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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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MALCOLM**

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BIGGA Chairman**

Show business

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a bustling BIGGA
Turf Management
Exhibition 2015**



ALSO INSIDE... LES HOWKINS MG IS NEW BIGGA CHAIRMAN



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WELCOME FROM BIGGA



Bustling and businesslike BTME

After a fantastic BTME last month, matters were brought into perspective when we heard the news of the passing of former chairman, George Malcolm.

It is worth reflecting on the comparative youth of the Association, as recently as 30 years ago there was no united voice for the greenkeeping industry. George, as chairman of the BGGGA, was instrumental in the coming together of all the disparate associations and was very proud to serve as BIGGA's fifth chairman in 1991. I would like to pass on my condolences to all George's family and friends.

BIGGA has come a very long way since then and nowhere was that more evident than at BTME 2015.

A bustling and businesslike exhibition was complemented by four days of outstanding education. As ever, the unique environment of Harrogate provided a fabulous backdrop to the event meaning that networking and turf chat continued seamlessly from the Exhibition Centre to the town itself.

I am hugely grateful to the 130+ companies who chose to exhibit, the dozens of educators who imparted wisdom and of course the 4,000+ visitors who came and shared the experience. Even snow on the Tuesday night had little to no impact on the overall success of the event.

It was brilliant to have 16 of the 26 former BIGGA Chairmen present at the inaugural Chairman's Lunch.

This was nearly the final act of Chris Sealey's year at the helm, coming just a couple of hours before he handed over to Les Howkins MG. It has been a privilege to work closely with Chris for the last 12 months, he is a true gentleman of the industry and very passionate about the Association.

Under his stewardship we implemented the most comprehensive review of BIGGA's governance in our history and I know he was thrilled the amended Articles of Association were approved unanimously.

Five members were awarded Life Membership at the AGM, all extremely deserving for lifetimes dedicated to the industry and the Association.

I was particularly pleased to see Clive Osgood, chairman in 2001 and our Regional Administrator for the South East, receive this honour. Despite the odd infirmity in recent years, Clive has given his entire working life to the betterment of the Association and has done so with dignity. Well done Clive.

At the opposite end of the career spectrum it was inspiring to meet the youngsters who have been nominated to form our first Young Greenkeepers Committee. BIGGA is in good health but we must continue to plan for the future and adapt to meet the needs of the younger generations, I know that the input of the Young Greenkeepers will be instrumental in helping us achieve that.

This magazine contains a thorough review of BTME, the success of which serves as a motivation to ensure the 2016 event is even bigger and better.

We have opened a fifth Hall in the Exhibition Centre to cope with exhibitor demand, our plans for the education programme are already underway and I am confident it will yet again be the highlight of the greenkeeping calendar. Thanks to all that helped make BTME 2015 such a great start to the year.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
BIGGA CEO



Chairman's Word

New BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at Richmond Golf Club, pens his first column for GI

New beginnings at BTME 2015

It's quite surreal to be sat drafting my first Chairman's Word column for Greenkeeper International, never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be in this position and I find it an incredible honour to have been chosen to represent BIGGA in this role.

As a young greenkeeper starting out in the late eighties when BIGGA was still in its infancy, I worked at Kibworth Golf Club in Leicester where my passion for greenkeeping was driven by the Head Greenkeeper Chris Butlin. If I am completely honest, my dream was to be a golf pro, but I wasn't good enough. However I retained the love of the sport and fell into greenkeeping, firstly as a temporary summer employee, then full-time and I haven't looked back since.

The industry has given me over 25 great years of employment and I have loved every day (well almost every day!) - it's offered me some fantastic opportunities and I have made so many amazing friends along the way.

The build up to BTME is always filled with excitement. My two young daughters count down to Christmas in sleeps and I do the same with BTME, I know it's a little bit sad but I'm sure I'm not the only one. This year was even more exciting than normal, knowing that I was becoming Chairman on the Wednesday evening.

The Continue to Learn programme this year was bigger and better than ever and was matched by the largest number of delegates in its history. A massive thanks must go to the team at BIGGA House for all their hard work before and during the event, also thank you to all the members from across the UK and abroad for continuing to support the fabulous education programme.

With the exhibition again filling four halls there was a real buzz around the place and with the three big machinery manufacturers committed to exhibiting on a larger scale in 2016, I feel it is clear that BTME is fulfilling the industry's needs and the future is very strong. Please be assured that the board and senior staff will never become complacent and will continually strive to make BTME better.



"My two young daughters count down to Christmas in sleeps and I do the same with BTME. This year was even more exciting knowing I was becoming Chairman"

The AGM as usual was held in the Queens Suite of the Harrogate International Centre. I appreciate that BTME is an incredibly busy week for everyone, but it would be great to see more members attending what is a very important event.

The most crucial part of this year's AGM was the vote on the new Articles of Association which went through unanimously which was very pleasing after all the hard work that went into producing them over the last 18 months.

The adoption of the new Articles gives the Association a modern governance structure and ensures our compliance with the Companies Act.

It is the intention of the Board of Management to review this document on an annual basis. It will become a living document that can be tweaked on a regular basis if necessary, and voted on by the members at the AGM.

This should save us going through the long process of overhauling the

constitution and governance which has taken up much time and effort over the last couple of years.

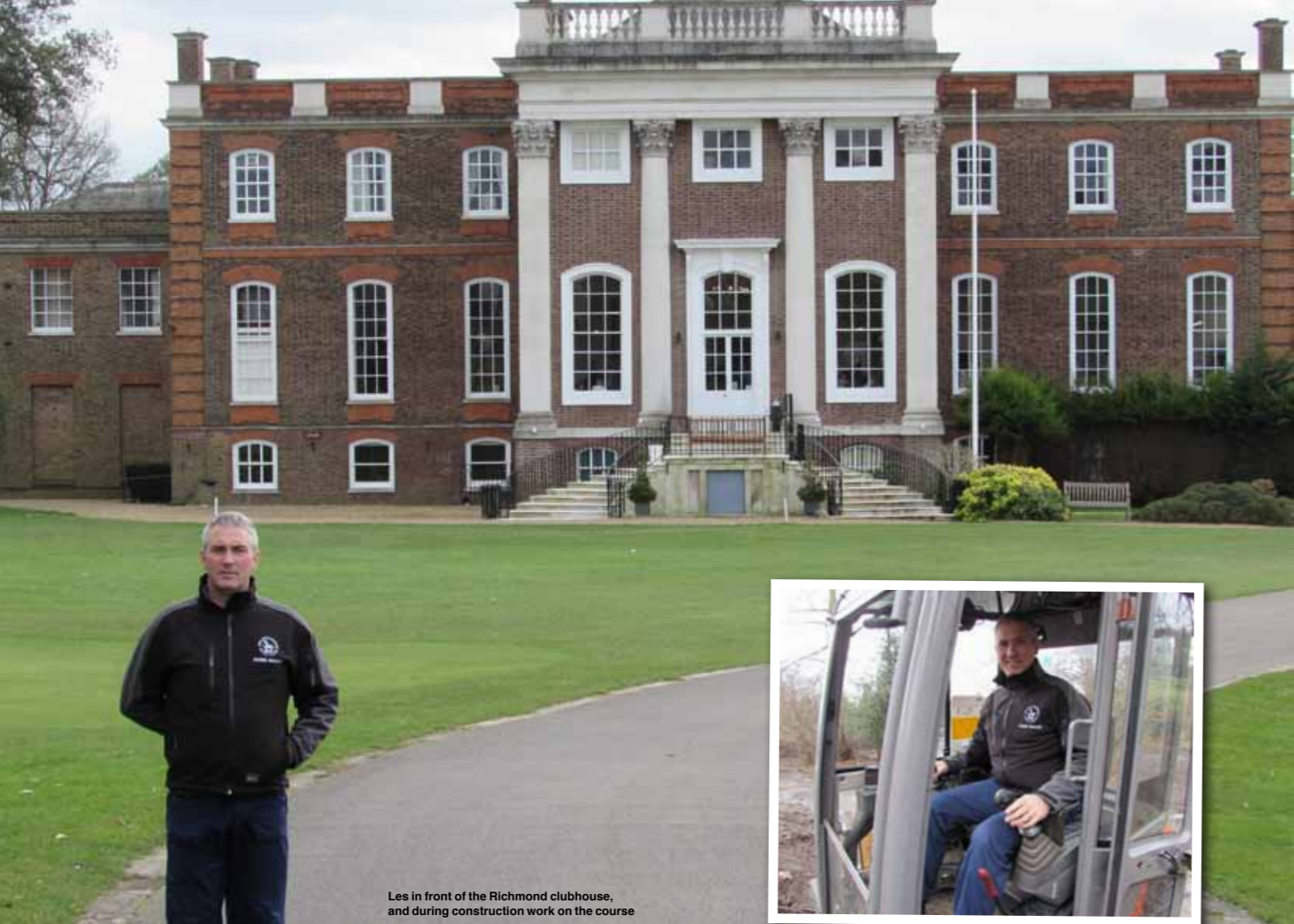
The AGM also marked the end of Arnold Phipps-Jones' time on the Board of Management. Arnold has been heavily involved with BIGGA for many years and has served as South East Board of Management member for the last four and a half years.

In this time he has devoted many hours to the Association and his input will be missed, on behalf of the Board I would like to thank Arnold for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

He has been replaced by Andy Baker, Head Greenkeeper at Ely City Golf Club. I know he will bring lots of ideas and enthusiasm to the table and I look forward to working with him over the coming year.

The AGM went very smoothly with a slightly emotional Chris Sealey giving a heartfelt speech in his final moments as Chairman.





Les in front of the Richmond clubhouse, and during construction work on the course

I was moved by the support of past Chairmen, Board members and all who attended the AGM. This continued later in the evening when I went for a celebratory drink in the well-known pub located in the Old Winter Gardens. My entrance was fairly normal – my team wanted to carry me in on their shoulders like Cleopatra but decided I was too heavy despite my recent weight loss! It was an unforgettable day for me.

During my year as Vice Chairman I got to know last year's Chairman very well and what an honour it was. Chris Sealey is a true gentleman, has been a credit to our Association for many years and has guided the Board and BIGGA House team in a truly professional manner over the last 12 months.

Chris has carried out a huge amount of work behind the scenes that most members just don't see. He has been the perfect role model for me and I will endeavour to carry on all of his good work.

So, what does the business of Chairman hold in store for 2015? Well at the last Board meeting we held a session where it was decided that a new strategic plan for the Association was required. This will not be rushed, and member feedback will be needed to ensure the plan is in line with member and industry needs and expectations.

Initially it will require member involvement in a survey with possibly more to follow. We will endeavour to make

these surveys user friendly, and I urge all members to take part and get involved in shaping the future of greenkeeping for the greenkeepers now and the future.

Education is a matter close to my heart. I've benefitted from many BIGGA training courses over the years and I can see 2015 being a very important year for the L&D department.

Last year saw BIGGA invited to sit around the table with the GTC and government departments to discuss and plan the new trailblazer apprenticeships.

The very fact we were invited to the discussions table is a massive step in the right direction for our Association. We are currently developing our own accreditation scheme, which will eventually encompass all levels of education from Apprentice to Master Greenkeeper and form the backbone of a professional registration system.

The new CPD scheme has also been up and running for over 18 months now and we are now approaching 1000 registered members. We will be working hard on the other 5000 in the year ahead!

I must also thank everyone at Richmond Golf Club and the team of greenkeepers that work with me. Without the support of the club and the team, taking up the role as BIGGA Chairman would not have been possible.

I have every confidence that when I am away on Association business the course will be in good hands and their

pride, passion and dedication for the job will not waiver. In fact they always say they get more done when I am not there! I usually respond with "it's all down to the leadership"...the reality is, it's down to sheer hard work.

As we move in to February and towards the spring, winter projects are coming to an end, you start to see welcoming pictures on social media of daffodils in flower and the focus changes back to course conditioning. I sincerely hope the weather is kind and we can all get our courses in great shape early in the season to provide our members, guests and visitors with a fantastic golfing experience.

Remember, if you have any problems BIGGA offers an extremely extensive support network through the various helplines and the section committees and Regional Administrators. Support from your RA is one of the many benefits of membership. However, all too often they are called in too late to be of any real help, so don't be afraid to use their skills at the first signs of a problem.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone the best for the forthcoming season, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at forthcoming events.

Contact details

Les Howkins MG, BIGGA Chairman
chairman@bigga.co.uk

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



Bayer CropScience



Gallagher Health



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW TOURNAMENT

This year sees a brand new event added to the European Tour Race to Dubai Series. The inaugural Paul Lawrie Matchplay will take place at Murcar Links Golf Club from 30 July – 2 August.

This is another great event heading for Aberdeen right on the back of the successful Aberdeen Asset Scottish Open which was held in the city in 2014.

The format will be 64 of the top players in the Race to Dubai series playing a straight knockout over the 4 days with the new champion being crowned on the Sunday afternoon.

As with any major golf tournament, the ultimate success of it relies on volunteers from within the industry giving up their time to assist the existing Murcar Links team in the daily set up of the golf course.

Volunteers are required, and tasks involved include greens cutting, approach cutting, tees cutting, fairway cutting, bunker maintenance, divoting and more.

There will be accommodation provided at no cost to anyone wishing to be involved in the support team for the tournament.

Those interested should contact Course Manager Bob Mackay at greens@murcarlinks.com for further information.



BIGGA MIDLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE COMING SOON

The BIGGA Midland Regional Conference is on Wednesday 25 February at Stonebridge Golf Club in Coventry.

The day will be kicked off by Pete Newton, Head Greenkeeper at Rockliffe Hall Golf Club, who will be focusing on growing creeping bent in the north of England.

He will be followed by Agronomic Services' David Snowden who will be looking at the importance and efficiency of rootzone.

Next up will be STRI's Jonathan Tucker who will discuss bunker design and construction, and after lunch the conference

welcomes Alan Ferguson, Head Groundsman at St George's Park. He will be focusing on the building of new hybrid pitches and how many of their maintenance strategies have been influenced by the world of golf.

Another excellent educational day will be concluded by John Lockyer from The Wisley, with his presentation entitled 'Working with New Techniques'.

To book, download the booking form from the events list at bigga.org.uk or contact Roger Butler on 07525 593359 or email roger@bigga.co.uk

GOLF DAY

The ever-popular South East Region annual Golf and Dinner Day will this year be held on Friday 6 March at Walton Heath Golf Club.

This is one of the longest running events in the greenkeeping industry and is sure to be another super day.

For more details please contact Clive Osgood, BIGGA's South East Regional Administrator on cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk, 01737 819343 or 07841 948410.



So, what's a Turf Club?

Recently the Lancaster Turf Club met at Garstang Golf Club where the open forum event discussed a range of topics including diseases, budgeting and the current economic climate for the golf industry. Not quite what was expected - but that's Turf Club!

Warren Bevan, Course Manager at Lancaster Golf Club, opened proceedings by explaining how some eight years ago he, Scott Reeves (Course Manager at Leyland GC) and John Ibison (Course Manager at Garstang) had the idea to hold informal meetings locally to talk about all matters turf related.

Whilst the concept met with a measure of scepticism they went on and called the first of many monthly meetings that were supported by 20-40 greenkeepers, all of whom enjoyed the camaraderie, information sharing and support these gatherings brought with them.

The meetings were resurrected last autumn and have proved popular.

The guys have no secret formula - they just pick a venue, share the date and time

with as many people as possible via Twitter and Facebook and use their Regional Administrator to email members and obtain a CPD Code. Yes - these meetings are educational and attract a CPD Credit.

Who attends? Anyone who wants to! The venue is usually free and whoever attends either pays for their own food or a company can sponsor it and give an educational seminar.

How does it help? Well you get to spend time with like minded, dedicated turf care professionals.

Is it an extension of BTME? Yes it probably is - it gives you an opportunity to get together with other members and chat in a relaxed environment.

The next meeting is from 6pm on Monday 9 February at Garstang Golf Club, and three greenkeepers have been tasked to do a 10 minute presentation on any topic greenkeeping related. This is a good way to develop skills for presenting and public speaking too.

NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The BIGGA Northern Region Conference is being held at Chester Le Street Golf Club on Wednesday, 11 March. Admission is FREE to BIGGA members and £20 for Affiliate and Non Members.

Speakers include Adam Newton, STRI Turfgrass Agronomist, who will be discussing the use of objective measurements to optimise surface performance for major golf tournaments.

Next is Ben Taylor for Bernhard with a workshop on cutting unit technologies, followed by Steve Chappell's hugely popular and entertaining presentation on greenkeeping before, during and after the

2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles.

Steve will be followed by Philip Russell, R&A Golf Course Affairs Manager, who will be discussing everything from The Open to sustainability.

An educational and fun day will be rounded off by BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison, whose presentation will cover BIGGA Support and how to get involved in the many opportunities the Association offers.

To book, download the booking form from the events list at bigga.org.uk or contact Sandra Raper on 07866 366966 or email Sandra@bigga.co.uk



Dennis Archer

Everyone at BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of Dennis Archer, 77, former BIGGA Board of Management member and ex-Head Greenkeeper at Whitchurch Golf Club in Cardiff.

The former RAF serviceman helped build the golf course at RAF St Athan while still in the forces. He went on to be part of the team that constructed the first phase of the course at Castell Heights Golf Club in Caerphilly, then joined Whitchurch as Head Greenkeeper in 1983.

Mike Stokes took over from Dennis as Head Greenkeeper at the parkland course, which celebrated its centenary last year, and credits him with passing on extensive greenkeeping expertise.

Mike said: "He was a very, very knowledgeable greenkeeper and wasn't one of the 'old guard' who resisted change. He went to college in his forties to further his greenkeeping knowledge, and was always up to date and willing to use modern machinery and techniques.

"The reason Whitchurch has such a good reputation is mainly down to his 19 years of tireless work until his retirement in 2002. He lived for the job and would work all the hours that God sends.

"I learnt so much from him, and would not have been the greenkeeper I am today without the period I spent working alongside Dennis as his Deputy. "He was a lovely, lovely man and will be sorely missed by all who knew him."

Dennis, who passed away on 6 January, leaves a wife and two daughters.

AQUATROLS REACH AGREEMENT WITH HOME OF GOLF



Aquatrols, the world leader in soil surfactant technology, is pleased to announce that it has reached a three-year agreement with the St Andrews Links Trust to supply Revolution and other Aquatrols products to all seven courses at St Andrews through 2017.

According to Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews, the agreement with Aquatrols was reached after careful consideration and years of satisfactory experience using Aquatrols products.

He said: "We have been using Aquatrols products, primarily Revolution, across our seven courses for over five years. We chose Revolution because we require a product that can achieve success in the wide

variety of soil structures that make up the Links Trust.

"Revolution allows us to optimise turf health across all of the sites and helps us to deliver the optimum conditions expected at the Home of Golf.

