

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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**Inside...**

## PITCHMARKS

Educate your members  
with our poster

## MILES BETTER

How a young Course  
Manager has transformed  
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# A Stirling success

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## Overcoming the wet at Wentworth

**The 2014 European Tour season finally reached these shores last month when the BMW PGA Championship took place at Wentworth. Rory McIlroy claimed a notable victory, amazingly his first professional win on European soil, coming out on top of a stellar leaderboard on a fascinating final day. The event was plagued with heavy rain and storms, leading to suspensions of play and delayed starts.**

The greenkeeping team led by Kenny Mackay and Graham Matheson worked wonders and were ably supported by the BIGGA Support Team who, for the first time, match raked on all four days as well as assisting the on site crew in preparing the course and dealing with the inclement weather. I heard many tales of 15 hour days but tellingly they were told with pride and good humour.

We are grateful to all the volunteer greenkeepers who gave up their time to support the tournament, it is a credit to this industry to see so many qualified and experienced greenkeepers willingly volunteering their services in this way. It was a great team effort all round and played a huge part in ensuring that the paying and watching public were able to witness such an enthralling tournament.

**On the subject of teamwork I am delighted that Evertis have committed to sponsor the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy in 2014, details of which are on page 8.**

This event provides a fantastic opportunity for Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers to spend time with senior decision makers from their club as a team in a competitive environment. Five qualifying events lead to a final at the excellent Frilford Heath Golf Club and I look forward to seeing which club will be crowned the 2014 Golf Management Trophy winners.

Whilst it would be far too glib to state that simply taking part in a golf tournament leads to a perfect team ethos within a club, it is clear that golf clubs that do have a team approach to management are better equipped to make effective decisions and produce a consistent, excellent product for their customers.

**In an ideal world all golfers would be a part of the extended course management team, caring for the course, replacing divots and repairing all their pitchmarks.**

Sadly this isn't always the case and pitchmarks in particular cause a major issue for greenkeepers and golfers alike. We at BIGGA will be getting behind the second National Repair Your Pitchmark Day in August of this year, which began as a Twitter campaign in 2013 and gathered surprisingly strong momentum.

Enclosed within this edition is a poster for club noticeboards demonstrating the correct pitchmark repair method that we hope will bring further attention to this campaign and encourage golfers to do their bit for the course.

As always this magazine also contains numerous articles about BIGGA members, by BIGGA members and for BIGGA members.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive

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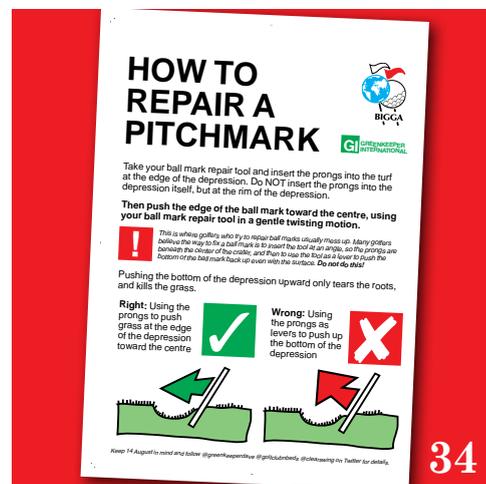
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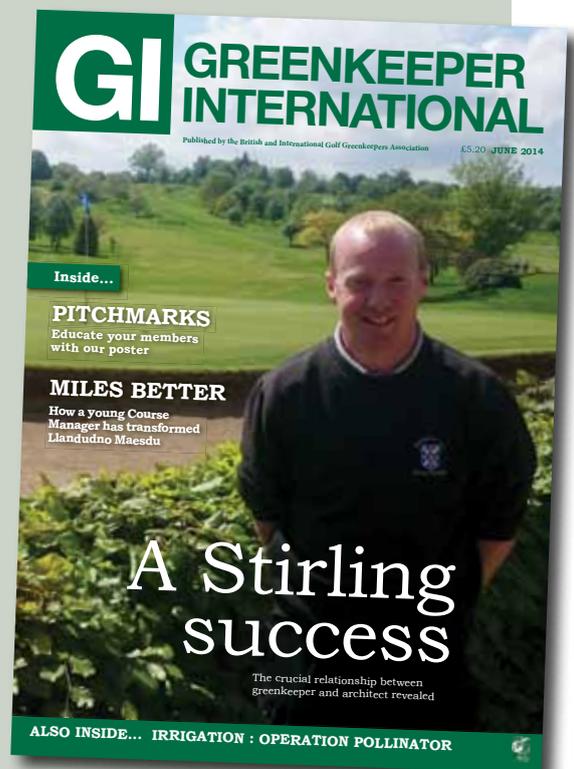
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British and International  
Golf Greenkeepers Association



# Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Chris Sealey, gives his thoughts for the month

## A momentous May

**May was a momentous month for me and everybody at Chippenham – the culmination of seven years of blood, sweat and tears as our course redevelopment was completed.**

As I've mentioned in previous columns, we've built four brand new holes and modified another three to improve the course layout and extend it by 600 yards. The initial plans were drawn up in 2007 and I feel like the project has taken up several years of my life!

In these situations, you find out how good your team really are. The expectations both from myself and of course the members were extremely high. It's a huge responsibility and the key was to ensure that these new holes were up to the same high standard as the rest of the course when they opened.

Achieving this took a great deal of forward planning, a lot of communication with our committee, strong and effective team management and a coordinated and professional team effort. I'm delighted to say that it all came together perfectly and the team were up to the task.

On the weekend of 17/18 May we held a Members' event with 200 members playing the new course layout on Saturday, and even more members and guests playing on the Sunday.

The feedback on the new holes was fantastic, everyone I spoke to was very positive.

The fabulous weather was a real bonus. It was perfect for the whole weekend, really bright sunshine with a cooling breeze.

It's no exaggeration to say if we had held it the weekend before it would have been a disaster as that weekend was incredibly windy with heavy showers resulting in branches, twigs and blossom everywhere. It was a huge relief that conditions played their part in such a successful weekend.

I'm very proud to see everybody's hard work come to fruition. We worked several 12 hour days and I did 14 on the Friday.

On Saturday, after a 5am start, I played in the competition with the members. I know that many of you have been just as busy at this extremely busy time for turf managers.



**"We all know it's a tough job, but I'm sure you get the same feeling of satisfaction in a good job well done"**

We all know it's a tough job, but I'm sure you get the same feeling of satisfaction in a good job well done. When you see hundreds of golfers walking round the course in bright sunshine, having a laugh and enjoying the course, playing the holes you've spent years putting together and seeing the green stripes your team have mowed on the fairways looking lush, it truly does make it all worthwhile.

Away from Chippenham I headed over to Bowood for the Everris Turf Reward event. This is a great initiative for greenkeepers, groundsmen and their employers and I would like to thank Everris for their support.

I'm pleased to see the events touring a wide range of clubs across Great Britain and Ireland from Dublin to Wentworth to Loch Lomond.

This month I also presented a 'So You Want To Be Promoted' seminar at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club with John Keenaghan, which was a great success, and as this goes to press I will have visited the aforementioned Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship.

As I'm sure you all know we have a larger BIGGA Support Team than usual offering a wider range of assistance to Kenny Mackay and all his team, and I'm very much looking forward to meeting them.

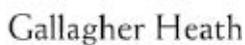
I know they will gain so much from the experience.

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# Funding your future

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Association's considerable investment in Continuing Professional Development and all our educational activity. They are investing in the future of BIGGA members, we are hugely grateful and urge you to show them your support



Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray, Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn, Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild, Michael Beaton, David Barker

# GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

## BIGGA GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY LAUNCHED



Now's your chance to enter the inaugural BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, sponsored by Everris, which features matches across the Regions and Sections in England this summer.

This is the perfect opportunity for the management team of any golf club to spend time as group and network with similar management teams from across BIGGA's Regions.

There will be five Regional qualifiers played at prestigious courses with the Final taking place at Frilford Heath Golf Club in October.

There must be a BIGGA greenkeeper member either playing in the event or attending the meal afterwards to validate each team.

Entries are on a first come, first served basis with the cost £99 per team. This includes coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, then a two course meal afterwards. The format is Stableford. Dates:

9 July – Northern Region -Workshop GC  
23 July - South Wales Section - Cardiff GC  
29 July – Midland Region - Buckinghamshire GC  
20 August - South West Section - Chipping Sodbury GC  
11 September – South Coast Section - Parkstone GC

For more details please contact Regional Administrators Sandra Raper on 07866 366966 (Sandra@bigga.co.uk), or Tracey Harvey on 07841 948110 (tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk).



## BERNHARD AND BIGGA TEAM UP

Bernhard's team of trainers have visited Scotland as part of a series of workshops in conjunction with BIGGA. The workshops presented to greenkeepers, club managers and mechanics are designed to inform and advise – and offered the opportunity for delegates to pick up CPD Credits.

The workshops, held at Royal Aberdeen, Turnhouse and Dundonald Golf Courses and Elmwood College covered a range of subjects including the setting of cutting units, reel maintenance, grinding and the benefits of correctly setting cutting units.

Willie Nisbet, himself a former greenkeeper at St Andrews Links and now Bernhard's man in Scotland, said: "We have been very pleased with the feedback that we've had from these seminars. It is vitally important for busy greenkeeping staff to be able to set units quickly and efficiently. There is always

something new to learn and judging by the comments we received afterwards, even the oldest dog can learn new tricks!

"Good players notice the quality of the surface not just in terms of how it plays, but how the place looks. An exceptional shine on the course shows up the definition in the greens. As there's no dead tissue, the green retains its colour and plays faster and more evenly."

Ben Taylor, Bernhard Training Manager, began the seminars. He commented: "I introduced the delegates to the company and product, including the technicalities of angles, attitudes and details of cutting units. After a short presentation we went into the workshop where we ran through all features and benefits and demonstrated exactly what makes this machinery unique across the world. We then demonstrated how to sharpen quickly and efficiently."

David Grey, First Assistant at Ladybank Golf Club, and former Bernhard Delegate, said "This was a fantastic in-depth presentation which detailed the importance of maintaining sound sharp units and the many consequences of failing to regularly do so.

"It was very interesting learning the various angles and how vital these are to achieve the perfect finish."

Stuart Green, BIGGA's Learning & Development Executive – Technical, added: "CPD is a vital tool in a turf professional's career toolkit.

"It's essential that greenkeepers update their skills, keep abreast of changes in legislation and maintain an awareness of current industry trends to benefit themselves and their employers.

"BIGGA offers its members the opportunity to record their CPD through an online system and reward them for their efforts."

# AERIAL BLITZ AGAINST OPM RETURNS

Aerial application of insecticide over West Berkshire in May 2013 against oak processionary moth (OPM), and reported first by Greenkeeper International in April 2013, will be repeated in May 2014 said the Forestry Commission (FC) in a surprise announcement.

Given the furore created by last year's aerial spraying of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* over Herridge's copse and Broom's copse near Pangbourne, this year's blitz on nearby Sulham Woods, also a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), appears strange to say the least, and especially since no OPM nests were found in Berkshire in 2013. The action is apparently based on the capture of five male adult moths in late summer 2013 during a routine pest monitoring exercise using pheromone traps.

FC says this does not necessarily mean a viable breeding population of OPM is still present in the Pangbourne area but that their aim remains eradication of the pest. This begs the question as to why another round of aerial spraying, when last year's operation clearly failed to 'do the trick'. In 2013 FC admitted they were unsure as to whether there were actually any pest insects in the treated woodlands and 'Butterfly Conservation' branded the operation a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut'.

And what about the even stranger decision taken this year to spray just very small part of a single wood called

Sulham Woods, in the same general area as last year (to the south of Pangbourne) but this time nearer to Tilehurst on the western outskirts of Reading. Male oak processionary moths are strong fliers with flight distance capabilities of up to 25 km, which means they could have exited nests and mated with females over a potentially extensive area.

It is now over one year since the May 2013 aerial application 'trial' took place with no sign of the results being made public by FC. In January 2014 I asked someone who was operationally involved in the 'trial' if he was privy to how it went. He had asked to see the results but was told he would have to go through the 'Freedom of Information Act' to retrieve them.

I thought he was joking until I discovered that a Pangbourne resident had already used the Freedom of Information Act to find out why Natural England had sanctioned aerial spraying of an SSSI oak woodland in the first place, and especially since most conservation organisations thought the environmental and ecological risks were a 'no brainer'.

According to BBC Berkshire, the Freedom of Information request revealed how Natural England had sanctioned aerial application of insecticide despite believing that it would not eradicate the insect pest, and also believing it would have "a very significant impact" on other species of moths and butterflies in the area.

Natural England was right to think a single pair of BTK



sprays will not have eradicated OPM in 2013, even if present in the treated woodland, but for entirely the wrong reasons.

Spraying BTK as a stand-alone measure is essentially a pest management tool rather than a pest control tool and requires repeat applications over a number of years to achieve pest eradication if at all. If the capture of five male adult moths in 2014 shows one thing it is that aerial spraying with BTK in 2013 failed to eradicate OPM, so why should the same treatment prove any different this year. And especially since there is no hard evidence of pest presence in the woodland earmarked for spraying this year.

BTK is a biological insecticide lacking the potency and

persistence generally required to achieve eradication with a single application, but which is possible using more powerful chemical insecticides like diflubenzuron (an insect growth regulator) and deltamethrin (a pyrethroid insecticide acting through contact and ingestion). These insecticides are used in ground based spraying against OPM but are not licensed for aerial application.

UK plant health authorities are apparently keeping the results (if any) from these 'trials' very 'close to the chest'. It will probably take another 'brave soul' to make a Freedom of Information request to secure the findings for general viewing and scrutiny - any volunteers?

*Dr Terry Mabbett*

## 40 YEARS FOR DAVE AT CHILDWALL

BIGGA member Dave Macavoy has celebrated a 40-year stint as Head Greenkeeper at Childwall Golf Club.

Dave began his greenkeeping career at 15, and spent eight years at Royal Birkdale before joining Childwall – a

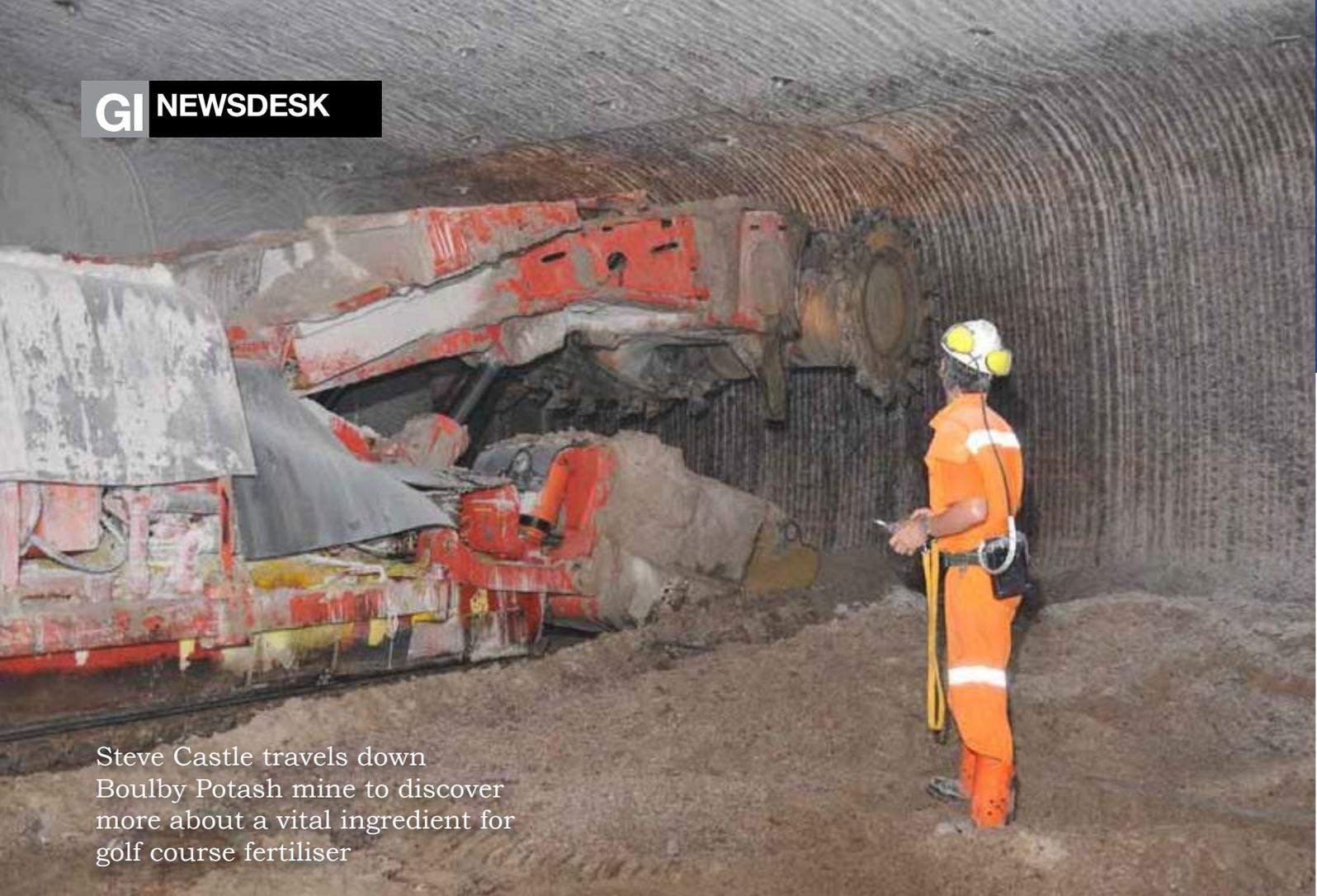
parkland course close in the Huyton area of Liverpool - which was established in 1912.

