (NZSTI) course to qualify for spraying and proficiency in basic course management. This mainly farming community are experts at handling machinery, and luckily the old Jim Arthur adage "ask a farmer what to do, then do the opposite" does not apply.

The club works closely with their NZSTI agronomist, who is aware of their limited financial resources and pitches his report accordingly. Watering and fertilising are kept to a minimum with the agronomist advising the common sense approach based on the colour of the green.

The greens are mown at 5mm and have some good areas of browntop bent, but also poa, couch, an indigenous variety of paspalum, and fescue.

Around twenty years ago the club planted copses of pinus radiata in strategic areas around the course but also as an investment for the future, the pines are now mature and a local forester has valued the trees at \$55,000 (£26,000) if they are felled. The club plans to replant native trees if some can be found of a future marketable value, and this will continue the legacy for future generations.

The club have also applied for funding for innovative conservation projects, with a view to enhancing existing wetland areas, ponds and streams and generally improving the whole habitat for native and endangered species – a really inspirational project.

Hopefully this can be achieved with the help of two local naturalists, and working with the local community and schools. Wairoa hopes to prove that golf courses are

not just for playing golf but can play an important role in protecting and enhancing New Zealand's native wildlife.

Another creative idea to generate extra income and encourage new members is a twilight nine-hole Texas Scramble, local companies are invited to enter teams of staff and customers. The evenings have become a great success, bringing in extra income, new members, and community involvement. One guest did turn up to play in wellingtons, shorts and a vest which even by Kiwi standards was a little too relaxed, but he was made welcome, and returned more appropriately dressed on the next occasion!

### **Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club**

The next port of call was Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club. This is one of the greatest courses in the southern hemisphere - an undulating links which has held 12 New Zealand Opens. The great Peter Thomson said about the course "I loved it instantly. We had nothing like it in Australia – a monument to the game and a gift to the future. And the winds will ever blow to test the golfers' will and integrity." The course was designed in 1949 by Alex Ross who worked with Alister MacKenzie.

The club with the support of the NZSTI is restoring the course to a true links. The greens are now about 50/50 browntop bent and poa annua, are cut in summer at 3.5mm and are very firm and quick, and the fairways - a mix of fescue/bent/poa – run fast. Paraparaumu is reducing its course overheads and is being managed environmentally responsibly. The turf was not a uniform green, but was the perfect surface on which to play golf.

### **Manawatu Golf Club**

The following day I visited Manawatu Golf Club. The club claims the title of the country's oldest golf course – it was founded in 1895 and boasts 1,300 members. Over the years the tree-lined fairways had grown out of proportion to the site and many inappropriate species had been planted.

The advisers have developed a long-term plan for felling a selection of trees to improve air and light circulation for the benefit of the turf. The course is a challenging layout with firm fast greens, which contrast in style with lush soft fairways and approaches, making for a target style of golf. A putting green has been developed with one half





ABOVE: Paraparaumu, 5th hole; LEFT: Paraparaumu Club President Ken Chariton mowing a green and BELOW: Discussing the greens at Cape Kidnappers



#### about the author



Malcolm Peake was Chairman of Green then Course Consultant at Temple GC in Berkshire. He has visited many golf courses around the world and has also worked on the R&A Golf Course Advisory Panel. He's also written "Confessions of a Chairman of Green" and "A Natural Course for Golf".

Malcolm would like to thank all the team at the NZSTI particularly Megan Cushman and the superintendents at the courses he visited for the information and hospitality.

lasered perfectly flat as requested by professional golfers.

I then visited the nearby headquarters of the NZSTI. Firstly we were shown a putting green used by staff. One side was USGA spec the other local sand for a long-term comparison, and then to the research plots where herbicides, recycled glass construction and summer grass were being studied. This was mainly to help clubs be more environmentally responsible - and also save money.

#### Cape Kidnappers

Our final visit was to Cape Kidnappers - a Tom Doak design of nearly 7200 yards, a par 71 off the back tees, and one of the most spectacular golf courses in the world. This top end resort course is very conscious of best environmental practice and managing with less, and Course Manager Brad Sim recently won the GCSAA's International Environment Leaders in Golf Award.

Cape Kidnappers preserves and enhances wildlife habitats, and a predator-proof fence around the 2500ha site - protected by two staff pest controllers - provides a safe habitat for native and endangered wildlife.

They have undertaken a plant survey to acquire a better understanding of native species and work with local schools to give children a better idea of how important it is to help improve wildlife habitat.

The students have helped build nest boxes and plant native trees and shrubs on site. Around 70 rare Kiwi have been introduced, and aviaries have been built to house the rare Takahe, a coot like bird, and the Kakapo, a prehistoric like parrot. In the winter dairy cattle graze the meadow roughs and over a three-month cycle reduce the ground cover. Even the waste paper is recycled into notepads and timber from the forests are used for firewood.

Superintendents in New Zealand enjoy a good degree of autonomy in their role with operational decisions largely made by the superintendent in consultation with the chair of green, referring to the club agronomist and golf course architect when necessary. Green committees are normally only involved in setting goals and a long-term strategies to guide the course management team. The chair of green is often a long-term position, the thinking being that if someone is knowledgeable and competent, why not retain them?



MAIN PIC: AeraVator UA60 with standard vibrating tines overseeding a fairway

INSET BELOW 4AERO80 – UA60 AeraVator with vibrating tines & seed box

BOTTOM: Multi-line – The AeraVator multi-tine shaft produces 600 holes per sq metre

# An introduction to aeration

Aeration is simply one of the most important maintenance tasks carried out on turf. Here Andy Wight fights its corner with ten reasons why he feels it's so critical

## Why is aeration so vital?

Having taught this subject for many years I consider there to be 10 basic reasons/advantages of aeration of sports turf:

**1. It allows air into the soil - turf grasses need oxygen for respiration.** Plant roots take up oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. Soil must be able to “breathe” in enough oxygen for roots to function properly.

**2. To improve the drainage of the turf surface and underlying material,** thus improving the

playing surface and reducing the potential for soil compaction and turf surface damage.

**3. To reduce the occurrence of some fungal turf diseases** such as fusarium patch and anthracnose which find it easier to spread from plant to plant in moist conditions caused by poor surface drainage.

**4. To remove compaction from the soil.** Compaction reduces drainage, root growth and resistance to drought as well as creating a hard playing surface. Compaction is caused by compression of the soil particles (by the movement of players and machines across the turf



## about the author



Andy Wight is head of work based learning for land-based industries at Oaklands College where he has delivered greenkeeper training for over 20 years. He has worked closely with the GTC on greenkeeping qualifications and helped write the national learning notes for greenkeepers at level 2.





Shockwave 2.10m Campey Turf Care

**DECOMPACT, SEED, AERATE,  
SLIT, RENOVATE, RAKE,  
BRUSH – WITH  
ONE MACHINE**



The **AeraVator's** unique vibrating tines aerate & renovate in all ground conditions - even the hardest. Add value with the effective overseeding attachment.



Tel: 0845 026 0064  
www.jsmd.co.uk



**Dakota Turf Tenders**



Spread light, heavy, wet or dry, nothing is easier to use or adjust than a Dakota Turf Tender



**Dakota 410**



**Dakota 414**



**Dakota 440**



Email us at:  
info@campeyturfcare.com  
Visit our website:  
www.campeyturfcare.com



Campey Turf Care Systems – Specialist suppliers of groundcare equipment



surface). The reduction of compaction can be best achieved by the use of hollow tines which remove a core of soil or extraction by the effective Deep Drill aerator. Alternatively compaction can be relieved by the use of equipment which heaves the soil, such as vertidrainers.

**5. To encourage root growth - if done at the correct time of the year.** The slicing of the grass roots stimulates the plant to produce new root material increasing its mass and depth. The holes left by aeration also offer an easy route for the turf grass roots to progress downwards into the soil.

**6. To stimulate aerobic soil bacteria which are vital to soil health.** By virtue of increased oxygen levels in the soil, bacteria in the soil break down fertilisers for plant growth as well as breaking down organic matter (thatch). It is also thought by many that soil bacteria can be beneficial in controlling some damaging fungi in the soil.

**7. To aid the penetration of irrigation water.** This is particularly important when compact dry soils occur on a sloped area where

run off of irrigation water is a problem. This is often done by the use of sarrel spikers.

**8. To help in the control or reduction of thatch in the turf.** The use of hollow tines is well suited to this role as a plug of thatch is physically removed during the aeration process.

**9. To help in the process of rootzone improvement.** After aeration topdressing can be applied to the turf surface and can then be worked into the aeration holes to help improve drainage. Fertilisers and chemicals (such as wetting agents in granular form) can also be worked into the rootzone in the same way. In addition seed can be worked into aeration holes at the same time as topdressings where they can germinate (this is best done with equipment such as a sarrel roller so the seed is not worked in too deep to germinate effectively). In recent years the advent of "Drill n Fill" machines have enabled greenkeepers to drill to a depth of 31cm and backfill these holes with free draining materials such as sand and/or an amendment that brings soil improvement to new levels

**10. To help maintain all round soil and turf grass health,** thus reducing turf grass problems such as fungal diseases and certain weeds and moss which thrive in the presence of high moisture levels.

I have noted there is a tendency for some greenkeepers to aerate less than they used to and I am often told it's due to complaints from the membership. However the thing about not aerating is the effects are not obvious straight away. Everyone notices if you don't cut the greens or water them but lack of aeration takes a while to bite and it's several years before things start to get out of control. Of course, it's then harder to recover and you have to explain why you suddenly have to carry out lots of aeration. You can also bet it will be the same people who complained about the aeration who will now be asking why you have not been doing it and why you let the greens get into such a mess!

So next time a golfer stops and asks why you seem to be ruining their putting surface you can reply "It depends how long you've got - I can give you ten good reasons if you have the time?"



ABOVE AND BELOW: EcoSol Drill and fill machines

RIGHT PAGE: Koro RCD MKII (81), Campey Turf Care







## DRAINAGE OR COMPACTION PROBLEMS?



### Drill n Fill or Deep Drill is the solution

#### Drill n Fill aerator

- ▶ Drills to 310mm, extracts and backfills in one action
- ▶ Ends puddling after downpours
- ▶ Minimises winter closures
- ▶ Percolation ducts connect to deeper drainage layer

#### Deep Drill aerator

- ▶ Drills to 450mm to ease compaction instantly
- ▶ Extracts rootzone in one action
- ▶ Penetrates hard pans and marl layers
- ▶ Promotes deeper roots to knit loam layers



Ecosolve Ltd, Ardyn Cross,  
Malmesbury, Wilts SN16 9RJ  
Tel: 01666 861250  
email: [info@ecosolve.co.uk](mailto:info@ecosolve.co.uk)  
[www.ecosolve.co.uk](http://www.ecosolve.co.uk)



For contract work, sales or a no obligation chat, call the UK & Europe's sole importers today



Woolley Park  
GOLF CLUB

PLEASE  
REPAIR  
PITCHM

# A family affair at Woolley Park

Phil Rowbottom combines running a busy farm with managing a proprietary golf club at Woolley Park near Wakefield. Steve Castle spoke to him to discover how closely the two work together

## Profile

**Name:** Phil Rowbottom.....  
**Position:** Course Manager/  
 Farmer.....  
**Born:** Wakefield, 13 February  
 1960 .....  
**Handicap:** 12 .....  
**Hobbies:** Clay pigeon shooting  
 (Has won a gold medal for  
 Great Britain in the World  
 Championships) .....

**I arrived at Woolley Park on a grey April day, but with the course, clubhouse and farm buzzing with activity. After some thought, Phil gave his job title as “Course Manager and Farmer” but it’s immediately clear that everyone gets involved in both sides of the business.**

Phil explained: “No-one here is just a greenkeeper or just a farmer. There’s a couple of the greenkeepers out of the five staff we have who don’t do a lot of farming but they’ll

muck in when needed. One of them rolls all the corn when we sow it in the autumn. My colleagues Andy Scaman and Richard Thompson came through the farming industry with me. Richard is a farmer’s son who wanted to work on a larger farm, so he came here twenty-odd years ago. He’s vertidrainning today. Myself, my son John and Andy are the key farm staff and the others – Stuart Mason and Peter Colley - help out.

“Farm hands are a very adaptable group. They’re happy to drive a

small mower or a large tractor and they can generally mend things, and Andy and Richard achieved their NVQ2 Greenkeeping at Myerscough.”

The farm’s main function now is drying and storing grain for merchants and local farmers.

This started 25 years ago when father and son built a new grain store.

It turned out to be too big for their requirements, so they stored some oil seed rape as a favour for a neighbour and it grew from there.

Two years ago they constructed another grain plant and 9000 tons of grain went through the drier there last year.

Phil’s grandfather was a tenant at Mount Farm on the site, which lies close to the M1 in Wakefield. His late father David bought the farm in the mid seventies, and after years as a successful crop farm, David then made a decision which initially seemed surprising.

“Around 1992 my dad decided to build a parkland golf course. He didn’t play golf but the sport really was booming at that time.

