

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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BUMPER REVIEW
OF BTME 2014**



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Memories are made of this

As my body and voice recover from a truly hectic BTME 2014 I believe we can look back with considerable satisfaction on a job well done.

Many exhibitors are calling BTME 2014 the 'best ever' but just as importantly feedback from attendees is hugely positive. Record pre-registration numbers, nearly 9,000 total attendees and a record number of delegates at the Continue to Learn programme show that the Exhibition is still a vital part of the turf industry calendar.

The memories are many but our inaugural BIGGA Welcome Celebration held in the historic Royal Hall is uppermost among them, and I hope this is something we can repeat in future years. The evening began with a bang when Alan Prickett of Ransomes Jacobsen donated a very generous £2,500 to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund. It concluded with the legendary Peter Alliss regaling the several hundred attendees with his 'special connection' with greenkeeping during his epic career. The launch of the Benevolent Fund fulfilled a long held ambition for the Association and I am thrilled that we are now in a position to support those members that fall upon hard times.

It was also great to launch our new online member benefit offering – BIGGA Xtra Benefits – which aims to give our members even further value for money from their membership.

The Celebration event was the ideal occasion to pay tribute to the tireless work Tony Smith undertook in his 18 months as Chairman, it has been a privilege to witness his passion for greenkeeping and the Association.

Whilst I know he intends to remain active on the Board I am still delighted to be able to wish him well in his 'retirement'.

I am thoroughly looking forward to working with the new Chairman Chris Sealey through 2014 as the Association continues in its

ambitions to raise the profile and appreciation of greenkeeping.

Sadly the roaring success of BTME did come at a price. A number of companies attempted to hijack the event and profit from the gathering of turf industry professionals without formally exhibiting. I am pleased to say that increasingly the visitor is recognising that this behaviour undermines the event and all it stands for.

My thanks go to the 123 exhibiting companies who committed to be a part of BTME in 2014. Thanks are also due to all those who delivered education during the Continue to Learn programme, including many BIGGA members. Watch this space for details of how you can have your say in determining next year's content.

I make no apologies for dedicating so much of this issue (pages 17-45) to BTME coverage - there is much to report.

Away from BTME, 2014 has begun with monsoon conditions affecting large parts of the country.

Strong and innovative forward planning has never been more vital, on pages 56-60 read how Philip Taylor at Alwoodley has combined two detailed five year plans to ensure this gem of a course remains one of England's finest inland courses.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive

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Lone working controlling the risk

Recent events have highlighted the dangers of lone working in greenkeeping – and the turf management industry as a whole. What lessons can we learn? What can be done to reduce lone working risk? What does the law require and what simple, practical controls can be introduced? Tom Searle from Britrisk Safety shared his views with GI

Firstly let's be clear about a few key facts: lone workers are those who work alone without close or direct supervision, even though others may be present in the area.

There can be little doubt that whatever risks are present by virtue of the actual task being undertaken, they are automatically increased by the fact that the person concerned is alone or isolated, so that in an issue that should be seen as a trivial matter.

What if it is not illegal to work alone, the law does require employers to carry out a risk assessment and take steps to avoid or control the risks where necessary. The assessment must involve instruction, training and supervision. There is also a requirement to consult workers when considering potential risks and measures to control them.

The assessment may include:

- An assessment that specific tasks may be too hazardous to be carried out by an inexperienced worker and that as a consequence at least two people must be present at all times.
- If this is not practicable, that task is deferred until more staff are present or when on weekend duty, avoiding using machinery for potentially dangerous complex tasks (such as snowing steep banks).
- How the task and lone worker will be supervised.
- The means by which assistance and support is summoned should the need arise.
- The arrangements for emergency response and how this will be delivered.
- Whether the worker concerned has any personal health risk factors such as a heart condition or asthma that may adversely raise their personal risk level.
- Whether there are any reasons to think that there may be a raised risk of attack or assault – such as cash carrying, or being called out at night to investigate a premises.
- Reference to monitoring arrangements as applied below.
- Monitoring arrangements are a critical aspect of supervision. This may include:
 - Supervisors periodically visiting and observing the place of work
 - and ensuring that the task in hand is being carried out safely and in accordance with instructions.
 - A 30-day system involving regular contact between worker and supervisor at pre-agreed intervals via mobile phone or radio.
 - The use of a manually operated Personal Alarm Button (PAB) that transmits an immediate automatic warning if activated by the lone worker.
 - Devices are available that automatically trigger a 999 alarm if an individual indicates that the task has become suddenly hazardous.
 - The implementation of a robust system that ensure the person concerned has returned home or to base by a certain time.

A procedure is required to ensure clarity of vision and full understanding by all concerned of what needs to be done. The 3 Ws apply: WHO WHAT WHY WHO? WHY? WHO?

The main vehicle for this is the risk assessment and process specific arrangements that must accompany the Health & Safety Policy.

It is important that procedures are kept short and simple. Lengthy, waded procedures are not easy to read, if they are not read, they are not applied and procedures that are not applied result in accidents.

Emergency procedures are critical. Once an accident has occurred, the recipient of the distress call needs to know clear essential facts. The person placing the call not only needs to be aware of the relevant exact location of the accident. By virtue of the lone working scenario, this may not always be immediately obvious and critical line can be lost if the emergency services are not directed specifically to the street via the most efficient and accessible route.

A method statement may be appropriate – a short document accompanying the risk assessment that describes the main aspects of the task and the sequence of operations, including how the process of supervision will work.

So having identified the main elements of risk control, how can we pull together the risk communication process and ensure that everyone involved is kept fully briefed and processes reinforced? The answer lies primarily in 'toolbox talks' (more familiar perhaps to workers in the construction industry).

Put the kettle on, pull up a few chairs around the table and let's talk through the main risks and controls. The older, more experienced hands should be initiating discussion and reporting critical young ones, particularly apprentices, workers and other youngsters with less experience than which we're on the subject, don't forget about the main risks and changes surrounding Young Person's One again this should not be a negligible process that impacts negatively on the busy week/day, but taking one topic per week and spending 15 minutes on it, designed for a lone worker and a great investment in everyone's safety and well-being.

Our Frank Clark Wins, use of the Dynamic Risk Assessment process, has a great complement to work on the assessment and reduce the employer's own legal duties to the care of themselves and others.

Dynamic risk assessment may be defined as a continuous process of identifying risk, assessing it and the HSE website contains a wealth of guidance on how to do this daily. It is a continuous process and eliminate such risk. It operates at a systemic strategic and tactical levels and involves the concept of a 'safe person'. It was initially introduced by the fire service but may be extended to the workplace to supplement written documents. This is a subject of its own, assess risk as they carry out tasks. In this context it is not a written protocol and should be used to complement formal assessments.

For example, when cutting grass around a building an operator's safety releases questions such as:

- What does my training and experience say about this job?
- Is this task too risky / too tight to be safe?
- How could I injure myself / doing this?
- How would I measure my own NOW and risk measure turned over NOW how would I measure myself?

Finally, for further help on Lone Worker take advantage of the best source of free health and safety guidance and support in the world. The HSE website contains a wealth of daily illustrated information – and it's free! Here is the link: www.hse.gov.uk/psb/psbna/12672.pdf

about the author

Tom Searle is a Chartered Health and Safety Officer with Britrisk Safety. He has worked in a number of industries including construction, manufacturing and services. He has a wealth of experience in the area of lone working and has been instrumental in the development of many lone working procedures for a number of clients. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars on lone working and has written a number of articles on the subject.

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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



New BIGGA Chairman

Chris Sealey became the new Association Chairman at BTME 2014. Steve Castle met Chris to find out about his greenkeeping philosophy, the major construction project he's overseen at Chippenham Golf Club and his love of Bristol Rovers FC

BIGGA's new Chairman was typically candid when I asked him if, as a teenage apprentice greenkeeper at a parkland course near Bath in the seventies, he ever envisaged becoming an Association Chairman.

"I never dreamt I would. I was on the South West Section committee, then a vacancy came up on the Regional Board, then I was asked to be Regional Chairman, then a vacancy came up on the National Board when Jeff Mills left as South West & South Wales representative.

"I always thought that would be as far as I would go, just getting on to the National Board and representing the Region was a great honour, and I was happy to be involved with decision making and the future of the Association.

"Then Tony asked me to be Chairman. I don't like the word gobsmacked, but I can't think of any other way to put it, and I was also really touched to be asked.

"I never set out with the goal of being Chairman."

He officially took the reins during BIGGA's AGM at BTME.

He said: "Undoubtedly the highlight of my career is being asked to be chairman.

"It's a fabulous honour and I look forward to representing the Association with distinction."

Chris has already been heavily involved in various events as a National Board of Management member including interviewing Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year candidates and attending numerous events.

But what else stands out during his many years of involvement with the Association?

"BIGGA has given me so many chances to develop myself profes-

sionally and personally.

"I wouldn't otherwise have had these opportunities and I think that's a very important message for anyone thinking of joining the Association, or any members who have not yet made the most of their membership.

"I've volunteered at the 2007 US Open at Oakmont Country Club, the 2008 Ryder Cup at Valhalla, the 2010 Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor and five Open Championships.

"The main thing I'm looking forward to during my time as Chairman is simple – meeting people.

"All the other things you get to do are lovely, but the people are the biggest strength of the Association.

"The support network amongst greenkeepers is superb and there can't be many industries where relationships are so strong and enduring."

Chris's greenkeeping career began purely by chance in 1970.

He said: "I started off caddying for my dad's friend at a nearby club and he told me they were looking for an apprentice.

"I thought it seemed a good way of earning a living."

So the enthusiastic, sports-mad youngster was offered a three-year apprenticeship at Lansdown Golf Club, a parkland course and private members' club on the outskirts of Bath.

He ended up staying there for 12 years, steadily rising through the ranks to Deputy, before moving to Salford Golf Club in Bristol, a similar parkland venue.

He enjoyed eight years at Salford before clinching his first Course Manager's position at Chippenham in 1990, and much to his amazement "they've somehow put up with me for nearly a quarter of a century!"

The Bristolian's first involvement



PROFILE

Name: Chris Sealey
Born: Bristol, 24 April 1955
Role: Course Manager
Handicap: 18
Favourite Sports Team: Bristol Rovers
Hobbies: Playing golf, watching sport mainly football, golf and cricket



in the Association was playing in golf days organised by BIGGA in the eighties.

But he then recognised the need to increase his range of skills so he enrolled on the first Management courses which BIGGA ran at Aldwark Manor adjacent to what is now BIGGA House – just as his predecessor Tony Smith did.

He said: “When I became a Course Manager I knew I needed some extra skills in addition to those I’d already gained as a Deputy so I completed four or five of the week-long management courses and that was very useful for me.

“It was the first real formal education on offer to greenkeepers and I knew I had to take advantage of it.”

He then joined the South West committee around 1995 before becoming Section Chairman.

I travelled south to see for myself the work that Chris and his team have put in at Chippenham – a Wiltshire town which lies between Swindon and Bristol – and discovered a frenzy of activity probably unparalleled in the club’s history.

Firstly, a new clubhouse with much improved facilities and extended offices opened in December 2012.

Next, it was decided that time had caught up with the course. Although various modifications and improvements had been made to the course over the years, it was now too short for the modern day game. It is currently 5,720 yards off the white tees, and after the alterations it will be close to 6,300 off the whites.

Chris explained: “We did a deal with a local farmer to rent land at the back of the course which will house four new holes, and we’re combining four of the existing holes to make two long par fives.

“It’s the first time I’ve been involved in such a major project. When I was at Saltford we built individual greens and renovated tees but it’s the first time I’ve been part of the build and grow-in processes on this scale, so it’s been a real learning curve for me.

“It was meant to be a 12 or 14 week project, so we pencilled it in for when the weather should have been at its best by starting in April 2012.

“It was a nice idea in principle! Of course, as soon as we started, in common with most of the UK it didn’t stop raining all summer so that meant a few delays.

“But I learnt that you have to be flexible.

“Obviously I know the weather always has a huge effect on golf

courses, but this is particularly true when you’re working on a major construction project.

“Also, so many unforeseen things can throw a spanner in the works.

“For example, on a Bank Holiday Monday we hit an old water pipe potentially wiping out the water supply to several nearby villages.

“I’ve been lucky enough to be involved at Chippenham at probably the most exciting time in its history, and this last couple of years has been the highlight of my professional career.

“The whole team, which currently numbers four after the recent departure of Kyle Knight to Bowood to further his career, have worked incredibly hard, ably assisted by the expertise of Mike Smith from 1st Golf and golf course architect Matt Maryon.”

The weather is still posing problems – Chippenham had 70mm of rainfall in the first nine days of 2014 – but Chris is convinced they are on track for the new holes to be in play in early summer.

So what’s his agronomic philosophy?

“Conservative, lean and mean”, he replied. “I don’t overwater or overfeed.

“I do as much aeration and topdressing as I possibly can, but I don’t take it to the degree of starving the greens and trying to get fescue.

“We’re on a clay site, the greens will always have poa in them so I manage them as poa greens; they are a poa/bent mix.

“The new greens have still got a lot of fescue in them at the moment.

“So the biggest challenge now is to get the clay push up greens and the new sand greens to perform as close to each other as we possibly can.”

It was clear from the banter in the car park I saw at Chippenham that Chris enjoys excellent rapport with members, and one of his initiatives was the Greenkeeper’s Revenge charity day.

In a format which will be recognised by mischievous greenkeepers across the land, the team deliberately used a range of tricks to make the course devilishly difficult.

They rolled some of the greens ten times achieving up to 19 on the stimpmeter, cut holes on collars so members had to putt off the green and placed tee markers behind trees amongst other fiendish ploys.

It was all in aid of Help for Heroes and £1,000 was raised, as Chris said “there were some interesting scores!”

The new section of the course under construction last summer



He lives with Pat, his partner of some 20 years.

In his spare time he follows the usually grim fortunes of Bristol Rovers FC (which he described as his “main handicap”) and he’s also very keen on playing and watching golf.

Another of his passions is cricket, and he’s recently been trying (and failing to) dodge abuse over England’s dismal Ashes showing.

He laughed: “I’m surrounded by Aussies.

“Jaey Goodchild at Bowood just sat there grinning through the last Section meeting, and our General Manager at Chippenham Leighton Walker has been giving me plenty of stick too.”

A hugely successful BTME 2014 has certainly got Chris’s period as Association Chairman off to a flying start. He concluded:

“BIGGA is going from strength to strength and this was evident at BTME. I am greatly looking forward to the next 12 months.”

Contact Chris

Chris is keen to hear from members on any subject. You can email him at coursemanager@chippenhamgolf@btconnect.com or call him on 07817 294632.



Leighton Walker, General Manager at Chippenham, had this to say following Chris's appointment: "Chippenham Golf Club and its members are extremely proud that Chris Sealey will be Chairman of BIGGA in 2014. It's a great honour for Chris and I know the members at Chippenham join me in congratulating him. It's fair reward for the hard work and commitment that Chris has shown to both the Club and the industry as a whole and we're sure he will make a success of his time in office."

