

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

£5.20 **MAY 2014**

# By Royal appointment



**How Craig  
Gilholm is  
preparing for  
The Open at  
Hoylake**

**ALSO INSIDE... BIOSTIMULANTS : PHOTO COMP : CAVE CASTLE**



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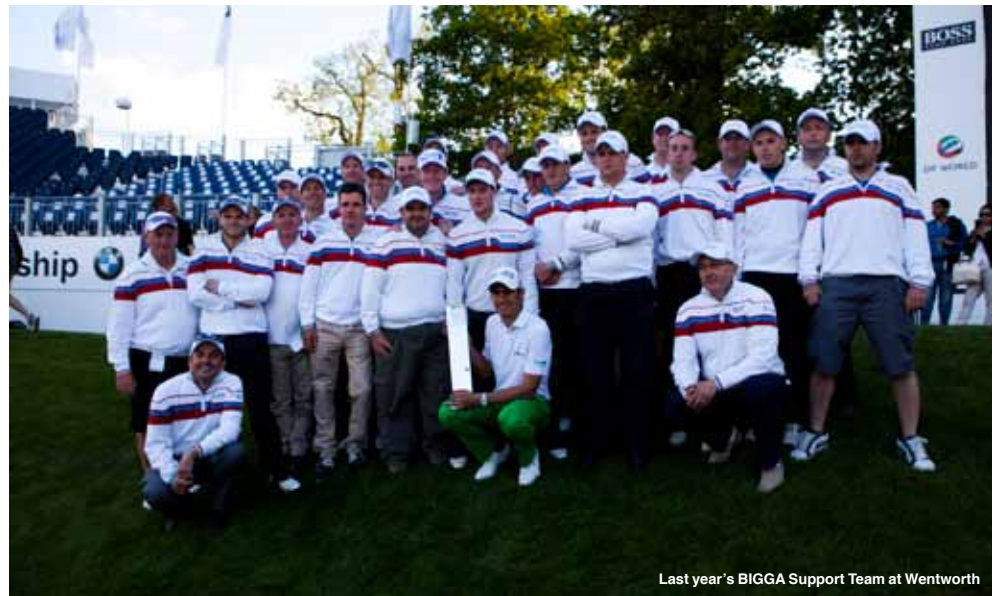


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Last year's BIGGA Support Team at Wentworth

## Xtra incentives for BIGGA members

**A priority for the Association in recent years has been increasing the amount and range of benefits that BIGGA membership brings. Whilst the mission statement of the Association focuses on Continuing Professional Development and raising standards of golf course management, it is important that membership must represent value to each individual member.**

The recent launch of the BIGGA Xtra Benefits Scheme has been a welcome addition in this regard as it provides our members with best in market deals on household and personal spending. Uptake is increasing and many of our members are now benefitting from discounts and offers specifically due to their membership of BIGGA. Additionally, we continue to provide a number of helplines, insurances and the recently launched BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Gratifying that this undoubtedly is, the benefits we offer aimed at career development are far more important in the grand scheme of things and I'm delighted that this area is also very strong. This edition contains a report from the 25th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Luke Turner, on his intense but rewarding trip to America. A glance down the list of former winners gives a clear indication of what a great career development opportunity the Toro award is and I'm really looking forward to meeting up with all of the previous winners later in the year at the 25th anniversary celebration.

**BIGGA offers a variety of benefits aimed squarely at the early years of a greenkeeper's career.**

Complementing the Toro award we have scholarships provided by both Ransomes Jacobsen and Baroness, a refund of educational fees programme supported by our own Learning and Development Fund and the Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen. Our commercial partners are all

highly committed to supporting the Association in its ambitions to provide educational and career development opportunities to its members and I am confident we will add to our provision in the future.

**We also offer opportunities to widen greenkeeping experience at tournaments through Support Teams for both the Open Championship and the BMW PGA Championship.**

This year we have been asked to provide a larger team at Wentworth and I'm pleased but not surprised that we have been able to find sufficient willing and able volunteers. Also this month we preview the forthcoming Open Championship to be held at Royal Liverpool and hear how Links Manager Craig Gilholm and his team have been preparing. This year the BIGGA Open Support Team was again massively oversubscribed with volunteers wanting to play their part at Hoylake.

**I was saddened to learn of the passing of a stalwart of the Toro award, David Blackmur, who guided a number of multiple overall winners through his sterling work at Plumpton College.**

A real character and a hugely knowledgeable lecturer and mentor, he will be sadly missed.



Enjoy the read.

**Jim Croxton, Chief Executive**

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## In the picture

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

Every BIGGA member is able to submit their best photos on their mobile - and these entries are now encouraged as we move to producing a desktop-calender for the first time.

We continue to welcome photos taken on digital cameras. The images will be reviewed at a

We'll also be giving members the chance to pick the winners. A panel at BIGGA House will whittle the entries down to the best 25, then you will be able to pick your favourite through a survey on our website.

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

16/9 ratio. If you are taking your shot on a mobile phone, please ensure it's taken on the highest resolution setting possible.

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

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

The closing date for entries is Friday 19 July 2014.

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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



# Chairman's Word

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

## Spring has sprung with a vengeance

**Having spent the early part of my Chairmanship travelling widely and focusing on Association business it has been good to spend time more recently closer to home where my heart belongs – managing the course here at Chippenham.**

I was honoured to attend the fantastic 2014 Future Turf Managers' Initiative made possible by Jacobsen.

I didn't go last year so it was my first opportunity to see at first hand what a superb event it is.

It's the ideal platform for young greenkeepers who are looking to move up through the ranks.

The mentors who gave up their time were superb, and the experienced presenters – several of whom I caught at BTME – gave a series of excellent seminars.

I'd like to thank the delegates, mentors, presenters and the L&D team at BIGGA House for all their efforts contributing to the success of this second event, and I hope there are many more in the future.

Lastly, I'd like to say how grateful I am to Jacobsen's kind sponsorship, their support was once again tremendous.

Another highlight in March was the South Wales spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl.

I was particularly fascinated by the presentation the Deputy Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium, Craig Campbell gave about the challenges posed as they install a new DESSO pitch.

I also enjoyed Jason Brooks' account of working in America, Noel MacKenzie's 'Drainage does work' and Matt Gresty and Andy Laing's seminar on using wildflower on your course.

Section events, be they educational, golf days, course walks or social/sporting fixtures, are hugely important to BIGGA and play a key role in keeping our members connected at local level.

Having a strong network of local peers has been massively important in my career, providing advice, support and a helping hand whenever I've needed them.

It has been my pleasure to be able to return some of that help over recent years, but to this day whenever I attend a Section event I come away having gained some



**“The mentors who gave up their time were superb, and the experienced presenters gave a series of excellent seminars”**

knowledge that can benefit me and my club.

I would love to visit all the Sections during my time as Chairman but sadly it just isn't physically possible! However I will try and get to as many events as I can, and chatting with BIGGA members young and old at these events is a privilege.

I would encourage all members to support the events that many of our members give up their own time to organise.

Spring has finally sprung with a vengeance, which has meant lots of work for us here at Chippenham and I'm sure an extremely busy month for all of you.

We've been getting stuck into all sorts of tasks from putting sand in bunkers to cutting fairways and firing up the irrigation system.

We've dropped our height of cut from 5mm to 4.5mm ahead of dropping it

further to 4mm very soon to give the greens that extra pace.

We have had a problem with leatherjackets, so the article focusing on dealing with them in last month's magazine was particularly timely.

We've been spraying to combat them and it seems to be doing the trick.

We're holding an Open Event on the weekend of 17/18 May where we'll be officially opening our new holes.

The intention is to allow members to play on the first day then hopefully attract lots of visitors and potentially new members on the second.

So fingers crossed for more good weather.

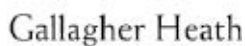
Chris

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# Funding your future

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





## MY FTMI 2014

Kevin Glazier, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, was one of the delegates on the Future Turf Managers' Initiative 2014 at Ransomes Jacobsen's Ipswich HQ. Here's his report on a "fantastic" week...

On 25 March, the candidates made their journeys from England and Scotland and descended on Ipswich. A tour of the factory was first on the agenda which was a real eye opener for all.

The majority of us take machines for granted when we start work at 6am in the morning, however the attention to detail when a machine is being built is incredible to see from a nut to a cylinder. Jacobsen have a three hole golf course on site which is kept to a high standard by Jamie Hughes – the greens are immaculate. We had the opportunity to play the par three course, and the winner was Gregor Mackintosh from Turnberry with a score of one under par. The day concluded with each delegate completing an 'ice breaker' task, dinner and an insight from Dr Frank Rossi focusing on our futures in the industry.

We had an early start on the Wednesday, with Lorna Sheldon giving a detailed presentation on writing a CV which made us all realise how important CVs really are. Lorna then spoke about all aspects of interview techniques. Effective communication strategies followed later in the morning which was put into practice as we split into small groups to complete a presentation on 'your dream job'. The winner was Sam Evans from Oakland Park Golf Club who spoke about replacing Sam Allardyce at West Ham United. Dr Frank Rossi then returned to present on 'Maximising Performance and Minimising Stress' which we were all lucky

to listen to before he flew back to the States. Frank clearly feels passionately about the subject and was able to present evidence to support his beliefs.

Later in the afternoon, we enjoyed a seminar from one of the mentors, Steve Chappell. Steve is the Head Greenkeeper of the PGA Course at Gleneagles which will be hosting the 2014 Ryder Cup. Steve discussed his career to date and spoke about the volunteering opportunities at tournaments. The evening was completed by dinner and an open forum with Mike Sawicki.

After two intense days the pace continued on the final morning with 'Building a Budget.' This was presented by Lee Strutt MG. Candidates were introduced to budgeting, how to formulate a budget and costings to create their own budgets using Excel. The week was brought to an end by David Bancroft-Turner, who gave a presentation on dealing with club politics. This helped to identify politics in the workplace, how to manage them more effectively, provided tips and suggestions to improve performance and also introduce us to the four different political 'animals'.

For me, being selected for the FTMI was an honour and one that I would strongly recommend to any greenkeeper to apply for. Everyone on the course shares the dream of becoming a Course Manager and the FTMI showed many aspects which you don't think about necessarily when doing the day job.

As one mentor said, being a Course Manager is 10%

greenkeeping and 90% managing. All the seminars were beneficial and highly interesting, but if I had to pick highlights I would go for Lee Strutt's, David Bancroft-Turner's and Steve Chappell's.

Throughout my career I have been told that networking is a great way to learn, meet fellow greenkeepers and get yourself known around the industry.

To speak to 20 other candidates and five mentors was fascinating as you can

discuss aspects of the job you wouldn't normally discuss. The FTMI has made me focus more on what I want from greenkeeping - become a Course Manager.

The skills I have taken away will improve the knowledge and experience I've taken from Gavin Kinsella MG at Royal Mid Surrey.

To conclude this was a fantastic opportunity and one I would like to thank BIGGA and Jacobsen for hosting.





# WALTER HELPS GRADUATES CELEBRATE TURF DIPLOMAS

**BIGGA Life Member Walter Woods helped a dozen graduates celebrate their diplomas in turf maintenance at the home of golf.**

Walter served as Superintendent for the St Andrews Links Trust for 21 years, and was on hand as the 12 graduates from WINSTONuniversity passed their six-month course.

The trip to St Andrews topped off six months of a unique education for golf course and club managers at the university, which is based in Germany and focuses on teaching all manner of disciplines in the turf industry.

During the trip to Scotland the group gained new insights in the maintenance of world class courses like the Duke's Course and the links of Kingsbarns.

On the way to Scotland the group visited the headquarters of Ransomes Jacobsen in Ipswich where they received first hand information on the turf care equipment of one of the world's leading manufacturers.

One of the graduates, Frank Ahern, said: "We not only learnt about turf and resource management but also gained a solid background in the economics and strategic marketing of golf courses."

Ian Butcher, the English director of WINSTONuniversity added: "Proof of how much our graduates are sought after is demonstrated by the fact that all the graduates are now working in



the industry. At present the application process is open for the second course at WINSTONuniversity starting in October. Hubertus von Treuenfels, CEO of WINSTONuniversity, said:

"The demand is already very high. Since we only can accept 20 students per course

we are in a very comfortable situation where we can choose the best applicants. This being said I like to stress that we do not want to deter anyone to apply for the new semester which will start in October 2014 and run until the end of March 2015."

## BIGGA AND EVERRIS PARTNERSHIP

BIGGA are delighted to announce further details of our latest Partnership as we join forces with Everris.

As we announced last month, we've created a series of new packages designed improve the recognition given to our supporters.

We've enjoyed strong links with Everris for many years, who are well-known across the turf industry for developing technologically advanced fertilisers, nutritional programmes, turf seed and plant protection products.

This Partnership will build on our existing relationship while promoting greenkeeper education and promoting new initiatives and events, more details of which will be revealed over the coming months – including the exciting Turf

Rewards initiative.

BIGGA's Business Development Manager Jill Rodham said:

"We're very excited about this partnership which consolidates our relationship with Everris, and will allow us to join forces more effectively.

"It's been a pleasure working with them over the last few years and their status as BIGGA Partner reinforces how much we value their support."

Richard Walton (shown with Jim Croxton), Business Manager at Everris, said:

"As a company, we believe everyone benefits from working and learning together, and we're delighted to have become a BIGGA Partner.

"As new research is carried out and turf management



products and practices develop and evolve, our partnership and the launch of Turf Rewards offers all

greenkeepers the opportunity to develop their own knowledge and expertise both on and off the golf course."



## ON A ROLL IN SWITZERLAND

By using the technique of Koroing, Course Manager Richie McGlynn of Blumisberg Golf Can Country Club, Fribourg, Switzerland, has kept the course fully open during extensive changes.

BIGGA member Richie joined the club in 2011. He found that the fairways in particular had severe problems relating to compaction, excessive thatch and a dominant poa sward, resulting in issues such as dry patch, dieback and chafer grub infestation. So he began the first stage of an ambitious ten-year project to renovate all the fairways without closing any holes. Various renovation practices were considered to achieve this, culminating in the decision to strip the existing turf off the worst areas, decompact the ground and reseed with a new grass mixture.

Richie looked to other sports for inspiration. Knowing how professional groundsmen in other sports achieved rapid pitch renovation, he wanted to know if the same method could be applied to golf fairways.

The Koro Field Top Maker is a heavy-duty fraise mower and is a primary tool in the pitch renovation process. It removes unwanted surface matter such as poa-annua, thatch, weeds or the entire surface to a depth of 50mm.

Richie bought a Koro Field TopMaker 1500 complete with digging rotor, an Imants Shockwave 220 and a Dakota 550 trailer.

In October 2012, after using the Shockwave 220 to decompact the fairways down to a maximum of 38cm, the worst part of a fairway was stripped with the Koro. The area was then overseeded with a Vredo Compact seeder, using a mix of 60% Fescue, 20% Ryegrass & 20% Kentucky bluegrass.

Some growth and regeneration was evident before the course went into winter dormancy, but by the time the course reopened in the spring, the results were outstanding.

Richie said: "We are now into the second stage of our ten year fairway renovation project, and I believe we made the right decision not to close any of the holes during the renovations."

"We are taking out sections of fairways one by one. When we tackled the third fairway last July, we removed a third of the section in question and the golfers could play towards the left of the hole.

"We then made three dropping zones for those that were just that bit too far right. Within five weeks we had it open again, first teeing up their shots, and a few weeks later they were able to play normally."

There was some initial opposition from members, but the difference between the untreated fairways and the newly renovated areas soon became very apparent during July and August.

Richie added: "The difference was so striking, that when we came to work on the other side of the fairway, there was far more support this time. In fact two members actually took the trouble to go to the office and remark at the huge difference it had made. So thankfully we seem to be winning the support of the players – which is half the battle!"

The effectiveness of Koroing and the fast recovery period is the secret of Richie's approach.

Over time he will completely renovate the whole course with minimum disruption and maximum improvement for the future quality of golf played at Blumisberg.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY POSTER

A reminder to BIGGA members that the old Health and Safety poster became illegal on 1 April and has been replaced by a new, legal version. For more details visit [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)



## David Blackmur

We are saddened to hear that Plumpton College's David Blackmur has died after a short illness. David Golding, Education Director at The GTC, has paid this tribute.

"David's passion for greenkeeping was second to none and many of today's Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers owe so much to him, as he was not only a great turf lecturer, but one of life's true gentlemen.

"He was synonymous with Plumpton College for nearly 40 years and instrumental in producing students and finalists for the Toro Student of the Year Award.

"I have a contact in BIGGA who has a lasting memory of David dressed immaculately as ever wearing cords and strolling down the Las Vegas Strip with his sunglasses on looking around as if he was in a dream. He could not have been further away from his love of the countryside and his beloved family and Sussex home!

