

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

£5.50 JUNE 2015

Picture perfect

Photos and news from the first
Delegation to TPC Sawgrass
- and how you can join in next year

Featured...

WEST MALLING

Turning adversity
into triumph in Kent



ALSO INSIDE... WEEDS : SPRAYING : TRACTORS : RYEGRASS



Ride First Class.

The All-New Jacobsen Truckster XD™



Class-Leading Payload Capacity, Power & Comfort

The all-new Jacobsen Truckster XD heavy-duty utility vehicle is the new leader in every category that matters most to you: a massive, 1610 kg. standard payload capacity; the toughest bed in the industry; and a commanding 71.5 Nm of torque from the diesel engine. More than just pure muscle, the Truckster XD also features 25% more cabin space than the competition. Learn more about how the Jacobsen Truckster XD makes easy work of your toughest jobs at Jacobsen.com.



Kubota

FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE
ON YOUR COURSE, CALL 01473 270000

www.ransomesjacobsen.com

GI/Truckster/06/2015

JACOBSEN

BIGGA



BIGGA President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

BIGGA Board of Management Chairman
Les Howkins

BIGGA Vice Chairman
Stuart Greenwood

BIGGA Past Chairman
Chris Sealey

BIGGA Board Members
Rob Welford, Andy Baker, Scott Reeves,
Kenny MacKay, George Barr, John Keenaghan

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer
Jim Croxton

BIGGA General Manager
Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

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

Contact Us
BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York,
YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.



Production
Design & Brand Executive
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 513
tom@bigga.co.uk



Editorial
Communications Executive
Steve Castle

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 510
steve.castle@bigga.co.uk



Advertising
Business Development Manager
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 519
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing
Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



ISSN: 0961-6977
© 2015 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited

WELCOME FROM BIGGA



Education is our foundation

Over the last month or so I have attended Regional Board meetings in all five of our regions as well as events at Section level.

Like most member associations we rely on a relatively small number of willing volunteers to form a governance structure and provide the natural link between the business and its members.

It was a pleasure to spend time with committed members who give up their time to help shape the way BIGGA provides services and benefits to its membership. It was also humbling to see the passion that so many possess for greenkeeping, and the role BIGGA can play in furthering it.

With 26 Sections and five Regions, BIGGA has a structure in place that enables us to be aware of and respond to issues at local and national level. Used properly, this structure allows us to understand the priorities for the industry and implement initiatives that will bring benefit across the profession.

Our current Strategic Review process is a great example of this. The first stage has been about understanding how our members view the Association and the next stage – underway shortly – will involve gaining members' views on the Association's key priorities. Thank you to all those that have taken the time to assist with this, your input is vital.

With the golf industry focused on working together to grow and support the game there will be a major part for us to play in ensuring golf facilities are meeting customers' needs. A clear and coherent Strategic Plan for the Association will help ensure that role is understood by the remainder of the sport.

I am sure the Review will confirm our view that education and CPD are the foundations that greenkeeping is built on.

Our work with the GTC to shape the standards that the education structure works to continues apace, the new government wasted no time in confirming the importance that Apprenticeships hold in their plans.

Alongside the work on Apprenticeships we have recently begun another project, this time in co-operation with the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA) and the PGA to put together an industry standard education structure for Golf Club Management.

Well-managed golf clubs understand the importance of golf course presentation and condition and always value the work of the course maintenance team. Over the last few years we have worked closely with the home unions, GCMA and the UK Golf Course Owners Association amongst others to influence their understanding of the role of the greenkeeper and how best to support greenkeeping teams. This new project will help ensure that the industry standard qualification for golf club managers includes an appreciation and understanding of how to get the best from the course management department.

On that note, congratulations to Chris Lomas MG, former course manager at The Berkshire and now Secretary of Worplesdon GC, who has become only the 34th person in Europe to secure the Certified Club Manager (CCM) award from the Club Managers Association of Europe. I firmly believe that many of the skills required to be a successful course manager are transferrable into wider roles and Chris's success demonstrates yet again what a good grounding can be gained from greenkeeping.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive

GI CONTENTS

A look at what's inside the magazine this month

JUNE 2015

FEATURES

20 TPC Sawgrass

How the first ever Delegation fared in Florida, and how you can join in next year

24 The Pursuit of Progress

Everris on how to keep up with increasing golfer expectations

28 Go West

Turning adversity into an advantage on a course in Kent

32 The Future of Sand

A look at Mansfield Sand's new quarry

36 Stress Relief

Syngenta advise you how to ensure turf survives renovation week

40 Conservation in Ayrshire

How Scottish courses have teamed up with Germinal Seeds

42 Compact and Bijou

Kubota advise you how to select the right compact tractor

44 Sustainable Use Directive

Rigby Taylor look at the impact the Sustainable Use Directive will have on the amenity turf sector

46 Keep Weeds at Bay with Bayer

Bayer on reducing the chances of weeds invading turfgrass

48 Spray Performance

Headland Amenity discuss spraying products

50 Using Ryegrass

Barenbrug on how to use perennial ryegrasses successfully



TPC Sawgrass
How you can be there next year

Once again our Full Member from each of BIGGA's five Regions can secure the chance to be involved in the '5th Major' thanks to the generous support of our Partner John Deere.

For members who wish to join the maintenance team for the duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour with travel, accommodation, insurance and welfare all included.

John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme: These are a mix of roles in the application process. Stage 1 is to register your interest by completing the short survey in the members area of the BIGGA website, by clicking on the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme tab on the left.

Once your availability has been confirmed, details will be emailed to you regarding the next stage. This involves recording a short video. Full details will be available on completion of Stage 1.

After this Stage 2 features regional interviews with conditions which will take place in November/December.

The Players Championship volunteer team is made up of over 200 people that make the event possible each year. It is a mix of roles, from the maintenance team to the clubhouse, and all of them are a part of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals.

Their main duties were mowing, hand mowing, and blowing debris away from parts of the course, and all of them are a part of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals.

The Players Championship volunteer team is made up of over 200 people that make the event possible each year. It is a mix of roles, from the maintenance team to the clubhouse, and all of them are a part of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals.

The Players Championship volunteer team is made up of over 200 people that make the event possible each year. It is a mix of roles, from the maintenance team to the clubhouse, and all of them are a part of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals.



TURF HEALTH

24



28




40



42




44



53

REGULARS

- 3 Welcome from BIGGA
- 6 Chairman's Word
- 8 Newsdesk
- 15 Industry Update
- 16 Membership News
- 18 L&D News
- 52 Around the Green
- 60 Greenkeepers Training Committee
- 62 Buyers Guide
- 64 Recruitment
- 66 @BIGGALtd



GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL
Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association £5.50 JUNE 2015

Picture perfect

Photos and news from the first Delegation to TPC Sawgrass - and how you can join in next year

Featured...
WEST MALLING
Turning adversity into triumph in Kent

ALSO INSIDE... WEEDS : SPRAYING : TRACTORS : RYEGRASS



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

Published by the
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd



Chairman's Word

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

Taking time to reflect

Last month saw me turn 42 - note I didn't say celebrate...it felt like a good time to reflect on 26 years in the greenkeeping industry, and how it's changed. One of my team - Pat Kidd - has been greenkeeping for almost 47 years and we often chat about how the changes have impacted on the playing of golf and greenkeeping as an industry.

Without doubt, the mechanisation of many tasks has made the job physically easier, but increased expectation and pressure has made the job tougher in many ways. BIGGA has played a role in this greater level of expectation. BIGGA's founding members and members of earlier organisations had the foresight and passion to push both the standards of golf courses and the standards of greenkeeper education.

It's only at times of reflection that we realise how far we've come and this allows us to focus on what we can achieve.

This leads on nicely to the strategic planning survey that was circulated during May. I would like to thank all of our members for taking the time to complete the survey. As we analyse the data and gain further insight into how our members currently view the Association and its activities we will formulate a second survey.

This will map out a range of potential strategic directions BIGGA can take in the next few years. I would urge you all to take ten minutes and play this important part in shaping the future of the Association.

The latest member participation initiative - the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme - was an amazing success. The selected guys had an incredible experience and represented BIGGA with the level of professionalism we have come to expect.

When this initiative was announced I offered to chaperone them, but Mrs Howkins and our CEO were having none of it. I must admit I am extremely jealous of the opportunity they have been afforded, yet another example of how BIGGA is progressing.

The selection process for next year is open and I urge anyone else that is even slightly envious to apply to be the part of the 'Sawgrass Five'.



A 50-strong group of volunteers joined forces with the Wentworth maintenance team to help out at the BMW PGA Championship. Kenny Mackay and his team again turned out an immaculately presented course. During the week I attended the STRI Golf Environment Awards Reception.

To see the passion that the winners have for mixing environmental and ecological areas with finely managed turf surfaces is truly inspiring.

It's a real shame more greenkeepers and the general golfing public can't experience this inspiration and change the widely held and hugely misguided view that golf is a killer of the environment and a polluter of the land.

Another new opportunity for members to volunteer and get involved with a prestigious tournament has arisen at Woburn for the British Masters. A team of greenkeepers will join John Clarke and his team to provide support and gain valuable experience in preparing a course for a tournament.

With the June Board of Management meeting coming up, it's worth mentioning the member letter that was sent out after the March meeting. Our research highlighted that reporting to the members about what's going on at board level was an area we 'could do better' in. We will endeavour to follow every board meeting with an update of the business.

Back at the ranch we've had a few interesting things going on, including getting involved in a demonstration of a new control for the wretched Oak Processionary Moth. Instead of spraying the underside of the leaves with an insecticide or biological agent, this process injects the tree with the control agent. As we're located next to a SSSI this will be a much better process.

Hopefully it works well and I can report back complete control.

We also turned our hand to installing a new liner in an ageing irrigation tank, this was a different type of job and the team felt a great sense of achievement when it was completed and didn't leak.

This wasn't the end of the irrigation problems, somewhere on the course we had a wiring problem. Kevin Foster from a local irrigation company had the answer and the fault was quickly found and fixed. This served as a reminder that we all have specific skills and some things are best left to the experts.

The longest day is almost upon us, so in greenkeeping terms, it will soon be Christmas as the nights start to draw in! #takeleswithyou has continued to astound me and I enjoyed being taken on a weekend trip to Venice by Sean Brocklehurst and his fiancée.

Les

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



GI WINS AWARDS FOR BEST DESIGN

Greenkeeper International has scooped three awards for Best Design at a prestigious ceremony held in Milwaukee, USA to celebrate the best of the worldwide turf industry's writing and design achievements, hosted by TOCA.

The awards were announced when TOCA recently held its annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended by BIGGA's Communications Executive Steve Castle who picked up the prizes for the Association's monthly magazine.

BIGGA Design & Brand Executive Tom Campbell (inset at BIGGA House) won first prize for Best Design Publication (full magazine article layout) for the '25 Years of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year' spread and cover in October's GI.

Tom was also awarded a merit for Best Design for 'Beesy Does It' from June 2014, and for Best Photo Publication for '@Risk? – How to avoid the pitfalls of social media' in April 2014, as shown below.

The Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association

(TOCA) first became involved with BIGGA at BTME 2015 when they presented three seminars in the 'Partner Events' section at Continue to Learn focusing on social media and creative writing.

Steve said: "I was hugely impressed by TOCA's programme at BTME and was blown away when I was invited to America for TOCA's Annual Meeting.

"I'd like to thank everyone at TOCA for giving me the chance of a lifetime, and for their warmth, hospitality and humour during the week."

TOCA President Scott Hollister said: "The interest that has been shown in TOCA by green industry media professionals in the UK has been extremely gratifying for those of us active in TOCA in the States."

The invitation also gave Steve the opportunity to visit International BIGGA members while in the States – keep an eye out for an article with a distinct Stateside flavour in a forthcoming magazine.



Award Winner: BIGGA Design & Brand Executive Tom Campbell

Beesy does it

Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at STRI, updates us on Operation Pollinator and visits two courses where BIGGA members are making a real difference.

O'Neill nails it

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

GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

10 weeks to BTME

ALSO INSIDE... MACHINERY TIPS : PROBLEM WEEDS : BASIS



BIGGA MG ACHIEVES CERTIFIED CLUB MANAGER STATUS

One of BIGGA's Master Greenkeepers is celebrating after successfully achieving Certified Club Manager Status.

Chris Lomas, formerly Golf Course Manager at The Berkshire Golf Club, is currently Secretary at Worplesdon Golf Club and becomes just the second person to achieve both the MG and CCM qualifications after Andy Campbell.

Chris began his greenkeeping career at Pleasington Golf Club near Blackburn, then after a spell at Carden Park he joined Swinley Forest Golf Club in 1995 as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. He then moved on to head the greenkeeping team at The Berkshire and after 11 years there joined Worplesdon Golf Club as Secretary in 2010.

Chris said "I am of course very proud to have achieved this qualification, and I would be delighted if more greenkeepers were to follow this path. As secretary you effectively become the CEO of a small business and I've learnt so much by doing this. I'm very career focused and it's opened a lot of doors for me. I thoroughly enjoyed greenkeeping and I really do miss working on the course, but I don't regret changing focus.

"The CCM qualification, which has been running in America for 50 years, is now recognised throughout the world, and many organisations insist on this as a minimum requirement. I would recommend anyone who is serious about their Club Management career to consider CCM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Hunt and The Berkshire Golf Club, along with my Committee here at Worplesdon Golf Club for supporting me through the process."

Chris now joins an elite band of Club Industry professionals in Europe who have achieved CCM status raising the number holding the qualification to 34. BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "Many congratulations to Chris. This is further proof that the wide range of skills acquired and demonstrated by turf managers can be transferred into other areas of management. We're extremely proud that one of our Master Greenkeepers has achieved the CCM – well done!"



SPRING IN THE STEP AT DUNDONALD

The eve of South West of Scotland's 2015 Spring Golf Outing saw Chairman Frank Clarkson dusting off his golf bag – literally... much to the embarrassment of our Director of Golf who immediately offered Frank the use of hire clubs. However, this fell on deaf ears and Frank proceeded to the wipe off the dust and grime and to everyone's horror pulled out the remainder of chocolate bar from 2013!

The wind was blowing a hooly but this didn't dampen the mood. There was a terrific turnout from the Section with 32 playing. The golf was preceded by education in the form of a grinding workshop led by Willie Nesbit before heading up to the clubhouse for soup and sandwiches.

Derek Wilson, SWS Secretary, organised the groupings for the Stableford before the starter greeted them with "14 holes into the wind..." Derek's fourball was the only group to face both the wind and the rain, but still managed to finish in a decent time.

On to prize giving and raffle, Frank and Jim thanked all of the Food and Beverage staff and all of the members for supporting the event before handing over to Derek to announce the winners. It was great to meet everyone, the atmosphere was brilliant, well done all for the braving the weather. Feedback has been great and we're already looking forward to the Autumn outing. Results:

Class 1: 1 Stephen Cairns (Dumfries & County) 34pts, 2 Richard Hill (Dundonald Links) 30, 3 James Parker (Ranfurly Castle) 29.
Class 2: 1 Thomas Hedley (Irvine) 37pts, 2 Alan Madden (Irvine) 25 BIH, 3 Martin Lothian (Trump Turnberry) 25. Trade Winner: Alistair Taylor (Rigby Taylor) 29pts.

Amanda Dorans

SOUTH WEST TURF CLUB

Another of the increasingly popular 'Turf Club' events is taking place on Thursday 9 July at Cumberwell Park Golf Club in Wiltshire.

This is a fantastic opportunity to see the work being carried out at the course which will be hosting a PGA EuroPro Tour event in June. They are currently constructing a new par three course and attendees will have the chance to hear more from Course Manager Matt James and the course architect on the project.

The event runs from 1.30pm – 3.30pm and CPD Credits are available to everyone attending. For more information contact Lucy Sellick on southwestsectionbigga@outlook.com



CAMPEY TURF CARE PRO AM

Hart Common Golf Club was once again the host venue for the Campey Turf Care PGA pro Am. The weather was glorious following a frosty start that delayed preparations for Richard Roberts and his team, however, by 10am the course and facilities were top notch. Greens had been prepared with Toro Greensmaster 3420's cut at 4.5mm, Approaches 12mm and Fairways 17mm.

There was a full field of 88 players, 44 greenkeepers and groundsmen and 44 PGA professionals providing a day full of good humour and some

great golf, Martin Edge even holing a superb bunker shot.

Greenkeeper/Groundsmen Prizes donated and presented by Ian Campbell from Campey Turf Care: 1 Chris Reid 36pts (Countback), 2 Martyn Durham 36, 3 James Blacklock 34.

PGA Professional Prizes donated and presented by Ian Campbell from Campey Turf Care: Joint 1st David Corsby & David Shacklady 69 (-3), Joint 3rd Robert Booth & Simon Edwards 70 (-2).

Nearest the Pin Prizes donated by Imants, Trimax and Sisis/Dennis: Doug

Chilton, Steve Wood, Jason Ashworth.

Longest Drive Prizes donated by Sherriff Amenity: Chris Gibson, Chris Reid.

Along with the fantastic tournament Campey Turf Care arranged a showcase of machinery with local groundsmen and greenkeepers calling in throughout the day. The day was rounded off with a superb BBQ, thank you Julie, Janet and Donna along with a vote of thanks to all involved in organising a fantastically successful day.

Sandra Raper



MARATHON MAN

A greenkeeper is buzzing after completing a personal best at the Greater Manchester Marathon just weeks after his club won a major environmental award.

Anthony Darker, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Elsham Golf Club, is a relative newcomer to the gruelling world of long-distance running but got off to a superb start when he completed last year's London Marathon in just 3 hours 13 minutes after just eleven weeks of training.

He abandoned temptation over Christmas when he began his training for the Manchester challenge during the festive period.

Anthony said: "The weather was kind to me and I was hitting my targets, until the second week into January when I stumbled and fell, injuring my leg. I was advised by my doctor to rest for two weeks, which felt like two months!

"I decided try cycling for four days a week to strengthen my leg and only ran one day until I felt 100%."

Anthony stormed through the streets and crossed the finishing line 485th out of a whopping 8000 runners in another personal best time of 3 hours 24 seconds.

He said: "My hamstrings were burning with one mile to go and the Ed Sheeran lyric 'when your legs won't work any longer' were going through my mind constantly! But the spectators keep you going."

Anthony would like to pay tribute to his wife and children and also to his Dad who spared the time to drive him to the race.

Anthony's personal success follows on from professional success as Elsham Golf Club were overall winners of the STRI Operation Pollinator Award run by STRI and Syngenta.

A LIFE MEMBER WRITES...



Gordon Brammah, Course Manager at Hallamshire Golf Club, sent us his thoughts on greenkeeping and BIGGA...

Earlier this year, I had the very great honour of being awarded Life Membership of BIGGA. Any award that recognises service to your industry is always gratefully received but coming as this one does from my peers, it is very special indeed. My congratulations go to the other four candidates who were also made Life Members this year.

When I got the phone call from our Chairman offering me the award, I was somewhat taken aback and saying 'thank you' didn't seem enough. I would like to offer my thoughts on what the Association means to me and how I see the greenkeeping profession developing over the next few years.

As part of an apprenticeship in horticulture with the local authority, I was introduced to golf when transferred to Concord Park Golf Club in Sheffield in the early 1970s. Never having been on a golf course before there was a lot to learn, but unfortunately, there was no one with any experience to teach me. Many mistakes and a lot of hard work later, I began grasp what greenkeeping was about and the challenges of working with limited resources.

However, after three years of frustration and a lack of job satisfaction, I applied for a First Assistant's job at Hillsborough Golf Club. It was there I met Head Greenkeeper Henry Gillespie, who turned a shy but keen lad into a confident and experienced greenkeeper. Henry was a brilliant greenkeeper who taught me much about the traditional methods of greenkeeping but he was also a modern thinker who was one of the first in the area to purchase a Toro triple mower, a Cushman truck and a Verti-Drain.

