

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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America's Midwest

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Greenkeeper Pete Newton

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WELCOME FROM BIGGA



St Andrews' greenkeeping team led by the two Gordons - McKie (left) and Moir

Golf focuses on St Andrews

For as long as I can remember July has meant one thing (apart from the depressing march of time as my birthday signifies another year gone!), the Open Championship, the finest golf tournament on earth.

Two things have dominated the golf season so far, the emergence of Jordan Spieth and the focus on greenkeeping that has occurred at high profile events. Expectations rise every year as does the influence of tournament organisers who strive for their own individual portrayal of perfection. This and the proliferation of social media heaps pressure on our members and course managers.

I hope that, as always, The Old Course at St Andrews provides us with a memorable championship and that the world's best players concern themselves with hitting fairways and holing putts rather than amateur agronomics. I know that the St Andrews maintenance team led by the Gordons – Moir and McKie – and supported by our own BIGGA Support Team will do everything possible to provide a consistent, appropriate and challenging test. I would like to wish all involved the very best of luck, particularly with the weather between now and the close of the Championship.

The aforementioned ever-increasing golfer expectations come at a time when the regulators seem determined to remove some of the tools at our disposal.

Recently a number of key products have been removed from use. BIGGA has a role to play in this area, we are an active part of the Amenity Forum, the UK body which promotes the safe and environmentally friendly use of pesticides, promote good practice amongst our membership and work with a number of fellow golf industry governing bodies to actively lobby the regulators. It is no small task though and I believe there are more product revocations to come.

As you know BTME is an important event in our calendar and that of the wider turf care industry.

Its importance in the golf industry has also been confirmed with the announcement that the UK Golf Course Owners Association (UKGCOA) and the Organisation of Golf & Range Operators (OGRO) are to move their annual conference, GolfBIC, to Harrogate.

We have known for a long time that the opportunity to combine exposure to all the latest products and services, world class greenkeeper education and unparalleled networking has a huge positive impact on course management throughout Europe. I'm delighted that the UKGCOA and OGRO are going to join us.

This magazine sees the launch of the application process for the 2016 BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, courtesy of our friends at Bernhard & Company.

We are hugely grateful to Bernhards for their continued commitment to this outstanding member development opportunity and I would urge all aspirational greenkeepers to apply. The intense week away in the States is a once in a lifetime opportunity.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

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Fusarium patch

...over dew

Dr Terry Mabbett analyses the most damaging turf disease – and weighs up the best of the many control strategies available to turf managers

Every 'cultivated' green plant has one particular pathogen and disease which stand head and shoulders above the rest in terms of frequency and severity. For the Irish potato, late blight is its bête noire; for the tomato, it is the late blight of potatoes caused by *Phytophthora infestans*, which has not been eradicated by Fusarium patch. Fusarium patch is the most widespread and damaging disease of turf grasses, caused by the fungus *Fusarium culmiforme*.

Generations of greenkeepers and groundsmen recognised Fusarium patch as the single most damaging disease of professional turf. As such it received more consideration and attention than all other turf diseases put together. Virtually every conceivable control strategy, including cultural and chemical measures, has been attempted in the past, with limited success. Fusarium patch disease is caused by the fungus *Fusarium culmiforme*, which is a soil-borne pathogen. It is most commonly found in the roots of turf grasses, but can also be found in the soil itself.

What underpins Fusarium Patch?

So what exactly makes *F. culmiforme* the most potent pathogen, and Fusarium patch the most damaging disease of cool temperate turf? The main factors underlying the success of *F. culmiforme* are essentially underpinned by a series of factors related to the host (turfgrass), the environment and to the turf manager's actions.

These often disparate factors combine and interact to present conditions favourable for infection, disease development and spread throughout most of the calendar year on most grass species and varieties deployed in managed turf. The main factors underpinning the success of *F. culmiforme* are a disease of cool temperate turf are as follows:

The fungus is particularly present on the thatch as a saprophytic fungus feeds on dead and decaying organic matter or as a weak parasitic fungus. Most potential pathogenic fungi have a strictly limited range of temperature across which they become sufficiently active to cause disease in host plants. In respect of temperature *F. culmiforme* is more versatile than most and capable of growing within a wide range of temperature from 4°C to about 20°C. Humidity of the microclimate within the thatch and the concentration of free water on foliage surfaces are additionally important, but the capacity of this normally saprophytic/weak parasitic fungus to assume full virulence under certain conditions over such a wide range of temperature is clearly the key to its widespread occurrence and high frequency on managed turf.

F. culmiforme is very much a generalist pathogen which infects the leaves to cause disease in most of our turf grasses, although there are differences in susceptibility (tolerance) to the disease amongst mainstream turf grass species and varieties.

However, perhaps the single most important and often overlooked factor pre-disposing turf grass to infection by *F. culmiforme* is physical damage, in the form of cuts and abrasions, suffered during daily turf management practices and playing pressures. Mowing is the primary and principal factor followed by aeration and scarification, but even cuts and abrasions caused by players walking across grass in standard spiked golf shoes are sufficient to provide the entry points for this pathogen.



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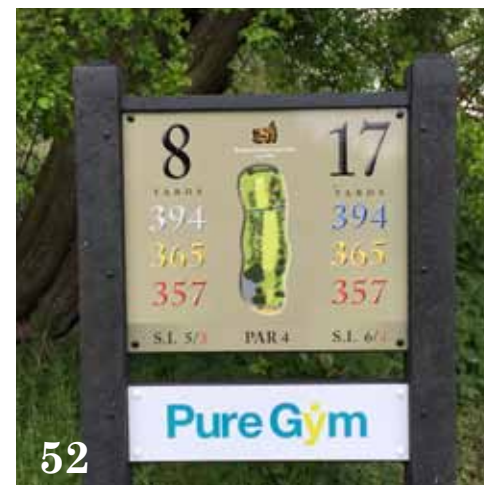
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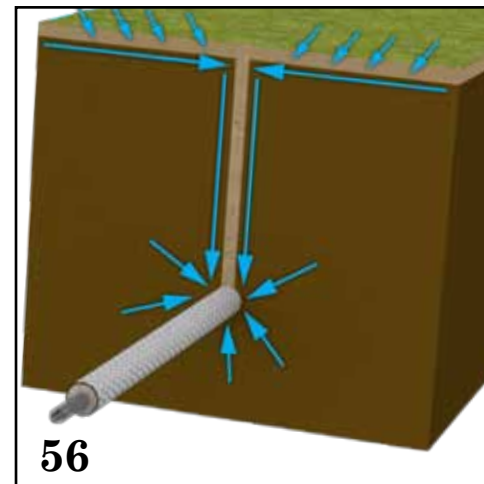
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Chairman's Word

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

Let's stick together

Another month has flown by and as usual the weather has played a large part. With many greenkeepers hoping for rain, a fairly dry spell was followed by heavy showers dumping too much in one go. At least we are getting consistently warmer weather and the grass growth has become more predictable.

It's been a dark month in the world of social media and I witnessed a side of the greenkeeping industry I didn't know existed. Maybe it's always been there but Facebook and Twitter now provide a public platform for some rather unsavoury and disparaging remarks about fellow greenkeepers and their work. In the old days a chat down the pub or during a round of golf discussing the playing standards of a golf course (positive or negative) would end as we left the pub or course. Now, online conversations rumble on for days or even weeks and often degenerate in to a fairly vociferous differing of opinion.

While opinions and discussions are healthy, this public mudslinging only acts to dilute the efforts that have been made over the years to promote our professional image. I would urge all members using social media to be considerate and thoughtful of other greenkeepers. We often never really know the full story and are not always best placed to offer an opinion. Uninformed criticism from golfers is the issue we often find hardest to accept, it is unpleasant to see the same from our peers.

Number Five in the Association's current code of ethics states Members must "Observe the highest standards of personal integrity in their relationship with fellow greenkeepers as well as other associated individuals and at all times, as far as they are able, assist their fellow greenkeepers." This is a little vague, but it does mean we should not be making negative comments about fellow greenkeepers or their courses.

The current code of ethics is under review and the Board of Management will be looking to strengthen the code and limit the actions of a very small group of members who may look to provide themselves with financial gain at the potential expense of other greenkeepers.



BIGGA Support Team at The Open 2014

"I urge all members using social media to be thoughtful of other greenkeepers"

The first stage of our Strategic Review has ended. I was slightly disappointed with the member participation levels with just over 200 respondents, but would like to thank those who took the time to complete the survey. The next stage of the review is imminent and I would urge all members to complete the next survey. We are trying to ensure that the services we provide as a members association are in line with not only member expectation but also the wider golfing industry and to achieve this we need your help.

Here at Richmond we have a week at the start of August to carry out all our maintenance work. Some question the timing of this feeling the club will lose revenue. In many situations that could well be the case but it's a quiet time in our golfing calendar and the recovery rate is so much quicker than in October or November. Every club is different and there is no one correct answer.

I had the pleasure of playing the Marquess course at Woburn Golf Club a few weeks ago. The conditioning, turf quality and playing surfaces were absolutely amazing. They have three

professional tournaments coming up – I'm sure the players will be delighted with the surfaces and I wish John Clarke and his team every success.

On 1 July there were only 200 sleeps until BTME 2016! Stand sales are going well with Hall Q (the 5th hall for 2016) filling nicely and the Continue to Learn programme almost complete, so we can look forward to another great week.

July of course sees The Open held at St Andrews and I am really looking forward to spending a few days with the BIGGA Support Team and meeting up with many of the home greenkeeping team. Hopefully the sun will shine, the wind will blow a little and we can play our little part in making this great event a success.

As the unpredictable weather continues let us not forget that greenkeeping is one big family, with an amazing spirit of camaraderie. We should continue to share ideas and support each other wherever possible.

Contact details

Les Howkins MG
Email: 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



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



BTME 2016 TO HOST GOLFBIC CONVENTION



BTME 2016 has been boosted further by the confirmation that a major industry Convention will be held during the big week in Harrogate, attracting yet more key decision makers to the turf management industry's premier exhibition.

The Golf Business and Industry Convention (GolfBIC) is presented by the UK Golf Course Owners Association (UKGCOA) and the Organisation of Golf & Range Operators (OGRO), and is a well-established and popular annual event attracting top presenters and a wide range of delegates from every corner of the golf industry.

It's now confirmed that the 2016 event will take place on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 January in purpose-built conference space in Hall Q of

the Harrogate International Centre. Hall Q is open for the first time in several years to accommodate more and more exhibitors and visitors to the show.

Previous GolfBIC events have covered a diverse range of subjects from social media in the golf industry to recruiting golf professionals, and have included in-depth panel discussions on crucial industry issues. A centrepiece of GolfBIC has traditionally been the networking dinner and it is intended to retain this element of the Convention.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "We're delighted to confirm that we will be hosting GolfBIC during BTME 2016. GolfBIC is one of the major events of the year in terms of attracting delegates from the whole spectrum of the golf industry."

"This event will attract even more key decision makers to BTME, reaffirming how important a week for the entire golf industry the third week of January is. I'm looking forward

to sharing the HIC with GolfBIC delegates and presenters and I know all of our exhibitors will be very keen to talk business with them too.

"Decisions concerning on course spend are high on the list of priorities for golf club operators at present and it's exciting to host an event which will attract even more of them to BTME."

"As well as a superb exhibition with five Halls and a first-class greenkeeper education programme, networking is a significant part of BTME's enduring appeal and success and joining forces with another event will only enhance this."

BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG added: "This opportunity for GolfBIC to join with BIGGA at BTME 2016 only goes to further demonstrate the strength of our annual exhibition and Continue to Learn education programme."

"As I believe this is the UK's premier sports turf exhibition it's a perfect time and place

for the wider golf industry to share in our experiences and increase the traffic through the halls. Furthermore, as course managers look to move into higher level management jobs it also provides our members the chance to take up some high level non turf related education."

Andy Lloyd-Skinner, CEO of UKGCOA, said: "The UKGCOA and OGRO have been delighted with the feedback from attendees to GolfBIC for the past few years, with the benefits of networking and the content of the presentations regularly receiving top marks."

"Despite this, both organisations want to take GolfBIC to the next level and having attended BTME in Harrogate for the past couple of years, I have been impressed with the way BIGGA has organised the educational programmes and improved attendances and the exhibition environment for exhibitors since I originally attended BTME in 2004."

"I am excited about GolfBIC 2016 at Harrogate in January and expect attendees to both enjoy the event and leave with some new ideas and an increased level of enthusiasm for the 2016 golf season."

Colin Jenkins, OGRO Chairman said: "GolfBIC, a joint venture between OGRO and the UKGCOA, has for the last four years been the best attended golf course owner event in Europe. OGRO are delighted that GolfBIC will be held at Harrogate next January."

"The BTME show is already an excellent fixture on the golfing calendar and the inclusion of GolfBIC within it can only enhance its reputation."

"We will be working very closely with the UKGCOA and BIGGA to ensure that the sessions and speakers are of the highest order and that GolfBIC continues to be one of the most important events for golf operators of all types."

NEW CONCIERGE PARTNER FOR BTME



Don't forget that we have a new partnership with Mice Concierge who will help you with every aspect of your visit to BTME 2016.

As the exhibition at the Harrogate International Centre in January 2016 approaches, you will notice Mice Concierge will be on hand to assist with everything from hotel bookings to travel.

Managing Director Andrew Bowers said: "As the official concierge team for BTME 2016, we are here to help take care of your booking requirements during your visit to Harrogate."

"Our team of friendly specialists are available to help ensure your visit to

Harrogate is as hassle free as possible.

So if you want to know about the hotels, restaurants, travel options for your trip to the event, please do visit our website or call us and we will be delighted to help.

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For more information visit www.miceconcierge.com



LATEST INFO POSTER FROM JACOBSEN

RESPECT YOUR GREENKEEPER... AND YOUR COURSE



This month's GI contains the third in a series of four topical posters we're encouraging members to display prominently in their clubs.

This latest poster, designed by BIGGA Partner Jacobsen, focuses on urging golfers to respect greenkeepers and the course during the busy summer of golf.

It refers to the Etiquette section in the Rules of Golf and will hopefully attract the attention of members and visitors alike.

All of the posters in the series can be downloaded from the BIGGA website by clicking on the 'Education' tab then clicking on the 'Information Posters' tab on the left hand side.

If you have any questions or comments about the posters please contact BIGGA's Communications Executive on steve.castle@bigga.co.uk



BIGGA have launched a new Twitter account which aims to publicise everything to do with BTME 2016 - @BIGGA_BTME.

Follow @BIGGA_BTME for the latest news, client updates, product details and more ahead of the exhibition at the Harrogate International Centre, which next year takes place between 19-21 January.



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Leyland Golf Club's Course Manager Scott Reeves (above) is the new face on the BIGGA Board of Management, replacing Jeremy 'Jez' Hughes who has begun a new chapter in his career after he was appointed Regional Sales Manager at Symbio.

Jez (below) has left his position as representative for the Northern Region on the BIGGA Board of Management after four and a half years and will be covering the North West, Midlands and North Wales areas for Symbio, a BIGGA Education Supporter.



Jez, former Head Greenkeeper at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club in North Wales, said: "Serving on the Board of Management is a fantastic opportunity. It's benefitted me professionally, personally and it also benefitted the club due to the knowledge I gained. I became involved in all sorts of projects and discussions I wouldn't normally have been in."

"You soon realise that BIGGA is a very professionally run Association with very professional people running it."

"I would also like to thank everyone at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club and wish Andrew, Pete, Jamie and Rob all the best for the future. I will always be on the end of the phone if they need me, or with my Symbio pen in hand if they want to place an order! I'm excited by my new role and am preparing for plenty of travelling."

Andrew Gwilliam has taken the reins at Vale of Llangollen with Pete Maybury now Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

The new Northern Region Board representative is Scott Reeves, Course Manager at Leyland Golf Club, a parkland course near Preston.

He said: "I've got to know Jez really well in the last six months, he's a terrific guy and he will be a tough act to follow."

"My aim is to represent the ordinary greenkeepers in the Region and it's a real honour for me to do so. I will be visiting all of the Northern Sections whether it be educational days, golf events or other events."

"Sandra Raper does a superb job as our Northern Regional Administrator, and I'm hoping to do what I can to support all of her good work in the Region."

BIGGA SCOTTISH GOLF CHAMPS

Course Manager Neil Sadler is looking forward to the challenge of presenting Portlethen Golf Course for golfers from around Scotland to compete in the BIGGA Scottish Golf Championship on Thursday 6 August.

Last year's winner Kenny Mitchell from St Andrews Links Trust will be back to defend his title in what is sure to be a strong field with representation from all five sections. Indeed this past year, each section has been able to provide four players with FREE entry to the Championship using their September and April outings as qualifying events.

We are proud to have Circle Golf, an insurance company focused on golf, as sponsors of this year's championship.

Please visit the region's website at www.biggascottishregion.com for full details of the event including the entry form. Alternatively contact John Young, Regional Administrator by emailing johnyoung@bigga.co.uk for further information.

John Young



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Rob hits the heights

Congratulations to BIGGA member Rob Horler, Deputy Course Manager at Cumberwell Park Golf Club, who has successfully climbed every mountain in Scotland over 3000 feet – known as ‘The Munros’.

Rob has battled the worst of the UK’s weather to hit the heights of nearly 300 Scottish peaks.

Rob said: “It started in 1996 when someone challenged me to walk the West Highland Way. It seemed a good alternative to the partying I was doing at the time!

“I had a great week which was crowned by climbing Ben Nevis. Back then, I thought Munro was the name of a Scottish barman but gradually I began to spend less time in the

pub and climbing mountains became a passion.”

Rob joined the Avon Mountaineering Club (AMC) and formed new friendships while he climbed yet more challenging peaks. He added that there are similarities between climbing mountains and greenkeeping in that you have to deal with everything the unpredictable British weather throws at you.

He explained: “It was with friends from AMC I experienced a lightning storm on Beinn Mhanach. The weather was the only thing that ever stopped me - particularly deep snow or wind. I think there were only four occasions when I failed to complete my objective but a windy Ciste Dhubh was one of them. Do not try to go out in

walking in an 80mph wind was the lesson learnt that day!

“The most challenging one was probably Beinn Bhrotain in the snow last year, I had to give it my all.

“The most fun was the last - Ben Cruachan. It’s the only one I have had the pleasure of consuming a high quality bottle of malt on the way down – but it felt appropriate!”

Rob added that his next project could be conquering ‘The Corbetts’ – climbing all Scottish mountains between 2,500 and 3,000 feet in height.

Meanwhile, Rob and the team at Cumberwell are concentrating on a project to upgrade the Wiltshire course from 36 holes to an impressive 45 holes by constructing a nine-hole par three course.



BIGGA'S TR-ACE-Y HITS HOLE IN ONE

BIGGA's General Manager Tracey Maddison will never forget the BIGGA Midland Spring Tournament at Gaudet Luce Golf Club after scoring her first ever hole in one.

Tracey, who is a 13 handicapper, achieved every golfer's ultimate ambition when her five-iron aced the par three 12th, a distance of 157 yards from the Ladies Tee. She was playing alongside Midland Section Chairman Ed Stant from Trentham Golf Club and BIGGA's Midland RA Roger Butler.

She said: “It’s a tricky par three. The pin was back left of the green, I hit the ball to the left and it struck a bank on the green, rolled around and dropped in the hole. I actually thought I’d put it in the rough and looked away until Ed and Roger shouted and I turned round to see it drop in.

“Not only was it my first hole in one, it was my first eagle as well – two achievements in one!”

Tradition normally dictates that the player buys a round of drinks for everyone in the clubhouse bar but for anyone who knows Gaudet Luce, this is not an ordinary golf club! The facility has 27 holes, golf academy, a state of the art driving range and practice facilities coupled with an on-sight crèche and footgolf.