"The GTC's thoughts are with his family and colleagues at Plumpton College. We have lost a true turf legend."

# PHYTOPHTHORA LATERALIS DISAPPEARS FROM THE RADAR



*Phytophthora lateralis* first appeared in 2010 on Lawson's cypress which is the most widely traded and planted conifer in the UK landscape. It was initially treated with great concern by UK plant health authorities but arrival of *Chalara fraxinea* put paid to that. *P. lateralis* disappeared from the radar in 2012 when UK government 'drew a line in the sand' following the unprecedented public outcry over *Chalara* ash dieback.

*P. lateralis* now goes unreported outside the confines of obscure government reports. How it entered the UK is portrayed as a mystery but the avenues of entry are clear to me. Root cause is the British passion for importing and planting trees without proper attention paid to the integrity of the planting material.

Foliar browning symptoms in Lawson's cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) at Balloch Country Park Estate in Scotland and caused by *P. lateralis* were apparent in 2009 and worsened during 2010. Forestry Commission (FC) waited until November 2010 to report finding *P. lateralis*.

Infrastructure development at Balloch Country Park Estate involving *Rhododendron* clearance, a major replanting programme using 'imported' topsoil, and financed by a £2.4 m Heritage Lottery Fund grant, had taken place in 2003-2006. Tree and shrub planting material was sourced from a number of nurseries including 10 in the Netherlands, four in Italy and two in France. *P. lateralis* had been confirmed in French nurseries in 1999 and Dutch nurseries in 2004.

Further UK outbreaks were confirmed on Lawson's cypress at Greenock Park Cemetery and on *Thuja occidentalis* (Northern white cedar) at a Scottish nursery and a Renfrewshire Park. The Northern white cedar trees had been imported from France. At least two

different genetic lineages have since been identified indicating separate UK introductions of the pathogen.

The outbreak of *P. lateralis* at Balloch Country Park Estate was followed by a flurry of more highly publicised findings in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, including Yorkshire and Devon, in 2011. But with no public utterances from FC or Fera during the whole of 2012 and 2013 (just a website mention in passing of one outbreak in South Wales and one in Sussex) it would appear *P. lateralis* is no longer considered to be a problem.

*P. lateralis* may have disappeared from the radar screen but with a spore dissemination potential equivalent to *Phytophthora ramorum*, and a history of air-borne spore spread in France, it has certainly not gone away. What has disappeared is UK plant health authorities' earlier concern and consideration for an aggressive and lethal disease of conifer species vital to the landscape, amenity and garden sectors.

Management guidance has been effectively downgraded. FC now says suspected cases should only be reported to them if they involve a number of trees on a public site such as a park or churchyard, on the basis that large numbers of visitors will pose a higher risk of spreading the disease. For suspected cases in private gardens (and presumably golf courses) owners are told to consult a reputable arborist, leaving the arborist to decide on and organise safe disposal and

destruction of infected material (by burning or chipping and deep burial) and preferably on site.

In the absence of legal permission for burning large amounts of debris on site, or the facilities for deep burial, then the arborist is forced to take the contaminated debris away, risking spread of disease to other customers and his/her reputation as a 'reputable' arborist. There is as much if not more risk of disease spread by forcing a large number of small-scale arborists, mostly doing domestic work, to deal with this particular disease without proper intervention or at least guidance from the centre.

After all Lawson's cypress is the most widely planted conifer in the UK landscape, amenity and garden sectors and *P. lateralis* a highly infective pathogen. This is another example of UK plant health authorities not understanding the needs of the arb and amenity sectors even if they are concerned, which many the industry simply do not believe.

*Dr Terry Mabbett*





# 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!



## WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

**This month we're highlighting another membership benefit available to all full BIGGA members – Personal Accident Insurance Cover.**

We've teamed up with Gallagher Heath to offer you cover worldwide, 24 hours a day. The Insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which occurs during the time of cover which results in death, loss of limbs or sight, hearing and speech, permanent disability or temporary disability.

There are additional payments for medical expenses, funeral expenses, hospitalisation, bodily injury resulting in a coma, retraining and relatives' expenses.

Another level of cover is temporary total disability.

This is a weekly compensation resulting from bodily injury which temporarily prevents you from carrying out the whole of your occupational duties.

For example, you may have an accident playing football which means you are unable to go to work. This would trigger a payment of £50 a week. Please note there is no amount payable for the first 4 weeks.

BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison said: "There seems to be a misconception that members can only claim if they have an accident at work.

"But you can claim for any accident, whether it happened at work, home, playing sport or even on holiday.

"We would still encourage all members to take out individual health insurance as this cover is designed to work alongside any existing cover you may have taken out. But it really is an important member benefit that we want to make all members aware of."

To make a claim, please call Gallagher Heath (formerly Heath Lambert) on 020 7204 8952 quoting the policy number – 0010625173 – and your BIGGA membership number.

For more information, and to download a policy summary PDF of the Full Members Personal Accident Insurance, click on the 'Members Services' tab in the Members Area and visit the Personal Accident Insurance.



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### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline  
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance  
0800 177 7891

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



# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

## BIGGA REAP REWARDS WITH EVERRIS AND SYNGENTA



A brand new Turf Rewards programme for golf, sports and amenity turf managers in the UK and Ireland launched this month.

Benefitting the turf manager, their team, their turf, and the organisation they work for, the programme offers the opportunity to gain learning opportunities for members of staff to attend Continue to Learn at BTME, and essential agronomic and workplace tools.

Participants will be the first to receive the latest offers and research data, and have the opportunity to attend exclusive events.

Purchases of qualifying Everris and Syngenta products earn points which can be redeemed against a range of rewards.

Register now to attend one of nine Turf Rewards and ParryMeter launch events.

4 BIGGA CPD credits are available for each event. A CPD

code will be issued on the day. The dates and locations are:

**Wednesday 30 April – Castle Golf Club, Rathfarnham, Dublin**

**Thursday 1 May - Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort, Co. Limerick, Ireland**

**Tuesday 6 May - Blackwell Golf Club, Worcestershire**

**Wednesday 7 May - Bowood Golf Club, Wiltshire**

**Thursday 8 May – The Wentworth Club, Surrey**

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# By Royal appointment



The 143rd Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club will be Craig Gilholm's second as Links Manager. He told Steve Castle about how he almost left greenkeeping at one point in his career, his 16 years at Muirfield and his thoughts ahead of July's showpiece event, plus his battle with a spot of troublesome moss...



**Craig Gilholm has the tidiest office I've ever seen. It's a converted spare bedroom in his bungalow nestled alongside the maintenance facility at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, a seaside town on the Wirral.**

In a couple of months' time, the Open Championship and the circus that surrounds it arrive at the course, which was designed by Harry Colt.

He has a tough act to follow. Last July The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers put on a superb show for the worldwide TV audience complete with stunning weather. But it turns out that Craig is extremely familiar with Muirfield as he spent most of his career at the legendary East Lothian links.

Prior to that, as a golf-obsessed youngster he became a member at Harburn Golf Club in West Lothian before he was a teenager. At 16, he dreamed of becoming a professional golfer but being a few shots shy of the standard required, he accepted a greenkeeping apprenticeship at Harburn combined with studying at Oatridge Agricultural College. He was keen to rejoin his mother's side of the family back in East Lothian, so secured a seasonal position at Muirfield in 1989. Coincidentally, his son Josh has just acquired exactly the same position at the same course.

Craig said: "I started at Muirfield under Chris Whittle who's now at Royal Birkdale. I worked my way up through the ranks, also working on the mechanical side and then became Deputy under Colin Irvine.

"After a few years, the day comes

when you think, 'I need to move on, do my own thing'. A couple of Head Greenkeeper jobs came up and I got nowhere – I didn't even get an interview. I did then turn one role down, then I had some more interviews but with no joy. I started to wonder what I was doing wrong, although I think some things in life are partly down to luck and mine seemed to be out at that time.

"I even considered a change of career as I'd done a bit of landscaping. But watching Colin with the presentation party at the 2002 Open Championship convinced me to stick at it. I love The Open, I've watched it every single year since 1985, and the prospect of being in charge of one of the Open venues was incredible."

2005 proved to be a sad year at Royal Liverpool as the hugely respected then Head Greenkeeper Derek Green died. He was such a part of the fabric of the links that his funeral cortege completed a circuit of the course before he was laid to rest.

Then came the job of finding Derek's successor.

He recalled: "I saw the job advertised, and after coming here for the interview I knew it was the sort of role I was prepared to relocate my young family for. I started in June 2005.

"It's amazing how your brain comes back to life when you get your first Course Manager position – you realise that the education you had 20 years ago is still in there somewhere! When you're Deputy you know that ultimately, everything comes down to the head guy and maybe you get set in your ways.

But when you're the head guy, you walk round the course buzzing with all manner of ideas. You ask questions and challenge things."

Craig admitted that he had to keep most of his more ambitious plans in check initially, knowing The Open was just over a year away.

"During my first six weeks here there was no rain whatsoever, and I began to understand some of the challenges, particularly as the irrigation system was too old and needed replacing.

"The main issue that Derek had been tackling was the area from the tee to the start of the fairway. It was worn out. So he came up with the excellent strategy of putting paths in to reduce the wear and tear.

"The thing I didn't like about the paths was their ash composition. They tended to throw up dust and this was exacerbated in 2006 because it was so dry.

"So I decided to take things in a different direction, probably because of the time I spent at Muirfield where all paths are grass. I wanted a more natural look with meadowgrass, ryegrass and fescue paths, properly irrigated, with traffic flowing round.

"I knew I would have egg on my face if it didn't work. But it has worked and aesthetically it's fantastic. Of course, we wouldn't be where we are now with the paths if it hadn't been for the hard work Derek and the team had put in before I arrived.

"I was really proud to see how fabulous the course looked on TV when we held the British Women's Open in 2012. It was very wet that summer as everyone knows, but



## PROFILE

**Name:** Craig Gilholm  
**Role:** Links Manager  
**Born:** Aberlady, East Lothian, 23 May 1972  
**Handicap:** 6  
**Favourite Sports**  
**Team:** Glasgow Rangers





Craig (left) with Deputy Paul Gardner



the condition was still spot on. I knew that if I could match that condition for The Open I would be made up, and that remains my aim.”

Recently, the ten-strong team led by Craig and his Deputy Paul Gardner (who has been with the club since leaving school 28 years ago) have concentrated on the paths, lengthened a few Championship tees slightly, and altered the definition and size of some of the bunkers.

At last year’s Championships, Craig discussed expectations for the 2014 Open with agronomist Stuart Ormondroyd.

Craig explained: “Some of the readings on the Clegg at Muirfield were 130. I’d been getting 110. I asked him what our target should be. “He said we should be aiming for 115-125, moisture levels of 10-12%, and green speeds of ten and a half.

“Every Friday during summer season we double cut and roll the greens and that gives us a great guide for what the green speed and firmness should be.

“This year we’ve changed to a slightly finer topdressing sand, previously we used 80:20 Fendress. The pure fine sand was deemed more appropriate to achieve the firmness required for the Championship. We’ve applied five dressings so far this year.

“Basically, my attitude here is

that Rome wasn’t built in a day. I want to turn the greens from a bent meadowgrass to a fescue bent for a more traditional surface, but that’s not going to happen overnight. Yorkshire Fog and moss are asking for a stake in the low traffic areas of the greens but we’re fighting hard against them, they won’t give up!”

This leads to an animated discussion about the current bane of Craig’s life - silver moss, which despite the team’s best efforts has caused issues as discussed.

“It could be there because of our low nitrogen input, because we’re quite sandy, because the greens are large...in the summer you can’t see the moss on the greens, but I know it’s there because there’s a very slight difference in the softness in different areas of the green.

“There’s no thatch, just moss. It drives you mad! I use the same levels of Nitrogen as Colin at Muirfield but while they’re on top of it I’ve not quite cracked it yet. I’ve thrown everything at it. I’ve scarified, verticut, I topdress, hollow core, put Mogeton on it – everything I’ve learnt in my training on a links course to control moss. But greenkeeping’s constantly a learning process.”

Craig ensures he always walks the course at least once a week to get a feel for how it’s progressing and spot any potential issues.

He added: “I walk down the middle, the way I would like to play

it – although in reality I’m lucky to play four holes like that! I put myself in the shoes of a visiting golfer or member so I’ve constantly got a feel for how the course is progressing.

“Inevitably, a management role comes with some paperwork but I try and keep that to a minimum. I like working and being on the course, watching the guys at work and keeping them on their toes, I’m very much a working greenkeeper.

“Five years ago I said that by the time the 2014 Open came around, I would almost have my vision in place and we are nearly there. A couple of wet summers followed by a couple of dry summers can scupper your plans, as anybody knows, but I’m reasonably happy. I don’t think any greenkeeper is ever 100% happy!”

What advice would he give an aspiring young greenkeeper?

“Respect your boss, and all the guys you work with – be a team player. There are too many people in all walks of life who don’t work hard enough. When I take someone on here, I’m not looking for a superstar. I’m looking for a decent, respectful greenkeeper who wants to learn.”

With that, after a hugely enjoyable and engrossing chat, Craig heads back on to the links. Here’s to a successful tournament, and a well-deserved ovation for Craig and his team during the presentations on 20 July.

As well as the BIGGA Open Support Team, who are excitedly preparing to head to Hoylake, around 30 other greenkeepers from across the UK and the world will assist Craig and his team. They are sourced from local courses, the other Open venues, several from Canada and Sweden as well as four R&A scholars.



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# How to write a report

Michael Astrop, Principal at ‘Coach the Mind’, presented a workshop at BTME 2014 on Preparing and Writing Effective Reports, which is becoming increasingly important for turf managers. Here Michael tells the story of a fictional Head Greenkeeper ‘Eric’ and how he can write a comprehensive, persuasive and accurate report

**Eric, Head Greenkeeper at Dagmire Court Golf Club, walked towards the clubhouse with a furrowed brow and slumped shoulders. He had been at the club since he left school at 15 and he completed his City and Guilds in greenkeeping at the local agricultural college.**

Today he looked as though he had the troubles of the world on his shoulders.

As he approached the clubhouse, one of the younger members came

out and said, “What’s up Eric?”

He replied: “The new club manager needs everything in writing, but writing is not really my forte.

“The last four holes need refurbishment, so the manager wants me to write a feasibility report to present to the next committee meeting. In the past I would go to the meeting and give a verbal rundown of what we wanted to do, with some broad costings, and the committee trusted me to get it done.

“I’ve never let them down and

never gone over agreed budgets but now it’s all reports and proposals, I really just don’t know where to start”.

The member replied: “I deliver seminars on this subject Eric, so I can guide you through the process. Why don’t we go into your office and I’ll give you some pointers?”

## **The Systematic Approach to Preparation**

Follow these key steps in the right order to ensure a professional report is produced:



- Establish the objectives - the scope and purpose of your document
- Know your reader - pitch it at the right level
- Structure the argument – prepare an outline of what will be covered
- Organise topics or points into related groups
- Use plain English and correct grammar - keep it clear and concise
- Present the report professionally – headings, styles and consistent layout
- Proofread and edit

As you write, keep focused on the overall objective and think of the reader.

This will guide you on just how much information to include (and what to leave out).

#### about the author



Michael spent his early years in sales and marketing, eventually setting up his own agency then moving into management consultancy. He obtained a degree in Organisational Psychology and became a lecturer in organisational and human behaviour at Huddersfield University before moving into training and coaching. As the principal of Coach the Mind he continually seeks to improve how learning is shared and has sought different ways to make taking on new learning an easier and more exciting process.



### Know your Audience and Understand your Reader

Your document should be pitched according to the reader. There is no point using long, complex words if the reader will not understand. Equally, if you make your writing too simple, you may alienate your reader and you may be seen as patronising.

Ask yourself a few questions to establish who the reader is.

- What do they know already about the subject?
- What do they need to know?
- Will they understand technical terms?
- What do I want them to do?
- What worries or reassures them?
- What will persuade them to my view?
- What other arguments do I need to present?
- How are they likely to react to what I say?

If you imagine yourself in your reader's position you are more likely to write a good document.

### Preparing an Outline

Once you have decided what you want to say, prepare an outline. This will help you stick to the point. Make a list of the topics you want to cover, but don't worry about the

order yet. Under each topic list key words, examples, arguments and facts. Review each topic in your outline for relevance to your reader.

