

# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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## Inside...

### FLEXIBLE WORKING

How changes in the law could affect you

### PHOTO COMP RESULTS

BIGGA Members' top 12 inside



# O'Neill nails it

Muswell Hill's Kevin O'Neill rounds off 25 years of Toro winners



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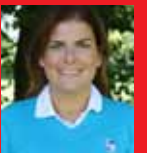
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## Gleneagles a greenkeeping triumph

**Well the Ryder Cup certainly lived up to expectations! An enthralling match featuring golf of the highest quality, incredible individual performances and unbelievably enthusiastic supporters was played out over a course in immaculate condition prepared magnificently by Scott Fenwick, Steve Chappell and their excellent Gleneagles team.**

The team was supported by a 40-strong volunteer crew - many of whom are Gleneagles greenkeeping alumni - bringing the total squad for the week to nearly 100.

Jamie Donaldson's extraordinary wedge shot to the 15th green provided a fitting climax to a week in which Captain Paul McGinley was repeatedly praised for his planning and attention to detail. The same could absolutely be said for Scott, Steve and all their team and I am particularly looking forward to hearing about the finer detail during the seminar programme at BTME 2015 in January.

**One member of the volunteer team has had a month to remember as only a few days before arriving in Gleneagles, Kevin O'Neil from Muswell Hill clinched the 26th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award.**

I would like to publicly congratulate Kevin and the five other finalists, the standard was incredibly high throughout.

The night before the final, Toro held a special celebration at Aldwark Manor to recognise 25 years of the award and it was a thrill to see 22 previous winners in attendance. Toro have been steadfast in their support of BIGGA and greenkeeper education for which we are extremely grateful.

All of the winners have progressed through the industry over the years and I am confident this year's finalists will do likewise.

Kevin is now looking forward to the intense study course at UMASS in America whilst the two runners up Tom Freeman and Wesley Lenihan will receive, courtesy of Toro, an all

expenses paid trip to BTME including four days' education. They certainly have a fantastic programme to choose from.

**The Continue to Learn brochure is enclosed with this magazine and the education on offer totals a record 215 hours this year, very nearly double what was on offer only eight years ago.**

BTME has always had a learning and development focus but that has increased markedly over the last few years. We expect demand to be high for the combination of workshops, conferences and seminars so don't delay in booking your place. The one-day Turf Managers Conference on Monday 19 January is set to be a particular highlight with a mix of agronomy, research and management topics as well as a session on customer expectations and experience, an aspect of the profession that is critical as our sport competes for attention in the modern world.

Our ambition is to provide an educational programme of interest to all BIGGA members at every stage of their career and I firmly believe we have achieved that for 2015. In 2014 nearly 2,800 individuals took part in the programme and this year we hope to see that number grow to over 3,000 for the first time. I look forward to seeing you in Harrogate.



Enjoy the read.

**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**

October 2014

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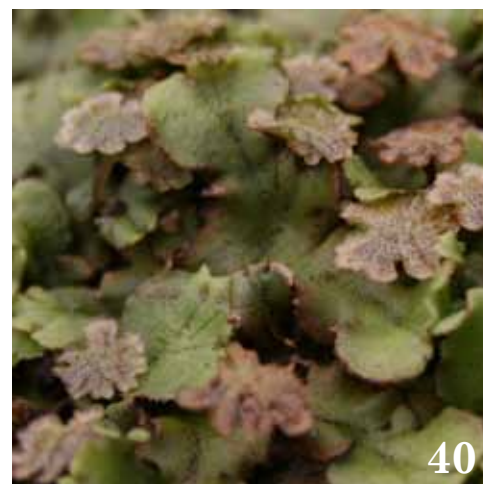
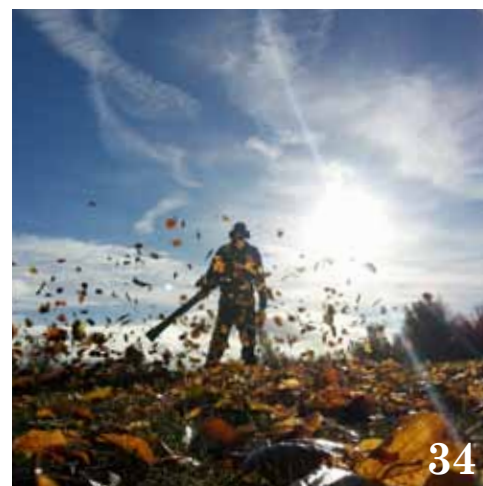
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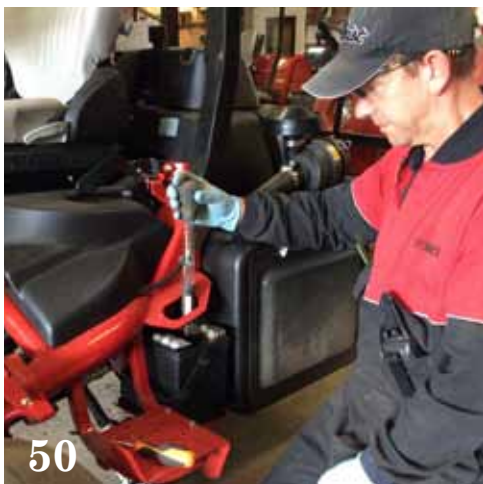




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This month - find your Continue to Learn booklet in the bag...





# Chairman's Word

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

## Seal of approval

The focus of this month's column is of course the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, and therefore I'd like to discuss the value of education.

I was once again delighted to be asked to judge this year's competition, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting six enthusiastic and ambitious greenkeepers. Congratulations to Kevin O'Neill, and well done to all the finalists. I particularly liked the new format which meant the final kicked off with a really interesting debate on key issues facing greenkeeping, it was fascinating to hear a range of opinions and interesting ideas from all six. It was a pleasure meeting all of them.

As always with this event my overriding feeling is pride at just how well equipped the young up and coming greenkeepers are and what good hands our industry is in. But that is countered by the knowledge that we all continually have to develop our own knowledge and skills to ensure we remain at the forefront of our industry. If we don't then the younger generation will definitely be snapping at our heels!

On that topic you'll see from the enclosed booklet outlining the schedule for Continue to Learn at BTME 2015 that we have another fantastic line-up of seminars, presentations and conferences in January. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The importance of greenkeeping education was underlined by a special event held at Aldwark Manor to mark 25 years of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. It was terrific to see so many previous winners, a real trip down memory lane for me, and so many of the victors have gone on to superb jobs at some of the country's most prestigious courses or the wider industry. The fact the vast majority of winners, judges and sponsors remain in the industry 25 years on is a great testament to greenkeeping.

Just reaching the final is a superb achievement and really helps you in your career. The opportunity to attend the study course at the University of Massachusetts, and also visit the Golf Industry Show, is priceless and will do wonders for a greenkeeper's future, and I'm sure Kevin will make the very most of this fantastic opportunity.



**"I particularly liked the new format which meant the final kicked off with an interesting debate on key issues facing greenkeeping"**

Over the last year the BIGGA Board of Management have made significant progress discussing the Association's constitution and governance. While this may not appear the most fascinating subject, it's crucial to ensuring the Association is equipped to develop and grow in the future. It's now being fine-tuned and a draft will very soon be released to the Regional Boards and Sections for consultation.

At our most recent meeting Rob Welford, Course Manager at Cleethorpes Golf Club, joined the Board of Management representing the Midland Region. I know he will have plenty of new ideas to bring to the table. I'd really like to thank Steve Mason for his time on the board, we all thoroughly enjoyed working with him and his passion for the profession was outstanding.

I've just got time to quickly congratulate Scott Fenwick, Steve Chappell, all the home team and all the volunteers on the sharp, stunning presentation of the course at Gleneagles. The Ryder Cup was a superb event, crowned by a fantastic European victory, and all the greenkeepers involved should be extremely proud.

At Chippenham we're heading into autumn in a good position. We've enjoyed a decent summer really, it's been very dry recently which has meant we've used the irrigation system more regularly than we would expect this time of year.

*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



Gallagher Heath



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



# CONFERENCE TIME



**BIGGA are once again holding five regional conferences featuring an excellent line-up of presenters discussing a wide range of matters relevant to the turf management industry, with CPD Credits available for attendance. The dates for your diaries are:**

**NORTHERN – THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER, PHOENIX SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, ROTHERHAM**

**Presentations:**

*Alan Ferguson, Royal St Georges – ‘The Story So Far’*  
*Lee Strutt – CV and Career Clinic appointments throughout the day*  
*Presentation on the theme of Pests and Diseases*  
*Peter Newton – Creeping Bent Grass*

**Workshops:**

*Peter Corbett, Rigby Taylor – Sustainable use of Chemicals*  
*Stephen Kateley, Billericay Farm Services Limited – A spray*

*nozzle presentation in the outdoor wind tunnel*

*Ameqa Sciences Microscope Session - Testing Processes and identifying pests and diseases*  
*Stephen Nixon - Bernhard & Co, Glen Sawyer - Russell Groundcare group*

*A presentation exploring cutting unit technologies and how a regular sharpening programme can improve agronomic, mechanical and financial benefits.*

£10 for members, £20 for Non Members and all Sheffield Section members can go free of charge as Seffield Section are sponsoring the event.

Main Sponsors are Rigby Taylor along with Bernhard & Co, Russell Groundcare and Mansfield Sands Ltd who are donating a spot prize draw that everyone attending will be entered into.

For more details contact Sandra Raper (07866 366966), email Sandra@bigga.co.uk

**SOUTH EAST – WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER, COLNE VALLEY GOLF CLUB**

For more details contact Clive Osgood (07841 948410), email cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

**SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER AT SOMERSET COUNTY CRICKET CLUB**

This is a new venue for the Conference! Regional Administrator Tracey Harvey said: “The venue is very impressive and seems to be attracting a lot of attention from the members!” Speakers for this year are:

*James Braithwaite, Course Manager, Long Ashton GC – ‘Future proofing your course’*  
*Craig Campbell, Deputy Head Groundsman, Millennium Stadium – ‘Out with the old, in with the new’*

*Cameron McMillan, Course Manager, Queenwood GC – ‘Development of a modern heathland golf course’*

*David Langheim MG, Course Manager, Wimbledon Park GC*

*- ‘Wimbledon fortnight: before, during and after’*  
*Henry Bechelet, Everris.*

Registration is from 8am. Prices are the same as last year; £26 members, £34 non-members. We have also organised for the members to be able to have a look around the ground during their lunch break with the Deputy Head Groundsman and we are hoping that Lely may bring some machinery for display as well.

For more details contact Tracey (07841 948110), email tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

**MIDLAND – WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2015 AT STONEBRIDGE GOLF CLUB, COVENTRY.**

For more details contact Roger Butler (07525 593359), email roger@bigga.co.uk

**SCOTLAND – TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2015, VENUE TBC**

For more details contact John Young (07776 242120), email johnyoung@bigga.co.uk





## NEW BOARD MEMBER

Rob Welford, Course Manager at Cleethorpes Golf Club, is the new BIGGA Board of Management Member for the Midland Region. Rob replaces Steve Mason, Course Manager at Stocks Golf Club, who has stepped down from the Board due to work commitments.

Rob said: "I'm excited to be given this opportunity to represent the Midland Region at what I feel is very positive time for the Association. I hope I can help to drive the Association forward with particular emphasis on encouraging greater participation from our younger members and ensuring the Association meets their needs."



## NEW ROLE FOR RACHAEL

Congratulations to Rachael Duffy who has accepted the newly created role of Events & Membership Executive at BIGGA House.

Rachael has therefore moved from the Learning & Development department to Membership where she will be reporting to BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison.

Commenting on the move BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "As we continue to deliver increased opportunities for our members to take part in a variety of beneficial events whilst also getting more involved as a business in the wider industry it has become necessary to strengthen our resource in events coordination.

"Therefore we have created this new role which will primarily be concerned with coordinating our many member, board and promotional events but will also have some responsibility for assisting Tracey and Elaine with general administration in Membership.

"I'm delighted that Rachael has accepted the opportunity, she has had quite a lot of responsibility for events in her role as L&D Executive so this is a natural move."



## RIGBY TAYLOR ON BOARD WITH BIGGA

BIGGA are delighted to announce that Rigby Taylor are the latest company to become a BIGGA Partner.

Rigby Taylor, one of the UK's leading supplier of products for the improvement, maintenance and construction of sports, amenity and landscape areas, are a long standing and enthusiastic supporter of the Association and BTME.

Chris Clark, Rigby Taylor's Executive Chairman, (above left with BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton) said: "We are excited to be joining the BIGGA Partnership scheme and provide funding for the development and education of greenkeeping. As a founder member of the original Gold Key scheme, the company has always placed support for industry Association initiatives very high on its list of priorities."

Richard Fry, Marketing Director for Rigby Taylor, commented: "As a company, we do not view the industry from behind a desk. Our field-based team of technical representatives are in constant contact with greenkeepers, and this provides us with an insight into daily greenkeeping practices and their problems.

"It is this awareness that enables us to not only introduce products that are relevant to today's traditional agronomic practices, but to develop new, innovative products designed to provide solutions for the problems of tomorrow."

BIGGA's Business Development Manager Jill Rodham added: "We're very happy to welcome Rigby Taylor on board as a BIGGA Partner. We've had an excellent relationship with them for many years and this Partnership reinforces that."

For more on Rigby Taylor please visit their website [www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com), and follow them on Twitter@rigbytaylor



# NORRIE WHYTOCK TRIUMPH FOR CENTRAL SECTION



Shaun Anderson from Piperdam Golf & Leisure with Andy O'Hara, Dave Orchard from Bayer and Gordon Moir.

The Scottish Region's annual inter-section competition - the Norrie Whytock - was held at Auchterarder Golf Club on Tuesday 26 August with Bayer CropScience sponsoring this prestigious event in our calendar.

This year's competition had a change in format with two-man teams representing each of the five sections with a 6th team of Andy O'Hara (Chairman) and Stuart Greenwood (Board of Management Representative) taking on the honour of representing the regional board.

There were some excellent individual scores returned on the day with Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links Trust posting an excellent 38 points closely followed by Phil Butler from Murrayfield Golf Club returning a score of 36 points.

Indeed Gordon's high score combined with that of his playing partner, Shaun Anderson from

Piperdam, proved to be the winning combination with a total of 71 stableford points. In joint second place with 62 stableford points were the East Section team of Phil and Stuart Ferguson (Dundas Park) and the North Section pairing of Robert Patterson (Royal Aberdeen) and Ross Macrae (Turiff).

Conditions on the day were excellent with lots of sunshine and only a slight breeze. However special praise was reserved for the course itself with all teams complimenting the fantastic playing conditions. Our sincere congratulations are reserved for Archie Dunn and his team yet again.

Andy O'Hara, Scottish Chairman, thanked all competitors for taking part and their continued support of the association. He thanked Bayer CropScience for their continued sponsorship and Auchterarder Golf Club for hosting the event, providing courtesy of the

course and use of the excellent clubhouse facilities. He made particular mention of the course condition thanking Archie Dunn and his team and complimenting their hard work and dedication.

Our partnership with the competition sponsors, Bayer CropScience is essential to the success of the Norrie Whytock competition. Dave Orchard, National Accounts Manager was on hand to present the prizes and to thank all for attending.

Winning team captain, Gordon Moir, concluded the proceedings by accepting the Norrie Whytock Trophy and passed on his and Shaun's thanks to all concerned with running the event, to Bayer, to Auchterarder Golf Club and especially Archie Dunn and his team.

*John Young  
Regional Administrator (Scotland)*



## JOHN MUIR

Last month saw The West Lancashire Golf Club announce the passing of Course Manager John Muir.

John, who was well known to many BIGGA members, had spent almost 30 years with the club having joined in 1985. He had previously gained greenkeeping experience in the Middle East before moving on to Poulton Wood Golf Club in Kent.

He had a major impact on the development of the course at West Lancashire and worked closely with renowned architect Donald Steel during a large renovation in the eighties.

John had suffered ill health over the past two years and died in hospital. He leaves behind his wife Marie. Everyone at BIGGA passes on their condolences to John's family and friends.





## GANTON GOLF CLUB

Pictured here are the Support Team at Ganton Golf Club who ensured the R&A Senior Amateur Championship was a success.

The team at the North Yorkshire course, led by Head Greenkeeper Philip Baldock, are shown surrounded by the fleet of Toro Lely UK machines courtesy of local dealership Russell Group.

144 players competed over three days, and despite some worrying weather forecasts the competition finished on schedule on the Friday with only a lightning monitor delay for a few hours on the Wednesday.

Congratulations were given to the team from the R&A for preparing a superb course for

the event. American Brady Exber, a 58-year-old from Las Vegas, closed with a 78 for a four-shot victory over Yorkshire's Stephen East who finished on 228 after a 79.

Three players shared third – Americans Michael Mercier and John McClure and England's Tony McLure.



## MARK HILLS

Everyone at BIGGA was saddened to hear of the death of Mark Hills, greenkeeper at Kingsbarns Golf Links.

31-year-old Mark lost his battle against cancer and passed away in his wife Nic's arms on 26 August.

Mark came across from Jacks Point Golf Club Queenstown, New Zealand in April 2011 to join the greenkeeping team at Kingsbarns Golf Links. As well as being a hugely talented greenkeeper, Mark was also a keen golfer and managed to clock up an impressive 160 rounds of golf on The Old Course.

Mark and Nic loved travelling and over their time together visited 40 different countries. During his stay in Scotland Mark made many friends and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts go out to Nic, his parents John and Betsy, his brother Hamish and all his family and friends.



## SUCCESS FOR CLEVELAND

The annual Whitemoss BIGGA Northern Region Inter Section Competition took place at Northumberland Golf Club on Thursday 4 September courtesy of Andrew Law and all The Team at Whitemoss Eco Ltd.

Paul O'Connor, Jordan Gibson and the greenkeeping Team at Northumberland provided a superb course that Davy Cuthbertson quoted as having 'greens, surrounds and

approaches second only to The Open'. With that in mind and having received the warmest of welcomes from the clubhouse staff the three man teams began the 3/4 Stableford competition.

