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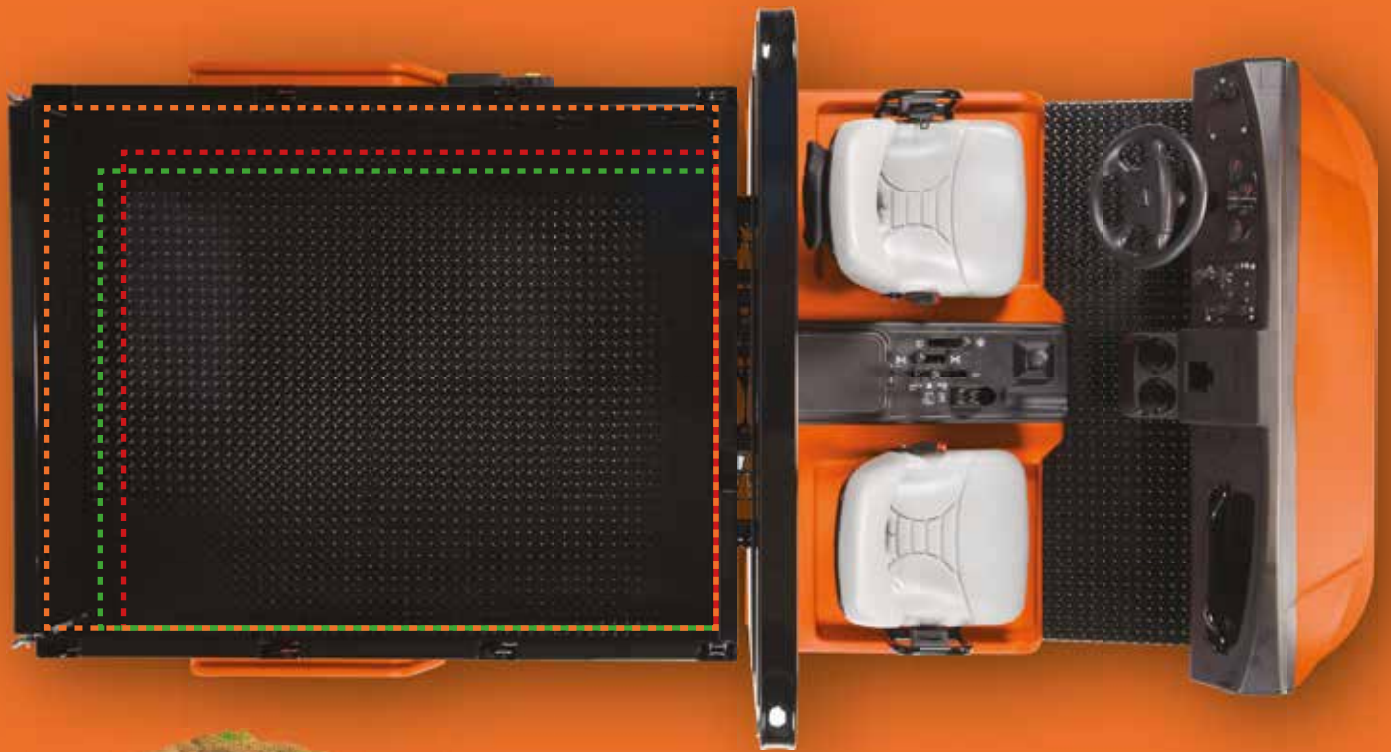
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Fulford Golf Club

A Congratulatory Theme

The theme of this column is definitely a congratulatory one; perhaps it is the changing of the clocks that has put me in a reflective mood!

Firstly, congratulations to our cover star, James Rowles, whose excellent performance at Fulford Golf Club last month earned him the title of BIGGA's National Champion. He overcame a pretty ordinary start – three over par after just two holes – to finish two under par in total for the 36 holes, overcoming a talented field in the process. Well done James.

Fulford's Head Greenkeeper Mark Mennell clocked up 40 years service in the run up to the event, a feat definitely worthy of congratulations. Witnessing his desire to produce the goods after such a long innings was both inspiring and in many ways typical of this industry. It was gratifying to be asked to attend a dinner held in his honour at the club and to see at first hand the respect they have for him and his team. The course, so memorable to those of us that grew up watching it as a European Tour venue, was simply immaculate.

On the subject of Tour golf it was great to see the British Masters return to the schedule, the concept of our superstar players hosting tournaments is clearly a strong one.

The upward curve of the Irish Open on the back of Rory McIlroy's involvement was evidence of this, so the combination of Ian Poulter and Woburn Golf Club was always likely to be successful. We were thrilled to be asked by the Courses Manager, John Clarke, to co-ordinate a volunteer support team for the event and I know it was a superb experience for those that took part. I was privileged to attend the event and without doubt John and all the team had worked wonders, the Marquess Course was absolutely outstanding and it was great to hear so many of the players saying so throughout the week. Congratulations to the whole team at Woburn.

I would also like to congratulate one of our members, Andrew Kerr, Course Manager at West Malling Golf Club for recently winning the inaugural Spray Operator of the Year award. The award, organised by the Amenity Forum and sponsored by Everris/ICL and Syngenta was presented at the Amenity Forum conference and I was delighted to see one of our own come out victorious in the sports turf category.

My final congratulations go to Sami Strutt, our Head of Member Development.

Since last month's launch of the 2016 Continue to Learn programme we have been inundated with positive feedback. Sami and the rest of the team have put together an incredibly impressive and comprehensive programme that really does have something for everyone, bookings are absolutely flooding in.

This month's magazine is packed, as usual, with technical articles and general interest stories from the world of greenkeeping, it also contains an interesting opinion piece from Andy Wight of Oaklands College that I hope will provoke further discussion.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

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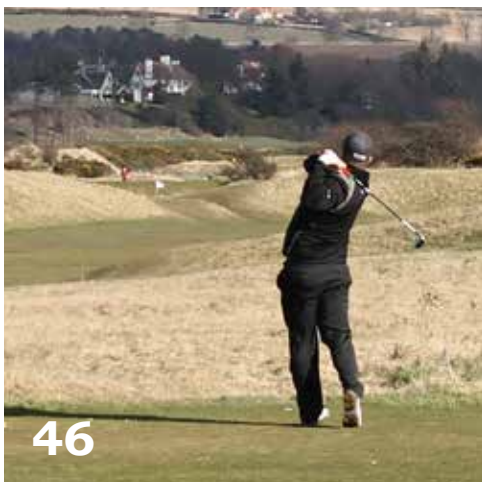




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Chairman's Word

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

The National Cheers As Winter Nears

After the very sad news we reported last month, it's nice to be reporting good news. Now the BTME and Continue to Learn programme has had time to sink in, it's great to be getting regular updates from Deb Burnett in the L&D team at BIGGA House with bookings.

With 243 hours of education on offer, there genuinely is something for everyone. The whole experience is a terrific opportunity to learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and spend some quality time networking with like-minded professionals from all over the UK and further afield. Amazingly, BTME 2016 is now just two months away, so if you have not already booked your education put it at the top of your 'to do' list before you start with Christmas shopping.

Due to having a very busy year and preferring to go out on my bike than play golf, I didn't enter the BIGGA National Championship this year, but after making the trip up to Fulford Golf Club for the second day to hand out the prizes, I wish I had made the effort to play. The course looked in great condition and the atmosphere amongst the competitors was one that made me feel immensely proud to be a member of BIGGA.

The level of golf played was extremely high and to have the winning score under par on a course that has held top tour events recently is a true testament to the adaptability of greenkeepers. Congratulations to James Rowles from Henbury Golf Club who won the overall prize with a two-under gross score of 142.

Even greater congratulations should go to Fulford's Head Greenkeeper Mark Mennell for 40 years of service to the club - his entire working life. In those 40 years Mark has been responsible for not only producing a world class golfing venue, but for helping nurture the careers of countless greenkeepers who remain successful within the industry.

The middle of October saw me travel to Edinburgh for a week-long education course organised by the



"Fulford looked in great condition and the atmosphere amongst the competitors was one that made me feel immensely proud to be a member of BIGGA"

Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE). It was the 4th part of their Management Development Programme and it was an excellent week with lots of useable learning outcomes. It gave me the opportunity to network with several Club Managers, PGA professionals and Scottish Golf employees.

With the support of my club I have completed all four levels of their programme and I know there are several other course managers working the way through it. If you are considering a move into club management one day or would just like to learn more general management skills to help in day to day life, I can highly recommend the programme.

Our own Continuing Professional Development can come in many shapes and sizes and it does not need to be

all about turf, soils or fertilisers. As the industry changes we will have to evolve as greenkeepers and being actively engaged in the BIGGA CPD scheme should be an absolute must for all members. It's free, easy to use and a fantastic resource to track your learning.

Well, as many of us are now deep in to winter construction work, let's hope the weather stays dry and I need to get back to my digger - these tees and bunkers won't build themselves.

All the best

Les

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Funding your future

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Association's considerable investment in Continuing Professional Development and all our educational activity. They are investing in the future of BIGGA members, we are hugely grateful and urge you to show them your support



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

Book your GolfBIC place now




Golf Course Owners and Operators are being urged to book their place at GolfBIC, which is being held for the first time in conjunction with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, BTME.

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

The 2016 event will take place on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 January in purpose-built conference space in Hall Q of the Harrogate International Centre. Hall Q is open for the first time in several years to accommodate more and more exhibitors and visitors to the show.

GolfBIC provides an opportunity for golf industry professionals to come together to discuss, share and update their knowledge in all areas of the golf club business.

The event will feature a host of top golf industry speakers including Jay Karen, Chief Executive of the National Golf Course Owners Association in the USA who will discuss the challenges facing the US golf market and how they translate to the UK. Also on the programme will be Lodewijk Klootwijk, UKGCOA Chief Executive, who will focus on the progress across Europe since 'Vision 20/20' was introduced – a project to encourage fun family engagement in golf clubs.

UKGCOA Chief Executive Andy Lloyd-Skinner will present a variety of subjects designed to benefit owners and operators, including the VAT equalisation project and their work with England Golf on its Facilities Strategy

Alongside the plenary conference programme will be a series of workshops aimed at different aspects of the golf club with particular emphasis on improving and diversifying the product.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "GolfBIC is one of the major events of the year in terms of attracting delegates from the whole spectrum of the golf industry.

"This event will attract even more key decision makers to BTME, reaffirming how important a week for the entire golf industry the third week of January is. I'm looking forward to sharing the HIC with GolfBIC delegates and presenters and I know all of our exhibitors will be very keen to talk business with them too.

"Decisions concerning on-course spend are high on the list of priorities for golf club operators at present and it's exciting to host an event which will attract even more of them to BTME. As well as a superb exhibition with five Halls and a first-class greenkeeper education programme, networking is a significant part of BTME's enduring appeal and success and joining forces with this high profile event will only enhance this."

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

"Despite this, both organisations want to take GolfBIC to the next level and having attended BTME in Harrogate for the past couple of years, I have been impressed with the way BIGGA has organised the educational programmes and improved attendances and the exhibition environment for exhibitors since I originally attended BTME in 2004. I am excited about GolfBIC 2016 at Harrogate in January and expect attendees to both enjoy the event and leave with some new ideas and an increased level of enthusiasm for the 2016 golf season."

To book your place at GolfBIC please visit www.btme.org.uk/education. You can also reserve your spot at any of our hugely varied seminars, conferences and sessions here – please book early to avoid disappointment!

There will also be a dinner on the Wednesday evening in the Royal Hall of the HIC, beginning at 7pm and featuring a three course meal. This is included in the daily delegate rate, additional tickets are available for £65 plus VAT.

MENDIP WIN GMT AT FRILFORD

Congratulations to the team from Mendip Golf Club who emerged victorious in the second BIGGA Golf Management Trophy sponsored by ICL, formerly Everris.

The Red Course at Frilford Heath Golf Club was again in superb condition thanks to Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith MG, who will become BIGGA Vice President in January, and the rest of his greenkeeping team.

On an overcast day in Oxfordshire, ten teams who had made their way through Regional qualifiers this summer battled for the ultimate prize - and it proved to be a thrilling final with South West Section qualifiers Mendip pipping Southwood Golf Club from BIGGA's South Coast Section on countback. The format was Stableford.

Mendip Assistant Greenkeeper Stuart Ponfield teamed up with Club Chairman Ian Fairclough, Vice Chairman of Greens Paul Reakes and Chairman of Greens Richard Jeffrey from the club to score 84 points - the same as Southwood. Prestbury Golf Club, from BIGGA's North West Section, finished third on 80 points.

Stuart, who has a handicap of one, said: "It was a real team effort, and great to win at such a lovely place to play golf. I think we were eight under on the back nine, we all had birdies, which was the key to winning it."

The idea of the Trophy is to encourage decision makers from golf clubs including greenkeepers, club officials and other team members, to work together effectively and harmoniously. The first ever event was won last year by Chipping Sodbury Golf Club.



Photos by Rachael Duffy

The winning team won a fertiliser hopper kindly donated by the sponsors plus clothing, while other prizes included bottles of wine and champagne.

Frilford Heath's Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith MG said: "The event went extremely well, it was a rather overcast day but certainly nothing to worry about in mid October.

"The whole day was very nicely organised, with the considerable help of Rachael Duffy from BIGGA House. All the competitors enjoyed the course and the catering and it was a pleasure to welcome them all."

RESULTS

First Team Prize:
Mendip Golf Club, 84pts
(c/b) - Stuart Ponfield, Ian Fairclough, Paul Reakes, Richard Jeffrey

Second Team Prize:
Southwood Golf Club, 84pts - Chris Hudson, Ashley Sharpe, Stuart Job, Karl Flodman

Third Team Prize:
Prestbury Golf Club, 80pts
- Mark Crossley, George Senior, Simon Bolam, Paul Allen

Nearest Pin:
Ashley Sharpe (Southwood Golf Club)

Special Prize for an Eagle on the 18th:
Ian Fairclough (Mendip Golf Club)



BRITISH MASTERS SUCCESS



BIGGA members played a key role as the British Masters supported by Sky Sports made a successful return to the golfing calendar at Woburn Golf Club – and were even served breakfast by Ian Poulter as a thank you.

After a seven-year absence, the tournament returned to the European Tour as part of the Race to Dubai, and BIGGA members responded superbly to the call to join the home team preparing the Marquess Course for the event.

Around forty greenkeepers travelled to support the team for what proved to be an intense, but hugely enjoyable week. Just one of the highlights was Woburn-based golfer Poulter heading over to the greenkeeping facilities to help cook breakfast for all the greenkeepers on site.

Woburn's Courses Manager John Clarke said: "The British Masters was a phenomenal success for our club, the great plaudits received from all angles regarding the quality

of the golf course and the practice facilities was superb especially after the tough start to the week weather wise."

"Due to the event being so late in the calendar the majority of our preparation work was completed under the cover of darkness, and without the BIGGA crew being fully integrated into our team we couldn't have achieved the level of morning preparation we did ahead of the first tee times.

"Without the support, hard work, commitment and determination of the team I am sure the event would not have been such a resounding success, to a man the BIGGA support team were great ambassadors for their individual clubs and a fantastic advert for BIGGA and our industry all round."

The event was won by Matt Fitzpatrick with a score of 15 under. The young Yorkshireman also made a point of thanking all of the greenkeepers on site during his victory speech.

WALKER CUP SUPPORT

The announcement we were holding the Walker Cup meant that 2015 would prove to be a particularly challenging year for the greenkeepers at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, preparing the course for two major international amateur events at both ends of the playing season, one in spring and the other in autumn.



The Cup itself presented a new challenge as it was at a time of year when maintenance practices usually change to renovation rather than refinement. With the golf season therefore extended it demanded a greater level of commitment and dedication from the whole team. However, it was another great opportunity for all to be involved in a historic event, televised to millions.

Royal Lytham & St Annes has staged 11 Open Championships, four Women's British Opens, two Ryder Cups, the Curtis Cup, four Amateur Championships and three Ladies British Open Amateur Championships including in its inaugural year in 1893. The club also hosts the annual Lytham Trophy won in the past by many of the leading figures in the European amateur game.

The home greenkeeping team, of 12 led by Head Greenkeeper Paul Smith were assisted by 16 extra greenkeepers from across the UK and Europe, stretching from Blackpool to Belgrade! This exercise has proven to be very beneficial towards developing the individual and the home team of greenkeepers.

As the tournament approached the presentation of the course was refined with increased mowing frequencies and an emphasis on bunker preparation and presentation. Working hours increased with 6am starts, then finishing around 5pm. Friday was the final practice day for the players and used by the greenkeeping team as a course set up practice run before the actual match days on Saturday and Sunday, this meant earlier starts of 5am and later finishes around 8pm.

The weather building up to the competition was as good as could be asked for however come the first morning of the event the heavens opened, heavy rain in the morning ensured a very wet team of greenkeepers, weather extremes that you could say the staff are quite used to at Lytham following the regular downpours at the 2012 Open.