### Organising the Arguments

The classic report structure has four vital stages (the 4 P's):

- Outline the position
- Describe the problem
- Examine the possibilities
- Put forward the proposal

### Structuring the Report

Reports are normally presented something like this:

1. Title Page
2. Foreword and or Preface
3. Table of Contents
4. Executive Summary Page (sometimes called an Abstract)
5. An Introduction
6. The Main Body, including headings and sub-headings
7. Past position
8. Problem/ Current Situation
9. Possibilities – pros and cons
10. Proposal
11. Conclusions and Recommendations
12. Appendices

### The Key Sections

The structure and layout of reports will obviously vary according to the organisation and the



purpose of the report, but there are some key components which should always be included:

**The Executive Summary or Abstract** - This should be written last as it summarises all the findings. Its purpose is to give an outline for those who won't read the entire report. Make sure it appears first.

**The Introduction** - This is a key component which sets the scene. It needs to capture the reader's interest and include everything they need to know. This section usually includes:

- Why the report was written, who requested it
- The objectives or terms of reference
- What resources were available
- What sources of information were used
- The approach used to compile the report

**Main Body - Where the bulk of the content appears.**

**Conclusions** - These need to link to the terms of reference, so what you stated you were trying to do in your introduction with your findings. They should therefore flow from the main body of the report and should be clear, impartial and written with the impact on the reader in mind. Bullet points are often used to keep conclusions brief and to the point.

**Recommendations** - While conclusions look to the past, recommendations look to the future.

If you are asked to give recommendations, again there should be no surprises. You need to be realistic and ensure they are clearly linked to your initial objective.

#### **Well-Constructed Paragraphs and Sentences**

Keep paragraphs to one theme. Use one idea in one sentence and keep the sentences as short as you can, without making them sound too simplistic. An average sentence should contain 15 to 20 words, but a good writer will vary the length and rhythm balancing longer sentences with shorter ones. Try and keep your paragraphs relatively short and use lists and bullet points to split information up.

You can make your main assertion then support it by starting with a strong opening sentence, followed by others that expand on the theme. Alternatively, build your argument to a climax so the final sentence is the strongest.

#### **Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations**

These cannot be written until after the main body has been written. So:

- Reread the whole report
- Rewrite any sections that can be improved
- Make a list of key points from each section
- Using new language, compose the first draft of the summary. Include the key points to sum-

marise the entire report

- Unless you are satisfied it is a clear and accurate summary, repeat the steps

#### **Writing conclusions:**

- Compare and cross check all your information, assure yourself it is valid
- Examine the terms of reference and check each has been addressed
- Test out your findings on others to gauge reactions
- Try and end on a positive and upbeat note

#### **Writing Recommendations:**

- Recommendations should follow any conclusions
- Can the recommendations be justified?
- Use bullet points to list recommendations

#### **Proof-Reading and Editing**

Once you are happy with your first draft, wait at least a few hours or even days, then re-read it. Does it flow? Are the headings clear? Is everything you have written valid? Also, don't be afraid to delete anything that is not strictly necessary, bearing in mind the objectives and terms of reference.

"There you are Eric", said the member, "all you need for a great report that I think will surprise the new manager".

"I'll need a bit of luck as well you know" replied Eric.

"Not if you follow my suggestions" replied the member.



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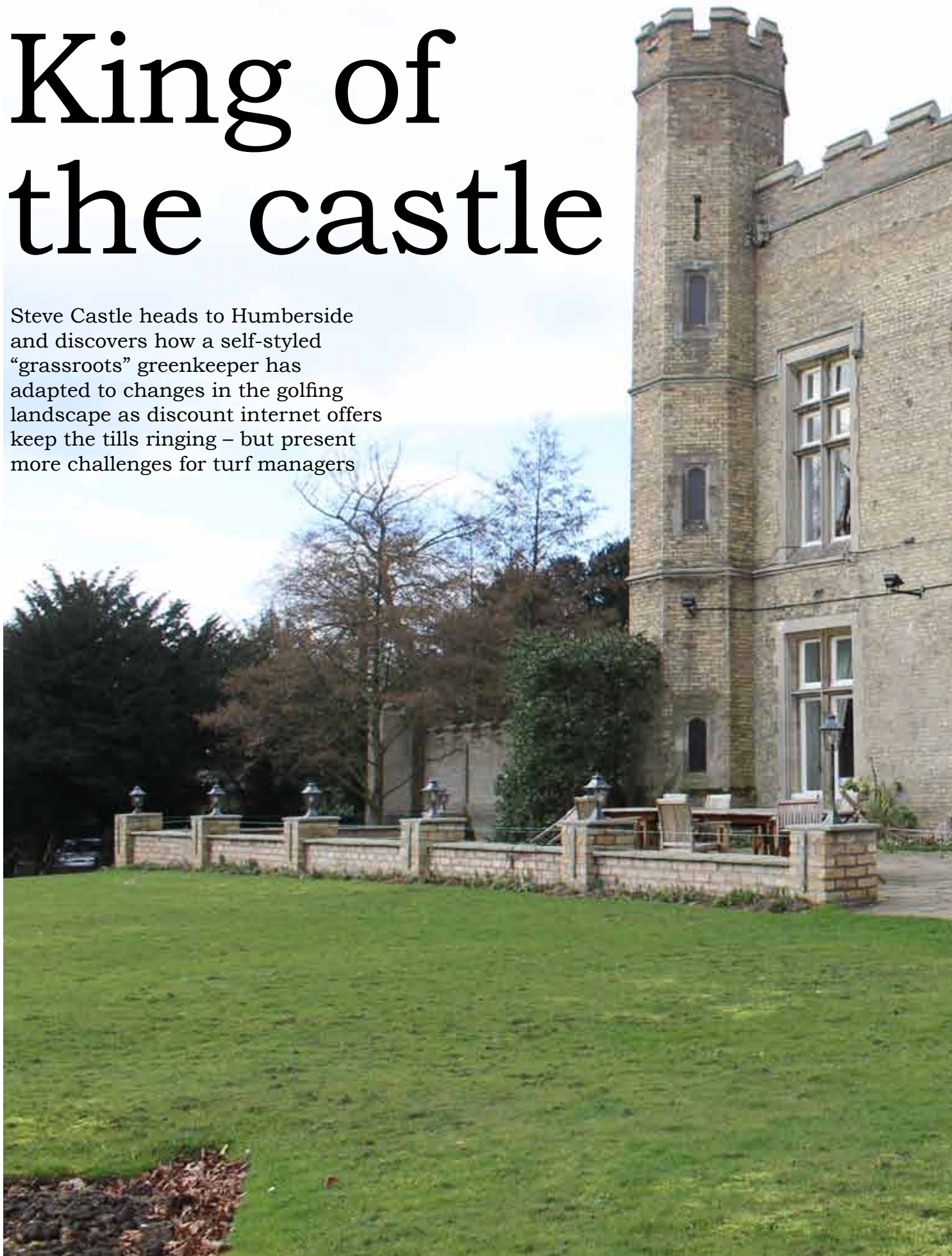
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# King of the castle

Steve Castle heads to Humberside and discovers how a self-styled “grassroots” greenkeeper has adapted to changes in the golfing landscape as discount internet offers keep the tills ringing – but present more challenges for turf managers





**PROFILE**

**Name:** Les Nelson LCGI  
**Role:** Head Greenkeeper  
**Born:** 22 April 1949  
**Handicap:** 19  
**Hobbies:** Looking after grandchildren, playing golf  
**Favourite Sports Team:** Selby Town FC

**It's fair to say that, unlike many of the courses I visit, golf is just one of the attractions at Cave Castle rather than the primary concern. The complex is in the small market town of South Cave around 15 miles from Hull, and boasts a striking hotel with 70 bedrooms. It hosts weddings and conferences plus an on-site health club – but there's also an 18-hole parkland golf course to maintain.**

When Head Greenkeeper Les Nelson joined Cave Castle in 1996, the club did not own a single buggy. Now they have 23, and the main reason behind this is the key to the facility's hugely increased popularity. In the last decade or so they started offering golf breaks, and the upturn in business has largely been due to 'word of mouth' recommendations as well as the introduction of a website.

Les explained: "The phrase 'golf break' can mean a huge group or just two people and we offer a selection of special offers and tailored packages. We really look after the golf breaks, they're met personally when they arrive and receive a gift. They must account for a large percentage of our income now, and two staff are employed to deal with enquiries and the organisation of the breaks from start to finish. The online traffic has been fantastic for us and it's amazing how much it's transformed the finances here over the last few years."

But how do the club's members (around 300 of them) react to this?

"We give the members the first two hours' tee times then the golf breaks usually tee off around 10am. At times, the course is so busy it's absolutely ridiculous. Members go out and play as soon as it's light – we've had members teeing off for a medal at 5am in the summer. They pick their cards up the night before then play the next morning.

"We do have a good size team – six including myself – to deal with this. The visitors are actually easier to work around than members because they have specific tee times and we know exactly how many of them are playing. Sometimes it's so busy you intend to cut all the fairways and only get nine done – so we do the other nine first thing the next day."

It's obvious that this must have created serious challenges for the team, and has hugely shaped their strategy – particularly regarding their attitude to the rough.

Les explained: "We're so busy we don't have time for people to be searching for golf balls. You tend to find that visitors will accept losing a ball out of bounds or in one of our ponds, but they won't accept losing a ball in the rough. So, we cut all the rough at an inch and a half and over time the new trees we recently planted will replace the rough as a hazard. Golf is a business and we need to get people round the course.

"I'm a grassroots greenkeeper at a grassroots course. I used to work at Boothferry Golf Club, a local municipal, and the course was in poor condition when I joined. When I came here it was exactly the same, in fact members were walking out and joining other clubs.

"Slowly but surely we've pulled it round, and the success of the golf breaks shows this. When I came here I said to the greenkeeping team 'my aim is that something improves every week'. It didn't matter how small it was. The plan was to put right what we already had before launching into new projects."

The course is partly on a sandbase and partly on clay, with limestone close to the surface. The greens are 50/50 meadowgrass and fescue. The team have thrown themselves into a series of projects – from tree planting to define several fairways to constructing paths to ensure the increasing number of buggy users were able to negotiate the course safely, and with minimum damage to the turf. What sort of budget has Les had to work with?

"We don't have a budget as such. I don't get every piece of machinery I ask for, but I get a straight answer – yes or no, and if it's no I get a list of reasons why in five minutes. There is no greens committee so it's just me, the owner Mel Hogarth and his son Steve who discuss things.

"That also means that decisions about the course – such as whether we close or not during a spell of bad weather – rest solely with me and I feel that's how it should be. If we have to ban buggies, even in the middle of summer which we've had to do over the last few years with these wet summers we've had, it's my call. The absence of buggies may mean a golf break does not wish to come but we always try and accommodate them at some other time. It's all for the benefit of the course.

"If we have a group of 20 coming on a golf break, and one of them needs to use a buggy, we can make the odd exception. But this does make it a bit of a tough juggling act because if the members see a visitor

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out on a buggy, they wonder why they can't have a buggy!

"Of course, the other way of looking at it is that's quite a big responsibility to have on your shoulders. But whatever I decide I've been backed to the hilt.

"For example, we don't have temporaries because I've never liked them. So we put two holes on each green in winter. We put one on the front of the green, maybe just a foot on, and one at the back. So when it's frosty we use the one that's only a foot on."

Les learned his trade at Oakdale Golf Club under Oakdale's former Head Greenkeeper Walter Heeles. Les showed me his 'Trainee's Log Book' – basically the 1978 version of CPD! It recorded in step by step fashion how he was schooled in everything from using tractors to pest control with Walter's signature alongside each module when it had been completed.

He went on to take his Level 2 and Level 3 in Sportsturf in the eighties, obtained his Level 4 in the nineties, and is now preparing to retire. So, what's changed during his time in greenkeeping?

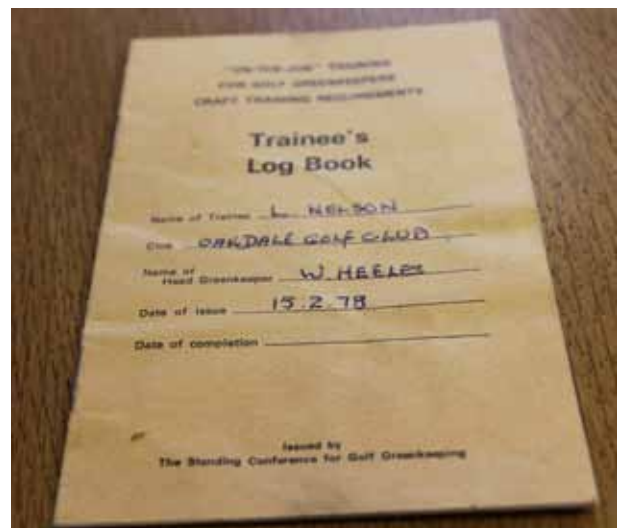
"There's definitely more pressure. Golfers are more demanding and play all year round. I think a major reason for that is the quality of clothing. You can buy good quality, waterproof winter gear now which you couldn't years ago.

"On the other side of the coin, it's easier to provide quality surfaces all year round now because machinery has improved so much. For example, the old trail gang mowers were horrible machines compared to modern day machinery.

"There is still a lot to do here, and hopefully someone new can take the course on to the next level and fulfil its potential. I'll miss greenkeeping, but I'm ready for retirement!"

ABOVE RIGHT: One of the new paths created for the increased use of buggies

BELOW: the 1978 version of CPD!







# Drawing boundaries for biostimulants

Dr Terry Mabbett explores biostimulants and casts his eye over seaweed and compost tea

**Behind the growth of biostimulants is a general agreement that the quality of above ground turf biomass is dependent on the health and vigour of the root system. For soil-structural, environmental, turf management and operational reasons, individual grass plants are unable to achieve full root growth potential. If the part you can't see isn't performing as well as it should, then the part you can see is not as good as it could be.**

Biostimulant is a relatively new 'buzzword' describing a disparate collection of substances and micro-organisms claiming to stimulate

plant growth and enhance turf quality.

Biostimulants are filling gaps left by old-fashioned pesticides and fertilisers as they become increasingly persecuted by EU legislators and shunned by some turf managers.

In a race to place wares on the biostimulant stall many which are clearly not biostimulant in function or effect are sneaking through.

Synthetic fertilisers and pesticides are just about the only things generally excluded from the politically acceptable collection of living and non-living things currently sheltering under the biostimulant umbrella.

## What is a biostimulant?

To my mind, a biostimulant is a chemical factor (it all comes down to chemistry) acting directly on and through the plant's metabolism, to enhance plant growth (also development in the case of agricultural crops) for the overall benefit of individual grass plants and turf.

The defining terms of a biostimulant should encompass the capacity to mitigate stress caused by physical factors (e.g. drought or flooding; extremes of temperature; drying winds etc) and biological agents (insect pests, plant pathogens and weeds).

Whether the prefix 'bio' should denote the origins of the prospective biostimulant is another matter.



**ABOVE:** The quality of above ground turf biomass is dependent on the health and vigour of the root system. Healthy soil core with a strong root mass shown here and **MAIN ABOVE:** Good visual and play experience is essentially dependent on the health and vigour of that part of the sward you cannot see (Pictures courtesy Syngenta) **RIGHT:** Underperformance of turf above ground is a strong indicator of problems below ground.



nitrogen fixing bacteria, soil conditioners, amino acids, humic acids, fulvic acids, minerals, plant nutrients, trace elements, activated nutrients, growth simulators, chelates and carbon rich organics.

### Seaweed and compost tea

Meaningful discussion on biostimulants clearly requires setting of boundaries and therefore deciding what's in and what's out. This can only be done by taking a closer look at prospective substances to see if they conform, pass the test and warrant that increasingly sought after and commercially valuable label.

What sort of active ingredients make a true biostimulant? A logical answer falls at the first hurdle because there are no generally accepted boundaries in this new, man-made collection of biological actives – it's still a grey area and open to individual interpretation.

Discussions around seaweed extract and compost tea, perhaps the two best known compositions, and containing many ingredients and actives some of which are biostimulants, best illustrates the non-definitive nature of the debate.

Seaweed is an alga containing significant amounts of alginic acid, highly beneficial substance which aids soil crumb formation which is clearly beneficial but not a direct biological property. Seaweed also contains plant hormones including auxin-like compounds and gibberellins. These appear to fit the bill as biostimulants but as a later focus shows these are actually plant growth regulators. Muddying the water auxin-like compounds found in seaweed but which are completely different to indolyl-acetic acid (IAA). Unlike natural and classical plant produced auxin (IAA) which stimulates shoot growth and inhibits root growth, these novel actives stimulate both shoot and root growth.

Compost tea is rich in nutrients. If you consider compost tea in its entirety to be a biostimulant then should you differentiate between its nutrients on the basis of origin? Some will have been an integral part of the plant tissue and released during decomposition, while others originating from fertiliser applications could have remained on the surface of the plant (root zone or leaves) as a fertiliser residue.

