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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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BTME an all over hit

Right towards the very end of BTME as the exhibitors started to wearily pack away materials and the last few visitors made their last strolls through the halls, I was struck by a map on the wall of the Golf Environment Organization (GEO) stand adjacent to the BIGGA stand. Across the week the GEO, ably assisted by a number of BIGGA members had been getting golf clubs to sign up for their OnCourse Programme, an online tool that helps plot a journey to sustainability for golf clubs. Over 60 clubs took the plunge during the vibrant three days of the exhibition, a figure GEO were delighted with. What really interested me was the map, covered with sticky labels representing where the clubs had come from. The labels were strewn across the whole of Great Britain and Ireland along with a few from overseas. This served as a great reminder of just what an important event BTME has become for the UK and further afield.

In total over 4,000 visitors attended BTME 2016, thronging five Halls of the Harrogate International Centre. Over 150 exhibitors displayed their wares and the comprehensive Continue to Learn programme attracted over 3,000 people for the first time. It was a special week and with the Golf Business and Industry Convention (GolfBIC) successfully taking place alongside us for the first time absolutely cemented BTME as a key event in the golf industry schedule as well as the greenkeeping/turf management calendar.

Sincere thanks to all that took part – exhibitors, speakers, visitors and of course our committed team of staff who combined brilliantly and put on a seamless show. Congratulations to the very many award winners and achievers who are recognised elsewhere in these pages.

BTME is also an important week for BIGGA, as an opportunity for our members to congregate, network, share problems and solutions and generally put the world to rights and for the Association to transact formal business. At the AGM it was a thrill to welcome Iain Macleod into the role of President, I know he is going to represent BIGGA with distinction and passion over the next 12 months, he is rightly respected by his peers both at home and abroad and is a shining example of first class British greenkeeping.

Les Howkins has given outstanding service to BIGGA over the last year in the role of Chairman, it is a hugely exciting time for the Association and Les has been heavily involved in many of the strides we have made as a business. His transition into the 'new' role of Chairman, with even more of a focus on the business side will provide great stability and continuity and enable us to drive forward with a firm eye on our long term future. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with and for Les, he has been incredibly supportive and helpful but has also been more than prepared to provide challenge and a critical eye, he listens to reason and has an eye for detail. All in all a very healthy balance and one that I would love to see replicated in golf clubs across the country.

One area Les has been involved with closely is the review of the Apprenticeship qualifications in England. BIGGA has worked closely with the GTC and if all goes to plan will continue to do so even more closely in the future. The Apprentice Review is undoubtedly changing the landscape of greenkeeper qualifications for the better, providing high quality opportunities at all levels and will, I firmly believe, be part of an education revolution in the golf industry over the next two or three years.

As usual this magazine contains a range of useful articles that will, I hope, be both interesting and informative and will contribute to the continual raising of standards for which greenkeeping is rightly renowned.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

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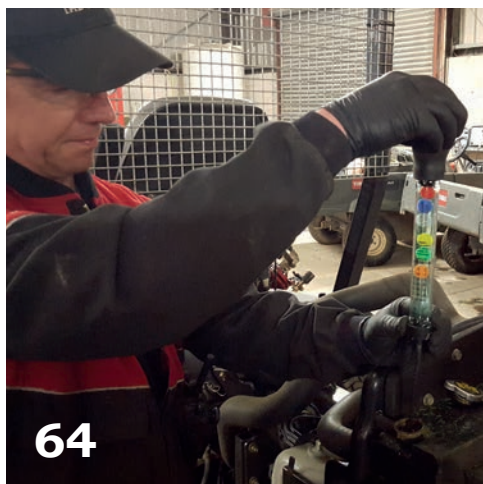




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A very warm welcome to
BIGGA's new President,
Iain Macleod

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



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

Busy hands are happy hands

At the AGM during BTME, Iain Macleod of Tain Golf Club in the Highlands took up the reins as the Association's first greenkeeper President. Greenkeeper International caught up with him to find out what the year had in store.



There's an old saying – “If you want something doing, ask a busy man”, this may as well be Iain Macleod's mantra.

In October 2016 Iain will clock up 40 years service as course manager at the historic Tain Golf Club, coincidentally in July he will also clock up 40 years of marriage to Barbara and in December he has the small matter of his 60th birthday celebrations! Quite a year, so when last year he was asked by BIGGA's board of management to consider accepting the role as the Association's President he must surely have had reservations?

“Not at all,” he said “it never crossed my mind to turn it down, my only thought was whether the golf club would support me and I'm pleased to say they were as thrilled as I was and were behind me from the start.”

But being busy is second nature to Iain, as it seems it is for very many in the greenkeeping industry, it is simply a way of life.

He moved to Tain in his native Highlands after serving an apprenticeship at Nairn Golf Club and a brief sojourn south to manage a nine-hole course in Coventry called The Grange. Tain is



Photo Credits: with thanks to Kieran Dodds



a traditional links course designed by Old Tom Morris which has hosted many prestigious tournaments and events during Iain's time at the helm including the County Championship, North of Scotland Strokeplay, Scottish Ladies and Scottish Girls events plus many more.

Iain heads up a small team, there are only two other full-time greenkeepers and this crew is supplemented in the summer by two part-time greenkeepers. Previously the team was as large as five full-timers but budget cuts in the recent economic downturn took their toll. As is so often the case innovation has been necessary and Iain now utilises his seasonal staff budget in a different way to achieve the high standards he craves. Rather than take on one full time seasonal member of staff he recruits two who do all day Monday then four-hour shifts, 6-10am for the rest of the week including alternate weekends. This system ensures maximum capacity at crucial times preparing the course for play.

Iain describes himself as a traditionalist, certainly a follower of Jim Arthur's methods, though "not 100% so", and he is still very much



a hands on course manager, spending a great deal of his time 'on the tools'.

Whilst Tain is a historic course, it celebrated its 125th birthday last year, the club doesn't stand still. Iain has been involved in many developments, including overseeing a new 9th hole and major changes to the 4th hole, turning a straight away 499 yard par 5 into a 542 yard left to right dogleg. These projects were designed, costed and constructed by Iain along with his staff and aided by a JCB digger/driver, giving valuable experience to all involved. The completion of the work enabled Tain to gain a stroke on its SSS and provide golfers with a fair but testing layout. Recent improvements have included the construction of a two hole practice facility, a new putting green, a short game practice area with bunkers for junior coaching, a nine hole short course using new tees and greens 1 to 4 and 14 to 18 and an open ditch at 1 and 18.

Somehow he also manages to find the time to watch his beloved Leeds United despite Elland Road being located a good 300 miles from Tain Golf Club! Alas Leeds' results are not particularly positive



right now meaning it really is a labour of love. Rail is his preferred method of travel and the travel time provides a good opportunity to indulge another of his interests, as he downloads and watches several films during the journeys.

Indeed travel has been a big part of his life, particularly to the United States. He first visited the Golf Industry Show in 1996 and has been practically every year since, which has resulted in him making many friends stateside and gaining some extraordinary golfing experiences. It is fair to say he has ticked off a fair number of 'bucket list' activities such as attending the US Masters at Augusta, playing at Pine Valley and meeting Arnold Palmer in that time.

Golf is important to Iain, a talented player in his day and still pretty handy off 7 handicap. Both his sons play to a high level; Ross eschewed a formative career in greenkeeping to become a professional, now based at the Clydeway Performance Centre near Glasgow whilst James remains a high quality amateur and works in golf in Palm Desert, California.

Throughout his career Iain has been actively involved



with BIGGA, serving on BIGGA committees for decades, firstly on the Scotland North Section, including time as Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer. He also served on the Scottish Board notably as Education Officer, and was on the main Board of Management from 2002 to 2007.

A natural choice then for President but the opportunity came as a surprise, "It's a great honour and quite unexpected. I've been involved in BIGGA since the very start, and moving forward it's become a more professional and well-organised Association, and I want to help us continue along that road."

"I'm looking forward to working alongside the Chairman and Chief Executive and also being part of the Board of Management. I also have the 100% backing of the committee at Tain and I would like to thank them and everyone at the club for their continuing support."

And what of his plans for his term as President? Well, not surprisingly Iain knows what

he wants "Engaging young greenkeepers is critical," he says, "the recent formation of the Young Greenkeepers Committee is fantastic, seeing them at BTME, full of enthusiasm with their whole futures in front of them was quite inspiring. I want to make sure we continue to focus on the younger greenkeepers, ensuring the Association provides the sort of opportunities to them that I've had in my career."

And there is a message for the not so young too: "We need to grow the membership, we've moved forward in so many ways over the years and now is the time for all greenkeepers to get behind the work of BIGGA. Together we are so much stronger and can achieve so much more for greenkeeping."

He would be forgiven for wanting an easy ride with so much happening in 2016 but that is not his style, no, he intends to get out and about, meet lots and lots of members and friends of the Association and play his part in the continued growth of BIGGA.



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Club Car

BIGGA is delighted to welcome Club Car, the world's largest manufacturer of small-wheel electric vehicles, as its latest Education Supporter, joining just days before BTME 2016.

Club Car, which exhibited at BTME in January, offers an extensive range of dependable, high quality and technologically-advanced utility vehicles designed to help greenkeepers enhance their operations.

The company becomes the 17th industry organisation to sign up as an Education Supporter, and with eleven BIGGA Partners already on board it shows how strongly the industry is supporting the Continuing Professional Development of BIGGA members.

Dennis de Roos, Utility Sales Director for Club Car in EMEA, said: "Club Car has

CLUB CAR BECOMES LATEST BIGGA EDUCATION SUPPORTER

been one of the most respected brands in the golf industry for many years, with the range of fully connected golf and utility vehicles, alongside its various vehicle configurations, designed to provide golf course managers and greenkeepers with complete control over their fleet.

"The company advocates BIGGA's commitment to the continuing professional development of its members and the ongoing support of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession.

"By becoming a BIGGA Education Supporter, Club Car endeavours to support the Association and help further improve the golf business as a whole."

BIGGA's Business Development Manager Jill Rodham said: "Club Car is a really forward thinking, dynamic

company and it's great to add them to our ever increasing list of BIGGA Education Supporters.

"It's another boost just ahead of BTME 2016. Club Car's stand is sure to attract plenty of industry interest, and we're not only looking forward to welcoming them to the exhibition but also having a mutually beneficial relationship in the future."



Dennis de Roos and Jim Croxton at BTME

PATRONS AWARD WINNERS

The Scottish Region held their Annual Patrons Award lunch on Wednesday 2 December at Dunblane New Golf Club with Jim Paton, Chairman hosting this most prestigious event.

Jim started off the proceedings by thanking our host golf club for allowing use of this excellent venue and for providing attendees with a fantastic lunch. Roddy Morrison from Dunblane New Golf Club was on hand to receive a letter of thanks and a donation from the region.

Iain MacLeod, President Elect was the guest speaker at the lunch discussing his hopes and views on the new role with the association. Jim thanked Iain and asked him to present the certificates to the winners:

- Central Section – Richard Jenkinson, Deputy Course Manager at G West
- East Section – Blair Shearer, Greenkeeper at Dunbar Golf Club
- North Section – Fraser Jardine, First Assistant at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

- South West Section – Steven Carmichael, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club
- West Section – Mark Cummine, Course Manager at Westerwood Hotel.

The award itself provides each of the winners with education at Continue to Learn to the tune of £250 along with travelling expenses to Harrogate and three nights accommodation.

However this year's award includes an added bonus for winners. Richard Windows from STRI was on hand to announce a partnership with the Scottish Region that will see the winners visit Bingley for their STRI Research Day that will include one night's accommodation. Jim welcomed this announcement and noted that this should hopefully add to the attractiveness of the award for our members.

Jim then went on to express the region's gratitude for their continued support, without which the region would be



Patrons Lunch Award Winners

unable to provide members with the various events held each year.

Thanks to our patrons: Aitkens, Amenity Sales, BAYER, Brysons Tractors, Campey Turf Care Systems, Double A, Everris, Fairways, Farmura, Franklin Soil, Germinal Seeds, Greentech, Hamilton Bros, Headland Amenity, Hendersons, Hugh

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FIRST YGC EVENT

David Stewart from the Young Greenkeeper Committee reports on their first official event, which took place at The Belfry in December.

Being a part of the Young Greenkeeper Committee allows me to express my thoughts on the needs of young greenkeepers in the industry so I wanted to get stuck in and organise the first of many course walks around the Midlands. I believe that there aren't enough young greenkeepers getting involved in events that could potentially help them with networking and confidence building as well as being educational. The events are organised in a way that brings everyone together in a relaxed atmosphere and aimed at similar aged passionate greenkeepers that are keen to make a progression in the industry.

The day started off at 9:00am with a brief description by Jamie Wade of what the day had in store. We made our way around the newly refurbished hotel, which included a quick stop at the Pro shop, the Ryder Cup Heritage area and the restaurants. We were all lucky enough to have a go on the brand new 12 hole miniature golf that has miniature versions of some of the most iconic holes in Ryder Cup history which was a nice touch to the day.

The lads chucked their boots on and we made our way down the famous 10th hole on the Brabazon where the course walk began. We had a look at the projects going on which included bunker renovations on the 10th and 11th. As we made our way around the course everyone had the chance to fire plenty of questions at Jamie and also found a bit out about each other.

We had a tour around the compound looking at all the machines and learning about the daily routines they have in place. The Head mechanic Chris Minton also chatted to us about his workshop, daily tasks and the vast amount of machines they have to take care of including all the buggies. The course walk then carried on as we made our way back down the 18th hole and finished with a tour around the PGA Golf Academy and practice facilities.

I would like to thank The Belfry along with Angus Macleod and Jamie Wade for hosting, and BIGGA's Midland Regional Administrator Roger Butler for helping me organise it. I hope that everyone who attended the course walk enjoyed it and I hope we have many more successful Young Greenkeeper events across the country in the future.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SCOTTISH CONFERENCE



The Scottish Conference will again be held at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline on Tuesday 8 March with an excellent line-up of speakers.

Firstly Gordon McKie from the Old Course, St Andrews will discuss all of the preparation work leading up to the 2015 Open Championship and indeed the problems that were faced by the team over the five days.

Our second presenter is Dr David Greenshields from Barenbrug UK. David will present 'The Story of Grass – from greenhouse to Open Championship' that explains in detail all the processes, breeding, trials, production etc. that a new grass cultivar goes through to bring it to market.

A new initiative has been put together this year with Stewart Duff, Course Manager at Gullane Golf Club discussing with Paul Miller (SRUC) the operational requirements for the 2015 Scottish Open particularly in respect of creating a composite course for this prestigious event.

