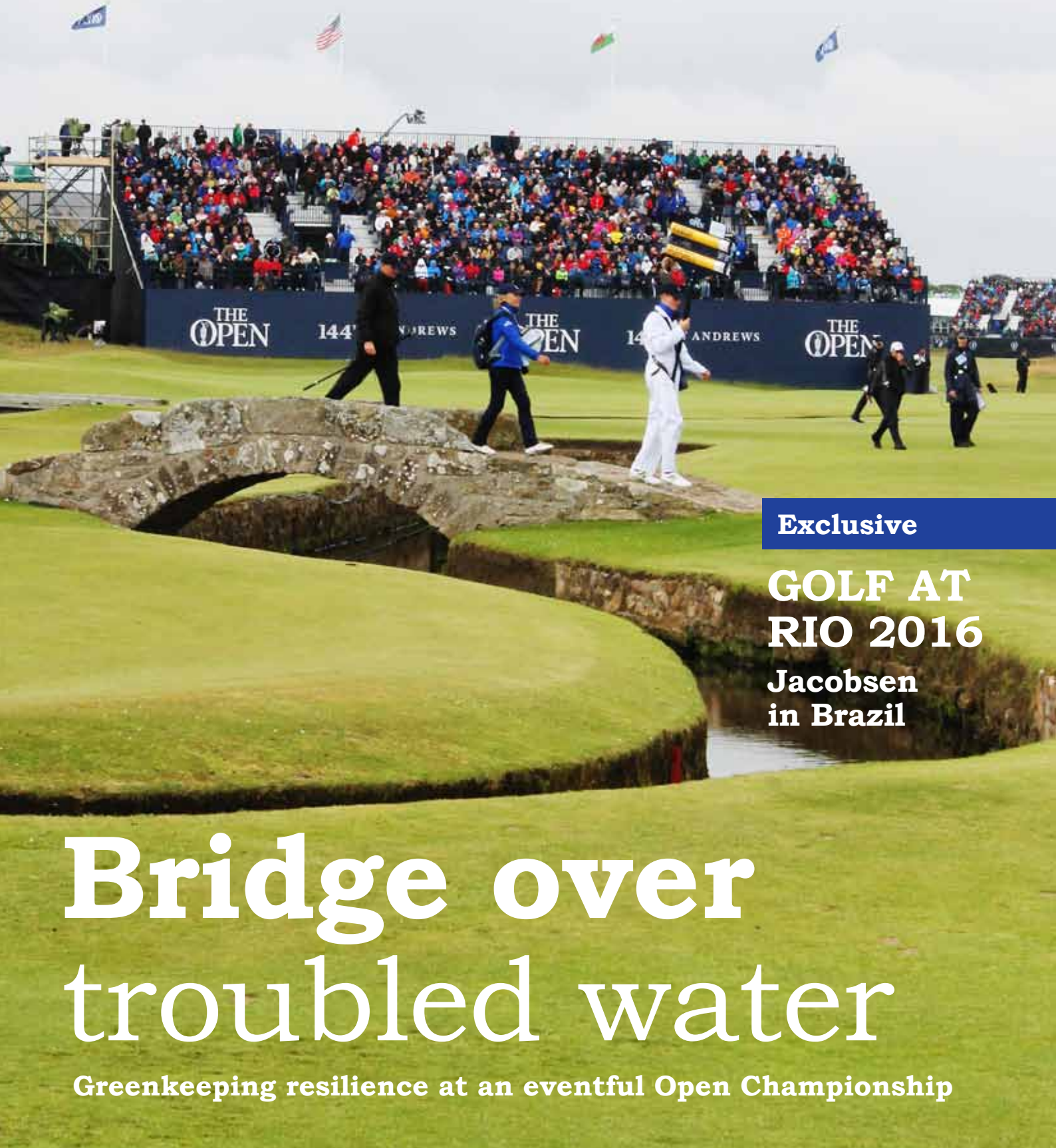


# GI

# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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WELCOME FROM BIGGA



Zach Johnson with the St Andrews greenkeeping team (courtesy of Tim Johnson)

Praise for Open greenkeepers

**I must begin by paying tribute to the awesome job done by the St Andrews Links Trust greenkeeping team on the Old Course for the Open Championship, the golf course was immaculate throughout the tournament, producing low scores and a thrilling climax.**

On the Friday morning the transformation from a course besieged by rain to perfect conditions in just a few minutes was testament to both excellent preparatory work and the heroic efforts on the day to shift vast quantities of standing water.

**I've always loved the fact that the Head Greenkeeper of the venue is invited to be part of the official presentation party and I'm sure I wasn't alone in smiling at the TV when Zach Johnson appeared to be flanked by Gordon Moir and Gordon McKie for what seemed like most of the proceedings.**

To hear Zach Johnson praise the greenkeeping team so fulsomely in his winning speech was immensely gratifying.

Tribute must also be paid to the BIGGA Support Team who endured a testing week with so many delays. The group maintained a fantastic spirit and as usual friendships were made and cemented.

For so many to change their plans in order to take part on the delayed final day was superb and once again made me proud to be part of this great industry.

This is the volunteering time of year for greenkeepers and I have been amazed to see, mainly on social media, just how many of our members give up their time to support colleagues particularly for tournaments. This applies at every level including events as parochial as Captain's Day or Club Championships, this is truly unique in my experience and is something we at BIGGA

will do more to shout about in order for the profession to get the recognition it deserves.

**Another opportunity for industry recognition is the BIGGA Awards, inaugurated last year in association with the IOG and this year going it alone.**

The 2015 Awards were launched recently and the winners will be announced during the BIGGA Welcome Celebration to be held in the historic Harrogate Royal Hall during BTME. Last year's Awards showcased some outstanding achievements and it is no exaggeration to say had a profound effect on the careers of some of the finalists and winners.

I urge all of our members to consider nominating themselves, colleagues or friends, there are no limitations on size of club or scale of facilities – the Awards simply seek to recognise outstanding achievements in greenkeeping.

I am convinced that as an industry we can do more to celebrate the fine work of greenkeepers and I sincerely hope these Awards are embraced by our membership and that the judging panel have a very difficult job at the end of the year.

Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**

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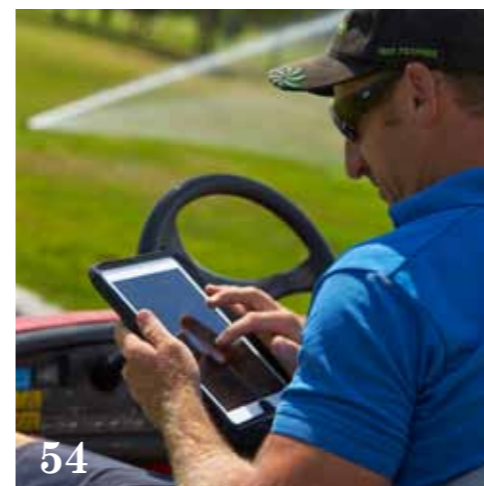
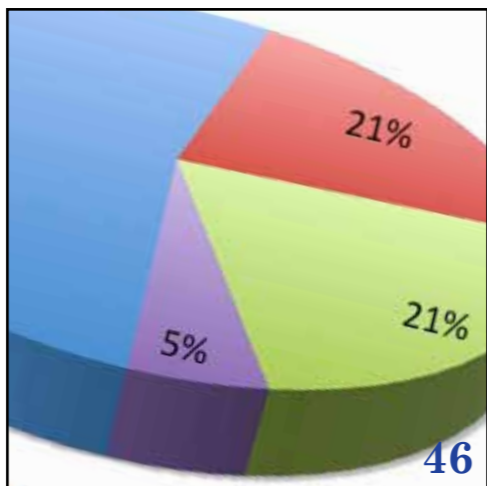
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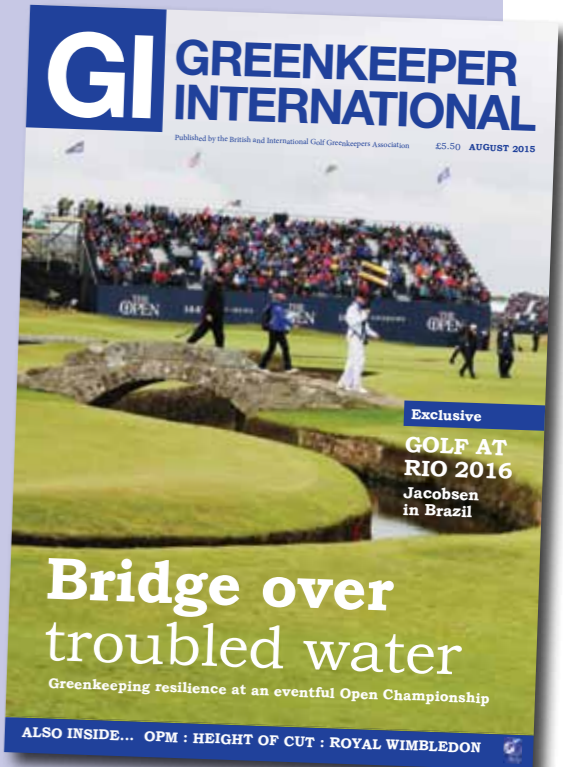
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# Chairman's Word

BIGGA National Chairman 2015, Les Howkins MG, gives his thoughts for the month

## Credit for a testing Open

July was dominated by one thing and one thing only, the WEATHER! The start of the month down south saw temperatures well into the thirties and the dry spell continuing. At the same time greenkeepers further north were reporting exceptionally high, unseasonal rainfall. And of course we all witnessed what the weather can do to one of the world's leading sporting events.

The hottest July day on record gave large areas of the country a great summer feeling, as many sunbathed in London's parks and filled the south coast beaches. For greenkeepers it was a bit different, we started to think about soil temperatures, managing soil moisture, dry patch and maintaining grass cover to produce good putting surfaces.

Whilst we have always had to face these challenges, recent years have seen a rise in the popularity of testing tools.

Thermometers, moisture meters, stimpeters, smoothness testers. These tools have given us the ability to measure the conditions and manage them accordingly. Having the data gives us facts (ammunition) to deal with committees, GM's and owners.

The guys further north dealing with heavy rain also have these tools and can use them to justify the continued work they are doing to reduce OM levels and improve the drainage capacities of their greens and other areas of the course.

What the weather did to The Open was nothing short of tragic. It started with torrential rain on Friday morning. At 6.15am I was at the 1st tee trying to convince a scorer that the St Andrews Links would be fine and would happily soak up all the rain.

How wrong I was, the rain became very heavy and play was halted shortly after the second match of the day teed off, and a 3 hour 30 minute delay ensued.

What it did do was give the world a chance to witness the resilience of greenkeeping teams.

What the St Andrews team achieved on the world stage was a monumental effort, one that made me very proud of



**"What the St Andrews team achieved on the world stage was a monumental effort"**

our industry, it highlighted what other teams do week in week out without the recognition.

We do it because we love it.

On Saturday the weather threw the Old Course another curveball with strong winds that led to a very lengthy delay. The delay was unusual but once again highlighted an issue we all have to deal with.

Many of us have to deal with the Bar Room committee, on this occasion I heard TV pundit Mark James state the problem was down to "mower happy greenkeepers". Really?

The following morning the scoring was amazingly low for a while and the TV pundits were telling us how great the greens were.

We really can't win at times. All we can do is to continue the best we can, communicate the best we can and try and turn a blind eye to some of the poorly informed nonsense.

My final thought on The Open, it was great to spend time with a group of members, they all worked extremely hard and were a credit to our association. Also, plaudits to the St Andrews team led by the two Gordons.

The course was amazing, the greens were smooth and true and the team dealt brilliantly with all challenges they had to face. A true team effort, well done to all.

### Contact details

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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



JOHN DEERE



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



## BIGGA AWARDS LAUNCHED



Now's your chance to honour the fantastic work of greenkeepers as nominations open for the BIGGA Awards 2015.

Greenkeepers will be vying for three categories aiming to recognise outstanding achievement, skill, dedication and excellence in greenkeeping – with the winners being announced live during the prestigious 'Welcome Celebration' at BTME 2016 next January.

The three categories are BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen, BIGGA Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year and BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year.

The Awards are open to all Full Members of BIGGA, whether they are employed at large multi-course facilities or smaller venues. You can easily nominate an individual greenkeeper or greenkeeping team by completing a short questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIGGAawards2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIGGAawards2015)

The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 30 September 2015. A panel from BIGGA will review all the nominations before selecting a shortlist of three for each category, then deciding on one winner for each Award.

The winners will be announced during the popular 'Welcome Celebration' in the Harrogate

International Centre's Royal Hall during BTME 2016. The Celebration begins at 5.30pm on Tuesday 19 January 2016.

Sponsorship is still available for the BIGGA Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year and BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year.

For more details on this fantastic opportunity please contact BIGGA's Business Development Manager Jill Rodham on 01347 833800 or [jill@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jill@bigga.co.uk)

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## CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED

BIGGA are delighted to announce two new Regional Conferences for 2015 in the Highlands and Solway (North Cumbria and Dumfries & Galloway).

The first annual BIGGA Highlands Conference will take place at Nairn Dunbar GC on Thursday 11 November.

Beginning at 9.30am, a terrific and varied range of speakers are planned. After an introduction from Iain MacLeod, Paul Murphy from Fife Golf Trust will be presenting a seminar focusing on 'Working with Trust'. This will be followed by a presentation from Gordon McKie, Course Manager on the Old Course at St Andrews. He will be discussing before, during and after The Open 2015 from a greenkeeping perspective.

After lunch, STRI's Richard Windows will be talking about 'Dealing with Organic Matter' in what's sure to be another educational technical presentation. A terrific day is rounded off by Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, who will be presenting his hugely popular look at hosting last year's Ryder Cup.

The cost is £25 for members and £35 for non-members. Registration is at 9.30am. To reserve your spot please contact John Young on 07776 242120 or [johnyoung@bigga.co.uk](mailto:johnyoung@bigga.co.uk)

The next new event is the BIGGA Solway (North Cumbria & Dumfries and Galloway) Conference, which will take place on Wednesday 25 November at Smiths Hotel in Gretna.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton will welcome everyone attending then introduce the first speaker, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at The Richmond GC Les Howkins MG. Les will be followed by David Cole MG, Course Manager at Loch Lomond GC.

Henry Bechelet, Technical Manager at Everris will also present a seminar with another speaker to be confirmed as GI went to press. Registration is at 9.30am, £25 for members and £35 for non-members. To reserve your spot contact Sandra Raper on [sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sandra@bigga.co.uk) or 07866 366966.



## IT'S CLOSE FOR PGA SENIORS

The greenkeeping team at Close House showed professionalism, pride and an excellent work ethic during the recent PGA Seniors Championship.

Close House was built in 1779 for the private use of the Bewicke family on the site of an earlier monastic house, and only became a golf venue in 2005.

Brian Clark is Golf Course & Estate Manager and Stephen Blakey as Brian's Deputy. These two gentlemen have developed a 27 strong team over the last ten years that have included the parkland re-design and reopening in 2007 of the Lee Westwood Filly Course. The redesign included 18 USGA specification greens, the course is 6000 yards in length and a par 70 from the medal tees.

With no time to rest on their laurels the team moved on to develop The Championship Lee Westwood Colt Course, opened by Lee Westwood in May 2011. The design of The Lee Westwood Colt tips its hat to the great English golf architect Harry Colt, who designed Wentworth, St Georges Hill, Sunningdale and Swinley Forest among others. While nothing is copied directly, the rectangular tees, the bunker forms, and the variety in Par threes are all features conceived from the distilled themes of this most brilliant architect.

Only recently the team have

completed The Yearling 9 hole pitch and putt course adjacent to the Filly Course and continue to maintain the parkland, gardens, six football pitches and four rugby pitches, this is no job for the feint hearted.

It was the Championship Lee Westwood Colt course that hosted the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship in June 2015 and it is testament to the team that the PGA requested only minor modifications prior to the competition.

The course was prepared by the team working from 4am to 8.30am each morning and 4pm to 10pm each evening.

Having met the team towards the end of the competition it was clear that they took great pride in preparing the best playing surface possible.

For the competition the cutting regime was to cut greens both morning and evening at 3mm and roll every morning, tees at 8mm, approaches 9mm and fairways 13mm. Lloyds of Throtley loaned several pieces of equipment to assist the preparation with the team using Toro 5010H on Fairways, Toro 3100 Triples on greens and hand cut tees.

Brian and Stephen were keen to state their pride in the teams professionalism, pride and excellent work ethic

both during preparation and throughout the tournament.

The winner of the event was Peter Fowler (Australia) who continued his recent form by claiming a second consecutive European Senior Tour title.

He completed 4 rounds at 12 under par, Gordon Manson (Austria) finished second, three shots back, with Carl Mason in third place at eight under par.

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## KEVIN'S RIGHT ROYAL HONOUR

Current Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Kevin O'Neill recently rubbed shoulders with royalty as he picked up another award in what's been a memorable year for the Rochdale-born greenkeeper.

Kevin, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Muswell Hill Golf Club, had already won a City & Guilds Medal of Excellence Award for his studies after successfully completing his NVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf at Oaklands College.

But he was amazed to also receive a prize from one of the City of London's Livery Companies – the Worshipful Company of Gardeners – which he collected from Princess Anne at St James's Palace.

Livery companies were established in the City of London hundreds of years ago, and represent various trades and professions which have been established for centuries. Each company is governed by a Master, with Bernhard & Co Executive Chairman Stephen Bernhard the current Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.

Each year a number of the Livery Companies award prizes to people they feel have excelled in their particular fields. City & Guilds were founded by

Livery Companies in 1878 and maintain a close link with them, and Kevin was nominated due to his outstanding Level 3 work.

Kevin, who is secretary of BIGGA's London Section, said: "I've got to be honest, when I first got a call from someone representing the Worshipful Company of Gardeners I thought it was a wind up!"

"So, my partner Jude and I got our glad rags on and headed to the palace! It was a fantastic day. I got to have a chat with Princess Anne. We talked about her becoming an honorary member of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews which was really interesting.

"I met all sorts of people from various professions – goldsmiths, blacksmiths, needlemakers and even paviors who work on the roads and highways. I felt really proud and humbled to be representing greenkeeping on the day, and this sort of event just shows what a proud, long-standing profession greenkeeping really is."

Stephen Bernhard added: "Fostering career development is the basis of the City and Guilds qualifications. Education is very dear to my heart and this is yet another excellent example of young talent excelling. My congratulations to Kevin."

## KICKSTART FOR BIGGA NORTHERN IRELAND



A successful working group established earlier this year has kickstarted the BIGGA Section in Northern Ireland ahead of the BIGGA Northern Ireland Golf Championship in October.

Current members of the working group include BIGGA members Aaron Small (Donaghadee Golf Club), David Forbes (Faughan Valley Golf Club), Chris McArthur (Portstewart Golf Club), Paul Campbell (College of Agriculture, Food and Enterprise) and John Young (BIGGA's Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional Administrator). Further input will be provided by Jason Podris (Fortwilliam Golf Club) and Gary Crawford (Royal County Down Golf Club).

The prime aim of BIGGA Northern Ireland will be to provide members with a broader range of opportunities and a higher profile within the Association.

Most importantly, the Section will seek to engage with current, former and future members to ensure that those individuals gain benefit from being part of BIGGA.

A calendar for the next 12 months has been developed with two education events in the pipeline, the first of which will be in November and will be free to everyone that would like to attend both members and non-members.

This event will have two speakers along with representatives from BIGGA to explain the current plans for the association. The second event, the BIGGA Northern Ireland Conference, will aim to be the highlight of the calendar and work is underway to engage with potential speakers.

Our first event though is the first BIGGA Northern Ireland Golf Championship that will be held at Clondeboy Golf Club, Bangor on Friday 2 October. Leaflets will be issued to ALL current members in Northern Ireland providing further details but please get the word out to anyone that may be interested in attending. This promises to be an excellent event to kickstart BIGGA in Northern Ireland again.

We are obviously looking for further help in getting the section established and if you would like to take part in the working group then contact John Young on 07776 242120 or by emailing johnyoung@bigga.co.uk.

Please be assured that we are NOT looking for committee members at this time although that will be the aim in the future.

From this month Northern Ireland will also have a slot in 'Around the Green! The correspondent is myself, Chris McArthur, so please contact me with your news, events and anything else of interest on cmcarthur66@hotmail.co.uk. I can say with confidence that things are on the up for BIGGA in Northern Ireland!

Chris McArthur

## AMANDA INTERVIEWS ...STEVEN CARMICHAEL

Amanda chats to Steven Carmichael, Deputy Head at Dumfries & Galloway GC, about his career and more



**AD:** Hi Steven, great to meet you and thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for this month's Greenkeeper International.