Tracey chose instead to make a donation to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund. She is a member of Fulford Golf Club in York which plays host to the BIGGA National Championship in October.



NEW PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO GROW GOLF

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton recently attended a key meeting aiming to bring various industry bodies together to grow the game of golf in England.

The inaugural meeting of the England Golf Partnership (EGP) Leadership Group was held at the PGA's headquarters at The Belfry. This gathering – set up at the recommendation of Sport England – aims to agree on a coordinated approach and strategy to grow the game of golf in England.

Jim said: “I am delighted that BIGGA are involved in these crucial discussions and I am confident that the EPG can play a key part in ensuring golfers enjoy the benefits of plans to grow the game.

“Whilst golf still ranks as the 5th highest participation sport in England it is only ranked 12th in terms of funding from Sport England.

“Golf is a wonderful sport that gives enjoyment to so many people across various age ranges and geographical locations within England.

“We need to find solutions to ensure its future is healthy by ensuring existing golfers enjoy the game, and by attracting new players.

“And of course, golf growing has to be good news for our members.”

The meeting was chaired by PGA Chief Executive Sandy Jones, and included representatives from Sport England, England Golf, the UK Golf Course Owners Association, the GCMA, the British Golf Industry Association and the Golf Foundation.



COURSE CARE CUP SUCCESS AT BURLEY

The annual Course Care Cup featuring Wessex Secretaries v South Coast greenkeepers was held at Burley Golf Club this year and a most enjoyable day in the heart of the New Forest was had by all.

The course was in splendid condition thanks to Tony Locke

and his team of greenkeepers and the weather was ideal.

The greenkeepers, with support from Tracey Harvey BIGGA's South West & South Wales Regional Administrator, were keen to regain the cup from the Secretaries after losing it last year.

It was not to be however, despite a good start, and the secretaries prevailed to retain the trophy.

The group enjoyed an excellent meal in the clubhouse afterwards with thanks extended to Jane Harfield and all the team at Burley for

hosting the event followed by thanks to Highspeed Group Ltd for the sponsorship.

Highspeed Group's Joint MD David Mears presented the cup to Graham Fisher who accepted the trophy on behalf of the Wessex Secretaries.



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ARE OAK TREE IMPORTS STILL INFESTED WITH OPM EGGS?

Is oak processionary moth (Thaumetopoea processionea) still getting into the UK as plaques of eggs on oak trees imported from EU countries despite legislation designed to keep it out?

The first ever OPM outbreak found in 2006 in the London Boroughs of Richmond and Ealing on trees imported from the Netherlands and planted the previous year is still the biggest.

This original West London outbreak now occupies parts of 12 contiguous London Boroughs (Richmond, Ealing, Hounslow, Brent, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston, Merton, Wandsworth, Westminster, Hillingdon and Harrow) and two adjoining districts in Surrey (Elmbridge and Spelthorne).

Two further ongoing outbreaks have arisen from separate OPM introductions on oak trees also imported from the Netherlands, one in Pangbourne West Berkshire (discovered 2010) and the other in the London Borough of Bromley (discovered in 2012).

The outbreak at Bethlem Hospital in West Wickham, Bromley festered for around four years in a densely populated London suburb before being found and notified to the UK plant health authorities by a local resident.

By that time it had spilled over into the neighbouring London Borough of Croydon. In 2014 an infested tree was found in the adjoining Borough of Lewisham indicating the pest had moved significantly northwards.

On a visit to the Bethlem Hospital site in summer 2012 I asked an experienced OPM operator if he thought there could be more infestations in other parts of the country. "Almost certainly" he replied.

Since then a suspicious looking moth trapped by an amateur entomologist in a rural area of Cambridgeshire (near Huntingdon) has been identified as OPM by the Forestry Commission (FC).

Since 2006 OPM has spread out from its original West London outbreaks in Richmond and Ealing at a rate of around 0.7 km per year. 2014 was a particularly

bad year. Many nests were found beyond the edge of the existing main west London outbreak. One nest found on an oak tree at the Olympic Park in East London (London Borough of Newham) defied all logic.

The site is approximately 10 km away from the eastern edge of the main West London outbreak (in Westminster on the border with Camden) but maximum flying distance for gravid (egg laden) female moths is only 5 km.

A news item in 'Horticulture Week' published in October 2010 may hold the key to this conundrum. It claimed 2000 trees from a Dutch nursery, including oak trees, would be planted in the London 2012 Olympic Athletes Village. An Olympic Development Authority (ODA) representative told 'Horticulture Week' how they would be planting hundreds of oak trees at the Olympic Park.

FC recently confirmed that this 2014 East London outbreak in the London Borough of Newham originated from a separate introduction of OPM on imported oak trees.

EU plant passports for OPM were introduced on 31 March 2008 but the arrival of OPM on trees imported and planted at the Olympic Park after that date shows that this insect pest can still get through as plaques of eggs on oak tree planting material exported from EU countries.

An EU Plant passport is a self-certified (by the exporter) document and may be little more than a piece of paper attached to a box of oak trees.

It must confirm that the oak trees are nursery grown and sourced from an area where place of production and its immediate vicinity are OPM-free. In the Netherlands, where OPM is endemic, 'immediate vicinity' can mean as little as 50m. All this sounds reasonable until you realise that female and male moths can fly up to 5km and 20km, respectively.

In January 2013 trees belonging to five tree genera including Quercus (oak) became subject to new statutory notification requirements which include inspection of trees at UK ports of entry. Only time will tell if this second piece of legislation is sufficiently tight to do the trick and exclude any further OPM infestations arriving on oak tree planting material from EU countries.

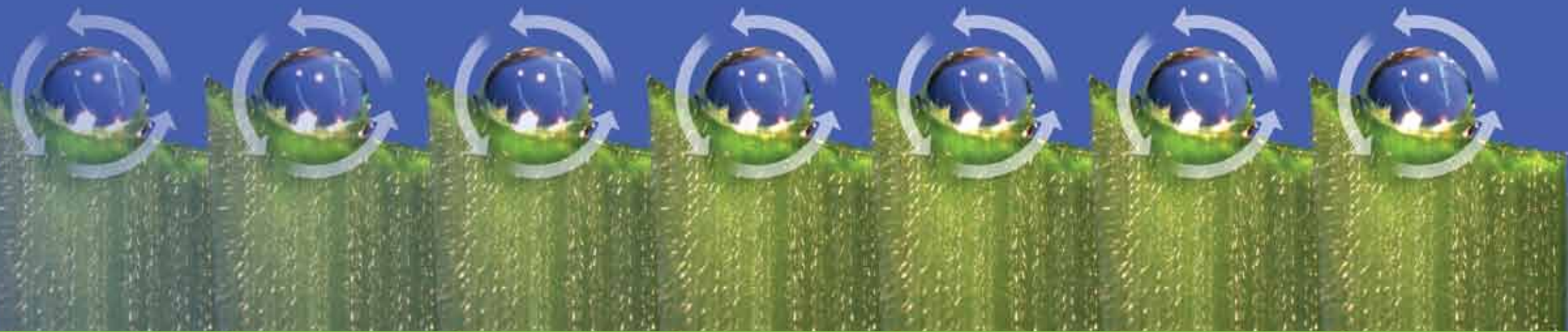
Dr Terry Mabbett



Plaques of OPM eggs are difficult to detect. Picture courtesy Bartlett Tree Experts

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GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe



BERNHARD GRINDERS AT THE IRISH OPEN

Bernhard and Company – manufacturer of Bernhard Grinders, the world's finest blade sharpening systems for turf mowing machines – was pleased to support Royal County Down Golf Club at the recent Dubai Duty Free Irish Open, hosted by the Rory Foundation.

Royal County Down used Bernhard's Express Dual 3000 and Anglemaster 3000 precision grinders to ensure greens remained in pristine condition throughout the tournament.

Ranked among the world's top 10 golf courses by pundits across the globe, Royal

County Down is located in the Murlough Nature Reserve along the shores of Dundrum Bay. The stunning canvas for links golf boasts the magnificent Mountains of Mourne as a backdrop, offering different vistas from nearly every hole.

"The Irish Open welcomed stars like Rickie Fowler, Ernie Els, Sergio Garcia, Martin Kaymer, Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy," said Steve Nixon, International Sales Manager for Bernhard.

"We're honored to have played a key role in ensuring turf conditions complemented the stellar course and strong field."

"Bernhard Grinders have been a mainstay in our maintenance facility for years," added BIGGA Member Eamonn Crawford, Links Manager at Royal County Down.

"Our team depends on their unmatched precision, ease of use, reliability and other attributes to make our links shine not just for the world's best professionals, but for play by members and guests on a daily basis."

Royal County Down is one of many renowned venues trusting Bernhard with tournament preparations this spring and summer. TPC Sawgrass, Wentworth and

Le Golf National are some other facilities benefitting from Bernhard's trademark Express Dual and Anglemaster machines.

The Express Dual reel grinder sharpens without requiring disassembly of the mower.

Its membrane touch control panel, speed loading system and automatic traverse, guarantees rapid turnaround and improved workshop safety.

The unique auto relief eliminates the need for lapping, producing a more accurate finish and reduced maintenance costs.

Control Dry Patch with HydroPro-2

The HydroPro-2 advanced non-ionic reverse block polymer wetting agent for the control of Dry Patch and water-related problems in amenity turf has been launched by Rigby Taylor, the company at the forefront of supplying innovative products for the successful management and maintenance of turf surfaces.

The application of HydroPro-2 ensures the even distribution of moisture through the soil and maintains plant usable reserves of water applied either by rainfall or irrigation.

HydroPro-2 also improves the wetting consistency between treatments to result in dry and firm playing surfaces while also controlling and preventing Dry Patch.

Research and user experience has demonstrated that a programmed approach to the application of wetting agents has proved consistently the best method for keeping the soil profile hydrated and reduces the wet/dry cycle that promotes the build-up of hydrophobic soils.

HydroPro-2 – which contains block polymers based on ethylene oxide and propylene oxide – is supplied in 10-litre packs which will treat 5,000-7,500 m².

For further information contact a Rigby Taylor representative at Freefone 0800 424 909 or by email at sales@rigbytaylor.com



CHLORPYRIFOS CHANGES

A three month use up period of Cyren and other products containing Chlorpyrifos on amenity grassland and managed amenity turf has now come into effect, meaning turf managers have until midnight on 31 August 2015 to use or dispose of all existing stock.

As part of the EU's routine review programme, new human health based safety levels have been agreed for the insecticide which is used to control insect pests in agricultural crops and amenity situations.

There will be no extension of sales from distributors, but this three month period will allow end users within the Amenity sector to dispose responsibly of pre-purchased products which they still have in stock.

One of the suppliers of Cyren is BIGGA Partner Rigby Taylor. Peter Corbett, Chemicals Manager for Rigby Taylor, said: "All products are subject to intensive safety reviews which look at all aspects of a product, including its impact on its environment and bystanders."

"Chlorpyrifos is no different from any other insecticide in that it is generally relatively harmless to non-target species, but there have to be guidelines that govern a safe level of exposure to livestock and people post application e.g. an exclusion period or pre harvest interval."

"Basically, it's impossible for the manufacturers to definitively prove these safety levels can be met in an Amenity situation, and it's also pretty impractical for this to be enforced. I don't think many clubs would be able to close access to the public and members for the exclusion period post treatment."

"It remains a legal application as per the old label until 31 August to use up remaining stocks, but turf managers need to dispose of all of their Cyren Chlorpyrifos by that date."

For more click on this link to HSE pesticide announcements: www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/News

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#TAKELESWITHYOU FOR CHARITY

A group of enterprising greenkeepers are heading to BIGGA House on foot in aid of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund – and they're taking BIGGA's National Chairman with them!

Martin Brown, Deputy Course Manager at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, has been one of the greenkeepers enthusiastically posting photos of Les Howkins MG as part of the #takeleswithyou campaign which is all over social media.

Now Martin has teamed up with Wayne Lazenby, Greenkeeper at Stocksbridge & District Golf Club, and several other greenkeepers to walk the 60 miles from Stocksbridge in South Yorkshire to BIGGA House on the weekend of 3-4 October - and the group are looking for others to join in as well as donate money.

The intrepid walkers plan to stop overnight at a halfway point close to Pontefract in West Yorkshire before heading to the village of Aldwark in North Yorkshire where BIGGA House is located.

Geoff Fenn is also joining the group. He's former Course Manager at Bedford & County Golf Club, now Technical Sales Manager for Countrywide. Other BIGGA members who are joining include Wayne's greenkeeping colleague Richard Marshall and Dave Collins from Lickey Hills GC.

Wayne said: "I've done charity walks before for Help for Heroes



and others, but we decided it was time to do something to help our industry.

"From the 17th green at Stocksbridge you can see for miles around, so that has acted as altitude training for us!"

They are planning to be proudly parading pictures of Les along the way and hoping to attract attention from fellow greenkeepers, the trade...and the general public too!

Martin, who was a Delegate on the recent FTMI 2015 supported by Jacobsen, said: "#takeleswithyou has really caught people's imagination on social media and it's a great opportunity to help out some current and former BIGGA members who may have fallen on hard times.

"BIGGA is all about opportunities for greenkeepers and not only do we hope this will raise a lot of money for the Fund, we hope it will increase awareness of what the Association does and what BIGGA membership can offer.

"It's not going to be easy and we're still working out the route. It would be great to have as many other greenkeepers join us as well.

If you're interested in joining the walk or sponsoring the lads, please contact BIGGA House.

Donations are accepted via the membership renewal form, directly to BIGGA HQ or via JustGiving website www.justgiving.com/biggagbf

CPD credits may be available for joining the walk.



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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)
Personal Accident Helpline
08000 516583
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arcllegal.co.uk/carefirst

BIGGA BENEVOLENT FUND

The BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund, the official charity of BIGGA, exists to assist current or past members and their dependents who have suffered hardship - financial or otherwise.

Donations are accepted via the membership renewal form, directly to BIGGA HQ or via JustGiving website www.justgiving.com/biggagbf

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant please contact BIGGA HQ or your local Regional Administrator for information.

Forms can be downloaded by from the Members area of the BIGGA website and clicking on the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund tab on the right hand side.

MEMBERSHIP SUBS 2015/16

Subs from 1 July

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper £150
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head GK £87
Greenkeeper member aged 21 yrs & over £87
Greenkeeper member 20 yrs & under £87
Unqualified member 21 yrs & over £64
Unqualified member 20 yrs & under £25
International member £99
Affiliate/Trade member £99
Student member £25



Win an iPad

Win an iPad in our annual competition – and appear in our desktop calendar

Get in the picture

Members once again have the opportunity to win an iPad in the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2015.

Why not show off your course and send us a stunning photo? Digital camera images are preferred, but mobile phone entries are also encouraged. Digital images will be displayed at at 16:9 ratio. If you are using a mobile phone, please ensure it's taken on the highest resolution setting possible.

Members will again have the opportunity to pick the winners.

A panel at BIGGA House will reduce the entries to a final shortlist of 24, then members will pick the eventual winner.

The 12 pictures with the most votes will be included in the desktop calendar, and the entry with the most votes in total will scoop an iPad plus a framed version of their photo which will be presented to them at BTME 2016.

To enter, please send your photos to comps@bigga.co.uk with 'BIGGA Photo Comp 2015' in the subject field.

Please include your name, the club you work at and your membership number plus a caption for the photo with details of where and when you took it.

The closing date for entries is Friday 17 July 2015.

Image shows Crans Sur Sierre Switzerland by James Bledge, 2nd in the competition last year.

BIGGA GOLF PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2015 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1 Open to BIGGA members only.
- 2 Photos of the course members work at, or a course they have visited, will be considered.
- 3 Entries will only be considered if the entrant states what course the photograph shows.
- 4 Each entrant is limited to a maximum of 5 entries ie 5 different photographs
- 5 All photography entered may be used in a variety of publications.
- 6 Images to be high resolution and at 16:9 landscape (actual print size 172mm wide x 100mm high at 300dpi). Only images taken with a three megapixel camera or higher will be considered.
- 7 Entries are via email to comps@bigga.co.uk with transfer methods advised for large files. "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2015" to be listed in the subject header.
- 8 The best 24 images will be provided for members to give their views on via an online survey. The survey will be linked to through the BIGGA website and will be open to votes within the Members' Area only. The leading 12 will feature in the 2016 BIGGA calendar.
- 9 The winning entry will receive an iPad and a framed copy of their shot.
- 10 BIGGA reserves the right to reject any entry if it is considered inappropriate.
- 11 The closing date for the competition is Friday 17 July 2015.

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

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

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

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

BIGGA
Continuing Professional Development

DOUBLE CPD MILESTONE

Congratulations to BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club, in becoming the first ever member to achieve a double CPD Milestone!

Les has also been CPD Approved for the 6th time, just ahead of Lee Strutt MG, who has been approved for the 5th time. Leigh Powell from Hockley Golf Club is also now CPD Approved and has achieved his Milestone.

Other CPD Approved Members:
Matthew Perks – Sunningdale Golf Club
Simon Dexter – SRUC Elmwood
Matthew Teasdale – Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club
Pete Newton MG – Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club
Robert Meikle – Crail Golfing Society



SCHOLARSHIPS

Well done to Scott McLean, Greenkeeping Consultant at the PGA European Tour, who has been awarded a Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship to study an FdSc in Sportsturf at Myerscough College.



MYERSCOUGH LAUNCHES NEW GOLF MA

Myerscough College have launched a new Postgraduate Masters degree in Sustainable Golf Course Management.

Applications are now being sought from individuals possessing a minimum of a Lower Second Class (2.2) Honours Degree (or equivalent) in a related subject. Candidates with relevant professional qualifications and experience are also welcomed.

In addition, candidates of career experience plus evidence of study skills may also be considered.

Consideration will also be given to non-traditional qualifications and relevant work experience. Applicants are encouraged to produce evidence of their potential to benefit from the course.

Places are still available and it's still not too late to apply for study this coming September - www.myerscough.ac.uk

LATEST INFO POSTER FROM JACOBSEN

RESPECT YOUR GREENKEEPER... AND YOUR COURSE



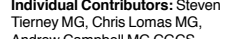
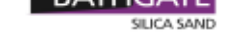
Golf courses are generally at their busiest in the summer months - but it's also a hugely busy time for greenkeepers. Please respect them and their well-being as they work on the course.

This month's GI contains the third in a series of four topical posters we're encouraging members to display prominently in their clubs.

This latest poster, designed by BIGGA Partner Jacobsen, focuses on urging golfers to respect greenkeepers and the course during the busy summer of golf.

It refers to the Etiquette section in the Rules of Golf and will hopefully attract the attention of members and visitors alike.

All of the posters in the series can be downloaded from the BIGGA website by clicking on the 'Education' tab then clicking on the 'Information Posters' tab on the left hand side.



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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ROCKLIFFE'S PETE IS LATEST MASTER GREENKEEPER



Pete Newton, Course Manager at one of Europe's longest golf courses, is celebrating after he became the 66th BIGGA member to achieve Master Greenkeeper status.

Pete supervised the construction and grow-in of the course at Rockcliffe Hall in County Durham – which only opened six years ago - and has played a key role in its meteoric rise to prominence. The championship course, which measures 7,879 yards from the back tees, has hosted the PGA English Senior Open and the Matchplay Final of the William Hunt Trilby Tour plus various charity events.

Pete began his greenkeeping career as a trainee at Rochdale Golf Club in 1997 while studying a HND in Turf Science and Golf Course Management at Myerscough College.

He then had spells at the Marriott facilities at Forest of Arden and Worsley Park, gaining vital tournament experience at the English Open and the British Masters, before moving on to a Deputy Head Greenkeeper role on the Brabazon Course at The Belfry.