After lunch our chairman Jim Paton will provide his address and will ask the

association's president, Iain MacLeod to say a few words on behalf of BIGGA.

Our first presenter in the afternoon session will be Henry Bechelet from the ICL Group (formerly Everris) who will discuss 'Getting your greens going in the Spring' that touches on initiation of spring growth with different fertilisers applied at different times in early spring to see what worked best.

Finally, we are delighted to have Dave Langheim MG from Wimbledon Park Golf Club coming up from London to talk through the work his team is charged with before, during and after the Wimbledon Tennis Championship. Dave will explain the impact that the championship has on the golf course!

As the highlight of the region's education calendar, delegates can claim 6 CPD credits for attending. Further details can be found on the BIGGA and Scottish Region's websites, including the booking form. Alternatively contact John Young, Regional Administrator via email on johnyoung@bigga.co.uk for further details.



BIGGA AWARDS CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN GREENKEEPING



The BIGGA Welcome Celebration at BTME 2016 saw BIGGA's annual awards presented to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the greenkeeping industry in the last 12 months.

Awards were handed out for the Young Greenkeeper of the Year, Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year and the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year. The St Andrews Greenkeeping team kicked off the night with the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year award sponsored by GBR Technology for the 2015 Open Championship. The team, led by Gordon Moir and Gordon McKie, had to contend with course flooding and strong winds, forcing The Open into a Monday finish for the first time since 1988. GBR Technology managing

director, Paul Morris, commented "It is important to recognise the hard work, professionalism and achievements of the greenkeeping community, we were thus delighted to sponsor this award. Well done to St Andrews and all the nominees."

Jack Groves of Broadway Golf Club earned the Jacobsen sponsored Young Greenkeeper of the Year award. The 20-year-old said: "It felt really good. It's a great honour. I've only been greenkeeping for two years so it came as quite a shock to me. I came into the job through Dan Taylor at the club and just hit the ground running. I got on well with everyone and was always keen to get involved and help out. I'm looking to work my way up through Myerscough College and go as far as possible and keep enjoying what I'm doing."

Minchinhampton Golf Club Greenkeeping Team won the final award, the Pitchcare sponsored Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year after completely rebuilding 134 bunkers in-house. Asked why he thought the team had won the award, courses manager Paul Worster said: "I think it was a really good team effort. It was a big project for a reasonable-sized golf club, but it was one that was very necessary. The area of the bunkers in general was dragging down the condition of the golf course. To get an outside company to do it would've been tremendously expensive so the staff took it on themselves. It was a major area of criticism of the golf course. We had over 400 answers to a survey in 2012 and 193 of them negatively mentioned bunkers."



PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TAKE OFFICE



Iain Macleod (L)

At the Association's AGM held during BTME, Iain Macleod formally took office as President and Sid Arrowsmith MG stepped into the new position of Vice President. Both stated how honoured they were to have been offered the positions by the Board of Management and spoke of their pleasant surprise at being chosen. Iain resolved to represent the Association to the best of his abilities and hoped to meet very many

members during his year of office.

During the AGM the Chairman, Les Howkins MG, presented an engraved silver tray to Jeremy 'Jez' Hughes who stepped down from the Board of Management in Summer 2015 after 4 1/2 years representing the Northern Region. Jez switched careers during 2015 joining Symbio as a technical representative after decades of service at the Vale of Llangollen Golf



STRI, the world's leading sports turf consultancy, honoured the winners of the 2016 Golf Environment Awards at The Hotel Du Vin in Harrogate during BTME.

It was a night to remember, there were tears and laughter throughout the evening and the air was buzzing with chatter as likeminded individuals shared new and innovative ideas that showcased the true ecological value of golf courses within our diminishing landscape. New friends were made and old friendships were rekindled, each of the finalists cheering each other on, simply happy to have been recognised for their hard work. When the winners were announced, there wasn't a person in the room without a smile on their face, each humbled to have been part of what was a very special evening. It was very humbling to see the smaller less known and smaller 9 hole clubs sitting alongside more well-known 18 hole clubs. Indeed what was very apparent was that all golf clubs large or small, rich or poor, were represented; and this should give heart to everyone still erroneously believing that

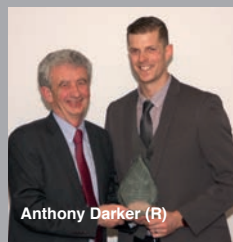
these awards are for the larger more resourced golf clubs! Or even though striving to improve your environment you are still not doing enough, nothing could be further from the truth. If you and your club are undertaking work to conserve wildlife or improve your golfing landscape then we at STRI need to know about you. These awards are all about celebrating golf's environmental standing. Demonstrating to the wider communities that golf courses appropriately managed do benefit people and wildlife in so many different ways.

The winners of the 2016 Golf Environment Awards are:

- Environmental Golf Course of the Year – Pyecombe Golf Club, Pyecombe in Surrey
- Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year – Anthony Darker, Elsham Golf Club, North Lincolnshire
- Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year – Richmond Golf Club, North Yorkshire

Each award winner showcased their commitment to sustainability and best practice, presenting a clear understanding of current and future environmental

Oh What a Night The Golf Environment Awards winners announced



Anthony Darker (R)



Anthony McGeough -
Richmond GC (R)

projects across the golf course. Each entry for the awards was independently judged on demonstrable environmental achievements and outcomes and the winners were selected following a rigorous inspection of 27 golf clubs across the UK by STRI's team of experts.

Bob Taylor, STRI's Ecology & Environment Manager, said: "The standard this year was incredible, as always, and highlights the considerable contribution golf courses deliver to their natural surroundings. Each of this years winners showed innovation, using the knowledge they had learned over the years to nurture the land for ecology and wildlife. It is important to recognise that the winning clubs all simply utilised the resources that they already had, working together as a team for change, creating new habitats and enhancing existing. Environment and ecology issues continue to be a major factor for golf as they not only enhance landscapes but directly influence the quality and overall playing experience of golf courses. This years winners were chosen for showing a remarkable level of commitment and energy

in delivering high quality courses, whilst working to successfully improve their local environment. All of our finalists are showcasing excellence and best practice in the management of sustainable land management and show that, regardless of money or club size, anyone and everyone has the ability to make a difference."

The three winners each receive the trip of a lifetime to Europe and the chance to visit some of the world's leading golf facilities and sites of specific ecological interest.

STRI facilitate the Golf Environment Awards but this would not be possible without the long standing and loyal commitment of the sponsors. STRI is indebted to Ransomes Jacobsen, Syngenta, Weidenmann, Tillers Turf and Farmura Aquatrols. The awards also depend upon the help and support of BIGGA and our media sponsors Greenkeeping.

For further information about the golf environment awards please contact Sophie Vukelic on:

01274 565131 or at
Sophie.vukelic@stri.co.uk



Sid Arrowsmith (L)

Club. Scott Reeves, course manager at Leyland Golf Club joined the Board initially as an interim replacement for Jez and has now formally commenced his three year term of office.

Les also bade a fond farewell to Past Chairman Chris Sealey who, he stated, had served the Association with distinction as both representative of the South West & South Wales Region and then as Chairman. Les said that it

had been a privilege to be Chris's Vice Chairman, to get to know him as a friend and to work so closely with him.

During the AGM George Barr was elected to serve a further two-year term on the Board of Management as Guardian and four members were bestowed the honour of Life Membership of the Association: Duncan Gray, Hugh McLatchie, Jeff Mills and Arnold Phipps-Jones.



Jez Hughes (L)



FANTASTIC RESPONSE AT HIGHLAND CALLING

The Scottish Region hosted the first ever Highland Conference at Nairn Dunbar Golf Club on Wednesday 11 November with over 90 delegates in attendance. Iain MacLeod, President-Elect of BIGGA hosted the day.

Delegates were provided with an excellent line-up of presenters with Paul Murphy, Courses Manager for Fife Golf Trust kicking off the day with his presentation on managing seven golf courses for a non-profit making organisation. He was followed on stage by Gordon McKie, the Course Manager for the Old Course, St Andrews talking through the preparation work and the running of the maintenance during the 2015 Open Championship.

After lunch, Jim Paton (Scottish Chairman) provided a brief address to the delegates on the plans for the region before Richard Windows from the STRI shared his thoughts on the science around soil content and organic matter.

Our final speaker was Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper on the PGA Course at the Gleneagles resort. Steve provided his presentation by reviewing his experiences of the course hosting the Ryder Cup in 2014. The delegates were all taken back to September 2014 as he talked through the running of the team and the daily preparation undertaken by all the team. Steve concluded the presentation by thanking all of the team for their efforts and provided a short video that had been produced by James Bledge during the week.

Iain MacLeod drew the conference to a close by thanking our speakers and indeed the delegates for making the day extremely successful. Our final thanks go to Nairn Dunbar Golf Club for hosting this very successful event.

The pressure is now on to determine our next steps in the Highlands and I would welcome all and any suggestions. Please contact me by emailing johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

QUOTES

"Excellent conference today and very well supported" – Robert Patterson (Royal Aberdeen)

"Really enjoyed the conference and hopefully there will be enough support in the Highlands for future events" – Eoin Riddell (Royal Dornoch)

Thanks to our patrons: Aitkens, Amenity Sales, BAYER, Brysons Tractors, Campey Turf Care Systems, Double A, Everris, Fairways, Farmura, Franklin Soil, Germinal Seeds, Greentech, Hamilton Bros, Headland Amenity, Hendersons, Hugh King, Indigrow, Lely UK Direct, MacGregors, McNab Sport, Nairn Brown, Oakland Amenity, Rigby Taylor, Robin Hume Associates, Scotlube, SGM Contracts, Sheriff Amenity, Souters, Sports Turf Services, Stewart Plant Sales, Symbio, Terra Firma, Thomas Sheriff, Thorntrees, Turf Irrigation Services, Turf & Amenity Solutions, Turftec Amenity.

AMANDA CHATS TO... ROBERT TOSH

This month, Amanda Dorans got the chance to catch up with new member Robert Tosh who's based at Kilmarnock Barrassie.

AD: Hi Robert. Thanks for agreeing to feature in this month's edition of GI.

RT: Hello Amanda, great to hear from you and its a pleasure to be asked to do this interview.

AD: Great to hear that you've joined the Association after giving up your membership a few years ago. Have you experienced any changes since re-joining?

RT: I guess the main thing for me is the educational side of the association. When I first joined BIGGA the CPD programme wasn't as big as it is now. It is a great way to show that you are continuing to learn and develop your skills as both a greenkeeper and individual.

AD: I know that education is big focus for you, and that you've attended a few events recently – do you have a particular favourite?

RT: I've enjoyed them all, but especially the recent visit our section made to Royal Troon. It was great to see some of the changes that have been taking place in preparation for the Open Championship.

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

RT: I have been a greenkeeper for nearly 13 years, spending the last eight of them here at Barassie.

AD: What do like most about being a greenkeeper, and the least?

RT: I genuinely enjoy all aspects of the job, and also the challenges that the job sometimes brings, but I get the most satisfaction from just seeing the course presented at its best. The least favourite I would say, is still having to deal with naive golfers who don't understand or respect the hard work that we do.

AD: What led you to become a greenkeeper?

RT: I guess I got into greenkeeping almost by accident. I wasn't sure what to choose as a career. I enjoyed playing golf and I got friendly with a local course manager who suggested I went back to college to study for an NC in greenkeeping which I did at Langside College in Glasgow. When I completed that, I was lucky enough to be offered a position at Dundonald Links, firstly as a seasonal but then became full time. They put me through my NVQ level 3 and I also gained my spraying certificates and had some great experiences there. I have since moved to Barassie and have also continued my education, currently studying for a HNC in golf course management.

AD: Do you have any hobbies?

RT: I play some golf when I can but my main hobby is cycling. I try to get out on the bike at least 3-4 times a week through commuting to work where weather allows and also a ride at the weekend. I clock up between 100-120 miles per week. I am also about to start my track accreditation at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome.

Thanks Robert, great to catch up. All the best.



OPM – SPRAY AND YOU COULD PAY IN 2016

In 2015 London's private landowners unlucky enough to be hit by OPM and issued with a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) by Forestry Commission (FC), but lucky enough to be in the Control Zone, had the required control measures organised and paid for by FC. Most observers reasonably assumed this policy would continue into 2016 and beyond, and to be fair it may well do so, but things now being said by those clearly in the know indicate a danger of this operational and financial support, provided by FC, being taken away by the government.

In September 2015 LTOA (London Tree Officers) issued a hard-hitting Position Statement on OPM which raised a number of fears for the future. One concerned an ongoing review into the future role of FC in the control of OPM. The LTOA statement expressed real fears that operational and financial support could be stopped leaving local authorities and private landowners to shoulder the entire burden of OPM control.

The LTOA statement concluded by stating the need to continue a centralised, co-ordinated control programme and that by devolving control to numerous Local Authorities and land owners the level and cost effectiveness of OPM control would be greatly reduced. No doubt a polite way of saying it will be a recipe for disaster with OPM control descending into omni-shambles.

Greenkeeper International went down to Harrow on the fringes of north west London and one of the latest and most northerly London Boroughs to be hit by OPM, with nests found at several locations in south Harrow during 2015. We spoke with a representative of one of the unfortunate landowners now host to this invasive pest. The landowner is not a golf club although there are

several high profile golf courses within walking distance of the outbreak.

FC issued a SPHN and sent in private sector specialists to remove OPM nests from several English oak trees and bag them for destruction. The infestation had been found too late in the season for insecticide spraying to be effective.

As per government policy for 2015, FC paid for the work carried out by the private company on their behalf. According to the SPHN the landowner has to apply precautionary insecticide sprays in spring 2016 to all at risk trees within a 50m radius of the 2015 infestation. Greenkeeper International understands that the landowner expects to have to organise and pay for this mandatory spray application scheduled for spring 2016.

If so there are two possible reasons for what would be a radical change in FC policy.

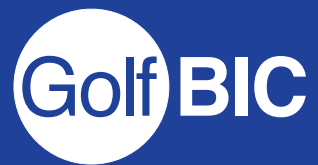
- Due to significant spread of OPM in 2015, the Core Zone could be extended to include a number of additional infested London boroughs (including Harrow) which were in the 2015 Control Zone. However once in the 2016 Core Zone, and under present FC policy, landowners in Harrow would not be forced to control OPM. Unless of course FC also changes this part of its policy and starts to re-issue SPHN's for landowners in the Core Zone. In 2015 it did not.

- A significant change in the government's role (through FC) and alluded to in the LTOA September 2015 Position Statement on OPM. Following the ongoing review into OPM control UK government could downgrade FC participation both operationally and financially. If this happens, current FC policy of paying for OPM control operations on privately owned land in the Control Zone could disappear.