Compost tea is rich in microbes – bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes – used as 'friendly fire' against pests, pathogens and diseases when compost tea is applied as a foliar spray. The effect

Not in doubt is entry into the plant to deliver the effect, and not from an external position in the root zone or on the leaf surface.

In the absence of boundaries, the term biostimulant can be used to describe and justify just about anything and everything, including essential plant nutrients and even water which clearly stimulates grass growth during periods of drought.

Indeed a quick review of commercial products marketed as biostimulants reveals an 'all things to all men' collection of non-living (physical and chemical) and living (biological) things. These are plant hormones, enzymes, vitamins, yeasts and other 'friendly' fungi,



is biological but is directed against malign microbes and not via the plant's metabolism, and therefore not the action of a biostimulant.

But chemicals in compost tea which can enter plant to deliver a direct growth response will satisfy the criteria of a biostimulant. Compost tea contains humic substances, a general name covering a wide range of chemicals, such as fulvic acids, with their origins in the decomposition of plant and animal matter into humus. Larger humate molecules play an important role in soil crumb formation, an important property and function but not those of a true biostimulant. On the other hand, small molecules like humic acids and fulvic acids are thought to be vehicles and carriers of essential plant nutrients into the roots and as such are model biostimulants. Classic example is biostimulants applied in the run-up to winter, to enhance the availability and utilisation of tissue strengthening nutrients like potassium and calcium and the 'greening' benefits of iron.

**Setting boundaries for biostimulants**

In the absence of any formal boundaries the following is my take on the status of several key groups of factors which appear to be key and central to the biostimulant debate.

**Plant hormones**

Plant hormones immediately spring to mind when canvassing for the biostimulant or its 'bio' and 'stimulation' components. Plant hormones are used in agriculture and horticulture as plant growth regulators, targeted at plant development – fruiting, flowering and bulb initiation. But that dimension doesn't apply to turf grasses which are not expected to or required to flower and set seed.

Plants generally contain optimum concentrations of individual plant hormones which are in balance. Any turf treatment which pushes a plant hormone over its correct level could have an over-stimulatory effect. This may occur through direct effect of the hormone on its target and function (e.g. promotion of cell division or cell elongation), or an indirect effect due to creation of imbalance with other plant hormones. Even under normal conditions a plant is not all things to all plant organs. Natural plant auxins stimulate growth of stems and shoots but at the same concentration will inhibit root growth.

Perhaps more pertinent and practical is the effect of environ-



mental conditions on the production and behaviour of natural plant hormones. For instance, production of cytokinin in roots and its transport to shoots is known to be inhibited by flooding, drought and high temperature. Provided other hormones are maintained at correct levels, turf stressed by these factors could benefit from cytokinin treatments. In this case any positive response would qualify as biostimulation.

Clouding the issue is North American research showing effects obtained may depend on turf grass species. Application of gibberellic acid to Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) swards during cool fall (autumn) conditions provided a

**TOP:** Biostimulants can play a vital role in keeping grass green and 'mean' during the harsh winter months.

**SECOND TOP:** Good-looking and playing greens in February, perhaps the 'leanest' month of the year for managed turf. Measured use of biostimulants will have played an important part in coming through winter in this condition.

**RIGHT ABOVE:** Seaweed extract is a 'treasure trove' of beneficial ingredients and actives including biostimulants

**RIGHT BELOW:** Clovers (white clover and bird's foot trefoil shown here) possess powerful nitrogen fixing properties via symbiotic relationships with nodule-forming Rhizobium bacteria. However, their weed status in managed turf far outweighs any biostimulant boost from the nitrate thus produced





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very positive growth effect, although the same treatment applied to St Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) under identical conditions had a negative and even toxic effect.

**‘Friendly’ fungi and bacteria**

Should any living organism claiming to boost and benefit grass growth be called a biostimulant? That will depend on whether action is direct (i.e. via the grass plant metabolism) or indirect, e.g. through the suppression of other potentially pathogenic microbes. *Trichoderma* fungi may antagonise *Microdochium nivale* (causal pathogen of Fusarium patch) to suppress the disease but are not acting directly through the plant.

Nitrogen fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium*) colonising clover roots conform more closely to a biostimulant model. By the same token mycorrhizal fungi in association with grass roots and especially endomycorrhizal fungi are biostimulants.

Clovers are important beneficial components of agricultural grass swards but overall effect on turf is negative. Biostimulation of white clover (*Trifolium repens*) or bird’s foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) prostrate, creeping and damaging weeds of professional turf, particularly during periods of moisture stress, far outweighs any marginal benefits of nitrogen containing compounds ‘leaking’ into the root zone or nitrate becoming available when clover plant material decomposes in situ.

**Pesticide turned biostimulant**

Pesticide compendiums are perhaps the last place you would look for a biostimulant but tucked away in the many thousands of commercial products developed over the last half century is at least one fungicide which clearly has biostimulant properties and model ones too.

Fosetyl-aluminium described as a phosphonate (a derivative of phosphorous acid) and discovered in the 1970’s was developed as a foliar applied systemically acting fungicide to specifically control Oomycete fungi like *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*. These highly aggressive plant pathogens have since been grouped with the algae and are re-branded as fungus-like pathogens.

Fosetyl-aluminium caused confusion from the start because it provided excellent control of some species (e.g. *Phytophthora fragariae* causing red core of strawberry) but did virtually nothing against others such as *Phytophthora infestans*

the causal pathogen of late blight of potato.

Scientists eventually discovered that fosetyl-aluminium was not a classic fungicide acting entirely and directly against the pathogen.

A significant part of its perceived ‘fungicidal’ activity was achieved by triggering an anti-fungal response in the plant host tissues.

On this basis fosetyl-aluminium has ‘5-star’ biostimulant status, even though commercial products containing the active ingredient have approval for use as fungicides and are described as such. There is nothing ‘cut and dried’ or ‘black and white’ about biostimulants.



1. *Rhizobium* bacteria form a symbiotic relationship with clover, but which family of plants?
2. What group of plants contain alginic acid
3. To which group of plant chemicals does cytokinin belong?
4. From which of these soil fractions is fulvic acid derived?
5. Which of the following fungi is known to antagonise *Microdochium nivale* and suppress *Fusarium* patch disease?
6. Which fungicide is known to act by triggering an anti-fungal response in the host plant under attack?
7. Which of these grass species is used for managed turf in the tropics and sub tropics?

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**Quiz: [goo.gl/RPpDN4](http://goo.gl/RPpDN4)**



**TOP.** White clover is an important component species of agricultural grass swards but a highly competitive and seriously damaging weed of managed turf

**SECOND TOP.** Bird’s foot trefoil is an important component species of agricultural grass swards but a highly competitive and seriously damaging weed of managed turf

**INSET LEFT.** Research with subtropical and tropical turf grasses showed the response and benefit from treatment with plant hormone (gibberellic acid) varied markedly with turf grass species

**LEFT & BELOW.** *Trichoderma* and other antagonistic fungi may help stall early infection with *Microdochium nivale* (left), and subsequently ameliorate the amount damage caused by *Fusarium* patch disease (below). The antagonistic fungus is this context is a biological control agent and not a biostimulant (Picture courtesy Syngenta).



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

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

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

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

We continue to welcome photos taken on digital cameras. The images will be displayed at a

16:9 ratio. If you are taking your shot on a mobile phone, please ensure it's taken on the highest resolution setting possible.

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

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

The closing date for entries is Friday 18 July 2014.

**BIGGA GOLF PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2014 TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1 Open to BIGGA members only.
- 2 Photos of the course members work at, or a course they have visited, will be considered. Entries will only be considered if the entrant states what course the photograph shows.
- 4 Each entrant is limited to a maximum of 5 entries ie 5 different photographs
- 5 All photography entered may be used in a variety of publications.
- 6 Images to be high resolution and at 16:9 landscape (actual print size 172mm wide x 100mm high at 300dpi). Only images taken with a three megapixel camera or higher will be considered.
- 7 Entries are via email to [comps@bigga.co.uk](mailto:comps@bigga.co.uk) with transfer methods advised for large files. "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2014" to be listed in the subject header.
- 8 The best 24 images will be provided for members to give their views on via an online survey. The survey will be linked to through the BIGGA website and will be open to votes within the Members' Area only. The leading 12 will feature in the 2015 BIGGA calendar.
- 9 The winning entry will receive an iPad and a framed copy of their shot.
- 10 BIGGA reserves the right to reject any entry if it is considered inappropriate.
- 11 The closing date for the competition is Friday 18 July 2014.



# Cutting edge

Ian Sumpter, Toro's European Training Manager, explores setting up a mower and asks: how crucial is cutting unit adjustment? He puts forward the view that mower set-up and maintenance has the single, greatest impact on how a golf course looks and plays

**Do we value the importance of cutting unit adjustment as much as we should? Or put another way: as greenkeepers, how much of our time is dedicated to the cutting units?**

I want to examine just a few of the many variables that need to be considered when talking about precision engineering like modern cutting units and achieving the quality of cut our customers have come to expect.

In the early Eighties, when I started my journey in this industry, things seemed much simpler.

The weather appeared so predictable, with four seasons, warm summers and cold winters.

Heights of cut were more predictable, one height in the summer, one in winter and never the twain should meet. Whatever your views on climate change, weather patterns are changing, which means we in turn need to adapt to our ever-changing environment.

Another big change is raised expectations – from everybody! In the Seventies, by mid season, football pitches even in the top flight clubs would feature bare mud in high traffic areas, something totally

unacceptable today. Now we see training academies with multiple pitches that are manicured to the highest standards – an example of how demands are high on groundsman and greenkeepers alike.

So how do we meet these expectations? Do we value the importance in cutting unit adjustment to help us achieve these expectations?

It is my belief consistent and proper mower set-up and maintenance has the single, greatest impact on how a golf course looks and plays.

We work with so many variables, which alter from machine to



## CHECKLIST

- Check tyre pressures are in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and turf conditions. Verify all tyres are correct and set the same.
- Check for any unit compensation spring and that they are set correctly. If working with Toro fairway units, tighten the hex nuts on the front end of the spring rod until the compressed length of the spring is 12.7 cm on Reelmaster 5410, 5 inch cutting units or 15.9 cm on Reelmaster 5510 & 5610, 7 inch cutting units. All units need to be set the same.
- On the Toro RM5010 Series units check the R clip is located in last hole to allow the spring to move freely. The forward hole is used for removal of the unit and will keep the spring depressed making the unit easier to fit back onto the swing arm.
- Check lift arm counterbalance spring setting to increase or decrease counterbalance on the cutting unit. Each setting on the RM5010 Series adds or subtracts 2.3kg to the units.
- Check for wear limits of the reel by measuring from the spindle to the outside of the reel. Manufacturers will list wear diameters and recommended replacement diameter.
- Ensure units are sharp with no visible damage to the bedknife or cylinder.
- Check the unit is on cut, Toro recommend light contact, pinch paper one way cut paper the other. Do not be tempted to tighten the bedknife to reel adjustment at the slightest hint of a poor quality cut. This is a standard error and will not solve the issue and could lead to further problems
- Grease all grease points being careful not to over grease and wipe away excess grease.
- Finally check height of cut is the same on all units.

machine, location to location, day to day and so on.

We therefore need to be able to understand and react to these variables.

Although mower technology has moved on dramatically over the past 100 years, the principles of a cylinder contacting a bedknife remains the same since Edwin Beard Budding produced the first mower. Those very same principles still rely on a sharp, well-maintained and correctly adjusted unit.

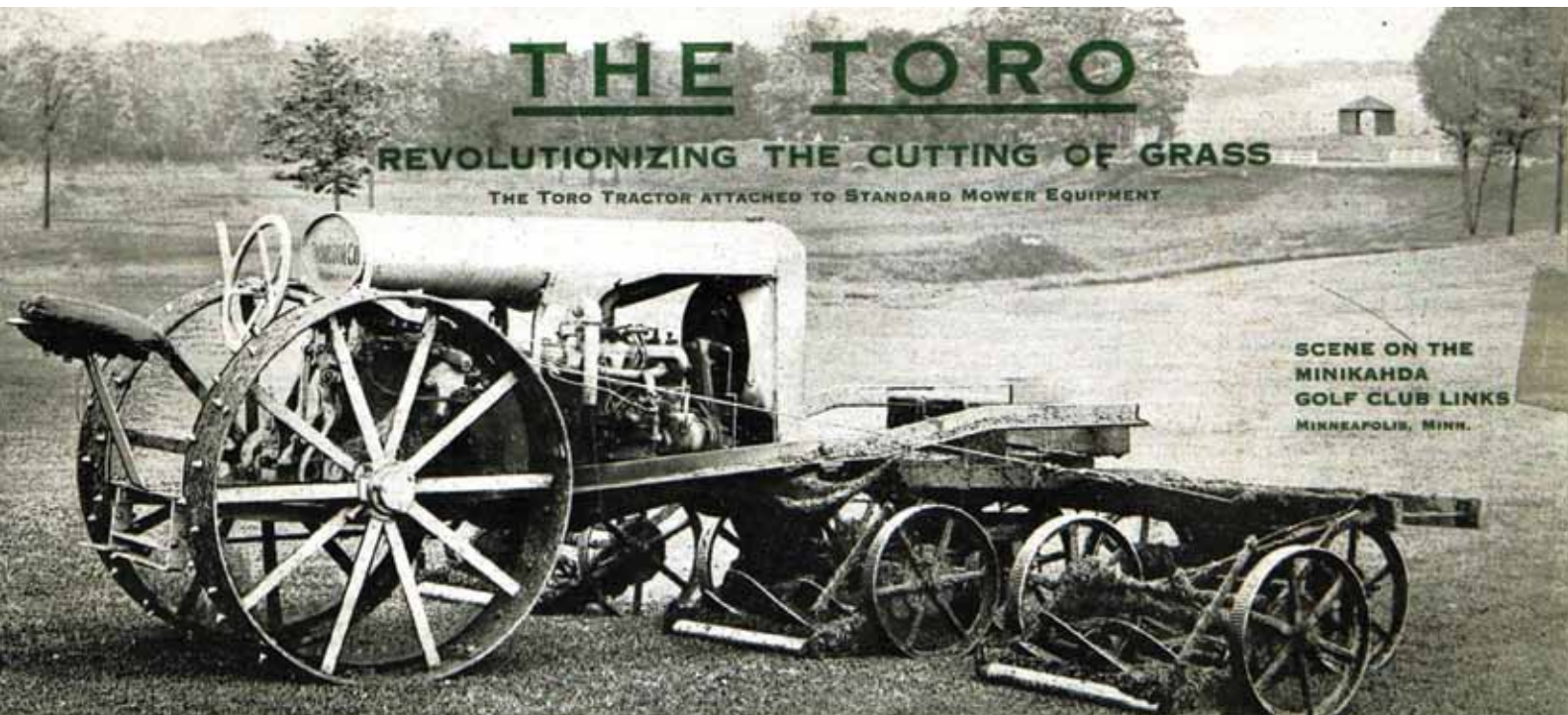
It's also important to consider that poor maintenance and incorrect set-up may impact on a

number of other turf operations we carry out to maintain the playing surface.

In some cases poorly set up and maintained cutting units may lead to damage to the turf. This in turn will mean the turf becomes susceptible to disease.

The result is a need for additional chemical application, fertiliser, scarifying, coring and top dressing, all of which comes at an additional cost in time and materials.

As well as good unit and machine maintenance, it is also important to remember turf conditions. Mowing equipment cannot remedy a turf



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condition. The solution to achieving a good quality playing surface with good aftercut appearance is maintaining the partnership between the turf and the machine. The machine needs to be adjusted so that turf and machine can work together.

Before we get onto the turf, we need to consider what roller or bedknife to choose. Rollers such as Wiehle rollers give less support than a full roller and allow the unit to work more aggressively. This will help the bedknife gather and push the grass plant into the path of the reel blade. However in certain turf or in certain weather conditions we may need to give the front of the unit more support. Solid rollers could be an option although this can cause stragglers as the grass is pushed down and passes under the bedknife rather than being gathered up into the path of the blade. In these cases an option is to use shouldered Wiehle rollers or inserts to achieve the same additional support, which can be removed easily when not required.

Once we have the correct roller we need to consider the choice of bedknife, which is dependent on the height of cut we want to achieve. As an example, a Toro Greens DPA unit with a standard bedknife will allow us to cut down to an effective height of cut of 3.2mm. If the height of cut is likely to go below 3.2mm we would need to consider a micro-cut bedknife. The use of a micro-cut bedknife gives us the potential to go down to as low as 1.6mm (although I don't recommend this as the norm).