He taught me the value of constantly evaluating working practices and avoiding entrenched attitudes to how things should be done, and I have a huge amount of respect for him. Henry also introduced me to the British Golf Greenkeepers Association (as it was then) and ensured that all his staff were members and supported Section Events, a trend that I have continued with my own team.

After six good years at Hillsborough, I made the leap to Head Greenkeeper (later to become Course Manager as the role evolved) at Hallamshire

Golf Club in 1983 where I have been ever since. I hope that I have managed to adopt the same work ethic Henry had that valued hard work, professionalism, forward thinking and teamwork.

Many clubs, like Hallamshire, have provided a service for thousands of members and visitors for over a hundred years as well as giving employment to greenkeepers and other staff. Greenkeeping is almost unique in having a senior management team that has little or no experience in looking after golf courses and that is where conflict and misunderstanding can occur. I have just used the word teamwork and by that, I don't just mean the greenkeeping team but also the Board of Directors, Secretary, Professional, consultants and anyone else associated with the management of the course.

I have found that the most successful golf clubs adopt a quiet, measured approach to management where decisions are determined not by personalities but by policies where mutual respect and a common goal to improve standards for everyone is encouraged.

Having been involved with BIGGA for many years and served as Secretary, Chairman and President of the Sheffield Section, the Association and particularly the welfare and empowerment of greenkeepers is very dear to me. Greenkeepers need a strong and active representative to speak up for education, development, working conditions and the respect that the role deserves.

BIGGA is a greenkeepers association and we must not rely on its management team to fight our battles for us alone. We should all be actively involved in the running of each section, not particularly as officials but by simply supporting events, golf matches and conferences.

A few people around the country do a lot of work for the many and all they need is the simple act of attendance at event for them to be successful and valid.

I call on all Course Managers to encourage all their greenkeeping team to attend events organised by their section and would go so far as to insist that is expected as part of their job. A strong case should be made to golf clubs that these educational and development opportunities are good for the club as well as the staff.

In my forty odd years as a greenkeeper, I have met and worked with some excellent people, whether they be colleagues, members or trade and I have seen the passion, skill and hard work that greenkeepers put into their jobs for relatively modest rewards compared to other industries. A strong Association which actively engages golf clubs is vital if we are to improve the welfare and standing of greenkeepers but BIGGA cannot do so alone.

We must raise our own game by being aware of the need to act in a professional manner either on the course or in the committee room and by finding positive ways to work with our employers to improve our welfare and job security. It may be a little way off yet but I like to think that eventually all greenkeepers will receive the respect and rewards that their talents deserve.

BIGGA

education supporter

BIGGA are delighted to announce Bathgate Silica Sand as the latest organisation to sign an agreement to become a BIGGA Education Supporter.

Pictured from left to right are: Colin Sanders, Jim Croxton, David Robinson and Nick Gray.

Colin, David and Nick travelled to BIGGA House to officially confirm the deal.



BATHGATE
SILICA SAND



BIGGA SCOTLAND TEAM TRIUMPH

It was a good day at the office for Jim Paton, Regional Chairman and Course Manager of the host club for the annual match with GCMA Scotland. Jim led the team to its first victory in three years by a score of 3.5 to 2.5.

West Kilbride Golf Club was in excellent condition and was bathed in sunshine with a strong westerly wind to test the players. GCMA Scotland hosted the match this year, with their Captain, Keith Nicolson praising Jim and the

greenkeeping team for their hard work and dedication in providing an excellent playing surface for the match.

The competition was sponsored by the St Andrews Management Ltd, a management training company based in Cupar, Fife. Karen Dawson from the sponsors attended the day, and later expressed her gratitude for the invitation to be present.

She also expressed her hope that the two Associations and St Andrews would develop a

strong working partnership in the future.

Jim thanked his team for the excellent effort in winning a very close match. The team comprised Shaun Anderson and Richard Jenkinson (Central Section); Chris Lamb and George Mitchell (North Section); Iain Barr, Richard Hills, Ian Smith and Derek Wilson (South West Section); and Gerry Bruen, John Dale and Ronnie Myles (West Section).

John Young



THE PETER LARTER TROPHY

Players at the Midland Regional Golf Championship in August will be competing for the inaugural Peter Larter Trophy after BIGGA's Midland Region Committee voted to name the event after the former BIGGA Regional Administrator.

The ex-England rugby union international spent 16 years working as RA for the Northern and Midland Regions and is hugely respected and admired for his work with the Association. He retired from his post in 2012.

Now, the Championship which takes place this year at Northants County Golf Club on Wednesday 5 August will boast the Peter Larter Trophy as its main prize.

Peter said: "I was blown away when I was told about this, it was so unexpected. I never thought I would have my name on a golf trophy!"

Peter added that he is currently enjoying his retirement, and the successful hip operation he underwent shortly after leaving BIGGA has allowed him to resume playing golf and skiing. He is also being kept busy visiting his eight grandchildren!

What's sure to be memorable day starts from 12 noon and entries are £27.50 per person, open to all Full and Affiliate members. The format is 18 holes Stableford with the best gross score winning the Trophy, plus a prize for the best nett score. The entry fee includes prizes and a meal.

Places are limited on a first come first served basis, and entries will only be accept once payment has been confirmed.

The closing date for entries is Monday 6 July 2015. To enter please contact BIGGA's Midland Regional Administrator Roger Butler on roger@bigga.co.uk or 07525 593359.

Entry forms are on the events page of the BIGGA website.

BIGGA GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY 2015



This summer BIGGA members and their colleagues have the chance to play on some of the UK's finest golf

courses and become the second team to win the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, sponsored by Everris.

One of the main aims of the tournament is to encourage excellent relationships between the senior decision makers at golf clubs across the Regions, and last year's event was an unqualified success with the team from Chipping Sodbury GC emerging victorious.

Here are the dates and venues for this year's competition with the top two teams from each qualifying event progressing to the final. This will be played in October on the Red Course at Frilford Heath Golf Club. To enter, please contact your RA.

Entries are on a first come, first served basis with the cost £99 per team. This includes coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, then a two course meal afterwards. The format is Stableford best two scores on each hole to count: 3/4 handicap off maximum 24 men and 30 ladies. Please note that payment must be made in advance.

3 July – St Mellion International Resort – Devon & Cornwall Section. Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948110

8 July – Cradoc GC – South Wales Section. Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948410

22 July – Minchinhampton GC – South West Section. Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948410

30 July – Dunblane GC – Scotland Region. Contact John Young johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or 07776 242120

19 August – Dunham Forest GC – Northern Region. Contact Sandra Raper sandra@bigga.co.uk or 07866 366966

7 September – John O' Gaunt GC – Midland Region. Contact Roger Butler roger@bigga.co.uk or 07525 593359

30 September – Clondeboye GC – Northern Ireland Region. Contact John Young johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or 07776 242120

1 October – Brokenhurst Manor GC – South Coast Section. Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948110

19 October – FINAL: Frilford Heath GC

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 a 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.

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe



AITKENS PRODUCT COMBATS DRY PATCH

Aitkens has developed a combination of premium penetrants and wetting agents which offer the most effective method of controlling and defeating dry patch. Award Osprey Active Liquid from Aitkens is a unique concentrated soil surfactant providing increased stress resistance to ensure healthy uniform turf under stressful conditions with increased root stimulation.

It works preventatively through a blend of premium concentrated surfactants designed to be applied monthly to form strong lasting bonds with the hydrophobic soil particles. Early application helps to boost plant metabolism and ensure the plant grows more effectively at low temperatures.

By including a premium penetrant Award Osprey Active offers unparalleled curative control of dry patch; the penetrant allows the wetting agent to move deep through the most repellent soils allowing the re-wetting agents to follow behind ensuring the area remains receptive to water in the future.

A full application of amino acids helps prevent stress associated with heat and drought, which in turn helps improve the rate of photosynthesis, seed germination, root vigour and development. For more please visit www.aitkens.co.uk

More results less application

A multi-rate surfactant effective on sand, soil and organic matter

THE MISSING PIECE THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

01223 597834 | info@headlandamenity.com | www.headlandamenity.com

MERIT TURF UPDATE

Bayer CropScience has received formal notification from the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) that its granular insecticide Merit Turf (MAPP No 12415) is to be withdrawn from the market.

Formal notification of the revocation has been published on the CRD website. During the re-approval process for the existing Merit Turf authorisation the criteria for approval was changed resulting in the revocation of the existing approval.

As is usual in these circumstances, both the manufacturer and the distributor will have a six-month period in which to sell out stock of Merit Turf. Following this, end users will have a further 12 months in which to use up these stocks.

On this basis, end users will be able to use the product until the end of the 2016 season, but the supply chain must have delivered all stocks of Merit Turf to end users by 31 October 2015. This will ensure that end users currently in a planned control programme will be able to purchase sufficient stock to continue their control programme in 2016.

Technical Support Manager at Bayer, Dr Colin Mumford, said: "Although it is true that Merit Turf has had its authorisation revoked, it is not as bad as it sounds. The revocation is due to the criteria for re-registration changing after we had submitted our documentation.

"We now have to provide some additional data and then re-submit the application, which CRD will then consider over the coming months.

"As a result of the revocation, Bayer has until the end of October this year to sell Merit Turf, and end users have until the end of October 2016 to use it. This means you would be able to purchase sufficient stock this year for a 2016 application. Assuming our new re-registration is successful, Merit Turf would then be available for 2017.

"To keep this valuable insecticide, we need your support. We would like turf managers to contact us and share their positive reports, as a result of using Merit Turf."

To support this, please get in touch with Colin at colin.mumford@bayer.com or on 01223 226638.

INTRODUCING OUR

A V A R D

RANGE

A selection of products including **fine turf granular fertiliser, liquid fertilisers, liquid seaweed, wetting agents and liquid irons**, all created for unequalled performance

ULTIMA
Nutri-Pro
Surf-Turf
Osprey active
IRONMAX
Fermos
Cleanmax

TOP notch

enquiries@aitkens.co.uk
T: England: 01977 681155
T: Scotland: 0141 440 0033
www.aitkens.co.uk

Double delivery!

The Overseeder 1430, 1830 and 2230 each deliver seed to the soil via two rows of coulters burying it safely up to 30mm (1¼") deep in the ground and 30mm (1¼") apart.

Taking uneven ground firmly in their stride, the machines use individually mounted coulters that allow the Overseeders to continue working in undulating conditions.

Find out more about the **Overseeder range** today.

Designed for durability
Charterhouse
TURF MACHINERY

www.charterhouse-tm.co.uk | 01428 661222



Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

YOUNG GREENKEEPER COMMITTEE UPDATE

One of the many exciting initiatives launched at BTME 2015 was BIGGA's Young Greenkeeper Committee (YGC), which held its first ever meeting during the week.

The Committee, which is a first for the Association, is comprised of 13 members from across BIGGA's Regions and Sections – ranging all the way from the East of Scotland to North Cornwall.

The criteria for being a part of it is to be aged under 32 having been in the industry for a maximum of eight years.

The YGC's overriding aim is to engage the younger members of the Association and provide the Board of Management with feedback about the needs of its current and future younger members.

YGC Committee member Miles Todd, Course Manager at Llandudno Golf Club (Maesdu), travelled to BIGGA House recently to represent the YGC at the spring National Board of Management meeting.

Miles said: "It was a real eye-opener seeing just how much is involved in the running of the Association, I'd never seen that side of it before – the finances, the amount of work behind the scenes and the input of the Board members was fascinating to see."

"It was great to be involved with all the discussions, and to me that's at the heart of what the YGC is all about, encouraging younger greenkeepers to take an interest in the Association and its many opportunities. It's good to see that BIGGA has an eye on the future and I'm sure the YGC will play its part in ensuring that the membership offering is relevant to the next generation."

"We want to help encourage and aid young members to progress their careers, provide input for BIGGA to keep improving, provide



communication links to BIGGA and turn ideas into action.

"YGC will provide committee members with experience to further their careers within the industry. The interaction between young members, YGC members and BIGGA will help provide a better organisation for all."

The YGC members have mainly been communicating via Facebook and email and are in the process of determining the structure and regularity of their meetings.

Each Region is represented on the YGC, and with limitations on experience being a key criteria the personnel involved will change

regularly over time.

Paul Armour, Course Supervisor on the Old Course at St Andrews and YGC member, added: "I see one of the YGC's main roles as to help and encourage younger members to understand the opportunities and support BIGGA offers including free education, scholarships and volunteering. It's all about ensuring members get the very best value out of their membership."

For more about the work and to get involved in the YGC contact BIGGA's Northern Regional Administrator on sandra@bigga.co.uk or 07866 366966.

BIGGA Young Greenkeeper Committee

Paul Armour – St Andrews – Scottish Central Section
 Robert Bemment – Immingham GC – East of England Section
 Ashley Brear – Luffenham Heath GC – East Midlands Section
 Andy Clark – Broadstone GC – South Coast Section
 Mike Ellis – The Point at Polzeath – Devon & Cornwall Section
 Jack Hetherington – Ponteland GC – North East Section
 Stuart Imeson – Dunstanburgh Castle

GC – North East Section
 Andrew Naismith – Worthing GC – Sussex Section
 James Parker – Ranfurly Castle GC – South West of Scotland Section
 Scott Roberts – The Wisley GC – Surrey Section
 Dan Simpson – Rockliffe Hall GC – Cleveland Section
 Liam Springett – Braintree GC – Essex Section
 Miles Todd – Llandudno GC (Maesdu) – North Wales Section



Contact Details

- Tracey Maddison**
General Manager
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk
- Elaine Jones**
Membership Executive
elaine@bigga.co.uk
- Rachael Duffy**
Events & Membership Executive
rachael@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)



You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

BIGGA Regional Offices

- Scotland & N. Ireland**
John Young
07776 242120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk
- Northern**
Sandra Raper
07866 366966
sandra@bigga.co.uk
[@sandra4bigganor](https://twitter.com/sandra4bigganor)
- Midland**
Roger Butler
07525 593359
roger@bigga.co.uk
- South East**
Clive Osgood
01737 819343
07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
[@cliveosgood](https://twitter.com/cliveosgood)
- South West & South Wales**
Tracey Harvey
07841 948110
tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk
[@biggaeswaw](https://twitter.com/biggaeswaw)

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

- (Full Members only)
- Personal Accident Helpline**
0207 2048952
- Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**
0800 177 7891
- Lifestyle Counselling Helpline**
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst



Be BIGGA's best

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



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

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£95**
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of **£95**

Deadline for entry is 4th September 2015

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

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

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

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

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

Name

Address.....

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

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership No.

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club

Card number

Start Date Expiry Date

Last 3 security digits

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date.....

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



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.



gtslearning

MICROSOFT ONLINE

Don't forget that BIGGA has announced a new partnership with GTS Learning meaning members now have the opportunity to learn and enhance their Microsoft Office 2010/2013 IT skills.

BIGGA have negotiated a 10% discount on the price of the online courses, and any member is eligible to claim back up to 80% of the fees through the Refund of Fees scheme.

To access the online suite of courses, which include all the Microsoft Office 2010/2013 products of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook, log into the Members' Area of the BIGGA website, go to Member Resources and the link to the courses are located under the Microsoft Online Learning tab. You will find a Refund of Fees form located here too.

Once purchased, members have 12 months access to the training course and there is no limit to how many times you can complete each module.

As with any online training solution, users are able to access the training at a time and place that suits them making it completely flexible.

Each course takes approximately 8 hours and a certificate is available for each completed module. 8 CPD credits are available for the completion of each course.

To claim your credits, please contact cpd@bigga.co.uk with a copy of your certificate and a CPD credit code will be issued to you.

Each course is £27 + VAT or you can purchase the full Office package for £85 + VAT.

SCHOLARSHIPS

BARONESS

Congratulations to Mark Downing and Daniel Green who have both been awarded Baroness Level 3 Scholarships.

Mark, from Launceston Golf Club, will be studying a Diploma in Work Based Horticulture at Duchy College. Daniel, from Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands Golf Club, will be studying the same Diploma.

JACOBSEN

Two more Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarships have been awarded this month.

Firstly, Steven Hardy from The Warwickshire Golf Club has been enrolled on a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf at Myerscough College.

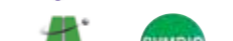
Next, Ben Croft from Mid Herts Golf Club has been awarded a Scholarship to study NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf at Oaklands College.

Good luck to all four students, and to all BIGGA members currently studying for qualifications.



CPD APPROVED

Martin Cornish – Launceston GC
Steven Tierney MG – Golf Park Nuolen AG
Steven Mason – Stocks GC
James Lindsay – Stirling GC
Neil McLoughlin – Deeside GC
Martin Brown – Aldwickbury Park GC
Christy Worthington – Bude & North Cornwall GC
Simon White – Chase GC
APPROVED & MILESTONE
Stuart Ferguson – Dundas Parks GC



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

Contact Details

Sami Strutt
Head of Member Development
07818 405606
sami@bigga.co.uk

Stuart Green
Head of Member Learning
stuart@bigga.co.uk
[@Stuart_BIGGA](https://twitter.com/Stuart_BIGGA)

Deb Burnett
L&D Administrator
deb@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk

BARONESS Turfcare Equipment

Quality on Demand



The Baroness M2400 lightweight fairway mower

For more than 100 years the Kyoisha Co. of Japan has been making first-class, high quality, user friendly machinery for its customers. Since late 2007 customers in the U.K. have been sharing in that experience, finding out just how low the whole life service costs of Baroness mowers can be!

To find out how you too can benefit from the remarkable cost savings experienced by owning a Baroness mower, call or e-mail for your demonstration today!

e-mail: sales@baronessuk.com
tel: 01256 461591

www.baronessuk.com

Kyoisha UK Ltd. a subsidiary of Kyoisha Co. Ltd. of Japan



Photos courtesy of Graham Down, pictured here in front of the Sawgrass clubhouse

TPC Sawgrass

How you can be there next year



BIGGA members have returned from assisting in the preparation of TPC Sawgrass for the Players Championship, thanks to John Deere - and you can follow in their footsteps as the application process has opened for the 2016 event

Once again one Full Member from each of BIGGA's five Regions can secure the chance to be involved in the '5th Major' thanks to the generous support of our Partner John Deere.

Five members will join the maintenance team for the duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour with travel, accommodation, subsistence and uniform all included.

John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme

There are three stages to the application process. Stage 1 is to register your interest by completing the short survey in

the members area of the BIGGA website, by clicking on the *John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme* tab on the left.

Once your availability has been confirmed, details will be emailed to you regarding the next stage. This involves recording a short video - full details will be available on completion of Stage 1.

After this, Stage 3 features Regional interviews with candidates which will take place in November/December.

The Players Championship 2015 ended with Rickie Fowler sealing a thrilling play-off victory - and five BIGGA members spent an entire week joining the greenkeeping team at the legendary venue.



Their main duties were raking bunkers, hand mowing the semi-rough and blowing debris away from parts of the course, and all thrived on being a part of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals.

The Players Championship volunteer force is made up of over 2200 people that make the event possible each year, assigned to one of four divisions: player services, spectator services, volunteer services and facilities. The six UK and Ireland winners joined the greenkeeping team at the legendary US venue for the entire duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour, courtesy of BIGGA and GCSAI partner John Deere. They even had the opportunity to attempt to hit the island green on the course's legendary 17th hole, which was achieved by Mike Ellis and Michael Burgin.

The Sawgrass Six

If you're still unsure about whether to apply for this fabulous opportunity, just read these testimonies from the 'Sawgrass Six'...



LEFT TO RIGHT: Joe Dormer, David Perdisatt, Graham Down, Michael Burgin, Mike Ellis, Chris McArthur

Graham Down, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club:

It was a real education working with warm season grasses compared to ours, and also learning about the different cultural practices.

Seeing the sheer amount of work that goes on behind the scenes was a real eye-opener, the organisation of the entire event was absolutely fantastic.

Joe Dormer, West Sussex Golf Club:

A phenomenal 12 days unlike anything I have experienced before, flawless organisation, unrivalled passion and motivation.

It was a life-changing experience that will stay with me forever and have a strong influence in my development as a turf and man manager. Gargantuan thanks to John Deere and BIGGA for making this happen for me.