Dr Terry Mabbett



CHECK OUT THE



2016 REVIEW

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SE GOLF & DINNER DAY

The South East Region's annual Golf and Dinner Day will be held at Walton Heath Golf Club on Friday 4 March 2016.

This is one of greenkeeping's longest running events and is always well supported.

For entry forms and more details, please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator on:
01737 819343 or 07841 948410,
 or email
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

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

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

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



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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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

BTME GREAT SUCCESS AGAIN

The BIGGA Stand welcomed lots of visitors during last months BTME. This year the stand welcomed the addition of the Young Greenkeepers Committee (YGC) who were on hand to chat to all visitors and members who were new to the industry and were keen to see how to get more involved. For more information on the YGC contact ygcbigga.co.uk.

The BIGGA Team were on hand during the three days of the show as dozens of new members joined whilst over 50 renewed their membership on the Stand. New photographs were taken and many collected information and forms on the range of great benefits and services membership of BIGGA

offers.

The BIGGA Stand also showcased videos and photographs from last years Tournament Support Teams and the Sheffield to York walkers who raised a fantastic £2,500 for the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

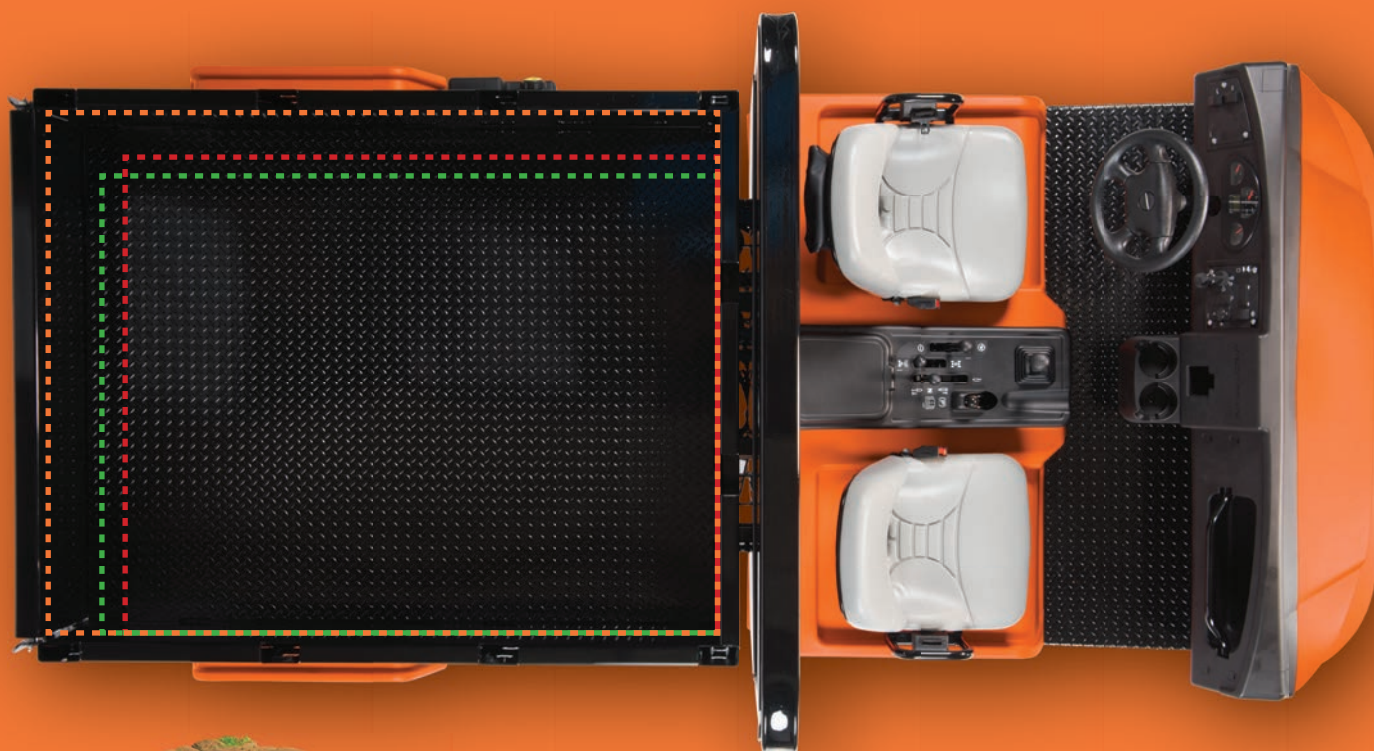
BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison said "The Team were kept very busy during the three days of the show on the stand and enjoyed meeting current members of BIGGA and chatting with potential new members about the benefits and services available to them if they were to join".

A draw was held each day to win a tablet kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Mansfield

Sand, the lucky winners were: Tuesday - Lee Connell, Deputy Course Manager at Wallasey Golf Club, when we reward Lee he was on the motorway on his way home, so Northern Regional Administrator Sandra Raper presented Lee with his tablet, Lee said "I can't believe I won or that I'm going to be in GI, I've never been in the magazine before."

Wednesday - Pete Maybury, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, Pete rushed back to the stand to claim his tablet from Richard Fry of Rigby Taylor. Thursday - member of the YGC Jack Hetherington claimed the final tablet. Well done to all our winners.

PUTS THE COMPETITION TO BED



Class-Leading Payload Capacity, Power & Comfort

The all-new Jacobsen Truckster XD heavy-duty utility vehicle features the largest and toughest bed in the industry. With a massive **1,610 kg (3,550-lb) payload capacity** and thick **12-gauge steel**, the Truckster XD hauls more turf, more rocks, more sand, more of anything you need to move. That means less trips, less time and less work. Only the all-new Jacobsen Truckster XD can make easy work of your toughest jobs. Visit www.jacobsen.com or your local Jacobsen dealer to schedule a demo.

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L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

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

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

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

'Proposal to Present' Continue to Learn at BTME 2017



Continue to Learn is recognised as the premier education event in Europe for the greenkeeping industry. To meet our aim to continually offer a diverse range of subjects that are relevant to greenkeepers at every stage of their career, we invite you to submit a 'Proposal to Present' at Continue to Learn at BTME 2017.

'Proposal to Present' offers the opportunity, for anyone interested in delivering an education event at Continue to Learn, to submit a proposal.

Continue to Learn events are delivered in varying formats including six, three and two hour classes or one hour seminars.

All proposals that are considered viable will be included in the 'Members Choice' survey providing

BIGGA members with the chance to vote on the education that they would be most interested in attending.

Selected core education content will still feature in the programme, but our aim is to attract new ideas, introduce new presenters and to provide interesting new angles to existing topics.

If you have something new or an innovative way of delivering your subject to the greenkeeping audience, submit your 'Proposal to Present' at:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2P2017



15-19
JANUARY 2017

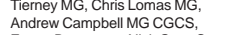
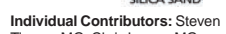
CPD APPROVED MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Congratulations to the following members who achieved CPD Approved Status:

Graeme Gallimore - Launceston Golf Club
Frank Tamblyn - Mullion Golf Club
Rhys Butler - Royal St Davids Golf Club
Spencer Adams-Dunston - Thorndon Park Golf Club
Richard Whyman - Burnham & Berrow Golf Club
Daniel Barnes - The Wentworth Club
Simon Ashford - Upton by Chester Golf Club
Simon Olver - Whitley Bay Golf Club

Congratulations to the following members who achieved their Approved and Milestone Status:

Alastair Higgs - Windlesham Golf Club
Paul Handy - Newport Golf Club
Simon Dexter - Myerscough College



GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

Better Billy Bunker Partners with Campbell Golf Associates

Better Billy Bunker is pleased to announce that they have signed an agreement with Andy Campbell of Campbell Golf Associates to represent the company in UK and Europe. The addition of Campbell Golf Associates is an important step for Better Billy Bunker as the popularity of the patented bunker construction method continues to grow worldwide.

Campbell, well known in the golf industry and a past Chairman of BIGGA, commented "the addition of the Better Billy Bunker Method to our portfolio fits perfectly with our ethos of finding innovative and efficient solutions to issues faced by golf clubs. The need to improve the performance of all aspects of golf course and club operations has never been greater as organizations fight for their share of the golfing market. This method offers a cost effective solution to bunker washout events and frees up valuable labour time to be spent on other course maintenance tasks. I am excited at the prospect of working with the entire Better Billy Bunker team to secure additional growth in the European market".

Todd Jenkins, Vice President of Better Billy Bunker, added "we could think of no better week than that of BTME to announce the addition of Campbell Golf Associates to our team. As a past Chairman of BIGGA, Andy is obviously well respected by his peers and is the perfect fit to lead our representation in UK and Europe. Andy shares our belief that greenkeepers and their staffs are forced to spend entirely too much time and resources on bunker maintenance. We at Better Billy Bunker have had a goal since day one to change

that and we look forward to working closely with Campbell Golf Associates for years to come".

The Better Billy Bunker Method has been implemented on over 500 golf courses worldwide, including many in the UK and Europe. Their client list ranges from municipal golf courses to facilities that have hosted numerous PGA and European Tour events, major championships and Ryder Cup matches.

For more information, contact:

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Campbell Golf Associates
+447768060923

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www.campbellgolfassociates.com

Better Billy Bunker
+16158478877
Info@billybunker.com
www.betterbillybunker.com
325 Hurst Drive, Old Hickory, TN
37138 USA 615.847.8877



Andy Campbell Bio

After starting out as an Apprentice Greenkeeper at Chester GC in 1978 Andy has held a number of positions in Golf including Golf Course & Estates Manager-Carden Park, Golf and Landscape Manager-Dukes St Andrews, Director of Golf-Lough Erne Resort, N Ireland and Regional Sales Manager, Golf-Jacobsen.

He is a past Chairman of BIGGA (2004) and holds current Certification status with CMAE (CCM, 2010), BIGGA (Master Greenkeeper, 1997) and GCSAA (CGCS, 2001). He is a passionate advocate of CPD and Lifelong Learning and is engaged in helping others realise their potential.



Does one type of pop-up sprinkler suit all golf courses?

Does one type of pop-up sprinkler suit all golf courses?

A general analysis of current pop-up sprinklers on golf courses shows a clear picture: the sprinklers fitted at the majority of courses are gear drive sprinklers. That therefore begs the question as to whether there is actually any need for the alternative, i.e. impact sprinklers.

Any direct comparison of the two types of drive system initially reveals many common characteristics. Casting range and quality of water distribution are very similar, even though it is often wrongly assumed that gear drive sprinklers are superior in this regard. This misconception is due to comparing the single-jet impact sprinklers that used to be sold to multi-jet gear drive sprinklers. Nowadays, both kinds are multi-jet and objective measurements, such as those taken by the Center of Irrigation Technology (CIT) in California, prove that they are equally good. Both types do, however, also have some indisputable advantages. Gear drive sprinklers are by virtue of their enclosed housing less susceptible to sand from the

outside and more tolerant in terms of installation height. For newly sown grass the finer droplets are also an advantage. Impact sprinklers produce larger drops and are therefore less susceptible to wind. They are also suitable for use with grey water. They come out on top in terms of length of service life and running costs as well.

Three examples of German golf courses from 2015 are provided here to illustrate the decision process:

1. Seeschlösschen Timmendorfer Strand Golf Course

The only 36-hole course in Schleswig-Holstein replaced its 42-year-old (!) impact sprinkler system last year. As the course is right on the coast, wind is a constant factor. When choosing the type of sprinkler, wind tolerance and cost-efficiency were therefore priorities. The course owners consequently installed the latest generation of impact sprinklers on all parts of the course.

2. Hofgut Georgenthal Golf Course

The particular priority in the building of this new 18-hole course was efficient use of water, which has to be conveyed 6 kilometres to the site. It was decided to use solely (615) individually controlled gear drive sprinklers in order to irrigate the course with the utmost efficiency. The site tends to be shielded from the wind.

3. Föhr Golf Club

When remodelling 12 of the 27 holes, the club was able to draw on its experience with gear drive sprinklers on this coastal links course. While these sprinklers' results on the tees and greens were very good and their insusceptibility to sand was praised, they produced less than optimum results on the fairways due to a reduced casting range in windy conditions. The result is now a mixed system, incorporating impact sprinklers on the fairways.

Author:
Klaus Sienhoff, Golf Manager PERROT



Tree Poppers - a new way to deal with unwanted woody species on golf courses

The Tree Popper was originally designed to deal with the invasive woody species introduced from Australia to the tip of Africa and were brought over to the UK in Sep 2015.

The Tree Popper is a robust, uncomplicated tool, operated by one person that extracts unwanted woody plant species roots and all. This avoids multi stem regrowth or having to stump treat with herbicide. The ground flora is only flattened and not disturbed or damaged within the zone of popping. Which leaves the flora cover intact and assists in restricting unwanted self-seeding woody scrub from recolonizing the sites.

Golf course managers were quick to add the Tree Popper to their arsenal of tools used in the control of unwanted wood species.

On golf courses it is used to extract unwanted self-seeded regeneration, remove hawthorns and other woody species that have been mown for decades and adopted a prostrate growth form, which sprouts roots from nodes on the branches once the branches are covered by moss. These low growing plants restrict heather and other desirable plant species from colonizing areas on the carries and on the infield plays areas alongside the fairways.

Tree Poppers are also used in areas that are unsuitable for machinery. Or where there are a few larger stems amongst smaller plants that could damage the machinery if these areas were to be mowed.

The Tree Poppers are available in three sizes; large, which can remove stems with diameters from 5mm – 50mm. The small, stem with diameters from 5mm – 30mm and the mini with stems from 5mm – 20mm in diameter. The tool has been successfully used on alder, rowan, oak, birch, sycamore, pine and other conifers. Unfortunately bramble stems are too weak and it cannot be extracted with the tree popper.

The jaws attached to any stem, grip it at the base thought the pressure applied to the top end of the handle. By firmly gripping and applying downward pressure, the plant is popped out of the ground roots and all. If however ground cover is present over the roots and around the stem, it is often necessary to sever the roots with a Silky root saw.

The only maintenance required, is keeping the jaws clean. It is low tech, quick and easy to use.

The Tree Poppers are available from Nature Conservation Services at am@natureconservationservices.com

or by phoning 01594 806263.



**Nature
Conservation
Services**

EVOLUTION



Rigby Taylor's 'Evolution', a knapsack system with a difference

Evolution is the name of a new knapsack sprayer range specially developed for the amenity professional user.

The system package has been designed to apply products effectively at 1 bar pressure and, with the supplied nozzles, apply a medium to coarse spray application rate of 150 litres per hectare, at normal walking speed.

