



GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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The rough debate / Olympic preparations / Turf renovation

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BIGGA Board Members
Rob Welford, Tom Smith, Scott Reeves,
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BIGGA Chief Executive Officer
Jim Croxton | jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

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

BIGGA Finance & Procurement Manager
Steve Wragg | steve@bigga.co.uk

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

GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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EDITORIAL



Editor
Karl Hansell
Tel – 01347 833829

karl@bigga.co.uk
@karlhansell

PRODUCTION



Design & Artwork Production
Andrew Price
Tel – 01423 560086

www.andrewpricedesign.com
@APriceDesigner

ADVERTISING



Business Development Manager
Jill Rodham
Tel – 01347 833800
ext 519

jill@bigga.co.uk
@JillyPops12

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

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The 2016 BIGGA Open Support Team



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

From large course to small, your voice will be heard

Royal Troon provided an exceptional Open Championship – the final day battle between Stenson and Mickelson was of the highest quality, superbly covered by television and all played out over a magnificent links course in immaculate condition.

It was a real privilege to see Billy McLachlan and his talented team prepare the course during the event. Everything was done to the highest standards, with the minimum of fuss and good spirits and humour were maintained throughout.

As befits the world's finest championship, Billy was able to call upon substantial resources: his own excellent team was supplemented by a dedicated group of volunteers from local clubs and R&A venues, an STRI team on site all week and, of course, the BIGGA Open Support Team for the tournament days. This is what it takes to present a course to Major Championship standard in the era of HD television and with a channel devoted to the coverage for nearly two weeks.

Never has the comparison between televised golf and club golf been so easy to make by the consumer, and yet never has the disparity between resources

been so vast. It has been an incredibly testing year for so many of our members with the weather simply refusing to play ball and it seems many greenkeepers are feeling the pressure – either self-imposed or, sadly, by employers and golfers.

It is always difficult to argue the toss with individuals, be they members or visitors, as they rarely have an understanding of the bigger picture. But we can make the case to those that should be well-informed, such as owners, managers, committees, etc. This case has to be based on fact, explaining the scale of the tasks at hand in relation to resources available. In my experience it is also important to be dispassionate, but that is so difficult when the subject matter – the course, your pride and joy – matters so much to you.

We are continuing, and making good progress, in our efforts to inform those involved with the management of golf as to the challenges of course management, the impact of our changeable weather and what is achievable within limited resources.

We are also continuing to provide members, at BTME and more generally, with the education and the tools to make their own cases effectively. This is of critical importance for our part of the industry to get through difficult times.

This month we look forward to seeing golf in the Olympic Games for the first time in over a century. The course in Rio has been built especially for the Games and our own Neil Cleverly has grown it in and continues to oversee its ongoing maintenance. In this magazine we hear of some of the extraordinary challenges Neil has had to overcome to get to this point. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him all the best as the course hosts most of the world's best players in back-to-back ladies and mens tournaments.

Last month David Golding retired from his role as Education Director of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee, a role he held for 23 years and carried out with distinction. David was BIGGA's first education officer, appointed in 1989 after a number of years in the industry as a course manager. He has made a significant impact to the greenkeeper education landscape in the UK and further afield and his input will be sorely missed. While he and I disagree significantly on the subject of football, he has been a great support to me personally and to BIGGA as a whole. Enjoy your retirement DG, you've earned it.

WELCOME



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FROM THE EDITOR



An overview of this month's edition of Greenkeeper International, with your editor, Karl Hansell

Struggles in the rough

I played a round of golf back home last week, and to say I lost a few of balls is something of an understatement.

I'd gone for a casual knock with a friend in the evening, so we could have a catch-up, and ended up only playing 14 holes as the light defeated us.

It was a lovely round, in a stunning clifftop setting, yet the jaunt was ruined a tad by the fact that every time either of our golf balls went into the rough, there was almost zero chance of finding it, let alone playing out.

And this brings to mind an interesting debate which we investigate in greater depth in this month's issue of Greenkeeper International: should golfers who stray into the rough get off lightly, or should they be punished for their error? And what resources are required in order that we can actually have a choice?

Personally, as someone who spends a lot of time in the tall stuff, it gets pretty disheartening and expensive all too quickly, but I do see the other point of view.

Have a read of the feature and let us know your thoughts, via Twitter and on our Facebook page.

Elsewhere, our photographic competition has now closed. We had some stunning entries and we're looking forward to sorting through your pictures and coming up with a final 12 for the calendar. We'll keep you updated and will need your help when it comes to choosing an overall winner. Thanks go out to everyone who entered.

In the short time I have spent with BIGGA, I have been amazed by the sheer scale of the organisation in terms of the spread of members - this month I spoke to BIGGA member Neil Cleverly in Brazil, who is busy

preparing for the Olympics.

The association is represented at the finest courses in the world, and when I joined the Open Support Team I had a great time chatting to those lucky members, who really were a great bunch of lads and were astounded by the experience they had. They are talking about this year's event as one of the greatest in Open history, and Rob Patrick of Stoneham was there to witness Stenson and Mickelson go head to head, from a viewpoint that money simply can't buy.



Signed golf balls from The Open

He wouldn't have got that opportunity if BIGGA wasn't so well respected in the golfing world, and if the R&A didn't recognise the work you all do to such an extent that they continue to request our assistance.

So it is congratulations to all of you, keep up the good work, and let's continue to show them why greenkeepers may well be the most important asset at a golf course's disposal.

Just, go easy on the rough please guys.



CONTRIBUTORS

James Thorpe ▶

James Thorpe joined Dunstanburgh Castle aged just 18 but quickly rose to the position of deputy head greenkeeper, helping to lead the award-winning team. He spent some time north of the border at the Scottish Open during July and recounts his experiences for GI

page 22



◀ Neil Cleverly

Neil is something of a journeyman in the greenkeeping world, having gained a sterling reputation as the go-to guy for the grow-in of world class courses. His latest assignment is among his toughest, overseeing the return of golf to the Olympics at the new Barra di Tijuca course

page 40

Henry Bechelet ▶

Henry is technical sales manager for Everiss Turf & Amenity in the UK and Ireland. This month he spoke to GI about how the landscape for insect pest control is changing. He asks what greenkeepers can do to combat pests when faced with tighter restrictions

page 44



◀ Terry Mabbett

GI contributor Terry made his way to John O'Gaunt in Bedfordshire, where he spoke to Course Manager Nigel Broadwith about how they are renovating the turf, without damaging the health of the grass. "Using a carefully-thought out strategy is clearly no bad thing," said Terry

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ACROSS THE BOARD



Stuart Greenwood

Stuart Greenwood is course manager at North Berwick, close to Edinburgh, and has been BIGGA Scottish region director since 2012.

North Berwick is the 13th-oldest club in the world, having been founded in 1832. It is reputed to be one of the oldest courses in the world, where golf has been played continuously over the same piece of ground since the early 1600s.

In this column, Stuart talks about the changes he has seen throughout his four decades in the industry, and how the unique climate of East Lothian reduces the impact of weather on the historic links.

I have been in greenkeeping for 40 years, and have spent the last 26 of those as course manager at North Berwick. During that time I have served on the BIGGA section's board, been section chairman and also served on the region's board, also as chairman at one point.

I'm currently on the national board and have been happy to give something back to an industry that has given me many opportunities over the years.

I have seen many changes during my time within the industry, and more so over these last few years when the expectations of golfers and clubs have become much greater than they were in the past.



The historic links at North Berwick

I don't believe these increased expectations are a bad thing, as hopefully they help push us all on to raise standards and be more professional in how we do our jobs and conduct ourselves.

However, the one thing that hasn't changed is the help and support we give our fellow greenkeepers, and I sincerely hope that, despite the other challenges our industry may face, that sense of camaraderie continues well into the future.

We need to keep pushing our profession forward, and highlight all the good things we do and what an important part we play in the game of golf. After all, without the input of greenkeepers where would golf be?

With the recent coverage of the Open Championship and USPGA on TV and with golf being part of the Olympics in the coming weeks for the first time since 1904, hopefully this will help promote all the things I have mentioned above.

But against the backdrop of these ambitions which I have for the industry, are my responsibilities back home at North Berwick. We have had another busy

year with golfers from all parts of the world playing the links and we were delighted to start the year with the news we had been included in the top 50 in Golf Digest's top 100 courses in the world for 2016/17. We have also been lucky in that we have not had the same weather problems that many parts of the country have suffered.

I do sympathise with many greenkeepers when I see and hear horror stories related to the weather, which makes the job even harder. We seem to have our own mini climate here in East Lothian on the east coast of Scotland. We are more sheltered from the worst of the elements, and for that I am glad.

Early this year we decided to get involved in the Golf Environment Organization's certification and I am delighted to say we have just been verified and have achieved the award.

Golf plays a big part in the environment and I think it's important we are seen to be doing 'our bit' to help protect it and stop the misconception many people have outside of our industry that we are doing the opposite.

Funding your future

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



JOHN DEERE



Bayer CropScience



BERNHARD grinders



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



Tribute to course veteran



Scottish Championship



BIGGA Awards



BIGGA National application

New partnership
Health, Safety & Employment Law
BIGGA and the golf unions

GI Newsdesk

The latest greenkeeping news

NEWSDESK

ICL scholarship opportunity will help five BIGGA members

A scholarship has been launched in conjunction with BIGGA Partner ICL that will see five members attend Continue to Learn.

The ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship will offer the five members the chance to attend the education programme that will be held at BTME 2017.

Sami Strutt, BIGGA's head of member development, said: "As BIGGA Partners, ICL has long recognised the significant investment that

greenkeepers make in developing themselves throughout their careers. Often this dedication is done at their own personal expense and so I am delighted that ICL will help five BIGGA members with the support they need to make the most of the Continue to Learn education programme at BTME 2017."

The scholarship is worth approximately £500 per person and comprises three nights' accommodation and a 15-hour education bundle.

Commenting on the spon-

sorship agreement, ICL's Ed Carter, turf and landscape - sales and development manager, said: "ICL are delighted to sponsor BIGGA's Continue to Learn Scholarship as we are keen to promote education at all levels of turf management.

"We see the scholarship scheme as an exciting opportunity to provide Continue to Learn education to people who under normal circumstances may not be able to attend BTME, and we feel that is an extension to the support we provide."



ICL will sponsor five BIGGA members at BTME 2017



Andrew Stanger, lecturer Steve Prinn and Craig Sander-

First class effort from graduates

A pair of BIGGA members have shown they are top of the class after graduating with first class honours.

Andrew Stanger and Craig Sanderson both graduated with a first class degree from Askham Bryan College this summer.

The duo attended the college over a 10-year period, where they competed NVQ2 and 3 and FdSc in Sports turf science and golf course management.

Craig is course manager at Marriot Hollins Hall, Bradford, while Andrew is course manager at Headingley in Leeds.

Andrew said: "Thanks to Steve Prinn, who has been our lecturer throughout our time at the college. We want to thank him for his continued support."

Ladybank hosts Scottish event



Ladybank is hosting the BIGGA Scottish Championship

Course Manager Colin Powrie and Head Greenkeeper David Gray are looking forward to the challenge of hosting the 2016 BIGGA Scottish Championship.

Sponsored by Circle Golf, the event takes place on Thursday 25 August at the club, which has been used as a Final Opening Qualifying Venue seven times.

Regional Administrator John Young said: "Those taking part in the Scottish Championship will certainly enjoy the ex-

perience and will need to use all of their course management skills to post a good score."

Last year's Scottish champion, Chris Lamb from Newmacher, will be back to defend his title in what is sure to be a strong field with representation from all five sections. Last year, each section was able to provide four players with free entry to the championship, using their September and April outings as qualifying.

Ladybank is a heathland course set among pine trees and silver birch.

John added: "As you would expect, Colin, David and the team are continually looking to enhance the course for members and visitors, with the latest work targeting different designs of bunkers and striping away large areas of broom with tree and rough thinning to improve playability."

Visit the region's website on www.biggascottishregion.com for full details of the event, including the entry form. Alternatively, contact John by emailing johnyoung@bigga.co.uk for further information.

Don't miss chance to win top prize

The BIGGA awards are fast approaching, so don't miss your opportunity to win one of the three prizes.

Nominations are now open online for the awards, which will be presented during the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, held at

BTME in Harrogate on 17 January 2017.

The three awards are: BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year; Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year; Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year. Visit the BIGGA website for details.



The BIGGA awards will be presented at BTME

Catch nets Paul international place

Fly fishing champion Paul Sharp has again enjoyed success with his rod after winning a place at an international competition.

The course manager at Peterculter, Aberdeen, Paul is a former Scottish cham-

pion and will take part in the Anglian Water International at Rutland Water in October.

Paul qualified alongside his team, the Leven Fly-casters, which has previously won the event and consists of six anglers from around Scotland.

Bingley mourns course veteran

A memorial service has been held for former Bingley St Ives head greenkeeper Joe Baxter, who passed away earlier this year.

Joe was a former STRI employee and continued to help out at Bingley St Ives

following his retirement in 2006. He was appointed head greenkeeper in 1974.

Among his achievements was successive hosting of the Lawrence Batley tournament, played by Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle, between 1981 and 1983.



Get into golf

BIGGA lending support to Get into golf campaign

BIGGA has given its backing to the Get into golf scheme, which is making it easier to get friends and family playing the game.

The Get into golf campaign is operated by England Golf and supported by Sport England funding, with beginner courses on offer across the country.

Get into golf could also provide a good opportunity to get more

people from the local community taking part, leading to an increase in revenue for the golf club.

For more information and to get your club involved with Get into golf, visit getintogolf.org or call 0800 118 2766.

THIS MONTH
@BIGGALtd



lucasdamrow
@DamrowLucas
Preparation for the
Kramski Bundesliga!
#golfclubKasselWilhelms-
hohe #greenkeeping
#hardworkpaysoff



Rob Patrick
@RobPatrick89
had a great weekend at
@TheOpen thanks to
@BIGGALtd for the week,
even got to be a part of
history in the last group



Langland Bay GC
@Langland1
"Choose a job you love &
you will never have to work
a day in your life"
@BIGGALtd



Nik B
@BlesicSportsU
@ChesterfieldGC
for the @BIGGALtd
Sheffield section summer
competition



Kevin Weller
@Kev_rh
A great week with the
@JamegaTour and
@BIGGALtd volunteers
@LingfieldGolf #hardwork
#funinsun #friendsmade



Charlie Lacey
@charliejaylacey
Decent scene to cut the
greens #greenkeeper
#greenkeeping #work
#view #toro #hotairballoon
@BIGGALtd



Andy Weeks
@AndyWeeks37
Keeping the UK proud
with the @BIGGALtd
tie at the Merion intern
dinner and tour of the club
#biggaswsw



Daniel Jones
@turfcare1
Turfcare sponsored golf
day for the BB&O section.
Boom boom swapped for
apron! #hotdogs #smells-
good @BIGGALtd



Jonathan Wood
@jonwood1978
This is why I love my
job #earlymorning
#peaceandquiet
#sunrise #timetothink
#greenkeeping
@BIGGALtd



Fairway mowing

Partnership extends Xact service to BIGGA members

A partnership between BIGGA and the golf unions of England, Wales and Scotland will extend the support offered to clubs on health, safety and employment law.

An agreement has been made so specialist golf service provider the Xact Group is able to offer free advice to members.

BIGGA's Jim Croxton said: "Health and Safety is of critical importance to the greenkeeping industry as the combination of Mother Nature and heavy machinery makes caution paramount.

"We are therefore delighted to be able to join the golf unions in providing the opportunity for substantially-reduced cost access to online training and induction."

A feature of the Xact service is a range of e-learning health and safety courses for golf club staff, offering 10 online courses on clubhouse topics and greenkeeping matters. Clubs will receive a substantial discount on the charges for this training.

The courses are designed to help clubs meet their legal obligations, provide a safer working environment and can be used as part of an induction process. Software allows the employee to complete the training in more than one session.

Richard Flint, England Golf participation and club support director, said: "We are delighted to be working with BIGGA and look forward to working with more course

managers and greenkeeping staff.

"The advice available from Xact is invaluable and, by providing support and resources such as this, our partnership is helping clubs to develop their business and become more successful."

Jack Hargrave, marketing director of Xact, said: "We are delighted to continue our close association with the golf unions of England, Wales and Scotland and are very pleased to extend our support to BIGGA and all its members throughout Great Britain.

"Our range of golf club specific support services now includes a full suite of health and safety e-learning courses tailored to golf clubhouse employees and greenkeeping employees. We look forward to continuing to help clubs maintain a safe environment for employees, members and visitors."

For more information about the available courses, scan the QR code below.



**BIGGA National
Championship
Bowood Hotel,
Spa and Golf Resort
10-11 October 2016**

Bowood's championship course in Wiltshire is overseen by BIGGA member Jaey Goodchild.

Designed by renowned architect Dave Thomas, the course has been voted one of the UK's top 50 Stay and Play resorts by Golf Monthly.

Heading down the entrance to the 2,000-acre Bowood Estate, and you encounter the course, which opened in 1992 and was designed to enhance the original Capability Brown grounds of Bowood House.

The shape and play of most holes around the undulating parkland course are designed by swathes of long grass rough, and you can read more about Jaey's approach to rough management in our feature, which starts on page 28.

The layout winds through mature woodland, with a fair amount of water either side of generous fairways – the course measures a massive 7,300 yards from the back tees.

Now, as the course comes into its maturity, it forms a fitting venue for BIGGA's biggest competition of the year. Make sure you don't miss out.