He heads a five-strong greenkeeping team with a seasonal member joining in the summer.

He said: "We don't have major events

here but we've held many county matches down the years and we're proud of our work here.

"We've reconstructed 16 of the 18 greens with work on the remaining two coming up, and all the work is always done in house."



Steve Castle travels down Boulby Potash mine to discover more about a vital ingredient for golf course fertiliser

## GOING UNDERGROUND

I'm three quarters of a mile beneath the ground, six miles out under the North Sea, and a burly miner, visible only because of dim torchlight and his orange uniform, is tucking into a lunch of Dairy Lea Dunkers. Just another average Tuesday afternoon for the intrepid turf journalist.

The location is the east coast of Yorkshire and I'm watching on as workers at Boulby Potash mine operate a huge machine which is prising potash ore from the earth. The mine is run by Cleveland Potash Ltd - a wholly owned subsidiary of Israel Chemicals Ltd - and I'm on site to discover more about the beginning of the fertiliser production process.

Potash is the common name for potassium chloride, and Boulby Mine produces over half of the UK's annual supply - from a staggering 2.4 million tonnes of potash ore a year.

This dark, warm and dusty atmosphere thus eventually leads to the production area of polyhalite, a different seam, some 140m beneath the potash - which contains potassium sulphate, calcium sulphate and magnesium sulphate. This polyhalite, a unique, organic mineral, is the key ingredient of Everris's ProTurf fertiliser - which we would learn more of later.

After an informative briefing from our guide Neil Rowley, we don the all-orange outfit worn by the workers.

This features an oxygen self-rescuer (which converts CO to CO<sub>2</sub> if smoke inhalation occurs) clinging to the belts we wear in case of fire.

We file into a small, dark lift which then plunges at surprising speed beneath the earth. We then walk through piles of silvery dust before we reach a Ford Transit which will shuttle us 45 minutes to the face where the mining is taking place.

The vehicle trundles through the darkness. One of my colleagues compares the landscape to a Terminator film. It does almost seem post-apocalyptic. The roof is low and it's stuffy and warm - around 32C - as the Transit rattles along a path of compacted dust in the gloom.

I'm astonished at how far we have to travel. There seem to be no obvious points of reference, with only the odd safety refuge point and mechanical station to be seen. It's hard to imagine that this is someone's daily commute.

At the face we meet several miners, who are happy to chat about their work. Some of the workforce began as coal miners before joining Boulby, and all have several years of experience as a necessity to allow them to work at the face and operate the huge, complex and potentially highly dangerous machinery.

As well as potash, Boulby produces between 0.5 - 0.8 million tonnes of rock salt



annually, which is the crucial substance which de-ices UK roads.

The end result of all this labour and expense goes into ProTurf - a high impact fertiliser with a combination of controlled release and conventional release of nitrogen designed for use on all outfield turf areas.

The polyhalite ensures all macro nutrients are delivered in one application, and rates are flexible due to the small granule size.

It's been a fascinating experience as I'd never before considered the sheer scale of the technical and human operation required to produce this substance which then goes into fertiliser.

From this weird, arid environment comes the building blocks for the fine turf we see on fairways, tees, surrounds, approaches and lawns.

All things considered though I'm happier to view the North Yorkshire coastline from a more traditional vantage point above ground.



# Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

**Membership News - the section which updates you on the countless benefits of being a BIGGA member. We're on hand to help.**

**You can contact BIGGA House, our Regional Offices, our Personal Accident Helpline, Legal Assistance and our Lifestyle Counselling Helpline.**

**You can also save money with our BIGGA Xtra Benefits scheme. More information can be found in the Members' Area of the BIGGA website.**

## UPGRADED COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The latest BIGGA member benefit to come under the spotlight is the Lifestyle Counselling Helpline and Online Support Service – which has been upgraded and is now available to all members, and their immediate family living at the same address.

Trained advisers can help with a range of problems from practical everyday matters to sensitive or emotional issues. The specialists will help members deal with personal relationship problems, problems with colleagues in the workplace and other issues affecting their general wellbeing.

Counsellors and information specialists are also trained to help members with practical problems like debt.

The helpline is complemented by a comprehensive online information and support service, through which members can access information and advice on a range of issues and problems which often impact on everyday life.

Topics are diverse and include relationships, childcare issues, consumer issues, stress and health and fitness. Information is updated regularly by a team of experienced counsellors and information specialists.

The Lifestyle Counselling Helpline can be contacted by ringing 0844 770 1036 (Calls to 0844 phone numbers cost up to 5p a minute from a BT landline at all times of day and up to 40p per minute from mobile phones. Depending on your mobile network, call charges may be higher on pay-as-you-go than on a pay monthly contract).



The Online Support Service can be accessed by visiting [www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst](http://www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst) where you will be asked to enter a username and password, enter BIGGA (remember: use capital letters) for both.

All the details can be accessed in the Members' area of the BIGGA website – visit Member Services>Lifestyle Counselling Helpline & Online Support Service.

Also on that page is information

on 'New You' - a website which promotes a fresh approach to health and wellbeing. There are also separate links to websites on stress management, health and safety, depression, bullying, relationships and bereavement care.

All these benefits are for you to take advantage of, and we're also keen to hear feedback from members who have used these facilities.



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Clive Osgood Tracey Harvey

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

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0207 2048952

**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
0800 177 7891

**Lifestyle Counselling Helpline**  
0844 770 1036  
[www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst](http://www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst)

# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

Learning & Development News has the latest updates on CPD and everything related to greenkeeper education

and training, supported by our BIGGA Partners, BIGGA Education Supporters and Individual Contributors –

funding your future. Contact the Learning & Development team at BIGGA House for more information.

## FIELD GUIDE UPDATE



**The benefits of being a member of BIGGA far outweigh not being a member. In the coming months, we will look at some of the six sections of the On Course Field Guides.**

The Field Guides are funded from the L&D fund. Firstly, let's make this clear - Field Guides are free to all members, that's right - FREE! Non-members can purchase a copy but it will cost £25. As an added bonus, 1 x CPD Education credit will be available for completing the quiz.

This month we will look at the newest section, Protected Species. The section consists of four areas:

- Legislation
- European protected species
- Nationally protected species
- Other species of conservation concern

The following are two examples of the content of the Protected Species section.

### Smooth Snake (Annex IV Species) - Introduction to the ecology of the smooth snake

The smooth snake is a non-venomous slender snake, now confined to the South East of Dorset, South West Hampshire and within a small area of East Hampshire and West Surrey.

It is represented almost exclusively on dry lowland heathland. Smooth snakes normally emerge during early March, giving birth to live young in August/September.

Snakes may take four years to reach sexual maturity. Smooth snakes have undergone serious decline due to a loss of habitat through agricultural intensification and development, through a reduction in habitat suitability, i.e. habitat fragmentation, shading, scrub invasion, fires etc.

### Legislation

The smooth snake is strictly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitats Directive where it is listed under Annex IV of the Regulations. Under the legislation it is an offence to capture, disturb, injure or kill smooth snakes and/or to damage or destroy their breeding or resting places.

### Factors likely to impact on the smooth snake

Activities likely to contravene the legislation would be ground works through areas used by foraging or basking snakes, loss of south-facing banks, removal of materials used by resting snakes, i.e. deadwood, rubble, etc., and renovation of buildings involving excavation. A major threat to this species is the ongoing loss of our native heathlands.



**Individual Contributors:** Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray, Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn, Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild, Michael Beaton, David Barker

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## Opportunities for management

Golf courses can contribute positively to the future conservation of this species. A number of golf courses do support smooth snakes. Their conservation can be enhanced by the provision of deadwood, i.e. log piles, stockpiled brush (caution fires), careful scrub and bracken control, working under a strict management programme, and appropriate restoration and management of lowland heathland to maximise a strong habitat patchwork vegetation mosaic.

Increasing the extent of heath on the golf course could involve surveying to find all areas being managed unnecessarily, it may mean managing to control natural succession.

Opportunities could start by increasing more heath vegetation on the sides of the tees.

Also ensure that gorse is managed as discrete groupings, rather than one contiguous belt to reduce fire risks.

## Bats (All Species) (Annex II and Annex IV) - Introduction to the ecology of bats

There are 17 species of bat known to be breeding within the UK, all of which are protected by law due to the massive declines in their number. Bats are flying mammals that, as well as requiring a constant source of water, feed almost exclusively in the UK on insects. Bats require a diverse range of habitats, from grasslands through to scrub, linear hedgelines, trees and waterways including ponds. Bats will hibernate and roost in the crevices of trees, in buildings and within ivy that often grows in association with trees.

They require different conditions for summer roosting to winter hibernation and/or breeding. In the winter, the main requirement is constant humidity and temperature, and thus they will tend to hibernate in deeper crevices. For breeding, summer warmth is vital and they will use a different aspect on a tree for this purpose.

Bats require a variety of insect prey and thus use hedgerows as navigational landmarks for their nocturnal flight paths. Woodland margins

and hedgerows are, in effect, linear features (corridors) for bats, enabling commuting from one area of the countryside to another. Water bodies are particularly important for bats in providing midges and flies, and also for drinking. The Daubenton's bat is one species that is heavily dependent upon aquatic habitats.

## Legislation

All UK bats and their roosts are protected by European and national law, which for all countries within the UK can be summarised as follows:

- It is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat (or a group of bats) in a roost.
- Damage or destroy a bat roost, even if unoccupied.
- Possess or advertise bats dead or alive.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

In court, 'deliberately' will probably be interpreted as someone who, although not intending to capture/injure or kill a bat, performed the relevant action, being sufficiently informed and aware of the consequence his/her action will most likely have.

## Factors likely to impact on bats

Bats have declined as a result of hedgerow loss, indiscriminate tree removal and particularly the removal of dead standing trees.

Building renovation can also result in a loss of breeding and roosting habitat. Work is generally undertaken without any surveys being carried out and without consideration to any mitigation.

## Opportunities for management

On golf courses the woodland fringe, the marginal rough and associated grasslands, ponds, etc. are all extremely important features and will help considerably in the conservation of our native bat population.

There are 17 species of bat resident within the UK (almost a quarter of our mammal species).

Encouraging and conserving bats on a golf course would best be achieved by avoiding, where



possible, use of pesticides (particularly insecticides), planting structurally diverse woodland margins, increasing the grass and rough contribution (marginal and ecology rough), managing for wildflowers, leaving deadwood (particularly standing), leaving ivy (ivy is not a parasite and will not kill trees to which it is attached), and creating small ponds or marsh areas from which to drink and to encourage insects.

Prior to any work on property or trees, it is imperative that a bat survey is carried out by a suitably qualified ecological consultant.

Even after works have been consented, if there is potential for bats then as part of the mitigation a bat handler should be engaged onsite to deal with any bats dislodged during any works. It is illegal to handle a bat without an appropriate licence.

These are just two examples that can be found in the Protected Species section.

## Next month:

The identification of Trees and Shrubs on the Golf Course.



## CPD Quiz

Earn 1 CPD credit for correctly answering these questions



[www.surveymonkey.com/s/Protected\\_Species\\_CPD\\_Quiz](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Protected_Species_CPD_Quiz)

Which habitat can the smooth snake be found most commonly in?

How long do they take to reach sexual maturity?

Which act protects the Smooth Snake?

Which one of the following is a cause of a decline in Smooth Snakes?

What can be done to improve habitats?

What family of animals do bats belong to?

During hibernation what type of environment do they prefer?

What type of food do Daubenton's bats prefer?

Which of the following has an impact on the bat's habitat?

What should you do before working on properties/trees on the course??

## TO THE MANOR BORN

Congratulations to Rhys Norville, greenkeeper at Celtic Manor, who is the latest student to be awarded a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen worth £1,000.

Rhys will attend Elmwood College to study his Higher National Certificate in Sportsturf.

## BOOM! BOOM!



New Holland's popular range of Boomer Compact tractors features five Boomer models producing 23hp - 46hp, complimented further by a segment leading three model 41hp - 51hp Boomer 3000 range with EasyDrive™ continuously variable transmission.

This complete eight model Boomer offering delivers powers spanning 27 – 51hp with a range of specifications: from entry-level get-on-and-go simplicity right through to features which will satisfy the most comfort conscious and efficiency demanding customers.

Owners are able to tailor their Boomer's transmission to suit their individual needs. The Boomer 25 model is available with a two range hydrostatic transmission, whilst Boomer 30, 35, 40 and 50 models can be equipped with a three range variant or a mechanical Synchro-Shuttle.

These transmissions offer jump on and go simplicity together with the convenience of outstandingly smooth shuttling.

For customers who demand even more precision and comfort, the award-winning EasyDrive™ continuously variable transmission on the Boomer 3040, 3045 and 3050 models is unique in the segment and has brought big-tractor ease of operation to the Boomer range. The chain belt drive enables infinite speed

adjustment up to 30kph. This allows operators to precisely adjust their speed to the task in hand, whilst reducing in-cab noise and enhancing operator comfort. Braking is smooth and steady and automotive-style cruise control

enables operators to maintain, fine tune or resume working speeds. Furthermore, an advanced reactivity setting means operators can adjust acceleration and deceleration to suit their individual driving style or application.





## RIO PITCHES READY THANKS TO DLF TRIFOLIUM

With a few weeks before kick off in Brazil the pitches are in good shape and fit for play. The pitch preparations have included overseeding with a top performing Perennial ryegrass mixture from DLF-TRIFOLIUM, parent company of the UK's Johnson Sports Seed.

DLF-TRIFOLIUM Export Manager Jan Gottlieb, and General Manager Maximino Santiago Borsi, took a tour of some of the Brazilian stadiums and training centres in early May.

"We have been working on this event for 3 years in close cooperation with grass specialists and the constructors responsible for the pitches.

We are in no doubt that this World Cup will present top class grass pitches," said Jan Gottlieb on his return, confident that the pitches will be ready for the World Cup matches in summer 2014.



## DENNIS HELPS BRAZIL PREPARE FOR WORLD CUP

Leading British manufacturer Dennis Mowers has won a prestigious order to supply over thirty G860 34" professional cylinder mowers, complete with a range of interchangeable cassettes, to help prepare all twelve stadia at the forthcoming World Cup.

Supplied through the company's dealer Greenext, who are based in Sao Paulo, the turf maintenance machines will be used.

The manufacturer worked closely with Greenext and the three contractors who were chosen to maintain the facilities. The G860 machine complete with an eight-bladed cutting cassette and tungsten tipped verticutter was then specified as one of the key turf maintenance pieces of equipment.

With a rich heritage of producing professional mowers which are renowned for their quality of cut, performance, reliability and versatility, the Dennis G860 has six quick changeover cassette options. Prior to the majority of the machines arriving in Brazil, sales managers Toby Clarke and Ewen Wilson, gave a number of comprehensive practical demonstrations to the contractors and their operatives explaining pitch presentation with height of cut, frequency, mowing stripes, machine adjustment and safe operation.

## EASY ORDERING WITH SHERRIFF AMENITY

Sherriff Amenity is proud to announce the launch of a new website at [www.sherriffamenity.com](http://www.sherriffamenity.com).

The new site not only incorporates a new clean design which is easy to navigate but also includes more product information than ever before.

As part of the website, a Customer Order Portal has become integral to the new design, which was officially launched at BTME. A more extensive news section with video content complete the new look.

The Customer Order Portal is compatible with a wide range of devices including mobiles and tablets, and is accessible through a link on the new Sherriff Amenity website, ensuring that groundsmen and greenkeepers, who are existing Sherriff Amenity customers and have registered their details, can place

orders as and when they need them – all in real time.

Kevin Whitby, Sherriff Amenity's marketing manager, said: "We are delighted with the new website. We had very positive comments from our soft launch at BTME.

"There is something of value and interest for every groundsmen or greenkeeper visiting our site from in depth product information to material data safety sheets and our popular BASIS technical updates."

For further information, or if you would like to register for the Customer Order Portal please contact Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721 888 or visit [www.sherriffamenity.com](http://www.sherriffamenity.com). For more news and insightful views, you can follow Sherriff Amenity on Twitter @SherriffAmenity



# KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON SUMMER DISEASE THREAT



Throughout summer there is always the risk of fungal turf disease – prolonged wet weather can introduce Fusarium, but more commonly, greens can be threatened by Anthracnose and Red Thread.

These two infections are classic results of nitrogen deficiency. The obvious cultural solution in these cases is to apply a fertiliser, however reduced fertiliser use can be influenced to a degree by the fixture list on a given golf course.