Each Evolution knapsack sprayer comes equipped with 1 bar cf pressure regulator and a range of nozzles that offer operators a choice of spray swath widths and one that can be used for spot treating.

As the Evolution system controls many application variables, Rigby Taylor will be supplying users with specific dilution recommendations for its range of products.

All the operator has to do is select a suitable nozzle for the area being sprayed.

Initially four knapsack models will be available: Two back pack models with tank capacities of 15 litres and 20 litres and 12 litre and 7 litre compression sprayers.

The system also comes with a range of optional accessories such as a 3.2m or 5.4m extension lance, nozzle shrouds and made to measure booms.

Commenting on the launch Peter Corbett, Rigby Taylor's Chemical Product Manager stated, "The new Evolution range has been introduced to simplify the understanding and application of products applied through knapsack sprayers and to promote best practice in spray application"

Contact: Richard Fry
jpg images available on request

T: 01245 222750

M: 07799 625976

E: r.fry@rigbytaylor.com

Club Car becomes official supplier at the Home of Golf

Club Car to play an integral role in the operation of one of the most distinguished golf complexes in the world

Brussels, Belgium Jan. 22, 2016 – Club Car, the world's largest manufacturer of small-wheel electric vehicles and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, a world leader in creating comfortable, sustainable and efficient environments, has been appointed the official supplier of St. Andrews Links Trust (SALT), one of the most distinguished golf complexes in the world and the Home of Golf.

As one of the most respected brands in the golf industry for more than 50 years, Club Car will play an integral role in the operation of SALT's seven public courses, which includes the world renowned Old Course, a 29-time Open Championship venue, where golf has been played for more than 600 years.

"At the home of golf we pride ourselves on working with the very best suppliers and believe that, in Club Car, we have found the market leaders in golf car and utility vehicles," said Danny Campbell, commercial director of SALT.

"We have a commitment to



Club Car, alongside its newly established distributor in Scotland, MTS, will provide the top class service and operational support required by SALT. (Left to Right): Dennis de Roos, utility sales director of Club Car in EMEA; John Grant, director of golf at SALT; Danny Campbell, commercial director at SALT; Marco Natale, vice president of Club Car in EMEA; Peter Watson, managing director of MTS Group; Andrew Donnelly, depot manager at MTS Group; Kevin Hart, golf sales director for Club Car in EMEA

delivering memorable experiences for every golfer at the Links and believe this partnership will help us to achieve that objective."

The new fleet comprises of dependable Carryall® utility vehicles and efficient Precedent® golf cars, all featuring the latest connected technology, Guardian 2.

The ground-breaking connected mobile information capabilities on the Club Car vehicles will provide a range of benefits to SALT's operations team and course maintenance staff, including car control features to reduce speeds or stop the cars entering specific zones, car tracking and messaging, live battery diagnostics and reports on each car.

"It is vitally important we maintain our impeccable standards of service for the thousands of golfers who visit the Home of Golf each year and we believe that with the new partnership with Club Car, SALT and all of the golfers that play our courses will benefit from the highest quality of service support," Campbell said.

Established in 1974, SALT oversees the management and maintenance of the Links courses at St. Andrews – the Old Course, New Course, Jubilee

Course, Eden Course, Strathclyde Course, Balgove Course and The Castle Course – with more than 230,000 rounds played over the seven public courses each year.

"Club Car's historic association with many of the game's leading organisations, golf destinations and tournaments around the world has allowed us to understand the specific needs of one of golf's most iconic venues," said Marco Natale, vice president of Club Car in EMEA.

"This experience enables Club Car, alongside our newly established distributor in Scotland, MTS, to be able to provide the top class service and operational support required to ensure this unique relationship with SALT develops into a trusted partnership over the coming years."

In addition to SALT, Club Car is also an official supplier of golf cars to The European Tour, The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) and The PGA of America.

For more information about the SALT,

visit: www.standrews.com

For more information about Club Car,

visit: www.clubcar.tv

Re-vamped website simplifies amenity seed selection

UK based grass breeder and amenity seed supplier, Germinal, has launched a new version of its amenity specific website, www.germinal.com/amenity, to improve the detail of product information available to landscape architects, groundsmen and turf growers.

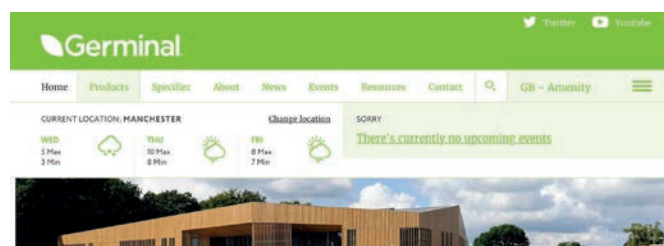
The new website hosts a wealth of amenity seed news, including up-to-the-minute grass seed mixture specifications and technical advice guides, as well as fertiliser data sheets, wildflower specifications and company news. The website also enables visitors to make online purchases of Germinal's full product portfolio.

The new website has been optimised to make it compatible with the latest tablet and smart-phone platforms and is populated with full details of Germinal's entire range of domestic, sports, and landscaping cultivars and seed mixtures.

The new site also contains an easy to use grass seed specification tool which simplifies the process of selecting the optimum seed mixture for a specific purpose: from seeding a school field, roadside embankment or reclaimed ground, to creating the perfect golf green or cricket wicket.

"The new website has been launched to coincide with Germinal's recent rebranding exercise," explains Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager for Germinal. "The new brand represents our focus on understanding our customers' needs and combining our knowledge and skills to meet those needs through innovative products and bespoke seed mixtures."

"As such, the new website has been designed to make it as easy as possible for landscape architects and other amenity grass seed customers to find the right seed variety or mixture to suit their specific requirement. The new site is clear and easy to navigate and contains everything our customers need within one user-friendly location."



Answers to anthracnose in America

by Dr Terry Mabbett

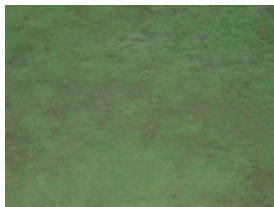
Anthracnose answers 1A and 1B.
'A' used to be for anthracnose and only in autumn (Picture 1A - main image) as a basal rot disease of *Poa annua*, but the pathogen broadened its scope into the foliar blight starting in summer (Picture 1B - inset image) and on a wider range of turf grass species.

Anthracnose used to be a one-dimensional disease problem in respect of seasonality, species and symptoms, occurring in autumn on annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) as a basal rot disease of the grass plant. Anthracnose has increasingly opened up in the last ten years to become a 'disease for all seasons' by spreading its wings onto more classic turf grass species like *Agrostis stolonifera* and causing a completely different and separate set of symptoms called foliar blight and over a more extended period.

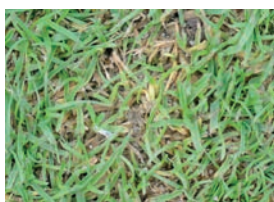
This basal rot/foliar blight dichotomy in anthracnose has been apparent in North America for a much longer period, and as such considerations of anthracnose tend to clearer, cleaner cut and more forthcoming. And not least due to the wide disparity in climatic conditions under which professional turf is managed and where foliar blight and basal rot symptoms may occur in complete isolation from each other. For instance only the



Anthracnose is now very much a summer season problem as a foliar blight disease on bents, fescues and ryegrasses as well as annual meadow grass.



The foliar blight disease dimension of Anthracnose can appear as early as July to cause considerable scarring across greens (Picture courtesy Syngenta).



The basal rot disease dimension of anthracnose has established a real hold on this *Poa* rich turf sward (Picture courtesy Syngenta).

foliar blight disease dimension of anthracnose is recorded in California.

Despite increasing knowledge and improved clarity on causes and control options anthracnose on turf was an enigma in more ways than one, and for many years it was not clear exactly what caused the disease and why.

Fungal pathogen responsible for anthracnose on turf grass was originally thought to be *Colletotrichum graminicola* the same species causing anthracnose on corn (maize) and sorghum. Subsequent DNA fingerprinting studies did show how the fungal pathogen isolated from turf grass was closely related (genetically) to the fungal pathogen causing maize anthracnose, but with sufficient and big enough differences to be considered as a separate species. Taxonomists promptly and somewhat perversely named the pathogen *Colletotrichum cereale*.

Reports from North America suggest anthracnose disease is usually most severe during warm weather although out-

breaks occur throughout the year to cause foliar blight or a basal rot of the leaf sheaths, crowns and stolons. However, talking about 'warm' versus 'cool' and especially for such a huge country like the United States (US), with wide ranging climatic conditions, is not objective and doesn't mean an awful lot. Unless otherwise stated the account on anthracnose from here on relates to observations and considerations made by turf agronomists from the New England states, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Arkansas.

Anthracnose is 'cool' on cool season grasses

Anthracnose caused by *C. cereale* in the US is essentially confined to 'cool season' grass species. The disease may be found on 'warm season' species on greens in the south and south western US but is relatively rare, not usually destructive and caused by different species of *Colletotrichum*. The UK does not have nor requires this mode of turf grass species dichotomy with regard



to climate. All the fine turf grasses grown and utilised here – the bents, fescues and meadow grasses – are classed as ‘cool season’ grasses in North America.

Amongst the wide range of cool season turf species and cultivars frequently used in the US, anthracnose is increasingly found on *A. stolonifera* (creeping bentgrass) and also but less frequently so on *Poa pratensis* (Kentucky blue grass), *Festuca* sp (fescues), *Lolium* sp (ryegrasses) and *Agrostis canina* (velvet bentgrass). That said anthracnose is most frequent, severe and destructive on *P. annua* (annual blue grass) managed and maintained at a putting green height of cut. *Poa annua* as the most favoured host, especially as ‘low cut’ turf, crystallises the most salient and significant fact about the anthracnose pathogen. That is how the fungus seizes on and takes advantage of turf in a stressed out condition.

Why *Poa annua* is the anthracnose ‘fall guy’

Indeed the single most important factor underpinning the rise of anthracnose is considered to be the increasing levels of collateral stress and damage caused by contemporary turf management practices and programmes endeavouring to satisfy higher playing pressure. In fact anthracnose is often present on same or similar turf grass compositions mowed at a higher height but in this instance without causing economic damage. This strongly suggests that plant health (vigour versus stress) is the determinant factor in frequency, severity and status of anthracnose on managed sports turf.

Of particular interest is why annual blue grass (*P. annua*) is so inherently susceptible to infection by *C. cereale* and the development of anthracnose disease. North American researchers claim the intrinsic susceptibility of *P. annua* to anthracnose relates to a suite of factors of which the weak perennial habit characteristic of this species is the most obvious and important. Closely related but more specific in nature is the species’ high profile expression of seed

heading (flowering) occurring predominantly in spring from April through June.

Seed head development clearly requires a considerable input of metabolic energy sourced from the oxidation (burning) of carbohydrate in cellular respiration, synthesised and replenished as glucose by photosynthesis in every chlorophyll-containing cell of the grass plant. It clearly follows that any developmental process which takes away and reallocates the product of photosynthesis (glucose) from root and shoot growth in favour of flowering and seed set, and just before onset of the most stressful time of the season (intense summer play), logically translates into stressed out, disease susceptible turf grass swards.

Summer stress tolerance in *P. annua* in particular is associated with increased root depth and number and total biomass, all features and factors which will clearly mitigate any potential loss of plant vigour. Seizing on these observations US scientists have incorporated enhanced tolerance to anthracnose into turfgrass breeding programmes with ongoing work on *P. annua* taking place in Pennsylvania and for *A. stolonifera* in New Jersey.

Anthracnose isolates – ‘horses for courses’

Like virtually all fungal pathogens *C. cereale* is not a single genetic entity but subdivided into various host-specific populations with differing abilities and capacities to infect and invade particular grasses, and indeed different turf grasses. DNA fingerprinting studies carried out as far afield as North America, Japan, Australia and Europe indicate how this is indeed the case. With few exceptions populations of *C. cereale* recovered from turf grasses will belong to sub groups different to those pathogen isolates sourced from non-turf grass species.

Furthermore, populations of the *C. cereale* pathogen infecting annual bluegrass (*P. annua*) are distinctly different from populations that infect creeping bentgrass (*A. stolonifera*). Such host-specificity of the *C. cereale* patho-



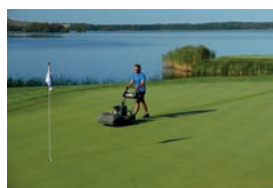
You can't beat excellent all round course management, as seen on this Bedfordshire course in late November 2015, as a basis for effective disease control in fine turf grasses, including anthracnose of *Poa annua* and increasingly *Agrostis stolonifera*.



Aeration should be carried out during low risk periods for anthracnose and preceded by the application of a protectant fungicide to prevent anthracnose infection of turf unavoidably stressed and damaged by mechanical treatments. (Picture courtesy Syngenta).



Paying due care and attention to the management of thatch will give minimum ‘refuge’ to the anthracnose pathogen *Colletotrichum cereale* which ‘ticks over’ as a saprophyte on dead organic matter (Picture courtesy Syngenta).



Turf agronomists place great store by the careful manipulation of mowing height and frequency to help manage anthracnose (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

gen is seen in practice on the golf course where anthracnose disease may only appear on either annual blue grass or creeping bentgrass when the two species are cultivated side by side in a mixed turf grass sward.

Management of anthracnose

Surprisingly little research is published on the management anthracnose mainly due to the inherent difficulty in obtaining a required consistency of infection and disease development so that consistently reliable field experimentation data can be obtained. Be that as it may, general consensus amongst turf agronomists in America is that manipulation of management practices to minimise physiological stress and mechanical damage levels in turf, coupled with integrated application of fungicides at

times when turf grass is most open to infection and disease development, is the key to keeping on top of anthracnose.

A duo of management practice advised by turf agronomists at the University of Arkansas for turf managers in Arkansas and neighbouring states, and in relation to summer sward fertility and manipulation of mowing programmes to maximise turf playability profiles while minimising anthracnose, is of special interest.

Turf agronomists say provision of adequate N (nitrogen) fertility is the most important summer management practice used to minimise anthracnose activity. Advice calls for application of 0.11lbs N/1000 square feet (50mg/m²) applied every 7 days throughout the summer and says extension of application interval to 28 days or even 14 days is insufficient to relieve summer stress levels, thus leaving swards open to infection by *C. cereale*. Studies at Arkansas have failed to correlate anthracnose with either K (potassium) or P (phosphorous) deficits.

Second management prac-

tice relates to mowing height and frequency. Many annual blue grass and creeping bent grass greens are maintained at a cutting height of 0.125 inch (3mm) or less say turf agronomists, despite the stressful conditions thus created and maintained and which in turn increase host susceptibility to anthracnose.