Some blamed the halfway house hospitality, others were a little more realistic in their performances but all enjoyed a superb day and extended their thanks and appreciation to Andrew Law and Whitemoss Eco Ltd.

As with all sporting occasions there can be only one winner and this was Cleveland Section's Year with Phil Hargrave, Martin Woods and Davy Cuthbertson achieving a cumulative score of 83. Runners up on count back were Sheffield Section with 83 points and third were Northern Section.

Thanks go to Northumberland Golf Club, Whitemoss Eco Ltd and to everyone for travelling and taking part.



## GREENKEEPERS DEFEAT CRICKETERS

Sam Evans, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Oakland Park Golf Club, recently organised a cricket match for greenkeepers against Chipping Norton and District Cricket Club – and the greenkeepers won handsomely!

The greenkeepers batted first, and a great start saw S Down and E Ruff score impressive half centuries.

The score continued to creep up and the greenkeepers declared on 221-7. In the following innings, all the greenkeepers bowled, except Tucklett who kept wicket.

The greenkeepers struggled to

find a wicket until Chris Sharp got the first. Wickets then tumbled regularly and CNDCC were eventually bowled out 94 runs short of the target. The highlight of the bowling figures was Simon Dadge with 2-4 and Shaun Kench with 2-9. A full match report can be found at [www.cndcc.co.uk](http://www.cndcc.co.uk).

Thank you to all who played and to Chipping Norton & District Cricket Club for hosting it.

Sam hopes to arrange a few more games next season in the BB&O area, so if interested please contact him on [snavem@hotmail.com](mailto:snavem@hotm.com).



## EVERRIS GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

The qualifying stages for the Golf Management Trophy sponsored by Everris are now complete ahead of the final at Frilford Heath Golf Club on 23 October.

The South West qualifier at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club saw the home team victorious with South Cerney Golf Club second place and also reaching the final.

The last qualifier was played at Parkstone Golf Club in Poole. BIGGA's South West & South Wales Regional Administrator Tracey Harvey said:

"The course was in tip top condition and was thoroughly enjoyed by all."

At Parkstone greenkeeper and BIGGA member Jackson Ainley from Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club had a hole in one! Parkstone club captain Dick Bell presented proud Jackson with a certificate to mark his ace (above).

Everris have placed on record their thanks to all members who supported each of the qualifiers – keep an eye out for coverage of the final soon.

# MANSFIELD SAND ANNOUNCED AS NEW BIGGA EDUCATION SUPPORTER



BIGGA are delighted to announce Mansfield Sand as our latest Education Supporter.

The long-established Nottinghamshire based company made its debut at BTME 2014 and is a specialist supplier of a comprehensive range of materials for the construction and maintenance of top class sports and landscape surfaces.

They have been quarrying sand in Mansfield for nearly 200 years and supply over 400 UK golf courses with rootzone materials, topdressing and bunker sand.

Mansfield Sand Golf Sales Manager Sharon Morris said: "We're keen to raise our profile in the turf management industry and this new partnership is an ideal way of helping us achieve this. We're looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership with BIGGA."

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and Education Supporters underpins the Association's considerable investment in CPD and all our educational activity and we urge you to show them your support.







## WHITELAW BOWL WIN

Penrith Golf Club was the venue for the Annual BIGGA Northern Region Championship competing for the Whitelaw Bowl kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor Limited. Neil Robinson and his team prepared a superb course.

Results: 13-24 Handicap Division Runner Up was (eventually) Brian Turner with 34 points and Winner Trevor Davies with 39 points. The Runner Up for the 1-12 Handicap Division was Steve Campbell with 37 points and the Winner for the division and the Whitelaw Bowl was Neil Robinson with 40 points (above left).

Phil Dewhurst of Rigby Taylor presented the prizes and thanked Neil and his team for preparing the course, Penrith Golf Club for hosting the event and to everyone for attending and supporting this traditional annual competition.

The date for this event next year is already booked so make a note in your diaries - Thursday 15 September 2015 with tees from 1pm at Penrith Golf Club.



## ROSS'S RUGBY SUCCESS

BIGGA member Ross Owens has scooped an impressive haul of trophies as he continues to excel for his local rugby team.

Ross, who is Deputy Course Manager at The Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course, has won various trophies playing for Melrose Rugby Club and credits a similar team ethic to that at the Roxburghe for the team's success.

Over the last few seasons Melrose have won three Scottish League titles, two Border League crowns, two Border Cups, a Scottish Cup, four 'Kings of the Sevens' titles and several other tournaments.

Ross said: "Playing rugby in this team environment is not dissimilar to our approach at the Roxburghe. Course Manager Grant Frogley, myself and the team ensure a professional approach to our work and that of the team to produce a

high quality product for members and visitors alike.

"In my time I have seen the course develop from its origins to one of the finest and challenging courses around. The course held successfully the Scottish Seniors Open for a period between 2008 and 2012 and Q School over the last two years.

"I think the key to our rugby success this year was the strength and depth of our squad and the wide expansive game of rugby we like to play. This brand of rugby is also popular with our club's supporters and lets them see some great tries being scored throughout the season, it does however mean that our forward pack remains mobile and is highly skilled in all aspects of open play rugby. We also have an excellent coaching team and backup support team at the club."

## SOUTH WEST SECTION VISIT WENTWORTH



Kenny Mackay recently took time out of his hugely busy schedule to show members of the South West Section around the West Course at Wentworth.

Kenny showed real passion and a hugely in depth knowledge of what makes Wentworth tick as a business. He described the West Course renovation processes in great detail.

Nothing was hidden or dismissed and Kenny clearly knew exactly where the course was going in the next 12 months and was happy to share this information.

Everyone took away something useful in terms of knowledge and inspiration from this first class afternoon. Thanks to Kenny and the Wentworth Club for their hospitality.

*Paul Worster*



## CHALARA SPREADING RAPIDLY

Chalara survey time has arrived with Forestry Commission's (FC) plant health survey teams pounding woodlands looking for diseased ash trees.

They appear to be finding plenty and in new places too despite recent comments from FC that spread of chalara had slowed down.

'Chalara hunting season' essentially lasts just a few months from July to October, starting when the spores (ascospores) are released from fruiting bodies (apothecia) on previous years' fallen leaf stalks to infect new leaves, until autumnal leaf colouration makes accurate identification of leaf infections difficult.

Total number of confirmed cases had been stubbornly stuck at around 660 for many months until 4 August when some 20 new ones were added by FC to its map of confirmed infection sites.

Almost all were in the wider environment including one in Bristol, two on the Hampshire/Surrey border near Farnham and a 10-outbreak surge in Lancashire around Burnley, Blackburn, Preston and Clitheroe.

The outbreak in Lancashire was the first wider environment infection confirmed within a huge region covering north-west England, mid and north Wales and south

west Scotland. By 11 August another 17 wider environment infections were confirmed, all in Northumberland and the Scottish Borders, more than doubling the number in this region.

Thirty six more were confirmed on 26 August. Outbreaks in West Sussex and Surrey doubled to 20 with two wider environment outbreaks recorded for the first time in neighbouring Hampshire. Lincolnshire was another hot spot with confirmed outbreaks tripling from five to 15.

Majority of the remaining new cases were in Kent, North Norfolk and the Northumberland/Scottish borders region.

After a long delay FC next updated the map on 15 September. Sixty three new cases were added with 54 in the wider environment.

The Lancashire outbreak had tripled in size spreading west to Blackpool, south to Rochdale and north into the Forest of Bowland.

New outbreaks in Scotland were discovered at Perth and north and south of Glasgow.

There were more new outbreaks in Northumberland and Lincolnshire and one in a previously untouched area of the West Country near Shepton Mallet in Somerset.

The disease continues to push further into Cambridgeshire from East Anglia and Hampshire from West Sussex.

Funny thing is this fast growing number of new and serious outbreaks, many in areas hitherto untouched by disease, has failed to provoke any public statement from the UK plant health authorities and consequently has received absolutely no coverage in the broader media.

The only statement appears on the FC website underneath the map.

"These new cases are due to increased survey activity and not to a sudden increase in Chalara infection". What they really mean is the disease has already spread (and is still spreading) more rapidly than they anticipated or assumed and causing them to play 'catch up'.

FC still talks about 'Protected Zone Status' for those parts of the country where chalara has not been found in the wider environment.

Surely these latest findings will knock that idea on the head. How on earth can you set up 'Protected Zones' in a small country like the UK for a fungal pathogen and disease which is spread by airborne spores and with no means of control?

*Dr Terry Mabbett*





# Masham up in North Yorkshire

**BIGGA members gathered for a recent golf day at Masham Golf Club in North Yorkshire sponsored by Baroness and also supported by Agronomic Services. We spoke to greenkeeper Neil Austwick to find out more...**

**Q How many people turned out to support you on the day?**

The Golf Day here at Masham was promoted through the BIGGA Section, which meant that we had a good turnout of 25.

They had heard that we kept a good course here and that's why we held it at Masham Golf Club. We had members arrive

from Halifax, Huddersfield and as far afield as Scarborough.

**Q How did the greens and playing surfaces look?**

The greens looked fantastic; we had numerous comments about how impressive they looked.

**Q Tell me how you prepared the greens for the Golf Day (ie. what products and services did you use?)**

Planning ahead was key; we have been very busy with competitions and invitation days. We knew about the Golf Day earlier in the year so could plan our product maintenance programme.

We were able to apply the

correct products at the correct time in order to enhance the course and ensure the playing surface was at its best. We work closely with David Snowden, who is our advisor at Agronomic Services Ltd.

They supply us with a range of products which include Oxy-Rush and Osiryl in conjunction with Floratine's Foliar and Soil products.

**Q Do you think the Golf Day was a success?**

It was a huge success. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the course, although some players tore up their score cards at the end! You have to be accurate here, particularly with your driver.

Our Greens Chairman Norman stood in on the day and played with the other players, ironically he got the best score, I think we can put that down to local knowledge!

**Q Would Masham be happy to host this type of event again?**

We would very definitely host this type of event again as it really was enjoyed by all. I haven't played golf for about five years but had a great day.

We work really hard to manage our greens, and are very proud of what we do.

It was a privilege to be part and take part in such a memorable day.

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# Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

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

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

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



## EXCLUSIVE ARCO DISCOUNTS FOR BIGGA MEMBERS

Arco's new Big Book catalogue for 2014/15 is hot off the press; offering BIGGA members exclusive discounts across a wide range of products including workwear, weather wear and safety equipment. Bigger than ever, the new catalogue spans 972 pages and offers even more choice including new product ranges, training packages and consultancy services.

As the UK's leading Safety Company, Arco is dedicated to keeping people safe at work. With pages giving advice and guidance on choosing the right product for the job, the Big Book is also a trusted source of information and expert advice. It offers an extensive choice of products to suit a variety of needs and budgets, including Arco own brand products and some of the best known brands in the industry. Cutting costs shouldn't have to mean compromising on comfort or safety and the new catalogue promises customers extraordinary value, with competitive prices.

With winter fast approaching, thermal comfort is essential for worker productivity and good health. Arco has developed a smart winter weather wear layering system that includes a wide range of base layers, mid layers and outer garments all designed to keep workers warm, dry and comfortable.

A brand new addition to the weather wear range is the Trojan interactive jacket that can be used together with the Trojan fleece and Trojan Glacier jacket for complete protection against extreme weather conditions.



To help ensure BIGGA members get their products when they need them, Arco also offers five delivery options, including a date specific and next day by 10am service. Further ensuring peace of mind, Arco's order acknowledgement service keeps all of its customers fully informed throughout the delivery process.

To get your copy of the Arco Big Book, call your local sales office, visit your nearest Arco store or go online to [www.arco.co.uk/catrequest](http://www.arco.co.uk/catrequest).



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You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

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### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

**Personal Accident Helpline**  
0207 2048952

**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
0800 177 7891

**Lifestyle Counselling Helpline**  
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[www.arcllegal.co.uk/carefirst](http://www.arcllegal.co.uk/carefirst)





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[JohnDeere.com](http://JohnDeere.com)



# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

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

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

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

## ROUGH GRASSES

The next in our series of articles highlighting a section of BIGGA's On Course Field Guide is on the Identification of Rough Grasses.

This section was written by Lee Penrose and Bob Taylor from STRI. It's a very useful guide to the lesser-known grasses common on many of the UK's golf courses. The introduction includes a glossary of terms used to help identify parts of the grass plant.

Remember, the Field Guides are a benefit of membership and are FREE to all members. If you wish to claim your copy then contact please contact BIGGA and a copy will be sent out to you.

Again one Education CPD credit is available for reading the article and completing the quiz.

### Crested Hair Grass - *Koeleria cristata*

#### Identification

Flowering culms; to 60 cm tall, 1-3 noded and downy

Leaves; rolled in shoot, grey/green and densely hairy all over

Ligules to 1 mm long and membranous

Spike-like panicles very dense  
Forms loose tufts

#### General

Common plant found across the British Isles on dry calcareous grasslands, from sea level to 400 m, absent from wetland and woodland. This grass varies in size, hairiness and rigidity of the leaf blades and colour.

#### Ecological value

Useful in infertile and rocky areas as will grow well providing some good ground cover for small mammals and other calcareous grasses, i.e. *Festuca* spp. Aesthetically pleasing during autumn as seeds germinate



Vegetative shoots - note very short ligule



Inflorescence (flower head - dense particle)

soon after release resulting in the appearance of clusters of seedlings.

#### Management

*Koeleria cristata* is a slow growing, loosely tufted, winter green grass that regenerates freely via seeds. It can, without management, become tussocky and unkempt over time. It is tolerant to stresses and disturbances to the land, however will not tolerate intense grazing; hence rabbits and hares on a golf course will help control this species.

Cutting, and removal of leaf litter, once per year will be sufficient to keep a diverse grassland containing *Koeleria*



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

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www.bigga.org.uk



cristata without dense tufts appearing.

### Ball retrieval/Playability

Moderate to good if sward is managed (not overly tussocky).

Difficult to play from if *Koeleria cristata* is the dominant species in the rough.

### Tall Fescue - *Festuca arundinacea*

#### Identification

Erect, stout culms; 45-200 cm tall with 2-5 smooth nodes

Ligules; <2 mm, membranous  
Rough, green leaves, 10-60 cm long, tapered toward end and flat  
Lanceolate, erect panicles; loose and coloured green-purplish  
Row of short hairs on auricle

#### General

Native perennial found throughout the British Isles in grassy places and riverbanks on most types of soil.

#### Ecological value

Forms large, dense tussocks if unmanaged, therefore provides good habitat for invertebrates and breeding birds. There are many strains of *Festuca arundinacea* occupying many distinct habitats, the taller, more robust kinds grow on heavy soils in low lying areas and riverbanks, whilst the shorter varieties grow in grazed pastures in sandy soils.

#### Management

*Festuca arundinacea* regenerates via seed. It will form thick tufts if unmanaged reducing ecological interest and can appear untidy.

### Ball retrieval/Playability

Moderate if well managed, poor without management.

### Mat-Grass - *Nardus stricta*

#### Identification

10-40 cm tall wiry culms, single noded and erect

Bristle-like, grey/green leaves, tightly inrolled, stiff, pointed and <30 cm long

Spikes; erect, very slender, green-purplish, 3-8cm with seeds on one side only

Usually forms dense tufts

#### General

A tough, wiry grass of heath and moorland wide-spread throughout the British Isles.

Will colonise most acid soils of low fertility, dry soils to damp



Characterised by dense tussocks - providing difficult playing conditions



Inflorescence (flower head) - note seeds only on one side and thin wiry culms

peaty soils at all altitudes less than 1000 m. Good indicator of acidic conditions on golf courses.

#### Ecological value

*Nardus stricta* can be an asset to an upland golf course, creating a natural feel within the rough. Associated flora is moderate to poor due to its dense tussocks and persistent litter. Usually

co-dominant with *Festuca ovina*, associated flowers may be tormentil, sheep's sorrel and heath or ladies' bedstraw. Insects and small mammals can thrive in the protection given to them by the large canopy. Ground-nesting birds will also be attracted by this species due to the good cover and number of insects inhabiting it.

#### Management

Although classed as a stress-tolerant grass, *Nardus stricta* can dominate where soil conditions are favourable and competition poor to reduce ecological diversity of the sward. Infrequent cutting, flailing and removal of litter will help reduce the chances of a monoculture, whilst keeping a sustainable and natural population on the golf course.

### Ball retrieval/Playability

Balls may be readily visible but playability may be difficult as *Nardus stricta* will form compact, close tussocks. If kept away from play areas, with a barrier of other less dense grasses and wild flowers, then should pose no problems to play.



Earn a CPD credit for completing the quiz:

- Where is Crested Hair Grass found?  
Dry calcareous grassland  
Damp woodlands  
Acidic heathland  
Arctic tundra
- What does Crested Hair Grass not tolerate?  
Golf traffic  
Cutting  
Intense grazing  
Drought
- Tall Fescue is a native plant of which area?  
North America  
British Isles  
China  
Europe
- Tall Fescue can be identified by its;  
Claw-like auricles  
Ligules >4mm, no membranes  
Rolled spear-like leaves  
Ligules <2mm, membranous
- What type of soil conditions does Mat-Grass indicate?  
Calcareous meadow soil  
Highly fertile farmland  
Acidic soils of low fertility  
Wet-logged soils
- What is the best way to maintain Mat-Grass?  
Regular mowing, boxing clippings off  
Flailing and leaving clippings  
Regular flailing and removal of clippings  
Infrequent mowing and removal of clippings





## L&D TEAM UPDATE

As our L&D activity continues to increase, we've made some alterations in the structure of the department.

Sami Strutt is now Head of Member Development and will be handling the provision of member education which covers Continue to Learn, the Future Turf Managers Initiative, BIGGA's member training strategy and education at events such as Saltex. Sami is now working remotely.

Stuart Green's new role is Head of Member Learning which covers formal greenkeeper education from apprenticeships to funding, CPD administration, Master Greenkeeper and Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. He will also be continuing to liaise heavily with colleges and training providers.

Supporting Stuart on a daily basis is our newest recruit Deb Burnett (right), who has accepted the role of L&D Administrator.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to Jack Morrison and Philip Iball who have become the latest recipients of the Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen.