Mike Ellis, The Point at Polzeath:

I would like to say a massive thank you to BIGGA and John Deere for this trip. All the TPC Sawgrass team were fantastic to work with. The professionalism from all the volunteers was very high. It was a joy to be there.

Michael Burgin, Normanby Hall Golf Club:

The easiest way to describe the whole experience would be to say truly amazing. This is golf at its very best and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

The highlight of my trip had to be working on the 17th every morning as the sun came up. It was great to see so many people from all over the world all working together for one special event. The energy levels and enthusiasm from everyone were unlimited despite the 5am starts and late finishes.

Chris McArthur, Portstewart Golf Club:

What an incredible time we had in Ponte Vedra. The energy from the whole staff at TPC was expected, but nothing could prepare me for what ensued at 4.30am on arrival every morning. Singing, chanting and heavy metal was just the ticket to prepare us for the day ahead.

It was a privilege to share the experience with the other greenkeepers. Taking their advice and witnessing their aptitude to conversing with the team on such a stage was a great learning curve and they have truly become beacons for me in my turf

career. Many thanks to them, BIGGA and John Deere for providing me the opportunity to grow and progress into my role in greenkeeping.

GCSAI member David Perdisatt joined the five BIGGA members and added:

I knew it was going to be special but this has surpassed anything I expected. Walking onto the 17th green every morning is something that will stay with me forever. It was great education working with warm season grasses and viewing first hand the cultural practices used to present this turf to the world.

The scale of the place has still not sunk in. We put in a lot of hours, yet the positive attitude and professionalism showed by all was a pleasure to be part of. It is also an amazing networking opportunity to meet professionals from all over the world and I have many new friends and contacts as a result.

I would like to offer my thanks to John Deere and the GCSAI for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Also a massive thanks to Pete Nelder who organised everything for us while out there, and to my new friends the BIGGA Greenkeepers who made this experience even better.





Henry Bechelet at BTME 2015



The pursuit of progress involves trial work and evaluation

The Pursuit of Progress

Henry Bechelet and Dr Andy Owen, Technical Managers at Everris, look to the GB cycling team's philosophy for ideas on how greenkeepers can keep up with ever increasing golfer expectations

Greenkeepers are undoubtedly producing better golfing surfaces than ever before. For greens, the standards of speed, smoothness, firmness and year round playability are way ahead of what we would have thought possible 20 years ago.

The problem is that golfers' expectations seem to increase at an even faster rate and without any appreciation of the giant steps that we are making!

So, how do we keep up? We think that sometimes it's good to take inspiration from other sports.



In the last two Olympics the GB cycling team have won 26 medals, far outstripping their previous level of performance and making them true world-beaters. At the heart of their success and meteoric improvement is the concept of 'the pursuit of marginal gains'.

This philosophy suggests that small improvements made in a range of areas can all add up to a significant improvement overall. At Everris we approach greenkeeping in the same way.

The Everris Integrated Turf Management philosophy 'iTurf'

believes that successful greenkeeping requires you to focus on each of the factors that affect turf performance and not just the material inputs.

We all know that we create high quality surfaces that perform throughout the year by balancing soil management and turf health with the challenges posed by play and environmental factors.

"Tell us something we don't know!" we hear you shout, but if we take the 'pursuit of marginal gains' approach and continually focus on making those small improvements

to our maintenance programmes then we might be able to achieve even higher standards. It's called evolution.

Of course, the focus of all turf maintenance plans should remain on the fundamental practices; the nutritional programme, moisture management in the rootzone, the cutting regime, aeration and top-dressing practices, disease reduction, grass species selection and the active management of wear.

To produce an improving golf course you do need to be getting all these fundamental factors right, but of course many of you already are. The point is to make further improvements you need to constantly strive to make things better. Small adjustments in each of the key areas will add up to significant improvements overall.

There is great value in looking for small gains across a range of practices rather than getting stuck

searching for a single breakthrough. Little things can make a big difference.

For example, consider macro nutrition or your major NPK inputs. Getting your nitrogen levels right is crucial for the health and performance of the turf, but there is a lot more to it than just targeting the units of nitrogen per hectare per year.

You also need to appreciate the fertiliser formulations, their ingredients and release patterns to phase the nutrient release properly through the year to maintain consistent and appropriate growth patterns and not suffer peaks and troughs of turf quality or performance. Marginal gains can come from improved knowledge and understanding.

Everris think the same way. We are constantly working and reworking our formulations and testing them to make sure they



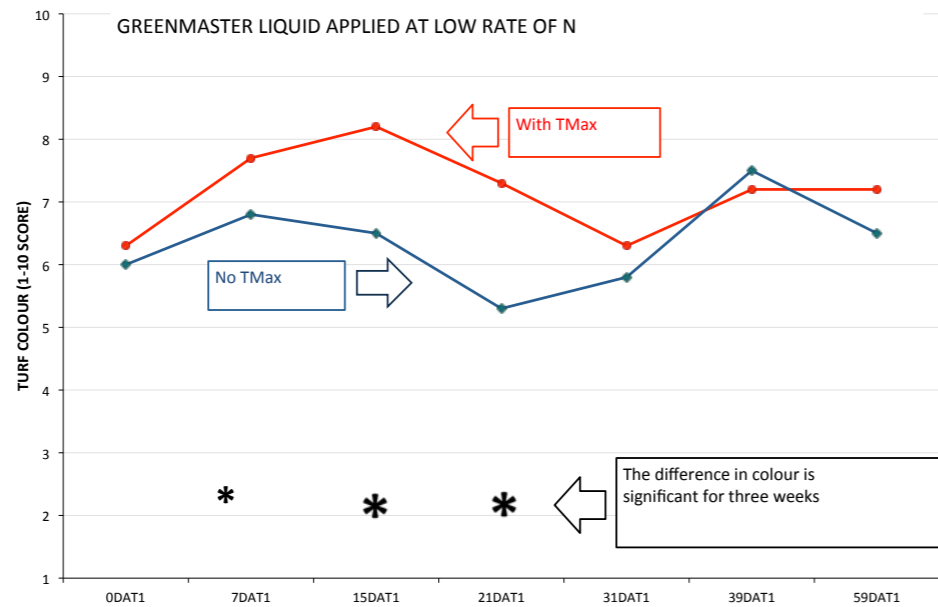
are as efficient as possible. For instance, we know that the TMax component of our Greenmaster liquid fertilisers really improves the uptake of the nutrition especially at low rates of application to allow you to maintain the performance of your turf with lower inputs.

We also found that by adding Zeolite to our granular formulations that we could improve longevity of release by a week on average. Incremental gains can also be achieved through investing in high quality formulations.

The area of Biostimulants could come into this category.

We have conducted numerous internal trials, end user trials and independent research trials on a range of biostimulant products over the years, and with quite a lot of these products we see very little visual response in terms of turf quality and turf colour let alone performance.

There are occasionally exceptions to this and indeed our Vitalnova Blade biostimulant formulation came to life after extensive trial work proved significant benefits for plant health and soil microbial activity.



There will never be a biostimulant that produces a turf response equal to a well delivered drop of nitrogen or iron, however, in the pursuit of marginal gains there is a place for the use of a biostimulant to add that little bit extra to help the grass plant through a period of environmental stress for example. The key is to draw from solid evidence.

We have recently come to look at seaweed products in this manner. It is rare that any immediate response will be seen from applications of a seaweed product (unless it is formulated with some macro nutrition!).

However, if carefully selected the right seaweed can be shown to allow the sward to cope better in

periods of stress. It is a tenuous link and not all seaweeds will achieve this, but we have seen responses with Seamax that suggest that the complex components of a seaweed application work in synergy to provide some plant defence to periods of drought stress, and periods of cold stress.

There is still much work needed here to elicit the exact reasons for the response but it is clear the right product applied correctly could provide that extra 1% that moves the turf quality forward.

Marginal gains are sometimes achieved through valuing specific formulations.

Soil moisture management is an area where there is room for substantial let alone marginal gains. Moisture management is crucial for the production of healthy turf and we all know that (as with nutrition) too much water is just as bad as too little.

This is why we are now using moisture probes to give an accurate understanding of the soil water content and we are also using wetting agents that are proven by research to help manage the soil water with more control.

We understand that for our turf

to perform we need to manage water correctly and the biggest gain of all is simply not to irrigate when it isn't needed. Marginal gains often come through the use of technology to fuel our understanding.

We could go on but you get the idea! The following list itemises a few of the areas where we think that marginal gains might be made. You will be dealing with some or even most of these but will you be on top of all of them?

The key is to look yourself in the mirror and ask yourself if you are doing everything you can. See The Pursuit of Progress Checklist (inset right)...

Turf management is a complicated process, and it is essential that you start by getting the fundamentals correct. However, in the search for improvement sometimes we can overlook those small adjustments that might make all the difference.

Positive change only comes from positive action and so we must all constantly evaluate what we are doing to see if we can bring about an improvement.

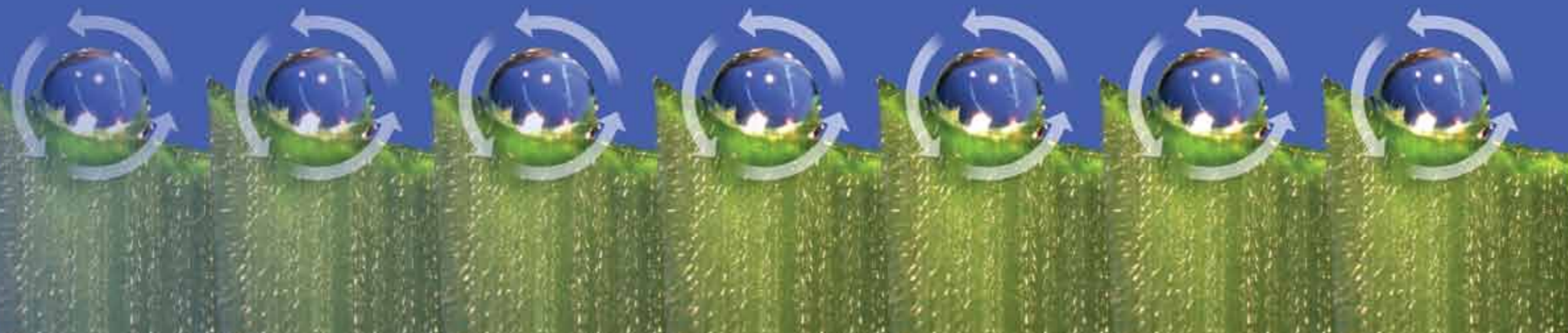
So, like the GB cycling team, we need to look for those small marginal gains in all the various

The Pursuit of Progress Checklist

- Sharp mower blades to create better surfaces and preserve turf health
- Deliver nitrogen release patterns that optimise turf health without any unnecessary surges of growth or lapses in vigour
- Use a moisture meter to identify dry areas in need of hand watering and to discourage unwarranted irrigation
- Predictive and preventative disease management (Greencast.com or weather station) to reduce fungicide applications and prevent scarring
- Top dressing and turf ironing rather than close mowing and verticutting to create smooth and fast surfaces that remain healthy throughout the year
- Organic matter measurement in the upper soil profile to focus your soil management programme properly
- A progressive attitude to CPD and getting staff trained to create a team of turf professionals that are all acting together
- Manage surface moisture to reduce the risk of disease activity (dew dispersants and penetrant wetting agents)
- Add fractions to your summer height of cut to give rooting a chance and ease the pressure from the sward
- Be proactive, be preventative, be precise

aspects of our turf maintenance programmes to bring about the next level of playing standards. Don't forget that at Everris we are also working to find those incremental improvements that will help us all improve. The pursuit of progress is everyone's job.

Turf disease protection that stays cut... after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut...



For peak performance turf disease control Heritage Maxx delivers long lasting disease control, to consistently maintain outstanding turf quality.

- AI recycling gives long lasting effects
- Faster and more complete uptake by leaf AND root
- Tackles foliar AND soil diseases
- Magnificent SEVEN turf diseases on the label

www.greencast.co.uk



Go west



Andrew Kerr, Course Manager at West Malling Golf Club, heads an ambitious team who are turning a major blow to their course into an advantage. Steve Castle travelled to the undulating 36-hole parkland facility in Kent to see an unusual and innovative project in action

“They butchered them”. Northern Irishman Andrew Kerr left me in no doubt about the devastation left behind by workmen who destroyed a row of mature beech and oak trees just before he joined the club three years ago.

An energy company hired a group of tree surgeons to cut back some of the trees’ branches to ensure they didn’t interfere with overhanging power lines. However, they ended up completely destroying these trees which had previously screened the course from the busy London Road, as well as adding aesthetic value to the site. As a greenkeeper and qualified arborist, Andrew was horrified.

“For years the club had nurtured these trees just to the left of the first fairway of one of the two courses. As they grew, they edged closer and closer to some overhead power cables.

“The energy company in question hired some tree surgeons who were paid per metre rather than per day. Instead of carefully removing branches and ensuring they remained healthy, they just decided to slice the heads off these trees – basically killing them so they didn’t disturb the overhanging cables.

“The result was total destruction. When I joined you could still see what had been left behind, it was terrible. The club said to me, “we’ve got this problem, can you sort it?” That was some start!

“The members saw what had been left of these poor trees and immediately assumed the greenkeepers had done it, but it was no-one’s fault here. The club knew these tree surgeons were coming in but could never have anticipated what they would leave behind.

“As far as I’m aware that particular group of tree surgeons are no longer used by that company, but that was too late for us.”

Andrew quickly utilised emails, newsletters and posters in the clubhouse and pro shop to explain that this was not something which the club had done deliberately.

It was unfortunately inevitable that these trees would now die, so the greenkeeping team began to remove the leftover debris. They were then faced with the challenge of what to put in their place.

“We looked at a water feature but this is the highest part of the course, and obviously water doesn’t travel



uphill so it wouldn’t have looked very natural.

“As we cleared all traces of the trees, we realised we could create a grassy mound from the earth we’d got.

“This would screen the course from the road, which is important aesthetically, but more crucial is the health and safety factor.

“From the first tee you hit your drive towards the road, so we needed to do everything we possibly could to protect our members and visitors from any litigation if a ball ends up on the road, and of course we have a duty to minimise the risk to the general public too. So, we

secured planning permission and got started!

“The mound we’ve created is 40 metres wide, 427 metres long and nine metres tall. So it’s an excellent screen. It also adds another dimension to the hole – previously it was rather flat and bland. It’s more challenging now because if you hook your drive, you could end up on the mound. The Stroke Index has changed as a result.

“We’re also hoping it will act as a haven for wildlife. We have the traditional English bluebell and primroses that we hope will flourish in the area as they have in several other parts of the course, and we



View from the top of the mound



also have beehives placed across the site. It's more than just the course, it's the whole experience that's important when someone plays a round of golf here."

The 380 acre site boasts two fine parkland courses - Spitfire and Hurricane - named after the iconic fighter planes that flew out of a nearby airfield during the Second World War.

It was the land to the left of the first fairway on the Spitfire that was affected by the tree surgeons.

Andrew knew that as well as improving various aspects of the course through this project, he could equip the greenkeeping team with a range of new skills as they worked to cancel out the destruction caused.

He's particularly passionate about this, and the team at West Malling complete tasks in-house on almost all occasions.

Firstly he ensured the ten-

strong team had the relevant qualifications and training to operate the heavy machinery required to create the mound.

"The skill levels of the green-keeping team have increased, and every day they learn and enhance their existing skills.

"We have some Caterpillar D5 Bulldozers, 20 ton diggers and dumpers which we've used to move the earth - how many greenkeepers get the chance to drive those?!"

"It's not just using these machines, it's thinking about what you're doing. Because they have had proper training, they have an improved thought process.

"Instead of rushing in and just ploughing on with a job, they plot their way in, plot their way out and have a think about exactly where they're putting the earth.

"It's been very good for the

team. Of course there have been several difficult days when things haven't gone exactly to plan, but when you step back and look at what we're achieving here, and what the greenkeepers have done without any outside help, the guys are very proud and I'm very proud of them."

The stunning site is sandwiched between the London Road and a very busy motorway - yet it's a hidden gem. As well as the native flowers, the hilly site features many mature lime trees and copper beeches. Both courses sit on sandy loam soil - a combination of sand and silt - so it drains well.

Andrew explained: "The greens are predominantly poa with some fescue. We are a members' course, so it's all about making the playing surfaces true and smooth and concentrating on sward density and quality, with the ultimate aim of ensuring golf

can played here 365 days a year on both courses.

"The Spitfire is full of character and is a challenging course, whereas the Hurricane is a lot flatter so is more suited to novice golfers and society days, so we have an excellent combination."

Andrew, who is originally from a farming background, worked at various courses in Northern Ireland and spent two years as an Amenity Technical Manager there before joining Crown Golf. He then secured a Course Manager's role at Pymferry and Merrist Wood College Courses before joining West Malling in March 2012.

Last year he was one of the candidates who attained a 100% pass rate on a BASIS Foundation Award in Amenity and Horticulture. He's now working towards his Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

"I've gone back to basics here.

I believe in the importance of cultural practices including aeration and topdressing, and getting the right quality of sand is vital. It's one thing doing these things but it's another ensuring the materials you're working with are of the required quality.

"Last year we put 600 tons of sand on the 36 greens, sarel rolled, aerated, vertidraind and scarified.

"I believe in high standards and I strongly encourage the team to ensure all of our cutting heads are pin sharp so they don't rip and tear the turf which would leave us wide open to disease. We do occasionally apply fungicides, but an answer from a bottle really is the last resort for me."

The club faces a lot of competition from various prestigious courses nearby including The London Club, Kings Hill Golf Club and Wildernesse Golf Club. So how does West Malling attract

visitors and retain members?

"It's up to us to get the course to highest standard possible. Everything you do here, the course gives you back tenfold. If you improve an area sympathetically and try and keep it as natural as possible, it helps you out. It's a constantly evolving site.

"We still have a long way to go, but the members - we have around 875 - can see the improvements in the greens over the last couple of years and the course in general. It's vital to keep improving and provide value for money.

"I believe that golfers can see where their memberships and green fees are going. Yes, we would love to have the resources of the bigger clubs, but we work with what we've got. In a way I feel that's more satisfying, working hard and delivering a great product with more limited resources."

MAIN IMAGE AND LEFT:
Working on the mound on the Spitfire Course
RIGHT: First fairway and hole of the Spitfire Course during the work





Ever wondered where your topdressing, bunker or construction sand comes from? The chances are it may have been supplied by BIGGA Education Supporter Mansfield Sand. They've recently opened a huge new quarry which safeguards long-term sand production, and Steve and James from BIGGA House went along to find out more



Securing the future of sand



Mansfield Sand have been quarrying sand in the Nottinghamshire area for nearly 200 years and supply rootzone, topdressing and bunker sand to over 400 golf courses across the UK. They also count the majority of Premier League and Football League clubs as valued clients along with several racecourses. Now, the company have taken the bold decision to move production from their Ratcher Hill site to a state of the art facility named Two Oaks Quarry.

The new quarry is just a couple of miles from the company's HQ. In January 2012, they purchased the land from local farmers and began constructing the huge site - exca-

vating a staggering 450,000 tons of earth in the process.

The numbers really are exceptional. Currently around 2,000 tons of sand leave the site each day, with over 1.5 million individual bags being despatched each year. The aim is for the Ratcher Hill site to eventually cease production completely with all the company's manufacturing processes taking place at Two Oaks.

Jon Boulton, Managing Director at Mansfield Sand, beamed with pride as he showed us around the hugely impressive new quarry on the outskirts of the Nottinghamshire town.

Jon said: "I doubt there is a quarry in the country which is up to these extremely high standards of production equipment, health and

safety and site cleanliness. This ensures we can keep supplying the highest quality of sand to our clients for the next 40 years.

"We also regularly meet the local resident liaison committee to ensure disruption to the local community is kept to the absolute minimum. Grass mounds, trees and shrubs screen the site. At the last meeting we held, the residents commented they wouldn't even know the site was there."