BIGGA National

BIGGA National Championship, Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, 10-11 October 2016

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

Name

Address.....

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

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership No.

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club

Payment method (please tick)

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

Card number

Start Date Expiry Date

Last 3 security digits

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date

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

**Deadline for entry is
2 September 2016**

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

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

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

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

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

ACROSS THE BOARD



Stuart Greenwood

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JOHN DEERE



Bayer CropScience



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

GI ecology

By James Hutchinson - BIGGA's Sustainability Executive



It turns out this year is fantastic for wild orchids on golf courses. Why? The warm start and damp conditions prove to be a great environment for marsh orchids, or so the experts tell us. Orchids crossbreed quite easily and as a result give us a beautiful display of colours and patterns on their petals.

Other stunning wildflower photos sent in have been pyramidal vars from Russell Carr and Antony Kirwan.

Moving further down south, Essex to be precise, where a marbled white butterfly showed up at Orsett. These beauties are unlikely to travel much further north than Yorkshire, but their range is extending and it may not be long before they start to appear in southern Scotland, given a strong wind. We seem to blame most things on global warming so we'll say that's the reason for this stunning invertebrate's march up the UK.

Recent interesting sightings from greenkeepers are a slow worm in a bunker by Jim Fancey, a fox cub by Tom Evans, mute swans with chicks by Nick Meehan and this fawn by John Myles.

Now then, did you know there are ways in which you can cleanse your waste water holistically? They do at Chorley, where they've built this wonderful reed bed wash-down system in the hope of meeting regulations regarding the water leaving the course. Head Greenkeeper Anthony Grayson and the team built this spectacularly pro-active facility using the STRI's specifications.

Smashing work guys and let us know what type of birds nest there – reed warblers hopefully, so we can have a case study on this bed in autumn.

A hybrid orchid at Whitley Bay



Marbled white seen at Orsett



A fawn seen by John Myles



The reed bed at Chorley





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If you want a tractor that's better at every turn, turn to the Kubota B50 Series. Calling upon over 50 years of innovation and engineering excellence, the latest generation of Kubota tractors incorporates bi-speed turning to increase manoeuvrability and minimise turf damage. The B50 has been designed to deliver outstanding performance, economy and reliability and is also available with an integral air-conditioned cab for maximum operator comfort and productivity. To find out more, visit www.kubota.co.uk or call **01844 873190**.

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For Earth, For Life




MEMBERSHIP TEAM
01347 833800
(OPTION 1)



General Manager
Tracey Maddison

traceymaddison
@bigga.co.uk



Membership Executive
Elaine Jones

elaine
@bigga.co.uk



Events & Membership Executive
Rachael Duffy

rachael
@bigga.co.uk

@BIGGALtd

Full Members Personal Accident Helpline
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MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

Latest news and information from the BIGGA membership team



Join the British Masters team

The British Masters is heading to The Grove in Hertfordshire this October and BIGGA has been asked to provide a support team to assist Course Manager Phil Chiverton and his staff during the event.

Luke Donald, tournament ambassador and former World Number One, chose the 7,152-yard parkland course at The Grove to host the prestigious event.

The British Masters returned to the European Tour schedule for

the first time in seven years in 2015 and saw Sheffield's Matt Fitzpatrick claim his maiden professional title at Woburn.

This year the event takes place on 13-16 October and the BIGGA Support Team will be fully integrated into the existing staff and asked to perform a variety of duties throughout the week.

Applicants should ideally be able to be on site from Sunday 9 October, but alternate arrange-

ments can be made where this is not possible.

An application form is available in the Events section of the BIGGA website and can be accessed by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone.

Successful applicants will be notified before the end of August.

The BIGGA website also features more information and details on how to apply for a place on the team.



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**LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT
TEAM**

01347 833800
(OPTION 3)



**Head of Member
Development**
Sami Strutt

sami
@bigga.co.uk



**Head of Member
Learning**
Stuart Green

stuart
@bigga.co.uk



**L & D
Administrator**
Deb Burnett

deb
@bigga.co.uk

🐦 @BIGGALtd

L&D NEWS

Latest news from the BIGGA Learning and Development team



Finalists announced for Toro student awards



▶ Last year's Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner, Steve Thorne

For the first time ever, two prizes are up for grabs at the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards, and we are proud to announce the talented nominees who have made it through to the grand final.

These 11 student greenkeepers, featured opposite, will contest the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards.

The final will begin on Monday 19

September, where candidates will join an industry discussion group hosted by BIGGA chairman Les Howkins.

Tuesday sees the Student Greenkeeper finalists take part in a multiple choice quiz, complete an essay question and be interviewed by a panel from Toro and BIGGA.

The Young Greenkeeper candidates will take part in a course walk around Aldwark Manor, where BIGGA HQ is based.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper

of the Year winner will receive an eight-week expenses paid scholarship, including a six-week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, a trip to the Golf Industry Show and a visit to the Toro factory.

The winner of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award will receive a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME and enjoy a five-night package that includes hotel, four days of education, travel and £125 expenses, plus a Toro training voucher.



Congratulations to the following members who achieved CPD Approved status this month:

Trevor Harris, St Andrews Links Trust; Stefan Carter, Wentworth; Christopher Taylor, Morley Hayes; Richard Jones, Hilton Puckrup Hall; Christopher McGhee, Prestwick; Sam Evans, Fulwell; Rhys Norville, Avencrop Amenity Products.
The following members also achieved their Milestone this month: Glenn Kirby, Hockley; David Perdisatt, Naas.

Who will be the winning Toro student greenkeepers?

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Jimmy Heritage
Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Maylands.
Writtle College
Nominated by Nigel Beckford, Writtle College
"I've worked hard and spent hours on additional study to sharpen up my knowledge"

Tom Smith
Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Cams Hall
Myerscough College
Nominated by Nick Lush, Myerscough College
"My job is not only a career but a passion"

Matthew Brighton
Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Alwoodley
Myerscough College
Nominated by Andrew Kenworthy, Myerscough College
"I was promoted to deputy head in my first year"

Alex Brougham
Assistant Greenkeeper at The RAC
Myerscough College
Nominated by Ed Stant, Trentham
"I am ready to take on new challenges in order to progress and reach my goals"

Andy Clark
Assistant Greenkeeper at Remedy Oak
Myerscough College
Nominated by Nick Lush, Myerscough College
"I am looking forward to the next chapter of my career"

David Perdisatt
Senior Greenkeeper at Naas
Teagasc
Nominated by Colm Dockrell, National Botanic Gardens
"My aspiration is to become the very best head greenkeeper I can be"



Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Daniel Murdoch
First Assistant Greenkeeper at Minto
SRUC Elmwood
Nominated by Mike Clark, SRUC Elmwood
"I get great satisfaction from seeing young golfers enjoying the game"

Jack Evans
Assistant Greenkeeper at Waltham Windmill
Bishop Burton
Nominated by Rob Welford, Waltham Windmill
"I helped produce a course that was in outstanding condition"

Vincent DeMarzo
Greenkeeper at Barnehurst
Hadlow College
Nominated by Paul Copsey, Hadlow College
"I fell in love with greenkeeping"

Peter Lewis
Greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool
Reaseheath College
Nominated by Lyndon Smith, Reaseheath College
"At the Open I was thrilled to be included in the guard of honour"

Daniel Waring
Greenkeeper at Ashbourne
Reaseheath College
Nominated by Richard Walker, Ashbourne
"This would be a massive confidence boost for me"



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Steven Tierney MG; Chris Lomas MG; Andrew Campbell MG CGCS; Espen Bergmann; Nick Gray; Steve Dixon; Richard McGlynn; Jaey Goodchild; Michael Beaton; Greg Evans; Frank Newberry

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Operation Pollinator awards

Lely's Gordon moves on

Rio growth

Jacobsen support at Scottish Open

Sales area extended

Reesink takeover

GI Industry Update

The latest industry news

Toro on tour as brand hits the open road

Toro and fine turf machinery distributor Reesink Turfcare is hitting the road during August with its Toro on Tour events.

Bringing the brand's latest machinery launches and expertise to customers' doors, the tour is a chance to see the latest and most popular Toro machines.

Jeff Anguige, Reesink Turfcare's national sales manager, said: "These roadshows are a fantastic way for dealers and customers to get hands-

on with latest machines, network with industry peers and hear about what's going on from experts in the field.

"As well as top tips on Toro operating techniques, there's the opportunity to demo machines such as the Workman GTX, which many may not have seen since it was showcased at BTME."

The Workman GTX is headlining the road trip, and visitors can jump into the seat and demo the turf and grounds crossover utility vehicle.

Joining the line-up is the Reelmaster 5010-H hybrid fairway mower, the lightweight Reelmaster 3550 and two additions to the Reelmaster range - the 3555-D and 3575-D.

The tour is organised by Reesink Turfcare in partnership with its nationwide dealer network at key customer venues.

There is limited availability for places so any greenkeepers or course managers keen to come along should contact their local Toro dealer or area sales manager.



Toro Workman GTX

Sand underpins Turnberry praise



The role played by Hugh King & Co in the ambitious renovation of Turnberry has been highlighted by Courses and Estates Manager Allan Patterson.

During the £200 million works, around 1,000 tonnes of Hugh King & Co's Bunker 8 and Washed Dune Sand

aided in the rebuilding of 87 bunkers and the 18 championship greens.

Allan said: "Everyone involved in the renovation was part of a huge puzzle and Hugh King and the sand they supplied was an important part of that puzzle."

Hugh King & Co has been de-

livering top-grade materials for over 150 years.

"It has been an extremely exciting project, especially given the history of the venue and the universal affection felt towards it within the world of golf," said Managing Director Graeme King. "From a professional point of view, it tested everyone."

Wiedenmann's latest overseeder floats on 'air'

Wiedenmann UK has launched the Terra Float Air, a combination of surface conditioner and overseeder.

Combining three units in one, this 1.6m wide machine offers versatility.

The base unit aerates and loosens soil to 30mm, using either spikes or fine slits at 1,500 holes/m² or 500 slits/m² respectively. The second unit is a brush and roller combination which incorporates top

dressings materials to the ground before smoothing the surface. Finally, a pneumatic air seeder unit sits atop, assuring a receptive seed bed either pre or post topdressing.

The high performance air stream directs precise amounts of seed to the prepared perforated holes. A series of steel deflector plates ensure uniform depositing of the seeds from a short distance. A memory function on the control panel allows storage of calibration data.



Royal Reesink complete purchase of Lely Turfcare

Dutch company Royal Reesink has announced the purchase of Toro distributors Lely Turfcare in the UK, Ireland and Denmark.

Reesink will take over the turfcare activities of Lely, which generated €60m in 2015, with around 125 employees.

Gerrit van der Scheer, CEO of Royal Reesink, said: "This acquisition adds to the geographical spread of our activities and strengthens our position in the market for machines for the maintenance of golf courses."

Going forward, the activities will continue under the name Reesink Turfcare.

Alexander van der Lely, CEO of Lely Holding, said: "The sale of our turfcare activities is another step in our strategy of focusing exclusively on our core activity, which is milking systems and raw feed production. The distribution of Toro machines and TYM compact tractors is in good hands at Royal Reesink."



Jacobsen support during Scottish Open



Jacobsen, with the assistance of dealer Fairways GM, provided tournament support to Castle Stuart as it hosted the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open for the fourth time in six years.

The event is part of the PGA European Tour, attracting around 40,000 spectators.

Jacobsen provided three SLF super-lightweight fairway mowers, four Eclipse 2 walking greens mowers and three utility vehicles, in addition to the course's range of existing products.

"Jacobsen is part of the fabric of Castle Stuart," said Course Manager Chris Haspell. "While there was pressure on us to make sure the course was well-prepared for the event, we knew the machinery would do its job, so it was just up

to us to do ours."

Forty volunteers from all corners of the globe, including Australia, Croatia, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, New Zealand and the United States, joined the Castle Stuart greenkeeping team and helped prepare and maintain the course for the duration of the event.

Chris helped construct the links, which opened in 2009, and has been course manager ever since.

He added: "The entire team was ready for another Scottish Open and I was particularly delighted that we had so many volunteers from different countries coming over to help us during the competition.

"This was a fantastic experience for them, as well as my team at Castle Stuart that was managing the various groups of volunteers as they

went about their tasks."

The tournament support equipment was delivered a week ahead of the competition to help with the final preparations and representatives from Fairways GM and Ransomes Jacobsen's European manufacturing plant in Ipswich were on hand to provide technical assistance and maintenance support.

Jacobsen's Nick Brown said: "We were delighted to be able to offer Castle Stuart our support during the Scottish Open this year. Chris and his team worked extremely hard in preparation for the competition and it was great to see so many volunteers on the course that will have benefitted tremendously from the experience. We are extremely proud to supply and partner with Castle Stuart, the quality of the course speaks for itself."

Graham Dale leaves a strong legacy at Lely after 33 years' service

Graham Dale, a highly-respected and well-known figure in the professional turf machinery industry, has retired from Lely Turfcare after 33 years with the organisation.

Graham joined Lely when it took over the UK distribution of Toro in 1983 and brought an expanding knowledge of the Toro range of products, having spent three years working for then-distributor Autoturfcare.

He said: "I have been fortunate to work with a great group of people and I would like to thank everyone I've worked with over the years.

"Lely has an exciting future ahead of it. Yes, there will be changes and challenges, but also lots of opportunities."

For the majority of his career at Lely, Graham has led the company, handling the responsibility of both the agricultural and turf businesses since he was appointed managing director in 1990.

He said one of the milestones of his career was see-

ing the launch of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards - the first joint educational initiative undertaken by BIGGA - which is just as important now, 27 years later.

Other highlights include helping to introduce the first robotic milking system by Lely, and receiving the prestigious Toro Partners in Excellence award for 2013 in Toro's centenary year.

Throughout his time at Lely, Graham has seen the company grow exponentially. When he first began working with Lely in 1983, the company had a turnover of £10 million. Today the turnover is over £50 million.

Graham said the biggest changes to the industry have been the developments from the ever-rising standard of sports turf presentation, leading to greater demand for high quality professional machinery.

The rise of technology was also noted and he said the ability to gather information through smartphones is a huge aid to the industry.



Sophie Vukelic of the STRI is backing the awards

Be rewarded for pollinator work as awards back with a buzz

The Operation Pollinator Awards 2016 are open for entries.

The competition seeks to reward clubs that have created ecological features that are managed to attract our essential pollinating insects and other wildlife.

Operation Pollinator has proven it is possible to proactively manage areas of the course for wildlife, alongside the playing areas intensively managed to provide the best possible surfaces for golf.

The awards are open to courses that take action for pollinators, including creating wildflower

habitats and protecting nesting sites.

Syngenta Operation Pollinator Manager Caroline Carroll said: "The awards have shown that even relatively small clubs have great capacity to make a real difference. It is incredibly exciting to see what they have achieved, and the immense passion that it generates to all involved with the club."

Entries are open until the end of September, via an online form, followed by judging. But greenkeepers are advised to take plenty of pictures now while wildflowers are in bloom and pollinating

insects most active.

STRI Ecologist and awards judge Sophie Vukelic said: "Previous Operation Pollinator award winners have pioneered so many great ideas, which others can integrate into their course management.

"It is so important that we inspire others to play a part in conserving vitally important insects through creating the wildflower habitats promoted by Operation Pollinator."

For more information and to download an entry form, visit www.stri.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 30 September.



Burgess expands sale area

John Deere's longest serving eastern counties dealership, Ben Burgess & Co, will be taking over the trading area managed by A J & R Scambler and Sons of Bourn in Cambridgeshire from 1 November.

With its headquarters in Norwich and an additional

five agricultural and turf outlets in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, Ben Burgess has held the John Deere franchise for 50 years and has been an established grounds care provider since 1962.

"We look forward to working with new customers and developing the relationships already in place,"

said the company's Ben Turner. "We will also be adding further parts and service resources in order to ensure our customers are fully looked after."

The dealership had previously expanded its grounds care business into the Peterborough area at the beginning of 2016, operating from its depot in Coates.

Toro cylinders extend working life of mowers



EdgeSeries 11 blade

Toro has launched a range of cylinders which it claims will last up to 50 per cent longer than others.

The EdgeSeries is intended to save greenkeepers time by simplifying maintenance and reducing replacement and labour costs.

Toro describes the cylinders as “the next generation of cutting performance”, achieved by toughening of the steel’s microstructure.

Additionally, a forward swept feature and improvements to the helix and blade angle all combine to create sharper blades for a longer and consistently-sharp cut.

Michael Hampton, parts manager at Lely, said: “Customers using this range of cylinder can expect to reduce their grinding routine significantly.

“This is just one of the many benefits which can be reeled off when talking about the EdgeSeries.”

Carnegie add to Jacobsen partnership

The Carnegie Club has continued its partnership with Jacobsen by purchasing a fleet of vehicles for the estate.

Gary Gruber has been the estate manager at the Skibo Castle club for three years, having previously held the position of course manager on the estate’s 18-hole course for 11 years.

Forty vehicles were included in the package and Gary said: “In my previous role as course manager, I had chosen Jacobsen to supply the club with E-Z-GO golf cars and utility vehicles, so I already knew that I would be getting good quality products. One thing that particularly caught my attention about E-Z-GO and Cushman are the diversity and range of vehicles available.”

Promoting new growth at Rio Olympic course



Golf returns to the Olympic Games for the first time in 114 years this month, but the grass seen on the course actually began growing three years ago.