"We pride ourselves on working with the experts in any given field. The sheer amount of research that Aquatrols puts into its products highlights their strong commitment to the industry.

"Aquatrols' dedication to research, along with their years of demonstrated expertise and service has created a strong working relationship between us."

Representatives from Aquatrols said they were thrilled to agree to the three year deal.

Tom Malehorn, Aquatrols International Marketing Manager, said: "We are honoured to be able to supply Aquatrols and Farmura products to the St Andrews Links Trust.

"Our commitment to optimising growing conditions at St Andrews mirrors our global commitment to the turf industry as a whole."

Aquatrols President and CEO Tracy Jarman echoed that sentiment, adding:

"We take pride in delivering products that stand up to the rigorous demands of our customers.

"It brings me great joy to know that Aquatrols products are trusted at the highest levels of the turf industry."

BIGGA MEMBER JACK KICKS ON

Jack Hetherington is a BIGGA member and greenkeeper at Ponteland Golf Club, where their unique selling point is the speed of their greens.

However, this isn't the only speed and accuracy required in Jack's life after he started kickboxing for a hobby just over two years ago.

Thanks to his passion and dedication in both greenkeeping and his training, he is now travelling with his kickboxing team, Emulous Kickboxing, to

Athens to compete in the Athens Challenge, a competition that draws some of the best fighters in Europe.

Jack has already won local competitions, a beginners European Trophy and in February became British No. 2 in the Advanced World Association of Kickboxing Organisation Nationals.

Jack is also a member of the Young Greenkeeper Committee.

Good luck Jack, and watch this space for news on how he gets on!

NEW SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND CHAIRMAN



Frank Clarkson, Golf Course Superintendent at Dundonald Links, has taken on the role of South West of Scotland Section Chairman, replacing Jim Paton who is now Scottish Regional Chairman. Frank's colleague Amanda Dorans took the opportunity to speak to Frank about the position.

Amanda said: "Before we find out more about Frank, I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of my fellow Section Members to thank Jim for all of his hard work and commitment over the years and wish him good luck and every success in his new position."

AD: Frank, first of all, congratulations on your new role.

FC: Thank you, it is a great honour to represent a region which is rich in history and possesses some fine golf courses.

AD: Where did you begin your greenkeeping career and was this your first career choice?

FC: I entered the industry at the ripe old age of 27, beginning my career at Burnley Borough Council. However I soon found myself working on the golf course which at the time was short staffed. I quickly fell in love with this type of work. Prior to this I was self-employed in sales for 11 years.

AD: How long have you been in your current role?

FC: I started working for Loch Lomond Golf Club in 1996, moving to Dundonald Links in 2003.

AD: Do you have any tournament experience?

FC: I've been lucky enough to be

involved in numerous professional and amateur tournaments whilst at Dundonald and Loch Lomond. The theatrical twilight finish of the Millennium Solheim Cup will live long in my memory.

AD: How do you manage golfers expectations with your agronomic goals?

FC: Golf like many sectors in the leisure industry is going through challenging times. The key is to match customer expectation with sustainable expenditure. If we are within budget and the customer expectations are met then we have got the balance right.

AD: How has the industry changed since you began your career?

FC: Technological advances in general over the last 30 years have seen all aspects of day to day life change dramatically.

More advanced equipment and materials have made the job easier however the age of social media and greater expectations temper these advances somewhat. I don't feel the core task of managing turf has really changed.

AD: Do you play golf or participate in any other sporting pastimes? Watching Burnley FC from the sofa doesn't count!

FC: Handicap of 18, however I rarely play. Football, music and walking are my preferred past times.

AD: What would you say to your younger self?

FC: Not a lot, as I know it would fall on deaf ears.

Thanks Frank and all the best for the upcoming year.

SYNGENTA AND BIGGA SET TO HELP GOLF UNLOCK ITS TRUE POTENTIAL



Syngenta has joined forces with BIGGA to extend its exciting project to support and help to revitalise the golf industry - Unlocking Golf's True Potential.

The company has invested heavily in the future of golf, most recently through its series of widely acclaimed surveys that have identified strong areas of potential demand for the sport.

BIGGA is now delighted to be working with Syngenta towards the successful implementation of the next phase of this activity to make golf courses more attractive.

The company has been long-term supporters of greenkeepers and the turf management industry.

The key initiatives that make up the Syngenta and BIGGA partnership include:

- An education programme for greenkeepers on improving turf spray application techniques.

This will ensure greenkeepers get the best possible results from every application. It will be delivered via a series of Regional seminars and presentations alongside Best Practice articles in Greenkeeper International.

- Promotion of Operation Pollinator - Syngenta's nationwide environmental initiative to proactively create new habitats for bees and other pollinating insects, and make golf courses a more attractive place to play. The aim is to

reinforce Operation Pollinator as the number one practical environmental initiative in golf.

- Further Surveys within the greenkeeping sector to provide industry insight that will help shape future practice.

Syngenta's Caroline Carroll said: "Greenkeepers have an integral role in providing the playing surface quality, environmental features and facilities that will attract more people to play the game. Their actions are imperative in assuring the environmental and business sustainability of the clubs.

"Working closely with BIGGA at a Regional and National level will give greenkeepers access to our R&D resources and support services to

help enhance what can be achieved."

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "We're delighted to be working with one of our BIGGA Partners in this exciting initiative. We will be seeking to engage our members at Regional and National level in Operation Pollinator and the importance of correct spray application.

"This project is a step towards advancing the game through environmental sustainability."

You can find out more about Operation Pollinator, and Syngenta's innovations and products, by visiting the Syngenta turf management website:

www.greencast.co.uk

NEW ROLE FOR MASTER GREENKEEPER

Crown Golf, the UK's largest golf club owner and operator, has appointed Mike Bush MG as Group Course Manager across its portfolio of 38 golf courses at 25 separate facilities.

The 39-year old Master Greenkeeper was previously Course Manager at the company's flagship property, St Mellion International Resort, a role he took up in 2003. He will remain based at the award-winning Cornwall resort and will continue to manage the two European Tour courses there, although his new job will also see him regularly visit all of the group's clubs.

Crown Golf, which has one of the UK's largest greenkeeping teams with a greens team of nearly 200, predominately owns golf clubs in the South, with Eccleston Park GC in Merseyside and South Essex GC near Brentwood representing the group's northernmost and easternmost points respectively.

He will manage the group's Course Managers, including setting strategy and maintenance plans for each club, and will head up the group's national accounts and machinery purchasing activities.

He said: "My overriding priorities are to develop our large greens team and to continue to improve golf course quality across the Crown Golf estate."

Mike led the St Mellion team which prepared the Resort's Nicklaus Signature Course for its most recent European Tour event, the 2007 Midas Group English Seniors Open.

He added: "I know the standards required for elite golf at European Tour



level, as befits one of Europe's best-loved golf resorts, and I am looking forward to helping each of our teams achieve the maximum possible playing quality at their own courses.

"There's huge diversity between our golf courses: we have parklands on heavy clay, downlands on chalk, and SSSI sites like Hampton Court Palace.

"Every golf course is different, and it is rewarding to see a club like Eccleston Park improve year after year, until it is performing at the very top of its game."

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "Mike has demonstrated a commitment to personal development throughout his greenkeeping career and it is hugely gratifying to see his hard work recognised in this way by his employers.

"The Master Greenkeeper award is widely considered to be the foremost achievement in the profession.

"We at BIGGA are extremely proud of Mike and wish him well in this challenging role."

Late 'birds' fail to catch the early OPM 'worms'

Milder winters increase insect survival rates and rates of growth and reproduction benefit from higher spring temperatures. Winter 2013/14 was exceptionally mild, southern England essentially frost free and April 2014 the fifth consecutive month with a higher than average temperature. Fast forward for OPM.



London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) said L1 (first instar) larvae hatched three to five weeks earlier than in 2013, were at L3 by the end of April 2014 when insecticide spraying started and L4 by mid May. This quicker than normal growth and development appears to have compromised the success of insecticide spraying using *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp kurstaki* (BTK) which 'punches' a hole in the gut wall (following ingestion) to invade and kill the host. However, BTK will not kill larvae older than L2 because it cannot penetrate their resilient gut wall.

City of London Corporation, which owns and manages 11,000 acres of historic and natural open space, reported a population explosion this year. OPM nests were found in the Olympic Park at Stratford and at London Zoo, Regents Park in Westminster right on the border with Camden.

Kew Gardens reported its worst year ever with up to 1000 nests. Vast numbers of larvae swarmed around the bases of trees clearly posing high risks to visitors. Tony Kirkham, head of arboretum at Kew, told the Guardian newspaper that annual control by insecticide spraying was now a necessity. And with such large numbers of insects now in Kew Gardens and surrounding suburbs "eradication would not be possible in a million years".

First ever report of a major effect on public health came from a school in South London where 30 children developed rashes in response to contact with the urticating (stinging) hairs shed by L4 (and older) OPM larvae.

Pest monitoring with pheromone traps carried out in late summer to coincide with emergence and flight period of adult moths was extended to Queens Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. The pheromone is a laboratory designed replica of the natural sex attractant (pheromone) released by the female OPM moth to attract males during mating.

Pheromone lures are placed in tent-shaped Delta traps or the larger-capacity bucket-shaped Funnel traps and suspended in oak trees. Male moths are attracted by plumes of the volatile pheromone and secured in the traps to give entomologists a measure of the size and spread of the adult moth population. Male moths capable of flying up to 20 km were trapped in the London Boroughs of Camden, Barnet, Hackney, Waltham Forest, Lewisham and Sutton and also in the Epsom district of Surrey, all well outside the existing area of OPM infestation.

Favourable weather and environmental conditions are clearly the key factors driving pest numbers and spread and with which an already huge and costly control programme cannot compete.

Dr Terry Mabbett

BOOST FOR TEAM AT HEYTHROP PARK

A new golfing reputation is being built on the edge of the Cotswolds, with the 282-room Heythrop Park Resort near Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire making a major statement of intent by boosting its greenkeeping team for 2015.

Steve Cherry, a 25-year career greenkeeping professional who prepared 17 European Tour events under Alex Hay at Woburn, heads the new team as Estate Manager at the prestigious golf resort which features the 7,088 yard Bainbridge Course, rated by many as the best in Oxfordshire.

Experienced Brett Smith arrived at Heythrop Park in the final weeks of 2014 as Deputy Estate Manager after spending 14 years at Windmill Village GC in Coventry.

With the addition of two new Assistant Greenkeepers, Tom Coleman and James Rodley, plus recent recruit Ivor Hopkins, Heythrop Park Resort has added five new estate and course management staff since last spring.

Steve said: "Heythrop Park can surely now be classified as one of the UK's highest-quality 'Stay and Play' venues. Our greens are superb now, but by May of this year we'll be in a position to invite golfers to judge us against anything in the South of England."

"With a clear fine turf focus we have already brought the estate up several levels in condition in the latter part of 2014" said Steve, a 2-handicap golfer who once competed in the English Amateur Championship. "Renovation



projects have been extensive including tee work and bunkering, and of course our predominately fescue greens have received a great deal of attention. Undeniably, they are now superb putting surfaces." Tim Good, Director of Golf at Heythrop Park Resort, added:

"I am delighted that we now have a full team on board. They have the experience to raise Heythrop up to the next level.

"Steve & Brett are already producing great results on the golf course, and we are receiving positive feedback on a daily basis."



SCOTTISH PATRON AWARD WINNERS

The 2014 Annual Patrons Award was held at Stirling Golf Club on Wednesday 9 December with the regional chairman, Jim Paton hosting this prestigious event. Jim thanked our host golf club for allowing use of this excellent venue and for providing attendees with a fantastic lunch.

Alister Connell was the guest speaker at the lunch providing a fascinating talk on the preparation work at the facilities used for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Alister did particularly well considering he was let down by the lack of overhead projection facilities.

Jim thanked Alister and asked him to present the certificates to the 2014 Patron Award Winners:

- Central Section – John Bateson, Greenkeeper at St Andrews Links
- East Section – Stuart Ferguson, Course Manager at Dundas Park
- North Section – Richard Johnstone, Depute Head Greenkeeper at Nairn Dunbar Golf Club

- South West Section – Ian Smith, Greenkeeper at Dundonald Links
- West Section – Andrew Orr, Greenkeeper at Drumpellier Golf Club

The Scottish Region would like to thank our patrons for their continued support, without which the region would be unable to provide members with the various events held each year.

- Patrons: Amenity Sales; Aitkens; Bayer; Bryson Tractors; Campeys; Double A; Everris; Fairways; Farmura; Franklins; Germinal Seeds; Greentech; Hamilton Bros; Headlands; Hendersons; Hugh King; Indigrow; Lely UK; MacGregor's; McNab Sport; Nairn Brown; Oakland Amenity; Rigby Taylor; Robin Hume Associates; Scotlube; SGM Contracts; Sheriff Amenity; Souters; SPS Groundcare; Sports Turf Services; Symbio; Terra Firma; Thomas Sheriff; Thorntrees; Turf Irrigation Services; Turftec Golf Club

Do you have any news, photographs or stories on any aspect of greenkeeping?

Contact BIGGA Communications Executive, Steve Castle on 01347 833829 or email steve.castle@bigga.co.uk

George Malcolm

Since the passing of George Malcolm, BIGGA has been inundated with tributes for a former Association Chairman, great friend to many and an influential member of the BPGA which preceded BIGGA

Scotsman George, former Course Manager at Middlesbrough Golf Club, hailed from Loanhead, south of Edinburgh, and was BIGGA Chairman in 1991. He passed away on Saturday 24 January at the age of 74 after suffering from an illness.

He joined Middlesbrough Golf Club – known to everyone locally as Brass Castle – in 1964 and apart from a brief spell working at Saltburn-by-Sea Golf Club, spent his entire working career there until his retirement nine years ago.

He was hugely passionate about greenkeeping and educating greenkeepers, and in 1977 helped establish what is now the BIGGA Cleveland Section with the assistance of the likes of Harry Lees, Roger Shaw and Bruce Burnell.

He was a member of BIGGA's Open Support Team at Muirfield for the 1987 Open Championship, and managed to strike up a conversation with the American golfer Fuzzy Zoeller as he raked bunkers during one of the rounds. It's said that the pair were firm friends by the 18th!

David Golding, The GTC's Education Director, knew George well. He said: "During his year as Chairman, he enjoyed nothing more than travelling the length and breadth of Britain to mix at Section level with 'ordinary' greenkeepers.

"He was very proud to be elected BIGGA Chairman as he believed he could champion the hands-on, grass roots greenkeeper.

"He felt that through education and hard work, any BIGGA member could reach the position of Chairman."

George was also heavily involved in updating BIGGA's constitution in 2000 alongside many key figures in greenkeeping including Harry Diamond, Cecil George, Walter Woods and Jack McMillan.

Ian Pemberton, Course Manager at Cleveland Golf Club and current BIGGA Cleveland Section Secretary, worked closely with George during his time at Middlesbrough.

He said: "He was a fantastic mentor and I owe him so much, I was an assistant greenkeeper when he was Course Manager and I learnt an awful lot from him.

"We achieved so much with him leading the team and the course was in brilliant condition. It held various Youth Internationals attracting a young Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle to compete on the course, amongst others.

"Everyone thoroughly enjoyed working under him. He was a lovely, caring man and a real gentleman. He was, and always will be, an inspiration to me."

Ian Holoran, former Head Greenkeeper at Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Club, said: "He helped his team produce some really quality holes on his course. This was quite a feat as all the work was completed in-house. He just put so much hard work into everything he did.

"He was very passionate and hugely knowledgeable about greenkeeping, and very good company. He was a normal family man, he enjoyed cars and also playing golf.

"One of his proudest moments was when he joined BIGGA's Open Support Team in 1987. As well as having a good chat with Fuzzy Zoeller, he always used to recall how he raised his rake in the air as he walked up the 18th, soaking up the applause from the galleries. He said that for that moment, he felt like a celebrity for the first time!"

John Talbot is Middlesbrough's current Course Manager and added: "I worked with him briefly as I replaced him when he retired, and it's one of the premier courses in the area because of him. Under his guidance, the team built the 6th, 7th and 8th holes from scratch and they are superb.

"He knew how to treat his team, he was strict when it was necessary, but was very fair and made sure he praised you when you had done a good job."

Middlesbrough produced a book for their centenary in 2008, and devoted a page to George. An extract reads: "George joined in April 1964 as Head Greenkeeper, but was ultimately promoted to Course Manager.

This meant he took over responsibilities for all aspects of greenkeeping from Ernie Scott, our Professional at the time. Until then, Professionals had included greenkeeping in their responsibilities.

"We all owe George a debt of gratitude for his part in the course developments which have been completed during his time in office. George was with us for 41 years (apart from a short break in 1975/76 when he was at Saltburn) and will be remembered for his expertise, dedication and long hours he willingly put in to maintain our first-class course.

"George used to 'put the lights out' on the course, watering from a single standpipe, often when many of us were tucked up in bed!"

Tony Smith, former Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club and BIGGA Chairman in 2012/13, added: "He was a stalwart of the Cleveland Section and the Association, and also a great ambassador for both.

"He was a hands-on greenkeeper who would work tirelessly, often seven days a week, 12 hours a day. He was always at the end of the phone if you needed a chat, but remained keen to learn throughout his career.

"He was a very good friend to many and will be sorely missed."

George was elected an Honorary Life Member at Middlesbrough when he retired in 2005.

The flags at BIGGA House have been flying at half mast in tribute. George leaves his wife Marion, daughters Fiona and Jackie plus son David, who followed in his footsteps and is currently a Head Greenkeeper in Germany, and two grandchildren, Mailin and Evie.

Rest In Peace, George.

With thanks to George's family, Ian Pemberton, Ian Holoran, John Talbot, Tony Smith, David Golding and Middlesbrough Golf Club.



Openness is the name of the game

George Malcolm - Chairman of BIGGA

26-1661

Respected by the lofty heights of chairmen, only in April, GEORGE MALCOLM took time out to tell David Whyte some things about himself and his experience for the Association in the year ahead.

It was a pleasure to meet you at the AGM and to hear your views on the Association. I was particularly impressed by your comments on the need for openness and transparency in the way we run our affairs. I believe that this is essential for the Association to continue to grow and to be successful in the future.

I am sure that you will find the Association's approach to openness and transparency to be a positive one. We are committed to providing a high standard of service to our members and to ensuring that our affairs are conducted in an open and transparent manner.

I am sure that you will find the Association's approach to openness and transparency to be a positive one. We are committed to providing a high standard of service to our members and to ensuring that our affairs are conducted in an open and transparent manner.

Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

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

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

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



BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BRINGS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

One of the main benefits of BTME, and BIGGA membership, are the fantastic networking opportunities open to members. BTME is the perfect showcase for this with various events taking place both inside and outside the Harrogate International Centre. The John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteers met on the John Deere Stand, as did the Delegates heading on the trip to the Golf Industry Show in America courtesy of Bernhard. Past Future Turf Managers Initiative candidates also gathered to swap stories, and many Sections and Regions held gatherings throughout the week. BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison said: "The BIGGA stand was manic during most of BTME, filled with members chatting to the BIGGA House team, swapping greenkeeping tales, updating each other on news and generally learning from each other. "This is exactly what we're trying to encourage and if you're not a member of BIGGA, you miss out on all these opportunities."

WENTWORTH SUPPORT

Don't forget to apply for the BMW PGA Championship support team by 27 March. This is another excellent member opportunity to join the home team at Wentworth in May. A course preparation team of 15 is required 19-24 May, and match raking takes place between 21-24 May. It's another superb development opportunity on a professional and personal level. To apply fill in the application form in this issue and return to: Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. For further information and to apply see page 56, or contact Rachael at BIGGA House.

BENEVOLENT FUND NOW OFFICIAL CHARITY

The BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund now has official charity status. After months of work behind the scenes at BIGGA House, it is now established for charitable purposes and is on the register of charities number 1160100.

It was officially registered on the final day of BTME 2015 - Thursday 22 January - and is classified as a charity which makes grants to individuals for the prevention or relief of poverty. The full details please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission> BIGGA's Finance and Procurement Manager Steve Wrang said: "This is the culmination of a lot of hard work and we're pleased that the Benevolent Fund now has official charity status. "This will enable us to allocate funds appropriately and we will be communicating more details to members about this as and when decisions are made." We've been delighted by the response from members so far with various Sections and individuals raising money for the Fund. We also had another positive response at BTME 2015 and it was great to see members contributing during Continue to Learn and the exhibition and proudly displaying their green wristbands! If anyone feels they may be eligible for a donation from the Fund, please contact BIGGA's General Manager Tracey Maddison on 01347 833800 (dial 1 for Membership) or traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk



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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS
(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

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

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

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

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



CPD MEMBERS AT 985

BARONNESS Level 3 Scholarship Awarded

Wesley Lenihan, Deputy Course Manager at Ealing Golf Club, has completed his Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sportsturf) at Plumpton College. Also James Wilkinson of Gerrards Cross GC picks up a Scholarship. James will be studying for his Level 3 work-based Diploma in Horticulture (Sportsturf) through Oaklands College.

We are heading towards the 1,000 mark for CPD members. All members have a free online account and you can claim your first CPD in minutes. As GI went to print, 985 members were on the CPD (Continuing Professional Development) scheme. Remember - if you attended Continue to Learn at BTME, or even just the exhibition itself, you can claim CPD Credits via our more accessible, easier to use scheme. For more on CPD, and if you have any questions, please contact the L&D Team or email cpd@bigga.co.uk The latest members to be awarded CPD in January 2015 are as follows:

- Michael Frappell - Cosby GC
- Paul Mills - Penn GC
- Scott Corrigan - Greenburn GC
- Matthew Teasdale - Rockcliffe Hall GC
- Jack Hetherington - Ponteland GC
- David Langheim MG - Wimbledon Park GC
- Matthew Plested - Muswell Hill GC
- Roger Tydeman - Dulwich & Sydenham Hill GC
- Graeme Roberts - Camberley Health GC
- Alastair Higgs - Windlesham GC
- Stefan Carter - Bowood Golf & Country Club
- Mark Broughton MG - Aldeburgh GC
- Sam Evans - Oakland Park GC
- Jamie Blake - Broadway GC
- James Fox - Trentham GC Ltd
- Andrew Hart - Hendon GC

- David Collins - Lickey Hills GC
- John Grey - Middlesborough Municipal GC
- George Pitts MG - Yelverton GC
- Simon Olver - Whitley Bay GC
- December 2014
- Philip Butler - Murrayfield GC
- Mike Riddell - Chichester GC
- Stephen Lawlor - The Duke's St Andrews
- Kevin Moore - Whitwood GC
- Leigh Powell - Hockley GC
- James Parker - Ranfurly Castle GC
- Les Howkins MG - Richmond GC
- Ben Shipp - Ely City GC
- Wesley Lenihan - Ealing GC
- Hamish Campbell - Carrick Knowe GC
- Sidney Arrowsmith MG - Frilford Heath GC
- Stuart Ferguson - Dundas Parks 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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BTME 2015 The Review



BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



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BTME 2015 ...ITS SHOW TIME!

Here we go with our extensive 20 page review of BTME 2015. Read on for a Newsdesk special, interviews with the visitors and exhibitors, and much much more. The buzz really is back at The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

Four sold out halls, record figures for education and unrivalled networking opportunities were just some of the highlights of BTME 2015 as BIGGA announced a return to five halls for next year's exhibition.

The Continue to Learn education programme broke all records - at the last count, an initial figure of 2,900 delegates had travelled from across the UK and the world for the hugely diverse range of seminars and workshops.

A total of 4,722 visitors also attended the three days of the exhibition at the Harrogate International Centre with the halls particularly busy on the first day.

It soon became evident from speaking to exhibitors that the quality of visitors was higher than ever, with key decision makers from all manner of sports clubs, authorities and associations striking deals throughout the week.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "It's been another fantastic week and it's featured record numbers attending our Continue to Learn education programme which is at the heart of what we are trying to do."

"This year we've hosted 215 excellent hours of education, the programme is going from strength to strength and this really drives quality visitors to the exhibition."

"We've had four sold out halls this year and as exhibitor demand continues to increase, BTME 2016 will feature a fifth exhibition hall. We're already focusing our minds towards next January."



Educating in Yorkshire

BTME 2015 saw record numbers of delegates at the Continue to Learn education programme in Harrogate, North Yorkshire

At the last count, an initial figure of 2,900 delegates had travelled from across the UK and the world for the hugely diverse range of seminars and workshops - up around 4% on last year's already busy schedule.

The week is now so packed with seminars, workshops, conferences and presentations that Continue to Learn is spread across the Harrogate International Centre and The Crown Hotel throughout the week.

Once again, the Turf Managers' Conference was real highlight of the programme with five excellent speakers discussing a range of

topics and interacting with the audience.

It was also heartening to see younger greenkeepers attend the event and prove that, despite its title, more inexperienced turf managers are keen to attend to increase their knowledge.

Wesley Lenihan, Deputy Course Manager at Ealing Golf Club, attended the Conference and four other seminars during the week on subjects ranging from disease control to aftercut appearance.

He spoke for many of the delegates when he said:

"This was the first time I've attended the weekend Seminars at BTME, I took part in the Adjusting



Cutting Units and Aftercut Appearances, run by Ian Sumpter from Toro and Ben Taylor from Bernhard Grinders, who were both brilliant. This mixed practical skills with theory, and was a real eye opener.

"I found the disease management seminars really interesting as they provided information on active ingredients and their affects, discussed the timing of applications relating to different disease stages and the transport methods within the plant."

"Next year I'm planning on attending different seminars based around managing people and dealing with conflicts, as they were recommended from friends in similar roles at their clubs."

"Continue to Learn at BTME is a great week, it provides you with the chance to learn from seminars, speakers and fellow greenkeepers, meet new faces and old friends while discussing industry topics."

The educational theme continued in the exhibition itself with the likes of Askham Bryan College, the GCSAA, GCMA, STRI and Merrist Wood College all hosting bustling stands.

Myerscough College again exhibited, and held a greenkeeping



'Mastermind' on their stand for delegates to test their agronomic knowledge - leading to some healthy competition!

Employer Services Manager Lee Price said: "It's been great to catch up with so many worldwide industry professionals, we have dozens of new contacts and enquiries to make - in a way the hard work starts now for us!"

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "It's been a fantastic week and it's featured record numbers attending our Continue to Learn education programme which is at the heart of what we are trying to do."

"This year we've hosted 215 excellent hours of education, the programme is going from strength to strength and this really drives quality visitors to the exhibition."



Photos courtesy of @sirastudio



INDUSTRY FIRST FOR BIGGA GREENKEEPER

A greenkeeper based at gWest, has become the first turf manager ever to hold a hat trick of top industry qualifications accredited by three worldwide greenkeeping bodies.

Lee Strutt, Course Manager at the Perthshire resort course, is already a Master Greenkeeper with the British International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) and a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Now he's become the first greenkeeper in history to achieve a third award, the Master Superintendent (MS) from the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA).

Lee was presented with his MS designation by Christian Pilon, President of the CGSA, during the Welcome Celebration at BTME 2015.

The greenkeeper, who is now officially Lee Strutt PGdip, MG, AGS, CGCS, MS, said: "I feel very privileged to become the first greenkeeper to achieve all three designations, and proud of the fact that I represent the UK and BIGGA as the first member to do this. Knowing I would be breaking new ground was a real motivator.

"The MS was very intense; to try and focus on a whole range of subjects from agronomy to management for the exam with the added pressure of having to answer 300 questions in six hours, effectively one every 90 seconds.

"Without a doubt, I have gained so much both professionally and personally from this fantastic industry, learning from my peers and



Lee (right) with Christian

seeing so many people who have had an influence on my career at BTME 2015.

"My inspiration and drive came from one focal point in my life. Whilst at school I was told by my form tutor that 'I would never amount to anything'.

"This made me very determined to achieve something!"

Lee first obtained his Accredited Golf Superintendent (AGS) designation from the CGSA in 2008. This was a prerequisite to work towards the higher Master Superintendent designation.

Lee also obtained the GCSAA's, Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) in 2014. His knowledge, skills and

abilities were validated through the development of a portfolio consisting of his responses to skill statements, case studies and submission of work samples.

Two GCSAA certified superintendents also carried out an on-site inspection of gWest, this was followed by a six-hour exam covering

every conceivable aspect of greenkeeping and management.

Lee's first professional designation was BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper (MG) certificate achieved in 2001.

Only 65 greenkeepers currently hold MG status – a prestigious award which recognises turf managers who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management.

Firstly the candidate must acquire 200 of BIGGA's Continuing Professional Development Credits, then an on-course inspection takes place under the gaze of two Master Greenkeepers – similar to the GCSAA award.

The third stage involves a case study and technical examination.

Lee began his agronomic career as a trainee greenkeeper at Bath Golf Club in 1984, then enjoyed spells at Broadstone Golf Club, Knighton Heath Golf Club and The Dudsbury Golf Club – where he secured his first Deputy Course Manager role.

In 1994 he moved to The Richmond Golf Club before being made Course Manager in 1997. He became the construction and grow-in Superintendent at gWest in 2008. He's studied Sports Turf Management at Merrist Wood College, followed by a Post Graduate Diploma in Sports Turf Technology at Cranfield University.

He was also part of the volunteer greenkeeper support teams at the 2012 and 2014 Ryder Cups, and has also worked at several other tournaments including European Tour events and Scottish Opens.

Lee has a handicap of 14, and is particularly passionate about greenkeeper education.

He is heavily involved in several of BIGGA's continuing professional development initiatives. He was the instigator of the popular 'So You Want to be Promoted' seminar, regularly presents at Continue to Learn at BTME and is a mentor for the Future Turf Managers Initiative educational event supported by Jacobsen.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "I'd like to congratulate Lee on a great achievement, we're all very proud that a very active BIGGA member is the first greenkeeper to ever obtain these three awards.

"It sets a fantastic example in the industry where continual professional development is essential."



David Cole MG

NEW BIGGA MGs HONOURED

2014 saw two new BIGGA Master Greenkeepers announced – and they were honoured at BIGGA's Welcome Celebration on the Tuesday evening straight after BTME.

David Cole MG, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club, and Lee Sayers MG, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club, were presented with their certificates on stage by Chris Sealey and Sir Michael Bonallack.

CPD Diplomas were also presented to various BIGGA members. Also, the BIGGA Photographic Competition winner, Jonathan Wood from Trevoise Golf Club, was recognised with his stunning photo shown on stage. BIGGA Life Member Billy Mitchell collected a framed version of his photograph on Jonathan's behalf.

During a highly amusing and entertaining speech, Andrew Cotter, keynote speaker and BBC Golf Correspondent, regaled the crowd with tales from his broadcasting career.

He also produced a pitchmark repair tool at one point, endearing himself to the crowd, and praised the industry as a whole for preparing first-class surfaces for tournaments worldwide.



Andrew Cotter



Billy Mitchell

Lee Sayers MG

CHAIRMAN'S LUNCH A JOY IN THE SUN PAVILION

New for BTME 2015 was the Chairman's Lunch, held in the stunning surroundings of Harrogate's Sun Pavilion.

The event, held on the Wednesday lunchtime of the show, aimed to toast the outgoing Chairman alongside the Board of Management, past Chairmen and other stalwarts of BIGGA.

BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack joined BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, the current Board of Management and the likes of Walter Woods, Jack McMillan and Cecil George for the reception.

Chris made a brief speech thanking the attendees, the Board, the entire team at BIGGA House and the trade for their assistance during his tenure. The tables were named after Bristol Rovers FC legends in recognition of Chris's tireless support of his football team.

Leighton Walker, General Manager of Chippenham Golf Club, also contacted GI to pay tribute to Chris. He said: "The Club is very proud of Chris and the time that he has served as BIGGA National Chairman.

"The opening of seven new holes at Chippenham in May 2014 was also a great success and a credit to Chris. The year has been the icing on the cake of a great career in the industry."

Situated in Harrogate's Valley Gardens, a light snow covering provided a spectacular backdrop outside, although this did mean a fleet of taxis were required to ferry some of the attendees to the Pavilion.

Happily, everyone arrived safely and were able to salute Chris's memorable 12 months as Chairman.



Sir Michael Bonallack (left) with Walter Woods



Jack and Rita McMillan

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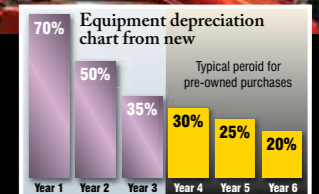


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JOHN DEERE TPC SAWGRASS DELEGATES

The Delegates for the first ever John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme in May joined forces on the company's stand in Hall M at BTME 2015.

The latest excellent educational offering from BIGGA involved members filling in an online application form via the BIGGA website, then completing a video application outlining their greenkeeping knowledge, career aspirations and why they wanted to join the Programme.

A shortlist was then drawn up, and candidates successful after the video stage then underwent interviews with BIGGA's five Regional Administrators, BIGGA officials and a representative from John Deere.

The successful five are Michael Burgin from Normanby Golf Club, Chris McArthur from Portstewart Golf Club in County Londonderry in Northern Ireland, Graham Down from Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, James Bledge from Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club and Mike Ellis from The Point at Polzeath.

Four of the Delegates met on the John Deere stand – unfortunately Chris's attempts to join them were thwarted by poor weather on the Wednesday which led to the cancellation of his flight. However, in the week after BTME Chris Meacock, John Deere Turf Division Sales Manager, made the journey to Northern Ireland to chat to Chris, welcome him to the team and answer any questions.

Chris (inset above) said: "I'm really excited about joining the team and looking forward to the process and experience to better myself as a person. Since I entered in the summer I thought about little else, so winning is a dream come true.

"Of course being the only member of the team from Northern Ireland is a real honour. With its famous golfing history, not least set by the golfers from Ulster in the world game at the moment, I have a lot to live up to!

"I'm really grateful to BIGGA and John Deere for providing me with this opportunity.



"To work and learn on such a fantastic stage such as TPC Sawgrass with a great team will give me the opportunity to connect with some of the best sports turf staff in the industry and no doubt enhance my level as a greenkeeper."

The final five will now join the maintenance team at the legendary venue for the entire duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour

with travel, accommodation, subsistence and uniform all provided courtesy of BIGGA Partner John Deere.

They will even get the opportunity to attempt to hit the island green on the course's legendary 17th hole.

As well as the five BIGGA members, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland (GCSAI) will be sending a winning member to join the maintenance team at TPC Sawgrass, again courtesy of John Deere.

David Perdissat, Senior Greenkeeper at Naas Golf Club in County Kildare, Ireland, successfully came through the process.

David also trains greenkeepers and is responsible for 12 students each year, each studying for a Further Education and Training Awards Council Level 4 greenkeeping qualification.

David said: "I was absolutely delighted when I got the call to say I'd be joining the team. It's a really great opportunity to network with other greenkeepers and make connections for my future career.

"My ambition is to progress to superintendent level, so my current role is very good experience for that in terms of the responsibility for the trainees, exposure to budgets and team management. I would really like to offer my thanks to both the GCSAI and John Deere for this opportunity.

"I've always been interested in training and trying to help people better themselves, and I still do a lot of online studying of my own – you can never stop learning in this industry."

NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE VOTED THROUGH



At the BIGGA AGM at BTME 2015 the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association were approved unanimously.

The new Articles provide a modern, transparent blueprint for the future governance of the Association.

The introduction of consistent terms of office across Section Boards, Region Boards and the National Board of Management will, it is hoped, lead to more members getting involved in the overall structure ensuring the business is representative of as wide a cross section of the membership as possible.

The Board of Management would like to thank all of the members who took the time to feedback during the Governance Review and those who supported the proposal at the AGM, they will be addressing the areas where transition is required as a matter of urgency and will be producing a comprehensive Governance Handbook that will offer guidance to volunteer committee members at all levels.



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RIGBY TAYLOR PRIZE



BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton drew the winning name for Rigby Taylor's prize draw to win an OptiM8 'Professional' spreader – a competition which attracted many entries on their buzzing stand.

Rigby Taylor, who are a BIGGA Partner, enjoyed a successful show which was rounded off by Jim joining Rigby Taylor's Mark Whiting on the stand for the draw. The winner was Jack Friar, Head Greenkeeper at Percy Wood Golf & Country Retreat.

Richard Fry, Rigby Taylor's marketing director, said: "From a large number of entries, Jack's name was the first to be drawn and his club will receive a brand new OptiM8 'Professional' spreader."

"This prize was really welcomed by the club as only recently they had their spreader stolen, so the replacement could not have come at a better time."

The company had a very busy BTME, with three new products launched. Firstly they introduced their new Armaline marking system. Specially developed for use with the award winning Impact paint, Armaline is a versatile linemarking attachment for use with turf utility vehicles.

For many local authorities, schools and training grounds, the multiple marking of sports pitches is a time consuming task. Now, with the introduction of Armaline, multiple pitches can be over-marked by one operator in a fraction of time taken when marking with a pedestrian walk-behind marker.

Also launched was the latest seed mixture R25 CRT (Creeping Ryegrass Tetraploid), which is an exciting 100% perennial ryegrass blend featuring creeping and tetraploid perennial ryegrasses. This leading innovation provides the fastest establishment possible for the renovation and divot repair of high impact playing surfaces.

Trialled and tested at Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), the combination of Stolawn, Fabian, Duparc and Columbine, also offers superior recovery, exceptional wear tolerance and excellent resistance to drought and turf diseases.

As if that wasn't enough, Rigby Taylor have also launched three new brochures for 2015 – 'Professional Products', 'Landscape Products' and a Case study.