The company have 65 full-time employees with a dedicated team of around 25 based full-time at the new quarry. Richard Abraham, Director/Quarry Manager, explained more.

"Ultimately, this new site secures the future of Mansfield Sand and ensures we can meet the needs of



Oak Hill Quarry, with Jon Boulton, Mansfield Sand Managing Director, showing BIGGA's Business Development Executive James Whittaker the site

our customers, which comes down to delivering a quality product and great service.

"Not one grain of sand is wasted here. The sand goes through several stages, before it is finally bagged or loaded onto a lorry to be dispatched to the end user.

"We have huge quantities of stock and we have all the varieties - different grades of topdressing, dry, moist and coarse sand. This enables us to keep up with demand which is as high as ever with some sand shortages being reported in certain areas of the country."

The company have recently hired someone who may be familiar to some BIGGA members - former greenkeeper Craig Lalley, who previously worked at Bedale Golf Club and Flaxby Golf Club. BASIS

registered Craig's title is Football and Golf Sales Manager.

He said: "The phones have been red hot, May was a mad time for us when the football season is finishing and everyone needs sand for their renovation work."

Another piece in the jigsaw is explained by Transport Coordinator Dale Westwood. As well as ensuring incoming and outgoing lorries comply with transport regulations, he uses an incredibly precise CCTV camera to scan inside each trailer to check they are clean enough before the sand is loaded. This is yet another clear example of the attention to detail required to ensure such a large operation meets their high standards.

Mansfield Sand have established excellent relationships with count-

less golf course facilities across the UK including St Andrews, Bearwood Lakes, Woodhall Spa and Fulford Golf Club - venue for this year's BIGGA National Championship.

They also enjoy a very close working partnership with Rigby Taylor. Golf Sales Manager Sharon Morris added that the company are hoping to exhibit at BTME 2016.

From visiting the new site, it's clear that Mansfield Sand are going from strength to strength and will continue to be a major player in the industry for many years to come.

To contact Mansfield Sand call them on 01623 622441. You can also contact Sharon or Craig directly on sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk or craig.lalley@mansfield-sand.co.uk

Listen to what our customers say:



"The initial machine has performed superbly for us, following the contours with precision and with a superb quality of cut. I was really impressed and ordered three more without hesitation".

Eamonn Crawford, Links Manager at Royal County Down

"We had the Eclipse with 15-blade cutting cylinders for a week in the run-up to a charity event. It made such a difference to the quality of the greens in just five days that we used it. Consistency of cut across all 18 greens, significant fuel reductions and a swing out centre unit for easy maintenance are all great features on this mower".

Peter Read, Head Greenkeeper at Hunstanton Golf Club



"The AR522 is an absolutely fantastic mower; its power is incredible and the quality of cut is superb. We tried competitor machines during the procurement process, but this mower stood out from the pack. The change in playing condition of the semi has been really noticeable and has been commented upon by members. A very good machine!"

Chris Yeaman, Course Manager at The Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh

"I purchased two Jacobsen Eclipse 322 diesel-electric hybrid greens mowers back in 2010 and they haven't missed a beat. Both have completed over 800 hours of work and their fuel economy is superb, using just 1.5 litres of diesel for every 18 holes. I also have five Jacobsen Eclipse2 walkers; the technology's the same, the quality of cut is outstanding, they give us more flexibility and I would recommend them to anyone."

Gary Johnstone, Links Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club



0%

FOUR YEAR FINANCE



ON ALL JACOBSEN EQUIPMENT

Available until the end of July 2015
email sales@tip.textron.com for more information

Based on a 1+3 profile

Terms and Conditions

1. The promoted terms apply to the balance to finance or to 65% of the RRP whichever is the lower.
2. Promoted terms apply where the RRP is in excess of £6,500.00, and the balance to finance is in excess of £4,225.00. For all other profiles, the off scheme subsidy is 5.00% up to a maximum of 65% of RRP.
3. A subsidy request form must be completed and authorised prior to the deal payout stage.
4. The terms are exclusive to Hitachi Capital and These terms may be amended or withdrawn at any time by written notice.
5. The off scheme subsidy is only applicable on equipment listed above.
6. Finance terms are available to business users only.

FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE ON YOUR COURSE
EMAIL SALES@TIP.TEXTRON.COM - OR CALL 01473 270 000

www.ransomesjacobsen.com

GKI/DPS/06/2015

JACOBSEN
A Textron Company

Stress relief

Dan Lightfoot MG and Marcela Munoz from Syngenta advise greenkeepers how to ensure turf survives 'renovation week'

syngenta

BIGGA
partner

Renovation week is one of the most stressful periods of the year for turf, and for greenkeepers. It frequently pitches greenkeepers and turf managers into direct conflict with the most vociferous players, where - despite the necessary maintenance intended to deliver better conditions for the rest of the season and future years - even a brief interruption in play is often deemed unacceptable.

After a relatively benign winter, for most courses, physical thatch reduction from greens surfaces will be the primary objective along with improved aeration to aid drainage and overseeding where required.

Highlighting the issues of thatch management for renovation, a recent STRI report identified golf greens currently contain surface organic matter levels on average 60% higher than desirable for optimal turf health and playability. Some parkland courses, for example, were recorded with more than 25% organic matter in the top 20mm, compared to a target of four to six percent.

However, intensive mechanical processes such as scarifying to

remove thatch, hollow coring to alleviate compaction, intensive top-dressing and brushing can prove incredibly disruptive to existing turf.

That imposes immense stress on plants, along with damage that could provide an open entry point for disease pathogens into the leaf at a time it is more susceptible to infection, warned Syngenta Technical Manager, Marcela Munoz.

Furthermore, the risk may be compounded by disrupting the thatch layer that may be embedded with disease spores, and trigger a flare up of infection at a time when plants are most susceptible to attack.

Where greenkeepers can start with healthy turf going into renovation week, and take every step to minimise the impact of all factors that impose stress on the plant, there is the opportunity for faster recovery of playing surface quality and assuring greater player satisfaction.

Proactive protection

"It is a highly advisable precaution to ensure turf goes into renovation as clean as possible, and that plants have sufficient fungicide

protection in place before disease strikes," said Marcela. "With turf actively growing during the renovation timing, systemic activity is crucial to ensure the fungicide moves quickly to infection points, where disease has penetrated leaf stomata or wound damage caused by mechanical damage."

The actives in Headway are proven for all key summer turf pathogens, including Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch, Anthracnose, Leaf Spots and Dollar Spot, along with reducing the incidence of Fairy Ring and Take-All.

MAIN IMAGE: Brushing in top dressing
BELOW: Scarify and de thatch



The dual action of two distinct actives working on different targets in the disease pathogen, is also a good strategy to minimise the risk of fungicide resistance developing, she added.

Marcela highlighted the combination of the fast acting propiconazole and the long-lasting azoxystrobin could prove especially valuable as a preventative strategy, applied four to 10 days prior to renovation.

“New research and studies of fungicide activity in the leaf has revealed the crucial role of propiconazole in seeking out – and stopping – disease mycelial growth, to allow the leaf to recover.

“Added to that, with Headway, there is also the additional disease control and turf health enhancement of azoxystrobin to aid fast recovery.”

Extensive Syngenta research has shown a clearly distinct ‘greening effect’ with azoxystrobin – providing enhanced photochemical efficiency and helping to maintain turf looking greener and healthier during the renovation process.

“We know, from detailed player survey work, that colour is important for a golfer’s assessment of perceived greens quality and playability.”

Importantly the benefits are retained for the duration of recovery from renovation thanks to the continual uptake of azoxystrobin by the plant’s roots and crown. Active recycling of the fungicide from reabsorption of any exudate released after cutting would further extend disease protection and turf health enhancements.



TOP: Daniel Lightfoot MG
ABOVE: Marcela Munoz
BELOW: Coring
BOTTOM: Sand top dressing

MAIN RIGHT: Core clean up
RIGHT: Turf Core
FAR RIGHT: Coring with a Toro ProCore



Physiological relief

Not only does azoxystrobin have a visual effect on the leaf, but the huge investment in R&D has also shown that inside the plant there are physiological benefits from the increased level of anti-oxidants, stimulated by turf health enhancements. Anti-oxidant levels in treated plants were some 20% higher than untreated.

Increasing the level of anti-oxidants in the leaf provides a valuable buffer against the effects of free radicals created in turf plants under stress. Marcela explained that with any cell division there is some creation of free radicals, which are molecules that are short of an electron, and can cause damage to the cell as they seek to redress the imbalance. During periods of stress, however, the number of free radicals created increases dramatically.

At the same time, anti-oxidants typically have a spare electron, which they can donate to the free radical so that it is back in balance and stops causing damage to the cell. In healthy turf there are normally sufficient anti-oxidants available to cope, but during periods of stress any shortage quickly leads to leaf tissue damage and, ultimately, death.

“By boosting the plant’s level of anti-oxidants you can effectively buy time before the effects of stress start to impact on turf health and quality,” she pointed out. “It will not eliminate the effects, but where the stress imposition is temporary, such as during renovation, in can give sufficient time for the plant to recover naturally.

“Using agronomy tools to enhance the buffer of anti-oxidants before renovation - or any other stress periods - is increasingly recognised as good practice to minimise turf damage and aid faster recovery.”

Growth regulation

Syngenta Business Manager, Daniel Lightfoot MG, also advocated scheduling a Primo Maxx programme during the renovation process can play a very important part to ensure quick recovery of surfaces, whilst keeping growth under control. “If you can get the timing right it can really help,” he added.

To further aid renovation and fast recovery of the surface, its physiological effects will encourage lateral growth of plants to fill in gaps. “With less energy used in vertical leaf growth, treated plants develop a greater root mass that helps to reduce the impact of mechanical renovation damage and enables faster recovery.”

Primo Maxx will also increase the chlorophyll concentration in the leaf, which enhances the visual appearance and increases its photochemical efficiency. Plants also become more efficient at transpiration, which can further help to alleviate stress where water availability is frequently disrupted during the renovation process.

Where greenkeepers are also overseeding during renovation, Primo Maxx trials by STRI have consistently shown that maintaining the existing sward in growth regulation can enable faster and up to 35% more successful seedling establishment.

Mechanical stress

Dan also urged greenkeepers to minimise any external factors that could impose stress on the plant. High on the list during spring would be checking soil nutrition, with the importance of providing sufficient appropriate fertility to kick-start new seedling growth, as well as maintaining existing turf recovery, without enhancing disease pressure.

“It’s a tough balance to ensure that nutrient deficiency does not restrict recovery or put further stress factors on the turf, whilst trying to ensure you do not get excessive and unmanageable growth” he suggested. “A combination of controlled release balanced nutrient source, specific instant availability liquid feeds and micronutrients can be tailored to best meet the needs of individual greens.”



With the focus of time often on the physical process of getting renovation completed, he highlighted the importance of machinery maintenance and set-up to minimise mechanical stress on turf. If mower blades are dulled by sand topdressing, for example, it would result in greater tearing of the leaf and create an easy entry point for disease, compared to a sharp, clean cut. The use of a lightweight roller at this time can be useful to allow the greens to recover, reduce plant stress through cutting and prevent blade damage and subsequent grass injury.

Dan also pointed out that many of the mechanical renovation processes can lead to soils drying out.

“In these conditions there is a major role for Qualibra wetting agent. It can help to move water down from the surface for more effective operations such as topdressing and sand brushing, whilst holding moisture deeper to alleviate stress on the turf and retain the availability of nutrients.

“With the huge initiative of National Golf Month in May, the whole industry was geared up to attracting many more people to give the game a go,” he said. “It is so important for greenkeepers and course managers to get the renovations completed and the course back in the best possible condition to give them a good experience, and keep them coming back.”



Conservation in Ayrshire

How Scottish courses have teamed up with Germinal Seeds to bring the back the UK's smallest butterfly

An ambitious wildlife conservation project to reinstate the UK's smallest butterfly back onto the western coast of Scotland has been launched by the Ayrshire Sustainability Group.

Stretching from Irvine in the north, to Girvan in the south, the project aims to create a semi-continuous corridor of Kidney Vetch along with other native wild flower species in which the Small Blue butterfly and the many other pollinating invertebrates that inhabit Ayrshire can thrive.

The Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*) is the UK's smallest resident butterfly. With a wingspan often not exceeding 16mm, its small size makes it vulnerable to local climatic and habitat changes. Although it is classed as not threatened, the Small Blue's status throughout the UK is declining, with the main colonies being located in the south of England and northwest of Scotland where its only food plant, Kidney Vetch, grows within calcareous grasslands and coastal sand dune systems.

The conservation project, which is being supported by seven Ayrshire golf clubs, local businesses and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, has been implemented following the release of a colony of Small Blue butterflies at Gailes Marsh Reserve adjacent to Dundonald Links. It is hoped that by increasing Kidney Vetch at each of the participating sites, this isolated colony will be able to expand and establish itself along the coastline once again.

"The Small Blue was last seen in Ayrshire in 1982," explained Bob Taylor, Senior Consultant Ecology & Environment at STRI. "As such the group was keen to see the reestablishment of these iconic butterflies across Ayrshire and hopes that last year's release at Gailes Marsh, and this year's planned release at Dundonald Links will enable the species to be able to expand along the coastline once again."

Key to establishing a viable population is the creation and management of good quality, varied grasslands that provide shelter for the adults and where early successional conditions are appropriate for the establishment of Kidney Vetch.



The Small Blue is the UK's smallest resident butterfly. Dwindling numbers have prompted the establishment of inter-linking Kidney Vetch environments along the Ayrshire coast, with Germinal kindly donating seed for the initial release site.



BIGGA
education supporter

The Ayrshire Sustainability Group:

- Dundonald Links
- Royal Troon GC
- Lochgreen GC
- Darley GC
- Seafield GC
- Belleisle GC
- Turnberry GC
- Sainsburys, Irvine
- Nestle, Girvan
- GlaxoSmithKline, Irvine
- UPM Caledonian Paper Mill, Irvine
- Scottish Wildlife Trust, Gailes Marsh Reserve

"By working with other golf courses and local companies, we hope to establish a chain of connected environments which will enable the initial colony to thrive and expand," said Amanda Dorans, greenkeeper at Dundonald Links. "The success of the project was dependent on finding a source of high quality Kidney Vetch seed, and we are pleased to have been supported by Germinal who donated enough seed to create a suitable environment at the Dundonald Links and Royal Troon."

Gill Smart, local reserves manager for the Scottish Wildlife Trust added: "Progress with the Small Blue would have been impossible without the enthusiasm, knowledge and good contact within our Sustainability Group."

"The Small Blue butterfly would literally get nowhere without the willingness of Ayrshire's links courses to sow and care for Kidney Vetch."

Steve Isaac, Course Management Director at The R&A said: "The Small Blue project is an important piece of collaborative work which demonstrates how golf can drive other businesses to deliver environmental and social benefits to communities. The R&A is delighted to support this project and we look forward to seeing the results of habitat restoration to encourage the recovery of local populations of the Small Blue butterfly."

Alistair Eccles, Technical Sales Representative for Germinal in Scotland, said: "The successful establishment of a habitat rich with Kidney Vetch requires open ground conditions, a lack of competition and quality seed of a known local provenance."

"We were therefore delighted to be able to support the conservation project, and look forward to keeping up to date with the colony's progress as it hopefully spreads along the Ayrshire coast."

Unequaled.
JUST GOT UPGRADED

2 YEAR WARRANTY AS STANDARD*
* Conditions apply to 2nd year see dealer for details

THE NEW, EVEN BETTER **STW COMPACT TRACTOR SERIES**

Step up into new levels of comfort, reliability and performance with the new STW compact tractor series from Kubota.

From mowing to loading, the new STW is an unequalled performer. Amazingly quick and impressively powerful, it's lightweight and compact design delivers outstanding efficiency with minimal surface impact.

Heavy duty tasks are light work thanks to the STW's high torque, low noise Kubota diesel engine plus a host of standard features including the exclusive Bi-Speed turn for enhanced and effortless operation.

Now available with a panoramic, spacious and air-conditioned cab, the STW offers class leading visibility and operator comfort. **Why settle for less. Be unequalled.**



For more information or to find your local dealer
Call: 01844 268 000 Visit: www.kubota.co.uk

Compact and bijou



The compact tractor is now an essential piece of kit for greenkeepers, but with so many models on the market, it can be hard to decide what's right for you. Steve Pickwell, Kubota Product Manager (Groundcare) offers guidance on choosing the right model

There will always be a demand for specialist machinery in the golf market. The one-stop solution is impractical for the professional greenkeepers, due to varying demands of the course and the fact that fine turf machinery is so central to operations.

Away from this necessity for specialist kit, golf clubs, like other sports facilities such as local authorities, schools, football or rugby clubs, are seeing a growth in demand for versatile multi use machines that have the capacity



to maintain a mixed site, using a range of towed or mounted implements.

This is naturally a route to increased efficiency and cost savings, negating the need of having to run and maintain a number of machines for different applications.

In many cases, particularly with the expanding remit of clubs, there will likely be multiple areas of the site to prepare and maintain, often at different locations.

Compact tractors have the advantage of being just that – compact – so can be loaded onto trailers

if required, or driven from facility to facility with minimal fuss.

When deciding on purchase, the first question is to ask if it is fit for purpose in your environment and does it have the power needed for the jobs you will require it to undertake?

While it would be counter-productive to choose too small a tractor to help cover, say, a course with two 18-hole courses, a 9-hole and surrounding areas, selecting one that is too large or too powerful may be uneconomical to use on a smaller facility – and may even

damage the turf, or contribute to greater soil compaction.

Another question worth pondering is: will you need to utilise a front loader? If so, ensure that a compatible one can be fitted to the tractor you choose – not all models offer that facility. Another issue is flexibility. Choose a machine that is suitable for a variety of implements, like aerators, scarifiers or for verti-drainers.

Another consideration is its compatibility with relevant cutting decks – whether it's general grass cutting or fine turf maintenance. If you only need to cut and maintain very small areas, then a ride-on mower may be of more use, and might make better economic sense. In most cases, greenkeepers will need a machine with power take-off at the rear, as well as mid-mounted and front power take-off.

Choosing a machine that's designed to care for your surfaces while maintaining them is crucial. Ensure that the chosen model will do minimum damage to the turf, and as stated earlier, will not compact the soil or damage drainage. Another important factor is operator satisfaction.

Choose a machine that your operators are happy with and one that is comfortable to use for extended periods, particularly in times of high frequency maintenance. If you can, trial a number of machines, and of course, when your choice has been made, you need to have the tractor professionally installed and handed over, so that all controls are clear and easy to use.

Choosing an established brand with excellent dealer relations is key. This has been central to Kubota's offering for decades. We introduced the first hydrostatic transmission systems for compact tractors and diesel ride-on mowers, a feature which allows the speed of forward or reverse travel to be instantly and infinitely varied without any change in engine speed. This also has an impact on the finished product when using a powered implement, as the hydrostatic transmission ensures consistency of cut as there's no reduction in the rotational speed of the tractor's power take-off drive shaft.

Bi-Speed Turn is another key benefit of the Kubota offering. This system automatically speeds up a tractor's front wheels when turning, resulting in faster, tighter turns with reduced tyre and surface scuffing. First introduced in 1988, we feel this is an important factor for sports turf maintenance and

is one of numerous reasons why we continue to supply some of the UK's leading clubs such as Royal St George's Golf Club.

Another point is to make sure the aftersales service is strong. Minimising downtime is essential, so ensure that your dealer, and of course the manufacturer, have a good record of aftersales service and parts supply.

A point often overlooked – so apologies if this is obvious to many – when purchasing a machine, is its size. Does what you want work with your existing storage facilities? If you choose a ROPS (roll over protection structure) tractor, you'll need to double check that the roll bar can be folded for storage. Similarly for a cabbed machine, you'll need to be sure that the one you go for fits in the storage shed.

Power considerations will always be high on the agenda too. A question you need to ask first and foremost is whether there's enough power to handle the work you want the tractor to do. As with all machines, they work best when working within their capabilities. If you're working with a lot of acreage and use numerous implements, then you'll need to plan for a greater horsepower, which will fulfil tasks easily without 'stretching' its capabilities.

