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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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A letter from America

A diary of the BIGGA Delegation's
Orlando adventure

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traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

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Sami Strutt

sami@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York,
YO61 1UF

info@bigga.co.uk

www.bigga.org.uk

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

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Production

**Design & Brand
Executive**
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 513
tom@bigga.co.uk



Editorial

**Communications
Executive**
Steve Castle

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 510
steve.castle
@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

**Business
Development Manager**

Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 519
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Mallings, Manor
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Industry support vital as floods test resolve

Watching the recent scenes of flooding around the country has been horrendous; it has had enormous impacts on many industries and yet again golf is adversely affected.

Whilst course closures at this time of year should not have too adverse an impact on the golf club business, the recovery work could be expensive and with golf still suffering the effects of the economic crisis, a faster start to the season would have been far more desirable. It has been heartening to hear that yet again greenkeepers have been helping their comrades with offers of equipment, support and manpower.

Sadly this further setback is likely to push more golf clubs towards redundancies or even closures. Now more than ever, it is vital that our members have a strong relationship with their employers, are in tune with the needs of the business and are seen as providers of innovative solutions rather than presenting additional problems.

The Association is here to help any member affected, don't hesitate to contact your Regional Administrator for advice and assistance, the network of support in the industry and within the membership is excellent.

Following a vibrant BTME it was interesting to travel to America for the Golf Industry Show. There was definitely cause for further optimism with increased exhibition space sold and visitor numbers up. Our meetings during the week with fellow Associations and industry partners were all extremely encouraging.

It was a pleasure to spend time with the ten members who made up the annual BIGGA Delegation to the show courtesy of Bernhard and Company. They were a credit to themselves, their employers and the

Association. I'd like to take this opportunity to formally thank Stephen Bernhard and his company for his continued long-term support of this fantastic member development opportunity.

They picked up a host of contacts, expertise and knowledge from their trip. In fact, see page 20 to read how Tom Brearley secured a once in a lifetime opportunity to volunteer at the 2016 Ryder Cup!

The Delegation were not the only BIGGA members attending, there were scores of British greenkeepers in town as well as our many American and International members all taking advantage of the excellent educational conference put on by our friends at the GCSAA.

It was interesting to note that the GCSAA are focusing on the difficult transition from Assistant Superintendent to the top job. Aiding ambitious Assistant Greenkeepers and Deputy Head Greenkeepers has long been a priority for BIGGA - but making the leap into the hot seat is still a daunting one for many. This month we carry a fascinating study of how Andy Pullen at North Wilts Golf Club has successfully managed the various challenges involved having recently taken this very step.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive

MARCH 2014

FEATURES

20 A letter from America

One of the ten BIGGA Delegates, Tom Brearley, compiled a fascinating diary from his trip to Orlando – read it here

26 In it together

How greenkeepers and members have teamed up at Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club

30 Onwards and upwards

How Andy Pullen has dealt with the move from Deputy to Course Manager at North Wilts Golf Club

34 Special sustainability

How Norbert Lischka MG addressed filtration problems on his woodland course in Germany

38 Thatch and Fusarium Patch...all about balance

Dr Terry Mabbett investigates the most “navel gazed” disease in golf course management

42 Fuel's gold

How the greenkeepers at Minchinhampton Golf Club are addressing rising fuel costs

44 Ear piece

Former Course Manager John Ross MG, who now works to improve health and safety in the workplace, turns his ear to the issue of noise

48 Sampling technique

A chance for you to claim CPD Credits as Henry Bechelet explores soil sampling techniques

52 Farol on the heath

How a new fleet of John Deere machinery has invigorated Caversham Heath Golf Club





26



48

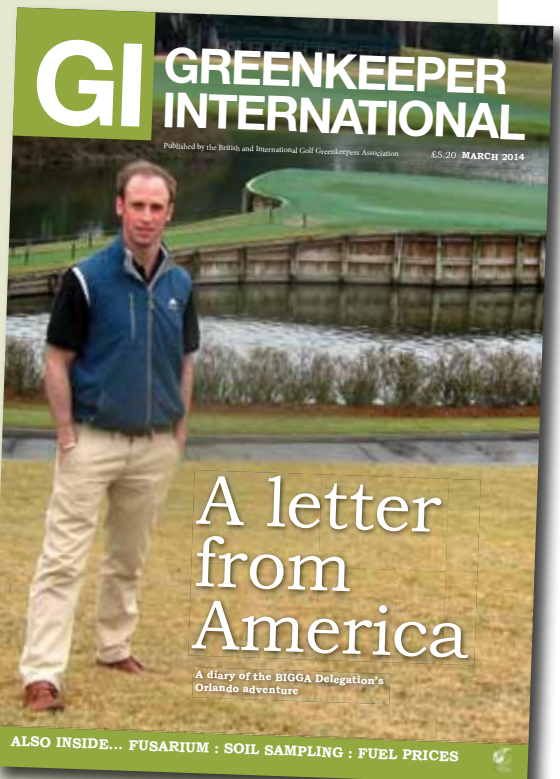


52

REGULARS

- 3 Welcome from BIGGA
- 6 Chairman's Word
- 8 Newsdesk
- 14 Membership News
- 16 L&D News
- 18 Industry Update
- 54 Around the Green
- 60 Greenkeepers Training Committee
- 62 Buyers' Guide
- 64 Recruitment
- 67 #GI

A new page featuring the best tweets and Facebook posts in the turf management industry



British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association



Chairman's Word

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

From Florida to floods

Firstly, it's great for me to look back on a record breaking BTME with real pride. Very positive feedback has continued to come in from visitors and exhibitors alike and we can all now reflect on a hugely successful week for the Association.

It was the perfect way to start the year, and I look forward to catching up with more members and people within the industry over the next 12 months – you don't always get the time at BTME, particularly as it was so busy this year!

It's been a whirlwind start to my time as Chairman, and a real tale of weather contrasts as I enjoyed temperatures in the mid eighties at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, then had to don the wellies and waterproofs on my return home.

The GIS was fantastic, and I sensed a similar buzz to that present at BTME. I think the turf industry worldwide has had enough of tales of economic depression and there's a real sense of positivity returning to the industry. Although it seemed a little smaller in scale than my last visit in 2008, it was an excellent show with the varied exhibitors looking very busy – similar to BTME in many ways, even down to the Halls being particularly packed on the Wednesday.

The BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, were a credit to the Association. They were professional, switched on and got on very well together. They also represented a real cross-section of clubs from across the UK. In just one example of what a superb development opportunity being a member of the delegation is, Tom Brearley met greenkeepers from Hazeltine National, venue of the 2016 Ryder Cup, and may get the opportunity to volunteer during the tournament itself. What better advert could there be for getting involved?

I visited two golf courses in Orlando – Orange County National and Shingle Creek Golf Club. They were both pristine and Shingle Creek in particular was brilliantly presented. Mind you, it must be easier to present a golf course when you have beautiful weather, dozens of staff and all the machinery you could dream of! The customer service was something else, we were welcomed by Shingle Creek



“The course is greener than I've ever seen it at this time of year, everything is still growing”

employees when we drove in, in the car park, walking the course – in fact I think I met more people in the first ten minutes there than we have total staff at Chippenham!

I also attended various meetings with the GCSAA, GEO and many of our sponsors amongst others. I have to say we were looked after superbly throughout the week by the GCSAA, they also genuinely valued our input and my personal thanks go to them for the hospitality and friendliness we all encountered. As always, my thanks also go to Bernhard & Co for their continued support.

At Chippenham, we've been closed on and off for the last few weeks and it's currently a case of damage limitation. I'd like to get out and give everything a spike but it's just been too wet. The main tasks have been pushing water off our temporary greens to try and ensure some play is possible, and rodding drains – not exciting but essential. It's vital for us to remain open when we possibly can, as well as everything else we really value the money the new clubhouse generates here and obviously takings are severely hit when the course is closed.

The course is greener than I've ever seen it at this time of year, everything is still growing as we've not had the temperatures to chill the roots. I'm praying for a dry, cold snap with a north easterly wind and I hope that everyone across the country experiences much better, drier weather as spring approaches.

I did manage to get to watch my team Bristol Rovers after I returned from the States – and normal service was resumed when we conceded a goal within ten minutes! The real star of the show though was the groundsman in getting the game played at all after the weeks of relentless rain. I think at times we can get wrapped up in just thinking about golf, but it's been so tough recently for all turf managers whether they're looking after a golf course, rugby pitch, bowling green or football ground. At the very top level it's not too bad as the resources are there but further down the line when you have smaller budgets, fewer staff and less machinery it's a hard job, so everyone needs to pull together.

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GOOD MOVE FOR MASTER GREENKEEPER PHIL

One of BIGGA's Master Greenkeepers has been appointed Course Manager at Goodwood's two highly acclaimed golf courses.

Phil Helmn MG, former Golf Course and Estate Manager at Heythrop Park, and who featured in GI back in June last year, has taken the reins at the West Sussex venue.

Phil will be working closely with Andrew Brown, Head Greenkeeper of The Downs course, and Simon Berry, Head Greenkeeper of The Parks course, along with the rest of the greenkeeping team.

Phil's extensive experience includes the construction and grow-in of four courses. One was in Florida under the direction of distinguished golf architect Tom Fazio, the second was in Cyprus designed by Tom Mackenzie of UK based architects Mackenzie and Ebert, The Watermark

Club and finally Heythrop Park Resort. Phil's early career saw him work at Morecambe Golf Club, Camberley Heath and Collingtree Park.

He said: "I have been a greenkeeper all my adult life and I love my career choice. Goodwood is a quality brand and specifically the golf courses are highly ranked and revered. It will be a fantastic challenge to help Goodwood improve even further on its recent successes and ranking.

"Myself and the entire greenkeeping team have some big plans for the future so it's an exciting time to be here."

Phil joins Goodwood at a significant time as the James Braid designed Downs Course celebrates 100 years of golf this year, and to mark the occasion Goodwood will be hosting a number of high profile events throughout the season.



LIVERPOOL FAN IN OLD TRAFFORD CHARITY ABSEIL

A greenkeeper Liverpool fan is putting football rivalry to one side for charity when he abseils 140 feet from the roof of Manchester United's Old Trafford ground!

Paul Pearse, Head Greenkeeper at Warrington Golf Club, was undergoing a check-up in April 2012 when doctors noticed a lump indicating testicular cancer, and which had begun to spread. He was operated on within days, and after nine weeks of chemotherapy and a further two months of recuperation he was given the all clear last year.

Now Paul, who says he doesn't like heights, is to plunge 140 feet from the 76,000 capacity stadium's roof in aid of The Christie, an organisation which raises funds for vital cancer research and treats more than 40,000 patients each year.

Paul said: "I wanted to give something back so that other people suffering from cancer have a better chance to be as fortunate as I've been.

"I know some people would gladly chuck a Scouser off the top of Old Trafford but I'm doing this willingly, and hopefully the rope will be sturdy! I'm not a fan of heights and I'm not looking forward to that moment when I have to step off the stand at all, but it's all in terrific cause which is obviously very close to my heart.

"Basically I would urge every bloke to check themselves regularly. As it happened my lump was found when I was having a general check-up, but if you do find something unusual go straight to your doctor, catching it early is so important."

Paul's abseil will be on Sunday 23 March and you can find out more and sponsor him at justgiving.com/Paul-Pearse – all contributions will be very gratefully received!

PHIL'S 'TRACTOR AID' TO FLOOD-HIT SOMERSET

A Course Manager who combines his greenkeeping role with his job as a farmer has ridden to the rescue of a flood-hit Somerset farmer after seeing his plight on TV.

Phil Rowbottom is a BIGGA member, head man at Woolley Park Golf Club and member of the National Farmers' Union – and was moved by a TV interview with Somerset farmer James Winslade who has lost 800 acres of his 840-acre farm to floodwater, with the water chest-high in his kitchen.

James managed to save his 500 cattle but had lost all of his cattle feed. So Phil joined forces with neighbour Andrew, an agricultural contractor, and loaded 25 tons of cattle feed on to their tractors. They then set off from Phil's proprietary golf club near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, at 5am on February 13 to make the epic 225-mile journey to Bridgwater, which is at the heart of the badly affected Somerset Levels.

Travelling at a top speed of around 30mph, 'Tractor Aid' arrived 11 hours later to meet a grateful James at nearby Sedgemoor market.

Phil said: "I've been watching the news for the last few weeks and saw what a mess the Somerset farmers are in. I saw an interview with James and you couldn't fail to be moved by it, even more so as a fellow farmer. The water was chest-high in his kitchen and he has lost almost everything, and the pictures showed the only way he could get to his farm was by boat.

"I just thought as a fellow farmer, I could help him, and the thing he really needed was cattle feed. James's feed which he had been storing over winter is now rotting in sheds, it's terrible.

"I don't have any cattle on my farm but I borrowed some feed from local farmers and set off. The support we had on the journey from the public has been fantastic, it makes me really proud."

Meanwhile the rest of Woolley Park's greenkeeping team – Phil's son John, Andy Scaman,



Richard Thompson, Stuart Mason and Pete Colley – have been working to keep the course open despite 100ml of rain in January.

John said: "Golf and agriculture are inextricably linked as they are both so dependent on the weather. If golf courses are underwater for too long the grass rots, and it's the same with crops in farming. We've been hit by the relentless

rainfall as so many other golf courses have, but luckily our site drains well and is high up.

"We made a few calls and mentioned 'Tractor Aid' on Twitter and it's gone on from there. We felt Somerset had been neglected by the media so hopefully this has reminded everybody of the seriousness of the situation down there."

Their amazing journey has caught the public's imagination

with Phil even being interviewed live on the BBC's 'One Show', BBC Radio 2 and in local newspapers.

Phil featured in Greenkeeper International last June when we focused on his combined role as Course Manager and farmer. Woolley Park is a 27-hole facility, and the adjacent farm's main function is drying and storing grain for local merchants and farmers.

AIRBORNE CHALARA SPORES DEBATE

A Conference* held in London appears to have 'laid the ghost' of long distance airborne travel of ascospores of the ascomycete fungus *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus* (imperfect or asexual stage *Chalara fraxinea*) to rest, while raising the possibility of another unexplored avenue of transcontinental movement for the fungal pathogen and disease.

Arguments in favour of long distance airborne travel of *Chalara* ascospores from continental Europe and into Eastern England rely heavily on circumstantial evidence relating to the high concentration of reported disease outbreaks in East Anglia. The long distance movement and survival of completely different fungal spores in other parts of the world is used as supporting evidence.

The arguments used against rest on a clear mismatch between long distance air-borne movement with the time lines and distance lines of *Chalara* outbreaks and spread of the pathogen across Europe over the last 20 years, coupled with the known high susceptibility of the ascospores to UV (ultra violet) light and desiccation.

Speaking at the Fraxback Conference Dr Anne Chandelier presented detailed results from *Chalara* spore trapping research carried out in Belgium which throw light on the situation. By trapping *Chalara* ascospores up a vertical profile she showed spore concentration was thirty times higher at 0.5m than 3.0m above ground level. Lateral movement for the majority of spores was no further than 50 m from the point of liberation.

Dr Chandelier showed that *Chalara* ascospores liberated from apothecia (fruiting bodies) on fallen ash leaf stalks are concentrated at only 0.5m from ground level, indicating little opportunity for lift off into the atmosphere and subsequent long distance dispersal in air currents. Moreover any 'high flying' spores would clearly be exposed to correspondingly high levels of UV light and stronger drying out forces compared with the same spores close to ground level.

In these respects the *Chalara fraxinea* situation is completely different to that for *Phytophthora ramorum* the spores (sporangia) of which are released from infected foliage at the tops of tall Japanese larch trees.

Defra's claim that *Chalara* ash dieback arrived in the UK via airborne spores from Europe is clearly questioned by these findings. Evidence supporting the airborne movement of viable *Chalara* ascospores from continental Europe and into the United Kingdom would clearly exonerate Defra from accusations that they acted too slowly in banning the import of infected ash planting material.

However, there appears to be one unexplored avenue of *Chalara* entry into the UK and a corresponding avenue of 'escape' for Defra. Apart from the role of infected ash planting material, comments made by Dr Chandelier's about infected ash leaf stalks being capable of producing apothecia (*Chalara* fruiting bodies containing ascospores) for two to three years after leaf fall raises the spectre of another avenue of disease entry into the United Kingdom. Could infected ash leaf stalks attached to the wheels of European vehicles be responsible for spreading *Chalara* ash dieback and providing a hitherto unrecognised and unexplored route of entry for *Chalara* ash dieback into the UK?

After all this was considered to be the most likely mode of spread of horse chestnut leaf miner (*Crameraria ohridella*) across Europe and into the UK, with dead horse chestnut leaves containing live overwintering pupae adhering to the wheels and bodywork of transcontinental vehicles.

Be that as it may, you still have to explain why *Chalara* ash dieback took almost exactly 20 years to move the 1000km from Poland to the Pas de Calais region of France and exactly what articulated lorry loads of wine from France, cheese from the Netherlands and bacon from Denmark were doing inside ancient East Anglian woodlands.

* FRAXBACK is a 4-year action plan initiated in 2011 and funded by 'COST' (The European Cooperation in Science and Technology). Generation of a comprehensive understanding of *Chalara* to produce practical guidelines for pan-European sustainable management of *Fraxinus* (ash) species are the aims.