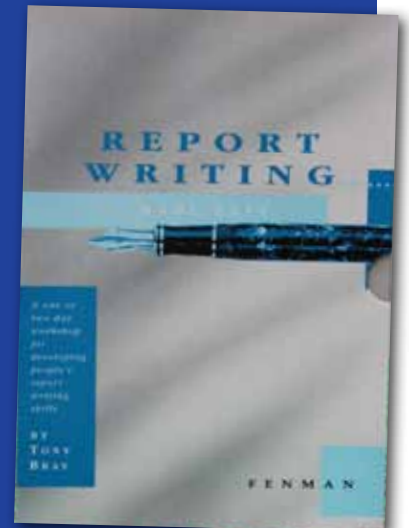
Jack (right), a greenkeeper at Wentworth, will be studying for a HNC in Golf Course Management at SRUC Elmwood College.

Philip (above) will be studying a Foundation degree in Sportsturf at Myerscough College. He spent this summer working at Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club. Good luck to both greenkeepers in their studies. For more on BIGGA's many funding opportunities head to our website and click on Education>Funding Opportunities.



## REPORT WRITING MADE EASY

A new library book is available in the BIGGA library – 'Report Writing Made Easy'. This is a complete workshop kit designed to help trainers deliver effective training in report writing skills. It contains everything you need to set up and deliver a top quality one or two day workshop on effective report writing.



- Pack contents -
1. Masters File (2 copies)
  2. Session Notes
  3. Tools and Techniques
  4. Session Overviews
  5. Poster pack containing 8 posters

Members may borrow up to two books for up to six weeks. The only cost is return postage. To withdraw your books - access the Library in the Members Area.

## CPD Approved Members This Month



### CPD Approved status:

Peter Newton - Rockcliffe Hall GC  
 Steven Tierney MG - Golfpark Nuolen AG  
 Brett Moggridge - Kirtlington GC  
 Kevin O'Neill - Muswell Hill GC  
 Stephen Clark - Spalding GC  
 Derek Grendowicz - Raevo Golf Developments  
 Lee Strutt MG - G West  
 Simon Connah - St Andrews Links Trust

Laurence Pithie MG - Turfmaster One Ltd  
 Robert George - Thorndon Park GC  
 James Braithwaite - Long Ashton GC  
 Arnold Phipps-Jones - Three Rivers Golf & Country Club  
 Andrew Foulds - Wimbledon Park GC  
 Harry Larkins - Northamptonshire GC

### CPD Milestone:

Peter Newton - Rockcliffe Hall GC



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## AERATION THE CHARTERHOUSE WAY

Aeration is arguably the major single factor in any successful turf care maintenance. But combining it with a reduction in organic matter will see a far healthier plant that becomes more resistant to drought, disease and excess moisture. In time it will lead to less irrigation being required and overall be far more receptive to fertilising programmes. The result will give a playing surface that can be relied on throughout the year.

The correct aeration, at the correct time, plays its part in this. The iconic Verti-Drain® is very well known the world over, but there are other types of machinery that play an equally important role.

Different seasons can bring different demands, but the recent unpredictable weather has brought with it a necessity to adapt a maintenance regime to cope with it. A few years back a Verti-Drain®

would have been used half a dozen times in a year, and then usually only in the autumn and winter months. But now, to deal with excessive moisture build-up within the root zone, these machines can be seen in use at any time of the year. Deeper aeration during autumn is a great way to establish good downward movement of moisture in readiness for the wetter winter months. However, thought should be given to times outside of this window to help sustain a healthier and more vibrant grass plant.

To keep the top area of the root zone open a Verti-Drain® can be fitted with narrower diameter tines. If excess weight on the surface becomes a factor then one could turn to slitting using either a Redexim Level Spike or Multi Spike. These machines are lighter in

weight, available in different working widths and with or without rear rollers, but can offer a comprehensive range of knives and tines. This can pay dividends during drier times where the grass plant still needs good airflow, but not necessarily at the depths done at other times of the year.

Aeration is all dependent on a healthy and vibrant leaf canopy allowing the free movement of air and nutrients in the first place. If this is an issue, and more than often it is, then reducing the level of organic matter (thatch) is of the utmost importance as well as controlling the undesirable shallow rooting grass species. A targeted scarifying programme to aid air movement and water flow, using our Graden range of machinery, will instantly create firmer, drier and much more playable and predictable surfaces.



## SHERRIFF AMENITY APPOINTMENT

Sherriff Amenity is pleased to announce the appointment of new amenity specialist Craig Spooner, who will be responsible for covering the East Anglian area for the company. Craig joins from Limagrain, the largest seed company in Europe.

With an impressive employment history including greenkeeping positions at a string of golf clubs such as The Forest of Arden, The Isle of Purbeck and Leatherhead, Craig landed the role of Head Greenkeeper at Bourn Golf Club near Cambridge, where he oversaw the redevelopment of the greens. His career path then took him to Limagrain where he specialised in the Amenity sector for nearly eight years. It was during this position that he first worked with Sherriff Amenity when he supported the sales team who were selling the MM and Designer range of seed.

Craig said: "I got to know quite a lot of Sherriff Amenity customers during my time at Limagrain. I liked the idea of having more products to talk to people about; Sherriff Amenity have the best product range for greenkeepers and groundsman in the amenity sector and being such an established company I felt that it would be good move."



# RANSOMES JACOBSEN BOOST AT RAMSIDE

Ransomes Jacobsen's Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) scheme has been in operation for almost a year now and is providing a valued added service to end-users who may not have the budget or inclination to purchase new machinery.

Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club, one of the top courses in the north east of England, has recently purchased five Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid triplex mowers using the CPO scheme. Delivered earlier this season the mowers are being used to maintain the tees and greens on the Prince Bishops course and the recently opened nine holes on the club's new Cathedral course.

Roger Shaw is the Course Manager and commenting on the new mowers said: "Ransomes Jacobsen's CPO scheme is an excellent initiative and has certainly allowed us to take advantage of this latest hybrid technology at a cost that is very favourable for the club.

"I've been using Jacobsen greens mowers for over 20 years and the quality of cut from their cutting units is second to none. The consistency we are getting across our greens and tees is remarkable; we just dial in the frequency of cut and it's locked in. No matter who is driving any of the mowers, they all cut exactly the same."

Nick Scott is the club's head mechanic and has earned a high reputation for the manner in which he maintains the mixed fleet at Ramside Hall.

He added: "Working on these Eclipse mowers is really easy; the swing-out centre unit is an excellent feature and access to the engine and other major components is really good. All the systems on the Eclipse are electric, using a small diesel engine to run a generator. Because of this we are seeing significant fuel savings as a result."



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# Durabunker team up with Seaton Carew

Holders of the 2014 Brabazon Trophy, Seaton Carew GC, recently announced that they would be continuing their bunker renovation project using the synthetic bunker solution Durabunker (formerly named Envirobunker).

Work will commence later this Autumn with the golf club building under a license agreement. Tony Cartwright, Head Greenkeeper at Seaton Carew commented: "The finished surface produced when using DuraBunker is far superior to grass. The labour and maintenance savings made through Durabunker allows considerable man hours to be diverted to more essential course works.

"The overall effect is to present the course, particularly the bunkers, in pristine condition. In my 40 years at this course, using the Durabunker method to build bunkers, is the most spectacular change made and as head greenkeeper I am pleased to have been responsible for introducing the product to Seaton Carew Golf Club".

The contract option agreed at Seaton Carew is one of a variety

offered by Durabunker Ltd as explained by Director, Rhydian Lewis:

"Seaton Carew is a traditional links course where staff possess significant bunker building experience. Ensuring the quality of our product is crucial but having worked with Tony and his team previously, and witnessed the results produced, we are very comfortable to be offering a licence agreement to enable the construction to be carried out in house".

However Durabunker also offer managed contracts enabling local staff to work in collaboration with specialist staff provided by the company, as well as full contractual services.

Rhydian continued: "We have recently secured projects at Frosaker GC in Sweden and Baden Hills GC in Germany, both courses opting to use our experienced team to carry out major bunker renovation projects. Both are inland courses with bunkers having sand splash faces and shallower, rolling edges. Durabunker is being used to stabilize these edges, guaranteeing the longevity and integrity of design."

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**"In 40 Years at this course, Using the Durabunker Method to Build Bunkers is the Most Spectacular Change Made."** Tony Cartwright, Course Manager, Seaton Carew GC

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# Waste2Water Extend 2 Year Interest-Free Finance Package



With investment in a Recycling Wash System becoming an urgent priority to ensure compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive we looked at what we could do to assist. We launched our in-house 2 YEAR INTEREST-FREE FINANCE PACKAGE in July for all orders received up to 30 September 2014.

The response has been fantastic with a record number of orders received in the last quarter! With demand clearly there the problem many clubs appear to have is financing the purchase. So, we've decided to extend the offer for all orders received up to 30 November 2014, to give everyone an opportunity to take advantage of this superb offer!

## 2 Year Interest-Free Finance Package

The scheme couldn't be simpler:

- In-house Scheme - so no finance to apply for or forms to fill in!
- Spreads the investment cost over up to 3 accounting years!
- Buy Now Pay Later - just 8 x quarterly payments!

## 100% First Year Capital Allowance

In addition, the Waste2Water Recycling Wash System has now been approved on the Water Technology List (WTL). WTL approval allows a 100% First Year Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) to be claimed, enabling the business to claim the full 100% investment cost against taxable profits in the year of purchase. Capital Allowances enable businesses to write off their capital assets against taxable profits.

The standard Annual Capital Allowance is 25% of capital expenditure in each year, allowed on a reducing balance basis. The 25% allowance doesn't sound too bad until you do the maths and find that it takes 8 years to reclaim 90% of your capital expenditure in any year! The 100% First Year Allowance provides a great cash flow boost!

## Installing a Waste2Water Recycling Wash System

Installing a Waste2Water System could not be easier, often easily retro-fitting into an existing area. The Recycling System ensures environmental compliance, reduces water usage by a massive 90% and tidies up one of the worst aspects of golf course maintenance.

If you haven't already upgraded your equipment wash facilities call us now for a free no-obligation site visit. With our 2 Year Interest-Free Finance offer and the 100% Enhanced Capital Allowance reducing your tax bill you are already well on your way to funding the first year.

# Waste2Water

Recycling Wash-Off System  
for Vehicles & Equipment



**2 YEAR  
INTEREST-FREE  
FINANCE\***  
\*On all orders received by  
30 November 2014

## More than just a wash-off system...

## Also rapidly treats fuel and chemical spillages...

## Reduces water usage by 90% and qualifies for 100% FYA tax allowance under the ECA Scheme



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# O'Neill nails it

2014 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Kevin O'Neill talks to Steve Castle about starting out at Gleneagles, his time as a football groundsman and preparing for his first ever visit to America

**Kevin O'Neill had little time to relax after following in Luke Turner's footsteps to claim the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize – three days after winning, he'd completed the long journey to Gleneagles to join the volunteer support team for the Ryder Cup. The legendary venue is very close to his heart as he began his career there. But firstly, we discussed his pride at becoming the competition's 26th winner. He triumphed from a talented, enthusiastic group of six who began the final as strangers and ended it as friends.**

He said: "I'm very proud, I put a lot of work into this! The final was an amazing experience. I don't think there was much between the six of us.

"When you look at the names of the previous winners and the careers they've gone on to have it's brought home to me how important this competition is, it's the highlight of my career so far.

"The final was pretty intense. You're really in the spotlight for two days, but everyone from BIGGA and the other finalists really put me at ease. The panel discussion which started the final off was a great ice-breaker.

"I think I've been quite lucky because I've worked with some very experienced greenkeepers who have passed some fantastic knowledge on to me. That's another great thing about greenkeeping, it's a very open industry. If something works on your course, or even if something hasn't worked, you tell everyone about it!"



Kevin has never been to America, and is now excitedly preparing for his trip in just a few months.

He will spend six weeks at a residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts before visiting the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio and taking in a look at Toro's Minneapolis HQ.

His journey began studying a Leisure & Recreation degree at Sheffield Hallam University, and he was keeping his career options open – until he went to Gleneagles on a summer work placement during his second year.

He worked in the pro shop and on the range, getting a feel for the

resort, then he spent a few days with the greenkeepers.

He recalled: "A fire was lit for me and I knew then that greenkeeping was what I wanted to do. I loved finding out what they were doing, and the combination of the team's hard work and camaraderie was inspiring."

After completing his degree, he used his contacts at Gleneagles to return as a seasonal greenkeeper before he was offered a full-time position. He completed his Level 2 NVQ at Elmwood while he was there, and now has a Level 3 Diploma.

"They were a great team. Jimmy Kidd was Estates Manager, he gave me my big break really. I'll

**Name:** Kevin O'Neill  
**Role:** Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
**Club:** Muswell Hill Golf Club  
**College:** Oaklands  
**Handicap:** 18  
**Favourite Sports Team:** Rochdale FC

always remember him saying 'greenkeeping's not a job, it's a vocation' and he was right. Scott Fenwick and Pete Pattenden were also key figures when I was there, and the whole team were fantastic to work with.

"Maintaining high standards was so important at Gleneagles. Starting my career at one of the world's premier golf resorts taught me so much. Attention to detail was absolutely critical."

After six happy years at Gleneagles, he was keen to expand his knowledge so took the bold decision to swap sports and accepted an Assistant Groundsman position at Charlton Athletic FC in 2006.

He said: "At that time Charlton were a Premier League club. I met the Head Groundsman Paul Geary, he was very passionate and I knew I would learn a lot from him.

"It's obviously a different challenge to greenkeeping, but the end goal is the same – present the surface to the highest possible standard.

"I would say that on a golf course a lot of your focus is on the greens, so your work is a little more refined. In my opinion attention to detail is more important, the response of a golf ball on a green is more precise than a football bouncing on a pitch. But each have their own challenges and it was fascinating comparing the two."

He then spent a year at Barnet FC as Head Groundsman. This proved to be a real eye-opener as money at the now non-league club was incredibly tight, and Kevin also had to deal with working on Barnet's famous sloping pitch at their former home of Underhill.

"There were no resources at all, and at the time it felt a bit restricting, but I didn't realise how much I'd learnt working there until I left. Aeration was walking up and down the pitch with a fork!

"I seemed to spend less time on the agronomy side and more on people management. At that time there were only six full-time staff so I did a bit of everything – I worked in the ticket office and the club shop.

"I got to know the players and most of the fans because there weren't many of them! I only spent a year there but it helped me with all sorts of different skills. You can't really get more of a contrast - working at Gleneagles then Barnet – but again it broadened my experience."

Despite enjoying his spell in groundsmanhood, he was always keen to return to his first love of greenkeeping and in 2008 he spotted an opportunity as Deputy at Muswell Hill – a parkland course in North London. He got the job just weeks before new Course Manager Matt Pledsted arrived.

"I joined at an exciting time, Matt was the new Course Manager, there were new maintenance facilities, and we had a young, inexperienced greenkeeping team.

"Now we're all qualified, it's mostly the same team who have completed all sorts of developments and renovations over the last six years. Matt's very big on the education side of things. We've all made regular visits to BTME, and when we get back we present a report on what we've done."

Kevin, who is Secretary of BIGGA's London Section, lives in Bounds Green with his partner Jude and his three-year-old son Hudson. He's a keen supporter of Rochdale FC, his hometown club ("it was fantastic when we got promoted in 2010...we'd been in the same division for 41 years before that which must be a record!"). His current handicap is 18.

The essay question posed to the finalists this year asked them to outline their career goals and aspirations; so how did Kevin reply?

"I'd like to be a Course Manager one day. I think I'm ready for the responsibility, I've got a lot of my own ideas. Ultimately I'm thankful I work in such a great industry, no two days are the same, and I can't wait for America.

"I know the entire trip will be so beneficial for my education and career, and I'm particularly looking forward to learning more about different types of grasses used on courses over there and how the American greenkeepers approach turf management. I can't wait!"

Kevin would like to thank Andy Wight, Mick Bithell and all at Oakland College, Matt Pledsted and all at Muswell Hill Golf Club, the award sponsors Toro, everyone at BIGGA, the other finalists (Aaron Bowen, Andy Foulds, Tom Freeman, Wesley Lenihan and Daire Higgins), Jimmy Kidd, Scott Fenwick, Pete Pattenden and all the greenkeeping team at Gleneagles during his time there and Paul Geary at Charlton Athletic FC. He would also like to thank all his family and friends for their support.







BACK ROW: Les Howkins MG, David Cole, Sami Strutt, Bruce Jamieson, Chris Sealey  
FRONT ROW: Aaron Bowen, Daire Higgins, Tom Freeman, Kevin O'Neill, Wesley Lenihan, Andy Foulds

## THE 2014 FINAL

**Winner:** Kevin O'Neill, Muswell Hill Golf Club (Oaklands College)

**Runners up:** Tom Freeman, Kingsdown Golf Club (Myerscough College), Wesley Lenihan, Ealing Golf Club (Plumpton College).

**Finalists:** Aaron Bowen, Ipswich Golf Club Purdis Heath (Easton Otley College), Andy Foulds, Wimbledon Park Golf Club (Merrist Wood College), Daire Higgins, St Andrews Links (SRUC Elmwood College).

The procedure for the final was refreshed this year to include a discussion panel, a multiple choice test, an essay question and a 5-10 minute presentation from each candidate about themselves prior to interview.

The discussion panel was chaired by Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club and BIGGA Vice Chairman. The candidates were asked their views on hot topics in the industry including the public perception of greenkeeping, data collection, heights of cut, the use of organic products in turf management and education.

Day two of the final began bright and early with the six sitting a multiple choice test on various aspects of greenkeeping, then answering an essay question.

The final stage of the competition featured the students delivering a short presentation about themselves before they were interviewed by Sami Strutt, BIGGA Head of Member Development, golf course consultant Bruce Jamieson, BIGGA Chairman Chris Sealey and David Cole, Lely Turf Division Senior Manager.

This panel then came to the final decision.