The Professional Products brochure features 160 pages of product user information, technical explanation, disease identification, pH and soil analysis advice and much more.

Landscape Products contains 34 pages of featured landscape products. New for 2015 are a complete re-vamp of the company's grass seed range of landscapers products.

Finally, the independent Case Study describes one UK Metropolitan Borough Council's analysis of their pitch linemarking practices and how it was able to reduce its cost per pitch by over 42% and save over £16,000 and 36,000 litres of water on the pitches it marked.

All three pieces of literature are available from a Rigby Taylor area representative.



ANDY BAKER JOINS BOARD

BTME 2015 saw Andy Baker officially replace Arnold Phipps-Jones as BIGGA's South East Regional Board of Management member.

Andy, Head Greenkeeper at Ely City Golf Club, said: "I'm looking forward to being part of the Board and continuing the recent excellent work that has been carried out. There is a great buzz at BIGGA House, with a friendly, energetic, dedicated team who I know I will enjoy working with."

"I hope that I can be an inspiration to all the younger greenkeepers. We need to encourage them to be more involved within the Sections and Regions. Without volunteers at all levels greenkeeping wouldn't be where it is today."

"I would like to say a huge thank you to Arnold - he has worked tirelessly over the last four and a half years, dedicating a lot of his personal time to the Association. Also, thank you to Ely City Golf Club in allowing me to take up the role on the Board, and also to my very supportive family."

The AGM also saw Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager at North Berwick Golf Club, named new Vice Chairman, with Tony Smith leaving the position of Past Chairman to be replaced by Chris Sealey.

COMMS MEETING

The Tuesday of BTME saw much activity in the Media Centre, downstairs in Hall E.

After a series of press briefings from exhibitors, and a touching memorial to Mike Beardall (former editor of The Groundsman) attended by many of Mike's industry friends, dozens of the scribes who compile the Around the Green notes for GI met to discuss BIGGA's communications with members of the BIGGA House team.

The meeting was chaired by BIGGA's Communications Executive Steve Castle who was supported by BIGGA's General Manager Tracey Maddison and the BIGGA Regional Administrators.

Steve said: "It was a hugely productive meeting and I would like to thank everyone who attended, and also those who couldn't be there but have sent suggestions and ideas via email."

"I thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of the scribes for the first time and it's clear we are all passionate about spreading the word about BIGGA members' excellent achievements both professionally and personally."

"Members' suggestions are always taken on board and we will be implementing some of the ideas from next month, so keep an eye on the magazine!"

If you have any feedback on Around the Green, GI or any aspect of our communications, please contact steve.castle@bigga.co.uk



YOUNG GREENKEEPER MEETING

BTME 2015 was the venue for the first ever meeting of the Young Greenkeeper Committee.

Ten youthful members from across the UK met to chat about their perceptions of BIGGA and its role, with the intention of coming up with suggestions to feed into BIGGA's strategic plan.

Discussions then moved on to the function of the Committee, how often they will meet and identifying roles within the committee.

The Committee aims to engage younger members of BIGGA, and provide the Board of Management with feedback into the needs of more youthful members. Each Region will nominate two members to serve a two-year term.

There are 13 members on the Committee, they are:

- Paul Armour – St Andrews
- Robert Bemment – Immingham Golf Club
- Ashley Brear – Luffenham Heath Golf Club
- Andy Clark – Broadstone Golf Club

Mike Ellis – The Point at Polzeath
Jack Hetherington – Ponteland Golf Club
Stuart Imeson – Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club

Andrew Naismith – Worthing Golf Club
James Parker – Ranfurly Castle Golf Club
Scott Roberts – Hankley Common Golf Club
Dan Simpson – Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club
Liam Springett – Braintree Golf Club
Miles Todd – Llandudno Golf Club (Maesdu)

After a welcome and introductions from Jim Croxton and Les Howkins MG, BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison joined Northern Regional Administrator Sandra Raper to facilitate this first meeting.

The group raised some interesting discussion points, went away enthused and were tasked with setting up social media platforms to interact with younger BIGGA members.

The group will meet in person twice a year with regular conference calls also arranged.

FIVE NEW BIGGA LIFE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED AT AGM

Five new BIGGA Life Memberships were awarded at the AGM. First up was Gordon Brammah, Course Manager at Hallamshire Golf Club, who was followed by Barry Holt, former Head Greenkeeper at Burford Golf Club.

Next was Clive Osgood, former Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club, BIGGA Chairman in 2001 and BIGGA's current South East Regional Administrator.

Fourth Life Member announced was

Jim Paton, Course Manager at West Kilbride Golf Club and current BIGGA Scottish Chairman.

Finally Bill Paterson, former Head Greenkeeper at Beaconsfield Golf Club, was awarded Life Membership.

BTME A HIT FOR HIGH SPEED

Highspeed Group Ltd enjoyed what was probably their best BTME this year with an innovative ClearWater Prize Draw, the launch of the Carbery Fuel King 2500 litre Fuel Point and the Z Spray shoe, club and trolley cleaner.

Group joint MD David Mears said: "BTME is an important event to us and we were very pleased with the show this year. The organisation was excellent and being next to a much improved catering area helped us too. We think BIGGA has the formula just right now with a good balance between education and exhibition. We look forward to an even bigger show next year!"

Highspeed used the show to run a very attractive prize draw. The prize was a free ClearWater system and was open to anyone attending the show wishing to upgrade their wash-off facilities. The stand was very busy and enquirers for ClearWater were soon filling in their entry forms. Highspeed was pleased that BIGGA's CEO, Jim Croxton kindly agreed to draw the winner on Thursday afternoon.

BTME 2015 also was selected by Carbery Plastics for the UK launch of their fully specified 2500 litre Fuel King bunded Fuel Point through their distributor Highspeed Group Ltd. The tank features a five metre retractable filling hose and created much interest. "At the end of day one, we were about to leave when a customer came to the stand and bought a fuel point there and then!" said David Mears. "An excellent end to the day".





AMENITY FORUM SPRAYER AWARDS

A new amenity initiative launched at BTME is set to recognise and reward the industry's best sprayer operators.

Launching the Awards at BTME, Amenity Forum Chairman, Professor John Moverley, highlighted that accurate and efficient spray application was an integral part of the commitment to fulfil the Sustainable Use Directive.

The Amenity Forum Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards are sponsored by Syngenta and Everris. Sprayer operators are encouraged to enter one of three categories:

- Sports and amenity turf using boom sprayer
- Hard and porous surfaces using vehicle mounted equipment
- Hard and porous surfaces / Invasive weed species using hand held equipment

Successful entrants will be sent a short questionnaire to report on their spraying practices, designed to identify and highlight examples of best practice, along with individual practical tips and advice they have implemented.

A short list of finalists will be visited by a panel of independent industry specialists to award the accolade of Sprayer Operator of the Year in each category.

Each winner will receive a Go Pro Hero action video camera, along with £500 of training vouchers for further CPD.

Initial entry forms can be downloaded from the Amenity Forum website, or available from any of the Amenity Forum industry members supporting the Awards.

Entry to the Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards has been entered for NRoSO, BASIS and BIGGA CPD credits.



BAYER SIGN BIGGA PARTNERSHIP AT BTME



The agreement confirming Bayer as a new BIGGA Partner was officially signed on Bayer's buzzing stand at BTME 2015.

The turf science specialists and BIGGA have enjoyed an excellent relationship and the signing of this agreement is intended to bring the two organisations even closer together for the benefit of BIGGA members.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton joined Darren Brown, Head of Bayer's Environmental Science Division, to confirm Bayer as BIGGA's latest Partner.

As well as their impressive stand at BTME which attracted plenty of footfall, Bayer's Technical Manager Dr Colin Mumford – who is a former greenkeeper – again presented a free seminar during the Continue to Learn education programme.

Colin, former Head Greenkeeper at North Weald Golf Club in Essex, followed up last year's seminar on neonicotinoids with a presentation on innovative solutions for integrated disease management.

The company also recently hired another ex-greenkeeper, Greg Collins, as a National Account Manager, and they have also regularly supported BIGGA Regional and Sectional greenkeeping events as well as contributing informative technical articles to Greenkeeper International.

Darren said: "We are really looking forward to growing and developing our relationship with BIGGA, and see this partnership as a practical demonstration of Bayer's commitment to the industry."

"We both have strengths that, together, will offer us a chance to provide innovative educational solutions for both turf managers and industry."

Jim added: "I'm delighted that Bayer have chosen to join our excellent Partnership programme and are committed to supporting our membership. We will undoubtedly benefit from close ties with an organisation that focuses on researching turf protection solutions."

"Bayer's stand at BTME continues to impress and their involvement in both the exhibition and our education programme brings huge value. I'm very much looking forward to working even closer with them in 2015 and beyond."



A BIG THANK YOU FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL

Devon and Cornwall members would like to thank Masons Kings and Farmura for the sponsorship of a mini bus to this year's BTME at Harrogate. 11 members travelled up on Monday morning, starting the long 400 mile journey, with the first pick up at 5.30am. With a couple of stops along the way, they arrived at the Cairn hotel at 2.30pm. Thanks to Jacko for driving once again.

Mike Ellis, Devon and Cornwall Secretary, said: "With all the seminars, trade stands and meetings the show was a big success and we will return again next year for more!"

Dates for next year:
19-21 January 2016

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The buzz is back

Greg Rhodes joined the BIGGA House team for the week and reports on how thriving visitor interest set exhibitor pulses racing at BTME 2015



Commitment to a fifth hall for BTME 2016 reinforces exhibitor sentiment that this year's show marked an upward shift in sector optimism.

Hall Q will come back into the fold alongside halls A, B, C and M to herald a return to pre-recession buoyancy as the sector powers forward once more.

A bustling first two days for regular exhibitor Johnsons Sports Seed saw plenty of interest in their special mixtures and in their hourly prize draw.

"BTME is a great 'show your face' exercise to support the distributors," said Area Sales Manager Phil Seedhouse. "We've seen a lot of representatives this time round."

LED moving signage proved the major focus for Eagle in its 24th year of attending BTME. Managing Director Phil McInley (shown in front of his stand, top right) also remarked on the high quality of visitor.

The final day of any show can be a challenging one for exhibitors as visitor numbers fall away from the frenzy of earlier days but Steve French, Product Specialist for Tines Direct, put a positive slant on it. "Overall there's lots of promise going forward from the show," he

said, "but anyone you see on the last day is usually there to do business."

Johnny Beck, Sherriff Amenity Stand Manager (right), was in bullish mood. "I'm delighted to support what is a well organised and well presented show. The education sessions are varied and informative and the BIGGA team are always attentive. We've taken quite a few orders off the stand, particularly for our new Turf Reports system of recording and displaying course information."

Amenity Specialist Matthew Le Brun, pictured inset below right, who developed the system confirmed "huge interest" in the product, adding: "Data collection is massive but understanding and correlating it is the critical factor."

Ground2Control's online applications covering all aspects of grounds management proved popular too. "The quality was there," said Marketing Manager Jane Ratcliffe. "We exhibited last year and are glad we decided to do so again."

Irrigation specialists Rain Bird Europe SNC have exhibited at BTME for the last three years and 2015 was once more a satisfying event for them, with plenty of strong



leads to pursue, Golf Sales Manager Kneale Diamond revealed.

Sports industry contractors MJ Abbott found that all three days were buzzing. "BTME attracts a wide range of consultants, golf course architects and course managers," Contracts Manager Nathan George (middle right) reflected, "so we can network with them strongly. The visitor quality was as high as ever and the general ambience of the show has risen too." Next year's BTME is already in the diary for MTS Golf and Utility Vehicles, con-



firmed Operations Director Mick Williamson. "Although fewer visitors came on the stand, those that did were a better quality of enquiry. We'll be here next year."

Show first-timers Enigo Group from Slovakia have already confirmed they'll be booking a bigger presence at BTME 2016 after introducing themselves to the sector this year.

"Our focus was to make ourselves known to the market here," said Norbert Zatko, "and we've networked with many of our UK suppliers." The group covers everything from golf course construction to greenkeeping services across Russia and the Ukraine. Two projects are underway at Strawberry Fields and Mill's Creek near St Petersburg.

Machinery running costs proved a recurring theme among visitors keen to stretch budgets. "A rekindling of interest in gang mowers was apparent this year," reported Clive Nottingham (below left) of Lloyds/Hunters. Clubs have to maximise budgets and we make traditional machines that carry low running costs, while our grinders allows mowers to stay on cut for longer in the field, boosting performance."

John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro - Lely (UK) Ltd all decided to exhibit at BTME 2015, albeit scaled down from their usual powerhouse stands.

Toro reimagined their presence at BTME with a stand alive with new technology that included flat-screen TVs embedded in tables, tablets featuring video presentations and dramatic main display screen.

"Our stand designers have opened our eyes to the possibilities of exhibiting at BTME," said Lely Sales Manager and irrigation specialist Roger Lupton, shown in the main image top left.

"The stand concept worked for us and the new technology we've introduced has adapted well to

both the show and the visitors, judging by the reaction from faces old and new."

Also ringing the changes were Campey Turf Care Systems - and it paid off handsomely, according to Managing Director Richard Campey. "This year we invested in a new stand and a fresh look because we believe BTME to be an important event in the greenkeepers' calendar," he said. "It proved to be an excellent show for us, with genuine interest and many enquiries to get the year off to a positive start."

"Stand footfall fully vindicated The Grass Group's decision to double the size of its stand this year," Managing Director Tim Merrell (below right) told Greenkeeper International. "This is the launch platform for our sales activity for the spring. The season starts with this show. BTME is highly focused and is at a convenient time of the year for greenkeepers and groundsmen." International visitors were in numbers as well, he confirmed.

Strong traditions endure for some though, as line markers-to-fertilisers group Vitax confirmed. Taking up their usual position right by the main entrance, one of BTME's longest-standing supporters enjoyed "another great year", Sales and Marketing Manager Mike King confirmed.

"We've had lots of interest across our whole range. The new Britliner Arrow and TXE line markers were a hit with visitors, and we sold off the stand. Salt spreaders hit the mark too, especially on the Wednesday when wintry weather arrived."

For County Sport Surfaces this was their fourth, and best, year at BTME to date. "People once thought artificial turf was a luxury," said Managing Director Duncan Clarkson, talking about demand for their design and installations services, "but not anymore. The British weather has seen to that."

Striving to spread the word about creating new life for used artificial





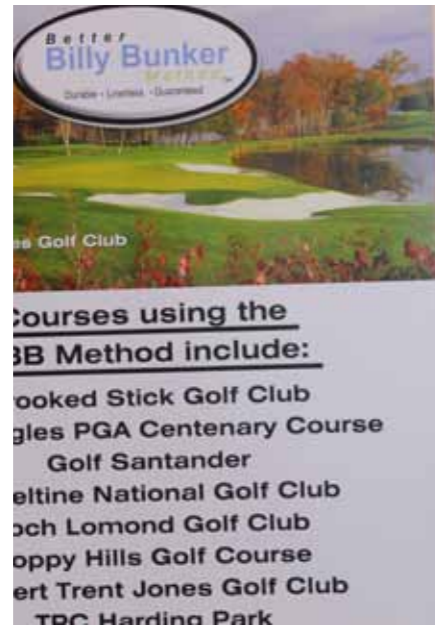
turf were Sports Maintenance Services, who reported a brisk show. "There's been very positive interest in our Xtraction recycling process," Sales Manager Jason Lewis-Lamb enthused. Jason is pictured bottom right.

"Greenkeepers now have an option to buy recycled turf for applications such as pathways and driving range mats at a third to a half the cost of the new product. Feeder schools take-up is strong and we are stressing the importance of an end of life policy on using artificial turf, as there is plenty of inherent value in it for secondary applications."

Sports Turf drainage and construction specialists Turfdry were looking forward to following up "a good number" of inquiries after BTME, after the family-run business last exhibited at Harrogate in 2007. "I'm really pleased with the level and quality of interest this year," recorded Assistant Manager Matthew Taylor, pictured top left.

Development of bunker technology continues unabated and the market opportunities were not lost on Daniel Smith of certified installer Better Billy Bunker, which debuted this year in the wake of their work at Gleneagles for the 2014 Ryder Cup. "The education programme is extensive," he added, "and the show has been really successful for us, with a host of contacts made and leads to follow up." Daniel is pictured top right.

Concerns over health and safety compliance and tougher on-site security propelled visitors to Cleveland Sitesafe, where Sales Manager John Hodgson said: "When there is so much expensive kit on golf courses and sports grounds, keeping them safe and secure is a small



outlay in comparison." Golf's environmental drive helped steer visitors to Waste2Water Europe, where interest in their run-off recycling systems ran high. "We received plenty of potential orders," commented Managing Director Tim Earley, "and were rushed off our feet, particularly on the Wednesday. The environment is a hot topic in golf so we benefit from that movement. "I was impressed by the level of expertise of those we spoke to. BTME is really improving in that respect."

Sector purse-strings are certainly loosening, believes Richard Fry, Rigby Taylor's Marketing Manager (shown below).

"Visitor quality was very pleasing overall," he reported. "The optimism being felt showed through, as did the enthusiasm of those who came on the stand."

Similarly upbeat, grinder specialists Bernhard & Co recorded quality across all three days.

"Visitors were looking more at our larger machines," said Sales and



Training Support Cathy McEwan. "They were trying to include purchases in this year's budget, which is very encouraging."

Syngenta always command major billing and attract a wide visitor spread but this year might have turned out to be a watershed. "Numbers were healthy" said Rod Burke, Market Manager EAME, "and the quality of attendees was fantastic, with a high level of engagement."

We enjoyed an even more diverse spread, including visitors from Dubai and Turkey.

"The standard of the seminar programme goes from strength to strength - it's very encouraging. Our 4pm seminar on disease management was sold out. What an enjoyable show."

After a spell of uncertainty across the sector following the economic downturn, it seems the good times are returning to greenkeeping and groundsmanship, if exhibitor feedback at BTME 2015 is any yardstick.



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**Thanks for attending
and see you next year
19-21 JANUARY 2016**

Variety adds spice to BTME 2015

Turfcare united this year as greens and grounds professionals descended on Harrogate to deepen their knowledge and widen their outlook, reports Greg Rhodes

Successful industry shows adapt to reflect, and predict, shifting trends and developments. BTME can claim to be doing that in big measure as 2015 saw an arguably wider cross-section of the turfcare sector attending than ever before.

Globalisation is alive and kicking in greenkeeping as key shows in the international calendar challenge home allegiances. Oaklands College Senior Assessor Steven Allen prefers BTME to the lure of San Antonio.

"There's so much education to attend here," he said. "I'm here for two days to fit it all in."

Exhibitors reported visitors from Hong Kong, Dubai and throughout the EU. The French greenkeeping triumvirate sampling the show on the first day found BTME a "most interesting experience" – taking

time out from their duties to absorb the sights and sounds of Harrogate.