TEAM PHOTO (LEFT TO RIGHT): Kyle Knight, Seb Cavilla, Chris Sealey, Chris Bell, Steve Randall

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



VOLUNTEER AT THE BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

BIGGA is again offering a superb opportunity to increase your experience by volunteering at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth in May, assisting Kenny Mackay and the home greenkeeping team between May 20-25.

You can volunteer for one day or for the full period. The schedule will involve bunker raking duties on the last two days, possibly all four days, and early morning duties on the official Practice and Pro-Am Days on May 20 and May 21.

This is a great chance to see at

close hand the preparation for the European Tour flagship event on the West Course at Wentworth.

For more information please contact, Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk, also on 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.



SOUTH EAST GOLF DAY

The South East Region's Annual Golf and Dinner Day will be held on Friday 7 March at Walton Heath Golf Club on the Old Course. This is one of the industry's longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact Clive Osgood, all details for Clive can be found in the BMW PGA story on this page.

MAC ON THE MOVE



David MacIndoe, who featured in GI last September working as a grow-in consultant on Belarus's first ever golf course, has made a move to warmer climes in Portugal.

David, left, a former Course Manager who is now a Lawn & Sportsground Consultant, has been appointed Grow-in Manager on the new David McLay Kidd course at Comporto Dunes near Lisbon. He starts imminently on an eight-month contract.

SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

The Scottish Conference will be held on 4 March at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline.

Gordon Moir and Paul Miller will be providing a talk on the "Story of Kingarrock", a course in Fife.

Alistair Eccles will then pose a question for delegates to ponder "to oversee or not to oversee".

We are delighted that Cameron McMillan will be coming up for the day to dispel the mystique surrounding Queenwood Golf Club in Surrey.

During lunch, Stuart Green from BIGGA's L&D Team will be available to discuss CPD and to provide a presentation to members extolling the virtue of full participation in the scheme.

After lunch our chairman Andy

O'Hara will provide his address that this year will include Chris Sealey, National Chairman, providing his thoughts.

Mark Hunt will then take us through a number of factors that are affecting course maintenance with a distinctive look at changes to our climate, something that may affect your course!

Finally, we have Steve Chappell from Gleneagles providing us with a background on the preparation of The Ryder Cup 2014.

Six CPD credits are available to anyone attending the conference - further details are available from the BIGGA website, including the booking form.

Alternatively email John Young: johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

A TOP DRESSING DOWN FOR CHALARA

Urea is a component of turf top dressings but could also become part of the solution to chalara ash dieback.

Urea could hasten the decomposition of ash leaf litter along with ascospore-containing apothecia the overwintering sexual stage of *Chalara fraxinea* thus breaking its infection cycle.

Application of urea has proved highly successful in helping to manage apple scab, a widespread and damaging disease of apples caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*). Apple scab and chalara ash dieback have one salient feature in common. That is the ability to overwinter on fallen leaf debris which subsequently acts as a template for the production of sexual spores (ascospores) in tiny mushroom-like fruiting bodies called apothecia. Ascospores are liberated from apothecia early in the following season to infect the new flush of leaves (and young fruit in the case of apple scab).

North American apple growers spray urea on their trees just before autumn leaf-fall or to the orchard floor in the following spring. Treatment with urea accelerates leaf tissue breakdown by soil-borne microbes and hastens soil

incorporation of the leaf matter by earthworms, thus depriving the apple scab fungus of a template for spore production. Urea is applied to break the infection cycle.

Research at the University of New Hampshire showed a 97 per cent reduction in spring production of apple scab ascospores when trees are sprayed with 5 per cent urea just before leaf-fall in autumn; a 50 per cent reduction from urea applied to the leaf litter when approximately 95 per cent of the leaves have fallen in late autumn/early winter; and a 70 per cent reduction when urea is sprayed on to the leaf litter in spring. The same researchers claim shredding of leaf litter in late autumn (November) or early spring (April) will reduce the risk of apple scab by 80-90 per cent. Similar overall findings are reported in the Quebec province of Canada.

However, a word of caution is required. There are essential differences between these pathogens and diseases which mean the same level of success may not be achievable against chalara ash dieback.

After autumn leaf fall ash leaflets disintegrate quickly and by the following spring only the



leaf stalk remains substantially intact.

Fungal fruiting bodies (apothecia) are produced on these highly resilient ash leaf stalks (rachis and petiole) and it remains to be seen whether urea can speed up the decomposition of such hard foliar debris.

Apple scab is a superficially disfiguring infection of the leaves and fruit. Considerable economic damage is caused through a reduction in the photosynthetic capacity of leaves (and therefore stem

growth and fruit yield) and fruit quality and finish, but apple scab 'never' killed an apple tree.

Chalara ash dieback on the other hand is an internal vascular wilt disease, infecting via the foliage but subsequently spreading throughout the internal woody tissue of the tree.

Infections start on the leaflets and progress rapidly along the rachis and petiole (leaf stalk) before transferring into the woody stem at the point of leaf attachment.

Dr Terry Mabbett

TRIBUTE TO DOUGIE JOHNSTONE

Tributes are continuing to be paid to Dougie Johnstone, Course Manager at Hinckley Golf Club, who was tragically killed in an accident on his course just after Christmas.

It is believed he was working on his course alone on Friday 27 December clearing storm damage when he was hit by a falling branch.

Chris Kennedy, who retired as Director and Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth in 2012, hired Dougie in 2008 as assistant greenkeeper and was planning to meet up with him at BTME 2014 along with many other past and present Wentworth team members.

Chris said: "Dougie came to us because he wanted the whole package on his CV ahead of his first Course Manager role. He was looking for tournament and

construction experience and we were able to offer him both.

"He was heavily involved in the West Course redesign and in all manner of tournaments during his three-year tenure with us. He was a very hard working man, totally committed and keen to learn. He was enthusiastic, asked questions and was also very good with the members. If they stopped him while he was working to discuss the course he was only too happy to explain what was going on.

"He was also a very good golfer and practised regularly. He was a good people person, a great lad and important team member. We were sorry to lose his services in 2011 but very happy for him that his career was progressing and he had secured his first Course Manager position at Hinckley.

"On behalf of everyone who knew him at Wentworth, we'd like to say that it was an absolute pleasure working with him. He will be sadly missed and we were all thinking about him and his family a lot during our traditional meeting at BTME."

Chris added that Dougie's wife Sue was a key figure in the Variety Club's Golf Society, and Dougie had played in several tournaments with well-known celebrities.

An inquest has opened into Dougie's death. Initial investigations revealed he had suffered a large head wound, and was discovered early on the morning of Saturday 28 December close to where he had been working. A health and safety probe has been launched and a full inquest will be held at a later date.





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!



XTRA XTRA!

BIGGA launched a brand new member benefits package, BIGGA Xtra Benefits, featuring discounts on everything from hotels and supermarkets to health clubs and mortgage advice on the opening morning of BTME 2014.

The Association has been working to provide a raft of deals and discounts which can be accessed by all full members of the Association.

Some of the many highlights include significant discounts on roadside assistance, car and home insurance plus big savings on health clubs, restaurants, high street brands and package holidays.

BIGGA Xtra Benefits also includes the best rates on utility bills, cinemas and eye care plus many more savings which will help members save cash and access the best deals across five main categories – Lifestyle, Insurance, Advice, Travel and Work and Business.

The scheme sits alongside our other existing benefits such as Continuing Professional Development, Lending Library, Personal Accident Insurance, Legal Assistance and our Lifestyle Counselling Helpline.

It's available to all full and associate BIGGA members. For more information, and to take advantage of the dozens of offers and discounts, simply visit the Members Section of our website at www.bigga.org.uk.



SAM BETHELL WINS KINDLE FIRE HD

All members who entered the Photo Booth at BTME 2014 were entered into a draw to win a Kindle Fire HD. Tracey and Elaine conducted the draw...and the lucky winner was Sam Bethell, greenkeeper at The Richmond Golf Club.

The daily winners were Robert Bemment from Immingham Golf Club, Stefan Carter from Forest Hill Golf and Country Club and Andrew Linley from Hallamshire Golf Club. They are now the proud owners of brand new BIGGA jumpers!

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all members who not only entered into the spirit of the Photo Booth, but also everyone who came to see us on the BIGGA Stand, you helped to ensure BTME 2014 was a truly memorable show.

BIGGA GREENKEEPERS BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks to everyone who bought a green wristband to support the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund at BTME 2014. Your donations, along with Jacobsen's £2,500 cheque at the Welcome Celebration, have got the Fund off to a good start with the current total at around £3,500.

However, we are keen for more donations to this vital cause to

help current or past members and their dependents who have suffered hardship - financial or otherwise.

The green wristbands cost £2 (minimum contribution) and we will be fundraising on a permanent basis at all events we organise, so keep an eye out for them this year and please give generously!



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L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

CPD – How to claim credits

Fresh from a busy BTME, Stuart Green returns with a reminder on how you can add credits to your CPD account

With the launch of the CPD Online recording system we have made it easier for members to claim credits and keep a record of their professional development. In this article I will talk you through the three ways you can do this.

All members now have a CPD account which can be accessed by logging into the website, then clicking on Continuing Professional Development. Once you arrive at this page click on the button that says Visit CPD Website and you will be taken to your account page.

Claiming credits is really simple. Click on the Claim Credits button and you will see the page in fig.1. The first option is manually - for example, if you complete a first aid course.

1. Click on the date and choose the date you did the course.

2. Then choose the credit category, you have a choice of four. For a first aid course pick Education. This action will fill in the next box with options for you to choose from.

3. Search in the list for the type of first aid course and click. This will then automatically enter the number of credits for this event.

4. The next step is to enter a description of the event. It's important to remember that this information will appear on your list of CPD activities or Lifetime Transcript. So keep it brief and relevant.

5. Finally, click Submit Claim.

This has now been sent to BIGGA for validation. To help us complete validation you will need to send us a copy of the certificate. This can be a scanned copy, a photograph or a copy in the post.

The second option is a CPD code.

Many of you have attended events or BTME recently and were

Fig 1

Fig 2

issued with a code. This can be issued to event organisers, companies or regions and sections before an event.

This means the event is pre-validated and once the code is entered there will be no need to send a certificate or sign a register when you have a code.

1. To claim your credit, enter the code into the box, in fig.2. Then click Use Code.

2. This will populate the boxes with the details of the event.

3. All you need to do now is click Submit Claim and that is the CPD event added to your account.

To give you a go at seeing how

easy it is to use the CPD code you will be able to gain 1 Education CPD credit for reading this article by entering this code:

125BCB43

The final option means you won't have to do anything. This will be for those of you who complete online CPD quizzes or BIGGA questionnaires. The team at BIGGA download your data and upload it for you.

If you want to find out more about the system there is a CPD 'How to' Guide and Handbook that can be downloaded from the CPD section of the website.

Alternatively, contact us and we can guide you through it.



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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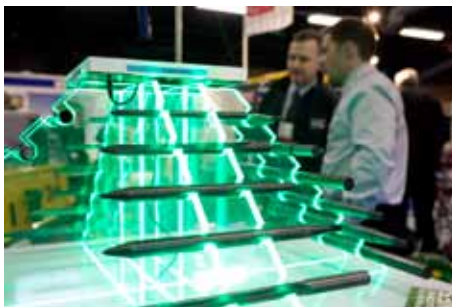


BTME

BTME 2014 THE REVIEW

**BIGGA
TURF
MANAGEMENT
EXHIBITION**





RECORD BREAKERS!



A record-breaking BTME 2014 saw over eight and a half thousand visitors from across the globe packing into the Harrogate International Centre.

Over the next 20 or so pages, we'll attempt to capture a frenetic, enjoyable, buoyant and successful week for the Association as the turf management industry converged on Harrogate. We've got reviews of the Continue to Learn programme, The Turf Managers' Conference, the new Welcome Celebration and feedback from some of the 123 exhibitors, as well as showcasing as many of the new products launched as we could fit in one issue!

Feedback from delegates, presenters and exhibitors has been hugely positive with many describing it as the best show for years with "a real buzz" being one of the key phrases during the week.

There was plenty of news at BTME 2014, none more important than the confirmation of BIGGA's new Chairman and Vice Chairman at the Association's AGM. Past Chairman Tony Smith, who has served the Association with distinction during his 18 months in the post, was nominated for Life Membership of the Association, a nomination that was passed unanimously.

Speaking at the AGM, Tony said: "There's been some very good moments during my time as chairman. I've met some great people and travelled to some fantastic places I would probably never have visited.

"I've enjoyed visiting all the Regions attending their AGMs, Conferences and the roadshows.

He went on to thank companies who have supported the Association during his chairmanship, the

National Board of Management and the team at BIGGA House.

He concluded: "Last but not least is a big thank you to all the membership for having the confidence in me and giving me the wonderful opportunity to serve you as your chairman over the last 18 months.

"When I started greenkeeping all those years ago I would never have thought that I would serve the membership as chairman, so there must be a message to you all out there. If you feel you'd like to serve on the board of directors or even chair it, get involved in your sections and regional committees and help to promote the Association.

"Now I wish my successor Chris Sealey all the very best for his term of office. I know he is very passionate about the Association and will take this great Association forward."

Chris and Tony then completed the ceremonial badge swap before





Chris, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, presented Tony with a commemorative plaque to mark his outstanding work as Chairman.

Tony's nomination of Life Membership came from the Cleveland Section and was approved by the Northern Region and the National Board of Management.

In his first speech as Chairman, Chris said: "I'm honoured to take on this role and I will endeavour to continue to promote the Association's goal of raising the profile and professionalism of greenkeeping."

"It has been a privilege to work with Tony who has carried out his role with skill, dedication and good humour. I would also like to

express my personal thanks to Chippenham Golf Club for their support during my many years of involvement at Section, Region and National level.

"In my view, one of the Association's most important functions is the opportunity it gives all of our members to share and develop experience and knowledge at all levels.

"Although times remain difficult for the golfing industry, BIGGA goes from strength to strength. Evidence of this can be seen at this very successful BTME."

Chris then officially welcomed Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club, as the Association's Vice Chairman.



@BIGGALtd

TWITTER REACTION

In common with BTME itself, Twitter was buzzing during BTME 2014. Here's a selection of your comments...

Dave Collins @greenkeeperdave

@ SkySportsGolf guys can you give a shout out to the thousands of golf greenkeepers at Harrogate this week for #BTME2014(they did!)

Grant Peters @LinlithgowGDept

Back to work today after an excellent BTME 2014... Learnt lots and loads of turf chat!! Great job @BIGGALtd

Nathan O'Sullivan @nathosully

Long drive to Cornwall begins, very interesting and productive week at #btme @BIGGALtd

greenkeeping @Lancastergc

Good day @BIGGALtd#btme2014new contacts and old friends. Some new products look interesting too.

Graham Pickin @graham_pickin

@BIGGALtdbest BTME ever, very helpful exhibitors and superb education

Jack Davies @jackdavies_turf

had an absolutely awesome 2 days at #BTME2014 !! been such a thrilling experience! thanks a lot @BIGGALtd!see you next year!!



TURFKEEPER DRAW

Many of the exhibitors at BTME offered prize draws and giveaways to visitors – and just one of these was Turfkeeper. BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton conducted the prize draw on their stand.