**SC:** Thanks Amanda, it's great to meet you too.

**AD:** How long have you been in your current role and where did you begin your career?

**SC:** I have been in my current role as Deputy Head at Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club for about ten years. Before that I was at Dumfries & County Golf Club.

**AD:** How many greenkeepers are employed at Dumfries & Galloway and are jobs rotated?

**SC:** We only have four greenkeepers here so all the jobs are rotated but I feel that it is important to have job variation.

**AD:** How important is it to you to further your education?

**SC:** I feel that it is essential for me to further my education, not only am I continuing my own development, it gives me extra motivation and confidence. I was recently selected for the Future Turf Managers Initiative which was an intense three days of training but it was an amazing experience.

**AD:** What are your biggest challenges and how do you work through them?

**SC:** The biggest challenges we face are the weather and financial constraints. Regarding both, there isn't much we can do but as a team we try to be as flexible as we can so our standards don't drop.

**AD:** How many rounds of golf per year are played at Dumfries and Galloway?

**SC:** Approximately 22,000 to 25,000 rounds a year.

## FEGGA GREENKEEPER EXCHANGE SCHEME



FEGGA'S Greenkeeper Exchange scheme is aimed at Assistant and Senior Assistant Greenkeepers who wish to develop and progress their careers. The scheme aims to simultaneously exchange a pair of greenkeepers between two participating clubs for a set period of time e.g. anything from four to sixteen weeks.

The objectives are to increase greenkeeping skills, share experiences and life skills; and to give each participating club the benefits of new ideas and initiatives coming in from established greenkeepers.

When established, the Scheme may be used to help golf and greenkeepers from the smaller, more remote countries to develop by bringing contact with the larger and more established countries.

A year-one pilot initiative between suitable golf clubs will test the mechanism by which the Scheme will benefit the European golf industry, and deliver the following:

- Career development
- The building of inter-club and staff relationships, and sharing of skills and experience
- The opportunity to experience new challenges and problem-solving

- Reflection and re-evaluation of the challenges of the job position
- Refresh and reinvigorate key staff
- To become more influential

The scheme is designed for golf clubs and their Senior Assistant Greenkeepers or other Greenkeepers who are aspirant in their careers. The applicants must have at least two years of experience at their present club, be in good health with a clean driving licence. They should be capable of keeping records and writing reports, and be proficient in any languages that may apply in the case of cross-border placements.

The Clubs must be willing to participate and will agree to the pre-set criteria governing the placement available from FEGGA.

Where possible during this pilot phase, FEGGA will meet all reasonable expenses incurred by participants although this will be by negotiation. Participants and clubs should be aware that some expenses will inevitably apply.

FEGGA invites applications by August 20. These should be made via email to Dean Cleaver [deancleaver@fegga.org](mailto:deancleaver@fegga.org) who will supply a detailed application form and a full set of Ground-rules.

# SCOTLAND STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN CHALARA ASH

Until recently Scotland's ash trees and woods looked as though they might escape the worst of chalara ash dieback disease but the distribution of new outbreaks since January shows Scotland is now as hard hit as anywhere in the UK.

Forestry Commission's (FC) new interactive map, and in operation since autumn 2014, is divided into 10km x 10km squares (hectads) each with its own unique Ordnance Survey Reference. Hectads where chalara has been confirmed in the 'wider environment' appear in different colours relating to the year when first found. Infections recorded in 'recent ash plantings' which had been shown on the old style map are absent.

Between 1 January 2015 and 6 July 2015 155 more hectads had been identified with chalara ash dieback across England, Scotland and Wales and of these 117 (75.4 per cent) were in Scotland. This compares with just 40 hectads in Scotland infected between October 2012 and December 2014.

FC Scotland was sufficiently confident to establish a 'sheltered' area in northwest Scotland and protected by an adjacent 'buffer zone'. This was set up as part of the government's 'Chalara Action Plan 2013' to delay infection reaching mature woodlands in north-west Scotland. The designated 'sheltered' area essentially occupies the land north and west of a line from Inverness in the north to the Isle of Arran in the south.

By May 2015 the disease had been found at three locations within the 'sheltered' area. Two of the three locations were in Morvern in south west Lochaber on the west coast of Scotland and the third in Glen Nant, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve south east of Oban. By 6 July chalara had been reported in at least 7 more locations within the 'Sheltered Area'.

Environment Minister Dr Aileen McLeod said: "FC Scotland and the forestry sector have worked extremely hard over the past three years surveying, investigating and managing ash woodlands in a bid to slow down the rate of spread of this disease and prevent new points of infection from recent plantings, particularly in the 'sheltered area'."

Maintenance of the 'sheltered' area in north-west Scotland was based on removal and destruction of all recently planted ash trees on infected sites under the terms of Statutory Plant Health Notices. The associated "buffer" area also saw the removal and destruction of recently planted ash trees showing signs of infection. Faced with a disease spread by airborne



spores, and affecting such a frequently occurring wild tree as common ash, it is not surprising that such a policy soon becomes untenable.

Minister McLeod said: "I have asked Forestry Commission Scotland to review the Chalara Action Plan, with advice from the Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group, to assess what more can be done to promote adaptive action and to consider the appropriateness of current actions within the sheltered and buffer areas."

Adaptive actions that could be undertaken might include finding trees with lower disease susceptibility, as well as collecting ash seed from across the country to help preserve a wide gene pool for future use says FC Scotland.

Meanwhile the plant health authorities in England appear to have caved in. As of May 2015 it is no longer possible to obtain [from the FC website] the total number of chalara outbreaks recorded to date across the country whether in nurseries,

recent plantings or the wider environment, or indeed where they are. After initially recording how many cases had been found in a particular hectad the only information now available is the date (by year) of the first chalara finding in the wider environment for each hectad.

A spokesperson for 'Strategic development' at FC England told Greenkeeper International how current operational policy is to record (following laboratory confirmation) one wider environment infection per hectad. "Once a single infection is recorded in a hectad we will not proactively seek to record any more [disease outbreaks]", said the spokesperson.

The UK plant health authorities appear to be accepting that a disease spread by airborne spores and infecting one of Britain's most widely spread and frequently occurring wild trees is beyond logistic and economic control.

**Dr Terry Mabbett**

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# GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

## MEET BAYER'S TURF SOLUTIONS TEAM



With the regulatory environment changing at a phenomenal rate for greenkeepers and groundsman, they need fast, accurate advice on turf matters, more than ever before.

Help is at hand from Bayer in the form of an experienced team of former greenkeepers and groundsman to make up their Turf Solutions team.

Bayer Product Manager Steve Bishop said: "The role of the Turf Solutions team is to support professionals in the industry in a changing working environment.

We understand the rapid shifts that are taking place in the industry, and we're in a pivotal position because of our expertise and experience, to offer workable solutions when performing integrated pest and disease management."

The new Turf Solutions team is made up of four professionals, all with extensive backgrounds in the sector, meaning they are experts in their field.

Dr. Colin Mumford - With wide-ranging experience and qualifications in the amenity and sports turf sector, Colin's role

is largely focused around advising industry professionals with general management best practice advice and he's the first port of call if there's an issue, disease, or insect problem.

Colin is former Head Greenkeeper at North Weald Golf Club, technical officer for the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute and technical manager for artificial surface specialists Sweepfast. He has a degree in landscape and amenity management, a masters degree from Cranfield University in sports surface technology, and an Engineering Doctorate in irrigation and soil management on racecourses. Colin is also BASIS qualified.

Greg Collins - Greg has 17 years of practical hands-on experience in the industry. Greenkeeping is in his blood. He worked in Germany as an assistant greenkeeper for two years, and for a further three years as Head Greenkeeper at Schloss Schwobber Golf Hotel. He then returned to Ireland where he was head greenkeeper for 11 years at Charleville GC, Cork.

Neil Pettican - Neil has worked in the professional turf and amenity sector for nearly 20 years. A graduate of Cranfield University with a masters in sports turf technology, Neil has both hands-on and management experience in greenkeeping, groundsmanship and construction, gaining a diverse mix of sports turf experience in the UK and abroad.

Dave Orchard - His career started with Rigby Taylor and from here he worked for eight years as a technical representative for Gem Professional. And Dave has been BASIS qualified for 18 years.

His role at Bayer is to offer a support function for turf and amenity professionals. He advises both distributors and end users, and does a lot of problem solving.

The experience and expertise of the Bayer Turf Solutions team provides a thorough understanding of the greenkeeper and groundsman's roles; enabling them to offer the very best technical support and advice to customers, in all areas of management best practice.

The Bayer Turf Solutions team will be attending a number of events in the coming months so please come and meet them to discuss your specific turf matters.

Colin will be at BIGGA's South West & South Wales Regional Conference at Somerset CCC, Taunton on November 18, and the entire team will be heading to Harrogate for BTME 2016 with Colin due to present another seminar on the Continue to Learn education programme.

## NEW FACE AT JOHN DEERE



John Deere Limited has appointed Bob Holt as branch customer support manager for the UK and Ireland, replacing Stuart Minter, who has retired after more than 36 years with the company.

Bob has a Diploma in Agricultural Engineering from Caythorpe College and a BSc in Agricultural Technology and Management from Cranfield Institute of Technology. He began his career with John Deere Limited as a branch management trainee in April 1994 and became

a demonstrator in July that year, followed by assignments as a training instructor and area manager product support (AMPS).

In February 2001 Bob accepted a field service position at the John Deere harvesting equipment factory in Ottumwa, Iowa, USA and in June 2003 he moved to Zweibrücken in Germany to become a senior service engineer. After returning to the UK in January 2005, he held the positions of harvesting product support specialist, manager technical services/customer support and division customer support manager.

Stuart Minter joined John Deere Limited in 1979 as a service trainee and technical instructor at the UK training centre. He was subsequently area service manager and then territory manager for southern England before becoming division service manager for the UK and Ireland in 1986 and then customer support manager in 2010.

Stuart was responsible for developing John Deere's national dealer service standards, and was closely involved with the industry-wide 'Look Behind You' campaign to promote safe tractor and trailer braking. He was also a chairman of the AEA service managers committee.



## MOVING WITH THE TINES

As any greenkeeper or groundsman will know, frequent aeration ensures turf is kept in peak condition all year round. And, following the high traffic that comes hand in hand with summer, it's especially important to aerate now.

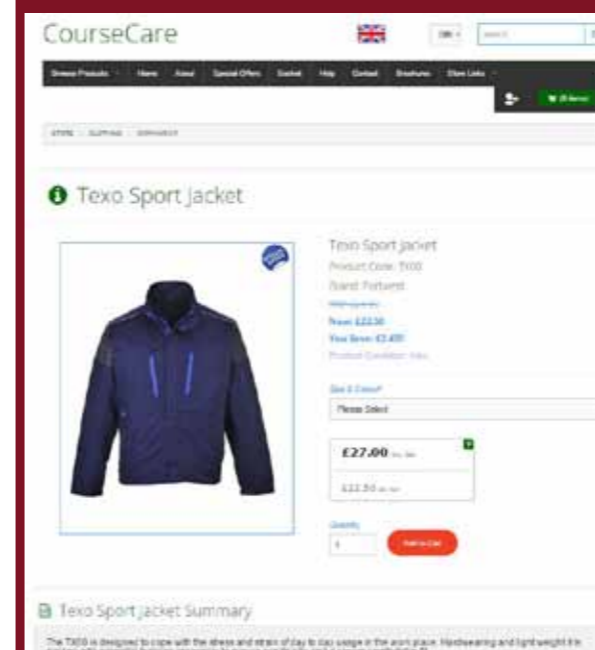
However, Dan Dubas, sales and marketing for Toro Parts at Lely UK, says that aside from frequency and an understanding of how the seasons affect turf compaction, one of the most important factors in aeration is the quality and condition of the tines in use.

"In order to maintain your course standards, it's vital to ensure you have the best equipment to meet all of your aeration needs successfully," he said.

Engineered and designed to fit the entire Toro ProCore range and get the best results from an aeration programme, Toro has over 150 tines to choose from; one to suit every turf application, soil situation and season.

Until the end of August, Lely is offering golf clubs in the UK and Ireland a 5 percent discount when ordering multiples of 25 of the same type of tine. To take advantage of the promotion, end users simply need to get in touch with their local genuine Toro parts dealer or service centre.

## HIGHSPEED LAUNCH COURSECARE.NET



To meet increasing demand for online purchases, Highspeed Group Ltd has launched their new website CourseCare.net

As part of their ongoing development program review, the company recognised the need for an easy online purchase option. The new web store, created and maintained by Highspeed's Business Development Manager, Ryan Anderton, features many of the products and services Highspeed are renowned for: Workwear, Tools, Janitorial items, Safe Storage, Oils and associated products but new is the vast array of equipment. This includes fans and heaters, welding sets, compressors, portable lighting and spill products to name but a few.

A huge new Safety Catalogue is available too offering a comprehensive range of safety products including thousands of signs for virtually every eventuality.

Special offers are a regular feature on the site and, as one impressed customer put it: "I didn't know Course Care did all that; it's amazing!" This is one aim of the site; to let customers new and old (and not just those in golf and turf maintenance) know what Highspeed Group and Course Care can and do provide.

A quick search on the new site will often save long winded searches and phone calls. Highspeed are quick to point out however that they are more than happy to take phone calls as they always have! The number is still the same too: 0845 600 3572 and the new website is [www.coursecare.net](http://www.coursecare.net)





# Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA



**A BIGGA  
THANK YOU**

BIGGA's Tracey Maddison and Rachael Duffy with Gordon Moir

This month's Membership page could feature nothing else but the fantastic efforts of the BIGGA Open Support Team.

They came from far and wide – from USA, Germany and all across the UK - and spent even longer than expected at the 144th Open Championship in St Andrews as the tournament extended into Monday evening.

BIGGA's General Manager Tracey Maddison said: "It was a week which really showcased the very best of the Association, what we're all about – commitment, professionalism, career development, hard work and some fun thrown in!

"You can't emphasize enough the lengths the team went to as the weather affected play on the Friday and then for 11 hours on the Saturday. They lived in waterproofs for the week!

"Many of the team paid out of their own pocket to stay for the extra day, rearranging flights and trains, and faced long journeys through the night to get home.

"The team gained memories they will never forget, and the team from

BIGGA HQ did too. From photos on the sunny Wednesday evening and the tour of the maintenance facilities, to walking up the most famous fairways in golf alongside some of the world's greats.

"They can truly be proud of their efforts and we're very proud to be involved with an Association which can boast members who will go so far for their industry.

We've seen this sort of commitment before, and we will do again, but hopefully the prestigious nature of The Open meant both the home greenkeeping team and the BIGGA support team enjoyed a bit of long overdue media coverage and exposure for greenkeeping.

"We also had many 'first timers', who despite naturally being nervous at their first Open experience, adapted brilliantly to conditions throughout.

"I'd also like to thank Rachael Duffy and Steve Castle for their efforts during the week, and also Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional Administrator John Young and Midland Regional Administrator Roger Butler. They were stationed in the first tee cabin

for much of the week and worked long hours to ensure all the guys were fully briefed and prepared for their rakes. Thank you also to the Board members who put in great shifts on the first tee and reassured the team members about to go out – they were terrific at calming any nerves!"

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team at St Andrews. From the moment the BIGGA team arrived at the Home of Golf, everyone was made to feel part of the entire team working towards the success of the event. Special thanks to Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie, Simon Connah and Paul Armour who were regular visitors to the BIGGA marquee during the week and gave up their time to chat to the team who were fascinated to find out more about preparing the famous links for the tournament.

Gordon Moir also found time to give the entire team a tour of the venue's hugely impressive maintenance facilities on the Wednesday.


A week truly to be proud of for all concerned.



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#### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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# L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA



## BENEFITS OF TRAINING

**Stuart Green, BIGGA's Head of Member Learning, provides us with a clear rundown of how investing in a training programme at your club has huge benefits on many levels**

### Benefits of Training

Training will boost the morale of your staff, increase their productivity and give your organisation the competitive advantage it needs in these tough economic conditions.

### Improved Staff Morale

Training is a commitment towards developing the skills of your staff and cements their importance to your organisation, which improves staff morale and loyalty.

### Increased Productivity & Motivation

Training provides the structures, techniques and awareness to

manage time and workload efficiently, which increases productivity and motivates staff to achieve more.

### Competitive Advantage

Training gives staff the skills to handle your customers professionally and increase customer satisfaction. Training also improves internal efficiency, to keep you ahead of the competition.

### Lower Recruitment and Training Costs

Effective training lowers staff turnover, which reduces recruitment and training costs.

Stuart added: "Remember that BIGGA offers many funding opportunities to receive funding towards your individual learning and development.

"The main three are the Level 3 Scholarship supported by Baroness, the Higher Education Scholarship supported by

Jacobsen and the Refund of Fees scheme.

"For more information on these as well as how to apply, visit the BIGGA website, click on the Education tab and click on 'Funding Opportunities'.



## APPROVED MEMBERS

**CPD Approved**  
 Brett Moggridge – Kirtlington GC  
 Craig Boath – Carnoustie Golf Links  
 Robert Curry – Hockley GC  
 Scott Parnell – Saffron Walden GC  
 Thomas Williamson – Pavenham Park GC

**CPD Approved and Milestone Achieved** – Steven Rowett, Stowe School (GC).



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

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## FTMI 2016 UPDATE

A reminder that the application process for the Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen will be opening in September.

This unmissable career development opportunity takes place at Ransomes Jacobsen's headquarters in Ipswich. For more on the FTMI and how it can boost your career head to the BIGGA website and click on Education> Future Turf Managers Initiative.

We're also putting the finishing touches to the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2016!

The programme will be officially launched at the beginning of October and we are hoping to feature over 230 hours of the most varied education available in the industry.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Joe Button from Meltham Golf Club, who has been awarded a Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship. Joe will be studying a FdSc in Sportsturf/Surface Management at Askham Bryan College.



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 John O'Gaunt Golf Club

**1 October**  
 Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club

**19 October 2015**  
 The BIGGA Golf Management Trophy 2015 Final is at Frilford Heath Golf Club





# On the fifth day

Heavy rain and winds challenged everyone at the 144th Open, forcing the tournament into the Monday for only the second time ever. Here's how the superbly resilient greenkeepers adapted to a tumultuous week

**MAIN IMAGE:** The home greenkeeping team clearing water on Friday morning

**INSET:** Chris Sealey briefs the many first timers on the team



Zach Johnson with the St Andrews greenkeeping team courtesy of Tim Johnson

**Upon being crowned champion at around 8pm on Monday evening at St Andrews, Zach Johnson credited patience and perseverance with helping him claim the Claret Jug – qualities which the BIGGA Open Support Team also showed in abundance during a hugely unpredictable tournament for all.**

BIGGA's presence at the Home of Golf began with little hint of the drama and upheaval to come. An early morning visit to the Old Course on the final practice day proved fruitful.

On a chilly and grey morning, the huge TV screens shone dazzlingly bright above as the home greenkeeping team worked to prepare the course.

Director of Greenkeeping Gordon Moir and Gordon McKie – Course Manager on the Old Course – were relaxed as they monitored the work, with McKie noting green speeds on a notepad.

Following the bunker raking demonstration in the evening, and with sunshine casting a stunning golden light across the famous links, Moir kindly led the entire team on a tour of the huge maintenance facilities.

Described by one greenkeeper as more akin to an aircraft hanger and another as "mindblowing", Moir outlined the history of the facilities and how they operate before the excited team explored the machinery, jobs list and much more.

Just 12 hours later, in rather cold and overcast conditions, the honour of accompanying the first match fell to David Rieck from Golfclub Schloss Monrepos in Germany. The first day saw them rake 209 bunkers. Many left the course on Thursday nervously eyeing the next day's forecast, with heavy rain and winds predicted.

Day two dawned with the weather even worse than feared. The first three golfers had completed just one hole when the decision was taken to suspend play at 6.46am with torrential rain and heavy winds battering Fife, and the home greenkeeping team grabbed squeegees in an attempt to mop up the water. Around 20mm of rain

fell on Friday morning, with 12mm arriving in one thirty-minute burst.

Thanks to the home greenkeepers' sterling efforts and the remarkably quick-draining course, play was able to resume at 10am. Images of the St Andrews' greenkeepers sweeping water into the iconic Swilcan Burn were beamed around the world and they were widely praised for their amazing efforts in ensuring play could resume so rapidly after the deluge.