“We had 150 acres of farmland which we earmarked for building the course. You have to bear in mind that none of the family knew the first thing about golf course construction. I’d studied Agriculture at college but had no real interest in golf.

“We had a friend who was an architect, so we talked to him about planning. Before we knew it we’d bought £12,000 of grass seed to sow it all down and we got stuck in. When you looked at the landscape, it was actually perfect.

“We didn’t need to excavate or move any trees, we just got on with planting grass seed. We tried not to overcomplicate things and that’s the attitude we try and retain today where possible.

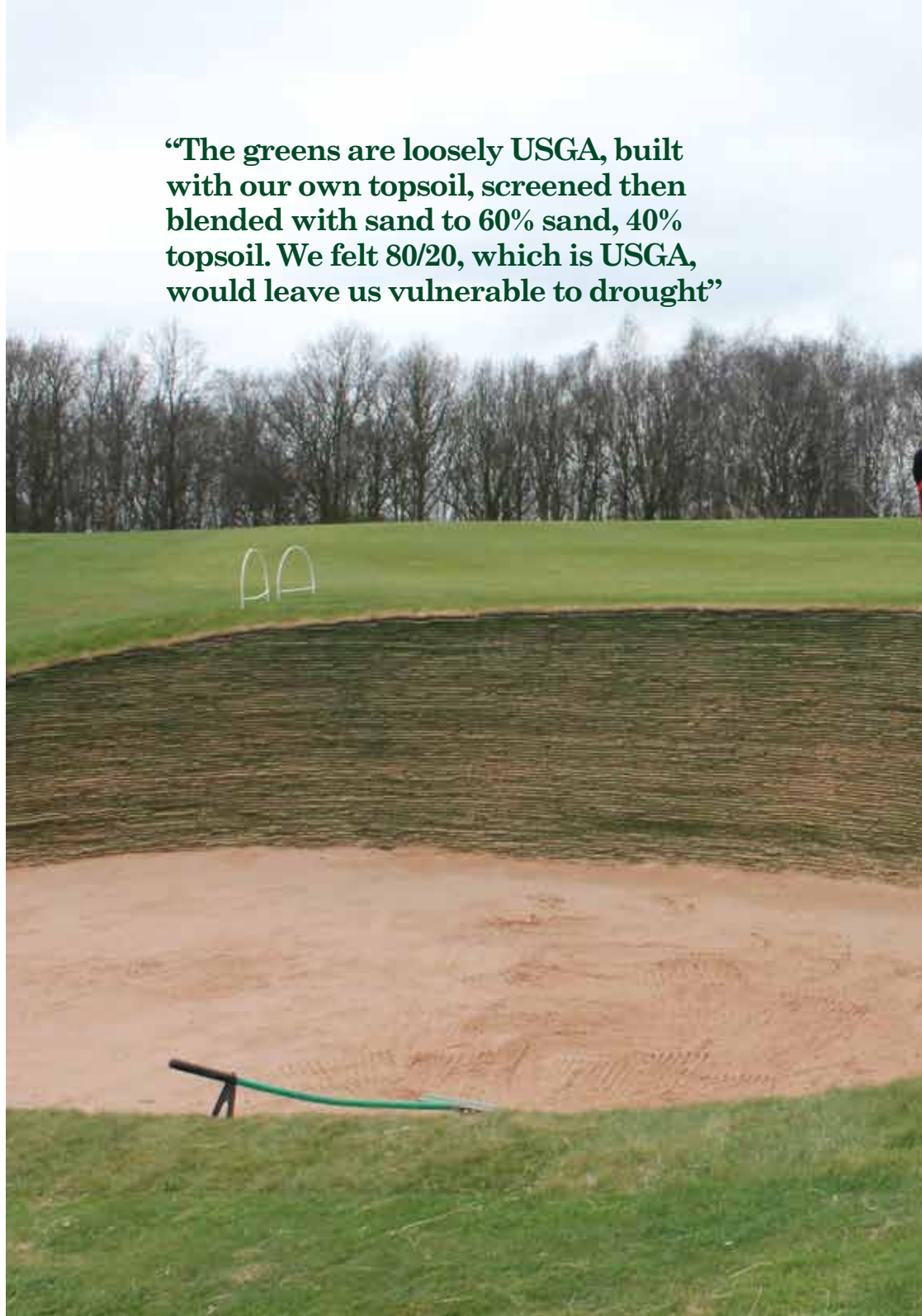
“We bought three shipping containers to act as an office, a shop and the maintenance facility. In reality one had some paperwork in it, one a coffee machine and one a mower.

“My mother took the course fees, my father mowed the fairways and my wife Jane – a schoolteacher by trade - was the first greenkeeper because I was busy running a fertiliser business at that time.

“I bought Jane a second-hand Toro mower at auction and she used that. We ran it as a family top to bottom, and that continues to this day.”

It wasn’t until four years after the course opened that they removed the shipping containers and

**“The greens are loosely USGA, built with our own topsoil, screened then blended with sand to 60% sand, 40% topsoil. We felt 80/20, which is USGA, would leave us vulnerable to drought”**



constructed the clubhouse which houses a bar, dining area and pro shop.

The family connection is continuing with Phil’s son John working on both the farm and the course. Phil said it’s been a pretty straightforward few years although he recalled one mistake which they had to deal with promptly.

“We did have an incident a good few years ago where some weed killer was accidentally sprayed on the greens, and we had to move play to winter greens in August. We reacted straight away by getting hold of three loads of topdressing, deep scarifying through the turf,

reseeding it in a week and they were back in play in three weeks. It was a genuine error and it’s all about how you react to things – life is never plain sailing as everybody knows.”

The undulating parkland course is now nicely complemented by a nine-hole par three course, which is close to the grain store and farmhouse.

Phil explained that Wakefield has a huge catchment area, and they decided to respond to the need for people to have a quick round of golf after work.

Phil said: “Apart from laying the irrigation, which we contracted out, we built the whole thing. We hired



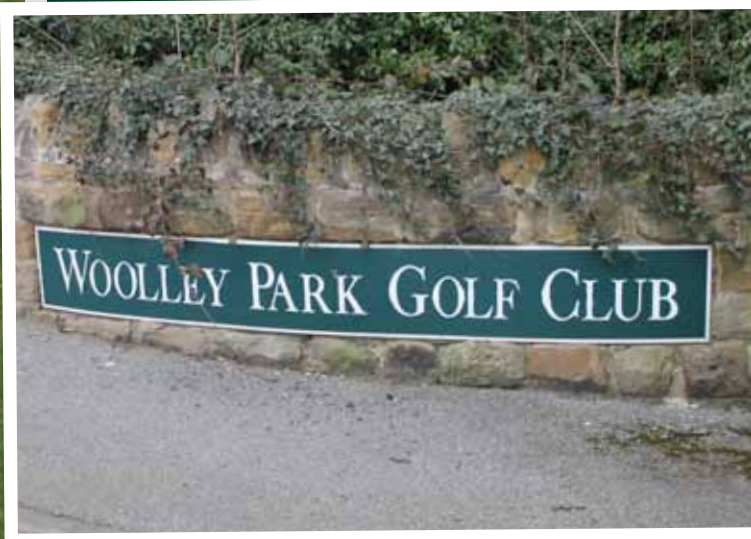
## INNOVATION CORNER!

To save hours of labour, Phil took two seven-foot Sisis slitters and welded them together to create a 14-foot slitter!

He added that the slitters were very useful and highly reliable, but this unusual solution obviously allowed his team to slit larger areas of the course at a time.

Have you come up with a similarly ingenious invention on your course?

If so contact [steve.castle@bigga.co.uk](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) and we'll print the best!



a screen, screened our own topsoil, bought sand in and made it into rootzone on site.

"It opened in September 2008 and is proving very popular.

"You can turn up in your jeans and trainers or work gear and have a quick round for £9. It was important we maintained standards so we built it to exactly the same specifications as the main course – properly built greens and good drainage.

"We get dads and lads playing, then they want to play the 18 hole course, and some become members. We opened it right in the middle of the recession but it's been

a real success and kept a steady stream of new golfers coming through the doors."

So what about the future? Phil smiled and said: "My attitude is to tell the lads the golf course looks fantastic today, but I want it better tomorrow.

"If they say they need a new piece of kit I will do my utmost to source the budget for it.

"Any budget left over is spent on the golf course, not the locker room. The customers come through the door to play golf and you have to get repeat customers – so the golf course is the most important thing, and always will be."

### MACHINERY LIST

#### Greens

2 x Toro Greensmaster 3250-D  
2 x Toro Reelmaster 3100-D  
Dakota Topdresser

#### Fairways

Toro Reelmaster 6700-D  
Ransomes 57 mounted hydraulic with floating heads  
Trimax Pegasus 6m semi rough mower  
Sisis slitter (two 7 footers welded together!)

Vredo 2.5m seeder

#### Tee surrounds, paths

Imants Shockwave

#### Others

Bernhard Anglemaster 3000  
Bernhard Express Duel 3000

# Bernhard delegates ...where are they now?

If you're still undecided about applying to join the next BIGGA Delegation to America, read on to find out how much influence the trip had on delegates from the last few years



**Jaime Acton, 2012 Delegate.**  
**THEN: Head Greenkeeper,**  
**Worlebury Golf Club**  
**NOW: Golf Course Manager,**  
**Rushmore Golf Club**



I had no idea just how much the trip would impact on me both professionally and personally.

I feel it has given me the confidence to hold my own professionally, to push myself more in new situations and to move my career to the next level. A few months ago I was offered a new job and took on the challenge of running a lovely proprietary club set in ancient parkland on a private estate. The Show, seminars and site visits we all attended in the States gave me a real thirst to improve myself.



**In August Greenkeeper International will again be asking for members to apply to become a member of the Bernhard's Delegation heading to the States and the Golf Industry Show in January.**

It's a fabulous shared experience, an opportunity to build new friendships and make new business contacts, but most importantly a priceless tool for learning, educating, training and growing. But don't just take our word for it. GI spoke to some of the delegates from the last decade to find out how much the trip influenced them professionally and personally...



**Richard Jenkinson, 2013 Delegate.**  
**THEN: Deputy Course Manager G West**  
**NOW: Same position**

It truly was the most unforgettable experience I've had in my career. One real highlight were the tours around Torrey Pines and La Costa. It was fascinating to see the differences between them even though they are only ten minutes apart.

The management style is similar but the terrain and composition of the courses are completely different. I now understand why previous delegates described it as a very tough but life-changing week.



**Rob Sandilands, 2011 Delegate.**  
**THEN: Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Elsham Golf Club**  
**NOW: Head Greenkeeper, Grange-over-Sands Golf Club**

I was the only deputy on the trip, and the group of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers during the week in Orlando had a big influence on me at the time, and they've continued to have a major influence on me since. They gave me some great advice, including some really important tips you don't always get in the textbooks!

I really feel the experience gave me that boost to get my first Head Greenkeeper job, which I secured just two months later.



**Matt Plested, 2006 Delegate.**  
**THEN: Deputy, Old Ford Manor Golf Club**  
**NOW: Course Manager, Muswell Hill Golf Club**

A year after my trip, I secured my first Course Managers position at Muswell Hill and the Bernhard Delegation certainly helped – I was told it made my CV stand out. It's a fantastic, amazing experience. It opened my eyes to how professional they were in the States, and I returned determined to incorporate some of their ideas into my club. I learnt so much.

It's also fantastic from a personal point of view. My roommate was Greg Skinner, who's now at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, and we had a real laugh and became good mates.

Not only that, we still speak to each other about issues on our courses and help solve problems – all this as a result of that one week.



**Les Howkins MG, 2004 Delegate.**  
**THEN: Head Greenkeeper, Cleethorpes Golf Club**  
**NOW: Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club**

I remember thinking on my trip that the US were much more advanced in certain areas, although I do feel we've caught up now. I recall we went to a seminar discussing absolutely everything about Primo, which at that time was unavailable in the UK. This meant that when Primo did become available over here, I had a head start over other greenkeepers and wasn't afraid to use it because I was very well informed about it. The Golf Industry Show was also an amazing experience, the scale of it was colossal.

Another thing that sticks in my mind is one of the course visits to a course called The Bridges. They had 55 staff and 14 gardeners looking after an 18-hole course, and they couldn't believe how few staff we had in comparison! You're looked after so well while you're out there and I can't imagine why a greenkeeper would not want to apply to join the delegation.

**“A year after my trip, I secured my first Course Managers position at Muswell Hill and the Bernhard Delegation certainly helped – I was told it made my CV stand out. It's a fantastic, amazing experience”**  
**Matt Plested, 2006 Delegate**



**Gordon McKie, 2003 Delegate.**  
**THEN: Head Greenkeeper, The Eden Course, St Andrews**  
**NOW: Course Manager, The Old Course, St Andrews**

The ten years since I went has flown by but I still remember so many elements of the trip. A real highlight for me was the educational side, I recall attending a GCSAA Seminar on Communications which I found particularly useful, and I referred back to it repeatedly as my career progressed.