First prize of an iPad Mini went to Ian Smith, Assistant Greenkeeper at Hurlston Hall Golf & Country Club. The second prize, which was a six month subscription to Turfkeeper, went to Adam Moss, Deputy Course Manager at Blackwell Golf Club. For more on Turfkeeper please visit www.turfkeeper.com

BTME 2014 Visitor Figures

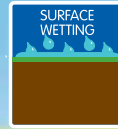
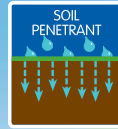


Continue to Learn – 2,764 (new record)
 Tuesday – 3,205 // Wednesday – 3,940 // Thursday – 1,606



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MY BTME 2014



Many turf professionals travelled vast distances to attend BTME. One delegate who made a long trip was Ben Blampied-Smyth, Course Manager at Royal Jersey GC. Here's his diary of a frenetic but hugely worthwhile week...

I'm sure most greenkeepers look forward to the annual BTME show as a chance to view new products, meet up with suppliers, possibly attend some seminars and of course catch up with friends whilst enjoying a beer in the evening. This is exactly what I did during my flying visit.

Catching the last flight out of Jersey and only arriving very late on the Sunday night I'll admit to being pleased that the Turf Managers' Conference I had signed up for allowed me a little lie in (in greenkeeper terms!). It was an all-day conference with five very different speakers covering subjects from water resources, to communicating change in the workplace. For me the speaker of the day was Karl Morris, a leading sports psychologist who gave an insight into the power of your mind to notice and appreciate the little things you have which make you, your team and even your golf course stand out from others.

After a hard days' work, some nourishment was in order in the form of a fantastic steak at the Bar

& Grill in the centre of Harrogate with some friends. It's almost impossible to go anywhere without bumping into someone you know. It's a very sociable place.

The exhibition opened the next day so I spent the morning going through my list of products to look at and suppliers to meet up with. It was a fantastic opportunity to view all the major suppliers together to compare for a potential fleet deal that we are looking to do this year. It was also interesting to see the launch of Everris's new greens trueness meter.

I then had a lunch meeting with a product supplier which was a welcome chance for a sit down. You definitely work up an appetite walking round the show! Henry Bechelet presented a 30 minute seminar later that afternoon on Soil Moisture Management which was my final point of call for the day. I've seen him speak a few times before and as always he was really informative and entertaining.

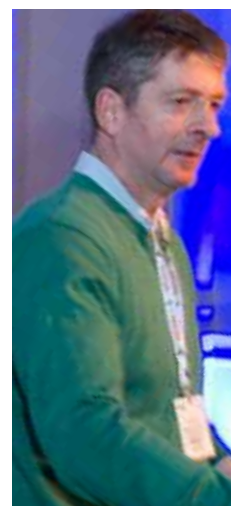
My evening was spent at the Cardamom Black restaurant where I had been lucky enough



to be invited for a meal and where I bumped into my old tutor from Myerscough College. As I said, you're never far from someone you know in Harrogate! I also said that I was going to have an early night - that wasn't the case! It was however a really good night and great to have been introduced to some new greenkeepers and grounds managers and get an insight into their working day.

That was my whirlwind visit to Harrogate this year. Hopefully next year my winter works will allow for a little more time at the show as there is so much to see and some very good seminars on offer. Sadly my late night caught up with me at 5am heading home, but I'm already looking forward to BTME 2015!

ABOVE: Henry Bechelet
BELOW: Karl Morris



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TURF MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

Jim Cook reports on a thriving series of seminars, once again held at Harrogate's Crown Hotel



A packed out hall at the Crown Hotel was the venue for BTME 2014's Turf Managers' Conference – another hugely successful event which is clearly gathering pace each January.

From a modest start four years ago, over 120 delegates attended this time around.

It's become well-known for discussing topical issues, offering vital knowledge and creating lively, interesting debate amongst delegates. This year's event certainly did not disappoint.

Livening up a room full of people at 9am on a Monday morning is a rare skill and opening speaker, Karl Morris from the Mind Factor, gave an impressive demonstration of how this should be done. His presentation on motivational techniques created a truly buzzing atmosphere and was the ideal tonic to begin the day.

"Anybody who says success is all about technical knowledge is wrong. Anybody who says it is all in the mind is also wrong. Blending these two together is the key to success," he began.

As a particularly striking demonstration of the power of the mind he spoke about belief and how the human brain tends to create invisible barriers and stumbling blocks for itself. For example, before the 1950s the four-minute mile was considered impossible. Incredible as it sounds now, there was the belief that the human body would explode if pushed to break this time. After Roger Bannister achieved the feat in 1954 other athletes around the world then started to break the four-minute mark - the mental barrier had been shattered.

Karl went on to speak about attention and the red dot Louis Oosthuizen painted on his golf glove during The Open in 2010 to act as a trigger to focus solely on the shot in hand. He also spoke about the power of language, the importance of positive thinking, role projection and other topics, all of which relate to the role of the manager and kept everyone thoroughly engaged.

Arnold Phipps-Jones, Course Manager at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, said: "The opening session was brilliant and a great start to the day. It got you thinking and was fresh, as you get into a certain mind pattern of doing things. It was very interesting and stimulated the brain."

In the next session Junier Browne, from the Environment Agency, spoke informatively about water resource availability and where the greatest pressures were throughout the country. He said water availability would change in the future and the agency needed to look at how it licensed going forward.

Junier also went through the application process for abstraction licences. The Q&A session raised a number of topics for discussion including the issue of containing flood water for later use.

Tammy Ball, from Coaching by the Balls, gave a resonating talk on change and used her personal analogy of when she moved from the US to the UK as an example of how change can be extremely difficult, but can be overcome in stages.

She said any change could potentially be overcome if the person making the change communicates the vision effectively. She said: "Having communication and open dialogue is the most critical thing we do in any business."

She also made the interesting point that simply training someone to do something is not guaranteeing behaviour change. She used as an example that showing someone how to use a new piece of equipment is just the start of the change and that does not signal the end of the training process.

Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity and author of a very popular weekly weather blog, gave a fascinating insight into why extreme weather has now become the norm and explained the 'peak and trough' weather system.

Continuing with a scientific presentation, Mark demonstrated how the Growing Degree-Day (GDD) model is a calculation to quantify growth from minimum and maxi-



mum temperatures. He went on to explain what can be learned from these figures and how they could help with disease management.

He also posited our attitudes towards aeration should be reviewed as weather patterns have changed. Mark said: "The calendar is irrelevant now. January can be a great opportunity for aeration and we should be flexible and adaptable."

Professor Karl Danneberger, from Ohio State University, was next, drawing on the history of the GDD model to demonstrate how it has been used in other industries and explained how maths in the model can be used to predict such things as danger periods for turf disease.

Barry Neville, Course Manager at Stanmore Golf Club, said: "It was an interesting day and has posed a number of questions which I can look into further."

Yannick Asaf, greenkeeper from Golfpark Neuolen AG in Switzerland said: "It was fantastic, well worth the journey from Switzerland, and I recommend it to any turf manager."

CONTINUE TO LEARN

“It’s been a fantastic show, one of the best ever. The education has been great. I’ve just come out of the ‘Wimbledon Fortnight: Before, During and After’ session and people were so enthused. All around you see smiling faces and there is a feel good factor coming back to the industry in general.”
Billy McMillan



The Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2014 broke all records with an all-time high 2,764 delegates enjoying 180 hours of workshops, seminars and conferences.

The programme proved so popular that BIGGA took the unprecedented step of repeating a seminar. Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, presented his ‘Ryder Cup 2014 – The Journey Continues’ seminar twice in quick succession to meet demand!

The Turf Managers’ Conference was another success story – for a review on this event turn to page 26.

Thank you to everyone who attended and all the presenters who contributed to our finest BTME education offering yet!

Here’s a brief selection of delegate views on Continue to Learn:

“The Continue to Learn programme has been superb. Year on year it just gets better. The diversity of content has been

fantastic at this year’s show. You see so many young people involved with it as well now so you can almost see the future of greenkeeping.

“I went to one of the sessions about becoming a course manager and found it very useful. At the stage I’m at I know the agronomy side and it’s the managing people and budgets which I’m learning.”

James Parker
Deputy Head Greenkeeper,
Close House Golf Club

“It’s a fabulous programme and everyone should try and make the effort to attend as many seminars as possible. The great thing about it is the sheer range of education available. I’ve come here with an apprentice and we’ve both learnt so much, he’ll certainly be back again next year and I will too.”

Paul Bishop
Course Manager, Manor House
Golf Club

“The education has been brilliant. The ‘Stepping up to Head Greenkeeper – The Realities’ presented by a current Head



Greenkeeper was a real eye-opener and brought to life the areas I need to work on to further my career.

“Every year I take away even more from Continue to Learn, the whole set up is fantastic.”

James Bledge
Assistant Links
Superintendent, Royal Cinque
Ports Golf Club





ABOVE: Steve Chappell's Ryder Cup seminar (part 2!)

BELOW: Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer's Technical Manager

BAYER'S BUZZWORD SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT AT BTME

'Neonicotinoid' became something of a buzzword last year as a potential ban on products containing that chemistry loomed – and one of BIGGA's Continue to Learn seminars covered this very topical issue.

Pressure groups and activists latched onto research that suggested these chemicals were killing bees and were to blame for the decline in bee population. Consequently, products containing either Clothianidin, Imidacloprid or Thiamethoxam have been suspended for plant protection purposes for two years, at which point they'll face a review. Media hype and Chinese whispers across the industry has led to uncertainty about which products greenkeepers can now use. To clarify the situation, Bayer utilised the BTME seminar programme to help clear up any doubt.

"The first thing to point out is that the suspension

only applies to the use of imidacloprid on flowering crops, which obviously, managed amenity and sports turf isn't," explained Bayer's Technical Manager, Dr Colin Mumford. "The second thing is that Imidacloprid is still approved for professional amenity and sports turf use. This approval has been sustained as managed amenity and sports turf is non-flowering. Therefore our message is simple. Any product containing Imidacloprid is still fine for professional use on sports turf."

Colin went on to explain that while pesticides have been known to affect bees who come in to contact with them on flowering crops, they form a small part of a much broader spectrum that accounts for a possible decline in bee population. He added that interestingly, pesticides come relatively far down the list of primary causes.

"When asked what the main



risk was to bee health out of these eight primary causes, a survey of beekeepers and laboratories by the European Commission suggests that exposure to pesticides was actually one of the least likely causes; even deliberate poisoning was considered more of a hazard than unintentional contact with pesticides."

Bees play an important role around the vicinity of a golf course, but on the playing surfaces such as tees and fairways, products such as Bayer's Merit® Turf are vital. Colin concluded: "Merit® Turf is an essential weapon in the fight against Leatherjackets and Chafer grubs and maintains its approval for use on sports turf."

Jim Cook reviews BIGGA's inaugural Welcome Celebration, sponsored by Jacobsen



The first ever BIGGA Welcome Celebration, kindly sponsored by Jacobsen, took place in the magnificent Royal Hall at the Harrogate International Centre. It proved to be a memorable evening featuring well-deserved accolades for various greenkeeping achievements plus a warm and spontaneous speech from Peter Alliss.

The event began with Alan Prickett, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, highlighting the 'Hard Road to Harrogate' greenkeepers who were rapturously applauded for their achievement in successfully reaching Harrogate earlier in the day after a 200 mile charity trek.

The recently established BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund was then given a major early boost as Alan presented BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton with a cheque for £2,500.

This, in tandem with steady sales of the green wristbands supporting the fund, ensured another BIGGA initiative got off to a strong start.

Next, Jonathan Barr, Head Greenkeeper at Lutterworth Golf Club, was honoured for becoming BIGGA's 63rd Master Greenkeeper by Tony Smith (attending his final official engagement as Chairman) and BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack.

CPD Diplomas was awarded to six recipients – Jamie Blake, Head Greenkeeper at Broadway Golf Club, Tony Gooch, Head Greenkeeper at Torrington Golf Club, Derek Grendowicz, Course Manager at Raevo Golf Developments, Gordon Moir, Course Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, Barry Neville, Course Manager at Stanmore Golf Club and Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club.

Nine CPD Milestone Achievers then filed up onto stage to receive their framed certificates.

They were Mike Boyle, Greenkeeper at Loch Lomond Golf Club, Craig Cameron, Deputy Course Manager at Aldeburgh Golf Club, Jack Davies, Greenkeeper at Five Lakes Hotel Golf and Country Club, Geoff Fenn, Course



Manager at Bedford and County Golf Club, Christopher McGhee, Greenkeeper at Tyrifjord Golf Club, Robert McDowell, Greenkeeper at Wishaw Golf Club, Andrew Reason, Deputy Course Manager at North Hants Golf Club, Steven Rowett, Groundsman at Stowe School and Greg Wellings, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at St Annes Old Links Golf Club.

The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2013 was won by Joe Dormer, Assistant Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, for his stunning shot of the club's 14th green. He was presented with a framed picture of his photograph.

The Edwin Budding Award was then presented to Tom Hurst of Bernhard & Co.

This special recognition was created to acclaim technical professionals in the turf equipment sector whose actions have gone above and beyond the norm to help shape the golf industry.

American Tom has been in the industry all his life, working with a distributor in Phoenixville for 37 years, before continuing to work for Bernhard & Co after his official retirement.

After being presented with the impressively large trophy, he



said: "I've sold a lot of grinders in my time, so I was very pleased to be back in the business selling machines that I know so well to people I have worked with all my life. It doesn't feel much like work, so to win this award is the icing on the cake. I am humbled that I was even considered."

The Royal Hall offered a suitably grand setting for special guest Peter Alliss who was then invited to the stage.

"I have a special affection for greenkeepers," the voice of golf began.

He went on to give a fascinating account of his life, including childhood memories of greenkeepers on his local course.

He discussed the more "primitive" methods used by the earliest greenkeepers and how he was amazed at how technology and machinery has progressed.

BIGGA

Welcome Celebration

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He said: "The greenkeeping world is a very different world now and I marvel at the technologies now used. It never crossed my mind your profession would grow as it has and even cutting the hole on the greens is very different now.

"I congratulate you all. It's a very worthy profession and your world is one which I still take an interest in. If you go to a golf club you can see if those in charge care and it's the little details that make a difference. At the end of the day it is the golf course itself that makes a club successful.

"I wish you well in all you do because the game of golf has been my world. It's been a wonderful life and you have helped create that. I hope it doesn't get too sophisticated, that everything is done with medicines.

"I still think there is room for the craftsman who knows a particular area and how it works."

After Peter concluded his speech, Tony Smith added: "You're not just the voice of golf but to us you are the voice of greenkeeping. You promote the working greenkeeper on television and I thank you for that."

Commenting on the evening, Steve Beverly, Course Manager at Immingham Golf Club, said:

"We couldn't stretch to an overnight stay in Harrogate so we thought we'd drive through for the day, and it was good to have an event to look forward to on the evening.

"I think these social events are a terrific idea as it means you get the most out of your visit to Harrogate, and I look forward to seeing what happens next year!"

JACOBSEN



EXHIBITORS' VIEW

Jim Cook takes a walk round the stands at BTME 2014 through the aisles of bouyant traders and buyers, and finds the mood to be one of optimism at the heart of the show

After squeezing through the exhibition halls from Tuesday to Thursday, two things were strikingly noticeable. Optimism has returned to the industry and BTME still has that special something.

