



## 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

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