Dr Terry Mabbett



E AT CONFERENCE



Tributes to BIGGA Life Member Henry Fry

Everyone at BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of Henry Fry on 29 January, aged 84, following a brief illness.

A Life Member of the Association, he replaced his father when he became Head Greenkeeper at Clyne Golf Club in South Wales and was also BIGGA's South Wales Section Secretary before his retirement in 1994. He was also a Chairman of the BGGA, as was his father.

Gareth Dunce, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Southerndown Golf Club in Bridgend, paid this tribute.

"Reserved and unassuming, Henry could be described as a gentlemen, a man of absolute integrity, great loyalty, and worth his weight in gold - a cliché which hardly does him justice. His father Harry Fry was appointed as Clyne Golf Club's first Head Greenkeeper in February 1920 and was directly responsible for the construction of the course as designed by golf architects H.S Colt and Harris.

"Henry joined the greenkeeping team in September 1958 and took over the Head Greenkeeper position upon his father's retirement in 1962. He gave many years of dedicated service on the course, often under extremely frustrating conditions. Henry was heavily involved within the industry from the start of his career and was very

keen to promote all aspects of greenkeeping, and went on to become BIGGA's South Wales Section Secretary.

"As a well-known and respected figure during this period he amassed many colleagues and friends whilst organising many golf days and other events, in which he could be found improving his game. He was a good golfer but never took the game too seriously. He was a very approachable figure and was happy to pass on his many years of experience and advice on to young greenkeepers.

"He was also well known for his mechanical skills and could often be found repairing, improving and improvising on machinery in the workshop. He was frequently many people's first port of call regarding any mechanical problems and always offered to lend a helping hand.

"Clyne Golf Club recognised his outstanding contribution by electing him an Honorary Life Member in 1994 and he also became a Life Member of BIGGA. To mark the end of his time at Clyne the Henry Fry Retirement Event was held in September 1994. The clearest ever indication of the respect in which Henry was held by the club's members was the fact that he was accorded a standing ovation by the large crowd present."



FTMI DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

The delegates for the second Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen have been announced, and they will head to Ipswich later this month for three days of superb education and networking.

The inaugural 2013 event, aimed at promising greenkeepers looking to make the step to Course Manager, was such a success BIGGA and Jacobsen have agreed to repeat it.

It will be held at Ransomes Jacobsen HQ between 25-27 March. Course Managers from some of the UK's top golf facilities will be mentoring, there will be sessions covering everything from interview techniques to building a budget and Dr Frank Rossi Ph.D, Director of Turfgrass Agronomy at Cornell University in the USA will be the special guest speaker.

The feedback from last year's event was terrific and Daniel Scott, Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf & Country Club, spoke for many of the attendees when he said: "It was a superb programme with excellent

speakers, I learnt so much during the three days that will be relevant to my career progression."

For 2014, the candidates will have sessions covering effective communication strategies, interview tips, volunteering opportunities at tournaments, dealing with club politics plus an open forum on challenges in the workplace.

They will work with five hugely experienced mentors – Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at Gleneagles' PGA Centenary Course, Matt Plested, Course Manager at Muswell Hill Golf Club, Michael Sawicki, Head Greenkeeper and Club Manager at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club, Lee Strutt MG, Course Manager at G West and Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club.

The candidates will also have a factory tour and play RJ National – the three hole course on site. They are:

John Bateson - St Andrews Links Trust
Sean Brocklehurst - Harpenden Common GC

Stewart Brown - Royal Aberdeen GC
Joe Buckley - Queenwood GC
Duncan Cairnie - Carnoustie Golf Links
Rob Donnelly - Hockley GC
James Fox - Trentham GC
Gary Fraser - Rockcliffe Hall GC
David Gibbons - Little Aston GC
Kevin Glazier - Royal Mid Surrey GC
Steven Haire - Ealing GC
Jamie Hughes - RJ National
Richard Jenkinson - G West
Derrick Johnstone - The Wentworth Club
Harry Larkins - Northamptonshire County GC
Gregor Mackintosh - Turnberry Hotel & Golf Course
Peter Moore - The Wentworth Club
Graeme Roberts - Tandridge GC
Richard Sheldon - Stonebridge GC
Chris Taylor - Willesley Park GC
Myles Wood - Berkhamsted GC

Thanks to all who applied, commiserations to those who did not make it this year.

BELOW: FTMI Delegates 2013





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Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we've revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you've

found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!



BIGGA have chosen the greenkeepers from across the UK and the world who will be assisting the home greenkeeping team at Royal Liverpool GC at the 142nd Open Championship in July.

We had over 140 applications and as always, it was a tough decision to select the team. BIGGA's General Manager Tracey Maddison explained more about the process in Greenkeeper International in April last year. She said: "We look at every single application thoroughly - it's vital we get a good mix of experience, younger members and overseas members.

"It's important to ensure there is a core of people who have Open

Championship experience in the team to act as mentors for those who are involved for the first time.

"As part of the process there is a guarantee that a certain number of first time applicants are selected as well as a good number of members who are engaged with BIGGA at Section level or through CPD."

Here is the team for 2014...

Paul Armour
Head Greenkeeper, Lochgelly GC
Tony Bartram
Greenkeeper, Richmond GC
Graeme Beatt
Greenkeeper, County Sligo GC
Graham Blackburn

Head Greenkeeper, Ryburn GC
Harvey Brooke
Greenkeeper, Redditch GC
Martin Brown
Deputy Course Manager,
Aldwickbury Park GC
Jack Bryson
Greenkeeper, Huddersfield GC
Andrew Clark
Greenkeeper, Broadstone GC
Stephen Dale
Head Greenkeeper, Withernsea GC
Neil Davey
Greenkeeper, Worpleston GC
Jack Davies
First Assistant Greenkeeper, Five
Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club
Joe Dormer
Greenkeeper, West Sussex GC
Michael Ellis



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Elaine Jones
elaine@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)



You can follow BIGGA on
Twitter @BIGGALtd

BIGGA Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

John Young
Mobile: 07776 242120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Northern & Midland

Sandra Raper
Mobile: 07866 366966
sandra@bigga.co.uk
[@sandra48077948](https://twitter.com/sandra48077948)

South East

Clive Osgood
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
[@cliveosgood](https://twitter.com/cliveosgood)

South West & Wales

Tracey Harvey
Mobile: 07841 948110
tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk



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 Greenkeeper, Middlesbrough Municipal GC
 Rodney McKay
 Greenkeeper, Galgorm Castle GC
 Ronan McKeown
 Golf Course Superintendent, Montgomerie Links - Vietnam
 Billy Merritt
 Head Greenkeeper, Beacon

Park GC
 Tim Needham
 Head Greenkeeper, Beedles Lake GC
 Finbarr O'Mahony
 First Assistant Greenkeeper, Kanturk GC
 Daniel Richards
 Greenkeeper, Llandudno GC
 Ian Semple
 Course Manager, Old Fold Manor GC
 Andy Slingsby
 Greenkeeper, Halifax West End GC
 Tom Smith
 Course Manager, Colne Valley GC
 Chris Taylor
 Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Willesley Park GC

Steven Thompson
 Greenkeeper, Trentham GC
 David Thompson
 First Assistant Greenkeeper, Hexham GC
 Andy Unwin
 Greenkeeper, Rotherham GC
 Sam Voss
 Head Greenkeeper, Forest Hill Golf & Country Club
 David Wilkinson
 Head Greenkeeper, Whitley Bay GC
 Martin Woods
 Course Manager, Bedlingtonshire GC

Commiserations to the applicants who were not selected on this occasion.



BIGGA Open Support Team 2013



L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

CPD: Personal Learning... What's in a Statement?

This month Stuart Green explains the crucial role of Personal Learning Statements (PLS) within CPD



The introduction of the new CPD programme offers members a wider variety of opportunities to claim credits either via education, networking or professional activities. The other category is Personal Learning credits.

Firstly, let's talk about what CPD is and this will help you to understand how Personal Learning Statements (PLS) can help to inform and enhance your development.

CPD

As part of the reorganisation of the BIGGA CPD Scheme, we investigated and researched other professional bodies' CPD schemes. The main conclusion we drew from this was that there is not one system that is the same. Every organisation has something different to fit

their members and their industry. However, the one core element that was fundamental to all CPD schemes was REFLECTION.

The concept of reflection is not new and we do it all the time, consciously and unconsciously. For example, dreaming is reflection, as our brains seek to make sense of our experiences whilst we are sleeping. What CPD programmes aim to do is formalise the process of reflection so that it can be evidenced.

Reid (1993) identifies the process of reflection in a simple quote:

"Reflection is a process of reviewing an experience of practice in order to describe, analyse and evaluate and so inform learning about practice"

Basically, it's a way of thinking about an experience and identifying what was learnt and how it may help you in your personal and pro-

fessional development. Reflection is very personal and will require you to examine what you felt about the experience - it's a fantastic tool for any practitioner to use but it does involve a little work. Initially, it took me a while to get the hang of it during my time as a lecturer. However, PERSEVERE, because once you understand it your skills as a competent and motivated professional will increase significantly.

Personal Learning

So what is a Personal Learning Statement (PLS)? The PLS is a downloadable document (from the CPD Resources page in the Member's Area of the website) that asks you a series of questions to help you in your reflection. (Fig.1.)

They provide you with the opportunity to identify a significant learn-





Gold Key Individual Members:
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray


Silver Key Individual Members:
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild, Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton, David Barker

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Contact Details

 Sami Strutt
L&D Manager
sami@bigga.co.uk

 Rachael Duffy
L&D Executive
rachael@bigga.co.uk

 Stuart Green
L&D Executive
stuart@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk

ing event and are structured so that you may formalise your thoughts about it.

What can I claim for?

Good question! Pretty much anything that helps you develop the skills you need for your personal and professional development. It can be used to identify transferable skills, such as communication, and people skills from an event or activity that does not fit the designated CPD categories. This may include coaching and organising youth teams or being involved in committees outside of work.

It could also be mentoring a young apprentice, dealing with a challenging issue involving a colleague or how you dealt with an awkward committee member. By formalising your feelings and experiences, it will open up opportunities for personal growth. It may also be used to review your own CPD programme. So you can get credits for gaining credits!

When completing a PLS, there is no right or wrong answer, it's about your personal feelings, conclusions and decisions. However, they should not be seen as easy CPD credits, as a form with minimal input will be of no benefit to you. A PLS should only be used to demonstrate that learning has taken place, that it's had an impact on you and is being used to inform further development of skills and attitude.

You are able to claim up to 15 credits per three-year cycle. You can claim more, but only 15 will be used in any one cycle, the rest will be carried over, but they have a lifespan of three years from the date submitted.

To summarise, here are some general tips for completing a PLS:

- Have you had any experiences that could help you in your professional or personal development?
- Use the form to guide your thoughts and feelings by answering the questions.
- The more information you put down on your form, the more you will be able to drive the benefits of learning.
- Any experience can be used, as long as you can identify that what you learnt is transferable.

Reid B (1993) 'But We're Doing it Already!' Exploring a Response to the Concept of Reflective Practice in Order to Improve its Facilitation, *Nurse Education Today*, 13: 305-309.

Figure 1



PERSONAL LEARNING STATEMENT

NAME: STUART GREEN
MEMBERSHIP No:XXXXX

SUMMARY OF WHAT WAS DONE (DON'T DESCRIBE EVERYTHING, BE SELECTIVE)

- Attended the Learning Technologies exhibition at Olympia - Jan 2014
- Met with exhibitors to discuss Learner Management systems and e-learning
- Attended Seminars on e-learning

NEW LEARNING

What did I learn that was new to me?

- There is so much technology available to record and manage learning.
- How to manage an e-learning project.
- An increased awareness of the size of the accreditation project.

What insights did this new knowledge give to me?

That there is technology available to record learning and BIGGA could use that technology to benefit its members. Also the concept of different types of learning, such as, blended, social and virtual

Did it help me see something in a new light?

It helped clarify my position in the project and how it would be best to move forward.

Did it help me understand something that I didn't understand before?

There are so many varying tools available that it highlighted that the accreditation project needs to be broken down into three distinct projects.

How do I think this might be useful (in practice, in my studies, in my life)?

It has identified that for me to gain a clear perspective on a subject I need to be able to review what I have seen, reflect on it and revisit it again with a fresh approach.

PERSONAL REACTION

How did I feel about what was done? (Did it affect me emotionally and if so how?)

I felt really good. It was very tiring as I had to concentrate a lot to take in everything that I was being told. It felt great to be able to reflect on the event after.

What did I like or enjoy and why?

The experience of realisation. That moment of "getting it!" was really a fundamental moment for me.

What did I dislike and why?

I didn't like the feeling of not knowing enough when I was speaking to exhibitors. But that soon changed after a few conversations.

What did I find easy to do or understand and why?

Talking to people has always been easy for me and I enjoy it. Once the concept of a learner management system was explained, generally, in diagrammatic form, I could grasp the concept of how the system may work for BIGGA.

What did I find difficult or challenging to do or understand and why?

There was a lot of IT talk, which can be difficult to comprehend, not being IT trained!

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Is there any action that I will take as a result of what was done?

I will review my notes from the event and develop the project plan to break it down into three distinct projects with separate timelines and relationships. I will also seek more advice on the running of the project and will carry out further online research.

Do I need to plug gaps in my knowledge?

Yes. However, by carrying out further research I aim to plug these gaps.

Do I need to investigate or research further training?

Not at the moment.



ROCK AND ROLL FOR GARY

Congratulations to Gary Fraser, Greenkeeper at Rockcliffe Hall, who has successfully passed his scholarship in Golf Course Management via the online course offered by Elmwood College.

For information on how you can sign up to courses contact our Learning & Development team on 01347 833800 (option 3) or via the website: www.bigga.org.uk



BECK ON CALL FOR AITKENS

Aitkens Sportsturf have welcomed Ryan Beck to their team to help increase their coverage in the East of Scotland.

Ryan will now work alongside Blair Young and Jim Darling. Ryan has worked in the industry for a number of years and was a greenkeeper at Broomieknowe Golf Club and Muirfield. He later moved on to become Head Greenkeeper at Melville Golf Club before spending some time in the trade with Fleet Line Markers.

LIFE'S A BEECH FOR IAN

Tillers 25th Anniversary prize giveaway went with a real "Pop" at BTME with a bottle of champagne being given away every 25 minutes.

The main prize of two full hospitality tickets to The Open at Royal Liverpool was won by Ian Beech, Head Greenkeeper at Newcastle-

under-Lyme Golf Club.

He said: "I am over the moon with winning, in over 30 years in the industry this is the prize I've won! I would like to wish Tillers a great 25th anniversary and I think their product and service is second to none".

Tillers Turf had a record-breaking show and had great interest in their range of turf including Greens and Revetting Turf and their new "Flora" Wild Flower Turf. They've already rebooked their stand for 2015 following a very successful BTME 2014.

HIGHSPEED GROUP SUCCESS CONTINUES



After successfully exhibiting at BTME and the GIS, Highspeed Group continues to expand activities with their class leading ClearWater washpad water recycling system.

MD David Mears said: "It was clear at both exhibitions that there is growing demand for an uncomplicated, yet effective water recycling system at a competitive price. ClearWater is the answer, as our recent sales successes are proving."

ClearWater enables effective washing of machinery, pollution prevention and compliance with the requirements of legislation - a recent sale was as a direct result of an Environment Agency inspection! ClearWater also has a number of advantages over

competitive systems, the main ones being that it is silent and, being below ground, it is better protected, operates at a safe, low temperature and is less prone to vandalism. It also looks far more attractive.

Having official UK government backed approval through the WTL (Water Technology List) as a water saving technology meaning businesses can write off 100% of the cost of investing in ClearWater under the ECA (Enhanced Capital Allowance) scheme has certainly been of interest to purchasers. Highspeed has supplied over 200 systems in the UK, Europe and now the USA. They also recently landed their first German order from Golf Club Hanau-Wilhelmsbad.



BY GEORGE!

Robert George, Head Greenkeeper at Thorndon Park Golf Club, scooped an Xbox One as part of a Bayer competition at BTME.

Robert said that he “was obviously delighted” when he was told the good news and when asked if he’d be using the console during his downtime, he responded that he wouldn’t personally, but he knew who would. “I’ve got a house full of kids who I’m sure will put it to very good use.”

Since its launch at BTME in 2013, Robert recalled how he’s had very positive results with Interface®. “I take a preventative approach when spraying fungicides,” says Robert “I’m pleased to say that that means we stay pretty much disease free.” In spite of this, Robert identifies that what’s impressive about Interface® is the residual protection it offers. I sprayed the product towards the end of October, says Robert, and in spite of the challenging weather we’ve had over the winter, I’ve not needed to put anything else down since.”

Bayer’s Product Manager, Claire Matthewman, explains that the company’s underlying theme at BTME this year was innovation. “We wanted to create a timeline that mapped our various product innovations and aligned them with other well know technological developments throughout history.”



PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Disease control is something greenkeepers and turf managers are up against every day of their lives. Everywhere in the world someone is battling with difficult weather conditions, bugs and insects plus other threat that damage and affect the health of the turf. There are new products and chemicals on the market that can tackle diseases from several angles, but there are also some good, sound, preventative measures that every greenkeeper could and should be doing to combat and control these.

Warren Bevan, Course Manager at the Lancaster Golf Club, shares the view that prevention is better than cure. He said: “If you can keep a plant in perfect condition and cut it without tearing and bruising it, you will maintain good healthy plants. A surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants.

