

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Turfgrass Society

£5.20 NOVEMBER 2013

Inside...

PIGMENTS IN TURFGRASS

A Dr Karl Danneberger
exclusive

ASKERNISH

Lost and found
in the Outer
Hebrides



Sangster's paradise

National Championship Review

ALSO INSIDE... BURGHLEY PARK : MANOR HOUSE : TRACTORS



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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



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Over the last few weeks I have been involved in interviewing the twenty BIGGA members who were shortlisted for the BIGGA Delegation to next year's Golf Industry Show in Orlando.

As ever we were presented with a very difficult choice as there are only ten places available but the calibre of candidate was extremely high and I am confident that the selected few will represent the Association and the sponsors Bernhard & Company with distinction.

Making the telephone calls to the successful candidates ranks very highly in my favourite tasks of the year but conversely having to break the news to the ten unsuccessful ones is something I do not relish, particularly when all have worked so hard and demonstrated great passion for their vocation during the process. As ever, our thanks go to Bernhard & Company for their continued support of this fantastic member benefit.

A recurring theme throughout the interviews was the passion for the game of golf that drove practically all of the candidates into the industry in the first place. I was reminded of that passion during our recent National Championship held over the magnificent Red Course at Frilford Heath Golf Club when members, young and old, low handicap and high gathered for two days of golf and camaraderie.

In a revenge mission following the English plundering of the title north of the border last year it was the Scottish National Champion, Gordon Sangster of Cathkin Braes Golf Club, who left with the spoils after a first class performance capping a fine year for him on the course. Congratulations to Gordon and to all the winners in the various categories, and of course our gratitude goes to both of our generous sponsors, Kubota and Charterhouse, and to Sid Arrowsmith and his colleagues at Frilford Heath for their wonderful hospitality.

With the clocks going back the focus for the Association turns to education. It is conference season and I am immensely looking forward to this month's Regional Conferences for the

opportunities to learn and to spend time with so many BIGGA members. Without exception the conferences represent fantastic learning and development opportunities and are great value - I hope to see many of you there.

There are also many seminars and workshops being arranged at Section level and by the trade, all of which provide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development. As of 1 November it is now possible for members to update their CPD profile online through our website www.bigga.org.uk, please refer to the CPD pages within the Education section for more detail.

I am pleased to report a very encouraging start to bookings for the Continue to Learn programme at BTME in January. Places are already limited on a number of workshops and seminars. I have said before that a well planned visit to Harrogate cannot fail to make you a better turf manager, if you haven't already I would urge you to do that planning as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Elsewhere in these pages you will read of further developments at BTME, notably the launch of the BIGGA Welcome Celebration featuring the legendary Peter Alliss and his musings on the development of the game and its courses over his years in golf. Entry is free and I sincerely hope that all of you will take the opportunity to join us in celebrating the Association at what will be the centrepiece of BTME week.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO

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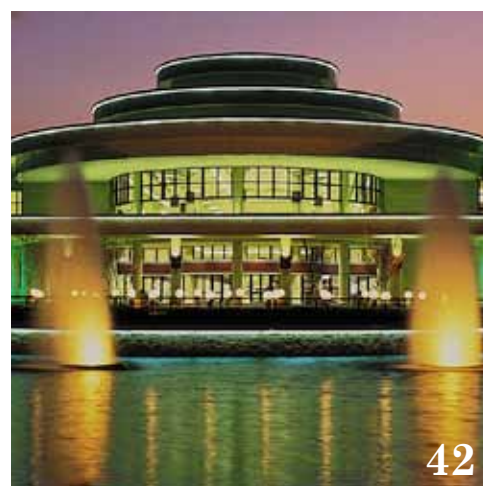
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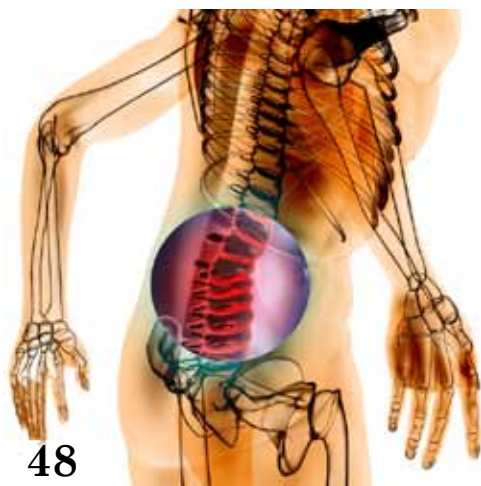




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The official monthly magazine of
**British and International
 Golf Greenkeepers Association**



Chairman's Word

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

A grand National for BIGGA

What a couple of days at Frilford Heath Golf Club for the National Championship. The Red Course was absolutely fantastic. I had the great pleasure of playing with the host Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith on the first morning and it was a fantastic opportunity to hear the knowledge and opinions of a Master Greenkeeper. I got to know a lot about various elements of the course itself, its history and the various challenges he's faced over the years.

He admitted the biggest challenge was ensuring all three courses at Frilford Heath are up to the same standard and in my opinion it's something Sid and all his team have certainly achieved.

It's undoubtedly one of the best golf clubs we've held the National Championships at.

It was great to see members coming to Oxfordshire from as far afield as the north of Scotland and Switzerland, and I'd like to thank each and every member who came to play.

With the increased prize fund, two rounds of golf on a course that held European Tour qualifying the previous week plus the official dinner and breakfast and lunch thrown in, it represents superb value for money.

I urge you to head to Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire on 6/7 October next year to pit your wits against fellow BIGGA members.

Congratulations to Gordon Sangster on his amazing achievement of winning the double of the Scottish Championship and the National this year, and well done to all the prizewinners.



Tony with Gordon Sangster, Colin Hennah from Kubota and Frilford Heath men's captain, Mike Chapman

“It was particularly pleasing to see many young greenkeepers at the tournament, who have real golfing talent to go along with their skill and enthusiasm in their everyday roles”

The standard of golf was excellent (apart from mine!). I'd like to personally thank everyone at Frilford Heath Golf Club, the BIGGA team for their hard work in ensuring the whole event ran very smoothly, and of course the sponsors Charterhouse and Kubota, it can't be underestimated how vital and welcome their support is.

It was particularly pleasing to see many young greenkeepers at the tournament, who have real golfing talent to go along with their skill and enthusiasm in their everyday roles.

I had a good chat with several of them, and coming so soon after the Toro Student of the

Year final it again reassures me the future of the industry is looking bright.

I think it's vital that younger greenkeepers become involved at Region and Section level.

I'd like to see some of this young blood have a voice – if you're good enough, you're old enough.

November is Regional Conference month and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, I will be attending all of them.

The Regional Administrators have done a marvellous job in securing very informative and interesting line-ups and I really do want to see full venues for them, so come along – again

they represent excellent value for money.

With the National over, the next major event is BTME.

The exhibition itself is a sell-out and the Continue to Learn programme is looking better than ever. Places are filling up very quickly so don't miss out – there's something for every level of greenkeeper across the board.

I hope everyone's winter programmes have started well.

Keep up the good work and I hope to see you soon.

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BIGGA REGIONAL CONFERENCES

BIGGA South West & South Wales Regional Conference

– Thursday 21 November at the Oaktree Arena,
Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4HA

BIGGA South East Regional Conference

- Tuesday 19 November at Hadlow College
near Tonbridge Kent TN11 0AL

BIGGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 22 January 2014, 5.15 pm

Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre

The BIGGA AGM is open to all Members of BIGGA, however only Full Members are entitled to vote. A current membership card **MUST** be produced to gain entry.

Access to the Queen's Suite for the AGM is from either the escalator link between Halls B & C or from the escalator link in HIC Entrance 3 (Springfield House). Follow signs for the Queen's Suite.





ALLISS HEADLINES BTME WELCOME CELEBRATION

Golfing legend Peter Alliss will be guest of honour at BIGGA's inaugural Welcome Celebration, kindly sponsored by Jacobsen, to be held straight after the first day of BTME in January.

Not only is Peter one of the most recognisable and authoritative voices in all sport, he is a fascinating and amusing speaker with over half a century of anecdotes and opinions – and you can catch a typically humorous keynote speech from Peter on Tuesday 21 January. Entry is free.

Beginning straight after the

first day of Europe's biggest turf management exhibition, the evening will be a true celebration of some of the industry's finest moments during the past 12 months.

We'll be acknowledging the superb achievements of some of our members during 2013, honouring greenkeepers who have excelled in educational, professional and golfing capacities and toasting success in the wider turf management industry.

All you have to do to attend

what's sure to be a memorable evening is head to the Royal Hall at the Harrogate International Centre at 5.30pm.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton will introduce proceedings and there will be a series of announcements and awards before Peter takes to the stage, and drinks and nibbles will be served afterwards with the event expected to close at around 7.30pm.

Don't miss out on what is sure to be not just one of the highlights of BTME, but one of the highlights of 2014 in the industry.

EASTERN PROMISE FOR WHITEMOSS COMP

The Whitemoss Eco Ltd BIGGA Midland Region Inter Section Competition took place at Ashridge Golf Club on 25 September. The day started with fog to delay the start of things, although watching the Ashridge course reveal itself on a beautiful sunny afternoon wasn't a problem.

The three quarter stableford competition was won by the East of England Section with 107 points, congratulations to Graeme Macdonald with a great score of 40 points, Rob Bemment with 34 points and Rob Welford with 33 points.

East Midland Section were second with 99 points, 2012 winners Midland Section were third with 92 points, BB&O fourth with 91 points and supporting the rest were Mid Anglia Section with 81 points.

Grateful thanks to Whitemoss Eco Ltd for sponsoring this competition that allows like-minded sports turf professionals from around the region to network and enjoy a great game of golf, to James Camfield and his team for a superb course and to catering staff for their attentions throughout the day. Finally, thanks to all the Section Members who travelled and made the day a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Sandra Raper

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE MAD MOWER MEN



Hopefully you've spotted adverts in the last two magazines advertising an amazing charity challenge – a team of BIGGA members pushing mowers from Ransomes Jacobsen's Ipswich HQ to BTME in January – a total of 177 gruelling miles.

It's all in aid of Scotty's Little Soldiers – a charity which supports the families of men and women killed in action while serving with the British Armed Forces.

Tim Johnson, greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, joined several other greenkeepers to push the mowers from Liverpool to Hull last year, so why are they doing it again, this time in the depths of winter?



How did it all start, and how can you help?

GI spoke to Tim, who is currently in training for this latest gruelling challenge.

Pushing mowers hundreds of miles?! How did this all start?

Lots of people these days do marathons, cycles and other endurance challenges. I wanted to do something very unusual that really stands out from the crowd, that people remember and that's also tied in with the sports turf industry.

One morning last year I was cutting all 21 greens at Wilmslow and I thought I could somehow incorporate a mower in a charity challenge, so I looked at places in the country that could be used as start and finishing points. I spotted that Liverpool and Hull both have an Albert Dock and that created the Port To Port Challenge, it was really that simple. A few friends and family agreed to support us and it was on!

Do you think this will be tougher than last year's challenge which you completed in August?

Yes very much so, this challenge is 80 miles longer with less hours of daylight to

play with, along the east coast of England in January.

We are expecting snow, sleet, gales and a lot of sideways rain. Ransomes Jacobsen are supporting us which we're extremely grateful for, and we're also hoping to secure other support too. Something like this is so tough physically and emotionally but the camaraderie of the team gets you through, and the feeling of achievement at the end is incredible.

Why have you chosen to support Scotty's Little Soldiers?

A lot of emphasis is put on the soldiers on the front line, and injured soldiers going through rehabilitation, and some amazing work is done in that area. But not enough attention is given to the families that are left behind if the worst happens.

Scotty's Little Soldiers was set up by Nikki Scott after her husband Corporal Lee Scott was tragically killed in an explosion in Afghanistan in

July 2009, leaving behind her and their two young children, so it's a hugely worthwhile cause.

How are you preparing for it?

At Wilmslow we do a lot of hand mowing so that helps massively for training. Plus I've joined a triathlon club which is going a long way towards helping me getting prepared for this challenge.

Last year we raised well over £2,000 for Help for Heroes and we're hoping to beat that this time round.

How can people donate?

Visit www.bmycharity.com/HardRoadToHarrowgate - that's our dedicated website. We leave Ipswich on Thursday 16 January and hope to arrive in Harrogate on Tuesday 21 January for the opening of BTME.

After that we will be on the Ransomes Jacobsen stand to chat to people (if we make it!) and you will also be able to donate then. See you in January!

ESSEX WIN TRI TOURNAMENT

Upminster Golf Club was the venue for the annual South East Region Tri-Tournament between Essex, Surrey and Sussex.

This event rotates around the sections and has become one of the highlights of the South East regions' fixture list, along with the Golf and Dinner day at Walton Heath and the BMW Championship at Wentworth, plus our annual regional conference.

A full quota of 10 players per team took to the fairways at 10am and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day for a round of golf on a testing course set out by Upminster's Course Manager, Dougie Fernie. After a well-deserved late afternoon dinner Essex Team Captain Antony Kirwan announced the results: Essex 245, Sussex 242 and Surrey 225.

Essex (only the second time they had won in the event's seven year existence) would like to thank all the players from Surrey and Sussex for helping to make it such a great day, the camaraderie was fantastic and it was good to again be able to meet up with friends made over the years.

Our thanks to Upminster Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day and to Dougie and his team, and the club's catering team. All those playing would also like to thank Andy Turbin and Ernest Doe and Sons for their sponsorship of the day, and we look forward to next year's event somewhere in Sussex.

Arnold Phipps-Jones



CHIPPENHAM WORK NEARING COMPLETION

The Chippenham Golf Club in Wiltshire has gone through many changes since it was founded in 1896 and its latest chapter of redevelopment is nearing completion.

This has involved remodelling several existing holes to allow the integration of four newly constructed ones.

Course architect Matt Maryon has overseen the project from start to finish, and has been assisted by the outstanding shaping skills of Mike Smith from 1st Golf Ltd.

Several new tees have been constructed, while one hole has been completely redesigned to incorporate two existing holes.

Course Manager and BIGGA Vice Chairman Chris Sealey said: "Several years of hard work are

finally coming to fruition, and the members, committee, and staff can't wait to see the course open in its completed state in May 2014.

"We're really excited about the design of the new holes, and a couple of them promise to be particularly memorable. This, combined with the new clubhouse opening only 10 months ago, means it's a great time to be a member here at Chippenham Golf Club, and I'm sure we'll serve as a model going forward for Clubs looking to enhance their facilities."

The redevelopment is already having a positive effect on Club finances, with a noticeable growth across membership, green fee revenue, and food and beverages.



BIGGA SPONSORS

Charterhouse Turf Machinery were once again delighted to be co-sponsors of the BIGGA National Championship, a good opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues at this prestigious event which attracts players from all around the country.

It's been a busy year for Charterhouse with the launch of new products including their new three point linkage mounted Turf Cutter, and our eagerly awaited Double Disc seeder with 30mm spacings to be launched shortly.

The Verti-Drain line up continues to make waves with the latest high speed models performing well both as a 1.6 metre unit and a 2m unit, these have been well received by those who need greater productivity and wanting to cover the ground quickly.

Charterhouse General Manager Nick Darking added: "Our new website www.charterhouse-tm.co.uk was launched recently. You are able to link through to our YouTube site showing the very latest machinery in use, it also gives our customers updates on our activity through out the year and allowing them to access detailed information about all of our product lines. We have even learned to Tweet and can be followed @ctmTURF giving the very latest information."