Thankfully this time that first morning was all the rain for the weekend and it stayed dry for the matches and the spectators. It has been a very special year in the History of the Club and the continued development of the course.

By Joe Barnes, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club



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-
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- Collars & Aprons – 7mm – John Deere 220C Walk-Behind Mowers X2
- Green Surrounds – 9mm – Toro Reelmaster 3550-D X2
- Fairways – 9mm – John Deere Fairway Mowers X4
- Bunker & Tee Banks – 14mm – Toro Reelmaster 3100-D w/ Sidewinder X1
- Semi Rough – 38mm – John Deere 8800 TerrainCut Rough Mower X1
-

ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPS



Visiting Alwoodley Golf Club prior to the English Amateur Championship everyone was calm and prepared, Course Manager Philip Taylor and his team had spotted some signs of potential disease so treated all the greens in preparation, a decision made given the timeframe, circumstances and conditions to ensure the best possible playing surface for a significant competition starting the next day.

The event was hosted at both Alwoodley Golf Club and Pannal Golf Club with the first two days split into fields of 64 at each venue, swapping venues on day two, unfortunately the awful weather at the start of the week resulted in reduced stroke play from two rounds to one.

The week progressed steadily from the 128 starting the competition on Monday to just Joe Dean of Lindrick and Alfie Plant of Sundridge Park for the final the following Sunday. The pair started the 36 hole final in beautiful sunshine but by the 11th hole (Par 3 179 yard) of the second round and with Dean seven holes up with eight to play, the weather conditions had changed considerably leading to a Yorkshire Post video clip of Philip squeegeeing the green. Philip commented that he "should have taken three squeegees with him" in order to accept the offers of help from the crowd that had gathered around the green.

Having cleared the whole green of water Dean then hit his tee shot to within six inches of the pin, following his own shot and on approaching the green Plant conceded the hole, the match and the title. Another challenging week for the greenkeeping teams but a superb achievement by them all to get the tournament played to a conclusion in extremely testing conditions.

Sandra Raper

NEW AWARD GOES WEST TO ANDREW



Congratulations to BIGGA member Andrew Kerr who has won a prestigious accolade at the inaugural Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards.

Andrew Kerr, Course Manager at West Malling Golf Club, a stunning 36-hole parkland facility in Kent, emerged victorious to win the 'Sports and Amenity Turf using a Boom Sprayer' title. The runner up was James Wright from Leeds University.

Sponsored by BIGGA Partners Syngenta and ICL (formerly Everris), the winners of this prestigious competition were announced at the Amenity Forum Conference in Leicester.

The Awards highlighted the exceptional skills and experience of all those involved, to demonstrate best practice for effective results and, above all, safe spray application in amenity situations.

As part of his prize, Andrew will

receive a Go Pro Hero action video camera, along with £250 of training vouchers for further CPD from sponsors Syngenta and ICL plus a year's free membership of the BASIS Amenity Training Register.

Andrew, who is currently undertaking the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate, said: "I was amazed to win. It was a friend in the industry who really pushed me to enter. I filled in a questionnaire explaining what we do here as a team regarding all aspects of spraying, then an assessor visited the club.

"This Award cements what myself and all the team are trying to achieve here. It's a reward for all the effort and extra hours that we've all put in, and shows that doing things correctly and documenting everything is the right way to go about things. I'm now planning on using the Go Pro to take some great shots of the courses and document future projects."

Andrew was praised by the judges for incorporating new technology into his spraying operation to ensure accurate application. The whole course has been GPS mapped, coupled to GPS equipment on the sprayer to ensure only the targeted areas are sprayed, to minimise use

and waste. Fitting new Syngenta XC Nozzle technology has minimised risk of drift losses and achieve better application on the target.

Already a highly experienced sprayer operator, Andrew was also praised for his ongoing commitment to education and training, including gaining the BASIS Foundation Award. The judges were particularly impressed by his skills in practical application techniques and his innovation to design and modify the filling site and wash-bay optimised for safety, speed and ease of working.

Daniel Lightfoot MG, Syngenta UK Business Manager, said: "We recognise that the skills of the operator are paramount in achieving the best possible results from every application. In almost every instance the entrants have instigated ideas and practices to make the spraying process easier, more accurate and, ultimately, safer.

"The Awards are a welcome way to recognise and reward the leading individuals and to learn from their experience."

Greenkeeper International June featured Andrew and the team's work as they transformed a section of one of their club's two 18-hole courses, a project which is now successfully complete.

**OPM
CONTAINMENT
THWARTED**

Oak processionary moth (OPM) is proving the most intractable exotic insect pest problem of trees the UK has yet had to face and deal with. If it was just a pest problem of trees the authorities could simply let the insect spread and live with the consequences. This has essentially been the attitude towards horse chestnut leaf miner even though white flowering horse chestnut was almost certainly the most important landscape and amenity tree in the UK.

This exotic pest now affects white flowering horse chestnut trees the length and breadth of England, across most of Wales and has most recently shown first incursions into Scotland.

Ruling out such a 'laissez-faire' attitude with OPM is the human health problem caused by urticating (stinging hairs) on older larvae and the overriding importance of English oak to the very fabric of semi-natural woodland and the timber industry.

First appearance of OPM in west London in 2006 and its virtual confinement to Greater London ever

since has minimised rate of spread and contained the infestation. English oaks are not common in urban London due to the size of mature trees and potential undermining of roads, pathways and buildings by extensive and aggressive root systems.

That said London has more than its fair share of natural open green spaces many of which have SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status. However, SSSI status is a 'double edged sword' when it comes to OPM because this official protection massively restricts what kind of pest control activity can take place including use of chemical pesticides, even with public health threatening pests like OPM.

Sites such as Richmond Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest are essentially unchanged since the 16th and 17th centuries and thus contain significant areas of Ancient Woodland correspondingly rich in English oak. 'Ancient' is a term used to describe a site carrying woodland since 1600.

SSSI's are becoming OPM reservoirs, overflowing annually into adjacent areas. This has already been happening for a number of years in Richmond, the epicentre of OPM infestation, where golf courses adjoining and close to Richmond

Park have been 'clobbered' by OPM year after year even though they are 'religiously' controlling the pest on their premises using insecticide sprays. London Borough of Richmond is inside the Forestry Commission's new 2015 Core Zone' where land owners are no longer legally required to control OPM (Greenkeeper International, August 2015).

More OPM pressure cookers are beginning build up in The London Borough of Waltham Forest which includes the southern end of Epping Forest and North London where City of London Corporation has confirmed OPM infested oak trees on Hampstead Heath.

Only bright spot relates to the flight direction of moths in late summer for mating and oviposition of eggs by female moths. Direction and distance of travel by these night-flying moths is clearly being affected by the predominant and prevailing south westerly winds. Since 2006 OPM has spread a maximum 12km in east/south east directions compared with just one third of this in west/south west directions. This may help to stave off OPM problems in key areas like Ruislip Woods in the London Borough of Hillingdon and the equally sensitive Windsor Great Park



further to the west covering parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

However, the most recent finding is the most threatening and worrying. An August 17th 2015 map updating the distribution of nests found in spring/summer 2015 showed a single within the Guildford District of Surrey. Within one month (15th September 2015) this had increased to at least a dozen infested trees identified in the same area. These OPM nests are 10km from the outer limit of the 2014 infestation while the maximum recorded flying distance for female egg laying moths is only 5km.

This latest finding therefore looks very much like another new separate infestation arising from the introduction of OPM eggs on oak tree planting material from Europe. Location of this outbreak looks precariously close to, if not already inside, the Surrey Hills 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. Surrey is the most heavily wooded county in the whole of England.

Dr Terry Mabbett



Long-lasting Medallion TL gives you the confidence and peace of mind that your turf is safely protected.

The fludioxonil in Medallion TL is the ONLY Contact+ active – targeting disease on the leaf AND in the thatch.



WALKERS RAISE NEARLY £2,500 FOR BENEVOLENT FUND

Congratulations to the team of greenkeeper walkers who successfully strode nearly 60 miles across Yorkshire and at the last count, have raised nearly £2,500 for the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund. The intrepid group of eight successfully completed their marathon hike to BIGGA House from Sheffield – walking a blister-inducing 19 hours over two days.

The event, in aid of the BIGGA Greenkeeper Benevolent Fund, was the brainchild of Stocksbridge Golf Club's Wayne Lazenby. Using the wonders of social media the idea took off and ultimately Wayne was joined by his colleague Richard Marshall, Course Managers of Patshull Park and Lickey, Mal Mitchell and Dave Collins, Deputy Course Managers of Aldwickbury Park and Redditch, Martin Brown and Harvey Brooke, along with Geoff Fenn from Countrywide and Ryan Anderton from the Highspeed Group.

The 54-mile walk commenced early on Saturday 3 October at Stocksbridge and they finally reached BIGGA House at around 6.30pm the next day. There were blisters aplenty but spirits were extremely high.

The group were ably assisted by Eddie Ainsworth, Course Manager at Avro Golf Club, and Sharon Morris from BIGGA Education Supporter Mansfield Sand who acted as support drivers, transporting luggage and supplies.

At the finishing line they were welcomed by a team from BIGGA House including Chairman Les Howkins MG, whose face adorned their t-shirts as part of the #takeleswithyou Twitter campaign, and Learning & Development Administrator Deb Burnett even provided homemade cakes for the hungry eight.

Dave said: "It was a great experience, even though we'd only ever really spoken on Facebook as a group, we really bonded and the camaraderie kept us going. More or less everything went to plan and the mild, dry weather was kind."

"The reception from members of the team at BIGGA House at the finish was just superb, it was actually quite an emotional moment. I hope that the success of this event spurs other members on to do their own fundraising events for this fantastic cause."

Martin said: "It was an amazing experience, we felt like a band of brothers on the walk! It felt so good to be directly helping people in our industry by raising money for the Benevolent Fund, looking after our own if you like."

"It was a massive achievement, but there's no denying it was very difficult. You had to be mentally tough. We only had enough time for the occasional ten minute stop before setting off pounding the pavements and roads again. But I'll never forget that weekend and the laughs we had."

Thank you to Q Hotels, Aldwark Manor, and their General Manager, Christophe Gittton, for their fantastic offer of food and accommodation for the team on the Sunday evening.

Are you raising money for the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund? If so, email Steve Castle at steve.castle@bigga.co.uk and he will publicise it for you.

To find out more about the Benevolent Fund head to the Members Area of the BIGGA website and click on the 'Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund' tab on the left.

Medallion TL

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Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

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

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

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



JOIN THE TEAM FOR THE 2016 OPEN

We're now inviting applications to join the BIGGA Open Support Team at the 145th Open Championship, which is being held at Royal Troon in July 2016.

The R&A have once again asked the Association to supply a Support Team of volunteer greenkeepers who will support the home greenkeeping team. Members of the Support Team will be required to rake for the players for every single match during the tournament's four rounds. You may also be called upon at short notice to help out with early morning

preparation work and divoting duties, although this is still to be confirmed.

It's a very intense and demanding week, but hugely rewarding on both a professional and personal level. As well as involvement in the preparation for one of the world's most watched sporting tournaments, you will meet greenkeepers of varying experience and from all manner of courses. Many of the team members remain friends for years afterwards.

The R&A will provide accommodation, food,

refreshments and uniform. You need to be available from early afternoon on Wednesday 13 July to Sunday 17 July 2016.


To apply, please carefully fill in the application form below and return by post to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Ane, York, YO61 1UF by the closing date of Friday 29 January 2016. If you have any questions regarding the team, please contact Rachael at rachael@bigga.co.uk.

You can also apply to join the team at BTME 2016 - come and see us on Stand B23!

Contact Details

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 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

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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)
Personal Accident Helpline
0121 698 8046 / 43
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst



THE OPEN 2016 - APPLICATION FORM

Name.....

Golf Club.....

Position.....Age.....

BIGGA Membership No.....

HomeAddress.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Email.....Tel.....

Passport photo attached

Waterproof Measurements: Waist..... Leg length.....

Polo Shirt Measurement: Chest.....

How will you be travelling to Royal Troon?.....

Car Plane Train

Sunday final night (19th July) accommodation required?.....

Any specific dietary needs?.....If so, please state:.....

.....

Any medical issues?.....

I have applied for / appeared
on the team at:

St Andrews, 2015

Royal Liverpool, 2014

Muirfield, 2013

Royal Lytham & St Annes, 2012

Royal St Georges, 2011

Applied Successful

Yes No

I have been a BIGGA member for
more than three years

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

I am CPD active

Do you have past experience of
tournament volunteering? If so, where?

.....
I am willing to be a mini bus driver
(You must have held a full driving license
for three years and be over 25 years of age)

I am an overseas Member

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority is given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members.

Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.

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

Closing date is 29 January 2016. You will be notified by the end of February if you have been successful.

We need you



BIGGA are again sending a volunteer Support Team to the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth in May 2016 – and this your chance to get involved.

An early morning preparation team are required to assist Kenny Mackay and the team at the prestigious Surrey Venue for this famous European Tour event.

Greenkeepers are required from Tuesday 24 May to Sunday 29 May 2016, please indicate clearly on the form below which dates you are available to join the team. Match raking will begin on Thursday 26 May.

Similar to the Open Support Team, this is another fantastic opportunity for Full BIGGA Members to take advantage of. Refreshments are provided, although please note that no accommodation is provided for this event.

To apply, please carefully fill in the application form below and return by post to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by the closing date of Friday 5 February 2016. If you have any questions regarding the team, please contact Rachael at rachael@bigga.co.uk.





WENTWORTH 2016 - APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED

Name.....

I am available for:

Golf Club.....

All four days

Position.....Age.....

Three days

BIGGA Membership No.....

Two days

HomeAddress.....

One day

.....Postcode.....

Preference given to members who can do all four days.

Yes No

Email.....Tel.....

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years

Head and shoulders photo emailed to rachael@bigga.co.uk

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

Waterproof Measurements: Waist..... Leg length.....

I am CPD active

Polo Shirt Measurement: Chest.....

Any medical issues?.....

Do you have past experience of tournament volunteering? If so, where?

Are you available for the Early Morning Prep Team?.....

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

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

Closing date is 5 February 2016. You will be notified by the end of February if you have been successful.



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.



SOLHEIM CUP LINK FOR BIGGA'S LATEST MASTER GREENKEEPER

The Director of Grounds for the American venue of the next Solheim Cup is celebrating after becoming BIGGA's latest recipient of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

Rick Tegtmeier, who is based at the stunning Des Moines Golf & Country Club (DMGCC) in Iowa, can now add 'MG' to the CGCS which he acquired in 1985.

Rick and the team are undergoing a huge renovation project to update the fabulous 36-hole facility ahead of the Solheim Cup's arrival in 2017, including rebuilding tees, rebuilding some greens, bunker redevelopment and the construction of new paths.

The tournament will be played across a mixture of the club's

North and South courses, with the Junior Solheim Cup also taking place simultaneously on the other 18 holes. Rick recently attended the Solheim Cup at St Leon-Rot in Germany with a contingent from DMGCC to observe and learn how the event was managed.

The 18 handicapper becomes BIGGA's 67th MG since the Certificate was first awarded in 1991. He said: "I was very surprised, and elated, when I got the call to say I had passed.

"I'm 56 years old, and the only person I have to prove anything to is myself, but I'm jubilant to have succeeded and it shows I can still keep up with the younger guys! It's a real sense of accomplishment.

"Combining a major renovation project with studying for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, and fitting in a trip to Europe, has been trying this fall, but I've now completed two of the three with the project still to finish."

Stage One of the Certificate involves a review of the candidate's training, education and experience, while Stage Two is an assessment of their golf course, which is carried out by two Master Greenkeepers.

Stage Three involves completing a highly challenging case study and technical examination. Last April, Rick failed both parts, and earlier this year he passed the technical paper but failed the case study.

He said: "Some failure doesn't



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

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hurt, and it just made me more determined to succeed. Being an international member, you sometimes wonder whether you are on the right track with things, but I obviously managed to get to grips with it this time.”

Rick’s greenkeeping career began as a youngster at Rockford Golf & Country Club in Iowa, and he used a student loan to attend turf school at Hawkeye Community College.

He first joined Des Moines in 1983, working on the North Course, and harboured ambitions to take the Director of Grounds role at Des Moines. But when Bill Byers CGCS, the Previous Director of Grounds, explained to him that he had no plans to move on, Rick secured a position at Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids, 100 miles east of Des Moines.

He spent 17 years there before Bill retired, and he finally got his dream job in 2006. Rick’s son Nate is North Course Superintendent, and it was Nate who convinced his father to go for the MG certificate.

Rick added that he has many people to thank to get to this level of his career. They include his wife Sherry, the

members of DMGCC and General Manager Jim Cutter. Also, he paid tribute to his two Superintendents Tim Sims and Nate Tegtmeier and their teams for all of their hard work and efforts.