Bayer's Technical Manager Dr Colin Mumford explains that when applying a nitrogen based fertiliser, greenkeepers need to be conscious that the application will potentially slow the greens up.

"Fertilisers will stimulate more growth during the day and this faster growing grass will slow the ball.

"If a course is approaching a tournament fixture, a cultural approach to tackling an infection such as Red Thread, may not be desirable, then it may be preferable to use a fungicide.

Bayer's fungicide range offers both protection from these summer fungal infections, as well as good rotation as part of an Integrated Disease Management (IDM) approach.

"Bayer's fungicides cover three of the five fungicide chemical groups. Using fungicides from the different chemical families ensures good rotation of active ingredients which fits into an IDM perfectly."

He adds that in the height of summer, Interface® offers optional versatility.

"Interface® can be used at any time of the year, so it's a good staple and is active on six of the most common turf diseases, including Red Thread and Anthracnose. Its innovative StressGard™ Formulation Technology also boosts the turf's defences in high stress conditions.

# SHERRIFF AMENITY LAUNCH WORLD'S FIRST DUAL DISC PLATE SPREADER

Following positive comments at BTME earlier this year, Sherriff Amenity are pleased to announce the launch of the Duo, which is the only spreader available on the market to feature two dispersal plates for a highly accurate spread pattern.

The patented double spreader plates of the Duo Spreader provides the market's best, broadest and most accurate spread pattern which not only saves time but also and money, because it only requires one pass.

The Duo Spreader has an ergonomic handle allowing the user alternate grip for best comfort and also features a third wheel which helps balance the spreader no matter what weight it is carrying. It also means that the angle of spread is extremely consistent. Made from corrosion-resistant powered coated stainless steel, the dual levers allow independent opening and closing of both sides.



The Duo Spreader has a finely graded scale, allowing greenkeepers and groundsmen to control the exact dosage.

The extra handle also makes it easy to lift.

"The new Duo Spreader is designed to provide the ideal

solution for cost effective and extremely efficient application method in virtually any sports or managed amenity turf scenario," said Mark Pyrah, of Sherriff Amenity.

The Duo Spreader is available exclusively

throughout the United Kingdom from Sherriff Amenity.

For further information, please contact Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721 888 or visit the website: [www.sherriffamenity.com](http://www.sherriffamenity.com)



## WIEDENMANN CORE RECYCLER DEMO DAYS A HIT

The revolutionary Core Recycler from Wiedenmann UK is set to clock up admirers up and down the country as it begins a series of demo days from now until the end of summer. Over 60 customers of dealer Ernest Doe and Sons at the Bennington and Esher branches were among the first to see it in action last month at Brocket Hall and Fulwell Golf Clubs.

The Core Recycler makes an immediate impact, saving labour, reducing top dressing volumes and hugely speeding up the process that follows aeration.

With dual functions it collects all cores from the surface and then recycles them really efficiently and effectively using a series of adjustable sieves. Indigenous soil, sand and organic matter is then recycled back to the surface and in most cases, more than 60% of the core is 'saved' where previously it would all have been wasted.

Wiedenmann Gmbh's joint managing director, Jurgen Wiedenmann, attended Doe's Esher event which was staged at Fulwell Golf Club, Middlesex and commented that seeing nine Wiedenmann machines in action all at once made him feel immensely proud.

He said: "It was really good fun and informative and seeing the way individual Wiedenmann machines like the Terra Spike aerator, the Mega Blower and the Terra Rake co-ordinated and came together as a team to support the Core Recycler made a genuine impression.

"It was a very real insight into the vast impact they can have on the health and maintenance of a golf course. As their duties unfolded it wasn't just like watching a demo it was more like watching a show."



## GUARANTEE A PERFECT CUT THIS SEASON

With the grass cutting season in full swing, it is vital turf mowers are up to the challenge of frequent cutting to continually produce the best possible after-cut appearance on the golf course.

For all those operating Toro machinery, replacing old or worn cutting cylinders with new units from the Genuine Toro Parts range is the only way to ensure the perfect fit and function needed to ensure the mower's superior quality of cut. That's according to distributor Lely UK, who says fitting a genuine Toro cylinder, against an inferior 'will-fit' part, is the only guarantee clubs have when it comes to producing a consistently-accurate cut with no turf damage.

Whether operators choose a 5, 7, 8, 11 or 14-blade cylinder to replace or upgrade old ones, Toro cylinders don't just make tall grass short like many 'will-fit' inferior quality parts, they guarantee a crisper, truer cut right down to 2.5mm.

Genuine Toro cylinders deliver a highly precise cutting motion, which cuts the grass blade ends cleanly away, ensuring healthier growth, smoother turf and the best playability.

Lely says that using genuine Toro cylinders saves time, too. That's because, by investing in a cylinder that fits perfectly, operators are spared the time-consuming job of grinding the cylinder to reduce abrasive wear between the blades and bedknife.

Dan Dubas, from sales and marketing for Toro Parts at Lely, comments: "To ensure you are cutting to the best of your machine's ability, there's a simple and easy test to check the cylinder's performance. The 'paper test' involves running a strip of paper through the cutting unit. If it produces a clean cut, your cylinders are fine, if it's anything less than perfect, it's time to regrind or replace. And the only way to guarantee superior performance in form, fit and function is to opt for genuine Toro Parts. But investing in the best doesn't necessarily mean it's the most expensive option, Toro cylinders are competitively priced and provide excellent value."

## CHUCK GREIF PROMOTED AT JACOBSEN

Chuck Greif, the former Director of Sales for Jacobsen's Eastern region of the USA, has been appointed Managing Director, Asia Pacific. He is backfilling the vacancy created by Alan Prickett's recent move to head up the Ransomes

Jacobsen operation in Ipswich. With almost 30 years in

global sales management roles, Chuck is a respected industry veteran. He began his career in the turfgrass industry in 1998 when he was appointed National Sales Manager at John Deere's golf and turf products division before being appointed International Sales Manager in 2000. He left in

2004 to join cleaning solutions group Alfred Karcher as Vice President of their commercial products division before beginning his career with Textron in 2005 as Director, Product Development at E-Z-GO in Augusta, GA.

In 2008 he was promoted to the role of Director, Global

Specialty and Pre-Owned Vehicle Sales where he successfully developed a new dealer financial and business plan strategy.

In 2009 he joined Jacobsen as a Regional Sales Manager and was promoted to his former role as Director of Sales for the Eastern Region in 2012.



# Miles better

Miles Todd and his team have transformed the fortunes of Llandudno Maesdu Golf Club in 12 months. Steve Castle travelled to the unusual part-parkland, part-links in North Wales to find out how a Course Manager in his mid twenties has made such an impact



**Llandudno Maesdu combines two hugely contrasting courses in one. One side is lush parkland, but the second part stretching towards the Irish Sea is more of a links.**

Miles Todd – a Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year runner up in 2011- joined this intriguing set-up in April last year. From the very beginning, it was clear it would be a challenge. We toured the links part of the course on a misty day on the North Wales coast as Miles explained why.

“When I came here the course was below standard. The greens were poor. There was a big thatch problem and a big variation in grass species throughout the sward.”

To reduce the thatch levels, Miles devised a new comprehensive aeration and topdressing programme.

He explained: “I’m a believer in little and often when it comes to aeration and dressing. Greens were micro tined at 8mm twice a month followed by a dressing of straight sand. Our aim was 20 tonnes per month throughout the season.

“Sarrel rolling and star slitting were carried out on alternate weeks to keep the surface open. Verti draining with quarter inch tines

#### PROFILE

**Name:** Miles Todd  
**Role:** Course Manager  
**Born:** 26 November 1987  
**Handicap:** 12  
**Favourite Sports Team:** Liverpool  
**Hobbies:** Football (plays for Denbigh Town FC), golf

was carried out at the beginning and end of the season, followed by a heavy dressing of one tonne per green.”

The team verticutted greens up to three times a month to refine and reduce unwanted rye and Yorkshire fog which had crept in. This work also reduced the build up of organic matter and kept the surface as true and quick as possible.

Miles continued: “Fertiliser and water inputs were kept to a minimum. A 3.0.3 had already been applied before I started. An 8.0.0 was applied twice through the season and the last granular of the year was a 3.0.3 in October. Liquid feed, seaweed and iron were all used to trickle the greens along.

“A wetting agent programme was also put in place. The result of this work has dramatically improved the playing surface, thatch is diluting and the root system is thriving.

“This season we are using the Symbio Compost Tea system which will work in conjunction with our aeration and topdressing programme to reduce thatch levels, encourage finer grasses and reduce our fertiliser and fungicide inputs.”

So that explains how the greens have been transformed. But what

other issues needed addressing?

“There was no definition on the course. The fairways were straight edged with no shape, so we changed the height of cut and let the rough grow a bit to achieve some definition. The pathways needed redefining too.

“Some construction had been attempted near a pond, but the area around it had been damaged during the work leaving bare clay. So that area had to be rotavated, topsoil put in then overseeded. The grass did take a while to grow because we had such a cold spring last year, which wasn’t ideal weather for me to start with!

“The bunkers also needed work, they hadn’t really been maintained. Members complained there was no sand in them, so we had a good rake around and discovered all the sand had compacted at the back of the bunkers – the sand had never been redistributed or ‘fluffed up’. This also posed drainage issues and a couple even had algae in them.

“When I came in the committee handed me a ‘to do’ list! A lot of it was pie in the sky – they were good ideas, but first we needed to get back to basics. I had to convince them that we did have so much potential

here, but first it was essential to improve what we had. We had some potentially great features such as ponds and ditches but they hadn't made the best of them."

Just days after Miles joined, an official from the Golf Union of Wales arrived to view Llandudno Maesdu with the prestigious Aberconwy Trophy just weeks away - and warned him they were in danger of losing the competition due to the poor state of the course.

He said: "It was a case of getting everything in as good a shape as we possibly could. The official returned a couple of weeks before the Trophy in July and could see we had made some progress, and agreed we could stage it on the proviso that everything would be up to scratch next year. We continued to make steady improvements and successfully held the LGU Seniors Home International in September."

Miles heads a team of four with a seasonal greenkeeper added to the team in summer. It's clear there is plenty of competition for golfers' attentions in the area. Llandudno Maesdu is so close to North Wales Golf Club that the two are only divided by a small railway line which trundles along the West coast, and the much-heralded Conwy Golf Club is a mere three miles away, so it's essential for the course to be in excellent shape.

Another issue which Miles confronted head-on was poorly maintained machinery.

"The bearings had gone on some of the machines, and no grinding had been done. We didn't have time to do repairs as we were concentrating on the course so we had to spend quite a lot of money on servicing. We now look after the machinery ourselves and have already cut the maintenance budget by £4,000 which says it all - that money can be reinvested in the course.

"If we have a major problem, we've got a good relationship with the dealer Major Owen and they can usually get here the same day. Also, we keep records of the machinery maintenance we carry out so if something goes wrong, the club knows it's not due to neglect."

In April I spoke to Stuart Imeson, the 22-year-old Head Greenkeeper at Dunstanburgh Castle Links, to discover how he coped with a senior role at a relatively young age. So what is Miles's view on this?

"I was Course Manager here at 25 and I think at that age you've got to prove yourself twice as much. Some of the committee said to me straightaway "you're too young". That got on my nerves, especially



MAIN: The view of the 18th towards the clubhouse  
INSET: How parts of the course looked a year ago





for the first few weeks, and you feel a bit undermined. I asked them to trust me and give me time, and the team and myself would prove that we knew what we were doing.

"We've made gradual improvements but honestly, we haven't achieved anything like our potential yet. We have to keep moving forward because when I've visited other courses, it's clear to me that standards are improving everywhere as the market is currently so competitive. I like playing golf at other courses and think it's very important not to cocoon yourself in your own course, you need to keep up to date with what other greenkeepers are doing and compare your methods to theirs.

"Everyone here is now on our side, they can see what the greenkeeping team are doing and have faith in us all, they know we're an enthusiastic team.

"We're young and we want to prove a point. The members are complimenting the lads now, whereas before if they did speak to them it was generally a complaint. The feelgood factor is returning."

Miles admitted he left school with no real idea of his career path although he favoured the outdoor life. He played golf at Bryn Morfydd Golf Club (which has since closed)

and this led to a seasonal greenkeeping position. He then moved to Rhuddlan Golf Club while studying a National Diploma in Horticulture at Northop College.

After four months at Rhuddlan – a heavy parkland course – he was offered a full-time role, and switched his studies to an NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf.

Miles recalled: "I worked my way up to Deputy at Rhuddlan. I learnt so much and had a good relationship with Course Manager John Morris, but there's only so much you can achieve as Deputy, I needed to progress and this place was nearby so it was ideal.

"I had the standard worries about moving up to Course Manager. You know if you don't succeed or something goes wrong, it's your head on the block. But to improve yourself you have to step out of your comfort zone.

"You have to lead by example, I go out and demonstrate what I want the team to do so there are no misunderstandings, and I don't ask anybody to do something I wouldn't be prepared to do myself."

Miles was nominated for Toro Student of the Year 2011 by Jenny Pitt, his tutor at Deeside College, and finished as a runner-up overall.



He credits this experience as a turning point in his career.

"I used to struggle with my confidence a bit, particularly when talking to older, more experienced greenkeepers.

"But it reassured me that my career was heading in the right direction and it gave me belief that I was doing the right things."

Miles is a talented footballer, and next season will be playing in the second tier of the Welsh football pyramid after helping Denbigh Town FC to promotion. After my illuminating visit to North Wales, I'm convinced that he's well on the way to restoring Llandudno Maesdu to the big league.

Follow the work of Miles and his team on Twitter @MaesduGolfClub.



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# A holistic approach to irrigation

In the first part of a two-part article, Adrian Mortram from Robin Hume Associates argues the case for a holistic approach to turfgrass irrigation with a nod to greenkeeping methods from the past

**BTME is arguably the best turf management event existing anywhere in the world. It is a time to seek out the new, look back to the past, meet old friends and start new friendships. In modern parlance it is the perfect place for networking.**

Sitting at the dining table with my father and a group of dear friends, there was also a young man who had won a scholarship from BIGGA to attend BTME by writing an essay on why he wanted to be at the show.

The conversation was eclectic, fast and furious, but almost all was about grass, and not the alternate meaning. Irrigation and the effective and efficient usage of water is a huge subject. Your irrigation system is probably the biggest single investment your golf club will

ever make and it must be used to its very best.

This two part article will look at what we, as greenkeepers and course managers, did in the past and how we can use these traditional skills and add new techniques so we are capable of advancing in the future to make the best use of our most precious resource - water.

Every drop of water counts, even after the most severe winter in decades for both rainfall and flooding.

Subterranean aquifers should now be replenished but hydrologically it would appear there is a finite amount of water which can fall as precipitation, does this winter deluge mean drought in the near future? If so, should we not in the long term be harnessing this

precipitation when it is available? Should we not be considering water farming in some degree whether it is by trapping excess drainage or harvesting run-off from hard standing areas, car parks and roofs?

Average rainfall figures quoted in the media can be misleading and cloud our judgement. Even though in some areas rainfall has been average for the time of year, in others for instance the north east of Scotland, it has been below average.

Yes, the pattern of rainfall seems to be changing with heavier falls of rain in greater deluges in shorter periods of time. Irrigation data was originally based on agricultural crops when a drought was assessed when the soil moisture deficit reached 30mm, equivalent to a ten day period without rainfall.



Greenkeepers of the past would look for signs of imminent drought by observing footprinting, the delicate depressions in the turf caused by the stress of foot traffic, often observed as the sun began to dip in the sky, or the subtle changes in colour of the bent rich sward indicating water stress or wilting.

Older tools for changing the hole cup exposed the root core for inspection giving hidden clues as to the depth of rooting and the water availability in the rootzone; daily switching of the early morning dew could provide up to 1mm of free water, almost one third of the daily requirement.

Aeration - both surface and sub-surface - plays a huge part in the effective management and use of water resources. Surface aeration whether verticutting or scarifying

helps remove excess water absorbing organic matter in the surface of the sward and sub-surface aeration, by whatever method, allows oxygen and water to penetrate into the rootzone increasing the root biomass of the turf.

This encourages a deeper rooting sward and a greater soil reservoir capacity. These are all tried and well-tested methods to improve the efficiency of water management in the rootzone.

More recently there has been considerable improvement in the use and efficiency of wetting agents and their use extended not only as a benefit for hydrophobic turf but to encompass and encourage the uptake of moisture from dewy turf. Research and breeding of drought resistance in turf cultivars has gained prominence, as has the

selection of cultivars with better natural colour.

Over feeding and excessive water regimes can lead to a more dominant vivid green colour, but what is colour? Is the colour of the sward to be dominated by the shades of colour on our television screens, or are the natural muted colours of our finer grasses in the UK to be the norm?

Do I see the same shade of green as the next man when it is still early spring in the UK with little or no growth? Turf managers are not looking for a yield from their turf, only sustainable balanced growth, so water and nutrients should be kept to as low a level as possible.