In 2013, Marcelo Matte’s company Green Grass Brazil started growing the grass for the Olympic course at Barra da Tijuca.

A year later they purchased a Koro Field Top Maker with Universe Rotor to maximise the harvesting of sprigs for transplanting.

Turf was grown using two grass species, Zeon Zoysia and SeaDwarf Seaside Paspalum, which are both drought tolerant, with the latter also saltwater tolerant.

“Many people did not believe we could make it on time,” said Marcelo, “But the course was ready almost six months ahead of schedule.”

For GI’s conversation with Olympic Golf Course manager and BIGGA member Neil Cleverly, see page 40.

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Young greenkeepers invited to Scottish Open

by James Thorpe
of Dunstanburgh Castle



BIGGA's Young Greenkeepers Committee and Castle Stuart Golf Links offered two greenkeepers the chance to work alongside the home team in the run up to and during this year's Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open.

The chosen pair were James Thorpe from Dunstanburgh Castle, and Stefan Carter from Wentworth. James told us of his time at Castle Stuart, helping to host this European Tour event.

When I arrived at Castle Stuart on Friday 1 July, I was greeted by Course Manager Chris Haspell. He took me to the accommodation, where I found a mixed bunch of other volunteers, a fridge full of beer, pool table and dart board, all of which provided for great entertainment throughout the nine days I was there.

The following morning we were introduced to the team and told our roles for the week. My task was to hand mow three greens, then join the switching team behind the fairway mowers in the morning.

'I was amazed by all the people who came across the world to work at this tournament'

In the evenings I would be divoting fairways and flat raking the bunkers.

As the week went on and weather conditions effected play, my jobs varied. With high winds expected on Thursday, it was decided to raise the height of cut on the greens to 6mm, with a cut on Wednesday evening to slow the greens down enough to stop any ball movement caused by the wind.

The Open is played the week after the Scottish Open and so it was very important that play wasn't delayed and didn't carry into the following week. So with that in mind, there was no cutting on the Friday either. Instead, it was

decided to remove the slight dew on the greens with squeegees. This helped maintain the desired green speeds, without risking them becoming too quick.

The same applied on Saturday morning, but with rain forecast for Saturday night, the mowers were set back to 4.5mm and cut Saturday evening, ready for Sunday. Despite heavy rain during Saturday night, the fescue greens only required a roll from the back roller of the hand mower to get

Hand mowing
the greens



them up to the required speeds set by the European Tour.

Being on a links course where pure fescue grass is their main goal for their greens, it was really interesting to see the management practices that Chris and his team carried out to maintain the dense sward on the greens. To only cut once over the four days and still maintain speeds around 10ft was incredible and gave me a great insight to how fescue is managed differently compared to poa and bent species.

The hospitality from Chris and his team was excellent. They took the time to get to know a bit about the volunteers and answered any questions we had. They really made the effort so that the volunteers got the best experience we could. The first weekend that we were there, it was arranged for the whole team to eat breakfast in the clubhouse, as well as being allowed unrestricted access to explore the locker rooms that would soon be filled with some world-class golfers.

On the Sunday afternoon, we were given a tour around the tented village and hospitality tents with a member of staff

from the European Tour, to see just how much work and effort goes into setting everything up for a tournament.

On the Saturday of the tournament, the Claret Jug and Scottish Open Cup were brought to the sheds and we got a team photo with them as well as an individual photo, which was a fantastic opportunity for everyone.

On our downtime we were free to do as we liked, whether it was going to play at a local course, watch the golf or stay around the sheds to offer our help if it was needed.

Then, after the golf had finished on the Sunday, we got another team photo with the winner, Alexander Noren, and headed back to the sheds where a BBQ had been set up. Everyone from Castle Stuart met to have a few drinks to celebrate a fantastic week and tournament.

As well as getting the chance to work at a top golf course for a European Tour Event, it was a great opportunity to meet new people within the industry and I was amazed by all the people who came across the world to work at this tournament. There were volunteers



from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Denmark and Sweden, who all had stories of their own experiences in green-keeping.

This experience at the Scottish Open has really opened my eyes to what tournament support is like and has motivated me to seek out more opportunities like this. I would like to say thank you to Chris Haspell and the YGC for making this opportunity possible, and to everyone involved in the 2016 Scottish Open at Castle Stuart for making it an experience I won't forget.

JAMES THORPE

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The "Golding" years

It has been said that David Golding has done more to develop greenkeeper training than anyone in history.

Last month he retired from his role as education director of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee.

But before he left, he sat down for a chat with GI and reflected on half a century in greenkeeping.

When did you first consider getting into the industry?

As a 15-year-old in 1966, most of my time was spent playing golf and football on Fairfield Common, the home of the Buxton & High Peak Golf Club.

The club became my second home as I volunteered to work in the shop. At the time a father and son partnership, Bill and Ray Norton, were the professional and head greenkeeper and in return for my time they helped shape my career. I learnt how to re-grip clubs, clean members' shoes and clubs, and was able to

'I learnt how to re-grip clubs, clean members' shoes and clubs, and was able to play golf at every opportunity'

play golf at every opportunity.

I left school at the earliest opportunity and I can't remember achieving any meaningful qualifications – although I do remember turning up for my cycling proficiency test. I remember hating exams and I will never forget the disappointment of my parents and family that I failed my 11 plus, as my class work was apparently very good.

At the time I didn't realise it, but that result was really the turning point in my life.

What was your apprenticeship experience?



David Golding and Jim Croxton

Having served seven years as an apprentice, my father became a stonemason and it was he who encouraged me to take up an apprenticeship of my own, as a greenkeeper at Buxton & High Peak.

My golf handicap was four and while I did consider becoming an assistant professional, I knew I wasn't good enough to become a tournament pro and so I accepted the three-year apprenticeship offer.

Who can't remember their first pay cheque? Mine was 15 bob and wow I was rich, until mum, quite rightly, took her 'cut'.

And so my greenkeeping career started under Ray Norton, with the early mornings coming easy as I had been the local paperboy for a couple of years.

Like many traditional head greenkeepers, Ray did everything at the club. This meant not just maintaining the course and machinery, but he was the jack-of-all-trades and true master, including decorating the clubhouse when the inevitable snow arrived in Buxton.

While the apprenticeship was three years, there was no formal education available and you did truly learn everything on the job. Your education and training was only as good as your boss, and thankfully I had one of the best in the business.

Actually, I tell a lie and there was one piece of formal education, known as the Bingley Week. This was when all apprentices towards the end of their three-year work experience travelled to the Sports Turf Research Institute in West Yorkshire. Wow, what a shock to the system that was. It was my first taste of Latin, biology et al.

At the end of the week we all received a Certificate of Attendance and thankfully at the time there was no exam to pass. I was blown away by the whole experience at STRI.

Where did your career take you?

With my qualification in hand I successfully applied to become an assistant greenkeeper at Camberley Heath in Surrey in 1969.

For a young northern boy who had rarely left his own town, other than trips to watch my beloved Manchester United, this was a huge move. But in my two years down south I certainly learned quickly about high maintenance standards. The resources available and the high standards expected every day were so different to what I'd been used to. At my home course there were two staff and volunteer help, gearing the maintenance programme for the weekend. At Camberley Heath we had five full-time staff and every day had to be prepared to the same quality standard.

After two great years at Camberley Heath I applied for a deputy head greenkeeper's position at Dore & Topley in Sheffield. I was back up north and after a short time I spotted a head greenkeeper position for a new municipal course to be built in Manchester, 10 minutes from Old Trafford.

Aged just 21 I became a head greenkeeper and over the next 16 years the role within Trafford Borough Council would develop as I became golf courses manager with responsibility for two very busy courses, the shops and a driving range.

How did your involvement with the Greenkeeping Association begin?

On becoming an apprentice, my membership to the British Golf Greenkeepers Association was paid for by my employers. This continued until I joined Trafford Borough Council in 1972, when I began to pay my own fees.

My involvement in the North West section of the BGGGA had so many benefits, such as education events and golf days. But most of all it is the friends and camaraderie that have given me such an enjoyable career. I became the North West section secretary, which led to me joining the National Executive Committee during the early eighties.

It was during this period, when there were three greenkeeping associations, that discussions to merge them into one began. I was so pleased to be involved in the many meetings and discussions, which eventually saw BIGGA formed in 1987.

What have been the most important changes to benefit greenkeeping during your career?

Without a shadow of doubt the commitment of many greenkeepers, over many years, to establish a professional body for greenkeeping was a massive turning point for the game of golf. For years, far too many volunteers to name here were totally committed to furthering the cause of greenkeeping. Then, finally, in 1987 we secured funding for full-time administration as BIGGA was

formed on the promise of better education and training for all levels of greenkeeping.

Having been appointed as BIGGA's first Northern regional administrator, working with the first chief executive, Neil Thomas, the board and four other RA's, I was appointed the association's first education officer in February 1989.

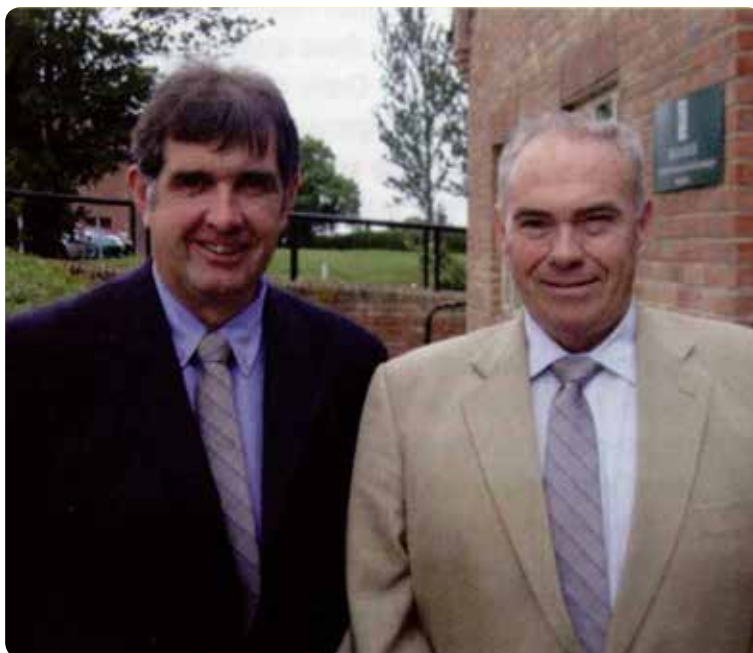
Management courses were introduced using our new headquarters at Aldwark Manor and my main role was to improve the formal qualifications, working closely with individuals and our network of approved colleges.

In 1993 more funding, through the Home Unions and matched by the R&A, was given to the Greenkeepers' Training Committee, which for many years had met twice a year to discuss greenkeeper education and training standards. Prior to 1993, the committee had very little funding and again relied on volunteers, most notably the late Nick Bisset, who for many years was the GTC administrator.

From the formation of BIGGA, the GTC was administered through the association. However, with the advent of a per-capita levy from the golf unions in 1993 came a condition that the Committee had to be separated from BIGGA.

I became the GTC's education director and, while I could no longer wear the BIGGA blazer, there were many benefits for the sector and many battles won along the 23-year journey to ensure

David with the late Nick Bisset in 2006



today's greenkeeping education meets the employers' and greenkeepers' needs. More importantly, the standards are now developed and maintained by the industry.

What do you think the future holds for greenkeepers?

The recent developments in formal education and training standards, including the changes to all levels of apprenticeships, will raise the quality of formal greenkeeper training even higher. The new structure for apprenticeships will be for entrants into greenkeeping and those already working as greenkeepers looking to progress their careers. With a degree qualification now also available within the sector, something we never envisaged not that many years ago, there is something for everybody.

The GTC has ensured all greenkeepers and employers can access formal qualifications while carrying on working, and with online learning becoming increasingly popular there are wonderful opportunities worldwide for qualified greenkeepers. We have seen more qualified golf course managers looking to climb the career ladder to become club managers and directors of golf, which can only be a good move for those able to understand the wider business of managing a golf club.

When I joined BIGGA in 1989, one of my first tasks was to develop a series of management courses as these skills were seen to be lacking in head greenkeeper training. It is this type of training which has developed so many talented greenkeepers into professional course, estate and club managers.

What would you still like to see improve within the game to support greenkeeping?

While more greenkeepers understand the benefits of taking every opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills, not every employer looks to invest in the staff development that would undoubtedly improve their business. It is pleasing to see the British Home Unions doing more to make the clubs they represent aware of what is available in terms of greenkeeper training.

The message also has to include that you should employ a qualified course manager or head greenkeeper and re-

spect their skills and knowledge. Within an agreed policy and budget, allow them to maintain and manage the course on a day-to-day basis.

I sincerely trust the GTC to maintain its position as an employer-led body, working closely with BIGGA to ensure it maintains a range of qualifications, apprenticeships, workshops, seminars and BTME and I hope BIGGA continues to go from strength to strength.

What do you think have been the GTC's greatest achievements?

Having the Home Unions, BIGGA, PGA and, until recently, the European Tour and the R&A around the same table has shown a sector of the game as being totally united.

The development of the training manual in 1993 and the learning materials, based on best greenkeeping practices, has ensured everybody is aiming for the same agreed standards of skills and knowledge.

The programme of training greenkeepers during the nineties as work-based assessors helped raise the awareness of on-the-job formal training. Responsible employers, course managers and head greenkeepers know an apprentice's progress doesn't just depend on the chosen college or training provider - it is a partnership.

The Approved Colleges Scheme, more recently known as the GTC Quality Assured Scheme, has helped employers and course managers know where the best standards of greenkeeping courses are available throughout the UK.

The partnerships the GTC has created with organisations such as government departments, awarding bodies, colleges, training providers, golfing organisations, greenkeeping associations and other key individuals have been vital to developing today's greenkeeper education and training structure.

The development of a Technical Committee to support the GTC staff has been a huge benefit, with sector specialists totally committed to helping develop, maintain and review qualifications, apprenticeships, learning materials and the training manual.

In more recent times the Government's

Trailblazer apprenticeship reforms have enabled the greenkeeping sector to really take control of the content of each level of apprenticeship, develop the new standards, and agree new programmes of education, training and assessments. It will be so important that the GTC, through an agreement with City & Guilds, formally quality assure all approved centres, colleges and training providers.

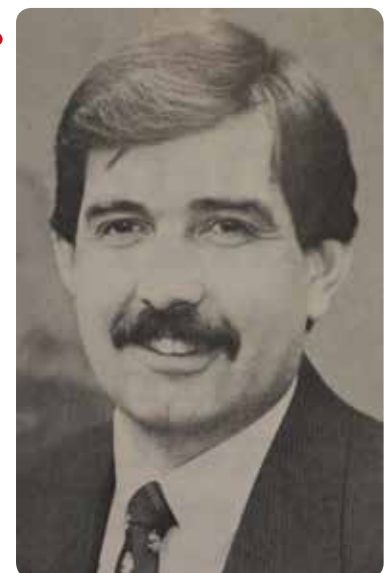
The new apprenticeships all require graded end point assessments and this is where I sincerely hope BIGGA looks to provide the independent assessors, which will be the icing on the cake for me personally.

How do you intend to spend your retirement?

My wife Elaine and I are looking to spend more time on tour, visiting family and friends. Having met so many wonderful people within this great industry over the past 50 years, it will be a pleasure to meet up again and share stories over a glass of wine or two.

In closing, I would like to thank all of my GTC Chairmen over the years, most recently a great friend and supporter of greenkeepers, Donald Steel. I would also like to thank BIGGA colleagues, greenkeepers - you know who you are - and Fiona Lyttle for her 16 years as my trusted, loyal and dedicated colleague. Thank you one and all, you have all contributed to giving me a wonderful career.

David Golding, 1989





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Rough Management

Expert opinions
Jaey Goodchild, Robert Phillips
and Rob Sandilands



Of all the elements of a course, it is perhaps the rough that provides greens teams with the greatest opportunity for creative licence.

Golfers want tidy tee boxes, divot-free fairways and fast, smooth greens. But in the rough there is room for deviation, based upon the challenge you want to offer players.

How do you strike a balance between punishing golfers who deviate from the fairways, while simultaneously not ruining their enjoyment of the course?

We spoke to three course managers about what they considered to be the most important aspects of rough management.

Jaey Goodchild
Bowood, Wiltshire
Course type: Parkland
Rough mowing height: 60mm

I believe the style of rough should be site specific. Soil type, the style of course, available resources and the expectations of golfers are all contributing factors.

A lack of accuracy should be punished, but at the same time it is in our interests as greenkeepers to provide a course that golfers enjoy playing. Additionally, heavy penal rough can have a huge impact on speed of play, which

will ultimately detract from the enjoyment of not only the golfers who get stuck in the rough, but also the group of players who are stuck behind. A good compromise would be to provide a rough that allows a wayward ball to be found within a reasonable time, but which provides a challenge to recover the shot. Rough management is always a compromise.

Our rough areas are mown with rotary, wide deck mowers, while natural rough areas are mown using either a flail collector or with agricultural harvesting equipment.

The soil type here at Bowood plays a huge role in how we manage our rough. The sandy parts of the course support a completely different species composition and ecosystem than the areas comprising heavier, clay rich soils. We cannot manage unmown areas on our heavy soils and consequentially the



Jaey Goodchild

Rough management at Sandy Lodge

holes through this area of the course are mown throughout. The sandy sections of the course are managed to produce a thin, less penal rough that still creates a visual contrast to segregate and frame holes.