The winning Essex team: Simon Hartley, Paul O'Kane, Liam Springett, Campbell Murdoch, Antony Kirwan, Sam Cook, Stuart Rogers, Dougie Fernie, Ross Bennett. Lee Masters is missing



TRILO S4 VACUUM SWEEPER ABOVE PAR AT HENLEY

Founded in 1907, Henley Golf Club sits in Oxfordshire but is close to both Berkshire and Buckinghamshire borders, offering views of all three counties from the course. Greens Manager, Justin Robinson, has added a Trilo S4 Vacuum Sweeper to his equipment fleet and has found it to be “a year round multi-use piece of kit.”

“We took delivery this year, early in the summer, following a recommendation by a Trilo user at the Henley Regatta site,” said Justin.

“When we had the demonstration towards the

end of 2012 we realised our old machine from a competitor wasn’t really fit for purpose – even for just leaf collection that it was primarily employed for!”

Commenting on its value to the golf club Justin added, “A good plus point has been that the S4 doesn’t sit idly in the shed for any part of the year. We use it all over the course with our Massey Ferguson 4225 for the collection of leaves, care of fairways, rough scarification and debris/clippings collection.”

The Trilo S4 has a high capacity V-belt driven fan

delivering a high work rate, reliable/safe power source and the sweeping head (with hydraulically-driven brush), has a generous 1.8 metre working width.

The impeller casing can be opened at the top and includes an inspection trap in the lower section to facilitate easy cleaning.

The hand held wander-hose makes the S4 suitable for year round leaf and litter collection and also for use where access may be more limited, such as working close to kerbs, emptying bins or cleaning inaccessible areas.



BASEGUARD SIGNAGE SOLUTION

Well designed course signage is an essential item of course presentation, but for time-pressed greenkeepers it inevitably requires time and manpower to keep strimming the grass around the mounts of each and every sign. Eagle, the UK’s leading course signage manufacturer, now has a complete, cost-effective solution to this problem called BaseGuard. Its patented curing technology means the surfaces are ready in about 1-2 hours, and the need for zoning off is minimised.

“BaseGuard is a great solution in every way to the age-old problem of keeping the grass under control around the signage, and I can happily recommend it to any golf club,” satisfied customer Robert Pettett of Rookery Park Golf Club said.



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BIGGA members come together at Rockliffe

A **News Special** on the call to arms for the recent PGA English Seniors Open, held at Rockliffe Hall



BIGGA members from across the country came together recently to help out as Rockliffe Hall hosted the successful PGA English Seniors Open.

The team at the County Durham course was given just six weeks to prepare for the tournament and Head Greenkeeper Pete Newton knew he would need a support team to maintain the huge course which measures a staggering 7,897 yards from the back tees.

Together with Course Manager Davy Cuthbertson and Cleveland Section secretary Ian Pemberton, they appealed for greenkeepers to travel north for the week of the tournament and were delighted to receive offers from across the country.

Greenkeepers from Forest Hill, Forest of Arden and The RAC Club joined others from Matfen Hall, Close House plus other

local courses – and the team couldn't have done without them as Pete explained.

He said: "Obviously we were on a tight timescale, but I wasn't worried about the course quality as it's always at a high standard at any time of the year.

"The main issue was the amount of daylight we had to prepare the course.

"We started at around 6.30am for 9:30am tee times, and they were finishing around 4.30pm so we only had a total of five hours' light a day to work with.

"We were double cutting in the mornings and rolling to get the greens up to 10.5ft so there was a lot of work to do, but all the guys threw themselves into it.

"They were full of enthusiasm - we had rain on the Friday and I've never seen so many greenkeepers volunteer to grab a squeegee!

"The tournament was a huge success

with great feedback from the players and the PGA, and this just wouldn't have been possible without the volunteers assisting our full-time team here.

"They also gained valuable tournament experience, and I truly believe this is another example of the great industry that we're part of."

As well as help from various BIGGA members, Rockliffe enjoyed wider industry support. Reps from Tacit and Turfcare helped out as did the club's local Toro dealer Lloyds who supplied a mechanic, plus Gary Woodward from Bernhard Grinders who reground their machines prior to the Seniors Open.

Pete added: "Thanks to everyone who helped out and keep an eye out for more volunteering opportunities when the tournament returns here next August."



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!



SIMON SAYS: USE THE LEGAL HELPLINE!

One of the many benefits available to BIGGA members is our Greenkeepers Legal Assistance Helpline which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 0800 1777891.

Simon Reardon, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Kingsthorpe Golf Club in Northamptonshire, pictured above, is just one BIGGA member to receive excellent service after calling the Helpline. He noticed some potential issues with the club's staff handbook, which has now been improved after he discussed the matter with the Helpline.

He said: "My employers have

recently given me a change of role and subsequently updated my job description, employment contract and revised the staff handbook.

"The club manager provided me with provisional copies and asked me to take them away, proof read and highlight any queries.

"There were a few areas I considered errant (the addition of a retirement age, policy on time taken off sick, the smoking policy and a few other minor inconsistencies) so I decided to consult with BIGGA's Legal Helpline.

"I phoned 0800 1777891 and an operator took some brief details and a legal advisor

called back within the hour to take a comprehensive list of my questions.

"The same person then called back with some advice and suggestions, which I have taken back to my employers. They are now going to amend a couple of points and change some terminology.

"Having never used this particular service before, I have to thank BIGGA for including this in our membership and the legal partner for their fantastic service. I would fully recommend it to any member who needs advice in the future."



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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



L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

BIGGA CPD GOES ONLINE

After many months of planning and launching the new CPD programme, BIGGA are delighted to announce that members are now able to claim their CPD credits online, monitor their own CPD progress and print out their own certificates. Stuart Green, Learning and Development Executive, will be showcasing this exciting new aspect of CPD at the forthcoming regional conferences.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: "We are really pleased to be offering our members this facility. BIGGA have been running a CPD scheme since 2000 and it was time to reinvigorate it and improve its accessibility. CPD is about the individual and it's our strong belief that members should be able to manage their own development."

With the new software, there is no need to send in a registration



form or claim form. All members have a CPD account which can be accessed when they log into the member's area of the website. Once a member begins to claim credits they become CPD Active and their CPD credits will be automatically added to their Lifetime Transcript, which can be printed out.

CPD credits are not only available for members, but also for training providers and companies who run events. Those who register their courses for CPD will receive a unique code that will be provided to attendees at the end of the event. Once this code is entered into the member's online CPD record, it will automatically update their record.

Stuart added: "It's all about using technology to make life simpler and easier for members to engage in their professional development."

BIGGA is also making it easier to gain credits through the new CPD programme. In October's GI the Fusarium quiz was the start of six annual quizzes.

The next will be in December's edition and this time keep an eye out for the QR code. This will allow members to access the quiz using their mobile phones and tablets. Keep an eye out for an increased focus on our CPD scheme from now on!

WHAT IS CPD?

We've devoted a section in the 2013/14 BIGGA Membership Handbook to explaining exactly what CPD is, its benefits and how you can get involved in it. Turn to pages 20 and 21 of the new Handbook for more.



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, David Barker

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

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FULL MARKS TO DEREK

Congratulations to Derek Fullerton who is the latest BIGGA member to be awarded a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship, supported by Jacobsen, worth £1000.

Derek, greenkeeper at Murrayfield Golf Club, will attend Myerscough College to study a BSc (Hons) in Sportsturf Science – Second Year.

For more info visit our website and go to Education>Funding Opportunities>Higher Education Scholarship.



National double for Gordon

A hole-in-one, a single shot deciding the winner over 36 holes of golf, glorious sunshine, low handicappers pushed to the limits – the 2013 BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota had it all. Steve Castle reports



Over eighty BIGGA members headed to the Red Course at Frilford Heath Golf Club with the aim of conquering 18 holes which had held European Tour qualifying just days previously – but most failed as the tough but fair course with its slick, undulating greens provided a superb test.

The players woke on the Monday morning to a brooding mist drifting across rural Oxfordshire – and last year's champion Oly Browning from Stocks Golf Club hit the first tee shot with some of the clouds still lingering. But these dissipated within half an hour to allow perfect golfing conditions to prevail. The official starters provided by the club was a lovely touch and really added to the sense of occasion as each competitors' name was announced, even if a few stray drives at the first betrayed the early nerves of some!

Gordon Sangster, reigning Scottish National Champion and third overall at the National at Irvine Bogside last year, was arguably the favourite heading into the tournament and showed why with a stunning two under par opening round of 70 – on a course he'd never previously played.

The plus two handicapper really hit his stride on the back nine, dropping just one shot and finishing with a flourish in the shape of three birdies.

One of the real highlights of the tournament came late on the first day, when Paul Davy from Porters Park Golf Club scored the fifth hole in one of his career on the 186-yard 9th. He said: "I hit a six-iron just short of the green, it bounced a few times and dropped in. It's always a good feeling to get a hole in one, but I had mixed feelings with this one. It's great to do it at the National and on a course like this but I'm really worried about the bar bill – it's a busy day!"

Antony Kirwan from Playgolf Colchester spoke for many of the competitors when he praised the condition of the course, and in particular the slick, undulating greens which had tested the pros the previous week and were now bewitching BIGGA members.

He said: "It's really tough, the greens are very, very quick. But ultimately it's great fun to play on a course like this and test yourself against it."

Dale Housden from Caddington Golf Club said: "I'm going to try and bring as many of the guys from Caddington across next year as possible, that's how much I've enjoyed it. The course is superb,

you have to be so accurate on the greens but that's how it should be. There's a lot of low handicappers here who want a challenge and it's certainly provided that."

The club, extremely welcoming throughout, then hosted the evening dinner, during which BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith presented Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith MG with a tankard, and complimented both the superb course and excellent hospitality. Tim Yates, Dealer Manager at Kubota, then presented the first day's prizes with Paul Davy's ace being rewarded with a bottle of champagne. The Midlands Region represented by David Grant, James Egerton, Oly Browning and Harry Larkins won the Team Championship trophy, presented to the Region with the lowest aggregate total of their four best scores.

The next morning the greenkeeping team were busy double cutting and ironing the greens as brilliant early morning sunshine gave way to a more overcast afternoon. Plus one handicapper James Dair from Toft House & Golf Course put himself right in contention for the coveted BIGGA Challenge Trophy – and £500 first prize – by carding a sensational 70 featuring five birdies. But Gordon held his nerve, securing pars on the testing final two holes to pip James by a single shot with a total of 147 – three shots

RESULTS & PRIZES

BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY - Best gross score

- 1) Gordon Sangster (Cathkin Braes Golf Club) - 70, 77 (147) £500
- 2) James Dair (Toft House & Golf Course) - 78, 70 (148) £300
- 3) Gary Burgess (Grange Park Golf Club) - 78, 71 (149) £250
- 4) James Egerton (Welwyn Garden City Golf Club) - 74, 76 (150) £150
- 5) Oly Browning (Stocks Golf Club) - 75, 76 (151) £100

BIGGA CHALLENGE CUP - Best nett score

- 1) Daniel Scott (Woburn Golf & Country Club) - 68, 72 (140)
- 2) Terry Cheese (Sandwell Park Golf Club) - 75, 73 (148)
- 3) Alastair Higgs (Windlesham Golf Club) - 73, 75 (148)

BIGGA CHALLENGE PLATE - Stableford Day Two only

Stewart Rogers (Orsett Golf Club) 36pts

BIGGA CHALLENGE BOWL - Affiliate

Andrew Cornes (BMS Ltd) 87, 88 (175)

HANDICAP WINNERS DAY ONE - Nett

- +2 - 5 David Grant (Cherwell Edge Golf Club) 67
- 06 - 12 Daniel Scott (Woburn Golf & Country Club) 68
- 13 - 24 Anthony Thacker (RAF Marham Golf Club) 77

HANDICAP WINNERS DAY TWO - Nett

- +2 - 5 Gary Burgess (Grange Park Golf Club) 68
- 06 - 12 Daniel Scott (Woburn Golf & Country Club) 72
- 13 - 24 Lee Whyte (Bowood Golf & Country Club) 73

NEAREST THE PIN (9th)

Day One - Paul Davy (Porters Park Golf Club - hole in one!)
Day Two - Dan Norsworthy (The Richmond Golf Club)

LONGEST DRIVE (15th)

Day One - Antony Kirwan (Playgolf Colchester)
Day Two - Leigh Mordy (Knowle Golf Club)

TEAM WINNERS - Day One Only

First - Midland (David Grant, James Egerton, Oly Browning, Harry Larkins)
Second - South East (Jason Hunt, Ron Christie, Mark Harvey, Paul Davy)



over par overall. All the prizewinners were then presented with their trophies and souvenirs by Colin Henna, Sales Manager at Kubota,

The champion said: "It's always good to win, I played the National at Irvine Bogside last year and I think I probably drove a bit better this time round. But at this level it's just a couple of putts here and there that will make or break your round. On my first round I got on a good run on the back nine and that was pleasing.

"I'm especially happy because this is a different type of course to Largs where I won the Scottish National. Both Largs and Frilford Heath are superb, the green staff have got them in phenomenal condition. The greens here are the fastest I've played on all year, it's a tough but fair test of golf."

Sid Arrowsmith added: "It's been a wonderful couple of days and a real pleasure to host so many BIGGA members, many of whom travelled great distances.

"Having the opportunity to play golf and chat to so many green-keepers from all manner of courses across the UK and beyond was a real highlight for me."

Dates for your diary next year

Challenge for the title at Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire, 6/7 October 2014.

Andrew Cornes, Danell Scott, Stewart Rogers



Tim Yates, Dealer Manager at Kubota, presents champagne to hole in one man Paul Davy



Tony Smith presents a tankard to Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith

Hurly Burghley



PROFILE

Name: Dave Salisbury
Role: Course Manager
Born: Burton upon Trent
Handicap: 14
Favourite sports team: Stamford AFC
– Dave is a director

How do the team at Burghley Park Golf Club cope with hundreds of caravans – and dogs – on their fairways when the world famous horse trials roll into town? Steve Castle found out, and also heard how the greenkeepers and their vertidrainer helped save the equine event this year



PROFILE

Name: Gary Salisbury
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Born: Burton upon Trent
Handicap: 28
Favourite sports team: Stamford AFC – Gary writes the match reports

The team: Stuart McCrossan, Dave Salisbury, Gary Salisbury, Steve Hopkins. Missing is Simon Bossett

“We just stood there for about an hour, I certainly had a tear in my eye. It was total devastation”.

Dave Salisbury was in full flow as he recalled the horrific condition some areas of Burghley Park's golf course were in days after the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials on an unforgettable Monday morning in 2008.

The club allows hundreds of caravans and motor homes to park on certain fairways during the world famous event, usually with manageable disruption. However, a perfect storm of very wet weather five years ago left parts of the course reminiscent of a particularly damp Glastonbury festival.

It's clearly still fresh in the memory for Course Manager Dave. He recalled: “We had very heavy rain at exactly the wrong time and we were pulling motor homes out of the mud throughout the week. There were huge ruts and a foot of sludgy mud everywhere. I've spent the majority of my working life at this course, so to see it in that state was heartbreaking.”

But the club soon swung into recovery mode. It was agreed that external contractors would be hired to assist the four-strong greenkeeping team in getting the course back in play as soon as possible. Dave hurried across the country, visiting various turf nurseries to choose the perfect fescue dominant turf before selecting County Turf in Scunthorpe.

The team knew that with the trials ending in early September, they had little growing time left in the season.

Dave said: “We closed the back nine immediately but within three or four of days we had a short course open on the back nine by cutting temporary tees and greens and using three short holes. We employed a landscaping firm, checked the specifications with the STRI and laid the turf and had completed the work by the end of September.”

You may think the team curse the prestigious trials – but in fact it's an ideal time to complete maintenance as Dave's son Gary explained.

“We're closed for eight days which is a godsend because we're a very busy course, we must average 150 rounds a day and we're rarely closed because the course is built on a limestone hill which offers superb natural drainage.

