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# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the Greenkeepers Association £5.20 OCTOBER 2013

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## THE TURNER PRIZE

How Luke Turner won Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013

**Also Featured...**

## FUSARIUM UNCOVERED

Henry Bechelet investigates



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



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ISSN: 0961-6977

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## Industry future in safe hands

**The title of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is hard won and rightly so, its presence on a CV carries significant weight if the successful careers of many of the former winners is anything to go by.** Luke Turner's achievement in earning this year's award ahead of a very impressive line up of fellow finalists is therefore not to be underestimated. Congratulations to him and all the eight finalists; as one of the judging panel said to me afterwards 'the future of our industry is in safe hands'. Luke has taken a slightly unusual route to finding his career of choice but having done so he has quickly grasped that education is the absolute key to future success. We wish him well on his extremely intensive trip to the University of Massachusetts Turf School in the new year courtesy of Toro.

**The runners up, Sam Evans and Scott Roberts, will hopefully now be perusing the enclosed 2014 Continue to Learn at BTME brochure to plan their own prize – an all expenses trip to Harrogate in January.** I hope that many of you will take advantage of the superb learning and development opportunities that are taking place at BTME. The programme has been carefully put together following extensive feedback from the membership and genuinely offers something for greenkeepers at all stages of their career. The huge success of the Continue to Learn programme has meant that we are starting to outgrow the facilities at the Harrogate International Centre and are expanding in to the Crown Hotel which is just a short walk away. The centrepiece of the programme will take place at the Crown on Monday 20 January 2014 – The 4th Annual Turf Managers' Conference. An excellent array of speakers including the very popular Professor Karl Danneberger from Ohio State University have been confirmed for what will be an informative, not to be missed event for all turf managers. Don't delay in reserving your place on the

conference, workshops and/or seminars as with all stand space in the exhibition sold out we confidently expect this year's BTME to be a great success.

**Last month we were saddened to hear of the untimely passing of an industry stalwart in Keith Kensett who was a great supporter of greenkeepers and the greenkeeping and groundsmanship industries in general.** Never short of a strong opinion and generous with both his time and sage advice he will be sadly missed and our sympathies at this time are extended to his wife Jane and two boys Richard and Joe.

**October is traditionally the time for BIGGA to crown its National Golf Champion** and I am very much looking forward to seeing who comes out on top of the pile at the excellent Frilford Heath Golf Club. I know that Sid Arrowsmith MG and his team have prepared the course beautifully and that a very warm welcome awaits all competitors. May I wish all those looking to take Oly Browning's crown the very best of luck and hope that the generally clement weather that 2013 has enjoyed lasts into October.

#### Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive, BIGGA

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## Aussie rules

What's it like to be in charge of the golf course on the Marquess of Landsdowne's Estate on Grade One Listed parkland designed by Capability Brown? It's all in a day's work for Jaey Goodchild as Steve Castle discovered

#### PROFILE

Name: Jaey Goodchild  
Born: Brisbane, 5 December 1976  
Hobbies: skydiving, fishing  
Favourite Sports Team: The Wallabies

ROWWOOD

Arriving at the Rowwood Estate, which lies a few miles west of Chippenham in Wiltshire, felt like accidentally stumbling across the set of 'Downton Abbey' - and I half expected to be summoned for afternoon tea by the Marquess.

The spectacular 6000 hectare site boasts a famous Rhododendron Walk, a secret garden and an 18th century House. The property is owned by the Marquess of Lansdowne - Rowwood has been the family's home for nearly 200 years. But my visit concentrated on the serious work that's been taking place on the superb golf course.

Byshire-born Jaey Goodchild is Head Greenkeeper at Rowwood Golf and Country Club which covers around 200 acres of the huge site. It's 18 holes of glorious parkland and a former Challenge Tour venue which measures an intimidating 7,300 yards from the blue tees and 6,675 from the white.

Jaey said: "It's a pleasure to work here - just what you would expect one of Capability Brown's works to be. But it's very much a working Estate - there's a greenkeeper and a seasonal maintenance team. In fact the wooden posts for our year-long signs have been secured from seasoned oak felled on site."

Jaey came to Rowwood in 2011, and his immediate aim was to improve the 18th green which at that time had a high thatch content and high incidence of disease. Where the issue used to be, the green suffered major put-ups due to the lack of surface mobility. The weed was weak with minimal rooting and they would spend hours repairing the greens after aeration.

"My first big challenge was convincing the proprietor, committee and members of the importance of caring for the site and finding a way to fit it in to the schedule. This was difficult in the first year because I started in March when most of the year's business had already been booked. So you are had to be a real 'babe' and offer a approach to keep things ticking over with plenty of communication and light touchworking."

"The schedule now allows using operations per year plus multiple extra maintenance hours during. Last year we aered the greens 15 times and almost follow up with a light topdress, balancing and rolling to get the surface back on track."

"We're giving the roots the opportunity to develop, bind the soil together and strengthen it. Now we're every confidence we'll have very put-up when we aerate."

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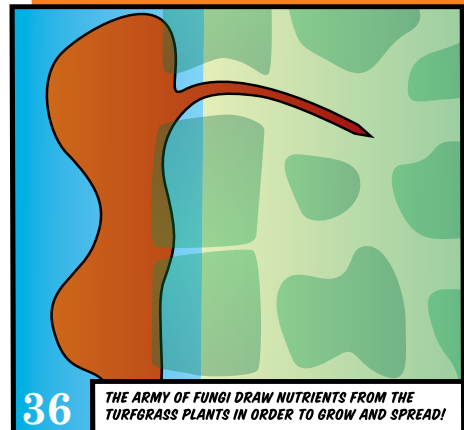


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The official monthly magazine of  
**British and International  
 Golf Greenkeepers Association**



# Chairman's Word

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

## Students shine in Toro final

### Warmest congratulations to Luke Turner on winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013.

I'm fortunate enough to have been Chairman during two of these competitions, and I can't stress enough my pride in seeing enthusiastic, knowledgeable and personable young greenkeepers making their way in the industry.

I'd also like to extend my congratulations to all of the eight finalists.

Just reaching the last stage is a superb achievement which will really stand out on their CVs and set them up perfectly for success in the future.

Also, I know from speaking to them that they relished the opportunity not only to network and exchange greenkeeping advice and opinions with the other finalists, who work at a range of a courses the length and breadth of the UK, but also to visit BIGGA House.

For most of them it was their first visit and I'm delighted to say I heard several comments mentioning how welcoming our staff were and the generally positive atmosphere, which contributed to everyone socialising together in the evening.

This sort of camaraderie, shared knowledge and genuine friendship is unheard of in some industries and we should count ourselves lucky to be involved in it.

I would like to publicly thank Toro for their superb continued support of the competition, and also Sami, Rachael and Stuart from HQ who have put so much time and effort into the successful organisation of it.

I'm now hugely looking forward to the BIGGA National Tournament at Frilford Heath Golf Club.

We've increased the publicity around this event, dropped the entry price and increased the prize fund thanks to the generous sponsorship from Charterhouse and Kubota and I'm pleased to say this has led to a rise in the number of entrants.

I look forward to meeting Sid Arrowsmith MG, his team and all of the members who are looking forward to pitting their wits against this fine course.

Hopefully I will avoid becoming marooned in any bunkers as I did during



**"This camaraderie, shared knowledge and genuine friendship is unheard of in some industries"**

last year's event at Irvine Bogside!

That couple of days during last year's National Championship in Scotland stood out for me last year and one major reason was the weather.

It felt as if summer finally arrived for a couple of days in Ayrshire in October.

Thankfully, this year we've had something approaching a good, dry summer.

Last year featured a depressing number of cancellations of golf days and other events organised by BIGGA members.

I know many of you go well out of your way to arrange these events, and I'm delighted to hear that this summer so many of them have been great successes played in glorious weather.

Please support these events if you

possibly can – keep an eye on the new-look Around the Green plus Section Facebook pages etc for details.

My focus hasn't changed during my tenure as Chairman – keep moving BIGGA towards becoming a must-join Association.

I've mentioned the benefits of joining so many times during my tenure as Chairman I must be starting to sound like a broken record but I make no apology for that – this was our focus when I took over and it remains our focus now.

*Tony*

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## CHRIS IS NEW HEAD AT PRESTWICH

Chris Harding is the new Head Greenkeeper at Prestwich Golf Club in Greater Manchester.

Previously a Deputy at Dunham Forest Golf & Country Club in nearby Eccles, Chris has joined the 18-hole parkland course with the intention of making his mark in his first Head Greenkeeper role.

He said: "It's a challenge and it's one I'm

really looking forward to. My first focus is to improve the greens because they have suffered with thatch here.

"It's a very pretty course, we've recently had a few new members join too so I want to help reach its full potential."

Chris currently has just one colleague on the greenkeeping staff although they are currently interviewing for a third member of staff.

## KEITH KENSETT

Everyone at BIGGA was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Keith Kensett of R&K Kensett in September.

One of his many good friends in the industry is Peter Bradburn, an expert in the start up of golf course businesses in the UK and Mediterranean for the past 20 years.

He said: "It is unavoidable that in a small industry such as the turf and golf sector we are all going to lose acquaintances and colleagues over the passing of the years. But the unexpected news about Keith will create a void in many people's lives.

"I was first introduced to Keith over 15 years ago, in another country on another grow-in but I was struck by his dedication and tenacity in getting the message across, his way was the right way of doing renovation maintenance and that was that!

"In the intervening years, I have listened to, discussed with and learnt from him on a whole range of subjects to do with growing good grass. It was not unusual to receive a call from him late in the evening as he returned from a job and would want to bounce an idea off you. That was the kind of guy he was and you just loved him for it: inquisitorial, inventive and resourceful.

"Knowing Keith, you inevitably got to know the his family and the extended clan that is R&K Kensett.

"My heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to Jane and the boys during this time and the team at the family business.

"It is an overused epithet at a time like this but he shall be sadly missed in the industry; rest in peace old fella."





## SWEET CHESTNUT BLIGHT UNCENSORED

Most people are now aware of the story so far surrounding the first UK finding of *Cryphonectria parasitica* (blight) in November 2011 at a farm in Warwickshire on sweet chestnut trees (*Castanea sativa*) planted in 2007 and sourced from a nursery in France.

However, tucked away in one of the mammoth reports regularly produced by the UK plant health authorities (this one by Food and Environment Research Agency [FERA]\*) is an account which reveals a considerably more complex and higher risk situation.

First infected trees in the UK were indeed found in November 2011 at the unnamed Warwickshire farm, but on trees planted in different time frames and on different sites, having arrived at the farm along different distribution chains.

Eighty of the infected trees were planted in 2007, having been sourced from the French nursery, but an additional ten infected trees on a different site were planted later. These were purchased from a nursery in Devon which had sourced its stock from the same French nursery.

By the time the UK plant health authorities started to investigate, the nursery in Devon had sold all of its sweet chestnut stock. A Forestry Commission (FC) map reproduced in the FERA report shows how some 90 consignments of potentially infected trees were dispatched to sites across the UK.

The report says subsequent trace back through the records of both the French nursery and the UK supplier, by the Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) and the FC, led to the identification (as of April 2013) of nine further UK sites with infected trees.

FC focused on distribution of consignments of more than 10 trees leading to 30+ infected trees being found on an East Sussex farm and two infected trees at a private residence in Herefordshire. By May 2013 PHSI had additionally traced infected trees to seven private residences and one additional nursery mostly in southwest England.

The risk of sweet chestnut blight establishing in the UK does not end there. FERA says the vast majority of trees supplied by the French nursery into the UK were sold mail order by several different distributors, and that customer lists for deliveries made prior to 2011 are difficult to obtain.

No wonder the government has rushed to ban imports of sweet chestnut from known blight infected areas in Europe. If it all goes pear shaped then the government will no doubt claim it took appropriate and timely action. However, with potentially infected trees at apparently still unknown locations in the UK it could already be too late.

\*FERA (2013) Rapid pest risk analysis for *Cryphonectria parasitica*. 23 pages. 20 May 2013.

*Dr Terry Mabbett*



## BIGGA SEMINARS A HIT AT SUNNY SALTEX

It was standing room only during our education programme at this year's SALTEX.

We ran a whole day of free education presentations during the Wednesday of the show at a sweltering Windsor Racecourse – with CPD credits available for those attending.

Again we attracted experts from across the industry. Andy Wood, Course Manager at Robin Hood Golf Club, presented on greens drainage and was followed by Stuart Yarwood's seminar on managing and constructing bunkers on limited budgets. Stuart is Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club.

The day's final seminar was from Dr Simon Watson – Syngenta Turf and Landscape Technical Manager – on winter disease on golf greens. Dr Watson is pictured above.



## GREAT AYTON WINS MCMILLAN TROPHY

Congratulations to Craig Ayton, greenkeeper at Foxhills Club & Resort, who won the Surrey Section McMillan Trophy held at Sunningdale.

Craig scored 40 points to win the competition, which was held on the New Course. Here he is being presented with the Trophy by Jack and Rita McMillan.



## MORE BUZZ OVER OPERATION POLLINATOR

**Golf courses provide an essential haven for some of the UK's most endangered insect species, and potentially hold the key to restoring populations of essential pollinating insects.**

A new study, to provide a scientific approach to pollinator conservation efforts on golf courses, has revealed some fascinating finds - including the extremely rare bumblebee, *Bombus ruderatus*, on Operation Pollinator habitat at Rutland County Golf Club in Leicestershire.

The extensive study, by leading independent entomologist and ecologist, Mike Edwards, on some of the golf courses involved in the Syngenta Operation Pollinator initiative across the UK, has catalogued the diversity of insect species present, and the habitat potential to increase both the numbers and range of insect species.

Commenting on the study's results, Mr Edwards highlighted that whilst some individual golf clubs already have areas of outstanding interest for wildlife, there remains a large number where the potential to make a real contribution had yet to be realised.

"Many of the older clubs have areas that reflect the sort of countryside that was present before modern agricultural production became established.

All too often, however, these areas have sadly been un-managed and of limited ecological value," he said. "Providing expertise and support in restoring such flower-rich grasslands with the Syngenta Operation Pollinator initiative can make a major contribution to the conservation of our flora and fauna."

The discovery of *Bombus ruderatus* on Rutland County Golf Club was an especially exciting discovery, since the species was considered on the verge of extinction just a few years ago - with no records of the bumblebee in the area since 1994. However, Mr Edwards recalled that, when Operation Pollinator habitat had been created on farmland over the past decade, *B. ruderatus* was again rediscovered from the point of extinction, and is successfully on the way back to recovering its former distribution.

Rutland County Golf Club Head Greenkeeper Jamie Goddard believes the colour and wildlife in the club's new Operation Pollinator wildflower areas will enhance the whole experience of playing the course for golfers, as well as providing a valuable habitat for essential pollinating insects.

"The fact that we already have the incredible find of the rare *Bombus ruderatus* on the course highlights the ecological value of golf courses. Now we can actively

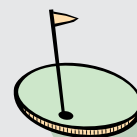
manage areas to make them even more attractive for bumblebees and other pollinators, alongside a great course for players, makes it even more exciting."

One of the key aspects of successfully restoring or establishing wildflowers in areas of golf course rough is the removal of competitive coarse grasses that dominate thick, dense rough, according to Syngenta Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson. Autumn applications of the selective herbicide, Rescue, offer an ideal opportunity to clean up and thin out invasive grass species such as ryegrass.

Rescue should be applied whilst the coarse grasses are actively growing, to aid uptake of the systemic herbicide. Dr Watson added: "Extensive research and user trials have shown high levels of kill can be achieved with well-timed autumn applications."

"The added advantage of autumn application is that the plants are naturally senescing, which limits the visual impact of treatments."

Rescue is approved for use at the rate of 1.0 l/ha in the autumn, with optimum results achieved using the Syngenta XC Foliar Nozzle to minimise the effect of undulations or variable vegetation height and to achieve all round coverage of the leaf; applying in a water volume of 250-300 l/ha.



## CGCS SALARY INCREASE

Based on the Annual RPI figure for August 2013 the Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) have recommended an increase of 2.6% in the level of recommended Salary Scale for Greenkeepers. The Committee are fully aware that 2013 has been another difficult year for club finances, but believe it is essential to at least maintain parity with the Government RPI figure in order to retain current staff and attract new recruits.

The CGCS recommended rates of pay package are guidelines only and the Committee is aware that they are for negotiation only and that some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the golf club.

The CGCS wants to emphasise that these scales are for 'packages' and should be treated as such, whilst taking into account individual and team performance and any increase in responsibility and/or qualification.

The CGCS, once again, wishes to remind clubs that they must be aware of any changes to pension or employment legislation.

Regional variations will be published and downloadable in PDF format from the BIGGA and GCMA websites from late October onwards.

## LOOK HUGHES HEAD GREENKEEPER AT WHICKHAM



Brian Hughes has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Whickham Golf Club in County Durham – and he's made a real impact recently by using compost teas.

Brian has been at the parkland course for over 25 years, and has witnessed difficult times, particularly over the last few years.

However he now enjoys the full backing of the club and is proud that their greens are continuing to improve thanks to his use of compost teas.