Areas of the course on heavier soils are predominantly composed of rye and meadow grass. The areas of rough on sandy soils contain a very high proportion of fescue species, with the remainder made up with meadow grass and bents. Our uncut roughs contain a huge variety of species, both grasses and wildflowers.

We have extensive areas of unmown grass areas on the course. Due to the size of the site and resource limitations these areas are managed under two different regimes dependent on their proximity to play. Marginal areas adjacent to mown rough areas are subject to a programme of bi-annual cutting and scarifying where the objective is to reduce both soil fertility and sward density, ultimately allowing for ball finding and shot playing.

Areas beyond these marginal roughs are subject to annual cutting and removal as an agricultural feed stock where the objective is to prevent the grassland turning rank with dominant grass species and allowing an existing wildflower population the opportunity to compete and provide broad biodiversity.



We do not alter the set-up of rough areas for major events other than to provide a consistent height of cut across all cut areas.

Bowwood

Producing an area of marginal long rough adjacent to each hole has allowed us to reduce the mowing area of cut rough while giving an opportunity to reduce round times and reduce penalty but maintain definition. The height of cut of our normal rough has been reduced recently and lowering this has led to faster round times and less penalty.

Maintaining marginal long rough is undertaken in the autumn and winter when weather conditions can be less than ideal for collection. The size of the area that we manage is large and considerable effort is needed to cut and collect long rough areas. Reducing

fertility through aggressive thinning of undesirable grass species has given some weed species a great opportunity to establish and these require additional management.

Robert Phillips
Sandy Lodge, Middlesex
Course type: Heathland
Rough mowing height: 56mm

Personally I prefer long rough, as I am a great fan of links and heathland golf, so we set up Sandy Lodge as a heathland site accordingly.

It is important to have some mown rough, especially in areas that are frequently visited by golfers. But with the advent of equipment for cutting and collecting, and the use of graminicides such as Rescue, I believe that more long rough can be introduced on to golf

Sandy Lodge



Robert Phillips

course without ruining the golfer's experience.

I think the severity of the rough depends on how well it is managed and the vagaries of the British weather. Even fescue-dominated swards can be quite thick in the base during a wet warm spring. Areas of broad-leaved rough should be kept mown until such a time that the Club feel they are of sufficient quality to leave to grow the following season.

We are predominantly a sandy site, so we have a good composition of fine

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grasses in the rough. We do still manage the rough accordingly every spring and autumn to continually develop this “finer” ecosystem within the rough, by cutting and collecting and applications of graminicide. The broad leaf grasses do creep back in very easily and need constant monitoring.

Most of our rough is unmown, we have one pass of semi rough around each fairway, and one pass of mown rough, using a Baroness GM2800B Rotary Mower.



We mow the cut rough three to four days before a major competition but the uncut rough is just left to do its thing each spring. We always hope that it won't be too wet which can make it very dense in the base. So there's no special preparation really.

The advantages of this are less man hours spent mowing rough and lower fuel costs. It also means better aesthetics for the golf course, which is traditionally an inland links and heathland site. We have very few trees so the rough forms part of the course's de-

Formby Ladies

fence through the playing season.

The biggest disadvantage is convincing the playing membership that the grass composition has changed – especially this spring when it has been very wet and warm. The rough can be very penal and it is difficult sometimes to persuade them that it will eventually thin and burn off.

Rob Sandilands Formby Ladies, Lancashire Course type: Links Rough mowing height: 100-120mm

For us, being a heathland and links course, the rough should be wild. As such, it is naturally thin and wispy which means there is no real need to cut much of it.

We are very fortunate to be on a links site, so the majority of the rough man-

ages itself. Mother Nature dictates its character from one year to another.

It's horses for courses, but our policy is that rough should influence players' decisions and make them think, without being too penal if you need to play from it. Pace of play is important, so you should be able to find your ball and have a good chance of being able to play it – within reason.

On the areas of our rough we do cut, we use a single deck zero turn rotary mower. This is due to the undulating nature of the course.

The course here is built on pure sand, so it affects us hugely. It means the profile is nutrient poor and naturally favours finer grasses. These are fescue, marram and lime grass mostly, which is exactly what we want.

We leave the majority of our rough unmown, because if we were to cut more of it regularly, we would be self fertilizing it, which leads to a thicker, lush and more coarse sward.

However, as we are a ladies course, areas of thicker grass or heather are cut lower on more punishing carries.

When we are hosting major events we don't really need to do anything different to normal, other than selective herbicide in places and more regular cutting near the event.

The rough can appear intimidating in places, but good communication with members, committees and our agronomist is the key to achieving the balance between presentation and playability.

Rob Sandilands



Rough justice

with Jayne Leyland



What is an ideal rough? Such a question should be considered from several points of view. The golf-course professional may come from the position of maximising speed up play. Golfers and tournament officials understand poor shots should receive a penalty, but not be too punitive. Greenkeepers must ensure the rough matches the requirements and aesthetics of the course and work with the available resources to maintain this peripheral but important part of the golfing experience.

Golf roughs feature taller, denser grass species growing outside of the fairway margins. It serves two main purposes: to frame the fairway and define the intended corridors of play. The short rough, where the ball runs or lands just off the fairway is designed to penalise players for a wayward shot by limiting their choice of club. An impenetrable dense canopy created by coarse-leaved grass species produces highly punitive roughs. Such conditions can result in unduly severe penalties for players, including loss of golf balls and slow play. Such conditions, severely detracts from the enjoyment of the game, with the potential for future loss of revenue.

Introducing fine-leaved fescues, as found in the mixture 'R5', will significantly enhance the playing experience, speed up play and provide definition for tee carries and bunker surrounds and fairways. Areas of semi-rough can be transitioned, re-seeded and re-shaped and managed as roughs with the benefits of reducing mowing frequency. This will at the same time improve the aesthetics and bio-diversity for a more enjoyable golfing experience. Fine fescue grasses are not only for links, coastal and heathland

continued on page 33...

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Rough rescue

Thick rough has been the bane of golfers this season. The wet early summer growing conditions encouraged excessive coarse grass growth, which resulted in almost unplayable rough. Daniel Lightfoot of Syngenta offers advice to thin out and improve rough this autumn.

The Syngenta Golf Player Survey revealed thick, coarse rough is the number one complaint among golfers.

So how do we combat it?

The quick solution is to cut rough to the ground, but this leaves courses with reduced visual interest or challenge to golfers.

A more proactive approach is to use Rescue herbicide treatment, to selectively remove ryegrass and create an open sward of fine fescue species.

Benefits of fescue rough:

- Ball location is easier
- Wayward shots are penalised, but offer the golfer a recovery shot
- Play is faster, with fewer hold ups as players look for balls
- Hole design and approach is better defined and challenging
- Integrated with Operation Pollinator wildflowers, the course is more visually attractive

Fairway sculpting

Allowing well-managed fescue rough to encroach by an average of 1.75m on either side of the fairways, could reduce the total managed mown area by over two hectares.

This easily playable rough enables holes to be better sculpted, rewards accurate play and enhances the visual appeal, without excessively penalising wayward shots.

Reducing the area of mown rough saves costs and releases valuable time for other essential maintenance work.

Overseeding advice

When overseeding dense ryegrass rough, wait until the ryegrass has

started to die back, to reduce competition and open the sward, allowing seedlings to establish.

Oversowing with fescue species creates a faster transition to fine, wispy rough. Fescue-dominated rough requires lighter annual cutting and means less trimmings to remove.

Spraying rough

The optimum is to spray at 50cm nozzle height above the spray target zone. When spraying, rough drift is less of an issue, compared to greens or fairways, as the open canopy structure draws the spray down.

Using the angled Syngenta XC Nozzle with a rearwards facing spray pattern will counteract the forwards movement of the sprayer.

Also, as you are targeting a foliar application and using a herbicide that will be drawn down into the plant, the key is to retain as much spray on the leaf surface as possible. Spraying in the minimum water volume of 250l/ha will reduce the risk of over wetting leaves and optimise retention, while increasing sprayer output per fill.

Putting the programme into practice

Good autumn growth offers the chance to thin out dense rough with Rescue. The grasses must be actively growing to take up the herbicide, so if grasses have shut down over a dry summer, wait until there are signs of growth.

The advantage of autumn Rescue herbicide treatment is the effects appear as if the grasses are beginning to die back naturally.

Treatment in early autumn also allows greater opportunity for overseeding to fill gaps and recovery before the winter, while leaving space for fine fescue and wildflowers to grow back in spring.

Establishing wildflowers

Trials by the STRI have shown the removal of coarse grasses plays a role in helping to establish wildflowers in areas of out-of-play rough, as part of the



Daniel Lightfoot

Operation Pollinator initiative, as it creates habitat for pollinating insects.

The techniques developed by STRI include Rescue treatment in areas where ryegrass is dominant, followed by deep scarification to expose up to 60% bare earth, before distribution of wildflower seed onto the surface.

Tips for wildflower establishment:

- Cut and remove thick rough to reduce fertility
- Avoid spreading fertiliser on rough
- Treat with Rescue while target species are growing
- If further grass cover is required, over seed with fescue
- Continue integrated cutting and Rescue treatments to establish fescue dominance

For more information on Rescue use, an autumn special offer and details of how to get involved with Operation Pollinator, visit the GreenCast website: www.greencast.co.uk

1. Untreated rough
2. Measure nozzle tip height from the top of the target grasses when spraying rough
3. Rescue treated rough coarse grass die back after early autumn treatment
4. Rescue treated rough 12 months after treatment

Photos: Nass GC, Dublin



...continued from page 31



courses as they can prove invaluable for defining and reducing mowing maintenance on free-draining parkland courses too.

Introducing an integrated programme of roughs management, including coarse-leaved grass controls and species transition with fine fescues, delivers the following benefits:

- Speeds up play
- Increases enjoyment of the game
- Contributes to revenue potential and maintenance cost savings
- Improves aesthetics and supports bio-diversity

Another opportunity, linked directly to the introduction of bio-diversity is the introduction of 100% flower mixtures such as Euroflor or FloraNative wild flower and grass mixtures to the golf course environment. Such introductions not only provide an essential food source and habitat for insects, birds and mammals but will bring colour to an otherwise unattractive part of the course and provide added interest for golfers to enjoy.

Such introductions to the course complements golf roughs as is shown in this picture of a poppy mix at Letchworth Golf Club and at St Enodoc golf club. The latter Ground Cover and Honey mix was used in conjunction with tee renovation work, which required a stream to be diverted.



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ROUGH JUSTICE

The adventures of BIGGA at The Open

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Royal Troon's
Billy McLachlan
meets the team

Marc Warren

This was the most golf dueling, club snapping, coffin bunkering, storm blowing Open in history, and BIGGA members had front row seats to see all the drama unfold.

Once again, a team of 52 greenkeepers were invited by the R&A to the Open at Royal Troon to help out the resident greens team during the staging of the biggest event on the golf calendar, eventually won by Henrik Stenson in record-breaking fashion.

Each member of the support team received their own uniform for the weekend, and after their rounds were completed, most were given other gifts from the golfers, such as signed golfballs. But the main memento our guys took away from the event was the experience and friendship gained by spending a week in the company of fellow greenkeepers of all levels, with whom they formed bonds of friendship that may last their entire careers.

After arriving at Royal Troon, the team was met by Course Manager Billy McLachlan, who gave them a tour of his machinery shed and facilities and took them on to the course to explain how the bunkers were to be raked during the tournament.

Ahead of the event, more than 150 tons of sand was taken out of the bunkers, as per the R&A's request. This made the bunkers deeper, but made it more difficult for our sprightly greenkeepers to clamber out of – just ask anyone who raked Coffin Bunker at the famous Postage Stamp 8th hole. There were 173,134 spectators across the weekend, but I'm sure no one would have noticed if a bunker raker fell in.

Then, the day of the tournament dawned. It was an early start for some, with the first bus leaving the accommodation at 5am.

Prior to their round, greenkeepers checked in with Regional Administrators Sandra Raper and John Young, based at BIGGA HQ, beside the putting green. From there it was through a tunnel to the first tee and away, rake in hand, as these BIGGA members helped ensure the 145th staging of the Open went off without a hitch.

After their rounds, the greenkeepers re-



BIGGA's ecology guru James Hutchinson with his head in the foliage

ported back with anecdotes of what went on during their round.

Read on to hear some of the best stories from the week.

Thursday

Ian Macleod, Tain
Colin Montgomerie, Marc Leishman, Luke Donald

First out at 6.35am, BIGGA president Iain Macleod was on hand to witness the first ever opening shot broadcast on live television. He was quickly set to work, as Monty takes two to get out of a bunker on the first.

Scott Thomson, Wetherby
V Dubuisson, J Walker, S Hend
'I commented to my scorer how Monty was doing in an earlier match. He replied: "If Monty can do that, imagine what a good player will do today." He was unaware that our scoreboard carrier was Monty's nephew.'

TROON IN NUMBERS

Bunkers: 96
Total rounds: 468
Average bunkers per round: 2.05
Total bunkers raked: 958

James Braithwaite, Long Ashton
B Steele, R Sterne, M Jones

'On hole 5 Brendan Steele called me over to retrieve his card from the left hand greenside bunker. He said: "Hopefully it will be the only one you'll have to rake today."

Seamus Gaughan, MIGROS Golf Park, Switzerland

J Niebrugge, N Cullen, R Streb
Seamus came all the way from the Swiss Alps to join the BIGGA Support Team. The Irishman said his Open experience had made the journey more than worthwhile: "I would do it again tomorrow morning, it was brilliant. I really enjoyed myself, meeting all the lads and BIGGA staff, everything was perfect. The highlight for me was not falling into the Coffin Bunker, because I nearly did. I was raking it and I had my foot wedged in a rut and I could feel it going, but I kept my balance."

THE OPEN



The Open

Thank you to the greenkeeping staff at Royal Troon for all the hard work to prepare the course for #TheOpen

Friday

Spencer Adams, Thorndon Park
R Cabrera Bello, JB Holmes, B Stone
'All three players from the group came and thanked the team for their efforts in the weather, which was pretty horrible. They also gave us signed golf balls, which was a great experience.'

Jim Paton, West Kilbride
A Noren, S Bowditch, K Chappell
'On the 16th Alex Noren landed his ball on top of the electronic scoreboard.'

Miles Todd, Llandudno (Maesdu)
J Spieth, J Rose, S Lowry
'I helped TV presenter David Feherty untangle his earphone wire.'

Tony Bartram, The Richmond
B Horschel, M Fitzpatrick, H Tanihara
'On the second hole HRH Prince Andrew joined our group for a bit.'

Paul Willoughby, Golfcentrum Amsteldijk, Netherlands
S Kaufman, C Kirk, G Coetzee
'Kirk drove off the fairway on the 12th and I said to the chap next to me "I wish I could drive like that". It turned out he was Prince Andrew, who replied: "Yes, it would be nice, wouldn't it."'

Peter Allam, Berkhamsted
D Coupland, N Holman, P Khong-watmai
Peter wasn't the only greenkeeper in his group – former BIGGA member Dave Coupland had actually qualified to play just a few weeks before the Open began. Now plying his trade on the Jamega Pro and Challenge Tour, Dave is a former greenkeeper at Boston and Boston West. Having achieved his Level 2 greenkeeping qualifications before making the leap into the paid playing ranks, Dave said he has a unique outlook when playing in a tournament: "If you rock up to a tournament and the greens aren't the best and people are moaning,



Jimmy Braithwaite
The final 6 left in Paisley! Thanks @BIGGALtd @TheOpen great week. Great company great fun great golf.

Dave Stewart, Walmley
F Molinari, K Kisner, KT Kim
'A bird left a smelly present on my shoulder.'

Marcus Tolmie, Longridge
Z Johnson, A Scott, H Stenson
'Zach Johnson acknowledged us going down the 1st fairway after missing us before the first tee. It was a nice introduction from him.'

Rob Patrick, Stoneham
MA Jimenez, J Dufner, M Warren
'I nearly walked into the toilet while Jimenez was using it. Embarrassing!'

Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Parks
S Garcia, K Bradley, A Lahiri
'I received bunker-raking tips from Sergio Garcia on the 4th hole.'

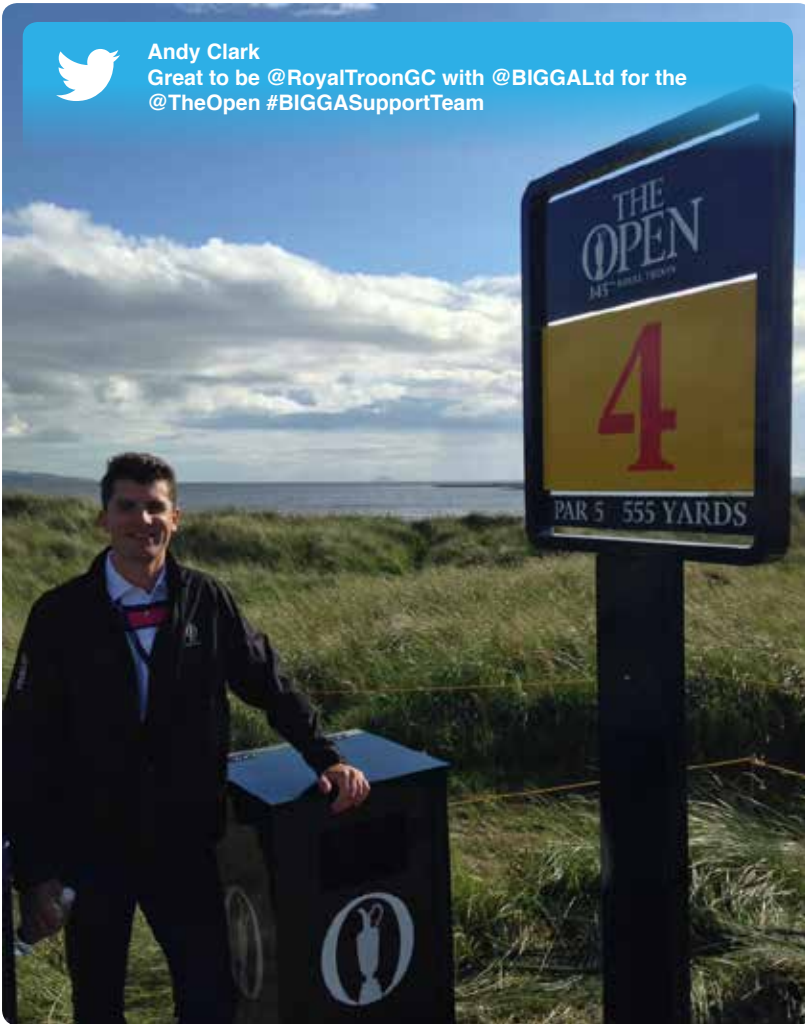
Chris Jones, Southport & Ainsdale
O Arvidsson, H Varner, T Hatton
'I was stood chatting to a former captain of the R&A, and it was only after I walked away that someone told me it was Prince Andrew!'