I also learnt a lot from the guys I travelled with. We were all able to offer advice to each other, and we really built up a great camaraderie between us. Several of us still stay in touch now, either meeting at BTME or on Facebook or Twitter. I've no doubt that the whole experience really enhanced my career.

**Ian Kinley, 2006 Delegate**  
**THEN: Course Manager, The Glen Golf Club**  
**NOW: Course Manager, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club**

I went to Atlanta (right) and the key for me was the feeling that you're getting involved not just in the American perspective on course maintenance, but the world. Lifetime friendships were made on that trip, you spend a lot of time with the other delegates and get to know them really well and exchange opinions and ideas.







## The 2012 BIGGA Delegation

Sallie Taylor talked to the 2012 Delegates to find out how the trip impacted them at the time, and what lessons they have carried with them a year down the line

**The US visit is hugely important not just as a fabulous shared experience, an opportunity to build new friendships and make new business contacts, but most importantly as a tool for learning, educating, training and growing, as last years delegates are keen to testify.**

**Stuart Yarwood, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club said:**

"For me the trip dispelled lots of myths. I realised that in the US education comes from the top down alongside their practical knowledge.

"I have been trying to apply this back home - to think like the person I want to be perceived as. In the UK we tend to start at the bottom and work up, learning on the way, so that for many people, when they find themselves in a managerial position they don't have any of the basic skills to do that job. If you put lads in a horrible tin shed with the wind howling through it they will apply those standards on the golf course."

**Neil Ballingall, Course Manager at Fairmont St Andrews, said:**

"I found some of the seminars at GIS really useful.

"We had a long session on growth-retardant which was great, very in depth.

"I knew it stopped the grass growing, but I didn't know how or why. We learned that if you don't reapply at the correct time it can have the opposite effect.

"Such a small thing that had such a big effect, and I've had a really successful year because I am using it properly."

**David Gray, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Ladybank Golf Club, agrees:**

"The trip gave me a greater drive for education. I loved the seminars and bouncing off the other guys.

"The trip will always benefit me. I was one of the youngest and most of the others were Head Greenkeepers, three were Master Greenkeepers and they taught me so much - getting their views on things and learning from their vast amount of knowledge was amazing.

"I actually learned new things and new ways to work. It was invaluable.

"To give you an example, just last month I had an engineering problem with something. I just couldn't find an answer.

"In the end I called Stuart Hall, who was also on the trip, and he solved the problem in a few minutes.

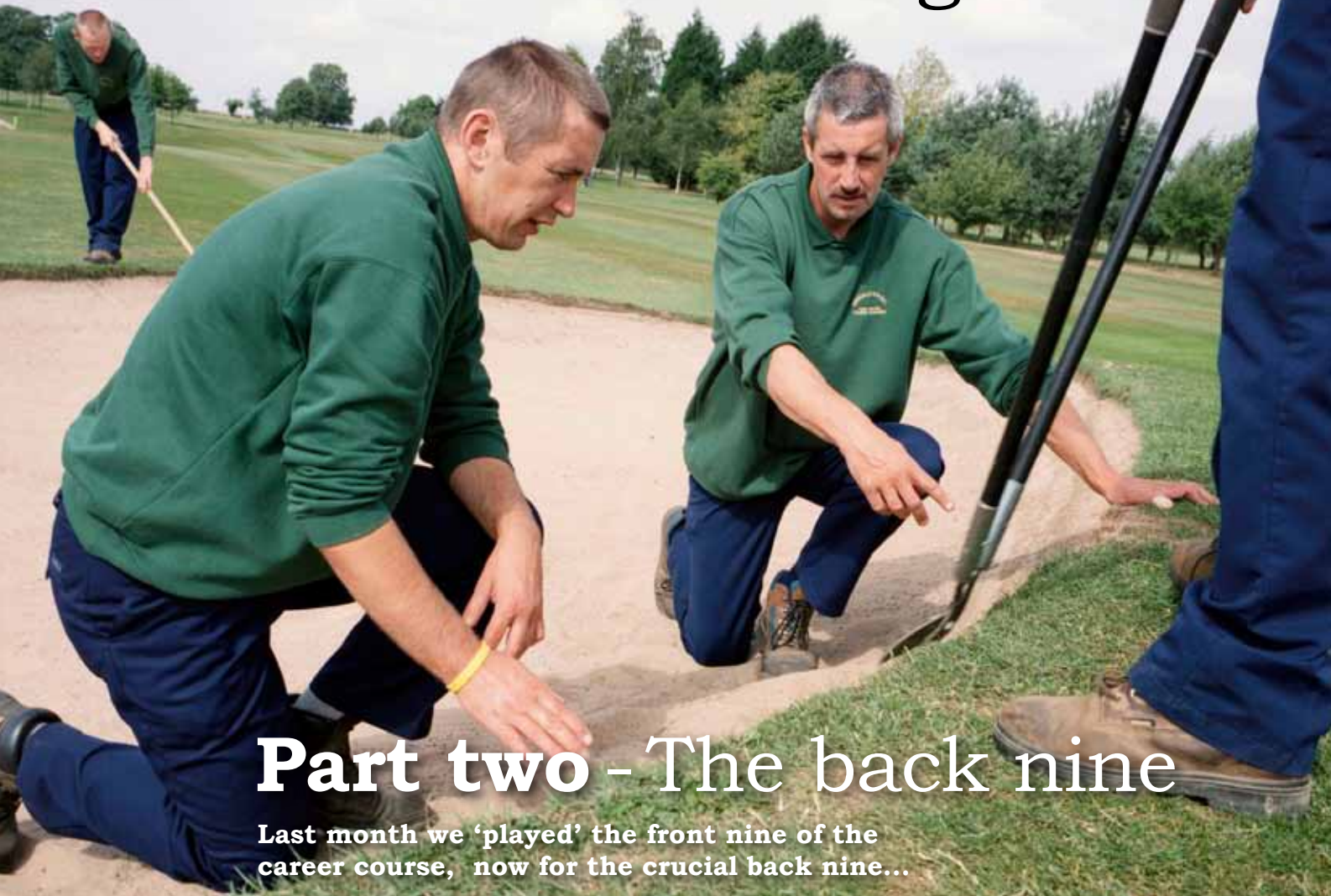
**"The trip gave me a greater drive for education. I loved the seminars and bouncing off the other guys. The trip will always benefit me"**

"Then you realise the importance of friends and shared experiences.

"The moment I was selected I knew I was always going to make the most of it, but it has changed my career big time and I will always refer back to it.

"The trip spurred my education and encouraged me to pass on knowledge to fellow colleagues and discuss things with my boss."

# 18 steps to becoming a Golf Course Manager



## Part two - The back nine

Last month we 'played' the front nine of the career course, now for the crucial back nine...

### 10. Budgeting

For many this is often the most boring hole on the course and thus the one that receives the least concentration – a real card wrecker. Budgeting is a great discipline for any manager.

If you carefully plan and build your budgets you can make them work in your favour, making your aims easier to achieve. If you can draw up a management policy for your golf course and quantify the resources needed to execute this policy, you have all the information you need to draw up a budget.

Obviously you will need to look at all the small detail to ensure you get your annual expenditure fully quoted and priced, but this is, comparatively, the easy bit.

As with the policy document, look at as much golf course budget information as you can from your

boss or the club's financial controller. Once you see a comprehensively detailed spreadsheet showing the main budget headline costs and their respective sub-division line items all will become much clearer. Of course these will just be figures, you still have to be able to demonstrate control and the ability to find savings when asked.

### 11. Negotiation

You will need to develop good negotiation skills, not just for purchasing purposes, but also for management situations, dealing with bosses/committees and of course getting the salary package that you feel you justify.

You will need to toughen up. Business is business, all the rest is social interaction that makes the world go around.

A better term for negotiation is being persuasive, as with influencing when communicating you should be persuasive in negotiation.

You negotiate all the time in life. We all develop our own set of persuasive skills to win what we want, however the best negotiations end in 'win-win' situations.

As with all management preparation is the key, ensure you have a list of fact-based points backed up by sound persuasive arguments.

There is no substitute for experience in negotiation situations.

When a person with money and little experience meets a person with little money but lots of experience, the first person ends up with experience and the second person ends up with money.

The 'second' people are usually your bosses and sales representatives.

## 12. Getting That Job

“Too much competition”, “jobs being filled internally without advertising”, “I don’t have the skill set for the type of course”, “no private club or proprietary business experience”, “I have never been a Course Manager”, “I lack interview experience”, “my spouse/family does not want to move”. These are just some of the obstacles identified by prospective Course Managers during our Continue to Learn workshop. So you are not alone, you have to overcome these obstacles by process of elimination. Whatever the barriers are, reduce them.

By the way, I am not suggesting you leave your spouse! Make a sideways move if necessary to gain specific experience. If you hear of a vacant position be proactive, submit a CV and explain why you would be a good choice, don’t wait for an advertisement. The main trait that will overcome these hurdles is confidence, a lot of the perceived obstacles above are born out of a lack of confidence in your ability.

The more experience, knowledge and skills that you gain the more confident in your abilities you will be, there is no escaping this fact. It is the person who is fully prepared, persuasive, determined and goal focused that gets the job. All the things that a good Course Manager should be anyway then!

## 13. Marketplace

This is included because if you are going to move up in your career you have to know the market you are in.

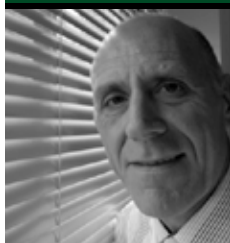
Do your research and look for jobs in the marketplace that fit your skill set. If you feel the marketplace is crowded for certain course management roles, be prepared to go for a job that you may find less appealing but also has less competition.

It is about getting that first manager’s role that sets you on your way. Aim at clubs that might be looking for new ideas and enthusiasm, find out what their problems are and formulate plans to help them. Most of all make sure you are ‘marketable’ and are able to meet the prospective job’s specification.

## 14. Networking

Get yourself out there in the industry, get to know course managers, club managers, professionals, consultants, Association officials and staff, trade members

### about the author



#### Kevin Munt

Kevin Munt is Principle Consultant at KMgc. Forty years ago he started his greenkeeping career during which time has been the Course Manager at the Hankley Common, Royal Dornoch and Wentworth Golf Clubs. Kevin has also project managed golf course constructions and been Operations Manager Buckinghamshire Golf Club

www.kmgcgolfconsultancy.com  
krmunt@kmgcgolfconsultancy.com

and peers. Get yourself known (professionally!) on social media such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Get on greenkeeping and turf management forums and ‘turf clubs’. It is often not what, but who you know. Aged 20 I was the secretary of the BB&O section and ended up on the steering committee for the formation of BIGGA, all things that got me noticed. At least two of my major career moves were facilitated because of personal recommendation from industry professionals. I didn’t see these relationships as networking at the time but there is little doubt they could be described as such.

## 15. Curriculum Vitae

A CV won’t get you a job but it can get you that all important interview. Firstly it needs to be read and that means it must be engaging. Make sure yours is professional, up to date with no time gaps, succinct, and get it proofread by someone who can spell. There is so much information on the internet on how to prepare a CV and plenty of seminars from BIGGA too, so there are no excuses. A CV equals a professional profile, so make sure it presents you in the best possible light.

Break down your CV into the following sections:

Personal details – Name, address, age, marital status, contact details

Profile – Brief summary of experience, character and suitability

Key Skills/Achievements – Eg agronomy, people, quality, presentation, IT

Key Characteristics – Enthusiasm, motivation, leadership, organisation, resilience

Career Summary – From today back to the start of your career

Career Detail – Key achievements in each role

Interests – Professional and recreational

Getting an interview is dependent on the quality of your CV so do not fall at the first hurdle with a mediocre representation of yourself.

## 16. Interview Ability

A good handshake, smart appearance, eye contact and a quiet but assured confidence works every time. I know this because I have been in many interviews on the employer’s side of the table so I know what engages me. Note all of this ‘information’ is gained before a question has even been asked, so first impressions do count.

If you are short on interview experience practice with someone with experience, carrying out roleplay is the only way you are going to ready yourself for the real situation. Yes there will be the dynamics of the interview room to deal with as well as those ‘killer questions’, so get yourself prepared and be well versed in your answers. This means researching your prospective employer, you want to find out the following:

- Club information
- Type of business
- Type of course
- Future aims
- Staff levels
- Membership numbers
- Financial position
- Course condition
- Resources

One unforgivable mistake I’ve seen repeatedly at interview is the candidate not walking or playing the course. What sort of interest in your prospective employers’ club do you think this demonstrates? So again this is about preparation and research.

## 17. Implementation

At the end of it all, once you have a Course Managers job, you are employed to implement. Using the resources at your disposal you have to implement your plans within budget and in line with the agreed course management policy. In other words you have to deliver on all of the skills and knowledge you have gained in steps one to sixteen. It is one thing finally getting a Course Managers job but it is through efficient implementation that you will keep it.