At this point we need to consider

the difference between bench set and effective height of cut and how this will impact on our height-of-cut setting. The difference between bench set and effective height of cut will depend on factors such as agronomy, weight of units and weather. Additionally some hand mowers are more aggressive as they have front bias so the effective height of cut will be lower than a TriFlex ride-on set at the same height.

Different manufacturers have best set-up practice for their own cutting units and additional set-up such as making sure rollers are parallel.

With Toro DPA units it may be necessary to reposition the spacers on the front roller to maintain the recommended bedknife attitude. It's always recommended that you familiarise yourself with the manufacturer's information relating to unit set-up, which can be found in the operator's manual or service manual.

We know why the attitude/aggressiveness of the bedknife is important to the mowing operation, gathering the turf and placing it into the path of the blade.

But when was the last time your bedknife attitude was checked? Are all three, five or seven units the same attitude?

Have you altered the height of cut and not checked what has happened to the bedknife aggressiveness?

You can easily check the angle of the bedknife by using a protractor on a straight rule across both rollers, then on the bedknife. Take the

first measurement away from the second to give you the angle.

When you have chosen the correct machine with the correct cutting unit configuration for your turf conditions, including number of blades, rollers and bedknife, it is important to think about ongoing maintenance of your cutting units.

Of course this only scratches the surface of correct unit set-up. It does not address the many variables that are involved in machinery set-up to correct quality-of-cut issues. If you're not already doing so, this article gives you some ideas of what to check when setting up your cutting units. Many of the main turf industry manufacturers deliver comprehensive training on this subject. For further information contact your representative, whether they are manufacturing grinders and associated equipment, or a Turfcare machinery supplier.

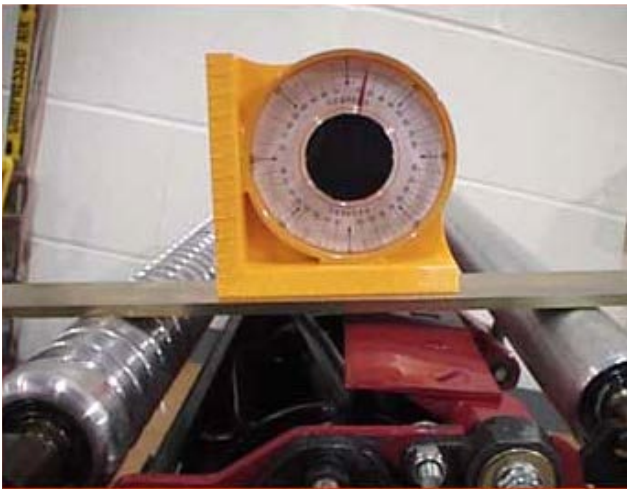
## about the author



After studying for a National Certificate in Horticulture, Ian was offered a job as a groundsman and attended Brinsbury College, Sussex studying for a City & Guilds in sports turf management. In 1995 he left the industry and went on to gain my teaching qualification in physical education.

In 2002 he was employed by Lely, the Toro distributor for the UK & Ireland, as their Turf division training manager and later service manager. In 2011 The Toro Company employed him as the Toro European training manager EMEA.





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# Changing times

Peter Billings has been a Course Manager at The Nottinghamshire for many years but has a rather unique experience of having worked for four different owners. Laurence Pithie met up with Peter to gain an insight into what these changes have meant to members, and the greenkeeping team







**Peter Billings, whose father was Head Greenkeeper at Chevin GC in Derbyshire, had a keen interest in golf from an early age. He was Head Greenkeeper at Ruddington Grange GC by the tender age of 21 and played golf to a handicap of six. His skills soon gained the attention of the new owners of nearby Cotgrave Place (as it was formerly known) six miles east of Nottingham city centre.**

Peter was offered the opportunity in 1989 to finalise the construction, grow-in and then manage this 27 hole parkland course which opened for play two years later.

He held this position until 2005, working under the ownership of American Golf (AG-UK) from 1996. During this time, the club was extended to 36 holes, giving members the choice of two first class golf courses.

After a three year spell in property development, Peter returned to Cotgrave Place in 2008 as Course Manager. By then, Crown Golf were the third new owners, having acquired the course from AG-UK. In 2010, the club was again sold, this time to a 'local' business consortium before being bought out by the present owner, Alan Hardy, a year later.

During this time the club was renamed The Nottinghamshire and has undergone numerous changes both on and off the course. In his 22 year tenure as Course Manager, Peter has worked at the same course, but under four different owners, each with differing objectives.

#### **A major step forward**

Although each change of ownership ran relatively smoothly, they were worrying times for employees as job security can never be guaranteed.

Since around 40% of golf courses within the UK are 'commercially' owned, the buying and selling of golf clubs is becoming more common. To find out more I asked Peter for his thoughts on these periods of uncertainty and how he managed these changes.

"The lead up to the first change early in 1996 was a worrying time for myself and my colleagues because it was becoming more obvious that finances were an issue. We were operating out of old farm buildings at the time and having to make do with temporary repairs to equipment. At one stage when we couldn't afford any more diesel, we managed to syphon off a few gallons from an old excavator to enable us to cut greens and tees. When I think back, these were tough times.

"When American Golf came knocking at the door it was like Christmas. They were fairly impressed with what we produced, working with very little, so they were optimistic about what we could achieve given a reasonable level of resources and input.

"Although I probably didn't realise it at the time, it proved to be a turning point for myself and the club. I was given the opportunity to develop and improve the course and implement plans, procedures and a budget in an organised and structured manner.

"This was an exciting time and two years later we were given the funds to build another nine holes, bringing us up to 36, while also moving our maintenance operation into larger converted premises."

#### **Dark clouds on the horizon**

Peter continued: "Up until 2003, we had good stability in virtually every area of management within the club while members' playing rights were guaranteed. The level of resource in terms of equipment,





staffing and materials was sufficient to deliver a good product and there was a good flow of information and communication to keep members informed of what was happening at their club.

“Staff training was working well and although we were a little distant from the other 20 or so clubs in the group which were predominantly in the south east, we felt very much part of a large organisation.

“Early in 2003, AG-UK was acquired by Goldman Sachs and although things carried on in much the same manner, all expenditure had to be justified several times over.

“Most, if not all capital expenditure ceased and there was a slight unease again when it was made known that the group was likely to be sold off.”

### A temporary change in direction

“At the start of 2005 Crown Golf acquired AG-UK and for both club and staff, the transition was relatively smooth. However, funding remained tight.

Fortunately for me Les Howkins MG, who took on the role of Course Manager for three years at Cotgrave

Place, was heading to London and the job became vacant again.

“This time I was interviewed along with several other candidates and fortunately I was reappointed. Les left Cotgrave in good condition and I began to implement other procedures to add to those already in place. It was easy to pick up the pace again after a quick update on products and equipment.

“A large landfill operation was underway on nine holes, plus raising the range by a substantial height. This improved the course and helped fund improvements to the clubhouse. Although the level of funding could have been better, staffing levels remained the same and I was back on familiar territory, in a more stable environment.”

### All change again

“By late 2009, Crown Golf started to consolidate their business in the south and it was only a matter of time before the club was sold.

This time we were more apprehensive. It was unlikely the club would be bought by another management company since all previous sales had gone to individual buyers.

“A Nottingham-based business consortium purchased the club in

2010 and changed its name to ‘The Nottinghamshire’ with a new image and branding.

“There was a general feeling of optimism within the club once the new owners presented their plans and objectives for the course and clubhouse to a meeting of 200 members.

Time would tell whether or not this could be delivered since a significant level of investment would be required.

The routing of the ‘Open’ course also changed which meant that the 9th became the 18th and finished in full view of the clubhouse.’

**TOP LEFT:** Recently built lake, complete with island drop zone  
**INSET ABOVE:** Transplanted trees by Civic trees to protect new back tee  
**ABOVE:** Astro-turf section at back of 14th tee  
**TOP RIGHT:** Demanding tee shot from the 4th  
**RIGHT:** Cut away section of 5th green showing profile  
**RIGHT BOTTOM:** 1st green and lake timbers 24 years later

Turf Master One Ltd is grateful to Peter Billings and The Nottinghamshire for their support in producing this article.



### Moving forward

Listening to Peter's account of his experiences, I was eager to find out what happened next. He explained: "After one year of minimal activity, Alan Hardy became the sole proprietor and almost immediately we stepped up a gear.

"The club was to become a 'destination' and more of a commercial business which would focus on weddings, parties and conferences.

"A new MD, Bill Mackenzie was hired to drive the business and I now liaise with Bill on a daily basis while meeting the owner as and when there are course issues or development plans to discuss; the latter being significant.

"The club has gone from strength to strength, increasing both membership and visitor play. Significant changes have been made to the clubhouse to meet the new objectives and it is now a modern club – it's buzzing.

"Since 2011 we have built eight tees, extended or created four lakes, several bunkers, new paths, transplanted numerous trees with a tree spade, altered one green and re-landscaped the side of a stream.

"This has had a positive impact

on the club and the members are blessed with continuing investment.

"We now have a Trilby tour event which is featured on Sky so the club is well recognised in the East Midlands and beyond.

"The club are also proud to have been selected as hosts for the English Girls' Open Championship in 2016."

### Summary

I asked Peter to summarise his time at The Nottinghamshire.

"The key objective for the current owner is to deliver quality - on time. It is my responsibility to deliver that on the course.

"We have regular business meetings to ensure profitability and customer satisfaction and there is a good flow of information.

"I need to inform my bosses on agronomy matters while understanding their business needs. It's a two way process, learning from each other.

So what advice would he give others faced with ownership change?

"Don't be afraid of change, it may turn out for the better.

"Embrace it and put forward your ideas, be proactive, implement effectively and be professional."

### about the author



#### Laurence Pithie MG

Laurence Pithie MG runs his own training and consultancy company, Turf Master One Ltd. With 42 years in the golf industry, Laurence has used his experience and knowledge to produce a number of recent 'case study' articles.



# Luke who's talking



**TORO**

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Luke Turner, from Willingdon Golf Club, won a trip to America

when he triumphed in the annual competition last October. Here he recounts a fantastic seven weeks of dodging polar vortexes, intense studying and gaining an appreciation of American sport

**As the plane taxied from the terminal early on another rainy January morning being the 25th winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award finally felt like it had become a reality.**

The day before I left the UK, the weather forecasters described north eastern USA as being gripped by a 'polar vortex'! I thought this may have been American over dramatisation of a slight cold snap.

But after being stuck at Detroit airport and having my connecting flight massively delayed because my luggage was stuck as the luggage hold door was frozen shut it was clear that they were serious!

Finally after a second flight, a bus journey, a walk through the snow and the coldest temperatures I have ever experienced, I was at the Comfort Inn, my home for the next seven weeks.

The following morning I was up and about at normal work time as

over breakfast I was keen to meet some of the other guys on the course. I got chatting with a few of them and was soon offered a lift to school by Pat Simmons, a greenkeeper from Salem Country Club. Pat and I became good friends over the length of my trip and he, along with two other greenkeepers called Nate Rand and Willem Geldenhuys showed me around, introduced me to American sports, and guided me through my winter stay in New England.

Following the eventual journey it was fairly easy to settle into a routine. Our days at UMASS were split into four two hour classes covering a range of topics specific to golf course turf management.

Plant physiology, weed science, soil science, entomology and pathology formed the backbone of the course. As well as our core subject professors we had a number of additional lecturers. Current and retired course superintendents,



a golf course architect, an arbor consultant and a USGA agronomist lectured regularly about their speciality areas.

Exams and tests were daily features and evening revision sessions in the hotel were commonplace. As the course progressed the revision sessions became more intense as did the friendly rivalry over exam results between the group of us which now included Australian greenkeeper Luke Jorgensen. This playful rivalry really pushed us all to get the most out of the course, while our friendships were also being cemented on evenings out, day trips and weekends away.

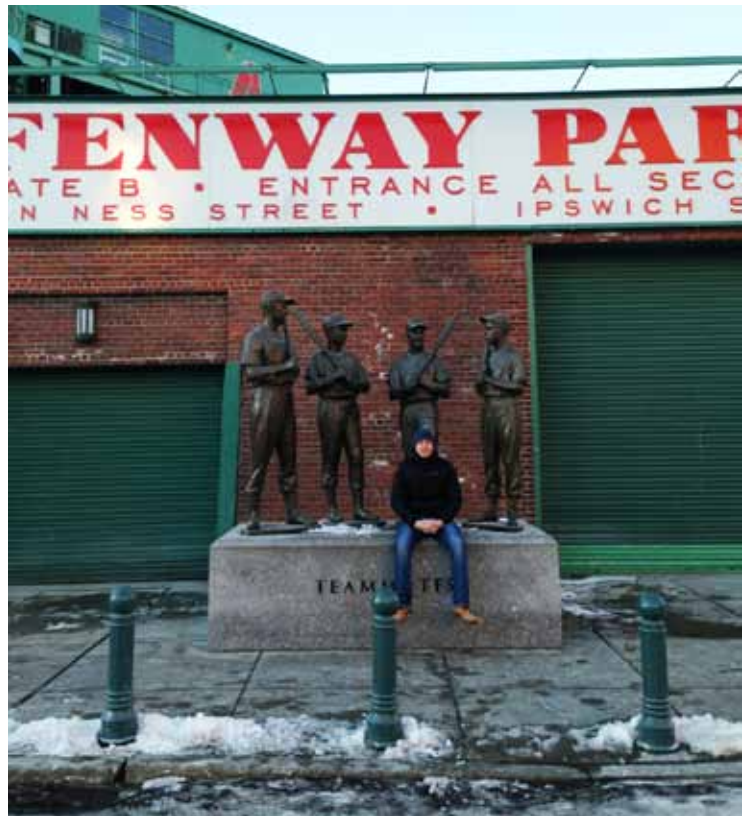
At the beginning of February I was scheduled to attend the GCSAA show in Orlando but the weather had other ideas. I arrived at the airport in Connecticut in plenty of time aware that a winter storm was expected the following day, but it arrived early and ruined any chances I had of making it down to the show and warmer weather for a few days.

I was sat in airport departures as around two feet of snow fell in as many hours. It continued to snow for the following two days and school was cancelled - even the awesome New England winter weather infrastructure couldn't safely cope with the storm. I was truly disappointed to miss the show but I'm confident I'll make it to one in future.

Although not able to make Florida a group of us did spend a day in Boston and a weekend in Rhode Island. We watched a Boston Celtics basketball match, visited Fenway Park and then spent a day exploring coastal Rhode Island.

The weeks passed by fairly quickly in a blur of revision, exams and evenings out watching college sport. We became regulars at the university basketball and ice hockey games where with Pat's guidance I learned that hockey culture and rugby culture are not too dissimilar.

Graduation day was upon us



before we knew it, bags were packed and goodbyes said after what was the most incredible seven weeks of my life. Winter School 2014 will certainly stick in my memory for a very long time and the skills and information learnt will remain useful and with me throughout my career.

The final days of my trip were spent in Minneapolis visiting Toro's headquarters and factory facilities. The tours were outstanding and it was such an eye opening experience to see behind the scenes of the machinery we all use everyday.

Every person we spoke with in and around the facilities had such pride in the jobs they do and the equipment they produce for us, the end user. I only had four days in Minneapolis and it was soon time to pack up and return home. My time in the city had flown by and my whole trip was coming to an end.

I really would like to thank Toro,

Lely and BIGGA for organising the award and the trip. Academically it was fantastic and I made some life-long friends and excellent contacts along the way.

I cannot emphasise enough how much I recommend any greenkeeping students to apply for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award and experience the trip I've just returned from. If you do go just remember, when you think you have packed enough jumpers, pack more!



**TORO.**

Remember the closing date for 2014 nominations is Friday 23 May. See the BIGGA website for more details.



# Managing pesticide storage

Another chance for you to earn BASIS points as Graham Paul looks at the safe storage of pesticides

**For those whose job requires them to use pesticides, the chemical store is an important feature of the working environment.**

Since the Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) came into force in 1986 it became a legal requirement to store chemicals in a secure and safe manner that will not harm animals, the environment or pollute water. Storage of pesticides within the demands of the regulations can be achieved in a variety of ways; the chemical store can be a purpose-built structure, either standing alone from the rest of the maintenance facilities or as a sectioned-off part of a building. Alternatively, pesticides can be stored in special secure cabinets that have been adapted for the pur-

pose, or manufactured as chemical storage units.

A permanent purpose-built store must be constructed according to the specifications contained in the regulations. It must be resistant to fire, capable of containing leakage and spills and it must provide dry, well ventilated, frost-free conditions for storage that is secure from unauthorised access. The regulations relating to fire resistance state that materials used in the construction of chemical stores must be resistant to fire for at least 30 minutes. However, this does not include the roof. Retention of leakage and spills is usually achieved with the use of bund walls that physically surround the storage area and are sealed to prevent the egress of liquid products. The capacity con-





tained by the bund must be able to accommodate a volume of leakage or spillage greater than the capacity of the store; normally 110% of the total contents but in environmentally sensitive areas this needs to be 185%.