The exhibitors are the heart of the show and the energy they transmit really is inspiring, especially this year with nearly 9,000 visitors thronging the halls. One gentleman I spoke to hadn't left his stand at all on Wednesday – a chocolate-chip biscuit donated by a sympathetic visitor proved to be his only sustenance.

From speaking to many of these exhibitors there was one word which kept being dropped into conversation again and again: buoyancy. Things are undoubtedly looking up, and the teeming exhibition halls at BTME 2014 offered a visual demonstration of this.

I toured the halls speaking to exhibitors, trying to squeeze in a quick chat when they were not deluged by current and potential customers. Speaking on the Tuesday, Matthew Clark from Verde Sports said the large and eye-catching Union Jack at the back of their stand was there to emphasise that they manufacture their products in Britain.

He continued: "We're always at BTME and this year is particularly busy - we've just not had a quiet moment."

He added that his personal reasons for attending the show were to stay in touch with clients and put faces to names.

"This makes a big difference with relationships with customers. If you've met them face to face they stick in your mind and you stick in theirs. This morning I've met three or four customers who I speak to all the time on the phone but had no idea what they looked like."

Several exhibitors from across the world made the trip to BTME 2014. Gaelle Riva and Eric Bruhier, from PHM Philippe Morisse SAS, travelled from France for the show. They exhibited two years previously and had a new line-marking product to show off at the event.



Eric said: "It's great that this event is indoors as we're not at the mercy of the weather. We can keep in touch with our customers from all over the world." Gaelle added: "We can speak to greenkeepers and groundsman here which is good to gain their opinions on our products. Golf is not as popular in France as in England and Scotland so to come and speak with the industry here is valuable. We're not selling the product here as we use distributors, but we're here to promote ourselves and the ability to speak to the end user is unique."

Martin Sternberg, from Capillary Concrete, had journeyed from Sweden. Late on the Wednesday during a rare quiet moment on his stand he said: "This year is a good year. We've been so busy and it's been surprising how many people from other countries have visited. Less than half our sales this week so far have been English. I do about 15 shows a year and this one is really good and getting better. We're opening up in the UK now and the aim for this week was to find distributors and contractors to use and generally explain the product to the market."



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Milan Hinich, International Sales Manager at Spectrum Technologies, had travelled over from Chicago for the second year in a row. He said: "For me coming from the USA it's been a phenomenal show. The British people have been extremely polite and I feel like I'm more at home here than in the USA. You are extremely proactive here and realise you must be efficient and optimise the wallet. Overall I'm very impressed with the agrono-

hasn't been there, so even though there is interest it's been hard work getting to the point of sale. Now I believe people have more money in the pot, are prioritising what they need to spend it on and are getting to that point."

The final exhibitor's voice comes from Paula Yarwood, Managing Director at Toms Locker. On the Thursday afternoon, when things were winding down a little, she said: "Of all the industries

"We've exhibited here for the past four years. This is undoubtedly the busiest and best show so far. I think there is much more optimism in the industry"
 Penny Long, Blinder Bunker

mists, the research scientists here and I think you guys are doing the right thing.

"My voice has almost disappeared from all the talking. The whole process from setting up here has been smooth, whether it's customer service or security everyone's had a helping hand here and made it feel like a home away from home. I feel like I've known some of the people I've been talking to this week for years."

Towards the end of the second day Dr John Newstead from Delta-T Device Services said: "We've had more leads than last year and there has been a lot of interest in the application of science and sensors. People seem to be becoming more aware of the benefits technology can have in decision making.

"This show allows us to interact with our customers and find out quirky uses they may have for our products. It's very difficult to get that sat in your office on the phone!"

Brian Swinden, Manager at Yamaha Motor (UK), said: "It has been very busy from the start on Tuesday morning and has stayed busy for two days. Overall it's been a great show for networking and engaging with customers. We always use a stand in Hall C and the spot we have on the corner here is like a spaghetti junction for people passing through."

Penny Long, Director at Blinder Bunker, said: "We've exhibited here for the past four years. This is undoubtedly the busiest and best show so far. I think there is much more optimism in the industry so people are coming now ready to spend rather than just look.

"Although we've had really positive shows in the past, the money

I've worked in, I've never found one as friendly and accommodating as this. It all seems very non-salesy and not so full-on.

"This is our launch and although we were worried how it would go, we have been very well received. The BIGGA guys have been so helpful and in the past two weeks I've been bouncing emails to them and the responses have been coming back quickly. It has been the easiest exhibition I have ever done and most of all it's been fun. I've really enjoyed it."



Eric Bruhier and Gaëlle Riva, PHM Philippe Morisse SAS

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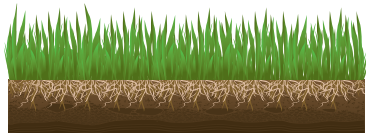
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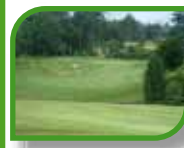
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who attended
See you next year!
20-22 January 2015**

KUBOTA'S SPECIAL YEAR



Tractor and groundcare specialist Kubota has increased its popular out-front range of mowers with the launch of its updated F90 fleet, improving its existing models with enhanced cutting and discharge performance.

The revamped F3090 and F3890 deliver professional performance with Kubota's 30.6HP and 37.3HP diesel-powered engines, fabricated durable mower deck, easier maintenance and superior operator comfort; as well as increased levels of productivity and reliability. Bolstering the existing range, Kubota has also added the F2890E 2WD model to its fleet, designed for operators with less challenging demands.

The improved F90 range comes with rear and side discharge mower decks, available

in 60" or 72" fittings, with both decks raising a full 90 degrees, providing unobstructed access to the blades and deck underside for simpler cleaning and maintenance.

Speaking at BTME 2014, Dave Roberts, Managing Director of Kubota UK, said: "As well as everything else BTME is a great networking opportunity, and there was plenty to talk about with our new products on show."

"The F90 is aimed at the golf course manager, is ideal for the semi-rough and affordable, so we were very excited to show it off in the flesh for the first time.

"2014 marks Kubota's 35th year of business so BTME is a great platform for us to start this special year – we believe in longevity and commitment to the market."



INFiNiSystem

Pride of place on The Grass Group stand at BTME was the first showing of ATT's 26" INFiNiSystem™. Designed with all the features of its celebrated 22" sister, this completely new product has the same dual Hybrid/Battery power source and range of SMART cassettes for the ultimate in turf maintenance.

The 26" floating head INFiNiSystem™ has been designed to offer even greater productivity – especially when compared to a standard 22" greens mower.

TWO NEW REDEXIM PRODUCTS IMPRESS AT BTME 2014

Charterhouse Turf Machinery always try to bring something new to BTME and 2014 was no exception as visitors saw the Redexim Double Disc Seeder and Speed-Brush for the first time in the UK.

The new Double Disc 1830 Overseeder was well-received. It buries the seed up to 20mm deep in the ground. At a working width of 1.83 metres, the machine is fully adjustable for any type of seed and has a 300 litre hopper. With disc spacing of 30mm the DD1830 places the seed effectively and accurately drops the seed between the blades into the groove. A 65hp tractor requirement sees the Overseeder taking undulating ground firmly in its stride and promises good germination rates.

Going down a storm at the Redexim demonstration event in Holland last year, the Speed-Brush made its UK debut at BTME 2014. This is a towable grooming machine with two round brushes that rotate in the opposite direction to that of travel.



BTME 2014 A BIG HIT FOR HIGHSPEED GROUP

BTME 2014 was a successful show for Highspeed Group, particularly for their class leading ClearWater washpad water recycling system.

Director David Mears said: "This was an important show for us and we were determined to make BTME 2014 our best yet. We were not disappointed as the footfall, orders and enquiries exceeded anything seen in the last four years! Confidence is certainly returning."

Worthy of particular mention was the first ClearWater sale confirmed at the show from a German Golf Club. Chris Knowles, course manager of Golf Club Hanau-Wilhelmsbad near Frankfurt, placed an order with Highspeed Group Ltd on their stand. He'd met David Mears at BTME in 2012 and, having checked out a number of washpad solutions, believed the ClearWater recycling system to be the ideal solution to meet the demands of anti-pollution legislation and be future-proof.

Chris said: "The system



we had was inadequate and I wanted to challenge the negative environmental press golf clubs can get in Germany anyway, by showing that we can prevent pollution.

"I was attracted to the ClearWater system as soon as

I saw it because, being below ground, it is enclosed and easy on the eye."

Chris needed to be sure that the system was compliant with EU and German legislation. The UK manufactured system has undergone exhaustive

testing and meets the necessary requirements of EN858 (equivalent to DIN 1999-100 in Germany). Highspeed passed official certification to Chris by way of proof and Chris consequently signed the deal.



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GOLF INDUSTRY FIRST AT BTME

Visitors to BTME were the first in the UK to see Toro's all-new Sand Pro 2040Z zero-turn bunker rake.

With the SP2040Z, Toro brings zero-turn technology to bunker maintenance for the first time. The result is a mechanical groomer delivering unmatched maneuverability and productivity – and, as a result, one of the most laborious jobs on the golf course just got a whole lot easier.

The machine boasts a brand new 'flex' raking system with a patent-pending 'lift in turn' feature that enables operators to make the tightest of turns in bunkers without leaving unraked 'teardrops' or tyre marks, to produce picture-perfect surfaces even in small, tight bunkers and those with sloped walls. Toro also says it won't tear bunker liners or turf on bunker edges.

Lely also chose BTME to showcase its latest Toro PREMA machine – a Reelmaster 5410.

This showed the thousands of visitors the quality of machines available for clubs wanting to buy quality, pre-owned Toro turf machinery that's technically as good as new, at affordable prices, under its new PREMA scheme.



WORLD FIRST FOR TRIMAX AT BTME

Trimax Mowing Systems' brand new golf and turf mower 'snake' was unveiled for the first time anywhere in the world at BTME 2014.

Snake has been meticulously designed from the ground up, drawing on 30 years of innovation, refined engineering practice and customer insight.

The 3.2m wide trailed rotary mower has been specifically designed for sports turf applications where a high standard of presentation, safety, durability and low downtime are essential. Like its namesake, when it's on the move, it is surprisingly quiet, allowing mowing to take place around sensitive areas without causing disturbance.

Snake looks like a smaller version of the popular

Pegasus mower, and has several innovative features integrated into its design. The clever 'kerb jump' feature allows the decks to be lifted with the blades still engaged to go over kerbs, paths and other obstacles without stopping the PTO. This prevents wear and ensures smoother operation whilst mowing. It is also useful for turning at the end of a mowing run.

Snake has been designed to require little maintenance. Sealed spindles mean there are fewer points to grease. All grease points are easily accessible to ensure any maintenance time is kept to a minimum.

It is equipped with a new sealed PTO system which seals the moving parts from dust and other debris. This allows for

up to 50 hour greasing intervals, dependent on the environment it operates in.

To complete the package, Snake comes with a market-leading three year warranty. This true and trusted warranty, which is also offered on many other Trimax models, demonstrates the company's total confidence in its build quality and engineering.

Trimax Customer Relationship Manager Michael Quinn said: "The Trimax team continues to prioritise the customer. Because our mowers contribute to their livelihoods, we understand that when a mower is not in operation, our first priority to get them running again. Trimax operators are part of the family and with family, you support each other."



RT LAUNCH NEW RANGE

The biggest, brightest and most informative brochure Rigby Taylor has ever produced was showcased for the first time at BTME 2014.

This 136 page brochure has been specially designed to incorporate user friendly features that allows the reader to easily and quickly navigate through the product sections. Each section is preceded by a double page spread range-selector, which shows 'at-a-glance' the products features.

Also included for the first time are attractive and highly visual icons that depict each product's key characteristics.

The new brochure includes the company's extensive 'R' range of grass seed; including cultivars exclusive to Rigby Taylor and extended wild flower mixtures.

In addition the new wetting agent Propel-R, polymer coated fertilizers PolyPro and ConVert and, the latest addition to the Microlite range, TE-Bag.



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HARD ROAD TO HARROGATE



One of the undoubted highlights of BTME was the arrival of the ‘Mad Mower Men’ completing their amazing 200-mile trek from Ransomes Jacobsen’s Ipswich HQ to Harrogate pushing Ransomes hand mowers.

Their incredibly tough week-long charity challenge – all in aid of Scotty’s Little Soldiers – came to an end on the Tuesday of BTME as they triumphantly walked through the entrance at the Harrogate International Centre.

They were then welcomed with applause and party poppers into Hall M with their trusty mowers which they had pushed across several counties in heavy rain, hail and freezing fog.

The fearless foursome were Mark Hillaby, Head Greenkeeper at Macclesfield Golf Club, Tim Johnson, Senior Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, Gordon Irvine MG Golf Course Consultant and David Steventon, a former greenkeeper who is now director of Prestige Garden Services. David’s wife Amy and Tim’s dad Stuart also formed part of the support crew.

David said: “I went into it with no training whatsoever, and after the very first day my feet were in bits so I switched to some proper running trainers. They helped but my feet were still held together with blister plasters. It was agony at times but

you just get your head down, take some painkillers and get on with it.

“Walking along we had a lot of cars and lorries beeping their horns encouraging us. Now and again we’d be walking through the middle of nowhere and a car would slow down behind us and stick a tenner at us, that sort of thing really kept us going.

“The first few days were very rural and quiet, it was quite eerie at times pushing this mower along in the middle of nowhere, so it was good to get to busier towns and cities towards the end.

Tim said: “The penultimate day was the worst. The entire route had been pretty flat until we hit this hill near Leeds Golf Club. I could feel my heels and my shins going. We had the odd puncture but other than that it went well – we learnt a lot from our mistakes on last year’s walk. The team spirit was fantastic.”

Gordon added: “My biggest concern was the safety side of it, you’re walking along the road itself at times but we made sure we were very visible. Also the weather was a constant worry – I did last year’s walk in the summer and obviously it was harder this time round. We had some hail and heavy rain plus freezing fog but you get through it.

“We all knew each other at the start but you end up being very close friends at the end, that’s what makes it so special. We talked

greenkeeping as well as lots of other subjects for many hours! I spent a lot of time talking to Tim, he's been involved with lots of the education BIGGA have organised, and it was great for me to hear a young guy's perspective on the industry as we walked round."

Peter Driver, PR and Media Communications Manager at Ransomes Jacobsen commented: "The team were so keen to start the walk that they left our head office at around 4pm on the Tuesday evening, a week ahead of the show. On route they were interviewed by BBC Radio Suffolk on three occasions and also by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and BBC Radio Lincolnshire. On my way up to Harrogate, on the Saturday prior to the show, I even managed to find them on a B-road somewhere north of Sleaford in the wilds of Lincolnshire to offer encouragement and take a few photos.

"What is really amazing is just how robust the Super Certes mowers proved to be. Tim's mower was the same one used for last year's walk from Liverpool to Hull, so it's now done over 400 road miles without any mechanical modifications whatsoever.

