

TWO WEEKS TO BTME 2014

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association £5.20 JANUARY 2014



# It's Showtime!

**BTME 2014 IS HERE...**

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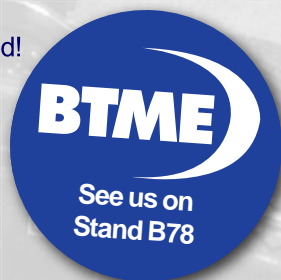
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ISSN: 0961-6977

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### Happy New Year! I firmly believe there are grounds to look forward to 2014 with a degree of optimism.

Though the golf industry is not as buoyant as before the recession there were strong signs during 2013 that things are looking up; rounds played increased and many clubs are reporting an upturn in membership and green fees.

The World Cup in Brazil will undoubtedly keep some casual golfers away from the course during the summer but happily the majority of the matches will not impact on golfing time. On the flip side the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles will once again mean golf is firmly in the sporting spotlight.

The biennial match against the Americans catches the non-golfing public's imagination like no other golf event and I expect many clubs around the country to capitalise on this and throw open their gates to new customers and old alike. For Scott Fenwick, Steve Chappell and the team at Gleneagles the countdown is very much on and we wish them a trouble free summer as they prepare the PGA Centenary Course for the 24 players and the hundreds of millions who will watch.

**The very many of you attending BTME later this month will have an opportunity to hear how work at Gleneagles is progressing as Steve is appearing as part of the popular Seminar programme.** The Continue to Learn education programme is filling up nicely with many of the Workshops and Focus On sessions now full. It looks like the Turf Managers' Conference will attract a record turnout this year and it is clear that the balance of technical and management subject matter it contains is a winning formula.

With the exhibition halls sold out for so long we know we are in for a successful event. Sadly we have heard rumours that some companies that aren't exhibiting intend to try and 'work the halls' in an unofficial capacity. We are doing all we can to discourage this practice and would urge you to play your part in protecting the future of BTME by not allowing

any non-exhibitor who attempts to discuss business with you to do so. The huge number of companies who have invested in exhibiting in Harrogate this year are providing significant support to our industry and we owe them our own support in return.

I am looking forward to our Welcome Celebration in the Royal Hall immediately after the show closes on Tuesday 21st, the chance to acknowledge some of our members' outstanding achievements in 2013 and then to hear the 'voice of golf' Peter Alliss give us the benefit of his wisdom in a keynote address is not to be missed.

**I am also looking forward to meeting up with the Jacobsen Future Turf Managers as they gather together for the first time since the inaugural event in Ipswich in April.** It will be fascinating to hear how they have used the experience to their benefit in the intervening months. Entries are now open for nominations for this year's FTMI and again we have received an excellent response.

**This month's GI contains some excellent winter advice from Henry Bechelet (page 26);** the R&A's Steve Isaac follows up his article from last year with some interesting conclusions on working towards a healthier environment (page 30) while Laurence Pithie catches up with Neil Baker in his first few months as Course Manager at Little Aston (page 34).

Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**

**JANUARY 2014**

## FEATURES

### 14 BTME Preview

Featuring a list of exhibitors, hall map, yet more new products and other key information you will need ahead of your visit to BTME 2014

### 26 A winter's toil

Henry Bechelet advises how to address winter dormancy

### 30 Considering change? Be prepared!

In his second recent article, Steve Isaac from the R&A goes through the dos and don'ts of working towards a healthier environment

### 34 Little first steps at Aston

Laurence Pithie meets up with Little Aston's Course Manager Neil Baker to discover how he's made an impression during his first few months in charge

### 40 Everything changes

Tammy Ball – speaker at the Turf Manager's Conference – examines how change in the workplace should be communicated

### 42 My Belgian summer

Steve Hirons' tale of his summer working at a Championship golf course in Belgium

### 46 The Open 2013 – The greenkeeping story

Richard Windows from the STRI reflects on a superb Open 2013 and tells the agronomic story behind its success

### 52 BIGGA Open Support Team 2014

We need you to join the team at The Open at Royal Liverpool Golf Club next July – here's how to apply

WINTER DORMANCY

## 26 A winter's toil

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager at Everris, advises how to address winter dormancy on your course as golfers continue to demand high standards as the temperature plunges



**Winter is a crucial time for golf clubs. Weather conditions make turf maintenance more difficult, but course performance and playability is still important to golfers, especially if they are thinking about their membership.** With that in mind, it is necessary for Course Managers to produce even higher standards during the winter, especially with their greens. This isn't easy without growth and disease activity at this time can create additional problems of scouring and damage. Golfers will want to play during the winter, and this causes further decline. At the time of year when turf growth slows down, the pressures mount and they can cause a significant deterioration in the quality of the turf surface. So what can be done to guard against winter decline?

Well, you are no strangers to meeting the challenge of increasing levels of expectation and overcoming difficult situations. The general aim is to strengthen the turf through autumn, protect it from damage during winter, then revitalise it for light recovery.

This sounds simple, but there are a large number of factors that you need to get right to succeed.

Getting turf through the winter requires good cultural practice combined with the proper use of supporting technologies.

**A sporting chance** Above all else, give your turf a chance by creating a healthy growing environment. Maximising light penetration and creating airflow is essential, so surrounding trees and understory vegetation management is vital.

Good drainage is also essential to prevent the soil becoming saturated for long periods. Aeration may be necessary to keep the soil oxygenated and help keep roots functioning. Clipping regular mow management in the upper soil profile will stand you in good stead, especially during the winter.

26 JANUARY 2014

coursetracker

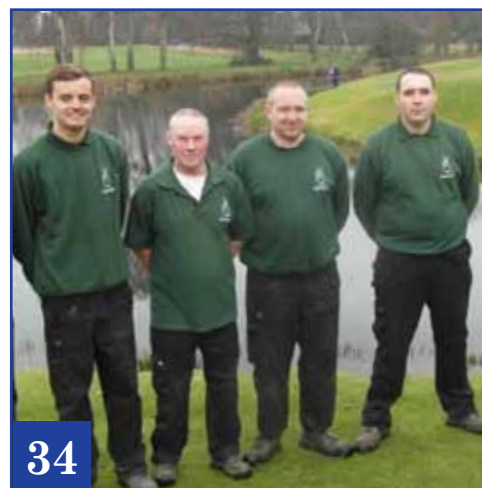
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Get started

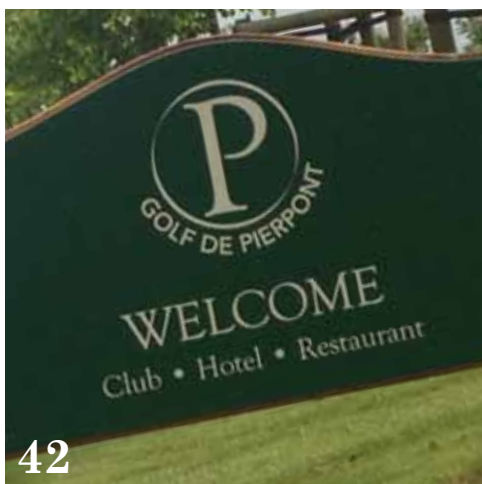
How does my club benefit?

- Streamline workflow and increase profit
- Identify problem areas and optimise resource
- Track progress and performance against budget
- Increase Revenue and Profit
- Increase Customer Satisfaction
- Increase Staff Satisfaction

28



34



42

## 46



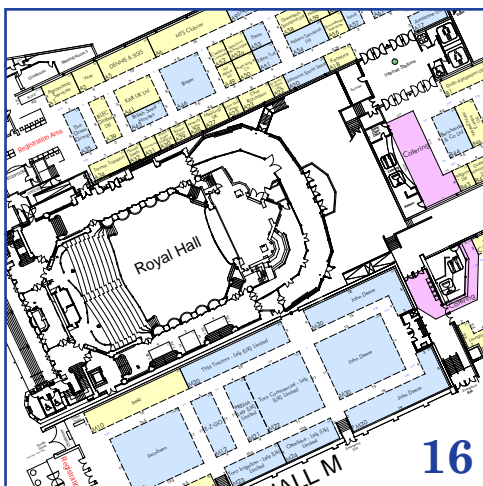




## 14 BTME Preview



18



16

## REGULARS

3 Welcome from BIGGA  
6 Chairman's Word  
Tony Smith's final column

8 Newsdesk  
Featuring Bernhard Gallacher, Les Howkins, the launch of the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund, exciting news regarding the IOG and BIGGA and more

12 Membership News  
13 L&D News  
54 Around the Green  
60 Greenkeepers Training Committee  
62 Buyers Guide  
64 Recruitment  
66 The Back Nine



# British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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# Chairman's Word

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

## And it's goodbye from me

All too soon it's time for me to write my final column as Chairman. Previous Chairmen have told me that 12 months in the role flies past. Well, I can tell you that 18 months flies past too.

I've met so many friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic greenkeepers, members of the trade and various companies and exhibitors during my tenure, it's been an absolute pleasure speaking to you all and hearing about your trials and tribulations as well as your successes. I've thoroughly enjoyed it, although it really has opened my eyes to the pressures and demands which come with the position.

I began my Chairmanship at The Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes in July 2012, taking over from Andrew Mellon. It was a whirlwind few days but a super start – watching the work of our Open Support Team truly is one of the highlights of the year. Muirfield 2013 was another tremendous occasion, some quite phenomenal summer weather contributed to a really memorable few days. The same goes for our members who support the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, and our members who support many other events – just one example being the greenkeepers who assisted the team at Rockliffe Hall for the recent PGA English Seniors Open. The experience that our members gain from assisting the home greenkeeping team during these major events is priceless.

I can honestly say that things look much brighter than when I became Chairman in the BIGGA marquee at The 2012 Open. I remember on that day just yards away the home greenkeeping team were mopping up after an overnight deluge, and that summed up the general state of play at that time. It was a truly appalling summer of weather with

floods hitting many parts of the country, leading to golf courses being closed for longer than I can ever remember. This was certainly the case at Teesside.

The weather even tried its best to affect BTME 2013 with several inches of snow falling in the run-up to the show. But it was a terrific week and really set the scene for a much improved 2013. After an extremely cold spring, the clouds finally lifted for a glorious summer, which was topped off by four days of almost tropical weather for The Open at Muirfield which I've already mentioned. Courses which had been under water flourished under the expert guidance of the

**“It's been an absolute pleasure speaking to you all and hearing about your trials and tribulations as well as your successes. I've thoroughly enjoyed it”**

country's greenkeepers, golfers flocked back to play and for the first time in several years we enjoyed a summer worthy of the name.

I know many BIGGA members spend hours of their own time organising golf days and competitions, so it was great to see them well-attended and actually going ahead successfully after so many were called off due to 2012's weather.

If I was pushed to name my highlight, it would be cutting the





ribbon at BTME 2013, I can genuinely say it was one of the proudest moments of my life. It was a very successful exhibition which reinforced the influence and strength of the Association – and all the signs are pointing to an even bigger and better BTME 2014.

The last few months have been a little strange as I left Teesside Golf Club after so many years in the industry. I miss the day to day running of a golf course – it's in my blood and I know the same is true with many of you. However, I'm looking forward to getting back involved with the Cleveland Section and the Northern Region and the close knit nature of this industry means I will be bothering you all for some time to come I'm sure.

One key point I must make is my optimism for the future of the industry having met so many enthusiastic and talented young greenkeepers. I have been very impressed by the standard of candidates at the last two Toro Student of the Year awards and I know that some of the finalists have already progressed in their careers since their nominations. The Future Turf Managers' Initiative is a more recent development and I'm convinced that over time this will become another very significant event in the greenkeeping calendar.

Another highlight of my chairmanship was my visit to the Golf Industry Show in America last year, allowing me to experience their educational offering first-hand. I firmly believe that although at one time we were playing catch-up with

education in America, we are now on a par with them and this is something to be proud of. In my opinion the revamped CPD scheme and the consistently superb educational offerings at BTME offer the sort of opportunities that were simply not available to me at the start of my career so it's up to you to seize these chances.

Congratulations to our new Chairman Chris Sealey, who will officially be taking over at BTME 2014, and also to our new Vice Chairman Les Howkins MG. Both Chris and Les are hugely knowledgeable, enthusiastic and approachable.

Alongside the existing Board of Management, I've every confidence the Association will continue to go from strength to strength with them on board.

I couldn't have fulfilled the role of Chairman without the backing of all the team at BIGGA House, the Regional Administrators and the Board of Management. I don't think the team at BIGGA House get enough praise for all the work they do, and I've always enjoyed heading to Aldwark. I know that anyone who visits BIGGA House for the first time mentions the friendly welcome they receive.

All that remains is for me to thank each and every member of this Association – it's been a true pleasure to act as Chairman. Without you BIGGA would cease to exist and that should never be forgotten.

*See you in Harrogate.  
Cheers  
Tony*



**RT**  
r i g b y t a y l o r



Problems, Problems,  
Problems?



**STAND C62**

**Answers, Answers,  
Answers!**



## BIGGA SUPPORTS GALLACHER'S LIFESAVING CAMPAIGN

Left to right: Richard Hills (Ryder Cup Director), Lesley Gallacher, Bernhard Gallacher, Jo Jerronne (deputy CEO Arrhythmia) and Sandy Jones (PGA chief executive)

BIGGA have backed Bernhard Gallacher's defibrillator campaign which could help to save the lives of golfers of all abilities and ages.

Drawing on his own personal experience of suffering a sudden cardiac arrest in August, the former Ryder Cup winning captain was joined by friends and colleagues from the world of sport and showbusiness at Wentworth Club to launch the Bernard Gallacher Defibrillator Campaign 2014.

It was only thanks to the availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) following his collapse during a dinner reception in Aberdeen, along with early-response CPR treatment at the venue, that Gallacher was able to regain consciousness and take steps towards a full recovery.

However, that close brush with death inspired Bernard and his wife, Lesley, to

announce plans to lead a campaign for AEDs to be widely available in every single golf club and driving range in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

With the Gallachers' profile and encouragement, allied to a fundraising campaign being run concurrently with the PGA and Arrhythmia Alliance – the Heart Rhythm Charity – an estimated 2600 golfing venues and around four million club golfers could benefit from the campaign.

He said: "I consider myself incredibly fortunate that a defibrillator was on hand in Aberdeen to resuscitate me following my sudden cardiac arrest. But for that AED and the quick-thinking, expertise and life-saving skills of the medical personnel in the room that night, I wouldn't be here today.

"Without early intervention, an individual has just a 5% chance of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest, so Lesley and

I felt it appropriate to try to ensure others are equally fortunate should they collapse in or around a golfing venue in future.

"Currently, just 30% of golf clubs have a defibrillator and our stated aim is to try to raise awareness of the importance of having an AED close by in case of emergency, and to increase that figure considerably by encouraging every club or driving range in the UK and Ireland to have at least one public-access defibrillator by the end of 2014.

"Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time, and possibly on the golf course. We want to do whatever it takes to raise the level of awareness of defibrillators and to get them into more clubs around the country."

Tony Smith, BIGGA Chairman, said:

"We are pleased to throw our weight behind this vital

campaign. I know from speaking to some of our members that they are often the first on the scene in an emergency situation.

"Bernhard Gallacher's campaign will hopefully provide defibrillators at many more of our members' clubs."

Sandy Jones, Chief Executive of the PGA, added:

"The PGA is delighted to join with Bernard in this campaign to install defibrillators in every golf club in Great Britain and Ireland. It has been a long standing ambition of my own and the PGA that this should happen, and as we have seen through the near tragic experience of Bernard, it is vital that such equipment is available at the time of need.

"Defibrillators in golf clubs, without doubt, will save lives and we thank Bernard and Lesley for allowing us to join with them in this campaign."





## LES HOWKINS MG TO BE NEW BIGGA VICE CHAIRMAN

Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club, will be the next Vice Chairman of BIGGA after the Board of Management unanimously voted to invite him to take up the position at their recent meeting.

He will officially take up the post at BIGGA's AGM during BTME in January. Current Vice Chairman Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, will take over the reins as Chairman at the AGM from Tony Smith, who has served the Association with distinction during his 18 months in the role and many years of Board involvement.

Les, who originally hails from Leicester, began his greenkeeping career at the age of 15 with a work experience stint at Kibworth Golf Club.

He really cut his teeth in turf management at Cleethorpes Golf Club, where he achieved the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Award in 2004 – considered to be one of the highest accolades in the industry.

He moved to The Richmond Golf Club in 2008 as Course Manager, where recently the greenkeeping team was honoured with the 'Renovation of the Year' award from the

highly respected Golf Inc magazine after completing a hugely successful £125k overhaul of the course's bunkers.

The club fought off competition from clubs with much larger budgets worldwide to clinch the award.

Les, who plays golf to a handicap of six, said: "I am delighted to accept the invitation to become Vice Chairman and am looking forward to having an extremely positive impact on the Association.

"I've been involved in the greenkeeping industry for about 25 years now so I've got an in-depth knowledge of it, and I'm keen to bring my enthusiasm and professionalism to the role.

"I'm a passionate supporter of the industry and have been a BIGGA member for many years, and I'm fully supportive of the strides forward the Association is making, particularly in education.

"I'm particularly keen to meet members from across the UK in my new role at various events and of course at BTME."

BIGGA's AGM will take place during BTME 2014 on Wednesday 22 January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite of the Harrogate International Centre.

**RT**  
rigby taylor



What's new?  
What's innovative?



**STAND C62**

**See for yourself!**



## BIGGA LAUNCH GREENKEEPERS BENEVOLENT FUND

We're pleased to announce the launch of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund at BTME 2014 - and you can support it by buying a wristband at the exhibition.

The Association has identified the need for such a Fund to assist current members or past members and their dependents who have suffered hardship - financial or otherwise.

The green wristbands cost just £2 and will be available at BTME - just head to the BIGGA Stand B23 where a BIGGA team member will be happy to sell you a wristband in aid of this extremely worthwhile cause.

After the Fund is launched at BTME, we will be fundraising on a permanent basis at all events we organise and there will be further details available over the course of 2014.



## SHORE THING FOR BRETT

Congratulations to Brett Cornelius (far left) who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at North Shore Golf Club in Skegness.

Brett, who previously worked at Seacroft Golf Club in the coastal Lincolnshire town for 16 years, heads up a five strong team at the course.

He said: "It's an excellent opportunity for me. My

dad is the pro at North Shore so when I heard their previous Head Greenkeeper had retired it seemed perfect for me really.

"It's a really interesting site as it's half links half parkland, and I'm used to a straightforward links at Seacroft, so there will be all manner of challenges. The first major project will be revetting bunkers."

IMAGE: Brett Cornelius, Desmond Hardy, Stephen Briggs, Graham Larder, Phillip Newland.



IOG CEO Geoff Webb, BIGGA Vice Chairman Chris Sealey, IOG chair David Teasdale and BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton

## IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS EXPAND INTO GOLF WITH BIGGA AGREEMENT

The IOG and BIGGA have announced they are to work together to extend the IOG Industry Awards by including three new greenkeeping categories at next year's event.

The cooperation between the two industry bodies was announced by IOG chief executive Geoff Webb at the successful IOG Raise the Game Conference at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

The conference preceded this year's awards ceremony, the fifth in the annual series.