BIGGA’s Head of Member Learning Stuart Green said: “Rick would be the first to admit it’s been quite a long road for him, and as he is also in the middle of a major project ahead of Des Moines hosting the Solheim Cup it makes his fantastic achievement even more notable.

“An international BIGGA member achieving the MG demonstrates that this qualification reaches beyond the UK and is well-recognised as the ultimate achievement in greenkeeping across the world.

“Dealing with Rick throughout his 18-month journey to become a Master Greenkeeper has been an absolute pleasure for us all at BIGGA.”

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

CPD APPROVED MEMBERS THIS MONTH

David Langheim MG - Wimbledon Park Golf Club

Miles Todd - Llandudno Golf Club (Maesdu)

Craig Cameron - Aldeburgh Golf Club

John McLoughlin - Warrington Golf Club

Simon Lambert - Seaford Head Golf Club

Phil Rowlett - John O’Gaunt Golf Club

Eric Foerster MG CGCS - The Ironbridge Golf Course

Paul Handy - Newport Golf Club

Gavin Jones - St. Andrews Links Trust

Asa English - Rothley Park Golf Club

Tom Freeman - Kingsdown Golf Club

Richard Johnstone - Nairn Dunbar Golf Club



IT’S CONFERENCE TIME!

It’s that time of year when the grass slows down and thoughts can turn to education.

There are some excellent conferences coming up during October and November around the UK and Ireland. So, what better time to sit with a cup of your favourite hot beverage, pie/cake/pastry and plan your autumn and winter education programme and keep building your CPD credits. Remember: Make yourself valuable, not vulnerable.

Details of all events can be found on the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/events

Wednesday 11th November
South East Regional Conference, Hadlow Manor Hotel, Kent

Wednesday 11th November
Highland Conference. Nairn Dunbar Golf Club

Wednesday 18th November
South West Regional Conference, Somerset County Cricket Ground, Taunton

Tuesday 24th November
GCSAI Education Day, Croke Park, Dublin

Wednesday 25th November
Solway Conference, Smiths Hotel, Gretna

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

NEW JOHN DEERE MOWER HEADS TO BTME 2016

Combining higher capacity mowing with premium cut quality and after-cut appearance, John Deere's new 9009A TerrainCut rough mower is the latest addition to the company's award-winning A Model family of fairway, rough and tees & surrounds mowers.

"With the new 9009A TerrainCut machine, our widest model yet, you can now maximise both productivity and cut quality from a wide area mower while having more control over how the machine performs in the rough," said John Deere turf division manager Chris Meacock.

The 9009A has five 68.6cm (27in) independent rotary mower decks, providing an overall cutting width of 2.7m (9ft). Rated at a maximum 55hp, the powerful, direct injection four-cylinder diesel engine uses integrated cooled exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) and automatic particulate filter cleaning to meet Stage IIIb emission regulations.

A deep-shell deck design with unique rear discharge stands the grass up for a cleaner cut, while dispersing the grass clippings more evenly over a wider area. In addition, height of cut adjustments can be performed without tools using an inno-



vative notch system, simply by pulling a lever. LoadMatch transmission settings also provide consistent cut quality and excellent climbing performance, while the AutoPedal feature lowers sound levels and fuel consumption during transport.

The mower's established TechControl system delivers premium control for operation, maintenance and diagnostics. Using different screens on the password controlled TechControl display, you can electronically set the mowing and transport speeds simply and quickly by pressing a button. In addition, turning speed can be slowed down to a set percentage of the mowing speed when the cutting units are lifted after a pass, which greatly reduces scuffing.

Full details and prices of the new 9009A TerrainCut rough mower will be available from John Deere dealers in the UK and Ireland from December 2015.

To prepare for the recent Solheim Cup, the St Leon-Rot Golf Club in Germany relied on John Deere course maintenance equipment and support from the local John Deere dealer Schwarz GmbH.

The course's existing John Deere fleet was supplemented by additional green and yellow machines and supported by expert staff from John Deere, as the official equipment supplier to The 2015 Solheim Cu. The photograph shows the 8700A fairway mower at work during the prestigious tournament.



CLEARWATER IN SCANDINAVIA

Building on the success of the growing number of ClearWater systems installed in the UK and abroad, Highspeed Group Ltd has appointed yet another distributor to help bring about their ClearWater system development plans in Scandinavia.

Capillary Concrete under the leadership of CEO Martin Sternberg, CGCS (pictured here) has taken on the responsibility for sales, servicing and installation of Highspeed's much acclaimed washpad water recycling system. Highspeed Group's MD, David Mears told us; "Capillary Concrete has an established business offering sports surface draining solutions for the golf sector and beyond. With this experience and their contacts, it made sense to select them to represent us in this important market. We are pleased to have them join us and be part of our expansion programme."

Capillary Concrete's appointment is a significant part of the recent initiatives from Highspeed Group Ltd as the company expands sales further in the UK, Europe and the US with the appointment of distributors in major territories.



Promoting ClearWater, Highspeed Group exhibits at Stand C12 at BTME 2016, and Booth 1645 at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

WOLVES SEMINAR SUCCESS

Wayne Lumbard, Head Groundsman for Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, jointly hosted an Educational Seminar with Agronomic Services Ltd on 20 October.

The highlight of the day was when the visiting groundsmen, greenkeepers and members of the trade were able to walk through the tunnel flanked by supersized players' mural on the tunnel walls and the opportunity to inspect the pitch, which was immaculate.

Wayne then shared with the delegates how he has created such a superb playing surface combining foliar spraying, good groundsman-ship skills, lighting technology and Agronomic Services Products. He also stressed that the results are a team effort.

Jason Booth of the IOG was the guest speaker highlighting exciting future plans for education and industry standards. David Snowden conducted Educational Seminars relating to the Importance of Oxygen, Beneficial Bacteria, and an integrated approach to turf management.

Delegates also had the opportunity to ask questions and see the machinery used on a day to day basis at the Molineux Stadium as well as a foliar spray Q&A session conducted by Paul Little-hales.

Invited guests represented all sectors of the industry including schools, colleges, golf courses and football. BIGGA's Midland Regional Administrator Roger Butler also attended promoting the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2016, and CPD Credits were available for attendance.



TURF-KEEPER HEADS DOWN UNDER

One of the world's leading online turf management tools, Turfkeeper, was launched in Australia last week at The Lakes Golf Club in Sydney.

Well-known industry figures Daryl Sellar of Turfwisdom Consulting and Jeff Blunden of Golf Business Advisory Services (GBAS) have secured the exclusive distribution licence for Australia/NZ and Asia for Turfkeeper, a management portal that provides turf managers with complete oversight of staff management, turf maintenance practices, machinery use, chemical applications and department budgeting.

Kevin Scarce, Product Manager of the developers of the software TurfKeeper Ltd in the UK said: "We are thrilled to now have a great partner in the southern hemisphere. We truly believe in the power of Turfkeeper, evidenced by the size of our customer base in the UK and are pleased that like-minded turf managers in Australia can now utilise our tool and receive quality local support. Jeff and Daryl are already pushing us in terms of product improvement for the Australian market and we are looking forward to working with them."

Daryl and Jeff outlined the benefits of Turfkeeper to a number of senior facility and turf managers in attendance at the Sydney launch. With a common interest and appreciation of data capture and insight-driven decision making, they both view Turfkeeper as the missing link in golf facility management software.

Jeff said: "Within a club environment all other operational areas have dedicat-

ed pieces of software to help support the delivery and administration of services provided. With turf management, the key asset of all facilities, data capture and record keeping is still manual in many cases.

"In today's increasingly scrutinised and evidenced-based decision making environment, such practices rarely provide the insight required to improve existing practices. With Turfkeeper, all actions are captured and importantly talk to one another. For example employee time is no longer only reflected in a time sheet. In Turfkeeper time also attaches to a task, which adds to machine use hours, decrements stock levels, feeds the budget and allows for much more thorough, automated reporting. Complete oversight is now possible."

To be offered by monthly subscription and with full local support being provided, Turfkeeper is expected to become the go-to software for turf managers in the region.

Home James



A stunning three-under round of 69 secured James Rowles' victory at the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Steve Castle reports from the tournament held just a few miles away from BIGGA's home

James Rowles, Assistant Greenkeeper from Henbury Golf Club in Bristol, was crowned BIGGA National Champion 2015 after a superb two days of golf in North Yorkshire.

The one handicapper's triumph in the event at Fulford Golf Club was built around a fantastic opening round of 69 - three under par. Amazingly, he recovered from dropping three shots in the opening two holes and took just 30 shots on the back nine, the highlight of which was an eagle on the 508 yard, par five 11th.

This magical back nine on the excellent heathland course, wonderfully presented by Head Greenkeeper Mark Mennell and his team, was identical to Ian

Woosnam's back nine when he hit the course record of 62 in 1985.

James followed this up with a one-over 73 on day two to clinch the BIGGA Challenge Cup by two strokes. The 25-year-old showed terrific commitment, setting off from his Bristol home at 4am on Monday morning to make his 10.08am tee time in the tournament which was kindly sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

He said: "I'm very happy, it's such a good feeling to win. On the first morning I got off to a bad start. On the first tee, I went in the bunker, duffed a simple chip then three putted for a double bogey. Next hole I hoicked my tee shot and got a bogey, then I seemed to settle down a bit and

got through the front nine.

"I birdied ten, then eagled the 11th, chipping in from about 20 yards with a 64 degree lob wedge. I knew I was playing well and I was putting well too.

"The second round was the opposite - I birdied the first and the second and after nine holes I knew I was four or five ahead. Then I got a bit twitchy and just about managed to hold on.

"I'd like to thank everyone at Fulford - the course is fantastic. The greens are brilliant and I putted really well on them! Also thank you to the sponsors, and everyone at BIGGA."

James, who has been a greenkeeper at Henbury for nine years, overcame the challenge of Aaron Schnacke from Halifax West End Golf Club, who hit a



Steven Tierney MG tees off

one-under 71 to finish two shots behind. Newmachar Golf Club's Chris Lamb was third overall, while Derek McJannet from Matlock Golf Club hit an excellent 71 on the second day to finish fourth.

Reigning champion Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes Golf Club followed his opening round of 78 with a 73 to finish fifth. As always, players had the option to compete in the Stableford competition on the second day rather than the medal and the camaraderie so evident at BIGGA events was again on display throughout.

Radley Golf Club's Paul Hedger scooped the Stableford Prize - the BIGGA Challenge Plate - with 41 points while Andrew Cornes from Thorntree Amenity won the BIGGA Challenge Bowl which is open to Affiliate Members

On the Monday morning, Gordon - who won the previous two tournaments at Liphook Golf Club and Frilford Heath Golf Club - teed off at 8.46am in near perfect conditions for golf, meaning few excuses for wayward shots! Brilliant morning sunshine illuminated the wonderful heathland course as Gordon drilled his drive straight down the 410 yard, par four opening hole.

Conditions remained still for the day, and dry except for a brief light shower around lunchtime. The greenkeepers were unanimous in praise of the course, which has hosted dozens of past professional Championships and is perhaps best remembered for Bernhard Langer's miraculous shot from a tree during the Benson & Hedges International in 1981.

The Monday evening saw the traditional dinner in which prizes were presented - with club officials particularly complimentary about the good humoured and polite greenkeepers who had travelled to Fulford. Jeremy Vincent, Area Manager for Charterhouse (Central UK), presented the first day's prizes. Tom Dunlop, Dealer Manager at Kubota, was also in attendance and Club Captain Mike Blades gave a short speech welcoming all attendees. Fulford's Head Greenkeeper Mark Mennell was presented with a tankard




by BIGGA Vice President Sid Arrowsmith MG.

Days before the tournament, Mark was honoured for his 40 years service at a celebratory dinner, and was presented with a signed photograph of Tom Watson. As Club Manager Gary Pearce explained, the legendary American's golfing career has coincided exactly with Mark's time at the North Yorkshire venue so the gift seemed particularly fitting.

More than 70 greenkeepers headed from all corners of the UK (and Switzerland), with their enthusiasm and commitment knowing no bounds. Gary Burgess from Grange Park Golf Club even turned up a week early! There was also much amusement when Yannick Asaf from Golfpark Nuolen AG on Switzerland won a box of chocolates on the raffle, hours after presenting some of the BIGGA House team with a selection of Swiss chocolate. Yannick travelled to Fulford with colleagues Sergio Baselgia and Steven Tierney MG - Steven returning to the club where he began his greenkeeping career.

Several of the BIGGA House team made the short journey from Aldwark Manor to administer, support and organise the event, and their efforts were saluted at the close of proceedings by BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton. Jim also thanked everyone at Fulford Golf Club, sponsors Charterhouse and Kubota and all the competitors.

Next year's event will be held at the superb location of Bowood Golf & Country Club in Wiltshire, again in October. Keep an eye out for dates and entry details soon!





Challenge Bowl Winner Andrew Cornes (centre) with Les Howkins MG and Fulford captain Mike Blades



Sid Arrowsmith MG with Fulford Head Greenkeeper Mark Mennell



RESULTS+++RESULTS+++RESULTS+++RESULTS+++RESULTS+++RESULTS+++

BIGGA Challenge Trophy

(Overall Gross) Winner:

JAMES ROWLES 142 (69, 73)
(Henbury Golf Club)

2nd Place: Aaron Schnacke 144 (73, 71)
(Halifax West End Golf Club)

3rd Place: Chris Lamb 145 (70, 75)
(Newmachar Golf Club)

4th Place: Derek McJanet 149 (78, 71)
(Matlock Golf Club)

5th Place: Gordon Sangster 151 (78, 73)
(Cathkin Braes Golf Club)

BIGGA Challenge Cup (Lowest Nett):
Antony Kirwan 144 (73,71) (Playgolf Colchester)

BIGGA Challenge Plate (Stableford)
Paul Hedger, 41pts (Radley Golf Club)

BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Affiliate Members)

Andrew Cornes (Thorntree Amenity)

Day One Nearest Pin: Phil Watson
(Wallasey Golf Club)

Day One Longest Drive: Chris Lamb
(Newmachar Golf Club)

Day One Handicap, +2 to 5:
James Rowles (Henbury Golf Club)

6 to 12: Paul Bracey
(Bondhay Golf Club)

13 to 24: Terry Carver
(RAF Marham Golf Club)

Day One Team Prize

Best 4 Combined Nett Scores:
South West & South Wales (285)
James Rowles, Leigh Mordy, Darryl Jones, Colin Kerfoot

Day One Second Team Prize

Medals: South East (287)
Darren Abbs, Paul Davy, Terry Carver, Antony Kirwan

Day Two Nearest Pin:
Kenny Mitchell (St Andrews)

Day Two Longest Drive:
Darryl Jones (Glynneath Golf Club)

Day Two Handicap, +2 to 5:
Antony Kirwan (Playgolf Colchester)

6 to 12: Stephen Yorke
(Fulford Golf Club)

13 to 24: Tony Thacker
(RAF Marham Golf Club)



Challenge Trophy Winner James Rowles



Messages from america on microdochium nivale

Dr Terry Mabbett turns his gaze Stateside as he discovers how US turf managers deal with this common fungus and discusses the ban on chlorpyrifos

Comparing a disease on managed turf on each side of the North Atlantic Ocean is fraught with difficulty and no more so than for disease caused by *Microdochium nivale*.

Huge and incomprehensible differences and disparities between the land areas encompassing the United States/Canada on one side and Britain on the other mean much more varied climatic conditions and therefore pathogen host interactions for the former.

The conundrum is summed up in the immortal words of the playwright George Bernard Shaw about 'Americans and British being separated by a common language'.

Finally there is the distinct impression of a narrower gap between academia and bureaucracy on the one hand and guys on the ground grafting on the other on the other side of the pond. For me it furnishes

a perception of a more democratic and pragmatic approach especially to the use of chemicals to control turf pests and diseases.

Of course what happens over here is under the firm governance of the EU and therefore beyond our control, but nevertheless the North American authorities appear much more reluctant to ban a pesticide because, for instance, it is claimed to cause 'short-sightedness' in long-eared bats.

Seriously though, and bats aside, withdrawal and no further use on 'Amenity Grassland and Managed Amenity Turf' for chlorpyrifos, the last sprayable chemical insecticide to control leatherjackets in turf, and not to mention the more serious collateral damage caused by wild mammalian and avian predators foraging for grubs, is the classic case in point.

In justifying its withdrawal

and thereby consigning greenkeepers to 'pest control purgatory' CRD (Chemical Regulation Directorate) said "As part of the EU's routine review programme, new human health based safety levels (known as end points) have been agreed for chlorpyrifos". But - chlorpyrifos is being still used around the world (including in the EU) for the control of a broad range of insect pests on a wide spectrum of food crops. As for concerns about chlorpyrifos in relation to public health, the Brussels bureaucrats clearly forgot to tell you that chlorpyrifos is used as spray for public health control against mosquitoes and other vector insect pests.