Peter Todd, Course Manager at the London Golf Club, shares that view “Cutting grass leaves cleanly, without any tearing is essential for both the best finish and plant health.”

Warren continued: “When I joined Lancaster Golf Club ten years ago, I was given the opportunity to overhaul the fleet of mowing equipment and it was paramount to me to have a set of grinders to keep the new equipment as sharp as the first time they went out.

“Obviously, sharp cylinders and bottom blades promote a finish on the turf of tournament quality, and produce sharp definition between the different heights of cut. As a secondary benefit, but equally importantly, I get a plant that is cut cleanly without bruising or tearing. This produces a surface with far better ball roll, but also less susceptible to disease.

“The surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants. This has a benefit to me as a turf manager in keeping my pesticide input down and gives my members smooth, consistent putting surfaces.”

Technical Training Manager at Bernhard and Co, Ben Taylor, regularly lectures on how to achieve healthy, disease free turf. He said: “I like to compare the mower to a surgeon operating on our own bodies. When a surgeon performs an operation that requires our skin and flesh to be cut open, they use a surgically sharp scalpel so that the incision is neat.

“A neat wound, with a clean cut will not only repair quicker, it will heal with less scarring and will also be less susceptible to any bacterial or fungal infections.

“It’s the same with grass. The grass plant is far more susceptible to airborne diseases such as fusarium, when it has a torn, messy, open wound caused by a blunt, poor cut. Use surgically sharp blades on a mower and the plant is protected, and loses less water.”

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

Got a new appointment, prize giveaway, notable event or any other company news...?

Email your press releases and news items to Steve Castle

steve.castle@bigga.org.uk





A letter from America



BERNHARD
grinders

Every February the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Co, head to the Golf Industry Show in America for a life-changing professional and personal experience. This year Tom Brearley, Assistant Greenkeeper at Sunningdale, was one of the ten Delegates to Orlando and compiled a fascinating diary. Here's his review of the show, a visit to TPC Sawgrass and how the week led to a dream Ryder Cup opportunity



**Saturday 1 February
Marriot's Cypress Harbour,
Orlando**

The day had finally come, the first day of what turned out to be one of the best experiences I have had. The selected ten from all over the UK were greeted by the ever helpful Kim Furnell from Bernhard and Co who had planned and organised the trip. The long flight enabled us to get to know each other and our varied backgrounds. On arrival in Orlando we were transferred to the fantastic Cypress Harbour Hotel, and were bowled over at both the level of hospitality that we were shown and our fantastic apartments. It was a quick turnaround, then out for some food and drink.

**Sunday 2 February
Golf at the Orange County
National Golf Center**

Following a great first night in Orlando we enjoyed breakfast whilst watching the greenkeepers at work on the hotel's fantastic golf course. We were then transported to the 36-hole Orange County National. After collecting our complimentary clubs and buggies we headed to the 42 acre circular driv-

ing range. We split into fourballs and enjoyed Panther Lake's 18 holes of huge creeping bentgrass greens, littered with water hazards, well positioned bunkers and the occasional alligator!

John Entwistle from The Roehampton Club took the money beating Jim Croxton by a point. The day provided a further opportunity to get to know each other and swap trade stories and experiences from the UK – this continued throughout the week. The evening was spent watching the Superbowl in Orlando which gave us a great taste of the American culture.

**Monday 3 February
Orange County Convention
Center. Seminars on Greens
Aerification and Water
Management by Numbers**

The first of our two days of educational seminars was held at the Orange County Convention Centre. There was just time to grab a coffee and dodge the occasional segway used by staff to get from one end of the huge complex to the other. The seminar was delivered by Erik Ervin of Virginia Tech, Troy Fink, Superintendent at The Country Club of Virginia and Nelson Caron,

Superintendent at the Ford Plantation.

Erik began by discussing the importance of organic matter management, covering the science and facts and how we must provide the best soil conditions for our grass species to thrive.

As the morning session continued Troy and Nelson took the lead discussing their organic matter management styles, processes and the results they've achieved. It was really interesting to see two young Superintendents who vary traditional and new methods to achieve the same goal, with Troy managing A4 Creeping Bentgrass greens and Nelson on Tif-Eagle Bermuda grass greens.

In the afternoon Erik led the seminar on the importance of effective water management and its effect on both warm and cool season grass species. Troy and Nelson then discussed their methods of water management. Troy explained how he relies on technology, using soil moisture and firmness meters alongside a simple flagging system and the logging of data allowing him to stay on top of the moisture levels and health of his greens.

In contrast, Nelson explained how he manages his moisture





levels by training his staff to use their eyes and feel with the use of a pocket knife to provide a ranking of a green for firmness and moisture. This is a simple system which relies on the skill of his staff and their interpretation of the results which I could really relate to.

I think we all took a huge amount from the day and there was a real buzz in the group with discussions continuing throughout the week on the topic.

The evening was spent having some downtime at a local restaurant followed by drinks with the Bernhards crew at the hotel bar.

Tuesday 4 February Shingle Creek Golf Club, Gadgets and Gizmos Seminar

Day two of our education programme was based at Shingle Creek Golf Club where we split the day between the conference room and the course turf nursery.

The seminar was focused on current and new technology becoming available to the greenkeeping industry. Soil moisture and light sensors were the main topic of discussion in the morning.

We were introduced to the products and discussed how they

can be incorporated into course management. I particularly related to the light level sensors as they can be used to illustrate data on the adverse impacts of trees and levels of shade on a green.

We were then let loose with the gadgets which had been discussed and put them to the test. The afternoon session focused on green speed and firmness, data logging and mobile apps.

I think we all picked out something that we could implement into course management in the UK, from providing firmness readings enabling us to manage our surfaces to improve the consistency of our greens, to light level sensors providing data to convince a committee to agree to tree removal.

The evening was a busy one spending time at the UKTI sponsored British reception hosted by BIGGA which provided a great opportunity to meet up with friends and colleagues.

This was followed by a GCSAA Celebration held at the Rosen Centre, we then headed to a Jacobsen Reception held at Disney's Epcot Park which was fantastic, the highlight of which was the famous Disney firework display.



ABOVE: The delegates at Shingle Creek Golf Club

Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 February
The Golf Industry Show, Orange County Convention Centre

The next two days were spent at the GIS and attending educational sessions. The show was vast covering 184,500 square feet with 561

exhibitors differing in size and products from the likes of John Deere, Jacobsen and Toro to small family run businesses showcasing their products.

We spent our time exploring the show floor for new products and ideas that we could incorporate back in the UK.

There were many interesting concepts which provided a real insight into the American market and where it is heading. Time was also spent manning the BIGGA stand with the BIGGA team. The stand attracted international interest and gave us further opportunity to chat with greenkeepers from all over the globe.

I spent some of my time exploring the American education programmes as it is something that really interests me in furthering my career. There were at least 15 stands representing the various university and college programmes allowing me to engage with current and past students providing me with a students' perspective.

Rutgers at the State University of New Jersey provide an intense three week course which I am keen to follow up, as well as the possibility of some tournament experience.

Wednesday evening was spent at the Bernhard and Co after show Reception. This was a great opportunity to meet greenkeepers from all over the world, hearing stories and industry experiences from people at the top of the game really motivated me.

I was lucky enough to be introduced to Chris Tritabaugh, Golf Course Superintendent at Hazeltine National, host of the 2016 Ryder Cup.

This half hour chat with Chris provided an insight into his career path and the challenge he has at Hazeltine in the next two years.

He showed a real interest in my background, aspirations and our work at Sunningdale, resulting in him offering me the chance to join his team for the Ryder Cup in 2016.

This is an example of what the trip can open up for you if you are willing to put yourself out there and will definitely result in one of the highlights of my career.

Friday 7 February
Course Visit, TPC Sawgrass

On arriving at the impressive maintenance facility at Sawgrass we were met by Joe Curran and Justin Lowery, both Assistant Superintendents on the stadium course.

On walking into the management offices and crew room we knew we were somewhere special with the electronic assignment board illustrating an ongoing trend of efficiency throughout the complex. In the workshop we were confronted with a sea of perfectly presented machinery and hand tools all ready to go for the next day.

We continued to the newly renovated self contained chemical building with a 300 gallon



“I couldn't have wished for a better group of guys to have travelled with, we worked hard all week but had some good laughs along the way and I'm pretty sure I've made nine new lifelong friends”

Andrew Laing, Course Manager, Gaudet Luce GC



containment tank, two mixers, a bulk transfer system and induction bowls to ease the mix of chemicals. This was obviously a frequently used facility as they discussed their intense spraying programme.

We questioned Joe and Justin about all aspects of their facility and techniques including their 20 Precision Aire units and the recent renovation of 17 fairways and 9 nine tee boxes in just 17 days on the stadium course.

After our tour of the maintenance facility we took a short buggy ride to one of the most famous holes in golf – the island green 17th.

We were then invited to the stunning clubhouse and the home of the PGA Tour for an unbelievable lunch, then met by the club's General Manager Bill Hughes.

He gave us a guided tour of the clubhouse including the

champion's locker room and the vast collection of memorabilia. His huge personality and the stories he shared were fascinating.

The evening was spent celebrating a great week with visits to a few of our favourite places from our time in Orlando.

**Saturday 8 February
Flights home**

We had the final morning free before heading to the airport. I think we had all hit a wall by this stage and there were some tired bodies on the plane home. But what a week we had all enjoyed and it was truly a real career highlight for each member of the delegation.

On reflection, the trip has provided me with a real boost to continue my progression through the industry. It was inspirational



ABOVE: The delegates at TPC Sawgrass

MIDDLE: On the BIGGA Stand at the GIS

BOTTOM: The maintenance facility at TPC Sawgrass

and I have come away with some new and heightened career goals. It highlighted the fantastic global network we have in our industry, the power of education and the levels that can be achieved if you apply yourself. I would recommend it to anyone within the industry - long may it continue.



**BERNHARD
grinders**

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Stephen Bernhard and his incredible team for providing an unforgettable opportunity and experience.

The company is a credit to the industry and its forward thinking to provide an opportunity like this must be recognised. A huge thank you must go to Kim Furnell for her impeccable organisation and dedication to the continuous development of the trip.

To Jim Croxton and the team at BIGGA, thank you for your guidance, hospitality and for sharing this great experience with us.



“One of my favourite sayings is ‘many hands make light work’. This is certainly true here. We’ve got the members helping out, and the greenkeeping team working together”

PROFILE

Name: Allan Donlevy

Role: Acting Head
Greenkeeper

Born: Liverpool, 22
August 1970

**Favourite sports
team:** Everton

Hobbies: Rugby
player and coach

In it together

Steve Castle heads to the north west and discovers a busy, traditional club where everyone is prepared to muck in – including the members



Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club is an undulating parkland course situated in Garswood Park between Wigan and St Helens, close to the M6. On a glorious sunny day, Acting Head Greenkeeper Allan Donlevy was soon into his stride as he explained how his interesting greenkeeping career led him to Ashton, which has been on its current site since 1965.

"I started at West Derby Golf Club in 1986 as one of Maggie Thatcher's apprentices! I then moved to Gerrards Cross, then I was at Walton Heath for 11 years working under Clive Osgood.

"We held a couple of European Opens there, County events plus some Amateur Championships. It was a fantastic time, great fun as well as a great place to work, and the pinnacle was the European Open in 1991.

"Then I came back up north to take the Deputy Course Man-

ager's role at Stockport, but I got made redundant so came here in 2001."

Ashton recently acquired the services of Gordon Irvine MG as a consultant, and last year they invested in a Toro ProCore 648 which the entire team have been very pleased with.

"It's easy to use, excellent maneuverability, it's brilliant. It does use a lot of petrol – but ultimately I can start tining the greens at 6am and do all the greens in six hours.

"Even the members noticed a difference as we were using smaller tines. It gives flexibility and access to greens all the time as opposed to the tractor mounted alternative which could leave tyre marks.

"We do weekly sarel rolling in conjunction with the 8mm tines with the ProCore, which is every two weeks from March until the end of May. Regarding cutting we work between 5mm and 6mm until more growth is achieved."

In 2009, it was announced that

The team of Phil Roberts, Mike McGrail, Carl Roscoe, Allan Donlevy, Richard Orrick

a £120m water pipeline linking Liverpool and Bury was to be routed straight through Ashton-in-Makerfield and five other golf courses. At Ashton, the pipe's route took it through the 17th hole and 18th tee.

So, United Utilities agreed to fund the purchase and construction of 14 spare acres of land adjacent to the course for two new holes, then reinstated the original 17th.

Allan added: "The greens are meadowgrass bent, we've recently started an overseeding programme to get more bent in. It's great to have Gordon Irvine on board, we get on well and he's always at the end of a phone if I need him. The course is really coming on, we've had good feedback this year.

"Thanks to Gordon's advice we are now majoring on aeration, it's all about getting the right playing surface for the members.

"We don't have a full irrigation system – albeit we have irrigation points to all our greens and some tees.



“The course has a clay base. Nine holes are reclaimed land and you wouldn’t describe it as good growing soil, but we’ve made a good golf course out of it and our members are really proud of what they’ve got.”

This is clearly illustrated by the so-called ‘Wednesday working party’ at the club. It began around a decade ago when a couple of helpful members offered to tidy some borders surrounding the clubhouse, and has grown to a larger group who now perform some key tasks.

They work generally from 8am – 12 on Wednesdays. The club held a training day to show them various tasks, so they’re all fully up to speed with health and safety issues. Two of them wanted to get even more involved so they are fully trained to use the five ton dumper. This was all paid for by the club who recognise how important their input is.

Allan added: “I’m very appreciative of that group, they take on all sorts of tasks from small things like pruning copses to full-scale projects like building pathways. They save the greenkeeping team a lot of time and ensure we can concentrate on the course.

“My ultimate aim here is that as soon as every golfer leaves, they’re on the phone wanting to come back and play again.”

Ashton-in-Makerfield is a very

busy golf course. As I’ve travelled the country speaking to BIGGA members, one of the constant themes raised is the fact that golf courses are much more heavily used than 20 or even ten years ago – and Ashton is no exception.

Allan confirmed: “We start at 7am in the winter and there are always golfers here ready to go out at 7.30. This is also something we have to really think about in the summer when we have people finishing their night shift wanting to have nine holes at 5am. We have 500 members, and Saturdays here are absolutely manic.

“In the summer we can have more than 180 golfers here on Saturdays playing all the way through from 7am, and in the winter a similar number on a two tee start on a shortened course.

“Of course we need the money from people playing here, but naturally, and I’m sure many greenkeepers would agree with this, the sheer volume of golf played causes us problems. When I started greenkeeping in 1986 it would literally be one man and his dog playing on a winter morning. But as time’s gone on, people are retiring younger, they’re watching more golf on TV and they want to play all year round.

“You can set your watch by some of our members. In fact it gets to

the point if they don’t turn up on a morning, you start to worry about what’s happened to them!

“In the winter we put a lot of ropes up to keep golfers away from the finer stuff. Parts of the course do end up looking like a maze but it protects key areas of the course.

“One of my favourite sayings is ‘many hands make light work’. This is certainly true here. We’ve got the members helping out, and the greenkeeping team working together (we have five in total) is the most important thing.”

As I left, the team were summoned to an apparent emergency. What could have happened? Allan’s colleague Mike McGrail explained: “One of our members has got a bit of a temper, and he’s just duffed a shot and hurled his fairway wood into a tree. It’s stuck in a branch 15 feet up and he wants us to get it down.”

All in a day’s work for the team at Ashton-in-Makerfield.



MACHINERY LIST

- 1 John Deere 4520 tractor
- 1 John Deere 3720 tractor
- Lewis drainage trencher
- Wiedenmann XP 160 Terra Spike
- 1 3 ton gravel bander
- 1 5 ton dumper
- 1 Toro 648 ProCore
- 2 John Deere 2500 greens mowers
- 1 John Deere 3245C rough mower
- 1 John Deere 3235C fairway mower
- 2 Toro 3250s
- Various hand machines
- 1 Greentek thatchaway system
- 1 Pro Pass topdresser
- 2 John Deere 2653 Semi Rough Mowers
- 1 John Deere 2500 Hybrid Greens Machine (due in April)
- 1 Industrial Wood chipper



Better Moisture Distribution



Better Playability



Better Soil Health



Better Root Growth

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Onwards and upwards



Andy Pullen was recently promoted from Deputy to Course Manager. Laurence Pithie met Andy to find out more about his experience, the challenges that lie ahead at North Wilts Golf Club, and his advice for Deputies looking to make the next step



Andy Pullen can probably be described as a mix of ‘old and new school’ in terms of greenkeeping and golf course management. Having spent years under the tutelage of established Course Managers at Worplesdon, Hoebriidge, and North Hants Golf Clubs, he developed many traditional skills as well as keeping up to date with products and techniques in an ever changing industry.

A four-year spell in machinery sales followed - however, a strong desire to get back into turfgrass management led Andy to Ogbourne Downs Golf Club near Swindon as Deputy Course Manager. Two years later, his hunger to progress resulted in another move, this time to North Wilts as Deputy before he was appointed Course Manager in 2012.

From Deputy to Course Manager

Making this upward move can be a daunting challenge and it’s

encouraging to see that this subject is now widely covered at BTME each year, with seminars and workshops usually hosted by experienced Course Managers who can pass on their knowledge and management expertise to help others. I was interested to learn more about the thinking behind Andy’s appointment.