The delay in play meant that 15 Round Two matches had not been completed by the end of Friday, with hopes high that Saturday would see Round Two completed, the cut made and Round Three begin. However, the weather had its

**BUNKER STATS**

**Thursday – 209 bunkers.**  
Closest guess – Stephen Ives (Louth GC) on 215.  
**Friday/Saturday – 163.**  
Closest guess – Asa English (Rothley Park GC) on 162.  
**Sunday – 70.**  
Closest guess – Richard Hood (Sharpley Springs GC) on 74.  
**Monday – 81.**  
Closest guess – Simon Torr (Bearwood Lakes GC) on 81.  
**TOTAL – 523.**  
Closest guess – Paul Griffiths (Seaford GC) on 525.  
Well done to all five and thanks to all for entering.

**COURSE SETUP**

**Friday & for Round Three Tees, Fairways and Rough**  
- Tees and fairways cut at 7mm  
First cut semi rough, approx. width 4.5 metres cut at 50mm daily  
**Greens** - Greens single cut in the morning at 4mm and rolled. Running at 10 feet 3 inches.

**TALES FROM THE RAKES**

Tom Smith from Wickham Park GC was raking for Kevin Strelman on the first morning when the American found a bunker. The golfer was clearly annoyed, and pulled his sand wedge out of his bag with such force it flew into the bunker too! Remarkably the random draw for day two placed Tom with exactly the same trio – Strelman, Shane Lowry and Retief Goosen.

Kaye Pierson from Pinehurst Resort was following fellow American Morgan Hoffmann when a woman in the crowd suddenly shouted to the scoreboard carrier. It turned out to be Hoffmann's mum telling the carrier they had missed an 'N' off the end of his name!

Stuart Ferguson from Dundas Parks Golf Club was in pole position to see some of the week's best golf early on the first morning as David

Lingmerth went out in just 29 strokes – eight threes and a five on the par five fifth. The Swede couldn't repeat his miraculous opening nine but finished with a credible three under 69. The next day Stuart was raking for Anthony Wall when strong winds blew Wall's name from the scoreboard carrier's board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breezes.

Last but not least... imagine you're on the first tee at St Andrews, waiting to rake for Adam Scott and eventual winner Zach Johnson, eagerly awaiting your chance to walk the fairways at the Home of Golf... when a seagull does its business right on your head. This fate befell poor Simon Torr... although at least rain later in the round washed it off!



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say again as strong winds caused golf balls to oscillate on the course's more exposed greens, and play was again suspended extremely early.

This caused much frustration to everyone present as the sun was shining, but even the heroic greenkeepers could do little about the fierce gusts which led to a total delay of some 11 hours.

In the meantime, enterprising Team members Graham Ives, Sam Voss and Andy Naismith used the break to explore the St Andrews' beach! Play eventually resumed at 6pm, although by this time it was clear that the tournament would require a Monday conclusion for the first time since 1988. Remarkably, Round Two began at 6.32am on Friday yet did not finish until just after 9pm on Saturday.

It was a huge relief to all when Round Three resumed on Sunday in benign conditions, with the team raking 70 bunkers. Sadly some of the team had to depart at this point due to plans which could not be rescheduled, with everyone hugely grateful for their terrific efforts during the week.

Monday saw the remaining members excited about the prospect of potentially raking for the eventual winner, and Tony Bartram, Asa

English and Nigel Colley helped out hugely by raking for two matches. The honour of accompanying the final match went to Sam Bethell, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Chipstead Golf Club, and Sam joined Simon Torr, First Assistant Greenkeeper from Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, in joining the dramatic play-off to rake if required.

Thank you to each and every member of the Team who were patient, professional, good-humoured and hugely enthusiastic throughout. A particular thank you to Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie and the entire St Andrews greenkeeping team who made the Team feel so welcome and part of the operation during the tournament.

The final word goes to BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton who said: "This has been one of the most challenging Opens the BIGGA Support Team has faced. Inclement weather led to constant logistical issues and the abandonment of the best laid plans, yet without exception they adapted superbly to two days of uncertainty and delays and the extension of the tournament into Monday.

"Many of the team put personal and professional plans to one side and paid out of their own pockets

to ensure they could remain at the course on Monday, and we are incredibly grateful to them for their flexibility and outstanding commitment. We congratulate the entire team for their sterling efforts during the week, covering very long hours in many cases.

"Everyone at BIGGA would also like to congratulate Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie, the whole greenkeeping team at St Andrews and all the other volunteers who responded wonderfully well to almost unprecedented challenges to ensure an absolutely outstanding links course was presented for the 144th Open."



ABOVE: Graham Ives, Andrew Naismith and Sam Voss hit the beach!

BELOW: Inspecting machinery in the maintenance facilities



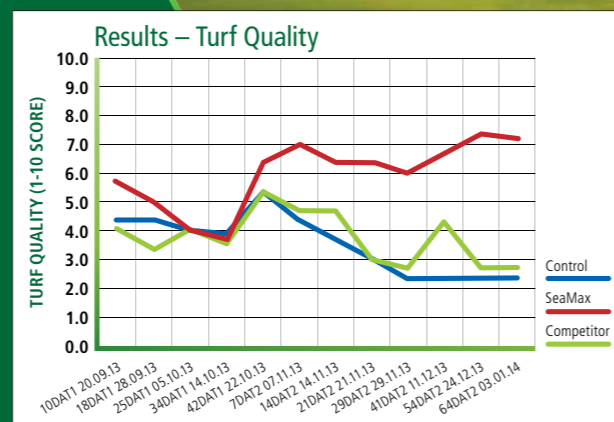
The BIGGA Open Support Team 2015

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# Olympic golf returns to Rio

An exclusive article on how BIGGA Partner Jacobsen have teamed up with BIGGA member Neil Cleverly to prepare the course in Rio as golf returns to the Olympics



MAIN IMAGE: Course staff mowing a green with a Jacobsen Eclipse 2 in Rio, February 2015

BOTTOM RIGHT: UK built Jacobsen TR3 in action on the 16th hole in Rio, December 2014

**It's the premier sporting occasion on the planet, watched by a global TV audience estimated at over 3.6 billion, and Jacobsen products will play their part as golf returns to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro next year, after a 112 year absence.**

The golf course has been constructed in Barra da Tijuca, a district of Rio de Janeiro that contains the largest number of Olympic Games venues located 7km from the Athletes' Village.

Gil Hanse and his team won the battle to design the course and were awarded the contract following submissions from seven other high profile entries – Gary Player Design, Greg Norman Golf Course Design, Hawtree Ltd, Nicklaus Design, Renaissance Golf Design, Robert Trent Jones II and Thomson Perrett. Hanse was voted 'Architect of the Year' by Golf Magazine in 2009, the same year that one of his designs, Castle Stuart in Scotland, won the accolade of 'Best New International Course'.

After a delay due to a Customs-related issue with the irrigation system, construction began towards the end of 2013. Based on a typical layout found in Australia's sand belt around the Melbourne area, the course features natural vegetation, extensive bunkers, a lagoon and sandy rough ground lining the fairways.

The mix of grass species is an interesting one with Zeon Zoysia used extensively on tees and fairways while SeaDwarf Seaside Paspalum is used on the greens. Both species are drought tolerant and the Paspalum is also saltwater tolerant, which is important as the quality of the irrigation water will be variable.

None of the grass on the course has been grown 'in situ' from seed; all the grass cover has been laid as turf or sprigs. Marcello Matte is the owner of Green Grass Brazil, who are responsible for producing the grass that has been used across the 35 hectare (85 acre) site. The Zeon Zoysia cultivar, explicitly for use on golf courses, has been developed by grass breeder David Douget of Bladerunner Farms in Texas, USA.

The planting of the golf course began in May 2014, using three different approaches; the majority of the Zeon Zoysia areas – tees and fairways – were planted using large rolls of turf, but some areas were planted using oblong shaped turf sods. The SeaDwarf Seaside Paspalum used on the greens were all planted as sprigs. As well as being drought tolerant, Zeon Zoysia has low fertiliser requirements and grows in a dense mat, which helps with weed suppression.

Course Superintendent Neil Cleverly, International BIGGA Member and International Superintendent Member of the GCSAA, is the successful Englishman who landed one of the most sought-after jobs in the industry in June 2013. With a portfolio that encompasses Europe, Asia and the USA, he is extremely experienced in the management of warm season grasses.

Commenting during a conversation with Goldom magazine back in October 2014, Gil Hanse said: "I didn't meet him until after he was selected. He was interviewed at the GCSAA show in San Diego, which I did was unable to attend. Jim Wagner from our company went down and was part of the team that interviewed him. Neil did a great job, he's got a ton of experience overseas, primarily with warm season grasses."



“Although he doesn’t have experience with Zeon Zoysia, which is the primary grass on-site, he’s well equipped to deal with it and he has been a Godsend. During the early parts of construction it was basically myself and a couple of guys who work with me down there. Working without a project manager and trying to make sense of it all was difficult, and then Neil showed up and immediately took over as project manager.”

“He got very involved in the earth moving and quickly demonstrated what he could bring to the project. He was not only a great turf manager, but also an excellent project manager from the construction standpoint. So he has been the rock of the construction part of the project.”

With turfing underway in May 2014, the initial delivery of 18 Jacobsen machines followed a month later. This consisted of three Eclipse2 walking greens mowers, two Eclipse 322 hybrid powered ride-on greens mowers, four Greens King walking mowers, one SLF1880 super light fairway mower, two LF3800 fairway mowers, three Turfcot out-front ride-on rotary mowers, two UK-built TR3 reel mowers for tees and surrounds and a GA30 pedestrian aerator.

“The Eclipse mowers are an important part of the package,” said Jacobsen’s Frederico Santa-Barbara. “Neil and his team consider them to be the best greens mowers on the market; they are the only mowers with total control over the number of cuts per metre and the reels on the walking versions can be used on the ride-on machine, providing great flexibility. The other key element is that there is absolutely no possibility of an oil spill on the greens, because these are hybrid machines and do not use hydraulic oil.”

By the time the first test event takes place early next year a total of 35 Jacobsen turf maintenance machines will be employed at the course. In the interim, Jacobsen’s Product Support Manager Andrew Echenique will be providing technical training for Neil’s team and he will be part of a team of Jacobsen technicians who will be running the maintenance facility to ensure that every piece of equipment performs perfectly.

At the Games, over a two-week period the course will host two 60-competitor tournaments with the women’s event following the men’s competition. It will accommodate 2,500 spectators in grand-



THIS IMAGE: Neil Cleverly (standing) with grass breeder David Douget in May 2014 as planting begins

BELOW: Construction on the course with a maintenance facility being built (inset below right)



stands with space for a further 17,500 around the course.

‘Legacy’ is an important word in Olympic circles and the Rio Olympic Golf Course is no different. The International Golf Federation (IGF), who successfully lobbied for golf’s return to the Games, will organise the two events and are responsible

ABOVE: The grow in, July 2014

BELOW: The maintenance team with their Jacobsen equipment, course in the background

BOTTOM RIGHT FIRST: Initial turfing in May 2014

BOTTOM RIGHT SECOND: Shaping bunkers in October 2013

**PROGOLF**  
Total fleet (supplied by ProGolf)

- Cushman Hauler utility vehicles -14
- Jacobsen Truckster heavy duty utility vehicles-2
- Jacobsen Eclipse2 hybrid walking greens mowers-6
- Jacobsen TR3 trim & surrounds mowers-2
- Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid ride-on green triples-3
- Jacobsen SLF 1880 super light fairway mowers-2
- Jacobsen Spraytek DS-175 spray vehicle -1
- Jacobsen Spraytek DS-300 spray vehicle- 1
- Jacobsen Groom Master bunker rakes-4
- Redexim Vertidrain 1530 aerator-2
- Redexim Vertidrain 7115 aerator-1
- Turfcot CR-10 top dresser and spreader-1
- Turfcot 1550 WideSpin top dresser and spreader -
- Tru-Turf RS48-11E greens roller & spiker-2
- Buffalo Cyclone KB4 blower-2
- Husqvarna HD725E walking rotary mower 3

for ‘promoting a positive legacy from the Olympic Games.’

Post-Games the course will be the only 18-hole public facility in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil. The Clubhouse will become a multi-purpose venue used for public meetings and social engagements, while the driving range and golf academy will be used for golf practice, instruction and education.

Perhaps the most important legacy will be the implementation of a youth development programme dedicated to providing young people of all backgrounds opportunities to continue their education and develop their character through golf. Funding from the Brazilian Olympic Committee to the Confederation of Brazilian Golf will be used for junior golf initiatives around Brazil.

From an ecological and environmental perspective degraded land will be restored by the creation of green space with local access. The venue will be certified as environmentally sustainable by creating a watershed and providing attenuation, natural filtering and water treatment. The biodiversity of the area will be enhanced by managing the water run-off, thereby conserving the soil structure and restricting erosion. Improvements in the ecosystem will increase native plants and encouraging the local wildlife.

The return of golf has the potential to increase awareness and interest in golf, increase accessibility to play due to the public nature of 18-hole course and, eventually, increase participation in golf.

At the IGF Olympic Golf Forum at the 2015 PGA Merchandise Show, held in Orlando in January, Peter Dawson, President of the International Golf Federation said: “We began this project of bidding for golf to return to the programme of Olympic sports because so many small countries, small in golfing terms, really needed some help to grow the game...the growth of the game is worldwide and the inclusion of golf in the Olympic Programme is the biggest ‘grow the game’ opportunity we had and that continues to be the case.”

The final word is left to Alan Prickett, Ransomes Jacobsen’s Managing Director. He said: “What an accolade to be confirmed as the preferred supplier of mowing equipment for the Rio Olympic golf course.”

“We are, once again, delighted to be involved in the Olympic Games as it continues a tradition that goes back over many decades. This was

a particularly important win for us, as it marks the return of golf as an Olympic sport after more than a century, and is sure to be one of the high-profile events at the Games.

“We were appointed back in the spring of 2014 and one of the deciding factors was that we have a distributor in Brazil. ProGolf has represented the Jacobsen brand in Brazil since 2012 as well as Ryan, Turfco and Smithco; three companies with whom we have excellent working relationships across the globe. ProGolf’s core business is golf course construction and they are working as sub-contractors at the Olympic course.

“Our Regional Sales Manager, Frederico Santa-Barbara, has worked extremely diligently in both the run up to our appointment and in the 18 months since. He visits the course at least once a week to ensure that everything is progressing as it should and, of course, we have ProGolf on course permanently in their course construction capacity.”

“With just a year to go before the first club is swung in anger, everything now looks in place to ensure that golf’s return after a century’s absence will have a positive influence on the game. From Jacobsen’s perspective we are delighted to be involved in this historic event.”



Vinny Tarbox, Sales and Marketing Manager at The Grass Group examines the always controversial height of cut issue and asks – should we be cutting less?



# Height restriction

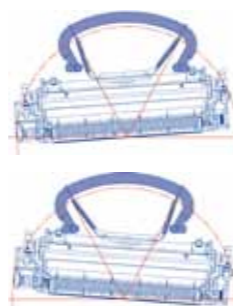
**The correct height of cut (HOC) of any grass sward is a subjective issue and dependent on a vast number of variables. To suggest what the correct HOC for golf greens actually is would necessitate a measurable conclusion; but the question arises as to what variables would the result be measured against?**

If we look at just two different aspects of greens management: sward pace and plant health then you can see that both of these are measured in different ways and are affected by HOC. They are not however both affected in the same way. A lower HOC will undoubtedly increase pace, a positive effect if that is the intention, but the effect on plant health may be negative. Therefore, the conclusion here is that there is no actual overall 'right height' but rather a 'right height' for a given circumstance.

Golf course management is very

much a business of compromise and trade-offs. It's probably fair to say that the best Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers are those that manage this continual trade off in the most effective way. The demands of the golfer for fast smooth greens needs to be considered against overall plant health, putting surface consistency, sustainability, amount of player traffic, cost etc. Greenkeepers make these decisions on a daily basis. As the most frequent maintenance procedure on greens is mowing then HOC is at the forefront of that decision making process.

There are of course some fundamental guidelines with respect to HOC. A less vigorously growing plant is not able to recover from the stresses of a lower HOC and hence during the colder months the HOC is increased and the frequency of mowing is also reduced. In order to maintain decent ball roll and pace, cutting may be supplemented by



DIAGRAMS: The ATT INFiNiSystem floating head is ideal for soft greens



rolling during these slower growing periods. Similarly, other forms of plant stress such as wilt, drought, excessively wet periods or an occurrence of disease may necessitate an increase in HOC. The reason increasing the HOC helps to combat plant stress is simply due to the fact that the increased HOC means more leaf is left on the plant and thus a greater surface area is available for photosynthesis.

When discussing changing the HOC it is important to consider how the HOC is mechanically altered as this in itself can have a positive or negative effect in way the leaf blade is cut. The HOC is normally changed by moving the front or rear roller up or down – only one for micro adjustments, and the other for macro adjustments. Using either the front or rear roller for daily adjustment is fine, but each will alter the attitude angle of the unit differently. The aggressiveness of cut is progressively increased

when lowering the HOC using the front roller, and decreased when lowering via the rear roller. A plant that is under stress should not be cut with a cutting unit set with a very aggressive attitude angle as this will further compound the stress problem. In this scenario the HOC may be correct for the situation but the unit set-up is nullifying any positive effects.

As we move into the winter period then the slower growing conditions will necessitate an increase in the HOC. A common issue encountered here in the UK may also be soft greens caused by water retentive surfaces. When a green is soft the 'effective' HOC will be much less than the bench setting due to the weight of the unit pressing in to the turf. To lessen this effect it is a good idea to use mowers with a lower ground pressure. Pedestrian mowers as opposed to triplex's, and in particular floating head pedestrian mowers like ATT's INFiNiSystem, are probably the best solution here.

For fairways there's not really a 'right' height of cut as it depends on course and conditions but around 15mm to 18mm is popular – links courses are of course usually lower. Progressive mowers, from The Grass Group, come into their



ABOVE: Height adjustment system on the Progressive

RIGHT: The Progressive Pro-Flex 120 has great contour following abilities

own out on the course as the height of cut is able to be changed with one tool. Infinite cutting height adjustment from 0.25 inches to 4 inches is easily accomplished with the on board tool and the threaded adjustment system. This means a high quality finish to the fairway can be matched to the conditions of the course. A tractor trailed option, such as the Progressive TDR12 is easy to set up and use and is a great value option having the flexibility of a separate power unit.

However, for greater flexibility the Progressive ProFlex 120 has contour following abilities as well

as being able to switch quickly and effectively from cutting fairways to semi rough areas without the need to return to the shed to change machine or height. The infinite variation also allows you to tailor your height of cut to your requirements on the day subject to conditions if necessary. All Progressive mowers can be configured in many ways to provide a good quality, aesthetically pleasing finish.

As with greens, the HOC on fairways in the autumn should raise as the grass growth will usually slow down along with the change in weather conditions.



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- ☆ aerate
- ☀ brush
- ✱ de-thatch
- ☼ groom
- ⊙ level
- ☀ mow
- ✱ scarify
- ✱ top dress



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# OPM - who sprays and who pays?

Dr Terry Mabbett updates us on the threat of Oak Processionary Moth to golf courses, and discovers how BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG and his team are coping with it in Richmond

**Oak processionary moth (OPM) is an alien invasive pest presenting high risks to public health as well as defoliating oak trees. OPM first arrived in the UK on oak trees imported from the Netherlands in 2005 and planted in the London Boroughs of Richmond and Ealing. This outbreak has since spread across a significant area of London and into parts of Surrey.**

Two later introductions, one at Pangbourne in West Berkshire in 2010 and another in 2012 at West Wickham (Bromley) in south east London, are also ongoing. The jury is still out on the most recent introduction identified in 2014 at the Olympic Park.

The West London and Bromley outbreaks continue to spread with increased numbers of golf courses affected or immediately threatened.

## Protected Zone status

European Union legislation recognising those parts of the UK outside of OPM affected areas as a 'Protected Zone' was introduced last October. The government now has a statutory duty to prevent infestation of the Protected Zone and has restructured its OPM survey and management programme accordingly.

The original outbreak is under containment. Future management is based on a new '2015 Core Zone' surrounded by a redrawn and expanded 'buffer area' called the 'Control Zone'. Action required by landowners, and who pay for any remedial OPM treatments carried out, depends on whether affected trees are in the Core Zone or the Control Zone.

Within the Core Zone it is the

tree owner's responsibility to check for OPM and to take action. The Forestry Commission (FC) says the landowner will not be legally required to do any work. But, it reserves the right to issue Statutory Plant Health Notices requiring the removal of OPM infestations in the Core Zone which could spread into and become established in the Control Zone.