Conversely, unless you've planned for expansion, a 60hp tractor on a 9-hole course may not give you best economy. In clubs, and for best flexibility, you should be looking at between 26 and 58HP, but an approved dealer will be able to advise on the best choice for your particular application.

The compact market is changing rapidly, and new developments are being implemented as we speak. The wider market has experienced its fair share of ups and downs, but thankfully we are emerging stronger from the recession. 2014 showed very encouraging signs for the industry, and indications suggest that a trend for increased horsepower tractors within the compact market (towards the bracket 30-50hp) is on the rise, with customers increasingly looking to do more tasks with a single machine, rather than running multiple fleets. With a current market of between 2000-2500 compact machines, there are definitely green shoots peeking through, in every respect.

To find out more about Kubota's compact tractor solutions, visit Kubota.co.uk or get in touch with your local Kubota dealer to see discuss your options.



Kubota's BX2350 sub compact B1620 compact and B3150 compact



The sustainable use directive



Peter Corbett from Rigby Taylor looks at the impact the Sustainable use Directive will have on the amenity turf sector and what greenkeepers can do to comply

Impacts on the Amenity sector of the Sustainable use Directive 2012 (SUD)

The EU Parliament and Council Directive 2009/128/EC1 introduced new legislative provisions to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticides use on human health and environment and promoting the use of integrating pest management (IPM) and other non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 transpose Directive 2009/128/EC on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides in to UK law.

The Directive includes a number of provisions aimed at achieving the sustainable use of pesticides by reducing risks and impacts on

human health and the environment. These include:

- 1 A National Action Plan
- 2 Compulsory testing of application equipment
- 3 Provision of training for, and arrangements for the certification of, operators, advisors and distributors
- 4 Provisions for Operators using Plant Protection Products (PPP) to protect water, public spaces and conservation areas
- 5 The minimisation of risks from handling, storage and disposal
- 6 The promotion of low input regimes including Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The progress of these provisions are to be measured through the use of 'risk indicators'.

Whilst this regulation came into force in July 2012, a number of key

areas need to be completed in the near future.

Machinery Testing

All plant protection product application equipment, which is ridden on by the operator, has to be certificated prior to 26 November 2016. Application machinery purchased new after 26 November 2011 will have been certificated, but has to be tested within five years. The certification process in the UK comes under the National Sprayer Testing Scheme.

The scheme has over 600 approved examiners who can certificate application machinery and enter the equipment on to a national database. This service is also being facilitated by machinery companies and distributors such as Rigby Taylor.



CPD credits

With CPD quizzes you will see a "QR Code". These can be read by most smartphones and will take you to the online quiz. Once completed, we will add 1 Education credit to your CPD account. You can download a "QR Reader" for FREE at App stores.

ABOVE: Flowering Ragwort - golf course rough
TOP RIGHT: Rosette stage Ragwort

Certificate of competence

Operators using "professional" products must obtain suitable certification prior to applying such products. In the UK plant protection products are registered for use by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD). CRD is responsible for the regulation of biocides, pesticides, detergents, chemicals covered by REACH, and for compliance with the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation.

CRD have two classifications of pesticides – "Amateur" and "Professional". The former can be used as per the label instructions by any competent user. Operators born on or before 31 December 1964 have traditionally had an exemption to this ruling under "grandfather rights". This exemption will no longer be valid from 25 November 2015. After this date operators have to obtain a suitable certification in order to use "professional" products e.g. to apply professional products to amenity grass via a knapsack an operator must hold a valid PA1 (safe use foundation qualification) and PA6 (knapsack) certificate.

CPD

Training and updating operators and users in the correct use of pesticides is a central pillar of the SUD regulations. The government will be looking to monitor this via users undergoing continued professional development. For the Amenity sector this will be organised by BASIS under the BASIS amenity training register. This scheme has a number of levels of obtainment and will suit operators, advisors and anyone closely connected to the Amenity sector.

The register will provide the government with a verifiable method of measuring continued development in the Amenity sector at all levels. The Industry and companies such as Rigby Taylor will be providing customers with the opportunity to obtain points at meetings, seminars and exhibitions. Companies own internal training and briefing can be submitted to BASIS for Amenity Training register points. I feel this is a critical area for the industry to show it is serious about training and personal development.

Protection of water, public spaces and conservation areas

Correct timing of applications of pesticides improves performance and minimises impact on the environment. It can also allow optimisation of application rates. Advisors



Rosette stage ragwort

are able to guide customers to achieve this objective and to also offer alternative means of control. Controlling ragwort in an amenity grassland or golf rough situation is a good example.

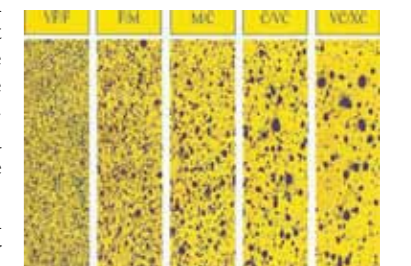
We often get calls asking how to control ragwort when it is in flower – the only real control in this situation is hand pulling (make sure operators have suitable protective clothing) and disposal. This is a form of integrated control, as by pulling the ragwort you are reducing the seed bank and starting an ICM programme.

The site will need to be visited in either the autumn or spring to treat the young seedlings at rosette stage of the plant – at this stage they are easier to control and in a non-grazing situation an application of a product such as Icade will provide a high level of control at low gram/ha of product. It is important in the spring to make sure you spray before the ragwort starts stem elongation.

Calibration of spraying equipment either boomed or spot treatment is important. The techniques are simple and are covered in the certification process. Reminder sessions for operators should also be a regular part of continued personal development. Accurate application, not only to protect non target areas, saves money and ensures efficacy. Most products are applied as a spray produced by a nozzle. The nozzle breaks up the water flow into droplets. The size of these droplets is dependent on the type of nozzle, water pressure and spray viscosity.

Products need to be applied using the correct droplet spectrum for the target weed or disease. Product labels specify the optimal droplet spectrum e.g. Medium/Coarse and to help visualise the differences, water sensitive paper can be sprayed using different droplet spectrums.

For the application of a product requiring soil activity a VC/XC spectrum with high water rates should be used. For selective broadleaved weed control a F/M, M/C spectrum will provide optimum results under a wide range of conditions.



Promotion of low input regimes

Users, managers and advisors need to look at existing programmes and practices and consider alternative approaches that utilise either lower quantities of pesticides or pesticide with better environmental profiles – the information required to assess the latter are available for all products via SDS or EIS documents. In some situations, replacing multiple glyphosate application with a single Chikara and non-hazard formulated glyphosate application will reduce overall use of pesticides.

Keep weeds at bay with Bayer



Bayer's Dave Orchard advises greenkeepers how to act to reduce the chances of weeds invading turfgrass

Weeds in turfgrass are unavoidable and can be difficult to treat. Although there are products out there to control them, such as Longbow from Bayer which is now approved for Speedwell control, it's important to reduce the chances of weeds invading turfgrass in the first place.

A dense, vigorously growing, competitive stand will resist weeds, according to Dave Orchard from Bayer. Integrated weed management focuses on selecting, establishing, and maintaining a competitive standard of grass. While it's difficult to eliminate all weeds from turf, in well-maintained cases it's possible to prevent large irregular patches of weeds, which both make it unattractive, and reduce its utility.

The main objective for turf managers is to keep weed populations below levels that are incompatible with the purpose of the turf, according to Dave.

He commented: "The first step is preparing the site properly and choosing an appropriate turfgrass species for the location, followed by cultural practices that contribute to turf health: proper irrigation, mowing, fertilisation, thatch removal, and aeration. Improved turf health allows grass to recover more quickly, and withstand insect, disease, and nematode damage."

Healthy turf also out-competes weeds and reduces any chance of them becoming established. Dave added: "Herbicides are used as tools in turf management where high quality turf is required: however, their use should be integrated with a good cultural programme."



Turfgrass can be established and maintained to discourage weeds in the turf, or to decrease the chances of weed invasion. "Any condition that exposes the soil surface to additional light makes that area more susceptible to weeds. Factors that contribute to poor turf health include overwatering or underwatering, mowing too low or too high, excessive wear, disease or insect damage, soil compaction and excessive shading."

In order to ensure turf health is at its optimum level, there needs to be a balance between these factors. And grass nutrition and irrigation must be well balanced, to ensure a tight knit sward. "If the grass is thick like a carpet, weed seeds can't land and germinate. Good turf management practices should discourage weeds from coming in because you have more grass."

If you do have weeds, herbicides can be used, but must be applied carefully and accurately, as part of a good overall turf management programme. "Before applying a herbicide, such as Longbow from Bayer, carefully refer to the label for conditions of use. Pay particular attention to application rates, methods and precautions."

"When using any herbicide for the first time, apply at the recommended rate on a limited area to make sure it's successful under local conditions. Excessive rates, improper timing, or application errors of selective herbicides can injure or kill good turf. Insufficient application, on the other hand, usually results in failure or incomplete weed control."

It's also important to remember that herbicide formulations can change, and it's crucial for turf managers to be aware of changes and new approvals.

One such recent approval change is to Longbow. It's now approved for

the control of Speedwell (*Veronica* spp.) in amenity turf, as a result of a label extension.

"Speedwell is a troublesome weed that's well-known for its resilience and difficulty to control. There are a limited number of products with Speedwell on the label. Speedwell control can be a particular issue for greenkeepers, given its ability to root quickly, even from small sections, meaning it can get out of hand fast if untreated, and spread across greens and fairways. Speedwell is also difficult to treat because of its small leaves."

"In a market where selective herbicides are diminishing, we're confident that this improved label for Longbow will come as welcome news to greenkeepers."

Last year, the industry saw selective herbicides vanishing at an alarming rate, and many have not been reapproved for this year. This has reduced the greenkeeper's range of options when combating weeds, and has the potential to weaken every-day defences against the common weeds.

Longbow provides broad spectrum weed control for all areas of golf courses including greens and tees. The product can be used to treat common weeds such as Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Clovers (*Trifolium* spp), and Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*).

In addition to the approval for Speedwell application, the updated label now states a reduction in application rate, dropping from 10l/ha to 7.5l/ha. This means less is needed to treat a wider area and,



Longbow

Longbow contains 70g/L 2,4-D (ae), 70g/L MCPA (ae), 42g/L MCPP-P (ae) and 20g/L Dicamba (ae). (MAPP 16528).

USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION BEFORE USE. PAY ATTENTION TO THE RISK INDICATIONS AND FOLLOW THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ON THE LABEL.



for ease of use, it's now approved for tractor-mounted application. This means that treating weeds will be easier and more effective.

Longbow can be applied to all turf, sports and amenity grasslands and lawns from April to September when weeds are actively growing, and can be applied via a knapsack sprayer or a tractor-mounted boom sprayer.

"The formulation of Longbow allows uptake through both the leaves and the roots. This two-pronged attack provides robust weed control and effectiveness against a wide range of turf weeds. The five litre bottle pack size will remain the same, but now the treatment goes further."

"The news of this label extension is fantastic for greenkeepers, but it's important that they instil good turf management practice."

"The healthier and thicker the grass, the less likely you are to have weeds. Good turf management practices should discourage weeds from coming in the first place."



Optimising spray performance

Headland Amenity's Operations Director Mark de Ath advises greenkeepers how and when to use spraying products as the cold spring is finally replaced by (hopefully!) warm summer months

This year, and not for the first time, we've had an unusually cool spring. The warm dry April days were often followed by cold nights with differences of 15C between day and night temperatures not uncommon.

It is understandable that after a long winter, and the return of bright blue skies bringing out golfers in force, many greenkeepers are itching to get out and apply products.

Herbicides, plant growth regulators and foliar fertilisers work best when there is good strong growth.

This enables complete control of weeds, or uptake by the plant in the case of plant growth regulators.

However, this has been a challenge with the weather we have been having this spring.

I have noticed of late that there have been some variable results from applications of selective herbicides in late April and early May, when users would normally expect

this to be one of the best times of the year to achieve good control.

Looking at our weather statistics gathered in support of the Headland Weather check service (example shown right), one can see that whilst the days were reasonably warm, the nights were below, or close to freezing, and there had been hardly any rain prior to the application period.

This sort of weather is not conducive to good growth and therefore good weed control or uptake of foliar.

Ideally, planning a weed control application should be done with one eye on the prevailing weather at the time, and the subsequent weed growth, rather than slavishly adhering to the calendar just because that is the time when you normally spray.

Until this year I could look at historical weather statistics and explain why maybe an application has been less than optimal.

But now it's possible to forecast the likely growth conditions a week ahead by using models such as the Meteo Turf module - bottom of page 49.

The figure for 'Total Growth Degree Days' will give a 'Total Growth Potential' forecast for the week ahead showing whether there is a good or sub optimal growth potential.

Armed with this information the spray operator can plan a spray programme with confidence.

Important aspects such as ensuring the correct water spray volume is used can avoid poor weed control.

For example, too low a water volume may not only be illegal, but will give inadequate spray coverage of the target weeds.

Conversely, spraying at too high a water volume could lead to spray run-off and patchy weed control.

Use the herbicide at the correct rate of application shown on the



TOP RIGHT: Stats from Headland Weather Check
BOTTOM RIGHT: MeteoTurf

product label and if the herbicide does not control a particular weed speak to your advisor about tank mixing with another to get that complete kill.

Another factor that could cause poor weed control is hard water.

Quite a large area of the UK has hard water – if your kettle furs up you are in a hard water area.

Hard water is water that has high levels of calcium, magnesium and bicarbonate ions with high pH.

Bicarbonate ions are known to react in the spray tank solution with many herbicides making them less available to the plant and therefore you can get a reduction in weed control.

So if you are starting with some of the herbicide locked up and the weather is not playing ball, or you have difficult weeds like Speedwell to control, then your herbicide application could do with a helping hand.

You want to ensure that every drop of herbicide you apply reaches the weed.

This helping hand can come in the form of water conditioners such Headland's Transport Ultra.

Water conditioners lock up the bicarbonate, magnesium and calcium ions preventing them reacting with the chemical in your spray tank.

In order to prevent lock up, the water conditioner should be added to the spray tank first and then the chemical afterwards.

The addition of Headland's Transport Ultra for example adds very little to the overall cost, particularly if retreatment costs are factored in.

Recently I received a copy of an analysis of a bore hole water sample which we tested to try and understand why products were not working as well.

The analysis showed very high pH with a reading greater than 8 which in my experience is probably about as high as it can get.

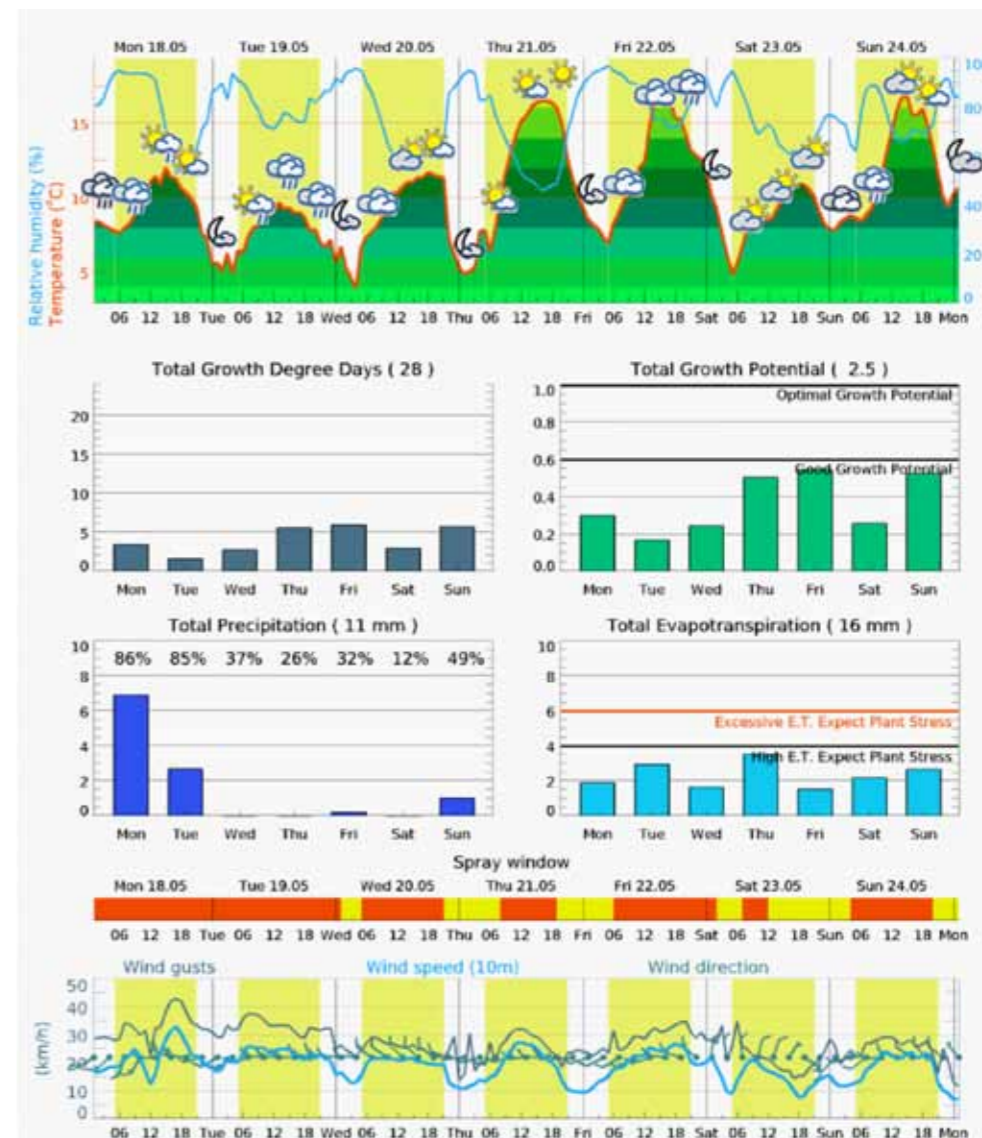
The sample also contained high levels of bicarbonate ions.

This is a situation where Transport Ultra would help greatly.

An obvious reason for poor weed control can also be cutting the grass (and the weeds) straight after spraying, with the result that most of your investment ends up in the mower box! Check the product label and take note of the cutting interval before and after spraying.

Keep other members of your team informed as they may not aware that spraying has taken place.

It will save expensive re-treatment costs.





Using ryegrasses on a golf course



BIGGA
education supporter

Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager David Greenshields explores how perennial ryegrasses can be used successfully

Using quality perennial ryegrass mixtures can make a massive improvement on the wear tolerance and longevity of your tees, walkways and divot repairs.

Changing opinions

In some quarters, there is still a slight stigma attached to using ryegrass on golf courses, although the naysayers are now very much in the minority.

The species has developed so much in recent times that I would be hard pushed to think of any golf course in the UK that wouldn't benefit from its use in certain areas. The key is to ensure you choose the right combination of cultivars for each specific job.

It's all about the blend

Specific applications and environmental conditions demand different characteristics and performance capability.

Within the ryegrass species, characteristics such as tolerance to wear, drought, disease, salt, shade, mowing height, cool temperature growth, leaf width, colour and recovery following stress vary considerably. The extensive ryegrass breeding and applied research and development programme at Barenbrug enables us to offer greenkeepers a distinct range of cultivars in blends and mixtures, which are specifically designed to meet these varied demands.

For example, 'wear tolerance' is a difficult characteristic to quantify.

It is most commonly assessed by analysing visually or by objective means how much ground cover persists after a period of artificial or real wear.

Barenbrug undertake wear trials at many of our Research Stations, including our trial site at Cropvale in Worcestershire and at Bingley, as part of the BSPB Turfgrass Seed Booklet assessments.

In terms of individual cultivars, Barorlando and Barcristalla have excelled in recent years.

Different wear actions impact varying degrees of damage, whether through high footfall on golf courses or the demands of a tee.