The 46-year-old explained: “Although I did not have the same academic qualifications as many younger and aspiring course deputies, I did have valuable experience, learning from past masters at established clubs in the south east as well as enrolling on short one day courses to focus on particular subjects.

This can be an effective way to learn more about a particular subject such as plant nutrition. My four years in sales also gave me the opportunity to hone my skills in budgeting, planning, organisation, ordering processes and VAT.

“When the opportunity arrived for the top position, it was essential that I understood the club’s objectives, their core customers and

about the author



Laurence Pithie MG

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

Laurence is grateful to Andy Pullen and North Wilts GC for their help and input in producing this article.

what was expected of me by both the club and the greenkeeping team. If I was to step up to the mark, I needed to make an impression and above all be prepared to listen and understand the members’ needs.

“There was a strong desire within the club to improve turf quality and the overall definition of playing areas.

“There was a feeling the focus had been too heavily weighed in favour of environmental issues and not on playing surface quality.

“Now there are pine trees that don’t belong in a downland environment and areas of scrub that need to be controlled, but that should not be the priority.

“The majority of the 800 or so members are over 60, don’t hit the ball too far but enjoy their golf and prefer to play on good greens and firm, consistent surfaces throughout.

“They also wish to complete a round in less than four hours, preferably without losing any golf balls. I felt that if I could provide such conditions, then I would have a contented membership.”

Key Challenges on the Course Management Change

"The first 10 holes are on high ground rising to 755 feet. There is a thin covering of soil overlying chalk, which is free draining and provides excellent all year round playing conditions and tremendous vistas over open countryside. It also gets a bit 'blowy' so keeping the ball low is paramount!

"The lower eight holes are more challenging to manage, particularly three valley holes where drainage can be an issue. A greater depth of clay is present, particularly under some of the greens which were built using the standard 'cut and fill' technique. In general, I needed to improve turf density, particularly on those fairways which were thin and weak, thus being able to present the course with greater definition.

"A high sulphur based fertiliser was applied each spring to acidify the surface and encourage growth, particularly the more indigenous grasses. This has resulted in a better cover of grass which the members enjoy. Once this is established throughout, I will probably switch to a spring and autumn foliar feed.

"Drainage remains the key issue on those greens which were built-up. Aeration and top dressing have been increased, while keeping surface disruption to a minimum. Fortunately the upper profile is in fairly good shape with organic matter content at a satisfactory level. To help maintain this healthy profile, we opt for using the Dyno-Core attachment reels with 5mm coring tines at 30mm centres each month, along with periodic deep tining. To overcome the drainage problems, we have carried out vertical drilling on the worst affected greens on the lower holes.

"This process is started by making a hole cutting board to accommodate a six inch (150mm) wide drill hole. After removing a turf plug, a hole was drilled to a depth of between four and six feet (1.5m approx).

"Once the spoil was removed, the holes were back-filled with small gravel, a membrane placed on top and then rootzone added to the final 10 inches (250mm) before the turf plug was replaced. Initially, these holes have been inserted at random as we are still experimenting on the best solution, bearing in mind the diverse nature of the underlying soil.

"To date, we have had some success with drainage but we know more needs to be achieved. Watch this space!"

Managing turf and playing surfaces are one aspect of a Course Manager's role, but managing people and running a successful maintenance operation can be more challenging. Since much of this is gained through personal experience, I was keen to hear how Andy made the transition.

"Being Deputy is sometimes the more difficult position, since you are no longer 'one of the lads' but not the man in charge. You still have to support the CM even when you may feel that this may not be the best decision. Sometimes this means treading the line carefully! You are the CM's 'eyes and ears', often dealing with a situation before it becomes an issue.

"Once I gained promotion, responsibility was more clear cut - the buck stopped with me! I became responsible and accountable for the management of the course and my team. The club gave me the vote of confidence to lead, take control and manage the course in a professional manner, therefore I was in charge of my own destiny. Fortunately I inherited a good team.

"I did need to recruit a Deputy and hired Martin Goodwin from nearby Kingsdown Golf Club who is very experienced and qualified to Level 3. With a good supporting team in place, the next challenge was to bring all management files and processes up to date.

"Record keeping had been minimal and both budgetary control and risk assessments were handwritten. So we gradually updated each process on computer and ensured that all information was easy to access and relevant to the club's needs. It was also important that the lines of communication between myself and the staff were sound and that they were involved in as much planning as possible. Without their help and input, the task would be considerably more difficult.

"We are first and foremost a team and that means sharing the workload. I have a very good working relationship with both the General Manager and Chairman of Green; the latter position usually being a two year stint. The members also have a voice in the form of a constructive comment sheet which is 'managed' by the club. This allows me the opportunity to explain in more detail the methods and practices used and why it necessary to do so. Good communication via newsletters and even personal presentations are what clubs expect nowadays."



Transportable bridge made by greenkeeping team



Drilling 1.3 metre hole with powered auger



Removing 6 inch plug prior to hole drilling



Dug out hollow formerly used for cock fighting next to 6th green

Conclusion

I asked Andy for any guidance or tips he could pass onto greenkeepers looking to make the next upward move in their careers.

He replied: “Firstly, ensure that you have the necessary training and qualifications.

“I was fortunate that although my level of qualifications could have been better, it was necessary to play to my strengths of working on heathland and downland courses.

“Using this knowledge was invaluable. It is essential to be computer literate and have good budgeting, management and communication skills.

“Be confident, review your CV and when it comes to the interview, make sure you have walked the course beforehand, finding out as much as you require in order to make an impression. In other words be prepared...because you may only get one chance.”



Special sustainability

‘Golf and trees don’t mix’ is an old saying amongst architects, but when Norbert Lischka MG was faced with filtration problems on his woodland course in Germany he set out to disprove it...

Falkenstein is one of the older courses in Germany as it was founded in 1906, but the course itself is somewhat younger. It was constructed by Colt and Harrison between 1928 and 1929.

Head Greenkeeper, Master Greenkeeper and BIGGA member Norbert Lischka has a long relationship with Falkenstein – nearly 20 years. When he joined he found a club debating many issues. The members were not satisfied with the push-up greens that consisted mainly of annual meadowgrass, although this was not the main problem which was bad drainage of the greens.

The greens had been built using existing soil with a very poor filtration rate. Norbert said: “It was three to five litres of filtration an hour at most. Several years ago some meetings were held in which the members were presented with the choice of a complete renovation or a partial improvement. The advisors we had at that time were split – two were in favour of a total reconstruction and two advised a gradual improvement!”

The members opted for a more gradual approach, for a number of reasons. The greens at Falkenstein are so uniquely undulating that this would have been lost during a complete overhaul. Furthermore this would have meant a lot of inconvenience for the golfers for a number of years.

APPROACH

Approaching the problems meant a combination of ‘drill and fill’, improving the light and air conditions around the greens and a sophisticated feeding programme for the grasses on the greens. Norbert also intensively tested the best combination of grasses in the woodland area of Falkenstein.

The greens were 100% annual meadowgrass with all its disadvantages, made worse by the combination of poor infiltration and the absence of significant light and air.

He said: “Initially I tried to take control with the traditional bent plus fescue combination. After some years it became evident this had not been successful. The main cause was the lack of sufficient



light, height of cut (3.5mm in summer) and the size of the greens (450m square).

"The next grass we introduced on the greens was the Agrostis variant Penn links. But this was also not exactly an overwhelming success. Finally we sowed with Penn A4. This hit the bull's eye. Especially on sunnier greens Penn A4 held very well. However, on more shaded parts of the green, Penn G6 was more successful."

Norbert is realistic and professional enough to realise that getting the right grasses doesn't guarantee a perfect course. The growing conditions must also be perfect.

"This is a complex matter on a woodland course. Sure, you can remove trees, but those trees enhance the beauty of the course. So you have to find a balance between removing trees and creating light and air on the green. With some greens here it is even more complex because they are almost hidden between a number of hills."

As mentioned, bad filtration was a major problem. The poor drainage could not be improved with the usual methods, especially because the disturbing layer is out of reach of the longest Vertidrain pins. So they went for the German version of the 'drill and fill technique'. 50cm deep holes with a 27mm diameter were drilled in a green then immediately filled with pre-dried sand.

Norbert said: "We were lucky that we found the original sand below the 50cm depth, which finally gave us a chance to drain the greens."

According to Norbert this was a successful, but very labour

intensive method of improving the greens. Seven greenkeepers would work for a whole day on a 450m square green. Norbert discovered this problem cannot be solved by one treatment alone. Some greens were treated four or five times and still the infiltration was not perfect. The drill holes were filled with a very rough fraction of sand with a grain size of between 0.8mm and 1.6mm.

SUSTAINABLE?

Norbert is convinced his application of Penn A4/G6 creeping bentgrass for his greens was the most durable option. This has everything to do with the specific management of creeping bentgrass.

Creeping bentgrass carries the prejudice of a high demand of fertiliser and a substantial accumulation of thatch. Only very intensive scarifying and topdressing makes it possible to stay in control.

But Norbert doesn't give the 30gr per square metre of pure nitrogen that is often prescribed, but only around 10gr. All fertilisers have an organic composition and this, in combination with adding seaweed and mycorrhizas should result in an active soil life and a good decomposition of thatch. Of course this would also be stimulated by the improved ventilation on the greens.

As already indicated, all fertilisers are organic. Seaweed is always 'on the menu' at Falkenstein, but the club's method of fertilising is remarkable. Currently, the greens are a patchwork of Poa in large parts with creeping bentgrass. Norbert exploited the aggressive way of

growing the Penn A4 and Penn G6.

He explained: "I fertilise in two rounds. First I give the starving patches of Poa a little bit of fertiliser by hand. After that the whole green is fertilised by a cart. So the meadowgrass gets more nutrition than the creeping bentgrass."

Norbert sticks to the theory that the aggressive, hungry creeping bentgrass will try to colonise the meadowgrass spots because there is more nutrition available. The stolones of creeping bents, which grow sideways, are quicker at getting the nitrogen than the weak Poa annua.

But in a way this is more than a theory, as Norbert sees a clear increase in the percentage of bentgrass – and a delegation of visiting greenkeepers were impressed by the vitality of the agrostis stolonifera during a visit last October.

about the author



Norbert Lischka MG has been Course Manager at Hamburg-Falkenstein Golf Club in Germany since 1994. After studying agriculture he travelled the world before landing his first greenkeeping job at Unna Frondenberg Golf Club. He has been a member of BIGGA since 1995 and is a member of the German Group of Sustainable Greenkeepers.



The Turf Fox

Norbert is also a self employed consultant at his company "The Turf Fox". He concentrates on sustainability and ecology in modern golf course management.

Many golf club committees and greenkeeping teams throughout Germany have used his on-site, face-to-face consulting.

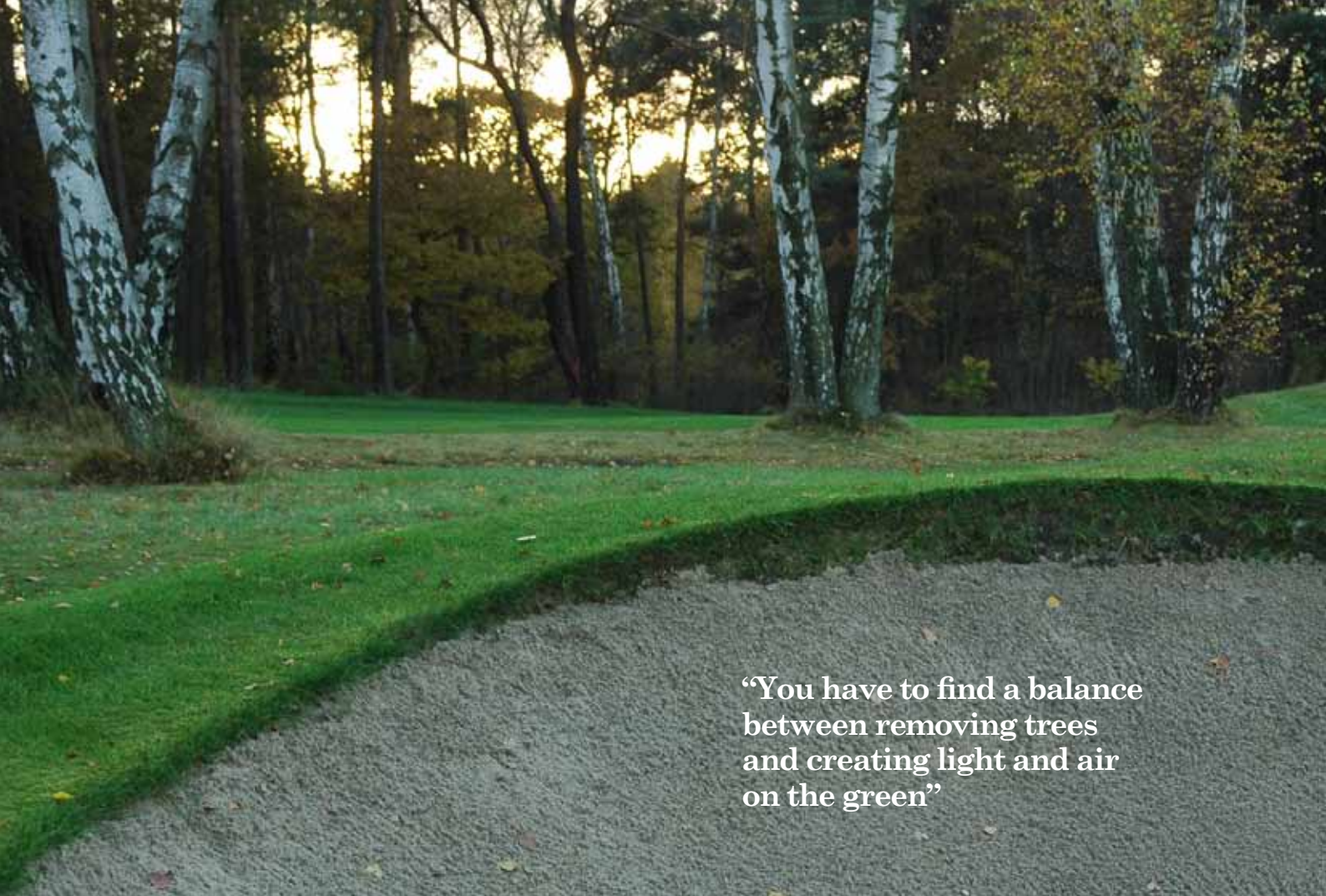
Another area his varied and comprehensive background provides is organising maintenance teams and instructing staff. Together, Norbert's comprehensive background can assist in all areas of golf course management.

As an educated mechanic and farmer he combines technical, manual, and decades of hands-on experience based in sound knowledge of biology, ecology, soil chemistry and sustainability.

If your club would like assistance with cost savings and turf improvement in the face of the heavy regulation and restrictions modern golf courses face, please do not hesitate to phone or email Norbert at:

Tel: 0049 177 333 0356
lischka@der-rasenfuchs.de
www.der-rasenfuchs.de

Please note Norbert's company and website will be live from 1 April 2014.



“You have to find a balance between removing trees and creating light and air on the green”

WATER

One successful factor has not yet been mentioned – water. Norbert has been working with Greensafer for over 15 years. This machine makes use of electrolysis of water in which very little regular salt has been dissolved. During electrolysis of this salt minimal quantities of chemicals are being released. This happens when the water comes into contact with plates charged with a DC voltage. The ozone, peroxide, chloride and other chemicals released has been given the name 'Biodyozon'.

Very small quantities of this sub-

stance are injected into the irrigation water, so as a greenkeeper you don't have to fear your greens turning white because of the sodium or chloride burn.

Of course, the consequences for the greens are more important than the technique. Norbert said: “We all know the conditions whereby irrigation water is not optimal because of pollution (eg by bacteria).”

So, the irrigation water is disinfected by the released chlorine. According to Norbert, the actual effect is that, with the help of the Greensafer, a far more active conversion of the thatch takes place.

Also, chlorine kills most algae

Photos courtesy of Hein van Lersel.

A version of this article first appeared in www.greenkeeper.nl

on lakes and ponds. Ozone in conjunction with water gives active oxygen, which through your irrigation system helps to stimulate soil life in the rootzone. On top of everything else, Biodyozon also significantly reduces your casting worm problem.

SUM OF ITS PARTS

The right grasses, the right light and air conditions, a penetrable top layer, seaweed application, good irrigation water and paying attention to the soil biology all results in great looking greens – even in October when many grasses are past their best. The top layer contains a very small amount of thatch. Smearing can be seen a little around the 'drill and fill holes' although Norbert said it's only a matter of time before this disappears. You can see how rich the old top layer of the greens was. By constantly bringing in new dressing material this old top layer disappears automatically.

Norbert concluded: “I'm very thankful and proud that I have had the chance to work for nearly 20 years for such a prestigious golf club. I would like to say a big thank you to the members and the green-keeping team for their patience, at what I consider to be one of the most beautiful golf courses in Europe.”



LEFT: 'Drill and fill' hole pattern on a green



Thatch and Fusarium Patch ...all about balance

Fusarium patch caused by the fungus *Microdochium nivale* is the most navel-gazed disease in golf course management, hardly surprising since *M. nivale* is the most important pathogen of temperate turf and Fusarium patch the number one disease in UK sports turf.

Fusarium patch attracts more cultural practices and fungicide applications than all other turf diseases put together with the prime aims of avoiding the disease or removing its presence from golf greens.