## 18. Review

Lastly reflection. You should review all of the implemented plans and work, checking progress, learning, benchmarking and adjusting accordingly. This review does not just apply to the work produced by your staff and yourself, but of your progress as a manager and the progress of your chosen career. You will often find that you need more learning, sometimes you may find that you have made the wrong move, or that you need to test yourself in a more demanding role. A review will ensure your career as a Golf Course Manager stays on course.

I wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing and hearing of your progression in the golf course industry.

# Photographic competition

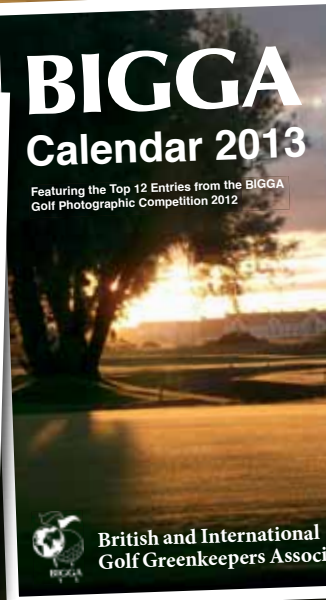
How you can win our coveted members' competition, and see your photography grace Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA Calendar 2014, following in the footsteps of recent winner – Craig Boath, Head Greenkeeper of the Carnoustie Championship Course

**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 oppor-

tunities 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 profes-



sional 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.



Craig Boath's stunning early morning shot of Carnoustie's Burnside Course

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[steve.castle@bigga.co.uk](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 15th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## SCOTLAND



### AYRSHIRE

It's been a long time since the Section has had anything in the magazine and I would like to do a bit of catching up. The Section committee is now: Chairman - Jim Paton, Vice Chairman - Euan Grant, Past Chairman - George Morrison, Secretary - Derek Wilson, Committee members - Iain Barr, Frank Clarkson, Graeme King, Martin Lothian, Stephen Higgins.

The Section Spring outing was held over the links at Dundonald at the beginning of May. Thanks to the Frank and his staff for presenting the course for the day. There was an improved turnout this year and the Committee hope that this level of support will continue and even improve at the Autumn outing at Prestwick St. Nicholas on 1 October. Prize winners were as follows.

First Class: 1 Gregor Wilson; 2 Stephen McBlain; 3 Derek Wilson. Second Class: 1 Martin Lothian; 2 Iain Barr; 3 Kevin Wason. Trade: John Condron.

There will be a new name on the Harry Diamond Jug as last years' winner Iain MacDonald did not compete in this event.

The Section Committee would like to encourage members to get involved again in Section activities and as such are trying to arrange some small educational days.

These would take the format of around an hour's talk by selected speakers which will be arranged during the later months of the year.

Bernhards Grinders have agreed to come up and give a

demonstration of techniques in this line of machinery. This will provisionally be 10 or 11 September.

Rigby Taylor will arrange a visit to see round the training facility at Murray Park for anyone interested, date to be confirmed also.

Aquatrols are also willing to provide a speaker for a talk on wetting agent properties and a date for this will also be confirmed when we can tie up with a visit to this country by one of the company executives.

On the happy side of things since our last report, congratulations to our past Chairman George and Maggie on the birth of their second child Abbie, and also at about the same time George had his fortieth birthday. He hasn't been too well recently so get well too George. That's from Iain especially. Largs host the Scottish National tournament in June. If anyone has anything they would like included in the Section Report then please contact me on my mobile:

07840 724435 or by e-mail at [jimp54@btinternet.com](mailto:jimp54@btinternet.com).

Jim Paton



### CENTRAL

By the time you read this hopefully the weather will have improved and the second round of the pairs competition will have been completed. It's been a good start to this competition with everyone enjoying visiting each other's courses as well as the competitive element. The results are posted on [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) after each round.

On the education front, we're hoping that John Kaminski of Penn State will give a seminar

on 23 or 24 July when he is over and once this is confirmed we will notify people in the normal way. Congratulations to Euan Kay on being awarded the best NC student in greenkeeping at Elmwood for 2012/13. Euan is currently working in a summer position at The Castle Course. Well done also to all the other students who have successfully past their respective courses.

Gordon Moir



### EAST

Last month we held our Spring golf outing at Seahouses Golf Club, it was good to see a turnout of 26 golfers who made the longer than normal journey.

The section had put a bus on for this event to travel down and the banter was flowing both ways on the bus, we hope to repeat this for next year's outing to Goswick if we have plenty of interest.

Thanks to Seahouses for their hospitality and the warm welcome extended to our members, Alistair Holmes and his team had the golf course in great condition, and given the recent weather they have had in the area the course played very well indeed (

The mere Zephyr made scoring difficult on the day here are the results: Scratch Ross Prowse 76; 1st Class winner Kenny Mail 76 nett (bih); 1st Class runner up Scott Corrigan 76 nett; 2nd Class winner Chris Yeaman 76 nett; 2nd Class runner up George Thomson 78 nett; Trade winner Ian Lauder 70 nett; Veterans winner Alistair Holmes 80 nett; Best nett prize Sean Cunningham 80 nett; Nearest the pin prize Ryan McCulloch, Longest drive Grant Moran (think the wind died down to be

fair?) and our Guest prize went to Derek (over golfed) Scott from Scoonie GC.

Following the golf we had a short presentation from James Whittick (Greenbest Ltd) on their Purity soil improver, thanks James for a very informative talk.

It was also good to see our Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara in attendance, it is much appreciated by our section and we hope to see you again later in the year.

The section can confirm that we have arranged a course walk over Muirfield Links to look over and discuss the preparations for this years Open Championship, this walk will be held on Tuesday 2 July at 2.30pm and will be CPD registered, the walk will consist of a tour of the course and a Q&A session with the Course Manager Colin Irvine.

This event has just 40 spaces, please get in contact with the section asap to place your interest in attending as this event will be open to all sections.

On a personal note I made the transition to the dark side if you like when I attended the Ayrshire spring golf meeting held at Dundonald Golf Links at the beginning of May, I was made very welcome and had a great days golf over a very good course, met some new colleagues and even managed to win a raffle prize which is unusual for me.

The section would like to welcome our newest member Robert King Mortonhall, we hope you enjoy BIGGA and we look forward to seeing you at our functions.

Until next month, I have a trivia question for you with a prize to the first person to email the correct answer, can you the name our Scottish member who has travelled more than Ernie Els to play golf this season, and to give you a clue, he always wins the raffle?

Scott Corrigan [scottcorrigan4@aol.com](mailto:scottcorrigan4@aol.com) or 07877098237



## NORTH

Not a great deal for this month as it has been a bit quiet but we did have the Spring outing at Duff House Royal Golf Club so here are the winners:

Nearest the pin at the 6th Roy Donald; 9th Pat Allan; 13th Blair Young. Moving on to the sweep: 4; Gordon Leslie Duff House; 3rd Blair Young Aitkens; 2nd Lewis Valentine Moray; 1st Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen.

Trade Winner Blair Young Aitkens. The Committee trophy was won by our Chairman Robert Patterson.

Veterans: 2nd Roy Donald Oldmeldrum; 1st Brian Hunter McDonald.

The Apprentice trophy was won by Lewis Valentine Moray Golf Club. Class 3: 3rd Stephen Cocker Peterculter; 2nd Lewis Valentine Moray; 1st Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen. Class 2: 3rd Mark McClaren Royal Aberdeen; 2nd Kevin Spowart Royal Aberdeen; 1st Roy Donald Oldmeldrum. Class 1: 3rd place Robert Patterson Royal Aberdeen; 2nd Fraser Downie Peterculter; 1st Gordon Leslie Duff House. Scratch: 2nd place Neil Sadler; 1st Gary Tough from Letham Grange.

The Committee would like to thank Head Greenkeeper Gordon Leslie and his staff for a course presented in first class condition.

A big thank you to everybody you turned up and contributed to a great day those of you who were unable to attend missed a great day played in good spirit and in brilliant sunshine.

Some other news is Ross Macrae's apprentice at Turriff Golf Club was first in the BIGGA 2nd year student award so very well done to him.

Ross Macrae and myself travelled down to Douglas Park Golf Club in Glasgow to represent the North Section in the BIGGA v Secretaries.

Unfortunately we lost by one hole but the team won overall and retained the trophy.

Please get in touch if you have anything to report with Robert Patterson mob 07931639548 or Dale Robertson mob 07784517534

# NORTHERN



## NORTH EAST

As I had too much news last month's issue I can finish off talking about Michael McKenna's move to his new job in Dubai.

This comes after three years travelling the world working at the best courses home and abroad and talking with top turf professionals advancing his career.

He said he always believed from an apprentice just starting in this profession you have to work with the best at top courses to advance your career - this has been helped by two Head Greenkeepers.

Firstly David Simpson of Tyneside GC who was a great inspiration to him as an apprentice and Malcolm Lathan of Hexham GC who spent time educating him in modern methods he said he cannot thank them enough.

David Cole and Peter Haggerty at Loch Lomond advanced his understanding to a new level before taking the Internship in the States, during his time at Scioto CC he worked with Bob Becker who helped his chemical application skills.

He would also like to thank the following Carson Kamps of Lake Nona in Florida, Brendan Allan at The Hills in New Zealand and finally Mike O'Keefe Programme Manager at the Ohio State Global Intern Program.

He says he would recommend his program to anyone looking to advance their career.

After another course visit we have managed to recruit a few lads from Close House after explaining all of the benefits of joining BIGGA.

From a personal view I don't think you can beat the personal touch of explaining everything that members can get ranging from legal assistance to education plus much more.

We also have two new members from Percy Wood Country Park who have recently completed level 2 in Sportsturf. Their boss Simon Olver is coming to the end of his first year of a

sports turf degree through Myer-scough College - he says it's a lot of time and effort but worth it all. I think it's great many of our section members are taking full advantage of all the educational opportunities, keep pestering your boss to assist you with all these opportunities.

After a disappointing turnout of our recent Spring Competition an idea has been put forward by Simon Olver Course Manager of Percy Wood Golf & Country Retreat to have the summer golf day on a Saturday more people turning up.

Definitely a good idea but I wondered who would let us play on their course on a prime time and day and give us courtesy with out upsetting their members, so I asked Simon and now Percy Wood is booked for August 17 tee time is 10-12noon.

This competition is for BIGGA members, non-members and anyone involved in the turf industry.

Local companies are to be asked if they would like to sponsor this event, and play in this unique competition or just come along and enjoy the day.

Lloyds and Rigby Taylor are already on board, if anyone has any queries please call me on 07910 641745.

Jimmy



## NORTH WEST

By the time this gets published everyone should have had a fixture list for this year. Please try and attend one of the events as it gives you a chance to meet fellow professionals and catch up.

Next is the summer tournament at Ormskirk golf club on 1 July, I expect this will be popular and would ask you to put your name down early to get a booking.

Please contact Phil Dewhurst on 07768180604 for details. The cricket match against the North Wales Section will be on 24 July please contact Nick Gray for details.

I can be contacted on 07840706738 or at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



## NORTHERN

The season's golf got underway at last at Hornsea Golf Club, they gave us a lovely welcome and looked after us, the weather held too for those brave souls who made the effort and a massive thanks to Mel for his dedicated support to the section and jumping in at short notice to co sponsor the event with Bathgate Sands. Mel and Mark Price (the MD of Bathgate) were great hosts and provided a fantastic prize table for the winners.

Div 1 winner Dave Collins; 2nd Bob Turner; 3rd Nigel Coultash; Div 2 winner Nigel Booth; 2nd Rob Walker; 3rd Andy Slingsby. Div 3 winner Ken Christie; 2nd Richard Smith. Nearest the pins went to Joe Walsh and Tracey Maddison from HQ. Trade winner was Ian Collett from Rigby Taylor.

And finally on the day another thank you to Mel for making sure Mr Jackson got home safely, the only thing missing was the old stalwart, our president Mr Cockburn who sadly could not make it as he was looking after his poorly wife.

She's now on the mend. Scarthingwell is next up then followed by our traditional match with our friends from Sheffield section in July. Anyone wishing to play please let me know. August 19th is the invitation day at Wetherby 2pm tee off. Autumn comp is on September 19 at Woodsome Hall tee off 1.45, and finally Christmas at Baildon December 12th with a 10am tee time. Congratulations to Andy Stanger for his appointment at Headingley Golf Club as new course manager.

Andy 07506407867 Andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



## SHEFFIELD

I trust that you are all well and as the season is in full swing you are all being lavished with the

# Around The Green

praise that you rightly deserve. As you may have noticed in last month's magazine I am no longer able to serve as Secretary and that we have been looking for a member to fill this position.

After we had whittled the applicants down we were able to undergo an interview process to select the best possible candidate. I am pleased to announce that your new section Secretary is Neil Peters.

Neil stood out with his energy and drive to move the section forward. I hope that you will all give Neil your support and I also would like to wish Neil the best of luck.

Also with Neil now being a member of the committee we will have more time with him to study and reduce his handicap.

I hope that you have all received your fixture cards for the upcoming season and are personally looking forward to getting out on the course to see how your fellow greenkeepers are doing as the season goes on. Our first fixture of the year was held at Bondhay GC. There will be a report of this next month.