Microdochium nivale

As a foliar pathogen of turf grass *Microdochium nivale* is a more versatile fungus than most but still has favoured conditions for maximum pathogen activity and disease de-

H₂Pro[®] DewSmart

H₂Pro DewSmart is a highly effective dew dispersant product for turf grass areas.

- 3-4 week longevity in ideal conditions
- When used as part of an integrated disease management programme DewSmart can help reduce the risk of disease attack
- Dew removal has been found to help promote higher levels of turf vigour
- Reduces the need for regular early morning switching of dew from greens
- Greens can be clear of dew for a cleaner cut and for the early morning golfer
- Simple to apply with standard boom sprayer
- Specially formulated to avoid scorch



Without DewSmart



With DewSmart
(26 days after treatment)

www.icl-sf.co.uk

www.icl-sf.ie

Tel: 01473 237116

Email: prof.sales@icl-group.com

Contact your local distributor or Technical Area Sales Manager for more information.


everris.


Where needs take us

Everris has united with other companies in the ICL Group to form a new global company - ICL.

velopment. This 'beast' does best in maritime climates typified by cool moist conditions and they don't come much more maritime than the UK thanks to our position on the north-western edge of Europe under influence of the North Atlantic Drift (Gulf Stream). Parochially we regard the western most extremities of these islands as the maritime climate but in the wider scheme of things, including a European continental context, the whole country experiences a maritime climate.

For the *Microdochium nivale* fungus to push up into parasitic gear and cruise into a disease mode, a temperature range of 0-15C and a period of leaf surface wetness exceeding ten hours are required. In reality these conditions can be met in any part of the British Isles and in any one place therein during a particular part of the year.

North America presents a much more varied and considerably more complex situation. There are classic coastal maritime regions such as western Washington (US) and British Columbia (Canada) which closely match our own. In others, winter temperatures

plummet to depths approaching -50C (eg Minnesota) where turf is covered for extended periods with deep layers of snow and every year without fail.

Clearly there will be sharp differences in the physiological responses from both the host (grass) and the pathogen (fungus) to such starkly contrasting conditions so it is not surprising that in North America *Microdochium nivale* is a single pathogen considered to cause two distinctly different diseases on turf each with its own characteristic symptoms and inherent damage caused. They are *Microdochium* Patch under cool, moist but snow free conditions and Pink Mold under snow cover and apparently triggered when melting begins.

Pink snow mold is recognised in the UK but usually as additional symptoms related to snow cover rather than an entirely separate disease. The low incidence of snow and the relatively short duration of snow cover for most areas mean pink snow mold is generally not an issue for most greenkeepers in the UK.

Vernacular variations

North Americans write 'Pink Mold', and we change it to 'Pink

Mould'. However, more central to the arguments around language is an increased readiness in North America to upgrade common names in line with scientific changes. North Americans have long stopped calling the 'snow free' form of turf disease 'Fusarium patch' in favour of 'Microdochium patch'.

The fungus currently called *Microdochium nivale* has carried a lot of different scientific names since discovery in 1825 when initially named *Lanosa nivalis*. Since then the fungus has been through a dozen different scientific names with *Fusarium nivale* probably the most widely known and durable.

Most greenkeepers will not have direct dealings with mycologists and taxonomists – lucky old them – but I have not been so fortunate. You might reasonably assume that once a fungus is identified, described and named that is where the matter ends, but not so because fungal pathogens are under constant name change. As a practical field plant pathologist I see this as the unadulterated academics (the mycologists and taxonomists) letting the rest of the scienti-



A selection of fungicides for *Microdochium nivale* control in the United States*

Fungicide	Efficacy	Resistance Risk	Class
Chlorothalonil + propiconazole + fludioxonil	++++	2	Nitrile + DMI + phenylpyrrole
Propiconazole	+++	4	DMI
Chlorothalonil + propiconazole	+++	3	Nitrile + DMI
Chlorothalonil	++	2	Nitrile
Azoxystrobin	++	6	QoI
Pyraclostrobin	+++	6	QoI
Trifloxystrobin	+++	6	QoI
Azoxystrobin + Propiconazole	+++	6	QoI + DMI
Iprodione	+++	4	Dicarboxamide

++++ excellent control when conditions are highly favourable for disease development
 +++ good control when disease pressure is high, or excellent control when disease pressure moderate
 ++ good control when disease pressure is moderate, excellent control when disease pressure is low

2 – Rotate (change) to a different chemical class after 3-4 applications; tank mixing not necessary
 3 – Rotate to a different chemical class after 2-3 applications; tank mixing not necessary
 4 – Rotate to a different chemical class after 1-2 applications; tank mixing not necessary
 6 – Rotate to a different chemical class after 1-2 applications; tank mixing with low or moderate resistance risk product recommended

*TurfFiles: North Carolina State University



ic community know who is in charge – while not forgetting that it is also useful for future employment prospects.

To be fair, information may emerge that makes change necessary but the ways in which such changes are carried out is equally important. North America appears to manage name changes more democratically and pragmatically unlike here where enigmatic instructions are passed down on ‘Tables of Stone’ leaving practical scientists fuming and the guys on the ground bewildered.

Describing a fungal pathogen named *Micodochium nivale* as causing a disease called *Fusarium* patch might not seem like a big deal until you realise there are dozens of other *Fusaria* fungal species still out there including some important ones causing their own particular diseases in grasses and cereals.

Management and control

Familiar bells start ringing when you go down the list of factors that favour *Microdochium nivale* disease development in North America and the corresponding cultural recommendations to minimise it.

- Excessive foliar growth and thatch development
- Restricted air movement and poor soil drainage
- Soil deficient in available potassium
- Don’t apply nitrogen in the fall in advance of cold conditions
- Continue mowing

until foliar growth stops completely

- Improve surface drainage, control traffic patterns and reduce thatch accumulation
- Prune trees impeding air movement and promptly remove leaves from greens in the fall

North American greenkeepers have a much bigger and more varied fungicide arsenal at their disposal, and an apparently firmer fungicide framework, formalised without fear or favour with respect to fungicide efficacy and risk of resistance development.

The ‘TurfFiles’ website at North Carolina State University (NCU) lists over 30 different fungicide actives marketed as around 80 different commercial fungicide products for control of *Microdochium nivale* on turf, with each active or active mixture assigned a comparative efficacy rating and resistance risk rating. Some of the fungicides familiar to UK greenkeepers are shown in Table 1 together with efficacy and resistance-risk ratings thus assigned. Among those actives not selected but on the ‘TurfFiles’ list are fungicides long since withdrawn by the EU (e.g. MBC or benzimidazole fungicides) and others including specific triazoles which have never been approved by the EU for use on turf.

Some important and interesting observations from Table 1 are:

- Combining fungicides

from different chemical classes, and therefore activities and modes of action into a single three-way product, enhances overall efficacy

• The risk of resistance development by QoI fungicides is extraordinarily high even by the standard set by systemically acting, curative and site specific-action fungicides in general.

• Inclusion of a contact acting, broad spectrum multi-site action, protectant fungicide like chlorothalonil reduces the resistance risk by ‘covering’ systemic actives in the mixture

• Efficacy may be sacrificed for a lower risk of resistance when a contact acting broad spectrum multi-site action, protectant like chlorothalonil is used as a ‘stand-alone’ fungicide

• The surprisingly high resistance risk rating given to iprodione given the active is a largely contact-acting and protectant fungicide (locally systemic with some curative action) and has a fairly broad spectrum of action.

And then there were three

One ‘Message from America’ on the fungus *Micodochium nivale* is a single pathogen causing two distinctly different turf diseases, *Microdochium* patch and pink snow mold. However, when you include grass seed rot/ seedling blight caused by *Micodochium nivale* in the context of newly seeded areas the two diseases become three diseases.

1 Early stage Fusarium patch disease development photographed at the very end of September 2015 in Ireland (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



1

2 Well established and classic Fusarium patch disease damage (Picture courtesy Vitax)



2

3 Close up view of dew cover on a turf surface and helping to secure the leaf surface wetness period required for infection by *Microdochium nivale* (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



3

4 Mechanical dew dispersal is an important part of any programme to minimize *Microdochium nivale* activity (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



4

5 Early-morning mowing in a maritime climate and 'killing two 'Microdochium' birds with one stone' - keeping the grass at optimum height and removing dew at the same time (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



5

6 The relatively low incidence of snowfall and subsequent short duration of snow cover in most of the UK means Pink Snow Mould is essentially a 'non-issue' for the vast majority of greenkeepers here (Picture courtesy Syngenta)



6

7 Pink snow mould tends to develop more quickly under a slower and more prolonged snow melt



7

8 Close up on the turf grass surface under a melting snow blanket and the 'interface' for pink snow mould development (Picture Courtesy Syngenta)



8

9 Autumn or 'fall' is the prime time for *Microdochium nivale* activity and disease development



9

10 'Messages from America' on factors predisposing to development of *Microdochium* patch disease (like 'fall' leaf litter left lying on the green) ring true for the autumn development of Fusarium patch in the British Isles



10

11 Spraying with fungicides is a crucial part of integrated programmes for the successful management of *Microdochium nivale* in both the United States and the United Kingdom



11



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Nuisance noise



John Ross MG, who is now a health and safety consultant, looks at how golf clubs can take steps to minimise noise pollution to its neighbours and how clubs need to heed legislation

Noise is any sound. Nuisance noise is any unwanted sound; it does not have to be loud it simply has to exist. Nuisance noise can be quiet but continuous. It can be sudden, it can be unexpected, and it can be repetitive.

We have all at some time suffered nuisance noise. It may have been from neighbours partying; a nearby building site; a faulty car alarm; a barking dog; the bin men arriving early in the morning or someone talking loudly on their phone when you are on the train. Regardless of the source, unwanted sound has the ability to impact on people's lives and is a major causal factor for stress.

If you are the source of an unwanted sound you could be considered to be generating a nuisance noise. I say could because we live in a noisy world, noise generated by modern life is regarded as a necessary evil. Much of how we live our lives

generates noise, so much so that because of the common benefits it brings to all we have learned to live with noise. This means that whilst we are all generating noise, not all noise, even if unwanted, is considered nuisance noise.

So how does noise become nuisance? If everyone is creating noise, how does society differentiate between nuisance noise and necessary noise? That decision is made in a complicated way. The government has created legislation detailing the offence of nuisance noise, and the process for enforcing the legislation. It is the Environmental Protection Act of 1990 that states "noise prejudicial to health, or a nuisance noise prejudicial to health is a nuisance", creating nuisance noise as a statutory offence. The enforcing body for this legislation is the local authority, with nuisance noise accounting for the majority of complaints received by local

authorities from residents.

Most clubs and sports grounds have residential premises within a distance where the noise created by maintenance activities could enter the premise. It is when this happens that the resident of that property can decide if it is an unreasonable and significant nuisance that causes significant and unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of their premises, or if it is prejudicial to health. At that point they can inform the local enforcing body who have a statutory duty to do all "reasonably practicable" to investigate the complaint. The local authority will work on the principle that for something to be a statutory nuisance it must be considered to be unreasonable to the "average person" and something that is more than an annoyance.

Actions

The first step most councils follow is to ask the complain-

ant to contact the source of the noise (the Club), requesting, on the grounds of good neighbourliness, that they take steps to reduce the noise. The council may provide a letter for the complainant to assist them in wording the letter correctly. The council may also write to the club notifying them of the complaint. If, after a reasonable period of time the neighbour feels there has been no change, and continues to complain to the council, the council would assign an Environmental Health Officer to the case who would commence an investigation.

The investigation would generally involve officers witnessing the problem themselves; witness statements from those who are affected; written nuisance records from people affected; the use of measuring devices, such as noise meters to create a noise log or noise diary; inspecting the premises of (the club) and talking to those that are the subject of complaint and identifying the source of the noise (the equip-

ment).

Once the club is aware this is happening they should create their own noise log at the source of complaint to ensure that the noise log created by the complainant has not been contaminated with noises from another source, which could easily happen.

If the council are satisfied that noise being generated is a statutory nuisance and unreasonably and substantially interferes with the use or enjoyment of a home or other premises or could injure or be likely to injure health, they can serve a Noise Abatement Notice.

The notice may require that the noise be stopped altogether or limited to certain times of day. The club then has 21 days to appeal the notice or to enact it. The appeal will be heard by a judge.

An appeal could take the form of "best practical means", this being a defence available to operators of a trade or business premises when faced with a nuisance noise complaint.

Those responsible for the noise have to prove that they have used all reasonable means to reduce or control the effect of the noise. Those responsible being the board of directors, the committee or any other person purporting to act in such a capacity.

The defence of best practicable means is:

- Having regard to the current state of technical knowledge including the design, maintenance and periods of operation of plant and machinery
- The local conditions and circumstances
- The financial implications

The circumstances vary from site to site so the content of the abatement order is subjective.

It would be prosecuted if the local authority felt the order had not been complied with.

On prosecution for flouting the order fines can range from £50 to £50,000.



Advice for avoiding nuisance noise:

- Be proactive. Know where noise is likely to be considered “a nuisance” and show consideration

- Plan work activities so that those areas identified are not exposed to noise until the latest practicable time

- Foster good relationships with your neighbours (your neighbour in law being anyone affected by your acts or omissions)

- Respond to any complaints by meeting the complainant on site and listening. Explain what you are doing and how you are planning your work to show them consideration. Try to reach a reasonable compromise

- Consider noise emissions when purchasing equipment. If the noise can be eliminated, and it is reasonably practicable to do so, it should be

- If noise cannot be eliminated in equipment, baffle the sound, if possible, to as low a level as is practicable

- If a complaint has been made, update your noise risk assessment and discuss how the findings of the risk assessment can be implemented with the club so that “best practicable means” is applied

- In the eventuality of a complaint, know your noise outputs and keep a detailed diary of what equipment is used and where. Create a noise log at the point of complaint of the total noise dose received by the complainant over a day, a week and a month.

Remember that receiving a complaint does not mean you are going to be served a noise abatement notice, and that if you are served one, it is not uncommon to have them overturned on appeal. Final say rests with the court, not the EHO!



Pogo helps St Andrews do more in less time



Gordon Moir is Director of Greenkeeping at arguably the most famous golfing complex in the world. For anyone needing an introduction, the prestigious St Andrews Links in Fife, Scotland, includes not only The Old Course, which is the oldest golf course in the world, it is also regarded as The Home of Golf.

Today there are seven public golf courses in the town, all managed by the St Andrews Links Trust and which are maintained between four course managers and their individual teams. Gordon, who's been with the Trust for 24 years, works closely with everyone, overseeing the smooth day-to-day running of these iconic golf courses.

Gordon said: "We're the largest public golf facility in Europe, with 230,000 rounds a year - so you can imagine the challenges of such heavy traffic. Maintaining the courses is incredibly labour intensive; but we have to keep our turf in optimum condition, not only to provide season ticket holders with the best playing surfaces possible, but also the 100,000 visitors we get annually—from all around the world. And of course there are the world-class televised tournaments held here, such as The Open."

So, when Gordon had the opportunity to try POGO, a new turf insight tool that promised to help his staff make better, faster decisions, he jumped at the chance.

He commented: "We'd been using another brand of probe for our moisture

management, which we were happy with. But using it could be back-breaking work, because you're bending down over a hundred times a day to test the soil.

"POGO is easier to use. It has probes at the end of a solid body which houses all the electrical components. Uniquely, it also includes GPS, which adds another level of precision and insight to our work. POGO automatically sends the data directly to a phone or PC, so we no longer have to go to the effort of manually recording it. It's cut our testing time down by 50%—dramatically reducing demands on resource. This means we can test areas of concern more often, to really keep on top of them."

Although POGO is an all-in-one system allowing turf professionals to monitor many aspects of turf health, including canopy temperature and salinity—where it really comes into its own at St Andrews is moisture management.

Gordon added: "Whoever is using the system can instantly see on their device, which areas are dry and need irrigation in a very precise manner: which makes for well-informed, long-term maintenance."

When asked about the GPS, Gordon said: "It's easy to use and allows us to map specific areas. Over the course of a year we sometimes see decreases in our greens perimeters of up to a foot. Likewise areas of gorse or heather can expand or shrink. Now we can effortlessly keep track of them. The only way we could have done this before is with aerial photography or

hiring special GPS systems."

A brief training period ensured Gordon and his team were up and running with the POGO system in a day. The straightforward control panel allows greenkeepers to quickly access and analyse data, record notes and capture photos; replacing multiple pieces of equipment and long-winded manual processes.

On the overall benefits POGO has delivered, Gordon summarised: "On a day-to-day basis, the ability to monitor more often and with greater accuracy has made a marked improvement to our work. We can do more, in less time. The results are evident across the quality of the courses too. It fits with our monitoring for the STRI programme as well, who I believe are also using the system. I would highly recommend POGO to other greenkeepers looking for better turfgrass management, plant health and playing conditions."