A knowledge of soil structure and the movement of soil water also has a considerable impact on the efficient use of water. During

this winter most soils/rootzones will have been waterlogged, when all the available air within the soil/rootzone, the pore spaces, is saturated with water.

As water drains away under the influence of gravity, the soil/rootzone reaches field capacity, when the pore spaces are fully charged with air and the capillary pathways fully charged with water.

This may be considered the initial point from which irrigation is calculated, though irrigation should not be calculated to bring the soil/rootzone back to field capacity.

If this was the case, any natural precipitation would ensure the soil/rootzone would become waterlogged and the free natural precipitation would be lost through drainage, and wasted.

Irrigation must take into account a calculation for the available water and allowable depletion. Available water is a factor of the depth of root development and the available water capacity.

The available water capacity is the difference in the amount of water in the soil/rootzone at field capacity and the amount contained at permanent wilting point. A knowledge of infiltration rate is also

beneficial as this is a measure of the rate at which a soil/rootzone absorbs water, if the application rate from an irrigation sprinkler system is greater than the infiltration rate of the soil/rootzone, then run-off will occur. Infiltration rate is relatively easy to measure, by using a double ring infiltrometer, and the rate of infiltration can be affected by such variables as compaction and slope (contour).

Let us also look at the factors which cause grasses to loose water, the factors which affect evapotranspiration. They are solar radiation (the amount of light or sunshine), temperature, wind and humidity. Most of these are difficult if not impossible to control, at least economically. However they can be assessed and these assessments can be used to calculate different rates of irrigation for differing situations.

Simply put, a plateau green in an exposed position on a links course will dry out quicker than a sheltered green situated within the dunes. But even this scenario is not simple, as the former will be cooler than the latter when temperature rather than wind may be in control. A modern weather station may

assist, but will not give the complete answer. Soil moisture sensing equipment will help to assess sensitive areas.

Referring back to this article's introduction, I mentioned that we were sat around the dinner table when much of this conversation took place.

There present sat an old friend with considerable experience of installing and maintaining irrigation control systems, his comment was on many return visits to golf clubs the controllers have remained unaltered from their original setting.

We have the technology, so why is it not being used? Is education lacking? Well for the past several years BTME has put on workshops looking at the management of water on the golf course and this year there was a workshop looking at grasses, soil and fertilisers.

In the second article, I hope to explore some of the issues raised and discuss the use of modern technology in an attempt to solve some of the problems. Many of the answers are in the use of new technology, but not all, and an all-round approach as always should be considered the best.

#### about the author



#### About the author

Adrian Mortram is Managing Director of Robin Hume Associates (RHA) who are golf course and sportsturf irrigation consultants based in the UK. Adrian has undertaken numerous education sessions for BIGGA both at regional and national level and his company RHA offer a range of services from irrigation audits through to detailed irrigation design, plans and specifications. For more information please visit: [www.irrigationconsultants.co.uk](http://www.irrigationconsultants.co.uk), or email [adrian.mortram@irrigationconsultants.co.uk](mailto:adrian.mortram@irrigationconsultants.co.uk)





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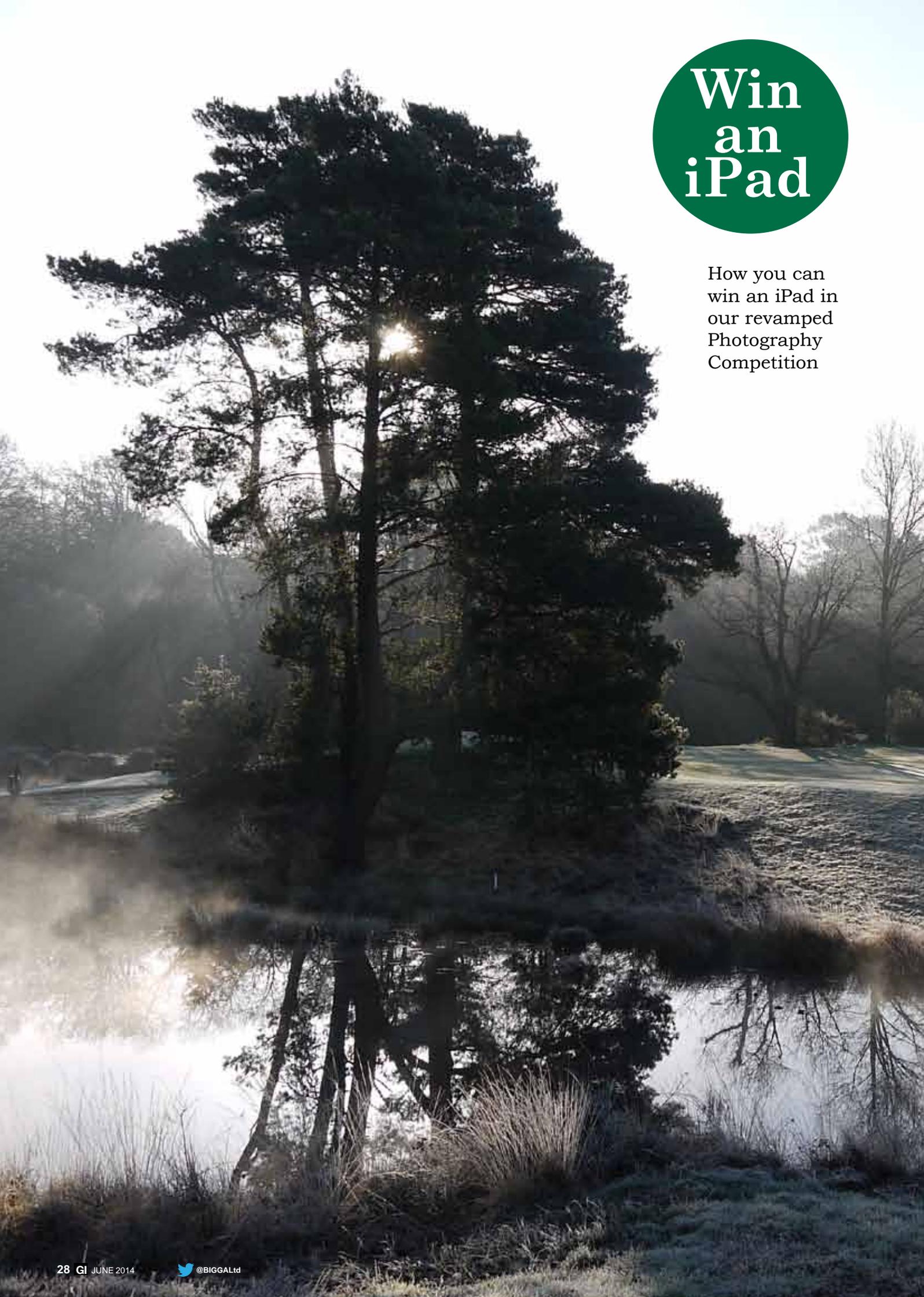
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How you can  
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our revamped  
Photography  
Competition

# In the picture

**BIGGA members can win an iPad in this year's Photographic Competition – and for the first time you can submit smartphone images.**

Many BIGGA members take stunning course photos on their mobiles – and these entries are now encouraged as we move to producing a desktop calendar for the first time.

We'll also be giving members the chance to pick the winners. A panel at BIGGA House will whittle the entries down to the best 24, then you will be able to pick your favourite through a survey on our website.

The 12 leading entries will be included in the calendar and the winning image will win an iPad, plus a large framed version of their image.

We continue to welcome photos taken on digital cameras. The images will be displayed at a 16:9 ratio. If you are taking your shot on a mobile phone, please ensure it's taken on the highest resolution setting.

To enter, please send your images to [comps@bigga.co.uk](mailto:comps@bigga.co.uk) with 'BIGGA Photo Comp 2014' in the subject field. Please include your name, the club you work at and your membership number.

Also, please state which course your photo was taken at to allow your picture to be considered. Entries are limited at five per person.

The closing date for entries is Friday 18 July 2014.

## BIGGA GOLF PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2014 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Open to BIGGA members only.

2 Photos of the course members work at, or a course they have visited, will be considered. Entries will only be considered if the entrant states what course the photograph shows.

4 Each entrant is limited to a maximum of 5 entries ie 5 different photographs

5 All photography entered may be used in a variety of publications.

6 Images to be high resolution and at 16:9 landscape (actual print size 172mm wide x 100mm high at 300dpi). Only images taken with a three megapixel camera or higher will be considered.

7 Entries are via email to [comps@bigga.co.uk](mailto:comps@bigga.co.uk) with transfer methods advised for large files. "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2014" to be listed in the subject header.

8 The best 24 images will be provided for members to give their views on via an online survey. The survey will be linked to through the BIGGA website and will be open to votes within the Members' Area only. The leading 12 will feature in the 2015 BIGGA calendar.

9 The winning entry will receive an iPad and a framed copy of their shot.

10 BIGGA reserves the right to reject any entry if it is considered inappropriate.

11 The closing date for the competition is Friday 18 July 2014.

# Beesy does it

Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at STRI, updates us on Operation Pollinator and visits two courses where BIGGA members are making a real difference

**Operation Pollinator is designed to reverse the plight of bumblebees and pollinating insects in the UK and Ireland by creating valuable new habitats in out of play areas of golf courses.**

Its aim is to establish pollen and nectar rich habitats on up to 500 golf courses to provide the essential food sources and nesting sites for pollinating insects - including bumblebees and other important wild bees.

Operation Pollinator provides a framework of knowledge, expertise and experience to assist with the successful management of wildflower habitats in out-of-play rough, alongside the conventional management of the golf course.

The inaugural Operation Pollinator Award, run by The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and Syngenta, was held during BTME. After long deliberations North Foreland Golf Club in Kent were awarded the top prize.

The Award aims to highlight the plight of our native pollinators which are undergoing massive declines due to loss of the countryside and changing weather patterns. Moreover, just like the Environment Awards, it is hoped the award will be used as an industry platform allowing us to demonstrate that far from being a selfish use of the landscape, golf is a positive contributor to biodiversity and the conservation of both species and habitats, some of which owe their very existence to the presence of the golf course.

Operation Pollinator will give recognition to golf clubs that are committed to the conservation management, and which have successfully created pollen rich habitats on golf courses leading to an increase in pollinating insects.

So what is North Foreland doing that is so special?

The sites chosen at the club, a 36-hole facility on the Kent coast, had been unmanaged for over 30 years allowing deep ground ivy to take over and compromise the former chalk grassland. Site selection was due to it being largely out of play with limited foot traffic.

The results of the grassland management improvement work have seen a major transformation with the rough now alive with flying insects, moths, butterflies and grasshoppers. Bee activity within bee hotels has resulted in a gradual species increase and much enhanced environmental and ecological value. From the work taking place at North Foreland, it is clear that this is a long term project with lots of future potential.

Course Manager Dan McGrath MG fully understands and appreciates what works best in the course environment. The seed selected by him indicates that he has an implicit understanding of what grows well on the course and how it blends in with the rest of the course to provide an enjoyable, colourful and inspiring environment for members and visitors alike.

There are an increasing number of golf clubs working to develop pollinator habitat, building upon their experience and gaining direct and indirect benefit from the conservation management opportunities. Some clubs are also realising business opportunities from the initiative.

The finalists for the award included:

- Carnoustie Golf Links Management Trust
- St Andrews Links
- John O'Gaunt Golf Club
- Dundonald Links
- Hankley Common Golf Club





*Bombus rudrearius* (also main photograph)



*Bombus humilis*

- The Grove Golf Club
- Pyecombe Golf Club
- Luffness Golf Club
- South Essex Golf Club
- Bonnyton Golf Club
- Royal Tarlair Golf Club

The range of work is diverse. At one club, this work may involve simply recognising the plight of our pollinators and getting members to tie in with the need to leave areas of grassland, whilst at another bee houses are being erected and considerable effort is being given to creating flower rich grasslands.

So how does a club get started? Simple - call STRI and discuss the range of opportunities that are available. Identify areas of grassland that can be set aside and managed to optimise pollinator interest.

A management programme will be required highlighting management techniques including the sowing of appropriate wild flowers if needed. It will be essential that the flowers present provide a nectar or pollen source throughout three of the seasons.

Ensure good overwintering habitat which is essential if species are to fully utilise the habitats present. Dead wood including log piles, fallen wood scattered on the ground and ariel wood are essential - not only for overwintering - but those specialist invertebrates that live in dead wood which are important in pollinating our flowers and grasses.

John O'Gaunt are well underway with the pollinator conservation work and are so advanced they are using the seed heads collected from the first established areas to develop new areas of grassland around the course.

Do not rely on even neat and attractive areas - tall herbs including umbelifers and species of labiate in out of play areas should be encouraged. This may appear untidy to some but nature is not always tidy; these areas are often vital and will support species that are dependent upon them.

Communication is likely to become a main part of the programme and can take many forms. North Foreland are using beer

about the author



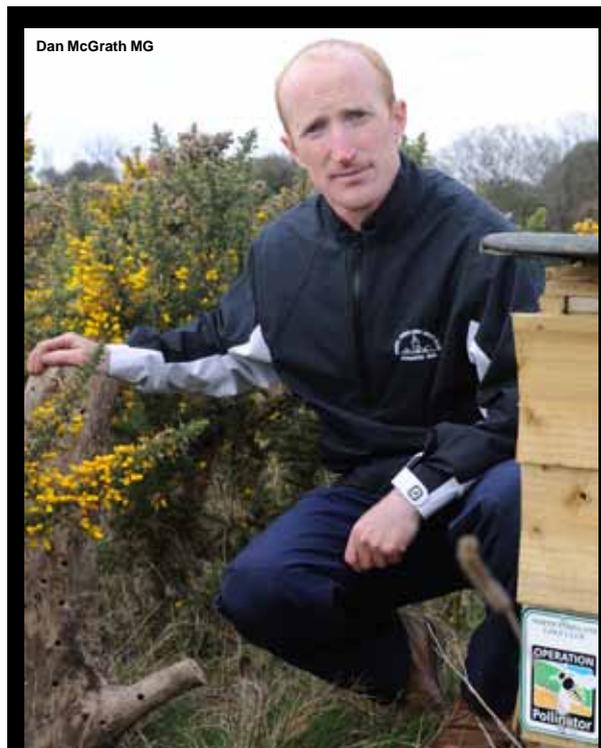
As STRI's Head of Ecology and Environment, Bob Taylor is one of the most experienced ecologists working within golf. Over the last 20 or more years he has developed a number of innovative and bespoke management techniques that are now routinely used in the running of golf courses.

Bob's work takes him all over the UK and Europe. He sees major opportunities for environmental, biodiversity, and conservation improvement, and for golf to take the lead as positive custodian of the landscape.

mats in the bar printed with the Operation Pollinator logo; this is a great way of getting members and visitors aware and involved. Some clubs such as the London Club and Minchinhampton have installed signage alongside grassland areas which in turn have been specially developed next to public rights of way. This is a great way to get ramblers aware of the positive conservation work being implemented on the courses.

I would like to thank all of the golf clubs for entering, I am confident that working together we can all make a positive contribution to the conservation of our countryside and all that is in it.

There are probably many clubs just starting out perhaps feeling that they haven't done enough but as I have found on visiting these clubs that they are doing far more than they think. They would not only prove worthy contenders of this new, prestigious award, but by joining in they become part of a growing network of similar like-minded clubs.



Operation Pollinator Awards

The Operation Pollinator Awards is open to all UK and Ireland clubs implementing the Operation Pollinator programme. Operation Pollinator guidelines and advice has been developed specifically for golf courses in conjunction with STRI and is available through Syngenta. Please do your part by registering your interest with Syngenta caroline.carroll@syngenta.com or with me at STRI bob.taylor@stri.co.uk. We will notify you when the application form for 2014 is available. Award entries are judged by STRI.