“Also it's a tight course so when you've got 100 golfers out there's very little room to work on the course.

“So this week we've vertidraind all the tees and greens in two days and now we're moving on to vertidraind the aprons.

“This year we've got 550 caravans parked on the course. So that's 1,000 people and they seem to average three dogs each, and you can imagine what the dogs sometimes leave behind in the rough! We've also had problems with tent pegs being left behind – you don't want one of those going through your mowers but they can be very difficult to spot deep in the ground.

“Visitors can only park on designated areas on four fairways (the 10th, 17th, 18th and practice) and some of the rough in between. We rope the areas off before they arrive where we think there's a danger someone driving along at night might accidentally cut across a green or tee.”

As well as dealing with the aftermath of the trials, Gary – who first helped his dad rake bunkers on the course aged just five – revealed how he came to the rescue in dramatic fashion ahead of this year's event.

He said: “I received a phone call late one night from the Clerk of the Course, Philip Herbert, sounding extremely worried. It turned out a lorry driver had accidentally driven onto the soft grass in the main arena where they hold the dressage, and its wheels had sunk in six inches deep. Phillip said “Somebody told me you've been out vertidraind – is there any chance you could help?”

“Early the next morning I went to check it out and the fieldgrass in the arena was a mess. They'd watered it to a depth of eight inches because they wanted the going to be soft, so a huge articulated lorry delivering dozens of horse jumps in had left it in a terrible state.

“I put the vertidrain across it on full heave – which dad had never seen before – and drove as slowly as I possibly could. When I'd finished you couldn't see where this lorry had been. Philip was very grateful. In fact it did such a good job we've been vertidraind our tees on full heave since – but it's always good when you can trial it somewhere else first!”

The 16th century Burghley House is the centrepiece of the large estate in Stamford, and over the last few decades has capitalised on its commercial potential. As well as the equestrian event it now holds regular concerts, exhibitions, markets and the ‘Rat Race’ – an adventure sports weekend. The golf course itself, which uses a separate entrance, has undergone





TOP: The 18th fairway, September 2013
 TOP RIGHT: The course minus the caravans
 MIDDLE LEFT: The practice fairway in September 2008
 MIDDLE ABOVE: At least the visitors have taken heed of the sign!
 MIDDLE RIGHT: Relaying turf in September 2008
 LEFT: The horse trials

MACHINERY LIST

- John Deere
- 2x 2030 Pro Gators
- 2x 2500A Greens Mowers
- 2x 2653A Surrounds Mowers
- 1 x 2653B Precision Cut
- 1 x 3520 Compact Tractor
- 1 x 7400 Terrain Cut
- 1 x 1445 Out Front Rotary
- 1 x 3245C Semi Rough Mower
- 1 x 3235C Fairway Mower
- 4 x Hand Mowers

- 1 x Kubota Compact Tractor
- 1 x Wiedenmann Terra Spike XF
- 1 x Dakota Turf Tender
- 1 x Massey Ferguson Tractor & Backhoe
- 1 x Ryan GA30
- 1 x Ransomes HR6910 Rough Mower
- 1 x Bantam Sod Cutter

huge changes since Dave's arrival in 1980.

He said: "When I joined it was a blank canvas – literally a field with 18 holes laid out with no trees, bunkers or ponds – in fact it had no distinguishing features whatsoever. It was managed by two greenkeepers – myself and Stuart McCrossan who's still here today.

"There were hundreds of sheep allowed to graze on the course with electric fencing around the greens. So we've planted hundreds of trees and built the ponds and bunkers in-house, and we're still making changes and continuing to progress now."

In 2010 the club employed golf course architect Tom Mackenzie to conduct an audit, and they've adopted some of his ideas including adding new bunkers and reshaping existing traps.

It's clear that the small team at Burghley Park have a difficult balance to strike. With a small budget in a rural area, and with plenty of courses nearby, they face constant competition for members.

They also require a busy course to keep funds coming in – but naturally this restricts their ability to work on the course as Gary explained earlier.

But Dave concluded: "The changes made after the Mackenzie audit prove we're constantly evolving. If we'd have stood still people wouldn't have wanted to play here – and I truly believe we're the best course in the area.

"Our greens are 75% bents and fescues cut to 3mm. I like perennial grasses – annual meadowgrass is too unpredictable for me. I love this course, if I could wrap it up and take it home with me every night I would."

A microscopic image of turfgrass cells, showing numerous bright yellow chloroplasts scattered throughout the blue-stained cell walls. The cells are arranged in a regular, grid-like pattern.

Pigments and photoprotectants in turfgrass

In a GI exclusive, three experts – including Dr Karl Danneberger who you can catch at the Turf Managers' Conference in January - look at the impact of pigments and photoprotectants in turfgrass

about the authors

**Dr Karl Danneberger**

Dr Karl Danneberger is Professor of Turfgrass Science in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at the Ohio State University. His research focus is turfgrass ecology and physiology and has received numerous awards.

**David Gardner**

David Gardner is an Associate Professor at Ohio State. He concentrates on Turfgrass Stress Physiology and weed control in turf.

**Dominic Petrella**

Dominic Petrella has concentrated on Pigments and Dyes and their impact on turf at the same university.

As a brief review, solar radiation can be a two way street. In one direction the sun's energy is converted, by the plant, into a useable form of energy such as carbohydrates.

On the other hand, excess light energy can also overload the same photosynthetic system leading to physiological stress and decline (Demmig-Adams and Adams III, 1992). Therefore, light stress can ultimately impact turfgrass performance, wear tolerance, and even disease resistance. By limiting abiotic stress due to excess radiant energy, cool season turfgrasses may be better fit to withstand other biotic and abiotic pressures. From a light perspective, it's fairly well known that ultra-violet (UV) wavelengths of light are damaging to organic tissue, but plants visible light (PAR) also has the potential to be an abiotic stress (Hakala-Yatkin et al., 2010).

Light energy as a Stress

Cool season turfgrasses are photosynthetically limited by the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. Because of this, turf species like *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Poa annua* can only utilise a given amount of light at a given amount of CO₂ (and temperature). Typically the amount of "useable" light intensity is around 400-500 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. When light intensities exceed these levels, plants are said to be photosynthetically saturated (Sharkey et al., 2010). To put it into perspective, light intensities during summer months will exceed 2,500 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ around midday. When levels of PAR exceed saturation, there is a high probability that the excess light will initiate chain reactions of oxidative stress leading to proteins, enzymes, membranes, and other molecules being degraded (Hakala-Yatkin et al., 2010). By relieving some light stress, we can potentially reduce physiological stress. The question is how can we decrease UV and visible light stress?

In theory, light stress as a whole can be mitigated by the application of photoprotectants (Kullavanijaya and Lim, 2005). These compounds have the innate ability to filter, absorb, and reflect damaging or excess light energy. Photoprotectants mimic the function of naturally occurring compounds that plants produce to filter and reflect light. Both the waxy cuticle layer and leaf hairs (trichomes) are constituent structures that function in reflecting UV and PAR light.

However, when levels of light stress become excessive, many plants will induce the synthesis of extra quantities of carotenoids, anthocyanins, and flavonoids. These molecules are natural plant pigments that function in dissipating UV and PAR light that isn't blocked by the cuticle or used for photosynthesis (Demmig-Adams and Adams III, 1992).

Pigments

As of now, most products containing a photoprotectant that are used on turfgrass contain a class of compounds termed pigments. By definition a pigment must meet two criteria: it must be insoluble in its solvent, and it must absorb/transmit a given wavelength of light and reflect back a different wavelength(s) (Zolinger, 2003). What we see reflected by the pigment is "colour". The ability that pigments possess can be taken advantage of by serving as a physical barrier or screen to UV and PAR. When applied to the surface of a leaf, a pigment layer still allows for the transmission of PAR; however, PAR intensity will be decreased and the majority of UV light will be absorbed or reflected. A layer of pigment applied to a turfgrass surface will essentially serve as a shade, and in most cases this can be a good thing. For example, *Poa annua* is naturally a shade adapted species. Under full sun and low moisture, this turf will tend to show decline come summer (Beard, 1978). However, the application of a pigment may serve as an option for managing *Poa annua* outside of its adaptive range.

Several companies are promoting products that contain pigment. How do they differ? As far as the green pigment goes, there is no difference. The synthetic pigment used is a chemical derivative of a phthalocyanine (PC) molecule. These molecules are related to both porphyrins (chlorophyll) and hemes (hemoglobin), but structurally are considered to be more stable (Dahlem, 1939). Chlorinated-copper phthalocyanine, more commonly known as Pigment Green 7, is responsible for all of the green pigmented products currently in the turf market. However, Green 7 is widely used in many other fields. Organic photovoltaic solar cells take advantage of PC chemistry by using them to convert sunlight into electricity (Djurisic et al., 2002). The properties of PC's that allow it to convert light into electricity are termed photosensitization reactions. These chemical reactions are

We are able to induce plant pigments that serve a protectant role through manipulating temperature and light.

purposeful in some fields, but may impart problems when the pigment is applied to plant tissues.

When a pigment is photosensitive, it undergoes chemical reactions that either results in its oxidation (loss of electrons) or it will pass along high amounts of energy to nearby molecules (Abramczyk et al., 2004). If placed on organic tissues many times this same process will result in the creation of reactive oxygen species (ROS). At this time, ROS production due to Green 7 applications has not been reported in plant tissue.

Green 7 is the only source of “colourant”, but there are additional pigments being used in many products. For example, both titanium oxide (TiO) and zinc oxide (ZnO) are listed as active ingredients in Turf-Screen®. Both of these compounds are true pigments. However, their optical properties are different compared to Green 7, and their ability to reflect and absorb light are more dependent on the size and quality of the particles (Diebold, 2003). Even though these oxides are known for their high UV (and PAR) reflective capabilities, these properties will decrease as the size of the particle also decreases (Serpone et al., 2001). Kaolinite, a clay mineral, has been sold under the label Surround WP® as product to prevent and decrease sun scald on fruit/vegetable crops. Kaolinite can also be found in Daconil Ultrex®. Like both metal oxides, kaolinite is known to be able to reflect solar radiation; however, when compared to pigments like TiO and ZnO, less kaolinite is needed and the particle size is less important (Glenn et al., 2002).

Besides the type of pigment used, the other aspect that differentiates many pigment products is the deposition aid or sticker. These additives spread the pigment on the leaf and allow it to last for a longer period of time under variable weather conditions. Some common deposition aids that are combined with pigments include: silicon emulsions, synthetic latex, resins (plant terpenoids), silicon dioxide, metal oxides, and even oils (Hazen, 2000). Not only do stickers stick, but they also can physically decrease evapotranspiration (ET). Many superintendents claim less watering when certain pigment products have been applied. Decreased water use is not a property of the pigment, but instead is caused by the deposition aid physically blocking water loss (Gale and Hagan, 1966). In the short term lower ET rates can be helpful, but



in the long run it could lead to other physiological dysfunctions.

And now for the most important question, do photoprotectants/pigments reduce turfgrass stress? Well – yes and no. One of the major factors in this decision is how we measure stress. The problem is many researchers measure stress in different fashions, and with different equipment. However, current research is showing that when Pigment Green 7 is applied in higher concentrations, it has the ability to slightly decrease light stress. Whether or not this decrease has any overall benefit is still questionable, but the research is starting to catch up and soon more answers should come available.

MAIN ABOVE: Pigments are being increasingly used as a replacement for winter overseeding warm season turfgrasses

LEFT: Besides being used to possibly protect turf or to decrease inputs, pigments can also be effectively used in late winter or early spring. For example, when coming out of winter *Poa annua* may be discolored or injured. Spraying a pigment can help provide green cover prior to new growth taking over.

INSET LEFT: A factor overlooked when discussing pigments and light protection is leaf coverage. Looking at this image, less than approximately 20% of the leaf in focus is coated in pigment. If the pigment provides some photoprotection, without adequate coverage (approx. ≥50%) more than likely there will not be a whole plant benefit. Pigment products may need optimized in terms of chemistry and application technique before any true decrease in stress can be measured.



BELOW MIDDLE: Some pesticides have the potential to cause unwanted discoloration. Many of these products may be essential, but the associated phytotoxicity will cause some superintendents not to use them. Applying a pigment before, mixed, or shortly after the pesticide has been sprayed can prevent the discoloration from showing through. The pigment doesn't have any effect on the efficacy of the pesticide, but using pigments in this fashion allows more options when choosing pesticides.

BOTTOM LEFT: Many pigment products produce vastly different colours when sprayed. The final colour on the turf can be affected by a variety of factors. The concentration of pigment green 7 and the type of additional additives in the product both play a role on how the pigment will look when sprayed. It's important to spray the pigment over a test area to determine if the rate you're using provides the colour you're looking for. Many pigments only have a suggested rate, so the rate should be adjusted to reach the desired colour.

BELOW: Rather than overseed bermudagrass in the fall, many superintendents have turned to painting. Painting dormant warm season turf can decrease costly inputs, while still maintaining a visually appealing turf. However, many question if pigments should be applied to warm season grasses outside of dormancy. The answer is no. Warm season plants rarely, if at all, are stressed by high light intensity. UV light may still be damaging, but these grasses are more adapted to handle UV light. The shade the pigment provides could end causing more harm than good on warm season turf. Using pigments outside of dormancy should be avoided at all costs.



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Askernish

Lost and found

Malcolm Peake tells the fascinating tale of how an enterprising group of greenkeepers helped regenerate a 'lost' golf course in the Outer Hebrides



The story of Askernish Golf Club on the west coast of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides began in 1891 when Lady Cathcart invited Old Tom Morris, keeper of the green at St Andrews and the first known course architect, to lay out a golf course. Old Tom described the land as “second to none in the various elements which go to make a very good golf course.”

In the spring of 2006 I took a call from Gordon Irvine MG. Gordon told me what seemed an unlikely story of finding a lost Old Tom Morris golf course that had fallen into disrepair while on a fishing trip. He convinced golf course architect Martin Ebert, Adam Lawrence, editor of *Golf Course Architect*, and Chris Haspell, Head Greenkeeper at Castle Stuart, to go to this isolated island, where they found the course.

They identified the probable routing through the dunes, and the sites of tees and greens. The club was still in existence, and played golf on nine simplistic holes on the edge of the dunes, but they had little money, facilities or machinery.

Gordon asked me to help raise funds and to promote the restoration of the golf course, but I needed to see this site for myself. On arrival I saw the towering dunes above the white sand beach.

I walked the incredibly fertile Machair, which is naturally reclaimed land from the beach. It was early summer and the floor was a carpet of rich and diverse colour containing, over 200 species of wildflowers.

I could identify buttercup, daisies, gentians, harebells, numerous orchids, ragged robin, and red clover amongst the profusion of herbage, and on the beach there were gulls, lapwings, oystercatchers, and ringed plover.

I approached friends for practical help. Amongst others, JHS carpets donated spike proof carpet for the proposed clubhouse, and the Berkshire GC donated redundant furniture.

The R&A provided initial financial support, and Ransomes Jacobsen supplied machinery for maintaining the golf course, seven years later RJ are still generously supporting the project.

When Gordon started the restoration of the golf course in 2006 the biggest challenge was the weather. The Outer Hebrides suffers from some of the most extreme weather in the UK, with severe gales and storms regularly battering the

Western Isles. He began the restoration with the help of Allan MacDonald, now Head Greenkeeper at Askernish, and Euan Grant, then Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, which was a nice link with Old Tom.

During the restoration, construction materials were frequently blown away and at other times sand from the beach was blown onto the previous days' work.

The 11th green sitting just above the beach was a particular challenge, and a temporary four foot turf wall was eventually built around the green to protect the area whilst work was underway. Seaweed was sourced locally which stabilised the sand, adding organic material which also helped moisture retention.