FC says that it will (in general terms) take charge of all aspects of treatment with no costs to the owner for infested trees on privately owned land in the Control Zone. For all other infested trees in the Control Zone, such as those in public parks and streets, OPM management will still be mandatory. However, any work will have to be done at the expense of the local authority owner. Golf courses owned by local authorities will presumably fall into this category.

## Core Zone and Control Zones

The '2015 Core Zone' now comprises the whole of Richmond, Hammersmith and Fulham, together with parts of Ealing, Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton and Wandsworth.

The surrounding Control Zone covers those parts of Ealing, Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton and Wandsworth not in the Core Zone, together with the entire land area of Hillingdon, Harrow, Brent, Barnet, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Camden, Haringey, Islington, Hackney, City of London, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Lambeth, Bromley, Croydon and Lewisham. Four districts in Surrey (Elmbridge, Spelthorne, Epsom and Ewell and Runnymede) and Slough in Buckinghamshire are also included.

Inclusion in this Control Zone of the London Boroughs of Bromley,

LEFT: Oak trees being sprayed on The Richmond Golf Course in May 2011 – a powerful jet of spray is required to reach the tops of tall oak trees

INSET: OPM has spread across London at a rate of 0.7km per year which is testimony to the distances covered by these night-flying moths (Picture courtesy Forestry Commission)





Close-up on the 'culprit and offender' – an oak leaf eating OPM larva equipped with thousands of stinging hairs (Picture courtesy Bartlett Tree Experts)

Croydon and Lewisham recognises infestations recorded there in 2014 and which have spread from West Wickham. FC appears confident of having eradicated the newest introduction at The Olympic Park. Neither Newham nor Waltham Forest and Redbridge are included in the Control Zone, despite adult male moths having been secured there in pheromone traps during late summer 2014.

Geography behind demarcation of these 'OPM Management Zones' in and around London is not altogether logical with regard to the 2014 distribution of OPM. The Northolt area of Ealing and the Feltham area in Hounslow are not in the Core Zone even though a high infestation was recorded in both places in 2014. Conversely Hammersmith and Fulham was essentially OPM free in 2014 except along the River Thames on the border with neighbouring Wandsworth, although the entire borough has been placed in the Core Zone.

The situation at Pangbourne is completely different because FC still believes it can eradicate OPM from the area, but is no less difficult to fathom because the exact location of the small residual OPM



ABOVE: There are two distinct dimensions to this insect pest – oak tree defoliation and the public health risk from the urticating (stinging) hairs borne by larvae from the L3 stage onwards (Picture courtesy Bartlett Tree Experts)

INSET: Mechanical nest removal should only be carried out by specialist operators equipped with the full required complement of protective clothing (Picture courtesy Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

population is unknown. So there is no Core Zone but a relatively large Control Zone covering the whole of West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Reading.

The rest of the UK outside of the Core Zone and these two Control Zones is the 'Protected Zone'.

**Control options**

Proactive control options for OPM are mechanical nest removal and spraying with insecticide supported by insect pest monitoring. The latter will include deployment of pheromone traps during the late summer adult flight period to secure male moths, early spring monitoring to pinpoint appearance of the new larvae in March/April, and post spraying surveys starting in June to locate surviving OPM nests.

Mechanical nest removal is by far the most expensive and hazardous option and usually only carried out when OPM nests are found too late in the season for insecticide spraying to be effective - or in ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where spraying with insecticide is not an option or very limited. For health

and safety reasons mechanical nest removal should only be carried out by specialists.

Three insecticides are approved for ground based spray application to control OPM. They are deltamethrin, diflubenzuron and the bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*. There are significant differences between these three insecticides in potency and persistency as well as potential collateral damage to non-target organisms.

Deltamethrin is a highly potent and persistent synthetic pyrethroid insecticide acting through contact and ingestion. Only one application is usually required. Deltamethrin will kill the larger and more resilient later instar larvae. Downside is a very broad spectrum action affecting a wide range of arthropods including most insects groups, arachnids (spiders and mites) and terrestrial crustaceans (woodlice). Deltamethrin is highly toxic to a wide range of aquatic organisms.

Diflubenzuron is an insect growth regulator acting via contact and ingestion, thereby killing immature (larval) stages of the target insect pest. Diflubenzuron has specificity towards Lepidoptera

(butterflies and moths) but is also widely used around the world in agriculture and public health to control, among other insect pests, cotton boll weevils (Coleoptera), houseflies (Diptera), grasshoppers (Orthoptera) and mites (arachnids). This means insects belonging to insect groups other than Lepidoptera and some other arthropods in the oak tree environment may be affected. Diflubenzuron shows activity against some aquatic wildlife with freshwater crustaceans among the most susceptible. Diflubenzuron is not persistent in the environment and requires a follow up second spray for effective OPM control.

*Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* (Btk) is an entomopathogenic bioinsecticide based on a commonly occurring soil bacterium acting on OPM larvae through ingestion only. It is highly specific against Lepidoptera but lacks persistence because it is easily washed off of the oak foliage by rainfall and is not photo-stable. A follow up application around two weeks later is therefore required. OPM larvae much beyond the L2 (second instar) stage are increasingly unaffected by Btk because the stomach wall



Skin, respiratory and other allergies caused by the stinging hairs borne by OPM larvae are nothing to be 'sneezed at' (Pictures courtesy Forestry Commission)

of these older and more developed larvae becomes too resilient for the bacterial toxin to 'punch' through. Spray timing is critical and both spray applications are essentially required while OPM larvae are still at the L1 or L2 stages.

Deltamethrin is clearly first choice when the fastest and most effective kill of OPM across the widest spray window is required. Btk will be preferred if least possible effect on environmental and ecological integrity has a higher priority than most rapid effect and eradication. Diflubenzuron would appear to offer a 'middle way' between these two. Golf courses in the Control Zone served with Statutory Control Orders and with FC taking charge of control operations should enquire as to whether they have any choice about which insecticide is used.

**Hands-on OPM management at The Richmond Golf Club**

To find out what's been happening on the ground I visited The Richmond Golf Club in the heart of the Core Zone to speak with Course Manager and BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG who has been battling OPM since 2010.



The Richmond was one of the first golf courses to sustain OPM infestation, and no-one has greater hands-on experience of managing it.

Being inside the Core Zone is bad enough but the course adjoins Richmond Park which exacerbates the OPM problem. Richmond Park is a SSSI which limits insecticide spraying.

Les and the team have sprayed and successfully controlled OPM since 2011. However, adult moths from Richmond Park fly in during late summer to lay eggs on some of the hundreds of oak trees across the golf course, causing infestation the following year.

OPM was first found on the course in 2010 but too late in the season, and the insect pest's life cycle, for insecticide spraying to be effective. Specialist contractors were hired for mechanical nest removal, a lengthier and more expensive procedure. In 2011 the club hired a contractor to spray all the oak trees on the course using deltamethrin insecticide.

Les said: "The health and safety of our members has always been our top priority and that is why we use deltamethrin insecticide. It offers the quickest and most effective control of OPM and with just a single spray". Deltamethrin was used again in 2012 and 2013, this time carried out by the greenkeeping team.

"We researched the requirements carefully and invested in new safety equipment including face shields fitted with visors. We have been able use our existing sprayer set up - a John Deere HD200 sprayer mounted on a John Deere ProGator - equipped with a hand lance to deliver a powerful jet." He added they completed the operation at a fraction of the £5,500 that it cost to spray in 2011.

OPM larvae feed on a wide range of oak species including the two English oaks (*Quercus robur*/pedunculate oak and *Q. petraea*/sessile oak) and *Q. cerris* (Turkey oak). All these species are sprayed but some individual trees are left untreated for ecological reasons.

"We have some Ancient English oaks around 500 years old with exceptional ecological richness and which are therefore not sprayed, and we leave a 50 metre unsprayed buffer zone between the course and Richmond Park's SSSI."

FC issued a Statutory Control Order and paid for a contractor to spray The Richmond Golf Course in 2014 but not this year under the new system set up in accordance



with the newly assigned EU 'Protected Zone' status for UK.

I visited The Richmond towards the end of May when oak trees around 100m from Richmond Park were already carrying significant numbers of early formed OPM nests on the main branches. "We will spray during the next couple of days using deltamethrin insecticide to clear all these larvae and nests," said Les. Larvae were already well into the L3 stage and well within the 'window' and control capability of deltamethrin but outside of the safe (effective) window for spraying with Btk.

Les explained how the club is fortunate to have a qualified arborist on its greenkeeping team - Tony Bartram - who starts to inspect the trees for hatching larvae early in spring.

Just days before I visited The Richmond a team from Syngenta had experimentally treated a single mature oak tree using the company's new micro-injection system for the application of emamectin benzoate, a systemic insecticide that controls OPM. Les and his team will observe the tree over the next few seasons.

There are many potential advantages of using a tree injection system but the one that sticks out in my mind is all about application timing in relation to larval hatching and feeding.

The advantage of using tree injection is that the insecticide is already inside the tree when the newly hatched, most vulnerable and easy to kill L1 larvae start to feed on the new oak foliage.

ABOVE: Early forming OPM nests seen at the Richmond in May 2015 were sprayed within days using deltamethrin insecticide for a quick and complete kill of the larvae



INSET ABOVE: Pheromone traps (the bucket-shaped funnel trap is shown here) are suspended in oak trees during the late summer flight period for OPM adult moths. The trap contains a female pheromone lure used to attract male moths which are subsequently caught in the trap. The number and distribution of moths caught will give a good indication of how successful insecticide spraying has been and the amount and spread of insect infestation to be expected the following year.

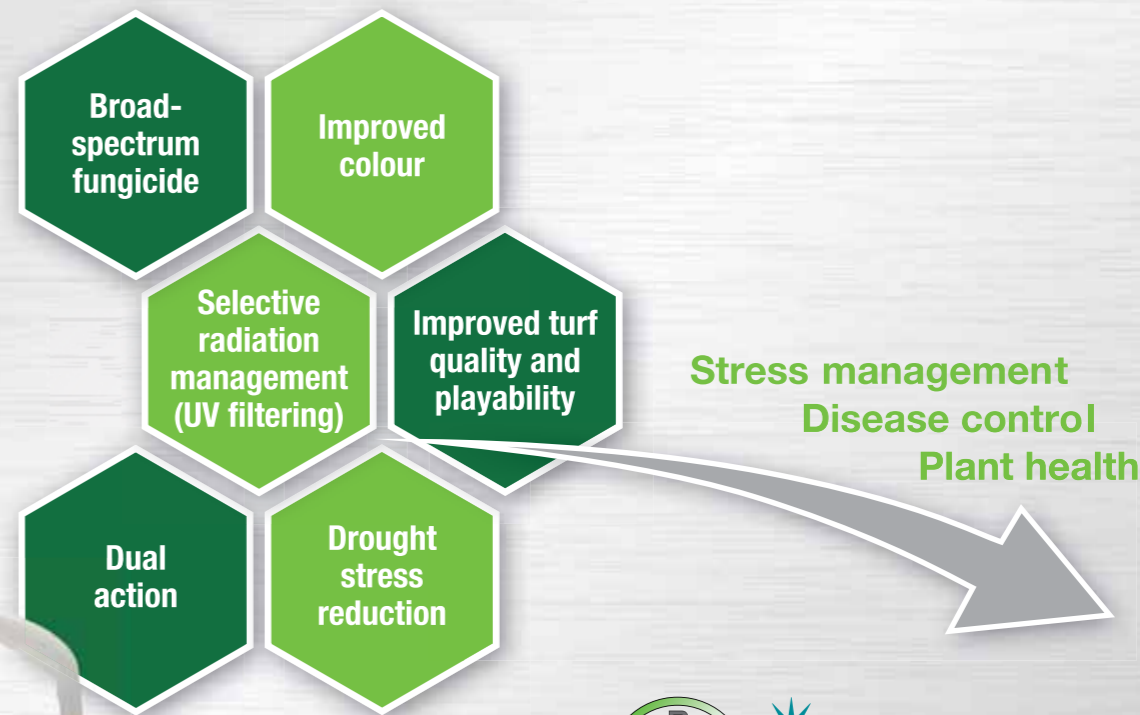


ABOVE: Syngenta Tree Micro Injection Kit used to experimentally treat an oak tree at The Richmond with systemically acting emamectin benzoate insecticide (Picture Courtesy Syngenta)

Treatment with the Syngenta Tree Micro Injection Kit is complete showing minimal impact at the tree injection site (Picture Courtesy Syngenta)



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# Royal Wimbledon



As Royal Wimbledon Golf Club celebrates its 150 year centenary, Laurence Pithie visited this unique club to find out about its past, current work programmes and what it plans for the future

a match for  
any course



**The club which was formed in 1865 by the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers on Wimbledon Common first consisted of seven holes, before being fully extended in 1871 under the auspices of Tom Dunne, who was appointed as the club's first professional.**

In 1907, the club commenced construction of their own course, designed by Willie Park on 240 acres of nearby Warren Farm; the reason being to escape 'picnic parties' and nursemaids with 'perambulators'. In 1919 the club approached Harry Colt, who was a former member of the club to redesign the course which opened for play five years later.

Other than a few small changes since WW2, the 'Colt' layout remains largely the same to this day. Throughout its history, Royal Wimbledon has played a key role in influencing the game of golf. As well as being the third oldest golf club in England, it was one of seven sponsors for the Amateur Championship. JH Taylor was a previous professional, while past members have included Bernard Darwin, Roger Wethered and the Duke of York. To date eight members of RWGC have served as Captains of the R&A. The formation of Royal St Georges in Sandwich and the course layout in 1887 was the brainchild of Henry Lamb and Peter Purves; both influential members of RWGC. The club has a rich history and is one of 65 clubs in the UK with Royal patronage.

#### Club Objectives

First and foremost Royal Wimbledon is a club for its members, being only eight miles from the centre of London. Tasked with its smooth running and efficient management is Robert Brewer, a former Course Manager at St Mellion, before taking on management responsibility at a number of clubs including South Essex, Merrist Wood and Knole Park. Robert's overall experience in course and club management has been instrumental since his appointment in 2011. A key objective has been the need for the club to develop a ten year strategic plan to ensure that members enjoy a first rate golf course commensurate with the club's traditions while adapting to the needs of the modern game.

An essential part of this plan was to appoint a qualified and experienced Course Manager who could implement this strategy and form part of the management team



to ensure objectives are achieved. In April last year, Australian Sean Whipp, former Course Manager at Coombe Hill, was appointed, eagerly accepted the challenge and the opportunity to make an impact on this famous course.

Prior to working as a Deputy and then Course Manager, Sean had spells working at Wentworth and St Andrews after learning his trade at Merimbula GC in Australia. The move from Coombe Hill was much shorter - just 513 metres from course to course. The other key aspect of the strategic plan was the appointment of course architect Tom Mackenzie, to examine all aspects of course design and integral features: his brief being to maximise the potential of the site.

#### Strategic Plan

Mackenzie's review will include the overall design and length of the course as well as individual sight lines, bunkering, tee positioning and greens surrounds.

One key aspect will be to compare the aerial photographs of 1926, with the current layout; the most noticeable difference being the loss of heather and the increase of trees and general scrub. Sean takes up the story.

"Since I already knew the course reasonably well and the challenges faced, it was essential that management standards had to improve. Rather than explain what I wanted to achieve, I invited all of my team to make the short trip across the A3 to Coombe Hill to witness at first



Head Greenkeeper, Sean Whipp

hand, turf quality, course set-up and presentation. This would help focus attention on raising standards, culminating in the team being more flexible in working practices and achieving a higher skill set; these being fundamental for the club to progress.

"With ten full time staff and two seasonals it was down to me to make this happen. However, starting work in April, the emphasis was on a gentle start and focusing on the priorities during the main summer season, which required a higher standard of course conditioning and presentation, especially on greens, tees and fairways.

"This would also give me time to familiarise myself with the agronomic challenges on the greens, while formulating plans in line with the clubs and architects objectives."



#### Working Progress: Main playing areas

Sean continued: "The challenge in regard to greens performance was to reduce an OM layer located at a depth below 25mm which was out of reach for deep scarifying. During August we deep tined the greens to over 200mm depth using 17mm tines, then back filling with sand which required around 90 tons in total. This was largely hand brushed into the holes to avoid being too aggressive on the turf. Once complete, the greens were solid tined with conventional 13mm tines at 50mm spacings and then sand dressed and brushed again; the latter by powered brush.

"Recovery at this time of year was good and after a few passes with the turf iron along with sufficient foliar feeds, putting surfaces were soon restored and with increased firmness and pace. At the end of the season we also took the opportunity to extend the greens to their original size which meant gradually lowering the HOC, followed by coring and dressing to improve the existing profile. The next challenge was to introduce more run-off areas around many greens whereby longer grass was

removed and then mown at apron height. This required aerifying and top dressing these areas as well as ensuring there was sufficient irrigation coverage to avoid major drought stress. Taking this route, the 'running' approach shot is now a viable option and makes the game more interesting and challenging, albeit with larger putting surfaces; this being one of the architects objectives. Work to tees and fairways was more of a tweak in terms of intensity to frequencies of cut, presentation, divot filling and so on, while bunkers continued to be raked daily with sand faces being smooth raked and occasionally rolled."

#### Working Progress: Roughs and Trees

"Part of the strategic plan is to return as much of the course as possible to one of a heathland environment as identified in past aerial photographs. Tree and scrub encroachment has gradually changed this course by affecting sight lines, causing shading and tree root issues as well as making some areas of rough impregnable. Key areas were identified for tree removal, scrub clearance and



MAIN ABOVE: 13th hole after tree clearance

INSET ABOVE: 13th hole pre tree clearance in 2014

weed control along with preparing areas for heather establishment; the latter being at an early stage of development.

"The most notable difference is on the short 13th where hole visibility has vastly improved. In order to establish heather, the ground was cleared of all unwanted vegetation, loosely cultivated and 'brashings' applied by hand after being collected previously. The existing areas of heather and grassland have been treated with varying systemic herbicides such as Laser, Dow Shield, Rescue and Relay; this depending on what vegetation needs to be controlled and where.



This is an ongoing programme since not all areas within this large site are easily accessible by conventional sprayer.

“Other course work completed to date has been the provision of a 174 metre deep borehole which provides sufficient water to meet the needs of our extensive Rainbird Nimbus 2 system; delivering water to greens, tees, surrounds and fairways. This is stored in three tanks with a total capacity of 600 cubic metres. We also installed a rubber modular path on hole 13, whereby it is filled with soil and seed and provides an all-purpose ‘grass’ path.

“Our first bunker trial was completed on hole nine where a ‘visual’ fairway bunker was remodelled. We will probably ‘fine-tune’ this bunker style and examine available options for future lining.”

**Summary**

Planning, teamwork and progression spring to mind when reviewing the changes that have taken place at Royal Wimbledon during the past year. There is a good ‘feel’ within the team that things are happening both on and off the course and for the better. New skills are being



**TOP LEFT:** Hand brushing top dressing into line holes  
**TOP RIGHT:** Green extension and work completed  
**ABOVE LEFT:** Presentation on 11th approach  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** View over 2nd green  
**LEFT:** ‘Mackenzie’ styled fairway bunker on 9th  
**BELOW:** Rubber modular path on 13th walkway  
**RIGHT:** Power Harrow set up at 25mm deep for heather prep work  
**BOTTOM:** Spraying rough and heather with Laser herbicide



developed, especially in regards to agronomy and grassland management while changes are being planned for extending and improving both storage and staff facilities. New equipment has already been purchased for use on greens, grassland and woodland which are central to the clubs progression. Strategic planning is well underway and once submitted to the club for approval, many more changes will follow. This is an exciting time for a club with a unique history.