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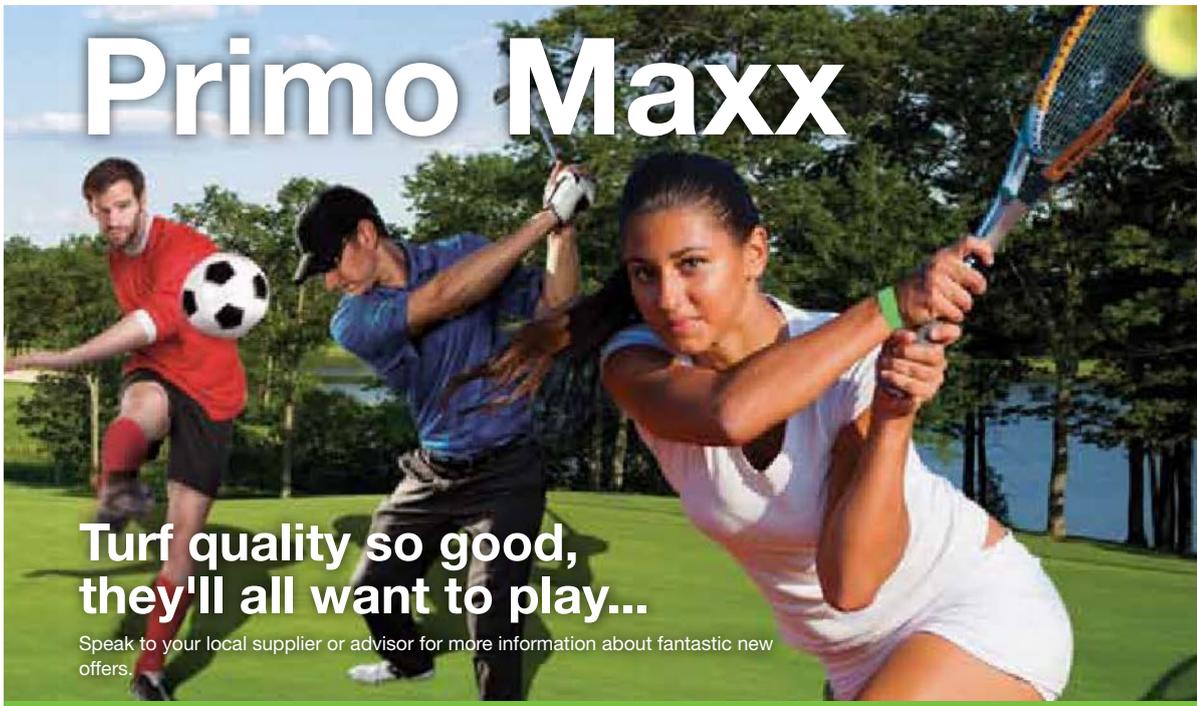
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# Pitched battle?



The issue of pitchmarks is always contentious. Here Ben Dollery (left), a BIGGA member and Senior Greenkeeper at West Chilmington Golf Club, discusses the topic and promotes 'National Repair Your Pitchmark Day'

**It's time to help greenkeepers win the battle against pitchmarks. Here are the often reported statistics about them:**

"A pitchmark repaired within 10 minutes of being created will fully recover within three days. A poorly repaired pitchmark or one left for a day before being repaired will take over a week to heal.

"On average the number of ball marks made on greens by a golfer per round is eight. Assuming only 130 rounds are played daily on your course, your greens receive 1040 impressions daily, 31,000 per month or more than 374,400 per year."

In recent years the issue of pitchmarks – always prominent in the turf management industry - has become and even hotter topic. Social media now has a big part to play as many greenkeepers use it to show off their courses or gain advice from fellow turf experts as well as keeping members and golfers informed. Recently a growing number of greenkeepers and golf clubs have been tweeting pictures of unrepaired pitchmarks on their greens and venting the frustration that goes with them.

Some golfers must wonder why pitchmarks are so frustrating. Greenkeepers strive to provide fast and true greens and unrepaired pitchmarks make the greens bumpy and patchy as well as taking up valuable time repairing.

My interest in the topic was heightened after seeing a Twitter conversation last year between Dave Collins (@greenkeeperdave) and Julie Vesely (@golfclubnbeds). They were discussing pitchmarks when they came up with promoting the idea of 'National Repair Your Pitchmark Day' and set a date for 14 August 2013. The day was a great success, many golf clubs got involved as well as a few celebrities - South African cricketer and keen golfer AB de Villiers and Bradford City FC. Hundreds of other social media users retweeted the event.

So what did the day involve? Apart from the massive campaign on Twitter, and at their golf courses, some greenkeepers gave out pitchmark repairers at their clubs and explained the importance of these to golfers going out that day. Another day is planned for 14 August this year to hopefully raise even more awareness. Here at West Chiltington, which is a parkland course in West Sussex, we will be putting up posters around the club and will be maximising exposure on Twitter, Facebook and our website

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

### How to repair a pitchmark poster

Have you found your fold-out poster with this month's GI? We recognise there is ignorance amongst some golfers about pitchmarks. So, pin this poster up in your clubhouse and educate your members and visitors.

## HOW TO REPAIR A PITCHMARK



GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take your ball mark repair tool and insert the prongs into the turf at the edge of the depression. Do NOT insert the prongs into the depression itself, but at the rim of the depression.

Then push the edge of the ball mark toward the centre, using your ball mark repair tool in a gentle twisting motion.



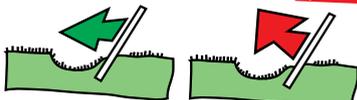
This is where golfers who try to repair ball marks usually mess up. Many golfers believe the way to fix a ball mark is to insert the tool at an angle, so the prongs are beneath the centre of the crater, and then to use the tool as a lever to push the bottom of the ball mark back up even with the surface. Do not do this!

Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

**Right:** Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the centre



**Wrong:** Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression



Keep 14 August in mind and follow @greenkeeperdave @golfclubnbeds @clearing on Twitter for details.

to get people talking about it.

National Repair Your Pitchmark Day' is all about raising awareness. It is about reinstating etiquette back into golf in an educational and fun way, rather than being patronising. Last year's event helped by getting people talking about the issue, and if only a handful of golfers improve their etiquette it's a start. They should hopefully pass this on to their playing partners and any new golfers to give them some ownership of the courses they play.

We need to get golfers thinking about the care of the course as part of their game. For some it is in-built but for others it simply isn't, though most would tell you they tend and repair greens incessantly if you asked them!

This was certainly confirmed when we asked the members at West Chiltington, to fill out a short, anonymous questionnaire featuring just three questions based on pitchmarks. 188 members replied...

**1 Do you repair your Pitchmarks?** Unsurprisingly, 99% said yes!

**2 Would you repair a pitchmark made by someone else?** Again, unsurprisingly, 94% said yes

**3 How often do you repair Pitchmarks?** 56% said they repaired pitchmarks 80-100% of the time, with 36% claiming they repaired them every time. Just 10% said they repaired them 0-10% of the time.

The aim is to get golfers in the frame of mind where repairing pitchmarks is as important to them as holing out or filling in their scorecard after every hole. It is an old line trotted out by greenkeepers, but one of the things we try to impress upon our members and visitors is that we are not the only stewards of the course and that we all play a part in its presentation and standards.

Often this is a difficult message to convey especially to our more cynical customers.

If we can all teach one new golfer how to repair a pitchmark then that's hundreds of golfers who will help us out in the future.

A good way to get golfers on board is to provide free repairers or stock some of the huge variety carrying a logo, ones that members can display with pride.

A close relationship between golfers and greenkeepers is vital for understanding the problem and working together to improve the course.

Getting captains on board will help to get the message across if

they mention it in their regular speeches, and after recent meetings we have arranged pitchmark repair social events.

At West Chiltington we are constantly encouraged to speak with members to improve relationships and understanding both ways. We regularly meet with the different sections and speak at their AGMs as well as answering questions they have about our latest project whilst out on the course. Not everyone reads the latest newsletter on the website so face to face communication with golfers is still very important, in fact in my opinion it can't be beaten.

We have our own Twitter account @westchiltgreens to keep members informed of daily work we carry out and to publish pictures of the course as well as information on pitchmarks, bunker raking and all types of course management. We hope that by involving the members and through giving them a sense of ownership, pitchmark repairs and other small acts will become a regular part of their game.



ABOVE: Pitch mark with repairer tool and LEFT: double pitchmark shot in winter (both at West Chiltington Golf Club)



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# Is genetic modification an avenue to turf grass improvement?

This month Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the possibilities genetically modified turfgrass could offer the turf manager – and the potential downsides

**Conventional plant breeding continues to advance grass varieties with genetic traits for enhanced plant performance in managed turf grass but genetic modification (GM) could steal a march.**

Access to and use of genetic material in conventional grass plant breed is limited to DNA (genes) within the genus (e.g. *Agrostis*) and perhaps within the wider grass family (Graminae) depending on the level of genetic compatibility and hybridization with other genera. With GM 'the world becomes an oyster' in the quest for DNA for insertion into the grass genome using a technique called 'gene transfer'. GM puts genetics into a whole new arena by opening up new avenues for scientists to explore and exploit using an apparently infinite spectrum of DNA.

Genes can now be accessed from literally anywhere and everywhere, from rats to roses, and inserted into grass genomes for phenotypic expression of new desired traits. Difference between the standard and modified genotypes is minuscule and is separated by a single gene. But the new phenotype will be completely different with an ability to overcome the pinpointed problem (for example a specific pest or disease or environmental conditions), whichever was the specific target factor for genetic modification.

## Potential upsides and downsides of GM turf grass

Universal potential benefits of genetic modification appear as wide as the gene bank in the broader plant and animal world. Grass plant resistance to specific insect pests and plant pathogens such as chafer grubs and *Microdochium*



**MAIN LEFT:** The risk of 'alien' genes escaping from managed turf and into the wider environment is reduced by the continual close mowing that prevents flowering, unlike cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) seen flowering here in uncut rough

**ABOVE:** Turf grasses genetically modified for high salt tolerance would be of interest to coastal golf courses (Picture courtesy Kenny Liddell)

**BELOW:** Scientists and regulators would have to be sure that GM grass did not impact on associated butterflies and moths



*nivale* (*Fusarium* patch disease) immediately springs to mind.

Design and development of grass genetically modified for non-allergenic pollen is well advanced. Australian researchers have genetically modified perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) which do not trigger an allergic response (hay fever) in humans. Though clearly not applicable to grasses used on tees and greens, where regular low-cut mowing removes the ability of grass plants to flower, this GM avenue could prove interesting for grasses used to seed rough areas.

With increasing interest in bee-friendly areas where the rough grass species are as important as the wild flower seed selection in securing 'bee friendliness' of the sward composition and therefore high pollination levels, genetic

modification of rough grass species could be of interest.

It all sounds easy and the mechanics of genetic modification certainly are for appropriately qualified scientists with state of the art instrumentation at their fingertips. The real and sometimes seemingly insurmountable problems arise from public perceptions of GM fuelled by hyped up media coverage and scare stories about 'Frankenstein foods'. This has helped to build a strong anti-GM lobby with a large measure of public support.

Perhaps surprisingly first attempts at GM now around three decades old were targeted at food crops including wheat and maize as food crops and soya bean for animal feed. This appears to have been the initial undoing of GM in Europe. GM came in for an extraordinarily bad press especially in the



ABOVE: Any change in pesticide usage from using GM turf grass clearly cannot be allowed to impact on the wider golf course environment and especially aquatic components

UK. Virtually no attempt had been made to carry the public along and get them on board. I can remember attending conferences on biotechnology in the early 1980's including GM where the only journalists were scientists from research publications and other 'learned' journals. The net result was blanket public distrust for GM in all its forms including grasses used in sports and amenity turf.

But many fears expressed about genetic modification of food crop plants, including members of the grass family – wheat, rice and maize – simply do not apply to sports turf because no human being is going to eat the genetically modified biomass. The only animals likely to do so are insect pests like chafer grubs, small wild mammals like rabbits and wild geese grazing greens and tees in spring for that early 'bite'.

However, there are factors presenting real or perceived environmental problems whether the GM plants are grown for human food and animal feed or used as a component of living sports surfaces. Primary factor is the escape of GM pollen into the wider plant environment with subsequent introduction of 'alien' genes into wild plants.

Traits which are beneficial and safe in turf grasses could create serious problems in the natural environment. This will become clearer in the following case study featuring *Agrostis stolonifera* as the first grass species to be genetically modified for a specific application in managed turf.

### The great GM grass escape

The first work on genetic modification of a turf grass started around the year 2000 and produced a GM *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) resistant to glyphosate, a systemically acting total herbicide which normally kills all green plants whether they are broadleaved weeds or turf grasses.

It did not receive general public attention until 2006 when the press, including *New Scientist* magazine, reported how scientists had found this GM trait in the wild.

The grass had been designed and developed for easy-to-manage pure swards on golf courses but had escaped its managed turf niche and moved into the wild up to 3.8 km from where it was being trialled in the north western US state of Oregon, and before securing full

USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) approval. Nine GM 'absconder' plants were identified. GM material had apparently escaped and established through pollination of non-GM plants and germination of the hybrid seed thus produced.

Critics of the whole GM concept pointed to the perennial nature of *Agrostis stolonifera* claiming its persistence year after year actually poses more scope for escape, establishment and spread than for agricultural crops like maize (an annual 'grass' albeit a very large one) which is replanted as seed every year.

Others referred to numerous close relatives of *A. stolonifera*, like *A. capillaris* (colonial or browntop bentgrass), *A. canina* (velvet bentgrass), *A. castellana* (Highland bentgrass) and other truly wild bentgrasses with which it can hybridise and exchange the gene for glyphosate resistance. Research findings at the time reported hybridisation between creeping bentgrass (*A. stolonifera*) and other *Agrostis* species at frequencies of six hybrids thousand.

Others were concerned because the gene conferring glyphosate



resistance did not originate from another green plant but from a bacterium.

Be that as it may, of an *Agrostis stolonifera* resistant to glyphosate herbicide becoming commercially available would have meant greenkeepers establishing pure stands on greens, tees and fairways which could then be sprayed with glyphosate to kill all 'contaminating' broadleaf weeds and rough grasses like timothy (*Phleum pratense*). Even other unwanted 'fine' turf species (e.g. *Poa annua*) would find their way into the sward one way or another.

The downside for greenkeepers would clearly have been the end of mixed turf grass species swards because anything other than the GM *Agrostis stolonifera* would be killed by the herbicide spray. Also grass clippings from the GM creeping bentgrass sprayed with glyphosate would be potentially toxic to other grasses and therefore requiring special handling and disposal.

### GM grass pushes on

Further development of GM *Agrostis stolonifera* was blocked but this did not deter the manufac-

**TOP LEFT:** Wild geese taking an early spring 'bite' among the few wild animals likely to eat GM grass

**TOP RIGHT:** 6 Changes in pesticide use brought about by the introduction of GM grass must not be allowed to add to environmental loading.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Turf grasses genetically modified for high salt tolerance would be of interest to coastal golf courses (Picture courtesy Kenny Liddell)

**ABOVE RIGHT:** There is always the fear that GM turf grass could impact on aquatic wildlife like the spawning frogs shown here

turer (the seed company Scotts of Marysville in Ohio State and now called 'Scotts Miracle Gro') which is testing a new genetically modified turf grass in garden lawns of a small number of its employees during this 2014 growing season. The employees are testing a *Poa pratensis* (Kentucky bluegrass) genetically modified to withstand glyphosate in the 'Roundup' product developed, manufactured and marketed by Monsanto.

In January 2014 the Columbus (Ohio) Gazette said "If no one beats Scott's to the market it will be the first producer of what it calls 'enhanced turf grass'. Quoting Scott's they said the grass [GM *Poa pratensis*] is designed to grow slower, require less mowing, be easy to keep weed free and to require a lot less water.

GM turf grasses look set to make their mark in North America but obtaining approval in Europe and especially the UK may prove a much harder proposition. Not particularly due to scientific concerns in the EU, but general concerns articulated by the press and taken on board by broad swathes of the public.

Risk scenarios put forward against GM plant species are almost

as varied as the gene transfer options offered to molecular biologists. Just imagine this invented scenario - "A bent grass (*Agrostis*) genetically modified for resistance to *Fusarium Patch* was approved and widely taken up by golf courses across the UK.

The gene conferring resistance was sourced from rhubarb and scientists said the 'rhubarb gene' caused the cells of the GM grass to manufacture a chemical that isolated leaf infections by *Microdochium nivale*. But the GM grass proved highly attractive to chafer grubs causing a population explosion and untold damage to golf courses throughout the country.

Foxes had a field day feeding on the chafer grubs but the chemical, transferred unaltered from chafer grubs to foxes, made these urban wild animals highly aggressive with reports of attacks on people all over London and other towns and cities throughout the country."

It clearly sounds contrived and is highly unlikely to happen but is just the sort of scenario bound to be used as an argument against, should development and approval of GM turf grass ever seem likely to happen in the UK.