More information:

<http://pogoturfpro.com/>
www.standrewslinks.com

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Greenkeeping at the S



BIGGA member Ryun Holden, Course Manager at Wylihof Golf Club in Switzerland, was just one of the volunteer greenkeepers invited to join the home team at St Leon Rot in Germany by John Deere. Here's his take on an unforgettable week

Etiquette, sportsmanship, togetherness - all were evident within the greenkeeping support team at this year's Solheim Cup and helped us achieve our goal by Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately Suzann Pettersen's discretion on the 17th green, or lack of, maybe cost the Ladies European Team theirs.

Personally this was my first time joining a support team at one of golf's leading events. I highly recommend taking the opportunity should it come your way. A superb experience from start to finish.

My personal highlight was raking for the Melissa Reid and Carlotta Ciganda versus Christie Kerr and Lexi Thomson four-ball match on the Saturday. The match finished all square on the 18th with both pairings at -11. Arguably the greatest match in Solheim Cup history.

On the greenkeeping side of things it would be fair to say it was a challenging week. The weather was terrible for the first part of the week and the accuracy

of forecasts even worse in the second half. Some of the guys present had also worked at Celtic Manor during the Ryder Cup in 2010 and must have been thinking "not again!"

Maintenance plans had to be regularly changed to adapt to the conditions but everyone pulled together and I believe by the time the tournament rounds started on Friday the course presented pretty well.

We had a truly international team, guys (and the odd girl) from Spain, Belgium, USA, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Ireland, England, Switzerland and of course Germany. All meetings were conducted bilingually in German and English thanks to the excellent linguistic talents of Peter Sauer, Course Manager of St Leon Rot.

Partly due to the conditions the days were long, 5.30am until sometimes 8.30pm. The first two days included the maintenance and set up of the "Rot Course" for the Junior Solheim Cup event. It was the first time this event has been held simul-



taneously at the same venue as the Solheim Cup, albeit on the second course. Practice rounds started on the "St Leon Course" on the Tuesday but these were limited due to the weather.

The rough was allowed to grow as long and thick as possible which meant only greens, tees, approaches, fairways and bunkers were to be maintained. During dry conditions, which wasn't very often, all areas were given a double cut to burn in the stripes except greens which were always Augusta cut (return cutting the same line) with hand mowers set at 3mm, followed by rolling in order to produce a mono-colour appearance and targeted Stimp of 11 feet.

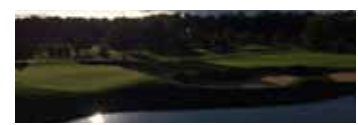
Approaches and tees were cut at 6mm and fairways at 10mm, although this was raised to 12mm due to the wet conditions. All areas including fairways were boxed off and the clippings removed. Some areas became so wet they had to be avoided completely for the remainder of the week.

Bunkers were all raked at least

solheim Cup



All photos courtesy of Duncan Sieling



welcome party in the Oktoberfest Tent. More food, drink (this time alcoholic!), company plus the addition of an Elvis Tribute band. A last orders singalong with an off duty Elvis will never be forgotten. Shortly after Elvis had left the building it was back to the excellent accommodation for some much needed sleep before the next day's shift began.

All in all, it was a truly memorable week enjoyed in the company of many who I am sure will remain lifelong friends and colleagues. I would like to thank John Deere for their invitation to join the greenkeeping team for the week, The European Ladies Tour Agronomist Julian Mooney for his honest and informative communication and The St Leon Rot Greenkeeping Team especially Peter Sauer (Course Manager) for a totally enjoyable week.



once per day from hand, sometimes additionally in between with the bunker turf to re-establish levels. This required significant manpower due to the size of some of the bunkering. The bunker on the 14th was roughly 150 metres long and 30 metres wide and required six greenkeepers one hour to complete. For such an event with 70 greenkeepers on hand such mammoth tasks are possible but let's hope our committee members don't think this is something we should adopt at our home courses! Additional jobs included divoting and some weed picking from fairways.

The conditions meant quite a few hours spent in the volunteers tent enjoying the dry, warm, food, drink (non-alcoholic!) and company, exchanging stories, ideas and concepts from our home courses. This I always find the greatest benefit of these type of events or get-togethers – it's arguably the best and cheapest learning available.

Wednesday evening offered another highlight at the volunteers



Sticking my neck out?

Oaklands College's Andy Wight enters the height of cut debate



As part of my job I often speak to students and Course Managers about greenkeeping developments. These conversations allow me to reflect on how many talented and competent people we have in the industry producing excellent golf courses. Course Managers, on the whole, are better informed and able than ever before. Indeed, the distance we have come in the last ten years alone in terms of quality is astounding.

That this has been possible in some degree through developments in technology is true, however much of the improvement have been driven by education and training and an increasing professionalism of the greenkeeping industry in general.

However during these conversations, I am often asked by students what I think about developments in the industry and the

trend to cut lower. As I respond I always have the feeling I am “sticking my neck out” and have to consider how the student’s Course Manager runs the course (it’s not great idea to criticise the Course Manager’s mode of operation to their junior staff). So, before I give opinions I always try to put things into perspective by asking them why they feel their Course Manager is managing the course in such a way. This generates a more valuable conversation, as it lets the student understand the pressure the Course Manager is under and why they might do some things the student thinks are against good greenkeeping practice.

I had the privilege to meet Jim Arthur several times and hear him speak a number of times – once at a seminar at Oaklands College. He always spoke with a passion and depth of knowledge that was based on years of experience.

Jim’s argument was a simple one. He argued that Course Managers should keep things simple and stick to the basic tenants of turf grass maintenance. Perhaps ahead of his time in some respects, he recognised that turf could be artificially managed with large inputs of pesticides, but argued that it should not be and could not be indefinitely (early signs of sustainability there).

I feel that if still with us today Jim would have a lot to say about some current practices in the industry. Some argue that Jim’s is a voice from the past and things have moved on. I look at it differently and recall the quote “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”. I am not of course saying Jim was right about everything. Some of his arguments are now out of date due to advances in technology and grass breeding, however his arguments about the basics still hold firm.

One example of this is the subject of ever closer mowing, technological advances in mower design and grass cultivar improvements have made heights of cut possible that were unheard of ten years ago. Although there is no doubt that extremely closely mowed greens are possible, is this desirable, and what is the cost of maintaining such a regime in terms of resource input?

Lowering the height of cut reduces the ability of the plant to produce carbohydrates (less leaf = less photosynthesis) and therefore there is a reduction in root mass and depth. The compromising of root depth is a

dangerous line to walk and the tolerance between success and failure is a tight one. I did recently see a green with so little root depth I was tempted to roll it up and take it home for some TLC. As I left the course I wondered what would happen if the irrigation system were to fail for a short period during a hot summer.

I do of course accept that we cannot all grow Fescue and to get rid of Poa would for some be a hard slog, years in the making and even then may never fully succeed - but that’s not my argument. My point is that unless the industry decides to speak out more about the costs and issues involved in producing such low cut, fast surfaces, then more pressure will be placed upon it to do so. Players on the whole don’t care about costs, indeed with so many clubs to choose from they have become like wondering cattle moving from club to club in search of faster greens.

Some Course Managers have told me they now find it hard to carry out as much aeration as they would like due to their club’s fear of the effects on play and therefore potential revenue. Also, course closures are now seem by some clubs as a potential disaster as players may find a club nearby that stays open and migrate to it. I have also been told that a few greenkeepers are now saying that aeration is not important today as greens can be managed by careful use of fertiliser and pesticides.

This may indeed work in the short term but I do wonder what the results will be five years down the road. Five years on,

it may be that the surfaces are still playing well and everyone is happy so that’s fine, or is it? To move towards a more chemically maintained turf surface in my opinion is a dangerous way forward, the increasing costs of fertilisers and restrictions in pesticides will only make things harder both financially and in management terms.

It may be that I am a dinosaur from the past but I still believe and teach that aeration and scarification (when carried out with care) are vital elements of turf management, as is a height of cut suited to the grass type present and the contours of the greens as well as the demands of the majority of players at the club.

I believe that most Course Managers still agree with this, but increasingly they are finding it hard to resist the pressure to provide surfaces that are ill suited to their course and budget in the race to complete with clubs that have decided to progress in the direction of ever faster surfaces. I will continue to hold on to the belief that the basics of good greenkeeping practice involve good aeration and scarification until someone can show me strong evidence collected over a decent period of time that it is not, and that root depth and thatch levels can be kept at acceptable levels without these key elements.

As a sign off, it is said that with the right technology and resources anything is possible, but that’s not the issue is it? The issue is everything IS possible - but does that mean we should do it?



Mountain out of a molehill?



Are you having problems with moles on your course? Professional mole catcher Mark Horsley aka 'Mark the Mole Man' advises on the best options for controlling these mysterious mammals

Moles, or rather molehills, are not what you want to see on a beautifully prepared fairway, or God forbid, a green. But sadly it happens. So, what's the solution?

As a professional mole catcher I'd suggest a contract with someone such as myself. At Aldwark Manor Golf Club, which is adjacent to BIGGA House, I have a good working relationship with Head Greenkeeper Richard Gamble, who will call me if the greenkeeping team have noticed any fresh mole activity during their daily rounds. My contract is a fixed

monthly fee, and the amount of work required simply depends on the amount of mole activity. When I first started working at Aldwark at the end of 2014, I removed over 40 moles in the first month.

Aldwark is an interesting case, the course being bisected by a road, a river and a long ditch. These three features all run parallel to each other and all contribute to the mole activity.

The activity always starts in similar areas, usually after periods of rain. The course revolves around water, the

road sheds water, the river and ditch contain water. After rain the verges are a wetter area than open areas of grass, due to the large, hard surface draining more water into a smaller run off area. The river and ditch work in a similar way, so as the water level rises the ground adjacent to the water features becomes more saturated, this pushes the worms in the soil outwards and upwards. This is why the moles travel along these features, and the activity usually starts from these features, food. Mole activity is directly linked to

Mole traps
(opposite)

Back row - scissor trap, taplex claw trap.

Front row - French Putange trap and Trapline trap



food, or rather worms and soil based insects.

So, what can be done about the moles? Strychnine was withdrawn in 2006, and love it or loathe it, it did the job. In the absence of strychnine there are two alternatives, traps or Aluminium Phosphide (AP) gas. Personally I feel that AP for moles is a waste of time and money, the pellets don't release the gas quickly enough to fill long stretches of tunnels and the moles are too mobile and too few in number for the gas to be effective.

This leaves traps. I have a selection of traps I use, but the trap I use day to day is a Dufus, also known as a tunnel trap. Another easy to use and popular trap is a scissor trap.

It doesn't matter which trap you use, what's important is that the trap is effective for you. The main consideration in selecting a trap is that it's a good quality trap and has a strong spring. This ensures a clean kill of the mole, providing control in the most humane way possible. Beware there are hundreds of cheap, or not so cheap, poor quality traps out there on the market, some are so bad they won't even set straight from the box!

Once you have your trap selected it's all about finding the runs and setting the traps. I tend to use more traps on a golf course than is strictly necessary because for me it's easier to set additional traps than to have to make extra visits. It's also more prudent on

a golf course to catch the mole as soon as possible as the potential for damage is far greater than on farmland. So more traps equals more chances to catch.

How moles affect your particular course will depend on the geography and the soil type, and in turn this will control how you choose to deal with the problem of moles. Ultimately only you can decide, as possessing and intimate knowledge of the land you work is the basis of good mole control. Once you start to take an interest in mole activity you will see a seasonal pattern, and know the areas that the moles are likely to start working first.

Once the population numbers on the course are reduced then it becomes a reactive game, placing traps as and when fresh activity appears. Don't overlook the areas that don't habitually get moles, keep an eye out as the moles are more than capable to appear anywhere, at any time, and can easily make a fool out of me...and I'm supposed to be a pro!

So good luck with your trapping.

If you're looking for further advice, please contact me at mark@markthemoleman.co.uk or visit my website: www.markthemoleman.co.uk



Securing the future of sand: part 2



Following on from June's article focusing on BIGGA Education Supporter Mansfield Sand, their new quarry is now fully operational apart from the sports sands plant which will be moved over early in the New Year. Here's another look behind the scenes

Things have moved on apace in just a few months since our last visit to the state of the art Two Oaks Quarry, where Mansfield Sand are gradually moving all production to from their ageing Ratcher Hill site.

In May, the indoor, fully automated, high speed bagging line was in the process of being constructed. Now, it's quite a sight to witness the whole process at work.

Sand is fed into clear bags, then shuttled along a conveyor or belt. Two large robots, using an almost gossamer touch, carefully pick up the bags and place them in perfect alignment with each other onto a pallet which is then automati-

cally shuttled into position.

A towering, high tech stretch hooder then lowers a plastic hood over the bags to protect them before being labelled – all by machine – before dispatch to golf courses, football grounds and other venues across the UK and beyond. As Mansfield Sand's Managing Director Jon Boulton said - the whole process is "almost hypnotic"! With two robots working for ten hours each day, overseen by two Mansfield Sand technicians and a fork lift driver, production capabilities have almost tripled.

Prior to being bagged up, Jon explained how the sand drying plant works. Sand moves along a chamber, then



all the moisture is driven off at temperatures of up to a scorching 1000C – although you wouldn't know it from the quiet hum of the impressive machine at work.

The equipment also boasts the latest technology in dust collection. An enormous filtration unit filters out all the dust particles, meaning only steam is emitted from the chimney.

Jon added: "Uniquely, we also have several radial conveyers on site, which allow us to stockpile products more efficiently, and we've also submitted a planning application to build a solar farm on site which will cater for the company's power demands for the next 25 years."



Later Richard Abraham, Director/Quarry Manager, went on to explain to us some of the many benefits of the company's relocation to the new site, which is just outside the town of Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.

He said: "Ideally, the washing plant can now produce 300 tons of sand an hour. Of course there are bound to be teething problems, and we've had one or two, but it's how you react to them that's important!"

"This site is just far more advanced than Ratcher Hill and puts us in a better place to meet the demands of our customers."

The project still has another significant stage to run, with the sports sand plant moving across from Ratcher Hill very soon. This will produce fibre sands, rootzones and sand soils, specialist products which the company is well known for.

The company's support has occasionally gone above and beyond the call of duty, with Golf Sales Manager Sharon Morris lending a helping hand to the eight greenkeepers who recently walked nearly 60 miles in aid of the BIG-

GA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Sharon left home at 5.30am on a Sunday to provide food and refreshments for the hardy group, and also stacked their belongings in her car. She also provided crucial navigational assistance on a couple of occasions! This was hugely appreciated by the group, who at the last count have raised around £2,500 for the Fund.

James Whittaker, BIGGA's Business Development Executive, said: "Over the past two years, BIGGA and Mansfield Sand have developed a very strong business relationship. As one of our valuable Education Supporters, they contribute to the ongoing education of greenkeepers and we look forward to this relationship flourishing further in the future."

Mansfield Sand are at BTME 2016, sharing a stand with County Turf. Visit them on Stand B38.

To contact Mansfield Sand call them on 01623 622441. You can contact Sharon directly at sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk



Enhance your treatments for 'MiNT' turf



Year-round application of innovative nutrients delivers a stronger, sturdier sward across the course, reports Mike King of turf technologists Vitax

Shifting climatic conditions and growth of year-round golf demand treatment strategies that can enhance the quality and sturdiness of turf across the seasons.

Technology is flying to the aid of greenkeepers as novel biostimulants now contained within new liquid and granular formulations are raising the quality and performance of greens, tees, approaches and fairways to new levels.

Continuing commitment to research and development is helping sport and amenity specialists Vitax keep a step ahead of disease and demand with a selection of powerful, high performing treatments that nourish turf and heighten its resistance to wear and fungal invasion.

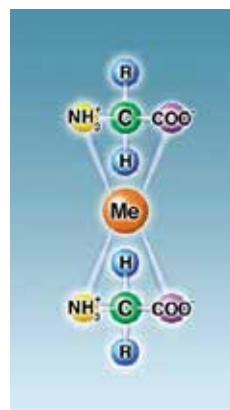
I've summarised here our formulations that are helping the golf sector in its drive for excellence in what can be increasingly challenging environments.

Enhance WSP water-soluble fertilisers combine concentrated, powerful and effective major and minor nutrients with organic components including Amino-Sorb F and humic acid complex biostimulants.

The organic components stretch beyond fertiliser by stimulating root and crown development, enhancing deep rooting and increasing abiotic stress resistance.

The trace element package with enhanced zinc concentration stimulates the turf's natural defence systems through enhanced, balanced trace element nutrition.

Four formulations of Enhance WSP are available to meet seasonal needs and particular requirements. Renovator 7+30+15+2MgO+TE contains a high concentration of phosphate to stimulate early root and crown development with adequate nitrogen and potassium to support early growth and development following seeding or turf repair



operations.

Renovator also supports recovery of worn turf after heavy footfall, while Enhance WSP autumn and winter 12+5+25+2MgO+TE provides a feed with low nitrogen and high potassium to firm turf growth any time of year, especially in late season to improve cold resistance.