In 2008 he joined Rockcliffe as Head Greenkeeper, and was named Course Manager last October. He heads a team of nine greenkeepers and a mechanic plus four seasonal greenkeepers and four members of staff from the estate.

He said: "I'm obviously really pleased, the first thing I did was tell all the guys here who seem pretty chuffed for me. They've put a huge amount of effort into this course

and this achievement is as much to do with them as it is me.

"We've come a long way, from seeding all the greens and using a Portakabin as an office in 2008 to creating something that so many golfers say is an amazing course.

"It's been a real challenge. When I first arrived here everyone said we would never be able to sustain creeping bentgrass greens because it's too wet in the north east. But we've proved them wrong and we've had so many fantastic comments on the surfaces here from professionals and amateurs alike."

BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper scheme is the ultimate qualification for BIGGA members who have reached the highest standard in greenkeeping and golf course management.

It's a three-stage process involving the awarding of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits for education, training and experience, then an assessment of the candidate's golf course which is carried out by two Master Greenkeepers.

The final stage involves the completion of a case study and a technical exam which is then marked by a panel of assessors.

Pete joins an illustrious list which features greenkeepers from across the UK, Europe and the world. Only 66 have achieved the qualification since the first MG was awarded in 1991.

He added: "The exam was quite difficult because I haven't sat an exam for years.

I don't think I've ever typed so much in my life! I probably spent about five hours a week revising, the key was working out which were the most important subjects to concentrate on.

"We've had so many positive comments from golfers here, but I wanted to get an official qualification from a greenkeeping body which confirms that we're heading in the right direction at Rockcliffe."

Pete was a member of the 10th BIGGA Delegation (sponsored by Bernhard & Co) to the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas in 2012, and credits some of the other MGs on the trip with inspiring him.

"Dan McGrath, Alan Pierce, Stuart Yarwood and George Pitts were all on that trip and were either already MGs or were studying for it. Their encouragement and enthusiasm was a big factor in persuading me to have a crack at it, and I'm very glad I did. I would encourage any greenkeeper who is thinking about going for their MG to have a go!"

Pete was also a mentor at the recent Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen, where up and coming greenkeepers focused on making the career leap to Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager are tutored by a range of industry experts.

More details on the Master Greenkeeper scheme can be found by visiting www.bigga.org.uk, clicking on 'Education' and then the 'Master Greenkeeper Certificate' tab on the left hand side.

Wentworth 2015

Once again a team of BIGGA members supported the home greenkeeping at the BMW PGA Championship in Wentworth



Once more the BIGGA Support Team excelled themselves at Wentworth as they joined Kenny Mackay's home greenkeeping team to prepare the course for the BMW PGA Championship.

The team consisted of BIGGA members from across the UK for a phenomenal week of experience, networking and enjoyment at the prestigious facility in Surrey.

Russell Carr, greenkeeper (inset right) at The Goodwood Club,

was blown away by the whole experience and commented:

"I was so pleased to have been chosen as part of the Support Team at the BMW PGA Championship.

"I met some really nice like-minded greenkeepers and the week was a real pleasure to work with you all.

"I would personally like to thank Rachael Duffy, Clive Osgood and BIGGA for organising the event. Without you both, I don't think

that the week would have gone so smoothly. Even when we got back late from the early morning prep, you were able to juggle things around and still give us an opportunity to go back out with a team later in the day.

"I shall never forget the thrills and excitement (and the sweat and tears!) that I shared with you all. Your organisational skills were second to none and from my prospective everything seemed to go well.

"I would like to wish you both the same success throughout the year and hopefully we can meet up again soon!"

Josh Daniel, Assistant Operations Executive for European Tour, said: "I just wanted to say on behalf of everyone that worked at the BMW PGA Championship a massive thank you for all your effort and hard work. I don't think we can thank you enough for the organisation and logistics of what BIGGA bought to the party!"

"Seeing as the tournament attracted over 110,000 over the week the need for the finishing touches like bunker rakers is now a must!"

If you were part of the 2015 team and would like access to photograph featuring the team with the winner Byeong-Hun An, please email Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) or Rachael Duffy (rachael@bigga.co.uk) or call BIGGA House on 01347 833800.

The application process for one of the industry's most enduring and potentially life-changing initiatives has opened – read on for how you can join the 14th BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard Grinders, to America



Expand your horizons

The GIS at San Diego

Ten BIGGA members have been given the fabulous opportunity to travel on an all-expenses paid trip to San Diego in California for the 2016 Golf Industry Show between 6-11 February next year.

The successful candidates will man the BIGGA Stand at the show, and also have the chance to explore the huge exhibition, which is again expected to showcase world-first products.

They will also attend some of the superb educational programme involving a wide range of seminars and workshops.

It's also a priceless networking opportunity as you will bond with other BIGGA members, and increase your knowledge by chatting to greenkeepers and Superintendents from across the world who will be heading to San Diego.

Many of the previous Delegates have stayed in touch and become firm friends following a week spent in the States.

Applicants must be current and full members of BIGGA.

The closing date for applications is 13 September 2015.

The first stage of your application is to visit www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2016 and simply complete the application form. If you are successful at this stage, you will attend an interview headed by a panel from BIGGA and Bernhard, before the final ten Delegates are selected.



Check out this month's cover wrap for a snapshot of what's involved...



Join the BIGGA delegation at the Golf Industry Show, San Diego, February 2016

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



opportunity for BIGGA Members

BERNHARD

2015 Delegates

If you're still unsure about whether to apply, read some of the comments from this year's Delegates



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Richard McGlynn, Kevin Armstrong, Lee Sayers MG, Sam Evans, Steven Hulme, Graeme Roberts, Leigh Powell, Sean Brocklehurst, Miles Todd, Simon Connah

"From this trip I've made nine friends for life, and I would strongly recommend applying for this life changing experience. The benefits are huge". Sam Evans, Course Manager at Oakland Park Golf Club

"When we were on the BIGGA Stand we met dozens of Superintendents from all around the world. They were fascinated to hear about the Old Course and that led to so many conversations". Simon Connah, Deputy Course Manager at the Old Course, St Andrews

"The trip was everything I wanted it to be and more. It opened my eyes about greenkeeping in America and the standards they work towards. It has also left me with a lot more contacts and connections in the industry.

"I'm still at the beginning of my career so it was great to share this journey with some Course Managers. I found it invaluable to talk to them, learn about their careers and what they've achieved."

Sean Brocklehurst, Assistant Greenkeeper, Harpenden Common Golf Club



TPC San Antonio

The Midwest at its best



Rick Tegtmeier CGCS (left), surely one of BIGGA's most westerly members, is preparing for the club's first Solheim Cup in two years' time. Steve Castle travelled to America's Midwest to discover just how much this means to everyone at Des Moines Golf & Country Club and how a course reconstruction is modernising the two courses



MAIN: The completed 12th on the North Course
INSET LEFT: 12th on the North Course under construction
INSET RIGHT: Backfilled rock on the 12th on the North Course

Rick Tegtmeier's journey across the impressive 36-hole facility in Iowa is interrupted by countless fist bumps, hand shakes and general compliments from delighted members. The afternoon of my visit coincided with the opening of several new holes. Many golfers were playing them for the first time – and they were very keen to extend their praise to the smiling Director of Grounds.

Des Moines is a six-hour drive across the bumpy Interstate from Chicago through hundreds of miles of arable land, and home to around 200,000 people. Although it's far from being one of the most iconic cities in America, it's known as the home of the country's insurance industry and boasts the headquarters of several large financial institutions.

Des Moines Golf & Country Club has 750 golfing members plus 250 seniors and 375 social (who take advantage of the outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts and other facilities). Encouragingly, they have a thriving junior membership and have even recently built a tiny three-hole course with larger hole cups for kids aged around five or six.

After a tour of the North and South courses, Rick then held court in his smart office within the maintenance facilities. It soon became clear to me that this was home from home for Rick – quite simply, he loves working at Des Moines. There's even a family connection with his son Nate employed as North Course Superintendent.

The new holes are just one small part of a huge project to update the course in time for the Solheim Cup – nine holes at a time. The Cup will be played on a mixture of the club's two courses as Rick explained.

"The 'interior', a combination of the North and South courses, will host the Solheim as the organisers were keen for the full tournament to take place on holes away from the busy Interstate 80, which runs close to the perimeter of parts of the course. We will also be hosting the Junior Solheim at the same time, and they will play on the 'outer' golf course."

18 handicapper Rick's second spell at Des Moines began in 2006 – and the club immediately tasked him with a major bunker overhaul project. But he saw it as an opportunity to do much more – and enlisted the help of veteran architect Pete Dye.

"The club felt the bunkers were in

the wrong places for modern golfers, who are hitting the ball further than ever. I agreed, but I also recognised this would be a great opportunity to put a masterplan in place and transform the two courses.

"The next step was selecting an architect to discuss the plans with. The original architect was Pete Dye – so I thought we should get him back. Our General Manager knew Mr Dye so this gave us an opportunity to contact him.

"He came in 2007. He was in his eighties even then, but he insisted on walking all 36 holes, literally writing notes and sketching on napkins! It was pretty cool. He returned a year later with an associate – Tim Liddy – so really it was a collaboration between those two, myself, Jim Cutter and Director of Golf Scott Howe."

As well as the bunkers, an ambitious plan to replace some of the greens was hatched, with the traditional soil push-ups being replaced by sand-based greens.

"Jim Cutter was really supportive of the project, and by 2012 we'd decided to do a full-scale renovation. At the same time, the club was investigating the possibility of hosting the Solheim Cup and later that year we found out we were hosting it. The plan is to work on nine holes at a time, meaning it will be complete by the fall of 2016, well ahead of the Cup in 2017."

Other changes included combating the poa annua which had crept onto the fairways by preventative spraying and and promoting bentgrass in its place, and remove some of the 5,500 trees which were shrouding much of the site in shade and causing root compaction issues.

"We genuinely would have carried out all the changes for the members' benefit anyway, but awarding us the Solheim certainly focused minds!"

It's evident that the club are already embracing this terrific opportunity to showcase the course. A replica Cup stands proudly in the clubhouse reception and official Solheim branded merchandise is already proving popular. Rick hopes that the event will prove as popular as the last large scale tournament they hosted when a staggering 262,000 people attended the US Senior Open in 1999.

The club did hire a construction company to complete some of the work. In common with many golfing facilities in the US, they hire more than 20 labourers plus interns and seasonals as well as



Steve's visit to America was courtesy of a stipend from TOCA – the Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association. For more about TOCA visit www.toca.org and follow them on Twitter @TOCAorg



qualified greenkeepers. But Rick's proud of the fact that much of the work has been completed in-house, particularly the construction of a pond near the par three 12th on the North Course, which deliberately bears more than a passing resemblance to the 17th at TPC Sawgrass. Rick's worked closely with the architects, Nate and South Course Superintendent Tim Sims plus the rest of the team.

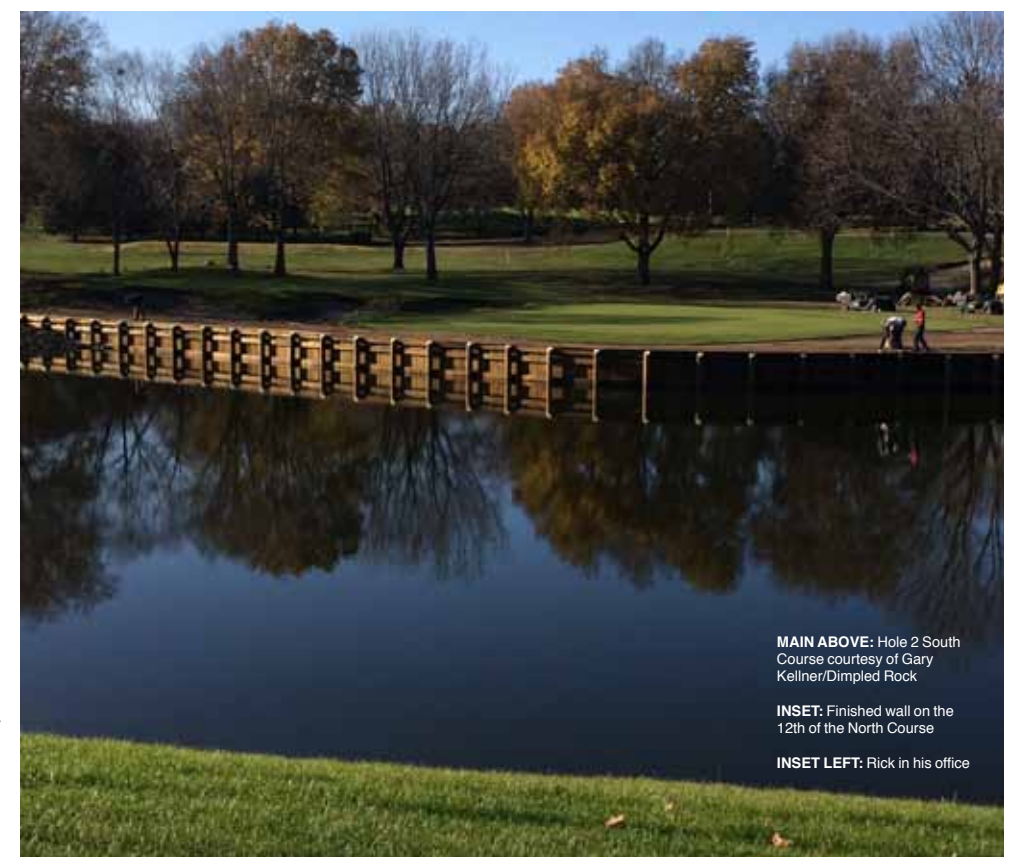
I did not expect the word 'stressful' to feature heavily in sanguine Rick's vocabulary, but it's clear that beneath his laid back exterior, the

passion for the course and the area runs deep, and this was apparent in his next comment.

"The renovation has been very stressful. At the start I went 14 weeks without a day off. Last year we had a lot of rain during it as well which always puts you behind."

The greens are largely A4 bentgrass and the fairways are Penn Eagle bentgrass, cut to half an inch. The tees are Penncross with Kentucky bluegrass rough (known as smooth stalk meadowgrass in the UK). The weather dictates that Des Moines is closed to golfers from Thanksgiving in November until the end of March. On average they have 36 inches of snow a year although they frequently have to cope with more – meaning a team of 17 in the winter compared to 49 full-timers in the summer.

"Summers here are extremely humid. We're in a major farming area, so the corn respire and that evapotranspiration puts a lot of moisture in the air – perfect conditions for disease. We combat this by doing a lot of preventative spraying in the spring, and we've found the



MAIN ABOVE: Hole 2 South Course courtesy of Gary Kellner/Dimpled Rock

INSET: Finished wall on the 12th of the North Course

INSET LEFT: Rick in his office

conditions are generally good for growing bentgrass."

Rick grew up in a small town in northern Iowa, and his greenkeeping career began at just 13.

"In my home town there used to be a nine-hole course – Rockford Golf & Country Club. I walked into the bank one day with my father and the banker, who owned the club, asked if I was interested in working on the golf course mowing around trees.

"I said yes, so he hired me. I started mowing round trees with a push mower. They gave me a five gallon can of gas and I did that every summer until I was 16. Then the guy in charge quit, and they asked me to run it!

"The banker gave me a student loan to go to turf school at Hawkeye Community College in Iowa. He liked to see the youngsters come through, so much so that there are probably seven or eight of us across the US who started off there and have gone on to be Superintendents.

"So, I went through a two-year programme, and then got a job at another nine-hole course. I knew that to progress in the industry, I had to work at a larger facility so went to Hinsdale Golf Club in Chicago. Three months in, the Superintendent left so I ended up running it, even though I was only 21."

However, Rick failed to settle in the big city and got a job at Des Moines in 1983, working on the North Course. Ten days later, he went on a blind date and met his wife Sherry! However, the fairytale ended when it soon became clear the then Superintendent Bill Byers had no plans to move on.

"At one of my annual reviews Bill asked 'what are you gonna do with your life?'. I told him I wanted his job, and he replied 'you need to leave. Go to another course, make a name for yourself and when I retire, maybe you can come back.'"

So Rick secured a position at Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids 100 miles east of Des Moines, and worked there for 17 years while raising a family.

It was Zach Johnson's home course, he got to know the golfer and the two still regularly text each other.

Bill then finally called Rick to tell him he was retiring, so he applied for the job and joined in the fall of 2006.

Rick is studying towards his Master Greenkeeper certificate, and it was Nate who convinced him to join BIGGA and aspire to become an MG.

"I've been a CGCS since 1985, and one day Nate asked 'what's driving you? How come you're not an MG?'. With the Solheim coming up, I wanted to be an MG and that's my current goal.

"There's no doubt I'm harder on Nate than the other staff here. But he's made his own way in the industry, he worked at Cedar Rapids Country Club before interning here, and I'm very proud of him."

That's far from the end of the story. In the evening I returned to the clubhouse to see something sadly missing in many UK clubhouses.

On a sultry Friday night, it was buzzing with families, youngsters and members all dining on the frankly spectacular food. A superb end to an unforgettable and thought provoking visit to the Midwest.

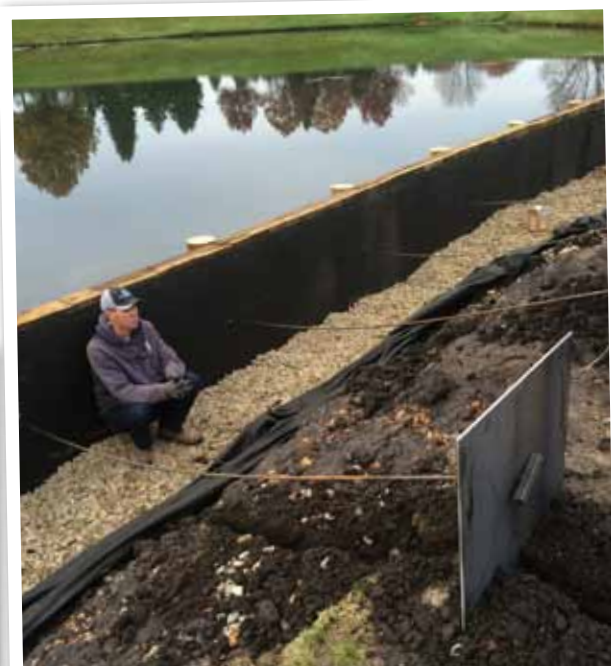
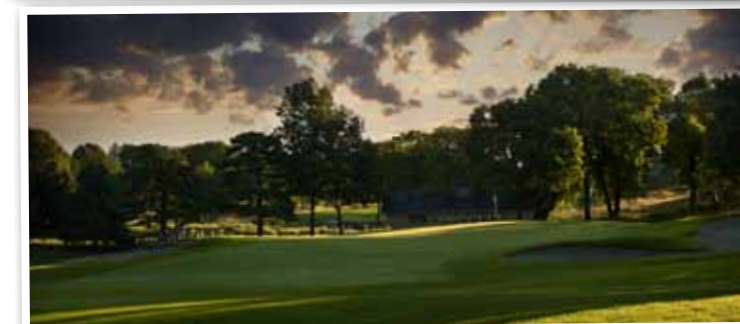


INSET: Rick Tegmeier

LEFT: Hole 1 South Course from tee courtesy of Gary Kellner/Dimpled Rock

LEFT BELOW: Hole 10 North Course courtesy of Gary Kellner/Dimpled Rock

BELOW: Nate Tegmeier in contemplative mood!