The new greenkeeping categories are expected to recognise the achievements of greenkeepers the length and breadth of the UK, whether they are employed at large multi-course facilities or smaller venues.

Commenting, Geoff Webb said: "Our annual awards continue to grow from strength to strength both in popularity throughout the grounds care industry and in raising the profile of the sector in the public domain.

"The new golf-focused categories will not only broaden the awards into another major sporting arena but they will also help the IOG to continue to

improve and enhance an awards scheme that is the only event of its kind in the UK."

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton added: "BIGGA is delighted to be joining the IOG's highly successful annual awards scheme. It's been a long-established ambition to be able to work with the IOG on relevant projects - and a prestigious award scheme that recognises excellence in greenkeeping is the perfect example.

"It's an ideal opportunity for members of the greenkeeping fraternity to be rewarded for their dedication, skill, professionalism and adaptability, particularly in challenging economic times."

The IOG awards highlight the high standards of volunteer and professional grounds professionals and facilities, from grass roots to professional stadia level.

Covering categories such as sport, young people and the environment, the awards are judged by an independent panel on criteria that include effective use of resources, budgetary control, presentation and housekeeping standards, as well as environmental considerations.





# STRI Golf Environment Awards 2013 finalists announced

STRI is pleased to announce the finalists for the Golf Environment Awards 2013. They have been selected as the top golf clubs in the UK that have made significant improvements to their local environment both on and off the golf course. Winners will be announced at the Golf Environment Awards Dinner at Hotel du Vin on 22 January 2014, during BTME.

According to the judges at STRI the standard of entries was high as well, with a number of golf courses undertaking new environmental and nature conservation projects, and others maintaining and building on the work done in previous years.

Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology & Environment at STRI, commented:

“All entrants to the Golf Environment Awards deserve recognition for their efforts and enthusiasm and it is particularly encouraging to find that many course managers are now using their natural resources for educational purposes.

“The message is spreading that golf courses can and do provide an important resource for nature conservation.”

The coveted awards are supported by a group of sponsors committed to supporting and promoting proven sustainable projects within golf clubs – BIGGA, Syngenta, County Turf, Ransomes Jacobsen, Farmura, Greenkeeping, Golf Monthly and Operation Pollinator.

Also supporting the awards is US Open Champion 2013, Justin Rose, who continues as the official ambassador of the awards for the fourth consecutive year.

## Golf Environment Awards 2013 Finalists

**Environmental Golf Course of the Year:** Dundonald Links, Hankley Common, John O’Gaunt, North Foreland.

**Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year:** Boston West, Hankley Common, Lymm, Pyecombe.

**Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year:** Dundonald Links, Fairhaven, Luffness, Minchinhampton.

*For more information on the awards go to [golffenvironmentawards.com](http://golffenvironmentawards.com).*



Why will competitors flock to our stand?



**STAND C62**

**Has the answer!**



## DAVID WILSON

Many of those involved in the greenkeeping industry will be saddened to hear of the passing of David Wilson, former course manager of the Strathtyrum Course at St Andrews Links.

David only retired some 15 months ago after having worked a total of 44 years for the Links Trust, starting there as an apprentice in 1968.

Over the years David moved up through the ranks to become Head Greenkeeper of the Jubilee course, a position he held for 20 years before taking over the Course

Manager position on the Strathtyrum Course until his retirement.

David was one of the first greenkeepers to gain a recognised qualification in greenkeeping when he enrolled on the first City & Guilds course that Elmwood College introduced. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

Gordon Moir



# 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!



## WIN A KINDLE FIRE HD AT BTME!

BTME is the perfect opportunity for you to meet the BIGGA House team and our Regional Administrators – and this year we have a whole host of reasons to visit us on Stand B23, including the chance to win a Kindle Fire HD!

As you'll have read last month, we've introduced the Photo Booth for members to update old and unwanted membership photos which should create a real buzz on the stand.

Plus, at the end of each day of the exhibition itself, all members who've been in the Photo Booth will be entered into a draw, and one will be awarded a prize.

Then, on Thursday 23 January, we will put all members who have

had their photo taken across the three days into a mega draw to win a Kindle Fire HD! So don't forget to come and see us and you may leave BTME 2014 a winner.

BTME is the perfect opportunity for you to meet the BIGGA House team and of course that includes our four Regional Administrators.

In addition to this, we're encouraging members to update any other details which may have changed whether it's your phone number, job role, place of work, email address or postal address.

The BIGGA Stand will also again be featuring the popular Job Shop, the opportunity to buy BIGGA merchandise and the chance to buy a wristband to support our

new Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund. If you want to know more about your membership and the benefits it offers, B23 is the place to be.

You'll also be able to find out more on our superb Learning and Development, so if you're looking for training, advice or more on our relaunched CPD come and see us.

It will be great to see as many of you as possible on the Stand, whether you're a long-standing member or if you've just joined.

Also, if you know anyone not currently a BIGGA member who is heading to BTME, encourage them to visit us and we'll tell them why they should be...so see you there!



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You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

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John Young Sandra Raper



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### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline  
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance  
0800 177 7891

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



# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

## NEW CPD EXPLAINED

As part of the new CPD programme, BIGGA has launched an online CPD recording system for members to allow them to claim for credits, monitor their progress and print out their own certificates.

### So how do I register?

This has been one of the fundamental changes to the CPD programme. Before, you would have to fill out an application form to join the scheme whereas with the new programme ALL members are automatically registered as soon as they join. To begin claiming credits all you need to do to access your CPD account is log into Member's Area of the BIGGA website, click on the Continuing Professional Development button and then click the Visit CPD Website button.



When you arrive at the site you will be greeted with the CPD News page (above), where we will be placing news items and top tips to help you with your CPD.



No.	Date	Title	Description	Credits Valid	Active
6090	6 Nov 2013	Education Seminars	Northern Regional Conference	4	Y
6097	4 Nov 2013	Education First Aid - 5 day	dryeary	20	Y
6092	4 Nov 2013	Education Seminars	Turf Science, Soils and Grasses - Loch Lomond Golf Club	6	Y
6093	31 Oct 2013	Networking Golf Days	Section golf day at Aldwark Manor Golf Club	1	Y
6091	31 Oct 2013	Professional Support Team Work	Open Support	11	Y
6094	10 Sep 2013	Education Seminars	Northern Region Seminar hosted by Symbio at Aldwark GC	1	Y

### How do I claim credits?

There are three ways to claim CPD credits. The first is to click on the Claim Credits button and go to the claims page (bottom left), manually enter the details in the boxes and submit them to BIGGA for validation. So, if you claim for a qualification, such as a first aid or spraying course, you will still need to send a copy of the certificate to us. It can be emailed to [cpd@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cpd@bigga.co.uk) or sent in through the post.

The next option is to enter a CPD code. We have changed the way trainers, companies and sections can claim credits for events. Instead of sending out registers for members to sign they are now issued with a CPD code.

This code is pre-validated. Logging into the website to having the CPD appear on your record will take six clicks.

For example, at the Regional Conferences a CPD code was issued at the end of the day and attendees could write the code down or take a photo of it. All the Continue to Learn events have a CPD code plus there will be one for attending BTME too.

The final way to claim credits is by completing CPD quizzes or

questionnaires for BIGGA. We will download the data and upload the claims on your behalf.

### How do I view my credits?

All your credit claims are stored on the View My Credits page (main image above).

On this page you will see a list of your active credits and by clicking on the Show All button you will be able to view all the CPD you done and this is known as your Lifetime Transcript.

This has been a brief introduction to the online CPD system.

For further details of how to use it there is a Frequently Asked Questions section, a CPD Handbook and How to Guide in the CPD section of the Member's Area.

If you have any questions or want to get involved in CPD and don't know where to start you can email [cpd@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cpd@bigga.co.uk) or call 01347 833800 option 3.

Next month we will look at the CPD categories of Education, Networking, Professional and Personal Learning credits and discuss their role in the new programme.



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

# A well planned visit to BTME makes you a better turf manager

Harrogate is once again the venue for BTME – and here's how you can make the most of your visit whether you're spending a whole week in North Yorkshire or you're coming through for a single day

It's time to get your name down for BTME 2014 as registration continues for the show where all the stand space has been sold and education bookings are 51% up on last year. To avoid queues at the exhibition, simply visit our dedicated website at [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) and click on the 'register now' icon.

We've had a superb response from both returning clients and new companies keen to join the unmissable turf event of the year meaning all of the halls we opened last year are full.

In fact, we're very pleased to announce several new companies making their BTME debuts. There will also be over a hundred returning exhibitors showcasing an unrivalled range of brand new products, initiatives and offers.

We're also proud to again offer a first-class Continue to Learn education programme which is improving year on year - and we're currently 51% up on bookings from last year so time is running out to secure your spot.

We've attracted top experts and trainers from across the UK and the world to Harrogate. The hugely popular Turf Managers' Conference returns on Monday 20 January. This will feature presentations from the likes of Dr Karl Danneberger, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Ohio University, Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity and Karl Morris from The Mind Factor on a huge



range of topics.

We're also offering dozens of seminars and workshops covering a whole range of subjects vital to the turf professional. Many of our popular presenters return alongside some brand new seminars and speakers for 2014. To pick just three we have Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager at Everris, Justin Ruiz MG CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent at Indian Summer Golf and Country

Club and Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Research at the STRI.

Our L&D Manager Sami Strutt said: "Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is central to all of the Learning and Development offerings from BIGGA. This has been kept firmly in mind when putting together the programme, ensuring the education is available for all, from greenkeepers and assistants to deputies and course managers."



Continue to Learn begins on Sunday 19 January and continues right through until 5pm on Wednesday 22 January. For full details on the programme visit [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) and click on the 'Continue to Learn' button.

This year also features our inaugural Welcome Celebration, kindly sponsored by Jacobsen, and we're delighted to announce golf commentary legend Peter Alliss as guest of honour.

The evening will begin straight after the first day of the exhibition on Tuesday 21 January in the Royal Hall at the Harrogate

International Centre at 5.30pm – and will feature a typically humorous keynote speech from one of the most recognisable and authoritative voices in all sport. We'll also be acknowledging the superb achievements of some of our members during 2013, honouring greenkeepers who have excelled in educational, professional and golfing capacities and toasting success in the wider turf management industry.

BTME is the place to be to kick start 2014 in the turf management industry – don't miss out.



## HOW TO FIND THE HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Harrogate is located centrally on the UK map with ready access to London and Edinburgh.

A first-class motorway network, mainline rail, sea and 24-hour air links ensure that Harrogate is able to offer all the benefits expected of a truly global location.

Harrogate has excellent rail and air links with regular train services to and from London King's Cross via York and Leeds ([www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)) and Leeds Bradford International Airport is only 20 minutes from Harrogate with a regular bus service into Harrogate.

For details about travelling to Harrogate by public transport visit [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

### BY CAR

From London:

M1 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the North: A1 - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the East: M62 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the West: M56 - M62 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.



## EAT OUT

Here's a selection of some of the best eateries in Harrogate – advance booking is recommended

**B.E.D.**  
Modern English  
Tel: 01423 568600  
[www.bed.ltd.uk](http://www.bed.ltd.uk)

**Bistro Pierre**  
French  
Tel: 01423 533070  
[www.lebistrotpierre.co.uk/locations/harrogate](http://www.lebistrotpierre.co.uk/locations/harrogate)

**Cattlemens**  
Tex Mex  
Tel: 01423 561456  
[www.cattlemens.co.uk](http://www.cattlemens.co.uk)

**Chez la Vie**  
French  
Tel: 01423 568018  
[www.chezlavie.com](http://www.chezlavie.com)

**Drum & Monkey**  
Seafood  
Tel: 01423 502650  
[www.drumandmonkey.co.uk](http://www.drumandmonkey.co.uk)

**Harrogate Brasserie**  
English  
Tel: 01423 505041  
[www.harrogatebrasserie.co.uk](http://www.harrogatebrasserie.co.uk)

**Jinnah**  
Indian  
Tel: 01423 563333  
[www.jinnahs.co.uk/harrogate](http://www.jinnahs.co.uk/harrogate)

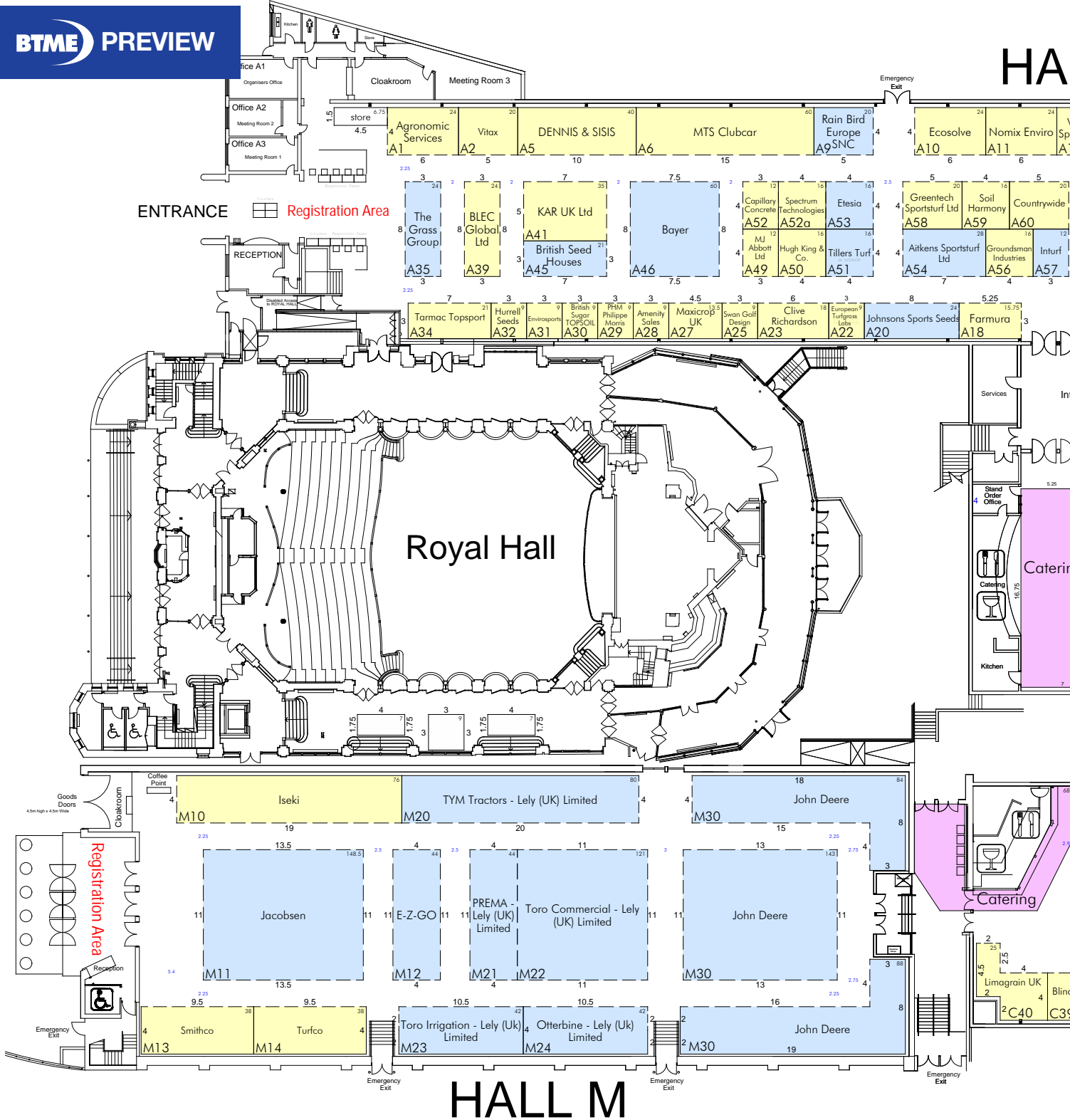
**Joe Rigatoni**  
Italian  
Tel: 01423 500071  
[www.joerigatoni.com](http://www.joerigatoni.com)

**La Tasca**  
Tapas  
Tel: 01423 563333  
[www.latasca.com/harrogate](http://www.latasca.com/harrogate)

**William and Victoria**  
English  
Tel: 01423 521510  
[www.williamandvictoria.com](http://www.williamandvictoria.com)



Please note we are not running a park and ride or hopper service this year. Dragon Road Car Park will be available from Tuesday to Thursday with limited free parking for exhibitors and visitors on a first come first served basis

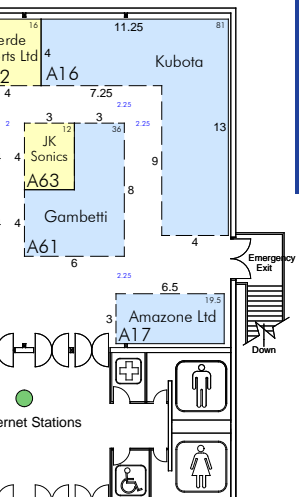


**HALL M**

- |                                   |                                   |                                  |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Access Utilities..... C57         | Ltd ..... C21                     | Eagle.....B50                    | Greenkeepers Training           |
| AFT Trenchers Ltd..... B5         | British Sugar TOPSOIL..... A30    | Ecosolve Ltd..... A10            | Committee (The) .....B29        |
| Agronomic Services ..... A1       | Britrisk Safety Ltd.....B19       | Envirosports ..... A31           | Greentech (Sportsturf) Ltd. A58 |
| Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd ..... A54  | Campey Turf Care SystemsB58       | Etesia UK Ltd..... A53           | Grillo Agrigarden Ltd ..... B1  |
| Amazone Ltd..... A17              | Charterhouse Turf Machinery       | European Turfgrass Laborato-     | Ground2Control..... C22         |
| Amenity Sales ..... A28           | Ltd .....B48                      | ries .....A22                    | Groundscare Products / Turf     |
| Askham Bryan College ..... C37    | Complete Weed Control ..... C48   | Everris Limited ..... B54        | TEQ .....C10                    |
| Bailoy Irrigation Controls... C54 | Compo Expert UK Ltd..... B17      | Farmura Ltd ..... A18            | Groundsman Industries.... A56   |
| Barenbrug UK Ltd ..... C23        | Countrywide..... A60              | Gambetti UK ..... A61            | HDK Electric Vehicles ..... C25 |
| Baroness Mowers ..... B78         | County Sport Surfaces ..... C8    | Garfitts International Ltd ..B42 | Headland Amenity Ltd..... C30   |
| Bayer ..... A46                   | County Turf Ltd ..... B32         | GBR Technology Limited ...C35    | Highspeed - Course Care... C15  |
| Bernhard & Co Ltd ..... B44       | CRL - Clive Richardson Ltd A23    | GCOA & GRN-OGRO..... C24         | Hugh King & Co..... A50         |
| Blec Global Ltd ..... A39         | Delta-T Device Services ..... B30 | GCSAA ..... C17                  | Humber Palmers FertilisersB10   |
| Blinder Bunker Liner..... C39     | DENNIS & SISIS ..... A5           | Germinal Seeds GB ..... A45      | Hunter Industries..... C27      |
| Border Sports Services Ltd .. C4  | DMMP Limited..... C50             | Global Turf Equipment UK Ltd.    | Hurrells Seeds ..... A32        |
| British & International Golf      | Double A / Tru-Turf ..... C36     | ..... C42                        | Huxley Golf ..... C1            |
| Greenkeepers Association .B23     | E-Z-GO ..... M12                  | Golf Club Managers Associa-      | Indigrow Ltd ..... B43          |
| British Manufacturing Solutions   |                                   | tion ..... C14                   | IOG ..... C16                   |