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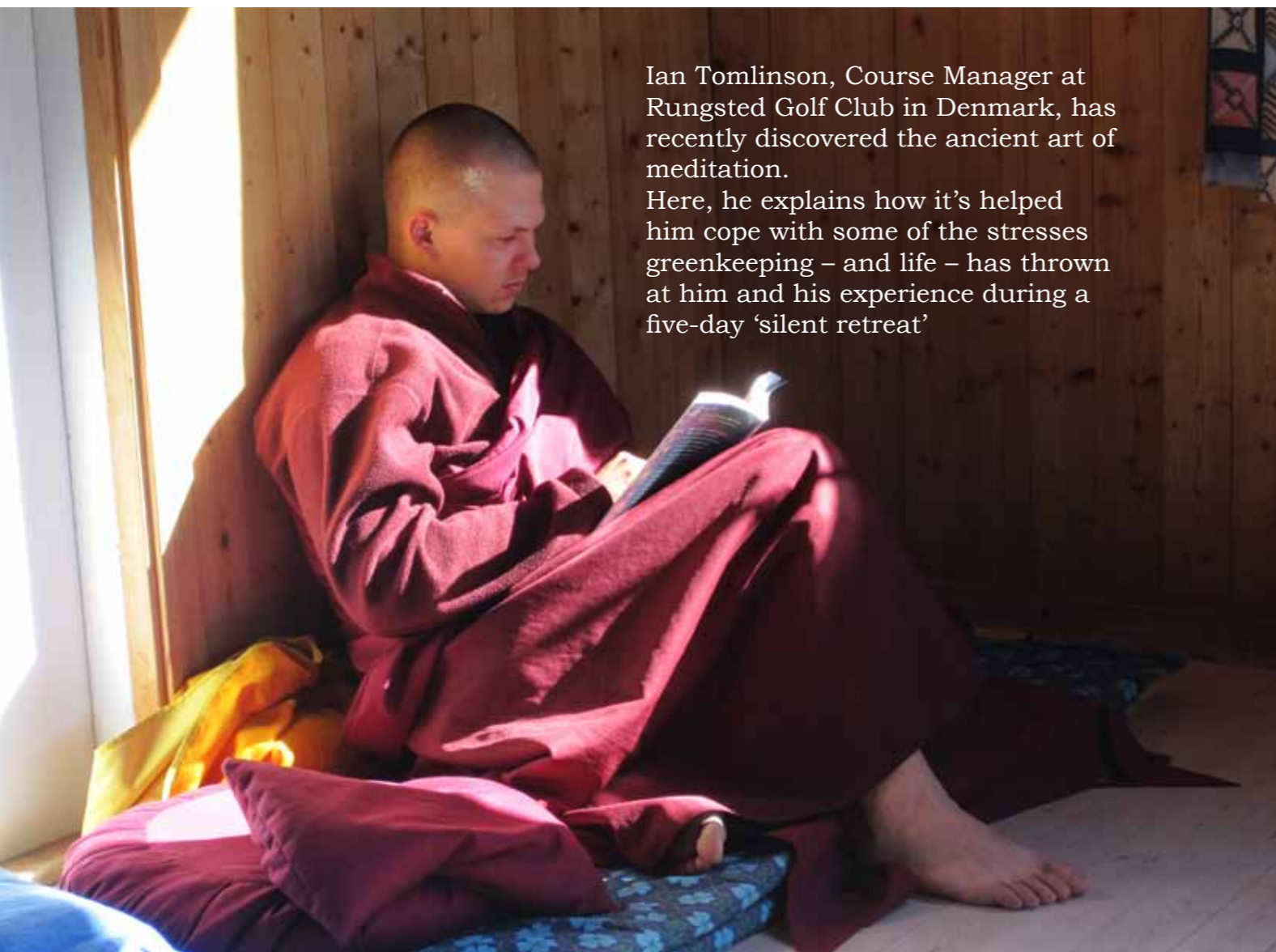


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# Meditation and greenkeeping



Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark, has recently discovered the ancient art of meditation.

Here, he explains how it's helped him cope with some of the stresses greenkeeping – and life – has thrown at him and his experience during a five-day 'silent retreat'

**When I tell people I work on a golf course for a living, so many reply "wow, what a great job, outside in the sun cutting grass without a care in the world!" If only this was true.**

The reality is very different. The modern Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper is under increasing pressure from Committee members and golfers with sometimes unrealistic expectations. The recent economic downturn saw budgets

cut and greenkeepers losing their jobs. The use of pesticides is also being reduced by the authorities, adding to the difficulties associated with producing disease-free greens all year round.

All of these issues have a negative effect on morale and you can see how greenkeepers – like anyone else – can succumb to depression, anxiety and stress. Of course, this all affects your personal well-being and in turn, your family life.

It is not just our industry that is facing these situations but society in general. Take a look at our daily lives in 2015.

We all have smartphones which ping and vibrate constantly as emails, texts and social media updates pour in – adding to our already busy day.

Having experienced the whole range of emotions during 40 years in this industry I would like to tell you about something that can help



## Ian Tomlinson

Ian began his greenkeeping career at Scarcroft Golf Club in 1976 before spending 14 years at Lausanne Golf Club in Switzerland. He returned briefly to the UK before taking up his current position at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark. He is a member of the 'Sons of Turf' – a group of Scandinavian greenkeepers who meet regularly to discuss turf diseases and pesticide control. Ian's wife and children live with him in Denmark. He loves the lifestyle and scenery, but loathes the Danish taxman who ensures that the cost of living is incredibly high, with two thirds of his salary disappearing in taxes!

all of us live a very different type of life and one that I am experiencing at the moment. It was by chance that I came across meditation. I know many people's reaction may be to scoff at this, yet it has changed my life. But how?

Meditation is a Buddhist practice that is thousands of years old. You train the mind to build inner peace, relaxation and happiness. You learn to let go of all the negative thoughts that are constantly flying around your head.

It has been scientifically proven that by training the mind in meditation, depression and anxiety can become a problem of the past to never return. When was the last time you actually sat down without any noise and had inner peace?

The purpose of meditation is to ensure the mind is calm and peaceful. If the mind is peaceful we shall be free from worries and mental discomfort and so experience true happiness.

Usually we find it difficult to control our mind. If things go well, our mind is happy, but if they go badly, it immediately becomes unhappy.

By training in meditation, we create an inner space and clarity that enables us to control our mind regardless of the external circumstances e.g. a problem with a Chairman, committee or an angry member.

Gradually we develop mental equilibrium, a balanced mind that is happy all the time, rather than an unbalanced mind that oscillates between the extremes of excitement and despondency.

I had no idea what meditation was just five months ago. A member at my club who is a personal friend of the Dalai Lama got me interested in it. I went along to the Clear Light Centre in Copenhagen and met a teacher named Adam Starr, who was trained by a Tibetan Monk - the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso. Gyatso has opened 1,200 centres in 40 countries promoting Kadampa Traditional Meditation.

I started by taking a meditation class one evening a week. I was basically taught how to meditate, and now I practice with guided meditation CDs every day for 20 minutes at home. One Saturday a month I attend a full day workshop. My first workshop was given by a special guest - Gen Kelsang Tubchen, a Buddhist nun, who is the Spiritual Director for Scandinavia based in Norway. Tubchen was also trained by the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso.

I was spellbound by the wisdom and experience she shared with us that day. She invited me to a five day silent retreat over Easter this year on 'Concentration Meditation' which she specialises in.

It is very difficult to put into words what I experienced during those five days. What I can say is it was very powerful stuff which has changed my life. There were 19 people there altogether including four nuns. The retreat was focused on concentration. Our aim was to hold an imaginary object in our mind and focus upon it without losing it.

Normally, our minds are so busy we get distracted thinking about other things like what we're having for lunch. We then lose our concentration and our object so we need to start again. This process went on until we had control of our mind without getting distracted and losing our object.

Something special happened to me during the last two days of the retreat. I had turned so deep into my mind that my mind went totally quiet and peaceful. No distractions – just total calm existed in my body. The more you train and practice, there is a slow transformation of your mind and attitude of how you look at life. I spoke to another member of the group afterwards who told me his family and friends remarked how he's a much happier and calmer man six months after discovering meditation.

I drove home with a doctor after the retreat. Neither of us wanted to talk afterwards, we were so calm. It took us six hours to turn our phones back on as we both wanted

to let this sensation of inner peace to remain for as long as possible.

Everyone has the ability to change the way they think. With daily meditation at home and instruction at a Kadampa school (of which there are many – see the end of this article for more details) we all have the ability to let go of our negative thoughts and worries and replace them with inner peace and happiness.

In time, the problems we encounter will no longer blight our minds. We are taught how to let these kind of situations go so that they will never penetrate your mind again. If you are suffering from depression, anxiety, panic attacks or stress these illnesses can be eliminated by meditation training over a period of time.

What this training does is follow a tradition which is a few thousand years old. In modern day terms it is like having the hard drive wiped in your computer and having it reprogrammed.

The mind is trained to let go of all the years of negative thoughts, anger, frustration, criticism and problems of the past and bring you into the present day. Something bad that happened years ago is in fact just a thought in your mind. Let this thought go and it no longer affects you. If it comes back let it go again. All of this is possible through training.

It's important to understand that this is not about pushing religion onto anyone. You do not have to become a Buddhist to follow this training.

**LEFT:** Monk Kelsang Sanglam studying more on his practice  
**ABOVE:** Gen Kelsang Tubchen and Ian Tomlinson  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Gen Kelsang Tubchen teaching  
**BELOW:** The group in deep meditation



## Further information

Further information on this form of mediation is at [nkt-kmc-manjushri.org](http://nkt-kmc-manjushri.org)

To find your local mediation centre, visit [kadampa.org](http://kadampa.org) – you can book a session online or pay on the door.

Don't forget that BIGGA membership allows you access to FREE helplines including the Lifestyle Counselling Helpline on 0844 770 1036.



# Back to the future

Paul Miller returns to look at turf quality through the lens of soil and explores the east of Scotland for the history of soil characteristics

**The 2015 US Open at Chambers Bay, whilst producing some fantastic golf, an extraordinary finish, and a most worthy champion in Jordan Spieth, was not short of controversy in our world and beyond, with the subject of turf quality never more prominent.**

I haven't visited Chambers Bay and am unlikely to ever have a full insight into its development and preparation, but the whole event got me thinking about turf quality and where it comes from. One interpretation is that turf quality results from each unique combination of climate, soils, grasses and maintenance, and unless we as an industry end up using artificial turf in our in-play areas turf quality will

always show variation between and within each and every golf course. The purpose of this article is to look a little more closely at one of these elements, the soil, and I hope to offer a perspective gained from looking at and understanding the original landscapes for golf, the links land of eastern Scotland.

Having grown up in the east of Scotland and living and working just 10 miles from St Andrews I am bound to take a traditional view of golf and golf courses, and believe that it does no harm to look backwards in order to understand the present and the future; it is with those thoughts in mind that I take this particular look at soils for fine turf. We'll have a look at the soils of early 'golf places' and see what we understand from that in modern

construction, finishing with some speculation about the future.

So, early golf places, where are they are what are they like? The earliest associations of golf with specific places connect the game to locations including Dornoch, Aberdeen, Montrose, Carnoustie, St Andrews, Elie, Leith and Gullane, dating from the early 16th to the early 18th centuries.

If we ask what those places have in common we find them adjacent to expanses of links land. It's difficult to find links land today which isn't occupied by golf courses, caravan parks or military airfields, however one such place is St Cyrus in Kincardineshire, where we can find the natural landscape and landscape elements for golf. The picture looks south-west with the

A worm's eye view of the natural fine turf at Askernish





nature reserve in the foreground and beyond the links of Montrose, an ancient golfing venue.

ABOVE: St Cyrus National Nature Reserve  
BELOW: A broad view of the 18th green at Askernish

There are many attempts in textbooks and websites to define links land; for me it comprises the expanses of sandy soil, always adjacent to the sea and at sea level, found in the cool and moist climate typical of Britain and Ireland.

Such land is by nature swept by salt-laden winds, is subject to erosion, and can have fertility 'problems' (when seen from an agricultural perspective) owing to all that sand, sometimes also with a high shell content leading to pH issues.



Only a few well-adapted plants can survive and reproduce in such a harsh environment, among them of course our highly prized fescues and bentgrasses, which when grazed or mown short provide us with the basis of fine turf.

The natural fine turf of Askernish Golf Club is on deep deposits of shelly sand - can there be a more natural golf course anywhere?

Taking a social history perspective it is no wonder that such land was never taken up by agriculture (other than some minimal grazing value) thereby being available for non-agricultural uses, one of which evolved as golf.

So what of these soils? What characterises them and provides that specific niche for our fine species?

A fundamental starting point for soils, and in many respects the underpinning characteristic from which so many other properties derive, is texture, or particle size distribution. Soil mineral particles are defined as being smaller than 2mm in diameter i.e. they pass through a sieve with a mesh size of 2mm.

Further sieves can be used to separate those particles further into sand, silt and clay. The percentages

of these three components give us 'texture types' for example loam, silty clay, sandy loam and quite a few others.

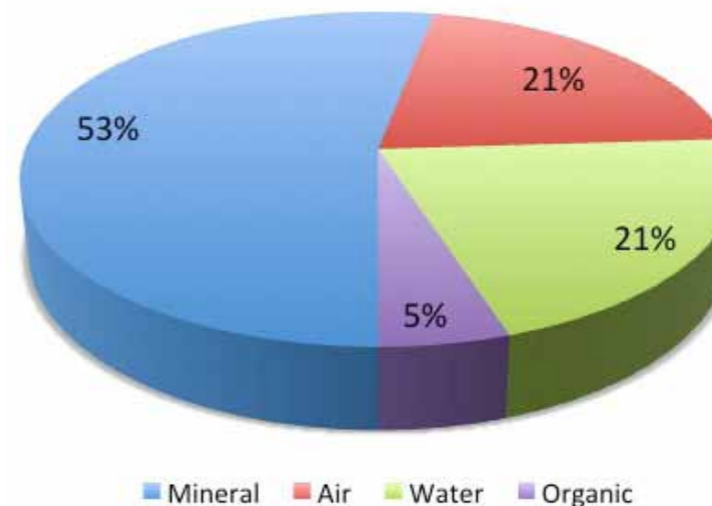
We know instinctively from those names that these soils have different properties including drainage rates, susceptibility to compaction and so on. These characteristics are not conferred on the soil by the size of the particles per se, but more specifically by the size and connectedness of the spaces between them.

Of course the two are related; large well rounded particles produce large well connected spaces, through which water can pass rapidly and which, once excessive water is drained away by gravity, are filled with air - the so-called 'air filled porosity'.

Of course, not all water is drawn out of any soil by gravity, what remains occupies the small spaces between particles - the so-called 'capillary porosity'. So what we are saying is that every soil, after gravitational drainage has occurred (a state known as 'field capacity') has some of its internal pore space occupied by air, and some by water, the proportions of which are determined by the size and distribution of the spaces (pore space distribution) which in turn are determined

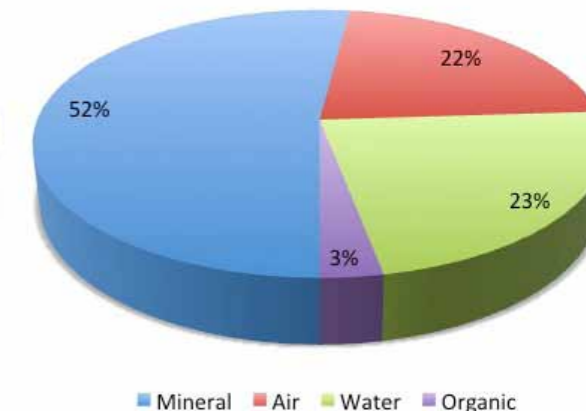
### Links Soil Pore Space Distribution

Pie chart 1:



### USGA Rootzone Pore Space Distribution

Pie chart 2:



by the sizes and shapes of the individual mineral particles.

Let's now try to connect that idea with the soils of the links. As previously mentioned sand is the predominant size fraction within links soils, but bear with me as it gets a little bit more involved than that. Sand particles range in size from 2mm down to 0.05mm in diameter, which is quite a wide range and which therefore means that considerable 'packing' of particles can take place. So in our industry we look far more closely at the sands, and sub-divide them into five sub-bands, indicated in table 1.

When we then run a links sand through a set of sieves we typically find a particle size distribution as illustrated in graph 1, where we can see that we have a predominant fraction commonly in the 'fine sand' or 'medium sand' categories, frequently 70% or more on a single sieve and upwards of 80% on the two 'most loaded' adjacent sieves. In other words the particles are pretty uniform in size, don't pack very well together (visualise a shoe box over-filled with glass marbles and you're trying to get the lid on) and therefore have large spaces between them. This manifests itself in fast drainage (percolation) rates and high air / low water soils at field capacity. To connect this idea further I'll state quite clearly that these are the soil physical properties favoured by fescues in particular, and by bentgrasses, two grass types whose natural habitat is the sandy environment of the links.

OK, so far so good - we've got the idea of these sandy soils with a certain pore space distribution,

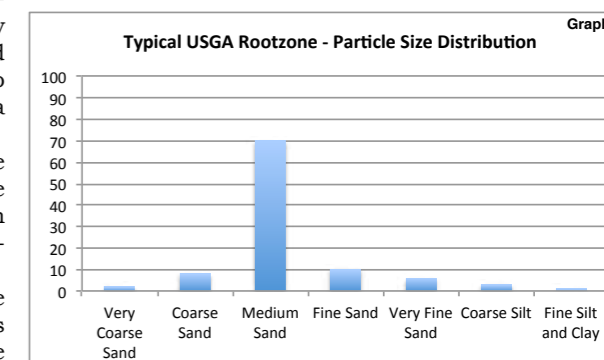
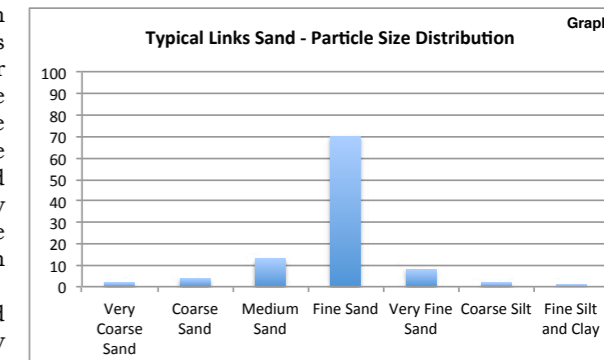
but what does that look like? In general terms when sandy links soils drain to field capacity in their natural setting they reach a pore space distribution shown by pie chart 1, showing the internal space of the soil to be evenly distributed between air and water. It's all very well knowing that, but what can we take from it, how can we use it in modern golf course management?

In the early 1960s the United States Golf Association were clearly concerned about the winter condition of golf greens, specifically with poor internal drainage and water movement, and set about to research the topic and propose a solution.

I am unfamiliar with the whole process, but the solution to the problem was a recommendation for a method of putting green construction, or 'The USGA Green'.

This has effectively become the industry default position for greens construction, other than where sandy soils can be found on site, but often even in those circumstances, and among the aspects of that recommendation is one for the particle size distribution of the artificially manufactured growing medium, or 'rootzone'. Not surprisingly the rootzone has a high sand content, and typically shows a particle size distribution as shown in graph 2. It looks familiar, 70% or thereabouts on a single sieve, and 80% + on the two 'most loaded' adjacent sieves. More importantly, when it drains into its gravel carpet it reaches a pore space distribution as shown in pie chart 2.

My interpretation of this is that the USGA green attempts to emulate the original sandy ground



of the links, producing conditions favoured by the fine turf species, and by doing so aims to facilitate the production of turf of a similar quality to those old places for play. Not for the first time the technological solution mimics mother nature!

What we have looked at in this article is strictly the physical characteristics - air and water content - of nature's growing medium for fine turf (the links sands) and the scientific solution (the USGA rootzone) but we've mentioned nothing of the nutritional or biological aspects of these soils.

A second article will provide some thoughts on those aspects of soils for fine turf.

**FRACTIONS WITHIN 'SAND'**  
2.0 - 1.0mm - Very Coarse Sand  
1.0 - 0.5mm - Coarse Sand  
0.5 - 0.25mm - Medium Sand  
0.25 - 0.125mm - Fine Sand  
0.125 - 0.063mm - Very Fine Sand

STRI - Sands for Sports Turf Construction and Maintenance

Table 1

# Mind the (gender) gap

Andy Wight from Oaklands College speaks to BIGGA member Susan Reeve, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Castle Royle Golf & Country Club, to discuss her career and why there are so few female greenkeepers in the industry

**There is no denying that women are few and far between in the greenkeeping ranks. I recently completed an audit of how many female greenkeepers are currently in training.**

Five of the larger UK colleges responded and although between them they have hundreds of greenkeepers in training, the total of female students was just two. To be honest this is a pretty dire situation with the proportion of males to females lower than in traditionally male orientated industries such as engineering and construction.

When discussions are held with Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers on this issue, they say they have absolutely no problem with the thought of employing females, and the standard response is "we never get any female applicants, so what can we do?"

To look into this further I interviewed Susan Reeve, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Castle Royle Golf & Country Club, an 18-hole championship course near Maidenhead in Berkshire. She is currently studying the NPTC Work Based Diploma Level 3 Sports Turf at Oaklands College.