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Fusarium patch

Dr Terry Mabbett analyses the most damaging turf disease – and weighs up the best of the many control strategies available to turf managers

Every ‘cultivated’ green plant has one particular pathogen and disease which stand head and shoulders above the rest in extent, frequency and severity. For the Irish potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) it is late blight disease of potato caused by a fungus-like pathogen called *Phytophthora infestans*, while leaf rust diseases caused by *Puccinia* species is ‘number one’ for wheat.

Turf is no exception with Fusarium Patch caused by the fungus *Micodochium nivale* as the most widespread and damaging disease of professional turf in cool temperate climates.

Generations of greenkeepers and groundsmen recognised Fusarium Patch as the single most damaging disease of professional turf.

As such it received more consideration and attention than all other turf diseases put together.

Virtually every conceivable control strategy, including cultural and chemical measures, has been harnessed in the prevention, management and control of Fusarium Patch disease.

Indeed the industry has ‘thrown’ literally everything at this particular problem with exception of the proverbial ‘kitchen sink’.

Dew removal from greens is a key cultural control measure for Fusarium patch
(Picture courtesy Syngenta)

What underpins Fusarium Patch?

So what exactly makes *M. nivale* the most potent pathogen, and Fusarium patch the foremost disease, of cool temperate turf? Successes of pathogen and disease are essentially underpinned by a series of factors related to the host (turfgrass), the environment and to golf course management.

These often disparate factors combine and conspire to present conditions favourable for infection, disease development and spread throughout most of the calendar year on most grass species and varieties deployed in managed turf.

The main factors underpinning the success of *M. nivale* as a disease of cool temperate turf are as follows.

The fungus is perpetually present on the thatch as a saprophytic fungus (feeds on dead and decaying organic matter) or as a weak parasitic fungus.

Most potential pathogenic fungi have a strictly limited range of temperature across which they become sufficiently active to cause disease in host plants. In respect of temperature *M. nivale* is more versatile than most and capable of growing within a wide range of temperature from -6C to about 30C.

Humidity of the microclimate within the thatch and the concentrations of free water on foliar surfaces are additionally important, but the capacity of this normally saprophytic/ weak parasitic fungus to assume full-blown disease-causing status over such a wide range of temperature is clearly the key to its widespread occurrence and high frequency on professional turf.

M. nivale is very much a generalist pathogen which infects the leaves to cause disease in most if not all turf grasses, although there are differences in susceptibility (tolerance) to the disease amongst mainstream turf grass species and varieties.

However, perhaps the single most important (and often overlooked) factor pre-disposing turf grass to infection by *M. nivale* is physical damage, in the form of cuts and abrasions, suffered during daily turf management practices and playing pressures.

Mowing is the primary and principal factor followed by aeration and scarification, but even cuts and abrasions caused by players walking across greens in standard spiked golf shoes can create entry points for this wound infecting pathogen.

...over dew



Wish you were here? Fusarium at Monken Hadley, North London

Survival and spread from thatch

M. nivale withstands conditions unfavourable for growth, including hot dry summers, by 'resting up' on grass debris in the thatch.

When conditions become favourable the pathogen will infect the living leaves on grass plants through fungal hyphae growing up from the thatch or germinating conidia which can enter the 'unbroken' leaf surface through the stomata, via severed leaf ends cut during mowing or any other damaged area on the leaf surface.

The now fully parasitic fungus may grow and spread slowly at first with some weeks passing before detection but under wet and over-cast conditions, and within a wide range of temperature (0C to 16C), the disease may start to spread rapidly.

The fungus can produce large numbers of conidia which are spread easily and freely along and around the green on wheeled equipment (mowers, spreaders and sprayers), on shoes and on the feet of wild mammals (e.g. rabbits, foxes and badgers) and birds.

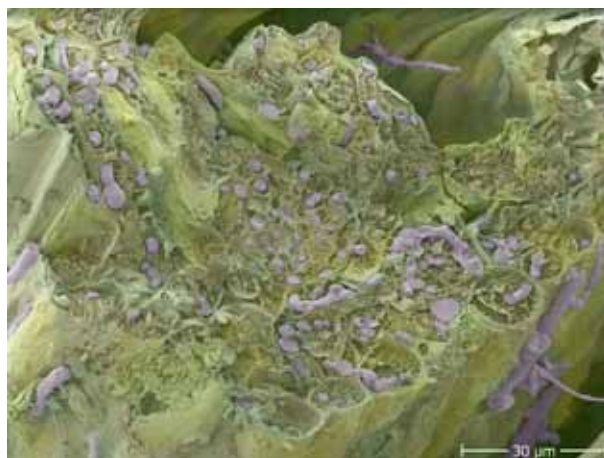
Periods of warm sunny weather, which cause the grass canopy to dry out, will invariably lead to a slow-down in fungal activity and a

return of the fungus to the status of a weak parasite or saprophyte.

Slow growing turf harbouring deep thatch provides an ideal substrate for *M. nivale*. This disease susceptible situation will frequently exist during periods of cool wet weather conditions (0–8C) and when turf grass is covered with snow. Specific conditions which may encourage fungal activity, infection and disease development and spread include drizzle, fog, frost occurring night after night and alternating thawing and freezing of snow cover. Poor drainage favours Fusarium Patch as does long uncut grass with leaves becoming matted down to create a humid microclimate within the turf.

Take your pick

Most cool climate turf grass species are susceptible to Fusarium Patch disease although there are some marked differences which can be exploited. Annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) is particularly susceptible to Fusarium Patch especially in the autumn when cool and moist conditions bearing down on summer-stressed turf are ideal for disease development. *P. annua* is not a resilient grass. It is highly susceptible to heat stress and drought stress and is prone to cold injury, all of which clearly contribute to high



INSET ABOVE: Fusarium Patch 'inside and out' - An Electron Micrograph showing the hyphae of *Microdochium nivale* (Fusarium Patch) inside the tissue of a turf grass leaf (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

ABOVE: Fusarium patch 'inside and out' - Wet winter symptoms of Fusarium Patch on the turf surface (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

susceptibility to Fusarium Patch [and anthracnose] throughout autumn and into winter.

Agrostis species including *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) are very susceptible to Fusarium Patch. Browntop bent (*Agrostis castellana* 'Highland') is more prone than cultivars of *Agrostis capillaris*. *Lolium perenne* (perennial rye grass), *Poa pratensis* (smooth stalked meadow grass) and *Festuca* species are less susceptible to Fusarium Patch.

Grasses species exhibiting reduced susceptibility to Fusarium Patch generally have a low to medium thatching tendency compared with *P. annua* and *Agrostis*

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species which are categorised as medium to high. Indeed, there appears to be a positive correlation between a high thatching tendency and susceptibility to Fusarium Patch.

Correlation of high thatching tendency with correspondingly higher susceptibility to Fusarium Patch is almost certainly explained by a larger reservoir of fungal pathogen and potential for disease coupled with more scope for a humid microclimate within the turf canopy.

Fertiliser practice and resulting nutrient status will affect the predisposition of turf to Fusarium Patch irrespective of grass species composition. High nitrogen availability generating soft succulent growth will increase sward susceptibility to Fusarium Patch while higher proportions of the so called 'hardening' elements/nutrients such as potassium, calcium and iron will generally have the reverse effect.

Pre-disposing factors and how to beat them

Factors which pre-dispose professional turf to Fusarium Patch and best cultural practice required to avoid and/or manage the disease is well documented and understood.

Pre-disposing factors

- Humid atmosphere, shade and surface wetness especially when accompanied by cool temperatures
- Inadequate circulation of air above the turf grass sward
- Rapid, forced, soft and succulent growth especially in autumn caused by late application of fertiliser especially when high in nitrogen
- Soil pH in the neutral to alkaline range (pH 7+) and inappropriate use of lime that raises pH to alkaline levels
- Over-ambitious fertiliser application especially if poorly balanced
- Damaged turf grass due to high wear and tear or irregular cutting which may cause 'shaving', too low cuts resulting in 'scalping' and insufficiently sharp blades that tear rather than cut and therefore cause leaves to have cut jagged edges which are more prone to infection

Best practices

- Remove early morning dew and other surface water by sweeping or swishing and maintain good air circulation above the sward by appropriate pruning and management of adjacent hedges and overhanging trees. Maintain good air circulation within the turf and ground by regular aeration and thatch reduction. Minimise shade but where shade

is unavoidable adjust (reduce) fertiliser levels accordingly

- Keep thatch at an optimum depth and density for the particular sports surface situation. Box off and remove grass clippings and do not smother turf when applying top dressing by ensuring it is well worked into the turf
- Establish a regular programme of mowing with blades correctly set and adjusted for height of cut and self-sharpening
- Appraise and design seed mixtures and sward composition for maximum tolerance to Fusarium Patch disease and minimise the content of *P. annua*.
- Maintain surface acidity using applications of ferrous sulphate (sulphate of iron) to toughen and green up grass for autumn and winter and to additionally deter surface casting earthworms and manage the growth of mosses and liverworts
- Balance soil fertility with increased proportions of potassium and calcium relative to nitrogen when going into high Fusarium risk autumn conditions and situations. Apply nitrogen early enough during the late summer/early autumn period so that the grass can harden off sufficiently before winter. Do not allow grass to go into winter too high and ensure drainage is adequate

Fall back on fungicides

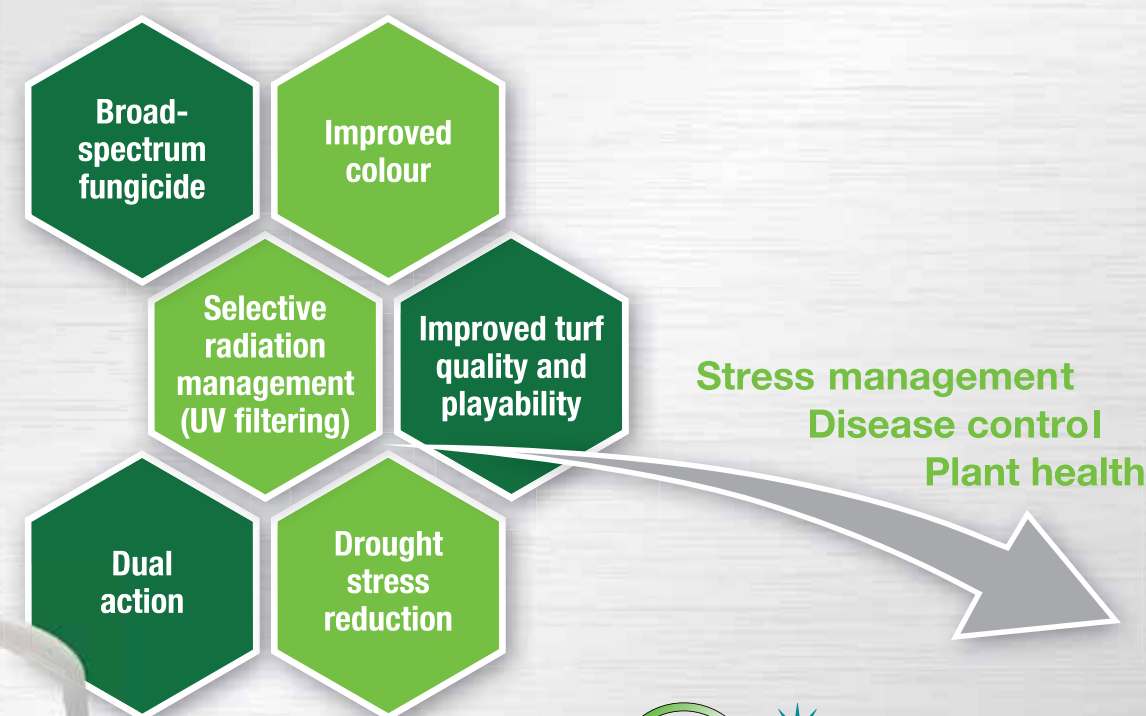
Surveys conducted some 15 years ago showed that sports turf in the UK suffered from around a dozen different foliar diseases with Fusarium patch head and shoulders above the rest in spread, severity, damage caused and cost of control. Over 90% of all UK greenkeepers expected to deal with Fusarium patch disease in any one calendar year.

More than half of all professional football pitches were affected by Fusarium on an occasional basis. As many as 20 per cent of all local authority pitches recorded Fusarium Patch despite disease monitoring being generally less and turf disease therefore less likely to be found and recorded. Parallel surveys revealed how four fifths of all fungicide applications to UK sports turf were targeted at Fusarium.

A decade and a half on, the majority of greenkeepers and groundsman are still likely to encounter Fusarium Patch during any one calendar year with those able to escape using fungicides use to prevent, manage and control this number one disease of professional turf being well and truly blessed.

Surface wetness and increased humidity caused by April showers will invigorate Fusarium patch disease

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Rock 'n' roll

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The course at Rockcliffe Hall in County Durham has only been fully open since June 2010. If you were not armed with this information, you could be forgiven for thinking it had a far longer pedigree, a combination of parkland melding with a near links feel for part of the course lending it an established but evolved feel.

One point will, however, not confuse anyone. The presentation of the course has to rank among the best in the UK and indeed Europe.

As anyone tasked with the creation of an 18-hole course will know, creating a new design is one thing. Coming up with a course that golfers want to play and actively take an interest in is something else.

To then attract top tournaments is perhaps further icing on the cake. But in its brief five years in full play, Rockcliffe Hall has managed to tick all the right boxes and is seen by many as a course to look out for within the major tours circuit. Course Manager Pete Newton, who recently became BIGGA's 66th Master Greenkeeper, explained more.

"In 2013 we held the British Senior Masters here. We were given just five weeks' notice to prepare but we did not have to do anything extra to bring the course up to condition. We were already pretty much there. Comments from players included 'the greens are the best we have played on all season' and 'this is the best preparation of a course we have played'. Comments like that give you a real buzz."

If this comes across as being rather cocksure then Pete certainly does not mean it in that way. He is part of a nine-strong greenkeeping team that drafts in four seasonal workers from April to September.

Between them, they have 35ha of maintained course to look after and, as a look at the Summer Operational Standards table shows, the team have a great deal of 'traditional' summer tasks to keep them busy. The course has attained its high standard through hard work from dedicated professionals using its fleet of Toro machinery.

Pete added: "The estate has three full-time and one seasonal member of the groundscare team to look after the hotel and related complex, all of whom are trained up to operate a range of our Toro golf course mowers.

"When we need to prepare the course for a tournament we can call upon their help and so tackle every-

thing in-house. We have built up a really solid team here and I suppose I now almost take the course's high presentation standards almost for granted. But it took a tremendous amount of hard work to get from a construction site to where we are now."

Among the many distinctive features of the course are the ornately shaped bunkers. As pleasing to the eye as they are frustrating to anyone trying to extract a misplaced shot, they need constant care.

"One thing we can pretty much guarantee up here in the North East is wind. Sand in the bunkers constantly moves and needs to be groomed regularly to keep the bunkers in good shape and free of weeds. The seasonal members of our team spend a lot of their daily routine looking after the bunkers. They may well be a course feature but they also take their toll on maintenance time and budgets."

Switch your attention from the bunkers to the greens and even the less trained eye would spot they look a bit different.

Visiting players note the greens offer what is perhaps best described as a slick playing surface. The reason? All the greens at Rockcliffe are sown down to Penn A-4 and G6 Creeping Bentgrass, a dark green, fine leaf cultivar selected for its tolerance to the cold and its aggressive growth that ensures it fills in any 'gaps'.

Pete said: "The A4 cultivar holds up to winter well, but that's not to say it keeps growing in cold weather. This May was cold and the greens have not grown as we need temperatures in double figures. But we have not had any problems and the club members are pleased with how the greens have held up over the colder months."

If the greens depart from tradition then the fairways stick to the tried and tested, with a bent, fescue and 30% ryegrass mix used throughout to also include the tees, approaches and collars.

"We operate all Toro mowers. It is more convenient for care and maintenance to have one key supplier of equipment. But for me the most important point is quality and performance.

"To be able to consistently achieve a repeatable finish on our greens is down to how the mowers are set-up then retaining that setting. The mowers are designed to ease set-up and pose no problems when it comes to sharpening, which we do here. We are fussy, and measure the height of cut on our greens so there is no difference between hand

James de Haviland travelled to Rockcliffe Hall to speak to BIGGA's latest Master Greenkeeper Pete Newton (left) and discover how such a new course has come to prominence so quickly



The Toro maintained greens offer what is perhaps best described as a 'slick' playing surface

A Toro Reelmaster 5410, leaving a margin around the course's delightfully sculpted yet fearsome bunkers



Greens consistency is improved by rolling with a Toro GreensPro 1200.

Pete inspecting the club's Toro Greensmaster 1600





ROCKLIFFE HALL GREENKEEPING TEAM
Back row: Dave Jowett, Jon Wyer, Carl Allen, Stephen Ferguson, James Bell, Roy Applegarth
Front row: Dan Calow, Dan MacLachlan, Dan Simpson, Pete Newton MG, Sarah Walker, Jack Lewis missing Dan James, Matty Teasdalea

and ride-on mowing. This means they are set slightly differently, the weight of a ride-on meaning we set these 0.5mm higher than a pedestrian machine. You can work to that level of setting accuracy repeatedly with Toro mowers."

Pete said he is always keen to engage with the membership and communicate what the greens team is up to and why. Many members now take an active interest in how the course is managed which makes it easier when certain works need to be undertaken that can upset play.

The club also publishes regular updates on its website to alert both members and visitors to any planned work and the progress of existing projects.

"As a greens team we are approachable. When I put out a note saying why certain scheduled maintenance jobs have not been carried out due to conditions or the weather, it is accepted. We want to have a well-presented course that delivers a great game of golf. Getting it right is easier if members and those looking after the course work together."

A further clue to the age of the course is the continued attention

to its development. Although the course itself is now well established its place within the environment is still being tweaked. Wetland areas, with eight reed beds and three lakes, for example, have been either constructed or allowed to flourish to encourage wildlife, with strict controls placed on access.

Pete added: "We are not sitting still and will continue to tweak and evolve the course to ensure it meets not just the standards of an interested and supportive membership but visitors too."

Rockcliffe Hall operates a comprehensive fleet of Toro equipment, which is maintained by an in-house mechanic. A key to the club's self-sufficiency is having its own stock of Toro parts, with wear items and service items to include blades, belts and filters forming part of a stock list that ensure key items are readily available as and when needed. "We look after our equipment as well as the course," said Pete.

The facility has already hosted various tournaments including the PGA Senior Open, the Matchplay Final of the William Hill Trilby Tour and the Northern Golf Masters Tournament.

Summer operational standards at Rockcliffe Hall

	Height of Cut	Schedule
GREENS		
Toro Greensmaster Flex 21 (11 Blade)	2.5 – 3 mm	3 times per week
Toro TriFlex 3420	3 – 3.5 mm	2 times per week
Toro GreensPro 1200 greens roller		2 times per week
Toro ProPass 200 and HDX-D		10 – 14 days
Toro Multi Pro 5800 applies Greens Foliar feed		Bi – weekly
Green Soil drencher		Monthly
TEES		
Toro Greensmaster 1600	10 mm	2 times per week
COLLARS, APPROACHES AND SWAILS		
Toro TriFlex 3420 (8 Blade)	8mm	3 times per week
FAIRWAYS		
Toro Reelmaster 5410 week	12 mm	3-4 times per
SEMI ROUGH		
Toro Groundsmaster 3500 Sidewinder rotary	25 mm	2 times per week
CUT ROUGH		
Toro Groundsmaster 4500 and 4700	50mm – 63mm	Once per week



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Home sweet home

Rumour had it that Fulwell Golf Club, a parkland course in West London, boasted some of the most immaculate maintenance and greenkeeper facilities in the country. Steve Castle headed there to discover why the seven-strong team treat their surroundings as home sweet home

One of the phrases I've been keen to eradicate from the greenkeeping lexicon in my time at BIGGA is 'sheds'. It's an anachronism, and I've always insisted on describing them as 'maintenance facilities'. It's another very small step in promoting greenkeeping as a more professional industry.