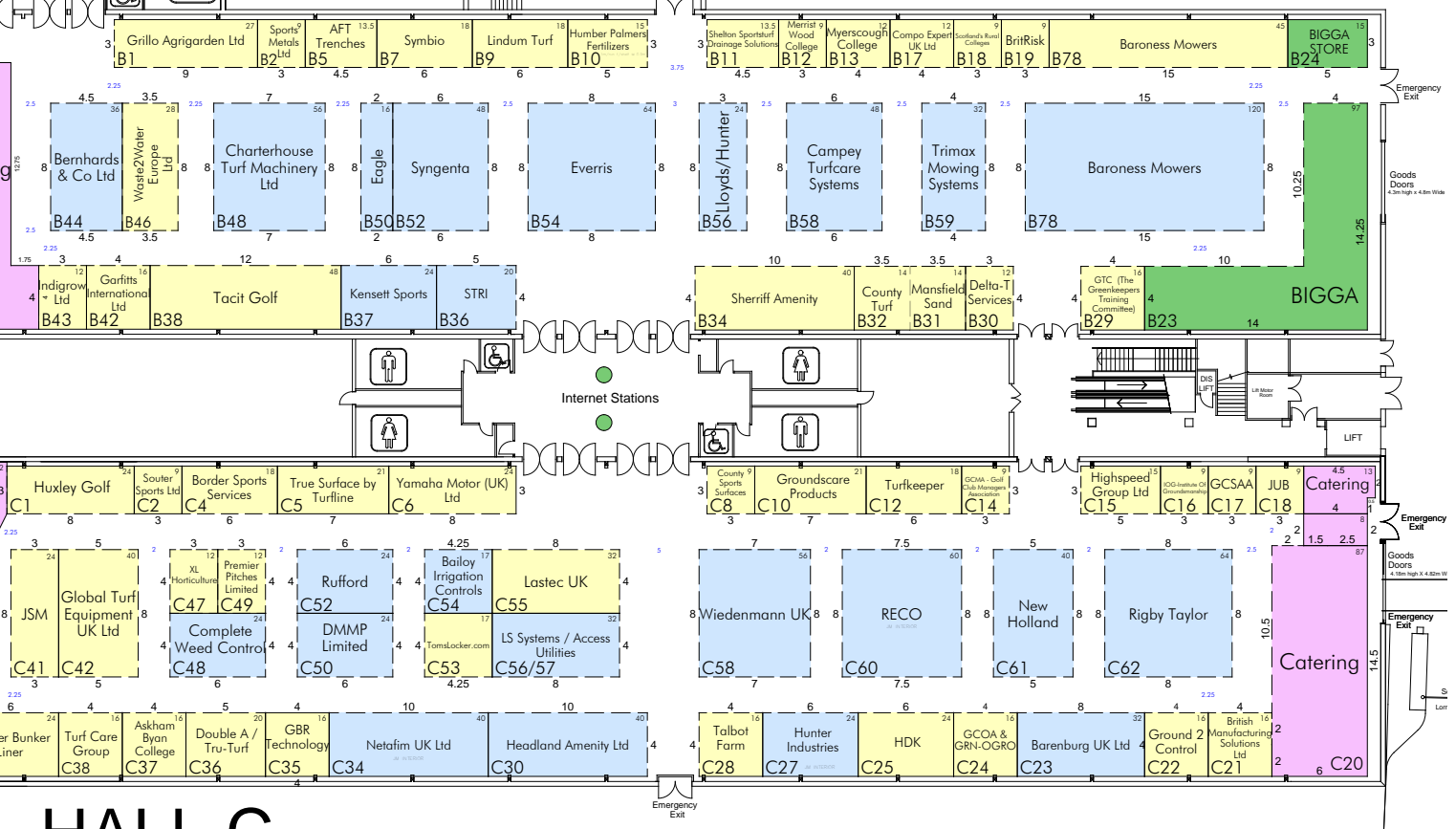


# BTME // 21-23 JANUARY 2014 Harrogate International Centre Exhibition Hall Plan



- Stands - Full Shell Scheme
- Stands - Space Only

## HALL B



## HALL C

Inturf.....A57	Limited.....B31	Solutions.....B11	Tom's Locker.com.....C53
Iseki.....M10	Maxicrop UK.....A27	Sherriff Amenity.....B34	Toro Commercial - Lely (UK) Limited.....M22
J K Sonics.....A63	Merrist Wood College.....B12	Smithco.....M13	Toro Irrigation - Lely (UK) Limited.....M23
Jac. Uittenborgaard & Zonen BV (JUB).....C18	MJ Abbott Ltd.....A49	Soil Harmony.....A59	Trimax Mowing Systems...B59
Jacobsen.....M11	MTS Clubcar.....A6	Souters Sports Ltd.....C2	True Surface by Turfline.....C5
John Deere.....M30	Myerscough College.....B13	Spectrum Technologies...A52a	TurfCare Group Ltd.....C38
Johnsons Sports Seed.....A20	Netafim UK.....C34	Sports Metals Ltd.....B2	Turfco.....M14
JSM Distribution.....C41	New Holland.....C61	SRUC (Barony, Elmwood, Oatridge Colleges).....B18	Turfkeeper.com.....C12
KAR UK Limited.....A41	Nomix Enviro.....A11	STRI.....B36	Tym Tractors - Lely (UK) Limited.....M20
Kensett Sports.....B37	Otterbine - Lely (UK) Ltd...M24	Swan Golf Designs.....A25	Verde Sports Ltd.....A12
Kubota.....A16	PHM Philippe Morisse SAS A29	Symbio.....B7	Vitax.....A2
Lastec UK.....C55	PREMA - Lely (UK) Limited M21	Syngenta.....B52	Waste2Water Europe Ltd...B46
Limagrain UK.....C40	Premier Pitches Limited.....C49	Tacit Golf Ltd.....B38	Wiedenmann UK Ltd.....C58
Lindum Turf.....B9	Rain Bird Europe SNC.....A9	Talbot Farm.....C28	XL Horticulture Ltd.....C47
Lloyds / Hunters.....B56	RECO.....C60	Tarmac Topsport.....A34	Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd.....C6
LS Systems Ltd.....C56	Rigby Taylor Ltd.....C62	The Grass Group.....A35	
Mansfield Sand Company	Rufford.....C52	Tillers Turf.....A51	
	Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage		

# BTME

# PREVIEW

Some of the products on show  
at BTME 2014



## SOIL HARMONY JOINS ILEX ENVIRO SCIENCES

Agricultural crop nutrition specialist, Ilex EnviroSciences Ltd, has acquired the Soil Harmony business from Charterhouse Turf Machinery and Mark Atkins, creator of the Soil Harmony concept, joins Ilex as Amenity Product Manager.

Ilex's Managing Director, Murray Smedley says "Soil Harmony offers a natural fit within the existing Ilex product range, plus it allows us to exploit our technical know-how in a new sector for the company".

The unique Soil Harmony turf nutrition system enables sports turf professionals to bring their soil and grass to the very best condition providing users with the most rewarding sports experience.

Soil Harmony will be at BTME on Stand A59.

## COUNTY TURF FIRST TIME EXHIBITORS AT BTME 2014

County Turf is delighted to announce its attendance at BTME on Stand B32.

The Scunthorpe-based, family-run firm is exhibiting alongside Mansfield Sand, supplier of sand based products including rootzone materials, topdressing and bunker sand, to showcase its broad range of turf and complementary products.

Managing Director Andy Fraser and his team are passionate about growing the very best quality turf for sports stadiums, golf courses, architects, landscapers and wholesalers.

They have been growing over 1,400 acres of high quality turf on some of the coarsest, free-draining sand in the UK since 1995. In that time they

have gained a reputation in the industry for supplying premium quality turf and excellent customer service thanks to their dedicated team of experienced staff. County Turf is committed to ensuring that the turf grown and supplied is of the highest quality and they continually invest in the latest machinery and turf technology to ensure they remain at the forefront of the industry.

County Turf is proud to have maintained longstanding relationships with many customers who are based all over the UK and in Europe.

Some of the well-known venues County Turf have previously supplied include the London 2012 Olympic Stadium, Lord's Cricket Ground, Croke Park,

and many golf clubs including Loch Lomond, La Moye in Jersey, Carnegie Links at Skibo Castle, Castle Stuart and The London Golf Club.

Andy Fraser said: "This is the first time that we are exhibiting at BTME and we are really pleased to be supporting such a great industry event.

"We are looking forward to showcasing our range of turf products designed specifically for sports surfaces and golf courses."

County Turf is a Member of Turf Producers International and the Turfgrass Growers' Association, supplying TGA certified turf grown to its stringent criteria.

It is also a proud sponsor of the STRI Golf Environment Awards.



## KUBOTA 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT BTME

Tractor and groundcare specialists Kubota are busy preparing for BTME 2014 where they will kick off celebrations for its 35th anniversary in the UK market.

Visitors to Stand A16 will be able to see first hand Kubota's extensive range of solutions for the groundcare market, including its fleet of turfcare and RTVs.

Compact tractors will be on display, plus a selection of ride-on and walk-behind mowers, the W821 Pro, W821R Pro, and the F3680 from Kubota's out-front series will be present. Visitors will also have the chance to view some of the machines from its fleet of utility vehicles (UTVs), the RTV500 and RTV900.

Visitors can also see one of Kubota's new breed of petrol driven UTVs, the RTV500, which boasts a range of modern features, including an electronic fuel injection (EFI) system that not only provides on-demand power and helps optimise acceleration, but also improves the machine's responsiveness.



This joint stand (M13/ M14) will feature turf maintenance products from the independent US manufacturers Smithco and Turfco. Smithco are renowned for their bunker rakes, greens rollers and ride-on sprayers, while Turfco are arguably the leaders in mounted, trailed and pedestrian topdressers.

Making its BTME debut is the all-new WideSpin 1550 top dresser, the most advanced addition to Turfco's WideSpin family, offering unprecedented control and precision. It features more capacity, easier hopper loading, programmable presets, rate calculation and a wider range of applications. As well as featuring the widest hopper opening in the industry, it also includes a larger capacity hopper to increase productivity and efficiency.



## SMITHCO/TURFCO



## E-Z-GO / CUSHMAN



For many visitors to BTME this will be the first opportunity to see E-Z-GO's refreshed TXT 48 volt golf car on Stand M12. New styling has updated the model's classic look while retaining its proven performance to offer a better golfing experience, increased fleet durability and easier maintenance.

The new TXT's updated styling follows modern automotive design cues, giving the vehicle a sleek, contemporary appearance. Many new features increase the TXT's durability and make cleaning and maintenance easier. The vehicle's front cowl and body panels are crafted from durable automotive-quality materials, an optional front bumper withstands repeated 5mph impacts and the steel-reinforced rear bumper is the strongest in the industry.

## NEW JACOBSEN PRODUCTS ON SHOW





## ISEKI

For over 80 years, the Iseki brand has been synonymous with superior quality and reliability. As a global leader in the design and manufacture of mowers and tractors ranging from sub-compact to utility models they offer the best choice for commercial and private users alike, and you can see them on Stand M10.

The compact Iseki TG5470 IQ features an advanced transmission system with electro-hydraulic forward and reverse selection. Programmed to provide a selection of clutch engagement patterns, it selects the most suitable pattern depending on gear position and displays this visually on the instrument panel. It will be displayed with a Ransomes Mounted Hydraulic 5 mower attached.



## JACOBSEN AR 722T

Taking centre stage on Stand M11 will be the new Jacobsen AR 722T wide area contour rotary mower. Featuring seven 56cm wide cutting decks, it is ideal for maintaining intermediate golf roughs, green and tee surrounds and sports and recreation fields.

Designed to boost productivity with class-leading power, exceptional contour following and cutting width flexibility, the AR 722T features a rugged and reliable 65.2hp Kubota turbo-charged diesel engine delivering unmatched power. This allows the mower to maintain performance and blade tip speed in the most challenging terrain without slowing down. The cutting width is an impressive 3.15 metres.



## WIEDENMANN BRINGS VERSATILITY TO BTME

Wiedenmann UK says versatility is still trending as the top requisite for machinery purchases so their stand at BTME – C58 - will feature some of their most efficient and best multi-tasking machines.

The recently introduced all new Core Recycler is an effective dual machine which saves considerable time, labour and top dressing costs. It collects all cores from the surface after aeration and then using a series of adjustable sieves recycles soils, sand and organic matter back to the surface.

Best-selling aerator, the Terra Spike GXi8 HD, at 1.8m wide comes fully recommended for work on the flat and

undulating surfaces. The HD in the name stands for Heavy Duty so although the machine is ultimately designed for greens, tees and fine turf areas, it is equally ready to cope when the going gets tough and can be used on fairways which aren't built on rocky sub soils.

Wiedenmann's Mega Twister is a year-round favourite used as frequently on natural surfaces as artificial. With a blow strength of 390m<sup>3</sup> per minute, its 230° swivel action gives the operator infinite control to adjust it all ways.

Leaves and debris can be blown continuously in one direction with no requirement for the operator to leave the

cab, back up or turn the unit round. The blow out nozzle can be set vertically, so that the air stream can be adjusted to the prevailing conditions or undulations, guiding leaves and debris accurately and quickly.

Of course in snowfall it can become the perfect snowblower, clearing car parks and pedestrian areas.

Finally, the Terra Clean 160 is a sweeper/collector like no other designed for artificial surface use. Extremely eco-friendly, uniquely it combines both a sieved separation system with a dust cyclone extraction system to filter and remove miniscule deposits.

## NEW TRIMAX MOWER DUE FOR WORLD RELEASE AT BTME

Trimax Mowing Systems has been making world-class mowers for over 30 years, so when the R&D prototype was made available on the company's stand at IOG SALTEX in September, the industry knew that the world release would be just around the corner.

The currently unnamed product is 30 years of innovation and customer insight combined into one versatile machine. This is

made evident by the fact that the company broke all the rules in publicly inviting operators and managers onto its stand to give feedback on the new prototype.

The prototype has been refined using these customer insights and further testing, and the new machine will make its world debut at BTME.

Trimax marketing manager Karl Stevenson said: "Great ideas aren't exclusively locked away in the minds of a few

engineers and designers; innovation is in all of us. Together we're a very powerful force.

"For this project, we had a strategic plan to engage users and managers on all levels to ensure that this new product meets their needs on every level. A combination of Trimax technical expertise and user engagement will be behind this product's success."

Trimax has already received pre-orders for the machine,

one placed five months prior to its availability. This has far exceeded the company's expectations and suggests that it could provide a breakthrough in grounds maintenance for a lot of customers.

If you can't wait to see the new mower when Trimax reveals it on Stand B59 at BTME, you can start to see the reveal on its facebook page at [www.facebook.com/trimaxmowingsystems](http://www.facebook.com/trimaxmowingsystems)



## How can we help?

**BUY** - We buy your surplus turf equipment. Contact Global Turf UK, and we will make an offer on your used equipment.

**SELL** - We sell the largest selection of short term lease return equipment in the world.

**TRADE** - You can trade your surplus equipment with us and upgrade to a newer model.

**LEASE** - You can lease the late model equipment you desire at an affordable, fixed, monthly payment with nearly no upfront costs.

**BTME**  
SEE US ON  
**STAND C42**

# Global Turf UK



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Global Turf the World's largest supplier of quality pre-owned turf equipment has now located its european headquarters in the UK.

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Sandbeck Lane, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 7TW. United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1937 581111 Email: [info@globalturfequipment.co.uk](mailto:info@globalturfequipment.co.uk)

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

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web: [www.campeyturfcare.com](http://www.campeyturfcare.com)

# Visit the BIGGA stand at BTME

# B23



## NEW BARENBRUG VIDEO ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY PRODUCT

Leading grass seed producer Barenbrug returns to BTME in January when it will be premiering a brand new video about its revolutionary product RPR or Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass!

It is available as BAR 7 RPR for use on winter sports surfaces such as football and rugby pitches while EXTREME RPR is designed for use on tees, fairways and walkways on golf courses.

Appearing in the video, which highlights the development and success of RPR, is Roy Rigby, grounds manager at Manchester City and his three colleagues, Lee Jackson, Lee Metcalfe and Steve Malone who look after respectively the Ethiad Stadium, Carrington and Platt Lane training grounds.

Manchester City helped with the development of BAR 7 RPR which is now used exclusively at all three venues, where it has won praise for the quality of the playing surface and its ability to recover from heavy wear with some of the training facilities being used seven days a week.

Also helping with the trials of EXTREME RPR was Allan Patterson, Course Manager of the Castle Course at St Andrews where it was used for an overseeding programme in the maintained rough areas which started in September 2012.

Allan said RPR gave excellent results with the maintained rough having a good definition and colour which had all resulted in highly complimentary comments from members.

Roy Rigby will be on the Barenbrug stand C23 on the Tuesday of BTME and Allan Patterson on the Wednesday both between 12noon – 1.00pm, so do come along and meet them and find out more about RPR.

The secret of RPR is its creeping growth habit made possible through the production of elongated tillers. These are growth shoots emerging from the nodes at the base of each plant. They creep horizontally just below the surface and are capable of developing roots at the internodes creating entirely new grass plants. This creeping growth habit results in fast establishment, excellent wear tolerance and unparalleled recovery capability.

Barenbrug research & development manager, Turf & Amenity, Dr David Greenshields said: "As a company research and development is at the very heart of what we do and the cultivar Barclay II, which we branded as RPR, is just the latest example.

"It has been extremely successful and is quickly becoming the grass seed of choice at Premier League football and rugby clubs, both for the stadiums and on training grounds."

## SUPREME OFFERING FROM GERMINAL SEEDS GB

Germinal Seeds GB is launching Supreme Tees, a new mixture for golf courses, at BTME on Stand A45.

The mixture includes a new variety of poa supina 'Supreme', which is shade tolerant and exceptionally hard wearing. Supreme poa supina, developed in Germany and exclusive to Germinal Seeds GB, is likely to prove a popular addition to its wide ranging quality offer.

Show visitors can also learn about the exciting option available to help groundsmen perfect 'Your A20'. They can now choose to include Galleon creeping perennial ryegrass, a hardwearing variety with exceptional recovery due to its spreading growth habit and an inherent resistance to insects such as nematodes.

Its qualities will be on display in a putting competition on the stand using Galleon seeded turf.

Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager of Germinal Seeds GB, said: "Our standard A20 Premier Ryesport is a great mixture, but we understand every sports ground is different. With our comprehensive portfolio of exclusive top quality perennial ryegrass varieties and unrivalled service we offer the unique opportunity for groundsmen to create their personal version of A20."

He will join his experienced team of technical sales representatives on the stand to give first hand expert advice to long term and new customers.

Richard's expertise will also be to the fore when he runs a seminar on 'Wildflower Mixtures for the Golf Course' at 2.30pm as part of 'Continue to Learn' on 21 January. He will provide tips on choosing the correct mixture, ground preparation, sowing and ongoing maintenance.