"We usually attend the Green Expo show held near Paris but browsed the Internet, found BTME and here we are," said Alexis Cavois, Technical Manager at the 36-hole Golf de Boudoiries in Lille. His colleagues (shown top right with Alex) from Golf de Winereux and Golf de Dieppe were also enjoying their stay.

Picking up tips for the Finnish turfcare sector was Esa Hukkanen of media outlet Bunkkeri uutiset. Unlike the increasingly year-round UK golf market, Finland spends much of the year in deep freeze, squeezing its season into six months, if they are lucky. "Temperatures drop to -20C in winter," he explained, "so we may have three or four good months." The pressure's on the greens team then!

Originally from 'across the pond'

but now resident in Scotland, Steven Dehne was checking out some familiar machinery when Greenkeeper International caught up with him.

Spending a busy two days networking with contacts he may only speak to by phone the rest of the year, the Equipment Manager of Dundonald Links in Ayrshire remarked on the advances in machinery. "Easy maintenance walk-behind mowers have been one of the biggest initiatives," he said. "They are so much easier to modify now and you don't need to carry a toolbox around with you all the time."

Numbers seem set to swell next year if comments voiced by visitors hold true.

"I'll be bringing my whole team of four next year," stated Sam Evans, Head Greenkeeper of Oakland Park Golf Club.

RIGHT TOP: Alexis Cavois, Alain Lessence, Nicolas Boutin

RIGHT CENTRE: Darren Hargreaves and Alex Luliak

RIGHT: Allan Black, Richard Slater, Matt Holden



"It's always helpful to develop my contacts and to chat exhibitors who supply us. They like it, as it is a show of support for them. Education is my big focus this year, as I only took over four months ago and promised myself to back up my work with knowledge as much as possible."

For younger visitors, BTME can be a thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening experience. It

was for Alex Luliak, Apprentice Greensman, Engineer and Trainee Mechanic at Skipton Golf Club, who was attending the show with Deputy Head Greenkeeper Darren Hargreaves.

At the club for just six months, Alex, 17, said: "I love fixing machines and bringing them up to full working order. I gain a real sense of achievement from the job." Darren, who is a BTME regular,

added: "There's the chance to learn a bit here. The job is not just about cutting grass but lots of other aspects as well. Machinery developments have made the job easier but it's still hard work - we still rake bunkers by hand." Myerscough College was out in force throughout the show, spreading news of its apprenticeship schemes and foundation degree course as well as making time to treat local youngsters to a day out.

Malcolm Eckton, their Greenspace Practical Lecturer and Sportsturf Machinery Tutor, was shepherding a throng of 14 to 16-year-olds around the stands to gain some hands-on knowledge of this bustling business. "This is a chance for local young people to really shine," commented Malcolm about the scheme Myerscough runs.

Michael Swann certainly did – the 20-year-old is taking his Level 3 diploma in Sports Turf. His favourite part of it? "Finding out about looking after football pitches."

Also attending was amenity specialist Rebecca Turner and colleague Kevin Grieve, who attended the first two days. Covering Sherriff Amenity's Yorkshire area distribution, she was searching out "good deals on spreaders and sprayers".

"There's a rise in the number of smaller set-ups – cricket and bowling clubs – visiting the show for the day," Rebecca added.

The weather may have closed in during BTME but the show proved blessedly free of Yorkshire fog, a problem though for Matthew Holden and his team member Richard Slater from Sickleholme Golf Club, Sheffield. "Education is the biggest aspect for me," said Matthew. "The presentation on bent grasses was particularly valuable as we are introducing pure bents on our greens to create a better surface and get rid of the Yorkshire fog."

Deputy Head Greenkeeper of Royal Jersey, Allan Black, also warmed to the bents session, while his boss Ben Blampied-Smyth was focusing on soil fertilisers for the 1,200 member-strong links course, while ryegrasses were looming large for Mark Jarret, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Teignmouth Golf Club, Devon.

Here with his Head Greenkeeper, he applauded BTME: "Lots of learning opportunities and brilliant networking, plus plenty of chat. What more can you want?"

In harmony across turfcare were Michael Abbott, Houghwood Golf Club greenkeeper and Malcolm Greenhall, Lancashire Rugby Club



groundsmen and long-time farmer. One was searching for a cure for fairy rings, the other keeping an eye open for "opportunities".

BTME's groundsmen contingent is growing and the feedback is that the show runs at just the right time of year for turfcare professionals to take time out to check what's new and press the flesh.

Simon Tremlin likes to meet his fellow groundsmen here, particularly those tending cricket grounds. He looks after one himself, as Head Groundsman of the 2,500-acre Wormsley Estate owned by the Getty family south of Oxford.

"I've been coming to the show for ten years now," he said, "and there's always mates to chat to and new developments to see."

His eight cricket pitches play host to top-flight women's cricket, including tests and minor counties one-day matches, so he has to ensure everything's just right.

"We have a great batting track," he reveals, perhaps created by koroing the surface annually.

BIGGA Midland Region Chairman Matthew Nutter is Course Manager at East Berkshire Golf Club and was keen to pick up information that would help his woodland management programme for the heathland course.

Praising the scope and depth of the education programme, Matthew added: "I'd like to bring some of the members of the club here so that they could appreciate how much work and technology is involved in managing a golf course."

Visitors worried over reported shortages of sand supplies had bags of opportunity to quiz contractors such as Aitkens and Border Sports on how difficult the position could become at the customer coalface.

Right at the start of the supply chain, international quarrying concern Sibelco reported a satisfying show. "We keep close with our regular contacts throughout the year," said UK Sales Manager Jonathan Skelton, "but BTME is a valuable PR exercise to support the distributors of maintenance products such as top dressings and rootzones."

Education was a strong strand of the show, he added. "Workshops and presentations have been excellent - informative without being long-winded."

"This is a relaxed, busy and well-established show. We'll be back next year."

"Our Belgian-based manager finds it very useful too. He picks up good contacts, speaking to contractors who have work abroad."

Visitors who caught the video that launched the BIGGA Welcome Celebration on Tuesday surely marvelled at its stunning effect in capturing the build-up to the 2014 Ryder Cup in pictures backed by an almost apocalyptic soundtrack.

The creative force behind it is James Bledge, Deputy Course Manager at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, who spent eight days filming the video and two days of editing the footage.

"I built the awards video around the songs and used time-lapse photography and fitted a camera high above the entrance to Gleneagles and programmed it to take shots very four seconds," he revealed. "The video's already had 16,000 views on YouTube. I'm now looking to develop video CVs."

"The show is one of the highlights of the year for me - networking, education, meeting old friends and gaining ideas for new videos. Technology interests me too and I love that it's held in Harrogate, the people are so friendly. My five-hour train journey from the South East is no worry for me." This was backed up by new BIGGA Life Member Clive Osgood sitting beside him, who is based in Epsom, Surrey. "It's no distance," he added.

Bring on BTME 2016.

TOP LEFT: Simon Tremlin
ABOVE: Jonathan Skelton
RIGHT: Crowds mingling at BTME 2015
RIGHT: Delegates are drawn into the BIGGA Stand at the back of Hall B



Thank you for attending BTME 2015
See you next year - 19-21 January 2016

This month Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the most common turf weeds and advises you how to deal with them

Dealing with weeds in turf

Professional turf is a tightly-knit grass sward with seemingly few openings and opportunities for invasion by weeds, but a surprisingly large number of plant species with no business in turf continue to establish and grow.

Turf weed prowess and achievement is governed by a range of botanical attributes alongside breaches in turf integrity that allow these dicotyledonous (broad leaved) plants to exploit the environment and ecosystem. Turf weeds are simply green plants in the wrong place, and at the expense of fine turf grasses.

Keeping a low profile

The meristems (growing points) of grass plant species are sufficiently low to miss the mower's blades and this is the essential factor underpinning the creation and maintenance of turf.

Broad leaved weeds with intrinsically higher growing points should be dispatched by the inherently low cutting heights required to maintain sports turf in a playable condition, but in practice many do escape to survive and thrive as turf weeds.

Weed plant populations contain a range of biotypes and especially those species with a high seed production potential. Close cutting over a long time period will select out the most prostrate individuals which go on to generate more of the same.

Classic in this context is the dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) often seen on tightly managed tees still producing yellow flowers virtually at ground level. But a cut too low can be just as damaging as a cut too high, with common daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and greater plantain (*Plantago major*) being two common weeds which thrive in 'shaved' and compacted turf.

The capacity of broad-leaf plant populations to adapt to a life in turf is clearly displayed by species possessing the prostrate growth habit obligatory for turf - but in the wider world have a more generous growth form and habit.

Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) hugs the ground with its runners slipping unobtrusively through turf to root at regular intervals.

Contrast this to uncut grassy situations where creeping buttercup grows up to 45-60cm high. Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) is one of the most prostrate of turf weeds but can grow up to 20cm high in hay meadows. Bird's foot trefoil

(*Lotus corniculatus*) behaves in the same way using long grass stalks for support.

Crowding out

Turf weeds like dandelion, common daisy, the plantains and self-heal produce leaves in rosettes at or just above soil level. Rosettes of leaves lay flat on the ground at a sufficiently low position to avoid cutting while shading out and killing the adjacent grass plants.

The large toothed leaves of dandelion are super-efficient light blockers, shading out and smothering short fine leaves of fine turf grasses.

Rosette weeds expand and exploit the space around with asexually produced daughter plants generated directly at the fleshy rootstock and stem (e.g. daisy and plantain) or even more efficiently at the nodes of running stems or stolons where adventitious fibrous roots form to create new independent plants.

Creeping buttercup, white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) are all examples of weeds that spread through turf via creeping stems or stolons.

Parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) and dove's-foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*) are two additional turf weeds spreading quickly via creeping stems or runners which may root at the nodes.

These two weeds favour sandy substrates which of course golf greens and golf tees very much are. 'Same but different' is self-heal which grows and spreads from short rhizomes (underground stems).

Matt forming broad-leaved weeds as a group are capable of creating substantial patches of weed growth across turf in a short space of time.

Coming in from the outside

Broad-leaved plants should rarely get the chance to flower and set seed in turf but low cut mowing over a long period of time favours the survival and growth of prostrate biotypes that can still flower even at soil level.

Long flowering periods as shown by mouse-ear chickweed - *Cerastium fontanum*, ephemeral (year-round) flowering, short seed-maturation times, minimum germination requirements and the ability to exploit tiny germination sites in turf are all attributes contributing to sexual reproduction as an important part in the spread and establishment of weeds in turf.

Most weeds of turf are widespread in the wider environment

where they can generate heavy seed loads that 'come back' to impact on turf. Classic examples are the wind-borne 'pappus' (parachute) fruit/seed of dandelion and closely related species like cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*).

Turfweeds are adept at exploiting small germination sites including tiny patches of bare soil caused by wear and tear, turf thinning from leatherjacket root feeding, and damage and holes left by physical removal of individual weeds. Worm casts provide ideal and ready-made germination sites, especially when the seed has been ingested by the worm during burrowing under the turf, and deposited intact inside the cast.

Hitching a ride

The ability of running stems or stolons to root at the nodes provides turf weeds with an efficient and effective means of asexual reproduction and spread. Runners may be severed during mowing or raking but the new plant, now independent via its own root system, survives to form a new focus of weed infestation.

Slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*), often called the United Kingdom's worst turf weed, is a special case in point. Originally introduced during Victorian times as a rockery plant, primarily due to the masses of pretty purple flowers produced in spring, slender speedwell subsequently 'escaped' to become a highly successful turf.

Despite its profuse flowering, the plant rarely sets viable seed and owes its wide spread to the tiny pieces of stem which root and establishing where they fall during mowing or elsewhere if mowers are shared between sites.

Self-sufficiency

Long, hot and dry periods soon reveal those weeds with a high degree of self-sufficiency and the ability to withstand drought conditions. It is all down to plants that can utilise the limited water supplies most efficiently and more to do with capacity to conserve water by limiting the rate of transpiration (loss of water from the leaves by transpiration) than any ability to absorb water more efficiently from a dry soil with a low water potential.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) bearing finely-divided fern-like and wax coated leaves from which transpiration rates are minimal is the archetypal drought tolerant turf weed.

But there is an associated factor which operates within a group



of highly specialised turf weeds including white clover, bird's foot trefoil, yellow suckling clover/lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*) and black medick (*Medicago lupulina*). As leguminous plants they have a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) association with nitrogen fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium*) living in root nodules and furnishing the plants with self-sufficient amounts of usable nitrate.

Restrictions on water availability automatically mean restrictions on the uptake of soil nutrients. Subsequent lack of available nitrogen essentially stops the growth of grass and all weeds with the exception of these leguminous plants. That is why large patches of healthy looking white clover persist through prolonged periods of drought.

Staying the course

A sizable number of turf weeds are equipped with food storage organs which enable plants to survive adverse environmental

conditions including drought and prolonged periods of sub-zero temperature. Examples of these so called 'perennating' organs are the tap roots of dandelion and close relatives like cat's ear, as well as the bulbs of the bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*).

Perennating organs may also play a part in asexual reproduction. For instance, the underground portion of the dandelion appears to be just a swollen root but any attempt to dig out individual plants reveals another function.

Pieces of tap root left in the soil form fibrous roots and develop into new plants, causing a cluster of small dandelion plants to grow from the failed attempt to dig out a single plant.

Another weed spreading in response to soil disturbance is the lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). Lesser celandine is not widespread in turf but once established is difficult to remove. Lesser celandine causes protracted prob-

ABOVE: Self-heal spreads via short rhizomes (underground stems)

PAGE 47 LEFT - TOP TO BOTTOM:
Common daisy spreads by new daughter plants produced at the stem base
Common daisy spreads by new daughter plants produced at the stem base
Dandelion surviving and still managing to flower on close-cut fine turf

PAGE 47 RIGHT - TOP TO BOTTOM:
Creeping cinquefoil which spreads by rooting at the nodes on its creeping stems
Yarrow with its finely-divided fern-like leaves which are coated in wax is the archetypal drought tolerant weed
Bird's foot trefoil is one of the 'self-sufficient' (in nitrate) weeds of turf



ABOVE: Greater plantain a typical rosette weed having escaped the 'blade' and still managing to flower



lems in wet, shaded turf adjacent to grassy banks and woodland which is its natural habitat.

Underground at the base of each plant is a cluster of tiny bulbils each with the capacity to produce a new plant, especially if detached and spread by digging.

A wolf in sheep's clothing

In its role as a weed of turf the field woodrush (*Luzula campestris*) is a complete anomaly. It is not a broad-leaf plant and behaves like a grass (plant family Graminae) although belonging to the family Juncaceae. Like true grasses field woodrush is a monocotyledon with the same exploitative mechanisms for space, light, water and nutrients similar and therefore a close competitor.

Field woodrush is one of the most difficult weeds to control using herbicide simply because it displays the same morphological characters and physiological mechanisms that make fine turf grasses tolerant and resistant to the selective herbicides widely used to control broad-leaf weeds.



Coated seed and bent grasses

How STRI trials backed by DLF Trifolium found that coated seed can help bent grasses establish quicker

Sustainability is currently a buzzword and the more sustainable the sward the better. A key problem that some greenkeepers face is that Poa Annua cannot be maintained sustainably – it has a high demand for water and fertiliser and is prone to disease and thatching up if not cared for adequately.

Therefore to increase sustainability, greenkeepers can increase the proportion of perennial grasses in the sward. Johnsons Sport Seeds parent company, DLF Trifolium wanted to determine the effects of oversewing a Bentgrass/annual meadow-grass sward with different Bentgrass seed mixtures.

Their belief was that putting new seed into an existing turf bed would see that turf taking nutrient away from the new seed. It followed then that their nutrient coated iSeed would be beneficial during the transition process.

iSeed is a patented seed coating that focuses on improving nutrient utilisation during the early

stages of plant growth. Fertiliser is coated onto the seed meaning the germinating and developing seedling receives the benefit, not the surrounding plants. This is particularly important when overseeding into a competitive sward.

The STRI was selected to carry out the trial and their Trial Report was completed on behalf of DLF Trifolium in 2012.

It was officially titled 'The effect of oversewing bentgrass, with or without seed coating, using the Graden Sand Injector on seedling germination and establishment in managed amenity turf'.

This trial aimed to determine any difference in seedling germination and establishment among different bentgrasses, with or without seed coating, following oversewing with the Graden Contour Sand Injector (CSI) in golf-green turf with high organic matter content.

Trial plots were to be sown with [1] Unsown, [2] Manor, [3] Jorvic, [4] J All Bentgrass, [5] Ji All Bentgrass seed coated and [6] J Velvet Bentgrass mix. All plots (50/50 Poa/

bent sward with high thatch level) were oversewn using the Graden CSI system (remove organic matter, back fill with fresh rootzone and seeds in one operation) in July 2012 at approximately 4 g m⁻².

As iSeed is heavier it was expected that around 50% less iSeed was sown in plots compared to uncoated seed plots.

July was chosen to represent an ideal time to establish new seed and obtain recovery most quickly, but the summer of 2012 was mild and wet.

ABOVE: Results of the Ji All Bentgrass

BELOW: iSeed



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However, due to this weather the seed germinated and in-filled the Graden lines in a few weeks with all bentgrass mixtures germinating equally within 20 days from oversewing.

Therefore, less optimal germination and establishment conditions were required to elucidate the potential differences among the treatments. By August 2012 the weather conditions were judged to be the best conditions for a second trial.

Primo Maxx (400ml ha⁻¹) was applied on 24 August in preparation for this a second oversewing on 31st August trial, again with the Graden CSI.

Establishment within the Graden lines allowed 'heal-up' and closing of the lines more quickly in plots oversewn with seed coated Ji All Bentgrass - up to 4 four weeks earlier compared to non-coated bentgrass seed.

This was shown in the subjective Graden line closure assessments and turf quality scores and the objective chlorophyll metre assessments.

Therefore, the addition of the seed coating provided extra benefit by decreasing the 'heal-up' time post Graden treatment compared

to non-seed coated J All Bentgrass.

Acceptable turf quality was achieved one month earlier with the seed coated seed and was visibly better than uncoated Bentgrass for a further five months.

By the end of the trial period all plots showed a similar level of content but confirmed that the iSeed parachuted the new seed into growth much earlier due to its own nutrient.

Throughout the trial, J Velvet Bentgrass did not provide any extra benefit in terms of closure of Graden lines compared to other seed mixes.

But at the end of the trial this mixture had significantly higher content of Bentgrass in the sward. In part due to the more invasive habit of this type compared to the other bentgrasses in the trial.

The conclusion of this bent grass research was that the establishment of the bents with the iSeed coating was up to month quicker than non-coated seed and would help to bring areas of play back much more quickly.