"The team has done a tremendous job, all in aid of a very worthy cause and everyone at Ransomes Jacobsen congratulates them on their achievement. Well done Tim, Mark, Gordon and David and to your support team, who were vital to the success of the walk."

Thanks to everyone who has donated money so far and all the sponsors: Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey Turf Care Systems, Bernhard & Co, Symbio, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Rigby Taylor, Sports Metals, Rushserve, Banner Building & Plumbing Service, Prestige Garden Services, Wilmslow Golf Club and Gordon Irvine MG Greenkeeping Consultancy.

Scotty's Little Soldiers is dedicated to supporting the children of men and women killed in action while serving with the British Armed Forces. You can still donate at www.bmycharity.com/HardRoadToHarrogate and watch this space for the lads' next challenge, which Tim's dad Stuart says will be the biggest yet!

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Extreme winters at Losby Golf Club



Agronomist Charles Henderson has worked on Losby Golf Club's course advisory board since 2011 along with Agnar Kvalbein from the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environmental Research Foundation (STERF). Charles explains how BIGGA member Alex Cawley tackles extreme winters in Oslo





Losby Golf Club is one of Oslo's top courses, having hosted many professional events. Designed by the Swedish architect Petter Nordwall the complex consists of an 18 hole championship course and a nine hole course set within a National Park.

Course Manager Alex Cawley has managed the facility since March 2011. During this period Alex has faced many challenges posed by the Nordic climate. As Agnar Kvalbein from the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environmental Research Foundation (STERF) said: "The Oslo area represents an extremely difficult and unpredictable winter climate. Alternating snowfall and rain, frost and mild days often creates ice on the greens. Around 70% of courses in the region face remedial works on greens in spring as a result of winter kill."

Losby is set within a low lying valley and is famous for 1.8ha of greens on its championship course. These characteristics amplify extreme winter challenges faced by the team each year.

Oslo Climate And Growth Potential

Norway represents one of the shortest growing seasons in Europe. Potential for turf growth and development is short with the golfing season mostly lasting from mid May/June to mid October/November. Temperatures are comparatively low and present difficult winter management and complex spring recovery issues.

Understanding Winter Kill

Winter kill is a generic term used within the industry and covers various forms of turf kill.

Low temperature kill – The result of rapid drops in temperature down to 0°C (32F) and colder resulting in ice crystal formation.

Desiccation – The dying of leaves and plants through drying whilst in a dormant state. This is most commonly experienced on open and exposed sites and usually affects certain greens more than others depending on where they are situated.

Crown hydration – Caused by daily swings in temperatures. Snow melt causes the accumulation of water in low lying areas of greens, which in turn refreezes during low night temperatures.

In this process plants uptake water into the crown and upon freezing the water turns to ice, expands and ruptures plant cells resulting in serious injury or death.

This can occur in very sporadic patterns.

Snow mold disease – Both Pink and Grey snow molds are relevant to winters in Norway. Pink snow mold (fusarium patch) is a condition experienced through most of northern Europe. Of equal concern is the development of Grey snow mold. Grey snow mold requires more specific temperature requirements of between 0-2.2°C (32-36F) to develop and prolonged snow cover experienced in Oslo can provide this.

Ice encasement – Agnar explained: "The most lethal winter stress in Oslo is ice encasement that causes suffocation. Lack of oxygen forces the grass cells and the soil microbes to change from normal cell respiration to fermentation of sugar reserves. This is a very inefficient metabolic process, and the plant may run out of energy, but more often the grass is killed by the high concentration of toxic metabolites (several organic acids and hydrogen sulfide) that is trapped under the ice. These chemicals may also inhibit germination of grass seed. Re-establishing partly dead greens can therefore be very challenging. When to break the ice on greens is one of the most difficult decisions Norwegian greenkeepers make."

Preparing For Winter

As with most clubs throughout northern Europe, Losby's winter preparation starts with the prevention of fusarium patch. Disease occurrence early in the autumn/winter leaves limited chance to recover from disease. Already infected patches act as continuous hosts to recurring fusarium infections under snow with the right conditions.

Losby has retained high levels of Creeping Bentgrass varieties within greens. Poa annua is present but at very low levels. With decreasing fungicide availability, keeping poa annua alive into and through winter is becoming increasingly difficult.

At Losby, continual levels of growth are sustained for as long as feasible through September and early October. Both nitrogen deficiencies and excesses are avoided, light applications of 3-5 N units/ha applied as required. Ammonium Sulphate based fertiliser is used at this point in the year. Frequent use of Iron sources is sustained and potassium is at a 2:1 ratio with nitrogen although this necessity is under review.

Meltwater, crown hydration and ice encasement is the biggest and

about the author



Charles Henderson is Agronomy Director for Sports Agronomy Services (SAS) and provides independent fact based advice to golf clubs throughout the UK and Europe. Charles has over ten years' advisory experience covering Australasia, Europe and Asia working with leading authorities and clubs.

most obvious cause of winter kill in greens. To understand the challenges faced by Losby, soil profiles freeze down to a depth of 500mm to 2000mm depending on temperatures.

Cutting off meltwater at source is the first stage of preparations. Small fences are erected in known problem areas to divert meltwater away from greens. Channels 40mm wide and 70mm deep are cut around immediate green perimeters where water moves onto greens. These channels are directed to non-playing areas.

Solid tining or hollow tining prior to winter is a technique used by some courses in the region. The opening of the immediate surface can provide channels through which meltwater can drain vertically down the greens profile.

In this sense such work is advantageous. But, such work can also cause complications with heaving of the soil profile and excessive surface softening during spring.

Once Under Snow

Snow is allowed to accumulate on the greens surfaces - common practice in most of Norway. Ideally the surface will be frozen before the snow falls, this reduces the potential for disease occurrence.

This doesn't always occur, in which case gradual freezing through light snow covering is the next best scenario. With a good covering (30cm or more) the turf surface is insulated from extremely cold temperatures normally around -1°C to -4°C.

Alex said: "Removal of snow over the immediate green surrounds is carried out through winter. This provides low lying ground onto which snow can be removed from greens and surrounds in spring."

"This is limited to a couple of applications to avoid compaction of snow and increased ice encasement."

Spring Snow And Ice Clearing

Spring is an intense period for all courses in Norway. Determining the exact condition in which the greens will come out of winter is heavily affected by decisions made in spring.

Timing of snow clearing is a very difficult decision. Avoiding excess snow cover over 120 days is desirable to avoid favourable anoxic soil conditions meaning there is pressure to remove early. In contrast, removing during high day-night temperature swings (varying from +5 to -15°C) creates risks of crown hydration. Once snow removal



ABOVE: Course Manager, Alex Cawley

commences the speed at which the operation is completed is critical.

Alex commented: "Snow clearing is carried out with initial use of a snow plough and 70hp tractor complete with spiked tires and snow chains. This is then followed by a snow blower driven by a 50hp tractor."

Once temperatures rise above freezing in spring snow starts to melt. Commonly, meltwater seeps through snow cover forming additional ice layers over the turf surface. This creates additional work to remove it with the potential for 10cm thick ice layers and further increased risks of crown hydration.

He added: "Ice clearing is achieved through application of black sand, charcoal prills and/or organic fertilisers, this speeds up the melting of the upper ice profile. Mechanical removal is only implemented as required."

Determining The Spring Recovery Programme

The exact condition of greens is unknown for sometime during spring. Determining the exact extent to which grass will recover takes time. Plants suffering crown hydration in spring will not always show obvious symptoms and they can appear as if recovery will take place.

2013 Spring Recovery Programme

Last year Losby hosted the Norwegian National Junior Championships in July and a Challenge Tour event in August, presenting the club with additional pressure to deliver first-class greens surfaces. 2013 presented moderate levels of winter kill and poorer than usual spring germination and recovery of existing plants.

Once it was apparent some areas of greens turf were not going to recover, overseeding becomes an essential first stage of recovery. Deciding when to overseed is challenging. Too early and temperatures will not support germination resulting in seed rot and low germination rates.

Losby use a verti-cutting and drop seeding programme in spring to achieve a uniform spread of new creeping bentgrass plants within sward. Use of germination sheets is essential at this point for both new seed and recovery of existing plants.

Recovery of existing plants

Growth potential remains very low normally until June. However growth can be forced through late

April and May. As important as the establishment of new plants is the recovery of existing plants within the green.

Textbook feeding programs in these circumstances are of little regard. Promotion of growth is a priority to regain density. Between 100-150 units of actual N/ha is applied between the months of March and June, some 50-75 % of the annual nitrogen budget.

Contingency Turfing

Each year Losby makes contingency orders for turf imported from Sweden and/or Austria. In 2013, 3500m² of turf was laid on the worst affected greens. Turfing of greens in Norway is less than ideal but commercial pressures dictate its necessity in some circumstances. From laying to play Losby has achieved suitably smooth surfaces in both 2012 and 2013 in around five to six weeks.

Sports Agronomy Services (SAS) and Agnar Kvalbein of Bioforsk worked closely with Losby through early 2013 along with support from the European Tour. They implemented a combination of seeding, turfing works, plugging, protective mowing heights and early season feeding programmes.

Through these patient regimes, which were fully supported by the club, Losby enjoyed positive recovery for the season and the crucial Challenge Tour event.

Following the event The European Tour commented: "Alex and his greenkeeping staff put in a monumental effort. They presented a championship course in a condition which drew huge praise from the players and the tournament staff, including the Challenge Tour's Tournament Director Kevin Feeney."

In Summary

Losby (and Oslo in general) presents extreme winter conditions every year. The prediction of recovery and predicting the success of spring seeding is extremely difficult. In contrast, the demand to produce playing surfaces of quality regardless of weather remains constant – something the vast majority of greenkeepers will be able to identify with!

There is still much to learn about winter kill and STERF continue to invest in this. Effective spring recovery strategies are continually under review in the region. SAS continue to work with Losby on this and other agronomic matters, which it feels many clubs in Europe can gain value from.





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Lone working controlling the risk

Recent events have highlighted the dangers of lone working in greenkeeping – and the turf management industry as a whole. What lessons can we learn? What can be done to reduce lone working risk? What does the law require and what simple, practical controls can be introduced? Tom Searle from Britrisk Safety shared his views with GI

Firstly let's be clear about a few key facts - lone workers are those who work alone without close or direct supervision, even though others may be present in the area.

There can be little doubt that whatever risks are present by virtue of the actual task being undertaken, they automatically become far more acute due to the simple fact that the person concerned is alone or isolated, so this is not an issue that should be seen as trivial in any sense.

Whilst it is not illegal to work alone, the law does require employers to carry out a risk assessment and take steps to avoid or control the risks where necessary. The assessment must involve instruction, training and supervision. There is also a requirement to consult workers when considering potential risks and measures to control them.

The assessment may include:

- An awareness that some tasks may be too hazardous to be carried out by an unaccompanied worker and that as a consequence at least two people must be present at all times.

- If this is not practicable, that task is deferred until more staff are present e.g. when on weekend duty, avoiding using machinery for potentially dangerous complex tasks (such as mowing steep banks).

- How the task and lone worker will be supervised.

- The means by which assistance and support is summoned should the need arise.

- The arrangements for emergency response and how this will be delivered.

- Whether the worker concerned has any personal health risk factors such as a heart condition or asthma that may inherently raise their personal risk level.

- Whether there is any reason to think that there may be a raised risk of attack or assault – such as cash carrying, or being called out at night to investigate a premises alarm.

- Reference to monitoring arrangements as specified below.

Monitoring arrangements are a critical aspect of supervision. This may include:

- Supervisors periodically visiting and observing the place of work

and ensuring that the task in hand is being carried out safely and in accordance with instructions.

- A 'Buddy' system involving regular contact between worker and supervisor at pre-agreed intervals via mobile phone or radio.

- The use of a manually operated 'Personal Alarm Button' (PAB) that transmits an immediate automatic warning if activated by the user. Devices are available that automatically trigger a 'Man Down' warning if sensors indicate that the user has become suddenly immobile.

- The implementation of a robust system that ensure the person concerned has returned home or to base by a certain time.

A procedure is required to ensure clarity of vision and full understanding by all concerned of what needs to be done. The 5 W's apply: WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? The main vehicle for this is the site and person-specific arrangements that must accompany the Health & Safety Policy.

It is important that procedures are kept short and simple. Long-winded procedures are not easy to read, if they are not read, they are not applied and procedures that are

Photography courtesy of Gareth Roberts

about the author



Tom Searle is Managing Director of Britrisk Safety Limited which he formed in 2009. Britrisk helps businesses throughout the UK manage their safety risk. They have a particular expertise in the golf and land-based sector and are always pleased to offer advice and guidance.

In 2012, Britrisk acquired Jon Allbutt Associates thus providing the industry with a means of preserving Jon's valuable, specialist expertise.

Tom Searle – Managing Director Britrisk Safety Limited.
www.britrisky.com
020 8325 0232
07710 270555

not applied result in accidents.

Emergency procedures are critical. Once an accident has occurred, the recipient of the distress call needs to know clear essential facts. The person placing the call not only needs to be aware of the relevant emergency procedures but also the exact location of the accident. By virtue of the lone working scenario, this may not always be immediately obvious and critical time can be lost if the emergency services are not directed specifically to the scene via the most efficient and accessible route.

A method statement may be appropriate - a short document accompanying the risk assessment that describes the main aspects of the task and the sequence of events, including how the process of supervision will work.

So having identified the main elements of risk control, how can we pull together the vital communication process and ensure that everyone involved is kept fully briefed and processes refreshed? The answer lies primarily in 'Tool-box talks' (more familiar perhaps to workers in the construction industry).

Put the kettle on, pull up a few chairs around the table and let's talk through the main risks and controls. The older, more experienced hands should be initiating discussion and mentoring the young guns, particularly apprentice workers and other youngsters with less experience (and while we're on the subject, don't forget about the raised risks and obligations surrounding 'Young Persons'). Once again this should not be a long laborious process that impacts negatively on the busy working day, but taking one topic per week and spending 15 minutes on a designated topic is time well spent and a great investment in everyone's safety and well-being.

One final 'Quick Win' - use of the 'Dynamic risk assessment' process can be a great complement to written risk assessments and will assist in employees' own legal duties to take care of themselves and others.

Dynamic risk assessment may be defined as 'A continuous process of identifying risk, assessing it and coming up with ways to reduce or eliminate such risk'. It operates at systematic, strategic and dynamic levels and involves the concept

of a 'Safe person'. It was initially introduced by the fire service but may be extended to the workplace to supplement written documents.

This is a subject all of its own, but suffice it to say it is a process by which operatives continually assess risk as they carry out tasks. In this context it is not a written process and should be used to complement formal assessments.

For example, when cutting grass around a bunker an operative constantly rehearses questions such as:

What does my training and experience say about this job?

Is this bank too steep / too wet to be safe?

How could I injure myself doing this?

If this machine turned over NOW how would I summon help?

Does this task FEEL safe?

Finally, for further help on Lone Working take advantage of the best source of free health and safety guidance and support in the world. The HSE website contains a wealth of fully illustrated information - and it's free! Here is the link:

www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.pdf

BASIS Explained



BASIS

Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager, explains what BASIS is and why all turf managers should be involved in it

BASIS Training and Certification has been an industry standard for over 35 years. In that time the BASIS certificate became a statutory requirement for sellers, suppliers and advisers and has been retained in the new regulations, the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

So who needs a BASIS certificate and why?