On the second hole HRH Prince Andrew joined our group!





Andy Clark
Great to be @RoyalTroonGC with @BIGGALtd for the
@TheOpen #BIGGASupportTeam



How do you rake a bunker at the Open?

Walk to the side of the fairway with the score keeper and score supervisor

Fairway bunkers should be raked in the direction of the green

Greens bunkers should be raked in the direction of the hole

Don't rake in line of sight of a putt

Don't get left behind

Royal Troon greens praised

Adam Newton, STRI:

“The greens stood up really well to a wet lead up to the Open and some heavy deluges. Greenspeed was also superbly consistent between the greens throughout – some of the best we’ve seen. Billy and his team did a magnificent job.”

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I can see why they are maybe not as great and explain why to the other players. I sympathise with the greenkeepers more.”

Dave previously qualified for the 2007 Open at Carnoustie and 2016 was his first return to the big stage. This time around he enjoyed a practice round with last year’s Open champion Zach Johnson, and said he only felt starstruck once during the whole experience.

He said: “Zach joined on the sixth tee and said ‘Do you mind if I join you? That was mental, it was really good. But the only time I felt a bit starstruck was when I pulled into the car park in my Astra and Adam Scott pulled up next to me in his Mercedes. I thought, Oh right, this is a bit different.”

Unfortunately, Dave found himself on the wrong side of the draw weatherwise, and missed the cut.

Saturday

Kevin Armstrong, John O’Gaunt
Daniel Summerhays, Thomas Pieters
‘I was offered a burger and fries by Daniel Summerhays on the 13th tee.’

Nigel Broadwith, John O’Gaunt
Russell Knox, Kevin Kisner
‘Kisner walked off the 11th and asked Russell: “What the heck’s a jacket potato?”’

Ryan Wilson, Dyrham Park
Jim Herman, JB Holmes
‘Dustin Johnson drove on to the 3rd green from the tee while we were still on it.’ (He did that all week actually!)

Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Parks
Sergio Garcia, Andrew Johnston
‘I chewed the fat with Carin Koch on the 2nd hole, then chewed the fat with Prince Andrew on the 3rd hole. Sergio Garcia drove the 3rd green then

hit a two-putt birdie. He gave me the birdie ball!’

Spencer Adams-Dunstan, Thorndon Park
Zach Johnson, Tony Finau

‘There were loud cheers from the spectators to pick Zach and Tony up after dropping a couple of shots. What a great atmosphere it was.’

Sunday

Scott Thomson, Wetherby
Scott Hend, Patton Kizzire
‘After Scott Hend took three shots to escape the trap on the right of the Postage Stamp, there was debate as to how many shots had been taken. The spotter, scorer and referee had a conference on the subject, before asking me how many shots he had. So I was bunker raker, divot replacer, litter picker and scorer!’

Spencer Adams-Dunstan, Thorndon Park
Kevin Na, Dustin Johnson
‘What a great feeling, walking down the last hole on the last day of the Open championship. Words can’t express the excitement. I was a fantastic week with a great ending.’

Leigh Powell, Hockley
Sergio Garcia, Patrick Reed
‘On the 12th, Reed’s ball hit a corporate sponsor tent and bounced back into play. Even the pro’s get lucky.’

Rob Patrick, Stoneham
Phil Mickelson, Henrik Stenson
‘Getting the last group was something else, said Rob. “I didn’t think they were going to run away with it like they were, but when they started to pull away and they were birdieing for fun, it was quite special.”



Jimmy Braitlwaite soaking up the sun



Nigel Broadwith trying not to get left behind

With not a bunker to rake during the round, Rob instead found himself using his rake to lean upon, while he watch Stenson and Mickelson battle it out for the greatest prize in golf.

He added: “When I found out I had been picked out of the draw for the final match I was excited more than nervous. We all knew how to do our job by then and so the only thing I was worried about was tripping out of a bunker, because there was so much media watching.”

John Keenaghaw and Scott Reeves



The BIGGA Open Support Team

Adam Baldwin



Scan here for more pictures



David Stewart @BIGGALtd @RoyalTroonGC @TheOpen @WalmleyGC off to rake for match 31 12:20pm #letsgo



Richard Jenkinson meets Lefty



It was Henrik Stenson who won the tournament, tying the course record in the process.

Rob said: "Going down the 18th gave me goosebumps. It was like an arena and I am never going to feel that again, and I wasn't even playing. After Henrik won, he came over and shook my hand and gave me a signed ball, and Mickelson also gave me a ball. Henrik also signed a flag for me. "Being on the support team gave

me a front row seat, and carrying a rake gave me a prop to lean on. I have been inspired to play more golf, but after seeing that course, which is probably as good as a links can get, I would like to work with links golf at some point.

"I met a lot of new guys and green-keeping friends, which is really good. A lot of them are head men and said if I wanted any help in my career, I could give them a call at any time. Thanks BIGGA."

Royal Troon green statistics

Thursday

Greenspeed 9ft 11"
Firmness 108 gravities
Single cut at 4mm

Friday

Greenspeed 9ft 11"
Firmness 111 gravities
Single cut at 4mm

15mm of rain fell Friday through to Saturday

Saturday

Greenspeed 9ft 5"
Firmness 102 gravities
No cut on the greens due to high winds

Sunday

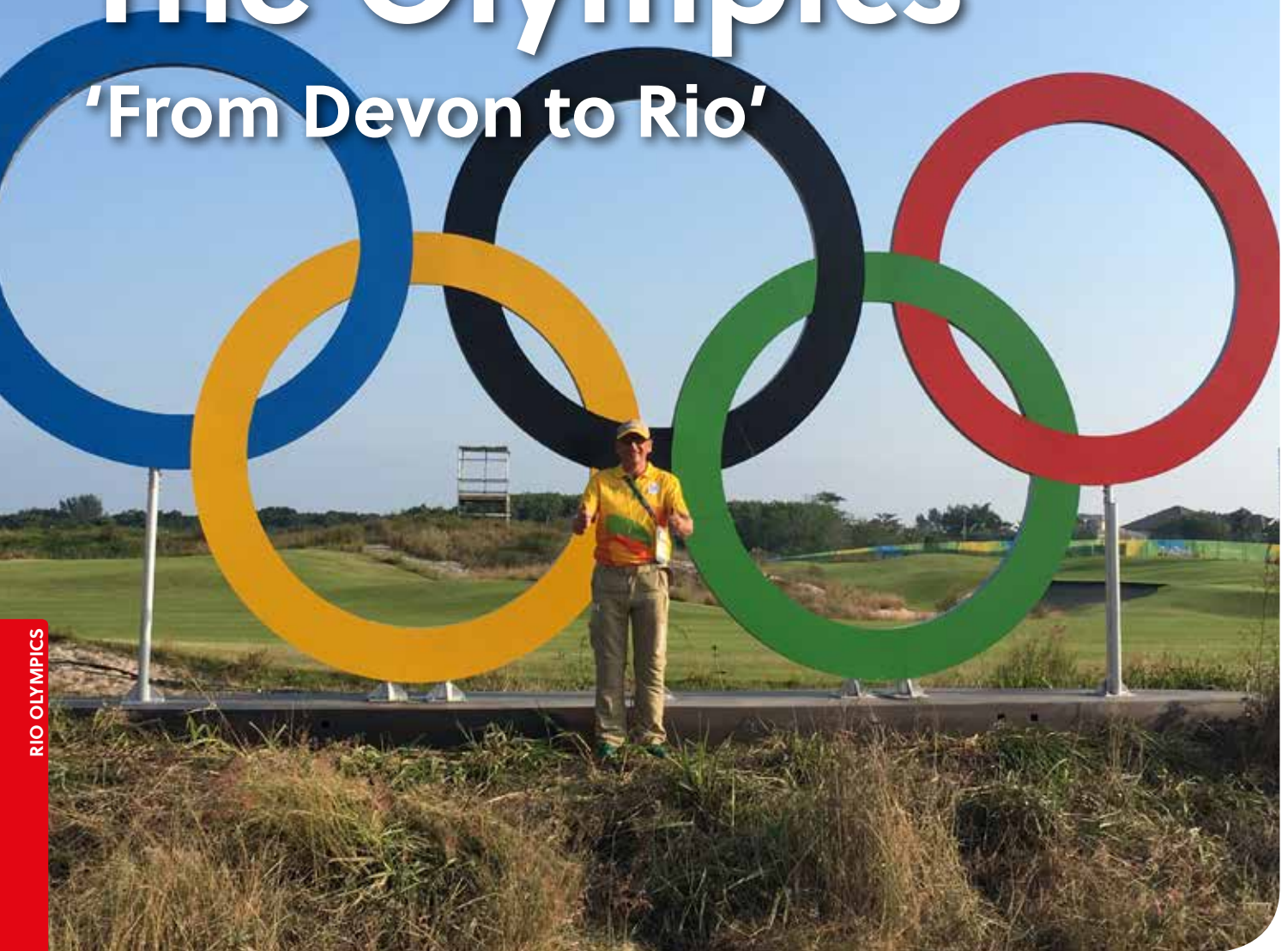
Greenspeed 9ft 5"
Firmness 104 gravities
Single cut at 4mm



With Sky Sports' Kirsty Gallacher

The Olympics

'From Devon to Rio'



RIO OLYMPICS

Golf returns to the Olympics this month in Brazil, and a BIGGA member will have a major say on whether the tournament is a golfing carnival or a rainforest washout.

The Zika virus controversy and subsequent high profile withdrawals have cast a shadow over the event, but that hasn't stopped Neil Cleverly from preparing a course the likes of which Brazil has never seen.

Neil is well-travelled, having previously worked in Naples, Florida and TPC Cancun – a long way from his home town of Exmouth, in Devon.

As superintendent at the Campo Olimpico de Golfe in the Barra da Tijuca zone of Rio de Janeiro, Neil has overcome challenges such as the lack of a trained workforce and a Brazilian public with little knowledge about the game of golf.

However, with just days to go until the opening ceremony, he took some time to talk with GI's Karl Hansell about the course's construction and controversies.

Construction of the course began in March 2013 – how involved were you in the early stages?

As project superintendent I was hands-on the day I arrived, as that's what Gil Hanse, the course designer, wanted.

What was it like finding your course management workforce in a country without a traditional golfing heritage? Have you had to train your team from scratch?

There is no turf school here and so there is no pool of experienced greenkeepers, as you would expect in other countries with a golfing pedigree.

Every staff member had to be trained and



Neil Cleverly

'Every staff member had to be trained and coached from the start. None of them had any idea of turf grass management.'

coached from the start. None of them had any idea of turf grass management.

Have you enjoyed living in Brazil?

The people I work with have been mostly great and very helpful and willing to learn, but there are a high percentage of ne-er do wells and moaners. There is unfortunately an inept policy of 'I will do it my way', even

if it's wrong, and they then go back and try to do it right.

It can be a very frustrating place to work but you have to embrace the culture and make the most of what you have and somehow get to the end with some degree of quality and correctness.

What courses would you best compare the Olympic layout to? One of the golfers who played it in a preview event described it as like Trump's Doral in Miami. Is that an

accurate comparison?

No, the course is nothing like Doral. Gil Hanse designed the course more on the feel of a links golf course, of the kind you would find in the sand belt area of Melbourne, Australia or the Los Angeles Country Club.

What equipment are you using?

The main stable of equipment is supplied by Jacobsen, although we do use other equipment supplied by Redexim, Turfco



Aerial view of the course



and Tru-Turf rollers.

What are the dominant grasses?

Our trees and fairways are Zeon Zoysia and the greens are Seadwarf paspalum.

What wildlife do you find on the course?

We have many varieties of birds, both local and migratory. There are also butterflies, snakes and exotic animals such as sloths, cayman and capybara, which are large rodent-looking animals.

Are there any rarities on the site?

We do have some rare bird species and

RIO OLYMPICS

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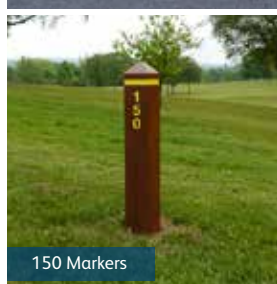
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wildflowers. The locals term the site as what we in the UK would know as a site of special scientific interest. There are shrubs and a type of plant life specific and unique to the area, which the locals call Restinga.

What has been the biggest difficulty when constructing the course?

It has simply been the lack of local knowledge and understanding of the required resources and complexities of building and growing in a golf course.

How disappointed are you by the withdrawal of some of the world's top golfers?

Obviously it is disappointing to see the best players in the world withdraw from the Olympics, but it is their choice and they have personal reasons why they are not attending.

Unfortunately the negative press and politics have not helped to encourage them to play at the Olympic event and that is very sad in itself, considering the history of the game in the Olympics and the length of time it has been absent.

As you've mentioned, golf isn't a popular sport in Brazil yet. How have the locals welcomed the course?

Due to the lack of golf knowledge at street level they see the golf course as an unnecessary waste of money. They think the other two golf courses in Rio would have been sufficient, but that was not the case. It is going to take a tremendous effort to encourage and nurture street level golf in Rio and in Brazil.

The course will be used as a public facility afterwards. What plans have you to make the course accessible for your normal, everyday players and how will you maintain the high standard you have set on what will presumably be a reduced budget?





There is a misconception of how large the budget was and there were some outrageous numbers spoken about, but they were never true. But more importantly, the main issue will be the lack of what we know as golf-related products that are not available due to the strict importation laws and lack of interest in golf.

This is where the Olympic Golf Course, after the Games, needs to be positioned as a role model for Brazil. There are some talented junior golfers that need to be encouraged to pursue this great game and then maybe Brazil will emerge from the golfing wilderness that it has been in.



What are your own plans personally after the Olympics?

Hopefully I will be reflecting on successful men's and ladies' events and wondering 'How the hell did we pull this off?' There was so much that went on during construction and grow-in, and years spent battling the many layers and levels of politics and bureaucracy.

I will also take some time to rest, catch up with friends, play some golf and then possibly take on a new venture, somewhere where they understand the value of golf and the great game that it is.



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The future of pest control

PEST CONTROL

With Henry Bettlelet

The landscape for insect pest control has changed and the two main insecticides that we used for the control of leatherjacket and chafer grubs have been taken off the market.

The authorisation for the disposal, storage and use of the active ingredient imidacloprid, which is used for the control of chafer grubs, ends on 31 October, while the authorisation for chlorpyrifos, which is used for leatherjacket control, ended on 31 August 2015 for use on amenity grassland and managed amenity turf.

The garden chafer is the most important chafer pest of lawns and sports turf, occurring in large numbers and causing considerable damage due to the grubs feeding on the grass roots. It is found throughout the UK and is more abundant in the warmer and wetter regions, such as the South West.

Adult chafers are 7-12mm long with a bright green head and thorax, long outstanding pubescence and brown wing cases.

The adults emerge from the ground in May

Chafer Beetle

Tipula Oleracea



and June to mate. Then the females burrow into the turf to lay their eggs 10-15 cm below the soil surface, with the eggs hatching around four weeks later into larvae, which are characteristic C-shaped grubs. These stay close to the soil surface until early October, after which they move deeper to overwinter.

This location, relatively near the surface, allows birds, badgers and foxes to search for them. The predators do this by tearing up the turf, which causes substantial damage to fairways and sports turfs.

Leatherjackets are the larvae of crane flies,

also known as Daddy Longlegs. The adult insect has long thin legs, a small thin body around 25mm in length and one pair of wings. Crane flies cause no damage to plants since the adults do not feed.

Tipula paludosa is the most abundant crane fly in Europe and is usually seen flying from early August to October, having just one generation per year. *Tipula oleracea* can fly longer distances and complete two generations per year with one flight in August and September and another in May and June.

Their eggs are laid in late August and hatch within two weeks, when the young grubs start feeding immediately. However, direct and indirect damage is most likely to occur in the spring when the mature grubs feed after overwintering in the soil.

By the end of the year there will be no approved chemical control methods for control of chafers and leatherjackets in UK amenity grassland and managed amenity turf sector. So what will we do?