When the COPR came into force, many pesticide users found they did not have chemical storage facilities that complied with the new regulations and some chose to purchase a steel cabinet specifically designed to comply. One of the first such cabinets offered for this purpose was the 'Chemsafe' manufactured by Horstein Farmery. They initially produced two sizes a 200L/200kg model and a 70L/70kg 'mini Chemsafe'. Today there are many different chemical storage cabinets available – you can even find them on Amazon!

Some organisations with a lesser budget opted to convert a chest freezer or other type of metal container to provide storage. This is still a viable solution, provided

All chemical stores must be labelled with a general hazard sign to alert emergency services of the potential risks involved in dealing with incidents such as fire or security breaches in the vicinity of the store. The Hazard triangle sign must appear on the entrance to the store and all doors leading to the outside. 'No smoking' or 'Smoking and Naked Flames Forbidden' signs should also be displayed on the exterior door of the store. This applies to purpose built stores as well as cabinets.

The siting of chemical stores is critical to safe operation and for purpose-built stores requires consultation in the planning stage with local emergency services, the local authority planning department and the Environment Agency (EA) or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Scotland.

Some general rules on store location apply to all types of store; it must be at least four metres away from combustible materials such as



**BASIS**

**Left:** No smoking sign, danger sign and an Armourgard Chemical Transport box

**Top right:** How NOT to enter a storage cabinet

**Below:** Special boxes can be secured in a vehicle for transport

**Right:** Wetting agent pellets do not belong in a chemical store

**Main images:** The chemical store at Thorndon Park Golf Club



it meets the specifications published by the HSE in the guidelines AIS16 (See Ref. 1) Purpose built storage cabinets may have a sump or an internal bund to retain leakage and spillage below the level of the shelves on which the products are stored.

Converted chest freezers and other cabinets that do not have a suitable steel lining can be fitted with an internal steel tray to act as a bund located below the product shelf. Alternatively the whole freezer or cabinet can be stood inside a bunded area or in a steel tray bund. For all types of cabinet storage, whether purpose-built or converted, the capacity of the spillage sump or bund must be at least 110% of the capacity of all products stored within it.

flammable liquids, piles of timber, hay, straw and fertilisers. It must also be sited at least four metres away from domestic dwellings and potential sources of ignition such as welding or grinding machinery.

Stores should not be sighted where they might contaminate water such as wells, drains, water-courses, and areas that are liable to flooding. Most of these criteria will be considered during the consultation stages when a new permanent store is being planned but some additional rules apply to the siting of cabinet stores. They must not be located in domestic dwellings, offices, retail areas, staffrooms or places where food is prepared or consumed. Also, the access to a store must not be through any such area listed above.

Pesticides should never be carried in the cabs of tractors, self-propelled sprayers or other vehicles. For transportation, vehicles must have a floor-to-ceiling bulkhead separating the driver and other occupants from the load space. Alternatively a small quantity of pesticide concentrates may be carried on vehicles in specially constructed secure cabinets e.g. Transchem' box

These special containers must be kept locked when the vehicle is unattended and all contents must be returned to a chemical store within 24 hours.

### Operating a chemical store

Make sure that staff understand the need to wear protective clothing when accessing a chemical store.

All staff working in the vicinity of a store should be trained on how to deal with an emergency situation such as a fire or spillage. It is advisable to provide equipment for dealing with leakage or spills and this should include a brush and shovel, absorbent granules and impermeable containers to accommodate any leaking packs.

Keep the store tidy, removing waste cardboard packaging and maintain an accurate stock list. Remove any items that have been placed in the store that do not need to be in there, e.g. wetting agents. They occupy vital space that might be needed for pesticide products and cause unnecessary exposure of staff to potential contamination.

Store powders above liquids to avoid contamination by leakage and keep products away from direct sunlight but ensure that there is adequate lighting to enable staff to read labels etc.

Carry out a regular check on the contents of the store to ensure that products are used in rotation and, most importantly, that products no longer approved are earmarked for disposal. Use a marker pen to write on the label "DO NOT USE". When product approval is withdrawn there is normally a specified 'use-up' date, so that the user can avoid unnecessary disposal costs. Ask your chemical supplier to keep you informed when products they have supplied are scheduled to be withdrawn.

### Special instructions for storing gassing compounds used for the control of vertebrate pests such as moles

These can only be stored by someone who has been trained and certificated for using gassing

compounds. These products are extremely dangerous to humans and animals when they become moist, as they give off highly toxic phosphine gas. The safest way to store gassing compounds is to keep them in their original packaging, tightly closed inside a small, locked metal container that is clearly labelled "Gassing Compound - DO NOT OPEN" This locked metal container is then stored inside a locked chemical store.

### Disposal of empty pesticide containers.

Empty pesticide containers should never be re-used for any purpose unless it is to replace a damaged or leaking container of exactly the same product. Always consult the product label for advice on disposal. Make sure the container is completely empty before rinsing.

Triple rinsing is normally recommended as a thorough rinse but some viscous formulations may require more. Carry out the rinsing as soon as the container is emptied and before topping up the spray tank with water to achieve the desired level. Rinse the cap and seals as well as any contamination on the outer surface of the main container and add the rinsings to the spray tank.

Some containers are not suitable for rinsing (for example, paper sacks and cardboard cartons) these should be emptied completely and stored securely, as if they still contained the pesticide, until they can be disposed of through a licensed waste-disposal contractor. Rinsed empty containers should be stored upright in a separate, secure, weatherproof area; away from stored pesticides or in a separate part of a chemical store room, until they can be sent to a licenced waste contractor for disposal. Ask your chemical supplier for details of waste disposal services they can supply.

### Special instructions for gassing compounds.

Always read the label for specific instructions on disposal. In general, you must not rinse or clean empty containers that hydrogen cyanide gassing powders or Aluminium, magnesium or zinc phosphides have been supplied or kept in; because of the dangerous gases they give off when they come into contact with moisture. Handle and store empty flasks as if they still contained the product and dispose of them through a licenced waste contractor.







## SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points by visiting the 'BASIS Points Article' section on the Sherriff Amenity website – [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com) and answer the questions correctly.

1) What capacity of leakage or spillage ( % of total stored contents ) must a purpose-built store be able to retain when sited in an area that is not environmentally sensitive?

- 185%
- 100%
- 110%
- 90%

2) When deciding where to locate a new pesticide storage cabinet, how far should it be away from a mower cylinder grinding machine?

- 10 metres
- at least 4 metres
- 3 metres
- 8 to 10 metres

3) Who is legally allowed to store gassing compounds for mole control on a golf course?

- The Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager
- The Club Secretary or Club Manager
- Anyone who holds PA1 & PA2 or PA6 NPTC certificates
- Any person who has been trained, and who holds a certificate, to use gassing compounds.

4) Which of the following statements is true regarding converted chest freezers?

- They are not suitable for storing pesticides.
- They may be used for storing pesticides providing they meet the specifications laid out in the guidelines issued by the HSE (Agriculture Information Sheet No 16)
- They can only be used for storing fungicides
- They may be used as temporary stores for pesticides, provided they are painted red.

5) How long may pesticides be stored in a vehicle transport box?

- 24 hours
- One week
- up to 1 month
- four days





Jonathan Harmer,  
Managing Director  
at Farmura Ltd,  
writes for GI

# Bacteria, fungi and life in the soil

**Bacteria, Fungi and life in the soil are suddenly mainstream topics. There is now keen interest by turf managers in more balanced and sustainable management programmes – a management style promoted by Farmura for over forty years!**

Why has this occurred? Environmental legislation, withdrawal of chemicals, increasing cost of inputs including water – an increasingly scarce commodity for many.

There is also a growing desire to become more sustainable on the golf course from turf management through to wildlife and habitat conservation. The huge interest in the STRI Golf Environmental Awards, of which Farmura are one of the sponsors, demonstrates this. Finally a realisation that golf budgets are not ever growing but are now in real terms, at least for the foreseeable future, diminishing.

What then is balanced management?

We believe that best results

are achieved by combining good cultural methods, organics and synthetics - no different than a doctor recommending exercise, meat and vegetables. The turf manager is the conductor, to use a musical metaphor, adjusting these to suit his situation. A links course will have different requirements to a new sand construction but the principles remain the same. Leading on from that there is a system dependency with a healthy plant needing healthy soil biology which in turn creates the soil which feeds the plant and so on. There is a clear symbiosis between the plant and the soil.

### **Balanced and Sustainable Management**

This brings us on to one of nature's most amazing and yet taken for granted creations - the soil. We use it, abuse it and most of the time take it for granted and don't give it much thought. Yet the soil is where it all starts and is very much alive



or at least it should be. Soil is a complex and dynamic living world of bacteria, fungi, yeasts, protozoa, algae worms, insects and a host of other organisms.

The statistics are staggering! Thirty grams of soil can have a surface area of two and a half hectares. The bacteria in a handful of soil can exceed the population of the world. There is more diversity in a handful of healthy soil than in the entire Amazon rain forest and up to thirteen thousand species of bacteria can be found in a gram of soil. A word of caution before you start counting however.

Peter Shaw head greenkeeper at Munchen Friedhof in Germany. In "Leading Courses of Germany" ranked no 1 over last 5 years. Farmura customer for over 35 years in UK and Germany

Amenity soils have a lower diversity and number of microbes due to lower organic matter, lower oxygen levels, a tendency to rapidly go anaerobic and the regular disturbance of turf maintenance, all of which promotes a lower number of a limited range of hardy bacterial species.

So what do soil microorganisms actually do? The primary activity is to break down organic matter. An interesting aside is that thatch build up occurs when the management style means that soil microbes cannot keep on top of this breaking down.

They have the ability to degrade, mineralise and immobilise fertilisers and pesticides. They enhance plant available nutrient levels through nutrient recycling and organic matter decomposition.

Other benefits include improved soil aggregation which has an influence on soil water movement and aeration. The improvements in plant health that these result in can also reduce susceptibility to disease.

### Examples of Farmura Research

**Table 1. Trial at Laverstoke Park 2014**

tion of soil biology into turf, which is another way of boosting numbers. The broad range of natural bio stimulants contained in Farmura products increases the numbers of useful bacteria and fungi in the soil assisting the addition of microbial inoculants as well as stimulating the natural populations already living in the root zones.

How do we know that manures or at least the Farmura manures work to build up bacteria and fungi?

Apart from a track record stretching back to the 70s and the restoration of Open Championship

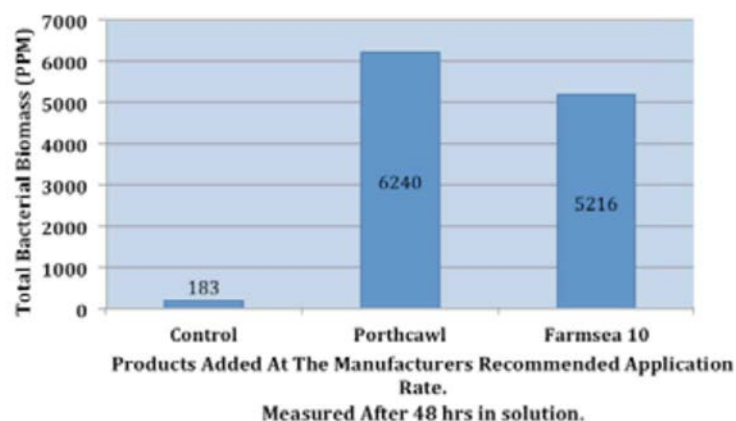
courses a good deal of research has been carried out both in the UK and USA in different locations which has demonstrated their effectiveness in a number of areas as shown in the examples.

With the direction of travel moving evermore towards sustainability and a more balanced and natural approach the bigger picture needs to be considered and the soil and its life surely needs to be looked after just as much as the manicured turf we can see with our eyes.

Not so visible but certainly as important!

**Table 1**

#### Improving Bacteria Numbers



**Table 2. Trials With Usda**

Counts of fungi, bacteria and Actinomycetes in two soils, one from Dr. Kaufman USDA, Beltsville MD and the other from Robert Newman's plots at Madison WI following treatment with Farmura.

**Table 2**

Farmura Lab Rates Litres/100m <sup>2</sup>	Fungi	Bacteria	Actino-mycetes	Fungi	Bacteria	Actino-mycetes	Thatch Layer Thickness cms
0	10	10	10	12	12	7	0.73
0.6	45	30	30	32	55	25	0.26
1.24	65	45	40	52	80	35	0.26
SAMPLE USDA → → →				SAMPLE MADISON → → →			
Day 27 Counts [X 1,000,000]				Day 27 Counts [X 1,000,000]			

**Table 3. Trial at Whitchurch Golf Course, South Wales**

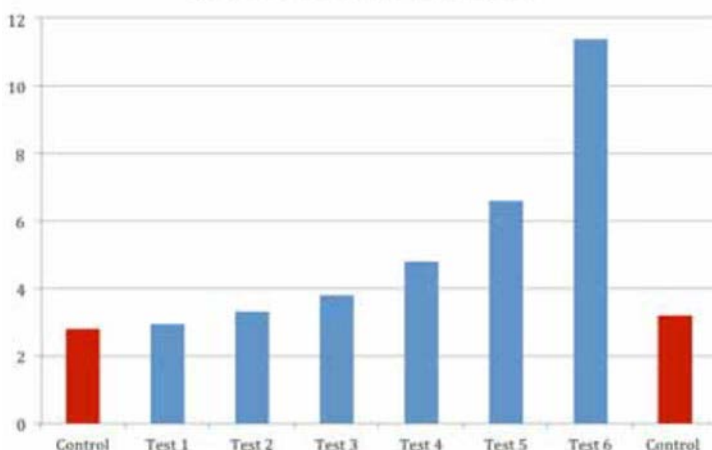
How then do we encourage soil microbes? Research from Cornell University in the USA advises the following, use manures – in the Farmura liquid organic range, such as Porthcawl and Farmsea which are formulated with manures we have an easy and convenient method of supply and application. Maintain soil moisture and oxygen levels.

This leads one to surfactants and Revolution from Aquatrols which will do just that in balancing air and water. Also a balanced PH, consistent fertility by spoon feeding, good aeration and the encouragement of root development which in turn releases organic compounds that stimulate activity – in short nothing other than good greenkeeping practice.

It would be remiss not to mention microbial products - the addi-

**Table 3**

#### Bacteria Count Per CC of Soil (Millions)



### about the author



Farmura was established to develop the Farmura system of converting cow manure into organic fertiliser. Jonathan joined the company in 1976 as a rep and subsequently moved its offerings into the amenity market.



Farmura pioneered Liquid Iron into the European market with Ferrosol, introduced the first successful Spray Pattern Indicator and was one of the first to promote the benefits of true liquid fertilisers. The company pioneered the development of sustainable products to manage golf courses, and this year are celebrating their 40th birthday.

# Turf REWARDS



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
**Sierraform<sup>®</sup> GT**

20 x  = 



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
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25 x  = 

**Greenmaster<sup>®</sup> Liquid**

1 x  = 

**Greenmaster<sup>®</sup> Liquid Effect**

or **Vitalnova<sup>®</sup> Blade**

1 x  = 

**syngenta.**

**Instrata<sup>®</sup>**  
Fungicide

3 x  = 

**Heritage Maxx<sup>®</sup>**  
Fungicide

1 x  = 

**Medallion<sup>®</sup> TL**  
Fungicide

1 x  = 

**Headway<sup>®</sup>**

1 x  = 

**Banner Maxx<sup>®</sup>**  
Fungicide

1 x  = 

**Rescue<sup>®</sup>**  
Herbicide

3 x  = 

**Primo Maxx<sup>®</sup>**

3 x  = 

**Qualibra<sup>®</sup>**  
Wetting agent

4 x  = 

**Qualibra<sup>®</sup>**  
Wetting agent

1 x  = 

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Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use.  
Instrata contains chlorothalonil, propiconazole, fludioxonil. Heritage Maxx contains azoxystrobin.  
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# Around the green



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



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## Events Coming Up

### North West

Summer Tournament / Hurlston Golf Club Tuesday 8 July  
North West v North Wales section cricket match Thursday 24 July  
Autumn Tournament / Ringway Golf club Thursday 18 September  
AGM and Bert Cross Trophy / Wilmslow Golf Club Tuesday 11 November

### North East

Future north east golf dates for your diaries: 28 May Close House, 25 June match v Cleveland, Whitley bay, 9 July Hexham, September, intersection match, Northumberland, October Alnmouth, December Bamburgh

### North Wales

The North Wales v South Wales match takes place at Royal St. Davids, Harlech on May 14.