Brian said: "Just like many other clubs we had a hard time of it recently and unfortunately the club had to make difficult financial decisions which involved some redundancies. But we've come through the other side and we're a stronger unit now.

"I started using compost teas two years ago and it's been brilliant, the greens are in great condition. They just feel healthier – we've got away from the sterile soils of the past. It's great to feel that you're doing something right from a greenkeeping point of view, we don't use any chemical fungicides at all on our greens now. It's saved us lots of money on fungicides.

"I feel the club is ahead of the game compared to some. We haven't turned the corner totally but we're looking at a really positive future."



## FLYING HIGH AT EAST BERKSHIRE

In GI June we featured a project at St Annes Old Links who used a drone to take stunning aerial photos of the course. Matt Nutter, BB&O Secretary and Course Manager at East Berkshire GC, also wanted to investigate how seeing the course from the air using an accurate, up to date aerial picture could help him assist and manage the estate.

After researching companies who provide imagery Matthew employed the services of PinPoint Golf, a company who specialise in golf course mapping and surveys to carry out the drone flight.

The drone flight produced a fully geo referenced ortho image, in basic terms a full GPS map of the golf course and estate.

"The first thing that impresses you is the clarity of what you are dealing with" said Matthew. "Most of us have used existing online maps when we've had to but we know that when you scroll in close you lose any detail".

The main key benefits that Matthew was looking to glean from the exercise was to review cutting lines and shapes from the air and to be able to measure areas that had been raising questions from the membership: areas of long fescue rough, distances of carries from tee to fairway, heather plantations and areas earmarked for further heather establishment. The software allows accurate measurements around the tees fairways, greens and bunkers and then creates a spreadsheet of the surface areas of all of the key features of the course. This will offer savings by being able to accurately measure to order the correct amount of sand, fertiliser and dressing.

Matthew and the team at

East Berkshire had finished a successful course renovation programme when the aerial was taken but any proposed course changes can be helped as the image gives the best possible view of how the hole looks now and the impact of any proposed changes.

The process really helps you understand what space you have and how best to utilise it from boundary issues to land purchase. An accurate record of your course from the sky is invaluable. This has been particularly useful when making presentations to committees and Board members with regard to proposed projects. As Matthew commented "it's hard to argue with a detailed image showing the exact areas concerned and proposed changes". The software package allows future updated work i.e. drainage, irrigation changes and general ground works to be added to the mapping. This allows a consistent and accurate record of the course and completes the final part of a meaningful Course Policy Document.

Matthew concluded: "We finally have a tool that I can put to a practical use. If it was just a pretty picture it would be little use but thanks to the accuracy of the image combined with the ease of use of the software I'm using it all the time. And the more I use it the more useful it becomes for others as a living breathing record of my golf course".

When drones with cameras were invented it wasn't to benefit the management of golfing estates and to beautify golf courses but for those that have used it in that way and have seen the benefits it certainly has created an incredibly useful by-product.



# 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!



### Contact Details

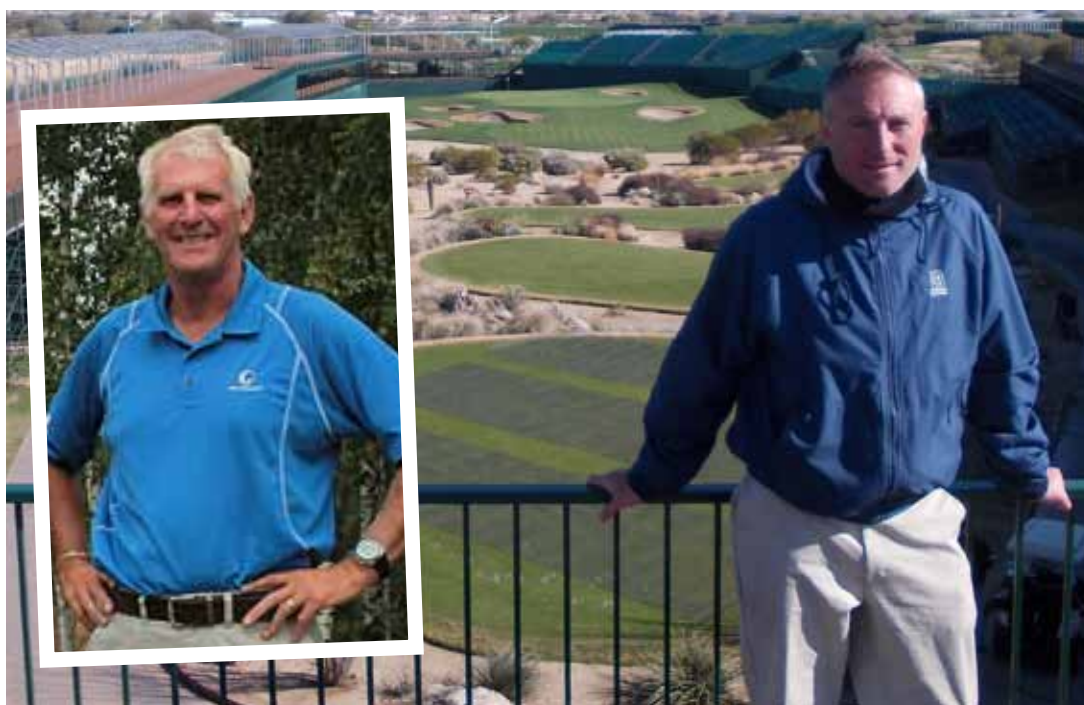
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## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS UNVEILED

Once again we've attracted some of the industry's top names to our Regional Conferences which take place in November. Remember that one hour of education equals one CPD Credit – so there's a potential total of 6 CPD Credits on offer at each Conference.

As well as various seminars we also have a range of workshops during the day.

We kick things off with the Midland Regional Conference at Forest Hill Golf Club on Wednesday 6 November. This includes seminars from Lee Strutt MG, Course Manager at G West International Resort, on how to build a budget, and a presentation from Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager for Everris, on soil moisture management. The day

costs £15 for BIGGA members and £25 for non-members.

Hot on the heels of the Midland Conference is the Northern Conference on Thursday 7 November at The Phoenix Sports and Social Club. Among the highlights is Ian MacPherson, Renewable Energy Product Manager for Rain Bird UK looking at renewable energy, and Stuart Yarwood MG and Paul Lowe's seminar on soil biology with practical greenkeeping. The cost is just £10 for members and £20 for non-members.

The South East Regional Conference is on Tuesday 19 November at Hadlow College. Speakers include David (inset above left) and Alec Macindoe on past and present greenkeeping strategies and techniques, and

John Ross MG from Compliant Grounds on accident causation.

The South West and South Wales Regional Conference takes place on Thursday 21 November at The Oaktree Arena in Highbridge.

Highlights include Steve Chappell's seminar on preparations for the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles, Jason Brooks (above) volunteering at The Phoenix Open (as featured in GI March) and a presentation from Dougie Robertson, Head Groundsman at West Ham Utd FC. The cost is £26 for members and £34 for non-members. For more details please contact BIGGA's South West & Wales Regional Administrator Tracey Harvey on 07841 948110 or tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk



# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

## CONTINUE TO LEARN

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Sunday 19 to Wednesday 22 January 2014  
at the Harrogate International Centre, N. Yorks

Continue to learn at **BTME 2014**

This month's Greenkeeper International features a booklet giving you all the details of the Continue to Learn education programme at BTME 2014.

Our two day workshops will take place on Sunday 19 January and Monday 20 January. We've got Golf Course Architect Howard Swan talking about renovating your golf course, Frank Newberry's advice on moving into management and Dr Paul Miller on turfgrasses, soils and fertilisers.

## CONTINUE TO LEARN AT BTME 2014

We've also signed up some new experts for 2014. Shona Garner – Director of Shona Garner Coaching Services – will be presenting 'How to Be an Outstanding Manager Part Five'. Two Master Greenkeepers – Les Howkins from The Richmond and Lee Strutt from Ochil Developments, g West, will be looking at 'Mathematics for Modern Greenkeeping'.

Other highlights include Michael Alstrop, Principal at Coach the Mind, showing you how to prepare and write effective reports, and a presentation on enhancing personal effectiveness from Wendy Shortman – Wellness Consultant at Life Matters.

The Turf Managers' Conference will again be a cornerstone of the

entire week with a superb list of experts from across the world delivering fascinating, educational presentations. We've attracted the likes of Dr Karl Danneberger, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Ohio State University, Karl Morris – Managing Director of the Mind Factor – and Mark Hunt, Technical Director at Headland Amenity.

And of course there are our Focus On Sessions ranging from Grass Identification to Dealing with Conflict, and Seminars on Soil Life, Plant Pigments and Wildflower Mixtures for the Golf Course.

A range of CPD points, BASIS and NRoSO points are available for attendance – please refer to your booklet for more details.



**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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Robbie, with Jason and David shown inset

## TRIO AWARDED RANSOMES JACOBSEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to three BIGGA members based in the UK and America who have been awarded BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships supported by Ransomes Jacobsen worth £1000. Jason O'Keefe, who works

at Gatton Manor Hotel Golf & Country Club, will attend Merrist Wood College to study NVQ Level 7 in Sportsturf.

David Thompson, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Hexham Golf Club, will go to Myerscough College to

study a Foundation Degree in FDSportsturf.

The final award goes to Robbie Bond, currently a greenkeeper at Augusta National Golf Club.

He will now undertake an Associates Degree at Penn State.



## COUNTRYWIDE T&A TEAM INVESTS IN EXPERIENCE

Countrywide is delighted to announce the addition of Roger Clark to its Turf & Amenity team.

Roger will be supporting customers throughout Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

"Roger has held key roles at some of the UK's top golf clubs and brings a tremendous breadth of industry experience," says Sam Honeyborne, Turf & Amenity Manager for Countrywide.

"His knowledge over 21 years, spans the entire turf and amenity sector, combining both technical sales and practical knowledge and skills. I have no doubt that he will become a key member of our growing team of dedicated turf professionals and will be valued by customers and colleagues alike."

BASIS and FACTS qualified, Roger can advise on the use of pesticides and fertilisers and is keen to put his in-depth experience to the use of Countrywide customers – course managers, greenkeepers and groundstaff whose problems and pressures he fully appreciates.

"The demands today are tremendous," says Roger. "Golf courses, football grounds, sports stadia now operate 365 days a year so the challenge is to create healthy turf that lasts all year round. My advantage is that I understand customers' needs and enjoy working closely with them - and within any constraints they have - to advise on the best products to improve and maintain their surfaces."

"Whether it's grass seed, top dressings, fertilisers, or our substantial portfolio of pesticides and herbicides, it

is much easier to recommend certain products when you have likely used them yourself!"

Joining Countrywide seemed like a natural career progression for Roger: "I kept coming up against Countrywide as a competitor so, in the end, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em! Another big advantage for me was my experience of using Sustane, the organic, slow release fertilisers of which Countrywide has now been appointed sole European distributors."

"This new role will give me the opportunity to use all the knowledge and experience I have gained over my 21 years in the industry to deliver first class results for greenkeepers, course managers and groundstaff as part of the very vibrant, proactive Countrywide team."

## GROWING PLACES

Following a challenging trading year for the amenity market in general, industry leader Rigby Taylor is delighted to announce a sales growth of almost 6% for the year ending July 2013.

A number of company initiatives were at the heart of this growth including a record supply arrangement of total herbicides to Network Rail, new product developments including the Microlite micro granular fertilizer range and a dynamic, company rebranding programme.

Planning for the future with great optimism, a strategy has been implemented in preparation for planned additional growth this year and beyond with a move to larger warehousing premises in Stallingborough, North Lincolnshire. This move, at a stroke, provides increased capacity of some 15% over the existing site at Horwich and, offers the flexibility for further expansion.

The new warehouse facility will be up and running from the end of October 2013 and the current sales support operation for the north of England will relocate to a new sales office within Horwich.

As regards the company's other regional warehousing and office facilities, the Newbridge branch near Edinburgh has recently entered into a joint venture with Scotbark to provide a trade counter in Glasgow serving the west of Scotland and the Camberley branch in Surrey provides excellent stocking and supply arrangements throughout southern England and south Wales.

Only recently Rigby Taylor returned to SALTEX after a five year absence to launch a number of new products and marketing initiatives and will be attending BTME 2014.

# GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

## DOWN THE MIDDLE WITH KUBOTA'S F3680 AND 100-INCH MOWER DECK



## FRESH FROM ETESIA

Following the success of the launch of Kubota's F3680, the tractor and groundcare specialist has introduced a Lastec 100-inch flex mower deck for use with the unit, to provide superior groundcare performance.

The 100-inch mower deck, called the 100 EFK, is exclusively available on Kubota's F3680 as this model has the ideal horsepower requirements for a 100-inch cut width.

The solution has been designed so all the deck pans articulate independently 15 degrees up and down to follow the ground contour with walk-mower precision, which reduces the possibilities of scalping.

Other features include hydraulic operated fold up outer pans to minimise width for transport and an adjustable deck height ranging from 1-inch to 4 ¾ inches with ¼ inch increments with no tooling requirement.

Adjustable internal baffling also allows for standard rear discharge or mulch to optimise

performance in a variety of positions.

Adrian Langmead, Business Development Manager at Kubota, commented: "The introduction of the mower deck is part of Kubota's ongoing commitment to add value to every product along with the service we provide our customers to ensure they can complete their work efficiently and effectively.

"The patented Lastec design integrates five 21-inch mower pans, uniquely pinned together and belt driven, giving a 100-inch wide cut with the precision of a 21-inch walk-behind mower. For turf professionals, this means a larger area can be cut in a shorter space of time, saving users valuable time and money."

The most powerful out front mower in the Kubota range, the F3680 features an efficient 36hp engine diesel engine and Auto-Assist 4WD as standard. It has been designed to offer maximum manoeuvrability and versatility over undulating surfaces, whilst being able to

tackle the most demanding operations on the golf course.

The unit also feature Kubota's unique deck suspension and weight transfer system ensuring the mower blades are kept in perfect alignment with the ground at all times, resulting in an even cut no matter what the surface.

For busy golf courses, Kubota understand it's imperative that maintenance can be conducted on site with ease to ensure greenkeeping teams can run smoothly. That's why the F3680 has been designed with a tilt up hood, easy to clean integrated radiator screen and dual element air filter meaning maintenance couldn't be simpler.

The F3680 also includes a host of features to increase operator comfort and reduce fatigue, such as hydrostatic power steering, deluxe adjustable seat, conveniently positioned operator levers and a single HST pedal resulting in longer, more productive periods of operation.

Among a range of new product launches from Etesia this autumn are two high quality professional rotary mowers, two domestic pedestrian lawn mowers and a new revolutionary electric wheel barrow.

The PKCTM 46cm and LKCGM 53cm models join the Duocut range. Both machines are available with mulching inserts ensuring that users can use one machine for a multitude of different tasks – cut and collect, cut and drop or mulch.

The PKCTM model is a single speed machine equipped with a 6HP Kawasaki KAI-FS181 engine and comes complete with a long range fuel tank making it ideal for mobile grass cutting teams who require a machine to last all day without re-fuelling, whilst the LKCGM model is equipped with a 6HP Kawasaki KAI-FS180 engine and has three speeds – 2.7, 3.5 and 4.5km/h.

Completing the new product launches is the new revolutionary 100% electric wheel barrow which is available with a range of attachments that can tackle a wide variety of jobs.



# The Turner prize

Just three years ago Luke Turner was all set for a career as a policeman – now he's **Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013**. Steve Castle investigates the fascinating tale of this year's winner

main photography by Jonathan Pow  
jp@jonathanpow.com



TORO®



**In 2009 Luke Turner joined the Metropolitan Police force's training scheme, and the only time he'd been on a golf course was to walk his dog. Something told me he would have an interesting tale to tell when we sat down to chat the morning after he became the 25th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year – and he didn't disappoint.**

After completing his A Levels he studied Politics at University, and after moving down to Eastbourne he applied to and was accepted by the Met. However, just a month into his training Luke and the other students were told the money to run their apprenticeships had run out.

Luke recalled: "They got rid of every single one of us. It was a real shock, I had my career plan mapped out for some time, then it was suddenly taken away from me. I had to start all over again.

"In a way it was quite exciting, but I just wasn't sure which direction my career was heading which was unsettling. I knew a couple of guys who worked for the local council, and they told me they needed some seasonal workers at Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club. I play tennis as well as several other sports so I thought, why not?"

"I ended up spending a couple of enjoyable and interesting years there, then I heard there was a greenkeeper's job going at a local golf club – Willingdon.

"I applied and had an interview with the club's Course Manager Peter Negus. I was honest and admitted greenkeeping hadn't been my original career choice, but I was very keen to learn. He replied that if I put the hours in he would help as much as he could and he's been true to his word – he's been an inspiration.

"In fact, I think he liked that I had a clean slate. He immediately enrolled me on a Level Two at Plumpton College, and I'm now starting the second year of my Level Three Diploma in Golf Course Supervision and Sports Turf Management."

So, as a newcomer to greenkeeping what struck him immediately?