We'll be trying some different ideas through the 2013 golf season such as a variation of prizes on offer to our winners and also developing a two tier division to allow everyone a chance of winning a prize. As a committee we hope this may bring more members to events and when they do attend they will realise what they have been missing.

James Stevens



## NORTH WALES

Starting with events, the North Wales/North West match was played on 31 May, I hope the best team won.

Our spring tournament was played at Bull Bay and the results are: 1 Andy Peel (home advantage!); 2 I Cooper; 3 Carl Crocher, Andy Peel and I Cooper qualify for the National later in the year, a big thank you goes to Andy Peel and everyone involved in giving the section a great day's golf and hospitality.

Other news, the golfers at Vale of Llangollen and Denbigh golf

clubs will hopefully be able to relax now knowing that I and John Ellis have successfully passed our first aid at work refresher and are qualified for another 3 years.

Our best wishes go to Gareth (bronco) Williams of Porthmadog Golf Club who recently had an operation; we all hope you have a speedy recovery. Please remember to keep checking not only our Facebook page but also the main BIGGA website for the latest events and news.

Pete Maybury 07756001187. E-mail petemayb66@aol.com Facebook, North Wales BIGGA.

## MIDLAND



### MIDLAND

The first golf day of the year was held at Robin Hood Golf Club on 14 May with 40 competitors. Despite the rain, the course was enjoyed by all, which is a testament to the talents of Course Manager Andy Wood and his team.

Andy has undertaken an extensive programme of redevelopment at Robin Hood, which is evident as you wander through the much changed parkland course. The greens were first class, both quick and free draining.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd, with Simon Banks presenting the prizes to the lucky winners: 1 S Scott; 2 D Stanley; 3 C Bromley; 4 S White; 5 A Wilkes; 6 A Brougham; 7 K Allen. Nearest the pin prizes were donated by Sherriffs, Countrywide, White-moss and Redtech and won by E Stant, N Ashman, C Bromley and J Moverley. The trade prize was won by Tony Cheese, Rigby Taylor. As always, many thanks to those who sponsored the event including Farols for the much needed drinks and snacks around the course.

Future events to look out for on the website include a trip to the FA's new National Football Centre at Burton on 17 June, a trip to the Bathgate quarry with Sherriff Amenity on 3 July and the Everris doubles draw. All

information including contact details are available at [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk)

Many thanks to this month's calendar sponsor ALS. Please consider them when ordering course equipment, products and contract work, and finally, for all those who want to play at Penn GC in the summer tournament on 10 July, get your entries in to Rhys Thomas as early as possible, including payment. We would encourage pre-payment to make life easier on the day. All entry sheets including payment details are available on the website.

Ed Stant



### EAST OF ENGLAND

Once again apologies for the lack of writing last month. I did have it all ready to go, however computer problems prevented me sending it. Next month I will type it on my iPhone!

Our annual seminar was held on 28 February at Newark Golf Club. Once again an excellent line up of speakers was on offer. Dan Lightfoot MG of Bearwood Lakes gave an interesting presentation about his club and course and the best ways of communicating renovation and improvement with the membership.

Stephen Kateley then demonstrated the latest in spray nozzle technology in particular the benefits of "low drift" nozzles.

The discussion with Ian Macmillan from The Great Turf Company about the benefits of activated microbial management and work carried out on course construction in Europe certainly proved the most thought provoking of the day.

There was also a stump grinding demonstration which was eye opening to people who had never seen one of these machines used before. Once again the famous Newark Cow Pie was well received by all at lunchtime. Many thanks to all the speakers on the day and again to Newark Golf Club for their hospitality.

Our golf days for this year have now been finalised: 22 May Market Rasen; 25 July

Newark; 19 September Norwood Park (near Newark) - match vs secretaries; 16 October Spalding - section AGM; 13 December Lincoln (Torksey) - Christmas Invitation Texas Scramble. Details of tee off times are still to be finalised but should anyone wish to play in these fun golf days should contact Bruce Hicks.

Steve Beverly



### BB&O

As we approach the halfway mark in the year and with two of the golfing Majors completed hopefully everyone has got their courses through spring and maintenance renovation work, and can now enjoy the benefit of some decent conditions with clubs seeing a welcome boost in golfer numbers after what has been a tough couple of years for the golfing business.

Newbury and Crookham GC played host to the BB&O Spring meeting at the beginning of May.

The event sponsored by John Deere Dealership Farol's was well attended with over 50 people turning out on the day. Steve Austin and Peter Helps of Farol's welcomed everyone to the first tee and provided refreshments at the halfway point.

A big thank you must go to the Staff at Newbury and Crookham who were excellent hosts and in particular Alec Macindoe and his team who produced a cracking course which presented a great test and golfing challenge.

Rob Catlin of Amenity Technology returned as winner with 37 points followed closely in second by Adam King with 36 points, third on count back was Kevin Day 36 points and fourth place going to Brian Whitney 35 points. Nearest the pin was won by David Lyons and the longest drive went to Mark Hancock.

Swan Golf Designs and Countrywide sponsored the nearest the pin and longest drive. Once more a huge thank you must go to our sponsors for their continued support and commitment to the section.

The golf days simply could not happen without them.

The next event will be the



confirmed shortly and will be played in either August or September which doubles as the qualifier for the National Finals at our very own Frilford Heath G.C. Please check the website for details and entry forms [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk)

If anyone is interested in training be it chainsaw or spraying courses then please get in touch with our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper - [sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sandra@bigga.co.uk)

If anyone wishes to have their email address added to the BIGGA HQ system then please drop Sandra an e mail with your contact details.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: [bboscribe@gmail.com](mailto:bboscribe@gmail.com) or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: [bbosecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bbosecretary@gmail.com). Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the web site: [www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk)

The Stick



## SOUTH EAST



### SURREY

The great British Spring can be extremely fickle and can blow hot or cold, wet and windy. This year we have experienced many surprises, with a few warm spells encouraging a welcome boost in growth on the golf course, to a rapid change where temperatures have tested our sanity, leaving us to ponder what delights the weather has in store for us in June.

On the 18th April, the section headed for Epsom Downs GC where the golf, as well as the views, is absolutely stunning with the Capital seemingly only a few seven irons away.

Inspiring, challenging and never ordinary, a links on top of the downs renowned for its testing, undulating greens, and revered for the extraordinary friendliness of its members and staff gave us all a warm welcome on and off the fairways as we competed in a Spring Texas scramble.

The Richmond Rovers, led by Les Howkins, putted on greens that are legendary, consistent and very true. This demanding test of surprising speed and undulation gifted the Rovers a victory to savour on the downs.

Striking the longest drive with a Commando, Big Boy Russell, waltzed his way down the 11th with a Jumbo drive. Well-struck, Jim.

Kevin Boxhall whipped up a shot on the 17th dance floor to tie up The Nearest Pin at 4ft 8" - a short distance mentioned by many on the day.

To enter the Clubhouse is to take a step back in time. The Victorian Snooker table, the wooden panels that adorn the room, the ancient scoreboard, and the pictures of the Club Captains representing more than a century, all conspire to create an ambience which exudes history. Only the billows of cigar and cigarette smoke, that would surely have immersed the room in the early days, are missing now.

For lovers of golf and its history, Epsom is a club to visit,

not only to enjoy the traditional downland challenge it offers, but also to soak up the atmosphere of bygone days in the clubhouse. We look forward to going back in time - another time.

Mark Day



### KENT

We are very blessed in our fair county to have, I honestly believe, the finest complete range of different golf courses in the land. They range from the famous tournament links venues to the rolling parkland courses the majority of us tend to on a daily basis.

Very few, however, could be described as so delightfully quirky as Chislehurst Golf Club that a strong contingent of us have played. Set in the middle of possibly the richest area of real estate in the region under the gaze of the imperious clubhouse which in a former life was Napoleon Bonapart's stately home, sits this superbly presented course.

Luckily, I think we managed to get around without upsetting anyone too much and we were soon sunning ourselves on the terrace trying to work out where it all went wrong again. One common suggestion as to why many of us struggled today was that for once we had to make do without Vic Maynard and his well stocked Ernest Doe's refreshment wagon. Vic was away on business on this occasion apparently but sorely missed. We look forward to seeing you soon mate!

After a lovely dinner in the very ornate dining room it was on to the prizes and usual good laugh with each other. One interesting topic of discussion was Foot Golf (check it out on You Tube). Corinthians Golf Club (formerly Fawkham Valley Golf Club) have now set up a Foot Golf course which has just opened.

This is really cracking fun and not as easy as you would think! Give it a go at Corinthians. We are planning a summer evening Foot Golf do in June or July followed by a barbecue so let us know if you will be up for it.

Nearly forgot to say that

Wayne Syers (who's had more clubs than Nick Faldo but now at London Club) won on 38 points. Well done to Nick Leech and Paul Rudkin who won Nearest pin and Longest drive respectively. Many thanks to Chislehurst Golf Club for hosting us and we look forward to taking you up on your offer of a return visit in a few years time.

Next week Kent's finest return to Upton Park as defending Home Counties football champions to defend their title against BB&O. After a resounding victory against an experienced Essex team last year we hope to retain the Toro/Lely Trophy.

Rob Holland  
Premier Golf  
[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



### EAST ANGLIA

Ufford Park got us off to a cracking start for the 2013 season. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Adrian Hollins and his merry men. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers, Ramsomes and Jacobsen who looked after us very well. Thank you. Those that bothered to practice through the winter are:

0 - 9 Handicap: 1st, Michael Buck, 35 Points; 2nd, Graham Hurren, 34 Points; 10 - 18 Handicap: 1st, Nick Chase, 35 Points; 2nd, John Andrews, 34 Points; 19 - 28 Handicap - Real Golfers; 1st, Andy Baker, 27 Points; 2nd, Richard Mitchell, 21 Points; G & T: 1st, Mark Bartram, 39 Points; 2nd, Terry Mills, 33 Points; Nearest Pin, 3rd Trevor Hurn, 10th Brian Lindores, 16th Brian Kemp; Longest Drive, Michael Buck

The two players going to the nationals are Michael Buck and Nick Chase. We wish them well. Other sponsors for the day were Aitkens and Toro. Thank you Ufford Park for a super day. Next stop Stowmarket 27 June.

NB - Ian made a very interesting speech!

The first topic was about us all getting involved more in environmental projects on our courses and taking part in the STRI competition. Bat boxes, bird boxes, wild flower areas

## MID ANGLIA

Hello all and once again just as we seem to be turning the corner it decides to go cool on us which considering we are in mid may isn't ideal. Everywhere I go everybody is bemoaning the lack of growth. I'm sure things will improve and by the time you read this we will be in glorious mid summer.

Once again please make contact if you have any news and check our Facebook page for info on upcoming events such as our Summer event at Brookmans Park GC on August 6. We will have played at Beds & County GC so let's hope we are lucky with the weather and from what I can gauge will be a well-attended event.

Once again please advise us if you have any educational needs for your clubs or are interested in visiting the Arsenal FC training ground as numbers will be limited so get in asap to avoid missing out.

Darren

– anything like that makes a difference. The second topic was a viagra trip that went a bit wrong! Still he didn't fall out of bed!!! (Too much information)

Mick Lathrope



## ESSEX

Our first golf day of the year was held at Frinton Golf Club, with 26 members and guests taking to the course. Andy Cracknell and his team have brought the course up to an exceptional standard, with fine slick greens and fairways that were nearly as short. To break with tradition we held lunch before we played golf, after which our Chairman Ian Wood presented last year's Chairman Mark Stopps with a small gift as a token of our appreciation for all he did for the section during his term of office.

The section would like to thank all those involved in making our day at Frinton such a pleasant experience. Results: Greenkeepers 1 Stuart Rogers 37 points; 2 Joss Neale 32 pts; 3 Liam Springett 32pts CB; 4 Andy Toomey 32 pts CB. Sponsors Larry Pearman 35 pts (Toro). Guest Paul Beecroft 34 pts. Nearest the pin 6th Hole Arnold Phipps-Jones; 13th Hole Craig Serafin.

The next golf day is on Thursday 15 August at Channels Golf Club for the National Qualifier. Bacon roll and coffee from 11.00am, 18 hole Stablford, plus a BBQ afterwards, £20 members/sponsors. £30 guests.

Membership clarification will be required prior to your playing at all events this year please. Details are on the website, under Competition Rules 2013 this is within the golf section of the section website. We have also decided to sell our raffle tickets before you play, rather than badger you afterwards. This we hope will speed things along and allow you all to site down for your dinner quicker upon your return from the course. Tickets will be on sale when you collect your scorecard.

In this, the last of the Section News as you have known it for

the past umpteen years, I would like to say, "That's all from me this month", look out for a new style of news in the next edition of GI Magazine.

Contact details 07764-862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net) plus our website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk)

Arnold Phipps-Jones

## SOUTH WEST & WALES



### SOUTH WEST

Greetings from the South West section, great to see things moving on all of our courses after a period of "warmer" weather that verged on summer conditions over the bank holiday weekend, a rare occurrence indeed for a bank holiday.