Greenkeepers can avoid and eradicate Fusarium patch but they

cannot remove the fungal pathogen. *M. nivale* is always present in turf usually as a saprophytic or weakly parasitic microbe living in the thatch, the dead and dying organic matter at the base of the turf grass sward.

Thatch is central to sports turf and Fusarium is inherent to thatch.

Everything else including the aggravating effects of environmental conditions, inappropriately timed management practices and the success or failure of fungicide application all comes back to a fungus with pathogenic potential residing in the thatch component of turf.

about the author



Dr Terry Mabbett

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

Presence of the pathogen and solution to the disease lie in the thatch and how it is managed.

The intrinsic value of thatch set against harbourage of pathogens and promotion of disease is all about balance. You can't exclude thatch and why would you want to? Naturally occurring thatch at an appropriate depth and uniformity provides a natural resilience which contributes to the speed and consistency of play. It also acts as a singularly significant 'recycling bin' for natural nutrients (including nitrogen), released from decomposing organic matter and returned to the living grass plant tissue through the fibrous root system.

The *M. nivale* fungus resident in thatch and stirred by cooler and wetter conditions is presented with a new flush of foliar growth. The pathogen moves up through the gears into full parasitic mode with Fusarium patch disease as the invariable result. Most fungi are great lovers of surface moisture and high humidity and *M. nivale* is no exception. High thatch levels hold more moisture and generate more humid microclimates within the turf profile.

Feed turf by all means - but with fertiliser formulations rich in potassium to make the most of the 'gate-keeper' nutrient with its intrinsic abilities in good water relations and strengthening of grass plant tissues. The acid reaction generated by ferrous sulphate (iron sulphate) on the turf surface boosts resilience to Fusarium patch while deterring surface casting earthworms.

Hollow core tining and deep scarification are well worn methods for reducing thatch and conditions which exacerbate Fusarium patch.

However, collateral physical damage increases turf stress as well as providing entry points and infection sites for the pathogen. Advice given is generally against carrying out these invasive man-

agement practices when environmental indicators flag up periods of high pathogen activity and high sward susceptibility to Fusarium patch disease. Verti-cutting and top dressing offer less invasive thatch management options. Applying a systemic fungicide prior to hollow core tining or deep scarification is advisable.

The type of fungicide used and when to apply continues to be the most hotly debated topic in Fusarium patch control for sports turf.

Mowing is the reason why turf exists but it is easy to forget the impact of continual low cutting on turf and its susceptibility to disease.

Mowing will clearly stress out turf but also leaves behind grass leaves with open cut ends as prime points for entry of fungal pathogens including *M. nivale*. Another disease implication of mowing is removal of fungicide in the clippings, whether contact protectant fungicide on the surface of the severed leaf ends or systemic curative fungicide inside the leaf tissue.

On the plus side systemic fungicide inside the leaf tissue will exude in sap from the cut to provide a chemical barrier against infection by *M. nivale*. Evidence suggests

Fusarium and thatch 7 Soil profile from a golf green showing evidence of thatch accumulation on the right (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



escaping fungicide is washed down the sides of the leaves and re-enters the plant.

Chemical control of Fusarium patch is not a 'one fungicide fits all' scenario. It is clearly not advisable to rely on a contact protectant fungicide when grass is growing quickly because there will always be a high proportion on new unprotected leaf surface and because short interval mowing will be in place.

By the same token there is not much point in using a systemic curative fungicide when the grass is not actively growing because uptake of fungicide whether by the root system or through the leaves will be limited.

All things being equal a systemic fungicide taken up by either the leaves or the roots will provide a more effective option in relation to fungicide interception and absorption by the grass plant.

Recognition of thatch as central to the occurrence, development and severity of Fusarium patch is behind the latest development in turf fungicide technology and strategy.

Fludioxinal the active ingredient in Syngenta's Medallion targets and destroys *M. nivale* in organic matter (thatch) before it has chance to become Fusarium patch disease on the living green leaves.

Fludioxinal appears to alter the integrity and status of the selectively permeable membrane which bounds the spore. This results in rapid movement of water (by osmosis) into the spore causing it to rupture and burst.

Osmosis is the movement of small molecules such as water across a selectively permeable membrane from a higher concentration [of water molecules] to a lower concentration [of water molecules].

Fusarium patch has always been the number one target for new turf fungicides. It is not that long ago when Fusarium patch would most



likely be the only turf disease on the product label.

Control of anthracnose was essentially incidental and collateral to the primary effect of a broad spectrum acting fungicide on Fusarium patch disease.

Poa annua (annual meadow grass) continues to be the 'black sheep' of sports turf grasses with its intrinsic susceptibility to Fusarium patch and high thatch forming credentials. Greenkeepers worried about high percentages of *Poa annua* in their greens, and resulting implications for Fusarium, are advised to reduce annual meadowgrass in favour of bent and fescue.

Poa annua is even more suscep-

ABOVE: Widespread Fusarium patch beginning to dry out but the damage has already been done (Picture Courtesy Bayer Environmental Sciences)

ABOVE RIGHT: Fusarium and thatch 6 Grass leaves with Fusarium patch disease simply add to the thatch burden on golf greens (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

tible - and terminally so - to basal rot anthracnose. Some greenkeepers have traditionally turned a blind eye to anthracnose, reasoning that it will kill and clear out annual meadowgrass in what must have been one of the earliest examples of man-managed biocontrol in turf.

Most modern fungicides are equally effective against Fusarium patch and anthracnose so applications targeted at Fusarium will invariably control basal rot anthracnose at the same time, and therefore help to maintain the high thatch producing *Poa annua* component in a turf grass sward. It's all about balance.

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Fuel's gold

How are greenkeepers dealing with rising fuel costs? GI spoke to the team at Minchinhampton Golf Club in Gloucestershire to find out how they're coping

Anyone who regularly fills a car with fuel will be only too aware of the rising cost of petrol and diesel.

As a result fuel is now becoming a major expenditure item for many golf clubs and careful planning and budgeting is required to contain this cost.

Will Harris, Minchinhampton Golf Club (MGC) Machinery Manager, has some strong views on the subject.

Together with Course Manager Paul Worster and his greenkeeper son Matt Worster, they shared these with GI.

Will and Matt do have a number of tactics to ensure the machinery is as economical as possible, so it's interesting to hear their views.

How has the price of red diesel fluctuated over the last few years?

Will: "As the Red Diesel Price Record chart shows, red diesel has had some very interesting price fluctuations in the last ten years.

"It started this period at around 20p per litre, rose to 70p per litre in 2008 (prompting fuel protests and refinery blockades) fell back to 40p in 2010 and has now risen back to 70p per litre again.

"More worryingly at MGC, our consumption has risen dramatically from less than 10,000 litres per year in 2003 to a whopping 22,500 litres last year.

"Our petrol consumption has dropped however which balances this out to an extent."

Key Points

- Keep machinery well maintained
- Do not carry excess weight
- Keep tyres inflated properly
- Avoid unnecessary journeys
- Walk the course where feasible
- Shop around for fuel
- Perform regular jug-tests on fuel consumption and phase out the less economic machines

How do you ensure your machinery is as economical as possible?

Will: "Well maintained machinery uses less fuel. Do not run machinery with blunt blades, soft tyres or dry bearings. Any drag or resistance to forward motion costs fuel. At the end of the season this adds up to a significant cost. Pre-start checks will save you time and money out on the course. If in any doubt – try pushing a loaded wheelbarrow with a soft tyre across the yard!"

Matt: "If the transport box on the run-around is still half full of divot mix from the day before, tip it out before using the vehicle for changing holes.

"Otherwise, it's like filling the boot of your car with sand and then driving it."





What about electric or hybrid machinery? Surely that's cheaper to run?

Will: "There are cost implications beyond not having to fill a machine with fuel every morning. The fundamental is that it still takes X amount of energy to move Y load over any given distance regardless of which fuel is used.

"That energy is expensive. Take lead-acid batteries. Apart from being heavy they require careful use in not allowing them to discharge completely which negatively affects their lifespan.

"After around 1200 - 1500 hours of use over two or three years their capacity will erode away despite careful maintenance.

"A set of eight T125 batteries for example costs around £1000 to replace and around 55p (of electricity) per night to charge, giving an approximate total cost over three years of £1,660. Given a petrol run-around will use maybe 1.5 litres an hour the costs are very similar."

Matt: "Hybrid machines have less friction loss in the drive train – particularly to the reels. The engine is not turning chains or belts or pumping fluid around a system, so there is the potential for much lower fuel use when compared to a conventional machine."

Will: "Unfortunately hybrid machines are generally heavier than their traditional equivalents because they have bigger alternators and more batteries.

"But this will be an interesting area to watch develop in the future and it is encouraging to see this sort of technology coming in to this industry."

How about the new lithium batteries – they must be lighter and more compact?

Matt: "There is no doubt that

these batteries are lighter, capable of taking a charge quickly, and particularly well suited to pedestrian machines for example.

"Machine use is virtually silent minimising operator exposure to noise and particularly useful in built up areas."

Will: "In my opinion this technology needs to develop further. These batteries are more fragile – a drop onto the garage floor may well ruin them, and the control systems required to make the best from them are so sophisticated that fault finding is extremely difficult.

"Also, the high cost of these control systems cancels out any energy savings.

"The batteries themselves may have long warranties but will still need replacing after three to five years, and at over a thousand pounds each for even a small one are cost prohibitive and not yet suitable for a run-around vehicle.

"However there is no doubt they are ideal for small tools such as chainsaws and blowers."

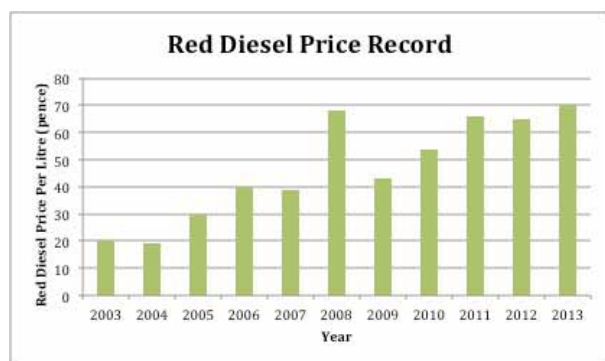
So what are our conclusions?

Clearly there is much to consider apart from practical day to day solutions.

Fuel saving has to be balanced against the overall running costs of the machinery, and noise of machinery is maybe another factor to be taken into account. Local pollution is a further factor.

Electric machines are perceived (by customers and bystanders) to be more environmentally friendly, and in some situations this is important for image and possibly marketing.

Finally – shop around for fuel. Don't simply ring your preferred supplier and ask to be filled up. A penny a litre means a £25 saving on a 2500 litre fill.



THE MECHANIC'S VIEW

GI also spoke to Stuart Hall, Ground Care Service Manager at P Tuckwell, for his viewpoint...

"It's amazing to see the increase in litres consumed, when I was working at John O'Gaunt Golf Club we installed a meter on the heater to see how the fuel was used, between workshop heat and mowing.

"In dry weather clubs never say "great we have saved money in fuel", but when a wet year comes around and there is a lot of mowing, instead they ask if fuel is being stolen, so the increased use of fuel is always noted.

"Most large mowers now have turbos fitted so this will increase consumption, so to counteract that you need to regularly regrind your cutting units and make sure machines are well maintained to reduce fuel consumption."

Ear piece

Former Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper John Ross, who now works to improve health and safety in the workplace, turns his ear to the issue of noise



We ask a lot of our ears, and generally they do what they are designed to - transmitting variations in pressure to our brain where we interpret it as sound. Damage to your ears restricts the ability to interpret sound or in extreme cases even to hear some or all sounds, this has implications on your ability to function normally in society and your safety.

Your ears are not simply a funnel, with noise going in and you hearing it, your ears are a complex structure through which a sound wave moves. Waves are transmitted along the ear canal setting the tympanic membrane (ear drum) in motion, this motion is transmitted to the middle ear via the incus, malleus and stapes (hammer anvil and stirrup) which amplify the vibrations. This causes the fluid in the cochlea (inner ear) to move in response to the pressure wave.

Deep within the cochlea are hair cells that sense that pressure wave, these set off nerve impulses which are carried to the brain via the cochlear nerve. This process is finely balanced and is susceptible to damage in numerous ways. Within the workplace one of the ways your

hearing can be affected is excessive noise, this is called Noise Induced Hearing Loss, the exposure to which the employer has a duty to manage. How it should be managed is what I hope to clarify for you!

Work related damage occurs in the following forms...

Acute / Temporary Threshold Shift

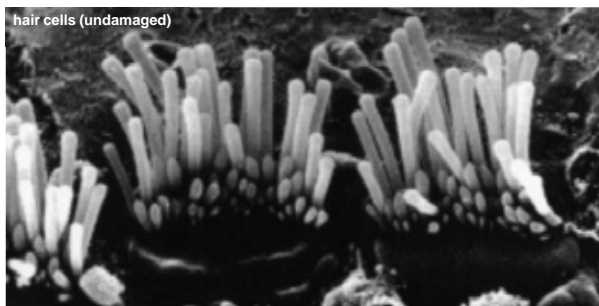
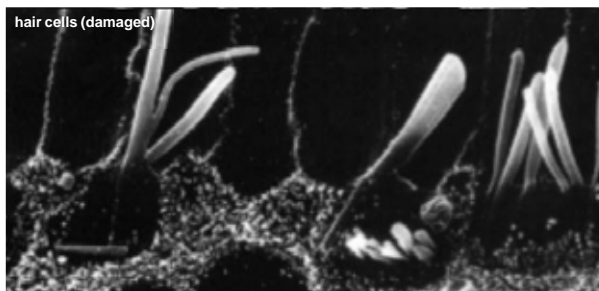
Short periods of excessive noise producing varying degrees of inner ear damage that is initially reversible. Recovery time can be anything from minutes to days.

Chronic/ Permanent Threshold Shift

Permanent damage, known as noise induced hearing loss occurs when exposure to excessive noise continues over a long period of time, and it generally takes a long period to identify. This includes a condition that results in a permanent sound in the ear known as Tinnitus.

What do the Regulations Say?

The duty to manage noise is set out in the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, these introduce the concept of a noise dose - the amount of noise you can be exposed to within an eight hour



about the author

John Ross MG

John was a Course Manager for 20 years. After taking redundancy in 2010 he studied for a degree in Health and Safety. He established 'Compliant Grounds' with the intent of providing a qualified competent service to the golf industry - www.compliantgrounds.co.uk

period. Noise must be measured, and as we all know it is measured in decibels (dB) therefore, a noise dose is the amount of decibels you can be exposed to over that period. It is important to understand that every 3 dB is a doubling of audible sound meaning 84dB is only half the exposure that 87dB is.

The regulations allow for variations, so if noise exposure varies

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over the day, you are allowed a weekly exposure to be considered, instead of a daily exposure. The regulations also establish three very clear points, called action levels, these are used in controlling noise exposure.

LEAV - Lower Exposure Action
Value of 80dB or peak sound pressure of 135dB - Action is required if this level is exceeded.

UEAV - Upper Exposure Action
Value of 85dB or peak sound pressure of 137dB - Employers have a duty not to expose employees to noise above this level, the employer must reduce exposure to as low as reasonably practicable by establishing or implementing a programme of organisational and technical procedures

ELV - Exposure Limit Value of 87dB or peak sound pressure 140dB - Employers must ensure this limit is not exceeded and if it is, reduce the level immediately, investigate and modify measures to prevent recurrence.

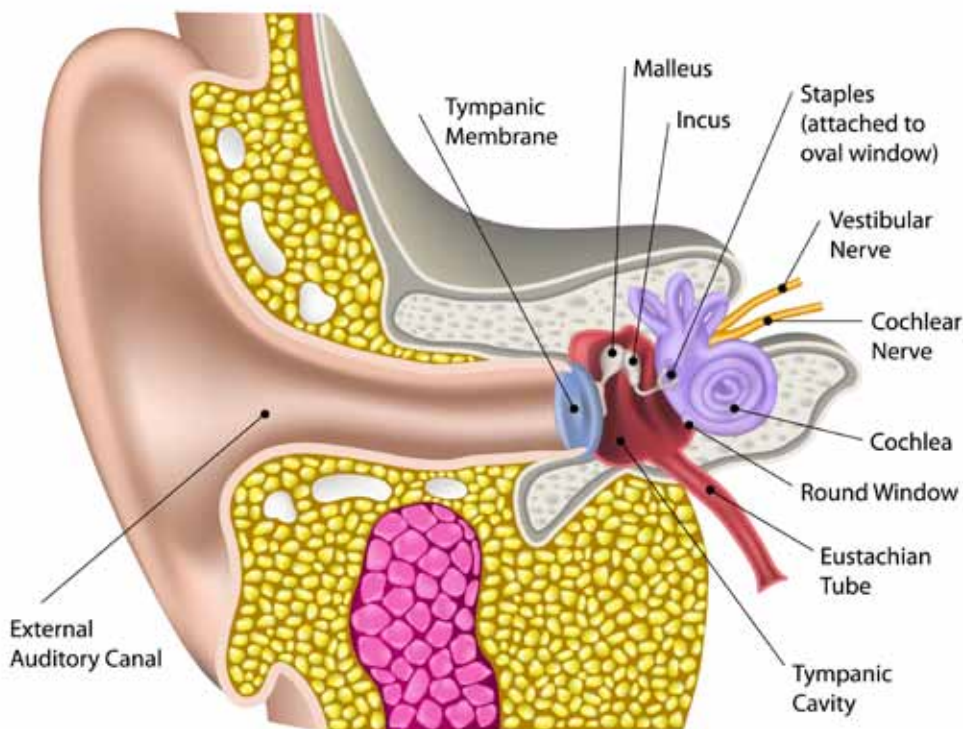
If the noise an employee is exposed to exceeds the ELV, the employer must make a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, that risk assessment should include duration of exposure, and determine the procedures in place to reduce exposure to a level less than 80dB.