"My first impression was the importance of time management. Devonshire Park is a closed venue for most of the year, so you cut the courts at roughly the pace you want. But at the golf club you start cutting at 6.30am and people are teeing off at 7.30am – the pace of work to keep ahead of golfers was a shock to the system. It was also difficult at first to keep up with the other greenkeepers' speed of work until you get the hang of it a few months in."

Willingdon is an Alister Mackenzie designed downland course, stretching over 110 acres and built on a natural bowl two miles from the coast. It has a chalk base ensuring excellent drainage. The area also boasts the title of the sunniest

place on the mainland UK – so how has Luke made his mark?

"I'm aware of being respectful of the traditions of the industry, but equally I'm happy to question a lot of things. If someone says "it's always been done this way" I may question it and reply "wouldn't this way be better?"

One of Luke's successful initiatives is introducing a club Twitter feed - @willingdongolf.

"The greens chairman wanted a Facebook page but I argued that was the wrong medium – I wanted something immediate and easy to use, and I used a couple of Twitter feeds from prestigious clubs to support my argument. During the winter months I can simply type – "loads of rain overnight but we're open, grab your waterproofs and come for a round of golf." So if other courses in the area are closed and golfers are looking for somewhere to play, they look at our website and see we're open from our Twitter feed – they don't even need to call us. It's great for educating the members and communicating with them too.

"I'm in the perfect team to help me further my career. I'm trying to absorb knowledge from Peter when it comes to downland course management as he's been at Willingdon for a number of years. He's very hands-on; he has to be because there are only four of us. Matt Webb worked for MJ Abbott doing golf course construction and also went through the Ohio State programme,

## PROFILE

**Name:** Luke Turner  
**Born:** Leamington Spa, 4 January 1985  
**Role:** Greenkeeper  
**Handicap:** 28  
**Hobbies:** Surfing, rugby, cycling  
**Favourite Sports Team:** Northampton Saints

ABOVE RIGHT: The finalists analysing the 18th tee at Aldwark Manor



and Tim Collier has lots of experience working at courses across the South East. They all have their own ideas, I listen and learn and chip in when required."

Back to the final. As well as an in depth interview the candidates were asked to report on the compaction and thatch layer on three specific teeing grounds. They also had to come up with a programme of work required to improve them. So how had he emerged as the winner from some genuinely tough competition?

"I rated several aspects of the condition of the tees on a scale of 1 to 5 on colour, vigour, root growth, moisture, damage and so on. But I also looked at other aesthetic touches. I suggested adding a raised sleeper flower bed or some decorative bark or gravel – it doesn't cost much but it makes a big difference on the impression golfers get as they walk to the tee. Simple measures achievable within realistic budgets, and similar to work we did on our course last winter. We aim for uniformity – set a good standard on the first tee and carry that on for 18 holes."

He admits he was ecstatic but

also shocked to have won, and had one immediate concern.

"The logistics started going through my head – was my boss being honest when he said he wouldn't mind me having two months off to go to America?!"

"I can't wait to go, I've never been to the States. The education programme is bound to massively shape my career and I can bring so much knowledge back. Even if some of it doesn't necessarily apply to our little downland course, I'm sure I'll be able to use the knowledge gained to my advantage for the rest of my career. Maybe I'll also be able to play a game of American Football, I play rugby and I think it would be fun to see how much damage I could cause with the helmet and all the padding!"

He's clearly a busy man with work, cycling, surfing, rugby and the gym leaving little spare time, although he's determined to improve his 28 handicap after recently taking up the game. He admits he currently merely tries to thrash the ball as far as he can, leading to a string of lost balls on the club's tough 6th hole. But what's his career ambition?

"I want to be a Course Manager.

I'd love to work on a links course because I more or less grew up on a beach – I love surfing – so maybe a course in Devon or Cornwall. But in the next few years I'd love to work abroad, learn another language and immerse myself in a different culture."

The Met's loss is clearly green-keeping's gain.

**"I've never been to the States. The education programme is bound to massively shape my career and I can bring so much knowledge back."**

ABOVE: The finalists; James Wilkinson, Joshua Thorley, Paul Walsh, Ben Waters, Daniel Hardy. Seated are Sam Evans, Luke Turner and Scott Roberts

BOTTOM RIGHT: The interview panel Sami Strutt, Chris Sealey, Trevor Chard and Bruce Jamieson

BELOW: The finalists and judges relaxed with an evening of bowling after the winner was announced





# Aussie rules

What's it like to be in charge of the golf course on the Marquess of Lansdowne's Estate on Grade One Listed parkland designed by Capability Brown? It's all in a day's work for Jaey Goodchild as Steve Castle discovered

## PROFILE

**Name:** Jaey Goodchild  
**Born:** Brisbane, 5 December 1976  
**Hobbies:** Kayaking, running  
**Favourite Sports Team:** The Wallabys



**Arriving at the Bowood Estate, which lies a few miles west of Chippenham in Wiltshire, felt like accidentally stumbling across the set of ‘Downton Abbey’ – and I half expected to be summoned for afternoon tea by the Marquess.**

The spectacular 4000 hectare site boasts a famous Rhododendron Walk, a secret garden and an 18th century House. The proprietor is Charles Maurice Petty-Fitzmaurice, the 9th Marquess of Landsdowne – Bowood has been his family’s home for nearly 300 years. But my visit concentrated on the serious work that’s been taking place on the superb golf course.

Brisbane-born Jaey Goodchild is Head Greenkeeper at Bowood Golf and Country Club which covers around 200 acres of the huge site. It’s 18 holes of glorious parkland and a former Challenge Tour venue which measures an intimidating 7,309 yards from the blue tees and 6,878 from the white.

Jaey said: “It’s picture postcard stuff – just what you would expect one of Capability Brown’s works to be. But it’s very much a working Estate - there’s a gamekeeper and a sawmill with on-site carpenters. In fact the wooden posts for our yardage signs have been sourced from seasoned oak felled on site.”

Jaey came to Bowood in 2011, and his immediate aim was to improve the USGA greens which at that time had a high thatch content and high incidence of disease. When the team used to core, the greens suffered major pull-ups due to the lack of surface stability. The sward was weak with minimal rooting and they would spend hours repairing the greens after aeration.

“My first big challenge was convincing the proprietor, committee and members of the importance of curing this and find a way to fit it in to the schedule. This was difficult in the first year because I started in March when most of the year’s business had already been booked. So year one had to be a real ‘little and often’ approach to keep things ticking over with plenty of fine aeration and light topdressing.

“We schedule two hollow tining operations per year plus multiple micro solid tines and winter slitting. Last year we aerated the greens 14 times and always follow up with a light topdress, brushing and rolling to get the surfaces back on track.

“We’re giving the roots the opportunity to develop, bind the sward together and strengthen it. Now we’ve every confidence we’ll have zero pull-up when we aerate.



We've kept it simple – get the air in there and get the sand in there, little and often, and we haven't tried anything too fancy. We're at a point now where we can aerate, roll and have play that day and golfers don't even notice we've done it."

Bowood had 940mm rainfall last year, 20% more than average, and the renovated greens stood up well remaining largely firm and dry. But the moisture did lead to more problems with disease.

"We had Fusarium in July which you would never expect, quickly followed by Anthracnose, so managing two diseases in such a short space of time made it a tough year. Even this year the Fusarium has been lingering because of the humidity – not so much that you take action but definitely enough to keep an eye on."

The greenkeeping team comprises of nine full-time staff plus some seasonals through the summer. This includes one mechanic – however he's kept busy with jobs on the rest of the Estate as well as maintaining the greenkeeping team's fleet. There are also eight gardeners looking after the spacious gardens, arbo-

retum, the Rhododendron visitor centre, adventure play park and the myriad other attractions on site. So how does Jaey ensure that the greenkeeping team's work is integrated with the rest of this large commercial operation?

"We plan a year in advance. If we want to do renovation work in the spring I book it in the previous August and all our customers are made aware of it in good time. We have a members liaison committee who I address on a regular basis. I always start off with the weather followed by a course report, then I update them on upcoming work on the course and we finish things off with a Q&A. I report to both the Hotel Manager and the Estate Manager, and subsequently to the Marquess, but on a daily basis I work very closely with the Hotel Manager and Head Pro."

In common with my recent features on larger courses with budgets to match, Jaey realises he is fortunate to be able to call on the services of a greenkeeping team nudging double figures.

He said: "It's only possible to keep to the 'little and often' plan on this site if you have a decent sized

**"We've got a massive amount of long rough. We cut and collect annually at the end of every season, and we're gradually scarifying to thin out the heavy play areas"**

team, and I'm fortunate to be in that position. We've also invested in new machinery which has cut the time it takes to complete these key tasks.

"The key piece of kit for me is the Wiedenmann Terra Spike GXi 8. The old machine was only 800mm wide so it took a long time to do the job! The Wiedenmann's speed and versatility make it crucial, and it's got all the bells and whistles – it does whatever you want it to do. We also use a Sisis multislit that can buzz round a hectare of greens in a couple of hours – that's vital because we've got a hectare and a half of green surface."

The course itself is undulating, with long rough (almost reminiscent of some links courses) punishing errant drives. It looked picturesque in the summer sun, with a young

**ABOVE:** Harvested rough bailed and ready for removal

**MAIN RIGHT:** The team at Bowood - Jack Summers, Lee Whyte, Zac Broocks, Matt Law, Franzi Iten, Sam Day, Jaey Goodchild



## MACHINERY LIST

### Greens

- Jacobsen Eclipse 322
- Tru-turf roller

### Surround mowing

- Jacobsen GP400
- 2 x Jacobsen Gplex 3
- 2 x Jacobsen LF3800
- Jacobsen AR522
- Ransomes HR6010
- Ransomes 960

### Aeration

- Wiedenmann GXi8
- Vertidrain 7212
- Vertidrain 305
- Sisis multi slit
- Dowdeswell slitter

### Bunker rake

- Smithco Superstar

### Spraying

- Hardi 6m truck mount
- Hardi 12m tractor mount

### Debris clearance

- Tornado XL360
- Amazone GHS210
- Ryan core collector

### Utility vehicles

- 3 x Toro HDX Workman
- Cushman
- Kawasaki Mule
- Easi-go

### Topdressing

- Ultra spreader topdresser
- Toro 1800 topdresser

### Extras

- Bernhard Grinding Equipment Express Dual 2000, Angle Master 2000
- Groundman sodcutter

deer skittering down one of the fairways as we drove round. With the team now in control of the USGA greens, they've been able to focus on management of the long rough.

Jaey explained: "We've got a massive amount of the stuff. We cut and collect annually at the end of every season, and we're gradually scarifying to thin out the heavy play areas."

The hardest part is finding the balance between aesthetics, economics and speed of play. There's a lot of arguing – sorry, I mean cooperation between myself and the pro Paul McLean on this! We spend a lot of time together every spring on cut lines, watching play and managing it all."

Jaey first arrived on these shores in December 1997 on a six-month backpacking trip - and has stayed ever since! His first job in the UK was landscaping at Hyde Park for two years. This involved spending many hours with the Park's fine turf specialist which convinced him that was the path he wanted to follow.

His first golf role was at Chobham in Surrey as an Assistant, before moving up to a Deputy role after



only 18 months. Two years later he secured a role at The Richmond as a Deputy. All of his turf education was in the UK. He attended afternoon and evening classes at Merrist Wood to obtain a HNC & HND, before completing his Masters Degree in Sports Surface Technology at Cranfield University – a total of seven years of part-time study. He's been a BIGGA member for 11 years, and is also a Silver Key member. Why?

"BIGGA's education programme has opened so many doors for me over the years so it's good to give a bit back. Most of the guys here

are BIGGA members and I try and get them to attend as many events as possible – seminars, golf days, BTME - rotating them so they all get a chance.

"I've been a regular member of the BMW PGA Support Team at Wentworth and also The Open this year for the first time – these are fantastic opportunities – there's such a buzz when you're working at a tournament."

In a disappointing sporting summer for Australia (sorry Jaey, I couldn't resist...) it's pleasing to see one Antipodean enjoying success in the UK.

In the first of a two-part series, Steve Isaac, Director of Golf Course Management at The R&A, describes the successes and failures of five clubs aiming to achieve better year-round putting greens



# A better environment ...the key to better greens

**In June 2006, The R&A employed the STRI to undertake a project which ran for six years with the purpose of following the impact of a maintenance package aimed at producing firmer, healthier greens at five golf clubs in England.**

The selected courses, which could all be considered to fall within the parkland designation, volunteered to take part in this project and STRI agronomists made their first visits later that year.

The programme concluded at the end of 2012 with a final agronomic visit.

In the interim, STRI agronomists visited each course twice a year and gave advice with a view to producing healthier turf and drier, firmer

putting surfaces, thus developing an environment which favours the desirable browntop bent and fine fescue grasses. Objective tools were used to assess progress in terms of putting green firmness, trueness, smoothness, speed and soil moisture content, though this was restricted to the last three years of the project as the STRI Programme was not available before then.

After six years, all clubs noted improvements in year-round putting surface performance and, especially, winter play. Collected data showed the development of firmer, more consistent surfaces with enhanced drainage which suffered less from climatic stress or disease incidence.

Reduction in thatch was not as significant as had been hoped, not

helped by a series of wet summers and difficulty in achieving the recommended works necessary to make a real impact.

Consequently, increases in the finer grasses were not, generally, as notable as expected but some clubs have seen clear evidence that this is happening.

Firmness did increase over the period – suggesting that there is not a simple relationship between firmness and the percentage of organic matter at any given depth below the surface; the structure of the thatch, how well it is diluted, its homogeneity and water-holding capacity are important factors which are not drawn out from a laboratory test of organic matter content.

The results firm up attitudes to green management.



**MAIN LEFT:** David Croxton, pictured right, reviews progress on the Cold Ashby greens

**MAIN RIGHT:** Golfers putting out on the firmer Knowle greens

**INSET LEFT:** Firmer surfaces at Cold Ashby but still a long way to go to control organic matter

**INSET RIGHT:** Although still averaging 12% organic matter in the top 0-20 mm, the healthier rootzone is producing better greens at Knowle

**RIGHT:** The shaded 7th green at Leek

**Coming Soon...**

Steve goes through the do's and don'ts of working towards a healthier environment.







### **Cold Ashby Golf Club, Northamptonshire**

A proprietary club, Cold Ashby achieved a 33% reduction in nitrogen input, from 175kg per hectare to 115kg per hectare per year, with healthier greens as a consequence. Bent content increased by around 10%.

Their greens dipped in and out of the objective assessment target ranges, suggesting organic matter content well above the desired level, averaging at 16.9% in the top 0-20 mm as opposed to the target range of 4-6%, remains an impediment to consistent surface performance.

David Croxton, Course Manager at Cold Ashby, made the salient point that his involvement in the project had been “a successful exercise that required a great deal of commitment on all sides.” He added:

“It would have been easy to give up after three years but, in retrospect, that would have been a mistake.

“It was probably a valuable learning experience for both the advisor and the club.”



### **Knowle Golf Club, Bristol**

At Knowle, a private members club, all greens are now within the target range for hardness whereas they were soft at the start of the project.

Smoothness has improved markedly, with this measure and trueness now hitting the ‘Routine Target’ range.

At the start of the project, annual meadow-grass was very much the dominant grass on the greens (averaging 66%). Bent grass is now on a par or present to an even higher level than annual meadow-grass, with greens averaging 56% bent content.

Ryan Coles, Secretary/Manager at the Club commented: “Although making a mediocre start due to internal problems, we have certainly moved forward in the last three years and are now seeing major progress being made. We’ve worked hard to communicate our aims to our members and to raise their awareness of what we are trying to do.

The majority understand that some short-term disruption to play is needed from time to time and this patience has been rewarded as the

greens have received many plaudits from the membership.

“Due to the general economic climate, these are difficult times for members’ golf clubs such as Knowle. It is not easy to correlate the link between the condition of greens and our membership levels, where of course we derive the vast majority of our income. It’s fair to say we’re not losing members to other golf clubs and a significant number of those joining us are established golfers from other clubs.”

### **Leek Golf Club, Staffordshire**

The green to the par 3 7th hole at Leek, a private members club, sits under a row of tall *Leylandii* which protect the car park from balls flying to the left of the green. At the start of the project, the green was soft, wet and dominated by disease-prone annual meadow-grass.

Thanks to the installation of drainage and a thatch dilution programme it is now a firmer (from below 70 gravities to consistently within the 80-100 gravity target range), drier, smoother, truer and faster putting surface.

Generally, Leek saw an increase

in hardness from below their target range to above this range over the course of the project. This represents an improvement of 43%, and could well be a result of their 10-15% reduction in volumetric soil water content. By the end of the project, Leek had hit or was much closer to target ranges for hardness, soil moisture content, organic matter content at 40-60 mm, smoothness and green speed. The result was the production of greens that were firm throughout last year's very wet summer and last winter. Leek kept play on the greens throughout this period, except for when there was an overnight frost or snow cover.

Head Greenkeeper John Turner reflected: "From Leek Golf Club's point of view, participating in the project was a huge success. The Clegg Hammer and the Moisture Meter are very useful tools for monitoring the greens firmness and soil moisture content, but collecting the data was something of a challenge at times. With a small staff and me as a working greenkeeper, I had to rely on the goodwill of our Greens Chairman to do the majority of the data recording.