# 25 Years

**TORO**<sup>®</sup>

## of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

**Before the 2014 final, a special event was held at Aldwark Manor Hotel, adjacent to BIGGA House, to mark a quarter of a century of the competition.**

This unique evening attracted almost every winner in the competition's history along with key figures through the decades. All the winners who attended were presented with a special watch as a memento.

Lely's UK Managing Director Graham Dale addressed the

attendees explaining how the competition began and how it has evolved before Euan Grant, 1994 winner and now Course Manager at Turnberry, outlined how much his win has helped his career and that of many others in the industry. The speeches were concluded by BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, who thanked Toro for their hugely generous quarter century of sponsorship, and Barry Beckett, Toro's Senior Marketing Manager.

Barry added: "Toro and Lely are

proud to be associated with such a worthwhile scheme that recognises young and rising talent in the greenkeeping industry. We thought it fitting to mark the awards' 25th anniversary with a special celebration – bringing together winners, judges and others, past and present – and I'm delighted the occasion was such an outstanding success."

Thanks to all the winners who travelled from far and wide to attend and everyone else who contributed to a special occasion.



FROM LEFT: Euan Grant (1994 winner), James Braithwaite (1995), Murray Long (2002), Fintan Brennan (1996), Bridie Radican (now Collins, 1993), Brian Story (1991), Keith Scruton (2003), Matt Perks (2011), Thomas Flavelle (2012), Luke Turner (2013), Avon Bridges (2007), Alex Shore (2004), Rhys Norville (2009), Mike Emptage (2006), Mathew Wormald (2008), Andrew Stanger (2010), David Norton (1990), Barry Neville (1992), Steven Nixon (1997), Andrew Pledger (2001), Jonathan Cleland (2000).









# A flexible friend?

Recent changes to flexible working regulations could affect greenkeepers. Here Carlyne Wahlen, a specialist in employment law with a particular focus on golf clubs, explains what the changes mean

**The greenkeeping departments of private member golf clubs were not hugely affected by the original flexible working legislation introduced in 2003. However, with the new legislation effective from 30 June 2014, all employees will be able to request flexible working or, as it is commonly referred to, wanting to work part-time.**

Greenkeepers are often the longest serving employees in golf clubs, so meet the qualifying criteria to apply.

They also have a manual labour role, which can be more onerous for them the longer they are in the job. An additional burden is the requirement to work weekends.

So given the manual nature of their role, long serving status, and the possibility of requesting part-time working, we predict a

large increase in requests from this department in golf clubs over the next year.

An added twist is that the formal process of requesting flexible working has been removed.

Now all clubs need to do is to act in a 'reasonable' way, which is a very grey area when it comes to interpretation.

## **What form can flexible working take?**

- Job sharing: Two people do one job and split the hours.

- Part-time: Working less than full-time hours (usually by working fewer days).

- Compressed hours: Working full-time hours but over fewer days.

- Flexi-time: The employee chooses when to start and end work (within agreed limits) but works certain 'core hours', e.g. 10am to 4pm every day.

- Annualised hours (only offered by 3% of private sector organisations): The employee has to work a certain number of hours over the year but they have some flexibility about when they work. There are sometimes 'core hours' which the employee regularly works each week, and they work the rest of their hours flexibly or when there's extra demand at work.

- Staggered hours: The individual has different start, finish and break times from their colleagues.

- Phased retirement: Default retirement age has been phased out and older workers can choose when they want to retire. This means they can reduce their hours and work part-time.

- Working from home: It might be possible to do some or all of the work from home or anywhere else other than the normal place of work.





### Flexible Working 30 June 2014 onwards

This new legislation allows all employees with the minimum service requirement (26 weeks) to request flexible working.

Among employees (in all private sector businesses), flexi-time (30%), working from home on a regular basis (25%) and mobile working (22%) are the most commonly used flexible working practices.

Due to the nature of the industry, most greenkeepers are already working flexi-time – they work longer hours in the summer, and much shorter ones in the winter.

91% of all micro businesses (which is what most private member golf clubs are) reported no problems with complying with the existing legislation and 85% are actively offering flexible working options to their staff.

### New Process

There is no set process since the end of June. However all Clubs should have a documented process for requesting flexible working. We recommend taking the ACAS disciplinary guidelines timeframes as the framework.

So when you submit a written request to your line manager, you should get a response within five working days and they should have arranged a meeting within ten working days. After the meeting, they should make and communi-

cate their decision within five working days. You will have the right to appeal their decision, again, within five working days.

You don't need to have a meeting if they are going to approve your request. The timings to use are not set down in law, but all requests must be dealt with within three months. But if your club is taking this long, then we recommend raising a formal written grievance with them about their delaying tactics.

The minimum amount of information that you must include in your request is:

The date of your application, the change to working conditions you are seeking and when you would like the change to come into effect.

What effect, if any, you think the requested change would have on the Club and how, in your opinion, any such effect might be dealt with.

A statement that this is a statutory request and if and when you have made a previous application for flexible working.

If the Club is going to reject your request, they have to give you a reason. They can 'reinvent the wheel' or they can continue to use the reasons that were allowed under the old system:

1. The burden of any additional costs is unacceptable to the Club.
2. Inability to recruit additional staff.
3. An inability to reorganise work among existing staff.

4. The Club considers the change will have a detrimental impact on quality.

5. There is insufficient work during the periods the employee proposes to work.

6. The Club considers the change would have a detrimental effect on the Club's ability to meet member demand.

7. Detrimental impact on performance.

8. Planned structural changes, for example, where the Club intends to reorganise or change the business and considers the flexible working changes may not fit with these plans.

### Conclusion

All greenkeepers, with the minimum service length (26 weeks) now have the right to request flexible working. You should remember however that it is a right to request, not a right to have. Your club must deal with your request in a reasonable manner. They have to give you a reason for a refusal. If the reason is unclear or too general (i.e. "we just don't want to") then you can appeal and raise a formal grievance before taking more serious legal steps.

However, as small organisations have been very proactive in dealing with flexible working requests (in order to compete with bigger organisations), we don't foresee any major problems arising from this change.

### about the author



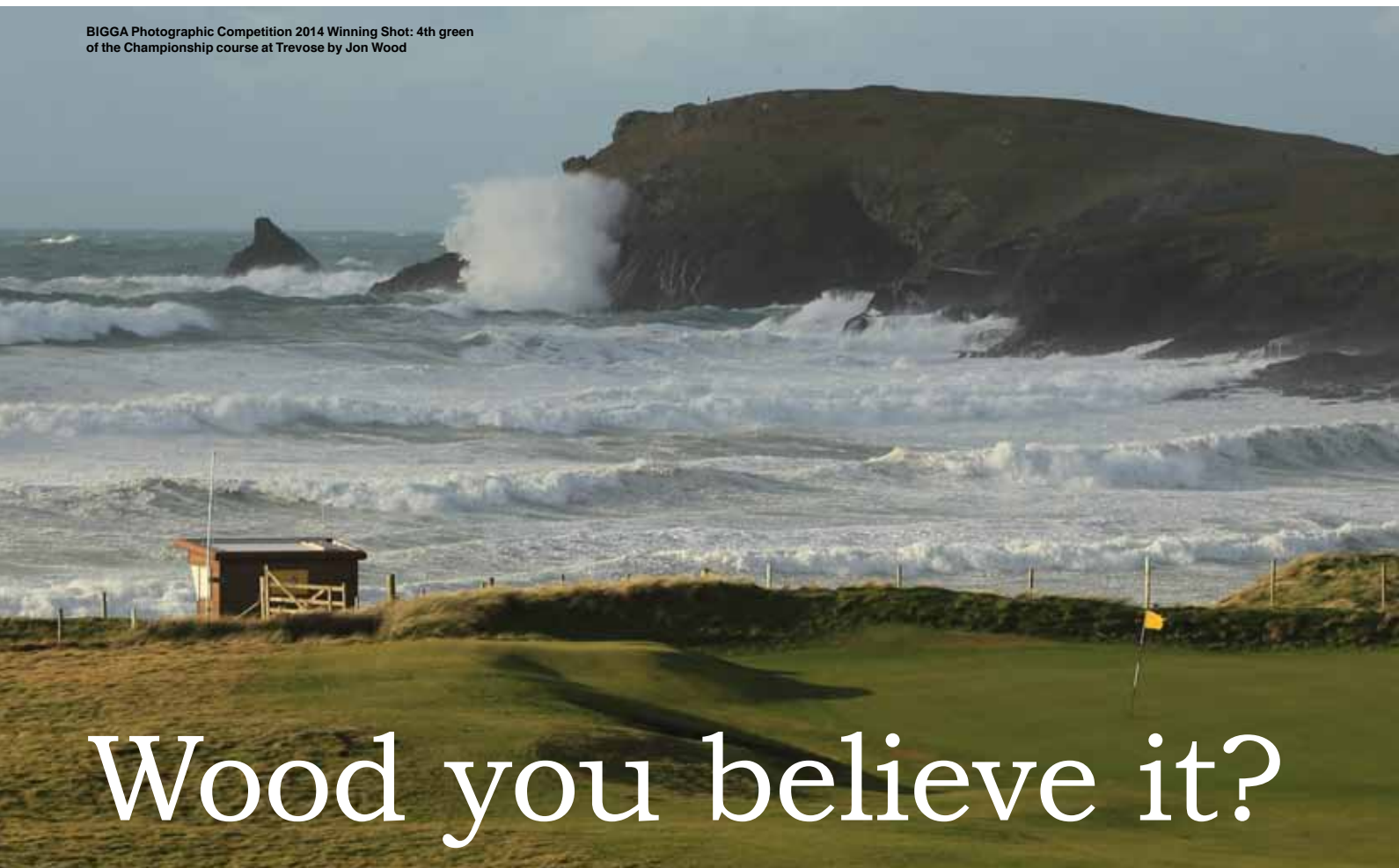
### About the author

Carolyn Wahlen has been keeping organisations tribunal free since 2003. "It is a legal minefield out there! Working with small organisations I realised that they needed someone to call when things went pear-shaped. I wanted to help Clubs 'do the right thing', within the law." She is the author of "Keeping you out of the rough". In addition she delivered the HR component of the Golf England Level 1 Golf Club Managers Qualification course at Warwick University. She speaks about employment law for the GCMA at their regional meetings. Carolyn and her team can be contacted on 01491 693 388 Email: cw@GolfHR.co.uk www.GolfHR.co.uk

### Further information:

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# Wood you believe it?

**This stormy shot of waves crashing behind the 4th green at Trevoise Golf Club is the photo BIGGA members have chosen to win the BIGGA Photographic Competition 2014.**

It was taken by Trevoise's Course Manager Jon Wood during last winter's storms – and he wins an iPad plus a framed version of his shot.

He said: "They must be the stormiest seas I'd ever seen down here and thought it would make a great shot. I perched myself on top of a dune and snapped away.

"Photography has always been one of my hobbies and I think I'll hang the picture in the maintenance facility, although I reckon I'll probably get a bit of stick for it from the lads!"

Thank you to all members for voting – we had over 400 votes!

Runners up were James Bledge from Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club and Graeme Roberts from Tandrige Golf Club.

Congratulations to the final 12 whose photographs are shown over these two pages.

Many thanks to all who entered and good luck next year.



Burnham & Berrow by Noel Smith

2nd place: Crans Sur Sierre Switzerland by James Bledge



3rd: Hankley Common by Graeme Roberts



Leaves at Strathmore by Scott Robertson



5th Par 3 Blumisberg Golf & Country Club by Tim Sethi



Carnoustie by Craig Boath



Rosslare Burrow Course 8th hole by David Colley



The Carrick on Loch Lomond by Jim Brown



Ipswich Golf Club by Joe Simpson

West Sussex Golf Club  
by Joseph Dormer



Lingdale Golf Club  
by Mitchell Jordan





# A day in the life



BIGGA's Northern Regional Administrator Sandra Raper joined the Support Team at Rockliffe Hall for the European Senior Tour's English Senior Open and got behind the scenes with the greenkeepers during the prestigious event. Here's her diary of the first day

## 4.30am

Head Greenkeeper Pete Newton and Greenkeeper John Wyer arrive on site to get the machines ready for the team.

## 5.00am

The Rockliffe team of 18 plus 12 volunteers arrived on site.

Each team had a 'captain', and the captains allocate work on greens, bunker prep, fairways, tees, collars approaches and swales.

Greens were double cut with eight Flex 21 Toro mowers at 2.5mm (bench height), producing a stimp reading of 11 feet.

Bunkers were all raked and stones were removed.

Extra works included clearing the pond area of bird excrement and feathers and blowing pathways of grass clippings.

Fairways were cut with four Toro 5410 mowers at 12mm.

Tees, collars and approaches were cut with four Toro 1600s, Par 3 approaches were cut with a Toro 3420, all at 8mm.

John dealt with hole changing with not a minute to spare, while Pete cut and prepared the driving range tee.



## 6.00am

Pete and Davy Cuthbertson, who is Golf Course and Estate Manager, began a final check of the course dealing with every element of presentation.

Signs, bins and ball washers

were cleaned down, shelters brushed and cleaned, clippings blown or hand removed, sand splash or footprints from bunkers cleared. Everything was 'dressed to impress', detail was the key and their eyes are keen.





Davy, Pete and the guys at Rockliffe would like to thank all the volunteer support team including those from various industries such as reps, football and rugby industries, even a fly fisherman.

### 8.00am

Everyone returning to the sheds was either allocated to assist another team or started the wash down of machinery.

### 8.30am

All machines were lined back up in the sheds ready for the next day. Breakfast was served in the canteen.

### 9.00am

Course cleared of greenkeepers. Now the greenkeeper diary could end here but for Pete and Davy the

fun was just starting. The various requests received throughout the day included:

- Spectators walking in the wrong entrance and not paying – Davy called the stewards to clarify arrangements
- The toilets weren't working – Davy to the rescue!
- No bin at the chicken wagon stand, so Pete collected, emptied and got hold of a bin. This included a brief chat about the marketing strategy of the chicken stand by requesting they wear chicken suits to attract customers (Pete really needs to work on his chat up lines!)
- An abandoned buggy blocked a road so Pete travelled across the site to move it
- An exit sign was missing, so Pete printed one, laminated it and delivered it
- Various parking issues; Davy checked drives and moved parking cones, dealt with notices for one illegally parked car in a cul-de-sac
- A player retired, then collapsed in reception so Davy was contacted to call in medical assistance and to assess the situation

These requests seem endless throughout the day and before anyone had really had time to

take in the wonders of Woosnam, Torrance or Lane it was nearly 4pm and the Support Team are returning.

### 3.30pm

Dave Jowett arrived with Mrs Jowett's fantastic flapjacks - thank you Mrs Jowett!

### 4.00pm

The team arrived back at the sheds, then began carrying out divoting, pitchmark repairs, blowing the driving range, tidying bunkers, emptying the bins and marking the pins for the following day.

They were also required to clear the tented village area, check car parks were tidy and hand watered dry patches on fourteen of the greens identified by Pete and Davy.

Pete then programmed the irrigation system for a short water on these greens at 11pm.

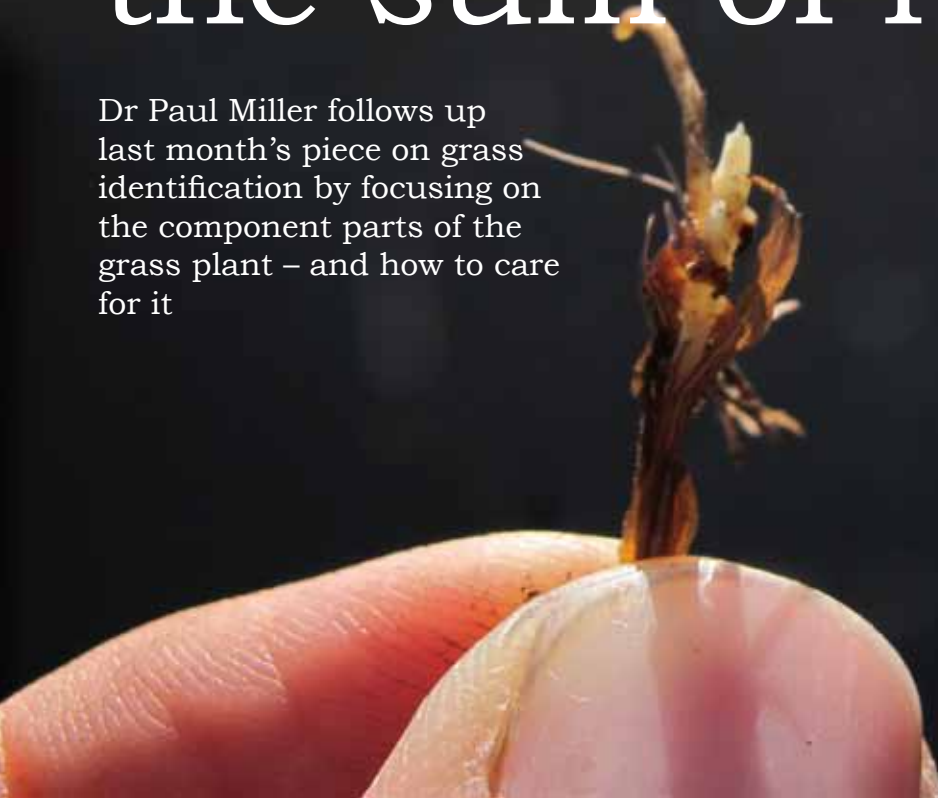
### 7.00pm

Go home (or to the temporary camp site behind the sheds) for a well-earned Friday beer - but just the one because it all started again next morning at 4.30am!



# The grass plant: the sum of its parts

Dr Paul Miller follows up last month's piece on grass identification by focusing on the component parts of the grass plant – and how to care for it



## **There's a model in management theory, 'Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs', used to help explain our motivations in life.**

It is presented as a pyramid diagram, with the base representing our motivation for our basic biological needs of food, water and oxygen; once these are met we then seek shelter and relationships, moving through to 'higher level' motivators, for example trying to reduce our golf handicap (Google it if you want to know more!).