There is no doubt that the standard of facilities on offer vary wildly, often through absolutely no fault of the greenkeeping team.

A club's lack of budget, resources or will to invest in this critical yet often overlooked area of a golf club can result in tired, sub-standard and sometimes unsafe facilities.

It's apparent on arrival at Fulwell, situated in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, that I'm

about to be given a guided tour of one of the very best. You can't fail to notice the greenkeepers removing their footwear before stepping inside the mess area which houses the kitchen, washroom and other facilities.

The seven-strong greenkeeping team, who all wear smart jumpers with their name and job title just beneath the club crest, are led by charismatic Course Manager Paul Brown.

When he was interviewed for the position back in 2001, the facilities were dreadful – and he insisted on planning a total rebuild before he agreed to join.

He said: "It was a mish-mash of tired and unsuitable buildings. My office was a Portakabin, then we had a shed where you could literally kick a football through the wall. The

Paul using Turfkeeper in his office



The team at Fulwell: Sean Eckett, Alex Bueno, Will Turner, Paul Brown, John Hordley, Dan Gray, Chris Fogg

workshop area was a 30-year-old shipping container with a rusty, leaking roof.

"Overhauling the facilities here was an unofficial prerequisite for me taking the job. I knew the club were committed to this, and to their credit, within my first two years we had firm plans on the table. I know many clubs would not support a scheme like this so readily, so I wanted to make the most of it.

"Planning permission took longer than we anticipated, but once that was in place we went ahead.

"Of course there was some resistance within the club. But eventually everybody realised the potential to increase our efficiency which would lead to a better quality course. So, the members – we have around 800 here – each paid a levy, and the total cost was around £850,000."

Paul added that he was given a relatively free rein to create his dream facility. The club asked a member (a qualified architect) to design it alongside input from Paul – but as always, transforming the plans into reality posed various challenges.

"There was a lot of infrastructure that needed to be put in place. We didn't have any three-phase electric power, so we had to have our own substation installed, and obviously the mains and sewage had to be routed to the new facility.

"There was so much to be done. When I came we had two separate irrigation systems. We had a plastic system that was a quarter of a century old, and a new fairway system. So there were two sets of pumps, two pump houses, two water tanks...it was a mess.

"So we moved the newer tank and installed it in an appropriate area on the course, and because we had three-phase electric installed we could divert the power to and from that pump.

"Fundamentally we needed far better facilities for the team to do their jobs to the best of their ability, and also far better facilities for the team to relax during break times."

The whole process took around six months through the winter of 2006 and the spring of 2007. The new facility opened in early 2007 – and right from the start, the team operated a strict cleaning rota to

ensure it remained immaculate.

It boasts a shower area, room for drying clothing, a spotless kitchen plus Paul's tidy and businesslike office. The machinery area is also impressive – small touches such as clearly labelled boxes for parts stand out, with specific shelves for each brush, scarifier and roller.

Paul explained: "Most people who visit here assume it's new. Because we've got shiny concrete floors, if you walk in with wet feet you leave dirty footprints everywhere.

"Normally if any rep does that, they get handed a mop on the way out!

"It's totally self policing. The guys know exactly who's doing what, we have a checklist and a rota. Some may say it's a little over the top but it works and the guys take real pride in what they have here.

"For the first couple of months, they were complaining when they had to take their boots off every single time. Now it's second nature. If anyone misses their slot on the rota, the other guys get on their back.

"It presents a professional image – and it was so easy to implement



GI asked greenkeepers for their views on facilities – how important they are, items they couldn't live without and what else they would require in an ideal world. We spoke to Jaey Goodchild, Course Manager at Bowood Golf & Country Club...

"An organised and well maintained maintenance facility really is key to aiding efficient maintenance of the golf course and clubhouse areas.

"One of the aspects I find essential in our maintenance complex is having a home for everything and having the space for a staff room that allows the team to be comfortable and relaxed at break time. We expanded our mess room last year and it has been fantastic having more space and facilities for the team.

"Ideally I would love to have a little more space in our facility. Construction of more bulk material storage bays is being planned for the future which will improve everything further."

once we had everything in place. Yes, it may take an hour or two away from the golf course a week, but it's worth it.

"Potentially, new facilities can become a hole within six months with seven guys coming in and out constantly, but with a system you stay on top of it."

And it's not as if Paul and the team have been resting on their laurels since the new complex opened; 'Meet and Greet' open days with the membership have proved a major success, where the team give the golfers full access to all the facilities in a bid to make them aware of the work that goes into producing a first-class course.

They display all the machinery, and place signs on each item outlining its age, approximate mileage calculated through the number of hours it's been used, where it's used on the course and the estimated amount of annual maintenance it requires.

Paul added: "People find it tough to comprehend the hours a machine has been in use, so we converted the hours to miles which gives them a better idea of the workload each machine gets through. Also, the sheer range of machinery we have tends to surprise them.

"As the members come off the eighth green they have a look round, have a chat with some of the guys, look at the machines and go and finish their round. It's a really good communication tool. You find yourself talking in depth to so many members, instead of just the small talk you tend to get when they see you working out on the course.

"They can ask questions about the machines, and they're always amazed how expensive it all can be!"

Paul's agronomic career began when he enrolled on a YTS scheme as a 17-year-old, looking after a bowling green. His college lecturer at that time was John Hordley, and in a twist of fate Paul is now John's boss as he works as a greenkeeper at Fulwell.

Paul's first greenkeeping role was at Datchet Golf Club before he joined the team working on the grow-in of The Edinburgh Course at Wentworth. His next move was to Burnham Beeches Golf Club, and after three years there he went to Flackwell Heath Golf Club as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Soon he was appointed Head Greenkeeper, then moved to Fulwell in 2001.

He said: "I've been lucky enough to work at a great range of courses



Clearly labelled sections and a sign placed on a machine during an open day

and I'd encourage every young greenkeeper to do the same. I worked on a chalk based course at Flackwell, I learnt about sand based greens and construction at Wentworth, had a spell at a little nine-hole course on solid clay at Datchet, enjoyed my time at a lovely Harry Colt course at Burnham then moved to a gravel site here with a high water table. The only variation I haven't worked is a links."

So, best greenkeeping facilities in the country? It's hard to imagine how they could be surpassed in terms of cleanliness. Overall though, the key message is one of increased professionalism and pride in greenkeeping.

Surface water not penetrating?



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Water management

...a structured approach

Neil Mackenzie, Specialities Product Manager at Rigby Taylor, looks at understanding soil structure and the dynamics of water management

Water applied to a turf surface, either by rainfall or through irrigation, is only effective when it is able to infiltrate into the soil. Any remaining water on the surface will either be lost through run-off or evaporation.

Once in the rootzone, water will fill empty pore spaces and move downwards under the force of gravity through the micropores, eventually leaving them drained and refilled with air.

The micropores on the other hand will retain their water against the force of gravity because of the adhesive and cohesive nature of water.

Micropores vary in size with the larger ones only able to apply a

weak hold on the water against the pull of gravity but not enough to resist the 'pull-force' of the roots to extract water from them.

The smaller micropores however can hold onto water much more tightly and resist water being extracted by the roots.

Moisture Availability in the Soil

Following heavy rainfall, pore spaces will become filled and the soil becomes saturated with water. Dependent on soil type, this may represent 60% of the total soil volume.

There are several states of moisture capacity in a soil:

Field Capacity: This is after drainage has removed the water from the

Water holding capacity is essential but not to a point where the soil becomes saturated

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macropores, but all the micropores have retained their water volume.

Permanent Wilting Point: When the available water has been removed from the micropores and all that is left is water, tightly bound, and no longer accessible by the plant roots. At this point the plant will start to wilt and growth will be affected.

Available Water: The amount of water between Field Capacity and Permanent Wilting Point. It's the aim of greenkeepers and grounds-men to ensure an optimal level of water in the root zone is achieved between these two points; typically at 50% of available water, see graph below.

It is therefore important to understand the soil characteristics

when making assessments of adequate soil moisture levels.

How Much Water Is In Soil?

Water holding capacity is largely dependent on soil type. As mentioned earlier, clay soils will hold greater amounts of water than sand soils as they have significantly more micropores to hold water. Conversely the number of micropores in a sand rootzone allows gravity to take away much more water. However, the important measurement in both cases is the 'Available Water'. Sand may allow much more water to drain away than Clay soils but it also does not have so many of the small micropores that inhibit its uptake by roots.

Root Depth Significance on Plant Available Moisture

The depth of roots in a sward will significantly affect the amount of water available to the plant and consequently the irrigation intervals necessary to maintain a growing plant.

For example, if your rootzone was described as a sandy loam with 22% Field Capacity and a Permanent Wilting Point at 8% (water volume) and, you wish to maintain a manageable water volume around 17%, that would be 9% volume above the permanent Wilting Point.

Every square metre to a depth of 10cm therefore would contain nine litres of available moisture for the roots.

Typically in summer a full sward can transpire three to four litres of water per sq m per day, which would mean sufficient water for a maximum of just three days before wilting occurs.

If the roots extended to a depth of 20cm, there would be 18 litres of plant available water, so as many as six days before wilting occurs.

In reality, as the amount of available moisture decreases then the plant will reduce its uptake and thereby extend the point at which the Permanent Wilting Point is reached.

At this point of reduced water consumption however, the turf plant's metabolism will have been reduced, together with its ability to maintain healthy growth.

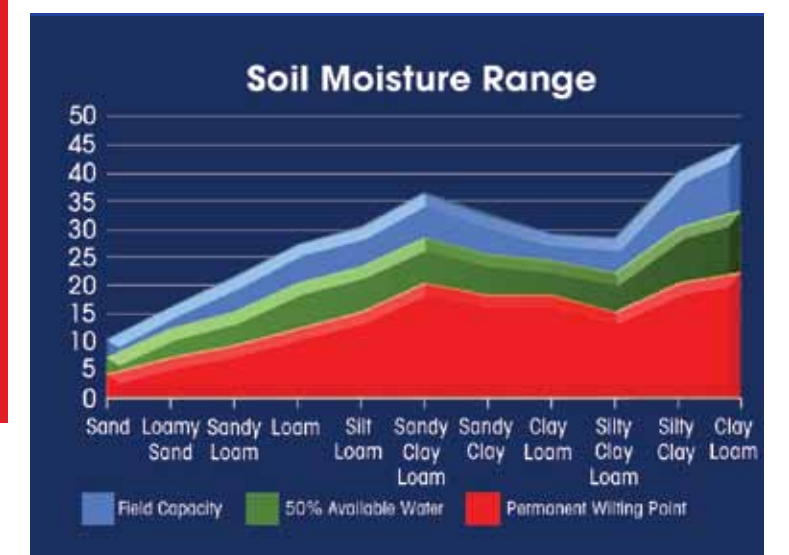
A programme of selected wetting agents introduced into the water management programme between March and October will ensure the distribution of moisture throughout the soil is even.

This will help maintain a plant usable reserve of naturally applied or irrigated water available to the rootzone.

Four things to consider regarding moisture availability and wetting agent applications:

- 1. Type of turf**
– Fine turf (greens/tees/fairways/pitches etc) will comprise of differing grass species, each having variable evapotranspiration rates, and in diverse growing situations, have different root penetration and levels of water availability.
- 2. Soil structure**
– Knowing the characteristics of the rootzone is vital to understand its ability to store, and more importantly deliver, water to the plant.
- 3. Climatic changes** – Recording and being aware of weather patterns are important to be prepared for periods of 'drought' before the soil becomes critically affected by having insufficient available moisture.
- 4. Root Depth**
– Regular core sampling will help to assess frequency and quantity of applied irrigation and will assist in determining the type of wetting agent required.

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The Field Capacity (blue section) of sand is just 10% of the volume of soil, whereas with clay it is 45%. However the Permanent Wilting Point (red section) of a clay soil is reached when there is still 22% of water tightly bound in the soil but unavailable to roots. This is more than twice the Field Capacity of a sand rootzone.

TOP RIGHT: Knowing the characteristics of the soil is vital

Maintaining the balance in Cornwall



In this second article looking at how clubs in North Cornwall are meeting the challenge of agronomics v playability, Laurence met up with Christy Worthington, Course Manager at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, to hear about the greenkeeping techniques used on this popular links

Unlike many other links courses within the UK, Bude is located close to the centre of the town, yet the sea remains visible from many parts of the course. Established in 1891, the course was designed by Tom Dunne who was well known and a prolific course designer.

Apart from some later revisions by JH Stutt, the layout of this 90-acre site has largely remained the same, with the first five holes located on the western side of Golf House Road and nearer to the coast. The sight of the 4th tee situated within

100 metres of beach amusements brings home the reality of golf being 'in the town'.

Residential properties surround the course on three sides, while a number of footpaths traverse the site giving public access for dog walkers, locals and the numerous visitors who enjoy holidaying in this seaside town. There can be few clubs anywhere in the UK where the maintenance compound adjoins the local supermarket car park, bringing with it potential car parking issues, but the ability to do the local food shop before heading home!

LEFT: Chris highlighting the success in producing pure fescue roughs

MAIN: Natural links of Bude. Golf as it was intended

Just over 6000 yards in length, the course is both undulating and free draining, enabling year round play which can be enjoyed by all categories of golfer; a pre-requisite for most clubs to remain economically viable. Similar to Trevose and many other links courses in Cornwall, summer tourism ensures that this is the busiest time of year for visitors and at a time when Bude has to be in the best condition possible.

Tasked with this challenge since 2013 is Course Manager Christy Worthington, who previously worked at Saunton and Ashbury



in Devon. Three other full time staff plus one part-time assistant complete the maintenance team; all of whom are qualified to NVQ level 2 or above.

Course Overview

A free draining, natural and undulating sandy links is a common and apt description of Bude. There are pockets of clay below the sand but these are relatively few. A small stream traverses the site at the far end of the course, coming into play on holes 9, 10, 15 and 17 en-route to the sea.

Fescue is the dominant grass throughout with smaller amounts of Bent, Poa and Rye; the latter being removed from greens and collars following applications with Rescue graminicide. Similar to Trevose, frosts are relatively few and soil temperature seldom drops below 6°C; therefore growth is never quite dormant, unlike most inland courses within the UK.

A Toro Trident system provides water to greens, tees and front approaches which is sourced from on-site boreholes; the yield being sufficient for the purpose intended. With greens generally being fescue

dominant, moisture content tends to average around 14% during the main season, therefore irrigation water is used sparingly. The club have a busy playing season from April to October therefore any main renovation work has to be completed by early March in order to produce the level of playing surfaces which members and visitors expect.

Key Challenges & Objectives

Whereas Trevose schedule their main work programmes for January and February, Bude take a slightly different approach as Christy explained.

"Links courses should be 'alive'. Their management is all about maintaining firm, fast playing, natural conditions where the 'running' game can be enjoyed by all categories of golfers, young and old.

"To achieve this, the grasses need to be fine leaved, with the ability to thrive in these environmental conditions, as well as tolerance to wear from golfers and equipment. Although colour is less important to us than quality, we still aim to produce defined playing conditions throughout the course. This is a

key requirement from our membership, along with improved bunkering and reducing the likelihood of losing a ball in deep rough.

"There are also the daily challenges of just managing the course within the town. There's the never ending task of protecting the course from blown litter, missing flag pins and markers, plus occasional vandalism. We've had graffiti spray painted on the greens and sprinklers randomly turned on. It's annoying and time-consuming when repairs are necessary. Due to the close proximity of housing, we have a 7am noise order which prevents us from being on the course early and ahead of play. In summer, it is not uncommon to see golfers on the course soon after sunrise!"

Working Practices - Greens

Christy continued: "Being playable all year round, we do carry out our main pre-season work on greens and collars in late February and early March. However, we have more of a 'little and often' approach to many practices such as micro-tining and top dressing. Combatting wear, especially the 'pinch' points around greens is a constant challenge. This requires regular deep tine aeration along with dressing, overseeding and traffic control measures.

"The greens are largely a mix of fescue and poa annua, the latter being more dominant on the early holes and on greens 9 and 10 which are more inland in character. Elsewhere, fescue is the dominant grass and our maintenance policy is geared up to increasing its dominance.

"At the heart of our work plans is aeration whereby we solid tine monthly throughout the main summer months with 8mm tines to 100mm using our Toro 660 and to 200mm with our Wiedenmann XP6 aerifier.

"During the main playing season our focus is on course presentation and playing surface refinement. At the heart of our work plans is aeration.

"From October to February we slit tine around every ten days and verti-drain with 13mm tines to 300mm depth at 100mm spacings, three to four times a year, and turf iron afterwards to restore surface smoothness. We have no need to core and OM content is negligible.

"We apply around 100 tons of Redhill 38 sand each year and continue this throughout winter but with lighter applications. Fendress was used previously for many years but this has left a very peaty,



ABOVE: Creating a new turf nursery

INSET ABOVE: Moisture meter reading of 7.7% VWC where only Fescue can survive on a golf green



deep layer, which we are diluting by using straight sand. This now matches our rootzone and gives us a consistent profile for good root depth.

"Nutrient input consists of around 40kg of N per year, composed of a spring organic granular feed followed by foliar applications in summer which are seaweed based. Since 2013 we have been fungicide free which is good sign. Overseeding using the Vredo is carried out in April and September using Bar Fescue at 25gram rate. A previous challenge was the removal of small amounts of invasive rye using Rescue during August 2014. This thinned out the sward in places but with over-seeding and routine management, we were soon back on track. A further application will be made this August to 'pick-off' any remaining rye; then forming part of our routine maintenance thereafter.

Other Working Practices

"We have completed the revetting of around 40 greenside bunkers in-house and have added marram grass to a few surrounds as a trial to prevent wind erosion and improve course definition. Once these are complete, the emphasis will move to tee re-levelling; again completed in-house.

"To meet the club's objective of better quality rough and less likelihood of lost ball searches, we embarked on a programme of removing coarse, agricultural type grasses. We used two basic methods, the first of which was the application of Laser herbicide which 'knocks-out' most of the unwanted grasses leaving the fescues intact.

"The second method is to cut and collect using our Amazone Flail Collector. At first there was some discoloration and turf thinning but gradually recovery took place and left the roughs much cleaner and fresher. This type of work will be ongoing, tackling different sections of the course at a time. Already we are witnessing an increase in pyramidal orchids and other wild flowers, while we have planted around 300 gorse plants to date. With rough areas now composed of fine leaved fescue, we can let the grass go to seed and hopefully make just one annual cut, while introducing a higher mowing height without being overly penal. This gives us better definition between holes which our members requested."

Summary

Through a sound management plan, Christy and his team at Bude are providing golfers with true links conditions played on firm, turf all



year round. This is the essence of traditional links golf and what makes Bude such an appealing course to play. By combining modern techniques with traditional practices, playing surface disturbance is kept to a minimum and mostly confined to times considered to be out of season. This approach works well in the mild, moist climate on the north Cornish coast.

The previous article highlighted the work carried out at Trevose and although many of the work practices used are similar, each club has faced different challenges.

Factors common to both are that the basic principles of links management are being followed and that there is a clear vision of what needs to be achieved.

MAIN ABOVE: 17th green. No bunkers but a sloping approach and ditch present a fair challenge

ABOVE: Working in sand dressing using vibrating rollers and astro turf mat

Sign of the times

GI spoke to Eagle to see how greenkeepers can grasp the opportunity to refresh their course presentation through new signage, and how a BIGGA member has used signage to attract new sponsorship at his club



Often seen as the prerogative of the club managers and committees in choosing new designs, course and club signage is usually yet another item on a busy greenkeeping team's agenda that takes up valuable time from all those other jobs that impact on the course itself.