Rabbit damage was another huge problem. When repairing a rabbit hole a whole warren would often be revealed, and the area then had to be totally restored and turfed. In the early days some of the local crofters did not support the restoration of the course, and when work started in a new area, the next day they discovered cattle had been moved to graze on the new turf.

Now these issues have been resolved and crofter and golfers work in harmony in this wonderful environment.

Allan MacDonald said: “I cannot stress enough how grateful we are to Ransomes Jacobsen for their help, we would not have been able to produce the course we have without the use of their machinery.” The course has been developed in the most sustainable way using the native fescue grasses.

All greenkeeping activities are aimed at promoting these species, which are slow growing, disease and drought resistant, which is vital with no irrigation system.

Askernish is situated in one of the wettest parts of Europe with 1800mm annual rainfall, but there have been two six-week periods without rain, yet the deep rooted native species have survived.

The original contouring of the green surfaces requires a height of cut that would not be playable on greens not dominated by native fescue.

The course not only gives immense pleasure to golfers, but has been used as a fine educational tool funded by The R&A with students from all over the world having the opportunity to see how golf evolved. The Student Sustainability Project is hosted by Askernish, and welcomes six greenkeeping



RIGHT: Head greenkeeper Allan MacDonald with Gordon Irvine





about the author



Malcolm Peake

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

students from Elmwood and Myerscough Colleges. The students receive tutorials, workshop and practical activities on how to build and maintain a golf course in a sustainable way (read Geoff Fenn's story from his visit on the following pages).

Well over a hundred golfers from across the world enjoyed pitting their wits against the course at the recent Askernish Open.

Although they may not have been aware that electricity to the clubhouse is supplied from its own wind turbine, with excess going into the national grid, reducing its carbon footprint.

The practice range with nearby putting and chipping green gives

plenty of scope for the PGA qualified teachers.

The new machinery compound/indoor golf centre has nets and artificial putting green to hone technique or warm up.

Golfers can even have their swings filmed and analysed on a large screen, which was recently donated by Panasonic.

In winter cattle and sheep graze the fairways and in summer with the machair a profusion of flora, the sea a shade of azure and with the tide out and the white shell beach revealed, there is no better place to play golf.

Artificial fertilisers and herbicides are prohibited from use on the course.

This move has received great plaudits from environmental bodies who have branded Askernish "the most natural course in the world." But best of all the islanders have a superb links, with the restoration completed in eight years.

Askernish is a golf course for aficionados of real golf, who like to use their imagination and skill on a course which sits naturally in its environment.

This project is a wonderful example of the spirit of enterprise by multi-skilled community with the help of an industry renowned for its generosity of spirit, and intrigued by the romance of this exceptional opportunity to restore an Old Tom Morris masterpiece.



My R&A Scholarship at Askernish



R&A Scholar Geoff Fenn, Course Manager at Bedford & County Golf Club, recently visited Askernish through the scholarship scheme. It turned out to be the highlight of his greenkeeping career...

Proven performance across the UK



Richard Cutler
Course Manager
La Moye Golf Club

"Medallion TL quickly stopped disease and allowed turf to recover."



Marcus Oakey
Head Greenkeeper
Moor Allerton
Golf Club

"Even with snow cover we achieved five weeks disease prevention."



Stan Power
Head Greenkeeper
Hanbury Manor Golf Club

"The greens treated with Medallion TL came through the harsh winter period with no signs of disease."

Eight lucky R&A Scholars recently had the opportunity to study and play at Askernish. I was one of them, and we were immediately awed by our surroundings.

We were accompanied by Paul Miller from Elmwood College, Andy Owen of Myerscough College and Steve Isaac from the R&A. Head Greenkeeper Allan MacDonald introduced us to the course with an overview of its fascinating history - from its design by Old Tom Morris in 1891 to the decline of the original layout in the 1920's and its eventual restoration in the most traditional fashion.

Our appetites whetted, we headed out onto the links for a round. It is only once out on the course you begin to realise just how special this place is. There is a stretch from the 7th tee where you encounter some of the greatest holes you could ever play. Dramatic views, brilliant design and most of all, great fun!

The greens are not visually as well manicured as golfers are used to, but this should come as no surprise as they are managed in the most natural way and the budget does not allow for any other type of approach.

Askernish is on a small island with a low population and requires a long journey to reach it. There is no passing trade!

The greens have literally just been mown down from the natural vegetation when course construction began in 2006. Maintenance is restricted to top dressing using the local dune sand mixed with a little local seaweed meal, a little iron and mowing (6mm in summer, 7mm in winter). This was my first visit to the club, but those who have visited over a number of years are full of praise for the annual improvement of the playing surfaces under this minimal maintenance approach.

The club has tried to keep the course in a traditional style - this means encountering some rabbit scrapes and broad-leaved weeds on the fairways and some coarse grasses, weeds and moss on the greens, but it all adds to the feeling that you are playing golf as it really should be.

We took a series of performance measurements of the greens, the most interesting being the Greens-tester (the holing-out test). The ball was rolled into the hole from 3ft, 6ft and 9ft and the ball was rolling straight and true.

It's a unique environment. During the winter months cattle graze the course - only the greens are protected by electric fences. Local wildlife groups are fully supportive of the course and understand the positive impact it has on the environment. The ultimate in sustainability.

I really would like to say a big thank you to the R&A, Askernish Golf Club and Paul, Steve and Andy for what was undoubtedly the highlight of my 20 years in the greenkeeping industry.



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To the Manor born

In his latest article on greenkeepers taking on increasingly diverse roles, Laurence Pithie met Paul Bishop, who combines the roles of Course Manager and Estate Manager at the Manor House Hotel Golf Club in Wiltshire





Paul began his career as an apprentice greenkeeper at Haywards Heath Golf Club in 1980. Having gained valuable knowledge and experience, he became Head Greenkeeper at Tunbridge Wells, and after spells at East Sussex National and Hever Castle he accepted the role of Course Manager at the then Castle Combe Golf course in 1994.

Apart from the club changing its name to that of the Manor House Hotel and Golf Club (part of Exclusive Golf and Hotels), Paul rebuilt five greens and numerous tees and bunkers.

At that time, eight full time staff were employed to maintain the golf course, plus three gardeners to maintain the hotel grounds and gardens.

Recognising the various changes in the industry and the need to be

more business orientated, Paul gained qualifications in Enterprise and Business Management as well as an Intermediate Diploma in Sports Turf Management and a Management Course at Cranfield University: these would prove extremely beneficial in the future.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

In 2004 the head gardener resigned. This presented an opportunity to evaluate the way in which the entire estate was being managed, and whether it was possible to streamline the business for greater efficiency.

Prior to that, the only input from maintenance was the mowing of the Manor Hotel lawns. Having given the proposed Estate Manager role due consideration, Paul accepted the wider responsibilities it would entail and set about implement-

ing the various changes that were necessary. Paul takes up the story.

“There was inevitably some reluctance to change from both staff and golf club members and it was essential to achieve the right balance of staff between the hotel grounds and golf course.

“Having added responsibility for the gardens meant that I needed a much better understanding of horticulture since the kitchen garden, orchard and flower beds were now part of my remit.

“I had to challenge myself and to further progress my career, I enrolled on the one year Royal Horticulture Society Level 2 course at nearby Lackham College.

“At first it was a strange experience embarking on day release to learn more about crops, fruit and vegetables, plant selection, composting and landscape design; a far cry from turf grass manage-





MANOR HOUSE TEAM: Rob Preston, John Murzyn, Tim Fry, Gian Povey, Paul Bishop, Tony Simmons, Charlie Gaisford, Steve Pickthall, Chris Cowley.

BELOW: Paul with Gloucester Old Spot pigs



ment! But having at least a basic understanding of horticulture was essential if I was to succeed in my new role.”

ROLE DIVERSITY

Paul continued: “With separate budgets for the golf course and the hotel grounds to produce, implement and control, it became obvious that I needed to ensure that I had the support of a dedicated team that I could rely upon.

“Although I was on familiar ground with golf course management, I would be relying heavily on the skills of others within the hotel grounds which were several hundred metres away from the golf course.

“I was satisfied that my two key positions of Deputy Course Manager and Mechanic were undertaken by Gian Povey and Charlie Gaisford respectively; both of whom were suitably qualified and experienced.

“With a good support team on the course and a sound management structure already in place, I could at least focus more attention on the aspect of the business that I was less familiar with.

“For me this was a steep learning curve as I gradually got to grips with the seasonal requirements of vegetable production and plant breeding, while still maintaining the golf course to the required

standard. But I knew that if this aspect of the business was to fulfil its potential then further changes would be required.”

MOVING FORWARD

With the downturn in the economy being fully felt by 2008, Paul knew there was a need to further enhance what they were capable of producing on site, and one of the key objectives was to offer hotel guests locally produced food as much as possible.

This was seen as a drive towards greater sustainability and offering hotel guests something extra.

Paul added: “For this to be achieved there would be a planned expansion of the vegetable garden, the creation of a poly tunnel to supply micro-veg and herbs to the Hotel’s Executive Chef and the introduction of livestock.

“At first this was a daunting task and once again highlighted the need to hire the right people with the appropriate knowledge, skill set and above all, the right attitude to be part of a dedicated team.

“John Rowlands, an ex-livestock farmer with a horticulture background, was appointed in the new role as Garden Supervisor and is assisted by one full time and one part time gardener.

“Fast forward to 2013 and we now have 65 chickens, several Gloucester Old Spot pigs, a large

log store, a continually expanding vegetable garden and enhanced shrub and flower borders.

“Fresh salad and vegetables are supplied to the hotel daily, along with 40 to 50 eggs, this benefits every hotel guest as they tuck into fresh eggs for breakfast.

“Having livestock on site requires a licence from DEFRA as well as one for the movement of animals to market several times each year; not always an easy task when the pigs escaped on one occasion and had to be rounded up.

“Had this been on camera, it would have been a YouTube sensation!

“Home produced pork is available all year round and other produce which is required by the hotel is sourced from surrounding farms wherever possible.

“Foliar feeding the greens in the morning and pigs and chickens in the afternoon with pellets is all in a days’ work at the Manor.”

WORK ROUTINES AND CHALLENGES

With such a diverse role and high expectations from golfers and hotel guests, having a well-planned work program is essential for the business to thrive in both areas.

Paul’s typical day during the summer starts at 5.40am at the golf course with a brief meeting with his deputy, who then assigns work



Gardeners Robert Hobbs, John Rowlands, and Theresa Macfarlane in poly tunnel within the hotel grounds

tasks which are listed on the staff bulletin board.

Greens staff commence work at 6am and then it's all hands on deck for everyone including Paul.

He is very much a working manager and is encouraged to put his own stamp on the Estate, working with the General Manager Stephen Browning and the Exclusive Golf Manager Steve Slinger.

With regards to the challenges being faced on and off the golf course, Paul explained:

"The Manor House course is very diverse with an abundance of flora and fauna and therefore needs to be sensitively managed within its unique environment of woodland,

valleys, stream, ponds and grass-land.

"This is a very undulating course with some steep sided valleys so safety is a primary consideration.

"One of our biggest challenges is managing the 85 bunkers, also dealing with shade and sometimes limited air circulation around a few of the greens keeps us on our toes. Our fertiliser input for sand based greens is low at around 90kgs N/Ha per annum. This limits our OM level which means our need for coring or deep scarifying is minimal. Regular light topdressings are carried out with a Dakota top dresser and monthly aeration is achieved with a lightweight Redexim Vertidrain 7117.

"Without major disruption to the playing surfaces in season, we can virtually guarantee good playing surfaces at all times. There are many challenges on the Estate, and our biggest on the course is achieving consistently smooth fast greens. This has been greatly enhanced by our recent purchase of a Tru-Turf roller – one of the best pieces of equipment I have purchased. Our greatest challenge on the hotel grounds is to meet our requirement to produce sufficient fresh produce. We are reliant on reasonable weather although we do have the benefit of the poly tunnel."

"Fresh salad and vegetables are supplied to the hotel daily, along with 40 to 50 eggs, this benefits every hotel guest as they tuck into fresh eggs for breakfast"



SUMMARY

Paul's role at The Manor House certainly requires a diverse range of agronomic, management and horticulture skills as well as a working knowledge of dealing with livestock. He also plays a leading role in implementing best practices and health and safety measures at the company's other course in Sussex as well as five other hotel grounds.

Paul concludes: "This is a rewarding position and I'm sure there are other hotel operated courses where similar opportunities could arise.

"My advice would be; don't be afraid to have a go. Learning new skills is essential for understanding any business but perhaps the key is to ensure that you hire the right staff with passion and aptitude for the job required."

about the author



Laurence Pithie MG

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

Laurence is grateful to Paul Bishop and The Manor House Hotel GC for their help and input in producing this article



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Rhys Butler, Links Manager,
Royal St David’s Golf Club

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Here are the ten BIGGA members who will be flying to Florida in February for the Golf Industry Show courtesy of Bernhard.

They will be the 13th delegation but there's nothing unlucky about the trip of a lifetime that awaits them. They all completed the application form and went through a rigorous interview process before being selected.

In 2014 the GIS is being held at the Orange County Convention Centre which the delegates will attend, taking advantage of the many educational opportunities as well as exploring the show. They will also be shown around golf courses in the area and meet some of the superintendents.

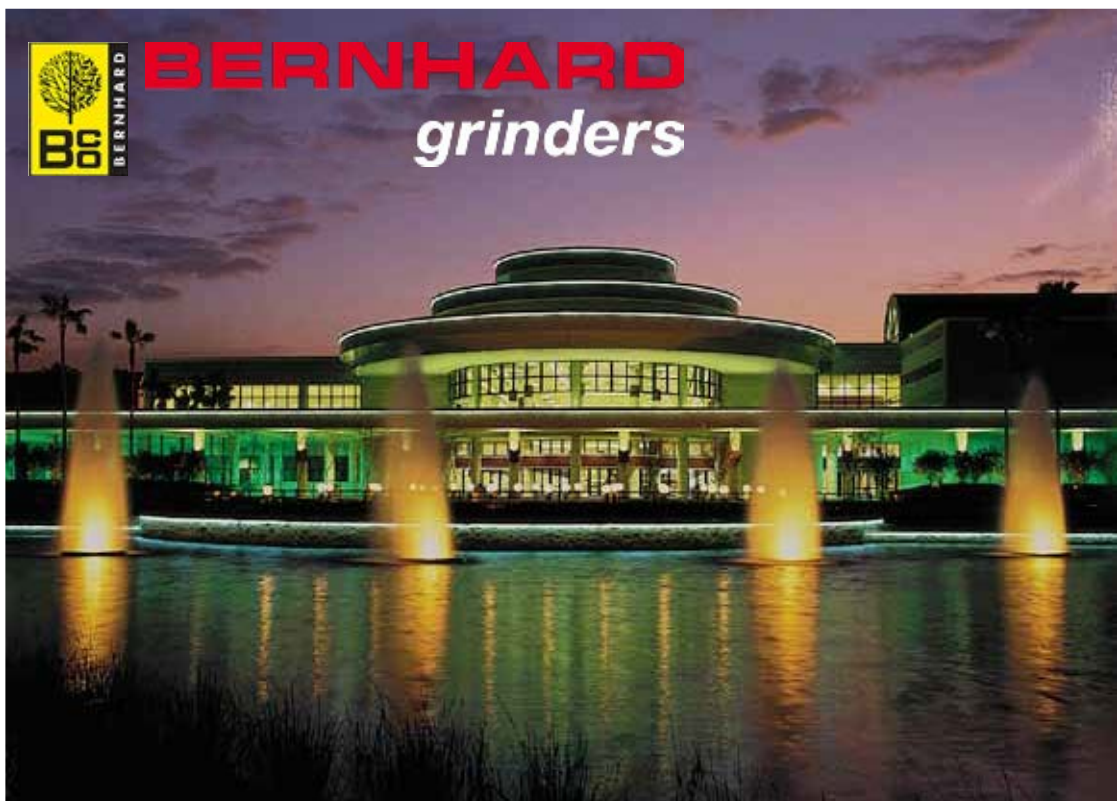
Dave Collins from Lickey Hills is one of the delegates and said: "I'm very excited, I hope it will give me the chance to pass on to my team the great things BIGGA do and what you can achieve in your career. I'm also very active on Twitter (@greenkeeperdave), through this I've spoken to many American greenkeepers and am hoping to meet some of them in person in February."