They say research shows significant decreases in the severity of anthracnose when mowing heights are raised by just 0.015 inch (0.4mm) while accepting golf course managers may be reluctant to increase height of cut due to accompanying reductions in ball speed on putting greens. As a compromise they suggest 'double cutting' at the higher height each day and rolling on alternate days, claiming this change in mowing practice will achieve and maintain higher speed surfaces without risking increases in anthracnose activity and severity.

Reasoning behind this particular manipulation in mowing rests on the greater leaf area thus created and maintained, with its associated extra photosynthesis and more carbohydrate (glucose sugar) available for distribution



The aftermath of anthracnose infection, development and spread on a *Poa annua* green (Picture courtesy Headland Amenity).



A high magnification view of a *Colletotrichum cereale* infection on older leaves at the grass plant crown and leading developing into the basal rot dimension of anthracnose (Picture courtesy Headland Amenity).



Best practice turf management goes a long way in beating anthracnose, but measured and targeted application of fungicides is essentially an additional must (Picture courtesy Everris).

throughout the tissues of the grass mitigating stress and grass plant susceptibility to anthracnose infection.

The fungicide armoury and arsenal deployed in America against anthracnose is considerably bigger and bolder than that which is commercially licensed and approved in the UK. That said the fungicide chemistry now at the fingertips of UK greenkeepers for anthracnose control is monumentally greater than just 10 years ago when anthracnose rarely appeared on product labels of mainstream fungicide actives used at the time. That was partly due to the erratic incidence of anthracnose which made it virtually impossible for chemical companies to collect efficacy data required for registration. Bottom line however was anthracnose not being sufficiently widespread or severe for chemical companies to go this extra expense.

However, there was an unwritten understanding amongst chemical companies and greenkeepers that the fungicide sprays applied to prevent and control Fusarium Patch (4 out of 5 spays were targeted against Fusarium

patch) would simultaneously 'do the business' against anthracnose. After all, anthracnose was then almost entirely an autumn problem and aggravated by essentially the same environmental conditions that encourage and aggravate Fusarium patch disease caused by a rise in the pathogenic activity of *M. nivale*.

Both *M. nivale* and *C. cereale* reside in thatch as weakly parasitic or saprophytic microbes ready to exploit turf grass especially when turf grass is weakened by stress and/or unavoidable damage incurred during rehabilitation programmes including aeration, de-compaction, scarification and de-thatching. UK greenkeepers are increasingly synchronising fungicide applications with these programmes to protect physically damaged grass plant tissue against infection by thatch residing wound pathogens. Pre-emptive fungicide application is probably even more important for avoiding anthracnose (than Fusarium patch) because on balance *C. cereale* is an even more accomplished wound pathogen than is *M. nivale*.



Late summer and lengthening shadows with a following wet autumn and basal rot will surely beckon.



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Wood for the trees?

Renowned woodland expert, John Nicholson, has joined forces with the greenkeeping team at Willesley Park Golf Club, to embark on an ambitious woodland management project. Here's how they are progressing.

Willesley Park Golf Club is one of the hidden gems of golf. The course is set within parkland and was laid out by James Braid in 1921.

A couple of years ago the club appointed a new Course Manager in Ken Harding. He quickly realised that the potential of the course was being limited by the 30ha of woodland that had not been managed since before the Second World War.

The woodland was encroaching on many tees effectively reducing the size of the playing surface as players naturally favoured the unimpeded line of play. This concentrated wear on a small area of the tee and the canopy caused shade and reduced airflow stressing the grass sward. This meant that some tees had little or no grass cover.

Many of the greens and surrounds suffered disease and stress due to poor air circulation and shading. Trees have an extensive feeder root system and it should not be forgotten that what you can see above the ground is only part of the problem. If you take the height of a tree and multiply

by 2.5 that is the approximate spread of a tree's feeder roots. These are very fine hair-like structures and are often not visible to the eye. They are of course very efficient and competing for water and nutrient with the grass sward.

The problem was compounded as the woodland edges had become heliotropic (the trees being one-sided looking for light) this means that all the tree energy is channelled into growing towards the golf course. A tree can grow four feet in a year so that is a lot of golf course lost.

Ken realised that if the course was to reach its true potential then the woodland edges needed to be managed. He then had to persuade the committee that this was the way forward - not an easy task as trees on golf courses can be sacrosanct!

In my view, ill-informed ecologists who preach non-intervention management do not help the situation. There is no such thing as non-intervention management as we intervene with a woodland's ability to regenerate all the time. Woodlands are mobile and natu-





rally regenerate where light allows i.e. around the perimeters where we restrict this by boundaries, mowing etc. It is therefore necessary to redress the balance by creating gaps in the canopy where regeneration can occur. A mixed age structure is crucial if the woodland is to be sustainable.

Unfortunately in the 1980's the entire course was subject to a blanket TPO (Tree Preservation Order). This is not the purpose that TPO's were designed for and goes against government guidelines. A TPO should not limit the ability of a landowner to go about their legitimate business. This meant Ken had to gain permission for any tree works he wanted to undertake from the local authority.

Local authority tree officers are normally arborists who specialise in individual trees and often do not have the knowledge or experience of managing woodland. So when Ken called in the tree officer to gain permission he was faced with the scenario of "you can remove these 2 trees but not that one" a situation that would not solve the problem.

Ken then contacted myself (John Nicholson Associates). A site meeting was arranged to meet with Ken and the chairman of green who was very supportive.

A woodland management plan needs to take into account the agronomics, strategy and landscape of the course as well as the needs of the woodland. It should not be forgotten that the finance to manage is created by golf and that the members who are picking up the tab need to see a tangible benefit to their golf course if the scheme is to be successful.

Once a plan is produced, this can be used to apply for a felling license from the Forestry Commission. This has a number of advantages. Firstly the FC are professional foresters and are much more aware of the needs to manage woodland. Secondly once the license is granted this negates the need to involve the local authority in seeking permission to remove or prune trees. A license can be granted for up to five years.

So a plan was produced and a felling license applied for. As the course was within the Na-



tional Forest some grants were available and around £8,000 was secured. The fact grants and a felling license were obtained also added political weight to the argument that the work proposed was beneficial to both the environment and the golf course.

Once the license was approved then a members' evening was organised – it's essential to have their support if the scheme is to be successful. We all know there will be a vocal minority who will object to any change on the golf course but if the majority are in favour and results prove their worth then sense will prevail.

With this in mind an area was agreed for the first phase of work where both the woodland and golf course would benefit and members would see an immediate impact.

Many people cannot visualise change so they naturally have a fear of what is going to happen. Dramatic change is inevitable when fifty years of no management has to be caught up. This is further compounded as woodland work occurs in the winter when the trees are out of leaf and the ground flo-



ra is dormant so the landscape appears bare.

An area of woodland three hectares in size was selected, as this would benefit the 6th tees and green, the 7th tees and the 14th green. The woodland had a closed canopy and a shrub layer of laurel and rhododendron. This created a fragile environment with no regeneration and an even aged canopy, which meant all the trees would reach maturity at the same time and that there was no younger generation of trees to replace them.

A prescription was agreed to relocate the woodland edge so that the encroachment on tees and greens was removed and light and air increased to the grass sward. The landscape would be improved by allowing vistas through the woodland in key areas where views had been lost.

Behind the 14th green the view to the broader landscape had been lost and heavy shading created by the introduction of cypress. These were removed and the view to the hills in the distance restored. It should not be forgotten that often when views are lost they are lost forever as future generations are not aware of their existence - so great care should be taken to maintain views which make golf courses individual.

The three hectares of work was undertaken by a forestry contractor (two men and the appropriate machinery) over a five-week period. It is essential

to get a contractor who has the correct equipment for the work and understands the needs of a golf course so that minimal damage is done.

The trees were felled and the brash was burned in designated areas. It is a complete fallacy that small piles of twigs will benefit the ecology of the site what is required is a few large stems left in contact with the damp soil. These will decay over a long period creating a desirable habitat for invertebrates.

A mulcher was then brought in to remove the stumps around the edges so that the area could be mown to stop future encroachment.

Air and light improved immediately creating an environment where Ken could work his magic and refurbish the tees to the high standard he demands and to allow the greens to reach their potential. Ken also restored areas of wear around the greens where the grass cover was very poor. This had an instant impact on the quality of the playing surfaces.

Huge credit has to go Ken and his team for the terrific job they did in re-instatement. If it were not for those improvements then the members would not be on side for the next phase of work.

After the initial shock, 99% of the members are now fully behind the scheme and see the benefits of good woodland management.

Phase 2 with six hectares under management this win-



ter is now underway and members now appreciate how quickly things get back to normal (with a lot of help from the greenkeepers) when the trees come into leaf and the understorey is green once again.

Once the work is completed, the woodland will still need to be managed and a small budget should be put aside for annual maintenance. So often I have undertaken projects for clubs and once the work is complete they will not even have an annual visit to monitor the development of the woodland.

This often means that ten years later another capital investment is necessary due to a lack of annual maintenance. So please have continuity and remember there is no such thing as non-intervention!

John Nicholson Associates
– www.johnnicholsonassociates.co.uk

Contact on 01913 842556
or 07967 818719.

Course Managers View

“To produce a quality grass playing surface, you need to produce the best possible environment”. A simple fact that greenkeepers the world over are fully aware of, but if a poor environment is mostly being affected by trees/woodland then it can become instantly difficult subject to approach with your golf club.

The key to any approach is preparation and communication. Tell the membership WHY – the reasons for undertaking a project – the problems being caused and most importantly what benefits will be achieved. Explain to the golfers the visual, agronomic and future sustainability improvements.

If you move down the route of a presentation, like here at Willesley, then you are likely to require professional advice and guidance. Standing up in front of 150 members that imagine you're just going to massacre the golf course can work against a project if not fully prepared! John and I have worked together before, but you must build up excellent and professional relationships with all the parties involved – greens chairman all the way through to contractor. All must be on board to continue the positive vibes throughout the project.

Woodchippers solve the problem of managing woodland waste on golf courses



The team at Royal Blackheath with their GreenMech ChipMaster 220

For many years now the Environmental Protection Act, along with the Clean Air Act, has considered the commercial burning of green waste inappropriate. This has therefore severely reduced the ability of using the traditional bonfire to dispose of wood waste created from the maintenance of trees. Martin Lucas, Sales Director at GreenMech, explores the multiple benefits of using a wood chipper for the effective disposal of wood, brash and bushy material from a golf course.

A wood chipper can typically provide a 6:1 breakdown ratio, meaning material that would usually take 6 loads to dispose of can be done in 1. A wide array of businesses are using chippers these days and it is considered this is happening for 4 main reasons; the increasingly stringent rules and legislation regarding commercial burning, the cost of using landfill sites, the logistical implications and the ethical viewpoint.

In addition to the Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Air Act other regulations also have an impact on the disposal of waste including the Waste Management Licensing Regulations and the Highways Act, who will monitor smoke pollution near and on public highways. Any commercial businesses (with the exception of farms who are allowed some limited, controlled burning) can be prosecuted if found to be in breach of any of the listed legislation. A typical fine, imposed by The Environmental Agency, Local Council or Police is likely to be in the region of £2,500 – an amount that would go a long way towards the cost of hiring or even buying appropriate equipment.

In addition to discouraging the dumping of unnecessary material into landfill, councils will typically charge a tipper between £26 and £45 per tonne of waste. This can reach over £100 a tonne depending on the material you are disposing of. Add on top of this the money spent on disposing the waste, fuel, time etc.

Royal Blackheath is located in South East London and was formally instituted

in 1608, making it possibly the oldest golf course in the world. The 18 hole course totals 123 acres and is set in the smoke free zone of Greenwich, completely surrounded by woodland. In order to manage this ever 'growing' problem the club was badly in need of a wood chipper and turned to GreenMech.

Simon Brittan the Deputy Course Manager and chief mechanic has been at the club for 25 years and is supported by a team of five others along with the Course Manager. “We have literally thousands of trees on the site that require constant maintenance,” he said, “and to find a way of disposing of the waste we turned to chipping.” The club decided that the GreenMech ChipMaster 220 suited their needs and purchased one following many recommendations. The machine is being used sometimes daily and at least every other day for the clubs woodland management work. Simon has not been disappointed with it, “It's extremely powerful and does what's expected of it – handling everything very well. Not being able to burn waste has turned into an asset with plenty of wood chippings finding good use around the club.”

The alternative uses for the material is another plus for using a woodchipper. The resultant wood chip can be used for pathways, decorative edgings or used around trees, where it can help to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Greetham Valley Golf Course in Rutland also purchased a GreenMech ChipMaster 220 to manage the many acres of woodland on the site. The club then installed a biomass boiler to provide heat and hot water for their Lounge Bar, restaurants and Club changing rooms as well as their 35 bedroom hotel and eight Lodges. The boiler is powered by woodchip, some of which can therefore be produced on site.

It is no surprise that another major reason landfill is being discouraged is the impact tipping has on the environment. Every tonne of material that can be used for alternative purposes helps the world's challenge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



REVIEW

A look back at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, 19-21 January 2016

BTME 2016 – That was the week that was!

A comprehensive review of what was a vibrant, ambitious and very successful BTME 2016

With five Halls of exhibitors, the addition of the GolfBIC conference, record numbers in the Continue to Learn programme and all round positive vibe were some of the many highlights of another fabulous week for the turf industry. The 2016 event really cemented BTME's position as the premier turf event in Europe.

Harrogate once again provided a great backdrop for what has become the traditional curtain raiser for the year. Thousands of visitors and exhibitors packed the picturesque North Yorkshire town with hotel rooms at a premium on the busiest nights of Tuesday and Wednesday. In fact the visitor statistics show a rise in the number of overnight stays for the event with the average visitor attending for 1.46 days, up from 1.37 in previous years.

Importantly those visitors were in town to do business and to educate with early feedback from exhibitors being extremely positive, lots of leads created and demos arranged. A huge attendance from the golf industry as usual but again there was a strong presence from other sports, schools and the landscaping sector.

Read on for the highlights of a great few days...



REVIEW

SPECIAL EDITION



CONTINUE TO LEARN SCALES NEW HEIGHTS OF POPULARITY



BIGGA's Continue to Learn at BTME 2016 education programme drew record numbers as visitors to the five-day marathon exceeded 3,000 for the first time.

Professionals at every level of course maintenance and management thronged the doors of the Harrogate International Centre with session diversity and visitor feedback key factors in the success of the event.