"The readings showed up some interesting results which went a long way to resolve certain issues and highlight others. Leek's involvement in this project was crucial for me to confirm to the club that the practices I had put in place on taking over here were the correct way to push sustainability and its objectives forward to what, I am

happy to say, has proven itself in terms of all year round good playability."

STRI Agronomist, Paul Woodham, added: "Leek Golf Club has reaped the rewards of their hard work and desire to improve the performance of the greens which are now amongst the very best I see. Their ambitions and objectives are now to move forward from a position of strength, progressing in a sustainable manner which is the envy of many other courses".

### The South Buckinghamshire, Stoke Poges

This council run municipal course has seen nitrogen inputs reduce by 20% and hardness has increased so that figures now fall within the target range. Green speed has improved and is close to the target range, whilst height of cut has not gone lower than 4mm. Although still at a relatively low level (10-26%), bentgrass content has risen from starting values of 1-6%.

Paul Frost, Head Greenkeeper, commented: "Being part of the trial has been a great opportunity for the staff, council and golf course alike.

"The greens have improved greatly and this is backed by customer satisfaction surveys and retention of returning golfers. We will never know how much influence this has on revenue but I feel that the condition of the greens does play a major part in golfer satisfaction here.



ABOVE: Tree thinning and removal of undergrowth has brought about an improvement to the 6th green at The South Buckinghamshire



RIGHT: John Turner, left, taking objective measurements of the 18th green at Leek with the Club's STRI agronomist, Paul Woodham



INSET MIDDLE RIGHT: Paul Frost stands proudly outside the new maintenance facility at The South Buckinghamshire

BELOW RIGHT: Wilmslow Course Manager Steve Outram, discuss progress with Andy Fluck

BELOW LEFT: The still shaded 14th green at Wilmslow has shown great improvements in year-round playability following tree removal and drainage



“Winter play has improved hugely due to the greens’ ability to be in play much sooner than previously after heavy rain. This used to close the course sometimes for a day or two, but now we can get the greens playable in a fraction of the time.”

Putting the resources available to him into context, Paul added: “There are only seven staff, including myself, looking after three facilities; the golf course, a golf academy and a large multi-sports ground. This, and the weather over the summers of 2011 and 2012, has impacted on the amount of aeration, top dressing, etc, delivered to the greens. With more resources the greens may have been much more advanced than they already are.”

There are encouraging signs for the future with a major investment in infrastructure at The South Buckinghamshire.

A new £350,000 maintenance building has opened, and a £1.65 million clubhouse which will be able to host non-golf related functions is under construction. Golf is in good hands at The South Buckinghamshire, with the Academy driving the recruitment of new golfers and preparing them for the challenge of the main 18 hole course.

### **The Wilmslow Golf Club, Cheshire**

Spring smoothness was an issue at this private members club, as

for most UK courses with a mixed sward.

Over the course of the project this has improved to all greens, and is now almost within the target range. There is also much greater consistency in performance between greens. Micro-managing has led to improved consistency.

Trueness and green speed measurements at Wilmslow are mostly now in the ‘Tournament Target’ range.

It is very likely that this is a consequence of the low organic matter content figures recorded on the greens, plus improved drainage, and should suggest to other clubs across the country that they need to get down towards the STRI target range for organic matter (4-6% in the top 0-20mm of a soil profile and less than 4% lower down) in order to attain such a performance standard.

The 14th green started out as a shaded, wet green, dominated by a weak annual meadow-grass sward. Removal of trees and the installation of drainage resulted in a much healthier green with an increased proportion of browntop bent (8% more).

Andy Fluck, a Member of the Green Committee, reported that: “There has been a notable improvement in winter playing quality and consistency between greens.

Pressures were noted to green quality during the difficult early spring period and further advice was instrumental in being able

### **about the author**



**Steve Isaac**

Steve Isaac was an agronomist at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) for 17 years. He then became responsible in 2003 for The R&A's golf course sustainability programme, working to protect the enjoyment of the game and to safeguard the financial operations of golf facilities, in a manner which preserves natural environments and enhances community engagement.

to deliver stronger earlier growth as the season commences with the use of different inputs and fertiliser.

The clear message that came from our involvement was that it is essential to correctly identify the main limiting factors to progress of growth such as shade, poor or failing drainage, on a green to green basis and within separate areas on each green.

The regime of data collection and analysis enabled us to make informed decisions from what is fundamentally an early warning system.”

### **The future**

All of the clubs involved have expressed their intention to carry on with the programme that has been devised over the duration of the project, i.e. reduced inputs and maintenance set to hit target ranges for organic matter content, soil moisture content, hardness, smoothness and trueness.

### **Summary**

Golf clubs have facing increasing pressure during the economic downturn. Making savings through a more sustainable approach to greenkeeping is only attractive if it also brings better playing surfaces for more of the year and the chance to increase revenue, thereby giving them more of a chance to at least retain members and visiting golfers.

The wet summers of 2011 and 2012 limited the amount of top dressing that could be applied to the South Buckinghamshire greens. The wet summers of 2011 and 2012 limited the amount of top dressing that could be applied to the South Buckinghamshire greens.



# Changing face

Dr Terry Mabbett speaks to various industry experts to analyse how anthracnose has changed, how to deal with it and how it can be one of the downsides of good summers

**Lengthening shadows and falling leaves were the traditional signals for anthracnose as a dark coloured basal rot on *Poa annua* caused by a thatch-residing *Colletotrichum* fungus.**

Anthracnose on turf was originally assigned to *Colletotrichum graminicola* but scientists more recently named *Colletotrichum cereale* as the main culprit on turf. The change is minor compared to the overall changing face of anthracnose on UK turf since the 1990's. Radical new dimensions encompass a wider range of turf grasses, different disease symptoms and a new time frame.

## **New disease dimension**

Anthracnose now appears as a foliar blight in summer on a much wider range of species. North America has a long history of foliar blight during spells of high humidity with temperatures over 22°C, especially on seasonally stressed turf struggling to grow over a dry root zone. Annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) and creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) are the prime targets, but smooth stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) and creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are also affected.

Summer showers and irrigation is repelled by the dry compacted surface of the root zone. Accumulating surface moisture has nowhere to go but into the thatch. Moistened within an envelope of high humidity the conditions are now set for fungal growth, spore production, infection and the rapid onset of foliar blight.

A remarkably similar pattern has evolved in the UK with anthracnose appearing as foliar blight on turf stressed out by high traffic and lack of moisture to cause dry compacted root zones and visibly stressed out grass plants.

Overall, annual meadow grass is the most susceptible species but as Dr Simon Watson of Syngenta told Greenkeeper International, "the foliar form of the disease affects

most turf grass species, including bentgrass and fescue."

Foliar blight is the downside of good summers. "Anthracnose appears to have been quite a widespread problem this year", says Joe Kinder, Technical Manager at Sherriff Amenity. "It's likely this reflects the harsher growing conditions associated with good summer weather."

Traditional autumn anthracnose only posed problems for greens with a high proportion of *Poa*. As a thatch residing fungus responding to classical autumn conditions of cool temperatures, morning mists and dew, basal rot anthracnose tended to occur alongside *Fusarium* Patch.

*Fusarium* was easily the number one disease of UK turf so fungicide sprays were almost entirely targeted at the causal fungus *Microdochium nivale*.

Rarely did anthracnose appear on fungicide labels for managed turf although everybody from chemical companies to greenkeepers knew most products with *Fusarium* on the label would 'do for' anthracnose at the same time.

According to Peter Corbett, Chemical Specialist at Rigby Taylor, the absence of anthracnose on labels was due to a combination of factors related to logistics and economics. The sporadic, localised nature of anthracnose meant it was difficult to find suitable trials sites and for the same reasons essentially uneconomic to conduct them, for anthracnose as a 'stand-alone' disease.

Greenkeepers striving for *Poa*-free greens actually welcomed a disease that would selectively clear out annual meadow grass. They saw basal rot not as a destructive disease, but as a useful biological control agent, a naturally occurring and operating mycoherbicide helping to maintain *Poa*-free swards.

"When I started in the industry over twenty years ago it was generally called 'annual meadow grass dieback' and was regarded by some as the greenkeeper's friend" says Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales

Close up on basal rot anthracnose in a *Poa* sward (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



# of anthracnose





Manager at Everris.

“These days anthracnose is an altogether different proposition and can cause significant damage if left unchecked. It seems that the increased pressure of ever more intensive management, coupled with greater demands for play and combined with ever more extremes of weather are creating conditions for the disease to flourish and strike harder and harder.”

### New order management

A new disease dimension calls for a new order of disease management with a more integrated consideration of the causes and the control of anthracnose. More emphasis is given to summer stress facilitating easier and quicker leaf infection and disease development, and environmental conditions that push a sedentary saprophytic thatch residing fungus into full parasitic mode.

Rising temperatures over compacted turf with dry patch symptoms is a ‘flag up’ for anthracnose. Moisture from summer showers or irrigation with nowhere to go except into the thatch will create and maintain surface wetness and high humidity, the ideal conditions for pathogen activity and anthracnose

disease.

Wetting agents to improve soil permeability and water holding capacity, to avoid dry patch and maintain stress-free turf in summer, clearly have an important part to play in anthracnose management. Discussing the advantages of their Tricure range of wetting agents in last month’s Greenkeeper International, Headland Amenity specifically cited the need “to get water into the root zone and keep it there to reduce the stress associated with turf diseases such as anthracnose.”

Dry compacted soil also impacts on fertility because applied nutrients can only enter the root zone and be accessed by roots when in solution. Other fertility concerns related to anthracnose revolve around contemporary trends in overall fertiliser use.

### Abrasive aspects of anthracnose

Aeration and scarification employed to avoid and alleviate stress can actually aggravate anthracnose especially when used during high risk periods. Anthracnose is also aggravated by traditional summer practices such

**ABOVE:** Anthracnose is now a disease ‘in its own right’ requiring targeted control in summer to manage the foliar blight form on a range of turf grass species

**RIGHT:** Close up on dark coloured basal rot damage on *Poa annua* plants (Picture courtesy Everris)

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Aeration should be carried out during low risk periods for anthracnose (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

**RIGHT:** Anthracnose can cause considerable scarring across the greens (Picture courtesy Syngenta)





as low cutting heights and frequent application of top dressings to reduce stress, as well as occasional rolling for tournaments.

The key and common factor is damage to grass leaves and stems however subtle that may be. I'm reminded of a comment made by David Senior at Vitax describing anthracnose "as tiny discrete yellow patches of infection corresponding to pitch marks left by golf balls and causing sufficient abrasion for fungal entry."

The abrasive effect of tiny silica (sand) particles in top dressings on grass plant surfaces is sufficient to open up grass foliage for anthracnose infection, especially if the dressings are well worked in.

Measures to alleviate stress should be carried out when anthracnose risk is low says Dr Watson, adding how greenkeepers can consult Syngenta's Greencast Website where anthracnose risk is plotted throughout the season on easy to read graphs.

Greenkeepers can use risk forecasts to time proactive fungicide applications more effectively to get the best results, and for tailoring fertiliser applications and synchronising other turf management





operations, which may impose stress on plants, to periods when anthracnose risk is low.

Access to historical data allows greenkeepers to review what was done and why, thereby providing a full justification of inputs and cost used to tackle those threats.

**Changing face of fungicides**

Gone are the days when anthracnose was a side issue in autumn turf management and dispatched by fungicide sprays targeted at Fusarium Patch. Anthracnose is now a disease its own right requiring specifically targeted summer sprays when Fusarium is unlikely to be on the greenkeeper's radar.

Contemporary anthracnose is more difficult to manage but the parallel changing face of fungicides has gone a long way to keep the odds in the greenkeeper's favour. Twenty years ago it was unusual to find anthracnose on the fungicide label whereas today it is unusual not to.

Prevention is better than cure. "As it is not possible to treat the advanced stages of anthracnose disease, it remains important to treat at the earliest opportunity," says Joe Kinder.

Dr Watson reminds greenkeep-

ers to remain alert for conditions conducive to the disease, such as high wear areas dominated by annual meadow grass and where outbreaks have been experienced in the past.

Nutrition is recognised as having a central role in grass resilience to anthracnose with tank mixing of fungicides and nutrients increasingly at the forefront of current thinking.

"It is important we take an integrated approach and focus on preparing surfaces without stressing the turf," says Henry Bechelet, "and making sure we get the nutritional inputs right. We also need to use properly targeted fungicides to prevent significant damage taking hold."

Sherriff Amenity is closely focused on tank mixing strategies. "Having pioneered the fungicide and nutrient tank mixing concept, under an extensive trials programme at STRI, we are able to recommend both traditional and novel management options for anthracnose and other commonly occurring turf diseases", says Joe.

There is considerably more depth in the fungicide market for anthracnose management than two decades ago, in appropriate products, more two-and three-way

mixes of different actives and versatilities in potency, activity and mode of action.

Rigby Taylor has a six-product fungicide portfolio for anthracnose management.

"We offer a broad spectrum of control options for anthracnose made even more versatile through opportunities to tank mix our products. By adjusting rates greenkeepers can obtain a wide range of fungicide chemistry in a single spray without exceeding the maximum dose rate for an individual product as stipulated on the label," concludes Peter Corbett.

**Continuity of disease**

Anthracnose clearly appears in two distinct forms at different times of the year. That said both phases are caused by the same fungus living on thatch in saprophytic or weak parasitic mode.

Under combined conditions of high surface wetness/relative humidity and low host 'resistance', the anthracnose fungus moves through the gears into full parasitic mode. Inadequate management of either form of anthracnose, foliar blight or basal rot, will leave than much more inoculum to act as a springboard for the following period of high disease pressure and risk.

The foliar blight form of anthracnose appearing in summer has overtaken the basal rot form of anthracnose historically occurring in autumn

**about the author**



**Dr Terry Mabbett**

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



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# Fusarium

## ...better the devil you know

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager at Everris, turns detective to investigate Fusarium and how to deal with it

### Know your enemy

If we want to minimise the occurrence of damaging disease attacks, it is essential to know the pathogen and understand what it is trying to do.

The *Microdochium* patch pathogen, *Microdochium nivale*'s single aim in life is to complete its life cycle and reproduce. The problem we have, as turf managers, is that it does this at the expense of the grass plant. The turf, in effect, is the collateral damage.

### Stages of life cycle

#### LAYING IN WAIT

When inactive, *Microdochium nivale* survives in the thatch or soil as microscopic spores or dormant mycelium. The spores can remain viable for up to two years and with-

stand extremely low temperatures (-20°C). They lie in wait for favorable conditions to develop.

#### GERMINATION

The spores begin to germinate in cool wet conditions. This can happen at temperatures between 15°C and -6°C with the ideal range being 0-6°C (combined with periods of leaf wetness for more than ten hours a day).

When the spores germinate they produce long, branching hyphae, tubular structures that search for nutrients to fuel further growth and development.

#### PENETRATION / INFECTION

Specialist hyphae infect the plant by penetrating outer cell walls of leaf sheaths and leaf blades near the soil. Infection can also proceed through the stomata in the leaves and progress rapidly through the plant.

#### MYCELIAL GROWTH

Nutrient absorbing hyphae draw resource from the plant, which is transported from the host to

the fungus to allow it to develop and produce further mycelial networks.

This stage can occur extremely quickly with complete colonisation of the leaf possible in the space of 72 hours. This is when the real damage starts. At this stage, the mycelium growth enables the patches to spread outwards.

#### BLISTERING & SPORE FORMULATION

The fungus finally produces fruiting bodies containing spores that are released to disperse in wind and water, continuing the cycle of disease. The pathogen population will boom exponentially if cool, damp conditions persist.

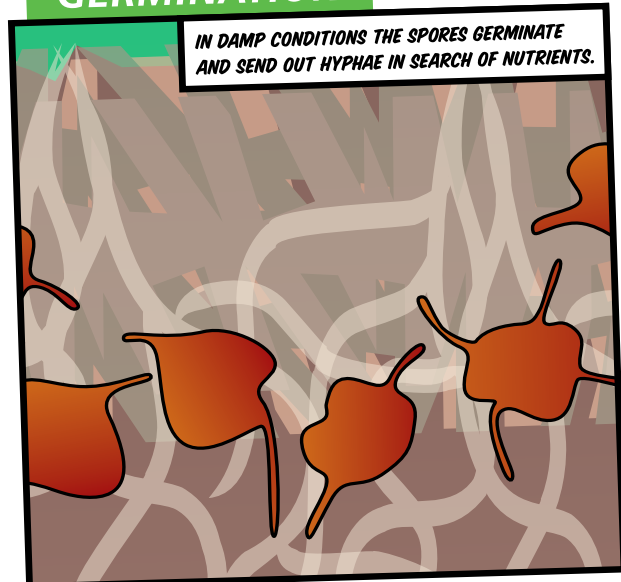
It cannot be emphasised enough that the *Microdochium nivale* pathogen is a merciless parasite. It is solely concerned with its own reproduction, which is achieved by taking resources from its host grass plant. It has no care for the health of the turf and will draw all life from it because the next generation of spores are sent away to find a different host to prey upon.