Fellow delegate Steve Hemsley from Bolton Old Links added: "I'm looking forward to seeing how other courses deal with problems in a totally different environment to the UK. But it's all about the overall experience, I'm keen to take advantage of the course visits, education, networking...all of it".

February in Florida



BERNHARD
grinders



Tom Brearley
Assistant Greenkeeper
Sunningdale Golf Club

Tom has a BSc (Hons) degree in Golf Club Management and was employed at High Bullen Golf & Country Club and Meyrick Park Golf Club prior to his move to Sunningdale. He was also a member of this year's Open Support Team and is particularly looking forward to meeting American greenkeepers in February.



Paul Armour
Head Greenkeeper
Lochgelly Golf Club

Paul began his career as an apprentice greenkeeper with Fife Council and has gone on to work at Ratho Park Golf Club, Aberdour Golf Club and Leven Links. He has attended many seminars organised by the Scottish Region's Central Section and was part of the Open Support Team at Muirfield earlier this year.



Jaey Goodchild
Course Manager
Bowood Golf & Country Club

Brisbane-born Jaey was a Deputy Course Manager at Chobham Golf Club and The Richmond Golf Club before becoming Course Manager at Bowood Golf & Country Club in 2011. He is a member of BIGGA's South West Committee.



Dave Collins
Head Greenkeeper
Lickey Hills Golf Club

Dave began his career at Handsworth Golf Club before changing track to work for Rover. However, he returned to the industry as Head Greenkeeper at Witney Manor Golf Course before joining Lickey Hills. He also works on the pitch at Aston Villa on matchdays.



Gavin Neill
Deputy Course Manager
St Andrews

Gavin worked at Tain Golf Club before joining the Ohio State University Programme and continuing his education at several American clubs. He then joined St Andrews, working on the New Course then the Old Course. He is currently Deputy Course Manager of the New and Jubilee Courses.



John Entwistle
Head Greenkeeper
Roehampton Club

John worked at the Double Eagle Club in Ohio as part of Ohio State University Programme before taking a BSc (Hons) in Biotechnology and Turfgrass Science at Myerscough College. He joined Roehampton in 2006 and has worked his way up to Head Greenkeeper.



Steve Hemsley
Head Greenkeeper
Bolton Old Links Golf Club

Steve spent a year working at The London Golf Club before spending five years at St Andrews. He then had spells at Northwood Golf Club and Reddish Vale Golf Club before becoming Head Greenkeeper at Bolton Old Links. He has worked at several large tournaments and has been on the BIGGA Open Support Team three times.



Andrew Laing
Course Manager
Gaudet Luce Golf Club

Andrew became Head Greenkeeper at Gaudet Luce and Little Lakes in Worcestershire aged just 21. Following the merger of the two he became Course Manager at Gaudet Luce managing both the golf course and the rest of the outdoor land on the site.



Paul Mills
Course Manager
Penn Golf Club

Paul trained at Bloxwich Golf Club gaining his Level Three before moving to Stratford upon Avon Golf Club as First Assistant. He then secured his current position of Course Manager at Penn Golf Club in Staffordshire. The Club's environmental stewardship has been recognised in previous STRI awards.



Geoff Fenn
Course Manager
Bedford & County Golf Club

Geoff has spent all of his greenkeeping career at Bedford and has now been Course Manager for 12 years. He has a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf and is currently studying a BSc (Hons) in Sportsturf Science, both through Myerscough College. He recently joined other R&A Scholars on an educational trip to Askernish which you can read about on page 33.



Think ahead for best tractor choice



James de Haviland examines your options when choosing a new tractor – a hugely important long-term decision for the future of your course

When it comes to buying a new tractor it may be tempting to simply consider a model that essentially does what the outgoing machine did. A bit more power, greater linkage lift, better hydraulic flow and larger wheels and tyres perhaps but still a similar class of machine. But should you think a bit harder?

Tractors tend to have longer renewal cycles than some other items of kit, to the point where a 15 to 20 year old tractor is far from uncommon on even the most well equipped courses. Make the wrong choice now and you may well have to live with the consequences for many years, which in turn leads to conservative buying.

Mechanical transmission basics

A constant mesh mechanical

transmission remains the simplest gearbox offering. You know the score; a clutch needs to be depressed to change gears and swapping between working ranges, the tractor typically needing to be brought to a stop before swapping gears. A synchromesh mechanical transmission will ease gear changing on the move but many transmissions of this type will retain a constant mesh range change.

A simple forward-reverse shuttle makes it easier to change the direction of travel but with the operator using the clutch and needing to stop the tractor before changing direction. A synchro shuttle still requires the operator to use the clutch but a change in direction can be selected before the tractor actually stops. A power shuttle essentially allows the operator to swap between forward and reverse without stopping but how abruptly the direction change is made will

be down to the selected gear ratio and the speed of travel when the shuttle is used. More sophisticated shuttles will smoothly 'modulate' the direction change.

A mechanical splitter will allow the speed of the selected ratio to be reduced or increased. If an operator uses the splitter in third gear, for example, the split ratio will be between second gear and third gear. The splitter function is activated without using the clutch. On modern transmissions this is typically achieved via an electro-hydraulically engaged clutch pack with a button selector on the gear lever, sometimes described as a 'Hi-Lo' transmission.

A semi-powershift mechanical transmission provides a clutch-free 'push button' electro-hydraulic shift within a given range. Massey Ferguson's Dyna QPS 12x12 transmission is a good example of a semi-powershift as it allows gear changes

TOP: Where Kubota's HST Plus hydrostatic cruise control differs from conventional hydrostatic drive is its ability to monitor and fix the forward speed. You do not have to restrict your buying choice to a mechanical transmission for fixed forward speed work.

BELOW: Tractors with Dyna QPS mechanical transmissions are ideally suited to fixed speed applications but thanks to having a shuttle are equally at home with tasks such as loader work. When buying a tractor it pays to know how various transmissions operate and how they differ.

to be made on the move without the operator pressing the clutch pedal; the operator simply presses a + or - button on the top of the gear stick to change between the four gears in each of the transmission's three ranges. It's available on MF1500 series tractors of a nominal 47 to 59hp.

Hydrostatic transmission basics

OK, we all know about this but it's still worth doing a simple outline. Hydrostatic or 'hydro' transmissions have become the default choice for tractors that will undertake mowing and also for general duties to include front loader work. Although there are subtle differences in how they work, all hydrostatic drives employ an engine driven pump to drive a motor that, on tractors, will typically divert power to the wheels via a mechanical gearbox. The latter may offer two or more 'ranges' so increasing the transmission flexibility; low range could, for example, offer a working speed range from 0 to 5kph, mid-range 0 to 10kph and high up to 20kph.

More advanced hydro transmissions will include a cruise control. In outline this will allow the opera-

tor to set the engine throttle at the right speed to drive a mower; typically this will be to achieve a fixed 540rpm at the PTO. The tractor can then be brought up to the desired working speed on the travel pedal, the operator then selecting this as the cruise speed that will then be held automatically. Intelligent cruise control will allow the desired working speed to deviate to accommodate changes in load on the engine. Hit a thick patch of grass or start climbing a steep slope and the forward speed is reduced.

The eHydro system from John Deere and HST Plus from Kubota go a step further. Although they operate in different ways, both these transmission options allow the operator to dial in a fixed cruise speed that is in effect 'locked' to the engine speed, just as it would be with a mechanical transmission. The advantage this offers is in enabling a fixed forward speed to be matched to a set engine speed. This enables aeration kit to be operated at exactly the right forward speed to give consistent, and easily repeated, hole spacing.

Other hydrostatic transmission features to consider include anti-stall, which prevents the engine getting 'bogged down' when driving a loader equipped tractor into a

heap of material. Without anti-stall, the travel pedal will keep the demand for oil from the pump to drive motor fully open, regardless of load. This demand will become too great for the engine, slowing it down to the point where it will eventually stall unless the operator backs off the travel pedal. Anti-stall does some thinking for you, taking over the relationship between engine speed and travel pedal demands automatically. Not all systems are equal, however, with some having a setting that essentially cuts drive before the tractor wheels lose grip; others are more aggressively set and can see the tractor break traction long before anti-stall kicks in. You only find out by trying, with a degree of variation being allowed by the control software.

CVT - variable speeds with mechanical advantage?

CVT transmissions are not quite as easy to describe. In the case of the New Holland EasyDrive system, an amalgam of a variable steel belt drive and planetary gears is used, a mechanical connection between the engine and transmission remaining at all times with the claim this reduces power loss. The Fendt Vario system employs a



combination of hydrostatic pumps, motors and mechanical gears. Vastly different they may be, but the aims of EasyDrive and Vario transmissions are essentially to offer a stepless range of speeds from zero up.

In outline a CVT transmission will do what a hydrostatic drive does but with the potential to improve mechanical efficiency. Both EasyDrive and Vario transmissions use software to control the engine speed and the transmission. EasyDrive is 'simpler' than the Vario system, which in part explains why it is viable to fit it to a lower power range of tractors.

In terms of set-up, EasyDrive can operate in pretty much a similar way to the eHydro and HST Plus systems employed by John Deere and Kubota. The Fendt Vario transmission could have a couple of books written about it and these would still leave room for further explanation. But when it comes to having a setting for pretty much any application you can imagine, a Vario transmission will have a solution. New Holland EasyDrive CVT is an option on New Holland Boomer 3000 series tractors spanning a nominal 41 to 51hp. Fendt only offers a Vario CVT transmission, its tractors starting at 70hp plus.

Summary:

Choosing the right tractor can appear complicated, but if you have a list of set demands you are more likely to make an informed buying decision. The size, weight and type of equipment fitted to the tractor will dictate its weight and horsepower, but other features can make a big difference to you and those that work the tractor. The key is to ask questions, try several different tractors and talk to those you know who have a given make and model. A tractor is a long term investment so it pays to think long and hard before making a buying decision.



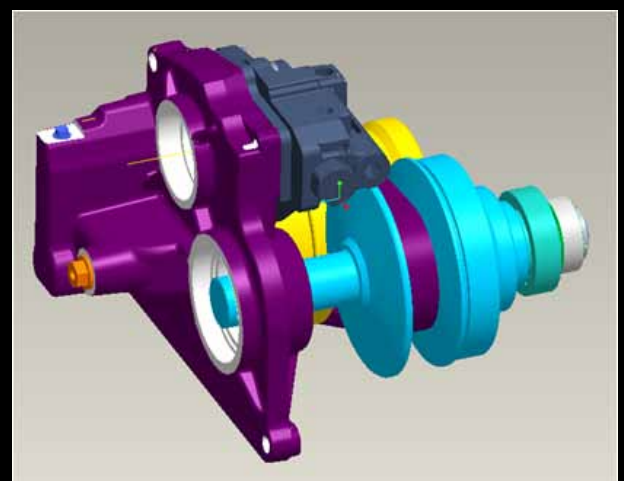
The New Holland EasyDrive CVT transmission is set up using a set of buttons mounted to the left of the operator. The main buttons are pretty easy to understand, with only Speed Set needing a bit of understanding. This control is essentially used to cap the tractors speed to 30%, 60% or 100% of maximum, in effect changing the sensitivity of the travel pedal to suit different applications.



With the John Deere eHydro transmission, setting a fixed working speed is simple; use the travel pedals to attain the desired speed and press set. The speed can then be fine tuned, on the move, using the same switch.



A shuttle forward and reverse lever makes changing direction much faster and is recommended for front loader work. The Power Reverser power shuttle on John Deere tractors allows the shift back and forth to be made without using the clutch.



A 'clever' transmission need not necessarily be complex. The New Holland EasyDrive system is a good example, combining a steel belt variator and epicyclic gearbox to deliver stepless speeds. The variator, with the engine driven pulley that drives the epicyclic sun gear, is coloured blue in the diagram, with the output pulley, which in turn drives the epicyclic ring gear, in yellow. The pulleys open and close under hydraulic pressure, clamping the steel drive band so it will not slip under extreme load. The integral hydraulic pump, shown in black, delivers 42 lpm at 2,600rpm engine speed.

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A pain in the neck?

Former Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper John Ross now works to improve health and safety in the workplace. Here he looks at various medical conditions that can arise from greenkeeping and advises you how to avoid them

The golf course is a hazardous place to work. Low branches, steep slopes, chainsaw blades, flying golf balls, chemicals – all risks that greenkeepers are exposed to.

Generally speaking, golf clubs will manage that risk because it is visible and obvious through risk assessments, procedures being put in place, and staff training.

These risks are categorised as low likelihood – high outcome events because you can go years without any incidents, and high outcome because of the immediate need for medical attention and the potential for serious harm. It is the potential for harm that raises the alarm and focuses the mind when completing a risk assessment. We visualise the accident, imagine the scenario, and assess accordingly.

However experience tells me this is not where the greenkeeper is most at risk. There are hidden exposures too often taken for granted and often ignored in the risk assessment process. These

are high likelihood - low outcome exposures, high likelihood because exposure is almost certain and low outcome because the resulting injuries are not immediate nor obviously associated with the exposure. One category of this injury is Musco Skeletal Disorders (MSDs).

These injuries often happen over a long period of time and are caused by poor ergonomics, poor posture, repetitive tasks, the exertion of excessive force, working in restricted spaces, or badly planned manual handling. They can also be caused by normal daily activities such as playing sport. MSDs are generally upper limb and lower limb problems and/or back pain. If diagnosed they can be treated – but if not treated they can become chronic problems.

WRULDs (Work Related Upper Limb Disorders)

This is a group of conditions that affect the arms, wrists and hands, caused by forceful, frequent

about the author



John Ross MG

John Ross is a Master Greenkeeper and was a Course Manager for 20 years. After taking redundancy in 2010 he studied for a degree in Health and Safety and is now a member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He established 'Compliant Grounds' in January 2013 with the intent of providing a qualified competent service to the golf industry - www.compliantgrounds.co.uk

Catch John's 'Accident Causation' seminar at BIGGA's South East Regional Conference on Tuesday 19 November!



WRLDs (Work Related Lower Limb Disorders)

Affecting the hips, legs and ankles these are less common. Symptoms are sore tendons, stiffness, weakness, cramp and swelling of the joints and tendons. Users of early hydraulic driven machinery will be familiar with the phrase triplex knee, this was in fact a WRLD caused by the constant excessive pressure exerted by the knee on a badly designed drive pedal.

twisting and repetitive movements. Common types of WRULDS are tendonitis, carpal tunnel syndrome and hand arm vibration syndrome.

Tendonitis is commonly known as tennis/golfers elbow (medial/lateral epicondylitis) and is caused by repetitive movements and excessive workloads without adequate rest periods.

Carpal tunnel syndrome occurs when tendons or ligaments in the wrist become enlarged, often as a result of repetitive use.