"This year's Continue to Learn was a third larger than 2015," reports Sami Strutt, Head of Member Development, "rising from 180 to 240 hours of education. We listened to feedback from previous attendees and aimed to offer a more varied, valuable learning experience, while also extending the remit to include career development sessions."

The strategy has paid off, as visitor numbers climbed to 3,034 to place the prominence and impact of the event across the greenkeeping sector here and overseas on to a fresh footing.

Sami's not resting on her laurels though. "We want to attract more younger greenkeepers, those that want to take advantage of an education programme that demonstrates career progression to supervisor then management level," she stresses.



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While no sessions were barred to any visitor, BIGGA introduced recommendations on who should attend which presentations and workshops, all part of the plan to enhance educational experience, Sami maintains.

"The Proposal to Present and Members Choice survey brought an enthusiastic response, with more than 80 types of course suggested – everything from agronomy and turf machinery to people management," she reveals.

Continue to Learn attracted those new to greenkeeping. "A number visited BTME for the first time and came here solely because of the education programme," says Sami, "although taken together with the exhibition, we offer an integrated package of benefits."

The event is proving a bigger draw for overseas visitors. "More European attendees came to Harrogate this year," Sami adds. "One from Canada attended Continue to Learn in preference to his usual date at the Golf Industry Show in America, telling me that he wanted to try something different this year."

"That's a very favourable sentiment to take forward, reflecting the comprehensive content and variety of speaker and presenter we offer, from professional trainers to industry experts."



ROYAL MOVE CROWNS TURF MANAGERS CONFERENCE SUCCESS

An inspired switch to Harrogate's palatial Royal Hall gave this year's Turf Managers Conference the gravitas and capacity to scale up an event that showcased top-flight speakers and thought-provoking research.

"What a fantastic venue," was the sentiment of many as a day crammed with quality left delegates reflecting on time well spent.

Transforming what might have proved a sleep-through into seismic delivery was Alan Gange, presenting on 'What are microbes and are they of any use in sports turf', who kept a packed auditorium spellbound with an utterly engaging performance.

Bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi are "crucial members of the microbial community in turf soils", the Professor of Microbial Biology at Royal Holloway, University of London, concluded.

"Introducing the 'right' species or alleviating resource limits should enhance their benefits and should lead to reduced reliance on pesticides, fertilisers and water, but" he stressed, "they are unlikely ever to replace these inputs."



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Unequivocal was the reaction from Barry Bradshaw, head greenkeeper at King's Hill Golf Club. "Exceptional presentation," he reacted, before also noting the impact of the following delivery, 'Your obligations in relation to access to your golf course by disabled golfers requiring the use of a buggy' by Rob East from the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association.

"It highlighted the importance of keeping policies up to date," Barry remarked, after learning that 82,000 golfers with a disability play the sport in England every week.

Issuing a warning to delegates, Rob pronounced: "We live in a litigious age and golf clubs should consider their position carefully." The coffee break proved a reflective one for many as they pondered the implications of what they had just heard.

Club culture came in for serious scrutiny with Sue Honore's insight into Generation Y and how it interacts with other demographics in the greenkeeping team.

The associate research consultant at Ashridge Business School served up

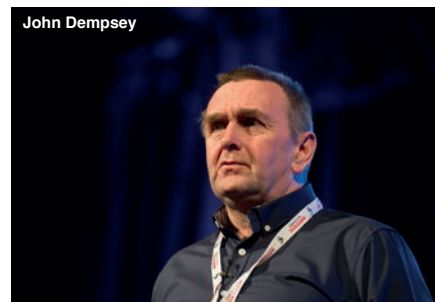


compelling evidence on how a potentially disruptive climate can be resolved into a more productive one.

Dividing Generation Y into early (those born between 1982 and 1991) and late (1992 and 2001) Sue said that their research had revealed that managing expectations was "the biggest challenge" with this age group, urging that "both sides need to bend and adapt" when referring to how younger members of the team work with older colleagues.

Afterwards, Barry Bradshaw put the findings into a wider context: "Communication across the board with staff, members and the general public is the most important aspect of our job."

In a media intensive age, handling highly inquisitive, news-hungry journalists was a reality of modern life, noted Jon Kiger, TurfNet's director of media and sponsorships, hence the importance of developing a strategy within golf clubs to ensure stories good and bad were prepared and presented professionally.



The policy was part and parcel of good practice and a valuable communications tool locally, regionally and nationally, he maintained before pointing out the sound sense of creating a set of goals for the coming year that included "Getting more organised for the media, establishing at least one local media contact before the start of the season and being part of at least one positive story from the course before the end of the summer".

Jon's session was sandwiched between an intense study of 'The role of phosphite in turfgrass management' presented by John Dempsey, course manager at the Royal Curragh Golf Club and a fascinating study by Beth Guertal from Auburn University into the effects of aerification and vertical mowing.

BTME regular visitor Jamie Blake celebrated the quality of this year's conference. "One of the best I've attended," said the Broadway Golf Club head greenkeeper. "A good mix of turfcare and management issues."





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The BIGGA Board of Management at the opening of the exhibition

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Apple watch surprise for Nick Darking

As part of BIGGA's Strategic Review process an in-depth survey of BIGGA's customers, be they Partners, advisers or exhibitors was carried out by Sports Marketing Surveys Inc (SMS) with an ambition to ensure that BIGGA provides relevant and valuable services to the trade.

As an incentive to take part an Apple watch was put up as a prize and the name drawn out of the hat by SMS was Nick Darking, Sales Manager at Charterhouse. Jim Croxton surprised Nick by presenting the watch on the first morning of BTME. This wasn't the only surprise for Nick at BTME as he was also presented with a signed photograph of Damon Hill racing in the Monaco Grand Prix by senior colleagues at Charterhouse to recognise his fantastic 25 years service.



Nick Darking of Charterhouse receives his Apple watch

SCOTTISH CHAIRMAN WINS PRIZE DRAW



BIGGA Education Supporters, Mansfield Sands, offered a tablet for the winner of a draw for all those that visited their stand during BTME.

Jim Croxton drew the winner at the close of the show and the winning ticket was Jim Paton,

course manager of West Kilbride Golf Club and current Scottish Region Chairman



DREAM TRIP FOR TPC SAWGRASS VOLUNTEER WINNERS



The legendary TPC Sawgrass beckons for aspiring greenkeepers this May, when, once again, five BIGGA members from Great Britain and a GCSAI member from Ireland will realise a dream opportunity as they join the golf course maintenance team as volunteers at the Florida venue for the 2016 Players Championship, courtesy of John Deere.

The greenkeepers won their place on the trip by registering their interest on the respective association websites, before recording a short video about themselves and their career aspirations.

The winners then made it through regional interviews, conducted by a panel of representatives from BIGGA/GCSAI and John Deere.

The unofficial 'Fifth Major' on the PGA tour, the 2016 Players Championship runs from 10 to 15 May, when a greens team of no fewer than 120, including volunteers, tread the course to keep the venue in pristine condition during the event.

American Rickie Fowler won in 2015 following the greatest last round finish in the 34-year history of the tournament, carding birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie for a place in the final play-off.

One of last year's first-ever delegation, Michael Burgin, of Normanby Hall, North Lincolnshire, spoke of his experience. "The quality put into the course is nothing less than perfect," adding: "I came away with some great ideas, which I aim to put into practice later on in my career, when I reach management level. Until then, I'll keep them under wraps."

"Chill time" was also important to the team, he added. "Once you have done your job, you can relax."

The winning delegates joining the 2016 John Deere TPC Sawgrass volunteer programme are:

BIGGA

Pete Corrick, assistant greenkeeper, Remedy Oak Golf Club, Wimborne, Dorset

Graeme Davidson, first assistant greenkeeper, Murrayfield Golf Club, Edinburgh

Stuart Imeson – head greenkeeper, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course, Embleton, Northumberland

Nicholas Roberts – deputy course manager, South Essex Golf & Country Club, Brentwood

Chris Sharp – course manager, Hampstead Golf Club, London:

GCSAI

Lenny O'Callaghan, assistant greenkeeper, Westmanstown Golf Club, Dublin:



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The group photograph, taken on the **John Deere** stand at BTME 2016 in January, shows (back row, left to right):

Nicholas Roberts, John Deere territory manager **Nick Ashman**, **Graeme Davidson**, **Chris Sharp**, **Lenny O'Callaghan**, **Pete Corrick** and **Stuart Imeson**, with (front, seated left and right) John Deere Limited turf division manager **Chris Meacock** and managing director **Antony Scott**.

SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND EARN

With vibrant Halls and record attendance on the Continue to Learn programme, BTME 2016 proved the perfect platform for the industry to grow its knowledge base, strike up new business relationships and pick up innovative ideas on ways to improve course maintenance. Greg Rhodes offers a flavour of a groundbreaking week.

Visitors were bursting to praise the professionalism, educational value and ambience of BTME 2016, surely the year when ambition and achievement rose to another level right across the board.

Regular attendee and sector presenter Noel Mackenzie hailed the scope of the Continue to Learn programme this year. "A cracking education programme that's firing on all cylinders," was his verdict.

The exhibition came in for fulsome praise from the independent turfgrass agronomist too. "Light and airy feel with some sophisticated displays and offering a nice level of business and populated with good quality people, but I can't be everywhere at once." You can come again Noel.

Continue to Learn presented a kaleidoscope of opportunities for Mark Cummine, head greenkeeper at Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort, the Q Hotels destination sited in Cumbernauld, near Glasgow.

His third visit to BTME, Mark warmed to the quality of presentation and the value of the content. "The assertiveness seminar proved very informative and was run really well," he said. "There's plenty of variety in the programme too. 'Identifying grass species' was extremely interesting."



Grounds for visiting

Grounds professionals peppered BTME this year. Phil Isherwood of Blackburn RFC was visiting for the day to seek a solution for his waterlogged pitch. An aeration machine was on his radar, to put to good use "as soon as the weather improves. There's enough under one roof here to find what I need."

BTME is nothing if not a great networking forum and a chance to 'press the flesh'. Proving the point were the head groundsmen of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire country cricket clubs, spotted deep in conversation on day two, although they were a little camera shy and moved away when there was a danger of being approached for comment!

Not so Paul Littlewood, greenkeeper at Millhouse Park Bowling Club in Sheffield, where a four-man team tend 21 greens, two-thirds of them privately run. Attending most years, Paul came to touch base with suppliers Rigby Taylor and Verde Sports artificial turf, applied to perimeters to protect bowls when they escape the confines of the green.

European interest rises

Among the mounting contingent of overseas visitors attending BTME was Tomasz Rusnek. Here for the first time, the head greenkeeper of 18-hole championship course Binowo Park, in Stare Czarnowo, Poland, was suitably impressed by the range of turf machinery on display.

Framed by beech forests and surrounded by large lakes in a landscaped park, the course presents a demanding round for golfers – and surely a tough task for the greens team who have to manage the undulating setting with its altitude variations of more than 40m.

Exhibitor Michael Garner is also one of the faithful, who met European visitors. "I've been coming here for more than 20 years," commented the Maxicrop UK technical sales manager, "but resumed in 2008 after a layoff."

Here to source possible distributors and wholesalers, Michael noted the steady stream of overseas visitors on the stand as in his words: "BTME was well up to its usual standard."

Spotted eyeing up a Campey topdresser outside the entrance to BTME were Steve Cram ("No I didn't run") course manager at Archerfield Links and Brian Clark, course manager at Close House.

Steve was stopping over for the first time – "You need two days to look around these days," he said, while Brian was taking more than a passing glance at the giant piece of machinery towering over the two. Perhaps an order was imminent. "I've attended BTME loads of times," said Brian. "BIGGA floats my boat."

Caught hovering in Hall B was Hever Castle course manager David Wood, who is no stranger to the show either – this year attending a BASIS course and searching out sprayers for his 27 holes, where greens





renovation is underway. "It's always good to have a wander round, there's always something of interest," he volunteered.

The value of the Continue to Learn education programme was voiced by so many visitors this year, a fitting tribute to the huge planning effort that went into rolling out such a varied menu.

Yet another BIGGA member seeking to use the programme for career development was Christopher Brown, first assistant at The Gleneagles Hotel.

"I'm looking to bridge the gap between practical greenkeeping and managing the team," he explained. "The workshops I attended were extremely well run and fantastic for helping me achieve my goals."

Team spirit

Greens teams were out in force throughout the week, reflecting a boost in budgets perhaps and an easing of purse-strings. Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club's three-strong delegation were not easily picked out at first – their new logo-emblazoned vibrant blue workwear blending in seamlessly with the Campey stand backdrop of a markedly similar hue. The team had been checking out core harvesters and Vertidrainers on the Charterhouse stand for the privately owned high-end destination.

On a poignant note, the Bradley Park greens team face an uncertain future, with plans lodged by the local authority for 2,000 houses where the 27-hole Huddersfield course currently sits. "This is our day out to see everything," explained head greenkeeper Dave Brierley, here with four colleagues.

The plight of the course drew this response from BIGGA chief executive Jim Croxton: "My thoughts are with the wellbeing and future employment of the greenkeeping team. Our job as an organisation is to look after our membership."

Naga scores hole in one

Chatting after attending sessions at the GolfBIC conference, staged for the first time in association with BIGGA, Robert Hinch, Greetham Valley proprietor and Gaudet Luce general manager Alec Fernihough simply couldn't help commenting on the instant impact that guest presenter BBC Breakfast anchor Naga Munchetty had made at the event.

"Let's see more of Naga," was the consensus. "It's refreshing to hear somebody who speaks their mind." Her humour certainly went down well at the BIGGA Awards evening, while the strictly business side of Naga was evident during her time compering GolfBIC.

Naga's plea for more women in golf is in one sense a plea for inclusivity in golf. Heartening then to bump into Daryl McCabe, in the midst of his Level 2 in practical horticulture at Houghall College.

"Lawnmowers and aerating machines and the Tree Popper were the high points for me," reflected sight-impaired Daryl, who was touring the exhibition with stick in hand, with college colleague Beverly Stevens by his side, adding: "A really enjoyable first time at BTME."



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BIGGA WELCOME CELEBRATION A HUGE HIT, WITH HELP FROM NAGA



BIGGA has always taken the opportunity that BTME presents to celebrate the achievements of its members and the overall industry but this year that celebration was taken to new heights as host presenter Naga Munchetty raised the bar in Harrogate's beautiful Royal Hall.

From describing her love of golf to putting the award winners at their ease the BBC broadcaster brought a hugely professional and enjoyable approach to the centrepiece event of BTME. The Celebration was generously sponsored by Jacobsen and it was great to see their global president, David Withers, a BTME veteran, take to the stage and state how thrilled his company was to be involved. What followed was a fantastic advert for the greenkeeping industry, celebrating outstanding achievement, life long



commitment, emerging talent and brilliant teamwork. There was even time for BIGGA chairman, Les Howkins to announce the winner of last year's social media craze #takeleswithyou!