Whilst I'm not suggesting that grasses are consciously motivated I do believe we can think about what it is we want them to do, and adopt a similar model for thinking about them. What am I trying to say? Well, if we want and need our grasses to support 30,000 rounds per annum, performing at the highest possible level, it is my view that we had better make sure that their basic biological needs – the same as ours; food, water and oxygen – have been met.

A properly functioning and healthy grass plant provides the base of the pyramid upon which sustainable turf quality and performance can be created – a grass

plant under stress and in poor health is unable to perform and cope with the demands and rigours of modern golf, and will in all likelihood fail to perform.

Like all living organisms a grass plant is structured in a way that allows its biological needs to be met, with each of its component parts having a specific role, or 'job' to do. The specific morphology (biological form) of the grass plant, co-evolved in the company of grazing animals, uniquely allows it to be used to produce turf.

Let's face it - there are not many plants that can survive being cut at 3-4 mm as many as 300 times per year and still produce the smooth, uniform and dense surfaces that we require for golf. I never cease to be amazed just how extraordinary and remarkable grasses are and, dare I say it, how much we take them for granted at times.

So in this article I'd like to think about the component parts of the grass plant, how they are put together, and how they are adapted to withstand the close-mowing regimes that we impose upon them.

So far I've mentioned 'biological needs' more than once, but what exactly are these? Living organisms

have several things in common, helping to define them as living, and as suggested earlier these include the need for energy-rich compounds (food), mineral nutrients, water and oxygen, with the capacities to grow, to reproduce, to respond to the environment, to repair damage, and to manage waste products.

A further characteristic is that all organisms form partnerships with other organisms, for example the bacteria in our gut that help digestion.

Of course all living organisms will, in time, die. There is huge variety and evolutionary ingenuity in how different organisms manage to meet these needs, but one of the clear distinctions that we all know about is between the animal and plant kingdoms, two major groupings that have come up with differing solutions to the problems presented in trying to meet these biological needs.

Higher plants (grasses are in this group) have a structure whereby they are fixed into the soil by the roots, and these serve some of the biological needs of the plant by obtaining water and mineral nutrients, and when we look we

**ABOVE:** The 'wee white stump' that is left is the stem – compressed in length to protect the growing points under the height of cut.

## **about the author**



Paul holds a BSc in Crop Science and PhD in Herbicide Mode of Action. After spells with British Seed Houses and Grass Technology International he joined Elmwood in 1993 as Lecturer in Greenkeeping. He teaches Plant and Soil Sciences, at all levels, and is interested in the soils, grasses, turf quality and design of old golf courses, how and why these continue to give enduring pleasure to golfers, and what we can learn from them.



commonly find that the majority of plants in natural situations form mutually beneficial partnerships with mycorrhizal fungi and potentially other microorganisms. We're often not too aware of the roots (out of sight out of mind maybe?) and often give our attention to the above-ground portion, the shoot, which is far more visible. In my opinion this is an oversight, as I am a firm believer that the health of the shoot reflects that of the root. More on that later!

At this point let's review the functions required for the plant to sustain itself as a living organism, and match them to the structural components:

Water and mineral nutrients are taken in by the root and distributed throughout the plant. As they travel upwards they enter the shoot. Shoots of higher plants share a common anatomy, but there are a multitude of variations and forms (morphologies).

The structure is one of a stem, which has leaves attached onto it, the attachment points being called 'nodes'. At every node, in the junction of stem and leaf, we always find a lateral bud, or a growing point; at the tip of the stem we find another bud, this time the terminal bud. Leaves manufacture food by photosynthesis; food is then distributed through the plant.

Buds at the nodes provide points for new growth, which can produce either more stem material (branches) or flowers, both of which can allow reproduction. There is no specific structure that obtains oxygen for the plant; it has to diffuse into the plant, into all parts, without the special distribution system which animals possess.

So, structurally and physiologically there is a lot going on in the stem – nodes, leaves, photosynthesis, buds, new growth, potentially flowers – surely this can't all be fitted onto a plant of less than 4mm in height? Well yes, it can, and that's the genius of grass plant evolution.

The reason most plants can't survive being mown at 4mm is twofold – firstly we would remove most of the green tissue and so prevent photosynthesis; secondly we would cut off all the buds and so prevent any regrowth.

But as we said earlier, grasses co-evolved alongside grazing animals, which bite off plant material close to the ground, and grasses evolved to keep most of their 'bodyweight' under the critical height-of-bite (e.g. 5mm for sheep), including leaf material that photosynthesises and provide food, and buds that

grow and allow reproduction, and thereby avoid critical damage and maintain the ability to function as living organisms. (This is the unique characteristic of grasses that we exploit in turf management). Grasses do it by having a highly compressed stem, different in appearance but identical in anatomy to that of other higher plants. I hope the pictures that follow will illustrate this.

Picture 2 shows a grass plant of about 15cm in size – it's very difficult to illustrate this with a grass of 4mm, but the structure is exactly the same. At the base of the stem we see a number of branches emerging – in grasses we call them 'tillers' – and because we know that these grow from lateral buds we have to conclude that the buds are at the base of the plant.

And we know that buds are found at nodes, which is also where leaves are attached, so we would also expect to see the leaves attached onto the stem very close to the base of the plant. In other words the nodes are very close together, and the internodes are very short.

Just like in the picture of the woody plant, the leaves of a grass are attached on one side then 180° opposite, and if we detach them one by one and lay them out (picture 3) we can see that yes, they were attached right at the base of the plant. And the bit that they were attached to – the stem – is what is left. In turf we know this as the 'crown'; botanically it is the stem with all the leaves and tillers (branches) removed.

In picture 4 you can see this – a wee white 'stump' left behind, but this wee white stump has the potential to re-grow leaves, branches and flowers, and remain living, because the important parts are all there.

To stress it again, this wee white stump, or stem, or crown, is evolved to remain below the height-of-bite and so protected from grazing animals and cylinder mowers, and it is this amazing adaptation that we exploit in turf management.

Having discussed roots and shoots separately we need to acknowledge that they belong to the one organism, and work together to allow the organism to function.

In discussing the structure of the plant we've inevitably mentioned some of the processes going on within the plant, without expanding on them; in the next article we'll explore some of these further, thinking mainly about how the plant captures and uses energy, and how it absorbs water and nutrients.



TOP: In a grass plant the tillers (branches) all arise at the base of the plant, meaning this is location of the buds.

RIGHT: A 'standard' plant showing the arrangement of nodes (a leaf and bud) arranged on the stem.

RIGHT BELOW: Dissection of the plant shows all the tillers emerging from the base...

... which is where the leaves are attached i.e. the nodes are all found at the base of the plant (RIGHT BOTTOM)





# The wonderful world of the Liverwort

There's another opportunity for you to claim BASIS points this month as Sherriff Amenity's Graham Paul focuses on liverworts

**Liverworts will grow in containers and on the surface of flower borders and rockeries where they are usually associated with compacted soil or poor drainage.**

They do not harm plants but they can look unsightly and may inhibit growth of weak specimens or young seedlings. On paving and other hard surfaces they can spoil the general appearance and cause a slip hazard in wet weather.

The name 'liverwort' originates from an ancient belief that if the shape of a plant or other physical characteristic resembled a part of

the human body, then it could be used to cure sickness in that area. Liverwort was used to cure liver disease, since the shape and texture of the thallus resembled human liver tissue.

Likewise, Lungwort was used for respiratory problems, the leaf shape having provided the common name for the plant and suggested its usefulness as a herbal remedy.

This ancient form of medicine was known as 'The Doctrine of Signatures' and dates back to the rule of Roman Emperor Nero. Pedanius Dioscorides (40 to 90AD), a Roman

citizen of Greek origin, had a life-long interest in botany and worked as a physician attached to the Roman army. He practised herbal pharmacology, collecting medicinally useful materials (plants and minerals) from all over the Roman Empire, using them to heal wounds and cure sickness.

Dioscorides recorded his extensive knowledge of herbal remedies in a five volume encyclopedia titled 'De Materia Medica' – a work that became the main reference for pharmacology in Europe and the Middle East for over 1500 years.

Liverworts were one of the first



ABOVE: Female archegonia of *Marchantia* spp



plants to inhabit dry land on earth. They are thought to have been present for about 407 million years. However, in 2010, some fossils were found in Argentina that indicates the existence of five different types of liverwort spores dating from 470 million years ago.

There are estimated to be 9,000 species of liverwort in existence today and these fall into two types; the more familiar ones grow in the form of a fleshy, flattened, leafless body known as a 'thallus' and account for about 15% of the total species.

The remaining 85% are the leafy liverworts that have flattened stems with two or more ranks of overlapping leaves.

In the Amenity industry we are less likely to encounter problems with leafy liverworts, so I shall concentrate my emphasis on the 'thallose' liverworts that we might see on paths, between slabs or paving blocks, growing in the open ground or invading plant pots in nurseries.

Liverworts are classified in the Plant kingdom division Marchantiophyta, one of three divisions in the group of lower plant forms known as the Bryophytes. This group also contains the mosses and the hornworts. (The Bryophytes do not have true vascular tissues for transport within the plant)

Liverworts have almost global distribution; occurring in most habitat types but more commonly in those with high levels of moisture or humidity, although a very few species have adapted to the extreme environments of desert and arctic regions. Probably the main reason that liverworts are unfamiliar to many people is because of their small size, which can range from between 2 and 20mm in width and usually much less than 10cm long.

### The Generation Game

In order to better understand the complexities of these bryophytes, it may help to look at the concept of alternate generations, a term



ABOVE: Male sexual organs (antheridia) silvery-brown platforms raised on stalks

primarily used to describe the life cycles of plants. In the cell, genetic information is carried on chromosomes and these can either be paired (diploid – referred to as  $2n$ ) or single (haploid – referred to as  $n$ ).

During the lifecycle of a plant, the chromosome state alternates between the single haploid and the paired diploid state. In higher plants the majority of the lifecycle is in a diploid state with only a brief period in the haploid (gametophyte) state where chromosomes are unpaired. However, in the liverwort lifecycle the reverse is true; the majority of time is spent in the gametophyte (haploid) phase. Liverworts are therefore said to have a gametophyte dominant life cycle.

Species of liverwort may be either monoecious (having male and female reproductive organs on

the same plant) or dioecious (with separate male and female plants). This phenomenon is not unusual in higher plants; Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is a good example of a dioecious plant.

The life cycle of a liverwort begins with the germination of a haploid spore into a temporary stage called a protonema, which develops into a mature gametophore – the body that supports the sex organs. The male organs are known as antheridia and in the *Marchantia* species I photographed, they are raised on stalks.

The female sexual organs are known as archegonia and consist of a 'spoked' archegonial head that is also elevated on a stalk.

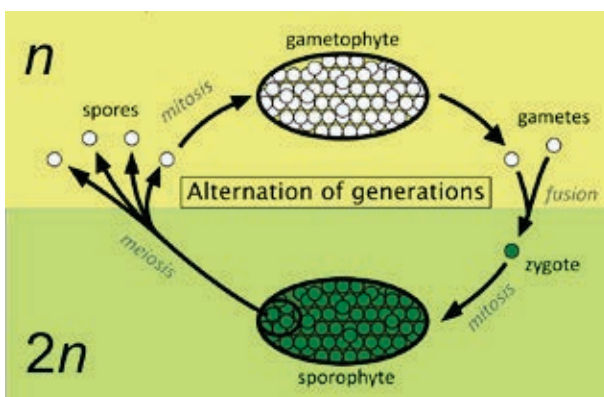
The male antheridia produce sperm cells that have two flagellae to propel them towards the egg cell produced in the female archegonia. Part of the journey between the male and female organs may be assisted by rain splashes, the male antheridia in some cases acting like a trampoline.

Japanese researchers found that some liverworts could project sperm up to 15cm into the air in rain drops, which allowed them to fertilise egg cells more than a metre away.

After fertilisation occurs, a short-lived diploid stage is reached with the formation of a sporophyte. As

BELOW LEFT: Alternate generations diagram courtesy of Wikipedia;

BELOW RIGHT: Liverwort in paving





Gemma cups containing small green disc-shaped gemmae



Female archegonium with 'bean' shaped yellow capsule – containing spores

the sporophyte matures it develops a capsule, which will produce the haploid spores that disperse to germinate and complete the lifecycle.

### Asexual reproduction

Some species of liverwort produce small, green disc-shaped objects called 'gemmae' in shallow cup-like structures located on the upper surface of the thallus.

These tiny gemmae are a means of vegetative (asexual) reproduc-

tion; when displaced from the cups by raindrops, they will germinate, upon landing on a suitable substrate, and develop into a new plant that is genetically identical to the parent.

Unlike the higher plants, liverworts have no stomata for gaseous exchange and to regulate water in the cells, instead they have permanently open pores on the surface. Another difference is the absence of roots for anchoring the plant and supplying water and nutrients. Part of this function is performed by unicellular rhizoids located on the underside of the gametophyte (thallus), which serve to anchor the plant to the substrate it grows on. Although these rhizoids resemble root hairs of higher plants, they do not provide water or nutrients to the liverwort.

### Control measures

The presence of liverworts in ornamental borders is an indication of poor growing conditions allowing these lower plant forms to compete, as is the case with the other common bryophyte problem, moss. Compaction, excessive

moisture resulting from poor drainage, low light levels, acidic and impoverished soils are all likely to encourage the spread of liverworts.

In nurseries, the use of good quality compost, thoroughly clean containers and routine inspection and removal of invading liverwort plants will help to prevent major problems. Where plants are to remain in containers for long periods, the application of a layer of grit to the surface will prevent unwanted liverwort growth.

On paths and other hard surfaces, maintain good drainage and keep light obstructions to a minimum by pruning overhanging trees and shrubs.

### Chemical controls

Liverworts have survived on this planet for well over 400 million years so it is understandable that they are not the easiest weed problem to deal with.

However, some products available today are worthy of note: -

Hard surface cleaners will remove liverworts from paths, patios and other porous hard surfaces. 'Safor', marketed by Amega Science, contains benzalkonium chloride and urea hydrochloride and claims to 'deter' liverworts.

There are many other products containing benzalkonium chloride that make claims along the whole spectrum between good control and deterrent – depending on the co-formulants in each product and the confidence of the manufacturer.

Products based on fatty acids, such as 'Bayer Moss Killer' (from their garden chemicals range) are reported to be fairly effective; the Bayer product label states that it 'kills moss, algae and liverworts'.

Products containing acetic acid such as 'New Way Weed Spray' from Headland Amenity are worth trying provided that the surface can stand up to acidic sprays. Acetic acid works in a similar fashion to the old non-translocated total weedkillers such as paraquat (now withdrawn), killing surface weed growth by corrosive action.

'Armillatox' a hard surface cleaner will remove liverworts and has a useful added effect in reducing the spores that serve to spread the problem and re-infest treated areas.

The difficulty with liverwort control is that they produce copious amounts of spores, so unless all of these are eradicated by an application of a product, the problem is likely to recur.

### 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 answering the questions correctly.

- 1) What was the age of the liverwort spores found recently in Argentina reported to be?
  - a) 407 million years
  - b) 507 million years
  - c) 540 million years
  - d) 470 million years
- 2) Liverworts are classified in the division:
  - a) Bryophyta
  - b) Anthocerotophyta
  - c) Marchantiophyta
  - d) Phaeophyta
- 3) The majority of the liverwort life cycle occurs in which state? (more than one answer may apply)
  - a) diploid
  - b) haploid
  - c) 2n
  - d) gametophyte
- 4) Gemmae are involved in . . .
  - a) sperm production
  - b) asexual reproduction
  - c) egg fertilisation
  - d) the development of the spore bearing capsule
- 5) Which of the following statements is true?
  - a) Liverwort roots are located on the underneath side of the thallus
  - b) Liverworts do not possess stomata
  - c) The name liverwort was given to this group of plants because they taste of lambs liver when chewed
  - d) There are estimated to be 90,000 species of liverwort



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 Jim Gilchrist, Course Manager, Harborne Golf Club

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# Feeding weeds in the fall

As autumn arrives, Dr Terry Mabbett gets to the root of weed problems in sportsturf

## Turf grasses and broadleaved weeds as green plants respond to the same inputs of water and nutrients but not always in the same way.

Turf is continually under threat of invasion by broadleaved weeds, via airborne seeds from above, and from below by seeds contained in the casts of soil surface active earthworms – and even stem pieces of slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) transferred from one site to another on grass cutting machinery and with the capacity to root.

Weed growth in response to warming soils and longer days in spring may appear to be the main danger period for turf, but late summer and into autumn is almost certainly a better springboard for weed invasion and growth.

The majority of turf invading weeds, including damaging and difficult to control species like

dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*), are even more frequent in the wider environment, and late summer is the very time when weed seed banks are full and seed loads peak.

Truly dedicated turf weeds are few and far between and slender speedwell is one of the few that springs to mind.

At the same time surface casting by earthworms reactivated by late summer and early autumn rain, with accompanying morning dew, increase the weed seed threat from below ground.

Threadbare turf caused by summer drought and increased seasonal footfall provides more sites and niches for weed seed germination and establishment, but the competitive advantage of broadleaved weeds over turf grasses is the single most important factor in the former's autumn success.

## Summer root shrinkage

Syngenta scientists say high soil temperatures and drought conditions cause the fibrous root systems of turf grasses to 'shrink' during the summer months with at least a 30% reduction in root mass (Greenkeeper International, August 2014). This is accompanied by a considerable slowdown (if not cessation) in stem and leaf growth and not only in response to reduced soil moisture and the capacity of roots to access and capture reduced soil water supplies.

The root hairs are clearly most at risk and therefore the plant's capacity to take up water through these thin-walled, unprotected and highly vulnerable organs. Root hairs also play a vital role in plant anchorage, the millions of individual microscopic organs each clinging on to a soil mineral particle and collectively providing a strong and important anchorage for grass plants.

**ABOVE:** Autumn comes to an end. Turf should already be 'fed and fortified' with a high potassium fertilizer plus iron regime.