### Northern

The Sheffield match up is an away day for us this year and they have sorted a cracking course for us! It's at Hickleton Golf Club, just off the A1 near Doncaster. It's been reduced to an eight man team instead of twelve. Date is 7 August at 1pm, anyone wishing to play get in touch asap. Presidents day this year is at West Bradford on 18 June at 1pm.

### Sheffield

This year we will be doing Sheffield Section v Northern Section match on 7 August to be held at Hickleton Golf Club, so please can you let me know if you would like to take part.

Our first competition for the year will be held at The Grange Golf Club Rotherham on May 15 tee off 1pm and it's Invitation Day so bring along your Chairman/Captain. Cost £15 members, Trade/Guest £20

## News

### North West

We would like to wish Tim Johnson, Senior Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, who married girlfriend Lisa Richardson on the 12 April the very for your future together.

In March I was fortunate to be invited by Gordon Irvine along with Steve Oultram Course Manager of Wilmslow Golf Club, and Phil Stains Course Manager of Notts Golf Club, to work at Askernish Golf Club an original Old Tom Morris design, this was a great experience to witness Links golf at its rawest form.

We would like to remind all members that the BIGGA North West Section Facebook page is up and running. Many have liked this page and are posting already, we welcome all levels of greenkeepers to post on our page and you can use this opportunity to tell us what training or seminars you would like us put on, or work you have or have been under taking. May I request that your contact details with BIGGA House are up to date, this is important to make sure you are kept up to date with all training and seminars.

### Cleveland

All quiet this month so news is a little thin on the ground! However I am sure we are all enjoying the change in the weather, allowing us to finish all those projects that were started at the end of 2013. I know here at Richmond Golf Club I have just finished my living wall project around the 8th tee the wildflower seed was sown this week.

James Tock has joined as a Cleveland section member. James has been at Richmond for a number of years but hopefully he will help boost the attendances at the golf days and evening lectures.

### North Wales

Jamie Williams of Vale of Llangollen and his better half Rhian became parents for the second time with the birth of their son Jack Eric on 14 April.

Emyr Price of Royal St. Davids, Harlech celebrated his 40th anniversary in the job over Easter, congratulations and we hope you have many more happy years.

### Northern

We are currently looking for new committee members as sadly Frank Stewart had to stand down. Frank will be greatly missed.

### Sheffield

The Sheffield Section would like to thank Gordon Brammar for his services and commitment to the Sheffield Section over the years and wish him all the best. We would also like to say thanks to Bob Needham for taking over as president and Steve Pickering for being New Chairman.

## Welcome New Members

Jamie Baglin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Sitwell Park Golf Club, Lee Sharpe, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bawtry Golf Club.

# Scotland

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



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**NORTH**  
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daleturnberry@btinternet.com / grassman351@aol.com



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

## Events Coming Up

### East

Next section meeting 14 May.

East Section Social night at the races on Friday 23 May, first race 6.10pm.

Willie Woods Tournament at Greenburn GC in August.

Autumn Meeting at Monktonhall in September.

AGM at Old Mussleburgh in October.

Annual Xmas Soiree in December (Venue to be confirmed).

### Central

You may still be able to book a place on the Bernhards seminar/workshop on reel grinding which is being held at Elmwood GC on 14 May, enquiries to Gordon McKie.

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

## News

### East

The section would like to pass on good wishes to David Sked and Martin Stewart who have begun working at Muirfield GC, and good wishes also to Derek Hunter who is returning to Dalmahoy GC to take over as Course Manager, the section would also like to wish Andy Hastie all the best in his early retirement.

A big well done to Alex (Sandy) Stewart who is now in his 30th year of employment at Greenburn GC, a fair achievement these days.

The section would like to wish good luck to Craig Gilholm a former East Section member and his team at Royal Liverpool who will be hosting this years Open Championship. There are four Scots in the BIGGA Open Support Team this year and we wish them all a good experience during their time at the Open Championship.

Congratulations must be passed on to an old dog for his recent course record score (75) at Dundas Parks during their opening

day comp, a nice bit of history for Stuart, not sure how long his score will last though, I am sure that will depend on the pin positions in the future, be fair now Stuart.

Again a reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback asap.

### West

Let me apologise for not submitting for the last couple of months which is due to a variety of different things, needless to say I have been busy. Congratulations to Kevin Cross on his appointment as head man at Fereneze Golf Club, Kevin moves from Williamwood to his new position and we wish him well for the future.

I believe Ross McLeish has taken over at Cardross Golf Club having moved up from first assistant, sadly John Barr is no longer there. With regret I mention that Jim Caldwell has left his position at Sandyhills.

I have known Jim for a long time and have experienced many a happy encounter with him and I just hope he is able to move on from this and we can see him in the future at different events.

Best wishes to Sandy Bulloch who retired from Fereneze Golf Club, Sandy was secretary of the west section for about 10 years and a good supporter of the section. I think all those who know would like to wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

I would like to send my best wishes to Danny Samson who has been diagnosed with an eye condition which means he is going to be off work for a considerable time, I hope you get better soon.

I will report on the spring outing at the next issue, please feel free to contact me regarding any information you may have which would be of interest to other members.

### Central

We had a healthy entry for our Spring outing at Kinghorn GC where the course was in fine condition. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success, from the Greenstaff, Caterers, Fife Golf Trust and especially the Trade who supported us in number. The results can be found on the Central Section website.

The first round of the 2014 Pairs competition should be complete and those results should also be on the website.

The Section also paid a visit to ETL in Stirling which attendees found very informative seeing around the lab. Most of those were asked to supply a soil sample and Sharon Bruce and her team carried out various tests on what was submitted.

Thanks to Sharon and the team and it may be possible for us to stage another visit in the future for those unable to attend.

We do have some other ideas in the pipeline so please like us on Facebook or check the website to get the latest information.

### North

Some members moving on... Dylan Meinen has left Newmachar Golf Club and moved to Peterculter Golf Club. Steven Christie has left Deeside Golf Club and moved to Newmachar also Simon Hoy has left Royal Aberdeen Golf Club and moved to Deeside Golf Club so best wishes to them all in their new jobs.

## Welcome New Members

Jamie Wright, Assistant Greenkeeper, Renaissance Club, Christopher Moffat, Greenkeeper, North Berwick Golf Club, Ben Inglis Greenkeeper, North Berwick Golf Club, Alasdair McDermid, Head Greenkeeper, Bothwell Castle Golf Club, Edward Gibson, Head Groundsman, Callum Gibson, Assistant Groundsman, Paul Sinclair, Assistant Groundsman, Stuart Clayton, Assistant Groundsman, William Gibson, Assistant Groundsman - all Gibson Green Maintenance Limited.

# Midland

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



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bbosecretary@gmail.com



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**EAST OF ENGLAND**  
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**EAST MIDLAND**  
Greg Skinner  
greg.skinner92@btinternet.com

## Events Coming Up

### BB&O

Volunteers required! Help is required for the Ladies European Masters (which is live on Sky) 3-6 July. Mainly morning set up again from 4 till 9 (we need quite a few bodies this year).

If you want to take advantage of this great opportunity please contact Andy Ewence, Course and Grounds Manager on 07725 277952 or andy.ewence@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk

## News

### BB&O

The 2013 Rigby Taylor Pairs competition final was played on Monday 8 April at Frilford Heath GC. The winners of the competition were Caversham Heath Golf Club, who won 3 and 2.

Both teams fought a hard battle not only against the challenges of the Blue course but, with the weather as strong winds and rain played their part. Jon Scoones from Caversham Heath lost his umbrella down the 3rd hole and into the stream that runs alongside, it was like an Ealing comedy watching them trying to retrieve it at one point I thought they were going to build a raft!

Carl Small from Ellsborough GC on the day was also suffering from a bout of man flu, which to most would not be a problem but Carl's false teeth were constantly coming out every time he went into a coughing fit, which for us was hilarious.

Both teams had a good day despite and I look forward to organising the 2014 competition.

## Welcome New Members

Alex Millar, Course Manager, Alex Hall, Greenkeeper, Aaron Smith, Greenkeeper, Luke Mounteney, Greenkeeper, Paul Lear, Greenkeeper, Alex Smith, Greenkeeper, Konnor Saunders, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aaron Millar, Assistant Greenkeeper, Daniel Winter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Liam Nash, Assistant Greenkeeper, Charlie Beney, Assistant Greenkeeper, James Orr, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alan Baker, Assistant Greenkeeper – all Stoke Park Golf Club, Nick Pattison, Greenkeeper, The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, Mike Jacks, Greenkeeper, Newbold Comyn Golf Club, Jacob Standen, Greenkeeper, Saddleworth Golf Club, Jordan Tanner, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ansty Golf Club.



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# South East

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



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**SUSSEX**  
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**ESSEX**  
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Phipps-Jones  
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**LONDON**  
John Wells  
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.com

## Events Coming Up

### East Anglia

25 June - Rookery Park GC  
7 August - Eaton GC  
2 October - Gog Magog GC (old course)  
3 December - Thorpeness Hotel & Country Club - Turkey Trot & AGM  
(need to double check this date and will confirm ASAP)

### Essex

Wednesday May 21 is the next date for your diary. Stock Brook Manor Golf & Country Club is the venue, Stableford is the game and it's also the National Qualifier. £20 Members, £25 Guests. Entries to Antony Kirwan by May 15 please.

Contact Antony antz16@btinternet.com or antony.kirwan@playgolfcolchester.com

## News

### East Anglia

Golf day held at Sheringham Golf Club 17th April. Results:  
0-10: 1 Darren Abbs 34(on count back) 2 Graham Hurren 34  
11-18: 1 George Butters 37, 2 Nick Howes 33  
19-28: 1 David Driver 31, 2 Andy Baker 28  
Trade & guest: 1 Neal Milton 35, 2 Terry Mills 32  
Longest drive: Darren Abbs  
Nearest pin: Brian Lindores  
For those who asked, the toilet seat went to me (Andy Baker) for getting the start time wrong earlier in the week!

### Essex

This season has got off to a good start; our Spring Trophy meeting at The Essex Golf & Country Club went off well with 26 players in the stableford competition.

Competitions Secretary Antony Kirwan has worked out a new handicapping system for this year, the basis of which and the new rules are posted on the sections website.

The results are:

1 Liam Springett 35pts, 2 Ross Sturridge 33 c/b, 3 Dougie Fernie 33

Best trade: Steve Bush 35  
Best guest: Steve Crosdale 37  
N/pin 5th: Liam Springett  
N/pin 11th: Callum Smith

To Course Manager Martin Forrester and his team, for the setup of the course, well done guys. After so much bad weather, you would not have known that only a couple of weeks prior to our day, we had all been under water. Over 16 inches were recorded since last November in the Essex region. Our thanks go also to the staff and chef at The Essex for looking after us so well. Plus to our sponsors who gave their support on the day.

## Thanks to sponsors

### East Anglia

Main sponsor and halfway house Ben Burgess. Other sponsors: Atkins, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Ernest Doe & son, Bertram Mowers. Everris

### Essex

A warm welcome to the sponsors who have joined us so far this season: Avoncrop Amenity Products, Baileys of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, CMW Equipment Holdings Ltd, Collier Turf Care, DayLinks, Ernest Doe & Sons, Everris, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Paynes Turf, Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation, P Tuckwell Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Swan Golf Designs, Tacit, Tey Farm Systems, Toro (UK).

Their support not only helps with our golf days, but also helps improve our education program, of which I hope to have more information next month.

My contact details: 07894 831609 or essexbigga@talktalk.net plus there is more information on our section website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk)

## Welcome New Members

Ryan Covey, Greenkeeper, Hankley Common Golf Club, Dean Viney, Greenkeeper, Burhill Golf & Leisure Ltd, Jake Austin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hankley Common Golf Club.

## Welcome New Members (International)

Paul Walsh, International Greenkeeper, Villa Tatiana SA Switzerland.

## A new look

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](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk)) by the 10th of each month

## South West & South Wales

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



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## Events Coming Up

### South Wales

Please contact Darryl Jones our match captain to participate in both up and coming matches v north at Royal St Davids on 14 May and the region section match at Chippenham GC Thursday 29 May (07867 317951).

Royal Porthcawl will host an irrigation road show on Tuesday 10 June at 9am and a course walk at 2.30pm regarding the course setup for the up and coming Seniors Open, plenty of opportunity to ask questions to Mr Kinley.

### South Coast

We have a match against the Wessex secretaries at Broadstone Golf Club on 4 June. If you would like to put your name forward for the ten man team, please contact Tony Gadd at greenkeeperbosgc@gmail.com.

The summer tournament will be held at Knighton Heath Golf Club on 3 July, more details next month.

### South West

By now everyone should have their fixture cards for the year, if not please drop me an email and I will ensure you receive one. Here is a quick rundown of this year's fixtures.

29 May Inter-Section Match at Chippenham GC. Team event including South West, Secretaries, South Wales & South Coast. We would love to have a few new faces in the team for this super competitive event, please get in touch with Adam Matthews if you'd like to represent our section.

19 June Summer Tournament at Farrington GC.

Qualifier for BIGGA National Championship

9 October AGM at Saltford GC.

17 December Christmas Tournament at Cirencester GC

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at these events, please mark them in your diary to ensure you are free.

20 August sees the return of Club Management Trophy kindly sponsored by Everris, get your team together a great day at Chipping Sodbury GC

The South West Section knock-out competition is underway, thanks to Joe Curtis for organising this league, keep an eye out for the results and to see who are the sharpest two-ball in the section!

## News

### South Wales

The Section would like to wish Scot Williams all the best in his role as Head Greenkeeper at Tenby GC.

Andrew Burgess of Trefloyne GC is taking part in the Iron Man Wales 2014. Such a difficult event with a challenging bike ride and run course, also Tenby north beach being one of the most iconic settings for an iron man swim anywhere in the world. He's trying to achieve his goal of £1000 for charity. If you would like to make a donation the link is: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndrewBurgessIMW2014>

We had a brilliant turn out for our spring seminar, our thanks to all the speakers, very interesting and thought provoking topics and excellent demonstrations from @turf and Campey Turfcare.

A fantastic turn out for our Spring Cup At Pennard Golf Club course in great shape, visibility very poor with the fog, made golf tricky but a great day had by all. Results:

1 A Roach, 2 Tracey Maddison, 3 Big D & nearest the pin on the 15th. Best Trade: H Morgan. Thanks to Tracey Harvey for the sweets on the course nice touch, and thanks to the club for hosting the event.

### South Coast

We have had a reorganisation on the committee. For the long service to the south coast section Tony Gadd has been offered the role as president and I am happy to report that Tony has taken the position.

Chairman: Robert Hogarth; Vice chairman: Jaime Acton Secretary/finance: Alex McCombie Education: Jaime Acton/Kevan Glass; Golf events: Alan Magee/Joe Cooper; Communication: John Worrall; Around the Green: Alan Magee; Meet and greet at events: Chris Bitten; Committee member: Phil Wentworth

If you are not receiving emails about events as they come up in our section can you please email Alex McCombie at southcoastsecretary@gmail.com so he can update the database. I must apologise to Tracey Harvey as I called her by another name at the spring tournament!

The spring tournament was held at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club on 15 April. We would like to thank Highcliffe Castle for allowing us to hold the Chalky White Memorial Cup at the club. Also thanks goes to Mike and all his staff for all their hard work presenting the golf course.

Results: Overall winner of the Chalky White Cup: Kevan Glass; Division 1: 1 A Magee 31pts; 2, R White 30, 3 L Elgie 29; Division 2: 1 K Glass 39, 2 M Cartwright 36, 3 B Blair 35; Nearest the pin: B Blair; Longest drive: R Hyder. Winners of each division qualify for entry to the national tournament.

### South West

As always there are opportunities for training. Paul Worster is at the ready so whatever your training needs may be drop Paul a line.

If anyone on your team is not receiving Section emails please ask them to contact me to supply their addresses (j.goodchild@bowood.org).

## Thanks to sponsors

### South Coast

Thanks go to Avoncrop for sponsoring the day at Highcliffe Castle.

### South West

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Sportsmark, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve and T H White for their invaluable support. Also, welcome to Indigrow who have offered their much valued support as a section patron, thanks Nick and Richard.

## Welcome New Members

Steven Stopforth, Greenkeeper, Enmore Park GC

# Be BIGGA's number one



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

Hotels nearby include Champneys Forest Mere, Old Thorns Manor Hotel, The Georgian House Hotel



2013 Champion Gordon Sangster

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- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of **£90** includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

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Signature.....

Date.....