**CHECK OUT THE BIG REVIEW OF BTME 2014 IN NEXT MONTH'S GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**



# CHARTERHOUSE LINE UP PRODUCTS FOR BTME 2014



At BTME 2014 Charterhouse Turf Machinery will be showing their new Redexim Speed-Brush for the first time in the UK.

This new product complements the Redexim Rink DS800 top dresser, which itself complements any of the company's range of Verti-Drains – particularly the 1517 model launched last year. Visitors to stand B48 will have a chance to inspect all of these machines.

The Speed-Brush is a towable grooming machine with two round brushes that rotate in the opposite direction to that of travel. This action effectively brushes sand into the canopy and is an excellent tool for lifting lateral shoots on a golf green providing a more even cut and a superior putting surface. The Speed-Brush can be pulled with almost any prime mover; it has quick adjustments and will work well with wet or dry sand.

The Rink DS800 can be either trailed behind a 30hp compact tractor with the benefit of 4 wheels on an articulating axle, or fitted to a John Deere Pro Gator or Toro Workman truck for a light footprint.

It has a variable spread pattern up to 12m (36ft) and gives a very good finish due to the dual spinners which can apply precise amounts of material, even if the material is wet.

A cross conveyor can be specified for both versions, for bunker filling and other material handling tasks. As standard, the DS800 has the benefit of a hydraulic rear door on the 0.80 cubic metre, shallow, hopper which negates the need for a vibrating block option.

Both of the aforementioned products can follow the work of a Verti-Drain™ – such as the Redexim Verti-Drain 1517 introduced last year specifically for the fine turf maintenance sector.

## INNOVATION FROM HEADLAND AMENITY AT HARROGATE

Headland Amenity brings its range of innovative turf nutrition, health and management products to BTME 2014 at Harrogate, including some new formulations. On Stand C30 will also be a demonstration on how TriCure AD™, a multi-molecular soil surfactant, works.

Headland will introduce C-Complex 5-2-10 to enrich the soil, encourage microflora

and provide consistent release through the cool season periods. Its unique granule characteristics ensure a fast breakdown for rapid response.

C-Complex 5-2-10 is a mineral-organic, mini-granulated fertiliser and soil conditioner formulated with cold extract seaweed meal, humic acid, aerobically-composted cow manure and part-organic potassium. This homogeneous combination



Even water distribution with TriCure AD



Without TriCure AD

helps to stimulate soil microbial activity whilst enhancing root development and stress suppression.

The impressive on stand demonstration will show the efficiency of water infiltration at both label and low rates of TriCure AD™.

TriCure AD™ is an advanced soil surfactant designed to prevent and control hydrophobic soil conditions while maintaining

optimum soil-water management. Unique soil treatment capabilities make TriCure AD™ the most effective multi-use soil surfactant available for treatment on the widest range of soil types and turf applications. It works by attaching to both soil and organic particles, reducing the surface tension of water, and attracting a thin film of water close to the particle surfaces.



Photograph courtesy of Sean Sullivan



# A winter's toil

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager at Everris, advises how to address winter dormancy on your course as golfers continue to demand high standards as the temperature plunges

**Winter is a crucial time for golf clubs. Weather conditions make turf maintenance more difficult, but course performance and playability is still important to golfers, especially if they are thinking about their membership.**

With that in mind, it is necessary for Course Managers to produce ever higher standards during the winter, especially with their greens. This isn't easy without growth!

The creep towards winter brings a drop in temperatures and shorter days. The resultant decline in turf

growth and recovery severely limits the possibilities for surface preparation.

Wetter weather commonly creates soils that remain saturated for months to weaken the turf. Pest and disease activity at this time can create additional problems of scarring and damage. Golfers still want to play during the winter, and this causes further decline. At the time of year when turf growth slows down, the pressures mount and they can cause a significant deterioration in the quality of the turf surface. So, what can be done

to guard against winter decline?

Well, you are no strangers to meeting the challenge of increasing levels of expectation and overcoming difficult situations. The general aim is to strengthen the turf through autumn, protect it from damage during winter, then revitalise in spring for quick recovery.

This sounds simple, but there are a large number of factors that you need to get right to succeed. Getting turf through the winter requires good cultural practice combined with the proper use of supporting technologies.

## A sporting chance

Above all else, give your turf a chance by creating a healthy growing environment.

Maximising light penetration and creating airflow is essential, so surrounding tree and understory vegetation management is vital.

Good drainage is also essential to prevent the soil becoming saturated for long periods.

Aeration may be necessary to keep the soil oxygenated and help keep roots functioning. Ongoing organic matter management in the upper soil profile will stand you in good stead, especially during the winter.

## Preparing for winter

Autumn is the time when growth tails off. To prepare the turf for winter you need to be proactive, alert and preventative in your approach.

## Key factors for consideration are:

- Optimise turf health during late summer with appropriate nutrition
- Continue to use Primo Maxx while strong growth is still available to help encourage carbohydrate storage. It is these energy reserves that will help support plant health during the winter
- Moving through the autumn, sustain turf health by using slow release sources of N and K (such as those in SierraformGT K-Step 6-0-27 +2MgO +TE).

This improves stress tolerance, favours root development and reduces the risk of disease activity

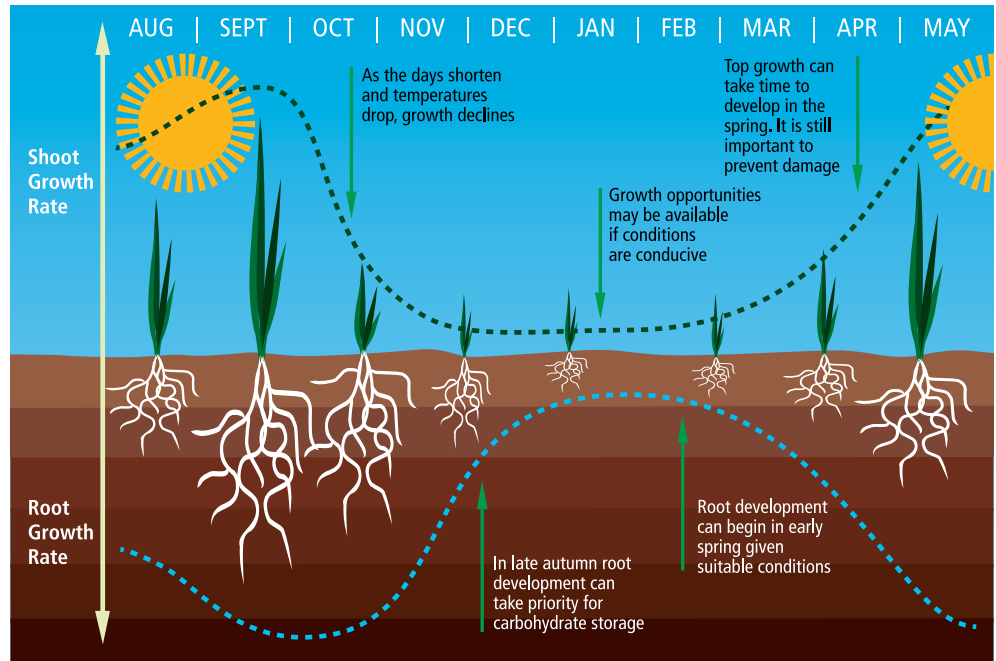
- Allow turf to acclimatise to the oncoming winter. Don't force too much top growth or push too hard which will maintain summer playing qualities for too long into the autumn

- Prevent disease outbreaks with ongoing cultural management (dew removal, iron, phosphite) along with appropriate systemic fungicides applied preventatively to protect the turf from attack while still growing.

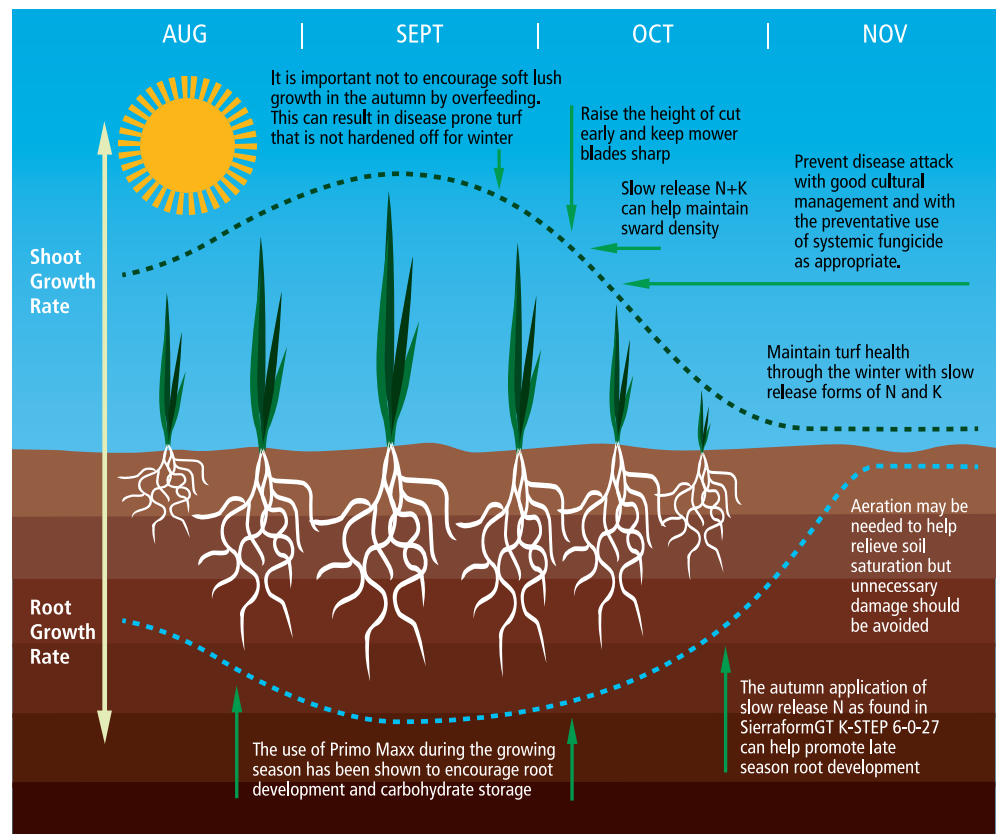
Propiconazole, the active ingredient in Banner Maxx, for instance, is formulated for quick uptake and distribution through the plant to give disease control and protection even when temperatures begin to decline

- Raise your height of cut early enough to maximise any remaining opportunities for photosynthesis. This helps the turf strengthen and

## Growth patterns above and below ground



## Autumn – The descent into dormancy



build energy reserves

- It is important to use sharp blades when mowing to prevent unnecessary damage. A ragged cut takes a lot of energy for the plant to repair

- Finalise any damaging treatments while turf is still growing to achieve full recovery before the onset of winter dormancy

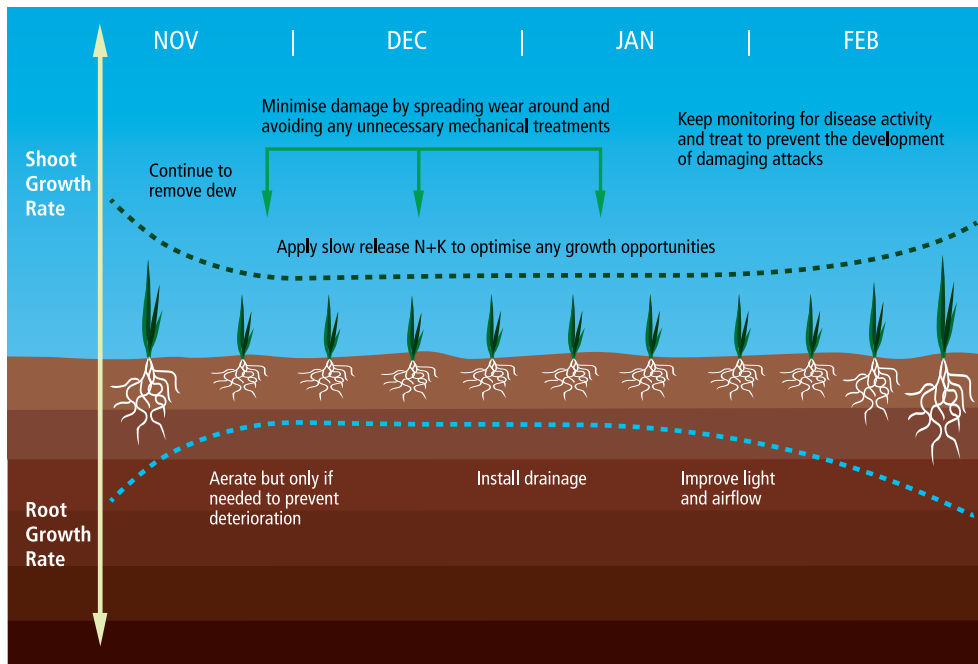
## Winter care

There is still a great deal you can do in winter to maintain turf health, performance and playability. You are aiming to keep all damage to a minimum.

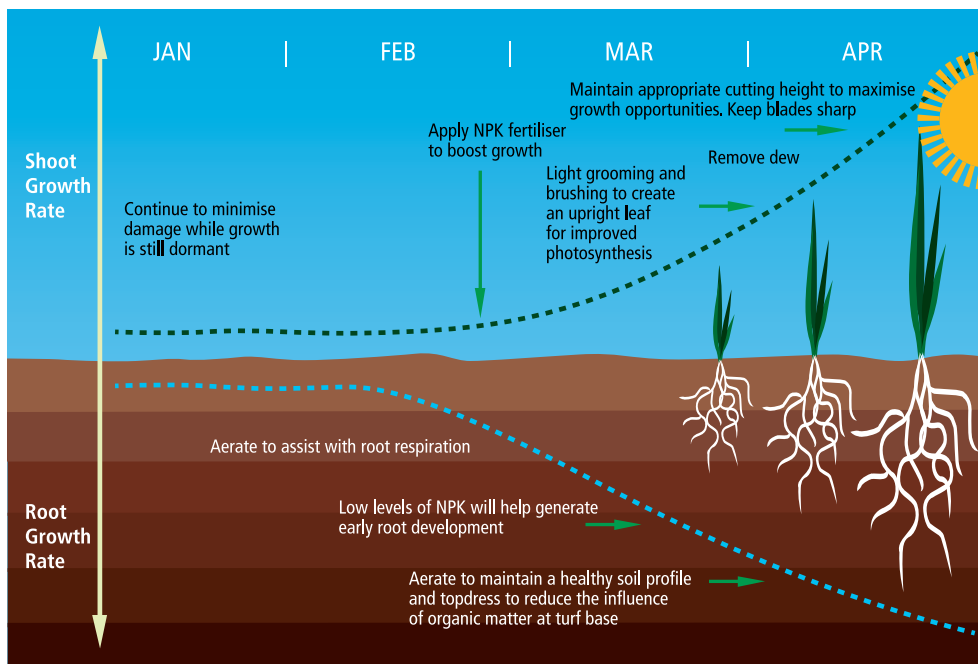
Turf will be actively functioning to some degree if conditions are suitable, and you can take advantage of



Winter dormancy – prevent damage



Spring – generating growth and recovery



such opportunities. Anything you are able to do to improve the growing environment will greatly assist plant functioning.

**Key factors for winter management include:**

- Install drainage and improve light and airflow as a matter of priority
- Minimise damage by managing wear and appraising the need for mechanical treatments
- Remove dew to optimise any growth opportunities and reduce the risk of disease attack

- Apply slow release N and K (as found in K-Step 6-0-27 +2MgO +TE) if growth opportunities are available
- Use iron products to help harden the sward
- If you are mowing, USE SHARP BLADES!
- Prevent disease outbreaks. Pathogens can develop quickly and cause significant damage before symptoms become visible. Fludioxylin, the active ingredient in MedallionTL and Instrata, for instance, can be used to control inoculum in the upper profile to help reduce the

about the author



**Henry Bechelet**

After working in the turf and amenity sector for over 20 years, Henry joined STRI as a trainee agronomist. He then became Northern Technical Sales Representative for a fertiliser supplier. He rejoined STRI in 2000 as an agronomist, and since has been a writer, and a speaker.

potential for disease attacks, especially if the turf should subsequently become covered in snow.

Winter is when you reap the rewards of your preparation work, but you still need to keep actively managing the ongoing situation.

There will be opportunities to generate recovery but generally you are working hard to prevent any form of deterioration.

If you can get greens through the winter in good shape, you stand a better chance of quick recovery in the spring.

**Spring forward**

Spring always seems a long time coming but the pressure to create summer surfaces as early as possible is always present.

You still need to work hard to prevent deterioration, but you also want to set conditions in place for a quick recovery when conditions allow.

Winter drainage and tree removal work will pay dividends when trying to hasten spring recovery.

In spring, well-timed early season aeration and topdressing will help reoxygenate the soil.

NPK feeds such as Greenmaster ProLite Cold Start 11-5-5 +8Fe can help initiate early spring growth, especially in colder conditions when soil P might not be available.

Light grooming and brushing helps create an upright leaf to stimulate early season photosynthesis.

Keep your height of cut raised for as long as possible for the same reason.

Manage play to prevent deterioration and set about initiating your early season refinement programme as soon as growth allows.

Communicate to members that the onset of growth is primarily dependent upon soil temperatures, moisture content and day length, to temper their expectations.

So, winter can be a tough time for greenkeeping but there is a great deal that you can do to sustain turf health and maintain playing qualities.

Sound cultural practice coupled with the use of supporting technologies will get you through. We call this type of approach 'integrated turf management', or iTurf for short.

# Considering change?

# Be prepared!

**In June 2006, The R&A employed the STRI to undertake a project which ran for six years with the purpose of following the impact of a maintenance package aimed at producing firmer, healthier greens at five golf clubs across England; Cold Ashby, Knowle, Leek, The South Buckinghamshire and Wilmslow.**

All of the courses involved could be considered to have a 'parkland' designation. The programme concluded at the end of 2012.

After six years, all clubs noted improvements in year round putting surface performance and especially winter play. However, they all had to overcome a variety of hurdles to achieve results.

For anyone considering following their path, take heed of the following conclusions from the project, as they might make the journey considerably smoother for you and your course.

Bear in mind that these comments relate to a certain type of

course and while they may well be applicable to most courses across the UK, there may be the opportunity for a more rapid change with different techniques on more open courses on lighter soils, such as links and heathland designations.

## Planning

An initial assessment is essential. This should determine the status of each green, set reasonable objectives and draw up a programme for improvement over a set period. It must include analysis of species composition, drainage, shade and thatch content.

A benchmark needs to be set for these criteria, and for objective performance measurements. Each green needs to be considered separately to identify the specific issues to be addressed, even to a more local level in terms of areas within putting surfaces that are subject to drainage and shade problems.

Means of objectively measuring the playing performance of putting surfaces must be implemented

**In the final article of this two part series, Steve Isaac, Director of Golf Course Management at the R&A, goes through the dos and don'ts of working towards a healthier environment**

from day one and undertaken on a regular enough basis to pick up trends. Choose a minimum of three (preferably six) indicator greens representative of the whole, so the best, worst and average, plus the putting green and, if available, a new construction.