Environmental conditions and maintenance programmes also impact on the capability of a culti-

Want to know more?

See Dave's seminar from Continue to Learn at BTME 2016 at <https://youtu.be/pgjpA0sqiNQ> or www.youtube.com/BarenbrugUK

BAR CHART RIGHT: Comparison of fine-leaved varieties compared to good wear tolerant sports varieties (Table L1 Turfgrass Seed 2014). Fineness of Leaf scores of selected ryegrass cultivars from Table L1 Turfgrass Seed 2014, scored on a scale 1-9, with 9= finest leaf, 1 = broadest.

var to withstand wear pressure.

Wear tolerance must be considered alongside such pressures as disease, mowing height, shade, nutrient input and drought when choosing your blend of ryegrasses. Such constraints significantly influence its capability to tolerate wear. In almost all circumstances, a combination of varieties – a tailored synergistic seed mixture – will outperform any individual cultivar.

Choosing perennial ryegrass for close mowing

When considering ryegrass varieties for use in golf, fineness of leaf is a particularly important characteristic. There is a strong correlation between fine leaf width and the ability of a cultivar to tolerate the lower heights of cut associated with golf.

In addition, it is common for ryegrasses to be blended with fine fescues – put simply, the finest ryegrasses look far better aesthetically in a mixed sward.

The graph below highlights the remarkable breeding achievements that have created an unrivalled portfolio of extremely fine-leaved cultivars for golf over the last decade. Bargold, and more recently Barsignum and Barolympic have all set new standards for the species.

If ryegrasses are needed to combine heavy wear tolerance and close mowing, selecting a synergistic blend of varieties like Bar Extreme is recommended. This provides good all round disease tolerance, excellent cleanness of cut and exceptional cool-temperature germination.

The adoption of Bar Extreme as a divot mix allows successful repairs to be made earlier and later in the year and it has even been shown to extend the playing season when used on tees for a prolonged period.

If you are combining ryegrasses with fescue for medium/fine turf applications, then selecting a variety with the finest leaf possible and mid-green colour is often considered best practice. Bar Platinum blends 30% Bargold with 70% fescue to offer a good degree of wear tolerance, whilst maintaining exceptional turf quality and aesthetics. The blend contains first-rated Chewings and slender creeping fescues Barlineus and Viktorika, and it has been used with great success on all areas of golf courses.

Bar Medal increases the Bargold portion to 60%, along with 40% slender creeping fescue, to deliver a compromise to those looking for increased wear tolerance in a tight and dense sward for medium-fine turf areas.

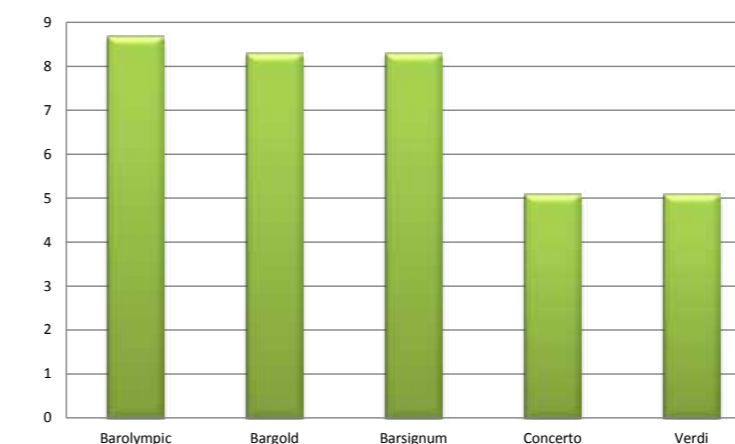
The future of ryegrasses?

The newest addition to our portfolio of golf mixtures is Extreme RPR, a blend that supplements the benefits of Bar Extreme with revolutionary Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass technology.

Barenbrug-bred RPR cultivars, such as Barclay II, provide a new dimension for the species by being able to produce determinate stolons as they develop and grow. This development allows perennial ryegrass to spread further into its surrounding area, potentially repairing gaps in the sward as they appear. This is great news for anyone using ryegrass for divot repair or overseeding by mechanical means, such as a disc seeder, as RPR has the ability to 'fill in' more quickly than conventional varieties.

RPR has been used with phenomenal global success for winter sports pitches, and now course managers and head greenkeepers have access to this exciting development in a dedicated blend for golf.

Comparison of fine-leaved varieties compared to good wear tolerant sports varieties (Table L1 Turfgrass Seed 2014)



David Greenshields

Bar Extreme provides attractive alternative to high-traffic concrete paths

Neil Mitchell from Greentech Sportsturf supplies Royal Aberdeen Golf Club with its Barenbrug grass seed. Seven years ago Course Manager Robert Patterson embarked on a programme to replace all gravel paths. A big investment for the course, but one that would go on to pay dividends.

With 15,000 rounds played annually, Robert believes a standard fescue bent turf would not withstand the wear pressure on walkways. Instead he overseeds the paths three to four times a year with the fine-leaved ryegrasses in Bar Extreme to ensure they can withstand heavy foot fall while still looking managed and well presented.

These narrow, high-traffic paths are maintained at the same level as the fairways: they are aerated, overseeded and fed in the same way.

Robert said: "Using Bar Extreme ensures the paths can withstand maximum wear and tear. We have a lot of narrow paths and pinch points around the course that take a lot of wear but because of the rye content we're able to keep grass on them all year round and present them to a high standard."

Robert also uses the product on par 3 tees and the short part 4 tees, where people tend to hit iron shots. He added: "Some new ryegrasses are so fine leaved, you really struggle to tell the difference between them and fescue."

According to Robert, the results after taking the hard pathways back to grass has made a huge visual improvement – softening the landscape of the entire course. "We've now got grass paths to tees and fairways and greens and enhanced the overall appearance of the golf course."

Section Notes

Please email your notes to steve.castle@bigga.co.uk by the 10th of the month

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

Around the green



Northern

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

 NORTH EAST Glen Baxter glen.baxter@rigbytaylor.com @NEBIGGA	 NORTH WEST Tom Wood & Tim Johnson tomwoodtmw@gmail.com/tim_87@hotmail.com @BIGGA NorthWest	 CLEVELAND Anthony McGeough amcgeough@aol.com	 NORTHERN Chris Goodall christopher.goodall11@hotmail.com		 SHEFFIELD Ilan Whitehead admin@hillsboroughgolfclub.co.uk @SheffieldBigga	 NORTH WALES Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com B.I.G.G.A. @Bigga NorthWales
--	--	---	---	--	---	--

Events Coming Up

NORTH EAST

Section v Cleveland at South Shields GC on July 30 11am tee off sponsored by TSL. Contact Simon if you wish to make yourself available spolver@hotmail.co.uk

Autumn Tournament at Whitely Bay GC on Sept 22 1pm tee off.

NORTHERN

The next Golf Day is at Brough Golf Club on Thursday 25 June. First tee time will be 1pm. This is an invitational day so please bring a club official to the event.

Bacon sandwiches and coffee will be served from 12 noon, followed by 18 holes of golf, and then a 2 course meal followed by the prize presentation. For this event a jacket and tie is a necessity.

NORTH WEST

On July 6 we have a golf and education afternoon at The Mere Golf Resort And Spa sponsored by Cheshire Turf Machinery, with 1st prizes for golf being corporate tickets to a match at Manchester United or Manchester City.

Please contact Dave Weir to reserve your place.

Autumn seminar at Myerscough is on the horizon, details will be on our Facebook and via email.

The Northwest Section Individual Knock Out Competition Sponsored by Campeys is well underway and we're into the 2nd round action.

Annual North West/North Wales cricket match takes place at Ashley cricket club on 8 July, we need 12 players to make up the north Wales team, if you are interested please contact myself or Nick Gray.

SHEFFIELD

The next Section Golf Competition is on 22 July at Abbeydale GC sponsored by Mansfield Sand, to enter contact Lee Greveson on 07808 052647.

The Phoenix GC are holding a charity day on 25 June where a team of 14 from the Phoenix will play a team of 14 from The Rifles Golf Society in memory of Lt Col Bob Pickford. All in aid of the Captains Charity, The Rifles Care for Casualties. Visiting teams can also enter in pairs or teams of two. The entry fee is £120 for 4, £60 per pair. To book a place call 01709 382624.

News

NORTH EAST

Spring tournament at Sharpley Springs GC, this was the first time the section had been here and the first time many of us had played it and all agreed what a super course it is! Thanks to Richard Hudd and his team for the fantastic condition of his course and the fabulous weather they gave us, and thanks to all at the club for their hospitality. Results:

Div 1 winner Paul Walton Sharpley Springs. Best Gross Jack Friar Percywood. Div 2 winner David Thompson Hexham. Nearest the pin Andrew Messenger and longest drive Mal Latham. Best Trade Tim Baldwin Omega Science.

CLEVELAND

So we are finally into full swing at Richmond Golf Club the grass is now growing in that typically parkland style, thick and fast! I swear if I stop for just a second you can see it growing behind me! PGRs at the ready it's going to be a hectic couple of months on the plus side no seed heading, Yet!

On 15 April Greenlay held a machinery presentation day at Middlesbrough Municipal GC the day was well attended by around 50 people. It was great to see all the products they have to offer and have a chance to speak to the manufacturers.

The Spring Tournament which was held at Blackwell Golf Club on Wednesday 29 April. This is the first time I can remember the Cleveland section ever playing here and it showed in the attendance which was a sell out with tee times being moved a little earlier to accommodate the demand.

The course was in excellent condition with the greens rolling beautifully well done to Doug Avey and his team for all their hard work. The weather played a big part in the day with bright sunshine, hail and wind which I argue affected my game considerably! Results:

Div 1 - 1 Paul Legg 34pts, 2 Martin Woods 32, 3 Tommy Coulson 31 Div 2 1 Ollie Shepherd 34 2 Ben McGratten 32 3 John Warlow 24 Div 3 1 Ian Pemberton 32 2 Daniel Egan 26 3 Jonathan Thompson 25. Nearest the pin Tommy Coulson. Longest Drive Liam Dover. Trade prize Glen Baxter 27.

Ant and Dec trophy was won by Alistair Whitby with a massive 20pts.

A little bit of movement around the trade has seen Chris Fidell move from Turf Care to Amenity Technology. All the best in your new job.

NORTHERN

I hope everyone is now in full swing and looking forward to a busy but productive summer. The recent section Golf Day was held at Selby Golf Club. The turnout was unfortunately low but everyone who attended had a good day. Results:

Div 1: 1 Gary Fearon 2 Andy Slingsby 3 Dave Collins. Div 2: 1 Ben Jackson 2 Paul Wild 3 Steve Trousdale. The trade winner was Mel Guy with Gary Potter in 2nd place. The winner of the "nearest the pin" although no-one hit the green was Gary Fearon who had a great day as he also won the raffle!

A massive thank you to Selby Golf Club for holding the event, for a well presented golf course (even if I say so myself!), and also to the caterers for the excellent food and service.

Congratulations to Neil Horton on his appointment at Lindrick Golf Club. Everyone in the section sends their best wishes. Also congratulations to Paul Neve, pictured right, who completes 25 years of service at Brough GC in June.

NORTH WEST

Congratulations to Jonny Roberts of Preston Golf Club and his wife Kirsty on the birth of their baby girl.

We would also like to congratulate Scott Reeves who has become Northern Region Chairman, Jez Hughes as stepped down from the role due to him following a new career path with Symbio, we wish you all the luck the world Jez.

Welcome also to James Dudley, senior greenkeeper at Warrington GC who has recently become a member of BIGGA. Good luck to all at The Mere, West Lincs and Hillside for the upcoming open qualifying events.

We are running a feature called meet the member, designed to get all of our members to get to know each other and we'll be starting with the committee. This will be going out over our Facebook page.

NORTH WALES

The spring tournament and course walk took place at Henlle Park GC on 29 April, this was an individual stableford qualifier for the national tournament, we would like to thank Henlle for holding the event and also to thank Huw and team for a course in beautiful condition. Results:

Cat 1 - 1 Phil Watson 33pts (national qualifier) 2 Tim Coombs 32 with Phil qualifying for the national. Cat 2 - 1 Haydn Jones 36 2 Rich Walker 31 (national qualifier - Haydn did not wish to enter). Trade winner Phil Collinson 37. Guest winner Trevor Rowlands 36 pts. Nearest the pin Mike Hughes on 12th, Jez Hughes on the 15th.

Andrew Gwilliam has stepped up to Head Greenkeeper at Vale of Llangollen GC with myself as deputy and advised by Chris Roberts agronomy services.

Luke Williams of Wrexham GC is on the support team at Wentworth we hope he enjoys and learns a lot from this opportunity.

SHEFFIELD

The Section held a seminar at the end of April with Michael Astrop from Continue to Learn. Michael gave a very useful insight into managing people and situations and those who attended appreciated the opportunity of free education and training within the Section.

The Spring Golf Competition took place at The Phoenix Golf Club, the course was well prepared by Graham Pickin and the team on one of our few sunny days.

We all enjoyed the day and the winners were 1st with 36 points Antony Whittington from Worksop GC, 2nd, 3rd and 4th all had 34 points on count back Steve Pickering from The Grange GC, Matthew Holden from Sickleholme GC and Joel France from The Hallamshire GC, nearest the pin won by Neil Peters of Barlborough Links.



Paul Neve

Thanks to Sponsors

NORTH EAST

Thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the spring tournament.

CLEVELAND

Big thank you to Spring Tournament sponsors Lloyds Ltd, also thank you to Turf care, Amenity Technology and Rigby Taylor for donating prizes. Also thanks to Roger Lupton of Lely UK for presenting an excellent irrigation workshop day at Cleveland GC.

NORTHERN

Thank you to Adamsons & Sons and also Rigby Taylor for kindly sponsoring the event at Selby.

Thanks to Greentek for sponsoring the golf day at Brough.

NORTH WEST

Thanks to Cheshire Turf Machinery for sponsoring the event at The Mere, and thank you to all 2015 sponsors.

SHEFFIELD

The Section would like to thank Cheshire Turf Machinery (Toro), Rigby Taylor and the BIGGA L&D fund for supporting the education seminar and ProTurf for sponsoring the Spring Golf Competition.

Welcome New Members

Gary Stead, Greenkeeper, Oakdale Golf Club, James Alley, Greenkeeper, Delamere Forest Golf Club, Ben Morgan, Greenkeeper, Sandburn Hall Golf Club, Stephen Arnott, Greenkeeper, Ponteland Golf Club, Matthew Butler, Assistant Greenkeeper, Kirkbymoorside Golf Club.



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



<p>CENTRAL Craig Booth cboath@ carnoustiegolflinks. co.uk</p> <p>Find us on facebook Section</p>	<p>SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND Amanda Dorans & Ian Smith amanda.dorans@ lochlomond.com /iansmithgm@ hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Find us on facebook West Scotland</p>	<p>EAST Hamish Campbell greenkeeper@ alancampbell. demon.co.uk</p> <p>Find us on facebook East @BIGGA_ES</p>	<p>NORTH Paul Sharp & Neil Sadler paulsharp@ hotmail.com / gkneil@sky.com</p>	<p>WEST Stuart Taylor stuart.taylor@ glasgowgolfclub. com</p>
---	--	---	--	--

Events Coming Up

NORTH

It's the North Section's turn to host the BIGGA Scottish Championship this year, which will be held at Portlethen GC on Thursday 6 August. It would be great to have a good support from the section, so get your application in early to guarantee your tee time.

The entry forms are available on the Scottish website. The field is limited to 90 entrants, so it will be based on first come first served. The closing date for the competition is 31 July. For any more information please contact John Young.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

Two volunteers required for the Ladies Scottish Open being held at Dundonald Links in July.

Contact Frank Clarkson for further details on frank.clarkson@dundonaldlinks.com or on 07872 673838. Please note that no previous experience is required as training will be provided.

Adding a social event to the calendar was suggested at the recent committee meeting, so if anyone has any ideas then please get in touch.

Pre Open 2016 course walk 24 September Royal Troon GC. Lunch venue still to be confirmed.

Autumn Golf Outing 3 September Brodick GC Arran.

Ecology course walk/workshop with Bob Taylor at Powfoot GC 10 November

WEST

The Scottish Golf Championship is at Portlethen golf club in August instead of June to try and avoid the holiday period and work commitments that may have restricted attendance in the past.

EAST

A wee reminder that nominations for the patrons award are open until the end of July, forms are downloadable from the BIGGA Scottish Region website and must be returned to the appropriate education officer.

For the East Section that's Scott Corrigan.

Our AGM is at Dundas Park on 27 October.

CENTRAL

As I mentioned last month we have a course walk planned for The Old Course so watch out for any emails.

News

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

Open fever has once again gripped the country so with this in mind, so on behalf of the Section I'd like to wish Gordon Moir and all of his team every success.

Welcome to Andrew Thomson at West Kilbride and to new board member Trump Turnberry's Wullie Mcmeikan. Congratulations to the Scottish Region team who triumphed in the annual "grudge match" against GCMA on Jim's home turf, West Kilbride. The day ended with dinner and a score of 3.5-2.5 - well done chaps!

Thank you to Billy McLaughlin and his team a Royal Troon for kindly opening the course for a pre Open 2016 tour on September 24, and good luck to former greenkeeper Daryl Burdett who has joined Rigby Taylor.

NORTH

The first outing of 2015 was on 28 April at Newmachar GC. Everyone enjoyed the day and as usual, our chairman thanked the club for allowing us to use all the facilities. The course was presented well by Dale Robertson, Patrick Wood and his staff, especially the greens, which were extremely quick for the time of year. Thankfully the snow showers slowed them down! Results:

Scratch - 1 C Lamb 69, 2 A Lindsay 72. Class 1 - 1 G Mitchell 69, 2 R Patterson 71, 3 R Macrae 74. Class 2 - 1 K Spowart 70, 2 M McLaren 72, 3 J Stuart 73. Class 3 - 1 N McLaughlin 75 BIH, D Robertson 75 BIH, 3 R Kelly 75, Apprentice Winner C Lamb 69. Veterans - 1 D Robertson 75, 2 R Pirie 77. Committee Winner - G. Mitchell 69. Trade Winner - R Beck, Aitkens 74. Sweep - 1 C Lamb 69 BIH, 2 G Mitchell 69, 3 K Spowart 70, 4 R Patterson 71. Nearest the Pin - P Wood, R Patterson.

Josh Lester has moved from Fraserburgh GC to become the Head Greenkeeper at Inch GC. We wish him all the best in his new position.

All the best to Newmachar GC as they prepare to host their EuroPro Tour event.

WEST

I recently mentioned wetters in these notes and received one reply - thank you Cecil. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your comments. Results from the spring outing:

Scratch - John Dale (Renfrew) 66. Class 1 - Chris Prior (Bearsden) 34pts, Gerry Bruen (Williamwood) 34, Alistair Reid (Williamwood) 34. Class 2 - Ryan Brennan (Glasgow) 38, Kenny Hunter (Clober) 36, Graham King (Hugh King Sands) 35. Class 3 - Gordon Howatt (Souters) 36, Gerry Broadley (Glasgow) 35, Stephen Shennan (East Kilbride) 35. Longest drive Gerry Bruen, nearest pin Stuart Taylor. Due to the lack of trophies once they have been recovered in future they will be retained by committee to prevent future loss.

Some 34 players took part and enjoyed a really well presented golf course, Clint Maxwell and his staff are to be commended on the condition of the course after heavy rain leading up to the tournament. The last time I played Clober was 15 years ago and the improvement was extraordinary, the greens were covered in bent grasses and the presentation was excellent.

The annual Secretaries match will be reported on by John Young but from what I gather the Greenkeepers were victorious yet again.

I played Airdrie GC recently and I was impressed by the course condition Stuart Cameron appears to be doing a great job there and the members I spoke to seemed very happy, great to hear your sheds and clubhouse might be changing over the coming years so here's to a successful transition.

EAST

Two fantastic events to report on this month, firstly, in a blaze of glorious sunshine and almost balmy temperatures, we had our



Gullane facilities - East

Spring meeting at Longniddry. The scoring was quite impressive as there was a teasing easterly breeze blowing, and with a par of 68 but a SSS of 71, Longniddry is never a cakewalk.