A fantastic day was had by all at the first Section event of the year at Minchinhampton New Golf Club on 24 April.

After a nail-biting conclusion that required a countback 1st place was Nick Pusey & Mike Wootton on 47 points, 2nd were Ali Turner and Nathan Heavens also on 47 points and 3rd place went to Chris Sealey & Pete Schrader on 45 points.

Thanks to all competitors who turned out and most importantly a huge thank you to all at Minchinhampton for putting on a great day for everyone who attended.

The next events coming up are Section v Secretaries on 29 May at The Manor House Golf Club and Section Summer Tournament on 12 June at Kingsdown Golf Club. Remember that the Summer Tournament start time has been pushed back to 1pm so get your entries in to Adam as soon as possible to ensure your place in the field at this fantastic venue.

Finally, welcome to new section member Kevin Wilkins from Tewkesbury who has recently joined the section. Keep the news coming and hopefully we will see as many of you as possible at the upcoming events.

Jaey Goodchild  
(07984422295 [j.goodchild@bowood.org](mailto:j.goodchild@bowood.org))



## SOUTH COAST

As I write this in mid-May it's 11 degrees and raining again, hopefully by the time you read this it will be summer!

Here at Barton on "Britain's sunshine coast" we managed to get through the early May Pro-Am during the only decent spell of weather so far this year. A couple of light top dressings, speed rolled in a drying easterly wind and the stimp reading was right up where I wanted it.

One pro five putted so we must have got them right! Since then it's been back to routine, trying to keep everything cut and well presented.

Our next golf event is at the Army Golf Club near Aldershot on 4 July, this is another great venue and if you haven't played there make the effort to go – it's well worth it.

The cost of the day will be £25 with first tee off at 1pm, so everyone can go to work for the early morning routine tasks.

Entries as usual to Kevan Glass, Keepers Cottage, Brokenhurst Manor G.C. Sway Road, Brokenhurst, Hants. SO42 7SG, information [glassy20003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy20003@hotmail.com), all payments to be received before the day please.

Congratulations to Jon Worrall on achieving his level 3 qualification in excellent time, I assume it will be with a distinction as I wouldn't expect anything else from you Jon!

Tony Gadd



## SOUTH WALES

I have just read through what I wrote for ATG this month last year and it started "I feel it in my fingers I feel it in my toes" that famous Wet, Wet Wet song, the last six weeks couldn't be further from that.

In 2012 April was a complete washout cancelling many events, but this year the end of

April and through May has been beautifully warm and dry.

Our spring seminar held at Royal Porthcawl GC was a huge success, record numbers in attendance.

Comments included "one of the best seminars South Wales has hosted" and I would like to thank Gareth Knight for putting the day together, The speakers, Rhydian EnviroSports, Mark Hunt Headland Amenity, Adam Pounds Tillers turf, Richard Japes Sports Metals, Kevin Scares Turf Keeper and the one and only Steve Chappell of Gleneagles were terrific.

Thanks to the sponsors of the day Countrywide - and of course without you guys attending we could not hold these events.

As many of you reading this will already be aware our Secretary Gareth Knight will be moving on to pastures new albeit very sandy pastures. I and the rest of the section would like to thank you for the hard work you have put into our section and wish you every success in the future for you and your young family.

With Gareth's departure Paul Handy of Newport Golf Club will take the reins of Secretary and Steve Lloyd of Burghill Valley Golf Club will take the Chairman's role until the AGM held in October at Haverfordwest Golf Club where all members will be able to stand for all committee positions.

All members by now should have received an email or letter from Paul and Steve explaining their positions and how they are looking to push the section forward.

We hope all patrons will continue to support this section and we will continue to grow our membership base and bring back some elapsed members.

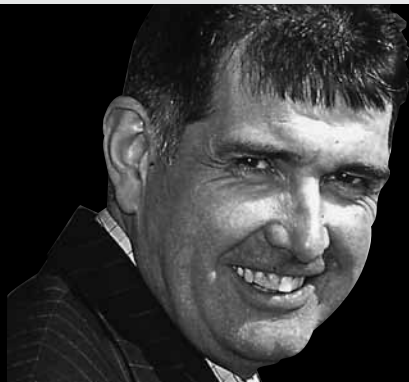
Contact Paul Handy on 07796 266925, Steve Lloyd on 07578 276082 and Peter Holmstrom on 07876 440599.

Our next golf meeting is the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Pairs, to be held at Radyr Golf Club on 4 July. Tee off 12pm the format is greensomes foursomes stableford.

The most points will become the new Rigby Taylor Champions.

Please contact any of the above to book your pair anyone looking for a partner please contact us and I will supply one.

Peter H



# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David Golding updates us on the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme and how more employer-focused workshops are being planned

**The GTC's Quality Assured Scheme includes Centres and Training Providers. In simple terms the Centres offer a range of Government accredited qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme and the Training Providers offer training courses, workshops and seminars of a less formal nature.**

Currently there are 10 GTC Quality Assured Centres; 2 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 6 in England:

GOSTA Training and SRUC Elmwood Campus in Scotland; Deeside and Pencoed Colleges in Wales; and Cannington, Duchy, Myerscough, Oaklands, Reaseheath and Plump-ton Colleges in England.

All the latest information on qualifications, training courses and costs can be viewed on the GTC website – see Quality Assured Centres link. The Apprenticeship Scheme is still attracting excellent registration numbers throughout the country and with incentives for employers it is well worth checking with your preferred Centre.

Many of the GTC Training Providers are working with QA Centres to assist with the delivery of courses and provide modern resources for the college based qualifications.

In another initiative to bring the 11 QA Training Providers and Centres closer, autumn workshops are being planned using the Centres as venues. The GTC, with the ongoing support of the British Home Unions and BIGGA, has now hosted over 20 employer-focused workshops all aimed at improving communications within the club.

We were aware of concerns from some greenkeepers when we launched the Chairman of Green workshops and the fear the GTC were "training Chair of Green in golf course maintenance". But by using Laurence Pithie, a former Golf

Courses Manager, to give delegates an overview of all aspects of golf course maintenance, we know it was certainly pitched at the right level as the feedback has been excellent.

Laurence operates as TurfMaster One, is a regular contributor to GI and is a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider together with ten other companies and individuals.

The STRI has for many years been involved in training both through workshops and seminars and they also host bespoke employer-focused workshops as well as their traditional greenkeeping courses.

Just to digress for a moment, my apprenticeship involved three years working at Buxton & High Peak Golf Club. At the end I attended Bingley for a five-day mind-blowing educational course! Happy days...

The STRI, Turf Master One and all the other Quality Assured Training Providers are all available to you the greenkeeper or to your employer with workshops, training courses and in some cases bespoke courses held at your club. Toro/Lely, Ransomes Jacobsen/Cutting Edge and Bernhard & Co all offer excellent machinery maintenance training courses and their current dates and venues are all available on our website.

Frank Newberry is offering bespoke training courses and free initial consultation, with no obligation, to clubs on improving communication within the club.

Health & Safety is a key element of golf club management and staff welfare together with employer responsibilities.

The latest QA training company to join, mylearnadfriend (MLF) are offering online learning and a certification scheme. Britrisk Safety incorporating Jon Allbutt Associates offer on the job training courses as well as H&S advice and guidance.



The GTC is funded by:



Symbio are committed to educate more and more greenkeepers in a "what happens below the surface" series of presentations which all relate to "brining life to your soil".

Symbio also continue to offer their services to QA Centres and attendance at seminars and workshops.

The maintenance and management of woodland, heathland and SSI's can be very controversial and without proper training can be detrimental if not carried out to an agreed plan. John Nicholson has many years of experience in woodland management as have the STRI so help is on hand in these very specialist areas.

Swan Golf Designs have hosted course design and renovation workshops during Harrogate and now are involved in presentations to employers as well as greenkeepers.

It is the GTC's intentions to develop workshops using several QA Training Providers aimed at employers and Course Managers and England Golf have very kindly agreed to subsidise the events.

BIGGA will continue to focus on providing greenkeeping workshops and seminars whilst the GTC will continue to engage with more employers through England Golf, Scottish Golf Union and the Golf Union of Wales.

The GTC Quality Assured Scheme is not a selection of "colleges and companies joining an exclusive club for a subscription fee", far from it. Individuals, companies and colleges can all apply to join the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme whether they offer formal qualifications or are involved in informal training and education for greenkeepers.

The role of the GTC is to ensure the courses, workshops and seminars, available through the QA Centres and Training Providers, all promote the very best practices and principles in golf course maintenance and management which golf club employers and greenkeepers can all benefit from.

**Contact Details**

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

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk  
www.egeu.eu  
www.greenkeepertraining.com

twitter  
You can follow the GTC on  
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

# BUYERS' GUIDE

**jkSONICS**  
Remote First Aid Solutions  
PPE and Safety Products

Suppliers of the G5 Defibrillator

First Aid Kits    First Aid Refills  
Personal Protective Equipment & Safety Products  
Defibrillator Supply & Training

**JK Sonics is a family run company whose aim is to provide affordable first aid solutions. We specialise in the supply of First Aid Kits specially selected for remote workers and activities as well as first aid kits compliant to the new British Standard BS-8599 for areas including the Clubhouse, Kitchen, Driving range and Maintenance Facility. In fact, any first aid item can be purchased from us so please contact us for a quote based on your individual needs. PPE and safety products are also available from us.**

## FEATURED PRODUCTS

**First Aid:** We have specific first aid kits designed with outside working in mind. A remote First Aid grab bag or a small first aid box designed for taking out on the course either attached to mowing equipment or utility vehicles. Our Remote Trauma grab bag kit is designed for higher risk tasks including tree work or construction. First aider pouches and personal protective pouches are also available including sun protection.

**First aid site audits:** Carried out to ensure you are covered anywhere on the site and fully compliant with first aid laws. Extremely cost effective for a one off audit fee starting from £30+vat. Clients receive continued support and refills when required only paying for the items needed.

**Defibrillators:** It's hard to predict sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), because many victims do not exhibit symptoms. In fact, more than 50% of SCA victims have no previous symptoms of coronary heart disease. It's important to know time is the critical factor in responding to a sudden cardiac arrest. According to the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), survival falls by 10 to 12% per minute. In addition, each minute the brain goes without oxygen diminishes the likelihood that the victim will return to normal neurological function. After 10 minutes, it's unlikely a patient will survive SCA. While CPR can extend this period, defibrillation is the only effective therapy for sudden cardiac arrest. We are providers of the iPAD SP1, Powerheart G3 or G5 defibrillators, a vital piece of equipment for remote locations including golf courses and cost effective.

**TRAINING:** HSE approved EFAW, FAW First Aid and defibrillator training can be arranged through us. Quotes will be based on individual requirements.

## CONTACT US:

Phone: 0844 682 6055 or 07834 281432  
Email: [info@jksonics.co.uk](mailto:info@jksonics.co.uk)  
Or visit our website [www.jksonics.co.uk](http://www.jksonics.co.uk)

## CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
- USED MACHINERY
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

## AERATION

### TERRAIN AERATION

**Turf and Trees**  
10" drill aeration  
1m air injection  
1m soil coring  
Air excavation

Tel: 01449 673783  
[www.terrainaeration.com](http://www.terrainaeration.com)  
[terrainaeration@aol.com](mailto:terrainaeration@aol.com)

## ALL WEATHER SURFACES

**Huxley Golf**  
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222  
[sales@huxleygolf.co.uk](mailto:sales@huxleygolf.co.uk)  
[www.huxleygolf.com](http://www.huxleygolf.com)



## ALL WEATHER SURFACES

**Verde**  
SPORTS LIMITED  
Established 1988

All-Weather Surfaces For Your Golf Club

- \* Pathways
- \* Tees
- \* Putting Greens
- \* Golf Mats
- \* Fairway Mats
- \* Accessories

Ensure the course is playable all year round



Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066  
Email: [sales@verdesports.com](mailto:sales@verdesports.com)

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

## BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

**blinder** BUNKER LINER

The bunker lining solution  
01344 621654  
[www.theblinder.com](http://www.theblinder.com)

## CONSTRUCTION

Photo courtesy of Ridding Park  
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

**JOHN GREASLEY LTD**  
Specialists in Golf Course Construction  
Tel. 0116 2696766

## ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
**Jill on 01347 833 812** or  
email  
[jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

**CONSTRUCTION**

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED

**GOLF COURSE SPECIALISTS**

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- GROW IN & MAINTENANCE
- SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**DRAINAGE**

Look at the latest...  
**Second Hand Machinery**  
...for sale  
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds



**Duncan Ross LTD**  
Sportsurf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE

Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems  
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding : Landscaping  
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrainage : Topdressing : Overseeding

If it's drainage, it has to be Duncan Ross!