## Essential assessments and minimum frequencies are considered to be:

- firmness using a Clegg Impact Hammer on a monthly basis (up to fortnightly from March to November)
- volumetric soil moisture content using a Theta Probe on a monthly basis when taking firmness readings (up to fortnightly from March to November)
- reliability using the R&A Holing Out Test on a weekly basis
- green speed on a weekly basis
- trueness and smoothness using the STRI Trueness Meter® at least twice a year
- organic matter content once a year
- botanical analysis once a year





playing quality. Focusing totally on playing quality can dramatically slow progress. Concentrating too much on sward improvement can see a dip in playing quality which could deter the club from proceeding further.

For those starting from a position where excessive organic matter, poor drainage and shade promote annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*) dominance and inadequate year round playability, the initial stages of the process do not involve a change in grass composition but rather the development of the environment in which fine grasses can grow.

Good drainage is the first prerequisite in promoting firmer greens. Only when this has been achieved can fine grasses be encouraged. It is essential that the causes of drainage issues are clearly identified at the outset.

These may include underlying problems with soil quality or old drainage systems, poor contouring encouraging water collection, shade or excessive organic matter.

Depending on the severity of your problems, improving drainage, reducing shade and bringing organic matter under control can cause significant disturbance. Progress will be quicker with work that creates more disruption, eg coring, deep scarification and topdressing, but more gradual progress can be made with less disruptive programmes.

The same applies to the approach to other maintenance practices that have an impact on turf health and species composition, such as irrigation, fertiliser and pesticide use.

Although part of the aim of the programme is to see the minimum use of such resources, a rapid

The cost of the initial phase of the project should be determined, both in financial terms and the likely disruption required from remedial treatments.

Do not expect costs to go down immediately as investment may be required to address problems before savings can be made.

There are, however, potential long term gains once immediate problems are overcome, eg reduced chemical usage and increased revenue from a longer season on the main greens.

The decision to proceed with a programme of improvement must be discussed and approved with club officials and members, with detail about what the programme involves and a commitment to implementing it for at least a three - year period.

Expectations must be realistic and managed.

**Implementation**

The course management team must achieve the right balance between sward improvement and



will be once organic matter content to the top 20 mm of the profile has been reduced to a maximum level of 10%, with favourable conditions below.

When in a position to start overseeding, some trial work may be required to determine the most effective technique. This relates to the timing of the work as well as the machinery used and aftercare.

For those undertaking overseeding once a suitable environment has been created, browntop bentgrass is likely to work better than fescue if the sward is dominated by annual meadowgrass.

With an increasing bent content and further refinement of the maintenance programme a bent/fescue mix can be employed. In the first year of overseeding there may be a low uptake but this will increase with time.

Native bent and fescue grasses may colonise in addition to those introduced via overseeding.

Use the proportion of bent in the sward to indicate when the greatest chance of achieving results with fescue is likely. It is suggested that at least 40% bentgrass content, distributed evenly across a green, is required before this situation will arise.

Eventually, the proportion of finer grasses will come to dominate the sward and it may then be appropriate to switch to fescue-only seed.

To give seedling grasses every chance of growing to maturity, amendments to the maintenance schedule, particularly in relation to operations that could damage seedlings such as mowing height, verticutting and top dressing, will have to be factored in.

However, do not go to extremes and try to implement work that balances the needs of the seedlings with those of the golfer.

While the advice for most wishing to go down this route will be to reduce inputs, it will be necessary to guard against reducing them to too low a level.

This particularly applies to situations where organic matter has been reduced to within the target range and this potential source of nutrition is no longer making a notable contribution to growth.

In such instances, too little fertiliser and inadequate protection against pests and diseases can cause an unnecessary downturn in playing quality.

Getting this right is something of a balancing act and will demand all of the greenkeeper's experience.

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**How does my club benefit?**

- Reduce costs of maintenance
- Improve playing conditions
- Reduce environmental impact
- Improve staff safety
- Reduce risk of injury to staff
- Reduce risk of injury to golfers
- Reduce risk of injury to spectators

WORKING FOR GOLF

three deep scarification (two with sand injection) treatments; a level of disruption that few clubs could tolerate. However, clubs need to be made aware of the options available to them and the consequences of any action taken.

Throughout the programme, the maintenance schedule will need to be amended and refined to take into account progress made. For example, once organic matter is at or near the desired level, the degree of disruptive treatment can be relaxed.

Better drainage, less shade and organic matter under control will produce a situation whereby even annual meadowgrass is under less stress and the programme can put more emphasis on reducing inputs such as water, fertiliser and pesticides.

The schedule will need to be adjusted to take into account inconsistencies within and between greens. It is important that the course management team is not afraid to amend the programme if something does not work or when there is a better alternative.

When working on a thatch reduction programme intensive aeration can result in nutrient release from the residual organic matter, so the fertiliser regime will need to be adjusted as this source of nutrition promotes growth and when it diminishes.

Initial overseeding of finer grasses should be delayed until organic matter is adequately reduced. The best value from initial overseeding

reduction when the sward composition remains dominated by annual meadowgrass will result in serious stress and deterioration in playing performance. The rate of reduction needs to be aligned to managing stress and retaining an acceptable level of surface quality.

The April 2012 issue of the STRI's Bulletin reported on a club that in just nine months reduced the organic matter in the 0-20mm range of the profile from just over 11% to under 5%! This was achieved through an intensive programme involving two coring and

## about the author

### Steve Isaac

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



## Results and reporting

Recording maintenance inputs and measuring performance throughout the programme is essential. Such information will help define trends, act as a future record, inform management practices and give an objective rather than a subjective viewpoint.

Analyse your data. Simply collecting a large set of numbers is a waste of time.

Keep a record of the cost of any action taken to bring about a better environment, eg drainage, tree removal and additional maintenance operations. The decision makers in the club who are not greenkeepers may not be able to follow an argument for investment and trust in the programme if it is based on agronomy; they will have a better understanding of the financial implications – estimated costs and forecasted savings/increase in revenue.

Keep a detailed record of anything that causes a slower rate of success or reduced impact from treatments such as wet summers. Include these as part of your reasoning behind the value of the programme. They must not be seen as excuses!

Use the analysed data to report on successes, and failures, to club management.

Be aware that the intensity of work required to control a significant organic matter problem can result in an initial increase in annual meadowgrass content, due to the degree of disturbance involved. Once organic matter control has been achieved, and greater stability prevails in relation to surface preparations, the proportion of finer grasses may increase from native sources or from overseeding.

During the process everybody should be kept updated, including club official presence on site inspections, to visually show the results. Seeing IS believing – use a camera!

Annual presentations to committee and members should be considered, to inform on progress.

## Summary

A clear pathway from soft, wet, disease-prone putting surfaces to firm, dry greens that perform well year round was the original hope for this project. The theory is sound, but there are many obstacles to overcome at any club wishing to achieve this aim, such as available resources, acceptance of disruption to play, internal politics and short-term thinking.



If you have successfully implemented a programme to produce a healthier putting surface environment and, in doing so, increased the proportion of finer grasses, The R&A would be delighted to hear from you. Send details of your achievements to Steve Isaac, Director – Golf Course Management, The R&A, St Andrews, KY16 9JD.

The outcomes of the project provide support for the theoretical pathway and also highlight the problems you may well face in taking it.

### To enhance your chances of success, make sure you:

- *measure playability throughout the year to demonstrate that any disruption is short term and that it brings long term improvement*
- *record costs as every club wants to see the value of their investment, and you will have to invest in your greens to bring about the desired results*

• *communicate at every level to ensure that you take people with you. This includes your team as well as club management and golfers*

Although this project has come to a conclusion, this is not the end of The R&A's interest in the clubs involved.

We intend keeping in touch with them and monitoring their progress.

They are all committed to the process, which has demanded a radical change in approach for some, and their journey has only just begun!







From left: David Gibbons, Luke Pythion, Steve Yates, Craig Hartley, James Newbold, John Barsby, Neil Baker





# Little first steps at Aston

Neil Baker was appointed Course Manager at Little Aston Golf Club in Birmingham earlier this year. Laurence Pithie met up with Neil to find out how he's made an impression in those vital early days in charge



**Prior to taking over the reins at Little Aston in Birmingham, Neil's career began at Weston-Super-Mare in 1992 before he moved across the Severn for spells at Royal Porthcawl and then neighbouring Pyle & Kenfig as First Assistant and Deputy respectively.**

A move to the South East followed in 2006 with seven years spent as Course Manager at Tandridge Golf Club; a gem of a Harry Colt designed course in rolling Surrey countryside.

Qualified to Level 3 in Sports Turf Management and being an A1 assessor, Neil is also keen to gain his Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Management followed by the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Award he has just applied for.

## MAKING THE MOVE

When I caught up with Neil I asked him about his move to Little Aston and what it entailed. He replied: "When changing jobs, it is not just about managing another golf course since there are usually other aspects to consider such as relocating my family. But this was the right decision as it was the next logical step in my career progression."

The course is recognised as being one of the best inland courses in the UK and is regularly listed in the top 100 courses in the GB&I rankings - a championship course set within a 176 acre environment of mature park and woodland. It has a tremendous history, having staged numerous tournaments, matches and competitions since its inception in 1908 and is currently staging Open qualifying for the next four years. So what were the key aspects for Neil in gaining this position?

"The club recognised the need to make a number of changes both on and off the course. They wanted to appoint a Course Manager who would take control, lead, be responsible and to work within the framework determined by the club.

"For my part, I needed to understand the club, their business and their objectives. Little Aston is no ordinary golf club. It is steeped in history, has a limited and exclusive membership, of which many are members of the R&A, including the Chairman of Green, Keith Andrews. Society and visitor play is minimal but there are a number of matches between former pupils from the top private schools in the UK. You never know who may be walking your fairways!



"Therefore, I needed to understand the way in which the club operates and to have a good feel for what the members want to see; their priority being good greens. When being interviewed for any position, it is important to do your homework and know the course and club where you hope to be employed. My role here includes being able to demonstrate my commitment to the club as well as my family, working the hours necessary to manage the course, but also to maintain a balance between the two."

## INITIAL ASSESSMENT & NECESSARY CHANGES

Neil continued: "My first impression of the course was good but it was somewhat tired in places. A course policy document was in place but it was in need of updating. The club were working closely with the STRI as their course advisors but it is fair to say that many of the recommendations being made had not been carried out.

"Record keeping, staff training and safety management were all in need of bringing up to date. I needed to implement these measures and to manage the team here accordingly in order to get the best out of them and help improve the condition of the golf course.

"In order to gain the confidence of both my team and the club, I

needed some 'quick wins', while at the same time, developing and proposing a five year plan covering the greenkeeping structure and the strategic development of the course.

"This would include bunkering, woodland management and heather regeneration as well as the capital investment in equipment to achieve these objectives. Communication would be vital if I was to succeed and this would involve board and members' presentations when deemed appropriate, along with regular newsletter updates. Being able to respond to questions is part of a Course Manager's role, along with addressing members' wishes."

## WORKING PROGRESS

As we toured the course, I asked Neil to detail the work completed and the practices now being implemented.

"The 'quick wins' were relatively straightforward, although as I started during 2013's bitterly cold spring these took longer to take effect. It was really a case of getting the basic agronomic practices in place along with improved course presentation. This required a greater level of intensity from tee divoting to greens aeration and from pedestrian mowing greens to rough management. To begin

### about the author



#### Laurence Pithie MG

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





with, some staff required extra hand cutting training and fine tuning to match the standards set, therefore there was an initial period of training and assessment; very necessary if the established goals were to be achieved. There were some interesting discussions along the way, but now we have a better trained and motivated team, which has now been increased in size to seven staff. I am fortunate to be able to delegate many tasks to my Deputy Course Manager David Gibbons.

“Greens were the first priority since some turf loss had occurred following previous Anthracnose Foliar Blight infection. Being shallow rooted, overall turf health had to improve, therefore aeration and top dressing intensified along with an improved nutrient program. This year, nearly 160 tons of top dressing will have been applied to the greens along with 140kg of Bent grass seed used for overseeding.

“This type of work is now being extended onto the front approaches to achieve similar results. The fairways were also lacking in vigour and growth and they too required

increased aeration and a general feed to improve sward density. This theme has continued, namely getting the basics in place and more attention being spent on turf health and playing surface performance.

“In terms of management changes, it was a case of getting to grips with implementing various working procedures such as work planning and labour scheduling, while focusing on improving staff training and general motivation.

“Carrying out individual appraisals and focusing on strengths and weaknesses, I was then able to identify what was required. This ranged from better clothing to time-keeping and turfgrass knowledge. It is all part of creating a better working environment where staff take pride and ownership.”

Another and perhaps unusual aspect at Little Aston is the 34 strong artisan section, whose ages range from 25 to 83. In return for free golf at certain times of the week, each person completes up to three hours per week which amounts to about 90 hours of additional work being achieved on the course. This mainly entails bunker raking and

BELOW: Large Colt bunker kept in good shape

edging, fairway divot filling and woodland management.

Neil added: “Part of my role is to improve the outcome of their valued work contribution and this meant implementing a number of changes. This proved to be a challenge since implementing change is not always easy. However, once the reasons were explained and examples of work practice demonstrated,





all was well and I value their effort and enthusiasm for making the course as good as possible.”

Apart from the general routine practices and improvements being made both on and off the course, Neil highlighted some other key aspects at Little Aston.

“The 100 or so bunkers are a major feature on this course which was designed by Harry Vardon. It was then remodelled by Harry Colt’s genius in 1916; this at a time when there were fewer trees and bunkers were hazards to be avoided. Through time, changes to club and ball technology and members’ expectations, many have lost shape. Plans are afoot to make the necessary changes. Another key aspect is heather regeneration which is the responsibility of my deputy. Fortunately David has been growing heather on site since 2009. The planting of numerous young heathers, plus on site heather stock grown from seed generously donated by Jon Wood at Enville Golf Club, have been used on many of the holes to date. This followed acidifying and other prep work to the soil as well as tree removal and again this forms part of the overall strategy.”

**CONCLUSION**

When I was on site with Neil, a young apprentice was being given a tour of the course by the Deputy before starting work the following week.

When he met up with Neil, his advice was short and to the point; “Don’t be late, work hard and enjoy what you are doing”. This approach is at the heart of his style of management.

When asked to sum up what advice Neil would give to other Course Managers who are about to start a new job his key tips were:

- Analyse your site
- Evaluate your team
- Produce and present a business plan
- Know what the members expect
- Walk before you run

He added: ‘It is all about managing the structure and any changes that are necessary and working to four key phases in your daily set up; namely to Plan, Organise, Lead & Control.’

*Laurence is grateful to Neil Baker and Little Aston GC for their help and input in producing this article.*



TOP: Young heather plantings on hole 12  
 MIDDLE: Good example of managing the roughs  
 INSET: Neil Baker





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# Everything changes

Tammy Ball will be speaking at the Turf Managers' Conference next month – and here's a sneak preview aimed at managers and deputies as she examines how change in the workplace should be communicated



**Change in the workplace presents itself in a variety of ways. It can be a complete transformation of how an organisation conducts business, it can be a minor change in a particular department's business process, or it can simply involve moving one employee's desk to the other side of a room.**

In most organisations, the decision to change something comes after complex research and heated debate among leaders and management, or simply because someone noticed a desk was located in an inconvenient place in the reception room.

Leaders, managers and supervisors in a workplace environment are usually quite adept at recognising what changes need to be made in order to create opportunities to increase productivity or satisfy customers. However there is a big difference in deciding, doing and executing a sustainable change. Recent research indicates 50% to 70% of organisational change efforts fail, and the reasons for failure range from lack of leadership support to budget overspend. There is one overriding theme which stands out in all of the research in this field; the people affected by the change ultimately determine whether the change is executed in a sustainable and successful manner. In other words, Change is Personal. Why would the people in your organisation resist something new? Here are but a few things employees might say or think when asked to change how they work:

- Were we doing something

wrong? I thought everything was going just fine.

- I don't like outsiders telling me how to do my job.
- Is my job in jeopardy? Are they preparing for a reorganisation?
- This is stupid and I'm not doing it.

Here's an example. In early 2012, Jerry had just started his new job as training manager for a service organisation with 500 employees and about £7m in turnover. His first assignment was to train 450 of the employees how to use a new software program which allowed them to scan paperwork and file it electronically. This project had begun in 2011 and it was now all set for implementation. The staff would no longer need to keep or file physical papers in those disorganised manila folders which would not only free up physical space in the offices, but also allow them to access files from any computer. This new process would lend itself to a more mobile way of performing their job duties. What a great idea, right?

Jerry had been in a few meetings with the leaders and executives who had made the decision a year ago to set the project in motion. He was told the technology was in place, testing had been successful and everyone was excited to launch the training.

When Jerry arranged the training for the first 50 people, he quickly discovered a few obvious problems. He walked into the training room and immediately sensed palpable feelings of distrust and resistance. He thought the staff would actually be excited (as he was told) and full of anticipation to learn something

new and innovative. Instead, the majority were either overtly rude and sarcastic or withdrawn. As he continued to present the training content and introduce the new step-by-step processes, he uncovered some of the ugly truths that would ultimately halt the entire project and place the implementation of a multi-million pound investment in jeopardy. Jerry knew some things about change in the workplace and was beginning to understand this particular change was fraught with problems and he knew if he continued with the training part, the project would fail. He realised that although the concept of this new technology was very sound and the many benefits were undeniable, the people responsible for using it and making it work had been left out of the planning process and decision-making. In fact, they had not even been informed of who, what, when, where, how or even why this change was taking place. They were simply told it was mandatory to show up to a training class.

Jerry scheduled a meeting with the leaders responsible for the new technology project and went to work creating a new plan to show them. Having spent a day with that group of employees who were expected to implement and use the new process, he suspected the level of resistance would pervade throughout the company and ultimately cause the project to fail. Jerry had some ideas about how to salvage the implementation and turn things around. He knew that ANY change in the workplace has a greater chance of success if every employee affected by the change understands the following basic







fundamental aspects about the change:

- The reason for the change - the WHY
- Who will be affected by the change? This includes internal staff, customers, business partners, and all other stakeholders
- How will each person be affected by the change? More importantly, how will I doing my job differently every day?
- What will change about my daily job duties?
- When will these changes take place?

These few things sound very fundamental and fairly easy to communicate. So why don't companies follow these steps? In reality it is because to do them right can be labour intensive and they take time and energy. There must be heavy doses of relating and connecting with those individuals who are affected the most. After the interactions, leaders and other change advocates must use the information and feedback for creat-

ing key messages to communicate consistently and often throughout the entire process and beyond. The results are well worth the efforts and the effect is multiplied throughout the organisation. Engaged employees are not only more accepting of future changes, but are more likely to become change advocates. Employees who feel seen and heard are more loyal, productive and seek to create a positive work atmosphere.

In every profession, every business, every organisation and every company, change is either happening or about to happen. Even the smallest, least intrusive change can meet with drama and great resistance if not handled with the people in mind. The leaders and managers who are responsible for seeing changes through to their successful implementation must involve affected team members from the beginning. The reason the change is being considered must be made clear and communicated consistently. Once all team members can

understand the idea and determine how he or she is personally affected, the mystery begins to fade and is replaced by clarity. During times of change in the workplace, clarity diminishes resistance and creates space for healthy anticipation and cooperation.