Signage means having to keep the grass around the base neat and tidy, and imposes a major maintenance task annually to maintain its appearance, especially if the signs have timber mounts. Yet signage can be a major opportunity if Head Greenkeepers or Course Managers are prepared to grasp it.

Looking at things with fresh eyes – use a camera

According to Dean Poynter, Eagle Sales Manager for the Midlands/Northern region, the first important thing to know is how to look at your signage. This means from the entrance to the first tee, and other tees from the point of view of someone who may be coming to the club to play the course for the first time, or may be thinking of joining as a new member.

This ability to look at things with fresh eyes is obviously easier

Contact Eagle on 01883 344244 or info@eagle.uk.com, or visit www.eagle.uk.com

ABOVE: After the installation - Bradford Moor EaglePlex single post

RIGHT PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: After the installation - EaglePlex course info sign, twin post sign and before Eagle came - old tee sign, all at Bradford Moor

BELOW: Darrell Crowley



for greenkeepers who have just started a new position, as opposed to someone who's been in the post for several years. But smartphones can give you a fresh perspective.

Dean said: "Always start from the entrance and use a camera. Smartphone cameras make this a much easier task now, taking a photo makes you stop and look much more carefully. Being able to check what that photo looks like immediately really helps you think and be critical about a sign."

Does your signage reflect your club's positioning?

Is your club high end, budget, or like most, somewhere in between?

As Dean knows from a great deal of experience visiting many clubs in his region, a lot of clubs talk about being a great experience, but their signage often doesn't reflect this, especially if it's been a while since anyone bothered to think about it.

Dean added: "Greenkeepers need to think about various issues regarding signage. Do they communicate clearly? Is the club's branding clear or not? Does the entrance sign impress and convey something of the experience that visitor is about to enjoy? Or does it look tired, uncared for and cheap? The entrance sign to your club says a lot.

"It may also be badly positioned and difficult to see for someone who doesn't know exactly where the entrance is, and on a busy road that can be a very negative experience in itself."

Directional signage

"Having got past the entrance, is it obvious where the visitor should then go? Directional signage to help the visitor get to the designated car parking area needs to do its job efficiently – does yours do that?"

"Even a simple post pointing to the right place can help push traffic to the right area. Having parked,

they'll want to find the club's main entrance, or maybe go to the changing room entrance where they can drop off their clubs and so on. Or perhaps you want them to start at the Pro Shop and pay their green fee or register as one of the society guests, etc. Good directional signage makes all the difference to the beginning of someone's new experience at your club."

Course information

Dean went on to explain the next role of golf club signage. "Let's assume they've reached the point where they're ready to play. Is there a course information sign that helps to tell them whether there's work being done on the course or greens today, or that there's an event taking up certain tee times on that day, or that trolleys can't be used etc?"

Tee signage

"Then they get to the first tee. Again, take a picture of the first and indeed all the tee signage. Besides the essential stuff like the number of the hole, yardage from that point or for the different tees and S.I., are the signs all branded with the club's logo or crest? Do they enhance the golfing experience, or do they look tired and unimpressive, uncared for?"

Maintenance

Dean knows maintenance is high up any greenkeeper's agenda, and there are some easy 'wins' here too. "New types of material are now available that look great and are so much easier to maintain. Eagle makes and sells the EaglePlex range of signage mounts made from high quality polymers, and combined with smart polished aluminium plates that contain all the course information, these signs literally only need a wipe with a damp cloth to keep them looking very smart and cared for.

"Hardwoods such as balau or iroko do look terrific, and will need more attention over time, but for high end clubs, these may well be the only option that helps convey the high positioning of the club. That said, the EaglePlex signage systems have convinced a lot of relatively upmarket clubs that they project quality."

Course trafficking

Once on the course, course trafficking is key to getting players round efficiently. Is it obvious where to find the next tee? This is where a visit from specialists like Eagle can really pay dividends, as it's much harder for someone who

knows every inch of the course to put themselves in the shoes of a complete first time visitor. Nonetheless, it's key to the time taken to get round, and knowing where to leave the clubs once a green is reached makes a difference over 18 or even just nine holes – not to mention helping the greenkeepers.

Sponsorship

Every golf club now looks for additional income streams, and if a club's Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager can help bring new sponsorship into the club, think what that will do for both the club and the Head Greenkeeper.

One such example is Darrell Crowley, BIGGA member and Head Greenkeeper at Bradford Moor Golf Club, a nine hole course in West Yorkshire. He followed Dean's advice in exploring sponsorship possibilities with the person in charge of marketing, which happened to be his club's President.

This led directly to several new sponsors which on the basis of a three year deal, paid for the all new tee signage at the club. This will deliver an income equivalent to ten new members a year at this club, and enhances Darrell and his greenkeeping team's reputation. It looks very good on the CV as well!

Presentation

While a greenkeeping team's focus is on the course, day in and day out, the fact is great looking signage is the icing on the cake when it comes to appearance and presentation. So there's every reason that any greenkeeper should see signage as their responsibility, and not a maintenance problem but a course marketing opportunity.

Dean said: "Nowadays, every golf club is competing hard to earn its keep, attract green fees and especially new memberships. That is perhaps obvious, and great signage from the entrance to the first tee all helps. But you have to consider the existing members as well. New or upgraded signage has an amazing impact on the existing members, because they more than anyone else notice these improvements to their club.

"That in turn typically leads to membership pride being enhanced, and a gradual increase in members inviting and bringing guests and friends more often, especially if there are special club days when they're actively encouraged to do so. Being proud of their golf club helps the retention of those members, and spreads the word to other players in the region about the club."



The demise of 'grandfather rights'

BASIS



In his second BASIS article of the year, Sherriff Amenity's Graham Paul looks at the end of pesticide 'grandfather rights', and how this will affect greenkeepers

A wind of change is on the way towards the end of this year, for those who apply professional plant protection products (PPP's) approved by the government.

It is almost thirty years since the Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) were introduced in 1987 following the enactment of the Food & Environment Protection Act of 1986 (FEPA). Under the rules introduced in COPR, users of pesticides approved for professional use in agriculture horticulture and amenity horticulture need a certificate of competence to apply them.

To facilitate the 'easing in' of these new regulations the Minister of Agriculture of that era made an exception which became known as the 'grandfather rights' – to give time for all spray operators to get qualified. In the 28 years since these rights were first allowed, many litres of chemical have flowed through the sprayer pipework and now it is time for them to end!

This and other changes to the way we use pesticides, are part of the UK's programme to implement the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC (known

as SUD) issued by the European Parliament. This directive called for all member states of the EU to draw up plans to make the continued use of pesticides sustainable for the future.

Statutory Instrument No 1657 "The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012" (SUR 2012) were laid before the UK Parliament on 27 June 2012 and came into force on 18 July 2012. These regulations will bring an end to the grandfather rights and introduce the requirement for regular testing of application equipment. In this short article I will discuss the implications these changes will make to the sports and amenity turf market.

The grandfather rights allowed uncertificated spray operators to continue to apply PPP's on land that they or their employer owned, if they were born before 31 December 1964. The rights did not apply to spray contractors. These rights are being laid to rest on 26 November 2015. After this date it will become a legal requirement for everyone applying PPP's, authorised for professional use, to hold an appropriate certificate of competence.

With regard to the responsibilities of employers and managers, there are new rules relating to the purchasing of PPP's and delegating their application. It is now an offence for anyone to purchase PPP's, if it is known that the person carrying out the application is not qualified to do so, unless they are to be supervised during the whole process by a suitably certificated person. The regulations also state

ABOVE: Pedestrian controlled and knapsack sprayers will not need a test certificate but should be checked regularly

RIGHT: Spray equipment mounted on golf course utility vehicles

BELOW: A vehicle mounted sprayer



that "No person shall cause or permit any other person to use a plant protection product authorised for professional use unless the person using the product holds a specified certificate or works under supervision".

Individuals who are already qualified to use application equipment will not be affected by these new rules, as their certificates meet the requirements of the Directive and will remain valid. However, anyone who has attended spray application training but has not yet taken the test will need to do so before 26 November this year if they wish to continue to apply PPP's in the future.

For those affected by the loss of grandfather rights there will be a special training course to ensure they meet the standards set out by the Directive. City and Guilds Land Based Services has developed a new Level 2 award in the "Safe Use of Pesticides, replacing Grandfather Rights". This course will not be the same as that for candidates new to spraying, as it will take account of previous experience. As a consequence it will take significantly less time and should also cost less than the full course. More details are available on the National Proficiency Test Council website: www.nptc.org.uk/qualification-schemes.aspx?id=2

Inspection of specified plant protection product application equipment

The new rules in SUD 2012 detail

the requirement for routine testing of certain types of application equipment. This includes sprayers mounted on aircraft and trains and those that are vehicle mounted or trailed with a boom greater than three metres in length. The testing requirement also relates to the age of the kit; if it was purchased or leased for the first time (i.e. not second hand) on or before 26 November 2011, then it will need to be tested before 26 November 2016, when the requirement for routine inspections comes into force.

Sprayers that were first purchased after 26 November 2011 must be tested before they are five years old. Equipment will need re-testing every five years until 2020 when the cycle will be changed to every three years.

Hand held and pedestrian controlled sprayers, such as knapsacks and the small electric or peristaltic pumped sprayers do not need to be tested but they should be checked by a competent person to ensure their efficient operation, keeping records of when they were examined.

Pedestrian controlled and knapsack sprayers will not need a test certificate - but should be checked regularly

Properly maintained and adjusted application equipment is safer to the environment and the spray operator, more reliable and potentially more economical. Regular examination of application equipment can be arranged

Use these **SELF ASSESSMENT** questions to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points by visiting the 'BASIS Points Article' section at www.sherriff-amenity.com and answering the questions correctly.

through the National Sprayer Testing Scheme who have 230 test centres across the UK and over 600 qualified examiners itching to get a look at your pumps and pipework! They have a presence on the web at: <http://www.nsts.org.uk/>

It is unlikely that the specific loss of grandfather rights will affect many of those working on golf courses in the UK, as the vast majority of course maintenance staff are trained and tested in pesticide application as part of their greenkeeper training programme, usually at a local college of agriculture. However, they will need to address the issues of sprayer testing as most use some form of vehicle or tractor mounted sprayers.

Under the regulations users have a responsibility to make sure the equipment they use is properly maintained and has a test certificate where appropriate. The parts of the turf market where most grandpas operate are in the village sports clubs such as football, cricket, tennis and bowls and also on schools playing fields. These are the areas most likely to be affected by the demise of the grandfather rights.



SELF ASSESSMENT

1) When were the regulations for implementing the sustainable use of pesticides (Statutory Instrument 1657) laid before the UK Parliament?

- a) 18/05/2012
- b) 26/04/2009
- c) 27/06/2012
- d) 26/11/2012

2) What was allowed by the grandfather rights discussed here?

- a) an uncertificated operator could spray anywhere provided they were born before 31/12/1964
- b) an uncertificated operator could only spray on their own land, if they were born before 31/12/1964
- c) an uncertificated operator could spray on land owned by the local council if they were born before 31/12/1964
- d) an uncertificated operator could spray on their own land or that owned by their employer if they were born before 31/12/1964

3) When will the grandfather rights cease?

- a) 26/11/2016
- b) 26/11/2015
- c) 18/7/2015
- d) 18/7/2016

4) In the opinion of the author, who is most likely to be affected by withdrawal of grandfather rights?

- [More than one answer may apply] a) golf clubs
b) spray contractors
c) bowling clubs
d) cricket clubs

5) After the year 2020, application equipment that qualifies for routine testing should be inspected every . .

- a) 3 years
- b) 4 years
- c) 5 years
- d) 10 years

John Coleman of Aqua-Terra Europe investigates the drainage options open to greenkeepers keen to improve the surfaces of their greens

A drain on finances?

It's fair to say that over the last few years the majority of UK golf clubs have suffered financially. Hopefully the tide may be slowly turning, but competition between clubs remains intense and each venue still needs to retain members and attract new golfers too.

There is a direct correlation between quality and playability with respect to turf health, and can be the key differentiator between clubs.

Greens represent about 1.5% of the surface area but play a role in around 75% of all golf strokes. Therefore, improving greens can be a great way of improving a course's reputation.

Turf presenting poor playing characteristics is normally caused by weak plant vigour and is often the result of soil with an incorrect air filled to water filled porosity ratio. This ultimately leads to anaerobic soil condition that is not conducive to good plant health. Weakened plants as a result of anaerobic conditions are more vulnerable to other environmental stressors such as disease further compounding the problem.

The most recognised reason for poor oxygen levels in soil is inadequate drainage. A good rule of thumb, when looking at the suitability of a natural soil to provide adequate drainage, is for the particle size composition of the soil to be at least 70% sand. Since the majority of soils in the UK have a silt/clay content in excess of 30%, it's clear the use of natural soils for golf greens can lead to issues of excessive water retention.

Soils with higher percentages of clay and silt are prone to compaction when trafficked, particularly when the soil is wet. This is due to the particles sliding across one another, reducing the air filled gaps and hence the overall reduction in air filled porosity.

Greenkeepers are well aware of this and is the reason why sand dominant top-dressing is applied on a frequent basis. Sand of a sufficient uniformed particle size will resist compaction.

What top dressing doesn't do is modify the underlying native soil and so the basic drainage characteristics of the green remain poor. This distinct difference between the overlying sand dominant upper layer and the underlying soil creates

a sharp difference of pore sizes and results in a "textural break". Excess water then becomes perched in the upper layer and a perched water table situation ensues – like the vast majority of push-up greens. If both of these layers could be made to drain effectively then vast improvements could be made in the quality of greens.

One of the main barriers in rectifying this problem is a reluctance to have any disruption on the greens.

One aspect that is often misunderstood with greens that suffer poor drainage is the poor return on investment with the myriad of other maintenance practices that are carried out in an attempt to improve the greens quality. This diminishing return on investment should be considered when contemplating any greens drainage improvement package.

When contemplating the installation of greens drainage the club must consider Cost, Quality and Speed of installation/disruption. These facets can be inserted into a "Drainage Triangle" matrix. Each corner represents a constraint – one constraint cannot be changed without affecting the others.

As an example – you could not

pick any two from a minimally disruptive install (fast install), Good job (quality/effectiveness), and Cheap (total cost of the project) as all three aspects of the project are related and one would suffer.

There are really only a couple of fundamental styles of drainage schemes available to golf clubs – Total Profile construction and Bypass drainage systems. The first can be disruptive, and is expensive. The bypass drainage system is the only type of solution that is practically affordable for most clubs.

Bypass systems come in many guises, but essentially they all work in a similar fashion. They are designed to transmit rainfall rapidly from a surface via a system of closely spaced vertical drainage channels.

It is, however, very disruptive and can have lasting interference on surface levels. It should be stressed that these types of drainage systems will not alter the physical properties of the growing medium between the drainage channels and so localised discrepancies above these channels when compared to the main body of the green can sometimes be evident – the areas above tend to suffer during periods of dry weather and different growth patterns can ensue.

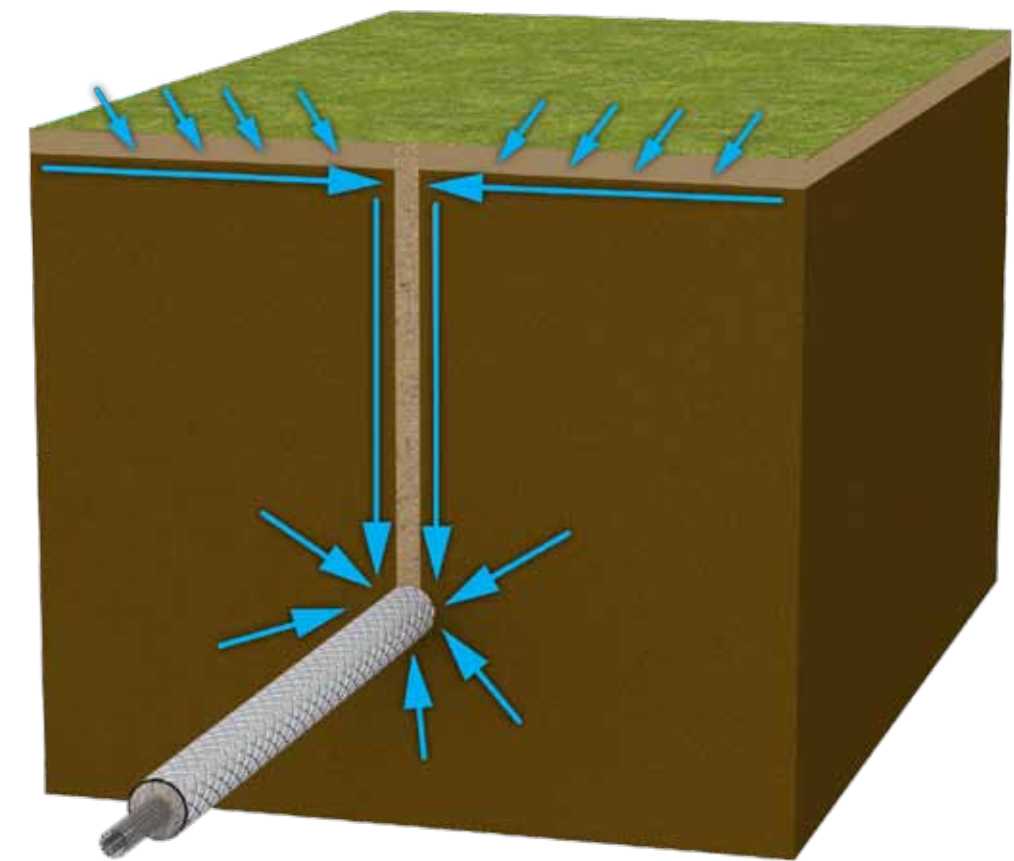
This is one of the biggest downsides to bypass systems and can be very challenging for greenkeepers. A way to limit this is to keep the vertical drainage channels as narrow as possible (10–15mm maximum) and spaced close together, but this has been difficult up until now.

Recently launched is Passive Capillary Drainage (PCD) from Aqua-Terra Europe. PCD employs a treated 25mm diameter woven fibreglass 'rope' as the drainage material.

This fibreglass sheaths a 9mm diameter meshed stainless steel core. The principle theory underpinning PCD is that the fibreglass is water attractive via capillary suction. This enables the rope to follow the contours of the green since capillary action is not dependent on gravity.

PCD is installed at a depth of 300mm at approximately 1m spacing and is overlain with a 10mm wide sand curtain to the surface of the green. At the end of a run a 200–300mm length excess of material is left and is 'hung' vertically.

This section represents a hanging water column and the result is that the water transmitted through this is assisted gravitationally and acts as a syphon to pull water from the length of the run. This is how direc-



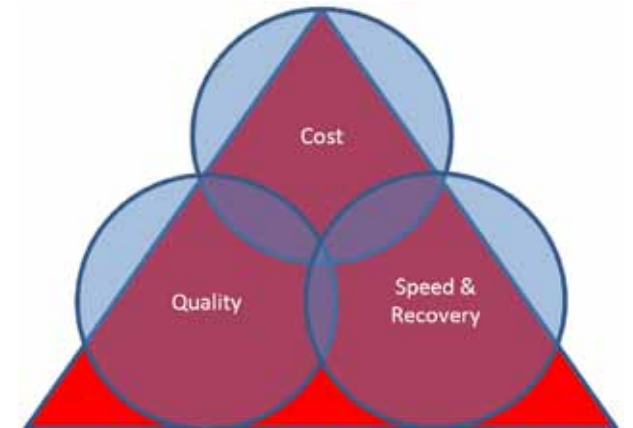
tionality of flow is accomplished through the woven fibreglass.