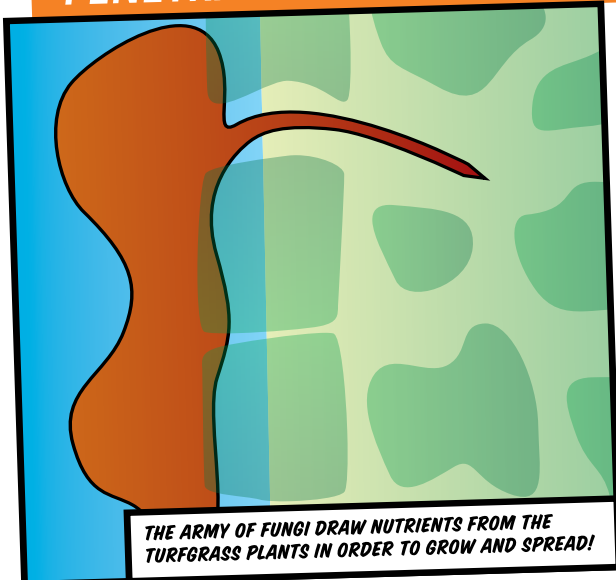
## LAYING IN WAIT



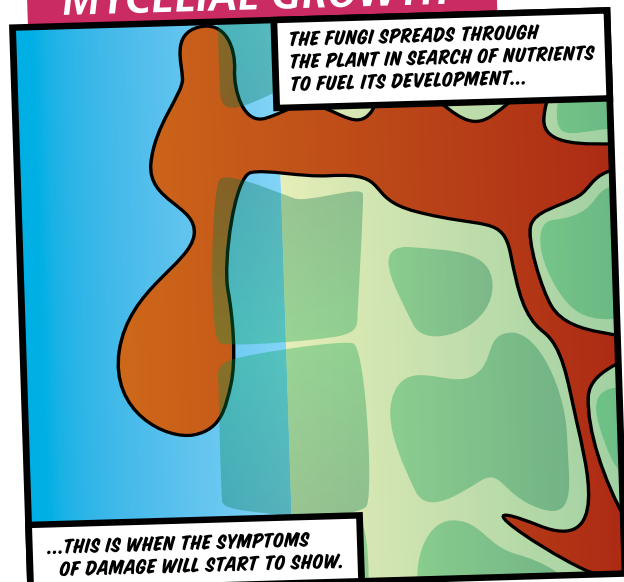
## GERMINATION



## PENETRATION / INFECTION



## MYCELIAL GROWTH



## BLISTERING & SPORE FORMULATION



### Test your knowledge

1. What are the conditions that favour the germination of the Microdochium Patch spores?
2. How does the pathogen fuel its growth and development?
3. What are the main symptoms of Microdochium Patch disease?
4. Why is it best practice to rotate active ingredients or use products with multiple active ingredients?
5. When in the pathogen lifecycle is it best to apply the active ingredient fludioxonil?

### BASIS points

Members of the BASIS Professional Register and BASIS Amenity Register claim two BASIS Crop Protection points (2 CP) by reading this article and testing your knowledge by answering the five self-assessment questions. Please claim your points in the usual way using event attendance code CP/32480/13/g (BASIS Professional Register) and CP/32477/1314/g (BASIS Amenity Register).

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As part of the new BIGGA CPD Programme, we are offering members the opportunity to gain 1 Professional CPD credit for completing an online quiz relating to this article. We are also seeking your feedback on this, so tell us what you think.

You will need to go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BIGGA\\_CPD\\_Fusarium\\_Quiz](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BIGGA_CPD_Fusarium_Quiz), complete the quiz and leave some feedback for your CPD credit.

## The symptoms

Initial symptoms begin to show as small brown patches emerging in localised areas. The symptoms are a result of the pathogen causing leaf death due to extensive infection and nutrient withdrawal. Mycelium may also be visible at the edges of the patches as the fungi spreads. As the patches enlarge, the centre becomes water-soaked and paler as a result of the deteriorating leaf structure collapsing and beginning to degrade. These symptoms begin to show quite late in the life cycle of the disease, so early treatment and a preventative approach is essential to limit the potential for extensive damage.

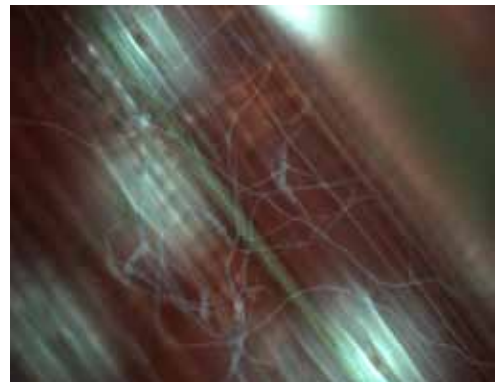
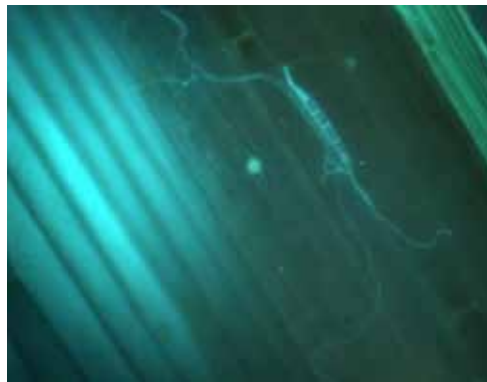
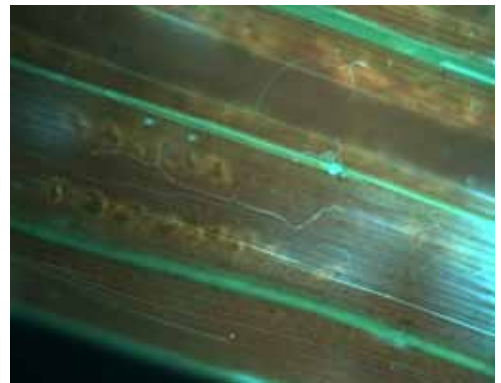
## Your disease prevention strategy

Prevention is always better than cure, so it is important to create conditions that will limit the development of the disease. An integrated turf management approach uses all the tools in our armoury to achieve this. Maintaining turf health and reducing the risk of disease attack begins with sound cultural practices, such as:

- Creating a freely draining turf system with soil profile management, thatch reduction and drainage systems
- Keeping the turf leaf as dry as possible by brushing and switching, dew dispersants, managing irrigation inputs, reducing shade and improving airflow
- Maintaining turf health without creating unduly lush growth, especially in autumn
- Maintaining an appropriate soil pH (generally in the region of 5.5–6.5)
- Monitoring and a keen awareness of the weather conditions that are favorable to the development of disease
- Making use of disease prediction resources such as the green-cast.co.uk website
- Working towards the establishment of grass types with improved disease tolerance
- Using fungicides properly and at an early stage

## Fungicide use and spraying

Even with the best cultural practices in place, disease outbreaks can occur if the environment is favourable enough for long enough. Fungicide use should be considered as part of an integrated turf management plan rather than a fire-fighting approach. Using fungicide to control the inoculum, halt the development of the pathogen and protect the plant is good practice,



especially if there is a significant risk of damage.

You will know that there are a number of fungicides available and that they can have different active ingredients. In general terms, active ingredients are designed to either target the fungi with direct contact (to interrupt its development) or be situated within the plant itself to repel infection by the pathogen from within. Different active ingredients work in different ways, so it is important to select products that are appropriate for each situation. It is best practice to alternate treatments with different modes of action or use products with multiple active ingredients to prevent fungicide resistance occurring in the fungal population.

## Which active?

By way of example, fludioxonil belongs to the phenylpyrrole chemistry group. It is targeted for direct contact with the pathogen and has multi-site activity inhibiting the germination of spores, the creation of hyphae and mycelial growth. It acts in the soil, in the thatch and on the leaf and is best applied preventatively or as an early curative treatment.

Propiconazole is a member of the DMI-fungicides group, and has rapid systemic uptake through the leaf and crown of the plant. It acts on the pathogen from inside the plant, to stop disease development after penetration by interfering

ABOVE: Fusarium under the microscope

with sterol biosynthesis in fungal cell membranes. It is best applied preventatively and is shown to be particularly effective in cooler conditions.

Azoxystrobin is a strobilurin of the QOI group. It is systemic; entering the plant through the roots, crown and leaf, and prevents fungal growth by affecting its cells. This can be applied at any stage but is best applied preventatively.

Some fungicides contain a mix of active ingredients to achieve better control by targeting the pathogen at different growth stages, or in the thatch and soil as well as inside the plant.

## Conclusion

Microdochium patch can be an especially damaging disease if given free rein to grow and reproduce. It is important that we work hard to minimise the risk of attack with good management practice. Fungicide treatment is often necessary, and an appreciation of the disease life cycle and fungicides' mode of action will help achieve the best results.

However, the pathogen will never be completely eradicated, so we must remain vigilant and properly prepared. Our essential weapon against Microdochium patch is undoubtedly our knowledge and understanding, which we can use to create an advantage at least. Sometimes, it's better to know the devil.

## about the author



### Henry Bechelet

Henry has been working in the turf and amenity sector for over 20 years. After training to become an agricultural agronomist he joined STRI as a trainee agronomist in 1992. After a couple of years learning the ropes at STRI he went out on the road as Northern Technical Sales Representative for a fertiliser supplier for seven years. Henry rejoined STRI in 2000 as an agronomist and spent the next 12 years looking after his clients as well as building a reputation for thought provoking articles and as an entertaining speaker.

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# The (not so) elusive butterfly bush

In this latest series of BASIS articles written in association with Sherriff Amenity, Graham Paul looks at the butterfly bush

**The Butterfly Bush, *Buddleia davidii*, was introduced to the UK from China in 1896. It is loved by many gardeners throughout the world for the abundance of beautiful, scented and nectar-rich flowers that attract butterflies, bees and other insects.**

It is easy to propagate and has few natural enemies, so once it is established in a garden it will probably remain there in perpetuity. I have chosen to feature this plant because it is a non-native invasive species that can be difficult to control; and also to highlight the controversy that arises from the impact it has on local ecosystems.

The genus *Buddleia* comprises over 100 species that originate in Asia, Africa and the Americas. The genus was named by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus as a posthumous honour to the Reverend Adam Buddle (1662–1715), a rector and botanist from North Farnham in Essex, who was the foremost authority on British bryophytes of his era - just imagine what his Sunday sermons were like!

The most common of the buddleias is *B. davidii*, which gets its species name from a French missionary and naturalist Père Armand David. Buddleias are now classified in the Scrophulariaceae family, a large group of plants that includes; figworts, mullein, toadflax and speedwells. Prior to this they were classified in their own family, the Buddlejaceae.

The Butterfly Bush grows to a height of up to five metres. Flowers are borne in dense, spiked panicles that are mauve-purple with an orange centre. A white flowering variety can also be seen growing in the wild but is less common than the purple flowered species. Originally introduced as a garden bush it has escaped and can be extremely invasive given the right conditions.

The potential for spread of this species is due to the large number of seeds produced by each of the tightly packed flower spikes. It is estimated that a single flower spike can produce as many as 40,000 seeds so a full sized bush could generate as many as 3 million in

a year. These lightweight, winged seeds are easily dispersed by the wind and are often caught in the slipstream of lorries and railway trains that can carry them onwards for a considerable distance.

The seeds can remain viable in the soil for three to five years, requiring very little in the way of soil or moisture to germinate and hence they can easily establish in barren ground.

The butterfly bush occurs in a variety of habitats, growing well on poor soils with a preference for disturbed ground and areas recently damaged by fire. It seems to like chalky and lime soils, waste ground and will also proliferate on riverbanks.

Another favourite habitat is railway property; where it easily establishes in the ballast of the track and cess and any mortar filled brickwork is a definite invitation to put down *Buddleia* roots! It is believed that the lime in the mortar provides the right conditions for the plant to establish, so the seeds just need to find a tiny opening in the brickwork to take hold.







### Chemical Control Measures

'Pistol', a formulation of 250g/L glyphosate and 40g/L diflufenican, gives excellent control of buddleia seedlings. The diflufenican in this product helps to prevent germination of seeds long after the spray has been applied.

For young plants, where the stems remain green, glyphosate formulations such as Roundup Pro Biactive' will provide good control. Mature plants need a brushwood killer such as 'Timbrel', which contains 480g/L triclopyr.

However, 'Timbrel' and five other approved products containing 480g/L triclopyr are scheduled for withdrawal by 30 November 2014, so manufacturers are providing alternatives with lower concentrations of triclopyr but mixed with suitable co-formulants; e.g. aminopyralid, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, dicamba and 2,4-D, to bridge the gap and provide a similar level of weed control.

High on the list of new products specifically suitable for controlling the butterfly bush in amenity situations are mixtures of aminopyralid and triclopyr, developed by Dow AgroSciences and launched under the brand names 'Icade' and 'Speedline'.

### Cultural control measures

The initial approach to curb the spread of this plant using non-chemical means is to control the spread of seeds. Dead-heading plants as soon as the flowers have died back is recommended for garden specimens but on larger bushes this may not be practical.

Landscapers and gardeners should be encouraged to choose new dwarf varieties of *Buddleia* that do not produce fertile seeds; such as 'Blue Chip', which is equally attractive to butterflies but does not present any risk of spread by wind dispersal.

Seedlings and young plants can be pulled up relatively easily and established mature plants can be felled and disposed of by burning on site if this is permitted. It is inadvisable to leave any branches on the ground after they have been cut as they can take root and create a new plant.

### Biological Control measures

Authorities in New Zealand have carried out quarantined studies on the leaf eating weevil *Cleopus japonicus* to ensure it did not harm endogenous plants and crops. This insect originates in China where it





feeds on the leaves of the butterfly bush. In 2006, following the success of these studies, the weevil was released on several sites on the North Island and so far results have been encouraging. These quarantined studies would need to be repeated in the UK before we could consider adopting this approach to control. Scientists in New Zealand are also looking at a stem boring weevil *Mecysolobus erro*. for *Buddleia* control, the adults of this insect feed on the tender terminal shoots causing the tips to wither and die.

### The controversy

There is no doubting the attractive power of the *Buddleia davidii* for butterflies, bees and other insects.

The development of our urban environment has depleted the numbers of many butterflies, insects and wild animal species, so it is no surprise that organisations involved in conservation of wildlife are sympathetic to planting the butterfly bush as a means of encouraging some to re-establish.

However, we should remember that this is an aggressive invasive plant species which, despite the abundance of pretty, fragrant flowers, contributes very little to the support of the larval stages of these insects. Back in its original native environment, the butterfly bush evolved alongside a host of predatory wildlife that help keep the species in check. It is amazing that despite being resident in the UK for over 100 years it has encountered very few natural enemies – hardly

any insects have adapted to feed on the leaves and stems.

In 2008, DEFRA and the country agencies for Wales and Scotland published a new strategy to control invasive species and listed *Buddleia* on their non-native species website [www.nonnative-species.org](http://www.nonnative-species.org).

Butterfly Conservation have stated their position with regard to the planting and maintenance of the butterfly bush as follows: “*Buddleia* provides an important nectar source for adult butterflies, moths and other insects in townscapes and the countryside.

This has become increasingly relevant because wildflowers have become so depleted following habitat loss and the general lack of nectar sources in the countryside. It also brings enjoyment to many people, both because of its heavy scented and beautiful blooms but also because of the butterflies and other insects it attracts. It therefore plays a role, alongside other non-native garden plants, in helping to maintain or restore the link between people and native UK wildlife such as butterflies.”

They acknowledge that the butterfly bush can be a problem in brownfield sites and suggest that gardeners should prune the plant in the autumn to remove seed heads and reduce the potential for spread in the wild.

However, *Buddleia* is not included with the wild invasive non-native plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and is not scheduled for future inclusion.

**BASIS**

### SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points by visiting the ‘BASIS Points Article’ section on the Sherriff Amenity website – [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com) and answer the questions correctly.

1) Who was responsible for naming the genus *Buddleia*?  
 a) The Reverend Adam Buddle  
 b) Carl Linnaeus  
 c) Dr William Houstoun  
 d) Père Armand David

2) When did the butterfly bush arrive in the UK from china?  
 a) 1896  
 b) 1715  
 c) 1662  
 d) 1789

3) What is the estimated annual seed yield for a full sized butterfly bush?  
 a) 40,000  
 b) 300,000  
 c) 700,000  
 d) 3,000,000

4) Which species of insect has been introduced in New Zealand as a potential biological control agent?  
 a) *Malacosoma Neustria*  
 b) *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*  
 c) *Cleopus japonicas*  
 d) *Euproctis chrysorrhoea*

5) What date has been set for the withdrawal of products containing high concentrations of triclopyr such as ‘Timbrel’?  
 a) 30th November 2014  
 b) 1st November 2013  
 c) 30th November 2013  
 d) 1st August 2014

For further information, please contact Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721 888 or email [info@sherriff-amenity.com](mailto:info@sherriff-amenity.com)

For more news and insightful views, you can follow Sherriff Amenity on Twitter @SherriffAmenity.