WSP NK 15+0+25+2MgO+TE presents a phosphate-free formulation for application on sites high in potassium and when only limited potassium input is needed. Spring and summer 25+5+10+2MgO+TE provides a powerful growth stimulating fertiliser to support strong turf growth and promote excellent colour through the main growth season from April to mid-August.

Enhance WSP fertilisers work as both foliar and root-zone fertilisers at different rates. For foliar application, a light application of up to 20kg/ha is sprayed onto foliage.

For root-zone application,

up to 100kg/ha is applied, followed immediately by a light irrigation to transport fertiliser into the rootzone. Application in 400-800 litres of water per hectare at seven-day intervals maintains turf quality without any interference to play from surface powder or granules.

Developed as easily absorbed, rapid response foliar fertilisers for fine turf, Enhance F treatments are also suitable for rootzone feeding at higher application rates. The fertilisers contain organic components including Amino-Sorb F and major and minor organic nutrients and biostimulants – everything greenkeepers need to promote stress resistance, deep rooting, sward bulk and strong colour.

The three formulations offer a year-round programme. Enhance F spring and summer 12+1.5+6+TE delivers a powerful growth stimulating fertiliser to support strong turf growth and give vibrant colour through the April to mid-August main growing window.

Meanwhile, Enhance WSP autumn and winter 4+1.5+12+TE delivers low nitrogen and high potassium to firm turf growth any time of year and especially late season to improve cold weather resistance.

For a phosphate-free formulation for courses high in potassium and for applications where potassium inputs need to be limited, Enhance WSP Prime 15+0+25+2MgO+TE comes into its own, providing for immediate metabolic needs without encouraging Poa Anua growth.

For foliar treatment, a light application of 20kg/ha is sprayed onto foliage, while up to 150kg/ha is applied for rootzones, followed immediately by light irrigation.

Applying Prime in 600 to 1,000 litres of water per hectare is possible at seven-day intervals to maintain turf quality without any interference to play.

Turf tonic Vitax 50 – 50 MiNT contains 2.5%MgO; 3%Fe; 1.6%Zn; 0.2%Cu; 0.1%B; 0.02%Mo and 0.6%Mn to deliver a powerful, balanced micronutrient and magnesium

treatment for sportsturf, while its humic acid complex also aids nutrient uptake and root efficiency.

The tonic is safe to use from spring to autumn in a convenient liquid foliar-feed formulation effective at low application rates. MiNT corrects and helps avoid trace element deficiencies and improves turf colour and health without stimulating excess growth. It gives a major lift to chlorophyll production and amino acid synthesis.

Systemic disease resistance is improved where a balanced of trace elements is achieved and MiNT is especially indicated on growing substrates and light soil links sites with high sand content inherently low in nutrient-holding capacity.

MiNT blends well with our 50 – 50 liquid fertilisers and with 'straight' NPK fertiliser programmes lacking trace elements as well as those requiring extra trace elements. Apply it as a foliar fertiliser at three litres per hectare in 200 to 400 litres of water.

www.vitax.co.uk



Two's company



Steve Castle visited the Firth of Forth to see how Andy O'Hara and the team at Leven Links cope with two golf clubs sharing a course – with 39,000 rounds of golf played every year

I've never visited anywhere quite like Leven Links. Two clubs – Leven Golfing Society and Leven Thistle Golf Club – share the same 18-hole course. It's a beautiful site, with the Firth of Forth sparkling on a calm, sunny morning when I visited, and the hills beyond completing a stunning vista.

Around 800 members, split between both clubs, play the course. Leven Golfing Society lays claim to being the 11th oldest in the world, while Leven Thistle hosted the oldest matchplay event in the world – the Lindsay Shield, a unique 50 a side match against St Andrews and Carnoustie.

Head Greenkeeper, man-

aging a team of six greenkeepers including himself, is former BIGGA Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara. He talked me through what may seem to some as a complicated arrangement.

He said: "They basically shared the course from the start, and in the 1950's drew up an agreement, formed a joint committee, and I still report to this joint committee on a monthly basis. The two clubs pool their finances together and we add visitors' fees on top of that."

One of the most intriguing aspects of Leven Links is its close proximity to a holiday park full of caravans, and a

footpath lies adjacent to part of the course too. So what have the team done to minimise the risk of accidents?

Andy explained: "The second and third holes are alongside the footpath and the caravan site. So, we removed a mound on the left and swung the holes round to encourage shots to the left. We've also put a new bunker in on three to stop them trying to drive the green, all health and safety measures."

It's a very busy course with an annual roundage of up to 39,000, and it soon becomes clear it's a tight course too, with narrow fairways and limited space between holes. So,





how do the greenkeepers work around the golfers?

"We start early and work on the front nine, if golfers catch us up we skip the busiest parts of the course then return later.

"I call it working the gaps, you look for a window and work on that basis. When we hire a new greenkeeper, who is maybe not used to such a busy course, they have to learn how to work in those gaps. There is nothing worse than having to stand, watch and wait for golfers and not get on with the work so that's what we must try and avoid.

"Friday afternoons are packed here so that's our machinery maintenance time,

and other jobs we haven't been able to do through the week."

The occasionally undulating fairways run through the site of old dunes, while the final hole must be one of the most challenging around, as Andy explained.

"Carnoustie's 18th is arguably tougher, but this could well be the second hardest finishing hole in Scottish golf. The green is a small target, and if you're short, you're in the Scoonie Burn. It's not a long course – it's 6,506 yards from the white tees – but it's a real test in any conditions."

As if on cue, we then witnessed a golfer find the burn with his approach shot. But plenty of hard agronomic work has gone into creating this challenge.

In the early 2000s, the greenkeeping team implemented a project called 'Design to Counteract Technology'. Space limitations prevent them from extending the course, so they had to invent other ways to take into account that golfers are hitting the ball further. They also had to address ageing members struggling to reach fairways, and health and safety issues too.

They placed bunkers 280 yards from the tee, and reviewed the depth of bunkers, calculating they had to be at least 0.9m in depth to increase the degree of difficulty. They also reduced the approaches to the greens to around 18 yards.

A three-man committee, featuring representatives from the two clubs that share the course, agreed with this plan and then managed to secure funding from The R&A to support the project.

Andy explained: "We just don't have the space to make this a 7,500 yard course, we closed holes in, did all the work and it was very successful. The next move was a two and a half year programme taking into account the fact we have an ageing membership.

"The carries from tees to fairways needed looking at, so we reduced the length of the second and 10th holes. Also, there were some shots you hit blind, and we were getting reports of near misses where people on the tees had no idea there

were groups playing their second shots, so we had to bear health and safety in mind.

"It was a huge project – there were around 200 different items we had to address, and a few are still ongoing! But we're very proud of what we've achieved."

Other than some large excavation work, the project – including the initial design concept – was completed in-house.

The course is based mainly on pure sand, with a gravel bed running across part of the course and clay soil in other parts. Andy estimates the greens are around 60% bent, 20% meadowgrass, 10% fescue and 10% others.

Andy added: "Three or four years ago the fescue population was probably 40%-50%, but these wet summers and the demand for fast greens has almost wiped it out.

"I would say I'm a traditionalist when it comes to greenkeeping. We aerate as much as we can get away with, without being over the top and ruining surfaces, and as much sand as we can put on.

"We topdress from October to March only, we don't topdress between April and September purely because it ruins the cylinders. We don't have the money to get them re-ground, and we don't have one of the spinning disc topdressers, but this works for us and we've been doing it for more than 20 years."

Andy admitted the pressure is on to have the course in excellent condition from the first weekend of April, when the links hosts the Scottish Golf Union's Champion of Champions event, with many of Scotland's best amateur golfers gathering.

"This is obviously a challenge with the prevailing easterly winds sweeping in off the sea, potentially burning out parts of the course. You also have a big increase in golfers generally, yet the grass doesn't start growing until May, so March and April are the toughest months for us."

Parts of the course are actually below sea level, so all excess water goes into a storage pipe. When the water builds up to a certain level, an electric pump kicks in and the wa-

ter is pumped into the Firth of Forth. Andy would like to set up a reservoir but it has so far proved too expensive.

"It's very rare that we close, if we're closed you don't even want to go outside, believe me."

Andy left school wanting to be an accountant. But while searching for a firm to take him on as an apprentice, he was offered a summer greenkeeping job at Leven, where he already enjoyed playing golf, and was then offered an apprentice greenkeeper role.

He studied at Elmwood College, and within two years he was offered an Assistant Head Greenkeeper role at Scoonie Golf Course which literally borders Leven. In 1982, he faced the first real disappointment of his career when he was overlooked for the Head Greenkeeper role at Scoonie.

He recalled: "I was devastated really, so I did work on

bowling greens away from golf, to see if I felt confident in truly managing a specific piece of turf.

"But I look back now and maybe it was for the best. I was 22 and thought I knew it all, and was ready to be a Head Greenkeeper, and I probably wasn't. Looking after the bowling green meant I was standing up in front of a committee, reporting at the AGM, spoke to the members – what a grounding that gave me to deal with golf club committees."

Andy eventually became Head Greenkeeper at Scoonie in 1989, before joining Leven as Head Greenkeeper in 1993. He's truly passionate about greenkeeper education, and many of his protégés have gone on to other prestigious Scottish courses.

"I would say I've been doing CPD since day one! It wasn't called CPD then, but I never went a year without doing



something different, whether it be working on council cemeteries, football pitches or bowling greens to further my education, and we help greenkeepers progress here."

He concluded: "Paul Armour, Craig Berry and Grahame Taylor are just three guys who have gone on to St Andrews from here, and that gives me such pride. Mind you, Gordon Moir's still not paid me my development fee yet!"





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Section Notes

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

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



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Events Coming Up

NORTH

This year's Highland Conference takes place on Wednesday 11 November at Nairn Dunbar Golf Club with a fantastic line-up: Paul Murphy, Course Manager at Fife Golf Trust will present on his experiences at working within the Local Authority titled 'Working with Trust'. Gordon McKie, Course Manager on the Old Course, St Andrews will then give a talk on the preparation towards 'The Open Championship 2015'. Richard Windows from the STRI will then give a talk on 'Dealing with Organic Matter'. Steve Chappell will be our final presenter and provides a fantastic 'Review of the Ryder Cup' after the success of September 2014. The charge for attending the conference is set at £25 for members and £35 for non-members that includes tea/coffee on arrival in the morning with a 2-course lunch provided between the morning and afternoon sessions. There will be 5 CPD Credits awarded for your attendance at this event.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Educational days over the winter period are in the planning process dates TBA, we intend to have more events throughout 2016.

WEST

The annual dinner will take place on 27 November the venue is the same as last year Sati Sings, it was very successful last year so I would envisage a good turnout, the information will be on the Blog.

EAST

The East section hope to hold a "pre-Christmas" day/night out. If you have any suggestions for an event or venue, please contact a committee member. It seems to have been a quiet few weeks, but that's probably due to the marvellous weather allowing us to do what we do best, spoil our greens with slitters and corers and aeration equipment and stuff, well that's what the players would have you believe!

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

We have a few seminars lined up over the winter period, make sure you don't miss out by sending your up to date email address to Gordon Moir - gordon.moir@standrews.com. Likewise if you have any ideas or want to do a presentation yourself about your course, get in touch with Bob Meikle bob@crailgolfsociety.co.uk

News

NORTH

Our AGM took place on the 22 October at Deeside GC. Many thanks to Deeside and particularly Neil and his staff for presenting the Blairs course in excellent condition. All information from the AGM and the results of the golf will be in next month's news.

Finally, on behalf of the north section we would like to reiterate our condolences to the family of George Brown. Over the years George pushed our industry forward and brought many positive changes for greenkeepers today. A great loss to golf and the greenkeeping industry as a whole.

Anyone with any information, news or photographs for Around the Green please contact Paul or myself.

NORTHERN IRELAND

It was great to see everyone turn up at Clondeboye Golf Club for the BIGGA Northern Ireland Championship. The sun was out, the day was calm so consequently my excuse book had to remain in the bag. After a quick bite, everyone seemed to get away from the first tee without any problems and an enjoyable day ensued. The competition was played in stableford format with a split at 15 and above handicap.

Congratulations to Peter Roberts and Rodney McLoone for scooping the silverware on the day. Also to my playing partner Phillip Snellin for getting engaged to his now fiancée Aileen, which was revealed to us by the 1st tee announcer. Well done. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and the feedback has been very positive about our inaugural event.

Cardrona Winners



Thanks to Terry Crawford and his staff for their course preparation and the club for the use of their facilities. That time of year is always a busy maintenance wise and everyone was impressed with the course laid on for us. If anyone would like to volunteer their course for future events we would always appreciate it and I think it would help attract even more members from different areas of the region to compete on the day.

WEST

By the time you get this magazine the AGM will be done and dusted, somebody else will report on this as I have finally given up from the committee after a long time, so to all I have come into contact with over the years I thank you for your help. Sorry for not including some more articles over the last few months but I have had a fairly torrid time with a variety of different things happening.

The outing at East Renfrewshire GC was sadly called off half way round due to the heavy rainfall. I would like to thank East Renfrewshire club and captain for their support during the event and for allowing the association the use of the course, well done to the staff for their efforts.

Sadly, I have to mention the death of George Brown. George was a great character and I enjoyed many a good tussle on the golf course with him, sadly a good person is no longer with us and he will be missed but still remembered by a lot of people.

Congratulations to Gary Semple, assistant at Williamwood, who moves on to join Paul Kimber on a project in St Andrews, we wish him well for the future.

EAST

East Section held a very successful Autumn meeting at Cardrona in lovely weather. Many thanks to Bruce Watson and his team for a fantastic course, and MacDonald Cardrona Hotel for feeding and watering us. The winners on the day were; 1st class Colin McArthur, 2nd class Lewis Thomson, scratch Scott Corrigan, trade Graham King, nearest pin Scott Corrigan and Ryan Beck, longest drive Craig Hempseed and Allen Whellans.

Congratulations to Ross Prowse on his move from Muckhart to Niddry Castle as head man.

Many in the East Section were saddened to hear of the tragic death of Andrew Dunleavy as he was leaving his work at Kilspindie.

Again a reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback ASAP.

BIGGA Northern Ireland Championship



SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

South West of Scotland Section Members gathered at Trump Turnberry to celebrate the life of George Brown, whose funeral was taking place at the same time in his beloved Kent. Friends and past colleagues shared stories of George and raised a dram to him - a great man who touched so many throughout his long and successful career.

Thank you to Derek Wilson and Ian Craig STRI for respectively hosting and speaking at our AGM. These notes are written a month in advance, so I shall give a full account of the AGM next month.

Congratulations to Steven Carmichael at Dumfries and Galloway GC on winning the Patrons Award. Steven will be attending the upcoming Patrons Dinner at Dunblane GC and will also receive 3 nights stay in Harrogate during BTME along with travel expenses and £250 to spend on education - well done Steven!

Thank you in advance to Neil Hamilton and his team for hosting an ecology seminar and course walk at Powfoot GC on 10 November. I'll write an account of the event next month. Happy Guy Fawkes folks.

CENTRAL

First Assistant David Cooper has moved on to Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Downfield from Ladybank, who have in turn appointed an Assistant Greenkeeper (not 1st assistant) Joseph Meakins, who was a seasonal at the Castle Course, St Andrews. Ian Scott has went from Downfield to Blairgowrie. Best of luck to them in their new roles.

The AGM was held on 10 November at Elmwood Golf Course Training Room and prior to that there was a seminar by Graeme O'Connor, Aquatrols/Farmura. Thanks to all who attended.

Paul Murphy and Ian Menzies beat James Naylor and Ian Scott on the last hole in the Central Section Pairs Final at Carnoustie Golf Links in a fierce but friendly match. Thanks again to all who entered this year.

New sand dune at Glasgow Gailes

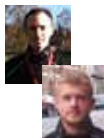


Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

NORTH WALES

The Christmas tournament, AGM and course walk will take place at Nefyn GC on Thursday 26 November, the course walk will be taken by Pat McAteer and with this being the last time Pat will host us before he retires and it being a shotgun start, I'm sure it will be an amazing day. Please remember to book early as this is always our busiest competition.

We would also like to find out if there is enough interest to run a bus to Harrogate again next January. BTME 2016 promises to be the biggest ever so if you are interested please contact me with names and pick up points, e-mail and text entries preferred then I can't get details wrong!

NORTH WEST

Our Northwest AGM and Bert Cross Trophy is on November 10 at The Wilmslow Golf Club.

NORTHERN

The Christmas Golf Day will be at Hanging Heaton Golf Club with a midday shotgun start, meal at 3pm and the dress code is 'Christmas Jumper'. To book please contact Andy Slingsby on 07506 407867.

News

CLEVELAND

Mother Nature has flexed her muscles this month with some torrential downpours and an altogether autumnal feel. This was only too evident when we played the Autumn Tournament at Wynyard Golf Club where Derek Thompson and his team had prepared the course in wonderful condition it was just a shame that the weather eventually beat us. Again another respectable turnout of 24 players for such a small section we aren't doing too badly!