In essence PCD will work in any given situation so long as a hanging water column exists. PCD fibreglass rope has a permeability of about 2500cm per hour, typical of fine gravel.

Design equations show that when placed at 1m spacing, and for a run not exceeding approximately 30m, a PCD system is capable of reducing soil water content by 5 to 10% within a 24-hour period. While modest in comparison to storm water drainage techniques, it is adequate to remove excess water perching and introduce air into the soil in a sufficiently timely fashion for improved turf health.

Moreover, PCD has the ability to meet the criteria of the "Drainage Triangle" – the cost of the product and installation compares very favourably with regular designed trenching installs; it excels in the speed of install and the minimal amount of disruption caused during the installation process, and is proven to work.

Golf clubs now have a viable solution to their drainage problems that does not entail greens that are out of commission for long – PCD can be installed on a typical golf green in less than a day via a "rope sand-bander" from AFT trenchers, and can be back in play in less than 24 hours.



TOP RIGHT: PCD installation with narrow sand curtain
RIGHT: Drainage Triangle above PCD immediate post install
INSET ABOVE: Old method of trench install



Section Notes

Please email your notes to steve.castle@bigga.co.uk by the 15th of the month

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

Around the green

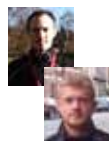


Northern

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



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News

SHEFFIELD

Congratulations to Nick Miles who will be leading the team at Chesterfield Golf Club, we wish you every success Nick and look forward to meeting you at one of our events.

We would also like to thank Michael Burgin (below) for representing the BIGGA Sheffield Section and Northern Region on the John Deere sponsored support team to TPC Sawgrass. Michael undertook a rigorous schedule of work with the team.

Since returning Michael has shared his experience through GI, locally and will continue to do so throughout the Region. When asked what he would say to anyone thinking about applying for the 2016 trip Michael said 'This was a life changing experience for me, allowing me to bring back presentation and working practices that I would never have experienced elsewhere and I've been able to make a worldwide network of connections that will stay with me for life.'



Michael Burgin

CLEVELAND

Massive congratulations to Pete Newton Course Manager at Rockliffe Hall on achieving his Master Greenkeeper certificate, the first in the Cleveland section to do so. Maybe this will provide enough incentive for more of us to get out there and give it a go!

I hope I am not repeating myself from last month's entry but an irrigation workshop was held at Cleveland Golf Club hosted by Roger Lupton of Lely UK. The day was well attended with everyone coming away from the day with at least one important piece of information regarding maintenance and care of irrigation systems.

A certain Ian (Pembo) Pemberton has reached the wonderful milestone of 50 years young! Ian is the cornerstone of the section and has been the driving force in making it the happy section we have today.

NORTHERN

By the time you read this we will have played the Summer tournament at Brough Golf Club where we are sure Robert Clare and the team will have provided the best facilities for a great day.

Congratulations to Matt Booth on being appointed the Head Greenkeeper at Wakefield Golf Club later this month.

NORTH EAST

The North East v Cleveland match still needs team members so please email Simon Oliver if you can play for the North East to spolver@Hotmail.co.uk. The match is on 30 July at South Shields, first tee 11am.

Thanks to Rickerby for their demonstration days held at Wynyard and Newcastle United Golf Clubs, a great opportunity to look at new machinery and have the opportunity to network with like minded turf professionals.

Congratulations to Brian Clark and all the team at Close House for preparing a great course for the ISPS HANDA PGA Seniors Championship, it's always great to see top tournaments being hosted in the North East.

NORTH WALES

We wish Jeremy Hughes every success in his new role with Symbio and confirm he has agreed to stay on the Section Committee to help organise the golf days, our new Section Secretary is Neil Oxtan, so please feel free to contact Neil with any questions or suggestions for the Section Committee to consider.

NORTH WEST

We would like to congratulate teams at The West Lancashire Golf Club and The Mere Golf Resort And Spa on successful regional Open qualifiers.

We would also like to wish Peter Sproston a speedy recovery.

As we are now in our busiest time of the year we'd like to take this opportunity to remind all of our members that there is a helpline available to all BIGGA members that give advice on a whole host of issues eg. Legal Advice, Lifestyle Counseling and Online Support. Numbers are on the Membership page of each GI.

Thanks to Sponsors

SHEFFIELD

Thanks to Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the event at Abbeydale.

NORTHERN

Thanks to Greentek and Sherriff Amenity for sponsoring the day at Brough and providing the golf and raffle prizes and to Nik Blesic of Tacit for bringing two Nearest the Pin and Two Longest Drive prizes.

NORTH EAST

Thanks to TSL for sponsoring the North East v Cleveland match.

NORTH WEST

Thanks to Bathgate Silica for sponsoring the cricket match. We would also like to thank all of the section sponsors for the continued support that they provide, thank you.

Welcome New Members

Martin Donbavand, Affiliate Member, Simon Yates, Greenkeeper, Abbeydale Golf Club, Darren Thirkell, Greenkeeper, Ganton Golf Club, Ben Proctor, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fairhaven Golf Club.

BIGGA

golf management trophy

sponsored by Everris



3 July
St Mellion International Resort

8 July
Cradoc Golf Club

22 July
Minchinhampton Golf Club

19 August
Dunham Forest Golf Club

7 September
John O'Gaunt Golf Club

1 October
Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club

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



Scotland



Bigga Scottish Region

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



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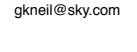
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West

Aberdeen to go travelling in Italy. Ross Duncan has been placed in charge of the Kings Links in Aberdeen. On behalf of all the section, we would like to wish these guys much success in their new ventures.

As usual, please send any news to either of the email addresses at the top of the Around the Green section and we will include it in this article.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

July has finally arrived! And what a month it promises to be... we welcome The Open back to Scotland, the school holidays are well under way and Wimbledon is upon us – happy days!

Well done to Brian Dickson and his team for successfully hosting The Open Final Qualifier. Glasgow Gailes, the only Scottish venue was given the tournament in 2014 for four years. Also, congratulations to all the clubs in South West of Scotland who made the Top 100 list!

Look out for exciting changes at Trump Turnberry with the proposed changes to the course and the recent opening of the new clubhouse – simply stunning!

2015's BIGGA Photographic Competition is open for entrants, so let's get some photos entered from South West Scotland.

The Patrons Award is also open, so let's see some applications being submitted from our Section. The successful applicant receives a three night stay in Harrogate during BTME, fuel expenses, £250 to spend on education and is also invited to attend the Patrons Lunch in December – Good luck everyone!

Congratulations to Rigby Taylor's David Johnston who is celebrating 25 years' service.

As always please get in touch with your news either via email, Facebook or Twitter. Happy Summer everyone!



EAST

Stuart Ferguson supplied the above picture from Dundas Parks of hail like Pro V1s on 29 May, the first Monday in June was frosty and then we had a heatwave!

Good luck to Steven Halliday with his move from Musselburgh to Castle Park.

Anyone wishing to have news added or are willing to write a short topic of interest for the GI Magazine then please get in touch. Remember our twitter account @BIGGA_ES. Again a reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback ASAP.

CENTRAL

Carnoustie Golf Links recently hosted The Amateur Championships with play also at Panmure Golf Links on the Monday and Tuesday for qualifying. Carnoustie GL were lucky enough to have two R&A Scholars help them out for the week.

Thanks to Matthew Wormald (Richmond Golf Club) and David Thompson (Hexham Golf Club) for the help.

Thanks also go to the two Gordons for organising a course walk around The Old Course in the lead up to The Open. There was also a workshop held at St Andrews Links, Eden Greenkeeping - cutting reel technology workshop in conjunction with Lely(UK) Ltd and Bernhards.

As part of Operation Pollinator Carnoustie Golf Links welcomed youngsters from local primary schools - Burnside, Carlogie and Woodlands to the public putting green to sow wildflower seeds, an area now designated for ecological improvement and specifically to encourage the return of endangered bee species.

The nomination period for the 2015 Patrons Award is now OPEN. If you have a colleague, member of staff or friend that you believe meets the criteria and is deserving of this highly valued award then please submit a nomination form on their behalf.

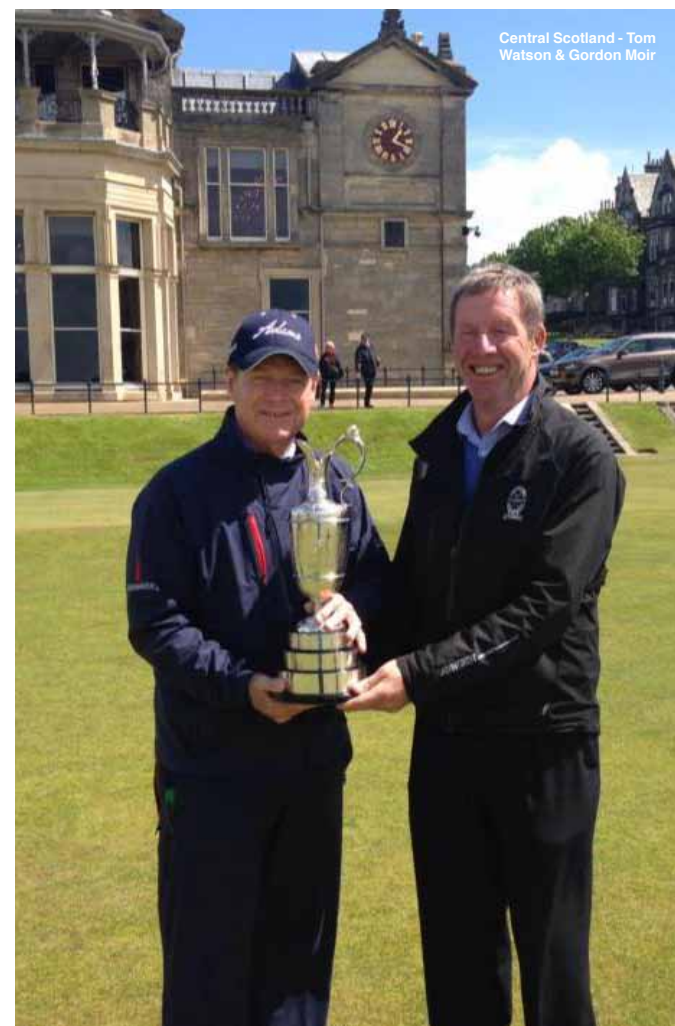
Welcome new section members David McLaren and Martin Smith at Gleneagles. Welcome both and we hope to see you at some Central Section events.

Welcome New Members

William McLachlan, Course Manager, Royal Troon Golf Club, David McLaren, First Assistant, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses, Jonathan Caldwell, Greenkeeper, Loch Lomond Golf Club, Darren Skinner, Greenkeeper, Castle Stuart Golf Links, Craig Phillips, Greenkeeper, Tain Golf Club, Euan Polson, Greenkeeper, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Martin Smith, Greenkeeper, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses.

Welcome New International Members

Graham Shearer, Affiliate Member (Australia), Sameh Elfarmawy, International Greenkeeper, Ayla Golf Course (UAE).



Central Scotland - Tom Watson & Gordon Moir

Events Coming Up

NORTHERN

Following The Open at St. Andrews, one of our section's golf courses will be in the spotlight next month as Murcar Links hosts the Paul Lawrie Matchplay Championships. The tournament will assemble many of the finest players in the world, as the top 60 from the European Tour will qualify to play. I'm sure Murcar will emerge as a true test for these guys and we would like to wish Bob Mackay and his team all the best in the lead up to the tournament.

EAST

A quick amendment for diaries, the Willie Woods at Broom-ieknowe is on 20 August, not the 19th as previously advertised.

Remember the Patrons Award nominations close on 31 July, full details on the Scottish Region website. As you read this we will be very close to the playing of the Scottish Open and The Open in 2 consecutive weeks in July. I write this in mid June and already the advertising greets me on my drive to work.

CENTRAL

Good Luck to Stuart Duff and all his team for the Scottish Open at Gullane Golf Club and also to Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie and all the team for The Open.

News

NORTHERN

The main talking point when speaking to friends and colleagues in the industry is how difficult the spring has been. I hope by now that average temperatures have picked up and the frosty June, yes June mornings have long gone. It was difficult to present a consistent course, as growth, especially fine turf, was very slow, making recovery difficult. The temptation was to chase the plant but the consequences would have likely been disease and weak flush growth. As I said to many golfers, patience is the key!

On the move this month is Richard Mullens. He has been appointed as the new Course Manager at Banchory Golf Club, after leaving the Head Greenkeeper position at Meldrum House. Calum Anderson has decided to chase the dream and leave Royal



As part of Operation Pollinator Carnoustie Golf Links welcomed youngsters from local primary schools to the public putting green

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

MID ANGLIA

Our next golf day is our Summer Pairs Competition at Welwyn Garden City GC on Thursday 23 July so please put the date by for this ever popular event and start to get your entries in asap.

British Masters 2015 - Hopefully you will all have had the application forms for the Support Team at the British Masters at Woburn GC in October. This is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in a European Tour Event in our region so don't delay in getting applications to Roger Butler - Midland Regional Administrator - roger@bigga.co.uk for a chance to represent the Section at this flagship event.

EAST MIDLANDS

There are a few events happening over the next few months so please make sure you check the Facebook page and Twitter. Just a reminder of the Midland Region Golf Championship which will be held at Northants



Matt Gilks (right) and his team at Woburn

County Golf Club on Wednesday 5 August. The Midland Region Committee are delighted to announce that the new trophy will be called the 'Pete Larter Trophy' as a thank you to Pete for his work in the Midland Region over the years. Please either send your entry form along with a cheque or make a bacs payment. Northants County is a great venue and I hope that we get a good turn out.

We also have the par 3 tournament at Beedles Lake scheduled for 20 August.

EAST OF ENGLAND

Our next golf day is at Woodhall Spa on 30 July. Full details will be posted in due course, however places for this event are limited.

MIDLAND

Autumn Comp - Kidderminster GC 9 September
Make your own team of 4 players. Non BIGGA members can play but maximum of 2 players per team and they must be a committee member from your golf club: President, Club Captain, Greens chairman etc. Soup and sandwiches before golf. First tee time 12.26. Two course meal after golf followed by presentation and BIGGA Midland Section AGM. £25 per player. If you are interested in playing then please contact Karl Williams competition organiser.

News

MID ANGLIA

Our first golf day of the season was held at Brickendon Grange GC - apologies for not being there but I am reliably informed that the weather was favourable and the course was in fantastic condition. Our thanks go to Trevor Booth and his team for providing such a great venue and test of golf. We also wish to thank the catering staff and Brickendon Grange GC for your hospitality.

Results: 1 Robert Groves (Letchworth GC) 34pts, 2 Lewis Mattholie (Brickendon Grange GC) 33, 3 Paul Rolfe (Ashridge GC) 31. Trade Prize Simon Banks - 35pts (bandit). Nearest the Pin 6th Duncan Steele, 18th Lewis Mattholie.

EAST MIDLANDS

I know that there were a few volunteers that went down to Wentworth for the BMW, some have been before and some their first time, I know that Kenny and the team are grateful for the help and support so a big well done to all that helped and also to the Wentworth Team, once again a great event.

Glenn Miller (Ullesthorpe), Neil Smith (Stourbridge), Jamie Brooks (The Belfry) and myself played in the JD team event at Woburn, wow what a place!

I have been set a challenge from the BIGGA Midland section of a football match - Who's up for this? If so please let me know and we can get this on - East v West. Looking forward to catching up and don't forget if there is something that you need putting out there let me know gilksmatt@farol.co.uk

EAST OF ENGLAND

The Spring golf day at Gedney GC had to be cancelled due to lack of entries, there were only six, three of which came from Gedney itself!

This is the first time in a long time this has happened but is unfortunately continuing to show a decline in support for our golf days. The committee are aware it is difficult to organise days that are accessible to all when we have such a large section with poor road links. There are also more and more constraints on the time of people and pressure placed on us from our employers, making attending these days harder.

If anyone has any ideas for venues or changes to the format of the day that could help improve things then please pass them on.

Thanks to Sponsors

MID ANGLIA

The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for 2015 and we are very grateful for your continued support with funds for our section: Tuckwells Machinery, Avoncrop Amenity, Headland Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Farmura, Everris, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS and Rigby Taylor.

EAST MIDLANDS

Thank you to those that have sponsored us so far this year. The companies in question are: Sherriff Amenity, Banks Amenity Products, Henton & Chattell, Countrywide, Headland Amenity and Farol.

EAST OF ENGLAND

The day at Gedney was going to be sponsored by Garry Poole, TAS Limited. Unfortunately he had provided prizes, including engraved glasswear which cannot be used on another event. On a positive note, Garry's wife now has a nice new fruit bowl in the house!

Welcome New Members

Luke Hine, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Ryan Nickson, Greenkeeper, Brampton Heath Golf Club, Christopher Chapman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Patshull Park Hotel Golf & Country Club, Aaron Parfitt, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bradfield College Golf Club, Les McJannet, Assistant Greenkeeper, Matlock Golf Club, James Harrison, Assistant Greenkeeper, Redditch Golf Club, Travis HookeR, Assistant Greenkeeper, Tadmorton Heath Golf Club, Ian Castle, Assistant Greenkeeper, Tadmorton Heath Golf Club.



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David Cole
Master Greenkeeper

South East

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



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Events Coming Up

SUSSEX

Summer Competition, Pyecombe Golf Club, July 23.
Late Summer Competition, Beauport Park Golf Club, September 10.

LONDON

Our summer tournament will be held at Highgate GC on a date to be set in September and the Christmas tournament will be at Moor Park on 9 December.

Winter short meetings which were popular last year will be held again at Mill Hill GC on November 4 and 25 and on 13 January and 3 February, with the education speakers to be announced over the next few months.

ESSEX

Next golf day is at Toot Hill Golf Club, Blind Pairs Competition, Tuesday 28 July. Members £25 Guests £30.

Also for your diaries Wednesday 16 September, Colne Valley Golf Club, Team Event.

News

SUSSEX

The section played its away day at the fantastic links of Littlestone on 10 June. 34 participants travelled from the far reaches of Sussex to find the links, which as always, were superb and well worthy of their standing as one of the finest in the country. Warm thanks go to Malcolm, Malloy and all at Littlestone for making us welcome and entertaining us for the day.

In typical links fashion the wind blew, making a mockery of stroke indexes, never before have I played an index one with a driver and putter! Likewise never have indexes 17 and 18 played so hard!

Worthy mentions should go to Ryan Hyder, for dealing with a stunning “manflu/hayfever” combo, which bizarrely got worse when hitting poor shots, and disappeared when playing well. Also to James Briggs, for having to forget it’s not target golf anymore and struggling to come to terms with the whole “links golf experience” and a final mention to Rob Wallis - when we say allow for the wind we don’t mean aim at France!

Prize winners: Nearest pin on 6th, Darren Mitchell (not sure you should be beating your customers?) and nearest pin on 17th, Andrew Norman. Longest drive on the 7th went to the flu ridden Ryan Hyder, and James Briggs overcame his trouble with Links golf by driving the green and winning nearest pin in two on the 15th.

In the team event Andy Norman, Glynn Pollard, Larry Pearman and Jon Cole claimed 3rd place with 75pts, 2nd were Ryan Hyder, Rob Wallis, Eric Green and Pete Smith with 76pts, and with a quality combination of steady golfers, local knowledge and youthful talent, romping away to win with 80 pts were the team of Malloy Parks, Russell Riley, Rodney “Daddy” Brown and Samurai Dave Whitlock.

As always the day was played in a wonderful relaxed spirit and fun was had by all, our next event is at Pyecombe on 23rd July, put it in your diary now!

A reminder for those who are not receiving emails regarding section events, please let me know your email address so we can add you to the mailing list, don’t stay in the dark!

