



BARONESS MOWER IS WELSH WIZARD

The Head Greenkeeper of Llandrinod Wells Golf Club has given his full backing to Baroness after purchasing one of the company's Greens Mowers.

Head Greenkeeper Eric Read is pictured with Terry Harrison of Terry Harrison Machinery after they delivered a new Baroness 315 Greens Mower to the Powys-based club.

Eric said: "After trialling several brands of Greens Triplex Mowers the Baroness Mower was an easy choice. Many outstanding features came to the fore, such as the excellent traction on our hilly course, its agile manoeuvrability and its exceptional quality of cut, with minimal impact on the greens. I see it as the only machine which achieves such a high quality finish."

BIGGA SEMINAR AT SALTEX

Michael Fance, Senior Technical Area Sales Manager for Everris, will be co-presenting with Dr Simon Watson from Syngenta as part of the BIGGA seminar programme on Wednesday 4th September.

Their seminar, focusing on an integrated approach to disease management on golf greens, takes place at 1pm in the grandstand. One BIGGA CPD point is available to CPD-registered greenkeepers who attend.



EX GREENKEEPER JOINS BAYER

Bayer CropScience has appointed turfgrass protection specialist, Dr Colin Mumford as their new Technical Support Manager. He brings a wealth of experience and replaces Dorin Pop who has moved elsewhere within Bayer.

Colin has been involved in the sports turf industry for nearly 25 years. With hands-on, course management experience, Colin was previously Head Greenkeeper at North Weald Golf Club in Essex, before returning to full-time education where he gained a BSc (Hons) in Landscape and Amenity Management from Writtle College, as well as an MSc in Sports Surface Technology and an Engineering Doctorate (EngD) from Cranfield University.

Since completing his studies Colin has worked in New Zealand as the Technical Officer for the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute, which exposed him to a variety of artificial and natural turf sports surfaces. Colin returned to the UK and spent two years as Technical Manager for an artificial sports surface specialist, where his role was to develop the company's products and services, as well as advising clients on the construction, maintenance, and redevelopment of artificial sports surfaces.

Colin has become a respected authority within the industry and has presented at national and international conferences. He has had several papers published and has also written numerous articles for trade journals.

He said "This is a very exciting opportunity for me at Bayer CropScience. It offers me the opportunity to galvanise all the skills and knowledge I have accumulated in the sports turf industry, and I'm looking forward to supporting turf managers in developing effective and practicable solutions in crop protection."

Greenkeeper Training

Europe

Greenkeeper Training - Europe (GT-E) is pleased to announce they have been successful in a joint European Union (EU) project bid.

The project, which will commence in October, has eight partners, and is scheduled to be completed in two years. David Golding, GT-E's Standards Director, explained that the project's main aim is to develop, test and introduce a Quality Assured Scheme for greenkeeper training which involves the following countries, colleges and organisations:

- * Kao College, Finland
- * Benesov College, Czech Republic
- * Czech Greenkeepers Association
- * Kainuu College, Lithuania
- * Luua Vocational Training Centre, Estonia
- * Elmwood College, Scotland
- * Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association
- * Greenkeeper Training – Europe

David, pictured below, added: "Several partners in the project have experience in developing, delivering and monitoring greenkeeper education and training over many years. Their knowledge and experience will prove invaluable to assist golf developing countries looking to establish a quality structure of greenkeeper education and training, best suited to their country using the Standards of GT-E."

David believes even more countries will benefit from the project as GT-E is always looking to advise and give guidance to countries with little or no formal structure in greenkeeper training.

Greenkeepers will be at the very heart of the project, supported by the various colleges. There will be a real emphasis on engaging golf club employers as they benefit from investing in greenkeeper training by having better maintained and managed golf courses.

The GT-E, which is based at Aldwark near York, is currently funded through a special R&A project and is currently working with the European Golf Association and its 43 member Federations and Unions to establish core funding to assist with the administration and management of the GT-E.



HEADLAND'S TRICURE BANISHES TURF STRESS AND DRY PATCH TO GREAT EFFECT

Drought conditions are something that not all greenkeepers may have experience of after our recent wet summers. Alex Hawkes, Regional Technical Manager for Headland Amenity, is a former Course Manager and has first-hand knowledge of tackling this challenging problem - knowledge that has become invaluable.

During his six years at South Winchester Golf Club keeping moisture in the greens was probably the biggest challenge that he and his greens crew had to face.

The 210-acre course is located on the South Downs chalk belt that runs through the area. The site is at a high elevation and extremely exposed to the sun and to wind from all directions. The greens and tees are also constructed from very coarse sand providing little in the way of moisture or nutrient retention.

"Essentially, our winter advantage was our summer achilles heel" says Alex. "Even though recent summers had not been the driest, the rate at which the tees and greens dried out, demanded a rethink. Myself and my deputy made a 'hit list' of the worst affected areas and we started out on a monthly wetting agent plan to blanket spray the greens with Headland Tricure AD supplementing with the Tricure Tablets to hand water as required. We always did this prior to areas becoming Hydrophobic (water repelling), to avoid trying to catch up on areas that were already showing signs of Dry Patch. This worked very well but there were still odd areas needing a great deal of labour intensive hand watering. So having found success with

Tricure AD Liquid and Tablets, we decided to try the Granular form at the three month rate. Each April we would treat all the areas that we knew would be the first to dry out, as a proactive method of avoiding the turf stress that comes with Dry Patch.

"The results were superb and a huge headache was relieved. More than simply controlling the dry patch, we found that once the weather broke and natural rainfall came, the reduced turf stress resulted in less Anthracnose (which in my first year had been a huge problem in the latter part of summer). We repeated this method at the beginning of each season and found ourselves using less water to keep the greens alive. This was especially pertinent as we had to draw water at high cost from the mains once the lakes dried out. The Granular Tricure AD, in particular, making the best use of any rainwater, our irrigation water and even drawing down dew.

"This is all starkly relevant at the present time as we find ourselves in the first really hot, dry period for some six or seven years. Utilising a high performance wetting agent to maximise water efficiency and prevent Dry Patch is essential in such conditions. The key now is to maintain regular liquid applications and not to wait until your turf has reached its permanent wilting point and cannot be brought back. Acting quickly when required by spot treating with Tricure pellets will maximise your opportunities to get water into the root zone and keep it there. It will also reduce the stress associated with turf diseases such as Anthracnose."