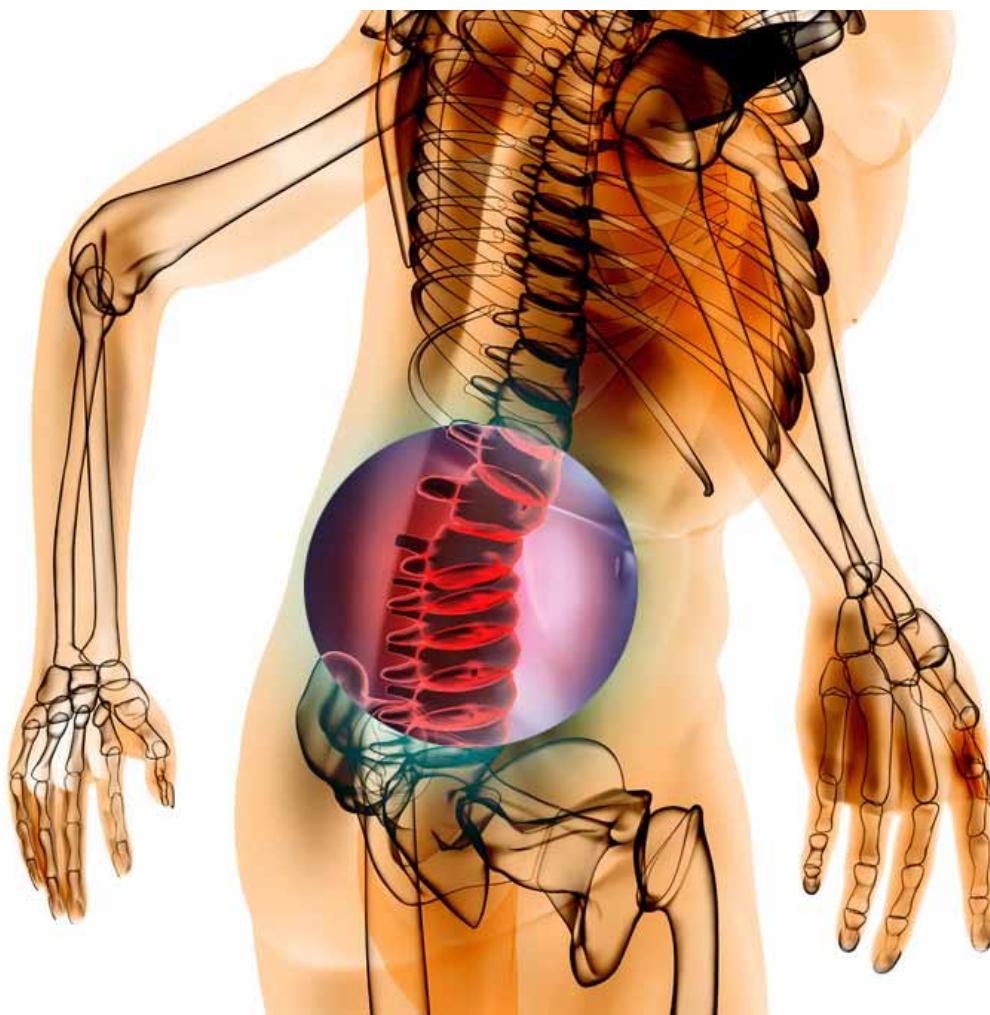
The excessive use of vibrating tools can cause hand arm vibration syndrome and aggravate carpal tunnel syndrome. Hand arm vibration syndrome affects the blood vessels, nerves muscles and joints of the hand.

This is a widespread condition that affects thousands of workers and ranges from a tingling of the fingers in its mildest form to extreme pain and reduced gripping capacity at its severest.

Back Pain

Back pain is a strain of the muscle or other soft tissue connected to the vertebrae. Sometimes it is the intervertebral disc that is strained causing it to bulge, this is called a slipped, prolapsed or herniated disc and the result is the damaged disc pressing on the spinal nerve. If it presses the sciatic nerve, the pain will be felt in the leg some distance from the back. This is called a referred pain.

Depending on which vertebrae are affected the pain can be felt down the back of the leg, or in some cases down the thighs. Eight out of ten adults will have some form of back pain during their life. In many cases there is not a specific underlying problem or condition that can be identified as the cause of the pain. However factors that can increase the risk of pain or further aggravate it include standing, sitting or bending down for long periods, lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling loads that are too heavy, or poor technique in these situations. Operating equipment that exposes operators



TIPS

Here are some quick tips on how to minimise the chances of being affected by the conditions mentioned above:

- Avoid manual handling and repetitive tasks
- Where it cannot be avoided reduce it by rotating tasks, reducing loads and using manual handling aids - (see HSE booklet indg398). If a task can be mechanised, it should be
- Remember manual handling is the moving of any load by bodily force including lifting, pulling, pushing or shoving
- Organise your deliveries and manage your storage to minimise distances travelled and loads carried (storing fertiliser bags at waist height, and liquids with handles at hand height avoids bending and stooping)
- Report concerns to a manager or supervisor
- Make suggestions to improve working conditions
- Use anything provided to prevent MSDs as instructed
- Take breaks from repetitive or forceful tasks
- Do not expose yourself to vibration beyond the exposure action level of 2.5 m/s^2 in an eight hour period
- Be aware of the early symptoms of hand arm vibration syndrome
- Do not use vibrating machinery in the cold, wet or whilst smoking (all reduce blood flow to the nerves)

to body vibration, trips or falls, poor posture or being overweight can also cause back pain.

Sprains and Strains

A sprain is when a ligament is stretched beyond its capacity, these are most common in the arm or wrist and generally happen as the result of an accident or poorly planned tasks. Fatigue is a factor in strains – not tiredness but the sudden use of a muscle that has been idle for a while. A strain is a stressing of a muscle that can result in muscular tear.

Abdominal Hernia

A common injury resulting from lifting or digging, it occurs as a result of a weakness in the abdominal wall which develops into a localised hole through which abdominal organs may protrude. The likelihood of a hernia is increased by a bad diet or smoking.

Employers and employees duties

It is clearly set out in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 that

both the employer and employee have duties in relation to managing health and safety. The employer has a duty to ensure - so far as is reasonably practicable - the health, safety and welfare of his employee. The employee has a duty to take reasonable care of themselves and others, and not to intentionally or recklessly interfere with anything provided in the interests of health and safety.

There are other duties relating to the management of risks, and these are set out in the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. They also apply to both the employer and the employee.

The approved code of practice in Regulation 3 states that significant risks and hazards should be addressed, and that all activities including routine and non-routine should be reviewed. Regulation 6 Health Surveillance places a duty on the employer to offer employers health surveillance as appropriate with regards to risks to their health and safety. What this means is the employers are bound by law to identify any risk associated with work, and if identified, to keep records of any occurrences if they arise.

All these conditions can be caused or aggravated by work, or by normal daily activities or hobbies. If a task or piece of equipment is badly designed, it should be highlighted in the risk assessment, and managers should be aware that risk assessments are evidence that would be used in the eventuality of a claim.

Footnote

My personal experience has prompted me to write this piece. I spent five years in pain as a result of both medial and lateral epicondylitis, have suffered sciatica and had a slipped disc. When I was a Course Manager I lost my Deputy for 18 weeks due to two abdominal hernia operations and countless days for back pain.

I know too many greenkeepers with similar injuries and as much as we love golf and golf courses, later in life the price paid can be debilitating. It is well documented that agriculture is regarded as a dangerous profession and the similarities between the farm and golf course are too close for comfort.

To my knowledge there has never been a survey on the cost to the golf industry of days lost through these conditions - however I am sure that if one were conducted, the results would mean minds would become concentrated.

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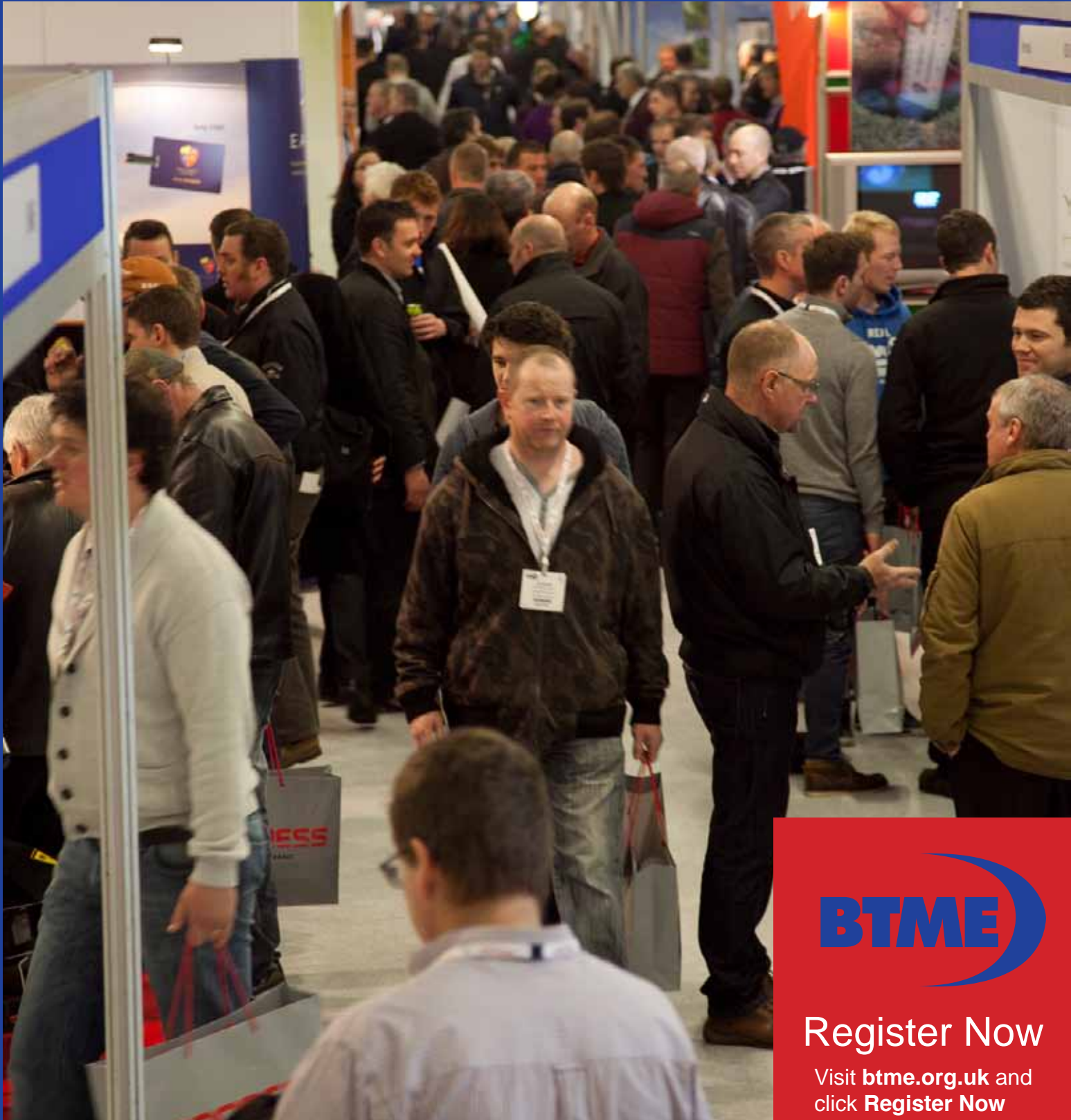
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Section Notes

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steve.castle@bigga.co.uk
by the 10th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section,
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Around the green

Scotland

Contact your Section correspondent with news,
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Events Coming Up

North - Two outings next year at two great courses. Spring outing is at Moray GC on 1 May 2014 and the Autumn at Inverurie GC on Thursday 11 September.

Central - We are still working on staging a mini conference at Auchterarder GC in early December. Once all the speakers and subjects are confirmed then we will email the information to all Section members as normal as well as putting the information on Facebook and the Central Section website. What we can confirm is that the event will be free for Section members and depending on the uptake places may be available to members of other Sections.

East - The 27th AGM will be held at Ravelston GC on Tuesday 5 November, registration will be from 10am with the AGM starting at 10.30am, this will be followed with a Guest speaker and 9 holes of golf to contest the Jimmy Neilson Trophy, this event is free and all members are welcome to attend. We are currently setting up our Christmas event/night, more details to follow shortly.

West - By the time you get this magazine the AGM at Haggis Castle GC will be over - I'll report on this next month.

West - The annual dinner proved very successful with 28 turning up for a pre theatre meal and then on for a few drinks. This year a similar format is planned and the intended date is Friday 29 November, meeting at Qui Italia around 6.30pm.

Ayrshire - AGM Thursday 14 November at The Irvine Golf Club, Bogside at 7pm.

News

Central - A report from the Section AGM on 29 October is available on the website. Prior to the meeting Lynn Jopling of the Scottish Golf Environment Group gave a presentation on the free services available to Scottish Golf Clubs by SGEA as well as offering many tips on how to improve the green credentials of your Golf Club without breaking the bank.

Central - Congratulations to Phil Hind and Scott Watson of St Andrews Links for winning the Pairs competition by 1 hole against Scott Robertson from Strathmore Golf Centre and Stuart Griffiths of Blair Atholl GC. Thanks also to Carnoustie Links for allowing the final to be played over the Championship Course just a couple of days after the Dunhill Links Championship. Beaten semi-finalists were Adam Turner and David Braid from St Michaels GC and Richard Devlin and Alex Walker from St Andrews Links.

Central - Commiserations to Gavin Neill at St Andrews Links. On the first practice day of the Dunhill Links Championship, a golf ball hit from the practice range came over the netting which protects the greenkeeping facility, bounced up off the concrete yard and struck him directly in the eye. Gavin spent 3 days in hospital while doctors tried to reduce the swelling and assess the damage and he was off work for over 3 weeks.

Central - Welcome to David MacFadyen, a new member who has started at gWest.

North - The new look Patrons Award scheme has changed with just one winner nominated by their fellow members, and they will be asked to attend a dinner at Gleneagles to accept the award in December. The first winner of this award from the North section is Dennis Grant from Huntly Golf Club so congratulations to him.

North - Two new members Roddy Kelly from Moray Golf Club and Dylan Meinen from Newmachar Golf Club welcome to them both.

North - Royal Aberdeen are gearing up for the Scottish Open with a new practice tee platform being built for use next year. Championship tees at the 10th, 12th and 16th have been extended and rebuilt for the championship. The next job is 30 bunkers being revetted and new pathway irrigation will be installed.

East - Our Patrons Award winner this year is Allan Campbell (Carricknowe GC), well done Allan and we hope that you enjoy BTME.

East - It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing of Steven Lamb (Muirfield GC), our thoughts are with his family at this time.

West - The outing held at Eastwood Golf Club on 19 September was a pretty dreach affair with rain and wind for quite a few holes, The course was in great condition and having noted the recent changes enforced through the M77 construction the course has benefited. The biggest difference I noticed was the height of the fir

trees at certain of the older holes, they were quite imposing. Well done to Neil Lindsay and his staff for their efforts. The Eastwood committee have to be commended for allowing our presence, this is very much appreciated, and please take my comments positively as I felt the course was a better layout than the old one but it's sad to see a few characteristic holes missing. Thanks to the bar staff and catering staff for attending to our needs, I think all who attended enjoyed the day's golf.

West – Well done to Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes in winning the BIGGA National Championship. What a brilliant year he's had winning this and the Scottish National. It's brilliant to see somebody who has real talent although it means the rest of us need to get our act together and practice!

West – To Fraser Ross, everybody is thinking about you after the passing of your father. The section's best wishes go to you and your family.

West - I bumped into Gordon Peebles of Tacit who gave me his tales of woe regarding van engines falling to pieces and broken flywheels but it looks like everything has been sorted.

Ayrshire - We held an instruction day at West Kilbride Golf Club on the use of Grinders. Willie Nisbett of Bernhards provided an excellent talk and demonstration - thanks to Willie for providing this.