How are you, as leaders and managers, affected during change efforts, and what can you do to prepare yourself and your team?

- Acquaint yourself with the change and get the details
- Acknowledge the change and assess your own level of resistance
- Communicate and interact with every team member
- Recognise the stages of change and help your team navigate through

Taking time to interact, relate and connect with the people will make the biggest difference during times of change in the workplace. Accurate and consistent messages and honest expectations must be a part of every conversation and communication.

#### about the author



American-born Tammy Ball has 15 years experience as a change leadership specialist and, together with her husband Rob, founded Coaching by the Balls – geared to ensuring individuals get the results they need professionally and personally. Tammy also conducts training workshops and lectures in customer service.





# My Belgian Summer

Steve Hiron, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Kirtlington Golf Club, recently decided to broaden his horizons and headed to work at a Championship golf course in Belgium – here's his story

**Ever since getting into greenkeeping 15 years ago I've always wondered what it would be like to work on a golf course abroad. Since becoming Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Kirtlington five years ago I thought this was unlikely unless I moved permanently to another country.**

But when I heard that courses in Europe are always looking for British greenkeepers to work on their courses during the summer months, I asked my club if there was any way of being able to experience this as I knew it would enhance my CV and career.

After thinking this through and finding cover for me they allowed me to do it, so I set up a meeting with Tony Martin from Golf Recruit – the main company who advertise such jobs on the BIGGA website and in Greenkeeper International. I met Tony at BTME 2013, he explained what would happen and answered everything I needed to know. I sent my CV to Tony which he then

circulated to various golf clubs. We then kept in contact until an offer was made from Golf de Pierpoint in Belgium which had an 18 hole championship course and also a small 9 hole course. After researching the course I discovered that it held tournaments including the European Seniors Tour event, so I decided this would be a great place to work and gain experience. I was to start in May. When the time came to head over there I felt nervous, but excited at the same time.

Getting there was so easy, it was a couple of hours drive down to Dover, two hours on the ferry and then another two hours drive through France in to Belgium. I arrived on a Sunday afternoon and was warmly welcomed by Gary Nisbet the General Manager, he showed me to my room which again was sorted out by Golf Recruit. I unpacked and settled in before Gary gave me a detailed tour of the course, clubhouse and hotel. I then got an early night ready to start work the following day.

Day one involved meeting the team. Golf de Pierpoint have three full time staff plus one seasonal worker and a Course Manager who looked after three other courses in the area. I was shown around the course by the Head Greenkeeper Pascal and also cut some greens. I then cut greens for the remainder of the week to help me get used to the order of their cutting routines. In my first week a representative from Golf Recruit also came out to see me to check everything was going well. As for the language, a couple of the greenkeepers only spoke French but generally it wasn't a problem as the Course Manager, Pascal and his assistant all spoke English.

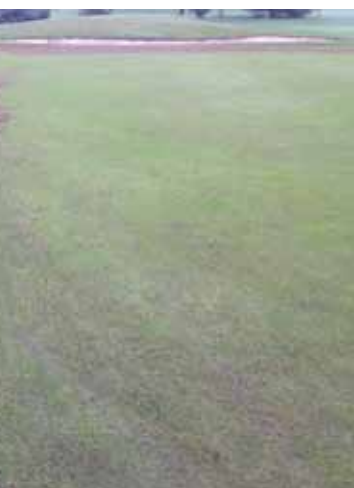
The Course Manager would usually call Pascal most mornings and discuss the day's plans, we were then given our jobs for the day. Their summer hours were 6am till 3.30pm. The main difference for me was that at the end of the day, they always ensured their machines were spotless and greased for the next days' use, spending much



Golf Recruit brings together industry specialists from the world of golf and professional business best practice, to deliver the highest level of recruitment services to the golf industry.

For more details, and how to apply to work abroad yourself, contact Tony Martin on 0208 2496062 or email [tony.martin@golfrecruit.com](mailto:tony.martin@golfrecruit.com)





longer on this than I'm used to.

As my time at the club continued I was involved in all sorts of tasks around the 27 holes including their greens maintenance, which involved hollow tining and top dressing. Their machines are pretty similar consisting of a mixture of Toro, John Deere and Ransomes Jacobsen so it didn't take long to get used to them.

The club hosted a couple of big competitions during my time there so I got to see the differences between their general daily set up of the course and tournament set up which was great, this gave me a few new ideas to take back with me to my course. I noticed a lot of similarities between their approach and ours at Kirtlington, and also how they dealt with the conditions. The climate seemed very similar to ours.

They did suffer from some Fusarium on the greens, and sprayed a contact fungicide as soon as they spotted it. They appeared to have no other problems with disease—for example they didn't suffer from red thread due to their regular nitrogen fertiliser programme. They had a lot more meadowgrass and bent grasses on the greens and surrounding areas than I'm used to.

After work I usually just relaxed or played a bit of golf - on Wednes-

days I took part in the manager's nine hole competition, a great way to meet some of the members. The club had a lovely friendly vibe about it all round. At weekends I took the time to go and see Brussels and the site of the Battle of Waterloo. I also visited Bruges and Antwerp, two beautiful cities. These trips allowed me to compare French and Flemish cultures which was extremely interesting.

I also spent a lot of time at weekends with Gary and his family during my summer in Belgium. I can't thank them enough for looking after me - their barbecues were the best! I made a lot of good friends and still keep in contact with them all now. It truly was an amazing work, cultural and life experience which I will never forget. I would encourage any greenkeeper at any stage of their career to look into doing something similar if at all possible.

I would particularly like to thank Tony Martin (Golf Recruit), Gary Nisbet (General Manager Golf de Pierpont), Brett Moggridge (Head Greenkeeper at Kirtlington) and Pam Smith (General Manager at Kirtlington) for making it all happen. If anyone wants to know anything else from my experience please feel free to email me at [Hirons07@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Hirons07@hotmail.co.uk)



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# The Open 2013

## The greenkeeping story

STRI Turfgrass  
Agronomist  
Richard Windows  
reflects on 2013's  
superb Open  
Championship  
at Muirfield  
and tells the  
agronomic  
story behind its  
success

**The 2013 Open Championship at Muirfield in July was certainly one to remember. Muirfield was in fabulous condition and the playing surfaces were the firmest and fastest in recent years and perhaps even in the history of the Championship.**

The firm, fast and bouncy conditions set a great challenge for the players. The leaderboard and Phil Mickelson's eventual win suggested

that the traditional links conditions challenged and identified the best golfers in the world.

The warm and dry weather played a major part in the story of The 2013 Open but so did the agronomic quality of the course, combined with the skill, judgement and knowledge of the greenkeeping team headed by Course Manager Colin Irvine. This article starts to tell the greenkeeping story of what was a truly memorable Championship.

Since 2009, STRI have a team of four at The Open to take a range of objective measurements from the greens and other parts of the course. We measure firmness, speed, smoothness and trueness of the greens, along with the firmness and soil moisture of selected green aprons and fairways.

We begin this process on the Tuesday before official practice and continue up until the Championship ends. The detailed information



## “As the Championship moved closer, the aim was to reduce soil moisture values further to optimise surface firmness and reward accurate ball striking”

striking and accurate positional play. The surfaces should remain receptive to a well struck shot taken from tight fairway lies but release those that are poorly struck or taken from the rough. In essence, well struck shots are generally rewarded and poorly struck shots are punished.

Now that we use the Clegg Impact Hammer to measure surface firmness we can put a number on this. The target is to achieve Clegg Hammer values of 100-130 gravities. However, since testing began in 2009, a run of successive wet Opens has meant the top end of this range hadn't yet been tested.

The achievement of target firmness is all about the condition of the underlying soil profile. The desired level of surface firmness cannot be achieved if the soil profile is failing and too moisture retentive. So, the focus in the years leading up to The Open involved regular sand top dressing to regulate organic matter content and create a sandy, dry and free draining soil profile.

Sand top dressing was applied to keep organic matter to 4-6% and 0-20 mm and less than 5% lower down. Due to the intensity of sand top dressing, organic matter was in the perfect place for The Open.

Careful management of organic matter to reduce moisture retention was one part of the strategy to optimise surface firmness. The other part of the strategy involved consolidation of the soil profile by regular rolling and targeted aeration.

Objective measurements and bespoke research carried out by STRI in the years leading up to The Open demonstrated that the soils were a little loose and there was a significant difference in firmness between trafficked and non-trafficked areas. The trafficked areas were firmer and supported tighter soils, with a higher soil bulk density, whereas non-trafficked areas were looser and slightly softer. To provide optimum levels of firmness, we needed to carefully manage soil moisture but also improve the consolidation and bulk density of the soils.

The strategy to improve the consolidation of the underlying soils

involved a programme of regular rolling combined with routine hand mowing. From early April, rolling was implemented two to three times a week with the Tru-Turf roller.

This operation intensified in frequency through the spring and daily operations were implemented in the final four to five weeks before the Championship. In addition, from mid-April, all mowing was carried out with John Deere 180 hand mowers and the frequency intensified throughout the spring.

Daily operations were implemented from mid-May until the Saturday before official practice began. The squeezing and soil consolidation effect of rolling and hand mowing was probably most effective during early to mid-June when a period of wet weather occurred which increased soil moisture values.

During the latter stages of preparation, careful regulation of soil moisture via specific wetting agent use and accurate irrigation inputs, aided with the regular use of a Theta Probe soil moisture meter, was the plan. The initial target during May and June was to maintain soil moisture around 12-15% (weather permitting) and to retain strong and healthy growth to facilitate the necessary sward refinement operations.

During mid-June, the firmness values were 119 gravities at a soil moisture content of 14% - progressing nicely towards the target.

As the Championship moved closer, the aim was to reduce soil moisture values further to optimise surface firmness and reward accurate ball striking. It was possible to reduce soil moisture without compromising sward health and ball roll qualities.

This was due to root development being deep and strong, and the fact that browntop bent and fine fescue dominated the sward. On 10 July soil moisture values were 9.2% and surface firmness had increased to 132 gravities. These values were the firmest achieved since objective testing began at The Open in 2009.

In the last seven to ten days leading up to and then during the Championship, soil moisture measurements were taken from all

provided informs and supports the decision making process regarding daily course setup. It also provides an accurate record of the performance from each Open and the standards achieved. This allows assessments of what worked and what didn't and drives a constant culture of learning for the future.

Very firm surfaces are at the heart of links golf and The Open Championship. The aim is to provide very firm surfaces that reward clean ball



greens twice a day. From this information, green specific irrigation inputs were calculated and applied.

The aim was to ensure sufficient moisture was applied to keep the surfaces healthy, and to ensure that the surfaces were uniform and very firm to provide the optimum challenge to the players. It was also important to ensure the visual presentation of the greens were authentic to the warm and dry weather conditions encountered in the weeks leading up to The Open.

Accurate measurements of soil moisture were a crucial part of this process, combined with the incredibly skilful implementation of hand watering from the green staff. This was top class greenkeeping in action. At the start of The Championship, surface firmness was 147 gravities and soil moisture values were 6.5%.

As the greens became firmer and drier, ball roll qualities continued to improve. Due to the relatively benign weather forecast for the Championship, it was possible to safely generate additional green speed.

The aim was to achieve speeds of 11ft for the start of play. On Thursday morning, the average speed was 10ft 11in following a double cut at 4mm and Tru-Turf roll.

Green speeds had consistently increased by 2-3 feet during the course of the day throughout the practice rounds, and the forecast suggested a similar trend would be sustained. So, the firmness and speed of the greens were set for a challenging day of links golf.

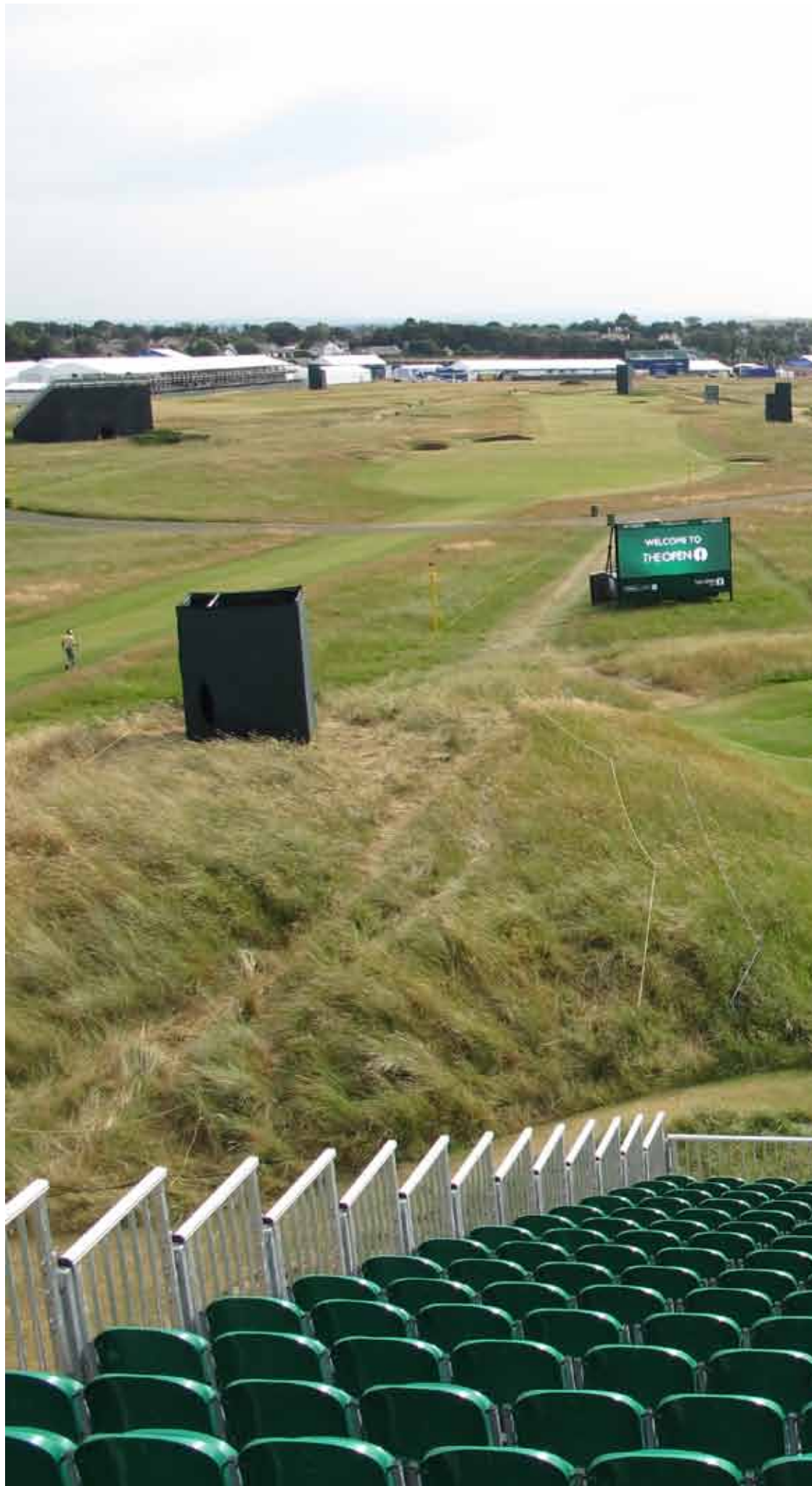
Thursday certainly developed into an interesting day. It was particularly sunny with a warm and drying westerly breeze. Temperatures increased slightly higher than predicted with a maximum of 27°C and very high solar radiation. Records from the Muirfield weather station showed it was in effect the warmest and sunniest day in July and one of the most extreme days of summer weather for several years.

These conditions, combined with footprinting from play, desiccated the sward and gave the greens a particularly glassy appearance.

The resultant effect was significantly greater increases in speed during the day and some particularly challenging conditions for the golfers during the latter part of the afternoon.

Contrary to the comments from some players, the greens were certainly not dead!

The greens became very quick, especially in areas of high foot traffic, which inevitably meant the area









around the hole. While the surfaces were quick, there was never any suggestion of play having to be suspended.

To reinvigorate the sward and replenish lost soil moisture, hand watering was accurately and expertly delivered overnight.

Soil moisture measurements from each green were taken along with spatial measurements to each individual surface. The plan was to increase soil moisture levels slightly in comparison to the previous day in order to retain moisture within the leaf for longer and therefore provide a better balance of speed between the morning and afternoon. The amount of water applied was minimal and amounted to 1-1.5 mm.

As moisture increased to 8.7%, excellent levels of surface firmness were retained at 147 gravities and green speeds were set at 10ft 2in for Friday morning. As with Thursday, the greens dried out similarly through Friday but not to the same extent. Speeds increased by 2-3ft during the course of the day.

For the weekend, the objective was to set the course up in a similar way with very firm greens and speed

increasing during the day although not to the extent of Thursday and Friday.

It remained crucially important to ensure the visual appearance of the greens were consistent and authentic to the warm and dry weather received.

A further 1-1.5 mm of irrigation was delivered by hand. As the greens did not dry as much during the less extreme conditions on Friday, soil moisture values were 10.5% for Saturday morning, with firmness values of 138 gravities and green speeds of 10ft 4in.

Although firmness had been tempered slightly, they were still the firmest and indeed driest greens in recent years for The Open.

Again, on Saturday, the greens picked up significant pace during the course of the afternoon.

The same programme of irrigation was repeated on Saturday night for the final day of play and almost exactly the same conditions in terms of speed, moisture and firmness were presented on the morning of the final day.

Unfortunately, the weather didn't develop as predicted with tempera-

tures peaking at 19°C and solar radiation 50% less than Thursday. This meant the greens didn't dry as they had on Thursday, Friday and Saturday so speeds were slightly slower on Sunday compared to previous afternoons.

Achieving firmness to the greens was of course important but it was essential to match the firmness values of the green aprons and indeed fairways to those of the greens. To achieve this level of consistency, selected green aprons and fairways were selected for Clegg Hammer and Theta Probe readings to accurately inform the necessary maintenance operations.

In the 10-14 days before the Championship, verticutting was carried out to the aprons to refine sward density in addition to careful regulation of irrigation and regular rolling. By the start of practice, the fairways were consistent with the green aprons and the green aprons were perfectly consistent with the greens.

They remained this way throughout the Championship due to careful regulation of soil moisture. It is this level of refinement and

### about the author



#### Richard Windows

Richard is Agronomy Service Manager for STRI working from a Glasgow base. He has worked as an STRI Agronomist for 13 years. A major part of his work is to provide agronomic advice and support on behalf of The R&A to all Open Championship venues in Scotland, a role he has carried out since 2003. In addition to this work he has helped developed the STRI Programme Agronomy Service and was co-author of the Disturbance Theory.

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**Richard Cutler**  
Course Manager  
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*“Medallion TL quickly stopped disease and allowed turf to recover.”*



**Marcus Oakey**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Moor Allerton  
Golf Club

*“Even with snow cover we achieved five weeks disease prevention.”*



**Stan Power**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Hanbury Manor Golf Club

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



maintenance accuracy which highlights the value of objective measurements.

The 2013 Open at Muirfield was truly memorable. The agronomic and playing performance of the course was superb.