Willow Farm,  
Red Cat Lane, Burscough, Ormskirk L40 0RF  
01257 255321  
office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk  
www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

**FIRST AID**

**JKSONICS**

Remote First Aid Solutions  
PPE and Safety Products

**Defibrillator Supply & Training.**  
Range of First-Aid Kits specifically  
designed for greenkeepers.

0844 682 6055  
info@jksonics.co.uk  
www.jksonics.co.uk

in conjunction with **Safe 4 Golf**

**IRRIGATION**

**The TAS TRIMMER**  
SPRINKLER HEAD MAINTENANCE  
AND SAFETY MADE EASY  
from £23 +VAT



All popular  
sprinkler,  
valve box  
& marker  
sizes

www.jsmd.co.uk  
tel. 0845 026 0064

**DRAINAGE**

**Traditional  
drainage and  
Lyttag banding  
of greens and fairways**

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

**GOLF COURSE  
MACHINERY**

**Coring without the mess!**

**THINK  
GreenTek**



Scan  
here for  
the solution  
or call us on

0113 267 7000  
www.greentek.org.uk

**Turfdry**

**Golf Course Drainage**

Survey / Design / Installation / Greens /  
Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses  
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417  
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com

www.turfdry.com

**IRRIGATION**

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED



**IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS**

- DESIGN & SUPPLY
- INSTALLATION
- MAINTENANCE

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**irritech limited**

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:  
**01823 690216**  
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

**SPEEDCUT**  
CONTRACTORS LTD

**SPORTSTURF &  
GOLF COURSE**

- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- RENOVATION

Oxford 01865 331479  
www.speedcutcontractors.co.uk

**ADVERTISE HERE**

from as little as **£250**  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
**Jill on 01347 833 812**  
or email  
**jill@bigga.co.uk**

Scotland Based

**Meiklem Drainage  
Contractors Ltd**

Sportsturf Drainage Specialists  
Golf Courses - Sportsfields  
Drainage \* Construction  
\* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:  
T: 01383 830217  
M: 07808 897 300  
john.meiklem@meiklem.com  
www.meiklem.com

**MJ ABBOTT**  
LIMITED



**DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS**

- DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- PRIMARY SYSTEMS
- SAND SLITTING
- GRAVEL BANDING

Tel. 01722 716361  
www.mjabbott.co.uk

**ADVERTISE HERE**

from as little as **£250**  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
**Jill on 01347 833 812** or  
email  
**jill@bigga.co.uk**

**Design  
Installation  
Service  
Irrigation supplies**

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com  
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

**TORO Hunter RAINBIRD**

**LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS**

Supply and installation of plastic  
liners for golf lakes and ponds

Tel: 01206 262676  
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## RABBIT CONTROL/ MANAGEMENT

### ERS Developments Ltd

Wildlife Management Specialists

- Rabbit control/ Management
- Japanese Knotweed Eradication (guaranteed in one growing season)

01296 468514

e-mail: ersoffice@btinternet.com

www.ersenvironmental.co.uk

## MACHINERY WANTED

### Invicta Groundcare Equipment Ltd

**We buy used golf course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne  
Tel No: 01474 874 120  
Email: [invictagroundcare@live.com](mailto:invictagroundcare@live.com)

## NON-SLIP



### SAFETY ON THE TEE

Composite anti-slip panels provide a hard wearing, long term safety solution for railway sleeper steps. Resistant to spiked shoes, weather and chemicals.

www.gripclad.co.uk  
enquiries@gripclad.co.uk  
02380 406796

## RUBBER CRUMB

### TEBBUTT ASSOCIATES

RUBBER CRUMB

Crown III rubber crumb for natural grass reinforcement by mixing with the root zone or verti draining in from the surface Rubber Crumb 0.5-2mm for infilling of synthetic turf on tees and pathways Rubber Grass Mats for severe wear areas

Contact Tebbutt Associates on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644 e-mail: [tebbuttasso@btconnect.com](mailto:tebbuttasso@btconnect.com) www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk

## TOP DRESSINGS

**LOVIE**  
QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR  
Tel: 01771 653777  
email: [sales@lovie.co.uk](mailto:sales@lovie.co.uk)  
www.lovie.co.uk

*Banks Amenity Products Ltd.*

FOR ALL YOUR BULK SUPPLIES  
NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES

01858 464346 / 433003  
www.banksamenity.co.uk

## TRACTORS

### ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
**Jill on 01347 833 812**  
or email  
[jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

## TRAINING

**Low Maintenance**  
*For all your training needs*

We offer courses that are recognised qualifications certificated through City and Guilds. We can come to you for a range of courses which include: Pesticides (PA1 and PA6), Brushcutter, Strimmer, Hedge trimmer, Pole Saw, Tractor Driving, Chainsaw Maintenance (CS30), Felling Small Trees (CS31)

Contact **Phill Lowe** at  
[pglowe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pglowe@hotmail.co.uk)  
or [www.low-maintenance.co.uk](http://www.low-maintenance.co.uk)  
or Call 07974812736

## TREES

**Stourton Forestry**  
Woodland management & consultancy

- Creative new woodland design
- Tree planting & maintenance
- Management plans for existing trees & woodland
- Tree safety surveys
- Small-scale timber harvesting

Tel: 01507 578 080  
www.stourtonforestry.co.uk



## TURF

**Tillers Turf**  
*growers of fine turf*

**Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses**

**Rootzone Turf for Greens**  
Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.  
Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds, Approaches and Fairways**  
Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

**Bunker revetting turf**  
40mm thick  
Small or big roll  
Free loan of big roll laying frame

Tel: 01652 678 000  
www.tillersturf.co.uk

**Lindum**  
*taking grass a step further*

20 years of golf turf experience  
5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance, Wildflower Turf, and new Low Maintenance turf

Tel: 01904 448675  
www.turf.co.uk

To advertise within  
**Greenkeeper International**  
please contact **Jill** on  
**01347 833 812**

or email  
[jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

## TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT

**GROUNDSMAN**  
INDUSTRIES LTD  
*Leaders by Design*

Specialists in the design and manufacture of...

**TURF AERATORS**

**TURF SOD CUTTERS**

Visit us online at:  
www.groundsmanindustries.com  
email: [bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com](mailto:bwarke@groundsmanindustries.com)

## USED MACHINERY

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

## VERTIDRAINING HIRE

**PETER MANNINGTON**



**Professional Verti-Drain and Earthquaking Contractor**

Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service  
Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211  
or Mobile 07850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

## WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

**Waste2Water**

**BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS**

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.  
Tel: 01782 373 878  
Fax: 01782 373 763  
E-mail: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com)  
Web: [www.waste2water.com](http://www.waste2water.com)

## WORKWEAR

To advertise within  
**Greenkeeper International**  
please contact **Jill** on  
**01347 833 812**  
or email  
[jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

### ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250  
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,  
full colour, please call  
**Jill on 01347 833 812**  
or email  
[jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)



JOHN DEERE

# BALMERS GM

T: 01282 453900  
E: sales@balmersgm.com  
Visit our new website  
www.balmersgm.com

### Golf Equipment

John Deere 1200 Bunker Rake, 2WD, petrol - 2195hrs.....	£1'850
John Deere 2500 Greens Mower, c/w: 22" 11 blade units, smooth tyres - 2881hrs.....	£6'000
John Deere 2500E E-Cut Hybrid Greens Mower, c/w: 22" units - 1642hrs.....	£6'000
John Deere 2653A Triple Mower, c/w: 8 blade units, spiral front roller, rear roller scrapers - 2534hrs.....	£5'500
John Deere 2653B Precision Cut Tees Mower - 2036hrs.....	£7'500
John Deere 3235B, c/w: 8 blade ESP units, FTC's, RR brushes, spiral grooved front roller - 2691hrs.....	£7'500

### Ride-On Cylinder Mowers

Hayter LT324 Triple Mower, c/w: 30" units, various hours - choice of 9.....	from £5'000
Hayter MT313 Triple Mower - selling on behalf of customer, no warranty given.....	£8'000
Hayter T424 - 5 Gang Cylinder Mower, c/w: 30" 6 blade units, roll bar.....	£9'000
Hayter T424 - 5 Gang Cylinder Mower, c/w: magna heads, deluxe cab - 2659hrs.....	£12'500
Hayter 5 Gang Trailed Mower - choice from 3.....	£POA
John Deere 900 Triple Mower, c/w: 30" fixed heads, 4WD - choice of 2.....	£5'500
Robberine 900 Triple Mower, c/w: 30" fixed heads, 4WD - choice of 2.....	from £6'500

### Pedestrian Cylinder Mowers

Allett Tournament 20 - machine has only done 1 x demo.....	£POA
Dennis FT510 - choice of 4.....	£1'850
Dennis FT610.....	£1'950
Lloyds Paladin - choice of 2.....	from £1'900
Ransome Marquis 51.....	£1'250
Ransome Matador 71.....	£1'250
Ransome Super Certes 61.....	£1'700

### Ride-On Rotary Mowers

Etesia H124DS Ride-On Mower, c/w: 48" width of cut, hi-tip collector - choice of 2.....	£4'750
Ferris IS1500Z Zero Turn, c/w: 44" deck - 592hrs.....	£3'250
John Deere 1445 Series 2, c/w: 62" side mulch OR Rear Dis. deck - various hours - choice.....	from £7'000
John Deere 1445 with cab, c/w: 60" side discharge deck, Year 2006 - 2126hrs.....	£9'750
John Deere 1445 - NO DECK, power unit only - 3142hrs.....	£7'000
John Deere 1565 with cab, c/w: 62" rear discharge deck - 1044hrs.....	£10'500
John Deere 1600T Wide Area Mower, various hours - choice of 3.....	from £8'500
John Deere 997 Zero Turn, c/w: 60" deck - 151hrs.....	£12'000
John Deere F1145 c/w: 61" Trimax flail deck - 1744hrs.....	£POA
John Deere X740, c/w: 54" side discharge deck + collector, various hours - choice of 3.....	from £6'250
John Deere X748, c/w: 48" side discharge deck, roll bar - 803hrs.....	10'000
Kubota BX220, c/w: deck and clam shell collector - 2328hrs.....	£5'500
Kubota G1700, c/w: 48" deck and clam shell collector - 783hrs.....	£3'500
Kubota G18, c/w: 48" rear discharge deck + hi-tip collector - 597hrs.....	£6'750
Kubota G23, c/w: 48" rear discharge deck + hi-tip collector, low hours - choice of 5.....	£6'000
Kubota G26, c/w: 54" deck and hi-tip collector, low hours - choice of 2.....	£6'500
Lastec Articulator Wide Area Mower, c/w: zero turn, 2WD, turf tyres - 916hrs.....	£6'500
Ransomes HR6010 Batwing Mower, c/w: 128" width of cut - choice of 2.....	from £12'000

### Pedestrian Rotary Mowers

Ferris 36 Hydrowalk, 17hp, 36" width of cut - choice of 3.....	from £2'000
Ferris 48 Hydrowalk, 17hp, 48" width of cut - choice of 3.....	from £2'500
Scag 36 Mower, 15hp, 36" width of cut - choice of 2.....	from £1'500
Scag 52 Mower, 17hp - 52" width of cut.....	£3'750

**All machines (unless otherwise stated) are subject to VAT, come fully serviced and a 90 day warranty  
Nationwide delivery available - Visit our website for more machines, photos and information**

**Over 500+ quality used commercial ground care machines IN STOCK NOW!!**

Balmers GM, Trafalgar Street, Burnley, Lancs, BB11 1TQ



# M B WILKES

ESTABLISHED 1964

## QUALITY PRODUCERS OF

Sands for bunkers & top dressing

Top Dressings

Root Zones

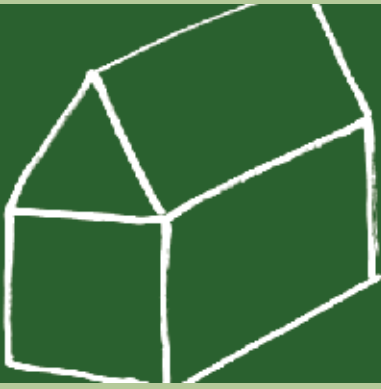
Topsoil: 3mm, 10mm & 20mm



▲▲▲ 01258 857465 ▲▲▲

info@mbwilkes.com www.mbwilkes.com

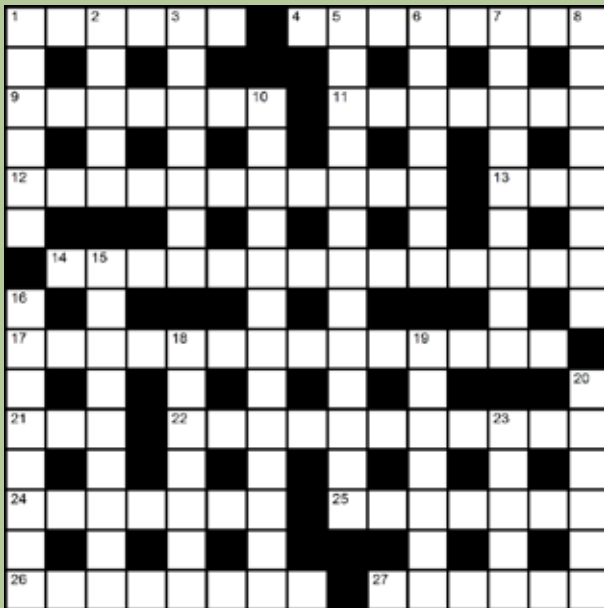
Henbury Quarry, Old Market Road, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3QZ