It was also the opinion of the STRI that based on the results it would be reasonable to assume that a combination of the J Velvet blend and the iSeed coating would

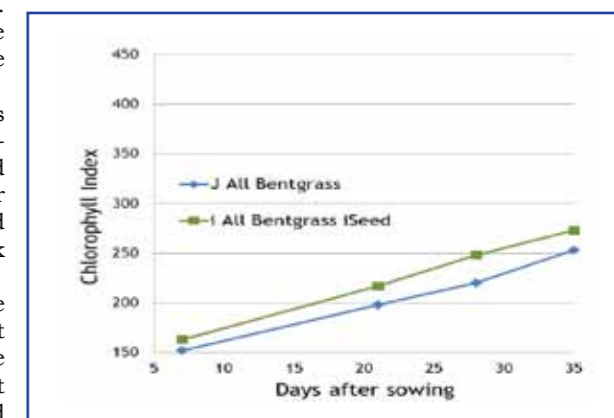
improve species transition significantly. DLF plans further trial work to investigate.

Note: The area chosen for this trial had a very high level of organic matter present, as this is often where oversewing with bentgrass seed is most challenging.

Previous research has shown that multiple oversewing operations are required at the same time as organic matter removal before beneficial effects in sward species composition change is observed.

Therefore, it is unsurprising that two oversewing operations did not provide a significant change in this trial.

BELOW: Chlorophyll Index Graph



Last month we looked at how greenkeepers can finance their fleet using planned replacement finance. Now we look at the various payment options

How to finance your fleet: Part 2

Equipment finance payments can be made using the normal range of credit options if required, or on a tailor made repayment schedule to match individual budgets and cash flows. The normal range of finance options includes:

Hire purchase

You pay the VAT due on the equipment at the outset and make regular fixed repayments over an agreed period. Once all repayments have been made, you become the owner of the equipment.

For tax* purposes you are treated as the owner from the outset of the finance agreement and can therefore claim any capital allowances available (*consult your tax advisor for details). You are also responsible

for the maintenance and insurance of the equipment.

Key benefits of hire purchase

- Certainty that the finance agreement cannot be withdrawn as long as you continue to abide by the terms and conditions of the contract.

- The regular nature of repayments and a fixed interest rate make budgeting easier.

- A cost-effective way to fund acquisitions. Using a traditional bank overdraft to fund equipment purchases can result in a growing hard core of debt that can prove more costly to your business in the long run.

- A straightforward form of financing which leaves you in control of both the used equipment

value and the claiming of capital allowances.

Finance lease

Although you never gain ownership of the agreement, a finance lease is similar to hire purchase in that you make regular fixed repayments over an agreed period.

A key difference is that VAT is payable on each lease payment rather than paying the full VAT due on the equipment at the outset of the agreement.

Another key difference to the hire purchase option is that while you cannot claim capital allowances, you are able to offset the lease repayments against any taxable profit.

Once again, as with hire purchase, you are responsible for the

maintenance and insurance of the equipment.

There are a couple of key benefits of finance lease (in addition to those for hire purchase):

- Enhanced business cash flow, with the ability to spread VAT across the life of the lease agreement

- A straightforward form of leasing which leaves you in a position to control the used equipment value

Operating lease & contract hire

Operating lease is different to both hire purchase and finance lease options in that you do not repay the full value of the equipment over the rental period. You



Finance case study: Mundesley Golf Club

Mundesley Golf Club, close to the north Norfolk coast is described by finance director Reggie Shreeve as “really a small village course.” The club recently completed a 1 + 6 John Deere Financial deal with dealer Stuart Edge of Ben Burgess.

This was for six new John Deere machines including mowers for the tees, greens, fairways and rough, a Gator and a compact tractor, plus other ancillary equipment.

“After a long and thorough process, we elected to go for a full replacement package deal, including an agreement on fixed servicing costs,” said Reggie.

“In dealing with Ben Burgess and John Deere Financial, we particularly appreciated their flexibility – because they’re committed to the industry, they understand small clubs’ requirements such as ours and they built the package around what we could afford. We recruited our Head Greenkeeper Richard Plummer a year ago, and straight away he made a couple of suggestions on what was needed and where we could save a lot of time, particularly mowing the rough and grass banks.

“Richard has one full-time assistant and one part-time, and with these new machines both their productivity and the quality of course presentation have increased.”



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enjoy lower rental payments, paying only for what you use, rather than the full cost of purchasing the equipment. At the end of the rental period you return the equipment.

However, as with the finance lease option, VAT is payable on each rental rather than at the outset of the agreement. Although you cannot claim capital allowances, you are able to offset rental payments against any taxable profit.

In addition, John Deere Financial contract hire is an operating lease that also includes a professional maintenance package.

The additional key benefits of operating lease are

- Enhanced business cash flow with lower payments than for hire purchase or finance lease, and the

ability to spread VAT across the life of the rental agreement

- None of the uncertainty and effort associated with remarketing used equipment.

Additional key benefits of contract hire

- Known running costs; extending the principal of fixed interest costs, this type of agreement goes further and fixes all equipment usage and servicing costs for your business
- Lower repair costs with preventive maintenance.

Although a dealer maintenance plan will not cover the cost of repairs outside warranty, the likelihood of a major breakdown is reduced with more regularly maintained equipment.

Swede dreams

After nearly two years as Course Manager at Ingelsta Golf Club in Sweden, International BIGGA Member Warren Clements explains how he's kept the greens to a high standard while fighting the long harsh winters, the economy and limited pesticide use

After several years as Deputy Course Manager at Ealing Golf Club, in early 2013 I was given the opportunity to become Course Manager at Ingelsta Golf Club in the suburbs of Norrköping, south Sweden. It was an adventurous move, I knew it would progress my career and I could also join my girlfriend out there.

Ingelsta is a 3557m 12-hole par 46 parkland course with USGA A4 Penn greens and fairways. Along with a driving range, two putting and chipping greens, a short game area and a short kids' course the practice facilities were excellent.

The greenkeeping team consists of myself and one other full-time greenkeeper in the winter, and we add two seasonals in the summer.

With the course still under a metre of snow in February 2013, to produce a course report I had to study photos to identify areas of improvement.

My main aim was to produce

the best putting surfaces by implementing similar maintenance regimes from what I learned and adopted from Ealing.

A testing start

I officially started my role in April 2013 just as this part of Sweden experienced one of its worst winters, with snow and ice cover lasting up to five months. Temperatures during this period reached as low as -30C.

The course was completely brown and the greens suffered severe damage from ice burn and prolonged snow cover.

Combined with dry windy weather the greens then started to suffer from desiccation with no option of irrigating as our lake was frozen, so we had to resort to applying water from a 300 litre spray tank.

In the UK I was used to maintaining greens at a high standard all year round with a good maintenance backup. I wanted to

implement this at Ingelsta but the weather forced me to wait. It took five months to achieve full recovery after implementing an overseed of Penn in the spring along with ongoing topdressings and a steady feeding programme.

In fact, I went for the unorthodox approach of overseeding the worst damaged areas on greens with a tee Rye mix with the Bents to produce a response while the slower growth rates of Bent grew in. Mowing at this time was minimal, at a height of 4.5mm.

Winter golf and the economy

In September 2013, after a second overseed of a Penn mixes, we had full coverage of 80% creeping bent and 20% Poa. For me, the Annual Poa which invaded the greens was not a problem and I had the experience of managing it with the bents.

We lowered the heights of cut to 3mm and we were mowing daily. Along with rolling every other day



LEFT: Warren Clements carrying out a greens performance check

TOP RIGHT: The ryemix and bent growing in on the 5th green spring 13

we were achieving a true roll and stimp speeds of 10. With local courses averaging 7 or 8 on the stimp we now had happy members and guests. However, with another winter fast approaching I knew another challenge was ahead!

Ingelsta is only course in the area that traditionally stays open during the winter. Unless there is snow cover or early white frosts present normal greens are open thanks to a well drained USGA construction.

Many courses in Sweden close or use temporary greens. Since the golf boom from 2000 to 2006 a hundred courses were built in Sweden to meet the perceived demand. Then, the worldwide economic slump hit Sweden too.

Recorded golf club memberships dropped 30%. Many courses (like us) ended up with very small memberships and had to rely on green fees and sponsorships. Business was very slow in the summer and we had to up our game in the winter for income.

We wanted to provide the same standard of greens in the winter as we do in the summer to appeal to golfers and bring in business, while at the same time prepare them for the winter. Having heights of cut raised in the winter was not the factor to protect green surfaces, in my view it's all down to the plant health itself. I was confident our feeding programme would sustain low heights of cut and play on greens throughout the winter.

We applied weekly foliar feeds of Sulphate of Ammonia at 20kg per hectare from September. Throughout the winter, when conditions were suitable, we applied 20kg of hi K Potassium Nitrate with about 10kg soluble Iron knowing this would provide the plant enough essential nutrients for health and vigour.

As we were trying to achieve as much growth back on the greens in the summer we did not apply Primo Maxx, but we applied Primo in the winter at a weekly rate of 100ml per

hectare with the feeds, as research has shown that Primo helps grass protection and recovery during and after ice and snow as it helps carbohydrate storage in the leaf.

From October the height of cut was 3mm and the greens continued to look healthy. With one or two cuts per week we were still producing stimp readings of 8 or 9, combined with keeping play on grass tees. Because we're 12 holes that you can play in two hours we managed to attract golfers in the very short daylight we have here.

Amazingly, we were cutting greens four days before Christmas with temperatures around 8C - so unusual in Sweden it caught the attention of the local media.

Featuring on TV about the mild winter was good promotion for us and golfers flocked to the course over the holidays.

Snow cover

Not knowing what the winter may bring we had to be prepared





for snow and timings of procedures are crucial.

We planned to give the greens a spike and apply a preventative fungicide a couple of days before it was forecast to prevent diseases such as Pink snow mould, and hope that permafrost was present the ground as this acts as extra protection for the plant.

This procedure was carried out in January 2014 when the first snow fell, but fortunately it was only on the ground for three weeks and the greens pulled through well with no signs of disease.

If snow cover was going to exceed the 60 day survival rate, plans were put in place to remove or melt the snow off the greens using natural methods such as covering the snow with leaves we collected in the autumn to cause a radiant effect from the sun melting away the snow down to the grass sward. Removing snow manually was not an option as I'd heard this causes more damage on the surface of the greens by tearing up grass attached to ice under the snow.

Pesticide use

With the increase of pesticide restrictions across Europe, and

a total ban in place in Denmark, countries like Sweden will face a nightmare to control disease and disorders especially from the affects of long snow cover.

Thankfully, at the moment, there are five fungicides available in Sweden - Sportak, Amistar, Medallion, Banner Max and Headway. For other pesticide use Merit Turf is available for insects and Roundup for weed control.

Unfortunately, the only two selective Herbicides available, Starane and Tomahawk, carry the same active ingredient (Fluroxypyr) which has a damaging affect on creeping bent grass species.

With our fairways and most of my semi rough and surrounds sown with bent we've resorted to cultural methods. Weed control on the streets, open wastelands and parks are restricted so weed invasion onto the course from surrounding areas is uncontrollable. We have to focus on getting a good sward of grass cover in all areas of the course to prevent this.

According to new laws, every golf course here must apply to the local council for a licence to spray. For the licence to be granted we have to inform them of every product we're

planning to spray on the course, the rates of applications, and how many times each product will be applied.

2014 in summary

We're now focusing on a greens maintenance programme that consists of monthly verticuts of 1.5mm below followed by small but often sand dressings of 5 tonne per hectare, organic granular feeds in spring and mid summer and weekly foliar feeds of NK, Iron and now primo.

This has led to fast, firm and true putting surfaces and healthy swards. We've hit consistent green speeds of 12 throughout the playing season, and to my surprise we've had no disease outbreaks. The only fungicide we applied was before snow back in January.

As I write the course is open and on full greens with no extreme cold temperatures or snow, but who knows what will happen next! There is a long way to go and by the time you read this article we could well be a metre under snow.

If you are interested in following my work in Sweden please visit my Facebook blog page Ingelsta gk Agronomy.

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Join the BMW PGA Championship support team

Now is your chance to apply to join the volunteer BIGGA greenkeeping support team for the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth in May

BIGGA has provided a support team for this event for many years and volunteers are again required for all four days of this the flagship event of the European Tour.

The 2015 tournament is between 21-24 May, and an early morning prep team of 15 volunteers are required for the full week as back up to Kenny Mackay and his team at the prestigious Surrey venue.

A course preparation team of 15 is required 19-24 May. Match raking takes place 21-24 May.

For the first two rounds there are approximately 52 match rakers, and for rounds three and four, 40 are needed.

This is another superb development opportunity on both a professional and personal level, with a fantastic camaraderie developing between the team.

Light clothing and refreshments are provided and a small marquee is provided as a base adjacent to the first fairway on the West Course.

Please note that no accommodation is provided at this event.

To apply, please fill in the application form and return to:

Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF by the closing date of Friday 27 March 2015.



Name

Golf Club

Position

Age

BIGGA Membership Number

Home address

.....

.....

Email Address

Mobile Number

I am available for:

- Full week
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

Preference given to members who can do most/all days

Yes No

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years

I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee

I have attended three of the last five BTMEs.

I am/have been a member of the Open Championship Support Team

I have been a member of the BMW PGA Championship Support Team

Please email in a head and shoulders photo to rachael@bigga.co.uk

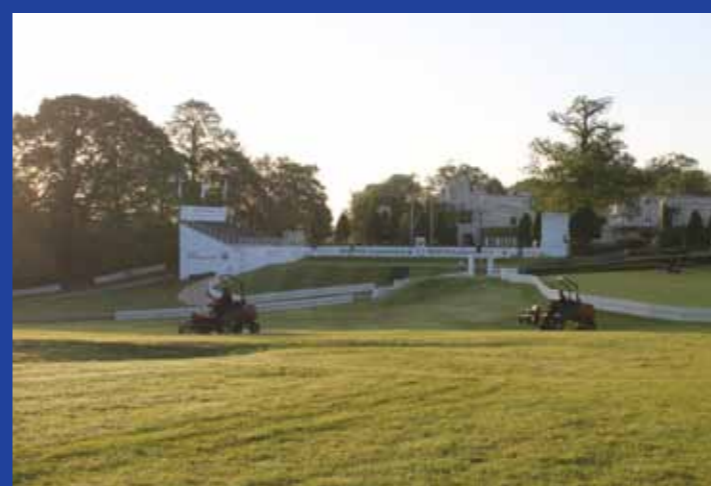
Polo shirt measurement; chest.....

Are you available for the Early Morning Prep team from Monday?

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. We welcome applications from members from all Regions, but priority will be given to members from the South East. **Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper prior to applying and you are definitely available.**

To apply please fill in the application form, enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF.

The closing date is Friday 27 March 2015.



IMPORTANT INFO

Durabunker Dives in with 'The Shark'

Tennessee National Golf Club, a signature Greg Norman Design managed by Troon Golf, recently became the first course in America to undertake a major bunker renovation project in conjunction with UK based company Durabunker Ltd.

The former world number one, known as The Great White Shark, said of the course: "I'm very proud", just as Durabunker Director Rhydian Lewis is now equally proud to be associated with the venue.

Durabunker, formerly known as Envirobunker, is a patented bunker construction method that uses recycled synthetic material to build revetted bunker faces and edges, offering significant cost and maintenance savings, a design life of over 20 years and many other benefits over traditional construction methodologies.

Phase one of an exciting 32 bunker project was completed in November 2014, using a combined team from Durabunker Ltd and SouthEastern Golf, the contractor of choice for Greg Norman Design.

Andrew McClintock, Course Manager at Tennessee National, said: "This is a first class venue, but the resounding message coming from the members was that our bunkers were letting the golf course down.

"We have large revetted bunkers that were in a sorry state and required rebuilding every three years. The labour and maintenance burdens were huge and have actually resulted in many of the bunkers from the original design, being filled in.

"It was recently agreed that we would actively look to increase our membership and we realised that to achieve that goal it was imperative to find a solution to the problems we suffered with our bunkers. We wanted to maintain the integrity of the original design, with revetted bunkers being central to the character of the course, but felt it just wasn't sustainable. We then found the one viable solution to our problems – Durabunker.

"The product has absolutely transformed our bunkers, they look incredible, so natural and totally in keeping with the golf



course. Everyone to a man has been blown away by the result achieved through using Durabunker, both the product and the company have performed exceptionally for us.

"The company director was on site throughout the first phase of the project, which was re-assuring for us. Durabunker staff were very hands on, leading the construction and shaping work and ensuring quality standards were met by our joint teams. I cannot recommend the product, the staff or the company highly enough".

Rhydian Lewis, Director at Durabunker added: "We communicated closely with Andrew before we won the contract. We presented a number of options and we worked hard to ensure that we were able to deliver the project within a fairly stringent budget.

"We recognise this as a crucial part of working with any client, and as such always ensure that we fully understand the requirements of the golf course before recommending the appropriate working model. This can vary from full contractual services to part managed projects and even licence agreements.

"Contrary to many courses in the



UK who prefer to carry out renovation work in house, the US market does rely more heavily on contractors to execute projects.

"Having input from our own highly experienced team, some of whom have worked with this product since before its introduction to the market in 2011, was important for Tennessee National.

"However we are equally happy to work with clubs who wish to carry out bunker renovation in house, utilising their own staff and expertise."

Andrew added: "Durabunker has had a dramatic impact on the golf course and the feedback from the membership has been overwhelmingly positive. The financial benefits are also considerable, we will realise a return on investment by the end of year three.

"In the current climate there are few courses immune to financial pressures, Durabunker is a method to build high quality, long lasting bunkers, at a reasonable cost.

"Our maintenance overheads will be dramatically reduced and the product will also have a positive impact on our bottom line – it really is a win win situation!"



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Revolution: A strong foundation for sustainable golf course management



Deep in the highlands of Scotland lies Brora Golf Club, a true traditional links course designed by famed golf course architect James Braid. The northernmost of all Braid-designed courses, Brora is brimming with unique charm and personality

Natural burns allow water to run through the course, which is home to acres of beautiful fescue, marram and other unique features, including a railway that comes into play on the tenth tee.

The golf course houses 17 or so cattle and around 100 sheep, all of which roam free throughout the year. Electric fences protect the greens from hoof damage; however, as locals will tell you, animal droppings are treated as casual water!

Course Manager and BIGGA member James MacBeath manages Brora in a manner that reflects its rustic charm. He and his team work with limited inputs and have taken steps to implement more sustainable turf management practices at Brora. For example, all top dressing and bunker sand is taken from natural dunes located on site.

The course uses only about 45kg of Nitrogen per hectare each year, the majority of which is derived from an early season application of 8.0.0 dried blood, hoof, and horn. In addition, the course makes a maximum of one fungicide application towards the end of the year if and when conditions arise.

Despite these limited inputs, James and his small team are able to produce consistently optimal playing conditions. What's their secret? James credits much of Brora's success to a monthly Revolution program.