**RIGHT PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM / LEFT TO RIGHT:**

1. Dandelion with the strongest tap root deep in turf can withstand the most severe summer droughts to bounce back in autumn
2. The plantain's 'quasi-tap root' is still enough to give the plant a clear 'weed edge' over grass
3. Green oases across parched summer swards are actually patches of the white clover which is self-sufficient in nitrate and a classical drought tolerant weed
4. There's no doubting the drought tolerance credentials of yarrow with its fern-like leaves covered with a thick waxy cuticle.
5. Into autumn with falling leaves and lush sward growth, but closer inspection reveals a high proportion of the new leaf growth is yarrow.
6. Weeds like creeping cinquefoil shown here continue to flower through summer drought and continue to add to the 'weed seed bank'.
7. Dove's foot cranesbill with its dainty pink flowers holds its own in drying turf
8. Broadleaf weeds like self-heal shown here will always have a head-start in autumn following the first rain and follow up fertilizer









**ABOVE:** Mid-August a turning point for turf having reached the pinnacle of summer drought

### **A distinct summer edge for clovers**

Summer drought means greatly reduced uptake and availability of water for plant metabolism but also reduced uptake and availability of soluble plant nutrients which enter root hair as soluble charged ions in soil water.

Like all other green plants, turf grasses require a balanced nutrition but a lack of nitrate as the main driver of green plant growth is clearly the most critical, at least in the short term.

Some turf weeds do not have this problem because their symbiotic association with nitrogen fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium*) means they are essentially self-sufficient in nitrate, at least during reduced growth conditions of summer.

This is the main reason why turf invading clovers (members of the plant family Leguminosae) – *Trifolium repens* (white clover), *Lotus corniculatus* (bird's foot trefoil), *Trifolium dubium* (lesser trefoil or yellow suckling clover) and *Medicago lupulina* (black medick) – can maintain growth through the summer months when turf grass is becoming increasingly parched, dry and brown. Indeed a closer inspection of hard-hit fairways and

other sports turf during very dry summers will invariably show that the welcome patches of green seen at a distance are not turf grass at all but substantial spreads of white clover growing, spreading and flowering.

However, that is not the only reason why these and other broad-leaf weeds are generally better able than turf grasses to withstand periods of drought. White clover produces runners which root at intervals while bird's foot trefoil has a strong tap root (a perennating organ). This anchors the plant deep in the soil and acts as a food storage organ to tide plants over during physiologically unfavourable conditions such as prolonged drought.

### **At the root of weed problems**

Dandelion is the weed of managed turf with the most formidable tap root as anyone who has tried to remove dandelions by hand will tell you. There is no doubting the prowess of the dandelion and close relatives like cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and smooth hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), all in the plant family Asteraceae, as drought tolerant weeds of turf.

Plantains such as *Plantago major* (broad leaf plantain or greater

plantain) and *Plantago lanceolata* (narrow leaved plantain or ribwort) tend not to have a standard classical tap root like the dandelion and other 'flat' turf weeds. Instead they possess a distinct and definite crown just below ground level and usually a large number of adventitious roots (roots which arise from a stem) spreading downwards from this crown, rather than a single fleshy tap root. Be that as it may, these 'quasi tap roots' are enough to give plantains a distinct edge over turf grasses (with fibrous root systems) when it comes to drought tolerance.

Another notoriously drought resistant weed of turf is yarrow. Its high tolerance to drought is due to finely-cut fern-like leaves covered in a thick waxy cuticle. These two leaf form factors drastically reduce and curtail loss of water by transpiration during hot and dry conditions.

However, there are many broad-leaved turf weeds not described or documented as drought resistant but which are visibly tolerant of high soil temperature and low soil moisture, as a quick survey of parched summer turf will tell you. Dove's foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*), self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla*

**RIGHT PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM:**  
Late August/ early September rains have kicked and started grass growth but the broadleaf weeds will always have a head-start

This year's (2014) heavy rain in early to mid-August broke the summer drought and kick-started grass growth. However, one month later and much of southern England, like the south Hertfordshire course shown here, was approaching a 'double-dip' drought.

This year's heavy rain in early to mid-August broke the summer drought and kick-started grass growth. But, one month later and much of southern England, like the south Hertfordshire course shown here, was approaching a 'double-dip' drought.

Weed and feed is the answer

### **about the author**



### **Dr Terry Mabbett**

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





reptans) come into this category. Their creeping stems, rooting at intervals on self-heal and creeping cinquefoil, are clearly a bulwark against heat and drought and allow these weeds to survive and flower on parched turf throughout the summer.

#### Head start for autumn weeds

So what does all this mean for autumn turf? When the early autumn rains arrive well established broadleaf weeds with root systems still largely intact will clearly have a head start over turf grasses. Turf grasses must regain a substantial portion of their root system and mass, which retreated and disappeared during the summer drought, before they can take advantage of good growth conditions.

The same water using advantage that broadleaf weeds have over turf grasses, at this time, also applies to accessing and absorption of nutrients, with early autumn fertiliser applications feeding weeds rather than turf grass at least in the short term.

The reality is often seen early in September when the turf appears to have responded quickly and uniformly to the resumption of rain in late August. However, closer inspection often reveals a growth flush of erstwhile drought resistant weeds like yarrow that now occupy a high proportion of any new leaf cover.

#### What's the answer – weed and feed?

Go into summer with an essentially weed free sward because once dry conditions set in the options for herbicide treatment are quickly closed down. The vast majority of herbicides used in managed turf are systemic in action which means they have to be absorbed by the roots in aqueous solution and taken into the plant before they can deliver and execute any weed control action.

Weed growth during summer drought is inhibited by the same water restrictions that stop grass growth. Insufficient water uptake means correspondingly reduced uptake of systemic herbicide and insufficient metabolism for the plant to react to the presence of herbicide molecules at its growing points (cell division and cell elongation regions at the stem and root apices).

Herbicide treatment of drought stricken turf simply adds to any existing physiological stress burden on turf grass plants.

Greenkeepers can't control when the rain arrives and how much falls, but they do have complete control over when, what and how much fertiliser is applied.

Autumn is the time when turf managers appear to be between a rock and a hard place. The requirement is for enough fertiliser promptly applied to kickstart growth but not too much, and especially of the 'wrong' kind of nutrient, to ensure that grass growth is strong and sufficiently resilient to withstand disease and low temperature winter conditions.

Conventional wisdom says go easy on the nitrogen and boost potassium 'the gatekeeper nutrient', while harnessing advantages offered at this time by calcium 'the cell wall builder and tissue strengthener', and iron the nutrient which furnishes 'low growth grass greening up'.

Potassium helps to alleviate the risk of nitrogen-induced soft grass growth by improving the efficiency of nitrogen utilization by the plant.

Phosphate is the least discussed nutrient during this autumn period but if grass root mass needs rebuilding there is a clearly a need for phosphate.

There will be a lot of annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*) seed 'floating' around at this time of the year ready to exploit newly created germination sites in threadbare turf. A rapid response by *Poa* to phosphorous, and the ability to squeeze this grass weed by 'withholding' phosphate fertiliser is well known, but less well known is that *Poa* responds in similar way to potassium.

Annual meadowgrass is not the only turf weed overly responsive to potassium. Dandelions already well dug in by tap roots relish autumn applications of potassium. This becomes abundantly clear elsewhere in the turf and amenity sector where ryegrass swards predominate.

One of the most warming springtime sights is the carpet of dandelion flowers across a ryegrass sward in early April having seemingly coming from nowhere. Ryegrass and dandelions have a common character which is a very high requirement for potassium.

The answer is to weed and feed managed turf in the fall as soon as good growing conditions prevail. Turf grasses can exploit the newly available nutrient supply and broadleaf weeds can take initial advantage of systemic herbicides though clearly to their ultimate disadvantage.



How a greenkeeper in the Midlands has used a Toro system to improve his course – in particular the tees and greens

# Pedestrian aeration

**When Simon Graham became Head Greenkeeper at Lingdale Golf Club, near Loughborough, just under a year ago, he had some big boots to fill. The course has been described as “a hidden gem within the Midlands” by renowned golf commentator Peter Alliss, its setting amidst Charnwood Forest bringing with it an abundance of wildlife and atmosphere. So how has he got on and what changes has he made during his time at the club?**

You do not have to spend long talking to Simon to realise he is passionate about his job. Having spent 16 years at Buckinghamshire Golf Club before moving to Lingdale, it is clear he is extremely loyal to his profession and is keen to put his mark on the course that is now his

responsibility. But as every Head Greenkeeper knows, you cannot wade in and just start doing things your way. You have to learn about the course and, of equal importance, get to know your team and the club's greens committee.

“I have had tremendous support since joining Lingdale,” said Simon. “Although I want to put my experience into practice I also need to learn from those who really know this course too. What has helped me is I have been fortunate enough to have the full support of the greens committee and this has seen us purchase within our latest machinery order a Toro ProCore 648 pedestrian aerator. Winter aeration of the tees has become one of my top priorities.”

The greens at Lingdale were all rebuilt to USGA standards during 1999, allowing year round play that

is now an accepted part of the club. A downside has been that tees were not always up to the challenge, the tractor mounted aerator Simon ‘inherited’ when he joined the club struggled to gain access to the tees in the conditions when they most need attention.

“I wanted to be able to aerate the tees to improve their drainage performance but the tractor mounted aerator just could not get onto them in winter,” added Simon. “So I arranged to borrow a ProCore 648 from Andy Humble at Lely UK last November as I knew this would do what was needed. In a couple of days I had aerated all the tees and also the greens with the aim of showing the greens committee why a pedestrian machine was the way I wanted to go.

The upshot of this is that when the club renewed much of its equip-







ment early this year, a ProCore 648 was on the list.”

The efficiency of the aeration pedestrian system was soon proven over the late winter and spring of this year, the tees remaining playable despite incredibly wet weather. Playing days lost to the wet was kept to under a week in total.

Simon suggested aeration of both the tees and greens was the key, with members commenting on how well the course was playing both during the wet period and subsequent dry summer.

“The fairways at Lingdale are hard and stand up well to wet weather,” added Simon. “The approaches are pretty good too, so aeration over wide areas is not as critical as it is for our tees and greens. The key is being able to access key areas year round. I like to aerate the greens and tees at four to six week intervals using pencil tines down to 6- or 9mm. In spring, we swap to hollow tines and work down to 12mm. But the point is we can aerate how we want when we want.”

Adding that the latest model of ProCore 648 benefits from a fast tine swap system, Simon said the ease of setting up the aerator quickly for different tasks is a real plus. In fact he said he felt the ProCore 648 is the ‘best bit of kit Toro makes’. Pressed for a criticism he said it is ‘greedy’ on fuel, but counters even this by suggesting this needs to be balanced against work done.

“I was fortunate that the club was looking to replace its greens and fairway mowers when I arrived and that the rough mower had been replaced the previous season with a Toro 4500-D. I have always used Toro equipment and I am pleased with the Groundskeeper 3500-D with Sidewinder side shift system

we’re using for 25ml banding and tidy-ups around the fairways and greens. I was also pleased we were able to switch to a Toro Greensmaster 3250-D and Reelmaster 5510-D fairway models.

“I am used to Toro DPA cutting units and find them simple to adjust and keep ‘on cut’.

“We do not have in-house grinding here so being able to work with a back lapping system I know really helps keep the units razor sharp between taking them away for a re-grind.”

As with a number of clubs, Lingdale does not have a dedicated mechanic, the greens team all having to tackle routine equipment maintenance between services. Simon suggested any equipment he uses benefits from being properly looked after but he also needs to have reliable support, Andy Humble’s name cropping up in conversation more than a couple of times.

“I know greenkeeping is about far more than just the equipment we use, but having kit that the team like using and that we can keep running efficiently without having to spend a long time in the workshop is a real plus.

“All the equipment we use at Lingdale is important, but with aeration so vital at Lingdale, I am grateful to the greens committee for investing in the best bit of kit to allow me to do the job and that is the ProCore 648.

“Of all the kit I have ever used, being able to get onto tees and greens with the ProCore 648 and aerate them at any time without interrupting play is the most important. It can get into the tightest of spots without causing any damage, is fast, easy to use and effective.”





# A winter warmer

Chris Minton, Head Mechanic at The Belfry, shares his top machinery maintenance tips as winter edges closer

**At The Belfry we're lucky enough to have three mechanics – but even if you don't have a professional mechanic at your facility, there is no reason why you can't follow a few simple tips to increase the lifespan of your equipment and ensure it performs at its best.**

## TOP TIPS

### 1 Battery maintenance

With cooler temperatures ahead it's good to check in advance the condition of the battery, you can purchase locally several battery testers, we have a hydrometer that checks the specific gravity of each cell.

It is also good practice to keep the top of the battery clean from debris. The battery terminals should be cleaned regularly and a coating of terminal spray is highly recommended.

### 2 Antifreeze

Antifreeze in the machines needs checking. Again we use a locally sourced tester to check this, for all our machinery we use a mix of 50% antifreeze to 50% water.

Most manufacturers recommend changing the antifreeze every two years.

We also have some watering cans in our machinery shed with antifreeze ready mixed in, for the operators to use if the antifreeze is low on their pre start checks.

### 3 Tyre pressures

Tyre pressures should be checked all year round (this forms part of our pre start check) but this is even more important in winter. Check for tyre wall wear and look out for perished walls.

### 4 Leaves

Service power blowers, leaf collectors and trailers as leaf collecting season is here.



### 5 Petrol drain

If you have two stroke and four stroke machines that are not going to be used in a while it's good practice to drain the fuel tank, this is because petrol only has a shelf life of up to six weeks.

This can save you time and money on having to get the machine serviced in the spring.

### 6 Sprayers

Over the winter months we keep our spray rigs indoors.

In an ideal world they would be indoors all the time as rays from the sun can damage the pipes and the plastic tanks.

If sprayers are kept outside in cooler weather it's good practice to put an antifreeze solution into the sprayer rig, this could save you money in the long run.

### 7 Blade sharpening

As the grass growth slows, it's a good time to be sharpening flymo blades, rotary mower blades and balance them including rough mower blades etc.

### 8 Greasing

Greasing should be done on a regular basis but if this gets missed, now is a good time to catch up.

### 9 Servicing

For a lot of golf clubs now should be the time for planning your machines' servicing and grinding.

### 10 Stock

Plan in your budgets the parts required for servicing your machinery. Perform stock checks annually on parts to carry and replenish used stock.

## about the author

Chris's late father used to service mowers for friends and relatives in his spare time, and this rubbed off on Chris – he serviced his first mower aged just ten! He studied agricultural mechanics and his first job was trainee mechanic at a garden machinery business. He then had a spell as self-employed mechanic repairing mowers and other machinery and has worked at both Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro dealerships. He has been in his current position at The Belfry for nine years.





## Chris and the Mechanics

We have two other mechanics at The Belfry – my assistant Colin Barkby and Justin Astley-Brewer, our trainee buggy mechanic. They are both also qualified greenkeepers.

We have a service schedule for every piece of kit we operate, and because we have such a big team (36 greenkeepers, four gardeners and three on divot duty) we have a lot of machinery! We maintain 248 machines in total, they range from a blower/strimmer up to mowers to tractors to excavators.

All members of the team are trained on each machine by myself or Colin. We begin with the induction then pre start checks. When the team member is competent in this their training is completed by the greenkeepers.

Not only do we maintain the mowers but we maintain 84 electric Club Car golf buggies, 21 utility vehicles, two excavators and a six ton dumper truck. We use about 400 tons of topdressing annually so our grinders are in use most days. We service all the machines as and when they're due as per the manufacturers' recommendations. We also run a preventative maintenance plan on all the machinery, and each machine has its own service file.

Every morning before any machine leaves the yard a pre start check is done by the machine operator, if anything fails this check the machine doesn't leave the yard until the problem is rectified. If a fault is found with any machine a job card is filled out to record the fault.



## Machines in the shed

### A selection...

Toro GM1000 greens mower x9  
 Toro GM1600 tees & collars mower x5  
 Toro GM3250 x5  
 Toro GM3420 Triflex x1  
 Toro RM5410 fairway mower x5  
 Toro RM3100 sidewinder x3  
 Toro GM3500 sidewinder x2  
 Toro GM4000 rough mower x4  
 Toro 2020 sand bike x4  
 Toro MDXD truck x4  
 Toro MDE truck x3  
 Toro procore 648 x1  
 John Deere Gator x8  
 John Deere 6x4 Gator x6  
 John Deere tractors x7  
 Tele handlers x2  
 Various aeration machines  
 Various dressers  
 8 1/2 ton Hitachi excavator  
 4 ton Komatsu excavator  
 6 ton telex dumper truck  
 Shelton trencher  
 Shelton gravel bander



# Flexibility in mowing is the key

With winter just around the corner, we take a look at how various clubs will be adjusting their mowing schedule

**As winter approaches and temperatures drop it's common to find maintenance moves away from grass cutting and over to other activities such as leaf clearing and woodland maintenance. However, although the growth may be slow, mowing is still required.**

Mowing is an activity that frequently begins early morning, with the main aim being to get the machines out and the cutting completed so the activity on the surface can commence. Early morning mowing often means dealing with dew for the majority of the year, alongside the increasingly wet weather we will begin to experience. It's vital your mower is capable of dealing with these conditions.

Mower manufacturers have introduced a number of brush and roller options designed to prevent wet grass from clogging the cutting unit and to aid in efficient dispersal of cuttings - spreading them evenly and preventing clumps. Therefore selecting the correct mower for the job at hand is one of the most important decisions. The Grass Group can supply a wide variety of mowers be they rotary or flail from Progressive for large areas; cylinder pedestrian units from ATT for smaller areas or replacement cassettes for triplex or fairway mowers for golf and football.

Progressive offer an extensive range of roller mowers ranging from 65 inches (1.6m) 3 point linkage mounted to 30 feet (9.1m) tractor trailed with a horse power requirement from 25Hp to 130Hp. Height of cut is from ½ inch (13mm) up to 4 inches (100mm) and is adjusted by a quick and simple system used throughout the range.

The Progressive range of roller mowers use a full width blade and specially designed deck to produce a superior cut and excellent grass distribution without any clumping or wind rows even in wet conditions. Because of the mowers' lightweight



but strong construction, operators are able to mow longer into wet conditions.