From introducing BIGGA's new President and Life Members to awarding the Young Greenkeeper of the Year the BIGGA Welcome Celebration was an inspiring event for all who attended.

Following the formal presentations a drinks reception provided a convivial environment for hundreds of BIGGA members to socialise, reminisce and grab selfless with Naga!





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BIGGA Greenkeeper Benevolent Fund walkers recognised

At the BIGGA Welcome Celebration the intrepid group of walkers who trekked the 60 miles from Stocksfield Golf Club in Sheffield to BIGGA House to raise money for our Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund presented a cheque for £2,500 to CEO Jim Croxton, the largest single donation of the past 12 months.

The walk was the brainchild of Wayne Lazenby of Stocksfield who floated the idea on the BIGGA Facebook page and soon assembled an eight strong team plus support drivers. Wayne was joined by his colleague Richard Marshall, the course managers of Patshull Park and Lickey, Mal Mitchell and Dave Collins, Deputy Course Managers of Aldwickbury Park and Redditch, Martin Brown and Harvey Brooke, along with Geoff Fenn from Countrywide and Ryan Anderton from the Highspeed Group. Sharon Morris of Mansfield Sand and Eddie Ainsworth, course manager at Avro Golf Club provided driving support.

During the BIGGA Welcome Celebration the four most recent recipients of Life Membership of the Association were introduced to the audience.

Duncan Gray. Duncan has been a member of BIGGA for 28 years and was a member of SIGGA for over 15 years prior to that. He has served two periods as Chairman of the South West of Scotland Section and has been a strong supporter of Section activity. His nomination was proposed by the South West of Scotland Section and unanimously seconded by the Scottish Region Board.

Hugh McLatchie. Hugh has been a member of BIGGA for 28 years and was a member of SIGGA for 23 years prior to that. He has given continuous service to the North Section Committee for over 20 years. His nomination was proposed by the North Section and unanimously seconded by the Scottish Region Board.

Jeff Mills. Jeff has been a member of BIGGA for 28 years and has served on the Devon and Cornwall Section for over 20 years, been on the Regional Board for

many years and also served on the National Board of Management. During his career he practically built the greenkeeper education programme at Cannington College and did build a golf course for Nigel Mansell at Woodbury Park. His nomination was proposed by the Devon & Cornwall Section and unanimously seconded by the South West & South Wales Region.

Arnold Phipps-Jones. Arnold recently retired from greenkeeping after a lifetime in the profession. He was a volunteer Regional Administrator in the early 1990s before a spell as an International member working in Belgium. On returning to the UK he resumed committee activity, serving the Essex Section, the South East Region and ultimately the Board of Management from 2010 to 2015. His nomination was proposed by the Essex Section and unanimously seconded by the South East Region.

All four were interviewed by Naga Munchetty and spoke of the great pride they felt at being elected as Life Members of the Association that had been such a major part of their lives.





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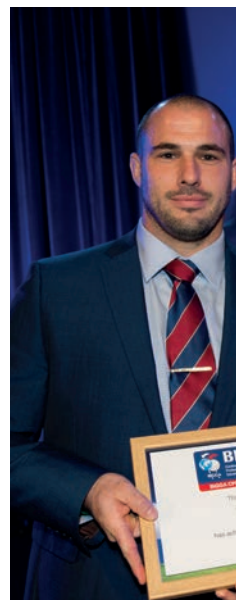


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CPD milestone certificates

In 2015 twelve BIGGA Members were awarded their first Milestone Certificate for achieving 180 CPD Credits. Eight were on hand to receive their certificate at the Welcome Celebration





Second milestone certificates

Two members achieved their Second Milestone in 2015 for gaining 360 CPD Credits, they were Lee Strutt MG and BIGGA Chairman, Les Howkins MG



Edwin Budding Award - Tucker takes the Trophy

Traditionally the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) has awarded their annual outstanding achievement prize, the Edwin Budding Award, named after the inventor of the lawnmower, at BTME. Last year IGCEMA merged their activity with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). GCSAA President John O'Keefe was on hand in Harrogate alongside David Withers from Jacobsen, the award sponsors to present the Award to this year's recipient, Stephen Tucker. Tucker was the driving force behind the creation of IGCEMA and its outstanding Certification programme, he acted as the organisations first President and eventually became its Executive Director. All this whilst also being at the forefront of the field of Equipment Management, he currently works at Tranquillo Golf Club at Four Seasons in Golden Oak, Florida.



Master Greenkeeper

the 66th Master Greenkeeper Peter Newton receives his commemorative plaque from Chairman Les Howkins MG





The chairmans lunch

With 2016 marking 25 years since Laurence Pithie became the first ever BIGGA Master Greenkeeper all of the 67 recipients to date were invited to attend the annual Chairmans Lunch. We were delighted that many were able to make it and enjoy

a convivial lunch in the Harrogate International Centre alongside past chairmen, industry partners and honoured guests.



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Visitor quantity and quality reached new heights at BTME 2016, spurred by an expanded education programme and a wealth of new products, reports Greg Rhodes

The word is that this could just have been the best BTME ever. Record visitor numbers, growing international interest and a vastly increased education programme all contributed to a memorable week that prompted BIGGA chief executive Jim Croxton to remark on the “Herculean effort” of the organising team in “seamless delivery” of “easily the most ambitious event we’ve ever put on”.

The figures speak for themselves – stand space 40% up on last year, a 33% larger Continue to Learn programme, new hall, new conference (GolfBIC) and the addition of the BIGGA Awards to the ceremony – oh, and 1,000 more visitors.

Right on Q

Exhibiting in Hall Q, reintroduced this year, proved a shrewd move for many companies clustered near the Continue to Learn conference outflow.

Specialist sports contractors CLS Sports recorded flowing footfall from early doors on day one. “The Air2G2 aerator stirred up plenty of excitement throughout BTME,” said director Andrew Miller, “particularly timely given the dreadful weather we’ve experienced.”

The launch of its North West hub here attracted interest from clubs from the region, including Vale of Llangollen, Warrington and Beaumaris. “This was a great venue to announce our expansion into the North West and Wales,” declared hub manager Peter Valentine.



Hall Q was a showstopper too for first-timer Tree Poppers, who introduced a cost-effective method of tackling unwanted woody shrubs and trees. “I liked the environment in here and spoke to plenty of potential buyers and distributors about our low-tech, low-cost tool to help clear courses of troublesome growth,” said Alan Martin, who has launched the product under his Nature Conservation Services umbrella.

To prove the point, he brought along the remains of a hawthorn bush extracted from Walton Heath’s carries. “Growth like this created a

microclimate that excluded heather from the course, so needed to be removed.” Other Surrey courses are trialling the implement.

Day two was heaving for Hall Q’s Chic Teak, another BTME maiden exhibitor. Sites as diverse as Shipley Golf Club, Royal Botanic Gardens

Edinburgh, the MCC headquarters at Lord’s, English Heritage and Everton FC have added a touch of class to their outdoor furniture.

Quality of visitor and knowledge level impressed Steven Barclay and Oysteuem Nokland, director and sales director respectively of Aqua-Terra Europe Ltd, whose innovative ‘same-day install and play’ greens drainage system is aiding St George’s Hill, Walton Heath and Foxhills among others.

“Footfall has been healthy,” confirmed Steven, “with Continue to Learn conference delegates going to

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“Footfall has been healthy,” confirmed Steven, “with Continue to Learn conference delegates going to and fro throughout the exhibition. Our core business is golf so it makes sense to come here.”

European presence was strong too, he added, particularly from Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia, Holland and Scandinavia.

“Absolutely excellent,” was the verdict of Jon Proffitt and Peter van Mispelaar, who were staffing the Trilo stand nearby. “We’ve seen everybody. The first and second days saw the best interest in our products for many years. We’ll be back next year for sure.”

Big time for boys toys

With most of the big ‘boys toys’ dominating Hall M – John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro to name three – Kubota pretty much had Hall Q to themselves, boasting a prominence befitting the emergence of their ‘L’ series tractor.

“As a launchpad for the range, this has proved to be very good,” enthused dealer manager Tom Dunlop, “while



we received plenty of inquiries for our finance packages too. Visitor quality was high and orders are highly likely to result from the show," he added.

Still with the powerplay, BTME 2016 was "bigger and better" for Baroness in Hall C – "our largest-ever stand", according to sales manager David Couter. The Japanese machinery is "catching on fast", he maintains, reporting brisk levels of interest from Continue to Learn seminar attendees as they moved through from the Harrogate International Centre to disseminate through the show halls. The personal touch of hand-built cylinders welded with robustness and reliability are reasons enough why BTME visitors caught the Baroness bug, it seems.

Twenty years young

Old stagers Eagle Promotions enjoyed an embarrassment of strong leads this year, managing director Phil McInley's 20th at BTME. "At least 70," he calculated. "Course managers; the decision-makers."

Commanding his usual spot in Hall B, Phil sees BTME as "a firm favourite" in the golf industry calendar. Introduced at last year's show, their LED signage has consolidated its place in the sector, Harpenden Common being one of the latest to take up the technology, applying it at their entrance and for information, following orders from The Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh, West Herts, South Herts and Lanark.

Also notching up their 20th anniversary at BTME, Talbot Farm found this year "as good as ever, with plenty of groundstaff and managers coming on to the stand. After resurfacing match pitches at Crystal Palace FC, Watford FC and Carlisle, in the wake of severe flooding, founding brothers Mark and Sean Goodwin are optimistic about more orders this year.

Over time, Symbio managing director Martin Ward has witnessed a shift in visitor profile on his BTME stand. "At first, it's all new business, then as you become established, the show is increasingly about cementing relationships with existing customers."

Overseas leads are gaining prominence, he adds. "For several years, more new business has come from international rather than domestic customers. Swiss and German visitors were certainly out in force, looking for new ideas.

There's more money in the industry now too and the show attracts more head greenkeepers bringing their teams with them."

Turf treatments were the focus of many visitors to the Vitax stand in Hall A. "Plenty of interest in biostimulants, especially SwardPhites," noted sales and marketing manager Mike King, adding: "Golf interest has risen across our machine range, especially the EvenSprey Club."

The turf technologists were highlighting opportunities for linemarkers in course traffic management and report mounting interest in them in preference to alternatives such as stakes and ropes, Mike added.

Green credentials are looming ever larger in many greenkeepers' minds. One reason perhaps why Waste2Water Europe has seen stand numbers rising over last year, says managing director Tim Earley.

"Day two has been excellent, with substantial numbers of inquiries. We even took two orders off the stand. They had obviously done their homework and had decided to come here to seal the deal.

"This is our 15th year at BTME and for us the show is head and shoulders above any other in the sector."

BTME once again sowed the seeds of success for DLF and Johnsons Sports Seed. "The people you see are those you need to see – with the three key characteristics; money, authority, need," said sales head Derek Smith,

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GolfBIC debuts at BTME



For the first time the UK Golf Course Owners Association held their annual event, the Golf Business and Industry Convention (GolfBIC) alongside BTME in Harrogate.

Featuring thought provoking and interactive conference sessions over two days the event attracted golf course owners from far and wide.

The conference days bookended a fine dinner in the beautiful Royal Hall during which £000s were raised for the UKGCOA's chosen charity the Golf Foundation.

'Beyond lies the breakthrough'

The conference culminated with award-winning former CEO and inspirational speaker Hamish Taylor's keynote address on how to improve the running of golf clubs.

Despite his limited experience in golf, Hamish used his time with British Airways, Eurostar and Sainsbury's Bank to offer insight into how golf clubs can maximise their efficiency. "Too much industry knowledge can create blinkers," said Hamish. "Because you're going in with



eyes that can always see the problems rather than the opportunities.

"If you want a breakthrough, look outside your current environment!"

"If you look in within your world, you will pick up some great ideas because you see what other people are doing," he maintained, "but the real breakthroughs come when you see something new and to do that you need new sources of inspiration."

The solution to relieving passenger check-in congestion at Heathrow Airport in the early 90s lay with Disney, Hamish

revealed, who introduced the carrier to "the zig-zag".

"Other things included 'if it's going to be a 25-minute wait from here, tell everybody it's going to be 30. Then when they get to the front they're so happy; they've beaten the system'. Simple, simple stuff."

Over the last 10 years he had applied what he'd learned to many diverse sectors and the issues were "very similar".

"Wanting more customers, creating a better customer experience, keeping the team and staff motivated - sound familiar? Put the customer at the centre of what you're doing to drive growth.

"To do that you need to change the way you understand your customers, both external and internal," Hamish urged. "If you don't look at them in a



different way you're not going to gain new understanding and insights."

The two days featured conference sessions on Tee Time Distribution and Yield from the CEO of the American Golf Course Owners Association, Jay Karen, an update on the exciting Vision 20-20 Project presented by Lodewijk Klootwijk, CEO of the European Owners Association and a number of sessions on diversifying the use of facilities. These included the formal launch of British Putting, a project to bring



commercial activity to the nation's practice putting greens, an update on Footgolf and solutions for driving ranges with limited space options.

BTME regulars Syngenta were also on hand to update delegates on the love.golf project aimed at introducing more women to the game, a topic close to conference host, Naga Munchetty's heart. The BBC Breakfast presenter hosted the BIGGA awards and GolfBIC throughout BTME 2016, further enhancing her reputation as an avid golf fan, following her appearance on Celebrity Mastermind, when she chose



The Ryder Cup as her specialist subject.

However, the nine-handicapper suffers a turbulent relationship with the game. "There aren't enough women," said Naga. "Golf clubs aren't doing enough to either change older or more traditional attitudes, or to make it more flexible for working

women.

The second day saw a real focus on operational matters in golf clubs with many leading experts offering insight into areas as diverse as budgeting, digital marketing and problem solving.





The BIGGA team at BTME 2016

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Colin's 'Masters stroke'

greens up King's Lynn

Applying Masters thesis trial results solved a persistent problem at the top 100 course, reports Mike King

Colin Robinson came to King's Lynn Golf Club as course manager with a job to do.

The 18-hole parkland course, believed to be the first fashioned by design doyens Peter Alliss and Dave Thomas when the club moved from its old site in 1975, nestles in traditional Norfolk woodland right by The Wash.

A labour intensive course, the seven-strong greens team stay busy managing the impact of the many thousands of trees, such as Scots pine and silver birch, that line the fairways.

"We like to keep everything tidy," notes Colin, conscious that King's Lynn is a highly respected course, ranked among England's top 100.