Right now I can hear greenkeepers reading this and thinking, how can this be done? We are often using equipment that is running at greater than 100dB, the answer is that CNWR05 and other regulations allow for that situation.

How to manage noise

The relevant Regulations are:
MHSWR1999 (4) The Principles of Prevention – If noise can be enclosed, vibration reduced or if people can be screened or distanced from the noise source, it should be done and there is no need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This is difficult to do with turf maintenance machinery, however we could consider dB output in the purchasing process! One of the objectives of the principles of prevention is that all PPE is only considered as a last resort.
CNWR2005 (4) Exposure Limit Values and Action Values - When exposure is unavoidable, we can supply PPE and consider the protection it offers at the ear in calculating a noise dose.
CNWR2005 (7) Hearing Protection – Any equipment louder than

The Ear (Human Anatomy)



Key points on how to manage noise:

- Know the levels of noise being created
- If it is over 80dB supply PPE
- If it is over 85dB ensure it is worn and not interfered with, declare area a mandatory hearing protection zone
- Understand the PPE you are using and ensure it offers protection at the ear between 70-85dB(a)
- If noise can be enclosed do so (compressors, grinders, pump stations etc.)
- Inform and instruct staff on dangers of NIHL and on how to wear PPE
- If any member of already staff suffers damaged hearing extra consideration must be given to them
- Maintain equipment and machinery according to manufacturers recommendations

Greenkeeper Case Study

Noise induced hearing loss creeps up on you and is a chronic condition that will not go away once you have it. An interview with a well-known course manager who suffers from tinnitus highlighted the need to take it very seriously. He wishes to remain anonymous.

“I became a Greenkeeper in 1966 and spent 15 years as an assistant before becoming a Head Greenkeeper in 1981. In those days no one had heard of PPE, we just used to get on with it, I knew of tinnitus because my dad, suffered it from his time in national service”. He added how, as a hands-on greenkeeper, he spent days using trimmers and chainsaws, sitting on early cutting machinery, walking behind a Ransomes Matador or in tractors that had no cabs.

He said: “It’s not just the tinnitus, but the reduced hearing ability”. This means that often he is lip reading in conversation, unable to hear the doorbell being rung, and having to double check when crossing the road – generally just taking more care in life.

“I saw my first pair of ear protectors in 1994, they were considered a bit of a joke and were worn only on a voluntary basis, we called them ear muffs” he explained, describing the early attitude to hearing protection.

“I first became aware I had tinnitus on the day William and Kate married, I was watching the television and suddenly there was a noise inside my head, I was devastated because I knew straight away from my dad’s experience it was tinnitus. For days it was all I could think of, I have had it ever since, it is constant.”

85dB should have a blue mandatory hearing protection sticker on it, designating it a hearing protection zone.

HASAWA1974 (8) General duties of the employee – If hearing protection is supplied, it must not be impeded, i.e. by wearing music speakers on the inside. This is a duty placed on the employee!

PPE protection - The objective

of hearing protection is to take the noise level at the ear to between 70dB and 85dB.

To protect below 70dB is considered overprotection, meaning the user would not be able to hear alarms, machinery failures or even a simple call of fore from a golfer, this gives the manager or safety consultant a margin of 15dB when selecting hearing protection.

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In his latest article which features a quiz offering CPD Credits, Henry Bechelet explores soil sampling techniques

Sampling technique

Everris are specialists in plant nutrition and nutrient delivery technologies. We draw from a proud heritage of fertiliser production from Fisons then Levingtons, ICI then Zeneca, before merging into Scotts Professional and then becoming Everris.

Over the years we have produced and continue to produce high quality fertilisers specifically formulated to deliver nutrient for the production of high quality turf throughout the year. We have always invested heavily in research and development to support our recommendations and drive our innovations. We try to lead from the front.

We also understand the importance of our products being used correctly and invest in training our staff to the very highest industry standards (FACTS and BASIS). We work hard to ensure that our customers understand our products and know how to get the very

best out of them. When making recommendations for fertiliser programmes, we have traditionally used soil analysis results as a start of the process.

Generally, we use soil sample analysis to provide meaningful information about the chemical and nutrient status of the soil to help with the creation of fertiliser programmes. We need to know the soil pH because it influences nutrient availability and grass type suitability.

The cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the soil is important because it affects nutrient retention and could influence the choice of fertiliser type, the quantity applied and release pattern.

Electrical Conductivity (or salinity) can have a big impact on the condition and health of turf. We also need to know the availability of the major nutrients P, K, Ca and Mg to see if they are at sufficient levels to sustain turf health.

Micro nutrient analysis may also be undertaken in response to deficiency/toxicity problems.

So, there are a number of tests that are essential to help us put together a good nutrition programme.

But before we can even think about the results, we need to make sure that the sampling is carried correctly. Careless soil sampling can be the greatest single source of error when formulating fertiliser programmes.

This is because the way in which we take the samples can radically affect the results and so it is important that we get the sampling right to be able to focus the nutrition programme properly.

The key considerations are:

- Taking a representative sample
- Sampling from the right depth
- Do we include thatch?
- Timing of sampling
- Frequency of sampling

about the author



Henry Bechelet

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



Soil Sampler

Firstly, you will need a round metal corer that is capable of retrieving enough sample from the required depth without causing too much surface disruption. This would commonly be a 15mm diameter corer 15-20cm in length. Suitable stainless steel samplers are widely available, but some work better than others, so choose carefully.

Sampling pattern

You must employ a sampling pattern that is able to produce a good representative sample. Our aim is to obtain a composite nutrient value to represent each area. In general, we form a representative sample from 20 cores, which are then mixed together to form the sample for analysis. The sampling pattern should be drawn up by creating 20 sub-areas (i.e. an imaginary grid) from which the samples are taken from a random position within each area. The sampling pattern should not be oriented in straight lines because the results may be biased by treatment effects (such as fertiliser applications, maintenance operations etc.)

Depth of sampling

It is critically important to be accurate and consistent with our depth of sampling. Nutrient levels vary significantly through the depth of the profile, so altering the depth of sampling might appear to give significant changes in nutrient levels when no change has actually occurred. Generally, we sample the zone from which the roots draw nutrients (generally 2.5 – 10mm). It is good practice to carve guideline notches into the soil augur to ensure consistency of sampling depth.

Splitting samples

You may wish to split the cores to analyse the soil status taken from different depths. Sometimes significant differences within the profile need to be identified rather than absorbed into a bulked up composite sample.

For instance, in sand-based constructions the properties of the upper soil profile might vary significantly from the rootzone (pH especially) to potentially cause problems, which is something we would need to know.

Alternatively, soil-based greens that have been heavily amended with sand top dressing, might display a reduced nutrient holding capability in the upper soil profile compared to lower down, which we need to understand. Again, if you are intending to analyse trends within the profile over time, you will need to be consistent with your depth of sampling.

Remove the thatch?

It is generally recommended to remove thatch from samples before testing. Organic matter usually increases the nutrient levels because it can contain significant amounts of the nutrients required to support plant growth. At the moment I find it better to split the samples at around 25mm then analyse the upper portion for pH, P, K and organic matter (LOI) with more comprehensive testing lower down. This can be very helpful in understanding the dynamics of the situation and also putting a more meaningful number on the organic matter content.

Time of year

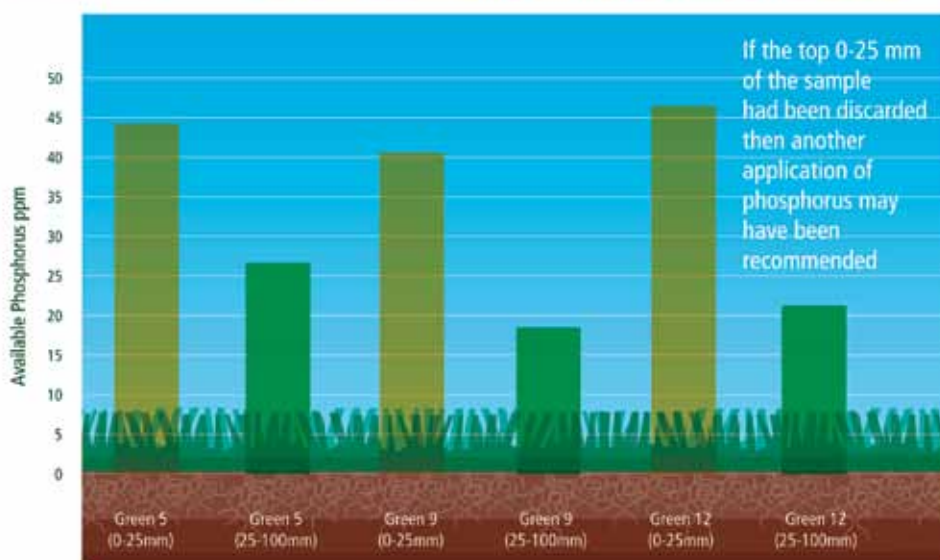
Timing of sampling time is also important if you want to make year-on-year comparisons. The soil pH as well as the available P and K can vary throughout the year, so sampling timing can affect the results. Again, you need to be consistent with your timings to be able to draw out meaningful trends.

Frequency of testing

The frequency of testing would be dependent on the potential for rapid and significant changes in soil status to occur. In new sand-based constructions the pH can drop rapidly if there is a low CEC, which could cause problems of nutrient lock up or general turf stress.

More regular monitoring during the early weeks and months of new establishments can help us understand the situation and guide the fertiliser programme properly.

Example Golf Course: The effect of soil sample depth on available Phosphorus



Clean and orderly

Above all, the samples should be collected carefully and cleanly without external contamination before being amalgamated and mixed in a non-metallic container prior to bagging up and labelling.

Most laboratories provide kits and offer guidance on how best to take samples and the amount of sample required to carry out the various tests.

Conclusion

Soil analysis provides us with vital information to help us formulate our nutrition programmes.

We must, however, be extremely strict with the sampling method if the results are to be trusted.

The rules of soil sampling are:

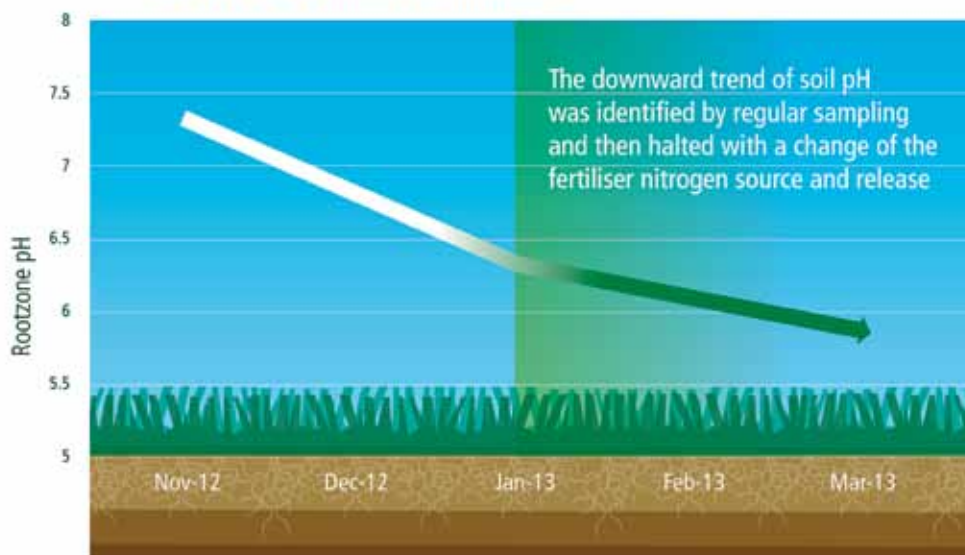
- Take 20 core samples from the selected area using an imaginary grid pattern with randomization within the grid squares
- Sample to the depth of root activity (25mm-100mm generally)
- Split the samples if needed to understand profile differences
- Be consistent in your sampling methods to allow ongoing comparisons
- Mix the samples cleanly before bagging up and sending away
- Label the samples clearly

This way you will produce a set of results that you can work with. There is little point in using results or comparing different results obtained from careless sampling.

This is one of those areas that we just need to get right. Interpreting the results is something else we need to discuss.



Example: Rapid downward trend of rootzone pH in 0-50mm of a new sand based construction



CPD Questions

- 1. What sampling pattern should we employ?**
 - a. Simple grid pattern
 - b. Straight lines
 - c. Randomised in a grid pattern
- 2. How many samples should you take from each area to achieve a representative sample?**
 - a. 1-5
 - b. 5-10
 - c. 20
- 3. What depth should you take samples from?**
 - a. The zone of root activity
 - b. 0-100mm
 - c. 100-150mm
- 4. Should we include or discard the thatch?**
 - a. Include
 - b. Discard
 - c. Analyse both
- 5. What time of year is best to take samples?**
 - a. Spring-summer
 - b. Autumn-winter
 - c. It is most important to be consistent with the time of year.
- 6. How frequently do we need to take samples?**
 - a. Depends on the situation
 - b. Annually
 - c. Monthly
- 7. How do we create the final sample for analysis?**
 - a. Just put the cores into the bag and send them off
 - b. Retrieve the required portion of the sample and mix thoroughly before bagging up
 - c. Who cares?

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How a new fleet of John Deere machinery has invigorated Caversham Heath Golf Club

Farol on the Heath

Tucked away on the South Oxfordshire border overlooking the banks of the River Thames is the 18 hole Caversham Heath Golf Club forming part of the 2,500 acre Mapledurham Estate. The championship length course was the first new golf course of the millennium, opening in 2000, and now boasts an impressive 550 members.

Jon Scoones, Course Manager, has been at Caversham Heath since the build and has recently taken delivery of a fleet of new John Deere machinery to maintain the grounds.

Heading the line-up is the John Deere 8800 rough cut mower and 8700 fairway mower along with four 220E walking greens mowers, a 1200A bunker rake and a Tru-Turf greens iron to complete the set. "With membership increasing we knew it was time to reinvest in some new machinery for the club" said Jon. "There is so much kit on the market to choose from but I knew I wanted reliable machines with a good local dealer for service and support so John Deere and Farol Ltd were the obvious choice."



Robert Wytchard, Estate Manager, knows the importance of the course being right for the players. "We always want to raise the standards of the course year on year, so investing in new machinery shows our commitment to the members. The course is planning to expand to 36 holes in the future so raising our game now will pay dividends."

The 8700 PrecisionCut mower tackles the course's fairways with its powerful diesel engine, QA7 cutting units mowing an impressive 290cm in one pass. Tackling the rough is the fast and reliable 8800 TerrainCut mower with its exceptional cut quality following the ground contours.

The four 220E walk behind greens mower has fully floating heads to follow the greens curves meaning golfers enjoy a championship quality finish.

The Tru-Turf roller is a relatively new machine to the market and ensures players will always have an exceptional flat green for that all important putt.

The bunkers have not been forgotten and a 1200A now tends to raking and levelling the sand with excellent coverage.

Having a chat with Jon about how he manages the course clearly shows his knowledge and passion for greenkeeping. He said: "Staff are a key part of the course's success. I currently have a team of five but would like to increase that to seven in the future. Training is key and I like to give the staff everything they require to do the job safely and efficiently. Some of the staff are new so are starting on NVQ 2 whilst my more experienced team members are doing management courses alongside spraying and chainsaw certificates."

Jon was happy to share information on the maintenance of the course. He explained: "The greens were originally sown with a traditional Bent/Fescue mix whilst everywhere was sown with a dwarf rye. Our aeration program is very important for the upkeep and we aerate at least once a month varying between 8mm, 10mm and 15mm solid tines and 8mm and 15mm hollow tines. Our cutting heights are 3mm greens in the summer and 4mm in the winter whilst tees, collars and approaches are 10mm, fairways 12mm, semi rough 25mm and rough 75mm all year round."



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Around the green



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- NORTH EAST**
Glen Baxter
glen.baxter@rigbytaylor.com
- NORTH WEST**
Chris Sheehan
jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
- CLEVELAND**
Anthony McGeough
amcgeough@aol.com
- NORTHERN**
Andy Slingsby
andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com
- SHEFFIELD**
Neil Peters
neilpeters66@gmail.com
- NORTH WALES**
Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com

Events Coming Up

Cleveland

We have a few events coming up and by the time of print some have passed so my apologies for repeating old news.

Spring Tournament- we still need a venue, any volunteers?

Spring Seminar at Chester le street Golf Club on 6 March. There are only 5 places left. If you want to attend please book via Sandra@bigga.co.uk

Golf match v North East section at Whitley Bay Golf Club 25 June 1pm tee off, nine players needed. If you're interested please contact Pembo on 07791695768

Autumn Tournament at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club 14 October 10.30 tee off. More details to follow.

Northern

Pleased to finally get the Spring Comp sorted, it's on 24 April at Waterton Park in Wakefield first tee 11am. Coffee and bacon sarnies from 10am. I had a little recon mission there last month and was made very welcome. Fabulous golf course and very nice people so get your names down for a great day out.