# Bad Vibrations

John Ross, former Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, is now working to improve health and safety in the turf management industry. This month he turns his attention to the common ailment of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome – which is actually classed as a disease

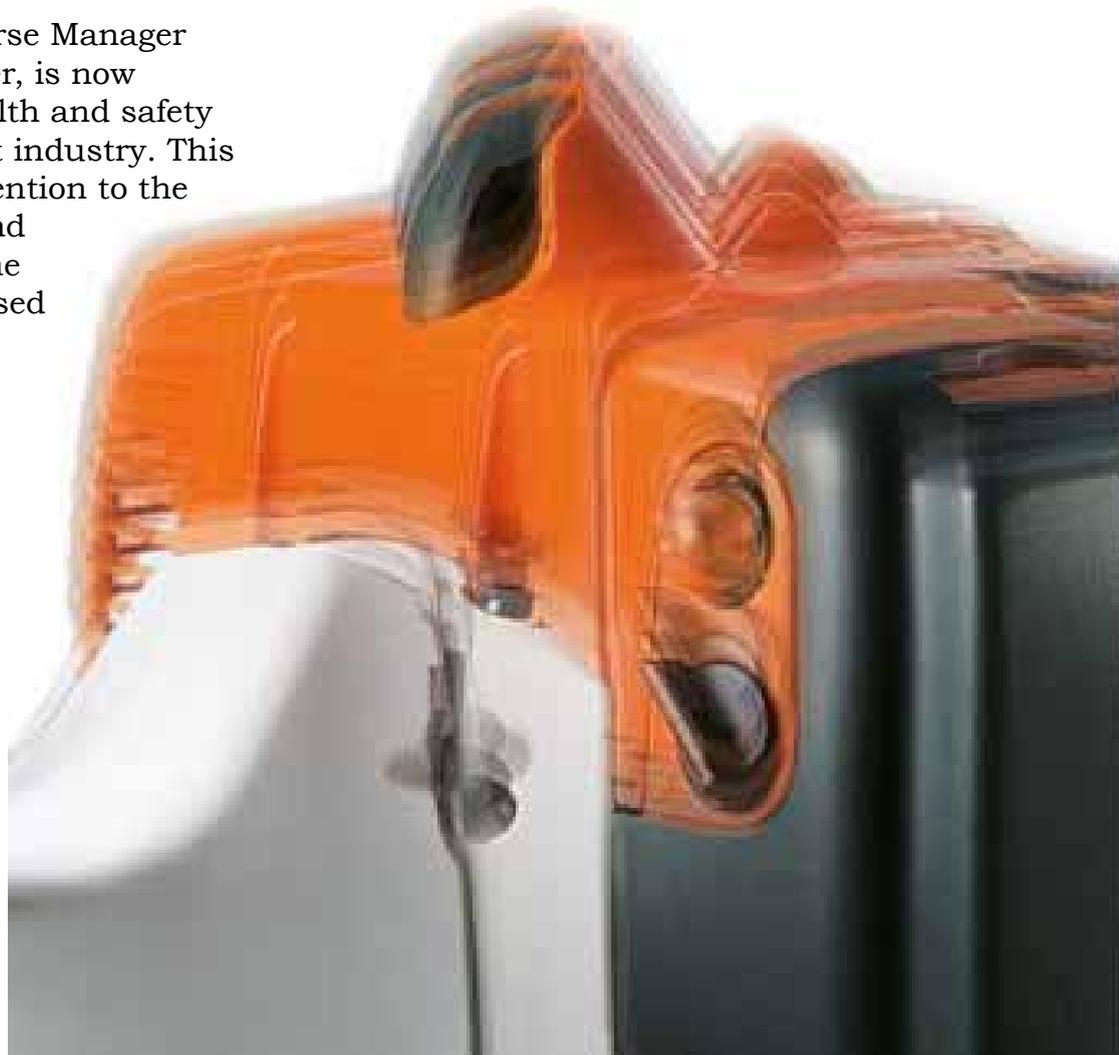
**The effects of vibration causing ill health and injury in the workplace are clearly understood. So much so that Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) has been listed as a prescribed disease in the UK since 1985 and is covered in RIDDOR2013(8) as being an occupational disease.**

Its occurrence must be recorded by the person designated responsible for managing health and safety in the workplace and reported to the HSE.

**So what is HAVS, how do we recognise it and how do we manage in order to prevent it?**

HAVS is caused by the continuous use of vibrating machinery and affects nerves, muscles, joints and blood vessels. Symptoms appear in the vascular system which involves the tips of fingers going white (blanching), or the neurological system, which includes numbness and tingling of the fingers and a reduced sense of temperature or touch. Attacks in the early stages of the condition are not continuous and you do not have to be using vibrating equipment for the symptoms to manifest despite the fact they have been caused by that equipment, simply working in cold conditions is enough to trigger the symptoms.

When this occurs and the cold body subsequently warms back up an exaggerated return blood flow can occur that will lead to a throbbing of the fingers and the fingers going red and feeling extremely painful. HAVS will be triggered by conditions that have resulted in reduced blood circulation – and this includes smoking which causes small blood vessels to narrow and can exacerbate the symptoms.



If exposure to vibration continues then the symptoms will spread further up the hand and can even affect the thumb, sufferers will experience joint pain (Carpel Tunnel Syndrome) reduced muscle strength and permanent nerve damage. In turf management the equipment that can lead to HAVS is hand held power tools and hand guided power tools. HAVS does not appear overnight, it is a chronic condition that studies have suggested may take up to ten years to develop. Once it has developed it cannot currently be cured.

## Managing HAVS

Exposure to vibration is regulated, and these regulations place a duty on the employer to either eliminate vibration at source, or to lower exposure to as low as is reasonably practicable. What eliminate at source means is taking

physical contact with the vibrating equipment out of the task (using a remote control) or do not undertake the task (does that bank really need strimming?)

However where it cannot be eliminated (yes that bank does need strimming!) eliminate at source means introduce organisational and technical procedures appropriate to the activity and to apply MHSWR1999 (4) The Principles of Prevention.

## So what do the regulations say?

As vibration is a workplace hazard, any employer exposing their staff to vibration must conduct a vibration risk assessment. Like any risk assessment it is a tool that enables the manager to record what controls are in place, whether they are sufficient or not, and if any improvements needed. The risk

## about the author



### John Ross MG

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

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



**EAV**

- In applying the principles of prevention the employer should:
- Find other working methods which eliminate or reduce exposure
  - Take account of the work to be done
  - Choose equipment that reduces vibration exposure and replace equipment that is vibrating excessively
  - Ensure equipment is maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations
  - Provide employees with instruction on HAVS and what's being done to minimise exposure
  - Limit the duration and magnitude of exposure with work schedules and rest periods
  - Provide clothing to protect from the cold and the damp
  - Implement a programme of health surveillance (in its simplest form this means regularly asking staff if any symptoms exist)

**ELV**

- Reduce exposure to below the limit value immediately
- Identify the reasons for that limit being exceeded and modify measures to prevent it being exceeded again

**HSE Vibration Exposure Points Calculator**

Vibration M/S <sup>2</sup>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	15
Points per hour	18	32	50	72	98	130	160	200	290	450

100 points a day = Exposure Action Value  
400 Points a day = Exposure Limit Value

way of doing this using a points system introduced by the HSE. Points are awarded to a vibration magnitude per hour, if the points tally for the day reaches 100 you have reached the Exposure Action Value and must take action, if the point tally reaches 400 you have hit the Exposure Limit Value that exposure cannot exceed.

Using the **HSE Vibration Exposure Points Calculator** we can see that equipment with a vibration magnitude of 5 M/S<sup>2</sup> can be used for eight hours before the ELV is reached 50X8=400 exposure points.

I know from experience as a Course Manager, that much equipment greenkeepers and groundsmen use reaches the EAV, and some reaches the ELV, so we need to know what the duty of the employer is when those levels are reached. Those duties are shown in the table inset right (EAV):

Managing vibration is relatively easy once exposure levels have been established. The easiest way to do this is to put a timeframe on how long a piece of equipment can be used for, take into consideration breaks and rest periods and rotate tasks amongst the team all to ensure that points exposure on the HSE calculator remains below 400.

When purchasing equipment consider the vibration magnitude as part of your purchasing policy and buy the most suitable piece of equipment for the task but with the lowest exposure levels.

Inform your staff about HAVS and what the symptoms are, and tell them to report to you immediately if any symptoms are experienced and maintain equipment and ensure that it is set up correctly.

assessment should determine who is exposed, the magnitude of exposure and the duration of exposure for all equipment. It should also identify vulnerable workers (those with early symptoms of HAVS) and young workers with developing bodies who are more susceptible to Musculo Skeletal Disorder.

You cannot manage what you cannot measure' is a well-known adage. Vibration can be measured because it is an oscillation around a fixed point and is measured like noise, in amplitude (the extent of oscillation) and frequency (how often it occurs).

In mechanical terms the measurement is expressed in Metres per second sq (M/S<sup>2</sup>), knowing the vibrating levels of machinery is the starting point to implementing procedures.

The amount of vibration you can be exposed to is subject to CVWR05 (4) Exposure Action Values (EAV) and Exposure Limit Values (ELV). The EAV is the amount of vibration over which the employer has to take action. The ELV is the maximum amount of vibration an employee

can be exposed to in a day, these are both measured over an eight hour working period so is referenced as (A8). Unlike the regulations for noise Personal Protective Equipment is given no consideration.

Those values are an EAV of 2.5 M/S<sup>2</sup> (A8) and an ELV of 5 M/S<sup>2</sup> (A8). The data for these levels is provided by the manufacturers of the equipment and is published within the operators' manual. We must bear in mind that this is a measurement taken as factory new, and that equipment deteriorates, gets damaged, and is not always maintained as it should be.

The measurement provided by the manufacturer also does not consider wear and tear, service requirements, damaged parts, or blunt blades - all of which add to the vibration exposure. This means that any employer exposing employees to vibration also has a duty to measure to determine actual vibration levels.

Once vibration levels are established it is easy to put in place procedures that keep exposure levels below the ELV, the easiest





# A Stirling success

Stirling Golf Club has initiated a ten-year development programme. Course Manager James Lindsay is working closely with Swan Golf Designs to achieve a better golf course. Howard Swan outlines the plans, the reasons behind them and explains why a close and harmonious relationship between greenkeeper and architect is so important



PICTURED: James Lindsay

## Working together

It is always an exciting time for any golf course architect to visit a new project, particularly one at an established members' club. A club that calls on an architect's services may be looking to improve its layout, the condition and presentation and, ultimately, the performance - financially and otherwise - of its course.

However, we are repeatedly faced with a club that has clearly made short-term decisions regarding improving the course - possibly due to several changes of committees and the personnel within.

The president's legacy and/or the captain's mark are so often left behind long after they have departed, and become an integral part of the design of the golf course whether they are good or bad.

They then remain as an example of the personal involvement of the enthusiastic non-professional in the course.

This 'Do It Yourself' approach inevitably leads to wayward evolution of the course. There is far too much focus on tiny details because those making the decisions are simply too close to the action.

Getting things right in the way the course is redeveloped needs to be in the hands of the professional architect who can assess and evaluate the design of the golf course.

The professional greenkeeper can then take that assessment forward into a practical execution.



### So, what is the plan at Stirling?

Stirling Golf Club has formed a Course Development Group to give the desired improvement works a sense of consistency over the ten-year period.

Autumn this year is likely to see the start of a woodland and landscape management programme to recreate the indigenous character of the course.

This will be accompanied by three of four holes being rebunkered in accordance with the overall plan.

This will be a fine start and will demonstrate to the membership the extent of the improvement which can be achieved without massive disruption, without massive capital cost and be the basis upon which subsequent years' works can be built and expanded, given that the resources are available to do so.



A technical audit of the old irrigation system is going to be made and there will also be some modest field drainage improvements.

The renovation programme is then likely to consider the redesign of some greens and tees to improve the routing as well as more bunkering.

### A holistic view

Moving on, it is vitally important that a holistic view is taken of any course at one point in time and from this analysis, made objectively by the architect, recommendations for its future development follow.

That holistic view needs to encompass:

**The course's overall design** - its length, its balance, its rhythm, its flow, its variety, its challenge, the orientation of its holes, the variation from its flights of tees for the differing standards of play.

**The course's safety** - so often taken for granted, a problem may not be addressed until it is too late. You need to think about potential hazards on the margins of the course, and the proximity of the players on the course to each other when positioning greens and tees. Too close and you have a problem.

**The performance of the greens** - their shape, size, contour and the number of pin positions they have to spread wear and tear, their orientation to create an improved



strategy of play, their entry and exit points, the featuring in their surrounds, their drainage, their bunkering

**The performance of the tees** - their size to ensure that wear and tear is managed relative to the way the flights are played by members and visitors alike, their shape and their profile

**The performance of the bunkers** - location, contribution to strategy, size and shape, playability, their technical performance in terms of drainage, both internally and in the shedding of water externally, sand quality, colour, depth and, some would argue most importantly, their aesthetic value

In each of these considerations, the ongoing maintainability of the





components has to be a vital consideration.

**The performance of the various infrastructures of the golf course such as:**

- **Its drainage** - the shedding of water, the collection of water, the speed of recovery from rainfall

- **Its traffic management** - the movement of feet, of two wheels, three wheels and four wheels, whether it be players or the greenkeeping team, needs to be considered and optimised in convenient routings.

This ensures speed of play is sustained and wear and tear and erosion is not allowed to develop in the playing area

- **Its irrigation**, not just how water is applied and what kind of system that is and where the sprinklers are, but a consideration of water management, from where the water is sourced to where it is stored

- **The setting of the golf course in its natural environment** - the management of the tree stock.

Not just endless planting exercises but balanced management, looking at areas around greens and tees to allow adequate air and light circulation.

Planned and structured new planting of appropriate, indigenous species to enhance the landscape quality and character.

- **The resourcing of the greenkeeping effort** and the accompanying presentation of the course - the shaping of greens to be consistent with the length of hole and the type of incoming shot. The framing of each green with collars and surrounds of increasingly graded heights of cut at ratios to maximise their differentials.

Hopefully, this type of exhaustive approach will provide any club with a blueprint for the future, by which the golf course might be operated.

This should lead to the production of a comprehensive Course Policy Document.

James Lindsay, keen to see the course at Stirling improved in the short-term and long-term, is looking forward to working with the

golf course architect in a collaborative approach to the task in hand.

However, no matter how good that approach might be, the membership need to be kept informed with the whole renovation programme.

So what is required from the greenkeeper to keep the membership on side?

Amongst other things – courage in your convictions, careful management to minimise disruption, information being given in the right form at the right time.

Above all – communication; from the architect and the greenkeeper. If this communication is unsuccessful, the membership will not be on board and it is doomed to failure without their support.

It has always been my view that helping the greenkeeping profession to understand more about what golf course architects strive to do and the basis upon which they try to do it will always bear fruit - and over 25 years of design and renovation seminars and workshops at BTME that has always been the intent.

Understanding more means a better result.

**about the author**



Howard Swan is one of Europe's most senior professional golf course architects. His career spans over 40 years and he has worked on over 400 projects in close to 40 countries from USA to China, from Iceland to South Africa. He worked with his father for 20 years, now with his son, William, for the last ten. He is a Past President of the Institute of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects and Chairman of the Golf Consultants' Association. He works extensively in golf education, being a GTC Quality Assured Training Specialist and has been a presenter at BTME for many years.



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# Choices, choices...

Natural hardwood signs or PVC timber signs? This used to be an easy decision: natural hardwood was chosen for its top quality image, whereas plastic was ideal where budget mattered more than presentation.

Then Eagle's new Eagle-Plex arrived and its innovative chemical structure led many club and course managers to see a black-stained oak sign, whereas it was in fact Eagle's new and realistic PVC timber material. We sort out the strengths and misconceptions in pursuit of clarity.



## Natural Timber

### Presentation:

Widely agreed to be the best material for a natural setting like a golf course, with a range of stains to suit different environments, e.g., links, heathland, parkland etc, has the edge when it comes to attracting sponsors looking for quality exposure.

### Design:

Hardwood timber can be made to any design specification, and Eagle's standard range is comprehensive. Bespoke requirements are encouraged as Eagle have their own machining and finishing plant.

### Substrate:

The experience gained in operating and managing their own timber plant has led to the utilisation of Iroko hardwood – which has proved to be the most stable of timbers for all outdoor situations, well able to last 25 years even if in contact with the ground.

### Graphics:

Natural timber signs looks great with all substrates, zinc, granite and aluminium. Engraved and paint-filled course information is also very distinctive.

### Maintenance:

The Teknos two coat system has reduced maintenance needs dramatically. The Teknos base coat chemically impregnates the skin of the timber, forming a perfect base for the top, water-based coat, ensuring far longer lifetime.



## Eagle-Plex

### Presentation:

Eagle-Plex's appearance is highly realistic with its 'wood grained' finish. Eagle-Plex signs and furniture are only available in black, but this still suits any course environment. Certainly good enough for sponsorship requirements.

### Design:

PVC Timber has to be moulded, but Eagle have a large range of profiles available ensuring different sizes of sign frame which cannot be differentiated from old Oak.

### Substrate:

The raw material is shredded and subjected to iron separation and made ready for injection moulding. The required volume of plastic material is poured into an Eagle mold and brought into the desired shape by hydraulic pressure to avoid warping. The results create super strong profiles ready for any environment, however harsh.

### Graphics:

Like natural timber, Eagle-Plex works and looks great with aluminium plates. This option is not as size sensitive and therefore larger structures are very cost effective.

### Maintenance:

None, other than 'keep it clean' with an occasional wipe with a damp cloth.

**Installation:**

Just make the holes for the posts and set them in concrete. All hardwood timber posts are sleeved with re-enforced plastic to maximise their protection.

**Sustainability:**

Genuinely sustainable hardwoods can only be sourced from certain licensed countries. Eagle takes great care that only officially licensed Iroko is used from forests where the trees that are cut down are being replaced accordingly.

**Cost:**

Due to the cost of sustainable hardwoods and the need for well equipped craftsmen to maximise the resulting furniture/signs' appearance, the cost is higher than PVC timber.

**Installation:**

Eagle-Plex can simply be concreted into the ground and it will last forever.

**Sustainability:**

The Eagle-Plex product is 100% eco-friendly. Being chemically inert, Eagle-Plex signs cannot contaminate the environment in which they are utilised.

**Cost:**

As you'd expect, PVC Timber is significantly cheaper than natural hardwood, and with zero-cost maintenance, it's ideal for those who want both presentation and cost-effectiveness.