**Susan, how did you get into greenkeeping?**

*My journey into greenkeeping began when I started taking golf lessons. I initially began working in the pro shop, the following summer I worked with the greenkeepers and loved every minute of it. It has been the only job I've had where I have always looked forward to my day.*

**What are your key responsibilities?**

*One of my main roles is joining Course Manager Chris Brook in treating pests and diseases as well as regular applications of nutrients for the greens, tees and approaches.*

*I am required to run the team of eight when Chris is away as well as inducting and training new team members. I assist putting the monthly newsletter together. I'm also responsible for keeping the health and safety files (particularly the COSHH files and the spraying records) up to date.*

**What qualifications do you hold?**

*I have a BSc in Environmental Science. The modular degree course allowed me to study soil science, plant pathology, cell biology and*

*water resources to name but a few, which I have found to be very useful in my current studies as well as giving me a better understanding of turf management. I am currently completing my Work Based Diploma at Level 3 and I am finding that the course has helped me develop important fundamental skills.*

**What are the most satisfying aspects of your role?**

*Assessing course conditions and treating problems effectively are parts of the job that I find rewarding. But there is no denying that ensuring the course is set up at its best for competitions, particularly in the summer, has to be the most satisfying.*

**Does greenkeeping run in your family?**

*Yes, my husband is a Course Manager and my brother-in-law is a Golf Professional.*

**Why do you think there are so few women in the industry?**

*Well, it's pretty much always been a male dominated industry and few people (outside of golf) really know exactly what greenkeeping entails. So, quite often jobs get advertised*

*where they are only seen by greenkeepers already in the industry or are not necessarily promoted to encourage female applicants. I am not alone though—I know there are a handful of female BIGGA members working on courses across the UK and three at clubs in Berkshire alone.*

**What do you think could attract more women to greenkeeping?**

*A greater awareness about the profession and the professional and personal opportunities it offers. I personally believe that greenkeeping is losing out by not having more females in the industry. Most industries now recognise the importance of diversity in the workforce and the different skillsets they can bring.*

**So if female workers have so much to offer then why are there so few in the industry?**

*This answer is not as straightforward as you might think.*

*Many other closely related industries that were once considered male-dominated occupations are experiencing increasing numbers of women in the workforce. Construction and engineering have seen increased numbers of female employees yet greenkeeping remains an almost exclusively male workforce.*

There are a number of issues that contribute to the lack of females in the industry, perhaps one of the most important is recruitment. Golf club owners and managers have often said to me that women never apply. The thing many seem to miss is that this is most likely because they haven't actually seen a job advertisement. I also think a lot of females probably believe the job is not advertising for women so skip over the possibility that they could apply.

To overcome this issue, clubs need to consider how they advertise vacancies. They should think about what their advertisement says about their club's culture. They should also think about the skills they have listed as required by the applicant. By making the advertisement less specific, they may find a more diverse set of candidates apply for the post.

Having a clear diversity statement in the advert can provide a message to potential female employees that an application is at least worthwhile.

Another way of increasing the diversity of the workforce is to create a pool of potential e.g. working with a local college might help to attract female students to a club. If they have a good work experience at a golf club, there is a chance that they might consider it as a career.

Perhaps just as importantly they will talk about it with their friends opening up the possibility of other females considering it as a career option. Clubs should work with their local colleges and training providers and offer to deliver presentations to get the club's name known to the students so the thought of applying for a job there is less daunting.

Interviews need to be conducted fairly. To make an interview fair it's important to prepare a set of questions that you ask each and every candidate and vary from these as little as possible.

This way everyone is judged on equal criteria. Also, if possible ensure that the interview committee has a balance of gender and this balance of gender is used when drawing up the list of interview questions.

Of course although these points have all been aimed at female employees they could equally apply to other minority areas of our diverse population. I have spoken to lots of people about the culture of greenkeeping and I really believe it has the potential and wants to become more inclusive. I believe it's not about the industry not wanting to be more diverse it's more about the industry making itself a more attractive career option to close that gender gap.

ABOVE: Susan checking irrigation arcs on the second tee

BELOW: Susan Reeve (front row, second right) with the team at Castle Royle



# The final countdown



Who will win the first prize in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition? A Toro Scholarship to the University of Massachusetts plus visits to the Toro Company and the Golf Industry Show in San Diego await

**One of the industry's most enduring competitions returns next month as we wait to find out who will succeed Kevin O'Neill as Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.**

The final will begin on Monday 14 September and after a series of introductions, the candidates will join a discussion group hosted by BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG. This will focus on various industry issues.

Tuesday sees the finalists take part in a multiple choice quiz, complete an essay question and be interviewed by a panel from Toro and BIGGA before the winner is announced. Two runners up will be invited to the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2016, and all six will be given BIGGA membership for a year.

Good luck to all the finalists!



Kevin O'Neill

## SIX OF THE BEST FOR TORO



Congratulations to the final six who have made it through to the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Here are pen profiles of the group



**STEFAN CARTER**  
Assistant Greenkeeper  
The Wentworth Club  
Myerscough College  
*Nominated by Nick Lush*



Stefan started his greenkeeping career six years ago at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicester, and after completing his NVQ Level 2 he steadily rose up through the ranks to Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

He then moved to Bowood Golf & Country Club before recently joining the greenkeeping ranks at Wentworth. He has plenty of tournament experience after volunteering at the British Open, the Senior Amateur Championship and has now worked at two BMW PGA Championships.

**JON-JO PITTS**  
Assistant Greenkeeper  
Royston Golf Club  
Oaklands College  
*Nominated by Steve Allen*



Jon-Jo is a relatively recent arrival into the greenkeeping industry and has been working at Royston – an 18 hole heathland course in Hertfordshire – for two years.

Prior to becoming a greenkeeper at the club he worked part-time in the pro shop as he studied for his A-Levels, then during time off from university he joined the greenkeeping team helping with regular tasks such as bunker maintenance and strimming.

**SUSAN REEVE**  
First Assistant Greenkeeper  
Castle Royle Golf & Country Club  
Oaklands College  
*Nominated by Andy Wight*



After taking golf lessons at Castle Royle, Susan started working in the club's pro shop part time. She then joined the greenkeeping team one summer and "loved every minute of it!"

This led to her securing her current role as First Assistant Greenkeeper. She has a degree in Environmental Science and is currently studying her Level 3 Diploma in Sports Turf through distance learning at Oakland College.

**SAM SWEETZER**  
Assistant Greenkeeper  
West Hill Golf Club  
Myerscough College  
*Nominated by Simon Dudge*



Sam began working at Royal Ascot Golf Club as a greenkeeper before heading to university to study Psychology. However, he realised he still loved greenkeeping and after university returned to the greenkeeping team at Royal Ascot. He then secured a role at West Hill, a heathland course in Surrey.

He has extensive tournament experience including twice volunteering at the BMW PGA Championships, twice at US Open Qualifiers at Walton Heath and also the Ladies British Masters.

**STEPHEN THORNE**  
Deputy Course Manager  
Rushmore Golf Club  
Myerscough College  
*Nominated by Nick Lush*



Stephen's first greenkeeping role was at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club in 2007, before leaving to start his own lawn care business. He then desired a return to greenkeeping and applied for a role at Rushmore, and he joined the course in Salisbury in 2012.

Stephen and the team have completed a variety of agronomic projects in the meantime and he was promoted to Deputy Course Manager in January 2014. He is currently Secretary of the BIGGA South Coast Section Committee and also pens the Section's Around the Green notes.

**DAVID STEWART**  
Greenkeeper  
Walmley Golf Club  
Persore – Warwickshire College  
*Nominated by Karen Martin*



David has spent three and a half years working as a greenkeeper at Walmley, a parkland course in Sutton Coldfield.

He has been involved in several major projects on the course including constructing new tees, redesigning old tees and creating a new drainage system.

He is currently studying his Level 2 Horticulture and Sportsturf diploma.

# Social talk

Two BIGGA members – Matt Nutter and Dan Lightfoot MG – explore the importance of social media in greenkeeping, offer tips and discuss some of the challenges it poses



**Social media has opened up a whole new world of communication. For greenkeepers and course managers, often working in the close confines of a club environment, it brings the opportunity to talk to each other and share experiences quickly and easily. It also has the ability to reach direct to players, to give a better understanding of what they are doing, and why.**

One of the challenges is which of the plethora of social media platforms to choose? You can Yik Yak, Whisper, Shout or Tsu. Even Bebo's back. Almost every day there's a new app or tool linked to social media, and as the technology moves forwards so rapidly having an established on-line presence becomes more important than ever.

It's going on all around, in every business, leisure activity and everyday life. It's certainly not going to go away, so we may as well embrace



it, or risk getting left far behind - very quickly, warns Matt Nutter, Course Manager at East Berkshire Golf Club. A keen advocate of the technology outside of work, it has been a natural progression to utilise Facebook and Twitter to help communicate what he is doing on the course.

Golfers - even the older players - are increasingly tech savvy. They are perfectly adept at using Facebook to see pictures of grandchildren; tweeting the latest offers at Lidl, or looking up tee-time information online. There are as many members in the clubhouse viewing their iPad using WiFi, as reading the paper.

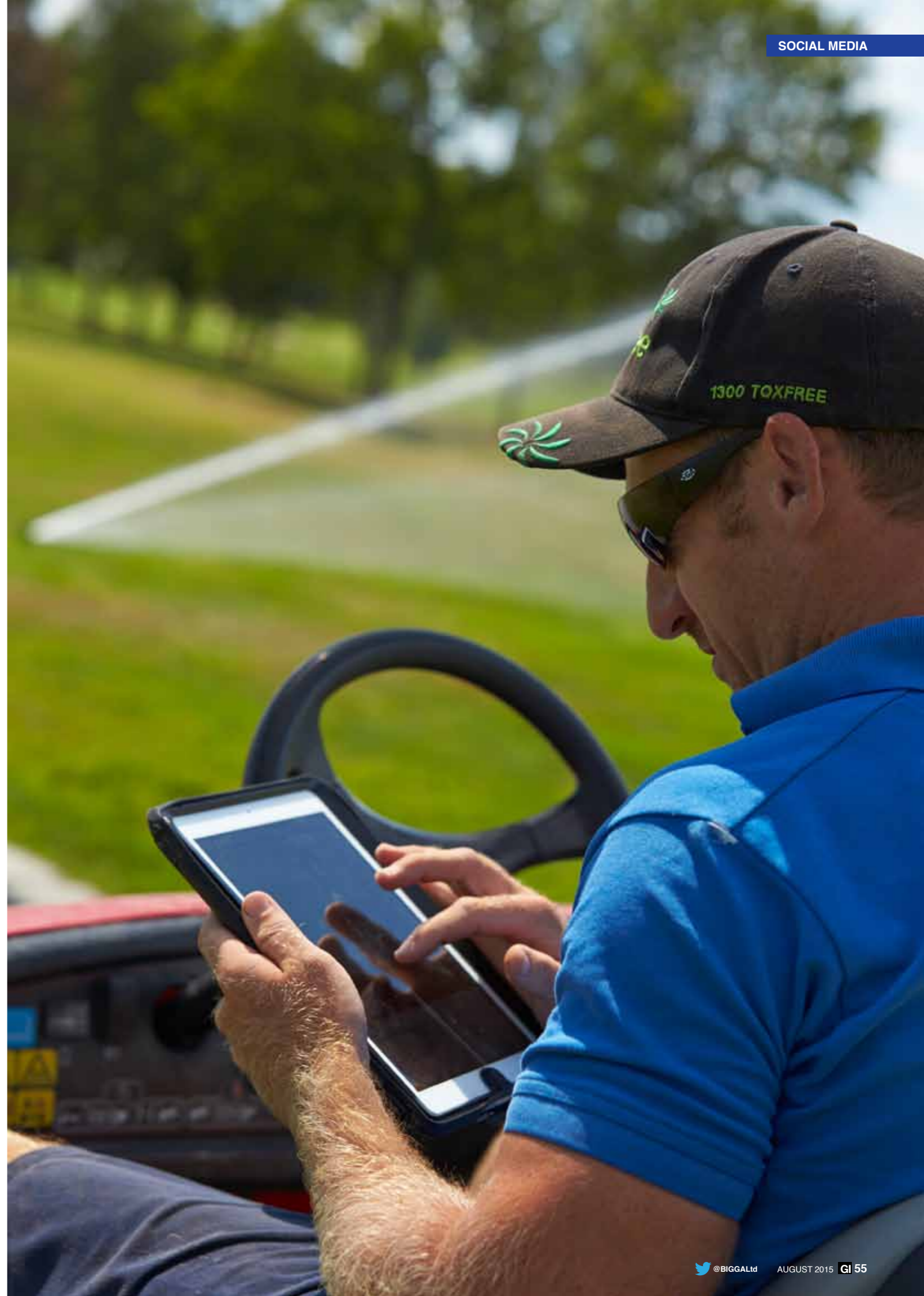
"Social media lets us reach them in one go, whether they be regular players at the club most days, or just occasional players who want to know what is going on," said Matt. "If we tell them what we are doing, we very rarely get any problem or complaints. The club's Facebook page has been invaluable for that, and using Twitter we can instantly keep them up to date with progress and results."

Matt finds that Twitter is the more effective route to let people know what is happening, but Facebook is his preferred way to share information and develop discussion - both with golfers and other greenkeepers.

Other discussion groups, such as the BIGGA forum, provide valuable contact and conversation of experiences. However, some chat rooms are dominated by a limited number of individuals, of varying ability, who are only too willing to pontificate their opinion on every subject.

He remains wary of posting too much advice in open online discussion. "Some topics are highly technical and need talking through, rather than a short post that could be taken out of context or interpreted in the wrong way," he warned. "If I see there is a question posted by a greenkeeper where I might be able to help, I'd rather give him a call and discuss in person."

Matt remains clear that an online message cannot replace the value of personal contact. "We still have the blackboard in the clubhouse, detailing the current activities and



course report. I also believe that getting the Green Committee and Club Manager out on the course is irreplaceable to explain what we want to do and how the investment will benefit the club.”

Golfers always gripe at any disruption through the maintenance programme, but where he can now tweet or Facebook post pictures of before, during and after essential operations it reminds them of just what was done and why – and how they are now enjoying great conditions because of it.

That’s proven especially successful with projects such as bunker reconstruction, for environmental initiatives and Rescue treatments to thin out rough, for example.

Sending a picture of the team working in the mud on a miserable wet day in winter is an invaluable reminder of what goes on behind the scenes, and the effort that goes on all year round to enhance the course playing conditions.

Matt believes the secret of on-line communication to members is to keep messages simple and focussed on the benefit to them. “It is very easy to overcomplicate what we write and assume too much knowledge on their part,” he advised. The only exception has

been some of Matt’s GoPro movies, where members have been fascinated to watch the greenkeeping operations in practice, which had created great respect for the team.

He reports that social media can be extremely rewarding in giving instant feedback on a message posted, and that seeing what other greenkeepers are doing can trigger a reminder or stimulate an idea. Matt is also aware that to be current and topical demands regular updates and activity, which has to be balanced.

Twitter takes a while to learn and fiddly to refine, but is now very quick and easy to operate, yet within hours posts can be history and gone. Facebook was extremely easy to set up, and has the advantage of a longer presence.

The key for Matt has been to link together the Twitter and Facebook accounts, saving time and giving a broader reach, and plans to integrate with a new club website that will further help communicate with members.

“Most of the social media activities are virtually instant within the working day,” he reported. “However, I do spend more time compiling the blog entries that are more detailed and we want to get



right. Communication is really part of the job, so anything that makes that easier and more effective has to be welcomed.”

Social media provides an incredibly valuable resource for greenkeepers to gain, and to share, technical information and experiences, believes Syngenta Business Manager, Daniel Lightfoot MG.

As a former Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, he fully embraced and utilised the opportunity for education and learning – as well as the social aspect of interacting with other greenkeepers.

Dan cited his use of @greencastuk to Twitter news of what has been seen in trials and what is happening on course, as well as to re-tweet greenkeepers’ experiences, a route to instantly providing relevant information quicker and more effectively than ever before. Using pertinent hashtags - such as #turfunderthemicroscope – gathers together topical turf management information and links.

“Social media is a main area of focus as a future communication tool for the industry, so it is imperative that all involved get connected with appropriate links,” advised Dan.



Matt Nutter (left) and Dan Lightfoot MG

“We will still be doing meetings, briefings and events, such as Turf Science Live and BTME, where personal contact is so important to deliver a depth of knowledge and understanding.

“But social media, combined with details from on-line video and website information on Gre-

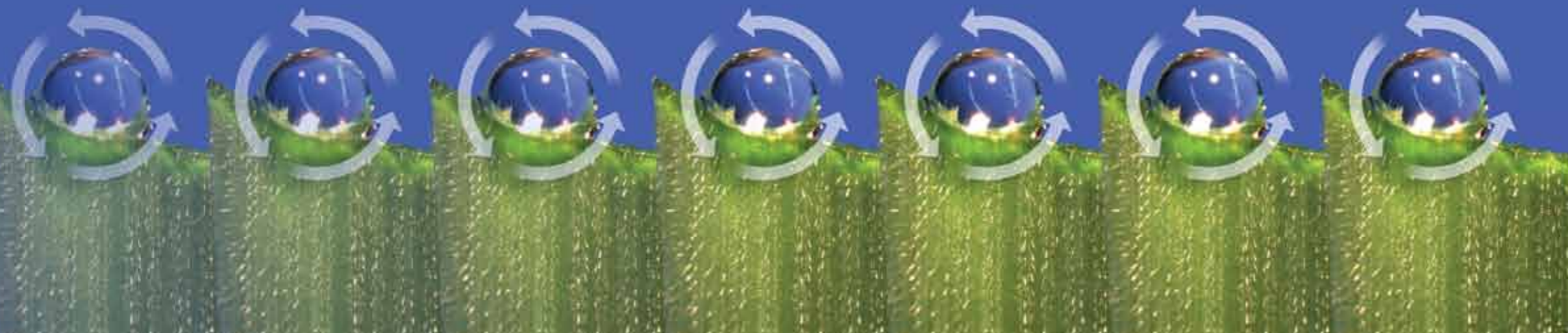
enCast, for example, enables the experiences to be shared far wider and reach even more people,” he added.

“With more information readily available to help enhance turf management, it’s a really exciting time to learn and exploit the potential of social media.”



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

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

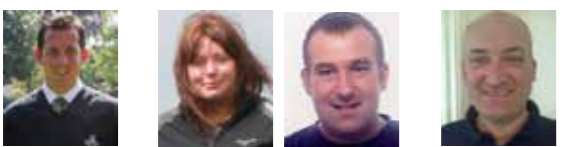


# Around the green

## Scotland & Northern Ireland

Find us on: **facebook** Bigga Scottish Region

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



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**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
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Bigga Northern Ireland

## Events Coming Up

**NORTH**  
The committee have sent out the entry form for the Autumn outing at Kemnay Golf Club. We expect this one to be very popular so get your form in early to ensure a tee time. Kemnay is a lovely track and always in great condition, so if you have never played in an outing before, so please come along.

**CENTRAL**  
The Autumn Outing at Drumoig Golf Course is on Tuesday 8 September.

**EAST**  
The Willie Woods at Broomieknowe is on August 20, entry forms in ASAP please. Autumn meeting at Cardrona on September 22.

**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
Entry forms for the BIGGA Northern Ireland Golf Championship at Clondeboye Golf Club on Friday 2 October will be issued in due course.



**SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND**  
Autumn Golf Outing 3 September Brodick GC.  
Pre Open course walk 24 September Royal Troon 8am-10am followed by 2 course lunch Anchorage Troon 11am.  
Ecology Course Walk Powfoot GC 10 November with Bob Taylor STRI.

## News

**NORTH**  
I spent a day down at Gullane for the Scottish Open, the course was in awesome condition and the pros seemed to relish the challenge. It's always great to spend a day with other greenkeepers, chatting and extending your knowledge about course management. It always helps when the sun is shining also!  
The Open Championship will have also come and gone at St. Andrews by now and again, I'm sure it will have presented a challenge to the best players in the world. Although I haven't seen the course, I'm told it is as good as it's ever been from an agronomic point of view.  
Not much to report within the North Section regarding staff moving around, but can I remind everyone to please send any information to myself and Neil.

**CENTRAL**  
Well, what a week at The Open. The only thing that was missing from the weather was snow and hail! Gordon and his team were hard at it to get the course cleared of water on the Friday only to be hit by wind delays on the Saturday leaving a Monday finish. Open week also meant a bit more income for clubs around about St Andrews, with the demand for tee times more than doubling. Meanwhile at Leven Links they were trying to get more water on the course with an update to the irrigation system.  
By the time you have read this there would have been a few other tournaments played around the region. I hope the weather played along with Dundonald Links for the Ladies Scottish Open, Murcar Links for the Paul Lawrie Matchplay and Trump Turnberry Resort for the Women's British Open.