North East

Spring Golf Comp at South Shields GC on 12 march tee off from 12 pm.

Also there's an education day for our section being held at Alnmouth GC on 27 march. Machine demos with Greenlay/Campeys. Check social media sites for full details

News

Cleveland

When will this awful weather stop? For all you guys that are working on heavy clay parkland sites I feel your pain!

At my course, Richmond, we have been playing a balancing act between opening on a reduced course and closed.

Winter renovation work and new tee construction has been stopped dead in its tracks, looks like March and April are going to be busy catch up months! On the plus side my sheds are looking like new.

Congratulations from all the Section to Gary Fraser who has been accepted on to the FTMI for 2014.

Northern

The section mobile phone is up and running and you will have received information regarding a seminar at Cookridge. Please forward your number to 07443 643497 if you want the info on fixtures and any other news.

North East

- Congratulations to
- David Wilkinson Whitley Bay GC
- Jack Hetherington Ponteland GC
- Stuart Imeson Dunstanburgh Castle GC
- Martin Woods Bedlington GC
- David Thompson Hexham GC
- Richard Hood Sharpley GC

Who have all been chosen from our area to be part of the open support team this year, well done guys and enjoy the experience.

Welcome New Members

Stephen Mitchell, Affiliate, Greensman Limited, Wayne Murray, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club, John Ball, Greenkeeper, Castle Eden Golf Club, Jonathan Wyer, Greenkeeper, Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club, Liam Dover, Greenkeeper, Sharpley Springs Golf Course, Steven Williams, Greenkeeper, Wrexham Golf Club, Peter Evans, Greenkeeper, Hesketh Golf Club, Mark Rear, Greenkeeper, Silloth-on-Solway Golf Club, Mark Smith, Greenkeeper, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, Paul Moore, Mechanic, Huddersfield Golf Club, George Edwards, Assistant Greenkeeper, Easingwold Golf Club, Freddie Fox, Assistant Greenkeeper, Huddersfield Golf Club, Sam Colley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Knaresborough Golf Club, Colin Todd, Assistant Greenkeeper, Silloth-on-Solway Golf Club, Aaron Schnacke, Assistant Greenkeeper, Halifax West End Golf Club, Jordan Morland, Assistant Greenkeeper, Harrogate Golf Club

Scotland

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



CENTRAL
Gordon Moir
Gordon.moir@standrews.org.uk



AYRSHIRE
Jim Paton
jimp54@btinternet.com



EAST
Scott Corrigan
scottcorrigan4@aol.com



NORTH
Dale Robertson & Robert Patterson
daleturnberry@btinternet.com / grassman351@aol.com



WEST
Stuart Taylor
stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Events Coming Up

Central

Our next event is a visit to European Turf Laboratories in Stirling on 9 April. More details will be sent out by email shortly. That will be followed on 14 May by a workshop on reel maintenance and grinding by Bernhards. Numbers will be limited therefore please reply promptly when the notices go out to guarantee your place.

The Spring outing is at Kinghorn GC on 29 April. Entry forms will be with you for this by the end of March and we hope for a good turnout. For those who haven't played Kinghorn then you are in for a pleasant surprise as it is an excellent little course.

Entries for the 2014 Pairs competition is closed and the draw for this will also be with you by the end of March.

East

Our spring outing will be taking place this year at Gatwick GC on 22 April, we hope to see a great turnout to play this fantastic course. It is also a great educational day with a short topic discussion on the day and a great chance to network with your fellow section members, so get involved guys and we look forward to seeing you all on the day.

News

Central

We had a full house of 40 people for the seminar by Mike McCormick, Assistant Superintendent at Oakmont GC, when he spoke about the changes they have made since 2004 for the 2007 and 2016 US Opens and the 2010 Women's Open.

Well done to Derek Robson of the Dukes who was out helping the crew at Emirates GC for the Dubai Desert Classic. Between him and ex St Andrews greenkeeper Peter Stewart who is now Deputy Course Manager at Emirates GC they managed to get Stephen Gallagher over the line to retain his title.

East

Greenburn Golf Club have, over the last year, made some major changes to their golf course with the upgrade of pathways. On the agenda for this spring is the continuation of an ongoing project that they are carrying out. The club are managing to recycle material from an old Shale bing, this shale material is being used as a sub-base that will create a major machinery access path around the perimeter of the golf course, this pathway will then be topped of with a stone material to allow machinery to travel cleanly and safely over the pathway. This work is expected to be completed over the next few years and they hope that this work will lead to a buggy route being developed around their golf course in the future, more to follow later on this.

A cracking night was had over the Christmas period with a section night out, the turnout was low but the night was a success, we had a trip to the Stand Comedy Club, excellent choice for a good night out, we hope to see more members attending this coming Christmas.

The Patrons lunch was held at Gleneagles during December, this was a great opportunity to network with the section winners and to catch up with the Patrons that support BIGGA, well done on a great lunch.

Can section members please keep their contact details updated, we have been hearing of members not receiving notification of events due to contact details changing, if you have changed emails recently or have any new contact details to be updated on our system then please contact either myself or the section secretary with these details.

Currently the section are looking for some articles to be placed in the GI magazine, a couple of Head Greenkeepers have written on various topics, but we have room for any member to write an article if they are interested. If any member can help out, again please contact myself or the section secretary and we can get the ball rolling, this is a great experience and a good way to get noticed.

Movers and Shakers

East

The section would like to wish Ian Lauder (Sherriff's Ground-care) all the best in his new role within the company's structure, and a warm welcome from the section goes to Steven Satchwell who will now be covering the golf courses in our section.

Thanks to Sponsors

East

The section would like to thank all who attended BTME 2014, and well done all who took the time to attend the Seminars. It was a great show again this year and well done all who were involved in setting it up, and thanks to the Patrons etc. and companies who attended for your support with this event.

Welcome New Members

Andrew Scott, First Assistant, Routenburn Golf Club, George Corbett, Greenkeeper, Southernness Golf Club, Steven Miller, Greenkeeper, Dundonald Links Golf Club, Graeme Marnie, Greenkeeper, Ladybank Golf Club, Laura, Campbell, Greenkeeper, Pitlochry Golf Course, Janice Florence, Greenkeeper, Fraserburgh Golf Club, David Cunningham, Greenkeeper, Blairbeth Golf Club, Chris Hodgson, Head Greenkeeper, Pitlochry Golf Course, John Watson, Head Greenkeeper, Deer Park Golf & Country Club, John Reid, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), John Lubor, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Mark Henderson, Student, SRUC (Elmwood). Northern Ireland: Maurice Anderson, Greenkeeper, Malone Golf Club, Aiden Hiney, Greenkeeper, Castletroy Golf Club.

Midland

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BB&O - The Stick
bboscribe@gmail.com or Matt Nutter
bbosecretary@gmail.com



MID ANGLIA
Darren Mugford
d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



MIDLAND
Sean McDade
sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk



EAST OF ENGLAND
Steve Beverly
steveimingham@aol.com



EAST MIDLAND
Greg Skinner
greg.skinner92@btinternet.com

Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia

By the time you read this the Mid Anglia section will have held an Educational Seminar at Bedford & County GC on March 5. Our thanks go to Geoff Fenn, Course Manager for hosting and organising the event for which we are all very grateful. Our thanks also to all the speakers who gave up their time to attend. I am sure it will hopefully lead to more events like this in the section in the future.

Mid Anglia

We are still finalising golf day venues for 2014 so will get the information out as soon as all are confirmed.

News

BB&O

Updated info for the section:
Chairman - Adam King
Secretary - Matthew Nutter
Honorary President - Sid Arrowsmith
Education - Frank Newberry
Treasurer - Ted Lewis

General Committee - Dom Lewis, David Lyons. Gareth Acteson, James Moore. Matt Wharton, Matt Smith

Mid Anglia

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of two greenkeepers from our section. Robert (Bob) Goodwin, a BIGGA Life Member and former Head Greenkeeper at Ashridge GC, and Ray Turvey, former Head Greenkeeper at Millbrook GC. Our thoughts are with their friends and families at this time and both will be sadly missed by all in the greenkeeping industry.

Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia

Thanks to Everris for sponsoring the Educational Seminar at Bedford.

Also, a massive thanks goes to our Sponsors of the section for 2014, they are...

Rigby Taylor Ltd, Tuckwells Machinery, Vassgro Amenity, ALS, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, Farmura, Amtech Amenity.

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. 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

Welcome New Members

Carl Kitchinson, Greenkeeper, Lincoln Golf Club, Adam Baldwin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Tewkesbury Park Hotel G & CC, Andy Cockayne, Assistant Greenkeeper, Maidenhead Golf Club, Liam Taylor, Assistant Greenkeeper Forest Hill Golf & Country Club.

Your notes

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

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

South East - Welcome New Members

Jeremy Vincent, Affiliate, The Grass Group (Trilo UK), Paul Eggleston, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Wanstead Golf Club, Kevin Bulman, Greenkeeper, Bury St Edmunds Golf Club, John Scott, Greenkeeper, Ashford Manor Golf Club, Liam O'Shea, Greenkeeper, Ashford Manor Golf Club, Michael O'Dwyer, Greenkeeper, Windlesham Golf Club, Kyle, Morgan, Greenkeeper, Addington Palace Golf Club, Charlie Beale, Greenkeeper, Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, David Tatnell, Greenkeeper, Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, Dean Reed, Greenkeeper, Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, Duncan Edwards, Greenkeeper, Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, Andy Campbell-Waggott, Head Greenkeeper, Kingswood Golf Club, Alan Fenwick, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ipswich Golf Club, Danny Sayers, Assistant Greenkeeper Bramley Golf Club, Agris Heidemanis, Assistant Greenkeeper, Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club, Enric Maydeu, Assistant Greenkeeper, Wildernesse Golf Club.

South East

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



SURREY
Mark Day
mark.day@
tacitgolf.co.uk



KENT
Rob Holland
premiergolf
2012@hotmail.
co.uk



SUSSEX
Chris
Humphrey
chris@collier-
turf-care.co.uk



EAST ANGLIA
Mick Lathrope
lil.lathrope@
ntlworld.com



ESSEX
Arnold
Phipps-Jones
essexbigga@
talktalk.net



LONDON
John Wells
j.wells1@sky
.com

Events Coming Up

London

March 13 sees a talk on your soil analysis by Henry Bechelet - I'm told he is very good!! At the end of march/early April we have a talk on Gizmos and gadgets date in be set.

Course walk at Sandy Lodge with Rob Phillips on March 20, contact Rob, it's on a first come, first serve basis.

Golf Days - all 3 are now booked for this year but the London section would ideas for 2015 season. Spring Tournament and National Qualifier will be at Northwood Golf Club on Monday 12 May, 12.45 tee off and is £22 which includes Bacon roll on arrival, 3 course dinner, great prizes... smart casual is required.

Summer is at Hendon Golf Club on Wednesday 6 August, and finally the Christmas tournament is on Tuesday 9 December.

Kent

The much anticipated visit to the most famous golf club in the South of the country takes place on 11 March. Kent's best shall be taking on the Links of Royal St. Georges at the second attempt after the same fixture was unfortunately snowed off last year. A large turnout is expected so please arrive in plenty of time.

Surrey

The first section event will be at Epsom GC, 1 May, Texas Scramble format played over the ever popular Epsom downs.

Confirmation for your diaries: 17 September Section v Secretary, and 4 November England v Scotland.

Other events this year will take place at The Drift GC and Guildford GC for the Turkey Trot with dates to be finalised. Lewis Birch has been organising quite a few different and unique social events for the section, so watch this space or check out the web site. Merrist Wood College together with the section will be hosting several events throughout the year. Your views and ideas are always valued, so anyone out there with topics to stimulate the grey matter and something to add to education will always be welcomed by the new section secretary.

Sussex

Entry forms for all competitions will be emailed out prior to each event. If you do not receive emails please contact Pete Smith Section Secretary on pds1@btinternet.com or 07748 776761.

Spring Comp & National Championships Qualifier: 25 April, Seaford GC, tees from 12pm. Individual Stableford/Medal. £15.

Sussex Section Away Day: 24 June, Knole Park GC, tees 3pm. 4 ball, best 2 scores to count. Lunch served before golf, no meal after. £15.

Summer Comp: 29 July, Copthorne GC, tees from 1pm.

Individual Stableford & Inter County team match! £15.

Autumn Comp: 4 September, Cooden Beach GC, tees from 11am. Team Stableford. £15.

Turkey Trot: 28 November, Worthing GC, tees from 9am. Texas Scramble. £26.

Essex

Get your entries in for the Spring Trophy at The Essex Golf & Country Club. Thursday 27th March - by 20 March to Antony Kirwan, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU, £20 entry fee to members and sponsors £25 to guests.

News

London

Education, the talk given by Johnny Beck and Mike Williamson from Sherriff Amenity a long with Dug McClaren of Batchworth Park on chemical mixing was a great success with 28 greenkeepers attending.

Finally two announcements about births. Ian Creswick now has a baby daughter Emma, born on 30 December, and Dylan Rennich of Northwood had a son called Finley, they have now had their lives enhanced!!

Surrey

Regional Administrator Clive Osgood is on the lookout for greenkeepers to assist on the bunker raking team for the BMW PGA Tournament held in May this year. 6 day commitment if you are able. Contact Clive on 07841 948410.

Roger Tydeman is now the new Regional Representative for the Surrey section. Roger takes over from Ashley Allpress and is now our voice at Regional level. Ashley is the new section secretary - 07779 283525. Golf Day entry fees will remain the same for 2014 at £25.00 and £30.00 on the day.

Essex

25 members took advantage of the trip to Barenbrug at Bury St Edmunds last month with talks from Neil Pettican and Andy Sadler and a factory walk. Our thanks to Barenbrug for such an interesting day and to Ben Scrivener and Craig Brisley (Collier Turf Care) for organising the event.

Sussex

We are pleased to welcome Phil Helmn into the Sussex section and would like to wish him all the best in his new role as Courses Manager at Goodwood. Phil is a Master Greenkeeper who previously worked at Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire. Phil will take over the management of both the Downs course and the Park course at Goodwood and starts in the centenary year of the beautiful Braid designed Downs course. You're in for some stunning views Phil.

Thanks to Sponsors

Kent

Many thanks to all our sponsors. We are proud to promote your businesses through our webpage.

South West & South Wales

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



SOUTH WEST –
Jaey Goodchild
j.goodchild@
bowood.org



SOUTH COAST –
Alan Magee
al.magee77@
googlemail.com



**DEVON &
CORNWALL**
Cameron McMorris
cjmcmorris@gmail.
com



SOUTH WALES
Andrew Hatcher
andrewhatcher1@
msn.com

Events Coming Up

South Wales

On Thursday 13 March we will play our first match at Pennard GC, 10 tee times have been booked for 1pm start, hopefully the waterproofs won't be needed.

Royal Porthcawl GC will host our popular Spring Seminar with a very interesting lineup on Tuesday 8 April from 9am-3pm. Speakers are:

Noel Mackenzie, Sports Turf Consulting, Construction work.

Matt Gresty, Limagrain UK, and Andy Laing, Course Manager at Gaudet Lunce GC, Wildflower Seeds.

Craig Campbell, Deputy Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium, building the new pitch.

Kate Entwistle Turf Diseases & Plant health.

Karl Parry, Everris & Former Course Manager @ Denbigh GC, The Parry Meter.

South Coast

South Coast Section Spring Tournament is at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club at midday on Tuesday 15 April. Please note change of venue. £20 entry which includes bacon roll and evening meal, contact Kevan Glass for more details.

South West

This year's event calendar is coming together nicely with most venues and dates confirmed. We will be providing all section members and patrons with a fixture card which is going to press as we speak but in the meantime here are the early ones:

24 April: Am/Am at Enmore Park Golf Club

29 May: Inter-Section Match at Chippenham Golf Club

19 June: Summer Tournament at Farrington Golf Club

News

South Wales

Cradoc GC have appointed Robin Cheney as Head Greenkeeper, congratulations Robin and good luck in

your new position. Congratulations also go to Gareth Hardisty of Burghill Valley GC on being selected as an intern on the Ohio exchange programme. The club and everyone in our region are very proud of you, good luck.

Last month saw the passing of Henry Fry after a brief illness aged 84. Henry was appointed to the Greenkeeping staff at Clyne GC in 1958, becoming Head Greenkeeper in 1962 and gave 32 years dedicated service, until his retirement in December 1994. During this time he was heavily involved within the Greenkeeping profession and served as Section Secretary and chairman for our Welsh branch. He was a well known figure in the industry and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

South West

We had a brilliant turnout this month for a presentation by James Braithwaite, Course Manager at Long Ashton Golf Club, with over fifty in attendance. James discussed the recent greens reconstruction project at the club and feedback from attendees has been fantastic. Many thanks James.

Finally, a welcome to new South West Section member Stuart Bowman from Thornbury Golf Centre.

Results

South Wales

Better late than never the results from our Christmas competition at P&K, the course was in excellent condition, well done to Paul Johnson and his staff. 1 Big D, Stuart Ross, Gareth Hardisty, Gerry Tunball with a score of 58. 2 Jim MacKenzie, Peter Lacey & James White score 60.7.

Thanks to Sponsors

South West

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve, T H White and Sportsmark for their invaluable support.