## Anything else?

**Guarantees**

Both products have the 'Eagle Performance Guarantee' which ensures all products are of the highest quality. Feel free to ask Eagle about their guarantees in relation to hardwood and Eagle-Plex signage.

**Take the Eagle signage test**

So, with all that to think about, do you think you know quality timber when you see it, or can you tell the difference between Eagle-Plex and black stained oak? In fact your best decision is simple: **call Eagle on 01883 344 244**, see both types of signage material for yourself, and make up your own mind as to which type best suits your own course and clubhouse signage needs.

*Of course, Eagle's team of experts will be happy to bring these samples round to your club, take you and your committee through their respective merits, put you in touch with other highly satisfied customers of Eagle in your area, and help you arrive at the best decision for your golf club and course.*



# John Deere get to grips with greenkeeping



John Deere dealers from across Europe have been brushing up on their greenkeeping skills and knowledge at Morley Hayes GC in Derbyshire

**The company's Golf Ready training programme for 2014 has involved over 200 participants from six countries – France, Germany, Italy and Spain, in addition to the UK and Ireland.**

The dealership staff, along with key John Deere turfcare personnel from the US and Europe, have been spending most of May and June taking over responsibility for the daily maintenance of the nine-hole The Tower course at the Midlands non-member complex.

Morley Hayes is also home to the East Midlands Golf Academy, and features the championship length Manor Course and a 17-bay all-weather floodlit driving range.

Weekly groups of dealer salesmen, golf and turf specialists and service technicians have been effectively simulating what a greenkeeping team would be doing on the course each day, alongside detailed product training on John Deere's new greens, fairway and rough mowers (pictured right) and new pedestrian aerators for 2014, which have their public launch in July (see separate panel).

Each day starts at 7am, and involves a mix of practical indoor and outdoor training on the course maintenance equipment (pictured B), including machine set up, optimisation and operating procedures, safety requirements and product sales challenges.

In addition, an agronomy management presentation and a review of cultural practices plus a course walk are conducted with each group by experienced consultant (and BIGGA's first Master Greenkeeper) Laurence Pithie of Turf Master One Ltd.

Finally, after each mowing assignment has been completed, the dealers have to wash down the machines in the yard before reviewing the day's activities.

"The Golf Ready programme gives us all the opportunity to look at the fundamentals of product operation and servicing, as well as introduce the new season's products and do hands-on training in a real-life situation," says John Deere



**JOHN DEERE**

Look out for more exciting news from BIGGA and John Deere in the July issue of Greenkeeper International – a new collaboration that will likely see one lucky member from each BIGGA region getting the opportunity of a lifetime in 2015... watch this space!

**MAIN:** Group with latest model Pro Gator utility vehicle.

**RIGHT:** New rough mower

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** 2500E Hybrid electric greens mower.



Limited's turf division manager Chris Meacock.

"It also means our dealers can really understand and appreciate the full range and importance of the greenkeeper's roles and responsibilities, and the critical role they play in the successful management of any golf club. We're very grateful to the management and greenkeeping staff at Morley Hayes for providing us with the facilities and support to deliver this type of training.

"John Deere continues to be fully committed to our established nationwide dealership network, in order to sell and support the full professional golf & turf product range to customers and deliver a

first-class service – this year's Golf Ready programme has proved to be a very effective and valuable way to reinforce the dealer's existing expertise and knowledge."



## On the road again

John Deere's new and improved mowers and aerators for 2014 can be seen at around 17 golf course locations throughout Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland from early July onwards.

Details and venues were still being finalised as Greenkeeper International went to press, but free places at each John Deere Golf Roadshow 2014 event should be booked in advance by contacting your local John Deere professional golf & turf dealer, or the company on Freephone 0800 085 2522.

Visitors will be able to hear about and operate the company's latest machines, including brand new and improved mowers for greens, tees and surrounds, fairways, roughs and semi-roughs, as well as two new pedestrian aerators that have been redesigned from the ground up.

Also on show will be the latest hybrid electric technology E-Cut mowers and John Deere's unique Quick Adjust (QA) cutting units, which are designed to produce a higher quality finish on golf courses and other sports and amenity turf areas.

The QA cutting units feature a unique Speed Link system for extremely quick height of cut adjustment (pictured D). This technology effectively allows the reels on an entire fleet to be accurately set in the time it previously took to adjust the height of cut on just one mower, so allowing significant savings to be made in both time and operating costs.

## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[steve.castle@bigga.co.uk](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 10th  
of the month

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



# Around the green

## Scotland

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



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## Events Coming Up

### Central

A joint event by Everris, Jacobsen and Syngenta called Turf Science Live is taking place on Tuesday 10 June at Fairmont St Andrews although spaces are strictly limited. If anyone is interested then they must contact the organisers at [syn.events@syngenta.com](mailto:syn.events@syngenta.com).

The date of the AGM has been moved to Tuesday 11 November although it will remain at Elmwood GC. It will start at 2pm and will be preceded by a seminar by Indigrow at 1pm.

### East

Next section meeting 11 August. Willie Woods Tournament, Greenburn GC, August. Autumn Meeting, Monktonhall, September. AGM, Old Mussleburgh GC, October. Xmas Soiree, December (Venue to be confirmed).

### West

Scottish outing is at Renfrew GC on 12 June and as hosts a good turnout is expected. I would expect Fraser to have the course in tip top condition.

## News

### Central

Congratulations to Gary Douglas of Piperdam GC on winning an Oakmont 2016 US Open polo shirt. This was donated by Mike McCormick, the Deputy Superintendent at Oakmont when he gave a seminar back in March which we then raffled between all

those who attended that seminar. The Committee have also agreed to trial relaxing the dress code for future golf events. Members will no longer require to change into a jacket/tie after the golf. Jeans/denims and trainers remain unacceptable.

The workshop/seminar on reel set-up and sharpening held on 14 May and organised between the Section and Bernhards was well supported with over 25 members attending and thanks go to everyone who assisted with that, including Elmwood College for the use of the facilities.

Most of our information is sent out by email and also appears on the BIGGA Central Section Facebook page. However, over 50% of the section members have still not provided us with a valid email address and there are still a considerable amount who don't follow us on Facebook so you are missing out on all notification of what is coming up in the Section.

Details of what is coming up and reports will also appear on the Scottish Region website as well as the Central Section website.

David Beardwood has left St Andrews Links to become Course Manager at Spey Valley GC which is run by MacDonalds Hotels.

Alex Walker, course supervisor on the New/Jubilee courses has left to become Course Manager at the 36 hole complex at Le Touquet in France. Gary Semple, course supervisor at the Castle Course at St Andrews who is leaving to become Deputy Course Manager at Williamwood GC in Glasgow. Kevin Webster is leaving Leven Links to become Head Greenkeeper at Saline GC near Dunfermline. We wish them all the very best in their new roles.

Meanwhile, Donald Gardner has retired from Sconie Golf Club and Simon Connah, currently the Deputy Course Manager on the Old Course at St Andrews Links, has completed 25 years' service with the Trust and he's only just turned 42!

We had a healthy entry for our Spring outing at Kinghorn GC. Thanks to everyone from the Greenstaff, Caterers, Fife Golf Trust and the Trade. The results, with the first round of the 2014 Pairs competition can be found on the Central Section website.

The Section also paid a visit to ETL in Stirling which attendees found very informative seeing around the lab. Most of those were asked to supply a soil sample and Sharon Bruce and her team carried out various tests on what was submitted. Thanks to Sharon and the team and it may be possible for us to stage another visit in the future for those unable to attend.

Elmwood College are on the lookout for old equipment, mowers etc which the students could refurbish and renovate. If anyone is willing to help then please contact Stuart Mackie on Stuart. [Mackie@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:Mackie@sruc.ac.uk)

### North

Our Spring outing this year was at Moray Golf Club on 1 May and a great day was had by all the 57 members who attended. Everyone agreed the course was in top condition so our special thanks go to Course Manager Kevin Thomson and his team.

Prize winners: Nearest the pin 6th: Stephen Herd (Strathlene) 15th: Hugh McLatchie (Peterhead). Sweep in 4th place Jim Smith, 3 Mark McLaren, 2 Kevin Thomson, 1 Jim McCormack. Trade Winner: Jim Smith (Rigby Taylor). Committee winner: Dale Robertson (Newmachar) Veterans, 2 Richard Pirie (Newmachar) 1 Jim McCormack (Kirriemuir). Apprentice Trophy: Scott Crawford (Moray -BIH). Class 3: 3 Tom Comerford (Auchmill) 2 Stephen Herd (Strathlene) 1 Dale Robertson (Newmachar). Class 2: 3 David Inglis (Hazelhead) 2 Andrew Baillie (Deeside) 1 Mark

McLaren (Royal Aberdeen). Class 1: 3 Jonathon Duggan (Deeside) 2 Richard Johnstone (Nairn Dunbar) 1 Jim McCormack (Kirriemuir). Scratch runner up: Adam Lindsay (Peterculter), winner: Kevin Thomson (Moray). The committee would like to thank all the members and the trade for their continued support.

### West

Firstly can I apologise to Jim Caldwell at Sandyhills GC for stating he had left the club last month. This is not the case, please understand that it was an innocent mistake.

Kerr Rowan has moved from Ranfurly Castle to a 36 hole complex in Sweden just outside Malmo and I hope he enjoys his new job in a beautiful country although the winter weather can be extreme. Campbell Wallace of Wishaw GC is unwell and I hope he is getting better, the section wishes you all the best. Results from the spring outing:

Scratch: John Dale (Renfrew) 70. Class 1: 1 William Lewis (Williamwood) 38pts, 2 Brian Hillen (Drumpellier) 34, 3 John Brown (Bearsden) 34. Class 2: Craig Wyllie (Glasgow) 39pts, Barry McCulloch (Whitecraigs) 36, Brian Louge (Cardross) 34. Class 3: Bobby McDougall (Indigrow) 35pts, Michael Maxton (East Kilbride) 31, Scott Reid (East Kilbride) 30. Longest drive: John Dale. Nearest pin: Brian Hillen.

36 players took part and enjoyed a really well presented golf course, Graeme Latto and his staff are to be commended.

The last time I played Clydebank and district was 30 years ago and the improvement was extraordinary with new drainage in the greens and plenty of construction to tees and even the odd green, well done to you and your team.

### East

Results from our very well supported spring outing held at Goswick GC are as follows:- The Golf Finance Trophy (Scratch Winner): Andrew Terras (Goswick) 75 gross. Class 1 winner of the Greentech Trophy: Alistair Holmes (Seahouses) 35pts. Class 2 winner of the Henderson's Trophy: Ryan McCulloch (Goswick) 36pts. Class 3 winner of the Sherriff Groundcare Trophy: Ian Cowan (Mussleburgh) 34pts.

Trade winner: Dr David Greenshields (Barenbrug) 40pts. Veterans Salver: George Thompson (Goswick GC). Fairways trophy: Stuart Ferguson (Dundas Parks). Longest Drive: Jamie Martin (Gifford GC). Nearest pin: Ross Prowse (Muckart GC) & Alistair Holmes (Seahouses GC).

Keep an eye out for a mail shot regarding this years Patron Nominations, the criteria has changed this year for this award and nominations can be made from August, please see the new Scottish Website @ [www.biggascottishregion.com](http://www.biggascottishregion.com) for details.

The section hopes Robbie Murdoch of Dundas Parks had an excellent experience recently as part of the BMW support team at Wentworth recently, well done Robbie.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### East

Thanks to Sherriff Groundcare and ATT for their support at the Spring outing. Excellent afternoon courtesy of Bernhard Grinders at Turnhouse GC covering the benefits of correct mower set up and cylinder sharpness, thanks to Ben Watson and Willie Nisbet for their presentation.

### North

The committee would also like to thank Bernhards for their Seminar at Royal Aberdeen on Monday 5 May - and to Willie Nesbit and Ben Taylor.

## Welcome New Members

Lewis Wright, Greenkeeper, Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course, Greg Peal, Greenkeeper, Carnoustie Golf Links, Craig Kerr, Greenkeeper, Carnoustie Golf Links, Brian Hutchison, Greenkeeper, North Berwick Golf Club, Daniel van Wyk, Assistant Greenkeeper, Carnoustie Golf Links, Paul Robertson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Torry Outdoor Sports Centre.

# South West & South Wales

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



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**SOUTH WALES**  
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## Events Coming Up

### South Wales

A Major Golf event for Wales as a whole will take place between 24-27 July at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. I hope Ian Kinley and his team have a great week and the support team gives them all the assistance required.

### South Coast

The summer tournament will be held at Knighton Heath Golf Club on Thursday 3 July. Format for the day will be Four Ball Better Ball, stableford. The cost is £20 per person. This includes a bacon roll on arrival and a two course meal afterwards. Please remember to wear jacket and tie. Pairs will be drawn after the closing date which is Friday 27 June. Tee off from 1:30pm. An email with the entry form will be sent out or you can download it from our web site [www.biggasouthcoast.org.uk](http://www.biggasouthcoast.org.uk). Email me at [al.magee77@googlemail.com](mailto:al.magee77@googlemail.com) or I'm on Facebook at BIGGA South Coast.

## News

### South Wales

Check out BIGGA South Wales on Facebook, it's a chance to see pictures of courses, construction, equipment demos... some very interesting articles in the magazine over the last few months I enjoyed the irrigation one, I wonder if we will require it much this season. New shirts will soon be available to purchase for golf days or team events at a cost of £26 and in lovely Welsh red.

### South Coast

If you're not receiving emails about events as they come up in our section can you please email the secretary at [southcoastsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:southcoastsecretary@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Members

Jonathan Davies, Greenkeeper, Bramshaw Golf Club, Ben Jackson, Greenkeeper, Brickhampton Court Golf Club, Scott Arnold, Assistant Greenkeeper, Llanwern Golf Club, Ross Hopkins, Assistant Greenkeeper, Celtic Manor Resort.

# Northern

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



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## Events Coming Up

### Northern

President Day at West Bradford on the 18 June 1pm tee off. If you wish to play please text myself or the section phone. I'm away from Friday 13 until the day of the comp so if you're leaving it late please use the section phone. We will give final numbers on the Monday 16 so please be aware if you cancel after Monday you will have to pay because we still get billed! Thank you.

Finally if any of you guys fancy having one of our events at your place please let us know and we will do our best to get there next year.

### Cleveland

I know it's a bit early but we have a venue and a date for the Autumn Tournament. It will be at Bedlington Golf Club on Tuesday 14 October, usual cost, £16, so book now to avoid disappointment.

The inter section match against the north east section and east of Scotland will be played at Whitley Bay Golf Club on Wednesday 25 June. If you are interested in playing give Pembo a ring on 07791 695768.

## News

### Northern

Our first fixture of the season was the Spring comp at the fabulous Waterton Park in Wakefield. A lot of withdrawals meant an average turn out but that did not spoil the day as we had great weather and a fantastic golf course to play. David and his lads produced at tough but great course for us and all agreed it was a pleasure to play. From the secretary to the bar and catering staff we were made very welcome and finished off with a first class dinner.

Scores: Division 1: 1 Stu Mason 71, 2 Arron Schnacke 72, 3 Andy Slingsby 74! 4 Eddie Eyres (Club Captain). Division 2: 1 J Banks, 2 J Rowbotton. Nearest pin: David Griffin, Andy Slingsby. Trade: T Baldwin

Finally from Waterton - can't forget Sandra Raper who is a godsend and can't thank her enough for all her help and of course looking after the old boy (Dennis).

We now have a Facebook page so log on and check out those photos!

### Cleveland

Where is the year going! Before we know it we will be knee deep in snow and praying for a little sunshine. Conditions out there are great

for growing rough. I've put my tin hat on and gum shield in ready for all the early season complaints that the rough is too thick. It seems like all I have done for the last three weeks is cut it! I swear I can see it growing behind me. I love this time of year on a parkland course, no time to talk just get your head down and cut! Thank god for PGRs.

There has been a bit of movement in the section with Gary Fraser moving from Rockcliffe Hall to take up the position of Deputy Head at Wynyard Golf Club.

The spring tournament at Saltburn Golf Club was a massive success with 22 people attending which is one of our best turnouts in a while. Results:

0-9 hcp Paul Ventrice 38pts, Martin Woods 35, Paul Legg 32 (back 3)

10-18hcp J Warlow 37pts, Spuggy 34, D Avey 33

19-28hcp I Pemberton 24pts, J Thompson 21

Par 3s A Reed ,Trade winner Simon Holmes 37pts

### North Wales

The spring tournament took place at Rhuddlan Golf Club on 30 April a great day was had by all even though the weather did try it's best to test play. Best gross went to Dave Austin, best nett went to Simon Ashford, both now qualify for the national championships later in the year.

The North Wales v South Wales match took place at Royal St David's on 14 May and happily home advantage paid off with an impressive 3 and a half/ 1 and a half win to North Wales, well done lads!