At this stage it is unlikely that there will be any new insecticides available for the

control of such potentially damaging insect pests, but there is an effective biological control option already available. The products Nemasys G and Nemasys J are effective, but you will need to use them differently than the insecticides to get effective results.

Nemasys G controls chafers, while Nemasys J controls leatherjackets. Both contain predatory nematodes that provide biological control of the grubs by entering and feeding on the larvae, which stops them feeding within three days of infection. The nematodes complete their life cycle within the larvae, then enter the soil seeking out more hosts, so the pest control continues naturally.

Nemasys G contains the indigenous beneficial nematode *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, which feeds on chafer grubs, while Nemasys J contains the beneficial nematode *Steinernema feltiae*, which seek out leatherjackets. Both are available in a pack of 250 million nematodes, which treats 500m² in 50 litres of water and both products come in a water dispersible carrier and are manufactured in the UK.

The biggest challenge for nematode application into turf is to get the predatory nematodes in contact with their target when the

grubs are small and feeding close to the surface. This means treating the turf at an early stage of the pest life cycle, in late summer and early autumn, before the symptom of any damage has occurred.

Whether you need to spray will be determined on past experience and whether you see crane fly activity or chafer beetles on the wing. Also, the soil temperature needs to be above 12°C for the nematodes to be actively predatory and they will only be able to move and survive if the soil has a volumetric moisture content of over 15%. Although this might sound prohibitive, this means you need to treat areas you suspect are infested as soon as you can, when soil conditions are appropriate.

In terms of making the application, there is a step-by-step approach. Prior to application, ensure the turf is mown and spiked and that the entire soil profile is damp at the time of treatment. Avoid applications in bright sunlight because intense UV light will kill the nematodes. Apply in the evening or in dull conditions, ideally during rainfall.

Mix the entire contents of the pack in a bucket of water to create a stock solution and stir vigorously. Once mixed, pour the solution into a half-filled sprayer fitted with a coarse spray nozzle and the filters

removed and fill with water. Tank-mixing with a compatible penetrant wetting agent such as H2Pro Maximise can aid quick penetration of the solution and nematodes down to the grubs. Do not store stock solution overnight and so apply any remaining solution to the affected lawn, as you cannot over apply nematodes.

After application, watering the treated area thoroughly will ensure the nematodes have been washed off the grass leaf and through the thatch layer. For the following two weeks continue to irrigate as is appropriate to ensure the soil profile remains damp.

Leatherjacket and chafer grubs are a potentially serious pest of turf. Because insecticides are being taken off the market, we need to rethink how we go about achieving control. Insect parasitic nematodes are an effective control for leatherjackets and chafer grubs, but you will need to apply them at the right time in the pest lifecycle in appropriate environmental conditions.

If you take care with the use of Nemasys G and Nemasys J then you will be able to keep on top of potentially damaging pest attacks. Biological control is effective, safe to the environment and is the future of leatherjacket and chafer grub control.

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Turf renovation without grass health regression

Turf renovation and disease was up for discussion when Greenkeeper International met up with Nigel Broadwith, course manager for Carthage and John O’Gaunt, venue for the grand final of this year’s Golf Management Trophy grand final.

Also joining the conversation at Sandy in Bedfordshire was Daniel Lightfoot, turf business manager at Syngenta.

Renovation is carried out for the long term good of playability, said Nigel, but comes with the implications of short term physical damage, physiological stress and added risk of fungal infection and disease.

Fusarium Patch and Anthracnose are powerful opportunistic wound pathogens which reside in thatch, so there is always a risk that any advantage gained from renovation can easily be wiped out by damage induced disease.

Daniel said: “Mitigation is the key word here, using appropriate renovation techniques and through prevention of infection via wounds using protectant fungicides.” Nigel is known as a careful and cautious turf manager, especially when it comes to disease prevention and control. He said: “This is a classic case of where the overall strength of protectant fungicide treatment comes from using the broadest range of activity and action.”

“I also want access to the widest possible fungicide permutation,” said Nigel, explaining how contact, translaminar and systemic activity with uptake through shoot and root provides a range of protectant, suppressive and curative action.

“A good mix of modes of action is crucial,” said Daniel. “Combining fungicides from different chemical groups not only enhances overall efficacy, but additionally guards against the development of fungicide resistant strains.”

Fungicide spray application using Syngenta XC Nozzles aims to get the best coverage of target pathogens, whilst reducing risk of spray drift to get the best possible results

All pictures courtesy of

syngenta.

‘I target the azoxystrobin treatment at the last week of August to the first week of September’

Nigel added: “That’s especially important when site-specific suppressant fungicides are combined or alternated with multi-site contact action protectant fungicides.”

Renovation – technique and timing

Technique and timing underpin the renovation programme at Carthage and John O’Gaunt, with vertidrainage down to 250mm taking place in early spring. This is followed by microcoring, using an 8mm hollow tine, before the turf is scarified to a depth of 10mm and topdressed with about half a tonne per green.



Although there is slight disruption during the two days it takes to complete the work, after a long winter, members understand the need to relieve compaction.

Nigel explained how this then switches to 'little and often' during summer, achieved with a light verticut every week or two. This cut only goes down 3mm to deal with excess organic matter, including removal of annual meadow grass seed heads.

Nigel said: "This light touch is much less aggressive than scarification, but ideal at this 'high stress' time in high summer. Apart from anything else we want to minimise summer anthracnose – the foliar blight phase of the disease. This is traditionally associated with *Poa*, but increasingly present on bent and fescue grass species and cultivars."

Over the year, Nigel puts on 50 tonnes of top dressing on each course, typically in 4 tonne treatment lots. This is usually an 80:20 mix of sand and soil, sourced from

Bailey's Top Dressing in Norfolk. However, the team also apply straight sand kiln-dried and sourced from nearby Leighton Buzzard. "After all, the local name of 'Sandy' shows this is 'silicon dioxide' country," said Nigel.

The annual top dressing treatment programme helps the long term turf health and quality by assisting drainage by increasing soil permeability and percolation of surface water down through the soil profile. At a micro level, particle size, and therefore size of spaces between them, is increased, which keeps the soil surface more open.

Organic matter

During our conversation, discussion moved on to organic matter and the critical balance between turf surface stability and surface water infiltration, without compromising the pace and accuracy of play.

The most exacting method of measuring organic matter is through 'loss of water on ignition', but for most greenkeepers, a visual appraisal done on site that gives an immediate assessment is what matters.

Daniel explained how attempts at organic matter measurement can be complicated. He said: "Do you take 10cm in depth in one go or take four individual measurements every 2.5 cm?"

"What affects permeability is in the top 2.5 cm," said Nigel, adding how STRI recommend 5-7 per cent organic matter. But should this 5-7 per cent be a hard and fast rule?

Daniel thought not, adding how final recommendations may depend on many factors, not least a specific site's rainfall. However, most greenkeepers still strive to keep thatch at 5-7 mm.



Organic matter assessment at John O' Gaunt - Nigel Broadwith (left) and Daniel Lightfoot (right)

Verticutting as a little and often approach to removing thatch is less intrusive or damaging, whilst looking to improve playability and long-term turf health

"That includes us," said Nigel. "And it's a key reason for our on-going renovation programme."

"This whole business of thatch control, which includes boxing off clippings to reduce build up, is a difficult balancing act to achieve. There is a very thin dividing line between under-feeding and over-feeding."

I asked Nigel about irrigation at John O'Gaunt, which turned out to be another 'little and often' philosophy in the overall management scheme. He said: "Other courses in the area irrigate once every three nights but I want to keep my soil consistently moist so I apply a little every night and monitor closely using a moisture meter."

Half the greens on John O'Gaunt of the 'push up' variety, constructed by pushing up the soil into a mound or pile, and done with the idea to retain water.

"They didn't want full on drainage because those days pre-dated automatic watering systems," said Nigel, adding how the other greens are totally free draining, with management altered accordingly.

As Nigel and Dan talked about renovation depth I recalled a question on my 'A' level Botany exam paper back in the 1960's,





which carried the proverb 'Dig deep for good crops'. This was clearly referring to autumn digging, so I asked whether in autumn it was also the case of 'digging' deep for good turf?

"In autumn 2015 we only went down 20mm when micro coring or scarifying," said Nigel. "It is no good going down deeper than you need to. We use vertidrain deep aeration followed by over-seeding with a bent and fescue mixture and a relatively heavy top dressing."

Commenting specifically on the Carthage facility, Nigel explained how it was a completely free draining course on which they get good germination from re-seeding with a bent/fescue over-seeding mix. "On the other hand push-up greens are more stubborn to change and therefore more difficult to modify," said Nigel. Due to relatively poor germination of bent and fescue grasses, he uses Poa pretens, a fine leaved meadow grass, but with the downside of being more prone to anthracnose.

Focus on fungicides

"We target fungicide application 10 days prior to autumn maintenance work" said Nigel "and will put on a preventative/protectant fungicide whether or not there is any sign of disease".

I asked why that was? Nigel answered: "Due to the 'triple whammy' of high disease pressure at this time of year, the unavoidable collateral physical damage to grass plant tissue that comes with the work and associated physiological stress in the turf sward."

When it comes to turf protection Nigel Broadwith is clearly a 'belt and braces' man. "I would apply fungicide during this

autumn period even if there was no maintenance work scheduled," he said. "In my experience, this first application has been key in keeping greens clean and disease free for the winter, resulting in reduced overall treatments compared to fire-fighting disease once it has broken out."

Proof of the pudding is in the eating and the subsequent walk around the John O'Gaunt course showed that Nigel was clearly doing the right things. The greens and fairways were in immaculate condition, glowing in the unseasonal sun, and looking absolutely superb given that we were already much more than half way through autumn and only days away from the official first day of the winter period.

Syngenta had set up and arranged this day out for Greenkeeper International, so it was only fair to give the company first crack of the fungicide whip. We talked about azoxystrobin as a stand-alone fungicide product (Heritage). "Azoxystrobin is one of my bed-rock fungicide treatments due mainly to its well-known and established protectant properties," said Nigel.

Daniel added a lesser known benefit of this QOI fungicide is how it builds up the level of antioxidant chemicals which buffer the impact of physiological stress and new research showing the beneficial role of the fungicide for seedling germination and establishment during renovation.

"I target the azoxystrobin treatment at the last week of August to the first week of September. I have done this for the last five years and my greens are 90-95 per cent clean in winter," said Nigel.

He typically treats twice more during winter, 6-8 weeks and 12-16 weeks later. His

Deep coring is integral to maintaining infiltration rates, to assure surface firmness and stability and enable amelioration of the green surface soil structure

products are selected from broad fungicide armoury including iprodione, mainly protectant but with limited penetration and therefore offering potential for pathogen suppression, and tebuconazole a systemically acting triazole fungicide, alongside the translaminar prochloraz fungicide.

The multi-active, Instrata, containing propiconazole, chlorothalonil and fludioxonil, has proved a useful addition for covering variable conditions - and resulting disease risks - through the winter and early spring.

I asked Nigel about fludioxonil, a novel protectant that hits fungal spores on thatch before they have chance to land on living grass leaves. "Fludioxonil provides a pre-emptive strike which must significantly reduce the chances of spore germination, germ tube penetration and leaf infection," he commented.

Complete turf protection is rarely achieved so I asked Nigel and Daniel what greenkeepers should do in the event of serious disease establishment. "This is where truly systemic fungicides such as propiconazole come into play," he said. "Via rapid penetration to suppress fungal infection and eradicate disease."

Fungicide application at John O'Gaunt is by a Toro Multipro boom sprayer, fitted with Syngenta XC low drift nozzles.

Spread betting with fungicides

Nigel doesn't stop there but gets the very best out of his fungicide selection by making full use of adjuvant activity. Nigel's choice is 'Velocity' a surfactant in name and containing surface active molecules. These increase spreading power of the initial fungicide deposit to hasten and maximise coverage and uptake during the shortest possible 'window'. "Adjuvant use is especially important during the main application period due to the erosive effects of autumn and winter rainfall," said Nigel.

Be that as it may, Nigel Broadwith is clearly a 'spread betting' man in the wider context through using the widest range of fungicide activity and action to combine the best of contact, translaminar and systemic fungicide activity with protectant, suppressive and curative fungicide action.

Striving for highly targeted application using a carefully thought out strategy and programme while erring on the side of caution is clearly no bad thing. ■

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BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION



John Young
07776 242120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Contact your section correspondent with news, events or any other information of interest for Around the Green...



CENTRAL
Craig Boath

cboath@carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk



SW SCOTLAND
Amanda Dorans

amanda.dorans@lochlomond.com



SW SCOTLAND
Ian Smith

iansmithgm@hotmail.co.uk



EAST
Hamish Campbell

greenkeeper@alancampbell.demon.co.uk



NORTH
Neil Sadler

gkneil@sky.com



WEST
Brian Hillen

bria1706@hotmail.co.uk

@BIGGALtd

Bigga Scottish Region

AROUND THE GREEN SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

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

East

The golf season continues apace in the East of Scotland section.

No sooner than the Scottish Girls Championship at Baberton and the Scottish Open men's strokeplay are over, than clubs in the region are hosting the Boys Amateur Championship at Muirfield and The Renaissance. Also, the Paul Lawrie Matchplay on the European Tour and the Prostate Cancer UK Scottish Senior Open are both being hosted at Archerfield.

Keep an eye out for BIGGA members filling various roles, be they greenkeeping or other tasks such as scoreboard duties and marshalling.

Speaking of volunteering and duties at events – all the guys

involved from the East section at the Open at Royal Troon contributed in some way to making it one of, if not the best, golf tournaments ever seen. Well done guys.

We are able to edit our pages on the website, so if you know of any blogs or stories you would like published, or have seasonal or short term vacancies, let us know so we can publicise them for you.

Also, please contact us if there is anything you would like to see on Twitter or Facebook.

Upcoming events

Entry forms are available on the Scottish region website for the Willie Woods event at Eyemouth on 18 August. The format is 4BBB and only one of the pairing needs to be a member, so why not in-

troduce a guest? A trade member or club committee member may enjoy the day.

Our next section committee meeting is on 8 August. Again, contact a committee member if you have any topic you would like to have raised.

North

This year's autumn outing will be held at Boat of Garten on 6 September. The entry forms will be sent out at the start of August. Payment can be made straight into the section's bank account and the bank details will be on the entry form. You can also still pay by cheque if you want. If you are paying online, please remember to add a reference to identify yourself, so we know who has paid.



Section News

Please email your news to karl@bigga.co.uk by the 16th of the month

Brian Hunter has retired from Elton, where he worked for 17 years. He is now going to enjoy some family time and we wish him a happy retirement.

Dale Robertson has left Newmasher after 27 years' service. Dale was also the North region secretary for many years and we wish him all the best in his new ventures.

The Scottish Open at Castle Stuart was a great success, with the course taking a lot of plaudits. So a huge congratulations to Chris and his staff and all the volunteers from all over the world who came to help.

Once again the weather seems to be the hot topic - or not so hot, as the case may be. We certainly have had our fair share of rain in the last six weeks. After being so dry for a month, we all thought we could do with a splash of rain. But 220mm later and enough is enough, so hopefully we will get a summer soon.

Remember, if you have any news or photos to make our article more interesting, please contact me on gkneil@sky.com and I can add it in.

Northern Ireland

CAFRE Horticulture Awards: Jon Crawford from Royal County Down won the BIGGA Prize for the Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports turf Greenkeeper) at their recent awards ceremony.

Northern Ireland Golf Championship: The second running of the golf championship for Northern Ireland will take place at the Strand Course of Portstewart Golf Club on Friday 9 September. Come along for a great day with your fellow greenkeepers and enjoy this magnificent course. Regional Administrator John Young will provide further details in due course.

Working in Partnership: Jim Croxton called over to Northern Ireland recently, meeting with representatives from golf industry organisations to determine a strategy for working in partnership. Jim then met with a group of members to hear their views on future events in the area.

Picture captions: Opposite, Muirfield is hosting the Boys Amateur Championship; This page, top: Regional Administrator John Young presents Joe Crawford with the BIGGA Prize; bottom, Portstewart will host the Northern Ireland Golf Championship





BIGGA NORTHERN REGION



Sandra Raper
07866 366966
sandra
@bigga.co.uk
@BIGGANorthReg

Contact your section correspondent with news, events or any other information of interest for Around the Green...



NORTH EAST
Glen Baxter

glen.baxter@
rigbytaylor.com



NORTH WEST
Lee Burton

leekburton@gmail.com



CLEVELAND
Anthony
McGeough

amcgeough@aol.com



NORTHERN
Rob Gee

robgee.03@
blueyonder.co.uk



SHEFFIELD
Wayne Lazenby

wlazenby5
@gmail.com



NORTH WALES
Simon Ashford

simonashford@
hotmail.com



NORTH WALES
Neil Oxtan

neilroxtan@
googlemail.com

@BIGGALtd

Bigga North East

AROUND THE GREEN

NORTHERN

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



North East

Hexham have constructed a practice facility within their walled garden. This has one artificial green, a USGA standard green, four artificial tees and four bunkers. There are different heights of grass, catering for every short game scenario.

Michael McKenna from the region has started his new role at Nirwana Golf Resort in Bali. He has moved on from Prestige Golfshire in Bangalore, India. Michael previously worked at Tyneside, Matfen, Slaley Hall and Hexham.

Upcoming events

The date and venue for the autumn competition is at Whickham on 28 September. Times to be confirmed. Bacon roll before play and two course meal afterwards. Entry for BIGGA members is £15 and the day is sponsored by Rickerby's.