Results:

Scratch Dougie Melville, 1st Class Marcus D'Agrosa, 2nd Class Robbie Murdoch, Trade Gordon Peebles, Guest John McDougall, Longest Drive Steven McInroy, Nearest pins Bruce Watson and Lindsay Muir. Thanks to Philip Holmes and his team for a course in great condition early in the year, the catering and bar staff and the committee and members for allowing us use of the course. Thanks also to Tom Forrest for the presentation following the meal and prize giving.

With the eyes of the world on the East Coast of Scotland in July for the AAM Scottish Open at Gullane and the Open Championship, the East Section was very fortunate to be given a "close up and personal" view of the composite Gullane course and their fantastic maintenance facilities.

Thanks to Stewart Duff, Course Manager at Gullane and Paul Hay, Head Greenkeeper on Gullane Number 1, for taking the group round the composite course, which looks a bit tasty, and the maintenance facilities.

The Composite course is Gullane number 1 with a couple of modified holes from Gullane number 2 and some alternative teeing areas.

We welcome new and returning members Marcus D'Agrosa, greenkeeper/mechanic at Eyemouth GC and Dougie Melville, supervisor greenkeeper at Edinburgh Leisure, Silverknowes Course.

Welcome aboard guys and for other new members, scan the results section for new members luck!

Best wishes to Grant Frogley on his new post at Gwest, moving back there from the Roxburgh. Also Daryl Burdett moves to technical sales at Rigby Taylor from his post at Archerfield.

After all the dry sunshine of April, we seem to be back to March weather in May, I write this on 15 May in a frost, and we've had more rain in 16 days than the previous two months, but looking around and seeing websites and social media etc the golf courses look in pretty good fettle. Imagine how good it is going to be when you read this, after a few weeks of warm weather and gentle, night time rains!

CENTRAL

By the time you read this The Amateur Championship will be in full swing at Carnoustie Golf Links and Panmure Golf Club, whilst the course closure before The Open will be underway at St Andrews.



Portlethen Golf Club - North

The Spring Meeting was a great success with 44 entrants at Monifieth Golf Links. Results:

Daval Cuke - Best Gross Scott Thomson, Strathmore GC 75 BIH Greentech (Ltd) Cup - Best Overall Stableford Michael Hughes, Gleneagles (18) 36pts.

Toro Cup - Low Section Graeme Millar, Blair Atholl GC (4) 35pts.

BIGGA Cup - High Section Tam Adams, Crieff GC (12) 35pts. Stewart's Quaich - Best 2 scores from the same Club Scott Thomson and Scott Robertson, Strathmore GC 67 pts.

Patron Winner - Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, (15) 38pts.

Lee Strutt is moving to RAC Club at Epsom with Grant Frogley from The Roxburgh taking his place at gWest. John Methven has left The Duke's at St Andrews to take up a role at BEAR Scotland. Era van Zyl has been promoted to a supervisor's position at the Castle Course to replace Greig Easton who is off to Royal Cinque Ports. Era has moved up from within the team. We wish them all the very best in their new roles.

Welcome New Members

Douglas Melville, First Assistant, Edinburgh Leisure
Kurtis Lavis, Greenkeeper, Castle Stuart Golf Links,
Steven Mathewson, Greenkeeper, Deeside Golf Club,
Stephen Cameron, Head Greenkeeper, Cambuslang Golf Club,
Zack Griffiths, Assistant Greenkeeper, Paul Lawrie Golf Centre,
Thomas Hedley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Irvine Golf Club,
Marcus D'Agrosa, Assistant Greenkeeper, Eyemouth Golf Club,
Douglas Black, Assistant Greenkeeper, Pitlochry Golf Course.
Sean Reilly, Greenkeeper, The Gleneagles Golf Club,

Welcome New International Member

Graham Shearer, Affiliate, Australia.



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

				
BB&O - The Stick bboscibe@gmail.com or Matt Nutter bboscibe@gmail.com	MID ANGLIA Darren Mugford d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com	MIDLAND Dave Collins greendave2004@hotmail.co.uk	EAST OF ENGLAND Steve Beverly steveimingham@aol.com	EAST MIDLANDS Matt Gilks gilksmatt@farol.co.uk
				
Greenkeepers @bbogreenkeepers	BB&O Mid Anglia	Midland Section @BIGGA Midlands	East of England bigga	East Midlands @biggaeastmids

Events Coming Up

MID ANGLIA

Summer Pairs Competition at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club on Thursday 23 July, early afternoon.

Hopefully you've received the application forms for the Support Team at the British Masters at Woburn 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.

MIDLAND

Autumn Comp at Kidderminster GC 9 September. Make your own team of 4 players. Non-BIGGA members can play but a maximum of 2 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 AGM. £25 per player. To enter contact Karl Williams on 07584196172/coursemanager@redditchgolfclub.com

News

EAST OF ENGLAND

An excellent day out at Cleethorpes Golf Club for the delayed Christmas Texas Scramble. The course was in excellent condition and the wind calm for a change. And the fish and chips afterwards were superb as always. Results:

1 - Steve Beverly Robert Bemment Zane Pexman and Tony Hallam
2 Adrian Kitchinson Russ Moody John and Andy 3 Bruce Hicks Robin Portess Brian Robinson and S Rowett. Nearest pin Adi Kitchenson. Many thanks to all who attended.

MIDLAND

Spring Comp Sponsored by Banks Amenity - Results: 1 James Harrison 35pts (Redditch GC) 2 James Evans 34 (Littlelakes GC) 3 Luke Hine 33 (back 9) (Gaudet Luce GC). Trade: David Tims 33 (TH Whites)

A massive shout out to Andy Laing and his team for a fantastic day. BIGGA's General Manager Tracey Maddison achieved a golfing first with a hole in one on the 12th - well done Tracey!

It was an emotional competition for our chairman Ed Stant as after over 20 years on the section committee he's decided to step down with Rhys as standing in as chairman until the AGM in September. All the committee and members owe a massive debt of gratitude to Ed and thank him for all his hard work, love and dedication to the section.

Ed said: "Having been roped into going onto the Midland Section committee by Steve Wood back in 1994 I didn't realise it would lead me into having to spend quite so much time with other committee members. I even had to move job from Walsall to Penn in Wolverhampton in 2000 so I could keep a closer eye on Rhys Thomas at South Staffs!

"It's the right time for me to stand down and enjoy the many Section events without the members having to listen to me drone on!

"It's been a wonderful experience and it remains a privilege to work within such an outstanding industry. Thank you so much to all that have helped me over the years and even those who have been difficult!

One special mention, despite me being sarcastic towards him most of the time, Rhys, you have been brilliant to me, thanks."

A big shout out also to Karl Williams and his team at Redditch Golf Club who had a Northern Ireland open qualifier in May, also to Andy Wood and his team at Robin Hood GC who had the TP Tour Event also in May. Guys - you're proving what a great place the midlands is. If anyone wants a shout out for anything please contact me on 07748976496 or greendave2004@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks to Sponsors

MID ANGLIA

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

EAST OF ENGLAND

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands for sponsoring the golf day and providing some excellent prizes.

MIDLAND









Thanks to Banks Amenity for sponsoring the Spring competition. Also thanks to Farols for supplying the refreshments. Thanks to our May calendar sponsor Andy Laing and Countrywide.

Welcome New Members

Chris Wymark, Affiliate, Branston Golf & Country Club, Johnathan Peacock, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club, Anthony Mills, Greenkeeper, Wolstanton Golf Club, Martin Anderson, Greenkeeper, Market Harborough Golf Club, Alex Collins, Greenkeeper, Great Hadham Golf Club, Stephen Robinson, Greenkeeper, Wolstanton Golf Club, Andrew Anderson, Greenkeeper, East Berkshire Golf Club, Glenn Miller, Head Greenkeeper, Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & GC, Nicholas Buckman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, Liam Scott, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, Ben Gibson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Warwickshire (The) Golf Club, Tom Stocker, Assistant Greenkeeper, Badgemore Park Golf Club, Ken Simms, Assistant Greenkeeper, Wolstanton Golf Club, Julia Campey, Affiliate, Campey Turfcare Systems.



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

			
SOUTH WEST - Jaey Goodchild j.goodchild@bowood.org	SOUTH COAST - Steve Thorne rachandstevewalk/about@hotmail.com	DEVON & CORNWALL Cameron McMorrin cjmcmorrin@gmail.com	SOUTH WALES Andrew Hatcher andrewhatcher1@msn.com
			
Bigga Southwest @Bigga Southwest	Bigga South Coast @BIGGA southcoast	Bigga Devon and Cornwall	Bigga South Wales @BIGGASouth Wales

Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES

The Rigby Taylor Challenge Match will be held at the Player club on the outskirts of Bristol on Tuesday 16 June at 13.00.

10 man team required, please contact Darryl Jones our match Captain so he can build another winning team.

Our Members can enter the Countrywide pairs Knock out run by the South West Section.

Please Contact Joe Curtis on greens@gloscestergolf.com.

BIGGA Golf Management Trophy sponsored by Everris is on Wednesday 8 July at Cradoc GC.

The day will include 18 holes of golf, coffee and bacon roll on arrival and a 2 course meal after golf, the cost per team £105.

Please contact Tracey Harvey on 07841 948110 or tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk.

Applications have been sent out regarding sponsored places for BTME and the Regional Conference, closing date for application is the end of June, 1 regional place, 2 section places and 2 places for regional conference.

DEVON & CORNWALL

The Devon and Cornwall section last meeting at Ilfracombe was called off due to fog.

The Section championship will be played at Woodbury where Devon v Cornwall is being played.

This will be the last section meeting before the Everris Trophy competition Friday 3 July at St Mellion.

SOUTH COAST

At the time of writing we still have places left on our Turf Club visit to Hockley Golf Club on 18 August.

Please contact biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com to secure a spot.

Our Summer golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday 2 July at Southwick Park GC. 12 Noon start time, £20 per person. P

lease keep an eye on your e-mail inbox for a flyer.

SOUTH WEST

Following the success of our first South West Turfclub our next gathering will be held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club on 9 July. The afternoon will entail discussions from Matthew James, Course Manager, and James Edwards, Golf Course Architect on the construction and grow-in of the new par 3 course.

2015 fixtures:

- 16 June Rigby Taylor Team Challenge at The Players Club
- 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

Section members interested in representing the South West in the Rigby Taylor Team Challenge please contact Joe Curtis (greens@gloucestergolf.com). Registration is open for the Everris Golf Management Trophy, all entries to Tracey Harvey as soon as possible please, this event is heavily subscribed so do not miss your chance to enter.

South West Section Countrywide Knockout draw has been published; please contact Joe Curtis for details if you have not received them (greens@gloucestergolf.com). All of our Section events are open to members of other sections, please feel free to contact us and attend as everyone is welcome.

News

SOUTH COAST

Our first golf tournament of this year was held at Wellow GC on 22 April. The weather was favourable and the course was presented to a fantastically high standard.

Many thanks go out to Simon Justice and his greenkeeping team and to Wellow GC for providing such a great venue.

Results:

1 Louis Stephenson, Swanmore GC, 38pts. 2 Phil Wentworth, Army GC, 37 points, 3 Ben Bright, Wellow GC, 36. Nearest the pin Luke Elgie, Rushmore GC. Longest Drive Phil Wentworth, Army GC. Wooden spoon prize: (specifically donated by Farmura to award rusty golf!) David Watkins, Army GC, 14 points

Dave King has left Sherborne Golf Club to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Cricket St. Thomas Golf Club (formerly Windwhistle GC) in Somerset. Sherborne have appointed Scott Johnson from Hazlegrove School, Somerset who brings with him seven years' experience working at Celtic Manor.

Congratulations go to Andrew Brown and Russell Carr - The Goodwood Club, Oliver Davenport and Toby Giles - Hockley Golf Club and Luke Elgie - Rushmore Golf Club for being selected for the BMW PGA Championship support team this year.

It is great to see the section being represented at such events and it's hoped you all found the experience rewarding and a fantastic opportunity for networking.

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WEST


Many thanks to our South West Section 2015 Patrons: H Curtis & Sons, Ecosolve, T H White, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura for their continued and valuable support.

Welcome New Members

Marcus Deller, Greenkeeper, Defence Academy Golf Club, Justin Wallace, Greenkeeper, Bigbury Golf Club, Richard Mortimer, Assistant Greenkeeper, Remedy Oak Golf Club, John Terry, Assistant Greenkeeper, Lilley Brook Golf Club.

South East

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



<p>SURREY Mark Day mark@daylinks.co.uk daylinks.co.uk</p> <p>Find us on Facebook Surrey BIGGA @surreybigga</p>	<p>KENT Rob Holland premiergolf2012@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Find us on Facebook BIGGA Sussex Section</p>	<p>SUSSEX Joe Dormer josephmichael.dormer@gmail.com</p> <p>Find us on Facebook BIGGA Sussex Section</p>	<p>EAST ANGLIA Mick Lathrope m.lathrope@ntlworld.com</p> <p>Find us on Facebook BIGGA East Anglia @BIGGA EastAnglia</p>	<p>ESSEX Arnold Phipps-Jones essexbigga@talktalk.net</p> <p>Find us on Facebook Essex Bigga</p>	<p>LONDON John Wells j.wells1@sky.com</p> <p>Find us on Facebook Bigga London @Bigga London</p>
---	--	--	--	--	--

Events Coming Up

ESSEX

Next golf day is at Boyce Hill GC Thursday 11 June National Qualifier.
Other events: Toot Hill GC Tuesday 28 July & Playgolf Colchester Wednesday 25 November.

SURREY

23 June Cresta Cup Puttenham GC
16 Sept Match v Repts Hankley Common GC
6 October Tri Counties Match Windlesham GC
3 November England v Scotland Hankley Common GC
18 November Match v Secretaries The Berkshire GC
4 December Turkey Trot Guildford GC

SUSSEX

Away Day, Littlestone Golf Club, June 10.
Summer Competition, Pyecombe Golf Club, July 23.

News

EAST ANGLIA

Greetings greenkeepers, trust you all survived the winter – if you call one frost a winter that is. Did the grass really stop growing?
Our first golf day came and went, sadly I missed it but I have it on good authority that you all had a good day at Newmarket and that the course was top notch thanks to Rob and his merry men. The handicap sections have a couple of new names in them as you will see.
0-9 Handicap: 1 Graham Horren 36pts, 2 Matt Gill 33. 10-18 Handicap: 1 George Butters 37, 2 Daniel Graham 36. 19-28 Handicap: 1 David Driver 35, 2 James Brown. Trade: 1 Ross Stanard 36, 2 A Durrant 34. Nearest Pin: Steve Millard, Daniel Graham, Graham Hurren. Longest Drive: Michael Buck. Sarah Greenall, Chair of Greens, presented prizes.
Pause for thought - can anyone tell me how you can put a man on a machine, roll a green and not cause any compaction? Even a remote controlled roller (if there were such a thing) would cause compaction wouldn't it? Or am I just a dinosaur?
Results from a breezy but dry Warley Park Golf Club: 1 Liam Springett 37pts, 2 Dominic Rodgers 36, 3 Ross Bennett 33. Trade Michael Fance

32. Nearest the pin Dominic Rodgers and Craig Campbell. As usual we would like to thank Dominic and his team for the course conditions, the club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and the clubhouse staff for feeding us so well.

KENT

A thoroughly miserable day was forecast when Kent's finest assembled again at the glorious setting of Faversham Golf Club. Unfortunately for us the forecast was right and it fairly poured down all day but it could not dampen the spirits of a very resolute group who thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic course that had been so meticulously presented (especially the ones of us that hired buggies!).
Despite the rain causing errant shots our chairman Kev found the perfect dry lie for his second shot on the 2nd putting his ball four feet up a tree and playing it out Seve style!

A very welcome warm shower and dry clothes was followed by a superb meal in the clubhouse where a very attentive staff even brought out a birthday cake for Phil Hughes from Lister Wilder who celebrated his 60th birthday by golfing with us in the rain. Happy birthday mate. Many thanks to the same company who provided a well stocked refreshment wagon for on course sustenance.

Oli Hook from Royal Cinque Ports won with a great 37 points in the conditions and longest drive and nearest pin competitions to boot. 2nd was Dave Vidler and 3rd Mark Roach. See you all at Walmer and Kingsdown on 24 September.

SURREY

Epsom GC Spring Texas Scramble - thanks to Mark Harvey for doing the usual magic all over the course and ensuring we had a great start to this year's calendar. Thank you to Epsom GC for courtesy of the course given to the section.

Merrist Wood College has been busy for the first quarter this year with talks from Cameron MacMillan 'Constructing a modern Heathland'.

Gareth Roberts 'Managing Today's Heathland' both seminars attracted well over 50 people who attended Merrist Wood College. Sign up to Surrey Facebook for details with up and coming events at Merrist Wood College.

Coulsdon Manor GC, set in 140 acres of landscaped parkland, designer Harry S Colt once created and carved his way through this wonderful setting between a collection of rare trees gathered from all over the world by the Byron family. This beautiful course has been the office for Head Greenkeeper Ian Dudley who has retired after 41 years service.

Joe Sexton from the Altonwood Group joins Coulsdon Manor GC as Ians's replacement.

After more than 17 years at West Surrey GC, Ashley Allpress is the new Head Greenkeeper at the Roehampton Club.

Alan Johnston leaves Epsom GC and joins Merrist Wood College. Frenchman C. Russell joins the crew as Deputy Head Greenkeeper to Mark Harvey, I'm not finished yet as Andre Mander has joined the team on the Epsom downs.

Best wishes to you all on your new roles in the industry and congratulations to Ian Dudley's 41 years service as the rock for the Coulsdon Manor GC Greenkeeping team.

SUSSEX

I have recently returned from working at TPC Sawgrass for the duration of The Players with the John Deere/BIGGA volunteer programme. It was honestly a life changing experience, and I strongly urge you to apply for next year. The first stage of the application process for 2016 is open now and requires you to register your interest by completing a short survey which can be easily found on the BIGGA website.



Ian Dudley and Joe Sexton - Surrey

The Spring Competition and National Championships Qualifier at Lewes Golf Club was a great success, section secretary Peter Smith said: "The section's golf day at Lewes was played in rather typical for Lewes, blustery conditions!

"Despite a difficult spring, the course and greens in particular, were in great condition, with the wind blowing and the greens firm and fast scoring was going to be difficult.

"As always the day was played in good spirit with the emphasis on fun and laughter rather than overly serious golf. Notable funny points of the day were James Briggs' amazing 3 putt from 18 inches, Pete Smith's widest ever tee shot on 18, (last seen rolling down the hill into Lewes high street) and Darren Mitchell's nearest pin in 2 win on 18th, really?! Finally special mention to the champs from Lister Wilders, it's always a pleasure to see you come and support the rest of the field with your broad shoulders!

"Longest drive was won by Andrew Norman, nearest pin on 6th was won by Michael Fance, and nearest pin on 12th was won by James Briggs, finally and after much deliberation Darren Mitchell was awarded nearest pin in two on the 18th!

"Despite rumours that he had already played 300 shots by the 6th hole, Tony Wolley claimed 3rd place in division 3 with 25pts, with Kelvin Brown 2nd with 27pts and Rob Wallis in 1st place with 30pts. Division 2 saw Pete Smith finish 3rd with 28pts, Andrew Norman 2nd with 29pts and Pete Ray win with 29pts.

"In division one, the better golfers showed us all how to play the course, well, they tried anyway! Ryan Hyder came in 3rd with a net 76, Lawrie Tremmlett also with a net 76 was 2nd and Glynn Pollard won with a net 74.

"The catering staff deserve special mention for supplying the lunch before the golf which weighed heavily on many as they tried to walk up the hills! Special thanks to Lawrie and his team and all at Lewes GC. It was another fun day in a relaxed environment, please spread the word and bring some of your colleagues along to the next event, which will be at Littlestone GC."