# Are you ready for winter?

Stuart Hall, former Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, urges you to take a few simple steps to ensure your machinery is ready for winter



**It's strange to think that after the majority of the country has finally enjoyed a good, dry summer we're now starting to think about winter setting in, but its only round the corner – and all greenkeepers need to be ready.**

Now is the ideal time to start a few pre winter checks, as we enter autumn, leaves and heavy dew start to interfere with early morning mowing. The extra moisture on the ground can find its way into every small space, so it's time to check your cutting unit's roller seals are sound to prevent water penetration and lead to further damage, a quick check now could save you the cost of a bearing replacement in the near future.

Also as the temperature starts to drop leading to frosts, ensuring your engine coolant has enough antifreeze protection is an absolute must. Protection of your engine's water jacket now can save you costly engine damage. You can buy good quality antifreeze testers now for around £12 - well worth the investment - but as a rule of thumb

most manufacturers recommend a solution of 50% antifreeze and 50% water.

However, most of them also provide a ready mixed solution, this acts as a summer coolant and frost protection all rolled into one, alternatively you can get a relatively cheap 10l container with a tap, add 5l of antifreeze, 5l of water and you have a year round mixture ready to go. If your operators have this to hand when they're doing their pre start checks, and you use it all year round, you don't ever have to worry about unexpected early frosts.

At the same time, as daft as it sounds, as the temperature drops and damp weather arrives giving the radiator a good clean out is essential. As dust and debris start to mix with the moisture in the air it starts to form a solid mass, this has a nasty habit of blocking the radiator's cooling fins. Then just as you're not expecting it the machine overheats, so it's well worth a having a look, then while you're checking the radiator, check the radiator cap itself. This important piece of the cooling system is vastly





overlooked, but it's an integral part that acts as a vent when overheating occurs. But, if the cap is in poor condition with a damaged seal or a weak spring, it gives the impression that you have an overheating cooling system when actually it's just a damaged cap.

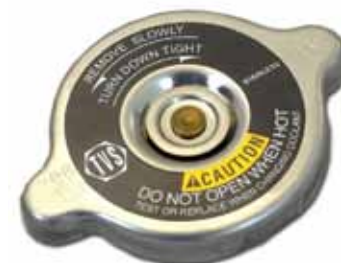
Another good one to check early is the battery, again a check now could save you having to fork out for a costly replacement. Batteries struggle in cooler conditions and frost can wreck them if they're not in good condition, so now is the best time to check fluid levels. A simple tester is available from most dealers and show up any any cells in bad condition. At the same time you can clean up the terminals and apply a coating of protective terminal spray or electrical grease, then once complete why not check your charging system with a volt meter (normally around 13.8v) and the condition of your fan belt, all this only takes

a few minutes but can really save you money.

Lastly we come to fuel. Modern fuels have changed dramatically over the last few years, firstly petrol now goes stale in around three to six weeks and can really catch you out over the winter period as machines are used less frequently. You can either use a fuel additive, or a cheaper option is to drain petrol out of the tanks and carburettor bowls so when you go to use them next fresh fuel goes in and starting isn't an issue. Secondly as diesel now has a minimum of 5% bio fuel in it there is a greater chance of water build up and fuel freezing in your tanks, so if you don't top your machine fuel tanks up after each use, start doing so now as it helps keep condensation to a minimum and helps reduce bacteria build up.

All these tips will allow you to approach autumn and winter with your machinery ready for the freez-

ing temperatures and frosts – and many of these will take just a few minutes of your time but will save you lots of money and disruption when you least need it in the depths of a British winter.



#### about the author



**Stuart Hall**

Stuart began his working life in greenkeeping before moving to machinery maintenance, and became Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club. Earlier this year he accepted a role as Groundcare Services Manager for P Tuckwell Ltd, a John Deere machinery dealer supplying Ground care machinery near Stevenage. He covers Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, a huge area with many golf clubs, sports grounds, schools and colleges.

# What does FEGGA mean to you?

Newly elected FEGGA Board Member Paul Worster takes a look behind the scenes at FEGGA

**Until recently, I was aware of the existence of the Federation of Golf Greenkeeper Associations or FEGGA, but like many had little idea what it did, what its mission was, and who ran or participated in it.**

However – all that has changed now as I'm a newly elected Member of the FEGGA Board and I would like to share the aims and ideas of the organisation with you.

FEGGA was formed in 1996. It actually augmented, and eventually replaced, a 'European Greenkeepers Association'. Dean Cleaver - former Course Manager at Gay Hill GC and BIGGA Chairman in 1996 - was the first FEGGA Chairman, and is currently the organisation's Executive Officer. FEGGA is registered in Sweden and currently has 23 members.

"Only 23?" I hear you ask. That's correct - because it is the actual Greenkeeper Associations that are the members, and those 23 member associations represent the interests of around 13,000 greenkeepers in Europe. Impressive by any standards.

So what does FEGGA do exactly? Well – we in BIGGA are perhaps spoilt. The UK has 2,500 golf courses which is by far the highest density of golf courses anywhere in Europe. We have our own very strong association which now employs 17 people. No other European country has a similar number of courses, and their greenkeeper associations are virtually all volunteer-led, and volunteer-administered - not many other European Greenkeeper Associations have any paid employees.

So, FEGGA, with its links to GTC, EGEU (recently rebranded to Greenkeeper Training - Europe), GEO and the EGA (European Golf Association) brings training, education, development and encouragement to the greenkeeping profession in the smaller golfing nations where in some cases there are actually very few golf courses. Of course, despite a low number

of courses, well educated, well led, and well motivated staff teams are a primary requirement, and there is the familiar pressure to improve and develop.

Now I'm still learning, but already I've discovered that there are at least three different scenarios within FEGGA. There are the Northern European Courses, for example in Scandinavia where some people actually have two jobs. They have a summer job when the golf course is open, and a winter job somewhere else when the golf course is frozen over and closed.

In general the Superintendent and his Deputy are retained, but most other staff are released to go to other jobs. Many return to greenkeeping year on year and often to the same facility. Compare that with Southern European greenkeepers, whose courses are open all year round, but of course face extremes of a completely different type in mid-summer when heat and drought are significant factors. Then there are courses in the mid-zone which are more akin to the UK. So, a pretty broad canvas on which to base training aims and objectives.

Don't underestimate this - countries such as Slovenia, Slovakia and Bulgaria have only a handful of golf clubs - less than ten perhaps. But this doesn't stop the greenkeepers and Superintendents from being hugely keen to learn and very proud of their achievements. These people are part of our community, part of our profession. They deserve our support and our input. In giving support and making connections, the BIGGA Board and I firmly believe that by helping FEGGA and getting involved we can also open doors and create opportunities for our own members to find advancement within Europe, which is why I am so pleased to be working with the FEGGA Board.

Work on this Board is very different. Firstly there is the language issue. All meetings have been conducted in English as are the conferences. I am really impressed with



the command of English displayed by the vast majority of people I've come across so far.

Currently we are working to update the Constitution of FEGGA (the rules and regulations that give the framework for business). After that review, the business plan will be upgraded to map out how to meet revised aims and objectives (as outlined in the new Constitution).

FEGGA holds an annual conference which incorporates the AGM. This is sponsored by patron members and is an opportunity for Member Associations to meet with sponsors and carry the sponsors' message back to greenkeeper members within their own countries. I spoke at this year's conference in Switzerland, the opening day of which was held at Syngenta's European HQ in Stein. Stein was a fascinating place showing the tremendous research into the development and safety of pesticides for use in golf and agriculture.

Next year the FEGGA Conference is in Girona (in the Catalonian region of Spain) and the learning subjects will appeal to a broad cross-section of greenkeepers.

In short – FEGGA has much to offer greenkeepers in Europe and, through supporting it, can help make opportunities in Europe more available to British greenkeepers. I'm supporting FEGGA – I hope you will also.

Visit our Website – [www.FEGGA.org](http://www.FEGGA.org) and become a friend of FEGGA on Facebook.

## about the author



Paul Worster is Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and a former BIGGA Chairman. He is now a director of FEGGA and believes in strong Greenkeeper Associations preparing and equipping their greenkeeper members for management



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by the 10th  
of the month

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



# Around the green

## Scotland

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



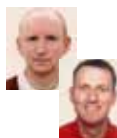
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## Events Coming Up

**Central** - Next event on the calendar is the Section AGM at Elmwood training room on 29 October. This will be preceded by a presentation from Lynn Jopling of SGEG. Details for this were emailed out at the beginning of October.

Following on from that is the 2-day "Train the Trainer" course to be held at St Andrews Links on 19/20 November.

**West** - Coming up is the AGM on the 24 October at Hags Castle GC followed by a short talk from a couple of different suppliers on what's new in the industry.

Also, the social night is on 29 November at Qui Italia near Cad-deriggs or the old Glasgow Herald building, this is similar to last year with a pre theatre meal and then onto a few pubs or nightclub. The section would appreciate your support in both of these events as last year they had a very good turn out.

**East** - A workshop day at John Deere (Sherriff's) Haddington is on 9 October (BAGMA) approved, please contact Steven Burrell for enquiries at [gcservice@thomassherriff.co.uk](mailto:gcservice@thomassherriff.co.uk), please note spaces will be limited.

**East** - The 27th AGM will be held at Ravelston GC on Tuesday 5 November, more details to follow next month.

## News

**Central** - The irrigation course on 25 September was fully subscribed, thanks to Adrian Mortram and Callum Oliphant for

delivering the course and to Elmwood for the use of the facilities for the day.

**Central** - The turnout for the autumn outing at Stirling GC on 4 September wasn't so good with only 28 people in attendance. On a glorious sunny day, those who did come along enjoyed playing a course that was excellently presented by James Lindsay.

Our thanks to James and his team and all at Stirling GC for their assistance. Kevin Webster of Leven Links was a new name on the Scratch trophy while Graeme Bolton of gWest was a clear winner of the best nett on the day.

A full list of prize-winners can be found on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) or by liking us on Facebook. From next year the prizes will all be based on Stableford scores apart from the Scratch prize.

**Central** - Work is still progressing at a considerable speed on the new course being constructed at Feddinch just outside St Andrews. Not so much in the news lately though about the proposed development just along the coast from Elie.

**West** - A report on the Autumn outing will follow next month but I would like to take this opportunity to ask if any member has a subject they might wish to raise at the AGM please contact any member of the committee before the event to allow a full and frank discussion to take place.

The blog is available for members to look at and obtain information or the magazine, failing that contact myself on 0141 9425554 or 07790823914, or e-mail me at [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com).

**East** - Our recent Willie Woods tournament went well with a good attendance on the day, held at Mortonhall GC that was in its usual fantastic condition.

The scoring was good with Graeme Davidson and Martin Fith-eridge (both Mortonhall) lifting the trophy with a superb 62 in a betterball format, with Alan Campbell and Dougie Melville (both Edinburgh Leisure) coming second with a 65 (bih). The nearest the pin winner was William Kelly (Mortonhall) and our longest drive went to Craig Hempseed (Mortonhall).

## Thanks to Sponsors

**Central** - A special thanks to Otterbine, Toro and Lely for provid-ing the coffees and lunch at the irrigation course.

**East** - Thanks must go to Gary Smith (Sherriff Amenity) for a very informative educational topic in the form of 'Nutritional Movement Through the Plant', this topic went down well and was delivered superbly.

## Welcome New Members

Kjell Torbjorn Berggren - Trump Golf Scotland, Iain McFarlane, Gavin Millar - Elderslie GC, Barry Munro, Peter Munro - Zoar Cottage Lawn Tennis





# Northern

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



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## Events Coming Up

**Sheffield** - Christmas Competition on 11 December at Worksop GC, tee times from 10.30am followed by AGM, meal and presentation, sponsored by Mike Brear of Rigby Taylor. Also remember to book your place for the trip to St Georges Park on 16 October.

**North East** - We're hoping to organise a couple of course walks in near future, more details soon.

**North West** - Bert Cross Trophy and AGM at the Wilmslow GC on 12 November. Contact Phil Dewhurst on 07768 180604 if you wish to attend.

**Cleveland** - Boulby Potash Mine Visit Thursday 3 October. Eight places only so get in touch asap to reserve your space. Contact me (Pembo) 07791 695768

**Cleveland** - Autumn Tournament Wednesday 9 October tee off 10am till 11am at Sharpley Springs GC. For just £16 you will get the usual bacon sandwich and coffee, 18 holes of golf followed by a two course meal and raffle. Limited to 24 spaces.

**Cleveland** - The annual bring a bottle challenge at my place Cleveland GC is on Tuesday 10 December 10.45am tee off.

**Northern** - Our final golf day of the year is the Xmas bash at Baildon GC in Bradford on 11 December.

**North Wales** - The autumn tournament took place at Royal St David's GC on 18 September - results next month. The Christmas tournament is at Royal Liverpool GC, Hoylake on 25 November, all entries and monies to be returned asap.

## News

**Cleveland** - I'm submitting the monthly notes so if you have any news let me know. Even small bits of info are good, like trying to find the greenkeeper from our area that was spotted at a local bus stop and now has a modelling contract with Vogue magazine. Pembo

**Cleveland** - Well done to Lee Cameron from Teesside GC in completing the coast to coast bike ride raising over £3000 for the Great North Air Ambulance, a fantastic achievement.

**North East** - Jimmy Richardson has retired as section secretary after 31 years service. The section wouldn't have operated to the level it has without Jimmy's time and commitment. On behalf of the section we wish him well in his retirement. We plan to give him a well deserved send off at our Autumn tournament at Westerhope GC on 9 October and it would be great if you could attend.

**Sheffield** - On 13 September Ashley Brear married Grace. Ashley is Mike Brear's son of Rigby Taylor and we wish them all the very best and hope it all goes well for Ashley in his new post at Luffenham Heath GC. Can members please send any news items to the NEW SECTION MOBILE NUMBER 07944 392155.

**Northern** - Best wishes to Stu Mason from Woolley Park GC in Wakefield on his forthcoming marriage.

**Northern** - We recently played a fantastic competition of greenkeepers v trade at Cookridge Hall in Leeds. A great day but unfortunately apart from myself and Joe Walsh destroying Nick Bissett and Simon Hardcastle in the last match we lost 3-1.

**North Wales** - Arthur Evans, Head Greenkeeper at Abersoch GC, celebrated 25 years at the club in September; we wish him many more happy years in greenkeeping.

## Movers and shakers

**North East** - Congratulations to Brian Hughes of Whickham GC, who after his hard work and dedication in his senior role has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper.

**North Wales** - Roger and John Kerry retire from their jobs as course and deputy course managers on the 31st of this month, after 36 years of loyal service to Royal St. David's GC we wish them all the best in retirement.

## Results

**North East** - New summer competition held at Percywood GC, massive thank you to Simon Olver and the club for the course condition and hospitality shown, it was also nice to see a lot of new faces at the event.

**Best Gross** - J Hogg, Div One - 1 S Olver, 2 C Donaldson, 3 J Friar; Div Two - 1 S Pope, 2 B Brown, 3 D Thompson; Trade - G Baxter; Nearest Pin 10th - J Friar, 14th - V Cox; Longest Drive - S Olver. The best score of the day was by S Pope who is 82 years old - putting all us young guys to shame. Well done Steve!

## Thanks to Sponsors

**North East** - Rigby Taylor for sponsoring prizes at Percywood and to Lloyds for sponsoring the food.

**North East** - Thanks to Paul and Freddie Wade and our chairman John Watts for sorting the day at Cookridge - a great addition to our golfing calendar. Also thank you to Sandra our RA for all her help at our golf days, they would not be the same without her.

## Welcome New Members

Kevin Thompson - Tyne Green GC, Robert Leitch - Furness GC, Robert Wood - Castle Hawk GC, Jacob Field, Steven Zoing - Rudding Park GC, Daniel Edgecombe - Affiliate, Jubb Signs Ltd.

## Midland

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



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

## Events Coming Up

**East Midlands** - You should have received your invites to our AGM Competition at Lutterworth GC on 31 October. Exclusively sponsored by Farols there will be some tremendous prizes on offer and of course the usual top quality raffle. In addition there is the Midland Region Education Seminar on November 6 held again at Forest Hill GC, remember that CPD points are available for all attendees.

**Midland** - The Autumn golf tournament is to be held at North Warwickshire GC on 16 October, starting at 12. Get your entry in to Rhys Thomas as soon as possible on 07774 164173 and check your tee time soon via [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk)

**Midland** - Our Autumn education day is a visit to Villa Park, kindly sponsored through Everris on 23 October. If you're interested and would like further details please visit [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk) to book your place to visit the world's most famous football club!

**Midland** - The Midland Section AGM will be held following the golf at North Warwickshire GC on 16 October at 6.30pm before the evening meal. All members are welcome.

**Mid Anglia** - Autumn Golf Day at Berkhamsted GC on 16 October. Get your entries in asap to avoid missing out. AGM to follow.

## Movers and Shakers

**East Midlands** - A very warm welcome to the section for Simon Graham who has taken on the role of Head Greenkeeper at Lingdale GC. Simon joins Lingdale from The Buckinghamshire and I'm sure I speak for everyone in wishing him the very best of luck with his new challenge.