# puzzlepage

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Vegetable or meat filled pastry turnover (6)
- 4 Unbecoming (8)
- 9 Enclosure for cultivation of fruit trees (7)
- 11 In Star Trek, the home world of a race which split from the Vulcans (7)
- 12 The celestial equator (11)
- 13 In golf, part of the clubhead furthest from the shaft (3)
- 14 Nicky Campbell, Bradley Walsh and John Leslie hosted this game show (5,2,7)
- 17 Star of The Office who played Ragetti in Pirates of the Caribbean (9,5)
- 21 Office-based computer network (3)
- 22 Dublin-born author of The Sea, the Sea (4,7)
- 24 USA, Sega arcade driving game launched in 1993 (7)
- 25 US rock band fronted by Gwen Stefani (2,5)
- 26 A subordinate or incidental activity (8)
- 27 Old Testament prophet who preceded Ezekiel and Jeremiah (6)

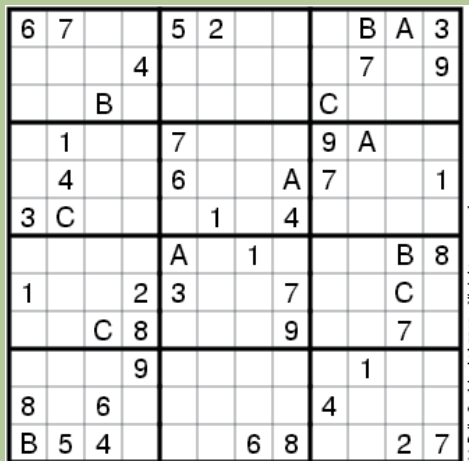
### Down

- 1 Hand tool for lifting loose material (6)
- 2 Former Portuguese colony ceded to China in 1999 (5)
- 3 A member of the Algonquian people (7)
- 5 Star of The Office who played Bilbo Baggins in The Hobbit (6,7)
- 6 Country walker (7)
- 7 Communist committee of USSR, referred to as the Presidium since 1966 (9)
- 8 Tea, in rhyming slang (5,3)
- 10 1957 novel by Boris Pasternak, adapted to film by David Lean in 1965 (6,7)
- 15 Corny, trite (9)
- 16 Suddenly collapses inwards (8)
- 18 Birmingham-based rock band whose hits include Munich and Blood (7)
- 19 Screen panel behind an altar (7)
- 20 Rustic roof cover (6)
- 23 Round windows; from Latin word meaning 'eyes' (5)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

The last month is likely to be remembered for Sir Alex Ferguson departing Man Utd after 26 years. But how well do you know the legendary Scotsman?

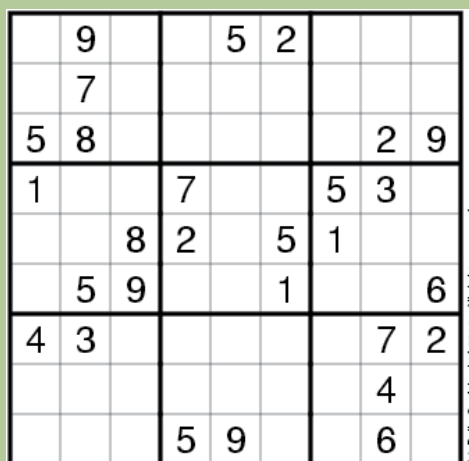
- 1) With which club did he start his managerial career?
- 2) Which lower league team defeated Man Utd 3-0 at Old Trafford in the League Cup in 1995?
- 3) Which manager brought him a bottle of wine after a European game he described as "paint stripper"?
- 4) Who defeated Man Utd 2-0 in his first ever game in charge of the Red Devils?
- 5) His first trophy at Man Utd was the 1990 FA Cup, won 1-0 in a replay after a 3-3 draw against Crystal Palace. Who scored the winner in the replay?
- 6) Which club does his son Darren currently manage?
- 7) Who scored the two injury time goals to give him his first European Cup at Man Utd?
- 8) How many Premier League titles did he win at Man Utd?
- 9) What is his middle name?



Monster Daily SuDoku: Thu 23-May-2013 hard

## 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.



Daily SuDoku: Thu 23-May-2013 medium

## SUDOKU

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







## THE DUNES GOLF RESORT New Zealand Requires a Senior Greenkeeper

The Dunes Golf Course is situated on the Coromandel peninsula with its rolling vista of the Pacific Ocean and white sandy beaches. This par 72 championship course measures 6176 metres. Web Site – [www.thedunesmatarangi.co.nz](http://www.thedunesmatarangi.co.nz)

- Minimum of 5 years links experience
- Education level of NDGK or NVQ3/SVQ
- Knowledge of maintaining top level courses to the highest standards
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 essential or Grow safe and approved handlers
- A high level of competence with modern greenkeeping equipment
  - Good team/motivational skills
  - A keen eye for presentation and detail
- Must be able to live and work in New Zealand with a valid visa

Preferred but not essential qualities include:

- Championship course experience
  - Tournament experience
- A working knowledge of machinery/workshop tools
- A good level of competence with modern irrigation systems
  - Experience in golf course construction

A competitive salary and benefits is on offer, based around 45 hours per week, including a half day every 2nd weekend. The successful candidate will work closely with the Course Manager and Deputy Course Manager to continue forward momentum and improvement of this top level course.

Interested candidates should forward a current C.V. along with a covering letter to: Neil Tombs, Course Manager  
Email: [greenkeeper@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:greenkeeper@thedunesmatarangi.com)



## Knock Golf Club Limited

Knock Golf Club is a beautiful tree lined parkland course situated on the outskirts of Belfast and is overlooked by the famous Stormont Buildings.

We currently invite applications for the post of  
**Assistant Course Manager ACM/05/13**

The candidate should have:

- Minimum of 5 years green-keeping experience gained within the last 8 years
  - NVQ Level 2 in green-keeping
    - PA1, PA2 and PA6
  - NVQ Level 3 in green-keeping – preferred but not essential
  - NPTC Chainsaw licence- preferred but not essential

The successful candidate must have excellent communication skills both written and verbal and display a flexible attitude to working overtime during the summer period if required.

For application form (no CV's) apply in writing to: **Mrs Anne Armstrong, General Manager, The Knock Golf Club Limited, Summerfield, DUNDONALD BT16 2QX**  
e-mail: [knockgolfclub@btconnect.com](mailto:knockgolfclub@btconnect.com)

Closing date for completed applications is 4pm on Friday 21st June 2013

*We are an equal opportunities employer*



## Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Make your mark at one of the best courses in the Midlands

We've spent 5 years implementing major changes and upgrade-work still to do. With over 140 acres of parkland course and a staff of 6, we need another pair of caring hands to take us to the next level of refinement. Applicants must be capable of taking complete control in the absence of the course manager to manage greens staff and ensure continuity of scheduled work. We're well on the way to providing the best quality course in the area with particular emphasis on greens and playing quality of the course. Suitable candidates should have:

- Over 5 years experience
- NVQ Level 3 or equivalent
- PA1, 2A and 6.

You will be highly motivated, enthusiastic, with an eye for presentation and detail with the ability to manage, lead, motivate & train staff. This is a great opportunity for personal development and career progression.

Applications and CV in writing please to:

**Andy Smith, Course Manager, Shirley Golf Club**  
Stratford Road, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4EW.  
Or email to: [andysmith@shirleygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:andysmith@shirleygolfclub.co.uk)



Shirley Golf Club  
founded 1855

# Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month

at [www.bigga.org.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.org.uk/careers)

from £575+vat for an 1/8 advert

Contact **Jill Rodham** on 01347 833 812



## GROUNDSPERSON

(HMC 1240 boys 11-18, 370 in Sixth Form)  
(Pre-Prep & Prep 220 boys and girls)



The School seeks a new Groundsperson to join its busy team of nine. The sporting facilities at Hampton School are a prime asset with maintenance, and expectation, at a high standard. Suitable personal and grounds equipment for the role is provided and is fully maintained in house by the Groundstaff.

On the job training is provided and personal knowledge enhancement encouraged. Turf management at Hampton is advanced and all the Groundstaff are expected to understand why they are carrying out tasks. The role is full time with a working week of 39 hour with days starting at 6am in the summer and 6.30am in the winter.

The person sought for this roll must have a willingness to learn about turf care. Person qualities are to include being a proactive team player, excellent time management, dedication and take pride in the work they do. Salary will be £21,563. Plus benefit package including healthcare and pension.

Application Form, CV and details of 2 referees should be sent to the Bursary by 21 June 2013. Further details and application form can be downloaded from the School website. Hampton School, Hanworth Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 3HD.

Tel 020 8979 0476 Fax 020 8783 4037

Email [bursary@HamptonSchool.org.uk](mailto:bursary@HamptonSchool.org.uk) [www.HamptonSchool.org.uk](http://www.HamptonSchool.org.uk)



puzzle  
page  
answers

## puzzle page answers

### CROSSWORD



### MONSTER SUDOKO



### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO



### 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

# The Back Nine

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

Social Media is becoming ever more vital and the greenkeeping industry is no exception with BIGGA members starting hugely popular blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. In part one of a two-part article Justin Ruiz advises you on social media strategy

**Social Media has come a long way in the past few years. For example, previously you might have referred to old guidelines explaining the damaging effects of frost on golf courses.**

Now you can search the web and find hundreds if not thousands of blog posts from superintendents explaining their issues with frost.

Social media can be a very effective tool to push information out to golfers, staff, the community, and other interested superintendents. But social media can also become overwhelming. There is a plethora of sites that you can use. Which one or ones should you choose?

Now, before we go too far, if you want to get into the social media scene there are a couple of things you need to remember.

It is indeed a powerful way to get information out to many different people, which is good, but you also need to be aware of how many people will see what you have posted. It can always be found on the internet once it has been published.

Next, whether you like it or not, you are building your online reputation. If you don't want anyone finding a picture of you at a party with permanent pen markings on your face that resemble who knows what, then you might think about starting over on Facebook. Even if you are not a blogger or tweeter you still have some kind of online presence. How you want to be perceived is in your control.

If you are looking to increase your presence within your club and with members, guests, colleges, and the community blogging and social media can be a great tool.

If you have avoided getting a smartphone or tablet, you may want to join over 60% of the UK and go shopping. It is a large part



of staying current and getting information out in a timely manner.

Blogging is another great tool for the Golf Course Superintendent to reach many people and inform them about your work on the golf course. A blog can also be used as a journal to document your projects over time and be a good reminder to golfers that have a tough time remembering what the course looked like last season or last week for that matter.

Increasing your visibility and helping people understand that taking care of a golf course requires much more input than mowing, fertilising and watering and can become an awakening to those critical members.

If you give them a little insight into what you are doing to take care of an issue or even show them all the other things that are taking place on the golf course, maybe they might understand the function of the bush on the fairway of the third hole that they wanted removed after hitting the other day.

**Be aware that many people can see what you've posted. It can always be found on the web once it has been published**

Starting a blog is as easy as getting a new email. I use Google Blogger, some use Word Press. I find that Blogger is easier if you don't have more advanced technical skills. Once you sign up with a blogging engine you will find that posting on the blog is as easy as sending an email.

I recommend that once you set up your blog get a few posts onto the blog before you open it up to the public.

This will give you some content to keep people interested for a little while until you get into a routine of posting and take some pressure off needing to post right away after you just opened your account.

Nest month I'll look at blogging in more detail with tips for content for your blog and I'll explore the world of Twitter.

## 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.

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

# BARONESS

Quality on Demand

## NEW FOR 2013—THE BARONESS LM315 TRIPLEX GREENSMOWER

**M**ore than 100 years of experience goes into the making of Baroness products, giving unrivalled cutting quality and the very lowest running costs.

For more than 20 years Baroness has been building the LM315 with our very own "hybrid" drive system which minimises the amount of hydraulic lines by using cable drive to the cutting units.

Now available with a 21hp 3-cylinder diesel engine and offering industry leading light weight combined with outstanding traction, the Baroness LM315 is now available to view on your golf course.



 Kyoisha UK Ltd. a subsidiary of  
Kyoisha Co. Ltd. of Japan



Tel: 01256 461591

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

BTME 2013 at Harrogate saw the Baroness stand busy over all three days with the LM315 being a real focus of attention for all visitors!



# Trusted by the best courses on earth.

Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, England

There's a reason why the best courses trust in John Deere: our mowers deliver unmatched cut-quality, creating an ideal playing surface on tees, greens, fairways and roughs.

See for yourself.  
Contact your dealer for a demonstration.

**John Deere Golf: Trusted by the best courses on Earth – Video on**  
[www.johndeere.co.uk/bestcourses/](http://www.johndeere.co.uk/bestcourses/)

Freephone 0800 085 25 22



**JOHN DEERE**  
GOLF



JohnDeere.com