The course was kept as dry as was considered to be reasonably possible, resulting in the firmest and fastest Open greens in recent times. Accurate, objective measurements informed Colin Irvine in his decision making and the maintenance operations were superbly and skilfully implemented by Colin's team of dedicated greenkeepers.

Working with the Muirfield staff for two weeks, it was abundantly clear we were working with a team of greenkeepers at the very top of their profession.

Despite the agronomic challenges presented by the hot and dry conditions, the course was universally praised.

The quality of the leaderboard reaffirmed Muirfield's status as a superb golf course which presents its greatest challenge when played in traditional firm and fast links conditions.



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# We need you

Join the BIGGA Open Support Team at The Open 2014, at Royal Liverpool

**Applications are now open for a place on BIGGA's Open Support Team for the 143rd Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club next July.**

We require full BIGGA members to join our team behind the scenes. They will be supporting the home greenkeeping team at Hoylake by raking bunkers alongside the players during the four rounds.

You may also be required to complete early morning preparation work and evening divot repairing.

It's a real development opportu-

nity from both a professional and personal point of view. You will gain an understanding of the technical preparations from the home greenkeeping team and sample the atmosphere of one of the world's greatest golf tournaments.

You will also spend several days with greenkeepers from across the UK and the world with many remaining firm friends for years to come.

You will receive accommodation, a food allowance, daily transport to and from the course, a waterproof

suit and polo shirts – all you have to do is make your way to Liverpool. The 2014 tournament proper begins on Thursday 17 July with the winner crowned on Sunday 20 July.

To apply, just fill in the application form on the opposite page and return by post to Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF by Friday 31 January 2014. We'll announce the team in February and the successful applicants will then be allocated various roles within the team. Good luck!

Name .....

Golf Club .....

Position .....

Age.....

BIGGA Membership Number .....

Home address .....

.....

.....

Email Address .....

Mobile Number .....

.....

**Passport photo attached?.....**

**Waterproof measurements; waist.....leg length.....**

**Polo shirt measurement; chest.....**

**Are you available for the Early Morning Prep team from Monday 14th July? .....**

**Sunday final night (20th July) accommodation required? ..**

**Any specific dietary needs?.....**

**If so please state .....**

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:

	Applied	Successful
Muirfield, 2013.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal Lytham & St Annes, 2012.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal St George's, 2011 .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St Andrews, 2010 .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turnberry, 2009 .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years ....  Yes  No

I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee.....

I am an active member of the BIGGA CPD Scheme .....

I have attended three of the last five BTMEs. ....

I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team.....

I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.).....

I am an overseas Member.....

IMPORTANT INFO

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members.

**Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.**

To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. **Closing date is 31st January 2014.** You will be notified in February if you have been successful.









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



# Around the green



## Scotland

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



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**AYRSHIRE**  
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jimp54@btinternet.com



**EAST**  
Scott Corrigan  
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**NORTH**  
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daleturnberry@btinternet.com / grassman351@aol.com



**WEST**  
Stuart Taylor  
stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

## Events Coming Up

### Central

With BTME taking place in January we don't have anything arranged for the immediate future but we shall try and get something set up for around the middle/end of February and will notify members by the usual method.

### News

#### Central

Over 40 members turned up for the seminar at Auchterarder GC on 10 December where the five speakers gave interesting presentations on a range of subjects. Our thanks to them for and to the Golf Club for the use of the facilities, a small report on the day is on our website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Please see the Newsdesk section of the magazine for a tribute to David Wilson.

#### West

First of all, can I wish everybody a Happy New Year. I will start with a meeting set up by John Young, chaired by myself to look into possible changes with golf events in the Scottish region. The idea is to try and encourage more participation and revamp certain tournaments all section secretaries were in attendance along with the administrator and Scottish chairman. Proposals are being developed which will be put forward to the Scottish Board for approval before any alterations are carried out.

On 24 October the West section held its AGM at Haggis Castle Golf Club, 26 people attended and they were treated to a couple of

talks, one by Alistair Eccles of British Seed Houses, and the other by Gary Smith of Sherriff Amenity thanks to them and to all who attended. Thanks to Haggis Castle for hosting the event and most of all to the new recruits on the West section committee, Ronnie Miles as Vice Chairman, Bruce Cruickshanks and Kerr Rowan, it's nice to see new blood.

Some training days took place recently, which appear to have been well attended. Firstly STRI organised 4 days of workshops at Loch Lomond of which I had a couple of guys attend and they thought they were excellent. The subjects covered were pests and diseases, turf management, construction, and turf science, so well done STRI and long may they continue.

Next was the course walk over Loch Lomond, the two people I sent came back full of praise for the course, the organisation, the facilities, and the quality of the staff information, it just goes to show what can be achieved with the correct resources and knowledge. Loch Lomond is to be congratulated, many thanks to David Cole and Peter Heggarty for their help on the day and David McBride for arranging everything.

The Christmas night out was held at Qui Italia on 22 November courtesy of Gerry Bruen our Chairman. Most people left at a respectable time only a few diehards stayed until the end, no names mentioned. Next year we will try a different venue to keep things lively.

I had a few staff members take part in the Movember campaign. Next year you might get a couple of other willing helpers considering it all goes to a charity (prostate cancer). My staff members were Craig McLean, Gerard Broadley, and Bryan Ramsey.

Congratulations to Bryan Ramsey on winning the Patrons award. The award is given for supporting the section events over the years both at outings and educational days; I was privileged to be asked to the Patrons award dinner held at Gleneagles Hotel on 5 December. Well done to John Young for organising the event and thanks to Scott Fenwick for his talk on preparations for the Ryder Cup next year, Gleneagles proved to be an excellent location.

On a sad note may I pass on my condolences to all those at Scotlube after hearing about the death of Stewart Clayton, Stewart was a great supporter of the Scottish region attending as many events as he could throughout the country so it was very sad to hear of his passing, our thoughts go with all his family and company members.

I would also like to mention the passing of Andy Wills who worked with Nairn Brown; Andy delivered machines for 10 years with the company but sadly passed away suddenly after a heart failure. Our condolences go to all those at Nairn Brown and his wife at this very difficult time.

Finally can I say best wishes to Aitkens on successfully completing 50 years in the business, long may they continue serving the country with their needs and I hope you have another 50 prosperous years.

Best wishes to all for the new season, and remember to check out the West section's blog.





# Northern

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



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## Events Coming Up

### North East

Course walk arranged at Rockcliffe on February 14 check Facebook and Twitter pages for full details.

### North Wales

There still may be spaces left for the coach to BTME on 22 January, please contact me asap if you are interested in booking a seat.

## News

### Cleveland

A bit of catching up in the news department as it's been a while since the last update so here goes, the Boulby potash mine trip went well and the guys who went down are a lot braver than me! Remember these trips can be organised as often as we want it's just the numbers that are limited. So if you fancy it give Pembo a ring on 07791 695768.

Olly Shepard is in the news again. He has recently started a new job as a fly fishing coach - good luck Olly.

News around the clubs: Mount Oswald Golf Club has closed but they've bought Hallgarth Hall, Darlington. Rockcliffe held the English Senior Open and will be returning on 29 - 31 August 2014.

The section AGM was held at Teeside Golf Club on 21 November. Kevin Scarce was guest speaker and presented an overview of the online management systems available on the market. One major outcome was the appointment of Barry Walker as the new chairman. Kevin has stepped down due to work commitments.

The annual Richmond 'Ryder Cup' challenge against the club pros took place and my team comprehensively beat the pros for the second time in three years, a 10-6 win, and I recorded my first round of golf in a long while with a 5 and 4 win over the club pro! Roll on next year!

Get in touch with Anthony McGeough on amcgeough@aol.com or Ian Pemberton on ispemberton@ntlworld.com.

### North Wales

Gareth Woosnam ex of Oswestry Golf Club has taken the position of Head Greenkeeper at Keele Golf Centre, Staffordshire; we wish him all the best in his new position.

### Northern

The Xmas bash at Baildon Golf Club should have been a great test of golf for us but unfortunately mother nature decided to take the mick! As we arrived it was blue sky with no wind and the bar was open, but within minutes the thickest fog came in and never moved! So the day

ended early to the disappointment of all but we could not do anything else.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all you guys who attended the golf days and your support over the year. We try as always to deliver a great day out for us all and have a good fixture list to look forward to for 2014.

For next season we will be getting a mobile phone for the section so we can send text messages, reminders for golf days and any other section held functions to your mobiles. Send me your number and I'll add you.

## Results

### Cleveland

The Autumn tournament at Sharpley Springs Golf Club was played and I would just like to take this opportunity to say what a wonderfully presented course it is. The greens were excellent and a credit to Richie Hood and his staff. I hope we get the chance to play there again.

Div 1: 1 Paul Walton 34pts, 2 Martin Woods 34, 3 Paul Legg 32. Div 2: 1 Ben McGratten 40, 2 Tony Bell 37, 3 Liam Atkinson 31. Div 3: 1 Ian Pemberton 34, 2 Liam Dover 31, 3 Daniel Egan 27.

Trade winner Jamie Applegarth 30pts. Longest drive Phil "the beast from bishop" Graham. Nearest the pins Paul Legg, Liam Atkinson and Ian Pemberton.

### North East

Dunstanburgh Castle Bring a bottle winter comp. Firstly thanks must go to Stuart Imeson and his team, who must be the youngest set of greenkeepers in the country! They set the course up fabulously for this event.

Results: Cat 1 S Cram on count back from D Wilkinson. Cat 2 G Baxter. Cat 3 J Thorpe. Well done to D Wilkinson who had a hole in one on the 4th. Thanks also from myself and S Olver to Ian Pemberton (secretary Cleveland section) for the invite to play their section's bring a bottle, would be nice to see both sections working closely together next year.

### North Wales

The results of the Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool, Hoylake are: 1 Michael Hughes, John Corbett, Peter Lacey and Miles Todd 82 pts, 2 Craig Gilholm, Jim Croxton, Carl Crocher and Andrew Cornes 81, 3 Alan Kelsall, T Oates, Terry Adamson and Charlie Land 80.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### Cleveland

Big thank you to the Autumn tournament's sponsor Kevin Diamond of GREENLAY and all the other prize sponsors Amenity Technology, TSL, Rigby Taylor and Aitkens.

### North East

For the winter bring a bottle comp - Greenlay for sponsoring the food. Ramside Course walk - Roger Shaw Course Manager for his time and expertise during the walk. Sherriff Amenity for the after course walk fertiliser presentation and Michael McKenna for his insight into warm season grasses and his experiences of maintenance practices in Dubai and USA.

## New Members

Guy Webster, Greenkeeper, Hallgarth Golf and Country Club, Shane Donald, Greenkeeper, St Annes Old Links GC, Steve Swindell, Greenkeeper, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, David Thornton, Greenkeeper, Tunshill GC Ltd, James Cram, Trainee Greenkeeper, Slaley Hall GC (De Vere), Gareth Tibbetts, Trainee Greenkeeper, Rhuddlan GC.

## Midland

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



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**EAST MIDLAND**  
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## Events Coming Up

### Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the annual pilgrimage to BTME in Harrogate.

Hopefully many from the section will attend as it's always good to catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

## News

### East of England

It is with great sadness we learned of the passing of Stewart Clayton from Midlube last month after a long battle with illness.

He was well known within the section as an avid golfer and excellent supporter and he will be truly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

## Results

### Midland

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December with 28 playing golf.

The course was in fantastic condition, and a real credit to competition secretary Rhys Thomas and his highly skilled team, for the presentation of the course on what was a very pleasant winter's day.

Well done Rhys and a big thank you to your Club, especially the Captain, Ashley Cox who joined us for dinner. Results of the day were: 1 N Tyler & S Banks 40pts, 2 J Fox & H Middlebrook 40, 3 R Thomas & A Lane 39, 4 C Woodall & C Allen 39.

### East of England

Christmas Invitation Texas Scramble at Lincoln Golf Club, Friday 13 December. 1 Carl Chamberlain, Rob Newas, Andy Davis, John Venters. 2 Graeme Macdonald, Alex Clarricotes, Nigel, Charlie. 3 Adi Kitchenson, Russ Moody, David Grundy, Andy Hill. Nearest the pins: Steve Brattan, Alex Clarricotes.

Many thanks to Adi, Russ and the team for producing a course in fantastic condition and to the catering staff at the club for an excellent Christmas dinner!

### Mid Anglia

On December 11 we had our Christmas Texas Scramble at Stocks GC. Although it was a touch foggy for the opening couple of hours many

played better than normal not being able to see!

Thanks to Steve Mason and his staff for presenting the course in superb condition and to all the staff and owners.

It was very much enjoyed by all and was a fantastic end to our golfing season for 2013. Some quality golf was played and here are the results:

1 C Petherick, R Webb, S Kelly, R Howson, scored 57 (14 under gross with a handicap of 2) Par 73. 2 O Browning, A Fulcher, M Finn, J Frampton, scored 58.2. 3 N Broadwith, K Armstrong, W Anthony, G Merrison, scored 58.4. Nearest the Pins: Oly Browning, Frank Scullion, James Camfield, Michael Finn.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### Midland

Many thanks to Mark Silk and Working Turf for their sponsorship of the main prize table at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December. Thanks also to Whitemoss, Sherriffs, Global Sales and Countrywide who provided nearest the pin prizes.

Thanks also to all the trade reps who provided raffle prizes. The half way house was provided by Farols, many thanks to Kev Pugh for the refreshments which were greatly received, as always!

Finally, our biggest thanks to John Hammond, our President who gets there early at every tournament despite coming from Cheshire. John writes out the cards for the day, does the starting on the tee and regularly brings a raffle prize. He rarely gets a mention so it's about time he did.

Well done John, you are a fabulous addition to our section and long may it continue.

This is our seventh year of production of the Section's excellent Calendar, our thanks to all sponsors over the years, and indeed this year's. I feel this year's is our best to date, to which credit goes to Rhys Thomas almost solely.

This month's calendar page is sponsored by ESD Waste2Water. Please consider them for your wash-off/cleaning systems. Email: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com). A happy New Year to all.

### East of England

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands for sponsoring the Christmas Texas Scramble.

Many thanks to all the companies that have sponsored us and helped out in many different ways this year.

We are grateful for your continued support and help and hopefully this will continue into 2014.

### 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 helped us 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 for the coming months and beyond into 2014.

## New Members

Louis Waldron, Greenkeeper, Leen Valley Golf Centre, Shaun Kench, Greenkeeper, Heythrop Park Resort, Mark Stevens, Greenkeeper, Blackwell GC, Harley Ward, Trainee Greenkeeper, Blackwell GC, Keiron Blackwell, Trainee Greenkeeper, Blackwell GC, Ian Handyside, Trainee Greenkeeper, Alnmouth GC, David Harman, Greenkeeper, Sonning GC, Michael Gibbons, Greenkeeper, Caversham Heath GC, Ben Millson, Greenkeeper, Caversham Heath GC, Joshua McCallum, Greenkeeper, Caversham Heath GC.



## South West & South Wales

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### Events Coming Up

**South Wales** - Fixture cards will be sent out soon confirming events for 2014. Remember to attend BTME.

### Results

**South Wales** - Results for our Christmas meet at Pyle & Kenfig GC will be shown next month.

### News

**South Wales** - Thanks to all the speakers at the regional conference covering many topics a very informative day.

### New Members

Kyle Trewin, Trainee Greenkeeper, Players Club (The), Tristan Moon, Greenkeeper, St Mellion Hotel G&CC, Timothy Fry, Trainee Greenkeeper, Manor House Golf Club at Castle Coombe.

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## South East

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



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## Events Coming Up

### Kent

A full fixture list for 2014 is now online at [www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com) and on our Kent Greenkeepers Facebook page. We start in March with a trip to the Holy Grail of courses in this country. We shall be making our pilgrimage to Royal St Georges on 11 March so advise us early if you wish to attend this limited numbers event.

### London

The committee are keen to know of any training required by section members, so please contact John Wells with your ideas [j.wells1@sky.com](mailto:j.wells1@sky.com). We are due to run 2 afternoons in February, one at the start of the month and one at the end, details to follow.

Our main Educational day of the year is at Oaklands WGC on 18 February costing £12.50 per person, 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 Stuart Yarwood MG Course Manager Lymm GC [under construction] this is a day not to miss and great value for money!

The London section are running a coach to BTME on 22 January from Mill Hill at 6am and returning late evening, the cost is £10 per person as the coach is being heavenly subsidised by the section. If you wish to go please contact Adam McColl on 07886 513975 or email [adamccoll@hotmail.com](mailto:adamccoll@hotmail.com) and £10 will be collected on the day.

### Essex

This year's golf events, dates to follow: March – The Essex, June – Stock Brook The Country Club, August – The Warren, September – Colchester Golf Club, December – TBA.

### Surrey

The biggest event every year is always BTME. If you have not been before this event will have you hooked year in year out, great time to set goals and kick start further education programmes.

Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner to be held on March 7.

## News

### Sussex

Firstly, a Happy New Year to everyone. A very good turnout of 72 attended the Turkey Trot on at Worthing Golf Club. The course as always was in immaculate condition. Thanks to George and his team

for presenting this prestigious course so well for the competition, well done all.

Everyone was very well looked after throughout the whole day and the golf was followed by a lovely meal in the clubhouse.

5 December saw the section's AGM, held again this year at the Dyke Golf Club. The business was preceded, as is now the custom, by 9 holes of golf. Although the strong wind brought an unpleasant chill to the day, the course was in spectacular condition and the cloudless skies rewarded players with stunning views. Many thanks to Dyke Golf Club for the golf, meeting venue and vast quantities of refreshments.

The election of officers is as follows: Chairman, Rob Hudson, Vice Chairman, Mike Poole, Secretary/Treasurer, Pete Smith, Committee Members, Tony Wooley. Eric Green, Dave Allen, Trade Representative, Chris Humphrey. Thanks and appreciation was given to last years committee for all their work over the past year.

### East Anglia

The AGM went well. Colin just needs someone to take over fixture responsibilities and Ian needs some suggestions from us to organise a seminar – ie education management, ecology, anything you're interested in. Please let Ian know.

Pause for thought - did you know that light travels faster than sound, which is why someone can appear bright until they open their mouth? No comment.

### Kent

At the AGM not much changed. Kev and I shall be continuing in our roles of Chairman and Secretary but Anthony Stockwell of Hadlow College has joined our committee as education spokesman.

We were honoured to be able to make a donation of £280 raised from our very generous colleagues to give to the 'Smiley Steps' charity which supports Tim Maynard's young son who has cerebral palsy.

Tim and his wife were extremely appreciative of this gesture. Thank you all.

We were extremely saddened to hear the news that one of our original, most loyal sponsors and regular event attendee, Stewart Clayton of Greensman had passed on. Stewart was not only a supporter of our section, he was a good friend to us who will be missed by all that had the good fortune to meet him.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

### London

The tournament was followed by the AGM and this went smoothly with Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a fine committee to support him.

### Essex

The following committee members were elected for the coming year at the AGM. Chairman, Ian Wood, Treasurer, Tom Smith, Secretary, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Competitions, Antony Kirwan, Education, Ben Scrivener, Committee, Campbell Murdoch, Trade Representative, Richard Freeman, Toro UK Ltd.

Our education officer, Ben Scrivener would like to hear from any member that has an educational need.