## Thanks to Sponsors

### Cleveland

Thanks to all the Spring Tournament sponsors – the main event sponsor was Lloyds. Alistair Whitby has again done us proud. Thank you for all the running around you do for us it is much appreciated. I would also like to thank TSL, Turfkeeper and Northern Lubricants for sponsoring prizes and making sure no one went home empty handed!

### North Wales

We would like to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the North Wales team in the North v South match.

## Welcome New Members

Gwion Roberts, Greenkeeper, Royal St David's Golf Club, David Allcock, Greenkeeper, Wrexham Golf Club, Ben Goodchild, Greenkeeper, Stockport Golf Club, Callum Goodhind, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stockport Golf Club, Michael Shouler, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stocksbridge & District Golf Club

## Around the green

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

# 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

The Summer, Autumn, Winter Golf day venues for 2014 are still to be confirmed so will get the dates out as soon as all are agreed and I have all the information. Alternatively more info will be on our Facebook page.

### East Midland

We have a visit to Leicester City Football Club during the first week of July courtesy of Farols.

The Summer Competition is to be held at Luffenham Heath Golf Club on Wednesday 23 July. Booking forms will be available via the BIGGA website under events and emailed to all section members who have updated their email addresses at HQ.

### Midland

We have a visit to Edgbaston Cricket Club on 2 July and our next Golf day is on 23 July at North Worcester Golf Club.

## News

### East Midland

The East Midland Section held their Spring Tournament at Market Harborough Golf Club where the Section could not have been made more welcome by Chris and the team, so thanks to them for a great day. The overall winner was Nigel Colley and as a very rewarding prize Nigel was then elected as Chairman of the Section by the new committee the following week. The committee extend their sincere thanks to Greg Skinner and Nick Miles for their hard work over the last three years as Chairman and Section Secretary and hope to build on the solid foundations they have maintained.

Congratulations go to Ben Cumberland who will take up his role at Coxmoor Golf Club at the start of July.

### Midland

A beautifully presented Trentham Golf Course was the venue for the re-scheduled TORO BIGGA Midland Region Team Challenge sponsored by Oakleys. Pictured above are Ray George of Oakleys presenting the



trophies to the overall winners, Chris Toms, Mark Whittle and Dan Scott representing Woburn Golf Club. Dan thanked the sponsors, hosts and Association for organising another great day.

Thank you to all the Golf Clubs who were represented in the competition.

The Midland Section held their Spring Tournament at Olton Golf Club and enjoyed a challenging round of golf with thanks to Mark Smith and his team at the club.

The overall winner was Adam Halifax with 41 points.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### Mid Anglia

A massive thanks to our Sponsors of the section for 2014. They are: Rigby Taylor Ltd, ALS, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery.

We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

If you feel you may be interested in sponsoring Mid Anglia Section in 2014 please contact a committee member for details.

### East Midland

Thanks to the sponsors of the Spring Tournament - Banks Amenity, Headland Amenity and Toro Lely UK.

### Midland

Thanks to Oakleys for sponsoring the Regional Team Challenge. Thanks to Graham Hall of Redtech, main sponsor of Spring Tournament.

## Welcome New Members

John Wright, Head Groundsman, The Alan Higgs Centre, Toby Heaver, Assistant Greenkeeper, Deanwood Park Golf Club, Terry Edmunds, Assistant Greenkeeper, Witney Lakes Golf Club, Aaron Moore, Assistant Greenkeeper, Oakland Park Golf Club.

## South East

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



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**LONDON**  
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## Events Coming Up

### London

Summer Tournament at Hendon on Wednesday 6 August, I know Jason has already started the course preparation!

### Surrey

27 June Cresta Cup West Surrey GC  
17 September Hankley Common GC Section v Trade  
30 September Surrey Bowl Final at Foxhills G&CC  
4 November England v Scotland Hankley Common GC  
19 November Match v Secretaries at The Berkshire GC  
19 December Turkey Trot Guildford GC

Wednesday 10 September a social evening and quiz night will be held at The Cricketers Pub in Chobham starting at 7pm. Teams of 4 will be challenging each other in a quiz night where non BIGGA members will be made very welcome. Cost of £15 per head includes food with entry and the opportunity to compete for prizes if you can access the grey matter.

Merrist Wood College seminars in November and December are planned.

Also 2 five day courses in Chainsaw, Cross Cutting and Felling are planned for late Autumn under the guidance of Mark Brewer. If any members are interested and require more information in participating Scott Roberts can be contacted via the Surrey website.

### Essex

Next date for your diary: Essex Trophy at the Warren Golf Club. Tuesday 5 August.

## News

### London

The spring tournament was played at Northwood Golf Club on Monday 12 May and the course presentation was of high quality. Thanks to Wes Walker and his team. Results:

3 Martin Dearlove 34pts, 2 Kane Stone 34, 1 Paul Simpson 35. All qualify to play the wonderful Liphook in the National tournament.

Congratulations to Jack Sims on becoming the Head Greenkeeper at Chiltern Hills Golf Club.

Finally well done to Lee Cox, Adam McColl and our Chairman Matt Pledsted as without their hard work none of this would be possible.

### Surrey

Murray Long is leaving Sunningdale GC and is taking a new position

with Ferndown GC. Many thanks for your support with all the course walks for the section, wishing you the very best in Dorset.

Epsom GC 1st May Team Texas Scramble Results:

1 Team Turfcare 57.2pts, 2 G.Ogilvie, R.Jackson, M.Lawrence, T.Ewell 58, 3 G.Stewart, L.Birch, Mo Bah, T.Brearley. Longest Walk and oldest players of all time award went to Paul Weston, Brian Willott, David Searles and Phill Rowland.

Nearest Pin Ron Christie and Long Drive Nick Pariss.

### Essex

Just the results of the Summer Trophy at Stock Brook Manor to report this month. A fine warm day greeted the 24 members, sponsors and guests. Our thanks go to our host Terry Peachey, proprietor of Stock Brook for the courtesy of the course and to Adrian Cornell and his team of greenkeepers for the excellent condition of the course. The undulating greens certainly caught out quite a few of the guys.

Our thanks to the sponsors who helped fill our raffle table and to the chef Steve and the catering staff who served us so well. I don't think anyone went home not having enjoyed the day and the meal afterwards. Results:

1 Stuart Rogers 45pts, National Qualifier, 2 Ian Nichols 38, National Qualifier, 3 Ross Sturridge 36, 4 Ross Bennett 36 c/b. Guest Prize: Dominic Slatter 27. Sponsor/trade Prize: Steve Bush 34. Nearest the pin 4th: George Grimes. Nearest the pin 11th hole: Ross Sturridge.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### London

Thanks to Spring tournament sponsors A T Olivers, their reps James and Glen, Sherriff Amenity for a great halfway house well done Johnny Beck, and the other companies for supporting the day!

## Welcome New Members

Scott Weale, Greenkeeper. Hampton Court Palace Golf Club, Andrew Hughes Head Greenkeeper, Coombe Wood Golf Club, Charlie Ellis, Student, Hadlow College, Terry Akeroyd, Student, Hadlow College, Conor Young, Assistant Greenkeeper, Coombe Hill Golf Club

## Around the green

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

# Be BIGGA's number one



How you can enter the BIGGA National Championship, kindly sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at Liphook Golf Club, Hampshire on 6-7 October. You can win £500 worth of vouchers

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Or E-mail your details to:

**rachael@bigga.co.uk**

Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

### Deadline for entry is 5th September 2014.

Completed entry forms should be sent to:  
**BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**



The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.



# Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month Frank Newberry, a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider, is invited to share some of his thoughts on greenkeeping professionalism

## GREENKEEPING PROFESSIONALISM - THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

In 1989, when David Golding commenced his role as BIGGA's Education Director, the then Board of Management agreed to the development of a week-long Management Course to be held at its then new Headquarters, Aldwark Manor.

Amongst the tutors invited to train Head Greenkeepers and Deputies was management training guru Frank Newberry.

Thousands of greenkeepers have benefitted from Frank's training and hundreds have received his personal support over the 25 years of his involvement with our sector.

Frank said: "The biggest change for me over the years has been the ongoing increase of BIGGA's education and training provision.

"They have presided over a massive expansion in the services and education they offer to their members.

"It seems a lifetime ago since the first week-long Management Courses were held at BIGGA's Headquarters, yet the vision by the then staff and Board of BIGGA has been developed, improved and rolled out through the annual gathering in Harrogate, as well as regional and section events.

"I prepared for the inaugural management courses by visiting a variety of golf clubs ranging from a high profile resort to proprietary owned and a private members clubs.

"I found a common problem at all of these venues: the Head Greenkeepers were all very committed, passionate individuals and very competent in maintaining their golf course but lacked the confidence and skills to deal with staff and employer issues.

"The majority of employers wanted their Head Greenkeepers to be able to improve their supervisory and management skills whilst



understanding that their work on the course was the number one priority.

"In other words, the employers wanted the best of both worlds and I think that is still true today.

"So how could we reach those people who were not attending college-based courses?

"Seminars, workshops and conferences arranged by BIGGA have benefitted hundreds of those individuals who have taken the opportunity to improve their "off course" skills.

"Presentations - to Green Meetings or at interviews - have changed enormously over the years with technology being used more and more.

"However, body language, the style of presenting and preparing for any type of meeting also needed addressing.

"Over the years there have been many wonderful examples of how individuals' lives have changed both on and off the golf course through the training they have received.

"I am very proud to have been part of the trainer team selected to

The GTC is funded by:



help improve not just the communication skills of greenkeepers but hopefully have, in some small way, improved the professionalism and changed the perception of many, that greenkeepers, at all levels, are far more than grass cutters!

"We must continue to offer the fun, informal method of learning and BIGGA have clearly become best placed to keep this type of learning available.

"Regarding CPD, my view is straightforward - it should be compulsory i.e. compulsory professional development.

"So, please take advantage of any education and training available and employers also, encourage your staff to engage in CPD as the business will, without doubt, benefit from the new skills the staff gain by attending an event with "off course" training on the agenda."

### Contact Details

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For further information email: [info@irritechlimited.co.uk](mailto:info@irritechlimited.co.uk)

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Photo courtesy of Rudding Park Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.



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**SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB**

### Courses & Estate Manager

Sunningdale Golf Club wishes to recruit a Courses & Estate Manager.

The candidate should have:-

- Over 10 years' practical experience in turfgrass maintenance and golf course construction techniques
- Experience in managing a large team
- Tournament experience preferred
- International experience preferred
- NVQ level 3 or HND or equivalent
- PA1, PA2, PA6 and 2A
- CS 30 and CS 31 preferred

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- Venue for the annual Sunningdale Foursomes Tournament played since 1934
- Old Course ranked at No 22 in the world (Golf Course Architecture Magazine)
- New Course ranked No 53 in the world (Golf Course Architecture Magazine)
- Investors in People Silver Award

Please apply in writing or email with full CV and covering letter to:  
**Clare Livingston, Administration & HR Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club,  
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR**

[clarel@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:clarel@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk)

**Closing Date for Applications: 6th July, 2014**

[www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk](http://www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk)



#### GREENKEEPER/MECHANIC

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

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

We are looking for an enthusiastic, hard working Greenkeeper who is also able to carry out day-to-day maintenance and repairs to the fleet of course vehicles. You should be highly motivated and able to work as part of a team and undertake all aspects of golf course maintenance and general mechanical upkeep. Mechanical qualifications would be beneficial but not a necessity.

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

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

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Please forward your application with your CV and covering letter, to include current salary and benefits, by e-mail to [coursemanager@chislehurstgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:coursemanager@chislehurstgolfclub.co.uk) for the attention of John Hunnissett, Course Manager to be received by Friday 6 June.

Royal Cinque Ports GC currently has an opening for a 1st Assistant Greenkeeper.

Candidates will have:

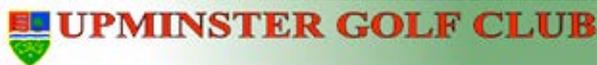
- Minimum of 5 years links experience
- Education level of NVQ/SVQ 3
- Knowledge of maintaining top level courses to the highest standards
  - PA1, PA2 and PA6 essential
- A high level of competence with modern greenkeeping equipment
  - Good team/motivational skills
  - A keen eye for presentation and detail
- Ability to deputise for the Links superintendent and his Assistant in their absence

Preferred but not essential qualities include:

- Championship course experience
- Supervisory experience

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Candidates should send a current CV along with covering letter by 8th June 2014 to: [chris.barnard@royalcinqueports.com](mailto:chris.barnard@royalcinqueports.com)



#### EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

A vacancy exists for a Greenkeeper.

The candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience, be hard working and reliable.

Qualified to NVQ level 2 an advantage as would be a PA1 PA2 or PA6 qualification.

A working knowledge of Health & Safety at a Golf Club would also be of advantage

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Doug Fernie, Course Manager, Upminster Golf Club

114 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AU.

or email: [coursemanager@upminstergolfclub.co.uk](mailto:coursemanager@upminstergolfclub.co.uk)

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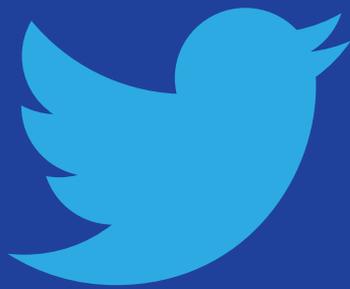
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# @BIGGALtd

A new page featuring the best Tweets and pics from the industry – don't forget to tag @BIGGALtd to give yourself a chance of being featured!

## Our favourite tweets this month...

**St Andrews Links @TheHomeofGolf**

Seasonal staff being trained on applying fertiliser to specific areas yesterday on the #JubileeCourse

**greenkeeping @Lancastergc**

10th hole @GolfLancaster it's a great day for golf

**The Mind Factor @TheMindFactor**

Take some time out and read our latest newsletter - Is there REALLY a SECRET?

**Gavin steed @greenkeepergav**

Just gotta love summer ..... @BIGGALtd @colnevalleygolf @CoastalGolf #greenkeeping #golf

**Grant Burton @grantburton121**

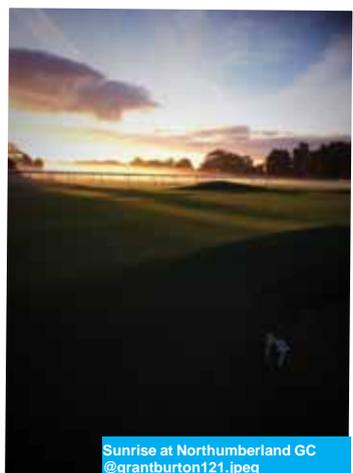
@BIGGALtd morning sunrise at the 2nd green on Northumberland GC

**Martin Lowe @MartinLowe77**

Repairing range fencing high above #pacheshamgolf . @BIGGALtd

**Landscape & Amenity @LAPUMagazine**

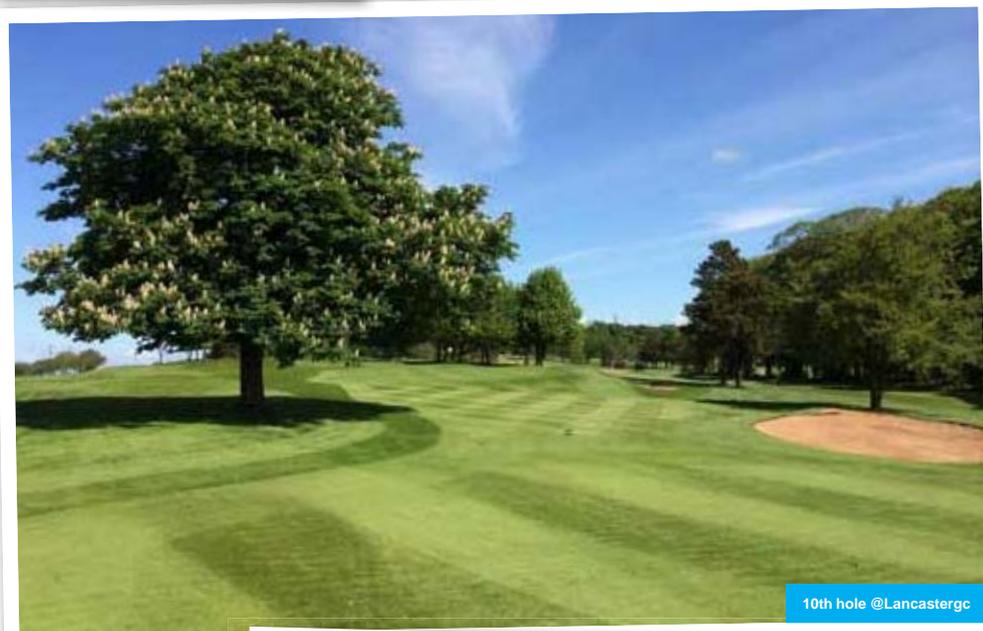
Story of the Day is that nominations are now open for the 2014 @the\_jog @BIGGALtd industry awards



Sunrise at Northumberland GC  
@grantburton121.jpeg



Applying fertiliser on the Jubilee Course  
@TheHomeofGolf



10th hole @Lancastergc



Summer at Colne Valley Golf Club  
@greenkeepergav



@ Repairing range fencing Pachesham Park  
@MartinLowe77

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