Thanks to Sponsors

SUSSEX

Thanks go to all our sponsors for their support allowing us to subsidise the Spring Comp. Extra special thanks go to Tacit for the nearest pin prizes and to Godfreys for the on course refreshments.

We're indebted to the continued support and sponsorship of the trade and would like to thank 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.

EAST ANGLIA

Thanks to the main sponsor of the spring golf day - Tomlinson Ground Care - aided by Bartram Mowers, Toro Lely UK, Tacit, Ernest Doe, Aitkens and Ben Burgess.

ESSEX

The Essex Section and Committee would like to welcome the following sponsors to our section 2015: Agrovista UK (Sherriff Amenity), Avoncrop Amenity Products, Banks Amenity Products, Baileys of Norfolk, DayLinks, Ernest Doe & Sons, Farmura, FE Payne & Son, Firstcall Corporation, GM Amenity, Lely UK (Toro), P Tuckwell Ltd (John Deere), Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Swan Golf Designs, Tey Farm Systems, Writtle College.

Welcome New Members

Ian Pogson, Affiliate, Campey Turfcare Systems, David Smith, Affiliate, Collier Turf Care Ltd, Neil Yarham, Affiliate, Collier Turf Care Ltd, Robert Galley, Affiliate, P Tuckwell Limited, Matthew Mansfield, Greenkeeper, West Sussex GC, Luke Tumber, Assistant Greenkeeper, Kings Hill GC, Tom Bowman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Mid Kent GC.

TERRAIN AERATION

Specialist Contracting Service



IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR
COMPACTION, WATERLOGGING, PANNING

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS FOR
SPORTS PITCHES, BOWLING GREENS, GOLF COURSES, AMENITY AREAS, TREES, GARDENS.

IMMEDIATE PLAY

1 Metre Penetration

TERRAIN AERATION
T: 01449 673783
W: www.terrainaeration.co.uk





Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director, explains how Apprenticeships in the future will be a route via which greenkeepers can achieve a Degree

In recent years we have seen more and more former greenkeeping apprentices achieve a very well earned Degree qualification. Whilst I fully understand that a Degree is not for everybody, we have to appreciate and accept that greenkeeping has become a much more diverse profession from my days as an apprentice.

Some things may not have changed in that many greenkeepers a life on a golf course as they prefer to work outdoors, possibly love golf and there is an apprenticeship available.

What has changed though over the years is the job role beyond golf greenkeeper.

Having recently reviewed the content of the Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship, the list of skills may not have changed, but certainly more knowledge has been added and the graded, end point assessments will add quality to the new Level 2 qualification.

We have now submitted new draft Standards for a First Assistant, Deputy, Head Greenkeeper, Golf Course Manager.

We will now be looking at devising appropriate programmes of education, training and a series of graded end assessments to meet these new Standards and new qualifications.

We have consulted with employers, GTC quality assured Centres/Training Providers, England Golf and of course BIGGA at every stage of the development of the new Standards.

The review of Standards has been under triggered by the GTC being accredited as a Trailblazer organisation by the Government and all this work is aligned to improving the quality of apprenticeships across all industries.

Whilst Trailblazer is only currently for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have been kept fully informed of the work to update the skills,



knowledge and behaviours expected by employers for greenkeepers.

The Government has put much emphasis on the new graded, end point assessments which every new apprenticeship has to have but we believe the programme of education and training is equally important.

We are all familiar with the Level 2, 3 and 4 courses offered either with some off the job day or block release time or the 100% on the job delivery option.

[These options we believe will continue to be available giving employers' choice of which QA Centre/Training Provider best meets their requirements to deliver, jointly, a successful programme for their trainee(s).

Government funding will be available and this was explained by David Croxton, GTC Trailblazer Chairman, in last month's GI.

As we now focus on the advanced and higher level Standards we will be looking at the current education and training provision available including the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper and see if these can be aligned to the new Standards.



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 Alne
York
YO61 1UF

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



You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

The likes of the Foundation Degree Science in Sports turf could well feature as a suitable course/qualification to underpin the Golf Course Manager Standard but all of these discussions are only just starting.

Degree Apprenticeships are under consideration by the Government and the GTC has declared an interest in how they might work within the sector.

Cost will clearly be a huge element of whether there will be sufficient uptake and employers would need to see a benefit to their business to invest funding into an individuals personal development however students seeking a Degree could possibly access funding through scholarships and/or bursaries currently available through BIGGA and The R&A.

These are certainly exciting times for greenkeeping and with employer representation, BIGGA and the specialist Centres and Training Providers all committed to the reforms the GTC remains confident that there will be options to progress along a career path or for employers to improve their staff development which in turn improves the business.

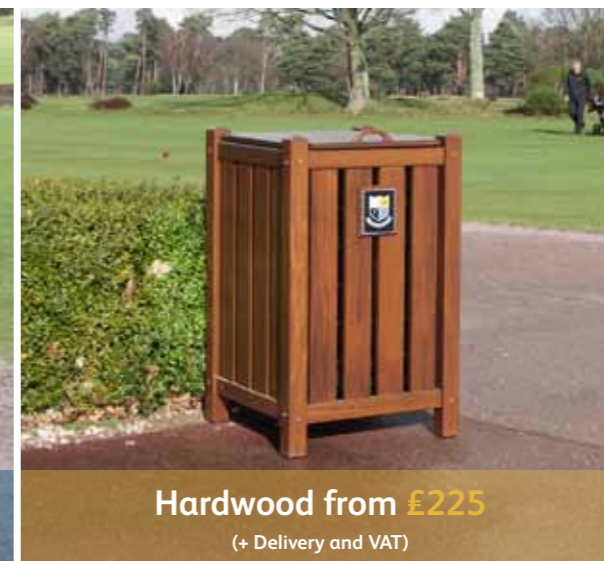


On Course Furniture



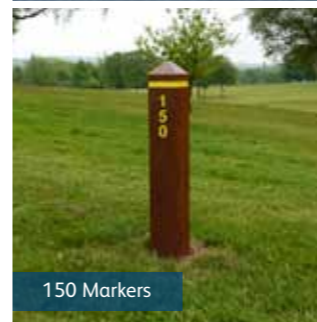
EaglePlex from £189

(+ Delivery and VAT)



Hardwood from £225

(+ Delivery and VAT)



150 Markers



Hazard Markers

Manufactured in the UK
at the Eagle Plant

Contact Eagle for more information

t + 44 (0)1883 344244 e info@eagle.uk.com w www.eagle.uk.com

Point of Play
Tee Markers
from £4.95



EaglePlex Marker



Tee Caddy Marker



Upright Marker



Octagonal Marker



Lee Sayers
Master Greenkeeper

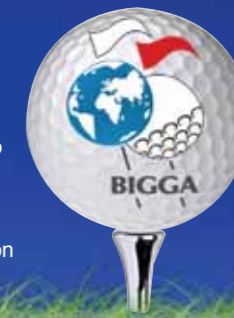
MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE

The premier greenkeeping qualification

The MG Certificate is awarded to those greenkeeper members of BIGGA who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management. It is a prestigious, industry award gained through experience as a greenkeeper, formal and informal training, high quality golf course management and a rigorous, two-part examination.

All Full, Associate and International members of BIGGA are eligible to join the scheme and earn Stage 1 Credits. Applicants must be Course Managers (Superintendents)/Head Greenkeepers to progress to Stages 2 and 3.

Download an application form at
www.bigga.org.uk by clicking on Education



BUYERS' GUIDE

To advertise contact James on 01347 833 832
or email james@bigga.co.uk

GREENACRES ARTIFICIAL GRASS Quality Synthetic Grass Golf Products



Greenacres, a leading supplier of artificial grass for sports and landscaping, have introduced a new range of Golf Tee Mats in 2015 for golf course construction, winter-tees and driving ranges.

The COURSE MAT range has a thick-brush pile surface that replicates a natural tee and will support any standard tee-peg. The mats are approx. 12 feet wide and allow players to position their ball anywhere across the tee, in order to target the appropriate flag or fairway position. COURSE MAT is also available in roll format without the standard shock-absorbent backing, for use in larger driving range type areas.

The RANGE MAT collection includes new lush-pile surfaces for 'natural fairway feel' with tee & iron play in a larger mat size, which gives more freedom to the player and a longer life over traditional range mats.

Also new for 2015 are two new qualities in synthetic greens. Developed and tested to closely replicate a natural green

surface, these 4-metre wide carpets can be installed as winter greens or golf course & domestic putting green, using a variety of base constructions, partial sanding and synthetic underlays as required. SHOCK-PAD products come in three different qualities and provide a shock absorbent underlay for their PARK, LAWN or GREENS products.

PARK & LAWN are lush 30mm & 40mm carpets with a reputation as the most realistic synthetic landscaping grasses on the market. GREENACRES supply a wide range of carpets ideal for landscaping, and particularly suitable for heavy traffic areas, pathways and where wear or erosion are a problem.

Greenacres/A.T. Industries pride themselves on their comprehensive levels of stock and high quality of customer service. Contact their Sales Office on: Greenacres Artificial Grass
Tel: 01476 593050
E-mail: sales@atindustries.co.uk
www.greenacresartificialgrass.uk

CATEGORIES...

**AERATION /
AGRONOMY / ALL
WEATHER SURFACES
/ ANTI SLIP / BUNKER
/ CONSTRUCTION /
CLOTHING FOOTWEAR
/ COMPACT TRACTORS
/ CONSTRUCTION /
DRAINAGE / HEDGES/
TREES / IRRIGATION
/ IRRIGATION
CONSULTANTS / LAKE
CONSTRUCTION
LINERS / MACHINERY
WANTED / RUBBER
CRUMB / SOIL FOOD
WEB / TOP DRESSING
/ TREE MOVING / TREE
CLEARANCE / TURF
USED MACHINERY
/ VERTIDRAINING /
WASTE / WASHWATER
TREATMENT**

To advertise contact
James
on **01347 833 832**
or email
james@bigga.co.uk

ALL WEATHER SURFACES

GREENACRES
ARTIFICIAL GRASS
A division of A.T. Industries Ltd

ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR SPORT

- Course Tee Mats
- Sidelines/Warm up
- Range Mats
- Landscaping Grass
- Putting Greens
- Pathways

Tel: 01476 593050
Email: grass@atindustries.co.uk
www.greenacresartificialgrass.uk

Verde
SPORTS LIMITED
Est. 1988

All-Weather Surfaces For Your Golf Club

- Pathways
- Tees
- Putting Greens
- Golf Mats
- Fairway Mats
- Accessories

Ensure the course is playable all year round

Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066
Email: sales@verdesports.com
www.verdesports.com

To advertise contact
James
on **01347 833 832**

Huxley Golf
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF

Huxley Practice Tee at St Andrews Links

Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com

PGA
Official Supplier

Photo courtesy of Ridding Park
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'

JOHN GREASLEY LTD
Specialists in Golf Course Construction

Tel. 0116 2696766

CONSTRUCTION

M. Downes Earthworks

- Golf Course Construction Services
- Green and Tee Reconstruction
- Lakes and Reservoirs • Cart Paths
- Bunker Remodelling • Drainage
- Lakes and Reservoirs

07753 856510 01829 781767
mdownesgolf@live.co.uk

DRAINAGE

Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage
Survey / Design / Installation / Greens / Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com
www.turfdry.com

**Traditional
drainage and
Lytag banding
of greens and fairways**

**North Staffs
IRRIGATION**

Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSirrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

IRRIGATION

irritech limited
Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:
01823 690216
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

**Design
Installation
Service
Irrigation supplies**

**North Staffs
IRRIGATION**

Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSirrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

TORRO **Hunter**

MACHINERY WANTED

**Invicta Groundcare
Equipment Ltd**

**We buy used golf
course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne
Tel No: 01474 874 120
Email: invictagroundcare@live.com

TOP DRESSINGS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.

**FOR ALL YOUR BULK SUPPLIES
NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES**

01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

LOVIE
QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsigo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR
Tel: 01771 653777
email: sales@lovie.co.uk
www.lovie.co.uk

Mansfield Sand

Pioneering the development and production of high quality sand-based products for over 150 years

**Fibresand
Fibrelastic**

Contact Sharon Morris on
07932342044 or email
Sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk
www.mansfield-sand.co.uk

TREE MOVING

BENBURGESS
www.benburgess.co.uk

**Specialists in quality used
Golf & Turf machinery**

John Deere SCAG BCS SCH Wessex Oxdale Timberwolf Kubota Tanaka Ransomes Charterhouse. Major Club Car & many more machines currently in stock

Norwich Norfolk **01603 625370**
www.benburgess.co.uk

TURF

Lindum
taking grass a step further

20 years of golf turf experience
5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance, Wildflower Turf, and new Low Maintenance turf

Tel: 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

Tillers Turf
growers of fine turf

**Specialist Growers of
Turf for Golf Courses**

Rootzone Turf for Greens
Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.
Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds,
Approaches and Fairways**
Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

Bunker revetting turf
40mm thick
Small or big roll
Free loan of big roll laying frame

Tel: 01652 678 000
www.tillersturf.co.uk

USED MACHINERY

www.
usedturfmachinery.com

To advertise contact
James
on **01347 833 832**

WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

Waste2Water®

**BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS**

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.
Tel: 01782 373 878
Fax: 01782 373 763
E-mail: info@waste2water.com
Web: www.waste2water.com

Recruitment

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

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

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

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



Greenkeeper/Mechanic

An opportunity has arisen at The Mere to join our greenkeeping team on our championship golf course. This role will be responsible for the day to day maintenance of both the golf course and the machinery. The ideal candidate will possess a level 3 or above in land based technology/engineering as well as practical greenkeeping experience.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Knowledge of H&S requirements and service logs
- Knowledge of the maintenance requirements for all machinery including grinding, unit set-up, fabrication, hydraulics and irrigation systems.

Contact Course Manager on 01565 830155 for further details

Apply via email to careers@themereresort.co.uk



A vacancy has arisen at Dunstable Downs Golf Club for an experienced Green keeper to join our team.

Founded in 1906, this James Braid design course offers a fantastic opportunity to work on a top quality Downland course.

CV's in application should be submitted for the attention of the General Manager either by email to secretary@dunstabledownsgolf.co.uk or by post to Dunstable Downs Golf Club, Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 2NB.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 12th June 2015

Hever Castle Golf Club, Greenkeeper

An opportunity has arisen at Hever Castle Golf Club to recruit a Greenkeeper to join our team. This position is ideally suited to a candidate with some greenkeeping experience, who has the commitment and enthusiasm to progress, at the start of their career in Golf Course Management.

The candidate should have:

- A minimum of one years experience working full time as a Greenkeeper on a golf course.
- Relevant qualifications to NVQ Level 2 would be desirable but not essential, as a formal training programme will be established.
- The ability to recognise and achieve the high standards of golf course preparation and presentation that are expected at all times.
- A willingness to work with enthusiasm, and learn to improve oneself.

This is a full time position with weekends worked on a rota basis. Candidates must have their own transport and a full driving licence.

Please apply by mail with a full CV and covering letter to: davidjwood@dsl.pipex.com

David Wood, Golf Course Manager

www.hever.co.uk



Advertise your recruitment here ... and online

for one month
at www.bigga.org.uk/careers
from £595+vat for an 1/8 advert
Contact **Jill Rodham** on
01347 833 812

Genuine Toro Parts **TORO** Toro® Bedknives

Now's a fitting time to get the perfect cut

Check your bedknives
Get an even cut

For a truly perfect cut there is only one answer: a set of genuine Toro bedknives. And with the first cut of the season done, now's the perfect time to contact your Toro dealer or service centre and ask about their latest Toro bedknife promotions.

Genuine Toro bedknives provide:

- ✓ True flatness of the knife, extending its life and maximising the quality of cut
- ✓ True positions and true chamfer on mounting holes meaning fewer adjustments
- ✓ Superior performance in form, fit and function of bedknife parts
- ✓ Superior quality of cut you expect from Toro

Lely. Your partners in turfcare. Call 01480 226800

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors and Otterbine water management systems.



partners in turfcare

Toro Commercial Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 | Email: turfcare.parts.uk@lely.com | www.lelyturfcare.co.uk | www.toro.com

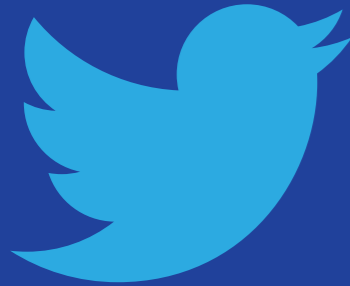
Huxley Golf All-Weather Practice Tees

Huxley Golf
Premier All-Weather Surfaces for Golf



Castle Course, St Andrews Links

Uk and Overseas Enquiries:
Tel +44 (0)1962 733222
Email: sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com



@BIGGALtd

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...

@brownstuff1984

pleasure working with these boys all week on early morning prep @BIGGALtd #BMWPGA

@gord_mckie

@TheHomeofGolf @TheOpen @BIGGALtd nice morning on the links and the tented village is underway with 54 days to go...

@BIGGALtd

Awareness Survey email has been sent to all our Greenkeeper Members (with an email address) please complete and help us formulate a strategy

@sandra4bigganor

Cleveland Section Irrigation Workshop with @rogerlupton from @LelyUKTurfcare at @ClevelandGolfCl @BIGGALtd

@dperdi30

@SarahSkySports thanks for the sports retweet today. Us UK and ire greenkeepers worked hard this week

@avrogreenkeeper

First swarm collection of the season at Cheadle Golf Club, plus Waynes first experience @My_Apprentice @BIGGALtd

@misterdeere

Congratulations to #JohnDeereUKIE @BIGGALtd & @GCSAI15 volunteers and the whole greenkeeping team @TPCSawgrass - awesome course, awesome job

@Tracey_Maddison

Great visit to @BernhardGrinder today to discuss @BIGGALtd Delegation to #GIS2016 #exciting #member #opportunities

@downie82

Thanks @TPCSawgrassAGR @BIGGALtd and @JohnDeere for an amazing week #THEPLAYERS



@avrogreenkeeper



@sandra4bigganor



@dperdi30



@brownstuff1984

Trusted by the best courses on earth.

PGA of Sweden National, Bara Sweden

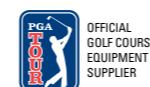


There's a reason why the best courses trust in John Deere: our mowers deliver unmatched cut quality, creating an ideal playing surface on tees, greens, fairways and roughs.

See for yourself. Contact your dealer for a demonstration.

Freephone 0800 085 25 22

John Deere Golf: Trusted by the best courses on Earth – Video on www.johndeere.co.uk/bestcourses/



OFFICIAL GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER



SUPPLIERS OF AGRICULTURAL, GROUNDSCAPE AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT JOHN DEERE LTD NOTTINGHAM

JohnDeere.com

TORO

Toro® Reelmaster® 3550-D

Lightweight champion

**The Reelmaster 3550-D,
the lightest fairway mower on the market.**



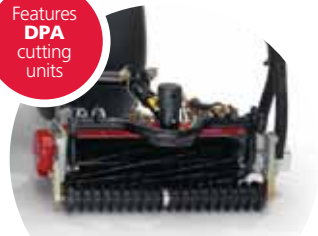
THE REELMASTER 3550-D
FAIRWAY MOWER

Weighing in at just 900kgs, our Reelmaster 3550-D is the fairway champion of the world. So, while it makes a big impression – it won't leave one. Because it floats like a butterfly over contours. What's more, it has a productive 2.1m (82in) cutting width and 7mph (11kmph) mowing speed. With its turf-friendly tyres, the superior traction of a Series/Parallel 3-wheel-drive system, and a powerful 25hp (18.5kW) diesel engine, the RM3550-D is just simply a knockout.

Full product details at www.toro.com

Put us to the test. For a free onsite demonstration, call Lely on 01480 226800

Features
DPA
cutting
units



REELMASTER 3100-D



REELMASTER 3550-D



REELMASTER 5510-D



REELMASTER 7000-D



OFFICIAL
SUPPLIER



Lely. Your partners in turfcare. Call 01480 226800.

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors and Otterbine water management systems.



partners in turfcare