Ayrshire - Section patrons award winner is Gregor Wilson of Turnberry Hotel Golf Course. Congratulations to him - the Section Committee hope he enjoys the Harrogate experience.

Results

North - Autumn outing at Edzell went very well and our thanks to the Course Manager Graham Mackie and his team for a great day and a fantastic golf course. Results: Nearest the pin at 14 Gary Tough Montrose Links; Trade Winner Gareth Rodgers Souters; Committee trophy Ross Macrae Turriff; Apprentice trophy Jack Craig from Royal Aberdeen; Veterans winner Roy Donald Oldmeldrum; Sweep Winner Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen; Class 3 Brian Cocker Alyth; Class 2 Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen; Class 1 Simon Hoy Royal Aberdeen. The big prize on the day the scratch was won by Gary Tough Montrose Links. Mark Main Memorial Trophy (best net) Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen so well done to all the winners.

East - Our recent Section event took place at Haddington GC in the form of an Autumn Stableford/Lecture, the day went well albeit with a low attendance on the day. The course was presented in a fine condition for the day ahead, thanks go to Stevie Smail and his team for their hard work.

The scoring was good on a windy day with Scott Corrigan (Greenburn GC) lifting the Scratch Winners trophy with a 74, The 1st class winner on the day was Phil Butler (Murryfield GC) with 35 points, 2nd class winner Robbie Murdoch (Dundas Parks GC) 34, 3rd class winner Allan Campbell (Carricknowe GC) 27, best nett went to Sean Cunningham (Mortonhall GC) 75 nett, Patron winner was Jim Darling (Aitkens) 31, guest prize went to Lindsay Muir (Dundas Parks GC) 35. Nearest the pin winner was John Young (Regional Administrator) and longest drive went to Stuart Ferguson (Dundas Parks GC).

West - The prize winners at Eastwood; Scratch Gordon Sangster gross 70; 1st class winner John Brown 36 points, Runner up Stuart Taylor 35, Third Chris Prior 34 B.I.H; 2nd class winner Bryan Ramsey 32, Runner up John Young 31, Third Bruce Cruickshanks 29; 3rd class winner Robert McDougall 34, Runner up Stephen Shenan 33 points, Third Michael Maxton 30. Nearest the pin Jack Steadward, Visitors prize Robert Hart, Longest Drive Alistair Reid.

35 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a better turn out, it was nice to see a few different faces.

Ayrshire - Autumn Golf Outing at Prestwick St. Nicholas Golf Club. The Section would like to thank the Captain and Committee of the club, thanks also to John and his staff for the excellent condition of the course. Results: First Class 1 Peter Boyd, 2 Ian MacDonald, 3 Derek Duthie; Second Class 1 Duncan Gray, 2 Davy McLroy, 3 Andrew Wentworth. Harry Diamond Trophy winner with best combined Spring and Autumn outing score - Duncan Gray.

Thanks to Sponsors

East – Thanks to Lynn Jopling from SGEG for a very informative educational topic in the form of 'Encouraging Wildlife on Your Golf Course', this topic went down well and was delivered superbly.

Welcome New Members

Roddy Kelly - Moray Golf Club, David MacFadyen - Ochil Developments - G West, Callum Christison - Newbattle Golf Club, Dylan Meinen - Newmachar Golf Club



Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

North East – We're organising a one-day Lantra Basic Chainsaw Maintenance and crosscutting course £60 per person, email Simon on spolver@hotmail.co.uk for details. We are also hoping to arrange a golf get together sometime in December to incorporate the AGM

Sheffield - Our Christmas Competition will be held at Workspok Golf Club on 11 December. Tee off 10.30am followed by the AGM and Christmas Dinner and the day will be sponsored by Mike Brear of Rigby Taylor.

North Wales - The Christmas tournament is at Royal Liverpool GC on 25 November, the starting sheet for this has been over subscribed, we can only apologise if you missed out.

Northern - Our final golf day will be the Xmas bash on the moors at Baildon GC on 11 December first tee off at 10am. It's a fun day out, teams of four playing Texas scramble for a fantastic booty of prizes. To all you guys who have never been to these events before, it's a great way to introduce yourself to the section so please come down!

News

North East - The visit to St James Park proved successful - many thanks to Vinny Price of Myerscough College for organising the event. More educational events to follow.

North East - Alnmouth GC have recently constructed a new green and practice area all of which was done in house! Jim and his team have done a really good job.

North East - Percywood GC are in the process of reconstructing the 13th hole comprising of a new green, bunkering and fairway bunkering. Check out the club's Facebook page for regular updates and pictures of this work.

Sheffield - Just to let people know that there have been several incidents of theft from sheds in and around Sheffield, so please be aware and vigilant.

North Wales - A big thank you goes to the players that represented the section at the national tournament.

Northern - The Autumn Tournament at Woodsome Hall was another great day out for us, a fantastic course, great food and brilliant company. The club made us feel very welcome and as always we thank them for the support shown to our section. A special mention to Philip Haigh, Course Manager at Crossland Heath GC, on reaching forty years at the clubwow!

Cleveland - Thanks to all the volunteers who helped the team at Rockcliffe for the PGA English Seniors Open. More info in Newsdesk.

Movers and shakers

North East - Chris Wood has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Garesfield GC, we wish him well in his new role.

North Wales - Best wishes go to Rhys Butler as he officially takes the reins as Links Manager at Royal St Davids GC from 1 November and also best wishes go to Owain Aeron as he steps up to the role of deputy.

Results

North East - The Autumn competition was held over Westerhope GC in very testing windy conditions. The course was in excellent condition and thanks go to the club, catering staff and Brian Sharpe and his team. Again it was nice to see a lot of new faces and a good turn out. Results: Best Gross (Salver) - J Hogg; Div One (Ransomes Cup) - 1 S Olver, 2 S Harrison; Div Two (Greenlay Cup) - 1 J Grey, 2 S Pope; Div Three (Ransomes Shield) - 1 R Griffiths, 2 G Dawson; Trade - G Baxter

Sheffield - Our Autumn Competition was held at Hillsborough GC and we would like to thank Ian Whitehead and his staff for use of the course that was in great condition, thank you. Results: The winner of the 0-14 handicap was Lee Greveson with 41 points playing off 5 and Neil Peters winner of 15-28 handicap with 37 points playing off 16. The overall winner was Lee Greveson from Hallamshire GC, well done. Thanks to everyone for attending the day.

Northern - Results from Woodsome Hall - Div 1 winner Dean Gosney, Runner up T Gerrard; Div 2 winner Andy Slingsby! Runner up Ben K Jackson; Div 3 Winner Paul Wild, Runner up Ian Brown; Scratch cup winner Dave Collins; Trade winner Nick Bissett; Nearest the pin Dave Collins & Gary Feron.

Thanks to sponsors

North East - Thanks to Everiss/Sherriffs for sponsoring prizes. Shorts of Whitburn for sponsoring food, Rigby Taylor and TSL for donating raffle prizes all at the Autumn Tournament.

Sheffield - We would like to thank Glen Sawyer from Russell Ground Care for sponsoring the Autumn Tournament, much appreciated.

Welcome New Members

Mark Shepherdson - Cave Castle Golf & Country Club.
Joe Bell - Askham Bryan College, Sam Grace - Wensleydale Golf Club, Andrew Oddie - Stonyhurst Park Golf Club.

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia – Our final event of the year is the Winter Texas Scramble at Stocks Golf Club on 11 December 2013. Arrive early - at 8.30 coffee and bacon rolls will be available. Then it's on to the main event - a shotgun start at 9.30 so allow enough time to make your way to your designated tee. Priority entry will be given to members who have attended our other events in 2013 as numbers are limited to 80 places. We feel that players who support events should get the opportunity to enter a team above those who haven't managed to attend this season. Hopefully there will be places for all early applicants so please apply swiftly so you don't miss out on this very popular team event.

Please send your cheques to Richard Saunders in advance as this cuts down the administration on the day for the busy match secretary so he can relax and enjoy his day of golf too. Entry forms will be winging their way to you via email in the near future with Richard's address for all applications and team payments. This is the perfect way to end the golfing season - catching up with all from the section with lots of banter amongst the teams, and some real quality golf being played on a cracking course with hopefully some pleasant weather conditions.

Movers and Shakers

Mid Anglia - Congratulations to Trevor Smith of Brookmans Park GC and Stan Power of Hanbury Manor GC on their recent promotions to Directors of Golf at their excellent clubs.

Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia - A massive thanks goes to Rigby Taylor, ALS, Avoncrop Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Headland Amenity, Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery and Vassgro Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year - once again your support means a lot. please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Results

Mid Anglia - Autumn Golf Day at Berkhamsted GC. 1 Gerald Bruce (Berkhamsted GC) 37pts, 2 Robert Groves (Letchworth GC), 35, 3 Richard Goddard (Ashridge GC) 34. Nearest the Pins went to Simon Woolley and Richard Goddard. We would like to thank Gerald and his team for providing us with a superb course which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The course stood up really well to the rather testing weather conditions with a severe soaking for everyone so credit to you all for some fantastic scores on an extremely tough day to be playing golf and for making it round all 18 holes in literally monsoon conditions.

Mid Anglia - Thanks to Ransomes / Ernest Doe's for the halfway refreshments at our Autumn Golf Day which went down well.

Welcome New Members

Chris Minton - The Belfry Golf Club, Nicholas Fox - Kenwick Park Golf Club, Tom Mallon - Aldersey Green Golf Club, Michael Curtis - Welwyn Garden City Golf Club, Jon Jo Pitts - Royston Golf Club



South East

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



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Events Coming Up

Sussex - Our next event is the Turkey Trot which at Worthing GC on 29 November. Please contact Pete Smith if you want to enter on 07748 776761 or on pds1@btinternet.com. Please contact me with anything of interest for future articles.

Essex - Next golf day is at Colne Valley GC (Please note the change of venue) Tuesday 3 December. AGM & Christmas team event, £65 per team of four. Jacket and tie please for the evening meal and prize presentation. The AGM precedes the golf at 9am and we would like all members to make an effort to attend. The position of Chairman and three committee members are due for election/re-election, nominations please to myself at essexbigga@talktalk.net Entries to Antony Kirwan: at "Play Golf Colchester" Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4AU or antz16@btinternet.com by Wednesday 27 November please.

Essex - Ben Scrivener is still waiting to hear from those seeking further education. For more information please contact Ben at gingermunky@hotmail.com

London - The London Section education day is at Oaklands College, Welwyn Garden City, on 18 February. Next year the golf events will be at Northwood (Spring) and Hendon (Summer), dates to follow.

London - Next is the Xmas tournament at Verulam GC on Thursday 12 December, so let's all get together after a years work and play some golf. Also it's our AGM. Please return your entry forms.

Surrey - Regional Conference 19 November at Hadlow College. Speakers include Henry Bechelet, Gareth Roberts, John Ross, William Swan and Alec and David MacIndoe. CPD points are available for attending.

Surrey - Guildford GC Turkey Trot 6 December. BIGGA members and club officials are invited to attend with AGM Surrey Section. Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner confirmed to be held on March 7 2014.

News

London - Matt Plested has recruited 5 new committee members: Wes Walker Northwood, Martin Smith Porters Park, Chris Carpenter Verulam, Kevin O'Neill Muswell Hill and Andy Wight Oaklands College have all joined.

Surrey - Ashley Allpress has been updating the web site with all sorts of interesting garb, so please take a peek.

Movers & Shakers

Surrey - Gary Ogilvy has at last been moving and shaking in his new Audi A3 after a few near misses.

Results

Sussex - 32 attended the Sussex section's event on 20 September at Beauport Park GC The course was in lovely condition and thanks go to Eric, Glenn and Brian. We were very well looked after including an unexpected BBQ at the 9th - so good it took its toll on some of the score! A very enjoyable day spent with good friends.

Results: 1 The Green Team 87pts, 2 Bogborough 86, 3 Hassocks 82. Longest drive Mark Harvey. Nearest the pin in two Matt Hutchinson. Nearest the pin, Gordon Bell. Many thanks to all of the sections annual sponsors again for their support and also to Pete Smith for all his organisation.

Essex - Braintree Golf Club was the venue for our Autumn Trophy, and what a day we had, great weather and the golf and course were a real treat. Our thanks to Martin Guy, John Barnard and his team plus the Club Captain John Still and Greens Chairman Mick Parmenter.

Results: Blind Pairs 1 Liam Springett & Wayne Wilson, 2 Andy Cracknell & Steve Crosdale. 1 Greenkeeper Darren Shuttle 37 pts, 2 Greenkeeper James Taggart 25 (countback), 3 Greenkeeper Liam Springett. 25. Trade Steve Crosdale 43, Guest Rob Galley 41. Nearest Pin 7th James Taggart, Nearest Pin 14th Gary Mason. Congratulations to Stuart Rogers on winning the BIGGA Challenge Plate on Day Two of the National Championships, and to Antony Kirwan for the Longest Drive on Day One.

Surrey - Wimbledon Park GC hosted The Cresta Cup on 24 September. 1 Dan Norsworthy, 2 Danny Murray, 3 Graham Keller, Longest Drive Big Les Howkins and Nearest Pin and longest traveller Andrew Cornes. Thanks to Dave Langheim for preparing first class surfaces and all the staff at Wimbledon Park GC.

Surrey - The Surrey Bowl final held at Foxhills GC on 1 October featured an exciting matchplay finale. Ian Morrison and Scott Murray edged past Marc Raisbeck and Grant Headley on the 18th. Roger Tydeman organised this event with military precision. Thanks to Foxhills GC for hosting.

Surrey - Hankley Common GC hosted the Trade v Greenkeepers. Captain Ogilvy starred on this occasion and it finished Trade 2 Greenkeepers 4.

Thanks to Sponsors

Surrey - Thanks to Surrey Bowl sponsors Winchester Garden Machinery.

Welcome New Members

Alan Baker - East Sussex National Golf Club, Simon Bailey, Sam Pease - Chartham Park Golf Club, Johann Van Der Merwe, Derek Ives - Farnham Park Golf, Thomas Lea - Bognor Regis Golf Club, Toby Giles - Hockley Golf Club, Tommy Heaney - Malden Golf Club, Harry Wells - South Herts Golf Club, Stuart Kearney - The Warren Golf & Country Club, Gareth Hunt, Richard Curtis, James Duffield - Hampton School, James Taggart - Frinton Golf Club

South West & South Wales

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Events Coming Up

South West - It's almost raffle time! This year's South West Section Christmas Tournament will be held at Ogbourne Downs GC on 19 December, don't miss your chance for a day full of fores, food and festivity topped off by the almost world famous Christmas raffle, as always in aid of a local charity.

South West - At press there were two remaining places on the chainsaw certification course at Bath GC at the end of November to cover maintenance, cross cutting and medium tree felling. To quote Paul: Be safe and be legal! Contact Paul Worster for your place. paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

South Coast - AGM and half day seminar free to all that can get there at Wellow GC on 13 November. Speaker is Mark Hunt from Headland. Arrive by 9.30 includes a light lunch. Golf in the afternoon is optional, contact the secretary at Wellow if you want to play. Please let Alex know of numbers on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

South Coast - Next Golf is the Turkey Trot at Weybrook Park GC on 10 December. A change of address to send your cheques this time: T Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire SO41 0QL Cost for the day is £20 and the format is Texas Scramble so get together in teams of 3. Contact me on greenkeeper@gmail.com

South Coast - Don't forget the Regional seminar on 21 November some great speakers, more info contact tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

News

South West - Congratulations to section members Leigh Mordy of Knowle GC and Lee Whyte of Bowood GC who both scooped prizes at the BIGGA National Championship recently at, well done guys.

South West - We are seeking interest in an excavator operation update training session to coincide with the five year cut off from the last certification programme, please keep an eye on the BIGGA Bulletin Boards for details or contact Paul Worster directly.