LONDON

Matt Plested has resigned as chainman of the London Section as he has moved on to the South Coast to progress his career, a big thanks for all his time and effort driving the section forward over a number of years, we all wish Matt every success in his new challenge. Wes Walker of Northwood GC has agreed to take up the role of Section Chairman and carry on Matt’s great work.

ESSEX

A warm, sunny but very windy day greeted the Essex members and Guests who attended our second golf day and National Qualifier at Boyce Hill Golf Club.

Conditions were very difficult, as the wind played tricks with even the easiest of shots, the course was as always in an amazing condition due the hard work put in by Andy Harding and his team, greenkeeper members Steve Harris and Ross Sturridge also took time out to play.

After the golf, the club put on a fantastic BBQ which really topped of a great day, everyone who attended was full of praise for a very enjoyable day. Our thanks to Boyce Hill, for allowing us to play and to all the staff that looked after us so well.

Results: 1 Antony Kirwan, 33 points, 2 Liam Springett. 30, 3 Tom Smith 30 c/b. Trade Prize: Michael Fance 29. Nearest the Pin: Dougie Fernie & Antony Kirwan. National Qualifiers: Antony Kirwan, Liam Springett, Rob George, George Grimes.

Thanks to Sponsors

SUSSEX

The Sussex Section is indebted to the continued support and sponsorship of the trade and would like to thank the following: Avoncrop Amenity, Collier Turfcare, Countrywide, Ernest Doe, Everris, Godfreys, Grass Roots, Headland Amenity, Indigrow, JSM Limited, Lister Wilders, Mitchells Groundscare, Rigby Taylor, Sheriff Amenity, Symbio, Tacit.

ESSEX

Thanks to all our sponsors for helping to make the day at Boyce Hill possible and boosting our prize table.

Welcome New Members

Richard Buick, Greenkeeper, Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, Ben Clements, Greenkeeper, Cottesmore Hotel Golf & Country Club, Charles Jones, Assistant Greenkeeper, Redhill & Reigate Golf Club, Ollie Rogers, Assistant Greenkeeper, Epping Golf Course.

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
Bigga Southwest
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SOUTH COAST –
Steve Thorne
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SOUTH WALES
Andrew Hatcher
andrewhatcher1@msn.com
Bigga South Wales
@BIGGASouth Wales

Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES

Thanks to all our section Patrons and the Region we are once again offering some sponsored places to attend BTME in January 2016. One place is paid for by the region and two more places are paid for from the section fund.

If you wish to put your name forward as a possible candidate, or you would like to put someone else forward please, contact Steve Lloyd (coursemanager@theworcestershiregolfclub.co.uk) with the name and reason.

There are also two sponsored places up for grabs to attend the Regional Conference at Somerset County Cricket Ground on 18 November, all nominations need to be submitted before 13 July.

This year’s BIGGA South Wales Patrons Cup Tournament will be played at Newport Golf Club, on Wednesday 5 August first tee booked from 11.30.

The cost of the day is just £15 per person and includes coffee and bacon roll on arrival, golf and 3 course evening meal - fantastic value.

It would be great to see as many members as possible on the day, to book a place contact our Section Chairman Steve Lloyd on 07578 276082 or alternatively email Paul Handy, paulhandy2@gmail.com.

SOUTH COAST

Our Turf Club continues to gather momentum with strong support for the upcoming event at Hockley Golf Club on 18 August.

In the meantime, we have also managed to secure a Turf Club meeting at Southampton Football Club’s state of the art training facility in Marchwood, Southampton. This is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21 July, starting at 12 noon.

Places are strictly limited to a maximum of 15. With this in mind, a limit of two people from any one club has been implemented to try and be fair with what is likely to be a very popular event.

Please contact biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com to book a place on either of these two events.

SOUTH WEST

Don’t forget our next South West Turf Club at Cumberwell Park Golf Club on 9 July. The 1.30pm start time should give many of you the opportunity to attend. The afternoon will entail discussions from Matthew James, Cumberwell Park Course Manager, and James Edwards, Golf Course Architect on the construction and grow-in of the new par 3 course currently being built at Cumberwell. Light refreshments will be provided free of charge thanks to support from our section patrons. Please give Lucy notice of attendance promptly. Southwestsectionbigga@outlook.com

2015 Golf fixtures are below. Get them in your diary and please be proactive in registering for these events to ensure everyone involved can work toward their success, these events are for all of us to enjoy.

22 July Everris 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

Entrants in the South West Section Countrywide Knockout please stay in contact with Joe Curtis greens@gloucestergolf.com to ensure the draw and results are up to date. 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

DEVON & CORNWALL

Section Championship at Woodbury, Results:

Longest drive Greg O’Reilly (St Mellion), Nearest the pin Neil O’Sullivan (China Fleet). Individual winner Jacko James with 38pts (for Cornwall) who now goes on to the national finals at Fulford in October. Also on 38pts for Devon was David Blick (Woodbury). Joint second, (Cornwall) Jim Sheehan Truro and (Devon) Pat Hobbs of Staddon Heights. Joint third (Cornwall) Neil O’Sullivan China Fleet & (Devon) Martyn Lane, Martyn Lane Signs. Overall team winners: Devon.

Thanks to Robin and Sue Hawkins at Woodbury, also to Ian Chenery for his time showing us around all areas of the complex. Congratulations also have to Ian on his ongoing success with his rifle shooting, he is currently leading the GB league aiming at a bulls eye target the size of a CD 1km away!

Thanks also to the greenkeeping team for the superb condition of the golf course and to everyone at Woodbury for their help and support.

SOUTH COAST

A great day was had by all at Burley Golf Club for the Secretaries v Greenkeepers match. Our team of ten were met with a warm, sunny but breezy day which showed off the course and the surrounding New Forest in all its natural glory. Sadly the result was not so glorious for the Greenkeepers, who were beaten 3 matches to 2. Thanks go to all at Burley Golf Club for providing a stunning venue and their warm hospitality.

Your notes

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 15th of each month



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, invites Myerscough College, a Quality Assured Centre, to update readers on the courses and qualifications it has to offer the sports turf sector

Myerscough College offers the broadest range of sportsturf qualifications in Europe ranging from apprenticeships to higher qualifications with courses available from Level 2 to Level 7 (Masters).

These qualifications have been developed over many years in consultation with industry representatives and organisations including The GTC and BIGGA. This kind of partnership working is fundamental in ensuring sportsturf qualifications are fit for purpose and educate and train students with the skills and knowledge they need in industry.

The work-place learning provision of the college has now been proactively working with the GTC and awarding bodies for over 15 years helping to develop standards and raise the quality of sportsturf qualifications. Covering most of England, there are currently 16 industry qualified work-based tutors delivering quality apprenticeships and other courses, meeting the needs of employers, wholly delivered in the workplace and utilising cutting edge technology enhanced learning.

More recently the College had the privilege of working with the Employer Trailblazer group, the GTC, in helping to develop the new Golf Greenkeeper Standard which is due for release this September. Work and submissions have also started on the Advanced Golf Greenkeeper and Golf Course Manager standards and there are plans for a Degree Apprenticeship.

This is a true reform of apprenticeship qualifications and the new design standards have a clear focus on skills, knowledge and behaviours accompanied by thorough independent testing and a grading system, something which many employers have been waiting for.

The college's Higher Education (HE) provision also goes from strength to strength with HE students being eligible to apply for R&A scholarships, of which many

have been supported over the past ten years. The scholarship is a prestigious award which enables successful applicants to work on major golf tournaments in the UK and overseas, take part in field study trips to top golf clubs, network with scholars all over the world and also benefit from financial support towards their course fees and study costs. Many HE students at Myerscough have also benefitted from awards from BIGGA's Higher Education Fund.

All HE courses include topics such as Agronomy, Construction, Machinery, Plant and Soil Science and Management. These are all essential subjects for those working or seeking to work in the sportsturf industry. The Foundation Degree (FdSc) is often the first qualification for many students (especially online) and is more applied than the BSc (Hons) as it includes more modules which develop practical greenkeeping and turf husbandry skills. The BSc (Hons) has more science and higher level technology content.

We offer these qualifications with fulltime and online study options. Online courses have run successfully for many years and suit students who are working fulltime in industry. For these courses there is no attendance needed at college as all learning materials and assessments are accessed by students on our dedicated Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) site. This has allowed hundreds of greenkeepers and grounds staff around the world to gain degrees which has enabled them to progress in the industry with many employed as course managers, agronomists and even lecturers!

We have developed a new Masters course for the September 2015 intake – the MA Sustainable Golf Course Management degree. This is the first course of its kind in the world and is aimed at those working in golf course management who wish to develop their skills still further beyond a BSc or BA degree.



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

David F. Golding
GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near Aine
York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk
www.greenkeepertraining.com



You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

This course, which will be taught wholly online, encompasses a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary golf course management.

The course aims to develop students' critical and analytical thinking to enable implementation of effective and efficient management practices.

The MA will encourage debate and critical evaluation within an environment that develops holistic understanding of international issues.

We are keen to reach international students who wish to study at this level and have structured the course content to reflect global sustainability and management issues.

If you want to know more about Sportsturf qualifications at Myerscough please have a look on our website (www.myerscough.ac.uk) or email Stewart Brown (sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk) or Katie Kelly (kkelly@myerscough.ac.uk).

For HE Courses and contact Employer Services on 01995 642255 for apprenticeships or visit our website at: www.myerscough.ac.uk

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Greenkeeper Training

A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper.

This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards.

This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo



Sami Strutt
Head of Member Development
BIGGA
sami@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND

ENGLAND



Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB
Contact: Michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk
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Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-556-3999
Fax: 0141-556-4999 learn@gostatraining.co.uk

SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/ Sportsturf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery training, First Aid, Defibrillation training and many more. Candidates may use their Individual Learning Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.



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www.hadlow.ac.uk

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Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey
GU3 3PE. Contact Andrew McEvoy 07896 674786
amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk www.merristwood.ac.uk

Courses include: Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 4 - on-line distance learning, Sports Turf Diploma Level 3 - on-line distance learning, Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 3 (October to the end of March only), Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2 (October to the end of March only, NPTC Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, Turf Maintenance Equipment & FEPA Spraying, Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Mole Control. Funding is available for Apprenticeships for Level 2 and 3, 16-18 (fully funded), 19+ (partially funded).



Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA
Contact: Andrew Wight 01727 737735
andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
www.oaklands.ac.uk

Oaklands College offers on demand on-line learning for City and Guilds courses at levels 2,3 and 4. Apprenticeships at level 2 and 3 and an On-line Higher National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports-Turf Management throughout the South East. In addition we offer monthly certificate of competence courses for PA1/2 and 6. Full time Horticultural courses on offer include City and Guilds Entry Level 3 to Level 2.



Ditchling Road, Nr Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE.
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ENGLAND



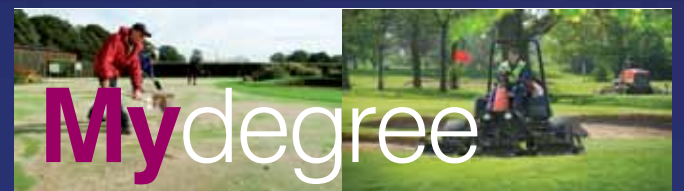
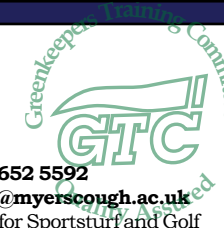
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www.myerscough.ac.uk Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

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For more information and to receive a prospectus contact
Course Enquiries on **0800 652 5592** or visit
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Recruitment



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For a copy of the job description or further information, please dan.lucking@glendalegolf.co.uk

Please apply with a letter of application and CV to william.lemkes@parkwood-holdings.co.uk Closing Date: 23/07/15

Seasonal Greenkeepers (x4) Sorrento Golf Club (Australia)

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Applicants must satisfy the requirements in obtaining an Australian Working Visa, particularly not being over the age of 30 years.

Previous applicants are most welcome to apply.

For more information, or to apply for these positions please send a detailed resume (including 3 referees) to Course Superintendent, Shane Greenhill: sgreenhill@sorrentogolf.com.au



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You will have excellent communication skills, be a team player and have the drive and commitment to succeed in this position.

Salary will be commensurate with knowledge and experience.

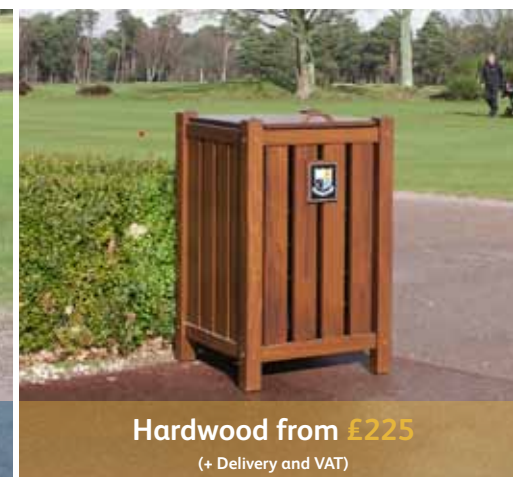
Please send your CV with covering letter & salary expectations to: Jambler@lely.com or in writing to Jayne Ambler, HR Manager, Lely (UK) Ltd, 1-3 Station Road, St Neots, Cambs PE19 1QH Closing date: Friday 17th July 2015



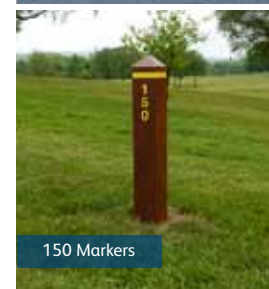
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Golf ter Hille, Koksijde, Belgium

Head Green Keeper/Golf Course Superintendent/Course Manager

The club is seeking to recruit a Head Green Keeper/Golf Course Superintendent/Course Manager* with a provisional start date of Jan 2016. (*Hereafter referred to as HK)



Koksijde
Golf ter Hille

www.koksijdegolfterhille.be

Golf ter Hille is 27 hole public golf complex situated just outside Koksijde, one of Belgium's premier coastal resorts. The Jeremy Penn designed golf complex was fully opened for play in 2014. An inland links course situated 2 km from the coast, the complex consists of a Championship 18 hole course (Par 72 6,360m), a 9 hole academy course (Par 31,1,770m) plus driving range, and associated practice facilities.

The course has been built to the very highest standards (USGA greens, fully automated Rainbird irrigation system, extensive tees, large fast greens) and whose design brief was to provide an 18 hole public golf course capable of hosting local, regional, national and international championship standard golf competitions, accommodating a 1000 member club, and offering a full range of training facilities for all levels of golfers from beginners to pro's.

The course is located on what was flat farm land, and now is a totally shaped inland links course with sand capped fescue bent fairways, red fescue rough, agrostis greens on the 18 hole course and fescue bent greens on the academy course. The non-playing areas include almost 10 hectares of lakes and wet lands.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The HK will assume responsibility for managing and maintaining golf complex, which will include:

- The golf courses and academy
- Maintenance equipment
- The golf car fleet
- Clubhouse grounds and landscaping
- Other other recreational facilities
- Open spaces, wooded areas, wetlands, unused acreage and all non-built areas within the perimeter fence
- Turf nursery

If this job appeals to you, send your CV along with your letter of motivation before August 20th 2015

by email (HK@koksijde.be) or by post to Koksijde Golf ter Hille Zeelaan 303, 8670 Koksijde (B) to the attention of Jan Deramoudt

Additional functions will include:

- Construction supervision, renovation and/or reconstruction whether performed by maintenance staff or outside contractors.
- Prepare the annual budgets for the maintenance and capital improvement of the golf course. The HK will formulate the annual maintenance and capital budgets so as to implement policies established by the club in accordance with the long-range plan and defined maintenance standards.
- Interviews, hiring, training and supervision of staff or employees for the purpose of maintaining the properties. The HK has authority to terminate employment of subordinates.
- Planning of all maintenance and project work, applying agronomic and administrative expertise to achieve the agreed-upon maintenance standards and long-range goals.
- Overseeing the scheduling and routing of personnel and equipment to accomplish the work. The HK will regularly inspect the golf course and related areas to evaluate how well management standards are being achieved and to effect changes in management programs.
- Acquiring equipment and purchasing necessary supplies to maintain the golf course and other properties. The HK is responsible for inventory control and overseeing the equipment maintenance programs. The HK approves all expenditures and exercises cost control measures to keep, as nearly as possible, operating and capital expenses in line with the approved budgets.
- Keeping accurate and complete records on payroll, inventory, weather data, maintenance procedures, pesticide applications, etc.
- Communicating regularly with other members of the management group to discuss activities, goals, plans and member/customer input.

QUALIFICATIONS

Whilst it is unlikely that any single candidate will possess all of the following qualifications the ideal candidate will:

- Have at least three years experience as Head Green Keeper on a comparable facility
- Have an appropriate academic qualification (Degree, Diploma) resulting from at least three years academic training leading to advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and a thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf.
- Have a high degree of administrative and executive ability, especially in terms of problem solving and decision making with proven organisational and project management skills with demonstrated ability to manage financial and physical resources, resolve problems, meet deadlines, organise activities and achieve results
- Have appropriate leadership skills together with excellent oral and written communications skills
- Have knowledge of current and local laws and regulations affecting the management of golf course operations (including, but not limited to, employment, safety and environmental standards, laws and regulations)
- Have a thorough practical understanding of IT as it applies to golf course management (micro-soft office, irrigation control systems, bookkeeping, inventory and associated computer skills)
- Have a thorough understanding of contemporary land management and local environmental issues as they apply to golf course ecology and sustainable development.
- Have a willingness to participate in continuing education opportunities such as seminars, workshops, correspondence courses, field days and trade shows.
- Will speak (or be willing to learn) Dutch and English.

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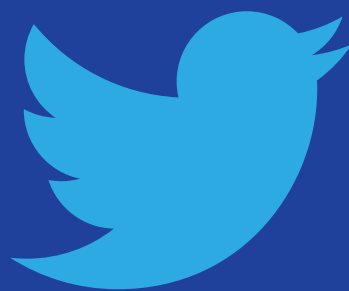
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@BIGGALtd

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

Our favourite tweets this month...

We now have a new Twitter account – follow @BIGGA_BTME for all the latest news ahead of BTME 2016

@CentenaryHGK

Stunning morning this morning though Breeze is a bit fresh but the sun's out & no rain @Gleneagleshotel @BIGGALtd

@CourseCareUK

We are looking forward to attending @BIGGA_BTME @BIGGALtd as part of the @HighspeedGroup stand with @WasteAwayOrg

@Woolleyparkgolf

20th Anniversary Celebrations well under way! Couldn't ask for better weather! #carparkfull #smilesallround

@Learn_EventsUK

Another inspiring blog post from @liggyw on tactics to persevere through tough times. #Resilience <http://bit.ly/1Qm0o3g>

@LelyUKTurfcare

Royal St David's Invests In TYM T503 <http://buff.ly/1KenQji> @royalstdavidsgc @TYMTractors @BIGGALtd

@AndyDalton25

Lovely to see these this morning on the golf course @BIGGALtd

@dperdi30

@BIGGALtd love the pics and the write up from @TPCSawgrassAGR, great times.

@bigga_sws

FREE to Members - Pre Open 2016 course walk at Royal Troon 24th September 8am - 10am
2 course lunch 11am at Anchorage Troon @BIGGALtd



@Woolleyparkgolf



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THE REELMASTER 3550-D
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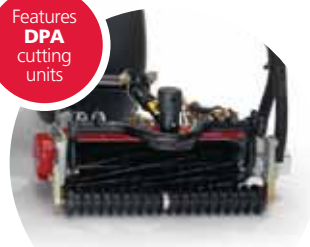
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