Greenkeepers who are applying pesticides or fertilisers to sports turf surfaces are required to hold the appropriate pesticide application (PA) certificate. And those who are advising on the use, selling or supplying of plant protection products for amenity turf are required to hold the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity grass and sports turf areas) and/or the FACTS Golf and Sports Turf Certificate if they are advising on fertiliser use.

New entrants to the industry can study the BASIS Foundation Award in Agronomy (Amenity). This foundation level course is a sound introduction to agronomy, integrated crop protection and crop nutrition. The foundation award is also an excellent course for greenkeepers who wish to know more about alternative methods to chemical applications and how to get the best from the products they are applying to their turf.

The Foundation Award has been particularly successful and for the third year running, a course has been held at BTME, trained by technical staff from the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, Bayer and Everris.

Many candidates take the Foundation Award to improve their knowledge to a level where they can have informed conversations with their sales representative. For others it serves as a preliminary course for the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity grass and sports turf areas).

The BASIS certificate in Crop Protection-Amenity Horticulture for field, sales and technical staff (FSTS), is the national qualification for all those advising on the use, selling or supplying of plant protection products in the amenity industry. This includes contractors, distributors and plant protection products manufacturers.

It also incorporates all suppliers, consultants, course managers and local authority managers involved in pesticide sales or advice.

During the 12 days that training

typically takes for the full crop protection course, you will learn how to recognise the major weeds, pests and diseases that are commonly found in sports turf and also about their lifecycles in order to ensure that control measures are justified both from an economical and integrated point of view.

Further course modules cover the composition and activity of pesticides, application procedures including the safe storage, handling and transportation of pesticides and finally the impact of amenity activities on biodiversity, the environment and water.

Candidates are required to sit an examination at the end of the training which will assess their level of knowledge and experience within the sports turf industry. Successful candidates will receive a certificate of competence and are then eligible to join the BASIS Amenity Register (BAR).

Due to the practical nature of the training we do recommend that prospective candidates have at least 12 months prior experience within the industry.

If you have more of an interest in ensuring that your sports turf has the optimum nutrient balance and that fertiliser products are being applied in the most effective manner and in compliance with UK legislation, the FACTS (Golf and Sports Turf) certificate is the course for you.

FACTS is an independent non-statutory Certification Scheme for advisers and sellers within the fertil-

about the author



Stephen Jacob

Stephen is employed as the Business Development Manager of BASIS Registration Ltd. Prior to joining BASIS three years ago Stephen was employed as a Farm Business Consultant and before that he worked in seed production and plant breeding for a number of multinational companies.

iser industry. It was established in 1993 following discussions with the trade associations connected with the industry and BASIS.

At the present time there is no legal requirement for advisers and sellers to be certificated; however it was considered that setting up such a scheme was the responsible action to take in light of the environmental pressures on the industry and increasing technical requirements. The Scheme and initiative are fully supported by Defra, the Environment Agency and other organisations.

The FACTS syllabus is typically taught over five days and covers: the soil or playing surface in relation to turfgrass nutrition; nature and properties of fertilisers and liming materials; plant nutrients and the basis of choice of fertilisers; transport, storage, handling and application of fertilisers and codes of good practice and legal and other environmental protection measures.

All fertiliser staff who sell and give advice are strongly recommended to obtain a Certificate of Competence within three years of entering the industry, during which time they should be working under the supervision of a qualified member of staff and again we strongly recommend that candidates have industry experience prior to sitting the course.

All BASIS courses are accredited through Harper Adams University to ensure that they are of the highest educational standard. Once qualified, advisers are further required

to demonstrate their competence by way of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Professional advisers are encouraged to join the BASIS Amenity Register (BAR) which maintains confidential records of members' CPD activity and enables them to demonstrate a record of continued learning and show that their knowledge is up to date. To maintain membership of the BAR, members must accrue 20 CPD points per annum for full member status which is equal to 10 – 20 hours of CPD activity.

Members of the BAR gain both internal and external recognition that the individual is a member of independent professional CPD scheme which provides evidence that they are compliant with the requirements of EU law.

Where are training courses held?

All training is conducted by BASIS Approved Trainers, details of which can be found on the BASIS website.

How do I apply to take a BASIS training course?

Contact one of the BASIS Approved Trainers directly for information regarding the dates and cost of their next training course.

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me directly: stephen@basis-reg.co.uk or visit our website: www.basis-reg.co.uk

Over the course of 2014 keep an eye out for more educational BASIS articles, watch this space!





From seaway to fairway

One of the jewels in the UK's golf crown is undoubtedly The Alwoodley Golf Club. Steve Castle spoke to Course Manager Philip Taylor to discover how the Club's recent five-year restoration and ecological plans have come to fruition – and how a twist of fate led him towards a career in greenkeeping

PROFILE

Name: Philip Taylor
Role: Course Manager
Born: Hessle, 19 November 1953
Handicap: Hasn't played for 3 years
Hobbies: Shooting, fast cars and sailing

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One of the first phrases I heard Course Manager Philip Taylor use in connection with Alwoodley was “it’s a very important golf course” and the evidence certainly supports this. In 1907 it was the first to be designed by Alister MacKenzie who was also the Secretary at the West Yorkshire club and famously went on to design Augusta National.

It maintains a constantly high presence in every ‘Top 100 UK Courses’ list you care to read and is also regularly described as one of the toughest in the UK with its unforgiving gorse and heather swallowing up errant shots which narrowly miss the tight fairways. It has hosted the British Seniors

Open, the Weetabix Ladies Challenge, the English Amateur, the Ladies British Open Amateur Championships, among countless other events.

The greenkeeping team have been heavily involved in two major five-year plans (one agronomic, one ecological) running in tandem. The first was a course improvement plan focusing on bunker restoration, installing new championship tees and putting in some new bunkers similar to those that were in place in MacKenzie’s original design. For the first three years the greenkeeping team worked alongside contractors before completing the vast majority of the agronomic work themselves during the last two years.

Philip said: “We needed an archi-

tect who would be sympathetic to MacKenzie and the course’s original design. Now, we didn’t want the course to return to exactly how it was 100 years ago, because obviously that wouldn’t be acceptable now, but we wanted a return to the distinctive style of MacKenzie.

“The bunkers – we have around 100 – all needed updating, they had become quite sterile over the years as they have been changed on spec rather than with any coherent strategy. We wanted to enlist the services of an architect who would not only plan the project but would be hands-on with it too, and we went for Ken Moodie. He really has got involved and even helped with some raking!”

Plans were drawn up and a presentation night was held for the





membership. The plans were discussed in detail and the members voted in favour.

Philip said: “We started on the work each year in October after the final large corporate day at the end of the season and we generally wanted that year’s work to be finished by Christmas. Occasionally we had to close some holes, which was not ideal even in the middle of winter but the members thoroughly understood that the work was being done for them.

“One particularly difficult hole to work on was the 11th, which is a short hole at the very end of the course and after the wettest summer on record, we worked on that hole using boards. The staff worked very hard and the work was a total success, given the difficulty

of the logistics of getting materials to the site and the waste off the site.”

Philip has been Course Manager at Alwoodley for 25 years and he has overseen plenty of work in that time. 15 years ago, all the greens were lifted and relaid to USGA spec. During that period, the entire course was also redrained although Alwoodley, which sits just north of Leeds, is on a predominantly clay base which has good natural drainage.

Philip confirmed “we hollow tine in spring, mini hollow tine in August and spike monthly for the rest of the year. We like to cut by hand where possible, although obviously we don’t have the manpower to do this daily. I just think it looks better and it rolls as well as it cuts. We’re currently cutting

at 6mm with the hand machines, and we will go down to 3.5mm in summer or possibly 3mm with a Triplex.”

The second five-year plan focused on ecological matters, and the Club employed the expertise of STRI’s Bob Taylor. They mainly concentrated on heather restoration and woodland management.

“It’s a heathland course, so obviously we try to preserve this. We try to restore heather by stripping the turf and thatch off the surface down to the black layer where the heather seeds are held. Eventually, and hopefully, within two to five years we will get new heather growth coming in.

“Part of my interview for this job was to play a round with a Committee member. We were heading



ABOVE: Steve Bennett, Ben Robertson, Chris Hall, Tim Minns, Matthew Brightman, Neil Horton, Philip Taylor

down the 5th and he said to me “we need to get rid of these trees”. It was a pine tree-lined fairway which I actually liked, so I was wondering if it was a trick question! I asked him why he would want to remove them. He replied “we don’t want to end up as a parkland course, we’re a heathland course” – and he was right. When the pines came down, you could see right across the heath with the beautiful heather and gorse and it was much improved.

“It is important to keep the work going in a consistent manner. Five year plans are very useful, so you end up having a balanced approach to your work and tick boxes as you progress over the years. It also means you have clear evidence to take to your committee and members to answer questions on what you’ve done and what’s still to do.”

It is clear the ecological work is encouraging local wildlife. On the morning of my visit, Philip revealed he had seen four deer and a red kite in the woodland on the course.

The clubhouse where we chatted featured a quirky circular dining room – and it was a quirky twist of fate that led Philip to embark on his greenkeeping career. But for a failed eye test, he could have spent his life on the high seas.

“I trained to be a river pilot at nautical college at Trinity House Nautical College but my eyesight wasn’t good enough. I wear contact

lenses which would be okay now, but in those days you had to have 20:20 vision to be accepted on the boats.”

“So I left to work as a greenkeeper on the site of the old Hessle Golf Club, before the Humber Bridge was constructed on it. I knew many of the members as I’d been a member there since I was 12 so it seemed natural to get a job there initially.”

“Obviously it was so different then. We cut the greens once a week, the wages were poor and there was no career progression – well, certainly not at that club anyway. So I went down to Kingston-upon-Thames and worked at the Holme Park Golf Club which was in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace before a spell at Beaconsfield Golf Club. I then got my first Head Greenkeeper’s role at Farnham Park Golf Club, then moved on to York Golf Club and had eight fantastic years there before moving to Alwoodley. I always used to say I would never work on the same golf course for more than seven or eight years, and of course I’ve ended up here for 25! I’ve been very fortunate.”

Philip does not have any greenkeeping qualifications in common with most greenkeepers of his generation, although he is fully qualified in seamanship and navigation! He has always been

particularly keen to impress the importance of training on his team. Alwoodley Deputy, Neil Horton, is working towards his Level 4 and another team member is on Level 2.

The Club are now looking forward to hosting the Yorkshire Amateur Championship later this year and the English Amateur Championship in 2015.

Philip concluded: “It’s a fantastic place to work, people tend to stay here for years. Everything we’ve done, we’ve done together. It’s all about a team here, and that includes all members of staff in all departments of the Club. We have carried out an awful lot of work over past years and it has undoubtedly been worth it, not to mention a privilege.”



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Around the green

Scotland

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Events Coming Up

Ayrshire

Symbio seminar at Dundonald Golf Club on 18 February contact Jim Paton or a Symbio rep for more details.

Central

Although the Pairs competition for 2014 has still to be confirmed by the Section Committee expect to hear notification of it by the end of February along with entry details and the format. The Spring outing this year will be at Kinghorn Golf Club which is one of the Fife Golf Trust Courses and will be on Tuesday 29 April.

Although there have been a few wet and windy days over the past month, compared to many places around the country our area seems to have escaped the worst of the weather and I know many of the coastal courses at least have made great progress with their winter work programmes. With the mild start to 2014 I've heard reports from golfers all around the area compliment the greens at their particular course, long may it continue.

Welcome New Members

David McPherson, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Daire Higgins, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Jamie Reynolds, Greenkeeper, Drumpellier Golf Club, Samuel Steele, Student, CAFRE - College of Agriculture Food & Rural Enterprises (Ireland), Simon Dexter, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Jonathan Duggan, Greenkeeper, Deeside Golf Club, Gary Innes, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Rory Acheson, Greenkeeper, Largs Golf Club.

Northern

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10.45am - 11.15am	UNDERSTANDING FERTILISER APPLICATION & PLANT NUTRITION
11.15am - 11.45am	THE ROLE OF AN AGRONOMIST PRESENTED BY DAVID STANSFIELD
11.45am - 12.45pm	CAMPEY TURFCARE MACHINERY DEMONSTRATION - AIR 2G2/IMNANT SHOCKWAVE
1.00pm - 1.30pm	Q & A / LIGHT LUNCH

This event will qualify for 3 CPD Points and a Certificate of Attendance will be awarded

- LEEDS: 25/02/2014: Cookridge Golf Club
- CHESHIRE: 26/02/2014: DeVere Mottram Hall
- ROTHERHAM: 27/02/2014: Grange Park Golf Club

Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

North East

6 March Chester le Street GC - Seminar with speakers Greg Evans, Henry Bechelet, Lee Strutt MG and Pete Newton. This is limited to 50 places so book early to avoid disappointment.

Spring golf comp at South Shields GC on 12 March tee off from 12noon.

Cleveland

Cleveland/north east section course walk and guest speaker at Rockcliffe Hall in February with the exact date and details to be confirmed. If you have never been to Rockcliffe Hall it is well worth the trip.

Slightly off subject but on Friday 20 February there will be an England counties team playing Ireland's club teams at the Darlington Mowden Park Arena. Tickets are £7 on the night. It would be great to see the Cleveland section there to support Ian Dunnabie in his role as Head Groundsman.

I know this is a little early but we are looking for a venue for the autumn tournament. Any volunteers? If you have any news no matter what let me know and I'll put it in. I can be contacted on 07974 458640 or amcgeough@aol.com

Northern

Fixtures 2014 - Spring date and venue TBC. Presidents day - West Bradford GC on 18th June tee off 1pm. Sheffield match up is at their gaff this year date and venue TBC. Invitation day is at Dewsbury GC on 27 August tee off 1pm. Also in August is the trade v greenkeepers date TBC. Autumn gig - Masham GC on Tuesday 16 September tee off 1pm. And finally the Xmas day out is at Rawdon (Leeds) on 10 December. A final flyer will be sent out asap.

Sheffield

Following the success of BTME our aim to provide more education at Section level is progressing well with The Greenkeeping Seminar by Agronomic Services Ltd at The Grange Golf Club on 27 February. The Northern Region Conference is on Thursday 6 November with the theme of Pests and Diseases - so the year is getting off to a good start. Further events will be scheduled between our golf days so keep an eye on your section news.

The spring tournament will take place at The Grange Golf Club on 15 May which will be an invitation day where you can invite a committee member along.

The summer tournament will take place at Stocksbridge Golf Club on 10 July. The autumn tournament will take place at Hallamshire Golf Club on 9 September

News

Cleveland

Must be something in the water up here as we have another future greenkeeper! Marc Kerr and his better half Samantha are celebrating the birth of their first son Luca Solomon weighing in at 6lb 2oz, congratulations.