Whitley Bay are planning a course walk during the final phase of their development in September. The plan is a presentation for an hour, looking at the problems they had and how they have dealt with them. Then

we will head out on the course, looking at the establishment of last year's development, finishing off with a walk around this year's site, again with the contractors in action.

North West

Well done to all the members who volunteered at the Open for BIGGA on the R&A Support Team.

Well, what a month it has been. I for one have really struggled with all the rainfall and I dust my cap off to each and every one of you.

The important thing is to remember to talk to others in the industry as we are all struggling together.

Don't forget, BIGGA have some really good member services. After some IT issues with my laptop, I apologise for the lack of news last month. I put out a request for news on Facebook, but unfortunately nothing came from it.

Any movers and shakers, births or tributes and any personal achievements are all welcome. Please send it to leekburton@gmail.com.

I am in training for the Loch Ness Marathon in September and I will let you know how it goes, if I make it back alive.

Upcoming events

Unfortunately, the summer competition had to be cancelled due to the lack of advanced bookings.

The weather will have played a big part, no doubt, in members' decisions.

Plans are coming together for the North West Education Day. As ever, keep updated by tuning in to our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Sponsor thanks

We would like to thank all of the section sponsors for the continued support they provide throughout the year. Thank you.

Cleveland

July is proving to be one busy month. The club competitions are coming thick and fast and morning dry cuts are becoming the norm. It has been a quiet month for news again so please forgive me if I waffle on a little.



Testing times at Richmond have forced me to recruit my wife – yes, that’s right, my wife – to work weekends with me on the course, as if we don’t see enough of each other at home. For once I am the boss and she does what I tell her. And it turns out she can rake a mean bunker.

I’ve noticed on the Facebook page that Brancepeth Castle have completed sand injection graden

work in the middle of the playing season. Fair play to the lads for negotiating that one and I’ll be sure to give you a ring when I’m trying to convince my board when the best time to do it is.

Congratulations to Roy Applegarth on his appointment as deputy head greenkeeper at Billingham. I have had the pleasure of working with Roy at Richmond a few years back and it’s great to see

him moving up.

I heard Derek Thompson was having a great time representing the Cleveland section at the Open at Royal Troon.

Northern

Hope you are all enjoying the beautiful summer as much as I am. Wellies, waterproofs, Lem-

sips, fusarium etc. The only sign I can see of the Sun is my work-mate’s newspaper.

The Euros have now finished, so well done England - you were shocking. Well done Wales, you did your country proud.

The Open is just about to start as I write these notes. Let’s hope it’s a good one with July weather and some outstanding golf.

On to Garforth and our summer meeting. Thanks to Balmers GM for sponsoring the event and also to Greensman.

Thanks to Garforth and to Andy Fowler for preparing the course. The greens were immaculate and proved a real challenge for the field of outstanding golfers. My excuse was the extra large portion of pie consumed before tee off. Oh, and the apple pie I forced down my neck.

On to the scoring and in 1st position was N Coultash with 34 points; 2nd J Waite with 32; 3rd N Booth with 30; 4th K Christie with 30. Nearest the pin was R Illsley; longest drive D Lindlay.

Thanks again to Balmers GM and Greensman.

Upcoming events

5 September at Moor Allerton, cost £19. Jacket and tie needed, eating after golf. The event will be sponsored by ICL.

Sponsor thanks

Thanks again to Rigby Taylor and Cheshire Turf Machinery. Thanks to Balmers GM and Greensman and to any sponsors who have supported the Northern section.

Sheffield

I would like to wish Ian Whitehead all the best in his new life away from Hillsborough, which he leaves after 24 years.

Our summer cup results will follow next month.

Picture captions: Above, Mr and Mrs McGeough mow the fairways at Richmond (Yorkshire); Opposite top, former section secretary Andy Slingsby, winner Nigel Coultish, trade supporter Nik Blesic, and co-sponsor Adrian, from Balmers GM; middle, Michael McKenna has taken up a role at Nirwana Golf resort in Bali, pictured at bottom



BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION



Tracey Walker
07841 948110
tracey.walker
@bigga.co.uk
@biggaswsw

Contact your section correspondent with news, events or any other information of interest for Around the Green...



SOUTH WEST
Jaey Goodchild

j.goodchild@
bowood.org



SOUTH COAST
Steve Thorne

biggasouthcoast@
hotmail.com



DEVON & CORNWALL
Neil Rogers

nrogers@
countrywidefarmers
.co.uk



SOUTH WALES
Andrew Hatcher

andrewhatcher1@
msn.com

Section News

Please email your news to
karl@bigga.co.uk
by the 16th
of the month

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AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

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

South West

Welcome to August. Where has the year gone? As I write this, it's 28°C outside and absolutely beautiful.

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Par 3 and BBQ at Thornbury. A great adventure was had by all that attended.

Please note that our annual match against South Wales and golf club secretaries was postponed due to inclement weather. We will be publicising a new match date as soon as possible, so please keep an eye out for this.

As mentioned in previous columns, the section will be sponsoring two places to the BIGGA National Championship being held this year at Bowood.

For a chance at winning a sponsored place at the nationals, you will need to qualify through the South West summer tournament being held at Mendip Spring on 6 September.

Don't forget we have the facility to accept BACS payment for golf days and seminar events and we will require all entrants and attendees to make payment in advance of events. This is primarily to help our team of section volunteers keep up the great work they do in organising our events.

Upcoming events

The South West section summer tournament is being held at Mendip Spring on 6 September and entries are open. Drop Lucy or myself a line to enter.

South West Section Turf Club will be hosted by myself at Bowood on 18 August 2016. Starting at 1pm, the topic of the day will be long rough management, including thinning of established areas, promotion of fine grasses in long rough and promotion of wild flowers on the course. Keep an eye on your email for further details.



Sponsor thanks

Many thanks to our 2016 patrons for their ongoing support: Headland Amenity, Countrywide Amenity, Farmura, H Curtis & Son, SGI, TH White, Greensman and Irritech Limited.

South Coast

The secretaries vs greenkeepers match took place at Rushmore on 21 June. A great day was had by all who took part in this longstanding annual event in the South Coast section calendar. It was good to see several new faces making up the 10-strong greenkeeping team, but even this influx of talent could not beat the secretaries, who once again clinched victory on the day.

The section would like to thank the greenkeeping team and the clubhouse staff at Rushmore for providing the venue for the day and also Course Care for their continued support of this event.

The summer tournament took

place at Corhampton on 30 June and for one of our members, this was certainly a day to remember. Our summer tournament prize table was almost exclusively won by Bev Blair from Southwick Park.

The prizes for the day were award as follows, and no this is not a misprint:

Individuals: 1st, Bev Blair; 2nd Phil Nason; 3rd Simon Justice. Winning team: Bev Blair, Andy Stevens, Steve Briggs. Nearest the pin: Bev Blair. Longest drive: Bev Blair.

Bev is a regular supporter of events laid on by the section and as such is a deserved winner, although we might start scrutinising handicap figures in future - just kidding Bev! As our qualifier for the National Championship, Bev will compete at Bowood in October and the section committee would like to wish her the best of luck for the event.

The section would like to thank the greenkeeping team and the

clubhouse staff at Corhampton for providing a fantastic venue for the day.

As I write this, the final rounds of the 2016 Open are underway. We would like to congratulate all our section members who made it into the support team for this year's event. We hope you all had an amazing time and enjoyed an experience that will stay with you for many years to come.

Devon & Cornwall

We had a very successful meeting at Okehampton, sponsored by Mason Kings and Symbio. This was for the local bragging rights between Devon and Cornwall. In true Ryder Cup style, as the match was halved, the holders Devon retained the trophy for another year.

The best player on the day was, unsurprisingly, Jacko. He is pictured collecting his winnings from Mason Kings General Manager Peter Endecott (*opposite page*).

The course was beautifully presented by Stuart Entwistle and his team. We then retired to the bar for a wonderful meal, which was sponsored by Sherriff.

It was great to see Billy up and about at Okehampton and we are all pleased to see him doing so well. Also making a welcome return to fitness was Tracey Walker, although I'm sure she regretted getting lumbered with the money tin.

Upcoming events

The next event in the diary is the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, which is being sponsored this year by ICL and will be held at Torquay on Friday 16 September. If you wish to enter this competition, you need to email Tracey with your club details.

South Wales

The British weather played its part in cancelling our recent team match at Newport. The new date has been set for Monday 8 August.

The section wishes Rob Cheney all the best in his new job at Thornbury, a beautiful pay and play course in Bristol.

Upcoming events

Our next event sees us play for the Patrons cup at Coed Y Mwstwr on Wednesday 10 August. The first tee is at 1pm and the format for the day is an individual stableford. Coffee and Bacon roll on arrival, with a two-course meal afterwards. The cost is £15.

New Members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

James McMurdo	DH GK - Prestwick
Calum Donald	GK - Royal Troon
Graeme Beattie	GK - Portlethen
Jack Darling	GK - Portlethen
Jack Glen	GK - Mearns Castle
Sean Quinn	GK - Williamwood
Craig Rooney	AGK - Zoar Cottage Lawn Tennis
David Sneddon	AGK - Kingsfield

Key

CM - Course Manager
 DCM - Deputy Course Manager
 HGK - Head Greenkeeper
 DHGK - Deputy Head Greenkeeper
 GK - Greenkeeper
 AGK - Assistant Greenkeeper

Midland

Scott Krokoszynski	GK - Rufford Park
Harry Cartwright	AGK - Mellor & Townscliffe
Jack King	AGK - Badgemore Park
Sam Simkins	AGK - Mount Pleasant
Stanley Hayden	AGK - The Grove
Keith Smith	AGK - Edgbaston

Northern

Anthony Major	DH GK - Formby
Richard Sumner	GK - Westthoughton
Andrew Ravenscroft	GK - Formby
Daniel McMurray	GK - Ilkley
James Whitworth	GK - Bolton Old Links
Ryan Donnellan	GK - Shaw Hill
Stewart Angus	GK - Bolton Old Links
Bryn Young	Groundsman - HMP Deerbolt
Ralph Lafevre	Mechanic - Formby
Conor Sarsfield	AGK - Bolton Old Links
James Aughton	AGK - Formby
Luke Marshall	AGK - Formby

South West and South Wales

Llewellyn Matthews	Affiliate - Eco Bunker Ltd
Richard Allen	Affiliate - Eco Bunker Ltd
Andrew Johnson	GK - Thurlestone
Paul Dyer	GK - Thurlestone
Connor Eva	AGK - Thurlestone
Daniel Pedrick	AGK - Thurlestone
Joshua Munro	AGK - Brokenhurst Manor
Matthew Dyer	AGK - Thurlestone
Matthew Whisken	AGK - Queens Park (Bournemouth)

South East

Stuart Leech	Affiliate - Formby Ladies
Richard Clarke	CM - Willingdon
Adam Peck	DH GK - Seaford Head
Ben Clarke	GK - Seaford Head
Matthew Osling	GK - RAF Marham
Jamie Jacklin	Gr'ndsman - Brighton & Hove Albion
Oliver Clarke	AGK - Hindhead
Robert Gravett	AGK - Willingdon
Alex Marton	AGK - Willingdon
Daniel Bolton	AGK - Hindhead
David Haselgrave	AGK - Ely City
James Martin	AGK - West Sussex
John McCormack	AGK - Grims Dyke
Nathan Sutliff	AGK - Seaford Head
Nick Toomey	AGK - Willingdon
Richard Pearce	AGK - Hindhead
Sam Simper	AGK - Crews Hill



BIGGA MIDLAND REGION



Roger Butler
07525 593359
roger@bigga.co.uk
@BIGGAmidlandREG

Contact your section correspondent with news, events or any other information of interest for Around the Green...



BB&O
Brett Moggridge

bmoggridge@hotmail.co.uk



MID ANGLIA
Darren Mugford

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



MIDLAND
Dave Collins

greendave2004@hotmail.co.uk



EAST OF ENGLAND
Rob Welford

welfordn@aol.com



EAST MIDLANDS
Matt Gilks

gilksmatt@farol.co.uk

@BIGGALtd

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AROUND THE GREEN

MIDLAND

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

Section News

Please email your news to karl@bigga.co.uk by the 16th of the month



Mid Anglia

Thanks to John O'Gaunt Head Greenkeeper Kevin Armstrong for a wonderful picture from the 145th Open from Royal Troon.

Kevin was a member of the greenkeeper support team and thoroughly enjoyed the tournament, along with fellow members from our section.

Upcoming events

Our next section event will be held at The Bedfordshire on August 24 and will be a Par 3 competition, with teams of four, which looks like it will be a fun day. Please get your entries in nice and early as I am sure it will

be a very popular event.

Sponsor thanks

Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery, Avoncrop Amenity, Headland Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Everiss, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS and Rigby Taylor. The Mid Anglia section would like to thank its wonderful sponsors for 2016 and we are very grateful for your continued support with funds for our section events.

Picture captions: Above: Patsull is hosting the Midland AGM; Opposite top, Kevin Armstrong's picture of Royal Troon during the Open; middle, Keith Smith's pristine lawn; bottom, Redditch is hosting the Midland Christmas tournament

Midland

A new member of staff at Edgbaston, Keith Smith, joined BIGGA last month and he has already made his mark by entering his front lawn in an online competition. Tell us what you think guys.

These are the sort of stories we'd like to read about in Around the Green. although not too many like this as it is putting my back garden jungle to shame.

Wow, as I write this, the weather is 26°C. We have waited a while for this, so let's enjoy it while it lasts.

While it's lovely, please get some photos into our competition at bigga.midlandphoto@gmail.com.



These will be judged and possibly make it into next year's calendar. Congratulations everybody, hosting or having hosted big club or national competitions as the courses are looking great.

Upcoming events

The team event and AGM takes place at Patsull on Wednesday 4 September. The event begins at 12noon and costs £25, with a closing date for entries of 5 September.

The prize sponsor is Working Turf and the format is four player stableford over 18 holes, make up your own team.

The Christmas tournament is being held at Redditch on Wednes-

day 7 December, starting at 10am. The cost is £27 and the closing date for entries is 23 November. The prizes will be sponsored by Banks Amenity with the format pairs, with partners to be drawn on the day.

Sponsor thanks

Apologies as in the July edition I missed out our wonderful July calendar sponsor, Rigby Taylor. Thanks guys, and you can contact Glen Howard on 0777865506 or email g.howard@rigbytaylor.com.

And a massive thanks to our August calendar sponsor Limagrain and Matt Gresty. Cheers for your support, you can contact Matt on 077767278335 or email on Mathew.gresty@limagrain.co.uk





BIGGA SOUTH EAST REGION



Clive Osgood
01737 819343
07841 948410
cliveosgood
@yahoo.co.uk
@cliveosgood



Kerry Phillips
07763072803
kerry
@bigga.co.uk

Contact your section correspondent with news, events or any other information of interest for Around the Green...



SURREY
Stephen Alabaster

salabaster@tip.
textron.com



KENT
Rob Holland

premiergolf 2012@
hotmail.co.uk



LONDON
John Wells

j.wells1@sky.com



EAST ANGLIA
Mick Lathrope

lil.lathrope@
ntlworld.com



ESSEX
Craig Brisley

craigb@collier-turf-care.
.co.uk



SUSSEX
Chris Humphrey

Chris@collier-turf-care.
co.uk

@BIGGALtd

AROUND THE GREEN

SOUTH EAST

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

Surrey

We had no competitions this month due to holidays and lots of guys volunteering for tournaments. With this in mind we have moved the Cresta Cup back to September and more details will follow. These days are great fun and are a really good way to meet other Surrey greenkeepers, so it is a good chance to network.

Talking of volunteering - quite a few of our members have helped Chris Haspell produce a fantastic looking course for the Scottish Open at Castle Stuart in Inverness. I had the good fortune to be there and see what a wonderful venue this is. Those who I know gave their time are Stefan Carter from Wentworth, Graeme Roberts from Camberley Heath and Gareth Roberts from Hankley Common.

Supporting each other for major tournaments is a large part of the greenkeepers' community and

something of which all that take part should be very proud.

In other news, a number of our head greenkeepers will shortly be rowing a home built raft from Donaghadee in Northern Ireland to Portpatrick in Scotland. Those who are brave - or very foolish - are Surrey members Michael Mann from Walton Heath, Danny Murray from Wisley, Stevie Richardson from Queenwood. This is being done for Motor Neuron Disease Scotland.

There are a number of JustGiving pages set up and any donations to the causes will be greatly appreciated.

This will all be taking place on 26 August and I hope they raise lots of money and safely make it across. Should you wish to donate, visit the JustGiving website and search for the above names.

Sussex

Our summer tournament will be

played at Sandy Lodge on Thursday 18 August and entry forms will be out soon. This is a must play for our section members as Sandy Lodge is an Open qualifying course and I am sure Rob Phillips will have it at its best. So this is a great chance to come and meet fellow greenkeepers and for the younger generation to get a closer look at the course.

I know it's mid-summer but the committee are already short on winter education sessions. So if any of you, especially the younger members, would like a subject talked about, please email me at j.wells1@sky.com and we will try and add it to the winter schedule.

You can now follow the London section on Facebook at www.facebook.com/londonbigga

East Anglia

Our thanks go to Wensum Valley for standing in at the last minute to rescue our golf day. Although I was not there, again, I have it on good authority that all was well

Section Notes

Please email your notes to karl@bigga.co.uk by the 16th of the month



and around 40 of you enjoyed the challenge of uphill putting.

I must say the points scored were excellent as you will see.