At Mid Herts Golf Club, Course Manager Jody Wilson is complimentary about his Progressive ProFlex 120 contour mower on its ability to cut wet grass. He said: "Our previous kit had serious issues when it came to cutting long, wet grass but I have to say that the quality of the cut I get now on a wet surface with the ProFlex 120 is first class."

Mid Herts use their ProFlex for the bulk of the rough area, which could be described as "lumpy and bumpy" but with the five decks, each equipped with a shock absorber, it works perfectly. Jody added: "There are no scalping issues which is a big plus."

There are many factors involved in determining the cutting height; the type of turf, the growth rate, environmental factors and overall condition to name but a few. The

Pro-Flex 120 offers a cut width of 3m (10ft) and graduated cut height options of 1" to 3" in ¼ inch increments. The flexible mower decks adjust fore and aft, ± 10° up and down ±22°.

The Progressive range is especially commended for its simplicity to use and the ease of transporting the mowers. Andrew Smallshaw, Head Greenkeeper at Knott End Golf Club, purchased a ProFlex 120 from The Grass Group at the tail end of 2013. It has been used at the club since the spring and has made a great impression.

Andrew explained: "The whole team use it, it's great - simple to maintain, strong, robust, easy to operate and quickly attached to a tractor. You can reverse into tight areas with ease; it comes out in front of all the machines I've tried."

Rotary mowers remain a popular choice for amenity turf, but some surfaces such as golf greens demand the use of a cylinder





mower. As the grass is less able to combat wear and will take longer to recover from any manipulation over the winter period, it is beneficial to look for ways of reducing the stress whilst still maintaining the required mowing style. This is where a pedestrian unit – such as the ATT INFiNiSystem™ fitted with the SMARTCut™ cassette - comes into play giving ultimate versatility and allowing maintenance work on more localised and hard to reach areas.

Hand cutting, as opposed to triplex mowing, reduces the lateral movement on the softer turf. It also provides the operator with much more discretion, making it possible to identify the areas of turf that are weaker and 'lift back' on the unit to avoid any unnecessary stress. The other simple way of reducing stress is to increase the height of cut.

The flexibility of the ATT system is that when conditions allow all SMART cassettes can be utilised in

the TMSystem™ for greens or fairway mowers. The range of SMART cassettes enables greenkeepers to conduct different maintenance activities including aeration, brushing, de-thatching, scarifying, top dressing, grooming, levelling and mowing.

After a demo of the SMARTUltraGroomer™, Paul Seago, Course Manager at The Renaissance, purchased a total of eleven cassettes to cater for their fairway mower and two triplex units.

Paul said: "We have not been disappointed. They have been used continuously throughout the season - it can be pouring down with rain but the lads can still go out and do the work and leave no mess meaning we can keep to schedule."

Abbeydale Golf Club in Sheffield who have moved over to the SMARTCut™ cassettes in place of their OEM cutting units. Head Greenkeeper Warwick Manning

said: "We found the quality of cut and ability to manipulate the type of cut based on turf conditions allowed us more scope to improve the overall quality of the greens."

With the less favourable weather conditions, shorter days and the grass in a relatively dormant phase, it is good practice for the greenkeeper to use this time to carry out some light maintenance of the mowers before use. The few minutes spent here can avoid larger, costly repairs and prevent damage to the turf. One of the great benefits of rotary mowers is the ease of maintenance and enhanced durability.

But as a general rule, conduct daily visual checks and carry out light maintenance throughout the year. Use the time in the winter when the workload is less to take the mower apart and have a good look at all the working parts to ensure maximum efficiency all year round.





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



# 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 EAST

The Autumn tournament will be held at Alnmouth on Wednesday 8 October.

### SHEFFIELD

Our next Golf Competition is our Christmas Comp this will be held at Bondhay GC on Thursday 4 December. This will be followed by our AGM hopefully we can get a good turn out. If have any information for me please email ian.whitehead@tiscali.co.uk

### CLEVELAND

Autumn Tournament at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club Tuesday 14 October, cost £16.  
AGM Monday 24 November 7pm start.

### NORTH WALES

Our Christmas tournament and AGM takes place at Wallasey Golf Club on Thursday December 4, please remember to return your entry by 25 November.

## News

### NORTHERN

Currently within the Section Committee we are facing some difficult decisions and need some help from you the Northern Section membership. We currently run six Section golf events per year but have found attendance drop alarmingly over the last couple of years.

We would like your views on whether we continue to put on such events. In the future, we are proposing to reduce the number of golf events to three, unless we hear differently from you. We would also like

to increase the number of education/social events provided but need more people on the Committee to make it happen. I would like to remind you that we on the Committee give our time and efforts freely to try and help and support fellow members of the Section but we can't do it alone. To help us and your Section please volunteer some help and get involved. It's not a big job but it will provide valuable experience of organising events and being involved in a committee (as a side benefit it will look good on your CV).

We have created an online survey on our Section Facebook page (BIGGA Northern Section) for us to get some idea about what you would like to see us providing for you. As an incentive, for the 150th "Like" on the page from a Greenkeeper, working within the Northern Section area, we are offering a year's free BIGGA membership or a £50 M&S voucher courtesy of the Section. Please get in touch via email, phone, text or Facebook. Thanks, your section Chairman, John Watts.

### NORTH EAST

Results from the Northern Region Intersection Golf tournament At Northumberland GC:

1 Cleveland (Martin Woods, Phil Hargrave, Davy Cuthbertson) countback, 2 Sheffield (Andy Unwin, Dave Brownlow, Lee Grievson), 3 Northern (Dave Collins, Nigel Coultish, Thomas Coultish), 4 North Wales, 5 North East Section, 6 North West Section – no show!

We wish Simon Olver well in his new role as HGK of Whitley Bay GC, and David Wilkinson who has moved from Whitley to take up the HGK role at Wrexham GC. All the best from the section.

### SHEFFIELD

We held our Autumn Tournament at Hallamshire Golf Club under clear blue skies on 9 September. The course was in excellent condition, a big thank you to Gordon and his team for giving us a good test. Results: 1 Neil Bishop Workop GC 36pts, 2 Mark Morgan Grange Park GC

35, 3 Mat Holdon Sickleholme GC 34, 4 Lee Greveson Hallamshire GC, 5 David Brownlow Wath GC 29. The trade prize was won by Dave Smith with 30pts well done to all the prize winners.

After the meal Gordon Brammah was presented with a gift for his outstanding work to the Sheffield section. Gordon has been secretary, chairman and until recently president a big thank you to Gordon for his contribution to the section.

Congratulations to Rob Acheson who has recently taken up the post of Head Greenkeeper at Workop Golf Club.

The Sheffield Section Facebook site has now been activated search for Biggasheffield. Most of us now use social media so hopefully we could create a bit of a forum, so get some messages put on even send some photos of any work you are carrying out.

### CLEVELAND

So far September has been good to me. The weather has been beautiful and calm, giving me time to scarify, spike and topdress the greens without the usual mad dash to get everything done in one day because the clouds are



closing in. If only everything in greenkeeping could go this smoothly! Just two more club competitions to get through then I can swap my greenkeeper hat for my golf course renovation one. I can't wait.

Well done to David Cuthbertson, Martin Woods and Phil Hargreaves for winning the white moss inter section competition.

On 10 September we had the pleasure of attending a walk and talk evening around the newly built Cathedral course hosted by Roger Shaw, Course Manager of Ramside Hall Golf Club. Roger and his team have been working on this project for three years during which time they have faced numerous challenges and setbacks. It was a real inspiration to visit the course and spend some time listening to a senior member of the Cleveland section talk so openly about the new course. If you ever get the chance to visit you won't be disappointed. I would also like to thank Ian Pemberton for organising the evening.

### NORTH WALES

The autumn tournament was played at Caernarfon Golf Club. We initially did cancel the comp due to it being under subscribed, we then put it back on with a last minute rush of players and much bemoaning the loss. There is a moral to this; remember to return your application form by the closing date. Results to follow in next month's column.

We welcome Wrexham Golf Club's new Head Greenkeeper, David Wilkinson to his new job and also to the section; we hope to see plenty of him in the future.

Finally I must pass on the sad news that Darland Golf Club closed a little while ago, leaving Simon Ashford and Dave Coates still looking for new employment in the greenkeeping field, here's hoping that they find new positions soon.

## Thanks to sponsors

### NORTH EAST

Thanks to Whitmoss for sponsoring the inter section match, Paul O'Connor for the fantastic condition of the Northumberland GC and the Northumberland club itself for their hospitality.

### SHEFFIELD

Thanks to Glen Sawyer of Russell's Groundcare for sponsoring our Autumn tournament.

### CLEVELAND

Thanks to Brendan Brown from Northern Lubricants for supplying the refreshments at Ramside.

### Welcome New Members

John Chamberlain, Affiliate, Tacit, Christopher Porter, Greenkeeper, Stockport Golf Club, Thomas Coultish, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alwoodley Golf Club, Allan Curtis, Assistant Greenkeeper, Whitley Bay Golf Club.



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



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## Events coming up

### MID ANGLIA

Our next meeting will be at Northants County GC on 22 October and is also our AGM so hope to see plenty there at a cracking venue. Coffee & bacon rolls from 8.30 and 9.30 first tee time.

Our next golfing event is our Turkey Trot/ Texas Scramble and will be held at Ashridge GC on December 10. We need at least one team member to have played in one of our other events through the season in order to secure a spot for this ever popular event. Cost will be £30 for Members and £40 for Guests so please get your teams in early to avoid missing out.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### MID ANGLIA

A massive thanks goes to our Sponsors of the section for 2014. They are Tuckwells Machinery, ALS, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, Farmura, Rigby Taylor, Amenity Technology. We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2015.

If you feel you may be interested in sponsoring Mid Anglia Section in 2014/15 please contact a committee member for details,

## Welcome New Members

Kelly-Marie Clack, Affiliate, Countrywide Farmers PLC, Daniel McHugh, Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club, Luke Phythian, Assistant Greenkeeper, Little Aston Golf Club, Ben Wiggins, Assistant Greenkeeper, Tidbury Green Golf Club, Adam Footitt, Assistant Greenkeeper, Luffenham Heath Golf Club, Scott Broom, Assistant Greenkeeper, Arkley Golf Club, Elliot Green, Assistant Greenkeeper, The Astbury.

**Around the green**

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



# South East

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



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## Events Coming Up

### KENT

Next event is our annual Turkey Trot on 27 November at Redlibbets Golf Club. Always great fun, hope to see as many of you there as possible.

### SURREY

14 October Sussex v Surrey v Essex Tri Cup at Crowborough Beacon GC

Quiz night 14 October at The Cricketers Pub, Chobham

Match v Secretaries The Berkshire GC 19 November

England v Scotland Hankley Common GC 4 November

Turkey Trot Guildford GC 19 December

## News

### KENT

A fantastic day was recently had by Kent's finest ensemble at Etchinghill Golf Club. A perfect day weather-wise helped too as despite early mist the temperatures were kept under control as our team of intrepid climbers mounted assault on the summit of the course as the holes rose without respite until we reached the 14th! Fortunately, Vic Maynard from Ernest Doe's acted as the proverbial St Bernhard for the day dispensing liquids, Kendal mint cake and oxygen as necessary.

Shot of the day had to go to Gary Sidders of Lister Wilder who, in a blatant attempt to nobble the opposition, fired a ball straight into the midriff of Larry Pearman of Lely UK from 200 yards instantly felling him and putting a sudden end to what had been a very decent performance by Larry despite his (once) ridiculously high handicap.

Other noteworthy shots (apart from the one's on Vic's wagon) were by Mark Todd for nearest the pin and Adam White who had a monstrous longest drive.

Results: 1 Nick Leach (Wilderness) 32pts, 2 Rob Holland (Corinthians) 31, 3 Kev Morris (Redlibbets) 29. Trade: Phil Hughes (Lister Wilder)

Many thanks to the Etchinghill team for providing a very tidy, well presented, uphill challenge and to the caterers and clubhouse staff who were very attentive.

At Corinthians Golf Club we have just reconstructed all 9 greens to restore the playing surfaces to a higher level. A well organised operation of removal of the top two inches followed by ameliorating about fifteen tonnes of rootzone into each green followed by seeding before covering

with grow sheets was all completed in ten days. The course remains fully open to well prepared temporaries and is still the original best footgolf site in the South East!

### SURREY

Former BIGGA Chairman John Millen has retired from Hadlow College.

John has been an inspiration for many a student whilst teaching and using his great management skills to enable many a greenkeeper to progress to greater height in their careers. Wish you the very best on your retirement.

Surrey Bowl Final will be reported with results from Match V Reps next month

## Thanks to Sponsors

### KENT

Thanks to Vic Maynard and Ernest Does for their generosity in providing sustenance at Etchinghill.

## Welcome New Members

Ryan Hyde, Affiliate, Tacit, Laura Nelson, Affiliate, Symbio, Kyle Edge, Greenkeeper, Swaffham Golf Club, Stephen Milner, Greenkeeper, Pyecombe Golf Club, Allan Golding, Head Greenkeeper, Swaffham Golf Club, Christopher Lynch, Head Groundsman, Harrow School Golf Club, James Warriner, Assistant Greenkeeper, RAC (Royal Automobile Club), Mark Honey, Assistant Greenkeeper, Wisley (The) Golf Club Plc.



# BIGGA Refund of Fees

## BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Do you have to pay for your own education and training?

You could claim a refund of up to **80%** of the fees (up to a maximum of £350)

For further information visit [www.bigga.org.uk/education/funding-opportunities](http://www.bigga.org.uk/education/funding-opportunities) or call 01347 833800 (option 3)



# 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

The Autumn competition & AGM will be taking place at The Glamorganshire Golf Club on Thursday 16 October. It's an opportunity for you to attend the AGM and air your views. The first tee is booked for 12pm.

### SOUTH WEST

Upcoming educational programme includes a demonstration day on 29 October at Chippenham Golf Club that will include machinery demonstrations from Campey Turf Care and a presentation from BIGGA Vice Chairman Les Howkins titled Budgeting for the Modern Course. Bookings are essential, please contact Paul (paulw@mgnnew.co.uk) or Adam (adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk).

South West Section AGM will be held on Thursday 9 October at Salford Golf Club. This event will be taking a new format will include 9 holes of golf, an educational presentation by Mark Hunt of Headland Amenity and a two course meal. Contact any of the committee members to reserve place.

Christmas Tournament and charity raffle will be held on 17 December at Cirencester Golf Club, we expect to see everyone there, entries are open! All of our Section events are open to members of other sections, please feel free to contact us and attend as everyone is welcome.

## News

### SOUTH WALES

What great weather September has bought us hopefully you have finished your greens renovation and they are healing well, the section will be sponsoring people to attend BTME 2015. If you're interested put your name forward to Paul Handy or Steve Lloyd.

### DEVON & CORNWALL

The Devon and Cornwall section committee will be nominating two people for a free trip to BTME 2015 – one from the Devon & Cornwall Section and one from the South West & South Wales Region.

Anyone who is interested please call Cam McMorris on 07557 330380, Devon and Cornwall BIGGA section representative.

### SOUTH WEST

Great news to hear that Tom Freeman of Kingsdown Golf Club was a runner-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year for 2014. Congratulations Tom from all of our members and a serious inspiration for all budding greenkeeper apprentices and greenkeepers in training to demonstrate one of the many benefits of progressing with your education.

Following a fantastic day of golf at the Everris Golf Management Trophy held at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, congratulations must be made to all of the team there who presented a pristine golf course and very pleasant presentation and meal, oh, and well done to the home team for taking first place on the day also! Good luck at Frilford Heath guys!

Good luck to the semi-finalists in the Countrywide Knockout (yet to be confirmed at press!). The final will be held at Bowood once the semi-finals have been completed, date to be confirmed.

As ever we have specialist training being organised in line with demand from across the section. Excavator training in both basic and refresher will be available shortly. We have had strong interest and attendance on refresher courses recently with 35 members completing this training over the last two years and demand continues to be strong so please contact Paul Worster for details.

We have also had calls for training in specialist areas particularly a PA2 upgrade from apprenticeship qualifications, again please express your interest promptly to either Paul Worster (paulw@mgnnew.co.uk), Tracey Harvey (tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk) or myself. If there is any other training that is required drop any of us a line and we will do our best to help you with organising this.

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

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

## Welcome New Members

Allan Black, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Royal Jersey Golf Club, Mark Simmons, Greenkeeper, Bath Golf Club, Peter Avent, Greenkeeper, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Jackson Ainley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, Ceiron Thomas, Assistant Greenkeeper, Carmarthen Golf Club.

# Around the green

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



## Scotland

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



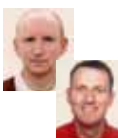
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## Events Coming Up

### CENTRAL

A reminder to everyone that the AGM is on 11 November at Auchterarder GC. The AGM will start at noon and afterwards there will be a soup/sandwich lunch followed by a couple of seminars and a presentation by the Jim Croxton and others from the BIGGA team. The day should finish by 3.30 and is free to members so we hope to see a good attendance. More details will be emailed out nearer the time as they become available.

### NORTH

Next event is our AGM on 16 October at the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre, meeting 11am, cost £10 on the day. Two nines of golf, soup and sandwiches followed by the AGM.

### EAST

AGM @ Old Mussleburgh in October.  
Annual Xmas Soiree in December (Venue to be confirmed).

## News

### CENTRAL

We had a higher than average turnout for our autumn outing on 9 September with 45 players attending. Our thanks to Dunfermline GC, their Secretary, Committee and all the staff involved in making it such an enjoyable day and a big thanks as always to all the Patrons who came along and supported us on the day and contributed massively to the raffle.

The Committee have agreed to donate the £150 from the raffle to the BIGGA benevolent fund. Principal prizes winners on a day of excellent scoring by most were: 1 Scratch Archie Dunn, 73 (bih) from Davie Simpson. Best overall net, John Watson, 39pts (bih). Best in class 1 Allan Patterson 37. Best in class 2 Gordon McKie 39. Patrons winner, Kenny Liddell, 41.