I have some very sad news regarding Tony Burge, retired Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club. He passed away on Tuesday 7 January after a long illness. Tony was my first Head Greenkeeper and as a baby faced 16 year old he took me under his wing and helped me get to the position I am at today. He was Head Greenkeeper at Richmond for over 25 years implementing countless improvements and will be missed by everyone in the greenkeeping industry. My sympathies go out to his sons Adrian and Simon. For details of the funeral you can contact me on amcgeough@aol.com Northern

We have the section mobile up and running so we can send you guys all the news and fixture updates over the season. Please text me on this new number 07443 643497. I will store your details on this but you can still get me on my mobile.

Results

Cleveland

Christmas golf day at Cleveland GC. The day was as good as ever with the course in excellent condition. Ian Pemberton and his staff did it again and produced a course that most people would be happy with in the summer let alone a couple of weeks before Christmas! Format of the day was a stableford team event with the best two scores counting.

1 Ian Pemberton, Glen Baxter, Nik Blesic, Ian Dunnabie 89pts, 2 Anthony McGeough, Simon Olver, Dave Athold, Richie Hood 80, 3 Doug Avey, Pete Newton, Geoff Ward 71, 4 Paul Legg, Aiden Coates, Derek Thompson 70. Longest Drive Simon Olver. Nearest the pin Pete Newton. Thanks to Sandra Raper for her moral support and her ability to decipher score cards!

Thanks to Sponsors

Cleveland

Christmas Golf Day was sponsored by TACIT and was attended by the regional representative Nik Blesic. Sheffield

We would like to thank Mike Brears from Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our Christmas event held at Worksop Golf Club the day was well attended. We would like to thank Ben and his staff for the good condition of the course and also the catering staff for the Christmas dinner. Thanks to all the sponsors in 2013 for their support and hope they will support us in 2014- Thank You!

Welcome New Members

Adam Mavin, Greekeeper, Bedlingtonshire Golf Club, Derek Millar, Course Manager, Matten Hall Golf Club, Grant Burton, Greenkeeper, Northumberland Golf Club, Richard Roberts, Course Manager, Hart Common Golf, Daniel Beckett, Student, Myerscough College. Billy Leech, Assistant Greenkeeper, Westhoughton Golf Club, Liam Armstrong, Assistant Greenkeeper, Burgham Park Golf Club, Sam Greenhalgh, Assistant Greenkeeper, Flixton Golf Club, Harry Barbour, Assistant Greenkeeper, Henlle Park Golf Club.

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

Midland

Please remember there is the Spring Education day at Little Aston Golf Club on 18 March 10am start. Neil Baker will be talking about the changes being made at Little Aston and his passion for all things Colt. Please see the Section's website for further details of how to book your place.

Mid Anglia

Now that BTME has been and gone we are hopeful that Mid Anglia Section are able to host an educational seminar sometime in the near future. If all goes ahead as planned a venue and a date with details of speakers and subjects will be with you all asap, please try to make it as always good to meet up and learn something new.

News

BB&O

Alec MacIndoe has decided to step down as Chairman of the BB&O Section after 8 years.

Midland

It is my great pleasure to be able to report that Adam Jones (Handsworth Golf Club), and his fiancé Lucy have had a baby boy, Bobby Christopher Jones weighing 8lb 15oz on 13 December 2013. Congratulations to you both, and welcome Bobby.

Many belated congratulations to Andy Brougham for securing his first Head position as Head Greenkeeper at Wolstanton Golf Club. Andy started in November and we all wish you the best of luck in your new position.

Andy's replacement at Trentham is James Fox. Many congratulations to James who becomes Assistant Course Manager at Trentham Golf Club. Make sure you look after your boss James!!

Thanks to Sponsors

Midland

Adam Jones is represented again, as this month's picture on your Section calendar features Handsworth Golf Club, which I must say is looking very good. The sponsors this month are our old friends ALS. They provide many services within our industry, please consider them for your needs: Tel: 01952 641949, or Email: sales@amenity.co.uk

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avoncrop Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Tuckwells Machinery, Vassgro Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013.

Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Welcome New Members

Guy Champion, Darren Jones, Russ Tomlinson, Matthew Gilks, Kevin Pugh, Stephen Austin all Affiliate members (Group), Farol Ltd, George Page, Greenkeeper, Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Thomas Dixon, Assistant Greenkeeper. Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Stuart Carter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Windmill Village Golf And Leisure Club. Adam Fulcher, Greenkeeper, Stocks Golf Club, Dean Knight, Assistant Greenkeeper, The Belfry Golf Club, Nigel Walker, Assistant Greenkeeper, Newark Golf Club, Ryan McKee, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cliftonville Golf Club.



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Events Coming Up

London

We have educational days to offer in February. After the first on Chemicals and Tank Mixing which took place on 5 February at Mill Hill GC, the second is at Oaklands WGC on Tuesday 18 February titled the 'U's. Cost £12.50, there are four speakers. Rob Philips Course Manager Sandy Lodge GC [under-budget] Jon Lockyear Course Manager Roehampton GC [U-turns] Murray Long Golf Course and Estate Manager Sunningdale GC [up in the rankings] and last but not least Stuart Yarwood MG Course Manager Lymm GC [under construction] this is a day not to miss and great value for money!

Third one is again at Mill Hill GC on Thursday 27 February at 12.30 and the subject is Sands for Bunkers and the types of bunker construct, with the man of sands Simon Banks offering knowledge and information. No cost and 1 to 2 hours duration.

Golf this Season - Spring is at Northwood GC, Summer is at Hendon and Xmas is at Essendon with dates next month.

Essex

First golf day this year is at the Essex Golf & Country Club, Thursday 27 March. Please get your entries in early, as it is always a popular venue. Entries to Antony Kirwan: at "Play Golf Colchester" Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4AU or antz16@btinternet.com by Saturday 22 March please.

News

Sussex

The Sussex section would like to congratulate Giulio Vazza on his recent appointment as Estate Manager at Mannings Heath Golf Club.

Essex

Great to see so many of you guys at Harrogate last month. What a fantastic conference and show, a real shame if you missed it.

Ben reports that the Barenbrug trip this month is oversubscribed, which is good news, considering the last couple of events he arranged were the exact opposite. Ben is always willing to hear from those seeking further education.

At our last committee meeting we laid down a list of educational subjects that we felt might interest the membership, more of these in the coming months. For more information about any educational subject

please contact Ben at gingermunky@hotmail.com

Welcome New Members

Spencer Adams-Dunstan, Greenkeeper, Langdon Hills Golf Club, Dean Fidler, Greenkeeper, Northwood Golf Club, Dean Eckett, Greenkeeper, Datchet Golf Club

Freddie Wright, Greenkeeper, Datchet Golf Club, Conor Reilly, Greenkeeper, Wisley (The) Golf Club Plc, John Drew, Assistant Greenkeeper, Epping Golf Course, Keith Murray, Greenkeeper, The Wentworth Club, Stanley Mycroft, Assistant Greenkeeper, The Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Andrew McCormack, Jack Percival, Aran Harris, Matthew Tinwell, Matthew Daniels, Damien Puxted all Students at Hadlow College, Simon Tunn, Greenkeeper, Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Mark Bell, Course Manager, Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Callum Smith, Assistant Greenkeeper, Essex Golf & Country Club.

Welcome New International Members:

Jason Honeyball, OslerBrook Golf & Country Club (Canada), Lars Overgaard, Casper Burkari Skandinavian Golf Club (Denmark), Guillaume Cadic, Golf National (France).



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SOUTH WALES
Andrew Hatcher
andrewhatcher1@
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Events Coming Up

South Coast

Really important date 19 February at Milton Abbey School - the South Coast Section's Annual Seminar, Sports Turf Management. Some great speakers from Golf, Football and Cricket. More information see the flier or contact Alex McCombie on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com - Price to members is just £20

South West

This year's event calendar is coming together nicely with most venues and dates confirmed.

We will be providing all section members and patrons with a fixture card but in the meantime here are the early ones:

24 April: Am/Am at Enmore Park Golf Club

19 June: Summer Tournament at Farrington Golf Club

Additionally we are in the process of organising two course walk afternoons which we will ensure everyone is aware of once they are finalised, watch this space.

News

South West

Thanks to Cotswold Hills Golf Club for their support in hosting the section Christmas event and thanks to everyone who attended.

The day was a sell-out success with over sixty golfers attending, well done all let's keep it up this year. Top job on the course Wayne, many thanks to you and team.

Welcome to Lucy Sellick and Joe Curtis who are taking positions on the section committee, great to have you both on board.

Results

South Coast

Winners of the Turkey Trot held at Weybrook Park GC: Kevin Tigg, Ryan Hyder, Tim Webb. 2 Jon Worrall, Andy Lewis, Tony Gadd. 3 Tony Crouch, Matt Burton, Colin Hutt. Longest Drive David King, Nearest the Pin Bill Ridgeley.

Thanks to Sponsors

A special word for our section Patrons whose continued support is invaluable. A big welcome to two new supporters who have come on board this year.

Sportsmark Group based in Melksham who supply sports ground and golf equipment and contracting services and TH White Grasscare Knockdown Depot.

Great to have you with us and we look forward to seeing you at our section events.

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Welcome New Members

Charles Brierley, Affiliate with magazine, Tiverton Golf Club, Roy Key, Affiliate with magazine, Mason Kings, Geoffrey Roberts, Affiliate with magazine, Mason Kings, Andrew Bowey, Affiliate with magazine, Mason Kings, George Simpson, Greenkeeper, Burghill Valley Golf Club, Gerald Turnbull, Assistant Greenkeeper, St Athan Golf Club, Simon Ryall, Assistant Greenkeeper, Sherborne Golf Club.



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- Automatic daily, weekly and monthly circuitry tests.
- 5-years battery standby life with visible and audible low-battery warnings.
- Oversized buttons and clear voice prompts ensure simplicity of operation.



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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

For this month's GTC Quality Assured feature David Golding, GTC's Education Director invited GOSTA's Managing Director Lesley Lowrie to give a background to her company and as the only non-college GTC QA Centre, explain the various programmes they offer



David remembers Lesley saying "We are here to stay!" when he first visited her on an approval visit to GOSTA some 22 years ago, and so it has proved! She takes up the story...

From 1982 until 2011 GOSTA Training delivered education to golf clubs in Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Forth Valley, Glasgow and Lanarkshire. In 2011 the company commenced delivery of training in the Edinburgh and Lothian areas also.

The opportunity to expand the business was met with both excitement and trepidation but three years on, the number of students has continued to increase each year.

The support and encouragement received from golf clubs in the Edinburgh and Lothian areas has been amazing and very much appreciated. The success has been aided by one of the most respected sports turf lecturers, Steve Miller, whose great reputation with many employers has spanned forty years.

A bit about our journey over 32 years...GOSTA Training started as a Training Provider to Golf Club Employers in October 1982 and for the first ten years delivered training to greenkeepers with the support of the local college. In 1993 there were many changes to education with the introduction of Vocational Qualifications and new Quality Systems, not forgetting a new government agency involved in the funding of the Scottish Vocational Qualifications. At the same time I took over as Managing Director and was charged with looking at the way forward for the company.

Challenges came with the territory. The main challenge was finding an effective delivery model which would take account of all the partners involved and ensure the Modern Apprenticeship Programme was effective. We needed to look at the best time of year and best location for the day release classes, and we also looked at what type of courses we would run to enhance the skills of the apprentices.

Feedback from those meetings

highlighted that employers preferred training to take place in the winter months. So in order to minimise down time for the employers, the 'off-the-job' education to gain the required knowledge and understanding would be best delivered from October to March.

This decision has stood the test of time and still exists today. It means the employee is away for day release when it tends to be (dare I say it!) a little quieter on the golf course. The benefit of apprentices meeting up in class is evident as they are not only learning from their lecturer but from their peers. I also know of many working relationships within the industry which have been created and will last a lifetime.

The training and practical skills are assessed at work, which is what you would expect. Where better than the realistic environment of a busy golf course?

The involvement of the Assessors/Supervisors in the workplace is of paramount importance and many of the Head Greenkeepers or Course Managers have been trained

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as assessors by the GTC. The practical evidence the apprentice brings forward for their qualification will be naturally occurring and realistic and will be countersigned by the appropriate person at work.

In order to compliment the training at the workplace, the day release education is delivered by the best and most appropriate people. Currently the company has three lecturers who teach classes every week and involve the students with classroom assessments. Between them, they have over a hundred years of sports turf experience and knowledge which they bring to our apprentices.

In Glasgow we have John Robertson, and Ronnie Bunting joined the team this year. Both John and Ronnie have been Course Managers so are fully aware of what will be required of apprentices in the industry. They are two of the most supportive people you could imagine, spending many hours sharing their knowledge and giving any additional guidance where required. Steve Miller, equally

knowledgeable and committed, looks after the students from Edinburgh and Lothian areas.

However, it is not about a disjointed approach to training with the employer doing practical skills and GOSTA the teaching. The company works tirelessly to build relationships at the highest level with our employers, apprentices and other partners and it is imperative that we constantly keep up to date with their requirements. To that end apprentices and their assessor/supervisor are visited at work every 12 weeks to document progress.

The lecturers or myself will then visit each employer in the summer to ensure that information is gained with regard to our delivery of the qualification and update the golf club on any grants, wage subsidies or current initiatives. Over the years feedback from these meetings has proved to be invaluable.

Often Skills Development Scotland will have funding available to support short courses which will mean the difference of training staff

or not. At the moment, with many golf club budgets being reduced, these initiatives are very well received. It also allows a refresher for the assessors to ensure that they are keeping their skills up to date.

So where are we now? GOSTA Training, as one of the main providers of the Modern Apprenticeship programme in Scotland and with an extensive portfolio of short industry related courses, will continue to listen to employers and students.

Hopefully, the successes and lessons learned in the past 32 years (as a private company) will enable us to go from strength to strength and continue to forge great relationships within the industry. In turn this will enable us to provide the type of training the industry needs to have a highly skilled workforce to take it forward.

In summary, GOSTA Training respects the work of organisations within golf including The GTC, BIGGA, SGU and The R&A and we are proud to be part of such a great industry.



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Leading up to the opening of the Golf Course in April 2014 we are now looking to appoint the following key personnel.

HEAD GREEN-KEEPER

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and motivated Head Green keeper to lead the Grounds team with responsibilities for the preparation and maintenance of the Golf Course, ideally someone who has the drive and passion to reach new standards of excellence in the management and presentation of our golf course.

As well having a general interest in the game of golf, you should be fully qualified in all aspects of green keeping and ideally have the following skills : NVQ level 3 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PAG6 spraying certificates, minimum 3 years' experience in the green keeping industry as a Head Green-keeper or deputy head green-keeper and a good working knowledge of fine turf machinery, including being certified to operate Chainsaws, together with automatic irrigation systems combined with the repair and maintenance of associated parts.

You will be responsible for the planning, presentation and maintenance of the courses to ensure there is efficient and effective delivery of golf services. You will be able to demonstrate high levels of management, communication and leadership skills and have the knowledge and ability to implement all relevant Health & Safety legislation.

ASSISTANT GREEN-KEEPER

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to join the Grounds team someone who will be an integral member of the green-keeping team and will be involved in the day-to-day preparation of the golf course in all aspects of grounds maintenance, health and safety and customer care, to ensure the course is maintained to the highest possible standard.