The club makes seven monthly Revolution applications each year, beginning in February and continuing through August. James said: "I like to make sure that the profile is nicely hydrated prior to the drying north easterly winds that arrive in April."

Proper moisture management is critical as the club is wide open and exposed to the elements. Weather patterns change quickly and constantly in the Scottish highlands, meaning a soil surfactant program must be able to perform under a wide variety of climactic conditions. According to James, Revolution helps to keep the moisture in his greens remarkably consistent, rain or shine.

Since introducing Revolution four years ago, James has witnessed several key areas of improvement. Dry patch, once a major problem for the course, has been all but eliminated. Sand splash from bunkers on the edge of greens and constant cutting over those areas were weak and bare, this also has been eliminated. The traditional, undulating features of the links course used to create havoc. High points used to dry out too quickly while low points were invaded by moss and left bare. Now, the course has complete and consistent turf coverage on both high and low areas.

An antiquated irrigation system once meant that the club relied heavily on hand watering. However, that too, has been virtually eliminated thanks to Revolution. James added: "The greens 'winter' extremely well, meaning members and visitors enjoy consistent, high quality greens for 12 months of the year, which is what I believe all Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers are trying to achieve in all but impossible climates."

Tom Malehorn, Aquatrols International Marketing Manager, explained that these benefits are typical of a successful Revolution program.

He said: "The unique, patented

structure of the Revolution molecule holds a thinner film of available water more completely around the soil particle while allowing excess water to move deeper into the soil. The balanced air to water ratios help to provide a healthier soil environment which provides proven benefits for the plant in the face of abiotic stresses.

"Revolution's unique plant health benefits, as measured by Dr Erik Ervin at Virginia Tech University, include higher production levels of chlorophyll a, antioxidants and amino acids which boost the turf's ability to survive stress conditions."

Dr Stan Kostka, Director of Technology and Business Development at Aquatrols, confirmed that "Revolution also improves the conversion of organically bound nitrogen to plant available nitrogen" as research has proven at the University of Wageningen in The Netherlands.

The improved playing conditions at Brora Golf Club are readily apparent, according to Graham O'Connor, who serves as the Area Manager for Farmura. He said: "A visit to the links at Brora Golf Club is always a great treat for me. The course always seems to be in great condition. James and his team do a wonderful job."

According to Graham the appeal of a true links course like Brora lies in its rustic charm and atmosphere. That aura is matched by the tried and true approach to sustainable turf management embraced by the team. Graham concluded: "I find the team's commitment to sustainable greenkeeping practices quite infectious. I'm delighted that we are able to contribute in some way to the success that he achieves."



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Revolution's patented formulation balances air and water in the soil profile, leading to a better root system and improved soil health. By maximizing the potential of your growing environment, Revolution helps turf function more efficiently and perform at consistently higher levels, even under stress.

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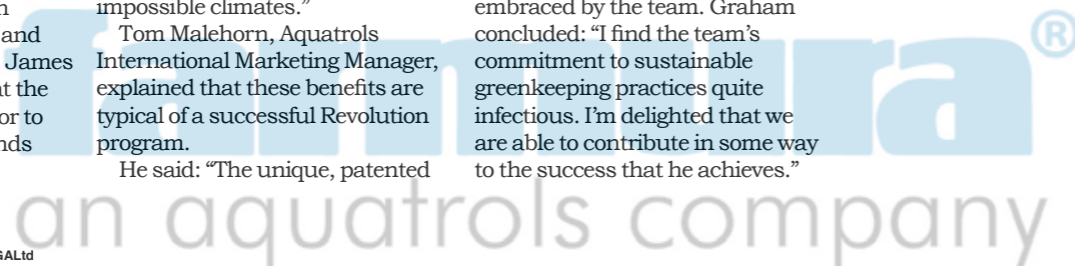
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Section Notes

Please email your notes to 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



Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

CLEVELAND

Wednesday 25th February Barry and Ali's Quiz night to be held at Teesside Golf Club 7.00pm start

NORTHERN

The first golf day is confirmed and will be at Selby Golf Club on Monday 27 April. The first tee will be at 1pm.

SHEFFIELD

The Section AGM is being held on Tuesday 10 February at The Grange Golf Club in Rotherham from 6.30pm. We would ask anyone interested in progressing the Section to come along and get involved as we need some new Section committee members who can drive events and get people there. The 2015 fixtures are: Abbeydale Golf Club - 14 July; Tankersley Golf Club - 17 September; Waterfront Golf Club - 3 December. If you didn't get your booking form from the BIGGA Stand at BTME they will be emailed out after the AGM. Make sure we have your mobile telephone number for text reminders and your email address for entry forms.

NORTH WEST

The Campey Turf Care pro-am will be taking part at Hart Common Golf Club on Tuesday 21 April. Please contact Julie.Campey@campeyturfcare.com or ian.Campbell@campeyturfcare.com.

News

CLEVELAND

The TLS Greenkeeper v Groundsman Christmas Quiz held on 17 December was won by the Greenkeepers. The quiz was all even going

into the penultimate round when the greenkeepers managed to scramble a lead thanks to Whamology and superior pudding knowledge! It was a hard fought match with Cleveland section legends such as Bruce Burnell and Ian Holaran taking part.

Thanks are extended to TLS and all their staff for organising another great evening and to the staff at Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club for their hospitality.. It was a great night and special thanks go out to Terry Charlton and Alan Morton who take the time to plan the night and the turn out just showed how much the section appreciates their efforts.

January is always a difficult month to write about with nothing much happening around the section. Judging by some of the great pictures on the Facebook page 2014 seems to have been a good year let's hope 2015 can eclipse it!

NORTHERN

Our final event of the year was the Christmas bash at the splendid Rawdon Golf Club in Leeds. A good turnout of approx 35 enjoyed a great day out with the format being a four man texas scramble. The draw was made by our chairman John Watts so it was all above board! We made it a little interesting by having two drives each which made life a tad tough.

A massive thank you to all the guys who made the effort and made the day a success. Ade Holroyd from Bob Wild was on hand with Mr Watts to present the prizes from a fantastic prize table. Each player received a prize, two nearest the pin and an extra prize going to John Waite for the best Christmas jumper. To the disapproval of the room it was my team of Gary Feron, Chris Goodall and local greenkeeper Dan Reece who took the first prize!

Geoff Sutcliffe, the greens chairman at Rawdon was very complimentary about us and will gladly welcome us back in the future. Rawdon were very welcoming, looked after us all day and we can't thank them enough.

After the golf we held our AGM. John Watts went through the business matters and a good debate was had. We are happy to report that the committee is now back to full strength and should be ready to move forward with the new guys being very positive.

Regarding the price of the events this year we agreed that a reduction to £15 instead of £20 will encourage more people to try and make it as well as the afternoon tee off times.

SHEFFIELD

Congratulations to Gordon Brammah who was nominated by the Sheffield Section for BIGGA Lifetime Membership for his dedication in promoting our Association, our congratulations and thanks to you Gordon.

NORTH WEST

The section would like to take this opportunity to thank Anthony Davies MG of Prestbury Golf Club and Paul Pearce Of Warrington Golf Club for all of the hard work and support they have given to BIGGA and to the greenkeeping world, we wish them all the luck in the world on their future adventures. With this in mind we'd like to remind all that

there is a helpline available to all BIGGA members with advice on a whole host of issues eg Legal Advice, Lifestyle Counseling and Online Support - these numbers are on the Membership page of this month's magazine.

Thanks to Sponsors

NORTHERN

A great big thank you to our Christmas sponsor Bob Wild who provided a fantastic prize table and Ade Holroyd for his work on the day and involvement through the year.

SHEFFIELD

Thanks go to Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the Christmas Golf Day and to Russell Latham and Premier Pitches for the Nearest The Pins. We would like to thank all our 2014 sponsors without who the events could not take place.

NORTH WEST

The section would like to thank all of the section sponsors for the continued support that they provide, thank you.

Midland

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



BB&O - The Stick
bbscribe@gmail.com
or Matt Nutter@bosecretary@gmail.com



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d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



MIDLAND
Dave Collins
greendave2004@hotmail.co.uk



EAST OF ENGLAND
Steve Beverly
steveimtingham@aol.com



EAST MIDLAND
Matt Gilks
gilksmatt@farol.co.uk

Events Coming Up

MIDLAND

Midland Regional Conference at Stonebridge GC, Birmingham/ Coventry near NEC on 25 February. Please contact Roger Butler on 07525 593395 to book.

Spring Tournament at Gaudet Luce Wednesday 20 May. Starts at 12:30. Cost £25. Closing date for entries 6 May. 18 Hole Stableford please contact Rhys Thomas to book or at www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk

News

MIDLAND

Hopefully everyone who went had a great BTME (not too many sore heads I hope!), it's early doors in 2015 so news is a little light this month but a big congratulations must go to Harvey Brooke at Redditch GC who has been promoted to Deputy Course Manager.

Please guys - if you have any news call us or email us on contact details above and we will do our best to get it into the write up.

If anyone has any ideas please don't be afraid to share, also follow us on Facebook and twitter where we are building up a good online community.

Welcome New Northern Members

Chris Hodgkinson, Course Manager, Carus Green Ltd, John Parry, Greenkeeper, Wrexham Golf Club, Christopher Moores, Greenkeeper, Macclesfield Golf Club, Richard Stanwix, Greenkeeper, Bamburgh Castle Golf Club, Chris Jones, Greenkeeper, St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Myles, Davies, Assistant Greenkeeper, Heswall Golf Club, Josh Crackett, Assistant Greenkeeper, Blackwell Grange Golf Club, Alastair Greenfield, Affiliate, Tyneside Golf Club, Vincent Jensen, Deputy Course Manager, The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, Jack Rank, Greenkeeper, York Golf Club, Jonathan Brown, Greenkeeper, Hanging Heaton Golf Club, Christopher Gotts, Greenkeeper, Clitheroe Golf Club, Stuart Lyon, Greenkeeper, The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, Dan Wilkin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, Jordan, Rotherforth, Assistant Greenkeeper, Scarcroft Golf Club.

EAST MIDLAND

I hope all of you enjoyed BTME 2015. Lots going on pre Harrogate, and I'm sure lots to follow from Harrogate. I myself missed the Turkey Trot changed at the last min to Beedles Lake, thank you to Tim and all the staff there for accommodating us and making a very enjoyable day for all. I hope you enjoyed the Mulled wine at halfway and did anyone find a golden nugget in their Christmas pudding?

Talking of golden nuggets, I have a voucher to give away to a lucky reader of this section? All you need to do is email me your place of work, contact details and the lucky winner will be selected at random, with an adjudicator at the next section meeting.

RIGHT THEN CALLING ALL EAST MIDLANDS MEMBERS - we have been challenged to a match V Midland section, who is up for it? Who fancies the challenge? Date and venue TBC please either email myself or another committee member!

Results from the December competition: 1 C Weir & M Anderson, 2 G Skinner & R Hartley (BANDITO), 3 J Baker and P French. NP went to M Price, J Dunn and J Baker. Voucher is £20 John Lewis Voucher for the giveaway!

Remember to email in any news from the section or planned events to me - email gilksmatt@farol.co.uk

Thanks to Sponsors

MIDLAND

A big thanks to our wonderful sponsors and this month we would like to thank Burrows for sponsoring our January page. Also thanks to our February page sponsors ALS, and thanks to Banks Amenity for sponsoring the prizes at the Spring Tournament. We are very grateful to all our sponsors for their continued support.

EAST MIDLAND

Thank you to the sponsors of the Turkey Trot - Rigby Taylor, Countrywide and Jenko

Welcome New Midland Members

John Lawrence, Groundsman, The Edgbaston Priory Club, Anthony Knight, Groundsman, The Edgbaston Priory Club, Tom Pardoe, Groundsman, The Edgbaston Priory Club, Steven Whitfield, Groundsman, The Edgbaston Priory Club, David Lawrence, Head Groundsman, The Edgbaston Priory Club, Jack Leek, Assistant Greenkeeper, Millbrook Golf Club Limited, Alexander Frith, Assistant Greenkeeper, Park Hill Golf Club, James Quinn, Assistant Greenkeeper, Pryors Hayes Golf Club.

South East

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



SURREY Mark Day mark@daylinks.co.uk	KENT Rob Holland premiergolf2012@hotmail.co.uk	SUSSEX Chris Humphrey chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk	EAST ANGLIA Mick Lathrope m.lathrope@ntlworld.com	ESSEX Arnold Phipps-Jones essexbigga@talktalk.net	LONDON John Wells j.wells1@sky.com
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Events Coming Up

KENT

10 March - Royal St. Georges Golf Club
14 May - Faversham Golf Club
24 September - Walmer and Kingsdown Golf Club
26 November - Redlibbets Golf Club
Please get your names in early for all events, particularly Royal St. Georges, now as numbers are limited.

LONDON

2015 Golf tournaments: Spring and Summer will be at Highgate and Bush Hill Park but we've not confirmed which way round yet. Xmas tournament will be at Moor Park.
The Big day is at Oakland College Smallford on Tuesday 17 February with 4 great speakers covering the V's first with by John Ross MG on Vibration and noise at work. Second is Steve Chappell on Volunteering and the Ryder Cup, third is the first ever Master Greenkeeper Laurence Pithie on Vision, and last but not least STRI's Stella Rixon on Variation changes in GK in the last decade.
2015 Education: We have another short session on Wednesday 25 February which is free and includes refreshments at Mill Hill Golf Club, 12.30 until 2pm - 'Chemicals/getting the best performance from them' with John Beck and Mike Williamson of Sherriff Amenity.
On Wednesday 18 March the well-known Billy McMillan will be talking about and demonstrating the Dry Jet sand injection system at Muswell Hill Golf Club.

SURREY

Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner March 2015.

News

LONDON

Harrogate was a great few days and for all the London Greenkeepers that went I hope you gained from the experience, and for all those that missed it there's always next year.

SURREY

The Surrey AGM was held on 19 December at Guildford GC. Chairman Les Howkins MG gave an in depth report on section affairs and handed the reigns to newly elected Surrey Chairman David Langheim MG.

Tony Bremer Treasurer, Ashley Allpress Secretary, Roger Tydeman Regional Representative, Scott Roberts Golf Events, Andy McEvoy Education, Lewis Birch, Ron Christie, Alistair Higgs, Sam Bethell and yours truly will represent the section for 2015.

Congratulations to Les who became BIGGA Chairman at BTME 2015, after putting Surrey firmly on the map. We wish Les every success in striving forward and setting new benchmarks in our industry as National Chairman.

Results

SURREY

Guildford GC hosted The Turkey Trot on the same day as the AGM. Results: The Boys 55.5 points 3rd The Dorking Duo, Tony Bremmer, Andy Fowler 56.9 points.

Longest Drive Les Howkins MG and Nearest Pin Gareth Roberts.

Thanks to Matt and all the team for preparing first class surfaces and all the staff at Guildford GC for a warm welcome and ensuring we all had a great day.

Home Counties Secretaries V Surrey Greenkeepers at The Berkshire. Victory 4 ½ 3 ½ to the Secretaries

Thanks to Sponsors

SURREY

Thanks to all the trade who have supported us throughout 2014 these include Avoncrop, Ernest Doe, JSM Ltd, WGM, Countrywide, Complete Weed Control, Rigby Taylor, Lister Wilder, Symbio, Godfreys, Profusion, Thompson Perrot&Lobb, Compliant Grounds, Greensman and Big Jim from Grass roots.

Welcome New Member

Dean Winfield, Greenkeeper, Pine Ridge Golf Club.

South West & South Wales

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



SOUTH WEST Jaey Goodchild j.goodchild@bowood.org	SOUTH COAST Russell Riley rriley@countrywidefarmers.co.uk	DEVON & CORNWALL Cameron McMorris cjmcmorris@gmail.com	SOUTH WALES Andrew Hatcher andrewhatcher1@msn.com
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Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES

The spring seminar will be held at Royal Porthcawl GC on 5 March, a flyer will be sent out with details of cost and speakers.

SOUTH WEST

A valuable opportunity for certified chainsaw operators to undertake refresher training has been organised for March. Dates are yet to be confirmed allowing flexibility in scheduling. Please contact Paul Worster (paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) or Stuart Bowman (s.bowman@thornburygc.co.uk) for details.

Please keep an eye out for the South West fixtures list to be published shortly. In the meantime here is a summary of the year's events:

- 18 March - Turf Club at Thornbury Golf Centre
- 16 June - Rigby Taylor Team Challenge at The Players Club
- 22 July - Golf Management Trophy at Minchinhampton Golf Club
- 10 September - Summer Tournament and National Qualifier at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club
- 18 November - Regional Conference at Somerset County Cricket Club
- 15 December - Christmas Tournament at Marlborough Golf Club

All of our Section events are open to members of other sections, please feel free to contact us and attend as everyone is welcome.

News

SOUTH WALES

Former Head Greenkeeper Dennis Archer of Whitchurch Golf Club sadly passed away on 6 January aged 77. Condolences to his family at this sad time.

SOUTH WEST

Yet another BTME has passed and yet again a large contingency from the south west made the pilgrimage to Harrogate. It was great to see all of you there and those that were not able to make I would highly recommend the event.

Big thanks to the team from HQ, another great show.

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

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WALES

Big thanks to all our patrons for their fantastic support through last year.

SOUTH WEST

Many thanks to our South West Section 2015 Patrons: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve and T H White for their continued and valuable support of South West Section events and training. Finally a big welcome to H. Curtis & Sons, machinery and equipment dealer based in Bristol who have joined the South West Section as patrons.

Welcome New Members

John Murzyn, Greenkeeper, Manor House Golf Club at Castle Coombe, Liam Harries, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ferndown Golf Club, Robert Preston, First Assistant, Manor House Golf Club at Castle Coombe.

Welcome New International Members

Paul Willoughby, International Member, Golfcentrum Amsteldijk (Netherlands), Maurice Thorn, International Member, Golf Club Grand-Ducal (Belgium).

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

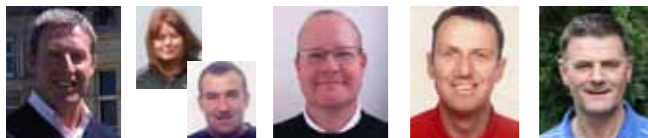
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Scotland

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



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NORTH
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WEST
Stuart Taylor
stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Events Coming Up

NORTH

The annual conference on 3 March is fast approaching and hopefully we will have a large turnout from the section. This is also a great opportunity to gain more CPD credits with your attendance.

WEST

I should bring to your attention the Scottish Conference to be held once again at Dunfermline on 3 March, some excellent speakers have been found so I would recommend attending. Cost will be £35 per ticket with lunch included as usual.

Spring outing will be held at Clober Golf Club sometime in May as usual, hopefully not when I'm in Turkey playing golf. The Autumn outing is planned for September as usual with a date still to be set but the venue will be East Renfrewshire Golf Club.