**EAST**  
WOW! What a week at Gullane, I was fortunate enough to be volunteering at the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open and heard so much positive feedback from spectators, both local and overseas. Congratulations to Stewart Duff and his team and Gullane Golf Club for a fabulous week.  
Good luck Colin Irvine and his team at Muirfield for the Scottish Amateur Championship, being played as this rolls off the presses and Chris Yeaman and his team at The Royal Burgess for the Scottish Boys, a week earlier.  
Congratulations to Ross Ovens at The Roxburghe on his promotion and also to Derek Fullarton at Murrayfield Golf Club on gaining his BSc (Hons) in Sportsturf Science and Management via online study through Myerscough College.  
The weather certainly tested the field at Gullane but hasn't prevented us getting on with work at our home venues, members and visitors shouldn't have any complaints going by the pictures on social media except for the idiots who do this kind of thing! Both photos are in the middle of a green!  
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.

**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
Last month CAFRE held their annual graduation ceremony. Its Greenmount campus is home to Northern Ireland's Golf and Greenkeeping Academy which was opened in 2009 by Rory McIlroy. Graduation day is the culmination of students' hard work. Special prizes for top student on their respective courses went to Chris McArthur of Portstewart G.C. and Conchobhar Kerr of Royal Portrush G.C. The event was attended by John Young from BIGGA who presented the BIGGA award for best student in the Level 2 Diploma in Sport Turf Greenkeeping to Ian Ross of Malone GC.  
Speaking of Malone, I write this on the back of visiting Malone GC, Belfast, where the Vagliano Trophy was held on 26/27 June. Course Manager, Mike Norman, and his team deserve special praise for setting the course up exquisitely for this LGU team event.  
One of the tightest Vagliano Trophy matches for many years ended with the Continent of Europe extending their possession of the cup but in a terrific final session of singles, Great Britain and Ireland went down fighting. The final result was: Continent of Europe 12.5; GB and Ireland 11.5.  
A BIGGA Northern Ireland Facebook page has now been created and it would be great if you could add pictures or information.

**SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND**  
Fantastic Open Championship despite the weather! The bad weather actually showcased the massive efforts from Gordon Moir and his team who worked tirelessly battling the rain.



The weather has been challenging throughout the South West of Scotland as all of you will be aware of, so fingers crossed for some sunshine for the remainder of the summer holidays.  
Thank you in advance to Derek Wilson for hosting the upcoming board meeting at Bogside on 13 August. The meeting minutes will be circulated in due course.  
A social event was suggested at the last meeting, so if anyone has any ideas then please get in touch at the above email address.  
Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Autumn Outing at Brodick GC and the course walk at Royal Troon. As always please get in touch with your news or photos via email Facebook or Twitter.

## Thanks to Patrons

**CENTRAL**  
Special thanks to Toro, Barenbrug, Syngenta, Aquatrols/ Farmura and Aitkens for the support in the lead up and during The Open at St Andrews.

**EAST**  
Remember our sponsors Circle Golf provide 4 spaces at our Scottish Golf Championships, 2 from the Autumn meeting and 2 from Spring. Next year's Scottish is at Ladybank in August.



## Welcome New Members

Jason Scott, Greenkeeper, Buchanan Castle Golf Club, Colin Macfarlane, Greenkeeper, Fereneze Golf Club, Colin McAdam, Greenkeeper, Glasgow GC Gailes, Steven Horsburgh, Greenkeeper, The Duke's St Andrews, Steven Clarke, Greenkeeper, Glasgow GC Gailes, James Taylor, Head Greenkeeper, Wick Golf Club, Jordan Harrison, Greenkeeper, Clondeboye Golf Club.

## Northern

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

					
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## Events Coming Up

### NORTH WEST

We have our Autumn seminar coming up at Myerscough College on 28 October, more information will follow regard line up etc.

### NORTH EAST

On 9 September there will be an educational day at Whitley Bay Golf Club with the line up expected to be Jonathan Gaunt, James Hutchinson, Eddie Ainsworth, Paul Lowe and there will be a demonstration from Campy. The presentations and course walks will cover construction, grow in and ecology. Full details will be distributed via email, Facebook and Twitter.

The date for the autumn tournament is at Ponteland GC on September 22.

### NORTH WALES

The autumn tournament takes place at Chester GC on 17 September, entry forms are downloadable from our section Facebook page North Wales BIGGA.

### NORTHERN

9 September will see an educational event take place for apprentice greenkeepers at Selby Golf Club sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Arrival for 2pm for a bacon roll and coffee. Stuart Green from BIGGA will give a presentation of learning and CPD points. Another speaker also to be confirmed soon. Afterwards there will be a course walk followed by a tour of the maintenance facilities.

We hope this free event will prove popular. If you would like to put forward any of your apprentices please contact n.coultish@sky.com as places will be limited to 15.

Next golf event is Presidents day on 24 September at Ilkley GC. 10:30am for a bacon roll and coffee followed by 18 holes of golf and a meal for £15, hope to see a great turnout to support this event.

### SHEFFIELD

Join us for the next golf day at Tankersley Park GC on Thursday 17 September. If you are interested in a visit to the potash mine in Cleveland on 14 October then please contact Neil Peters to register your interest as the trip will only be organised when 8 names are received.

## News

### NORTH WEST

We held our Summer Tournament at The Mere Golf Resort And Spa on Monday 6 July. We tried a new format out of 11 holes and a machinery demo with food afterwards. The Committee would like to thank the 28 people who played and sponsors Cheshire Turf Machinery for making the day a huge success.

We would like to congratulate Steve Hemsley, Andy Merry and Tim Johnson on completing the 52 mile Great Manchester Cycle. Also we'd like to congratulate the North West Section on beating the North Wales Section in the annual cricket match.

Gwynn Davies, Course Manager of The Mere Golf Resort And Spa, would like to thank John McLoughlin & James Dudley - Warrington GC, Ash Griffiths - Wrexham GC, Richie Stevens - Flixton GC and Chris Trimble - Royal Liverpool GC for their help during the open qualifier.

Congratulations to Tom Ince who celebrated working at Wigan Golf Club for 25 years in July. Also congratulations to Chris Harding from Prestwich GC on his graduation.



### NORTH EAST

The section would like to congratulate Hexham's David Thompson and his wife Heather on the birth of their son Connor. Also congratulations to Simon Olver (above) on his graduation.

We would like to wish Steve Cram the best of luck in his new job as he moves from Slaley Hall GC to course manager of Archerfield GC in Scotland, Steve has been a great advert for greenkeepers in the north east, and will be an asset to Archerfield.

### NORTH WALES

The annual North West v North Wales cricket match took place on 8 July at Ashley Cricket Club and in a tight match the North West won the game by 1 run with 2 balls remaining.

Well done North West and it was agreed by all that it was once again a roaring success, a great big thank you to Ashley cricket club for hosting.

### NORTHERN

June saw the Invitation day held at Brough GC. In the morning a demonstration was held by a representative from Greentek showing their latest offerings. This was followed by 18 holes of golf, results:

1 N Coultish & D Goodall, 2 I Collett & S Dale, 3 K Smith & P Neve, 4 T Coultish & M Greive. Nearest the Pins: 9th A Slingsby, 13th D Goodall. A mention must be made of Dean

Goodall's nearest the pin, the ball lipped out and finished 20cm away! The day was most enjoyable and a big thank-you must go to Brough Golf Club for their hospitality. Rob Clare and his team did a fantastic job and the course was superb, also thanks to Judith for providing us with a lovely two course dinner.

Thanks must go to Ganton Golf Club for allowing the course walk and to Phil Baldock who gave a superb tour of a beautiful course. Thanks also to Ian Collett of Rigby Taylor for providing refreshments for everyone and to everyone who attended.

Lastly for this month a big thank-you to our regional official Sandra Raper for her recent help with this section. Thanks Sandra from all the Northern committee.

### CLEVELAND

All very quiet in the Cleveland section this month. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the brief hot spell and managed to top up their Yorkshireman's tan - head and forearms!

Alistair Whitby of Lloyds held a very successful day watching Local senior league cricket at Darlington Cricket Club. In total 25 people attended from all aspects of the industry and it was great to catch up with a few faces that I hadn't seen for a while. Thanks to Darlington cricket club for the superb teas and To Alistair Whitby for organising these events.

Barnard Castle Golf Club's maintenance facility was broken into and numerous power hand tools were taken. Hopefully this is just an isolated occurrence and not the start of a spate of thefts. Needless to say be vigilant and report anything that looks suspicious.

If you have any news or information you want to share with the section let me know and I will put it in. The last couple of months have been quite difficult to gather anything to write about. The more information you can give the better the around the green section could be. I can be contacted on my mobile 07974458640, email amcgeough@aol.com or alternatively post on the BIGGA Cleveland section Facebook page.

### SHEFFIELD

The Section held their Summer Tournament at Abbeydale Golf where Warwick and the team presented the course beautifully.

Results: Best gross Paul Bracey with 80, Paul also won the best nett trophy with 68, runner up Richard Marshall with 82, third place Mike Schouler with 85. Nearest the Pin on 10th went to Gordon Brammah and on the 18th Neil Peters. Thank you to everyone who attended.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### NORTH WEST

Thanks to Cheshire Turf Machinery for sponsoring the summer tournament, and to Bathgate Amenity and Nick Gray for organizing and sponsoring the cricket match. The North West section would like to thank all of the section sponsors for the continued support that they provide, thank you.

### NORTH WALES

Thanks to Bathgate and Nick Gray for sponsoring the cricket match.

### NORTHERN

A massive thank you to Greentek, Sheriff Amenity and Tacit for their sponsorship of the Invitation Day.

### SHEFFIELD

Thanks to Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the summer tournament.

## Welcome New Members

Peter Fell, Affiliate, Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd, Luke Roberts, Greenkeeper, Llanymynech Golf Club, Jake Storey, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alnmouth Golf Club.



Tom Ince



Chris Harding



## Midland

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



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## Events Coming Up

### EAST MIDLANDS

Due to unforeseen circumstances please note a date change of the Midland Region Golf Championship from Wednesday 5 August to Wednesday 16 September. If you have already sent in an entry form along with a cheque, or have paid by BACS could you please let Roger Butler know if you would like to be added into the revised date.

If you can no longer make the new date then please let Roger know and he will return your cheque or BACS payment. There are still plenty of places available. The revised entry form is attached and is also available on the events section of the BIGGA website.

## News

### MID ANGLIA

We would like to wish Dale Housden, Course Manager from Caddington GC, all the best for his new venture in Birmingham and thank him for his support to the section over the last decade.

### EAST MIDLANDS

Well summer is here at long last the season seems to be well under way, The Open will have been and won and I stuck my money on Spieth.

I'm writing this on the 14/7 BTW and I know there is support at the Open from the East Midlands section, to those that are first timer, I hope you enjoyed it and for the regulars, I also hope it was enjoyable.

The home of golf certainly



Summer Tournament at Rothley Park GC, courtesy of Matt Gilks

is a magical place to be. East Mids BIGGA section seems to have a good base of volunteers!

The summer tournament was held at Rothley Park GC, firstly the course was in great condition and a credit to Nigel and the boys, thanks to everyone at the club for having us. I must say there needs to be handicap cut / check for Martin Hickling "technically speaking".

Winners on the day were Martin Anderson division 1 and Martin Hickling division 2. Trade winner who called it on the putting green Carl Chamberlin. Nearest the pin also went to Martin Anderson. Clean sweep, congratulations. It would be great to see some new faces at the next day and supporting the efforts of the section and the trade sponsors for the up and coming days.

Please remember to send in anything from the section or if there is anything you would like to see in added in at all.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### MID ANGLIA

Tuckwells Machinery, Avoncrop Amenity, Headland Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Farmura, Everris, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS and Rigby Taylor.

The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank their wonderful sponsors for 2015 and we are very grateful for your continued support with funds for our section.

### EAST MIDLANDS

A massive thank you to Mansfield Sands, Rigby Taylor and Farol for their sponsorship of the summer tournament.

## Welcome New Members

Thomas Williamson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Pavenham Park Golf Club, Sam Bower, First Assistant, Redditch Golf Club, Paul Tildesley, Greenkeeper, Hollywood Golf Club, Dean Gregory, Greenkeeper, Beaconsfield Golf Club, Wayne Morgan, Greenkeeper, Bromsgrove Golf Centre, Thomas Kilby, Greenkeeper, Gainsborough Golf Club, Harry Guile, Assistant Greenkeeper, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Samuel Shuttlewood, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leicestershire Golf Club, Leigh Cummings, Assistant Greenkeeper, Magnolia Park Golf & Country Club.



# Be BIGGA's best

The BIGGA National Championship 2015, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, is at Fulford Golf Club, York, on 12-13 October 2015. You can win £500 worth of vouchers - just fill in the form below to book your spot...



## BIGGA National Championship, Fulford Golf Club, 12-13 October 2015 Entry Form

### Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member  
 Affiliate Member

The entry fee of **£95** includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name .....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

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Membership No. ....

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club .....

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- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£95**  
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Start Date ..... Expiry Date .....

Last 3 security digits .....

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only) .....

Signature.....

Date.....

Or E-mail your details to:

**rachael@bigga.co.uk**

Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

### Deadline for entry is 4th September 2015

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

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

The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.


There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions.

The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.



## South East

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



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### Events Coming Up

#### SURREY

- 16 Sept Match v Reps Hankley Common GC
- 6 October Tri Counties Match Windlesham GC
- 3 November England v Scotland Hankley Common GC
- 18 November Match v Secretaries The Berkshire GC
- 4 December Turkey Trot Guildford GC

#### LONDON

The summer tournament will be at Highgate in September date still to be set and the Xmas tournament is on 8 December at Moor Park GC.

### News

#### EAST ANGLIA

It was a lovely day at Dunston Hall. The course was in fine fettle thanks to Steve Crabb and his crew. Fifty or so tried to do the course justice (most failed miserably).



Surrey McMillan Tankard

Those who did master the course however are:  
0-9 Handicap: 1 Michael Sharp 37pts, 2 Mike Virley 36. 10-18 Handicap: 1 Richard Brown AKA Nodzy 39, 2 Richard Plummer 37. 19-28 Handicap: 1 Andy Baker 35, 2 Steve Freestone 32. T&G: 1 Simon Stevens 38CB, 2 John O'Connell 38. Nearest Pin: 4th G Shillings - 9th Lewis Batch - 14th Alan Ward - 18th Asa Barber.

There was no 'longest drive' which was a bit of a shame really as someone else could have won it in Michael Buck's absence!

Pause for thought: I am sitting in my back garden waiting for some great tits to fledge - they are less than 10 yards away. The only sound I can hear is the chicks chirping and their parents calling. It is a welcome change from some golfer telling me how fast the greens have become since it rained! They don't need any green staff, just rain. See you all at Swaffham on 3 September.

#### SURREY

McMillan Tankard Sunningdale GC 30th July results: 1 Gary Ogilvie 35, 2 Joe Sexton 34, 3 Joe Curtis 32. Longest Drive Gavin Kyle, Nearest Pin Joe Curtis.

Great to see Billy and Bob McMillan together celebrating 30 years history of the McMillan Tankard which is held every year at Sunningdale. Big thank you to Bob from the Artisans, Jamie Wilson and all the Sunningdale team who provided courtesy of the course, great food and ensured we had a superb day. Gareth Roberts managed the barbecue serving up flame grilled delights to all.

#### LONDON

The London section had a great spring tournament on Wednesday 24th June which was the qualifier for the national tournament, held at the very nice Bush Hill Park. Course Manager Graham Capeford had the course presented in excellent condition and this was reflected in the scores:

1 Robin Toovey 42, 2 Paul Homes 42, 3 Adam Clark 40. NTP was Robin Toovey with a hole in one. L/D Graham Jones. Trade winner was Simon Banks with a average round scoring 46 points!

### Thanks to Sponsors

#### EAST ANGLIA

The main sponsors at Dunston Hall were Bartram Mowers and the prizes were presented by Mr Alabaster. Other donations came from Jacobsen, Toro, Ben Burgess, Earnest Doe, Tacit, Headland, Aitkens, SGI, Everris and Rigby Taylor.

#### LONDON

Many thanks to the main sponsor Bank Amenity and to Bush Hill Park for great hospitality and food at the spring tournament.


### Welcome New Members

Michael Mead, Course Manager, Littlehampton Golf Club, Thomas Bissett, Greenkeeper, Swinley Forest Golf Club, Gavin Sinclair, Mechanic, The Wentworth Club, Oliver Lewinski, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cuddington Golf Club.

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 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 WEST

Once again the section is sponsoring places to BTME in January 2016. This is a fantastic opportunity with accommodation provided, please email our section address before 1 November with a short piece on why you would like to attend for your chance to benefit.

The South West Summer tournament is at Bristol & Clifton GC on 10 September. All entries to southwestbigga@outlook.com

18 November Regional Conference at Somerset Country Cricket Club

15 December South West Section Christmas Tournament

#### SOUTH COAST

This month sees our third Turf Club of 2015 taking place at Hockley GC on the 18th. A lot of our section are enjoying the informal nature of these events and are enjoying the networking potential that they provide. The support given to these events has been more than encouraging. Based on this success, some exciting ideas regarding the Turf Club were discussed at a recent committee meeting - watch this space and our section Twitter and Facebook accounts for upcoming announcements!

### News

#### SOUTH WEST

Great news from the Rigby Taylor Team Challenge with South West Section taking the honours, many thanks to the South Wales Section and South West secretaries for the stiff competition - particularly from Jim Croxton - and the team at The Players for their efforts.

Thanks to Matthew James and the team at Cumberwell Park GC for hosting the latest Turf Club, the afternoon was a success with nearly 40 delegates. A

big thank you to all our patrons whose support allowed the day to be free of charge, and thank you to Roger Davey at Irritech Ltd for contributing to the day's proceedings.

The Open was a brilliant week, eventful with some typical British summer weather. A great time was had by all on the team including the South West guys Ed Parsloe, Joe Curtis, Tom Wright, Darren Moxham, Chris Sealey and myself.

Finally congratulations to the South West & South Wales Regional Administrator Tracey Harvey and her fiancé Leighton Walker who are getting married at the end of August, best wishes from all in the South West.

#### SOUTH WALES

A ten man team headed across the bridge to Bristol on Tuesday 16 June to play for the Rigby Taylor challenge match. A great day, great course and company, dare I mention we came last. The GCMA South West came second and BIGGA South West triumphed first place, congratulations. We will hopefully regain the match when you come to us next year.

A reminder again to all members of sponsored places for BTME and Regional Conference if interested please contact P. Handy or S. Lloyd.

Congratulation to Pontardawe GC & Llanishen GC 1st & 2nd place at BIGGA Golf Management Trophy played at Cradoc GC. 10 teams played I heard the course was in excellent condition thanks to Robin Cheney. A good day had by all.

#### SOUTH COAST

A great day was had by all at our recent Summer Tournament held at Southwick Park Golf Club. The event was a "Yellow Ball" competition that proved to be fun for members of all golfing abilities. Congratulations go to Dave Smart, Russell Riley, Simon Justice and Bev Blair who won the day with 33 points. A big thank you to all at Southwick Park for giving us such a warm welcome and in particular James Fancy and his team for delivering us a course in such great condition.

The Open will have been and gone by the time this reaches you, but congratulations once again to Tom Smith from Wickham Park GC and Luke Elgie from Rushmore GC for representing our section and being part of the support team this year.

To help us maintain a successful section, please remember to settle all accounts relating to fixtures and training events promptly. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members if you are unsure of how, where or when to pay.

### Thanks to Sponsors

#### SOUTH WEST

A big thank you to our patrons for their continued support - Ecosolve, Headland Amenity, Countrywide Farmers, Irritech Ltd, H Curtis & sons, TH Whites, Greensman and Farmura.

### Welcome New Members

David Thomas, Affiliate, Complete Weed Control, Meirion Lloyd Martinson, Greenkeeper, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Levi Pethick, Greenkeeper, Stoneham Golf Club, Daniel Dimond, Greenkeeper, Tidworth Garrison Golf Club, Jon Arthur, Greenkeeper, Tidworth Garrison Golf Club, Martin Pope, Greenkeeper, Tidworth Garrison Golf Club, James Fancy, Head Greenkeeper, Southwick Park Golf Club, Adrian Heckford, Student, Kingston Maurward College, James Tibbles, Assistant Greenkeeper, Parkstone Golf Club, Matthew Redgrave, Assistant Greenkeeper, Tidworth Garrison Golf Club.