We were all cheery and buoyed by Ben McGratten's amazing scoring that when asked on the 9th tee if we would like to carry on the answer was a firm yes! Then it happened the rain came down. By the time we had made the green we were all ready to call it a day as a result the competition was played over 9 holes.

Results: Div 1: 1 Martin Woods 19pts, 2 Paul Legg 14, 3 Olly Shepherd 11. Div 2: 1 Ben McGratten 23, 2 Spuggie 19, 3 John Talbot 18. Div 3: 1 Anthony McGeough 19 (boom), 2 Ian Pemberton 17, 3 Geoff Ward 14. Trade prize went to Nik Blesic 17. Nearest the pin John Talbot, longest drive Paul Legg.

In early October Richmond GC and Sharpley Springs GC hosted days with the On Course Foundation which looks to give wounded veterans taster days on jobs outside the armed forces. The day involved an introduction into greenkeeping, a course walk, a tour of the maintenance facility and finally a small practical demonstration in the practice ground.

All in all the day went well and there was some positive feedback from the soldiers. I found the whole process took me a little bit out of my comfort zone but once I settled into it I really enjoyed the experience and will look forward to hosting another day. Hopefully in the future we could use some of their skills on a voluntary basis through 2016.

If you have any news that you would like to share with your fellow greenkeepers then send me an email or give me a call on 07974458640 or amcgeough@aol.com, or post on the Cleveland section Facebook.

NORTH WALES

The annual North Wales South Wales match took place at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club on October 2 with a great result of North Wales winning 3-2, well done lads!

We were also well represented at the National at Fulford with Andy Peel, Phil Watson, Andrew Cornes, Martin Lee, Dave Wilkinson and Simon Ashford flying the North Wales flag and Andrew Cornes collected the BIGGA Challenge Bowl. Well done to all of you.

We have had two seminars in the last month, Wrexham GC hosted an ecology and bee seminar and the North Wales Seminar at Royal St David's GC was a real treat for all who attended. The presentations from Rhodri Dafydd Senior, Reserves Manager Natural Resources Wales, Bob Taylor from STRI, Tom Malehorn from Aquatrols and the Course Walk with Rhys Butler, Links Manager. Grateful thanks to Royal St David's for hosting the event and to everyone who attended, your support is greatly appreciated.

NORTH WEST

We'd like to congratulate Chris Harding (Head Greenkeeper of Prestwich GC) on winning the Northwest Section Individual Knock Out Competition Sponsored by Campeys. We would also like to congratulate Rob Sandilands on becoming the new head Greenkeeper at Formby Ladies Golf Club. Also we would like to wish former Assistant Greenkeeper of Leyland Golf Club Adam Mayren the very best on becoming Assistant Greenkeeper at Ganton Golf Club.

NORTHERN

Andy Slingsby organised the golf day at Ilkley Golf Club for the President's Day in September, this was a special day for the Northern Section President, Dennis Cockburn, as he had celebrated his 80th Birthday earlier in the year and as always provided a fantastic trophy table for the Northern Section members to compete for.

The day was a little damp, but the great turn out by faces old and new really made the day for Dennis and the speech given by Tito Arana, a former colleague, then the presentation of a celebration cake by BIGGA's CEO, Jim Croxton really left Dennis feeling rather emotional and overwhelmed. He managed to gather himself for the presentation of the trophies to:

Div 1 - 1 Nigel Coultish, 2 Andy (bandit) Slingsby, 3 Alan Baxter. Div 2 - 1 Kevin Moore, 2 Nigel Booth, 3 Simon Neath. Nearest The Pin Prizes went to Dave Collins and Paul Davies and the Trade Prize went to Gary Potter.

Thanks to everyone who attended, to Duncan Campbell and the team for preparing the course and to Ilkley Golf Club for hosting the event and to our very own Deb Burnett at BIGGA for making the cake.

Dennis wishes to thank Andy Slingsby, John Watts and the boys for organising the day and to everyone who came along, with special mention to Tito for his speech and to Jim for coming along to present him with the cake.

Thanks to Sponsors

CLEVELAND

Thank you to the Autumn Tournament sponsors Rigby Taylor and to Northern Lubricants, Amenity Technology, Rickerbys, TSL and Greenlay.

NORTH WALES

Thank you to Jonathan Harmer and Peter Lacey from Farmura for funding the North Wales Seminar.

NORTH WEST

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

NORTHERN

Thank you to the sponsors at Ilkley, Bolton Abbey Mowers, who gave demonstrations in, shall we say, challenging conditions!



South West & South Wales

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



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Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES

Don't forget our South West and South Wales Regional Conference 2015 taking place on Wednesday 18 November at Somerset County Cricket Ground, The County Ground, Taunton, TA1 1JT. Registration from 7.45am, speakers include Leigh Powell Hockley GC, Dave Orchard Bayer Crop Science, Eddie Ainsworth Avro GC, Darren Baldwin Tottenham FC, and our own Ian Kinley from Royal Porthcawl GC titled "A Welsh Major". More detail from Tracey Walker and on the BIGGA Website / Events.

This year we have changed our Christmas Golf competition. It will be taking place at Glyn Neath GC on Friday 11 December at 4pm. It will be night golf instead of day and we will be playing in fancy dress. The fairways are lit either side, must look more like a run way than a fairway, greens are encircled. Darryl Jones has worked hard on this event, so we highly encourage everyone to sign up for a great night of golf and fun filled evening to follow. Please check Facebook for details.

SOUTH COAST

The ever popular "Turkey Trot" Christmas golf fixture is scheduled to take place at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday 2 December. The day will be the familiar format of Texas Scramble with teams of three. The cost will be £25/Head with a bacon roll and coffee on arrival with a meal after the event. Please contact biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com for an application form to enter your team.

We are pleased to announce that the South Coast Section Conference will be returning to Milton Abbey School again next year. This truly stunning venue will be hosting the event on Wednesday 17 February 2016. Speakers are yet to be confirmed, but some exciting names were discussed as potential candidates at the recent Section meeting. Keep an eye on the Section Facebook page, Twitter account and this section of the magazine for further details.

DEVON & CORNWALL

The next section meeting is at Staddon Heights GC on 11 November where we will be playing for the Bayer Cup.

18 November is our regional conference at Somerset County Cricket club where there are a host of excellent speakers lined up for what will be a fascinating day of education.

The Christmas meeting is to be held at Trevose GC on 10 December.

SOUTH WEST

18 November Regional Conference at Somerset County Cricket Club

15 December Christmas Tournament at Marlborough Golf Club

We are finalising next year's events and will shortly be publishing details for the 2016 programme. We have some new formats in place for 2016 including a par 3 competition followed by a barbecue, a perfect summer afternoon to look forward to as we move into the dark months! Please keep an eye out for details of this as well as our well received Turf Clubs, seminars and golf days.

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

News

SOUTH WALES

On Friday 2 October, with glorious weather and a perfect setting, the players stepped onto the first tee at Royal Porthcawl GC playing from the blue tees, scaring the life out of some. Captain Big D and Ian Kinley stuffed Rhys and Craig from St David's and Royal Liverpool then it all went pear shaped, with us losing to the North section 3-2. Congratulations. The course was in excellent condition great effort by Ian Kinley and the staff at RPGC.

Assistant Greenkeeper Nathan Jones from RPGC worked at Woburn GC as part of the support team for the British Masters.

There are two remaining sponsored places at BTME 2016 please contact Paul Handy or Steve Lloyd for information.

Congratulations to Tracey Walker & husband Leighton, and Rhys Norville and wife Laura on recently getting married.

This year we have changed our Christmas Golf competition. It will be taking place at Glyn Neath GC on Friday 11th December at 16:00. It will be night golf instead of day and we will be playing in fancy dress. The fairways are lit either side, must look more like a run way than a fairway, greens are encircled. Darryl Jones has worked hard on this event, so we highly encourage everyone to sign up for a great night of golf and fun filled evening to follow. Please check Facebook for details.

The Section passes on its condolences to the family and friends of William Rogers, who died recently.

DEVON & CORNWALL

After the wettest August that many can remember September has been much kinder to greenkeepers in the area allowing many to complete autumn renovations and achieve recovery in very good time.

It has been a very good time for Cornish sport recently with the county being crowned champions at rugby, golf and cricket. Trevose Course Manager Neil Ivamy and assistant Kelvin Snell were part of the triumphant cricket side that defeated Northumberland in the final at Wormsley Cricket Club.

Torquay GC Course Manager Jason Brooks, Churston GC Course Manager Kelvin Millar and Teignmouth GC Course Manager Justin Manester are going to Turkey at

the end of the month to volunteer at the Turkish Airline open at The Montgomerie Maxx Royal in Belek. I'm certain this will be an exciting experience for them and will return with many a tale to tell.

We had our first meeting of the new season at China Fleet on 15 October. The course was in great condition and is a credit to Nathan O'Sullivan and his team. The golf was won by Sean Warren from Staddon Heights with 36 points. 2nd place was Antony James from Truro with 35 on countback from George Stephens from Tiverton. John Welsford from The Warren golf club won nearest the pin and George Stephens won longest drive. The non golfers were led on the course walk by Nathan followed by an excellent meal.

The AGM took place after the meal with a good set of accounts being returned. After a tricky year with a few key members of the committee leaving there were plenty of spaces to fill which were done so without any arm

Congratulations to Chris Hale from Oake Manor Golf Club for the Regional package and Rob Preston from the Manor House Golf Club for the section package, well done guys.

Following our section AGM on 8 October at Worlebury Golf Club, it gives me pleasure to welcome three long-standing section members to the committee. James Braithwaite, Tim Needham and Simon Kew will take up roles alongside our existing committee members. After many years of service to the South West Section, thanks must go to Nobby Knight who has stood down from the committee although we will continue to see Nobby at section events including the upcoming Christmas Tournament.

The South West AGM event was a success with two top quality speakers presenting before our meeting, followed by lunch then either a course walk hosted by Worlebury Course Manager Tim Needham or a few holes of golf. Many thanks to Tim and the Worlebury team for hosting



twisting needed! The new committee is made up as follows Billy Mitchell (President), Jason Brooks (Chairman), Ron Skinner (Secretary), Antony James (Vice Chairman), Graeme Gallimore (Education), Justin Manester (Treasurer). Simon Johnson, Neil Rogers, David Timms, Colin Webber, Keith Kellow and Greg O'Reilly make up the remainder.

Antony James represented the section at the recent BIGGA national championship at Fulford GC in Yorkshire. Although he played to his handicap it was not enough to feature in the prizes. He would like to thank the greenkeeping team at Fulford for the excellent presentation of the course.

SOUTH WEST

The opportunity for two section members to attend BTME 2016 through Section and Region sponsored packages was received very well by section members and after careful consideration and discussion of the entries submitted a tough decision had to be made.

the day.

Please note: we have had some server issues with our email account which should now be rectified. We do regularly email everyone on our contact list with South West Section information, however if you are not receiving these emails would you please contact us with updated address details via southwestsectionbigga@outlook.com. Your section needs you, stay in touch!

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WEST

Many thanks to our South West Section 2015 Patrons: Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, H Curtis & Sons, Ecosolve, T H White and Greensman for their continued and valuable support of BIGGA South West Section. Without their support we would not have the opportunity to provide the level of training and section events that provides.

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

MIDLAND

Winter Tournament Blackwell Golf Club - Wednesday 9 December. Start 10am. Cost £27. Closing Date 21 November. Pairs for partners to be drawn on the day.

EAST MIDLANDS

Our final tournament of the year is to be held at Birstall GC on 3 December.

MID ANGLIA

The Section will be running a seminar on November 25 at John O'Gaunt GC with the guest speaker Dr Mark Pawlett from Cranfield University. Entry forms with full details will be emailed out shortly. There will be a small charge to members, however we have secured some from funding from BIGGA's Learning & Development Fund to make this possible, so please support us.

The Christmas Golf Day is at John O'Gaunt GC on Wednesday 9 December. Entry forms will be available to download soon from the BIGGA website.

BB&O

Our next golf day is our flagship event the BB&O Turkey Trot to be played on Wednesday 2 December at Frilford Heath. Invites will be out soon.

MID ANGLIA

Our next golf day is our Xmas Scramble at John O'Gaunt GC on Wednesday 9 December. This is a team of 4 event, minimum of 2 greenkeeper members per team cost is £30 for members and £40 for guests. There will be coffee and a bacon roll from 9am with a shotgun start at 10am. Entry forms will be sent out very soon.

EAST OF ENGLAND

The next event is the popular Xmas golf day at Immingham GC on Friday 11 December. Full details will be on the website.

News

MIDLAND

Where do I start?! The Everris doubles took place on 6 October, Mal Mitchell & Chris Chapman playing Leigh Swan & Simon Hart. Leigh & Simon were champions in 2014 but they had a tough match on their hands against Mal & Chris.

The course was in fantastic condition and the weather was perfect for golf.

Leigh & Simon had a slender lead being 1 up going into the back nine. After good golf and a strong fight back from Mal & Chris, Leigh & Simon clinched it on the 16th hole winning 3&2. Well played Mal & Chris and congratulations to Leigh & Simon in retaining the Trophy.

A fabulous day was had by all at Wimbledon Lawn Tennis, and we even had a magical mystery tour thrown in. Everyone was in a great mood and the day was enjoyed by all culminating in a tour of the facilities.

I can't not mention the first BIGGA Benevolent Fund Walk which took place 3-4 October with eight guys walking 50+ miles raising close to £2500. The aches have gone away now but I assure you the memories will be ingrained in my head for many a year, thanks to Mal Mitchel and Harvey Brooke my fellow Midlands greenkeepers on the walk and fellow greenkeepers from other regions Martin Lazenby, Martin Brown and Richard Marshall also two great guys from the trade Geoff Fenn from Countrywide and Ryan Anderton of Highspeed. Also thanks to Edward Ainsworth and Sharon Morris - our support drivers!

EAST MIDLANDS

Asa English, Jordan Baker and Nigel Colley Represented BIGGA East Midlands at the Whitemoss inter sectional event at Stoke Park. They had 95 points came 4th overall behind the winners with 100 points the Midland region. Congratulations all round. The golf course, hospitality and venue was stunning, many thanks to Roger for organising the day.

Asa and James Burberry represented the section from qualifying at our summer comp earlier in the year. Both had better second rounds than first rounds.

Congratulations to Derek McJannet who came 4th overall at the nationals with rounds of 78 & 71.

Martin Hickling, Rothley Park helped out at the British Masters at Woburn, a great event well supported by BIGGA volunteers. Well done to all the volunteers as always these events need your help and support, and we always seem to give or lend support from the section so well done everyone.

The AGM will be held at Willesley Park GC on 28 October, full details to follow.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - more pictures and more stories from the section needed. Have a good fall everyone the leaves are coming!

BB&O

Another great golf day at Beaconsfield GC for our Autumn Cup saw a 42 strong field battle with the rain in what turned out to be a great day.

Congratulations to Stuart and his team for an immaculately turned out course and thanks to the club for their hospitality. 1st place - Dominic

Lewis, 2nd place Adam King, 3rd place Keith May. Thanks all for your continued support.

MID ANGLIA

Results from the Mid Anglia golf day held at The Bedford Golf Club held on 6 October. 21 golfers took part on the day. 1st place went to John Gubb from The Bedfordshire GC with 37 points after count back. 2nd also with 37 points after countback was Steve Mason from Stocks GC and in 3rd place was Paul Rolfe from Ashridge GC with 32 points. The trade prize went to Simon Banks with 42 points.

EAST OF ENGLAND

Congratulations to Bruce Hicks (Boston GC) on winning the Autumn fixture at Peterborough Milton. Many thanks to all those who turned out for the AGM also.

Thanks to Sponsors

MIDLAND

Thanks to Campey Turf Care for sponsoring the prizes at the Winter Tournament.

Thanks To Everris, especially Emma Kilby and Nick Martin for supporting the Everris doubles, and thanks again to Everris, and Emma again, for setting up and sponsoring the great day at Wimbledon.

Thanks to our October calendar sponsors – Everris!

EAST MIDLANDS

Thanks to Whitemoss for their continued sponsorship of the Inter Section Tournament.

BB&O

Thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our Autumn Cup.

EAST OF ENGLAND

Thanks to Tom Shinkins of GKB Machines for sponsoring the Autumn fixture.



Wimbledon Trip 2015

South East

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



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Events Coming Up

SURREY

11 November - The South East Region Conference takes place at Hadlow Manor Hotel in Kent. Details are available from Regional Administrator Clive Osgood at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

LONDON

In November we start our short turf talk sessions at Mill Hill golf club meeting at 12.30 until about 2pm. The first will have taken place on November 4 by the time you read this.

The second will be on Drainage on Wednesday 25 November again at Mill Hill same time, We will discuss draining all golf course areas, timings, depth, pipe sizes, backfill materials etc.

The third will be about creating your career path and the great opportunities for greenkeepers but how you have to find them as they don't come to you, this talk will be given by both Wes Walker and Kevin O Neill and include their experiences working in America.