0-9 section: 1st Mike Virley, 40 points; 2nd Mathew Strudwick, 36 points. 10-18 section: 1st Ollie Kirk, 39 points; 2nd Doug Jefferson, 38 points. 19-28 section: 1st Oliver Jones, 38 points; 2nd Steve Freestone, 34 points. Trade and guest: 1st Lewis Blois, 41 points; 2nd Craig Spooner, 37 points. Longest drive 7th: Alan Golding. Nearest pin 4th, Mike Virley. Nearest pin 14th, Ryan Norman.

The main sponsor was Ben Burgess. Other sponsors were Aitkens, Bartram Mowers, Headland, Tacit, Toro, ICL Campey Turf and DLFC.

The loo seat went to Ian Willitt for falling out of a port-a-cabin. More water needed. On a serious note, get well soon, we all miss you.

Essex

On 6 July the Essex section held its second education seminar at South Essex in Brentwood. BIGGA's sustainability executive James Hutchinson travelled south to deliver a highly-informative talk and course walk to 16 attendees who were enthralled by James' passion and knowledge.

The weather was fantastic, which made a change from all the rain in June. The event was meant to last two hours, but Peter Dawson, the course manager at South Essex, has so much fantastic habitat that the course walk went on a bit longer in the sunshine. All those attending agreed it was very interesting and they learnt several things to take back to their respective courses around the country.

Upcoming events

The Tri Match against the Surrey and Sussex sections will be held at Benton Hall on 7 September.

If you are interested in playing, contact Mick Fance on 07894423086 or email michael.fance@farmura.com

Sponsor thanks

Thanks to all our sponsors, who are promoted on our website.

Picture captions: Opposite page, Stefan Carter mowing the greens at Castle Stuart (this page, bottom); This page, top: the Tri-match between Essex, Surrey and Sussex will be held at Benton Hall; middle: an education seminar was held at Brentwood





GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chairman's farewell address to David Golding



GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

Speaking at a lunch held at the GTC and BIGGA headquarters, chairman Donald Steel gave a speech to David Golding, who retired after 23 years with the GTC. Here we present his kind words.

In delivering this address, I do so mindful of the day of a General's Inspection during my short and inglorious Army career when, having given our immaculate display of precision drill, and had marched past, we were invited to gather round the saluting base so that the General could address the troops.

I remember nothing of his remarks except for his opening which, for the height of pomposity, takes a lot beating. He said, I'd just like to say a few words before I start to speak. I do not intend to speak, so to speak, this lunchtime but I do want to say a very few words



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near Alne
York
YO61 1UF

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



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on this auspiciously happy, but also sad occasion.

Sad that David has saddled up his horse ready to ride off into the sunset, even if he looks far too young to retire.

Happy we are celebrating the fact he leaves behind a highly distinguished working legacy for training greenkeepers in which we have all been fortunate to have played some part.

There is a modern belief that the past doesn't matter. Some say it is old hat. They contend it is only the present that counts. I agree you can only deal with situations as you find them and there is always a duty to try and shape the future but, without the past, there would be no present. David has acted as education director of the Greenkeepers Training Committee for 23 years and has presided over an industry that has been transformed thanks to his dedication, vision and persuasive example.

Greenkeeping has always been hard graft and David's practical background as a greenkeeper meant he could speak from experience. To me, greenkeepers are on a par as a willing and unselfish brotherhood – and now sisterhood – with our lifeboat men and National Hunt jockeys. They never complain about their plight, they deal with the unexpected, they keep unsocial hours, and are driven to help others. But David belonged to a generation of greenkeepers that wanted something better and, more poignantly, fought hard to achieve it.

He was one of the campaigners in the creation of BIGGA and, through BIGGA and the Home Unions, the GTC. Today, greenkeeping has become the job of a lifetime – for a lifetime. Many have never thought of doing anything else, eager to learn their trade and to have the qualifications to enable them to master the responsibilities they face. And they are very good at it and, what is more, are

delightful people.

More than half the art of any tuition is getting the message across and here David's presentation skills, scrupulously honest approach and genuine understanding have contributed enormously to the success of the GTC.

It is symbolic the new All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf should have been established a year before David's retirement because Parliament's awareness of the apprenticeship scheme is, in no small measure, down to his pioneering efforts. The GTC has always been an apprenticeship scheme and David mounts his getaway horse after building up the GTC from modest beginnings into a notable national and international force.

More cogently, the training of young greenkeepers is perhaps the only thing from which all golfers, young or old, good or bad, man or woman, amateur or professional, benefit.

In the 60 years or so of my involvement in golf, greenkeeping has scaled the heights rather in the way that the playing of the game has done. There have never been more good greenkeepers or more good players and, watching the thrilling final round of the Open on Sunday made me reflect that, in that time, the first prize in the Open has risen from under a thousand pounds to over a million.

Greenkeeping salaries haven't quite kept pace but they are getting there.

Here, I must thank Fiona Lyttle for all her good offices behind the scenes. Fiona has always been a comforting presence at David's side, a duo that have made my Chairmanship an absolute joy and so it is with pride and delight that I thank him on behalf of the game and several thousand of greenkeepers for his supreme contribution to its welfare, enjoyment and efficiency.

Rachael Duffy, Sandra Richardson, Tracey Maddison



Richard Barker, David Golding and Kerran Daly MG



Richard Campey and Jim Croxton



Andy Campbell MG, Brian Pierson and Paul McGrail





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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an Assistant Greenkeeper for the championship course at Prestatyn Golf Club.



The ideal candidate will have:

- A minimum of 2/3 years in a green keeping role
- Minimum NVQ 2 or equivalent
- PA1 PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates, first aid and chainsaw certificates are also desirable but not essential
- A strong work ethic and enthusiasm to be part of a team
- Trustworthiness to work alone and in both small and large teams

The Assistant Greenkeeper position is full-time, permanent based on a 39 hour week with weekend working on a rota basis. Full details available at www.bigga/careers.

Apply via e-mail with an introduction letter and CV not later than 12th August 2016, outlining your suitability for the role to: enquiries@prestatyngolfclub.co.uk

Or in writing to

Mr. Chris Owens, Secretary,
Prestatyn Golf Club, Marine Road East, Prestatyn, Denbighshire, LL19 7HS

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Walmley Golf Club is a premier golf club in the West Midlands situated in the affluent suburb of Sutton Coldfield, six miles north of Birmingham.

Golf has been played on this parkland course since 1902 and the club has a long history of competition success and runs a full social and golfing calendar.

With over 600 members, Walmley remains a successful private members' club with a full membership.

We are seeking a Head Greenkeeper to form part of the new senior management structure and be an integral person in delivering the objectives of the board and member expectations.

For further information or to apply, please email your CV and letter of application to Tim Gilpin, General Manager on T.gilpinGM@walmleygolfclub.co.uk Closing date Friday 2nd September

**Test Valley Golf Club
Overton
Hampshire
RG25 3DS**

ASSISTANT GREEN KEEPER

Exciting opportunity to develop your green keeping career at a progressive golf club

- A minimum of 2/3 years in a green keeping role
- Minimum NVQ 2 or equivalent

This position is full-time, permanent and based on a 40 hour week with weekend working on a rota basis. Salary will be offered in relation to qualifications held, experience and suitability.

Applicants via e-mail with an introduction letter and CV to
General Manager/Club Professional
Alastair Briggs pro@testvalleygolf.com
Contact Number 01256 771737
Website www.testvalleygolf.com



We are proud to be hosting the British Masters in October which means you will be part of a team who are responsible for keeping our greens in tip-top condition and up to championship standard. Duties include routine maintenance tasks, operating Golf Course equipment, agricultural machinery & maintaining accurate records after carrying out cultural practices & applying fertilisers.

The successful candidates will ideally be able to work flexibly with & possess team working skills. This is a temporary, full time contract running from August until the middle of October 2016.

Applications to Phill Chiverton – Phill.chiverton@thegrove.co.uk

SPECIFICATION

- Be able to work outside in all weather conditions.
- Physical strength, with the ability to follow oral & written directions.
- Be able to start work early in the mornings
- Be flexible with working hours.
- Be able to work at weekends on a strict roster system.
- Training will be provided.
- Incorporates safe working practices in job performance.

Desirable:

- Requires knowledge & experience to operate professional golf maintenance equipment.
- Requires a valid driver's license.
- Has basic understanding of health and safety.



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01347 833812

Pittdown Golf Club require an enthusiastic assistant greenkeeper to join our existing team. We recently invested over £600,000 on the course and machinery, to help with our aim of becoming one of the top 100 courses in England.

You should be prepared to help raise the very high standards, that we are aiming for at Pittdown.

Preferred but not essential:

- NVQ Level 2 or similar turf related qualifications
- Knowledge of basic Machinery maintenance
- A flexible approach to working hours

Full training is given

In return you will be offered:

- A very competitive salary
- Excellent training opportunities
- Pension scheme

Please email your CV and a brief covering letter to
Matthew Hutchinson cm@pittdowngolfclub.co.uk

Ardfin Estate on the Isle of Jura requires greenkeepers for the new and exciting private development consisting of a full 18 holes + academy. The course is in the grow-in stage and will be proceeding to full maintenance over the coming months.

There are excellent opportunities for seasonal and full-time qualified greenkeeping staff to join our team. The atmosphere on Jura is unique and staff quickly integrate into the local community.

Applicants should be fully qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping. The following would be an advantage:

- Minimum three years' experience in greenkeeping
- NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
- A passion for their work
- Competence with operating turf equipment
- An ambition to progress

A competitive remuneration package with flexible hours is provided based upon experience & skills.

Suitably qualified and experienced applicants will also be considered for the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Mechanic.

For more information and to apply, please send a resume (including referees) to the Course Manager. Contact samleech@eircom.net

One of the finest Parkland Golf Clubs in Staffordshire offering challenges for golfers of all abilities. We are looking to recruit for the following positions.

1st Assistant

- NVQ level 2/3 or HNC/HND or relevant green keeping experience (minimum 5 Years)
- PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Maintaining of operating irrigation systems a distinct advantage
- Experience of working in a large team with a focus on quality
- A high degree of flexibility and willing to work extra hours if required.
- Highly motivated and ability to work with own initiative
- Active golf player would be an advantage

Assistant Greenkeeper

- A minimum of 2/3 years in a green keeping role
- An understanding and implementation of practical green keeping skills
- Minimum NVQ 2 or equivalent
- PA1 PA2& PA6 spraying certificates
- A strong work ethic and enthusiasm to be part of a team
- A knowledge and understanding of the game of golf
- Trustworthiness to work alone and in both small and large teams

Salary and benefits package will be offered commensurate with qualifications, experience and suitability.

Please send your application with covering letter outlining the position you wish to apply for and send your CV via e-mail or post to:
Jon Farmer manager@trenthamparkgolfclub.com
Trentham Park Golf Club, Park drive, Trentham, Staffs ST4 8AE
www.trenthamparkgolfclub.com

Assistant Greenkeeper

Alresford Golf Club ~ www.alresfordgolf.co.uk



An exciting opportunity has arisen at Alresford Golf Club to join our dedicated greenkeeping team. Set on beautiful chalk downland with exceptional drainage and all year round playing conditions, the club is a regular county tournament venue.

The ideal candidate:-

- A minimum of 2/3 years in a greenkeeping role
- To operate greenkeeping equipment and have knowledge of how their performance affects playing surfaces
- Minimum NVQ 2 or equivalent
- PA1 & 6 spraying certificates, first aid and chainsaw certificates are desirable
- A strong work ethic, motivation and enthusiasm to be part of a team.

The Assistant Greenkeeper position is a 39 hour week. Salary and benefits package will be offered commensurate with qualifications, experience and suitability.

Applicants are requested to send an introduction letter and CV not later than 12th August, to secretary@alresfordgolf.co.uk
Alresford Golf Club, Cheriton Road, Tichborne Down, Alresford, Hants SO240PN
01962 733746

Laucala Island in the South Pacific is seeking a Golf Service Equipment Manager for a championship golf course designed by Scotsman David McLay Kidd.

Education, Experience and Personal Attributes

- Fluent English, leadership skills and excellent communication at all levels
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office applications
- Experience in managing a workshop and a small team
- Prepared to multitask and be hands on as required
- Experience with Toro and Club car equipment
- Able to undertake physically demanding work
- Have a positive attitude and a flexible approach to working hours
- Able to be a part of a team and integrate with the local community
- Able to live and work in an island environment and community
- Experience working in remote areas or on an island is highly regarded but not a necessity

Work Authorization/Licenses/Clearances
Valid driving license.
Clean criminal record.

Email: careers@laucala.com
Phone: +679 990 4651



Qualified Greenkeeper

An exciting opportunity has arisen at Clandon Regis Golf Club to join our dedicated greenkeeping team, working to present the golf course to the highest possible standard. Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper, we are seeking an enthusiastic, highly motivated individual to assist in the preparation and maintenance of the golf course, delivering exceptionally high standards. The successful candidate will have worked within and be seeking to progress within the industry. You should be able to demonstrate good communications skills, be a team player and have a can do attitude.

The ideal candidate will have/be :-

- A minimum of 2/3 years in a greenkeeping role
- To operate competently and demonstrate an understanding of the latest greenkeeping equipment and analyze how their performance affects playing surfaces on the golf course
- An understanding and implementation of practical greenkeeping skills,
- Minimum NVQ 2 or equivalent
- PA1 & 6 spraying certificates, first aid and chainsaw certificates are desirable but not essential
- A strong work ethic and enthusiasm to be part of a team.
- A knowledge and understanding of the game of golf and how the work of the green staff impacts upon the golfer
- Trustworthiness to work alone and in both small and large teams,
- Receptive to key instructions but complement your duties with your own creativity, imagination and intuition.

The Assistant Greenkeeper position is full-time, permanent based on a 40 hour week with weekend working on a rota basis. Salary and benefits package will be offered commensurate with qualifications, experience and suitability.

Trainee/Assistant Greenkeeper
An opportunity to expand your career or start a new one at Clandon Regis Golf Club. Full training will be given.



Western Gales Golf Club is looking to recruit a suitably qualified individual for the position of **Course Manager**

Applicants should have at least six years experience, a level 3 qualification and possess proven technical and management skills along with a sound grasp of the communication and financial aspects of the role. In addition candidates should be able to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of modern green keeping equipment and its maintenance and usage.

The Course Manager will:

- Lead in course development and project work to enhance club reputation.
- Apply modern and traditional techniques in the preparation and presentation of the golf course
- Maintain equipment
- Manage costs within an agreed budget
- Recruit, develop and manage the greenkeeping team

To apply please send a detailed CV and cover letter, highlighting relevant experience and to the Secretary at: clubmanager@westerngales.com before the closing date of 12 August 2016.
Western Gales Golf Club, Gales, Irvine, Ayrshire. KA11 5AE



Job Description – Head Greenkeeper

An exciting opportunity has arisen at Sheerness Golf Club, one of the oldest independent member's golf clubs in Kent, to join our dedicated greenkeeping team as manager and leader of the team, working to present the golf course to the highest possible standard at all times.

The full-time, permanent position is based on a 37.5 hour week with weekend working on a rota basis. Salary and benefits package will be offered commensurate with qualifications, experience and suitability.

For further information and details of how to apply please email secretary@sheernessgolfclub.co.uk

Sheerness Golf Club,
Power Station Road, Sheerness, Kent. ME12 3AE
01795 662585



G

& FINALLY...

Gorses for courses

& FINALLY

BIGGA sustainability executive James Hutchinson met up with Fergal Cushen, an environmentally friendly greenkeeper from the Old Course at St Andrews to discover how a 10-year plan of gorse management has improved the famous links.

Fergal explained how gorse management has become an important part of improving many courses across the UK.

The Old Course is one such, where years of growth and little maintenance have meant this native species has been allowed to dominate for many areas, often at the expense of heather beds and open grassland.

As with all landscapes of ecological importance, striking a balance is the key to its long term prosperity.

It was as far back as the 1950s and the rapid spread of myxomatosis that tipped the balance in favour of gorse. Prior to this disease, large

populations of rabbit had played an important role in controlling the spread of woody plants.

The need for gorse management was first addressed in earnest in 2005 when the STRI's Bob Taylor produced a 10-year gorse management plan for The Old Course.

Since then, the work has been ongoing to remove degenerate and leggy gorse stands with little or no ecological value. Nesting birds will avoid these sparse and open plants as they provide little or no cover.

These woody plants also have fewer flowers, meaning less nectar for the bees and butterflies.

When managed correctly, gorse provides nesting sites for songbirds and the long flowering period provides a welcome source of nectar for birds and invertebrates in early spring and winter.

But gorse management is certainly not simply cutting the gorse down and allowing it to regrow. Managing this aggressive plant means

topping it, which retains a height of 1-1.5 metres, coppicing it, which means cutting it back to stumps 150-300mm above ground, or sometimes completely removing it.

The aim is to create a denser stand, but there must also be a diversity of structure, which ensures the maximum number of ecological niches.

It is for this reason that Mr Taylor outlined several different management prescriptions for the gorse areas on The Old.

The free-draining and light soil of St Andrews is perfect for gorse to dominate.

It is also just as important to view gorse management from the golfer's perspective, which reveals the strategic and aesthetic importance of the plant.

Gorse can be used to the benefit of the course. When it has not been managed properly it can impede sight lines, not only of the areas in play but also on a wider scale.

On a famous course like St Andrews, part of the experience is taking in the iconic views and gorse which is well maintained adds to the definition of the overall layout of the course.

St Andrews gorse





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