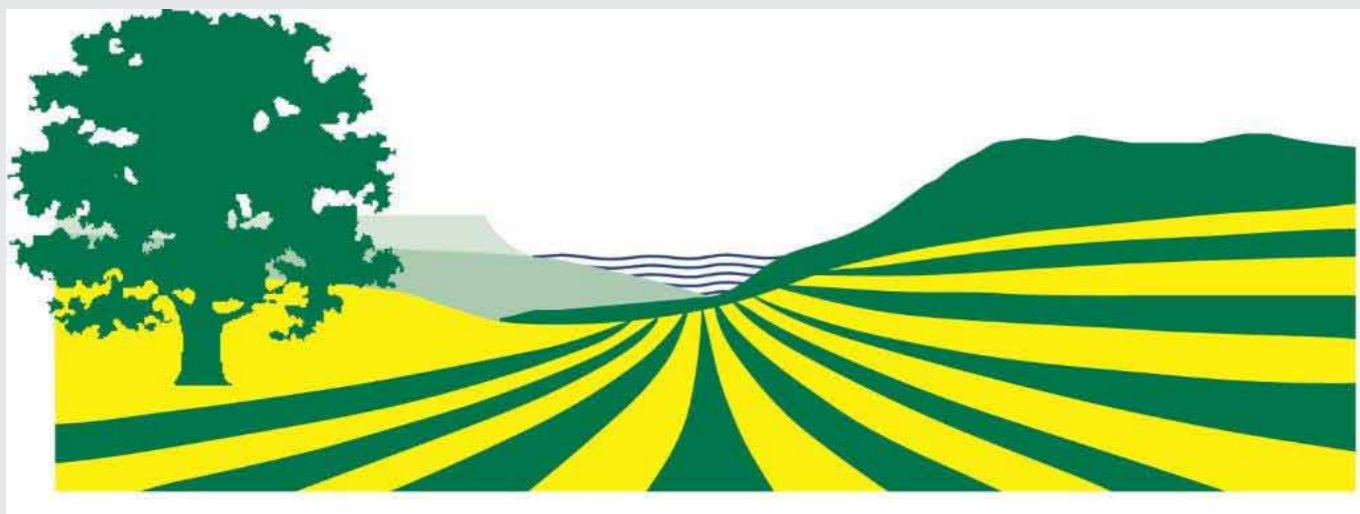
### Welcome New International Members

Andrew Sprunt, Florissant Golf Club (USA), David Perdisatt, Naas Golf Club (Republic of Ireland).



# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Stokes and James Pashley from Plumpton College explain how they are preparing to deliver the new Golf Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Standard from September



**Plumpton College, one of the GTC's Quality Assured Centres, has a long history in delivering greenkeeper education and continues to ensure its programmes meet the requirements of the industry.**

The Government's Trailblazer Apprenticeship reform policy has firmly put employers in the driving seat for apprenticeship design and delivery. Plumpton College has been involved in several meetings with the GTC Trailblazer working groups and is pleased to be one of the first colleges in England to offer the new GTC Golf Greenkeeper apprenticeship programme from September.

This new Trailblazer Apprenticeship follows employer led standards and is specifically developed for the golf industry. The new apprenticeship scheme is tailored to developing new apprentices who have the drive, enthusiasm and business acumen to make strong contributions to business performance.

The apprenticeship will include an improved Level 2 qualification with all the skills, knowledge and behaviours required to become a golf greenkeeper. James Pashley, Head of Horticulture, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for anyone wishing to pursue a high flying, prestigious career in the golf industry."

David Golding, GTC Education Director, added: "I am extremely pleased that Plumpton College are working with the GTC to develop and deliver the new Apprenticeship in Golf Greenkeeping."

"This new apprenticeship was developed by industry and will be ideal for those employers looking to train up the supervisors and managers of the future. This new Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship is ideally suited to those apprentices looking to develop the skills, knowledge and the employment attributes to become Assistant Greenkeepers and who would be looking to make a significant contribution to the business's performance."

So, who are these apprenticeships aimed at?

The Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship is designed to take people with dedication and a good potential to learn from a basic start point to become a budding Assistant Greenkeeper within two years. The qualification will provide candidates with strong progression opportunities within the work place and also onto further levels of apprenticeship. A high standard of delivery and assessment both at college and within the work place will set these candidates in good stead for a bright future career.

Plumpton College is now looking for enthusiastic golf greenkeeper

employers to work in partnership to begin delivery of the first of these new apprenticeships. The role of the golf club's Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper is extremely important as they will be responsible to give the apprentice the day to day training and support required to ensure progress is made. Plumpton College will be also looking to support employers manage the new funding initiatives announced by the Government.

Through the GTC Trailblazer group, there are two more apprenticeships under development; these are the Advanced Golf Greenkeeper Level 3 and Golf Course Manager which is likely to be accredited at Level 5.

If you are interested in putting forward a strong candidate for this opportunity, please contact James Pashley Head of Horticulture at Plumpton College, or Corrine Hills Work-based learning manager.

James Pashley: Tel 01273 892044 Email: pashleyj@plumpton.ac.uk

Corrine Hills: Tel 01273 892049 Email: hillsc@plumpton.ac.uk www.plumpton.ac.uk



The GTC is funded by:



#### Contact Details

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and Standards Director,  
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
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Near Alne  
York  
YO61 1UF

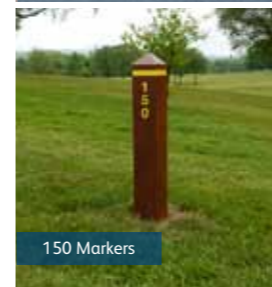
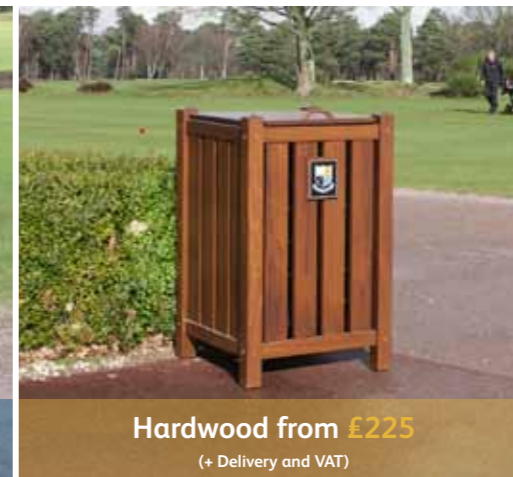
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This legislation requires preventative measures to be taken to ensure there is no risk of causing groundwater pollution. Installing a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System ensures compliance and avoids the risk of a criminal offence as it is illegal to allow substances including mineral oils, detergents and chemicals to enter surface drains, watercourses or Soakaways.

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"We are delighted so many clubs are taking their environmental responsibilities seriously with record numbers installing our Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System in the last 12 months", commented Tim Earley, Managing Director, Waste2Water. "The upturn started in the middle of 2014 and enquiries have continued to flood in ever since!"

Non-compliance is a criminal offence and this is now further backed up with civil powers to levy penalties on transgressors

without the burden of proof required under criminal proceedings:

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- Up to 3 months imprisonment for the most serious pollution incidents.
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Installing a Waste2Water Recycling Wash System Ensures Compliance

In addition to providing a superb wash facility, the Recycling Wash-Off System rapidly treats potential pollutants arising from golf course maintenance operations. Equipment Wash-Off, Refueling, Degreasing, Chemical Mixing and any other potentially polluting activities can all be undertaken on the pad, removing any risk of groundwater pollution.

If you haven't already upgraded your equipment wash facilities, call us now for a free no-obligation site visit!

TIM EARLEY (Waste2Water)

For further info on the Waste2Water System or a copy of the Pollution Prevention Guidelines please call. 01782 373 878 or e-mail: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com)

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# Recruitment

**The Greenkeeper International recruitment pages are here to help you match the right person to the right job.**

With a monthly circulation reaching over 15,000 people, targeted direct to your industry, you will be guaranteed to find a high calibre of candidates to fill your positions.

The magazine is read by greenkeepers across the UK and the world at a huge variety of facilities, by turf managers of various experience and different roles. It is also delivered to the trade, to educational facilities and many more establishments.

Its unrivalled reach across the turf management industry means it is the perfect place to advertise your vacancy. Just contact BIGGA's Sales Team to place your ad.



## Deputy Course Manager

The Scandinavian (www.thescandinavian.dk) in Copenhagen is an exclusive, privately owned golf club, which offers a golf experience out of the ordinary. The two 18-hole golf courses were designed by Robert Trent Jones II. The Scandinavian is seeking a Deputy Course Manager with 5-6 years greenkeeping experience, preferably in a senior role. Experience of growth and soil conditions in a climate similar to Denmark, and experience of maintenance of creeping bent grass is a definite advantage.

Interested? Please call Pernille Bregenhøj (+45) 2221 5538 at Qvist Executive Search (www.qvist-search.com) for more information regarding the job and the recruitment process.

## Assistant Greenkeeper

Tyrrells Wood Golf Club is looking to recruit an experienced and qualified Assistant Greenkeeper to join our skilled team on a full time basis. We are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated individual who will be involved in the daily presentation of the course, project work and other aspects of grounds maintenance to ensure the course and estate are presented to a consistently high level.

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Please apply in writing or via email, to include both CV and cover letter to: Paul Sheather, Course Manager, Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, The Drive, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8QP  
E: course.manager@tyrrellswoodgolfclub.com

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**Closing date for applications is 31st August 2015**

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Everris UK & Ireland Turf & Amenity

### About you

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You will know our brands, but you might not realise the strength of the business behind them. Everris®, formerly known as Scotts, is an ICL Specialty Fertilizers Company, part of the ICL group that employs more than 11,500 people globally. We are world-leaders in the ornamental horticulture, turf and amenity, and specialty agricultural sectors. Our factories produce market-leading brands including Sierrablend, Greenmaster®, Levington and Osmocote® which are used and trusted by horticultural professionals around the world and we are a key partner to some of the world's leading agrochemical manufacturers. Our team is passionate about optimising plant and turf performance. We are a customer-orientated organization and take great pride in the integrity and precision of our world-class product portfolios, and our commitment to research and development.

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## Area Sales Manager – Golf Sector

### The Scope;

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The Turf division is looking to recruit an Area Sales Manager, ideally South East based to support the sales team in promoting and selling our turf maintenance equipment brands specifically to end user customers within the Golf club and Irrigated sports areas in the county of Surrey and South London.

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

Candidates will be highly motivated professionals with a pro-active approach and who 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.

This position carries a full remuneration and benefits package including a company vehicle.

If this challenge appeals to you and you feel you have the necessary experience and qualities to take on this role you should apply in writing providing a full CV including salary expectations to;

Jayne Ambler, HR Manager, Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH or Email Jambler@lely.com.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. Closing Date for applications is 14th August 2015

# Recruitment



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Effingham Golf Club is looking to recruit a qualified Assistant Greenkeeper to join our skilled team on a full time basis. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the ongoing development of this Open Qualifying course.  
 Applicants should have an NVQ level 2 sports turf qualification.  
 If you would like the opportunity of becoming a positive member of our professional maintenance team and possess a strong desire to join this forward thinking golf club, apply in writing or email, with CV and cover letter to:  
 Jonathan Budd, Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey  
 KT24 5PZ  
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### HEAD GREENKEEPER


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 A sound knowledge of green keeping machinery and maintenance  
 A detailed knowledge of Health & Safety regulations

**Essential Qualifications:** 5 years Greenkeeping supervisory experience  
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 Please email your CV with covering letter to  
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 Further details at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)





### Experienced Greenkeeper

Copthorne Hotel Effingham Gatwick is currently looking for an experienced and qualified Greenkeeper to join our team to look after our popular 9-hole golf course. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about golf course maintenance and driving the course forward.

The ideal applicant will possess the following attributes and qualifications:

- Full driving license
- Flexible and able to work at weekends when required
- Self-motivated
- Excellent interpersonal skills, and an ability to communicate with members as well as colleagues
- Strong time management skills
- Ability to operate a range of green keeping equipment
- Basic mechanical and machine maintenance skills
- Relevant qualifications
- A strong work ethic and ability to demonstrate they can work as part of a team and as an individual

In return we will offer the successful candidates a number of fantastic benefits such as:

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Please forward a CV along with a covering letter and salary expectations to HR Department, Copthorne Hotel Effingham Gatwick, West Park Road, Copthorne, West Sussex, RH10 3EU. Alternatively, please send via email to [recruitment.gatwick@millenniumhotels.co.uk](mailto:recruitment.gatwick@millenniumhotels.co.uk) with 'Greenkeeper Vacancy' as the subject line.



### ROYAL WORLINGTON & NEWMARKET GOLF CLUB

#### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER.

Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper.

Full Time, or Part Time Contract available. Salary dependent on experience. Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club is an exclusive Private Members Club based in Suffolk. The "Sacred Nine", as it is often known, has 9 holes steeped in history and tradition. The Club was formed in 1893 and is also home to the Cambridge University Golf Club.

The Club require a full, or part time experienced Assistant Greenkeeper to join our Greenkeeping team to assist the team in providing a first class Golf Course to its members and visitors.

To Apply - Applicants are required to submit a CV together with a covering letter outlining their suitability for the role to Scott Ballentine, Secretary  
 Email [secretary@royalworlington.co.uk](mailto:secretary@royalworlington.co.uk) Closing date 28th August 2015.



### Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper

(Full time 40 hours per week with seasonal variation plus overtime)

An exciting opportunity has arisen at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa to join our dedicated greenkeeping team, working to present our golf course to a championship standard. Working under the direction of the Course Manager, you will be responsible for the daily presentation of the course, project work and other aspects of maintenance that will improve and enhance the course.  
 Ideally you will have at least 3 years previous experience in a similar position and hold a minimum NVQ level 2 in sports turf.  
 PA1, 2 & 6 Spraying Certificates would be desirable  
 If you are interested in the opportunity to join our professional team, and have a strong desire to work at our luxury resort then please send your CV and cover letter via email or in writing to the HR Department ([careers@themeresort.co.uk](mailto:careers@themeresort.co.uk))

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 Contact Jill Rodham on  
 01347 833 812

# BARONESS Turfcare Equipment

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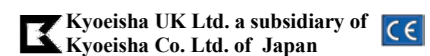
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# @BIGGALtd

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

## Our favourite tweets this month...

### @gavinwhiteNI

New construction fully under way for the Open Championship @royalportrush @greenkeepingire @BIGGALtd

### @TheHomeofGolf

What a week and what an Open Championship! Huge credit to these unsung heroes - our Greenkeeping team. #TheOpen

### @gord\_mckie

@TheHomeofGolf @TheOpen Top job by top men & girls #oldcourse #teamwork

### @RobSandilands

Last (unexpected) day for the @BIGGALtd @TheOpen support team at @TheHomeofGolf . A great team effort and a credit to the industry.

### @paul\_armour

Last morning @TheOpen @BIGGALtd

### @ZBTurf411

Great article on @DMGCCSupt in Greenkeeper International, a @BIGGALtd publication. Totally worth the membership!

### @PaulLawriegolf

Unbelievable job by all greenkeepers onsite @TheOpen this week for play to re start

### @TheHomeofGolf

6 hours after #raindelay we'd like to #thankgreenkeepers everywhere. Work tirelessly and overcome Mother Nature too!

### @avrogreenkeeper

Do find myself watching the background more than the golf, at The Open. To see @BIGGALtd members :-)

### @ivers1983

@BIGGALtd Dan McGuckin been a busy boy this morning! #TheOpen

### @ConnahSimon

Hope all the @BIGGALtd Volunteers & Staff have a fantastic week here in St.Andrews. Welcome to the @TheHomeofGolf

### @Tracey\_Maddison

Great to watch the #greenkeeping team swing into action early this morning @BIGGALtd @TheHomeofGolf @TheOpen

### @ActonJaime

Congratulations to @lukeelgie of @RushmoreGolf for being part of the @BIGGALtd Open support team 2015. Have a safe journey and amazing time!



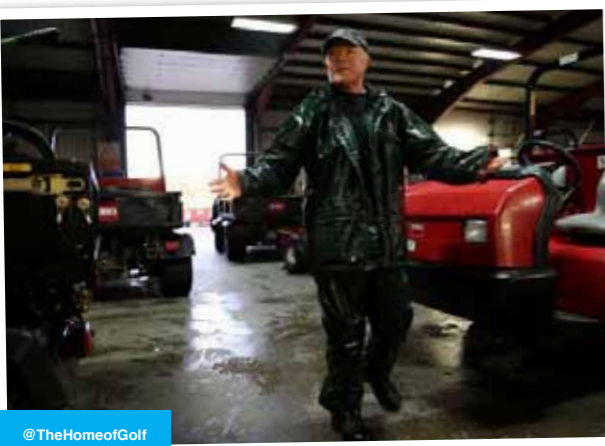
@ConnahSimon



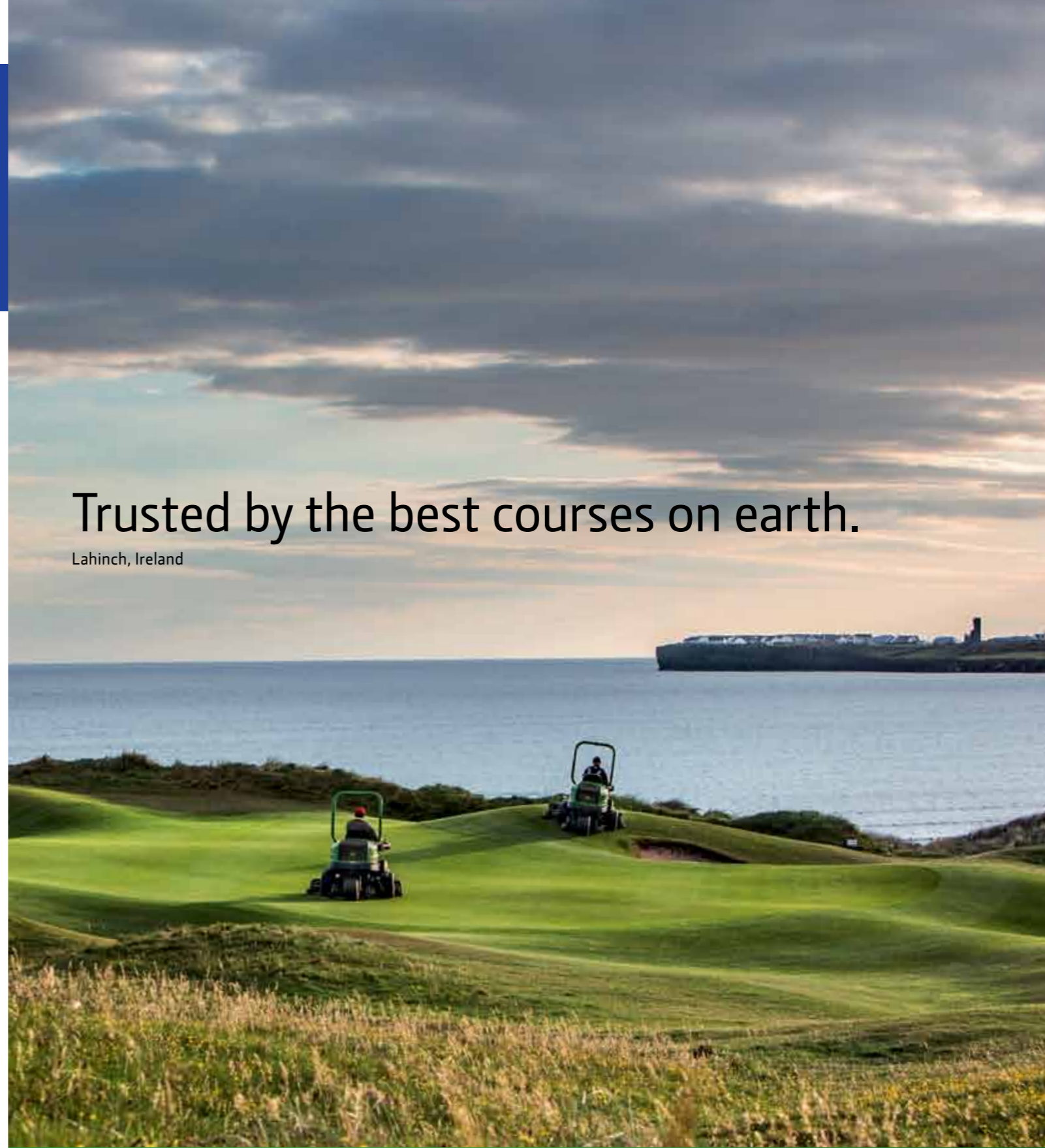
@Tracey\_Maddison



@gavinwhiteNI



@TheHomeofGolf



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