All the scores and pictures of the winners are on the Central Section and the Scottish Region websites. In the pairs competition, at the time of writing, Paul Armour and Kevin Webster are through to the final where they will face either Scott Robertson and Stuart Griffiths or Richard Jenkinson and Kevin Brunton. John Watson and Davie Cooper were the other beaten semi-finalists.

Congratulations to Stewart Brown on becoming the course manager at Elie GC. We look forward to seeing Stewart at some of our events.

### NORTH

We had another very successful autumn outing at Inverurie Golf Club. 62 entered on the day and there was some very good scoring. The course was very well presented and in excellent condition. Well done to Derek Green and his team.

Results: Nearest the pin at the 4th Jocky Urquhart Strathlene GC and the 10th was Steve Christie from the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre. The trade winner was Gary McCandless Rigby Taylor. The committee winner was Robert Patterson Royal Aberdeen. The Apprentice trophy was won by Ryan Innes from Keith GC. The runner up in the Veterans was Richard Pirie from Newmachar GC and the winner was Billy Craig from Kirriemuir.

4th in the sweep Adam Lindsay Peterculter GC, 3 David Inglis Hazelhead GC, 2 Derek Green from Inverurie GC and 1 Ryan Cooper from Hazelhead. Class 3 - 3 Dale Robertson Newmachar GC, 2 Roddy Kelly Moray GC, 1 Dylan Meinen.

Class 2 - 3 Billy Craig from Kirriemuir GC, 2 David Inglis Hazelhead GC, 1 Ryan Cooper from Hazelhead GC. Class 1 - 3 Dennis Grant Huntly GC, 2 Robert Patterson Royal Aberdeen, 1 Derek Green Inverurie GC. Runner up in the scratch was Kevin Tompson from Moray GC and the winner was Adam Lindsay Peterculter GC.

The winner of the Mark Main Trophy for the best nett Spring and Autumn was Kevin Tompson from Moray GC. The winner of the best nett on the day and also the best scratch both win free entry into the Scottish Tournament at Portlethen GC in August 2015.

### NORTH

Stewart Brown has left Royal Aberdeen to take up the post of Course Manager at Elie Golf Club in Fife, we wish him all the best in his new post. The North Section also was invited to have a walk round the Trump course which proved very interesting and 45 people attended.

### EAST

Congratulations to David Drummond who has been appointed Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Muirfield.

The section recently held our Willie Woods tournament over Greenburn GC, the day was a great success with good weather gracing us for a change in these parts. The winners on the day were Craig Hempseed (Mortonhall) and Robert King (Mortonhall) with a fantastic 63 nett better ball score, runners up were Duncan Peddie (Dundas Parks) and Robbie Murdoch (Dundas Parks) with a 67 nett (on the better front 3 holes). Longest drive was won by Alan Campbell (Silverknowes), nearest the pin winner was James Johnston (Greenburn GC) and the prize for nearest the pin in 2 at the last hole was Dougal Melville (Silverknowes). Well done to all involved and thanks go to Graeme King from (Hugh Kings) for a very informative educational talk on sand selections.

Remember to like our new Facebook page and feel free to post updates from around your course @ Bigga Scottish East. Anyone wishing to have news added or are willing to write a short topic of interest for the GI Magazine then please get in touch. Again a reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback asap.

## Thanks to Patrons

### NORTH

Thanks to Neil Mitchell from Greentech who sponsored our walk round the Trump course.

## Welcome New Members

Allen Whellans, Course Manager, St Boswells Golf Club, Edward McNaughton, Greenkeeper, Gullane Golf Club, David Denholm, Greenkeeper, Gullane Golf Club, Stephen Judge, Assistant Greenkeeper, Brodick Golf Club, Martin Scott, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hamilton Golf Club.

# Seal the deal

Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club, advises you exactly how to put your case forward when new machinery is needed



## I was reminded recently how the humble lawnmower was invented over a century ago in a garden shed by one Edwin Budding.

By modern standards it's a somewhat dangerous-looking contraption, although the principles of its operation have not changed hugely in the intervening period. Happily, today's equipment looks a lot more user friendly and Health & Safety compliant.

I was talking with a fellow greenkeeper recently who was unhappy that he'd "put in for a new machine" but the notion had been rejected by the Club Management.

So, how is it that seemingly every other week we read in various industry publications of the latest 'new fleet deal' in which a club rids itself of a shed full of near-obsolete equipment, and takes on a shiny new fleet bristling with the latest technology, yet another club rejects the notion out of hand?

Of course, no two golf clubs are the same, but the majority follow the same path - investing wisely and prudently in the golf course. Basically, planning for tomorrow while meeting the needs of today. So, how is the case made for said brand new kit?

I cannot overstate the importance of accurate, credible and well-presented information, and, it is important to remember

we are not dealing with industry experts on our committees.

So, that machine which has 5000 hours on the clock, how much exactly is it costing to run? How much are you going to have to spend on it to keep it in reliable running order for the coming season? What is its current book value?

I don't know about the first two, but I can answer that last one - it will be written down to £50 on the books. It's not sensible to spend upwards of, say, £4000 to fit new cylinders, blades, hydraulic pipes, bearings, bushes and so on - (yep it soon mounts up and that's probably a pre-VAT figure) on a machine with a current book-value of just £50. You can lease a brand new machine with a five-year warranty for that sort of money.

To make a credible case you need to do several things:

### Step One - Finances

- You need to itemise everything the old machine needs or will likely need for it to run through another season - preferably in the form of a Dealer quote.

- You need to provide options on a replacement and suggest how the options might meet the needs of the club - e.g. Outright purchase, hire purchase, or Operators ease.

Step 2. Other than straight finances - make the case as to why would the club want to do this. You need to demonstrate how

this new technology will serve the needs of the Club using simple, straightforward language.

- "If this old machine was a car doing an average of 40mph - in those 5000 hours it would have 200,000 miles on the clock".

- "The superior operating speed of the new machine makes it viable to cut every day ahead of play" - so happier golfers, better greens and no interference with staff making golf here safer and more enjoyable.

- "The new machine has all the latest safety equipment as standard" - so happier staff, happier insurance company and again happier players.

- "This machine runs with only 10% of the volume of oil of the old machine..." - no pollution risk, no waste disposals bills, quicker servicing.

- And, most importantly - "This machine has a five-year warranty". Simple, strong and instantly understandable.

Step 3. You need a comprehensive programme of replacement so that the club does not get into difficulty when all the equipment needs replacing at once. This shows you as the leader - the person to whom the Club will come to look for advice on machinery matters. Submit charts and papers to show costs with clear objectives.

Do some pre-work. Do not expect to be able to simply plonk a piece of paper down, no matter how eloquently written, in front of a Committee of ten and expect things to go through on the nod. They will not.

What you need to do well beforehand is get someone, preferably the Chairman of the Committee on your side - on the same page, the same wavelength. This can be a lengthy process but once achieved gives an ally who can approach other committee members outside of meetings and convince them of the need to take action now - no matter how seemingly financially unpalatable.

So, do not simply "put in for a replacement" without credible facts and figures, homework and lobbying, and expect to be successful.

Do your research, prepare a compelling case and have courage in your convictions.

## about the author



Paul Worster is Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and a former BIGGA Chairman. He is now a director of FEGGA and believes in strong Greenkeeper Associations preparing and equipping their greenkeeper members for management





# Greenkeepers Training Committee

GTC Quality Assured Training Provider Swan Golf Designs on why seminars and workshops for greenkeepers and employers are so important to the philosophy of sharing best practice

**Howard Swan has, for many years, presented at numerous seminars, workshops and conferences both at home and abroad. Whilst best known as a Golf Course Architect he has a passion to share his vast knowledge and experience of golf course design and renovation projects which he has been involved in globally.**

In more recent years, his son William has become the third generation of Swans in the architectural profession and is continuing the tradition of sharing best practice with all who attend GTC workshops which are focused on employers – Owners, Officers, Club and Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers – and have proved very popular.

The GTC will again be hosting workshops during BTME 2015 where Swan Golf Designs will again feature with plans also afoot to host more workshops regionally before January and into spring 2015.

Howard takes up the story of SGD being involved in quality education of greenkeepers and employers with the offer to assist any Quality Assured Centre or BIGGA Region or Section.

He said: “We have long held the belief that if anyone is to learn anything about anything in life then it must come from three things – Information, Communication and Education...or ‘ICE’.

“That essential learning process comes from taking information, no matter at what level it may be imparted by others, and absorbing it into your memory for the future. Having a good system of communication helps greatly to facilitate that.

“In our own field of golf course design and development, or more realistically in these days of the indifferent state of the golf course market redesign and redevelopment, we work with a large number of individuals in any one project and the success of that project is essentially reliant upon that team performing as well as it can. Each individual contributes their bit.

“We often say the best projects



are those which are not led by the golf course architect as we might get carried away and run away with the excitement of what might be conceived on the golf course.

“In most projects the team needs to consist of the client – a golf club chairman, chairman of green, a green committee, a golf club manager – who has a vision of what it wants from the project in five or ten years’ time and an intent to achieve it in sensible, realisable steps – and who may lead the team. They should be supported by the technical input and expertise of the golf course architect, who may project manage it throughout its various stages, by those who might specialise in irrigation technology, in agronomy and of course the greenkeeping team.

“The relationships between each of the team members is vitally important to the success of that project and the understanding which is developed between them can yield the outcome everybody wishes for.

“Those relationships are only developed by sharing information, by communicating clearly and well, by understanding each other’s position in taking the information by that communication and using

it to maximum effect. Essentially, therefore, becoming the education process from which we all learn.

“The best projects in our experience over 45 years of working in the industry have come where all of those are realised. All members of the team rely upon each other, learn from each other, and maximise their efforts with a singular purpose to succeed.

“There is, without doubt, a universal requirement to adopt the GTC’s philosophy of allowing all levels of greenkeepers AND employers access to both formal and informal education and training. On the job training and online learning has given many an opportunity to further their knowledge without having to leave their workplace. This is one option we see as having great benefits to individuals and the business as a whole.

“It’s this philosophy we have been pleased to bring to the GTC in conceiving and contributing to their workshop programme with our fellow QA training providers.

“BTME 2015 now beckons with two further workshops focusing on bunkering and the safety of golf courses, and we look forward to those taking opportunities to put the ‘ICE’ theory into practice.”



The GTC is funded by:



## Contact Details

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Greenkeeper Training

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Aldwark Manor  
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Each 500 tonne batch of rootzone was tested to ensure quality and consistency of the finished product. The course reopened on 29 June 2014 with fantastic feedback from the membership.

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# Recruitment

## Course Manager, Burghill Valley Golf Club, Hereford

Burghill Valley Golf Club is an 18-hole parkland course situated just north of the City of Hereford. A course manager is required who can maintain the course at the very high level it is presently at and lead a team. The Course Manager reports to the Club Manager.

The successful candidate will:

- Have previous experience as either Course Manager, Head Green Keeper or deputy.
- Be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2 in green keeping.
- Have a chainsaw certificate and spraying qualifications PA1, 2 and 6a
- Be able to plan work and manage and motivate a team.
- Have a working knowledge of greens machinery and irrigation equipment, including maintenance and repair.
- Have experience in Health and Safety regulations.
- Be capable of working to a budget and dealing with all suppliers.

Applications must be in writing, including a full CV and sent to:

N. A Hitchings Esq, Club Manager, Burghill Valley Golf Club, Tillington Road Hereford, HR4 7RW

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## Hartley Wintney Golf Club Assistant Greenkeeper

HWGC is a delightful club situated on the Hampshire/Berkshire border. We are looking to recruit an Assistant Greenkeeper to join our skilled and experienced team on a full time basis. The successful candidate will be involved in the daily presentation of the course, project work and other aspects of grounds maintenance to ensure the course is presented to a consistently high level. They should also be enthusiastic and self-motivated.

Working under the direction of the Course Manager, you will be expected to contribute to the ongoing development of our course, which continues to enjoy significant investment in machinery, personnel and construction work.

Preferably you will already have green-keeping experience and a sports turf qualification.

Salary Negotiable

If you would like the opportunity to join our team the please apply via e-mail or post to include both CV and cover letter to the Course Manager:

Matthew Rolls, Course Manager, Hartley Wintney Golf Club Ltd, London Road, Hartley Wintney, HOOK, RG27 8PT  
[office@hartleywintneygolfclub.com](mailto:office@hartleywintneygolfclub.com)



## Retail Sales Manager Grounds Maintenance Sector

### The Scope

Lely (UK) Limited is the exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland for the world leading range of Toro professional turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems as well as the TYM brand of tractors

Our blend of product offering is well suited to a diverse range of customers in the fine turf sports and grounds maintenance sectors including landscape contractors and local authorities.

### The Role

The Turf division is looking to recruit a Retail Sales Manager, ideally East Anglia based to support the sales team in promoting and selling our turf maintenance equipment brands specifically to end user customers within the local authority, landscape contractor and other sports and amenity grounds maintenance providers in Essex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, North East London and East Hertfordshire.

Reporting to the Regional Sales Manager, the successful candidate will have a proven track record in negotiating skills and selling to end user customers within the grounds maintenance sector. Experience is required in negotiating with key account customers and buying groups

Candidates will be highly motivated professionals with a pro-active approach and enjoy working as part of a team. You will need to display good oral and written communication skills and be able to create and maintain strong working relationships at all levels including good time management, presentation and reporting skills.

Please forward your CV and covering letter including current salary package to [Jambler@lely.com](mailto:Jambler@lely.com)

Closing date for applications is 31st October 2014



## Assistant Greenkeeper Chippenham Golf Club

Chippenham Golf Club has undergone extensive changes over the past few years, with new holes and a new clubhouse having been built. The objective over coming years is to further enhance the course through further investment in the golf course and maintenance facility.

Working under instruction from the Course Manager, the ideal candidate will be hard working, have an eye for detail and be able to become an integral part of a small team.

NVQ level 2 is essential and spraying and chainsaw certificates would be an advantage.

The ideal candidate will be looking to progress themselves in the industry, and further training will be available to the right person. Active involvement in CPD would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable dependant on experience and qualifications.

Please apply with your CV to [coursemanager.chippenhamgolf@btconnect.com](mailto:coursemanager.chippenhamgolf@btconnect.com)

or The Course Manager, Chippenham Golf Club, Malmesbury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN15 5LT

## Saffron Walden Golf Club Require a Qualified Greenkeeper

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ level 2 or equivalent and have 2 years sports turf maintenance experience. Our hard working team pride themselves on presenting a fine course and the successful candidate will be professionally driven to achieve the same standards of workmanship.

Accommodation may be available. Please apply in writing with CV to **Ray Goodsall** Course Manager, Saffron Walden Golf club, Windmill Hill, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BX



## The Royal Automobile Club

Set in beautiful countryside near Epsom Downs, this private members club provides the highest standards of facilities including fine dining, accommodation, golf and sporting facilities.

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER:

Duties include general golf course maintenance –mowing, divoting and water systems. 45 hours per week, 5am start (summer); 35 hours per week, 7am start (winter), weekend work included. NVQ2 qualified with experience and used to working in a large team.

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You will be suitably qualified in the practicalities of producing a very high standard of presentation throughout the golf course. You will be proficient with the use of modern maintenance equipment including tractor driving and shall possess the ability to work on your own initiative but within a team role. Applicants shall preferably be Qualified to NVQ level 2, have a minimum of 2 years working experience on a golf course or fine turf, have relevant spraying certificates or a chainsaw certificate. Knowledge of automatic irrigation systems would be advantageous.

Employment to commence April/May 2014

Accommodation can be discussed.

An attractive package will be offered to the successful applicant. For further information please call Ian Ross 0047 92264543

If you are interested in the above position then please apply in writing by 31.11.14 enclosing your c.v. and marking it **CONFIDENTIAL** To: Ian Ross, Head Greenkeeper, Tyrifjord GK, Storøya, 3531 Krokkleiva, Norway



## SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

### Head Greenkeeper (New Course designed by Harry Colt - 1923)

Sunningdale Golf Club wishes to recruit a Head Greenkeeper for the New Course to manage the maintenance and development of the Course which is ranked 53 in the world (Golf Course Architecture Magazine).

Reporting to the Courses & Estate Manager, applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to lead a team in raising and maintaining the world class standards required at the Club.

#### The candidate should have :-

- Minimum of 5 years' golf course management experience
- Links or heathland experience preferred but not essential
- Qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent preferred
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6
- Strong supervisory and communication skills

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Please apply in writing or email with full CV and covering letter to:

Clare Livingston, Administration & HR Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club  
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR

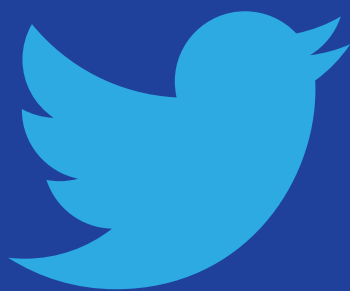
By email to [jobs@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:jobs@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk)

Closing date for Applications 20th October, 2014

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







# @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...

### @essexbigga

@BIGGALtd @ColchesterGC well done to the team from Banks Amenity winning at Colchester golf club today! Course was in fantastic condition

### @tomofreemo

A big thank you to everyone @BIGGALtd & @TheToroCompany for a great experience well done @kevodale76 a worthy winner & great bloke

### @CentenaryHGK

Final sand levels being established this week. @Gleneagleshotel @rydercup @BIGGALtd

### @sandra4bigganor

@BIGGALtd Peter Larer had a great 70th birthday yesterday and enjoyed a Lancaster and red arrow fly past in the afternoon – congratulations

### @My\_Apprentice

Great picture of @BIGGALtd TORO Student Greenkeeper of the year finalist @MyerscoughColl Thomas Freeman @KingsdownGC

### @AnthonyStockwel

Great to catch up with many of the @BIGGALtd Kent section yesterday especially @cliveosgood

### @IanReevo

1st green gravel carpet down, 2nd green on its way, 1st tees nearly finished. #golf #construction @BIGGALtd

### @wesleni87

massive congratulation to Kevin oneill worthy winner! Great guy!! #ToroStudentoftheyearawards #BIGGA

### @the\_igog

@BIGGALtd CEO does the #IceBucketChallenge #welldone



@CentenaryHGK



@IanReevo



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