For more information about any educational subject please contact Ben at [gingermunky@hotmail.com](mailto:gingermunky@hotmail.com)

### Surrey

Ashley Allpress has been in hospital for an operation on his arm, updating the website might be a problem at the moment, everyone wishes Ash a good recovery.

The Surrey AGM was held on 6 December at Guildford GC. David Langhiem Wimbledon Park GC, Lewes Birch Sunningdale GC and Phill Mayes Merrist Wood GC join the



committee. Chairman Les Howkins gave an in depth report on section affairs and thanked Ron Christie, Brian Willmott and Gavin Kyle for dedication and time served on the committee.

Les Howkins Chairman, Ron Christie, Roger Tydeman, Tony Bremer, Ashley Allpress, Scott Roberts and yours truly will serve the section for 2014 as your scribe.

Congratulations to Les Howkins who was voted on and will remain Chairman on the Surrey section for 2014. Les has accepted the honour of BIGGA Vice Chairman for the association and we wish him every success.

## Results

### Sussex

Turkey Trot: 1 Jon Hill, Kane Smith, Russell Riley, Paul Nessling 58pts. 2 Dave Allen, Alan Davey, Simon Wells, Jo Galwa also 58. 3 Gary Ogilvie, Ron Christie, David Murdock, Jamie Jacklin 56. Longest drive, Chris Ahies. Nearest the pin, John Holton, Kieran Laverty, Matt Hutchinson, Rich Godfrey.

Many thanks go to all of the sections annual sponsors again for their support on the day, and also to George Barr and Pete Smith for all of the organisation for the event.

### East Anglia

The annual pilgrimage to Thorpeness (not Bethlehem) was an event that's better every year. Lovely weather, lovely course (cheers Ian and crew), lovely grub – what else could you want. Thirty-one teams of four entered the fray:

1 The Michael Buck Quartet 55, 2 Thorpeness Ramblers 57, 3 Rookery Park Roosters 57.4, 4 The Lemon Squeezers 57.8. Nearest pin in two on 6th Mike Virley. Nearest line on 8th Stuart Plummer. Longest drive 18th 0-14 HC Aaron Bowen. Longest drive 1st Paul Gauld. Nearest pin group, Mike Buck, Stuart Plummer, Terry Carver and Graham Shillings.

President's port prize was awarded to Andy Baker for services to 21st century greenkeepers. You will probably notice my name is not on the above list of golf's elite – that's mainly due to Ransomes Bartrams halfway house. I was playing badly until I got there then it just got worse, Courvoisier (lovely).

### Kent

Many thanks to everyone that attended the Turkey Trot and AGM at Redlibbits. A fantastic turnout of our friends and colleagues enjoyed Kev Morris' superb course meticulously prepared by Kev and his crew for the event.

Results: 1 Ian Rawlings (wins Everris Shield), 2 Matt Daniels, 3 Paul Rudkin. Trade Prize Jim Russell.

There were a number of other prizes on the day so congratulations to all winners and thanks for making the Turkey Trot such a memorable occasion. One notable absentee on the day was our friend and Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood.

Clive has not been in the best of health recently so we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him again soon.

### London

The Xmas tournament was played at Verulam and Chris Carpenter had the course in excellent condition for December with low scores due to the wonderful roll on the greens, and thanks to the club for their hospitality.

Congratulations to Northwood, Wes Walker, Dean Fidler, Dylan Rennick and Glenn Stone on winning the Everris shield. 2nd were Ealing Greg Evans, Michel Throughgood, Stan Harrison and Brian Bezzant and 3rd Matt Plested, Lee Cox, Simon Banks and Gavin (Gary) Merrison.

### Essex

Our AGM and Christmas Team event was held this year at Colne Valley Golf Club, a change of venue for as long as I can remember. 42 players started in our annual team Texas scramble, with Colchester Golf Clubs team of Keith Chinnery, Tony Rand, Sam Cook & Craig Serafin leading the field home, second place went to Orsett GC and third to a team from Banks Amenity

Products. Golfer of the year was Orsett's Stewart Rogers and Trade Golfer of the Year, Neil Peachey from P Tuckwell Ltd.

Our thanks go to Tom Smith co-owner of Colne Valley and his team of clubhouse and course staff for allowing us the courtesy of the course for our golf and AGM, the fine food and hospitality.

### Surrey

Guildford GC hosted The Turkey Trot on 6 December. 1 Ron Christie, James Russell, Jason Hunt, Roger Tydeman 53pts. 2 Les Howkins, Dan Northworthy, Tom Newell, Pat Ridd 56.7, 3 Toby Bremmer, Matt Clarke, Mark Harvey, Anthony Freeman 57.4, 4 Paul Carella, John McPherson, Tony Bertram, Tim Lobb 59.2, 5 Paul Robinson, Wayne Sewell, Neil Davey, Mark Fry 59.7.

Longest Drive Kevin Boxall and Nearest Pin Peter Moore. Thanks to Matt for preparing first class surfaces and all the staff at Guildford GC for a warm welcome and ensuring we all had a great day.

Home Counties Secretary v Surrey Greenkeepers at The Berkshire. Secretaries won 4.5 to 3.5.

Hankley Common GC hosted the England v Scotland battle it out against the heather. This year the match was halved after a good contest.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### East Anglia

CMW were the main sponsors at Thorpeness, followed by Ransomes Jacobsen, Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor, Headland, Tacit, Ben Burgess, Toro and Tomlinson Groundcare. Our thanks again to Thorpeness and their captain, Trevor Youngs, for their superb hospitality.

### Kent

Sincere thanks to all of our generous sponsors for helping to make this year's events possible.

Without your support much of what we provide in the way of golf and educational events would be impossible.

We wish you a prosperous 2014 and hope you can continue to sponsor your friends on the Kent Section.

### London

Thanks to Everris main sponsor of the Xmas tournament and thanks to Ernest Does and Sherriff Amenity for refreshments.

### Essex

The Essex Section would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support over the past year.

Amenity Technology, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Billericay Farm Services, CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care Ltd, Ernest Doe & Sons, Everris, Farmura Environmental, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Irrigation & Water, Limagrain UK, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton Ltd, P Tuckwell Ltd, Prime Irrigation, Rainbird Europe, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Sea Nymph (Chaingreen Ltd), Swan Golf Designs, Tacit, Tey Farm Systems, Toro (UK) Ltd, Writtle College.

The committee would like take this opportunity to wish all our members a prosperous and happy New Year.

### Surrey

Thanks to all the trade who have supported us throughout 2013 these include Grass Roots, Avoncrop, Ernest Doe, Sherriff Amenity, JSM Ltd, WGM, Complete Weed Control, Rigby Taylor, Lister Wilder, Godfreys and Greensman.

## Welcome New Members

Tony Dunstan, Course Manager, Langdon Hills Golf Club, Luke Richards, Trainee Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club, John Dixon, Greenkeeper, Windlesham Golf Club, Paul Boozer, Greenkeeper Austin Lodge Golf Club.



# 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

## BERNHARD TRAINING HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH CPD

This month, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, has invited Bernhard & Co, a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider and a wonderful global supporter of greenkeeper education and training for many years, to update readers on their passion for training to support their products.

**We talked to Ben Taylor, Technical Training Manager of Bernhard Grinders, to find out more about his role and how it can benefit greenkeepers.**

Ben spends most of his year flying around the world, training people on how to use their grinders correctly, but also on how they can get the most out of them.

Fortunately he loves his job. He said that everyone he teaches, including well-seasoned professionals, put their hands up at the end of the training session, when he asks if everyone has learned something new.

He said: "Some people are really surprised to find they've learnt as much as they have – but in every industry and profession people continue to train, be they pilots or salesmen, nurses or greenkeepers. We all need to keep fresh and up-to-date, and we all need reminding of best practice. I would not be alarmist if I said that 80% of people who have grinders are not using them to the best of their ability."

So what do greenkeepers, mechanics and groundsmen get out of these training sessions?

Ben says that everyone, however well intentioned, however long they have been in the business, however professional and diligent they are, can get into bad habits. "These creep in over the years,



or people just forget, or need a refresher, a reminder of how to do things properly. It has been my experience that everyone benefits from training on how to get the most out of their grinders.

"They also, without exception, say how much they enjoy training alongside other groundsmen and greenkeepers. It gives them all confidence to admit what they don't know, and learn and benefit from each other, as well as learn from me."

Alongside the college and on-site training and workshops, the Bernhard factory-based training

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You can follow the GTC on  
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

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bernhard.co.uk

The GTC will be at BTME, Stand B29, and we look forward to discussing your education and training requirements. Our independent advice helps you whether you are a greenkeeper, golf club employer, committee volunteer or manager





programme is growing by the month and they have had over 100 people through the doors in the first year of opening the centre.

The programme is open to anyone. At the next session they have one delegate coming from Dubai, but regularly get people from all over the UK, Ireland and Europe.

Ben added: "A lot of people want proper factory-based training, and one of the most valuable things about it is getting to see the machines being put together and talking to the people who built them.

"You'd be amazed at how much everyone learns from talking to the men who build their actual machines. Our factory staff are all very experienced engineers and mechanics – they know more about the grinders and the fine tuning of grinders than anyone I know – so to talk to them and see the machines being engineered all helps the process of understanding.

"It has been invaluable working alongside the GTC to build a regular biannual programme with their Quality Assured Centres, including colleges up and down the country, from the most basic Level 2, setting up mowers and grinders, to practical, hands-on instruction for Level 3 students.

"Alongside this, the GTC's QA Centres are acting as local venues for training workshops and with their strategic locations across the country, this is ideal for local course managers, groundsmen and greenkeepers to attend.

"Bernhard loan the machinery and supply expert training while the centres offer their classrooms. BIGGA and the GTC run the continued education standards programme, and what they hope to do together is promote best practice, better turf and better maintained, sharper cutting mowers.

"If everyone leaves these sessions with a deeper understanding of how mowers and turf and sharp

cutting edges work in unison, then we know we have done a good job.

"The students, some of whom haven't attended a formal training course for many years, comment on how this specialist workshop has opened their eyes to something they'd never thought about or given credibility to.

"Many delegates attending a training workshop do feel we are offering a valuable service to both today's and the next generation of greenkeepers."

Ben concluded "Other 'quiet' benefits with these training sessions and workshops are the invaluable relationships that are built up between the GTC's QA Centres, colleges, industry, student and manufacturer".

**Happy New Year from all at The GTC.**

**Bernhard & Co will be attending BTME and you can find them on Stand B44.**



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# BUYERS' GUIDE

## NEW GENERATION HUXLEY TURF SOLVES WINTER TEE PROBLEMS



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## HEAD GREENKEEPER FELTWELL GOLF CLUB REQUIRED FROM LATE APRIL 2014

Previous experience essential

Closing date 20th January 2014

Interviews will be held in late January, salary  
negotiable depending on experience.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to:  
**Jon Moore**, Manager, Feltwell Golf Club, Thor Avenue,  
Wilton Road, Feltwell, Thetford, Norfolk, IP26 4AY

Telephone: 01842 827644

E mail: [feltwellgolfclub@btconnect.com](mailto:feltwellgolfclub@btconnect.com)

## HEAD GREENKEEPER Rotherham Golf Club, South Yorkshire

Rotherham Golf Club is a well-established, premier private members club situated within the county of South Yorkshire. The Club enjoys a well-presented parkland course and are currently looking to fill the position of Head Greenkeeper.

The successful candidate should be fully qualified in all aspects of green keeping and ideally have the following skills : NVQ level 4 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PA6A spraying certificates, minimum 5 years experience in the green keeping industry, and a good working knowledge of fine turf machinery and automatic irrigation systems combined with the repair and maintenance of associated parts.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within their role. Previous experience as a Head Green keeper is desirable but not essential.

Closing date for applications is Friday 25th January 2013.

All interested applicants to apply in writing or via email, including a covering letter and detailed CV to Rob Norton, Greens Director, Rotherham Golf Club, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham, S65 4NU.

Tel: 01709 850466 Email: [chairman@rotherhamgolfclub.com](mailto:chairman@rotherhamgolfclub.com)

## Head Greenkeeper

We are looking for a qualified and experienced person to take on the role of Head Greenkeeper at "Dreamland Golf resort". This new 18 Hole Course is an undulating inland style course outside Baku, Azerbaijan. The course is designed by Dye Design Group and currently under construction.

As part of the Management Team You will be responsible for leading a team who Grow-In and thereafter maintain the course to highest possible standards as set out by our agronomist using modern cultural techniques and machinery. You will be responsible for managing all aspects of the maintenance including Maintenance equipment, The golf car fleet, Clubhouse grounds, landscaping.

Other responsibilities include: keeping accurate and complete records on payroll, inventory, weather data, maintenance procedures preparing the annual budgets for the maintenance, Plan all maintenance and project work, applying his or her agronomic and administrative expertise to achieve the agreed-upon maintenance standards and long-range goals, inventory control and oversees the equipment maintenance programs.

**You will be expected to demonstrate in your application how you meet each of these criteria**

### The person:

Ideally you will have at least 5 years minimum previous experience as Golf Course Grounds Maintenance superintendant. With extensive back ground in Grow in. Candidates must be able to adapt and adjust in a challenging environment and have the Ability to work with the minimum of supervision using your own initiative and to be flexible and patience with day to day issues and local staff. HND Level in Turf management or equivalent is mandatory.

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### How to Apply

Applications must be made by sending your CV to: [recruitment@dreamland.az](mailto:recruitment@dreamland.az) any additional information can NOT be made available until the final selection procedure commences.

**Closing date for applications is January 31, 2014 at 12 noon. All applicants will receive a response only by 15th of February. Interviews will be held soon thereafter.**



## Head Greenkeeper Le Touquet Paris Plage, 62520, France

Le Touquet Golf Club is a 45 holes resort in northern France that is currently looking to fill the position of Head Greenkeeper. The first 18 holes called La Forêt was established in 1904 and designed by H.Hutchinson is more of an "heathland" course. The second 18 holes called La Mer designed by H. Colt and open in 1931 is one of the few links course in France. Both courses have hosted the French Open several times and are regularly hosting national and international pro am or tournament. The successful candidate will be in charge of the two courses.

- The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within a crew of 15 people.
- Experience in the maintenance of a "links" course applying sustainable philosophy.
- Desire and willingness for an effective cooperation with golf course secretary and the consultant (Gordon Irvine).
- Experience in mechanical maintenance.
- Good working knowledge of automatic irrigation systems combined with the repair and maintenance of associated parts.
- General computer knowledge.
- The rules of golf relating to golf course maintenance
- Have suitable qualifications for the above position

Starting date: as soon as possible/to be discussed.

A salary based on your skills and qualifications.

All interested applicants to apply in writing or via email, including a covering letter and detailed CV before January 31st 2014 by email [cdebruyne@opengolfclub.com](mailto:cdebruyne@opengolfclub.com) to the attention of Mr. Debruyne Charles – Golf secretary.

**Closing date: 31st January 2014**





## Coombe Hill Golf Club, Surrey COURSE MANAGER

Coombe Hill Golf Club, ranked in the 100 golf clubs, is a private 18 hole members' club situated close to Kingston upon Thames and only 10 miles from the centre of London.

The 6400 yard Par 71 parkland course designed by J F Abercrombie in 1911, features tree lined fairways leading to high quality undulating greens.

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

Previous experience as a Course Manager is essential.

Closing date for Applications is

Interested applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full CV no later than Friday 24th January 2014.

Mr Colin Chapman, Chief Executive, Coombe Hill Golf Club, Golf Club Drive, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7DF

Email: ceo@chgc.net

Interviews are expected W/C 3rd February 2014.

Closing: 24 January 2014

## FERENEZE GOLF CLUB

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Built in 1904 Fereneze is a fine 18 hole moorland golf course with magnificent views over the Clyde Valley and beyond. The Club is looking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Head Greenkeeper as a replacement for our present Head Greenkeeper who is retiring. The Candidate should have

- NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping
  - PA1, PA2 and PA6
- NPTC Chain Saw licence – preferred but not essential
- 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

Please send your CV and covering letter by post to:

Mr Mitchell Jones

Secretary

Fereneze Golf Club

Fereneze Avenue

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Closing Date for Application: 31 January 2014



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# The Back Nine

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

Ian Tomlinson has experienced more snow than most greenkeepers during 27 years working in Switzerland and Denmark. In the first part of a timely two part article, he advises you how to deal with the white stuff

**During the last couple of winters there has been lots of talk about snow on greens.**

Should you remove it or leave it were it is?

What about a layer of ice on the greens, will the grass die under such a layer, should you try to crack it or leave it alone?

If you remove the snow and then have weeks of freezing easterly winds will the grass die of desiccation or should we leave it there but risk snow mould damage?

Lots of questions and you will not find the answer in a textbook!

After 14 years working in Switzerland managing golf courses and now 13 years in Denmark I have had my fair share of experience but you are always surprised by mother nature. In Switzerland it was normal to have one metre of snow most winters and very low temperatures. Snow could fall anytime from October to April. At that time we were all lucky to have a fungicide product containing PCNB (pentachloronitrobenzene). This has since been removed but the results were outstanding. We applied the product hours before the first snowfall then usually dug the greens free of the snow on 1 March...and found perfect greens.

But where do we stand today? In Denmark where legislation has removed almost all pesticides and we have only a systemic fungicide available to use (which is no use whatsoever in autumn and winter) how do we keep greens disease free?

The first issue is to address the botanical composition of the turf on your greens and the growing environments around green sites. It is certain that if you are promoting poa annua dominated swards in our environment you will lose your turf every winter. I am not saying that if you are promoting fescue/bent turf that you will have no problems, you will. The difference is that when the poa is attacked the whole plant is



damaged including the crown and you end up with a bare depression on your playing surface. With fescue the plant will be attacked but survives and as soon as favourable climatic conditions allow the greens will regenerate and be perfect again in a matter of weeks. The poa greens will be scarred and bumpy and may take two or three months before an acceptable putting surface can be produced.

Our best greens are the ones with 80% fescue/bent grasses in them and no shading issues from trees. Other greens growing in wooded areas where sunlight and air movement is an issue have more poa annua and invariably end up with major snow mould damage.

We experienced a hard winter in 2009/2010. We were lucky that the greens were frozen before the snow fell. This situation will certainly help limit your disease damage to the turf. You then have another issue as halfway through the winter there is a thaw. But the green is frozen and the melted snow has nowhere to go and you end up with water

## 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!

on the putting surface. Then, it freezes again and you have a few centimetres of ice on top of your turf. Under this situation poa will survive up to 30 days before it dies of asphyxiation. Fescue/bents can go between 60 to 100 days. Another issue is that if there is a great deal of direct sunshine on the ice but it's too cold to melt it the ice can act as a magnifying glass scorching the grass.

On many occasions I have run the verti-drain across the greens with the tines set just deep enough to crack the ice and stop at the grass canopy. You cannot remove the ice as the grass leaf blades are frozen into the ice but this will allow for vital air to get through to the grass to avoid suffocation. I prefer to risk a little turf damage by doing something rather than leaving the ice and risk running into scorching greens which happened to me one year in Switzerland.

**Next month Ian offers his conclusions on dealing with snow and take us through the past few Danish winters...**

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

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