EAST

Scottish Conference 3 March - Dunfermline
Section Outing 16 April - Longniddry GC
Scottish Open 9-12 July - Gullane GC
Scottish Golf Championship 6 August - Portlethen GC
Section Willie Woods Tournament 19 August - Broomieknowe GC
Section Outing 22 September - Cardrona GC
East Section AGM October - Venue TBC
Annual Xmas Soiree in December - Venue TBC

News

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

Great to catch up with everyone at Harrogate and as ever, a diverse education programme catering to all was on offer - well done to Team BIGGA!

A warm welcome to all of 2015's committee members - Frank Clarkson, Derek Wilson, Iain Barr, James Parker, Keith Aitken, Dave Woodbyrne, Graeme King, Ian Smith and Amanda Dorans.

Congratulations to Euan Grant on his new position south of the border. Over the years he has driven education and always been a fantastic support to the Section members - Best of luck Euan!

Congratulations to Allen Patterson on his new role at Trump Turnberry Resort - welcome to South West of Scotland Section.

Well done to Ian Smith on receiving the Patrons Award at the recent luncheon at Stirling Golf Club.

A good day was had at the Bernhard Grinders demo day hosted by Keith and his team at the Galloway on 4 February.

On a sad note, two days into 2015, Ayrshire golf was in mourning on receiving the news of the passing of Champions of Champions title holder and Greenkeeper Gary Bryden. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at Trump Turnberry.

Please contact Ian or myself with any news or upcoming events.

NORTH

After all the festivities hopefully everyone is back in full swing getting their courses ready for another golf season.

I hope that all who went to Harrogate enjoyed themselves and came back full of knowledge and with stories to tell.

Congratulations to Bob Mackay and his team on being awarded the new European Tour matchplay event in late July. This is just reward for all the hard work that Bob and his team have done at Murcar over the last three years. The course is in superb condition throughout and will be a fitting test of links golf for the top European players.

Our new committee structure is in place with George Mitchell and Neil Sadler now on board and getting involved in all aspects of the north section committee.

As we now have a new committee in place we will endeavour to have more section news available in the magazine.

CENTRAL

George Pendrich is leaving his job as Course Manager at Scotsraig GC to explore another avenue in the turf industry. George was a regular participator at Section and Regional events and will be missed.

Meanwhile, at Ladybank GC, congratulations are due to Colin Powrie, who has been promoted and had his title changed to Course Manager from Head Greenkeeper. As a result Dave Gray has risen to Head Greenkeeper and Dave Cooper to Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

News and photographs wanted

Snap happy with a camera or keen to air your views? Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month



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WEST

Well the weather recently has certainly prevented a few of our members from venturing out, although I did notice 2 past captains playing the other day on frost greens covered in snow carrying full sets of clubs.

May I pass on a thanks to my team for all their efforts last year and hard work in preparing the course, let's hope we get as good a season and weather as last year, thank you.

And last but not least, I will report on how things went at Harrogate in the March issue, but until then I hope everybody has a good start to the year and keep well.

A point for discussion, what events do the members of the association reading these words wish to be arranged or organised on their behalf?

What areas of discussion do you want to talk about, height of cut, growth regulators, different fertilisers, or just about the changing times of the golf industry?

I recently read an article by club managers about the challenges ahead in regard to retaining club members and it was quite an eye opener. Golf clubs will have to find ways of meeting the needs and demands of the members and greenkeepers are part of that process.

I should probably state my own case but will relate some of my thoughts in the next issue, until then please contact me on the numbers below with your own views.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any events pending, sponsored walks, weddings, or births, you can get in touch by phoning 01419 425554 or 07790 823914, or by email on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

EAST

Section Committee: Jamie Martin (Chairman), Phil Butler (Vice Chairman), Stuart Ferguson (Secretary/Treasurer), Scott Corrigan (Education Officer), Alan Campbell (Communications Officer), Grant Frogley (Committee Member), Grant Moran

(Committee Member), Jimmy Neilson (Committee Member) and Bruce Watson (committee member).

The section wish to congratulate Steve Hulme (Murrayfield GC) on his selection as part of the BIGGA Bernhard Delegates trip to Texas, again thanks go to Bernhards for their continued support of this event, excellent news and great to see an East Section delegate on the trip again. We look forward to reading Steve's report on his return.

Anyone with news added or anyone 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.

Welcome New Scotland Members

Paul Hampsey, Course Manager, Trump International Golf Scotland,
Jamie Aitken, Greenkeeper, Archerfield Golf Links,
Paul Murray, Greenkeeper, St Andrews Links Trust,
Daniel Karlsson, Student, SRUC (Elmwood),
Ryan Bell, Assistant Greenkeeper, Glencorse Golf Club,
Ian Whitehorn, First Assistant, Crowborough Beacon Golf Club.

Snap happy with a camera or keen to air your views? 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



Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director gives a progress report on the Government's Trailblazer initiative

The old saying, "mighty oaks from little acorns grow" or "great things may come from small beginnings" could easily be used within the world of greenkeeping.

So many of today's top Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers began their illustrious careers as youngsters often with an interest in golf or just preferring to work outdoors.

There are many fine examples of individuals who have become greenkeeping 'legends' starting off as poorly paid apprentices. But their appetite to learn new skills and pick up knowledge at every opportunity has seen them become icons for others to aspire to.

Over the years when I've met individuals new to greenkeeping and asked them their personal goals, they often reply, "I would like to be Course Manager at St Andrews or another very prestigious course". The Home of Golf and many other high profile golf courses have been maintained and managed by legends of greenkeeping. The one thing they all have in common is their commitment to their own and their team's education and training.

Apprentices and apprenticeships have been the very foundation that greenkeeping and golf course management have been built on over many years.

The delivery of knowledge has also changed whether it is as part of the apprenticeship programme, a HND or Degree. Over the years many people have contributed to developing a range of work based and college based specific qualifications which are now available through full or part time attendance at college, online, Distance Learning or in the workplace.

To ensure the apprenticeship and all qualifications and education and training courses are fit for purpose, the GTC has received support from all quarters.

This has become apparent with the Government inviting all industries to become Trailblazer organisations. We submitted an application to ensure our sector

could have an influence on policy and the Standards for Greenkeeping.

In February 2014, the GTC were approved as a Trailblazer Organisation and the last 12 months has seen them involved in Downing Street receptions as well as being involved in two reforms with other employer led organisations, many of whom are large employers better known as "blue chip companies".

This status has positioned the GTC in the driving seat to design apprenticeships to ensure they include the skills and knowledge required for the future greenkeeping workforce.

The GTC immediately called on golf club employers, large and small, greenkeepers, representatives from the Quality Assured Centres and Awarding Bodies such as City & Guilds to help shape the new apprenticeship Standards.

BIGGA and England Golf have both been major supporters of the Trailblazer project and David Croxton, Proprietor of Cold Ashby Golf Club became the Chairman of a GTC Apprenticeship Reform Group.

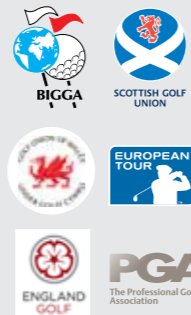
A Technical Working Group was also established with representatives from BIGGA, including Les Howkins MG, the new Association Chairman, and turf tutors who were charged with working to new Guidance to write new Standards for the professions within Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management.

The current apprenticeship Frameworks have been successful but the Trailblazer project is an opportunity to not only review the current content of the apprenticeships, but reform them in accordance with the new Government Guidance. The Guidance is continually being updated, but as a Trailblazer you expect this as there is much to test and trial along the reform journey.

You might ask why did the GTC not wait until other industries had worked through the reform process, it might have been an easier process. In suggesting the GTC might 'tick all the boxes' to become a Trailblazer, I remembered the



The GTC is funded by:



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YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk
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days in the sixties when I started life as an Apprentice Greenkeeper and there were no formal courses, only a week at Bingley at the end of three years working on a golf course.

The development of greenkeepers relied heavily the commitment of Head Greenkeepers, and any education seminars arranged by the then Associations, BGGA, SIGGA and EIGGA. The volunteers giving their time to the Associations today would be called Trailblazers and we shouldn't forget their work.

During the late sixties and seventies training courses were developed by Agriculture and Horticulture Colleges, starting in Scotland and spreading across the UK. It took years for Greenkeeping to be identified as a specialist sector and receive due recognition by Awarding Bodies such as SCOTVEC (now SQA) and City & Guilds.

The 2014 Trailblazer project will allow the sector to retain its position and ensure there are apprenticeships aligned to all levels of greenkeeping occupations.

Next month David explains how the devolved powers in Government are going to test industries attempting to develop National Occupational Standards for their sector.

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ARTIFICIAL GRASS PATHWAYS

Verde Sports Limited provide some top tips...

As the winter weather is under way, preparations to ensure that courses will be playable right through till Spring are in progress. It is important not to neglect pathways especially if money is tight. Artificial Grass is a cost effective solution despite common misconceptions.

Artificial grass could benefit your club, bring in extra revenue and increase your profits.

1. Muddy Paths Put Players off

A lot of work is carried out through the year to ensure that the course is in tiptop condition. However, the golfer still has to get both to the course and from one hole to another. Cheap, quick fixes for these paths are often used. In the long run these aren't cost effective and players are put off on many occasions. Would you want to walk across a mud bath?

2. Cost Effective Solution

Artificial Grass may appear expensive at the outset, but there is minimal maintenance required and it should last up to 20 years once installed. The green staff now have more time to concentrate on the course. All in all giving long term cost benefits.

3. Easy Installation

Artificial Grass is easy to install and can be carried out by the green staff themselves. As long as a free draining base is in place the artificial grass can simply be laid directly over the compacted soil or stone sub-base. Both sand-filled and non-sand filled options are available to suit different areas of the course. If fixed securely this will remain in place for years to come. The installation is very similar to that of natural turf.

4. Versatile & Hardwearing

A properly installed artificial grass pathway is substantial enough for the golf course machinery to drive over - the same path can be used for tractors, mowers, buggies, trolleys, golfers and the greenkeeper.



Not only does it withstand this constant traffic but is also suitable for playing from if a ball should land on the path.

5. Sound Resistant

One of the benefits of artificial grass is that it provides a surface, which is silent and comfortable to walk on, allowing the golfers to concentrate on their shot without the distraction of a noisy path.

6. Natural Appearance

The attractive green surface of the artificial grass blends well in to the course surroundings. This enhances a wide variety of areas that look and feel like natural grass without the associated wear or maintenance problems.

7. Polypropylene Surface

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THETFORD GOLF CLUB ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Thetford Golf Club is a private members' club, which celebrated its centenary in 2012. The wooded heathland course is situated in the Breckland area of Norfolk and is renowned as one of the best winter courses in East Anglia.

The club is seeking a qualified assistant greenkeeper, preferably with NVQ Level 2 qualifications, for a permanent, full-time position. The successful applicant should be keen to further his/her career and will be required to fit into a small, hard-working and dedicated team who take pride in the presentation of their golf course.

Work will involve a variety of duties, so flexibility and a willingness to learn new skills will be essential. Early starts and weekend working are required.

Certification to use chainsaws and spraying equipment will be an advantage, but are not essential as further training will be available.

Wages will be in line with industry recommendations.

Applications, including a CV and a covering letter explaining why you feel you would be suitable for the position, should be sent to:

Paul Gould, Course Manager, Thetford Golf Club, Brandon Road, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3NE or email greens@thetfordgolfclub.co.uk



Lindrick Golf Club

Due to retirement Lindrick Golf Club is seeking applications for the post of

Course Manager

For further details and information contact
Mrs. Paula King, Club Secretary,

Lindrick Golf Club, Deep Carrs Lane, South
Yorkshire, S81 8BH. Tel: 01909 475282 e-mail:
paulaking@lindrickgolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date 28th February 2015



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All applicants must be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 2 Or Equivalent and have minimum 3 years experience, looking to further their skills

The successful applicants will be expected to work as part of a very hard working team and contribute to the maintenance of 2 championship golf courses

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Start date - March 2015

To apply you should send your CV and a cover letter to John Jackson, via email please to: rhinestoncowboy1@hotmail.com stating why you would be suitable for this position.

Application deadline is the end of February.



HARBORNE GOLF CLUB

Experienced Qualified / Near Qualified Greenkeeper

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• Qualified to NVQ level 2 in Amenity Sportsturf
• Minimum 3 years experience
• Knowledge of irrigation and machinery • Currently hold spraying certificates PA1 & PA6

The successful candidate will be passionate about their chosen career, dedicated and possess a flexible approach to work as early starts and weekend work is required. Good communication skills, a keen eye for detail and a good team player are also essential.

To apply for this position please email or post a covering letter and current C.V along with 2 references to:- Darren Murphy, Harborne Golf Club, 40 Tennyal Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B32 2JE Email - darren@harbornegolfclub.org.uk / Closing: 15th February 2015



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CLANDON REGIS GOLF CLUB REQUIRE:-

Assistant Greenkeeper

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Or email:- office@clandonregis-golfclub.co.uk

Seasonal Assistant Greenkeepers

We are currently looking for experienced Assistant Greenkeepers for the upcoming summer season here in Norway. The contract lengths will be between 6-7 months from April onwards.

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The seasonal staff will be asked to work within a team, of which we place great responsibility on, to maintain the course to the highest possible standard at all times. We are looking for people who understand what quality and responsibility mean.

The correct candidates should have the following:

- Experience working on a golf course (1 year minimum)
- A qualification in Greenkeeping (NVQ 2/ SVQ 2 or currently in the process)
 - Experience using cutting machinery
- Experience with course set up / Tournament preparation

Basic on site accommodation is supplied by the golf club at a monthly fee.

To apply for a position send an email with a cover letter, C.V. and references to james@miklagardgolf.no

Closing date for applications: 25th February

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The reason for sale is retirement, and with an existing customer base immediately available, the business has ongoing, and repeat, turnover and cash flow from Day 1, alongside support from the franchisor. In addition, the geography covered by the franchise is certainly one of the primary residential areas in the south of England, thus providing excellent opportunities for future growth.

For further details please contact : Nigel Timson on 01628 826582 or by email on thamesvalley@supagrass.co.uk.



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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Department: Golf Courses
Reports to: Head Greenkeeper
Salary & Benefits: £19,000 per annum plus an excellent benefits package
Position Type: Permanent, Full-time

Key responsibilities and requirements:

We are currently recruiting for experienced Assistant Greenkeepers to work on one of our three championship standard 18-hole golf courses. Working within a team you will ensure that the course is properly laid and prepared for members and visitors to the club. In addition, you will maintain the highest possible standards of presentation in readiness for tournaments.

Experienced and ideally qualified to NVQ 1 OR 2 (although not essential), you will have a passion to learn and to exceed expectations. The positions are based on a 40-hour week (plus alternate weekends) however flexibility will be essential, particularly over the summer months and leading up to and during tournaments.

SEASONAL ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Department: Golf Courses
Reports to: Head Greenkeeper
Salary & Benefits: £19,000 per annum (pro-rata)
Position Type: Fixed-term Contract, April – October 2015

Key responsibilities and requirements:

We are currently recruiting for experienced Assistant Greenkeepers to support us throughout the busy summer period on our three championship standard 18-hole golf courses. Working within a team you will ensure that the course is properly laid and prepared for members and visitors to the club. In addition, you will maintain the highest possible standards of presentation in readiness for tournaments.

Experienced and ideally qualified to NVQ 1 OR 2 (although not essential), you will have a passion to learn and to exceed expectations. The positions are based on a 40-hour week and flexibility will be essential.

For more information regarding careers at Wentworth Club please visit our website at www.wentworthclub.com/clubs/careers/

Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club
Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club currently has an opening for a Senior Greenkeeper. The role requires a highly motivated individual with comprehensive experience at a high level, ideally including tournament experience.

Candidates will have:

- Minimum of 5 years greenkeeping experience
 - Education level of NVQ/SVQ 3
 - Knowledge of mechanics and machine setup
 - PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates
 - Enthusiasm for the job and a desire to progress their career
 - Knowledge of health & safety
 - A valid driving licence
- Preferred but not essential qualities include:
- A working knowledge of modern irrigation systems
 - Practical experience of construction projects
 - Links experience
 - Good golfing ability



A competitive salary and benefits package is on offer based around 45 hours per week, including every 2nd weekend.

Candidates should send a current CV along with covering letter to:
Chris Barnard, Links Superintendent, chris.barnard@royalcinqueports.com

Woking Golf Club Advert for a qualified Greenkeeper

Woking Golf Club is a private members Club located within the heart of Surrey. Woking is the oldest heathland course in Surrey and was the forerunner in terms of architecture to many other well renowned heathland courses within the Surrey/ Berkshire belt. The course was designed and laid out by Tom Dunn in 1893 and regularly feature in the Top 100 Courses of Great Britain.

We are seeking to recruit a suitably qualified Greenkeeper with a minimum of NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Sports Turf to join our team. Any additional qualifications such as chainsaw and/or spraying would be beneficial but not essential.

The successful candidate will be passionate about their chosen career, dedicated and possess a flexible approach to work as weekend work is required. You will possess good communication skills, be a good team player and have a keen eye for detail.

Applicants should apply in writing with a covering letter and their C.V to:
Mrs Jo Smith, Assistant Secretary, Woking Golf Club, Pond Road, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey, GU22 0JZ



@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...



@sportsmetals

Awesome #BTME15 thanks @BIGGALtd and all that visited, hardly had a chance to take a pic

@GCMAUK

Thanks to everyone @BIGGALtd for a great week at #BTME2015!

@Horticap

Another brilliant time down at @BIGGALtd exhibition. Everyone was really lovely to our students

@KarolProGrasS

The joint trip to #Harrogate @BIGGALtd with customers. Great trip. Great place and people. See You next time #ProGrasS

@CentenaryHGK

Great job by the @BIGGALtd team putting together another amazing BTME great education networking and socialising as always #proudfyouall

@TheFlaxby_GCC

Great day at #btme15 thanks to @BIGGALtd for their help. The lads together for one of the last times as team Flaxby

@golfindustria

So, #BTME2015 is over, great job done by @BIGGALtd team, see you at Harrogate next year #BTME2016!!!

@CradocGreens

A great couple of days @BIGGALtd BTME. Some great seminars and some interesting products made for another fantastic show.



@golfindustria



@KarolProGrasS



@Horticap



@GCMAUK



@TheFlaxby_GCC



@sportsmetals



0%*
Finance
0+2 Annual
Payments
1st Payment
March 2015

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*The finance offer is available for Golf & Bowls clubs in the UK only. The offer includes all golf & turf equipment, commercial mowing, utility vehicles and JD attachments. Offer is available until 28th February 2015. Finance is limited to 60% of retail value. Rates/payments may vary to reflect changes in tax and cost of funds. VAT where applicable. An administration fee will be charged. We may withdraw this offer at any time. Finance is subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. For further information contact your local John Deere dealer.

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