We are considering setting up a 2 day irrigation workshop in February but this is still to be arranged.

The Christmas tournament will be at Moor Park on Tuesday 8 December. An entry form will be sent out and because this will be a popular venue entries will only be accepted with payment ahead of the closing date of Thursday 3 December.

Next year we have the spring meeting at Porters Park and summer meeting at Sandy Lodge.

Finally the London section and Oaklands seminar will be at Oaklands Smallford on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

ESSEX

Our next big event is the AGM. at Playgolf Colchester, 10am Wednesday 25 November. Christmas Team Texas Scramble - 11am Tee off. £70 per team of four. Entries to Antony Kirwan - 07887 780065 or antz16@btinternet.com

Any matters to be raised at the AGM, including nominations for the positions outlined in 'News' should be sent to the Secretary at the following email address: essexbigga@talktalk.net no later than 18 November.

Golf will take place straight after the AGM, it would be appreciated if as many members as possible would attend.

News

SUSSEX

The annual tri counties match was played at Windlesham golf club, despite heavy rain and testing conditions the course was presented in superb condition by Alastair and his team. Sussex retained their title with a record winning score of 286pts, Surrey came 2nd with 239 with Essex a very very distant 3rd place!

EAST ANGLIA

Firstly, apologies for missing the Swaffham report. Communication not working - bring back the pigeon! I gather that it was an enjoyable day, sorry I missed it.

And so on to Aldeburgh. The course was absolutely marvelous; all praise to Mark Broughton and his team. I'm sure he covered the greens in lino and painted them green - superb. Then for something completely different - the golf. Sixteen teams went out playing greensomes. One team scored ten - yes ten points on eighteen holes! I really must practice more.

At the other end of the scale were Danny Perring and Geoff Heney with 35 points, followed by Peter Howard and Brian Lindores with 30. Then came George Buitills and Adrian Hollins with 25. Nearest the pins were Nigel Robson, Geoff Heney, Danny Perring and Mark Keysell. Longest drives were Mark Keysell and Tony Thacker. Nigel Robson, greens chairman, presented prizes.

Thank you Aldeburgh once again for a lovely course and generous hospitality (golf is a bonus).

SURREY

On 9 September Dave Wyborn and Foxhill GC hosted The Surrey Bowl Knockout. Grant Stewart, Andy Gibbs defeated Neil Reid and Lee West on the final green.

Roger Tydeman did a great job organising this event. Thanks to Foxhills GC for courtesy, presentation of the course and the culinary delights after the match.

This is a brilliant knock out competition with competitive spirit that is hard fought but very friendly as players all over Surrey get to meet each other, some for the first time.

Lee West has left Dulwich & Sydenham GC after over 30 years as a greenkeeper.

Lee has passed his HGV 1 licence "Top of the Class" and will soon start to transport luxury boats all over Europe which will take him to Monaco, Russia and beyond. Wish you the very best, keep in touch.

Congratulations to Deputy Course Manager Neil and Laura Reid from Dulwich & Sydenham GC who have just got married, best wishes to the both of you. Michael Mann is the new Course Manager at Walton Heath GC after leaving Farleigh Court GC. Superb news and congratulations on your new role.

ESSEX

It appears that you have not heard the last of me for the time being, contrary to my last insertion in Around the Green, I have been asked to continue for the time being, until a replacement is found.

Due to Antony Kirwan's pending move to Aldeburgh Golf Club in January, he is standing down from the committee at the AGM; the section wishes him well in his new position at Aldeburgh.



Antony has been a driving force behind our golf days for many years, for which we thank him.

Positions up for election/re-election are: Chairman, Secretary plus Scribe, Competitions Secretary, Education Officer, Unattached Member, Sponsors Representative. Any matters to be raised at the AGM, including nominations for these positions, should be sent to the Secretary at the following email address: essexbigga@talktalk.net no later than 18 November.

Thanks to Sponsors

EAST ANGLIA

The sponsor at Aldeburgh had to pull out at the last minute; but fear not, a very kind and generous donation was made by a certain Mr Ian Willett. Ian supplied the prizes for all the golf awards – ie team awards plus nearest the pin and longest drive. Where would we be without him? Well done mate. Raffle prizes were from Aitkens, Bartram Mowers, Ransomes, Tacit, Rigby Taylor, Tomlinsons Turf Care, Ben Burgess and Toro.



Welcome New Members

Scotland And Northern Ireland

Alan Madden, Greenkeeper, Irvine Golf Club, Andrew Anderson, Greenkeeper, Tillicoultry Golf Club, Ryan McKinnon, Assistant Greenkeeper, Paul Lawrie Golf Centre.

Midland

John Badger, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club, Chris Mullett, Greenkeeper, Belfry Golf Club (The), Joe Clifford, Greenkeeper, Stratford Oaks Golf Club, Daniel Waring, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ashbourne Golf Club, Tom Moore, Assistant Greenkeeper, Woburn Golf & Country Club.

Northern

Andrew Ivel, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Moor Allerton Golf Club, Tony Mash, Greenkeeper, Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, Adam Cheetham, Greenkeeper, Moor Allerton Golf Club, Mark Dring, Head Greenkeeper, Oulton Hall Golf Club (De Vere), Adam Matthews, Head Greenkeeper, Moor Allerton Golf Club.

South West and South Wales

Martin Samuels, Affiliate, Devon Garden Machinery (DGM), Kevin Mould, Greenkeeper, Gloucester Golf Club, Max Stockwell, Greenkeeper, Bowood Park Golf Club & Hotel, John Barden, Head Greenkeeper, Honiton Golf Club, Scott Davies, Assistant Greenkeeper, Burghill Valley Golf Club.

South East

Paul Muddel, Affiliate, Irrigation Services UK Limited, Martyn Anthony, Course Manager, Marriott Sprowston Manor Hotel & C Club, Nicholas Hammond, Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club, Dean Franks, Greenkeeper, Littlehampton Golf Club, John Mayes, Greenkeeper, Links (Newmarket) Golf Club, Jonathan Biggs, Greenkeeper, Cowdray Park Golf Club, Tom Griffin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club, William Christie, Assistant Greenkeeper, Farleigh Golf Club, Paul Austen, Assistant Greenkeeper, Seaford Golf Club, Forbes Batt, Assistant Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club.

International

Mats Jorgensen, Hauger Golfklubb, Norway, Hanskut Lubos, Golf Centrum Amsteldijk, Netherlands, Barry Smith, Farnham Estate Golf & Spa Resort, Republic of Ireland.



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC's Education Director invites Nigel Church, Product Trainer for Cutting Edge Training, a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider, to explain how their workshops are designed to give greenkeepers the skills to ensure machines are maintained to the required standard

Viewed by some as a necessary evil, relished by the few, machinery maintenance is an absolute prerequisite for the long term life, everyday performance and whole life costs of turf maintenance equipment. There are differing levels of maintenance ranging from a quick wash down and greasing, to the full workshop overhaul combined with specialised fault finding, diagnosis and possible rebuild of the machinery.

There is however, that middle ground where greens teams with a technical bias can be introduced to a general understanding of what makes current day machinery work. Many products combine electronics with hydraulics and can seem confusing or complicated when trying to find a fault. Take the two systems and study them separately we can then begin to see what the switch and solenoid valve does to the hydraulic system when a key is turned or a joystick is moved.

In reality, Dealer Technicians attend training courses for many weeks over a period of years, learning about the systems on machinery, so a one day course at BTME 2016 will not make a full Machinery Technician of delegates attending the Machinery Maintenance Course. However with tightening budgets and maintenance costs rising, then a good general knowledge of how to correctly set up, maintain, and just as important, record the data of maintenance programmes for turf maintenance machinery can only be of benefit to the golf course or sports turf organisation.

Before any start to a possible new regime of in house machinery maintenance it can be very useful to list down the fleet of equipment on site and in use! It's quite surprising how many pieces of plant machinery may be in stored in and around the Greenkeeping facilities.

This can easily range from the smallest brushcutter/hedgecutter, to large area mowers, tractors, aeration equipment and of course sprayers (soon to be subject to testing in 2016).

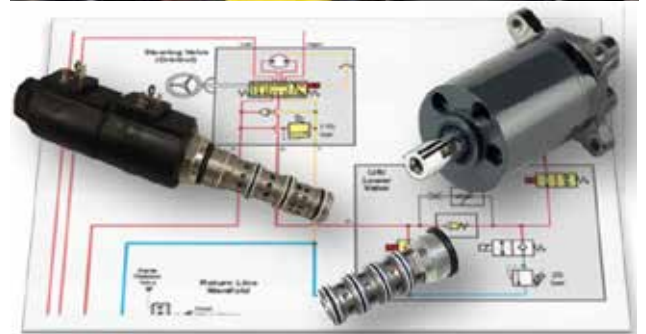
Then ascertain how old the equipment is, when last serviced, when is the next service due and start to develop your plan of future servicing programmes and you are now beginning to move in the right direction for improved maintenance practices.

Most if not all golf courses these days are aware of hazardous chemicals (COSHH) and their use, storage and disposal where necessary, however once more active "onsite" maintenance starts to take place remember to make provision for the disposal of oils, filters, hydraulic hoses, tyres etc.

Attending training is always a benefit to an individual's CPD and as Cutting Edge Training we offer a wide variety of training courses to assist with this. Courses are available for full time technicians from golf courses and offer a greater in depth training of Hydraulic and Electrical Systems.

Equipment maintenance is not just the responsibility of the workshop technician or colleague that does a bit of DIY, the driver of the machine is also responsible for ensuring daily checks are completed. So, more and more use is being made of services offered to train staff in the Safe Use, Operation & Maintenance of the piece of equipment being used. To that end Manufacturers and other organisations can and do offer Accredited Training based on national guidelines from BAGMA, NPCT, LANTRA and City & Guilds Approved Centres.

In conclusion, it is vital that staff are trained to use and maintain the equipment correctly. The machinery is maintained to the manufacturer's specifications, for long term cost effectiveness, safety in use and maximum



performance in everyday use. Training can go a long way to keeping staff and machinery working safely, productively and cost effectively.

To book on the Cutting Edge Basic Golf Mechanics workshop on Sunday 17 January at BTME 2016 follow the link: <http://btme.org.uk/education/continue-to-learn-downloads> or see page 14 of the Continue to Learn brochure.

Nigel may be contacted on nchurch@tip.textron.com
Tel: 01473 276286 or Mobile: 07860 639749
Visit: www.cuttingedgetraining.co.uk

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Visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk or www.greenkeepertraining.com.

We look forward to seeing you on the GTC Stand, B29, at BTME 2016.

The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

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GREEN INNOVATION ON THE GOLF COURSE



Lindum Turf has been growing turf for over 25 years and has developed a range of products for golf courses. Based in the Vale of York, the stone-free sandy loam soils are ideal for growing turf to a very high standard. Lindum has earned a reputation for consistently high quality turf and innovation in grass technology.

Greens turf, a high quality bent/fescue mix, can be supplied grown on sandy loam soil or as a washed turf. It can also be contract grown on a USGA rootzone. Lindum are leaders in the supply of Washed Turf, turf that is washed using highly specialised machinery to remove all soil particles avoiding contamination of high specification rootzones.

Two grades of tees and fairway turf are grown, with or without ryegrass, and recently Low Input Fine Turf was added to provide a fine fescue type grade, requiring reduced mowing and reduced irrigation and fertiliser inputs, making it ideal for drought prone areas and difficult banks. Lindum grows RTF turf, a unique turf containing rhizomatous tall fescue. Deep rooting,

it is drought tolerant and good for soil stabilisation, plus it produces rhizomes for repair of damaged areas.

Lindum supplies turf for building revetted bunkers and walls. Bunker Revetting is harvested in ready-cut easy to handle strips, 30-40mm thick, to make the final installation much quicker and easier. Both 'sprayed off' and 'unsprayed' options are available. Also available is bunker lining turf.

Innovation is a key part of the Lindum philosophy and has seen the introduction of Lokturf, a fibre reinforced turf giving a durable surface that is stable, firm, free-draining and hard wearing. Lokturf is ideal for use on walkways and high foot traffic areas, or golf buggy routes. Lindum have also developed Lindum Wildflower Turf, which can be rolled out on flat surfaces or pegged to banks, creating a ready established wildflower area to encourage biodiversity around the course.

**Contact Laura Bramley
01904 448675 | Laura@turf.co.uk**

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Recruitment

Drayton Park Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER/COURSE MANAGER



Applicants should have at least 10 years green keeping experience with 2/3 years in a supervisory role. In addition we shall require proven man management skills in order to lead and motivate a small team and to generate ideas and provide positive input into our planned program of improvements.

For a full job description Tel 01827 251139 or e-mail admin@draytonparkgc.com

CV's are to be marked "Confidential" and addressed to:

The General Manager, Drayton Park Golf Club, Centenary Drive, Fazeley, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B78 3TN no later than Friday 27th November 2015.

Tyrifjord Golf Klubb is situated approx. 35km west of Oslo, Our 18 hole private members club was constructed in 1994 and the course is located on a beautiful Island on Lake Tyrifjord.

We are currently seeking a highly motivated individual to join our maintenance team in the following position: SEASONAL ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

Employment to commence April/May 2016.

Accommodation can be discussed.

An attractive package will be offered to the successful applicant.



Please apply via email to ian@tyrifjord-golfklubb.no or apply in writing by 31.11.15 enclosing your C.V. and covering letter, marking it CONFIDENTIAL to:
Ian Ross, Head Greenkeeper, Tyrifjord GK, Storoya, 3531 Krokkleiva, Norway



Greenkeeper Tandridge Golf Club

Tandridge is a private Members club with a classic Harry Colt design, ranked in the top 100 in England. One of our course team is retiring soon and we are seeking a greenkeeper to replace him.

Reporting to the Course Manager or his Deputy the Candidate should:-

- Have a minimum of 3 years greenkeeping experience
- Be qualified to minimum Level NVQ II
- Have knowledge of Health and Safety regulations
- Preferably hold current spraying and chainsaw certificates
- Able to work without supervision to high standard

Salary will be in line with BIGGA recommendations. Possibility of shared accommodation.
Closing date 1st December 2015.

Apply in writing only including Letter & CV to:-
The Secretary, Tandridge Golf Club, Godstone Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9NQ
or e-mail to secretary@tandridgegolfclub.com

Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager

We seek applications from dynamic self-motivated and qualified individuals that will share our vision and passion for Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands Golf Club and bring new ideas and energy to this position, with the ability to lead, motivate and develop our current team of 5 green staff. You will have strong leadership and communications skills and have a flexible approach to working hours and weekend working.

To be considered for the role you should have the following qualifications and attributes:

- NVQ Level 3 in Green-keeping.
- PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates.
- Irrigation repair and maintenance experience.
- Excellent practical skills including some building work and technical knowledge relating to machinery maintenance.
- Good understanding of Health & Safety relating to golf course operations.
- Working knowledge of Outlook, Word & Excel.
- A first aid qualification would also be an advantage.

Remuneration will be based on skill level and experience.

How to Apply: Applications in writing should include a full CV, current salary and names of two referees to:

Karen Evans, Secretary/Manager, Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands Golf Club, West Hill, Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes, MK17 8DX or email: secretary@aspleyguisegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date Friday 27th November 2015

Commercial Technical Service Representative

Reporting to: Technical Training & Commercial Service Manager

Major Function

As part of the Service & Training team, the Technical Service Representative is responsible for Commercial product technical support for Spellbrook produced product and for technical & training support at customer level throughout EMEA for all Commercial product as required.

Duties & Responsibilities

Technical service

- Act as primary contact for customers with technical questions on Spellbrook produced

Commercial products

- Maintain a good working relationship with the Lyndale Commercial Service Department
- End-user, dealer and distributor visits with hands on assistance, in the case they are not able to resolve Toro Commercial product issues
- Represent Service interest with Spellbrook Engineering during product development and improvement initiatives
- Provide back-up technical support to other areas of the business as required

Sales & Marketing support

- Assist sales and marketing staff at meetings and shows
- Assist sales staff at product demo occasions

Training

- Maintain an up-to-date working knowledge of general and product-specific repair and maintenance procedures for all Toro products
- Train distributors, dealers and end-users in the correct and safe use of Toro products
- Develop technical training material
- Provide technical product training to distributors, dealers and end-user customers
- Support the administration and implementation of a certification program

Job Dimensions

- Works closely with Service, Marketing, Sales & Engineering to support product
- Professional handling of customer communication
- Manage own time to fulfill all responsibilities
- Flexible working hours as needed
- Up to 35% travel

Specifications (Qualifications)

- Strong technical knowledge required (Toro Commercial product a plus)
- Working knowledge of PC
- Ability to work under pressure
- Good communication skills
- Ability and flexibility to handle multiple tasks simultaneously
- Driving license
- European language skills a plus

To apply please send a full CV to Marie.Chinnery@hayter.co.uk



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