Welcome New Members

Stuart Bowman, Course Manager, Thornbury Golf Centre, Jon Day, Head Greenkeeper, Lanhydrock Golf Club, Gareth Jones, Assistant Greenkeeper, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

Welcome New International Members

Thomas Thomson, Greenkeeper, Natteroy Golf Club Norway, Alexander Richter, Affiliate, Richter Rasen, Phil Desbrow, Greenkeeper, Lakewood Country Club, Andrew Higgs, Greenkeeper, Golf De Toulouse Seilh, Laurent Liatard, Greenkeeper, Lausanne Golf Club, Jan Pistek, Greenkeeper, Golf Clyb Darovansky Dvur, Stéphane Rouen, Greenkeeper, Golf Club Granville.

Your notes

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

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

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

In a new series, the GTC has invited representatives from its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to discuss their particular specialism within the sports turf sector

As an apprentice greenkeeper in the 60s, David Golding remembers when a visit to STRI was the only real education an apprentice received before the colleges became involved with the more formal qualifications. Carolyn Beadsmoore, Head of Sales and Marketing at STRI, explained why they are now so heavily involved

The STRI has been around a long time; we were actually established way back in 1929 (even before David's time!), in association with the UK Golf Unions and The R&A to provide research and advisory services for golf clubs on their golf greens and courses.

This long heritage within the golf industry has also included sharing our knowledge and expertise over the years through training and education, with the aim of passing on best practice throughout the industry and helping clubs achieve the best sports surfaces they can.

By the 1950s, STRI had established a reputation as the leading company in Europe for providing advice and research on new products and techniques for managing sports turf, not just for golf, but for all types of sports surfaces and amenity grass areas.

And as our knowledge grew we established structured training courses for greenkeepers, groundsmen and Chairman of Green and committees.

We believe a lot of our success comes directly from the focus and expertise of the STRI research team, based at our extensive research facilities in Bingley, West Yorkshire. The team are as dedicated now as they were eighty years ago to establish new and better ways of producing high quality sports surfaces across the world.

The knowledge base from STRI's research, along with years of practical experience from our advisory team, is what makes our training so current and valuable for the industry.

The last two decades have seen rapid growth within STRI; we currently have 75 staff, delivering our range of services across an international client base of around 2,100 sports clubs and facilities each year, including 810 golf clubs. STRI

is proud to work alongside FIFA, as their strategic partner for pitch development and management, and UEFA, as their official pitch consultants and The R&A, as their official agronomists.

We are now offering specialist advice and expertise for all natural and artificial sports surfaces across the globe and in 2013 we opened our Australian research centre and office. The knowledge and expertise of our research and advisory teams are now shared through our tailored training courses for all types of turf professionals across the world.

Our courses are structured to give practical and realistic advice on developing and managing sports surfaces and developing an individual's expertise, no matter what level of experience.

We provide different methods of training through workshops, seminars, practical demonstrations and open forum discussions, as well as our annual STRI Research event in Bingley. We are often asked to create bespoke training courses to suit a team's needs and work closely with clubs to make sure the learning we deliver is relevant and useful for their team and individual greenkeepers.

We offer standard and bespoke training across the UK for:

- Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers
- Greenkeeping Staff
- Grounds Staff
- Parks & Grounds Managers
- Chairmen of Green/Green Conveners
- Club Secretaries, Managers & Committee Members
- BASIS & FACTS for Turf Professionals

Each training course is developed and delivered by experienced staff, all with vast experience within the sports turf industry and their specialist fields. Our advisers have

For info on STRI workshops, seminars and training courses contact: Carolyn Beadsmoore: Tel 00 44 (0) 1274 565131 Email: info@stri.co.uk www.stri.co.uk



The GTC is funded by:



comprehensive knowledge on the latest research, techniques and products used to achieve quality sports surfaces and turf.

Each of our courses is reviewed annually and features real-life examples of golf courses that have seen improvements over the last few years.

Our standard courses are structured over four days, with separate modules developed for each subject area, giving individuals the flexibility and choice of selecting the topics and days they are interested in. Our Chairman of Green courses are run as a one-day course, providing an overview of course management and the benefits that can be seen from specific maintenance operations.

Following feedback from sports clubs and clients we now offer regional training courses each year, across the UK and Ireland; this has helped our clients to reduce travel costs and eliminate additional costs for accommodation.

All our training is quality assured by industry bodies and associations, including the GTC, with certificate of achievements presented for each training module. Individual BASIS and CPD credits are also awarded for completing STRI training modules.

Each year we receive very positive feedback on our STRI training, with 100% of individuals saying they would recommend our training to others.

And when we get quotes like the following which we received from a greenkeeper who attended last year's training, it makes us feel very proud to be supporting the industry through our education... "I found the four day course an absolute inspiration.

The content covered everything one would possibly need to know as a greenkeeper. The experts were very engaging."

Contact Details

David F. Golding
GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
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For more details please contact, Marcus Oliver, Marketing Manager at GreenTek Solutions Ltd on 0113 267 6000 or email him - marcus@greentek.uk.com

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Recruitment

Chiltern Hills Golf Club - Head Greenkeeper

Acting on behalf of my client who is looking to recruit an ambitious Head Greenkeeper to grow in a new golf course in North West London. Chiltern Hills Golf Course has been under construction for 3 years and so far 9 holes have been shaped and seeded.

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Roehampton Club – Course & Grounds Manager

Colt Mackenzie McNair have been engaged on behalf of the premier multi-sports club in the South East, Roehampton Club. The club is seeking a first class Course and Grounds Manager to succeed John Lockyer in heading up the golf, grounds (tennis and croquet) and gardens teams to ensure it enhances its international reputation for superb grass tennis courts and croquet lawns.

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The Course and Grounds Manager is responsible for the maintenance, operation and management of the golf course and surrounding practice areas, plus 28 tennis courts, 4 croquet lawns, extensive gardens, two mini tennis courts and a children's play area, in accordance with the policies of the Club and with all relevant legislation.

The Course & Grounds Manager is responsible for managing and maintaining the course properties, which include:

- The golf course
- Greenkeeping compound and all course and grounds equipment
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The postholder should have the following minimum qualifications:

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If you would like to pursue this opportunity further on the basis that your skill set matches our clients brief please email Ryan Mckinnia rmckinnia@coltmm.com outlining your desire for the role.



NORTH FORELAND GOLF CLUB
www.northforeland.co.uk



Assistant Greenkeeper

Founded in 1903, North Foreland Golf Club is a Cliff-top Chalkland site comprising of a classic Fowler Simpson 18 hole Main Course & the Northcliffe 18 hole Par 3 course.

We currently have a vacancy for a career driven, reliable, hard working and motivated Assistant Greenkeeper.

- Ideally a minimum of 2yrs experience with NVQ2 or working towards a similar qualification.
- Good team and motivational skills
- A keen eye for presentation and detail

The successful candidate will work closely with the Course Manager and Deputy Course Manager to continue to enhance the growing reputation, tradition and standard of the club.

Interested applicants should forward a current C.V., along with covering letter by email ONLY to:
Dan McGrath MG at northforeland@btconnect.com



Greenkeeper Ferndown Golf Club

Ferndown Golf Club the premier 27-hole Heathland Golf Course in Dorset and ranked amongst the UK's Top 100 Golf Courses is looking for an energetic, ambitious and passionate fully qualified green-keeper. You will have a proven track record of attention to detail to further enhance our established team.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Hold a basic NVQ level 2 in Sports turf.
- PA 1, 2, 6A Spray Certificates
- Hold a UK driving licence
- A flexible and positive attitude to work
- Able to work the Clubs flexible weekend Rota system.
- Ensure that the course is presented to the highest possible standard
- Be a team player

It may be useful, but not essential to have

- NPTC Chainsaw certificate
- Current First aid certificate

If this is you then we offer:

- Competitive salary, including a contributory pension scheme.
- An opportunity to be involved in presenting a Top 100 golf course
- Further training to develop you professionally and personally

Please send CV and covering letter by email ONLY to:-
Shaun White at: shaunwhite@ferndowngolfclub.co.uk
Ferndown Golf Club, 119 Golf Links Road, Ferndown,
Dorset BH22 8BU



EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL

We are seeking a highly motivated Assistant Greenkeeper with a proven track record for high standards, who can work with in a large team as well as working on their own to assist us in presenting two championship courses to the highest of standards

The successful applicant must have at least 2 years Greenkeeping experience.

Full UK Driving License.
Must be able to work a flexible weekend rota.
Ideally be qualified to NVQ level 2.

All applicants please apply by Email to Scott Litchfield, Course Manager with your CV and covering letter, briefly outlining you experience and why you are right for the role to scott.esn@gmail.com

Seasonal Greenkeeper

April to October (full time)

Beaconsfield Golf Club

Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2UR

The Club wish to recruit an enthusiastic, capable seasonal greenkeeper to join the existing team. The position is suited to an individual wishing to develop their career gaining experience in the preparation and maintenance of a parkland golf course.

The ideal candidate will have, but not essential

- 2 years greenkeeping or sports turf experience
- NVQ2 or similar

Please apply in writing or email to secretary@beaconsfieldgolfclub.co.uk with CV and covering letter



Royal Porthcawl Golf Club located just off the M4 is one of Wales' most prestigious private member golf clubs. The Club has hosted many national and international competitions including the Walker Cup and the Amateur Championship. 2014 will see Wales' first major visit Royal Porthcawl when the Senior Open Championship will be played. The Club is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Senior Greenkeeper

The Club wishes to recruit an ambitious and motivated Senior Greenkeeper to join the existing team. Reporting to the Course Manager, you will be part of the management team responsible for delivering a golf course to the highest standards.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Minimum 5 years' greenkeeping experience
- NVQ level 3 or equivalent
- Spraying certificates PA1, PA2 & PA6
- Experience in man management and leadership skills

Seasonal Greenkeepers

(Full time, April – Sept)

The Club wish to recruit two enthusiastic, capable and experienced Seasonal Greenkeeper's to join the existing team. These positions are ideally suited to individuals wishing to develop their careers gaining experience in links maintenance and major tournament preparation.

The ideal candidate will have:

- At least three year's experience in golf course maintenance
- NVQ 2 or similar qualification

Applications for both positions should be made in writing accompanied by full CV to: Ian Kinley, Course Manager, Royal Porthcawl GC, Rest Bay, Porthcawl, CF36 3UW ian.kinley@royalporthcawl.com



Assistant Greenkeeper

Cotswold Hills Golf Club



Cotswold Hills Golf Club is situated on the outskirts of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and is looking for an enthusiastic individual to join its experienced team of greenkeepers.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Hold a basic NVQ level 2 qualification in Sports turf.
 - Hold a UK driving licence
- Have a knowledge of modern turf machinery & maintenance
 - Cover weekend duties on a rota basis.
- Ensure that the course is presented to the highest possible standard
 - Be a team player

Package

Competitive salary, overtime paid, company pension scheme, ongoing training, staff uniform & golf club membership.

Please apply with a covering letter and CV to wayne.vincent@cotswoldhills-golfclub.com

we're investing
\$2.8 million a day
 in research and development to
improve sustainability
 through our innovations*

*Our work matters

Technical Services Manager Europe, Africa, Middle East (EAME) – Turf & Vegetation Management

£Competitive + Benefits
Fulbourn, Cambridge

Innovation is at the heart of our worldwide success

Syngenta's specialist solutions keep turf looking great all around the globe. But we know that if we're to grow our business in turf and adjacent markets and stay ahead, innovation is vital. Join us in this challenging role and you'll play a key part in turning breakthrough ideas into advanced solutions.

Credible and well regarded within the industry, you'll use your deep customer insight to shape our category and cross-category innovation strategy. But that's just the start. You'll also go on to design and co-ordinate launch, market support and business development projects right across EAME.

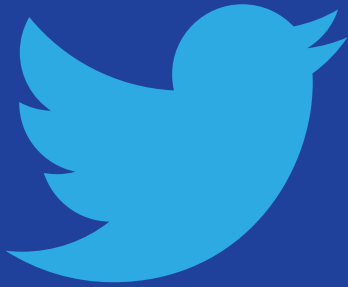
Building strong relationships with key industry personnel will be high on your agenda too. By ensuring they receive the right training and the highest levels of technical support, you'll make certain that Syngenta maintains a high and very positive profile in the market.

To measure up, it's essential that you have:

- Extensive knowledge of the agronomy of Turf, Amenity, Vegetation Management and ideally Tree Care
- Significant industry experience
- Strong communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Plenty of drive and self-motivation
- Ability to undertake regular travel
- Educated to degree level, (PhD or MSc an advantage) and holding BASIS

To find out more and apply, visit www.syngenta.com

With rising food and fuel demands, our work is vital. We are committed to our cause - bringing plant potential to life. Working in a rewarding and collaborative environment, we use our scientific expertise to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health. There's never been a more important time to join us.



@BIGGALtd

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



Snippets from Facebook...

Luke Turner

oh my Minnesota is a whole new world of cold....

Sean Sullivan

8" of snow over the weekend, with another 4" to go today. Spring looks very promising. good news is that it is another day closer to next winter.

Robert Bemment

Away next round of mail at Hornsea nice and local

Robert Hogarth

2.15 pm and we have had 44mm of rain today and still raining. With spring just around the corner I believe our green keeping skills will be severely tested to get our courses back together.

Torquay Greenkeepers

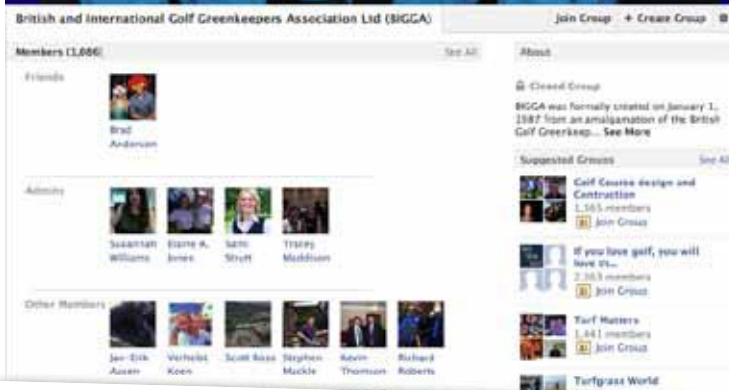
On this the 45th day of the year, what feels like the 46th storm of the year is predicted, so it probably comes as no surprise to tell you the course is closed

Gaudet Luce

My rain gauge is reading 206mm since the 1st February. Surly that can't be right!! But I have a horrible suspicion that it is. 8" in 14 days? Please someone tell me it's wrong!

Steven Hemsley

February 7
Off to TPC Sawgrass....as you do



David Langheim MG v alligator in Florida



@greenkeeperdave



@BIGGALtd

Our favourite tweets...

greenkeeping@Lancastergc

Thanks to @sandra48077948 for organising tonight's @BIGGALtd Fylde Greenkeepers get together. Also thanks to @GarstangGolf for hospitality

gregevans@gregevansmg

Well done to @EalingGolfClubdeputy CM @steve_haireLFC for being chosen @BIGGALtd future turf managers incentive. Great choice HQ!

Tom Evans @tommye88

So happy to be a part of The Open @BIGGALtd support team this year

@Woolleyparkgolf

Phil Rowbottom #legend interviewed on The One Show after driving 200 miles from Yorkshire to Somerset #tractoraid

@blinderbunkerli

We had some amazing feedback from several clubs today with both Blinder Bunker Liner & Eco Path. Thanks Guys. #btme2014 #GIS14 #teamblinger

BARONESS

Quality on Demand

More than 100 years of experience goes into the making of Baroness products, giving unrivalled cutting quality and the very lowest running costs.

For more than 20 years Baroness has been building the LM315 with our very own "hybrid" drive system which minimises the amount of hydraulic lines by using cable drive to the cutting units.

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

Many UK Golf Clubs are already benefitting from the matchless Baroness quality of cut from all our other models in the Baroness golf course reel-mower range.

Baroness also produces the GM2800, a semi-rough 5-unit rotary mower which is class-leading in cutting quality and traction ability.

NEW for 2014!

Introducing the Baroness LM2400, a truly light-weight fairway mower that doesn't disappoint on cutting quality or performance!

Baroness.....truly quality on demand!



LM315 Greensmower



LM2700 Fairway mower



GM2800 semi-rough mower



LM2400 Fairway mower

 Kyoeisha UK Ltd. a subsidiary of
Kyoeisha Co. Ltd. of Japan



Tel: 01256 461591

www.baronessuk.com





Toro® Greensmaster TriFlex™

Cuts Greens Beautifully

The remarkable TriFlex riding greensmower is packed with ground-breaking technology to give your greens a flawless finish.



Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex range provides unsurpassed consistency and quality of cut. Innovative features, such as Toro's unique Flex double A-arm suspension system, Dual Precision Adjustment (DPA) cutting units and redesigned balloon-style tyres, all combine to produce an outstanding greensmower with the lightest of footprints. What's more, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 model is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system, for an even greener mower.

Full product details at www.toro.com

Experience TriFlex for yourself, with a free onsite demonstration. Call Lely on 01480 226800



TORO IRRIGATION



GREENSMASTER 1000



FLEX 21



eFLEX



GREENSMASTER 3250-D



TRIFLEX 3400



OFFICIAL SUPPLIER



Lely. Your partners in turfcare. Call 01480 226800.

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors, Otterbine water management systems, and Solo backpack sprayers, brushcutters and other outdoor maintenance equipment.



solo



partners in turfcare