**Mid Anglia** - Congratulations to Hayden Drinkwater on becoming Course Manager at Mentmore GC and to his Deputy at Redbourne GC taking over his old role. We wish you all the best in your new positions.

## Results

**East of England** - Newark Golf Club 25 July. 1 Peter Orbine 38pts Gedney Hill GC, 2 Graeme MacDonald 37pts Newark GC, 3 Adrian Kitchenson 34pts Lincoln GC. Nearest the pin won by Peter Orbine. Longest straightest drive Bruce Hicks. Trade/Associate prize Peter Hainstock 36pts.

**East of England** - Match vs GCMA at Norwood Park 12 September. East of England greenkeepers won 4-2.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**Midland** - This month's calendar sponsor is TH White. Many thanks for supporting the Midland Section, and please consider them when looking at replacement machinery. Contact TH White through Simon Bingham on 07813 835212 or [www.thwhite.co.uk](http://www.thwhite.co.uk)

**Mid Anglia** - A massive thanks goes to Vassgro Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, ALS, Amtech Amenity, Headland Amenity, Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery and Rigby Taylor Ltd for your continued support with funds which really helps to make our section run successfully. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year, once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements.

**East of England** - Many thanks to F.G Adamson & Son John Deere dealers for their sponsorship of the golf day at Newark GC. Also congratulations to Graeme MacDonald and his staff for the condition of the course and the caterers for the excellent meal as always.

**East of England** - Many thanks to all the staff at Norwood Park GC for the condition of the course and the excellent hospitality after the match.

## Welcome New Members

Matthew Rich - East Berkshire GC, John Quinn - Caversham Heath GC, Earl Oakton - Mickleover GC, Steven Birtwistle, Ross Kerr - Chilwell Manor GC, Alan Sherlock - Trent Park GC, Jonathan Cox - Bedford GC, Ben Evans - The Tytherington Club, Gary Oliver - The Belfry, Harry Kelly - Lea Marston Hotel & Leisure Complex, Steven Smith - Ingestre Park GC, Adrian Barnes - Tamworth GC, Gary Price - Hill Valley Golf & Country Club

## A new look

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

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

## South East

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



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**LONDON**  
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## Events Coming Up

**London** - Next is the Xmas tournament at Verulam Golf Club on 12 December sponsored by Everris. Hoping for a good turn out as Xmas is such a good time to come together after a hard year's work and enjoy some good greenkeeper company. This will be followed by the AGM. Entry forms will be posted out or you can email Lee Cox on l.cox15@btinternet.com

**Kent** - Our annual Turkey Trot where a good time is pretty much guaranteed followed by the AGM to moan about it if you don't shall be held at Redlibbits GC on 28 November. You all know how enjoyable this event is so be sure to get your entries in asap.

**Kent** - We are very proud to be hosting the South East Regional conference on Tuesday 19 November at Hadlow College. News on times and speakers to follow next month but visit our website for updates

## News

**East Anglia** - Lovely day at King's Lynn GC. I think it's the first time the Section has been there and it was terrific thanks largely to Colin Robinson and his team. Sixty souls turned up - results below.

**East Anglia** - I heard a rumour that a golf club has a member who has been at the club for 80 years, continuous membership.

It was suggested that it would be nice to give them life membership as a reward. No problem you might think.

Three committee meetings later, they decided against the idea as it might set a precedent! You could not dream it.

**London** - The summer tournament was played at Sudbury GC on a wet summer's day but Jim Easton had the course in excellent condition and very much appreciated by the guys from Stanmore GC as they claimed the first 3 places, with Mark Lambert first followed by Jack McCormack and Daniel Cowley.

**Kent** - Many thanks to everyone who made our Autumn event at the delightful Sene Valley GC such a great occasion.

It's always a pleasure to welcome new attendees to our events too so a warm welcome to our fold to James Boorman and Jamie Tomsett of Lydd GC.

The course at Sene Valley was fantastic and very scenic even if the English Channel didn't look too appealing on this particular day!

It's fair to say that this particular club is one which local knowledge could save you at least half a dozen shots by knowing where to aim!

The welcome by all the clubhouse staff was exceptional and we would like to thank all the management at the club for allowing us to enjoy your facilities on the day.

It's fair to say the early starters enjoyed the best of the conditions as us tail-enders endured monsoon conditions scuppering any chance of a spot on the podium but who cares when you're amongst friends eh!

A thoroughly enjoyable event, great food, great friends, great laughs on a great course.

Thanks Sene Valley. Hope to return soon.

## Movers and Shakers

**Kent** - Congratulations to Darren Burton who, we are reliably informed, is soon to be the father of twins!

**London** - A couple of appointments to mention, first Trevor Smith of Brookmans Park GC has been promoted from Course Manager to Club and Course Manager and secondly David Purdue has been appointed at The Buckinghamshire GC as Club Mechanic.

Finally congratulations to Ricky Goodman deputy at Hendon G C on the birth of his son George

## Results

**East Anglia** - 0 - 9 Handicap - 1st: Michael Buck (Who else?) 39pts, 2nd Peter Howard (Must try harder) 38pts

10 - 18 Handicap - 1st: Peter Ervine 36pts, 2nd: Howie Jenner 34pts

19 - 28 Handicap - Real Golfers, 1st: Martin Brightwell 31pts, 2nd: Richard Mitchell 30pts

Trade & Guest, 1st: Philip Jones, 2nd: Mark Keysel

Longest Drive - Ian Robinson; Nearest Pin on 3rd - James Brown (Feels Good!); Nearest Pin on 12th - Jerry Scott; Loo Seat - Ian Willett cos no one else wanted it! Thanks again King's Lynn, would love to return one day.

**Kent** - Autumn Golf Day Results: 1 34pts James Boorman, 2 34pts Michael Roberts, 3 33pts Steve Sutill; Nearest Pin was by Pete Leaves and Longest drive by Dan McGrath.

Thanks to Lister Wilder for bringing some additional prizes and for Darren Burton for bringing some welcome liquid sustenance to the bedraggled late finishers.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**East Anglia** - Ben Burgess were the main John Deere sponsors, ably accompanied by Nick Ashman, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Ernest Doe, Collier Turf Care and Amtech Amenity Ltd.

We are all extremely lucky and grateful for all the support we get from the Trade.

It would, however, be helpful if they could just leave a card with their prizes then (perhaps) I would not leave anyone out.

## Welcome New Members

Jimmy Heritage - Maylands GC, Shawn Granshaw-Payne - Colne Valley GC, Jamie Robertson - Chelmsford GC, Sam Gavin, Matt Sherwood - Ashford Manor GC, Casey Krahenbuhl - Beaverbrook GC, Martin Wilmshurst - Seaford GC.

## South West & South Wales

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



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gpitts@  
yelvertongolf.co.uk



**SOUTH WALES**  
Peter Holmstrom  
pholmstrom@  
countrywide  
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### Events Coming Up

**South Coast** - Next Golf event the Autumn Tournament at Meon Valley GC on 9 October last entries need to be quick glassy2003@hotmail.com

**South Coast** - Toro Irrigation Roadshow at Sherborne GC on 23 October, not to be missed and incredible value at £10 for a full day with food. Contact Alex McCombie on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

**South Coast** - Regional Seminar on 20 November at Oaktree Arena. Please contact our new Regional Administrator tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk for full details of speakers and cost.

**South Coast** - Date of AGM 13 November at Wellow GC. This will be a half day with guest speaker and include a light lunch. Those wishing to play golf in the afternoon need to contact the club separately. Please email Alex on

southcoastsecretary@gmail.com if you want to attend. Support your committee please.

**South West** - Looking forward to seeing everyone at two upcoming events; the South West Section AGM at Filton Golf Club on Wednesday 16 October, tee times from 11.00am, and the Section Christmas Tournament at Ogbourne Downs Golf Club on 19 December.

Enquiries to Wayne Vincent (07958 630590) or Adam Matthews (07732 503855).

**Devon & Cornwall** - Our first meeting which is the AGM is at Lanhydrock on 24 October.

### News

**South Coast** - Something completely different from golf congratulations to Rob Crouch our John Deere rep on completing the Iron Man Triathlon in an amazing 13 hours 20 mins. Fitness indeed!

**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** - Best of luck from all of the section to Lee Whyte of Bowood GC and Paul Garland of Lansdowne GC who will be representing the South West at the BIGGA National Championships at Frilford Heath Golf Club on 7 & 8 October, c'mon boys!

**South West** - Once again the section will be sponsoring a place to attend BTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Please contact any of the committee members to express your interest in this fantastic opportunity.

### Thanks to Sponsors

**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

Timothy Burress – Playgolf Bournemouth, Michael Griffiths – Marriott St Pierre Hotel & Country Club, Colin Coleman – Overseas Member, The Grange Golf Club Australia.

## BIGGA REGIONAL CONFERENCES

**BIGGA Midland Regional Conference**  
– Wednesday 6 November at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Botcheston, Leicester LE9 9FH. £15 members, £25 non-members

**BIGGA Northern Regional Conference**  
– Thursday 7 November at the Phoenix Golf Club, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5PA. £10 members, £20 non-members

**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



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# Ryder Cup stars sample EnviroBunker



**Jack Nicklaus and two other former Ryder Cup stars recently experienced something they had never before witnessed on a golf course when they saw bunkers built from re-cycled synthetic material.**

They became involved to varying degrees in projects at opposite ends of the climatic and geographical spectrum last summer.

The projects at Trump National, Jupiter, Florida in the USA and Frosaker Golf and Country Club in Sweden now share a common interest, both having commissioned EnviroSports Ltd to construct bunkers using their patented EnviroBunker construction method.

The South Wales based company struck up a partnership with former Swedish Ryder Cup star Pierre Fulke last Summer having worked on a small construction project on a new 9 holes at Frosaker, a Championship venue in Sweden, where Fulke was acting as architect.

Such was his passion for the product, Fulke became a representative for EnviroBunker in Scandinavia, and along with the owners at Frosaker, commissioned a second stage build to complete all bunkers on the new 9 holes in May 2013.

The course opened in August of this year with Magnus A Carlson and former Ryder Cup player Per-Ulrik Johanssen playing alongside Fulke in the curtain raiser.

Christer Ral owner at Frosaker GC commented "EnviroBunker fits in beautifully at Frosaker and knowing that we will not have to re-visit these bunkers for 20 years or more is a very satisfying feeling. Equally important to us is that there is no compromise in appearance or performance"

Across the pond, EnviroBunker was seen by Trump National, Jupiter, as an ideal solution to the problems of maintaining bunker edges and higher faces in the heat of Florida.

In contrast to Frosaker, Trump National was a full 18 hole course rebuild managed by Nicklaus Design. The EnviroSports team worked closely with Senior Design Associates at the Nicklaus company over a six-month period ; initially providing input to the design and planning process, and then managing the construction of 17 large and strategically important bunkers.

Richard Allen, Co- Director of EnviroSports commented: "During the construction phase we worked alongside world class designers

and contractors , exchanging ideas and knowledge with some of the most experienced professionals in golf course construction, including Mr Nicklaus himself.

"We are delighted with the feedback we have received from Nicklaus Design, Superior Golf Concepts, Clay Batson (The Course Superintendent)and of course our client, Trump National. Moving forward we plan to do more work in the US and are responding to enquiries from regions as diverse as New Mexico, Colorado and New York State".

The project at the Trump National coincided with the granting of a US Design Patent, following earlier granting of the UK patent. Fellow EnviroSports Director, Rhydian Lewis explained the significance: "Envirobunker is a high quality product, which demands a combination of imagination, skill and precision at both design and construction stages.

"We are committed to maintaining and enhancing our reputation for quality and intellectual property is an important tool in that process'."





**Dan McGrath**  
Master Greenkeeper

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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



This month the GTC has invited Andy Wight, Head of Work based Training at Oaklands College, to share his knowledge and experience on delivering the Apprenticeship Scheme for greenkeepers and why employers and Course Managers should consider recruiting or registering staff on this Government accredited scheme

**“Apprenticeship” is the current buzzword and the government’s vision for the future of training in the UK. The numerous apprentice frameworks are currently under review and once again, industries are set for more changes. The government’s view is that apprenticeships should be a choice for young people i.e. equal to that of a college Further Education qualification or in the case of higher apprenticeships, Degree level.**

## What is an apprenticeship and how does it work?

An apprenticeship is a formal, agreed framework of education and training which has been set by a lead body on behalf of industry. In the case of greenkeeping, the Lead Body is LANTRA. The GTC represents both golf club employers and greenkeepers and have ably, for many years, ensured both employers and apprentices have a “fit for purpose” apprenticeship scheme which has become an exemplar for other sectors.

The framework includes:

- \* **the main work based qualification (Level 2 or 3 Greenkeeping)**
- \* **functional skills in maths and English**
- \* **personal thinking and learning skills**
- \* **employer rights and responsibilities**
- \* **on and off the job training**

This list includes some on the job and independent assessments. On the job training happens

every day at work - learning to use a mower, lay turf etc. Off the job training does not necessarily mean the apprentice has to attend college. It could be at work using an office but it must not be part of the apprentice’s normal routine. It could also be studying online using the employer’s computer.

Many apprentices enjoy the flexibility of the scheme but a key component is that there must be an agreement between the employer, the apprentice and the Centre, of who does what and when.

This is done through an agreed Individual Training Plan. Equally it could be part of a day or block release course at a local college, which has been the traditional delivery method for many years. Modern technology and the important role Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have in the apprenticeship scheme has given employers and the apprentices choices on their preferred delivery method.

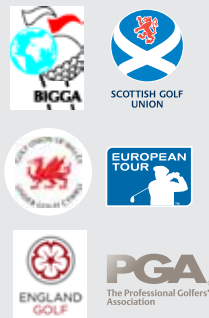
Greenkeeping apprenticeships are available on two levels; one includes the Level 2 work based diploma, SVQ in Scotland qualification and one includes the Level 3 Sports turf qualification. Young apprentices will always commence on the Level 2 apprenticeship as the Level 3 includes supervisory skills.

## Why are apprenticeships good for the employee?

The employee has employment for the duration of the framework and gains a set of skills and qualifications that they can use to progress in the industry.



The GTC is funded by:



## Contact Details

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www.greenkeepertraining.com



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## Why are they good for the employer?

Government funding support is often available for apprenticeships. Employers in England can currently receive a grant of up to £1500 for each apprentice they take on.

Scotland and Wales often have funding incentives and support to encourage an employer to recruit a young person who will bring fresh ideas and skills into the workplace.

Apprentices can make an organisation more effective, productive and competitive by addressing its skills gaps directly.

Apprenticeship training for 16 to 19 year olds is free of charge to the employer. Note – the funding of apprenticeships is subject to

change and it is advisable to check with your chosen GTC Quality Assured Centre for the latest information.

## Is an apprenticeship for everyone?

In essence yes, there are no age restrictions on apprenticeships at present (although currently only 16 to 19 year olds are fully funded).

The only requirement is that the apprentice must pass the English and Maths requirement of a framework.

In a few cases, where the person may have a learning issue such as dyslexia or extremely low English or Maths skills, a Centre will offer additional learning support before signing up an individual onto the apprenticeship scheme.

## How apprenticeships can work well - a case study

Simon Torr, a greenkeeper at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, is a mature level 3 apprentice, studying with Oaklands College. For Simon, the apprenticeship offered him and his employer a cost effective method of gaining his level 3 Sports Turf work based Diploma qualification (formerly NVQ).