Working under the direction of the Head Green-keeper the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of this exciting new venture

As well having a general interest in the game of golf, the ideal candidate should have at least 2/3 years minimum previous experience of Golf course Grounds Maintenance and hold a minimum NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf. PA1/2 & 6a Spraying Certificates would be desirable, and be able to demonstrate a good working knowledge of turf machinery, maintenance and current Health & Safety practices, regulations and legislation.

GOLF ASSISTANT

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to join the support team and be an integral member of day-to-day operation of the course activities and support to its customers.

Working under the direction of the Golf Manager the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of this exciting new venture and set the standard for providing a safe, warm, clean, friendly, fun environment for the local community at an affordable cost.

Honesty, integrity and a positive can-do attitude are key to helping us deliver the highest level of customer service and the successful candidate will be required to ensure all activities are delivered to a high standard with safety as the first priority. It's a challenging, high-profile role involving a high level of customer interaction to ensure fantastic service delivery.

The successful candidate will undoubtedly have a passionate interest in Golf as well as be able to demonstrate first rate IT skills and be a natural at problem solving and, through outstanding communication and customer care skills demonstrate calmness and control in pressurised situations such as emergencies.

Ideally you will also have experience and a working knowledge of Health & Safety at Work legislation and its practical application would be highly advantageous, as well as a First Aid qualification and experience in leisure or a service-led background

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**Gerald S Bessant, Group Human Resources Manager, ANM Group Ltd.,
 Thainstone Centre, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 5XZ
 or e-mail: gerald.bessant@anmgroup.co.uk**

Further information on Maverston Golf course can be found at
www.maverstongolf.com



Recruitment



Baldon Golf Club is a private members club situated in Tyne & Wear in the north east of England. The Club enjoys an established parkland course and is currently looking to fill the position of Head Greenkeeper.

We are looking to recruit a dynamic individual who has the drive and passion to reach new standards of excellence in the management and presentation of our golf course. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within the role and will hold relevant greenkeeping and/or agronomy qualifications. Previous experience as a Head Greenkeeper is desirable but not essential.

Interested applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full CV and covering letter no later than Friday 31/01/14 to: Mr. James Hibbert, Chairman, Baldon Golf Club, Dipe Lane, East Boldon, Tyne & Wear, NE36 0PQ

Interviews are expected W/C 10th February 2014 with a starting date mid/late March.



HEAD GREEN KEEPER

Coxmoor Golf Club is looking to recruit a dynamic Head Green Keeper who has the drive and passion to reach the highest standards of excellence in the management and presentation of our championship heathland golf course. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a proven track record in developing, maintaining and presenting a championship standard course.

The successful applicant must have: Recognised qualifications, Leadership skills, Demonstrate planning skills and budgetary control, The ability to prepare and control concurrent programmes of work, The ability to maintain health and safety and COSHH requirements.

Previous experience on a heathland course is desirable.

Applications, together with a full C.V. should be addressed to:

The Secretary, Coxmoor Golf Club, Coxmoor Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts NG17 5LF, E-Mail: secretary@coxmoorgolfclub.co.uk

CLOSING DATE: 3rd MARCH 2014



AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS

Are seeking applicants to fill the following positions;

Technical Sales Manager (South Wales)

Technical Sales Manager (Midlands)

The successful applicants will have experience in the Turf and Amenity industry. A passion for sound management practices and the ability to maintain and enhance our extensive customer base.

This is an excellent opportunity for highly motivated individuals with great communication skills who wish to develop their careers as part of an established and respected team.

BASIS or FACTS qualifications would be an advantage but not essential, as full training will be given.

An excellent remuneration package subject to qualifications and expertise along with a company vehicle is offered.

Please apply in writing including your CV to;

Mr R E Feltham
Managing Director
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd
2 Millside Park, Crouch Lane
Winkfield, Berkshire SL4 4PX



Turf & Amenity Technical Area Sales Manager – London & South East England Evertis UK & Ireland



About you

Due to the continued growth of our business, we are looking for a high-calibre individual to join our expanding turf and amenity team in this exciting new role that covers London and the South East of England.

With exemplary technical and sales skills and a proven background within our industry, the ideal candidate will relish the opportunity to deliver first-class technical and sales support to end-users and distributors of our range of fertilisers, plant protection products and grass seeds.

You will be highly-motivated and able to hit the ground running, developing the customer base in your area and driving new initiatives. You will also be IT literate and have excellent interpersonal skills, engaging confidently and professionally with people in a range of environments.

Detailed knowledge of turf management practices and an industry-recognised qualification, such as BASIS/FACTS and/or a HND/BSc in a relevant discipline, is essential, as is a comprehensive understanding of the marketplace in your designated area.

There will be a requirement for flexible working and spending time away from home on occasion.

About us

You will know our brands, but you might not realise the strength of the business behind them.

Evertis®, formerly known as Scotts, is an ICL Specialty Fertilizers Company, part of the ICL group that employs more than 12,000 people globally. We are world-leaders in the ornamental horticulture, turf and amenity, and specialty agricultural sectors.

Our market-leading brands – including Sierrablen®, Greenmaster®, Sierraform®GT, Sportsmaster®, Levington, Shamrock®, Humax® and Osmocote® - are used and trusted by horticultural professionals around the world.

Our team is passionate about optimising plant and turf performance. We are a customer-orientated organisation and take great pride in the integrity and precision of our world-class product portfolios, and our commitment to research and development has resulted in the development of unique technologies which have transformed the way turf is managed.

If you're the person we're looking for:

We offer a substantial benefits package including:

- Competitive salary plus bonus
- Company car
- 26 days annual leave
- Contributory pension scheme
- Subsidised private medical and dental insurance
- Excellent development and career opportunities that come with being part of a global business

To apply, please send a résumé and covering letter to:

Maxine Wharton, HR Manager,
Cleveland Potash Limited,
Boulby Mine,
Loftus, Saltburn,
TS13 4UZ

Closing date is
Friday 28th February 2014.



Qualified Greenkeeper Required

Oldmeldrum is an historic golf club, the game has been played here for over 125 years. Come and join a small team of dedicated greenkeeping staff.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic assistant greenkeeper to work on the golf course. The person expected to fill the role should have the following attributes:-

Basic experience of golf course maintenance work, including ride-on cutting experience.

Must be a team player and be prepared to commit to the job

This position is full time working 5 days out of 7 on a rota basis.

Qualifications preferred:- NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping, PA1, PA2 and PA6

Knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance

Up to date knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation

An ability to communicate effectively with staff, club management and members

Salary based on experience

Please send your CV and covering letter by post to :- Ron Falkiner, Secretary
Oldmeldrum Golf Club, Kirk Brae, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire AB51 0DJ

Or email:- admin@oldmeldrumgolf.co.uk



Little Aston Golf Club

Qualified Green-Keeper Advert



Little Aston Golf Club near Sutton Coldfield in Staffordshire are looking to recruit a dynamic fully qualified green-keeper with a proven track record of attention to detail, to join our established and well qualified team managing British Open Regional qualifying for the next 4 years. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following criteria:

- NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf as a minimum • 5 years' experience with some Tournament time
- PA 1, 2, 6A Spraying Certificates • Chainsaw, desirable but not essential • Full UK Driving Licence • Able to work the Clubs flexible weekend rota system

PACKAGE

- Paid Overtime • Competitive Market Salary • Staff Uniform • Yearly Individual Training Budgets • Full BIGGA Membership

If you feel you have the qualities that meet the brief, please apply by email to Mr Neil Baker, Course Manager with a covering letter and CV to:

Greenkeeper@littleastongolf.co.uk or our address is: Neil Baker, Course Manager, Little Aston Golf Club, Roman Road, Streety, Sutton Coldfield, B74 3AN

Closing Date: 15 February 2014 Start Date 1 April 2014



Sweetwoods Park are looking to recruit a highly motivated and dynamic Course Manager who can demonstrate high levels of management skill, communication and leadership within their team. The successful candidate should be fully qualified in all aspects of green keeping and ideally have the following

- NVQ Level 4 in Green keeping or equivalent
 - PA1, PA2 and PA6A spraying certificates
- Minimum of 5 years experience in the green keeping industry
 - NPTC Chain saw license – Preferred but not essential
- Good working knowledge of fine turf machinery and automatic irrigation systems combined with the repair and maintenance of associated parts
 - Up to date knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation
 - An ability to communicate effectively with staff, management and members

Previous experience as a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager is preferred but not essential. All interested applicants should send their CV and covering letter by post to Andrew Salter General Manager, Sweetwoods Park Golf Club, Colestock Road, Cowen Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7AY

Closing date for applications: 28th February 2014



Seasonal Greenkeeper x 3

Fulltime (April – September)



Rosslare Golf Club is a members club situated in the sunny south east of Ireland, 2 hours drive below Dublin. This is a good opportunity for ambitious greenkeepers to learn the Traditional Links Greenkeeping Style of which is well underway in returning Rosslare to a natural Links Course.

Requirements:

Motivated and friendly – willing to work as a team member
Must have 2 years experience in Greenkeeping
A good understanding of operating machinery

Package:

39hr week weekend rota basis
A good job rota system with the experience of all on site jobs "from bunkers, to machinery maintenance, to grinding"
Complimentary golf on both courses and clubhouse facilities
Advice with accommodation can be given

To apply, please send full CV's to: Iain Wakeman iainrosslarelinks@gmail.com



WORKSHOP MANAGER

The Royal Golf Club, Bahrain's premier golf and leisure destination managed by Troon Golf is currently looking to recruit an experienced, enthusiastic and dynamic, hands on Workshop Manager.

The chosen candidate will be responsible for all aspects of machinery maintenance for Golf and Landscape and may currently be working as an assistant mechanic looking to progress to the position of Workshop Manager.

Responsibilities would include;

- Maintaining a preventative maintenance program by creating a service schedule including yearly overhaul of a large machinery fleet
 - Diagnose, adjust and repair machinery including welding
 - Leading and training junior mechanics
- Controlling stock inventory and ordering of parts to keep within a pre approved budget
 - Work to current Health and Safety
 - Creating department efficiencies

To apply for the position you must have a;

- Relevant qualification and ideally a minimum of 5 years experience
- Have full working knowledge of all aspects of grinding and cutting unit set up
- Preferably have experience with a Toro fleet and or Jacobsen
 - Be a capable user of Microsoft office programs
 - Be a born leader and work under minimum supervision

In return a full ex-pat package would be offered including: Tax free salary, Yearly return flights, Accommodation allowance, Vehicle provided, Phone allowance

If you think you have what it takes to work abroad and adapt in a challenging environment and would like more information please send C.V. and two references addressed to;

Jordan Fairweather, Director of Agronomy, PO Box 39117, Riffa, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Or email: j.fairweather@theroyalgolfclub.com



The Knebworth Golf Club

Is seeking to recruit a

Executive Course Manager

The Role

The forward thinking Board of Directors at Knebworth Golf Club are seeking to recruit a high calibre individual, to oversee the greens keeping team and reach new standards of quality, customer service and the continuous development and improvement of our facility.

The Person

A track record of success, a reputation for high achievement and the technical knowledge gained through leading a greens keeping team are a prerequisite.

An exceptional individual, with all round general management skills. Able to communicate at all levels.

You will have an ingrained desire to improve every area of your responsibility, through investment in training and development of your team. The pleasure of seeing your team grow, to achieve the ambitions of the Board and yourself.

Part of the Clubs succession planning, you can look forward to a big future at Knebworth Golf Club.

Please forward your CV to
Mrs Caroline Watts
Club Secretary

Or by email to caroline@knebworthgolfclub.com

The Back Nine

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

The second part of Ian Tomlinson's article on snow sees him offer his conclusions on dealing with the white stuff after describing his winters in Scandinavia

Last winter we left the snow on the greens and as warm air was forecast we started to remove the snow by February. If you have a large volume of snow on the greens and the temperatures are rising removal of the snow is a good thing.

The greens came out clean. I was very pleased - but 24 hours later I had lost five greens to snow mould. I had never experienced this situation before. It seems that the fungal spores were just sitting on the green surface. As the temperature rose the top 1cm of the green thawed and water was in evidence - it seemed the fungal spores were carried right throughout the green and a green which was blemish free 24 hours earlier had 60% of the turf removed. Frightening.

The winter of 2010/2011 was another tough one for us. Rain fell mid November and the next day 30cm of the white stuff came down. The greens were not frozen. This situation is dangerous. I have seen snow mould fungus up to 30cm in diameter covered in mycelium form in less than 24 hours under this condition. The temperature fell to -12 yet the snow insulated the green and the turf surface was still not frozen. We removed the snow as more was forecast.

The greens were clean but as the temperature was hovering around -10 the greens now froze - perfect scenario. The snow returned but we were a lot more relaxed. As a team we decided we would remove the snow on the greens in shaded environments when necessary and leave the good greens out in the open covered. The snow was down for ten weeks, and the result was no damage by snow mould. In contrast the remainder of the course was seriously attacked. Fairways on the seven holes which grow on peat and have high smooth stalk meadowgrass content really suffered due to these soils holding more



moisture and a grass species more susceptible to disease. The other fairways with higher, finer grass content and a better clay soil had a lot less damage. We had only five days when the temperature rose above freezing from the middle of November to March.

In my experience fescue greens will get attacked by snow mould but it is not an issue. They play as normal, firm and true, and the discoloured blemishes disappear very fast in spring. It seems that young fescue turf is attacked quite easily by snow mould in the first few years but then seems to build up a resistance.

Some colleagues state that removing snow off the greens midwinter can cause just as much damage to the grass by desiccation. I have personally not experienced this. One winter I had greens with no snow cover but it was -25 and there was no damage. Again, the outcome is dependent on the grass types you have. Poa annua is top of the list of grasses susceptible to death by desiccation and fescue the least.

about the author



Ian Tomlinson

Ian began his greenkeeping career at Scarcroft Golf Club in 1976 before spending 14 years at Lausanne Golf Club in Switzerland. He returned briefly to the UK before taking up his current position as Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark. Ian's wife and children live with him in Denmark. He loves the lifestyle and scenery, but loathes the Danish taxman who ensures that the cost of living is incredibly high with two thirds of his salary disappearing in taxes!

To sum up:

- Harden off the turf with Iron Sulphate, Potassium Sulphate and Seaweed.

- Aerate as much as possible and try and leave the holes open before the snow comes.

- Promote good cultural practices to keep disease at bay by removing dew and good woodland management around your green sites to allow air and sunlight in.

- Direct your greens management programme towards favouring the finer grasses over poa annua. The day fungicides are removed you will be glad that you did.

- If there is a risk of snow mould damage due to weather and environment remove the snow.

- If a layer of ice has formed on your greens try to crack it.

I hope that some of this information will help you decide the best course of action to take in the future as global warming becomes more of an issue and fungicides are removed by the EU!

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

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Now available with a 21hp 3-cylinder diesel engine and offering industry leading light weight combined with outstanding traction, the Baroness LM315 is now available to view on your golf course.

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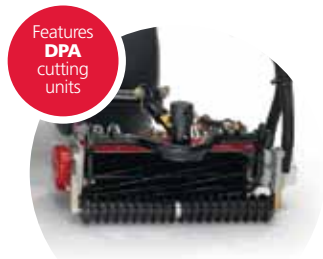
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