South West - The section will again be sponsoring a place to attend BTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Contact a committee member to express your interest.

South West - We're updating contact details for all South West section members - please email me to confirm your name and email address.

Results

South Coast - Autumn Tournament held at Meon Valley GC. Great course thanks to Phil Walker and his team. Results: 1 Rob Mabb Weymouth 36 pts, 2 Pete Corrick Weymouth 35, 3 Rod Byng 35. Longest Drive Derek Cunliffe, Nearest the pin Bill Ridgley.

Thanks to Sponsors

South Coast - Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our Autumn Tournament

South West - Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSol, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

Welcome New Members

Daniel Crocker - Worlebury Golf Club, Karl Szakal - Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, John Say, Alex Forrister - Test Valley Golf Club

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

In a new series, the GTC has invited representatives from its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to discuss their particular specialism within the sports turf sector

In this latest article from a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider, Jon Allbutt, Britrisk Safety's Technical Director reminds us of our responsibilities for Health & Safety whether you are an employer or employee.

There is no doubt that we have moved forward in golf course safety management in the last twenty years or so. The GTC rescued HS (G) 79 "Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance" and produced an updated and expanded edition as a joint industry funded project, fully endorsed by HSE and The R&A.

We have also seen a whole series of workshops and roadshows involving BIGGA, the British Home Unions with support from industry experts, and HSE that drove home the message that practical safety management is essential and achievable with quality information, training and support.

Yet there are still accidents, dangerous incidents, investigations and some prosecutions that continue to cause concern.

A further problem is the low level of reporting, particularly of incidents and near misses. The lack of a positive safety culture dulls an awareness of the importance of consistent reporting and investigating and the role this plays in managing the safety of a site for all.

Where any group of greenkeepers gather it won't be long before someone tells a story of slipping into the lake, pond, bunker or down a bank, smiles and nods confirming the



truth – yes we have all been there! Such unreported incidents / near misses will quickly come to light when an individual is being interviewed – under a Caution – by the H&S investigating officer! Apart from the negative non-compliance aspects, it's worth remembering that there are vital lessons to be learnt from accident and particularly near miss incidents.

If something could have happened and didn't, next time there could be serious injury – or worse – so an investigation is called for to determine the root cause. How detailed this is will depend on the nature of the event. What can we do to change our thinking on this?

The route to good safety management and the achievement of continuous development and improvement of standards is set out in HSE Guide HSG65 "A Guide to Measuring Health and Safety Performance".

As part of the review of health and safety by Professor Löfstedt this document is changing to a new approach based on PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT (see right page).



The GTC is funded by:



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A new guidance document is currently in draft form and publication is expected soon. This is a fresh approach that greatly simplifies and streamlines the evidence an employer needs to have of his health and safety management of the workplace. The burden falls to the management team to make sure that the employer's policies are put into an action plan based on this new approach.

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, invited Britrisk Safety to write this H&S update. He added:

"Jon Allbutt has for many years assisted the sector with his advice and guidance to make the workplace a safe environment. In many cases Health & Safety responsibilities have been taken seriously and great strides have been made.

"Jon's business 'Jon Allbutt Associates' has been absorbed within the umbrella Britrisk Safety which now brings a new, innovative and in many ways altogether simpler approach to safety management and training within the golfing industry and wider land-based sector."

PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT

Plan

- Prepare your safety policy
- Set out the detailed arrangements for managing safety
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of duty holders
- Prepare the organisation's H&S flowchart – the family tree of H&S duty holders
- Plan the implementation strategy – a programme of actions for all

Do

- Present the safety policy and arrangements for approval, and signing, by the employer (the owner, committee or board of directors)
- Provide information and training, raise awareness, improve skills, develop positive attitudes by changing the negative H&S culture
- Identify and record the main hazards making sure to take account of seasonal factors
- Assess the risks to staff and others – be site and task specific – avoid trivia
- If the actions to be taken in a risk assessment do not effectively reduce the risk, prepare a method statement that sets out exactly how a task is to be carried out safely
- Implement your plan within an agreed timeframe

Check

- Measure your progress and performance with regular safety audits
- Record, investigate and review accidents and incidents/near misses
- Review the effectiveness of risk assessments and method statements

Act

- Review performance against the implementation strategy and programme
- Be prepared to learn the lessons, make changes, be active not passive about health and safety management



Tom Searle, MD at Britrisk, added: "I sometimes think that Health and Safety Consultants make compliance issues more difficult for their clients rather than easier.

Getting bogged down in paperwork and red tape doesn't help to prevent accidents; in fact it can make them more likely to occur as people simply will not read long-winded policy statements and risk assessments, let alone apply the contents!"

About the author

Jon as co-author of The GTC's H&S in Golf Course Management and Maintenance guidance booklet has assisted many golf club managers and owners as has the Ransomes Jacobsen – Cutting Edge sponsored Wall Chart which is now seen in many maintenance facilities. Both of these H&S products are available from the GTC and will feature in a half-day workshop to be held during the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2014. The workshop on Tuesday 21 January will involve Britrisk Safety and Swan Golf Designs, please see the Continue to Learn programme or visit the GTC website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

For Health & Safety advice Jon or Tom Searle Britrisk Safety's MD can be contacted via...

www.britrisky.com

Tel: 020 8325 0232
mobile 07712 196406

Email:
jon@britrisky.com
or tom@britrisky.com

BUYERS' GUIDE

Speedcut Contractors celebrate busy year of golf course projects



Speedcut Contractors have had one of their busiest years on record with sports pitch construction and golf course projects right across the UK – including Wales, Somerset, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Essex, Kent and Sussex.

From reservoirs to bunkers, paths to greens drainage and bridges to tees, Speedcut staff have used their considerable experience on a wide variety of golf courses.

At Foxhills Golf Club and Resort, Surrey, Speedcut have completed more green reconstruction and bunker reshaping projects as well as carrying out tee levelling, path works and drainage on several greens and the driving range.

Also in Surrey, tee and bunker improvements have been made at Surbiton Golf Club.

And at Orpington Golf Centre, Kent, they have levelled and regraded three tees – with a fourth built from scratch as an addition to the facilities at the centre.

The two courses at Orpington - Cray Valley and Rushley Park - are owned by MyTime Active, who use Speedcut as their regular contractor. Paths were also improved at Bromley Golf Centre for the same group. Speedcut have also completed tee levelling at Upminster Golf Club, Essex, while at Hampstead Golf Club, North London, they relaid the third tee and installed Super Verde artificial turf.

New tees have been built or established ones levelled at Newbury and Crookham Golf Club, Berkshire and Wimbledon Park Golf Club. The same services have been carried out in West Sussex at Pyecombe Golf Club, The Dyke Golf Club and Copthorne Golf Club.

In Kent, Speedcut have also built a new tee at the 15th at Langley Park, Bromley - designed by James Edwards Golf Design - and created new paths and reformed existing bunkers on the 14th. At Chislehurst Golf Club they rebuilt the 7th hole to a Weller Golf Design.

At Piltdown Golf Club, East Sussex, Speedcut are undertaking the complete rebuild of 14 greens amongst the re-established heather with seven being completed this year.

Dick Franklin, Speedcut managing director, says: "We have been lucky with the weather in the summer months of 2013 and this enabled us to complete many projects on every type of sports surface."

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Recruitment



HEAD GREENKEEPER – Forfar Golf Club, Forfar, Angus

Forfar Golf Club is a well-established private members club situated within the county of Angus. The Club enjoys a well-presented heathland course and are currently looking to fill the position of Head Greenkeeper.

The successful candidate should be fully qualified in all aspects of green keeping and ideally have the following skills: NVQ level 4 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PA6A spraying certificates, CS31 and CS32 chainsaw certificates, and a good working knowledge of fine turf machinery and automatic irrigation systems combined with the repair and maintenance of associated parts.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within their role. Previous experience as a Head Greenkeeper is desirable.

Closing date for applications 30th November 2013

All interested applicants to apply in writing or via email, including a covering letter and detailed CV to Stuart Wilson, Managing Secretary, Forfar Golf Club, Cunninghill, Abroath Road, Angus DD8 2RL. Email: info@forfargolfclub.co.uk

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The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of personal presentation, communication and leadership within their role.

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Closing Date for Applications: 25th November, 2013 / Interviews are expected to take place week commencing 2nd December, 2013



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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Chislehurst Golf Club is a Private Members Club founded in 1894 with an 18 hole parkland course steeped in history.

The Club is seeking to appoint an experienced Assistant Greenkeeper to add to our current highly skilled and qualified team.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, hard working Greenkeeper who is highly motivated and able to work as part of a team and undertake all aspects of golf course maintenance.

Ideally you should be NVQ2 sports turf qualified with spraying and chainsaw certificates.

The successful applicant will have at least three years greenkeeping experience, preferably with a keen interest in golf, and will be encouraged to undertake further training to progress within the industry.

The position is based on a 40-hour week (to include some weekends) however flexibility will be essential, particularly over the summer months and leading up to and during major competitions.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Please forward your application with your CV and covering letter, to include current salary and benefits, by e-mail to coursemanager@chislehurstgolfclub.co.uk for the attention of John Hunnisett, Course Manager to be received by Friday 15 November.

Due to ongoing and substantial sales expansion, Kyoisha UK, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kyoisha Company of Japan, distributors of Baroness machinery throughout Europe, is looking for motivated and experienced people to fill the following key roles, fundamental to our continued expansion in Europe.

Sales Manager – UK

We are looking for someone who can manage our sales team and organise and motivate our existing successful Baroness dealers to continue making an increasing contribution to our planned compound growth of 50% per annum over the next three years.

Additionally, the successful applicant will have the business skills and ability to drive the expansion of our Baroness dealer network, enabling the company to move beyond our current 50% geographical coverage of the UK.

Reporting directly to the Managing Director, you will be based from home; attending our head office in Basingstoke for regular meetings and travelling throughout the UK in order to maintain a high level of communication with the individual members of our sales team and Baroness dealers.

A key part of your role will be ensuring that all members of our sales and distribution team work together constructively, with full focus on achieving their targets, and in a manner consistent with Baroness brand values.

A basic salary and on target earnings potential commensurate with the importance of this role, which is key to the future development of Baroness in the UK, will be offered to the successful applicant. A fully funded company car of an appropriate specification will also be provided.

.....

Customer Support Manager

To support our customers and dealers throughout Europe, we are looking for someone who can organise and develop our existing activities. This is an important role, not solely limited to a purely technical or administrative function.

Customer experience with Baroness products has already established a considerable body of evidence that Baroness mowers offer the highest quality of cut combined with the lowest running costs of any products available to the golf course market in Europe.

Nevertheless, customers and dealers or distributors need to have a point of reference on all technical and sales support issues.

A key and immediate function of this role will be to take existing material from both the UK and our head office in Japan, and develop a comprehensive technical sales and technical service training package. The ability to successfully deliver this package to customers and dealer staff, as well as training others to deliver this package, will also be key to the successful fulfilment of this role.

Acting as a point of technical reference, managing the administration of warranty processing and issuing sales and service bulletins will also be part of your duties.

This position is based at our head office in Basingstoke.

For the person who can successfully fulfil this position a salary commensurate with the importance of this role to the future success of Baroness in Europe will be offered, together with a company car to facilitate regular travel to our partners in the UK.

Relocation expenses may be offered to the right candidate.

.....

Key Accounts Manager – mainland Europe

The successful applicant will have the business and interpersonal skills to take over the day to day running of Baroness key distributor accounts throughout mainland Europe.

Baroness products are represented in countries ranging from Finland to Spain, with some markets now showing very substantial sales improvements which need to be maintained and built upon. Others remain to be developed.

You will be based from home and be prepared to travel extensively throughout Europe. An ability to combine business skills with a good practical knowledge of the golf course environment and the ability to sell the very considerable features and benefits of Baroness products will be necessary.

Working closely with our Baroness partners in mainland Europe, attending distributor demonstration days and trade shows and attending sales forecasting and planning meetings will be key elements of your duties.

The ability to manage and work within a travel and marketing budget will also be an essential skill.

Practical knowledge of a second language, preferably German or French, together with a willingness to undertake language study as part of your daily routine will also be a key feature of this very important role.

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Sales Technician

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The Back Nine

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

John McLoughlin, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Grange Park Golf Club, explains why he believes greenkeeping is ideal for your health and longevity

Poor wages, unsociable hours, difficult golf club committees and being undervalued are just a few of the complaints from the average greenkeeper.

But really, is it all that bad? Having studied health, nutrition and wellbeing for the last five years, I've realised I may well have chosen the best career possible for superior wellbeing. In fact I'm finding it very difficult to think of an industry that offers such a positive impact on our health and longevity.

Firstly, Vitamin D is very important for good health, strong bones and growth, but unfortunately a high percentage of adults in Western Europe are Vitamin D deficient.

Vitamin D is mainly made in the skin by sunlight. The whole nature of greenkeeping - being outside - gives us every chance of getting the required amount of Vitamin D through sunlight. Also, with many golf courses being in remote locations, the quality of air that the average greenkeeper breathes in on a daily basis is far less polluted and of greater purity compared to anyone working indoors for a living.

The benefits of this are often completely overlooked. In a confirmation of what many doctors and researchers have suspected for years, a recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham Young University has shown that decreasing air pollution extends people's lifespans by an average of five months.

The lifestyle of a greenkeeper often involves very early morning starts which also leads to early bed times. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise".

The sleep pattern of the modern greenkeeper is very much in tune with the body's natural 'circadian rhythm' or 'body clock.' The human body works according to a natural 24 hour sleep-wake cycle which

controls body temperature, sleep/wake timing, and the way our organs work.

Past research has shown that the body functions at its optimum when it is aligned with the natural sleep and wake pattern. The most beneficial sleep pattern is around the natural rhythm of daily and seasonal light/dark cycles. Positive effects include greater alertness, improved immune defences and better decision making.

The body carries out its important cell growth and repair in the first four hours of sleep, from approximately 10.30pm-2.30am. A high percentage of greenkeepers are generally in bed early meaning they benefit from positive cell growth and repair.

Also, walking is one of the greatest activities for keeping healthy. Regular walks can dramatically reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma and some cancers.

Walking is also fantastic for increasing bone density, muscle elasticity and helping with mind clarity. The greenkeeper has plenty of opportunities throughout their working day to do plenty of walking therefore positively impacting their health and fitness.

Regular starting times and breaks allow you to control your nutritional input throughout the day. This helps keep your blood sugar levels steady and minimise feelings of tiredness, dizziness and irritability. It also maintains a steady metabolism, which is how your body creates and uses the energy from food - and the golf course itself can be a great source of nutrient rich foods as foraging becomes increasingly popular.

I am also aware that the career path you choose often dramatically influences your possible life expectancy.

Recent research has shown that men in professional occupations



"Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise"

about the author



John McLoughlin is Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Grange Park Golf Club, St Helens. He has travelled extensively around the world and is proud to have worked at first class golf venues including The Gleneagles Resort, Royal Melbourne Golf Club and The Riviera Country Club. John has also worked on over 100 worldwide golf tournaments representing the European Tour and Ladies European Tour as a golf tournament official managing the scoring.

can expect to live up to 80, almost eight years longer than those in unskilled jobs, whose life expectancy is 72.7.

If you have autonomy and control over what you do, you tend to be in better health. I suspect very little research has been carried out regarding the life expectancy of a greenkeeper although I'm confident it would fare very well against other industries.

Another unique characteristic is the willingness of other turf professionals, often in direct competition, to share important knowledge, time and resources. I don't know of any other profession which acts in such a dignified way and I feel honoured to be part of it, and the health benefits are another bonus. My glass is very much half full and I feel the grass is most definitely greener on our side.

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

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