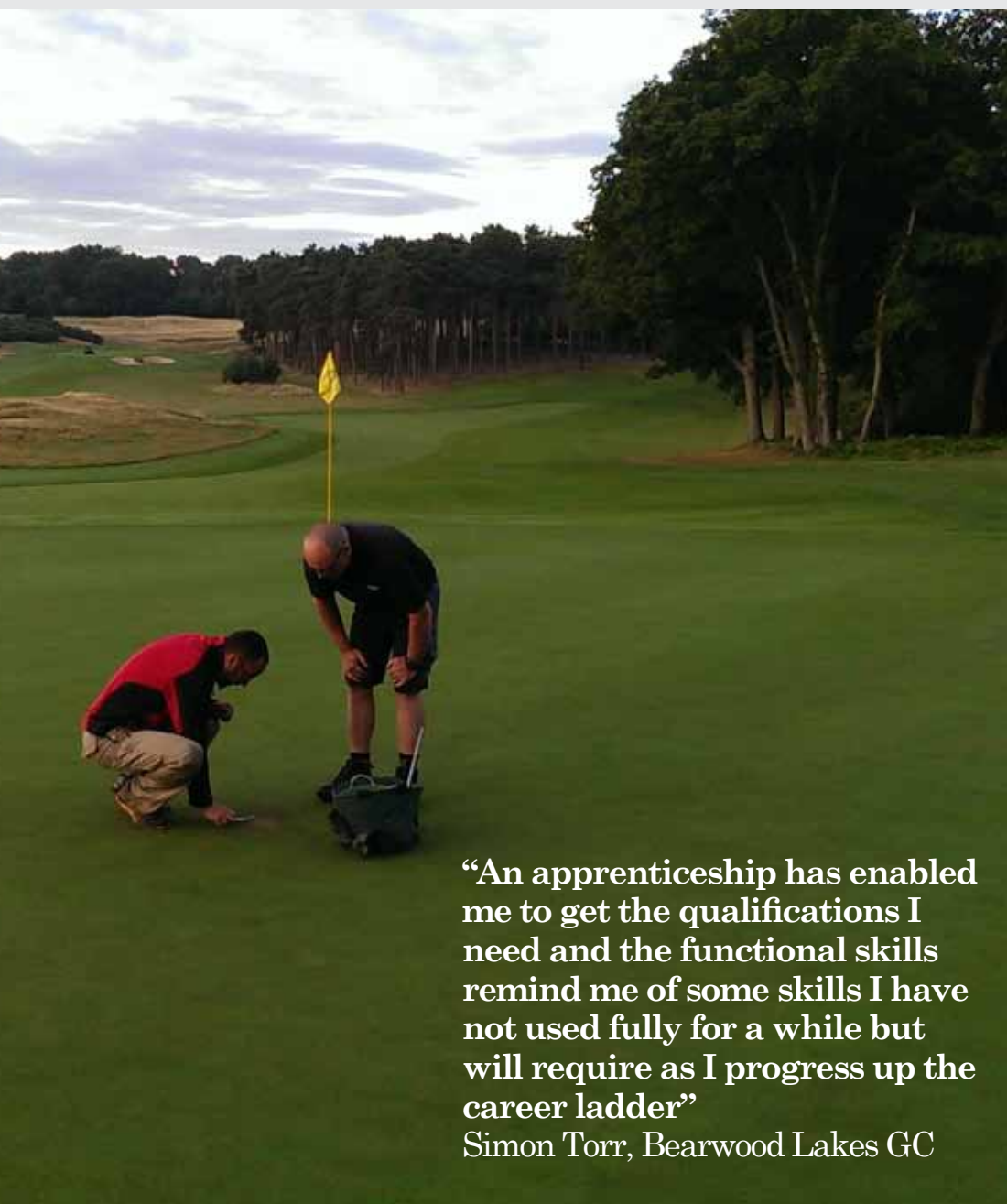
Simon uses the Smart assessor e-portfolio to upload his evidence. He likes the freedom this gives him to monitor his own progress and see what tasks he still has to cover. In addition, he can communicate with his assessor and have his work assessed at any time by his tutor without the need for a face to face meeting.

The key to ensuring an apprentice progresses well through the scheme is a good initial assessment by a Centre. For example, Simon completed English and Maths tests as well as a skills scan to look at the areas he was competent in and those he was not. This initial assessment and close liaison between his tutor and Dan Lightfoot, his Course Manager, meant that everyone was aware which skills he needed to gain.

This allowed the Centre and Dan to ensure Simon received the training and practice to become competent in the areas of work required by the Standards within the qualification. School exam certificates can assist greatly in this initial assessment and prevent duplication of training within the scheme.

Simon commented: “An apprenticeship has enabled me to get the qualifications I need and the functional skills remind me of some skills I have not used fully for a while but will require as I progress up the career ladder”.

Dan added: “Apprenticeships offer me a suitable way of reducing training costs and I benefit from giving a valued member of staff a career enhancing experience”. So the message from employers and apprentices is that when it works well an apprenticeship is a valued experience.



**“An apprenticeship has enabled me to get the qualifications I need and the functional skills remind me of some skills I have not used fully for a while but will require as I progress up the career ladder”**

**Simon Torr, Bearwood Lakes GC**

Read more at  
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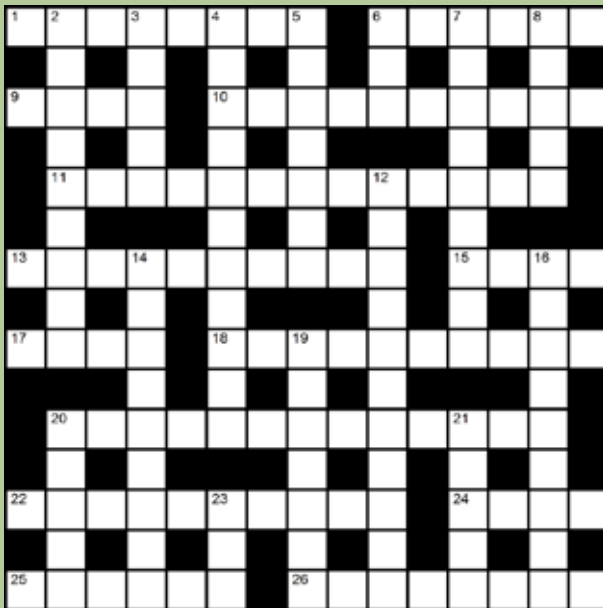
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# puzzlepage

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 'Behold the Man' - image of Jesus wearing crown of thorns (4,4)
- 6 Regard as likely to happen (6)
- 9 Hungarian inventor of the ballpoint pen (4)
- 10 Island and bird sanctuary located off the Ayrshire coast (5,5)
- 11 Fuddy-duddy (5-2-3-3)
- 13 Resembling a thin sheet-like tissue (10)
- 15 Cause the downfall of (4)
- 17 Shakespears Sister's number 1 hit of 1992 (4)
- 18 Expression of ironic disbelief (3,4,3)
- 20 Comedy actress who starred in Smack the Pony and appeared regularly in The Day Today (4,9)
- 22 Film genre on the theme of camaraderie (5,5)
- 24 Sister of Bart and Maggie (4)
- 25 Part of body between head and abdomen (6)
- 26 Sympathetic reaction (8)

### Down

- 2 Concise set of reference notes (4,5)
- 3 Bacterium of the intestinal tract, a threat to food safety (1,4)
- 4 Persian polymath whose works were translated by Edward FitzGerald (4,7)
- 5 City of Florida, site of Walt Disney World (7)
- 6 7th letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
- 7 US film company founded by Adolph Zukor and Jesse Lasky (9)
- 8 Young person (5)
- 12 Papal title of respect (3,8)
- 14 Superhero name of Batman's sidekick Robin (3,6)
- 16 Identification of disease or other ailment (9)
- 19 Bring to light (7)
- 20 Mass of kneaded flour in its state prior to baking (5)
- 21 Weekly celebrity magazine launched in 1988 (5)
- 23 To blend (3)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1) Who were the first British Club to win the competition?
- 2) Liverpool famously overturned a 3-0 deficit to beat AC Milan in Istanbul in 2005. But where was the rematch held two years later when Milan won?
- 3) From which country were the winners of each competition from 1970 to 1973?
- 4) Who won the tournament at the Nou Camp, Barcelona in 1999?
- 5) And who scored their goals?
- 6) Who scored Arsenal's goal in their defeat in the 2006 final?
- 7) When was the last goalless final and which two teams were involved?
- 8) Which club won the first 5 European Cup finals?
- 9) Which club won the 1979 and 1980 European Cups?

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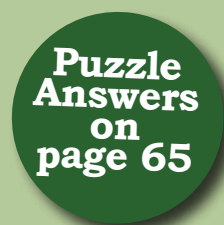
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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

2				6	8		5		
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	3		4	9					7

## SUDOKU

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





# Online Safety Management System



## The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System (SMS) provides:

- All golf clubs with Golf Industry Standard Risk Assessments.
- All golf clubs with a SMS tailored to their needs.
- Golf Club Managers with practical help to meet their legal obligations.

## Why do you need it?

- It is a key obligation of health and safety legislation.
- It is required by HSE guidance.
- It gives protection to employees and senior management.

## The Safety Management System helps golf clubs:

- Prevent avoidable accidents.
- Meet the best standards of the golf industry.
- Reduce the costs.

## Besides an SMS Policy, there are seven key areas to be considered when developing a full SMS at a golf club:

1. Greenkeeping activities
2. Maintenance facility
3. Golf course
4. Clubhouse
5. Kitchen
6. Pro shop
7. Fire safety

Within each of these areas, users can access the following downloadable documents:

- Risk Profile (available in word and excel formats)
- Risk Assessments relevant to that area of the golf club
- Hazards - information and weblinks

For further information contact:



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



GCMA  
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[www.gcma.org.uk](http://www.gcma.org.uk)

## Membership Benefit

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# Recruitment

**gWest** is a David McLay Kidd designed 18 hole golf course that is a facility to a private exclusive development in central Perthshire, Scotland. The course was constructed in 2008/9 and is laid within the 650 acre site. The course consists of USGA greens and has 90 acres of managed fine turf. Following a generous grow-in period to ensure maturity, this time has been used to continue with major projects –

- Translocation of two and a half acres of mature heather and continuing heather regeneration programme.
- Construction of a short game practice area. Including USGA putting green, chipping green and practice bunker green.
- Construction of a 500 sq m USGA green turf nursery.
- Major tree planting scheme.
- Ongoing development of the Estate.

**gWest will officially open in 2014 and now require additional -**

## Two Senior Assistant Greenkeepers

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following attributes:

- An understanding and implementation of practical greenkeeping skills.
- Practical operational knowledge of plant and machinery, including PA1, PA2 & PA6.
- The ability to contribute to the continuing success of a large team.
- Trustworthiness to work alone and in small teams.
- Be receptive to key instructions but complement your duties with your own creativity, imagination and intuition.
- To help lead and develop trainees and seasonal greenkeepers into their role at gWest and their career.
- The opportunity to continue a career in golf course management and accelerate professional development.

The senior assistant positions are full-time, permanent and offer a competitive salary based on a 40-hour week and a range of benefits. The department operate a six and three work pattern on annualised hour's scheme.

Please apply via e-mail with an introduction and CV to: Lee Strutt PgDip, MG, AGS - Golf Course Manager // [l.strutt@gwest.co.uk](mailto:l.strutt@gwest.co.uk)  
Closing date: 25th October 2013 // [www.gwest.co.uk](http://www.gwest.co.uk)



## Junior and Semi Trained Seasonal Greenkeepers

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following attributes:

- A basic understanding of practical greenkeeping skills.
- A willingness to learn how to operate plant and machinery.
- Onsite training programmes will be used to train individuals to a competent standard.
- Ability to work in small and large teams as well alone.
- Be receptive to key instructions but complement your duties with your own creativity, imagination and intuition.
- The opportunity to create and continue a career in golf course management and accelerate professional development.

The seasonal positions are from April to September (inclusive) and may lead to permanent roles. The positions offer a competitive salary based on a 40-hour week and a range of benefits. The department operate a six and three work pattern on annualised hour's scheme.

## Royal Wimbledon Golf Club

### Course Manager

Royal Wimbledon Golf Club is the third oldest golf club in England and can trace its origins back to 1865. Located close to London, this private 18 hole members' club, designed by Harry Colt in 1924 provides a tough test of golf over fairways lined with heather and gorse.

We are looking to recruit a dynamic Course Manager who has the drive and passion to reach new standards of excellence in the management and presentation of our heathland / parkland golf course. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a successful track record in course and man management and will hold relevant greenkeeping and / or agronomy qualifications.

Royal Wimbledon Golf Club will host the Surrey Ladies County Championships in 2014 and the LGU Home Internationals in 2015.



Family accommodation and work transport are provided along with an attractive salary, relocation and benefits package.

Interested applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full CV no later than Monday 21st October 2013 to: Mr Robert Brewer, Secretary, Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, 29 Camp Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4UW

If you would like to receive a copy of the job description please send an email request for the attention of Lucinda Bailey, administrative assistant to:

[office@rwgc.co.uk](mailto:office@rwgc.co.uk)





## Course Manager

**Chigwell Golf Club** is a traditional private members' club, near Epping Forest some 10 miles north east of Central London and within easy reach of the M25. We are looking to recruit a new pro active Course Manager with a proven track record, to manage our mature and attractive 18 hole facility.

The successful applicant must be a team player who can also lead by example and will have at least 5 years experience in all aspects of modern green keeping and should be educated to at least NVQ level 3. A thorough working knowledge of H&SE regulations and procedures are essential as is the ability to maintain and work within set budgetary requirements.

The Course Manager will be an integral part of the overall management of the facility and will attend weekly HOD planning meetings along quarterly Greens Committee Meetings. He/She must be able to plan and execute small scale development programmes.

Interested applicants should apply in writing no later than **Friday 11th October** with a full CV and their expected salary expectations to:

**Gordon Simpson, General Manager, Chigwell Golf Club, High Road, Chigwell, Essex IG7 5BH**

**Cradoc Golf Club** is seeking to appoint a **Head Greenkeeper**, to start in early 2014, to manage this mature parkland course set in one of the most beautiful areas of Wales.

As well as an 18 hole golf course the club has a 12 bay driving range and extensive practice facilities including a 9 hole par 3 course.

The successful candidate will be qualified to at least NVQ3 and have a proven record of working as a Deputy or Head Green keeper. You will be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the role including all aspects of green keeping and agronomy, health and safety and machinery maintenance. Also essential is the ability to lead and develop the existing green keeping team, to maintain budgetary control and communicate effectively with the club committee.

Cradoc is a forward thinking Club and is looking for a highly motivated professional to make a difference to its future. The successful applicant will be part of a dynamic management team and will enjoy a great deal of autonomy in this well established and very successful members club.

Salary is negotiable according to experience.

Interested applicants should send a full CV together with a covering letter detailing your suitability for the position and stating your salary expectations, to our Club Manager, Robert Southcott, on [manager@cradoc.co.uk](mailto:manager@cradoc.co.uk) by **Friday 18th October 2013**.

**The Manager, Cradoc Golf Club, Penoyre Park, Brecon, Powys LD3 9LP**

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## puzzlepage answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Glasgow Celtic
- 2) Athens
- 3) Netherlands
- 4) Manchester Utd
- 5) Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solksjaer
- 6) Sol Campbell
- 7) AC Milan v Juventus in 2003
- 8) Real Madrid
- 9) Nottingham Forest

### CROSSWORD

E	C	C	E	H	O	M	O		E	X	P	E	C	T			
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### MONSTER SUDOKO

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

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

# The Back Nine

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

Stuart Yarwood MG describes how he came to create Toms Locker, which he is presenting as the new digital bookcase for the turf and amenity sector and is making its debut at BTME 2014

**It all started two years ago in my office and brew room at Lymm Golf Club. Moving from our old static caravan to new facilities didn't take long. Toasters, kettles and mugs we bought new, but paperwork, archives and records we boxed up and transferred across.**

While unpacking and organising catalogues and trade sales literature I realised most were out of date or redundant.

That was the light bulb moment!

What if every catalogue in our industry was in one place?

Stupid idea, I thought, never work, impossible!

Everyone is trying to save pennies, and more quotes are needed to satisfy the demand for budgetary transparency. I needed a personal assistant but on my budget, I couldn't see that happening.

Then my old grey matter started smoking. If all the catalogues in our trade, with technical sales contact numbers, were in one place, it would be easy to find information.

Maybe I could get quotes from guys I deal with already, without making several calls about the same bottle of Rescue or Primo. It would become our very own greenkeeping Google.

But creating it was a mammoth task. We had to design a system, not just a website.

Then we had to speak to every relevant company and dealer in the UK and ask them if they wanted to put all their catalogues in one big website. This is the hard bit – but folk seemed to get it.

So with every dealer and manufacturer in the 'Locker', finding the right product for your problem is easy.

Type 'fusarium' and it will identify every product available to treat the disease, and give details of your nearest sales agents.

With one email, you can contact them all for quotes. Toms Locker never wants to sell you anything. It's a free to use introduction site pointing you towards people who can help in one giant digital bookcase.

I'm happy to research online but prefer to deal with the great people in the trade who I have relationships with – guys who can walk my course with me, share successes and sorrows and provide great technical support.

Toms Locker needs to maintain and encourage that.

We also need to protect the guys some deem a necessary evil, those who walk half a mile onto our courses to offer us the latest deals (and steal our biscuits). We couldn't do our jobs without them and their companies.

It's important they are represented properly in the Locker, and their reputations maintained.

So, the brief was set, the concept researched and the feedback good. It was at this point I freaked out - this was my pension and my children's (small) inheritance potentially up in smoke.

I've spent the last 20 years talking about grass, soils and golf; I knew nothing about the business world.

But then a metaphorical hand guided me down the right path. Paula, my wife, took my crazy idea and made it professional.

She wrote business plans, formed the company and became my partner in Tom's Locker. If it wasn't for her, Toms Locker would still just be an idea in a crazy greenkeeper's head.



“What if every catalogue in our industry was in one place?”

## about the author



Stuart Yarwood is a Master Greenkeeper and Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club, and a founder member of the 'Gingerbread Men' who aim to raise the profile of sustainable golf course management. As well as exhibiting at BTME he will be presenting a seminar on how it can benefit turf professionals during the Continue to Learn education programme.

But we still had to fund and build the site, and we knew it was vital to be totally independent, so, after remortgaging our house, we're testing, making sure that everything works in time for launch in November.

We're proud to be supporting BTME 2014 where we'll be happy to meet and take people inside the Locker.

We hope you'll like using Toms Locker, and it becomes part of your team – your extra member of staff that helps you make time for the turf you love.

So why call it Toms Locker?

Well, we all have a locker in our lives, and have you ever met a bad Tom?

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

# BARONESS

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