Or E-mail your details to:  
**rachael@bigga.co.uk**  
 Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

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

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



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

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

## BEAT BUNKER PROBLEMS IN NO TIME

The new Mantis BunkerMaster has received high praise from greenkeepers using it to resolve perennial bunker problems.

Ten years after the launch of the first Mantis 2 stroke BunkerMaster, the new more powerful 4 stroke model will prove to be a very cost effective solution to any course looking to raise the standard of its bunker preparation.

While bunkers cover only one to two percent of the total area of the golf course they can take up to as much as 25% of the available resources to maintain.

You want to get bunkers back into shape as fast as possible after bad weather, heavy play and during general bunker maintenance, preparing them to the highest standards.

The BunkerMaster's 35cc engine has the torque to spin the spring tines at 200 rpm, yet it is lightweight and offers a low cost solution to fast redistribution of the sand. It lifts and aerates the top 30mm of sand without digging in and it's designed to work away from the operator for maximum control.

All of which means you have a fast and efficient answer to loosening and dressing the sand, ready for final top dressing using a conventional rake.

The light weight of the BunkerMaster also means you can work in tight edges and along banks.

Overall, what is most impressive about the BunkerMaster is the sheer speed of bunker preparation you can achieve, especially after heavy rain.



Removing moss and thatch from awkward banks is another benefit, with sixty spring picks letting you dethatch a 15" (38cm) swathe at a single pass and the minimum of effort.

Lightweight they may be but these little machines have proved themselves to be tough and built to last. The long-life precision worm gear and drive shaft transmission are all enclosed in a robust aluminium casing while the Subaru engine also has its own rugged housing.

A unique centrifugal clutch gives the operator complete control and there is sealed electronic ignition plus a convenient engine cut-off switch on the handle.

At the end of the day, the light weight and compact shape make the BunkerMaster easy to pop into the back of a UTV and all components, including the engine and attachments come with a 1 year professional guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship.

## GALLEON IS A TOP REGENERATING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS



A spreading perennial ryegrass exclusive to Germinal Seeds in the UK has been hailed for its divot recovery qualities in research trials.

The regenerative growth qualities of Galleon were demonstrated when it bettered two other competitor brands in a trial at Oregon State University.

Galleon was developed as a hardwearing variety of perennial ryegrass with exceptional recovery due to its spreading growth habit. This fine leaved variety also exhibits high resistance to insects and nematode attack due to high endophyte levels.

The highly rated variety, was evaluated in the trial against two recent ryegrass blends marketed heavily for their spreading characteristics – RPR and Natural Knit. It was found to repair the divots faster and maintained active growth late into the autumn.

Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager of Germinal Seeds (GB), said: "We have great faith in Galleon's qualities and are delighted but not surprised at how well it has done in this research study."



## NATIONAL GOLF MONTH LAUNCHED

A closest to the pin shoot-out by Liz Young and Holly Aitchinson of the Ladies European Tour marked the Official Launch of National Golf Month at the Playgolf Centre, Northwick Park. The launch was well attended by Golf Industry members and the press who gathered to see Doug Poole (Director of National Golf Month) speak passionately about growing the game of golf and how National Golf Month aims to achieve this.

National Golf Month (NGM) – a British Golf Industry initiative – is an amazing event where all the leading golf companies and associations are joining together to increase the numbers playing golf. Support for National Golf Month has seen all the major Golf Unions and Associations, Golf Clubs, Driving Ranges, Golf Manufacturers and PGA Professionals sign up to work together to reverse the trend and get more players on course to enjoy the game.

Bubba Watson's rallying cry that he "plays golf because I just love the game" coincides with the launch of National Golf Month which aims to get an extra 100,000 lapsed or new golfers playing the game in May.

Watson, who captured his second Masters title last month, declared "I don't play golf because I want people to tell me how great I am at it. I don't play golf to make a living. It has given me my values and everything I have ever owned in my life."

Sir Nick Faldo, three times champion of The Open and The Masters, said: "I'm very excited to be supporting National Golf Month. It's a special effort to get thousands of golfers playing actively or learning to play golf. The game provides an eternal number of self-challenges; an endless stream of goals to beat your own best."

Charley Hull, who was introduced to golf aged two and won Rookie of the Year on the Ladies European Tour in 2013 when she became the youngest competitor to play in the Solheim Cup, said: "Golf is a fun game you can enjoy with all your family and friends, so use the great offers available during National Golf Month and get out playing this coming May."



## ETESIA MOWERS STAND THE TEST OF TIME

A range of Etesia mowers, including two new Duocut RMHB 46cm pedestrian mowers, are helping to maintain the green space areas surrounding and including Durham University - the UK's third oldest university.

Durham University has a unique estate, which includes 63 listed buildings and also owns and manages the World Heritage Site in partnership with Durham Cathedral. The University's ownership of the World Heritage site includes Durham Castle, Palace Green, and the surrounding buildings including the historic Cosin's library.

Barry Shipman has been working in the garden and grounds team at the university for over 40 years and was recently promoted to garden and grounds supervisor. He now has a team of nine gardeners to assist with the upkeep of the facility which is roughly a third of Durham city and also includes the botanical gardens.

When purchasing new equipment, Barry discusses matters with the horticultural officer to see what machines are suitable and could make the life of their operators easier which include noise, vibrations etc.

Barry and his team like to keep the grass short and presentable at all times, which over the last year has been very testing, but as he explains, has been made easier with the range of ride-on and pedestrian mowers he discovered over 15 years ago.

"We have an excellent relationship with our local machinery dealer, Lloyds, who are very knowledgeable and they recommended Etesia to us when we were looking for a mower which we could use in the wet and capable of being able to cut and collect or cut and drop," explained Barry.

"I like the fact that we can cut, collect or cut and drop using the same machine because it saves us so much time. We order three new machines per year, which simply replace the oldest ones and so the cycle continues.

"The Etesia mowers have really come into their own in the past 12 months because they have been so good at cutting and collecting in the wet weather we've experienced. We have mobile grass cutting teams and the new Duocut models have been popular with them because they are very light for people to lift on and off van/trailer from site to site.

The new range of Duocut 46cm mowers are extremely versatile, and are capable of mowing with or without collection in all conditions, or allowing high-quality mulching. And they do all of this with no need for an accessory – you just place the removable insert under the deck if you choose to mulch, making them very operator-friendly. Excellent mulching results are achieved because the grass is very finely 'crushed', even if it is long and wet.

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## John Greasley

One of Europe's leading golf course constructors



During the summer of 2013, the company started a major reconstruction project at Fureso Golfklub at Birkerød in Denmark, rebuilding 11 of the course's 27 holes. The remaining 16 holes will be reconstructed this summer.

During the autumn and winter 2013/2014 the company returned to work on the reconstruction of all 18 holes on Les Pins, Hardelot in Northern France. Having completed the front nine holes last year works continued with the rebuilding of green surrounds, all greenside and fairway bunkers and a number of tees were altered and reshaped to complete the refurbishment of this tree lined links course.

Following the initial bunker works on the La Mer course at Le Touquet work has commenced on a major restoration project. The 11th, 12th and 13th holes have been totally changed with new greens constructed on holes 11 and 13. New tees on holes 12 and 13 have been integrated within the dunes along with re-bunkering to all fairways and recontouring of the 12th green surrounds. A new 15th fairway has been cleared, graded and seeded in

preparation for a new 15th hole next year. Three more holes are to be reconstructed this autumn.

The first phase has just been completed of the reconstruction of 38 bunkers over nine holes at Verulam Golf Club, St Albans (home of the Ryder Cup), all lined with our proprietary Hyline bunker liner.

Other bunker reconstruction projects completed this autumn using Hyline were at Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent, Blackwell Golf Club, West Midlands, Radcliffe Golf Club in Nottingham.

Other works carried out over the year included a new 4th Green at Hankley Common Golf Club with new tees and fairway bunkering. The 5th hole at Fairhaven Golf Club was completely remodelled with dramatic improvements to the greens surrounds including the formation of revetted bunkering and the transplanting of heather and gorse.

The first phase of bunker reconstruction was completed to the delight of the members at Cuddington Golf Club, Banstead. New 5th and 8th tees have been rebuilt along with ornamental sleeper ditch at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough.

## CATEGORIES

- AERATION
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# Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month the GTC provides an update on the Trailblazer project

## GTC continues its work as a Trailblazer



**As you will have read in last month's Greenkeeper International, Donald Steel reported on the GTC's invitation to No 10 Downing Street with David Croxton, Chair of the Trailblazer Reform Working Group, and Ryan Bezzant, a current apprentice from Ealing Golf Club.**

This month, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, gives us an update on the progress to date.

David said: "Back in March, the GTC was awarded Apprenticeship Trailblazer status by the Government, and since then it has been all systems go!

We have already held our inaugural Trailblazer Reform Working Group meeting at Cold Ashby Golf Club with representatives from Employers, the Professional Bodies, Centres (Colleges), Lantra Sector Skills Council, City & Guilds and Business, Innovation and Skills Dept (BIS).

The next meeting is scheduled for later this month. Workshops have also been held in London, meeting with other Trailblazers.

"I believe the apprenticeship reform will allow the golf sector to develop a quality standard including a high level assessment approach to meet the requirements of golf club employers. Its aim is to develop skilled and knowledgeable apprentices for whom the world could become their oyster.

"As the game of golf continues to grow globally and becomes an Olympic sport in 2016, it is important that golf courses are maintained and managed by highly skilled professionals, and the new apprenticeship will provide for this need.

"We are reviewing and developing the Apprenticeship Standard for a golf greenkeeper. Over the past month, thanks to our colleagues at BIGGA, England Golf and the GCMA, an online survey was carried out to determine what you felt were the skills and knowledge required to become a fully competent golf greenkeeper.

"We had nearly 300 responses from the links posted just on BIGGA and GTC's websites alone. I would like to thank all of you who participated in the survey for taking the time to do so.

This feedback from employers, greenkeepers and industry is essential to ensuring we provide a quality Apprenticeship.

"Analysing all the results will take a little time, but please be assured we will take into consideration all points raised. Apart from the obvious tasks and skills already encompassed in the golf greenkeeping qualification, you have also highlighted skills and knowledge you believe a qualified golf greenkeeper should have."

Here are just some of the key suggestions arising from the survey:

- First aid, fire safety

- Attention to detail at all tasks involved
- Understand and appreciate the living environment
- Effective time management
- Good knowledge of machinery maintenance
- Good communication skills with members, visitors and other members of staff
- Good numeracy and literary skills
- Computer skills

Apart from reviewing the current skills within the Occupational Standards for a Greenkeeper and Golf Course Supervisor, the working group will also be reviewing other skills you would expect a fully competent greenkeeper to be able to carry out.

David added: "As you will all appreciate, greenkeeping requires a very broad range of skills so it's impossible to list every single requirement of the job. But rest assured that when we sit down and review the current standards, we will be further building on the skills and knowledge required to make that greenkeeper a great greenkeeper.

"When the apprentice finishes the programme, they will know how, why and when the range of operations are carried out, and you will have a great golf course as a result."

*For further information on Golf Greenkeeping including the Apprenticeship contact:*

*David Golding, GTC Education Director – Email: david@the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640 Mobile: 07831 222659*

*Or alternatively please visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)*



The GTC is funded by:



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# Recruitment

Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month at [www.bigga.org.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.org.uk/careers), from £595+vat for an 1/8 advert. Contact **Jill Rodham** on 01347 833 812

## Assistant Greenkeepers

Caversham Heath Golf Club requires 2 Assistant Greenkeepers.

- Applicants must be qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent
  - Minimum 2 years golf course experience
- Competitive salary offered dependent on qualifications and experience

Please apply in writing with CV stating current salary to:

**Jon Scoones, Caversham Heath Golf Club,  
Mapledurham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7UT.**

or email: [cavershamgreens@cavershamgolf.co.uk](mailto:cavershamgreens@cavershamgolf.co.uk)



## HEAD GREENKEEPER REDDITCH GOLF CLUB

Redditch Golf Club is a Private members Club that aspires to be "Worcestershire's finest" golf course. The course is parkland built on a clay base with excellent greens as endorsed by the STRI and having been re-laid in the 1990's to PGA specifications.

In order to build on the excellent foundations established we are now looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Head Greenkeeper to join us in order to sustain and further build on the improvements already made, in line with our course development plan. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about providing the best possible playing surfaces and condition of external areas to ensure we deliver memorable experiences to our members and visitors.

Working with the Club Management they must possess the following:

- Capable operation of a full range of course equipment associated with the post.
  - Experience of managing Health and Safety regulations
  - Experience of managing supplies ordering and budgets
- Experience/knowledge of effective drainage on clay based courses
  - Qualified to SVQ/NVQ level 2, aspiring to do level 3 or HNC.
    - PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying qualifications.
    - A full UK Driving License.

. This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to become part of a progressive and dynamic management team. The right candidate will further their skills and training whilst motivating others to be the best they can in order to generate high levels of team spirit.

Competitive salary and terms will be offered to the right candidate.

Please forward your CV and covering letter to  
[info@redditchgolfclub.com](mailto:info@redditchgolfclub.com) by 20th May, 2014.

## A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the Greenkeeping team at Willingdon Golf Club.

This 18 hole par 69 downland course is situated on the spectacular sunshine coast in East Sussex and lies in a natural bowl on the edge of the South Downs National Park. We are currently looking to recruit a dynamic and motivated full time Greenkeeper to join our existing experienced team. We invite applications from all but ideally candidates should:

- Have NVQ Level 2 in sports turf or equivalent.
- Be a team player with a positive attitude.
- Have the ability to produce a high standard of work.
- Want to further their skills and training.

Applicants will be working directly under the Course Manager and closely with the existing team to continue to present the course to the highest possible standard. Work on the course will involve a variety of duties so this position requires an individual who is able to use their skills in all areas of course maintenance.

If joining the team on this Dr. Alister Mackenzie designed course appeals to you then please apply in writing or E-mail together with a C.V to: **Peter Negus, Course Manager, Willingdon Golf Club, Southdown Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9AA**

Tel: 01323 410985, Email: [pnegus@willingdongolfclub.co.uk](mailto:pnegus@willingdongolfclub.co.uk)  
Closing date : 14/05/2014

## Laleham Golf Club – Assistant Greenkeeper

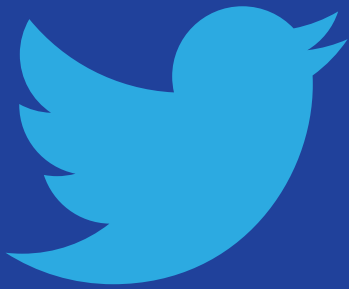
We are currently looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Greenkeeper to join our team. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about golf course maintenance. Working under direction from the Head Green Keeper He/She must possess the following attributes and qualifications:

- Self-motivated with a positive attitude,
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- A strong work ethic and ability to demonstrate they can work as part of a team and as an individual.
- Good time management and communication skills.
- Be capable of operating a full range of equipment associated with the post.
  - Qualified to SVQ/NVQ level 2.
  - PA1, PA6 spraying qualifications. (PA2 desirable)
  - A full UK Driving License.

The right candidate will be given the opportunity to further their skills and training.

Please forward CV, covering letter and salary expectation to [tonysharman1971@gmail.com](mailto:tonysharman1971@gmail.com) or alternatively by post to: Tony Sharman (Head Green keeper) Laleham Golf Club, Laleham Reach, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 8RP

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# @BIGGALtd

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

## Our favourite tweets this month...

**Ian Reeves @IanReevo**  
Great day at the @BIGGALtd South Coast comp yesterday. Highcliffe Castle looking spectacular!

**Gordon McKie @gord\_mckie**  
Performance management testing with STRI this morning @TheHomeofGolf #smoothgreens

**WoolleyParkGolfClub @Woolleyparkgolf**  
Nothing like popping up the sprinklers to make it feel like summer #golf #summer

**Antony Kirwan @AntzXVI**  
@BIGGALtd massive thanks to the members who helped on our annual maintenance evening #topstars

**Matt Plested @plestee**  
Buckets all set for today's divot trophy. Let the greenkeepers be the winners!

**Andy Clark @Clanky23**  
Thanks @BIGGALtd for another interesting edition of Greenkeeper International. Perfect for a rainy afternoon! #Greenkeeping

**HadlowCollegeABC @HadlowABC**  
Good luck to all the potential Master Greenkeepers taking their exams this week

**Lickey Hills golf @LickeyHillsGolf**  
Spread the word , August 14th is #nationalrepairyourpitchmarkday

**greenkeeping @Lancastergc**  
First seniors open of the year. Course cut, greens cut and rolled. #golf #Greenkeeping



Here's a selection of this month's best photos. This month features Matt Plested's divot trophy (@plestee) and performance management testing by Gordon McKie (@gord\_mckie).

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