With its own borehole and seepage ponds, the course relies less on mains water but the sandy, free-draining soil can create its own problems, given the windswept, isolated location.

Since coming to the course eight years ago though, he has wrestled with what until recently had seemed an intractable problem - outbreaks of dry

patch on a number of the fairways.

Despite regular application of turf treatments, the patches persisted, particularly on the 17th fairway. "Whatever treatment I applied, we could never seem to regain full grass cover," he says.

Even in rain-sodden 2012, when in one month alone the course recorded a whole year's precipitation (11 inches), the dry patch stubbornly stayed firm and reseeded turf failed to thrive. Conducting soil tests only served to confirm his worst fears. "Half an inch below the surface the rootzone was bone dry."

While searching for a new way to tackle the outbreaks, Colin cast his mind back nearly ten years to his time at John of Gaunt Golf Club, Bedfordshire, where as part of his thesis on 'Water Management on Fairways' for a Masters Degree in Sports Surface Technology at Cranfield University he had trialled Vitax Ultraflo





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wetting agent.

Results after testing the product over a 6-8 week period at the 36-hole venue had been dramatic, he remembered, so he called in suppliers Collier Turf Care, who are Vitax distributors and advise Colin on their products and how to gain the best from them.

Last year, Colin applied the wetting agent to the problem areas, particularly evident on the 17th fairway. "The impact was startling," he says. "The green returned to the sward, we gained 100% grass cover for the first time, with better grasses such as bents and fescues predominating, and the benefits lasted throughout the year."

After success on this fairway, Colin applied the wetting agent to the 10th, with similar outcomes. "I like the convenience of only having to apply it once to gain year-round protection," he notes.

Application of the wetting agent across the course has brought environmental gains too, Colin

adds. "I estimate that we now apply up to half the water we did. We tend to be conservative with water and the massive benefit of Ultraflo allows us to irrigate less than before."

In the midst of a three-year course improvement programme that includes bunker and tee upgrades and refurbishments, as well as woodland management involving the removal of swathes of trees around greens to create more light and space, Colin can look back on how the appliance of science has helped solve a real bugbear on his fairways.

"Members tell me that they have never seen the fairways looking better," adds Colin. In the final analysis, surely that's what counts most.

www.vitax.co.uk



Parr for the course

With a new housing development adjacent to part of Exeter Golf & Country Club underway, Laurence Pithie met up with Course Manager John Parr to discover what impact this had on the course and what followed

The Club, founded in 1895, relocated to the present 115 acre site in 1929 and was designed by James Braid. During WW2, the course was used as a base for American Navy personnel; later to be redesigned in part by Hamilton Stutt in 1945. Minor changes; mainly bunkering, were completed by Donald Steel in 1990, although the layout remained the same until 2015.

Current facilities at the club enjoyed by members and guests include tennis courts and a spa as well as restaurants and a café, welcoming members of all ages. The course, which measures just over 6,000 yards is not long by today's standards; however there is a premium on accuracy due to the abundance of mature trees such as oak, lime and redwood. All year round playability is assured, largely due to the free draining nature of the sandy, silt soil. Meadowgrasses are dominant throughout the



John Parr, Course Manager,
Exeter Golf & Country Club

course, with varying amounts of Colonial Bent present in many areas.

Proposed Housing Development

In 2012, plans were submitted by Persimmon Homes for 250 homes on former MOD land adjacent to holes 9, 10 and 18 which were accepted by Exeter City Council: this in spite of their close proximity to the boundary and the threat that this would pose to safety, regarding balls leaving the property. The club sought advice from a property consultancy company and from course architects Mackenzie and Ebert. They conducted a survey using a scatter diagram to indicate where golf balls were mostly likely to land and what options were available to the club to mitigate this risk.

The initial recommendation to erect a 100 foot high safety fence was approved by the council, but rejected by the developers. However, af-

ter two years of discussions between representatives from the club led by Club Chairman Will Gannon, a civil engineer and the developers, an agreement was reached to redesign the affected areas of the course. It was also agreed that the cost for such work would be part funded by Persimmon Homes subject to satisfactory design. Tom Mackenzie was then tasked with producing an outline plan to alter the current layout; his remit being to produce a redesign that would limit the risk of balls from leaving the property, produce a course of over 6,000 yards and one that was of sufficient interest and challenge for a broad section of golfers.

Once completed and presented to the club, members were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and to raise any issues or concerns with the proposed changes. This resulted in a slight revision of the design from Tom Mackenzie which the club

Main image: Pond, new 18th green
and clubhouse, Exeter

finally agreed in February 2015, with work scheduled to start in March.

Planning and Implementation

Tasked with being responsible for much of the planned work is Course Manager John Parr who has been with the club since 1986; 25 years of which have been in his current role. John, who retains a single figure handicap, is an ex county golfer and former member of nearby Dawlish Warren.

John said: "In order to meet the design criteria set by the club, we also required additional length from holes 3, 4 and 7 which meant building new tees. Holes 9 and 17 needed to be reversed while the 18th would be extended and realigned with a new water feature acting as the final golfing challenge.

"We were fortunate to have a spare hole which gave us more leeway and allowed the redesigned layout to work and achieve our objectives. In total, we planned to construct 13 tees, 4 greens, 12 bunkers and a pond, and remove 13 mature trees. Other work included new paths for the revised layout, the provision of 'borrow' pits for additional material, scrub and ditch clearance and improvements to our short game practice area. Work commenced in March 2015, with the intention to complete by spring

2016 and the revised layout to be fully playable soon after.

"It was agreed that all main construction, shaping and final grading work including turfing would be completed by First Golf, utilising the skills of Marcus Terry and Mike Smith, both experienced golf course constructors. Additional help would be provided as and when necessary regarding transportation of materials, groundwork and final turf laying. For most of the 'construction' time, there were three external staff on site, supported by two more when turfing work was required."

Progress to date

John continued: "By bringing the 'spare' hole into play in March before commencing work on the 16th and the new 10th hole, a full 18 holes were playable until August, when work stopped for three weeks to allow our annual charity pro-am to take place. This was effectively phase 1. Phase 2 work re-commenced in September with the focus being on the new 9th, 17th and 18th greens, which included the removal of existing greens turf which was later used on each of the new greens.

"Temporary greens were prepared in advance prior to being used on these three holes. Changes to the new 9th fairway required the larg-



Completed green and collar

EXETER
GOLF AND
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CLUB

est amount of material while several new tees also required a significant amount of additional base material taken from our two 'borrow' pits. In order to keep the project on schedule, temporary teeing areas were introduced as and when necessary, thus allowing play to continue. An added benefit arose by extending the ditch on the 9th creating a new water feature, complete with bridge. Work by First Golf was completed in early November. The four new greens were returfed along with several tees and front approach areas including the 18th. All other areas including many new tees were seeded late in the season. A fountain was also added to the newly created pond on the closing hole."

Construction

In terms of how new greens, tees and bunkers were constructed, John explained: "It was imperative to the club that the performance of the four new greens were as similar as possible to the existing greens.

"To achieve this we used the existing turf from the older four greens, while working closely with STRI to determine a suitable rootzone that would be as close as possible to existing rootzones, while delivering performance akin to a USGA spec. We opted for a 75:25 Fendress mix; requiring 200 tons per green, over-



New green and bunker under construction



Drainage installation on new 18th



Lake lining and filling

lying stone carpet and drainage. For tees we utilised the old rootzones from the four greens which gave us sufficient material overlying a sub base of soil transported from the 'borrow' pits.

"About half the tees were turfed using a rye/fescue based mix from Inturf, whereas the remainder were seeded using a similar mix. Bunkers which are of a 'rolled' turf edge design were lined with upturned turf, while bankings were formed using on-site soil. We used 100mm drainage pipe for shaping the interior edge, this technique has worked well and helped to stabilise the soil. They will be sanded in spring when ground conditions are drier. Roger Davey from Irritech drew up the irrigation requirements for greens and tees, while pipework, cabling, valves and sprinklers were installed by First Golf and our own greenkeepers."

Project Management

I asked John on how the existing course and development work was being managed. John said: "My deputy Ricki Worrall took charge of the day-to-day running of the golf course while I focused on the construction. We held regular project management meetings throughout the construction phases to ensure nothing was missed. These were led by our chairman and supported by the president and other club officials, along with the architect and lead contractor.

"The three main challeng-

es were keeping the project on budget and to schedule, which often meant re-planning the daily operation at the drop of a hat for any number of reasons, keeping the irrigation system operational while work was being carried out and maintaining a playable course in order that handicap qualifying events could continue. The benefit of having a spare hole cannot be understated and helped to bring the members on board."

Summary

John concluded: "There have been so many positives so far. We have increased the number of golf members and many have been inspired to offer their time and support, embarking on small projects to assist our team. A fundraising event organised by our Chairman of Greens helped to fund a new bridge and demonstrated the commitment within our club. A solution was found to solve a difficult challenge whereby the developer was able to build houses safe in the knowledge that every effort has been made to protect these properties.

"Once fully open, the revised layout will create greater interest, provide improved playability and with the added benefit of a stunning signature hole to end the round. The project has been an exciting and challenging experience for all of us. The future of golf has been secured on our present location as a direct result of great leadership and teamwork."



New 18th green and pond



New green, existing turf



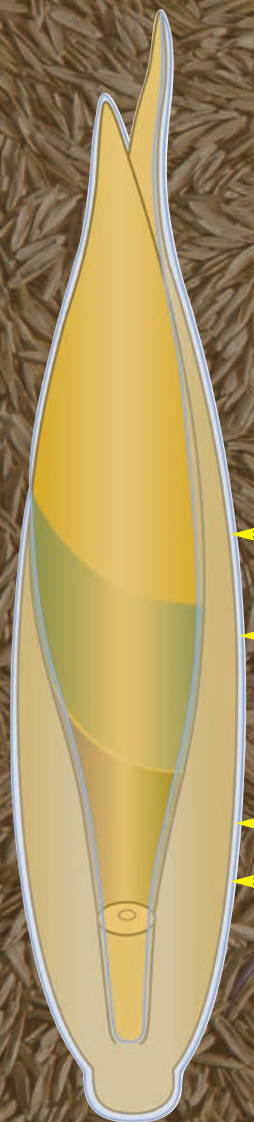
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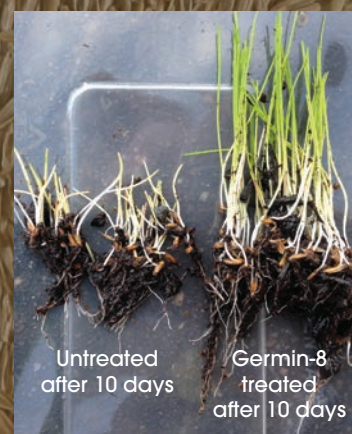
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Machinery tips for winter

As temperatures plunge after a mild and wet end to 2015, Chris Minton, Head Mechanic at The Belfry and Colin Barkby Deputy Mechanic, provide us with some timely tips on looking after those key pieces of machinery.

It's absolutely vital to maintain various elements of your machinery in the winter, and here's a step by step guide into just some of the key things you should be thinking about.

Antifreeze

Antifreeze (radiator coolant) should be checked daily on pre start checks - our guys check this as one of the daily pre start checks.

As temperatures decrease we check the antifreeze in the cooling systems on all of our machines using a tester. Most manufacturers recommend a 50/50 mix of antifreeze/water that should be changed every two years.

Radiator fins and oil coolers

Radiator fins and oil coolers should be checked and cleaned on pre start checks and or at the end of the day. Often, when cleaned out they have not been cleaned as well as you might think. Sometimes there is a build up of

baked muck blocked in some of radiator core that doesn't blow out with airline. This build up often happens on cool, damp mornings, when the machine has warmed up and dust particles are drawn through the radiator and it sticks to the core. On some machines we remove the radiators so we can give the radiator a complete clean.

Battery maintenance

If you can, it's good to check in advance the condition of the battery. You can purchase several battery testers, we have a hydrometer that checks the specific gravity of each cell and also we use a voltmeter to check battery voltage.

It is also good practice to keep the top of the battery clean from debris. The battery terminals should be cleaned regularly and a coating of terminal spray is highly recommended.




THE BELFRY

Greasing

This should be done at regular intervals, if you have any blocked grease nipples now is a good time to replace any problem or worn nipples. We don't use a conventional lever-operated grease gun, we purchased an 18 volt rechargeable gun a couple of years ago. It makes some of the difficult to get grease in nipples easy to grease. Also it speeds the greasing job up



and because of its power it often unblocks blocked nipples that a conventional lever grease gun won't.

Hydraulic hoses

This often gets missed but most manufacturers recommend changing all moving hydraulic hoses every two years. Sometimes this gets missed because of the cost side - if you don't follow these guidelines you are running a bigger risk in the chance of a hydraulic hose bursting out on the course, causing hot oil damage on the turf.

Safety switches

We check safety switches on a daily basis. These checks are completed by the operator on their daily pre start check, it's also recommended that they are changed every two years.

Fuel

Whether it's petrol or diesel, fuel should be changed often. Petrol only has a shelf life of about six weeks.

The small amount of petrol in your lawnmower's carburetor will deteriorate faster than the fuel in the fuel tank due to its small volume and proximity to residual engine heat.

The fuel valve fitted on most petrol engines allows you to turn off the fuel flow from fuel tank for storage and or transporting. If you have a petrol engine that's not going to be used during the winter, it's a good idea to drain your fuel tank and then run the engine until it stops, this prevents the petrol turning stale and in turn blocking the jets in the carburetor.

Diesel is generally changed annually or every 1,000 hours.



Section Notes

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

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



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Events Coming Up

CENTRAL

There are a few educational events being lined up just now and we are waiting on confirmation, so look out for the email flyer in your inbox.

EAST

By the time you have all read this BTME and Continue to Learn will be done and dusted for another year and will have given us all plenty to think about.

There isn't too much to report on this month, too many folks tidying up after winter storms or recovering from the festive season. Best of luck for those affected by the storms and please do use social media to keep others up to date

News

CENTRAL

Rain, rain and more rain and flooding!!! The less said about the last few months the better.

Good to see a lot of guys from the section at BTME, I hope you all had a good time.

Congratulations to David Cooper of Downfield Golf Club, who has been chosen to be part of The Future Turf Managers Initiative which will take place at Ransomes Jacobson HQ in Ipswich 15-17 March.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

On behalf of SWS, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Castle for all of his hard work over the last few years. It's been an absolute pleasure working with him and I like to wish him every success in his new role.

Please look out for the Spring Golf Outing details, which will be announced shortly. Last year saw a terrific uptake from Members at both the golf outings and the education events, so hopefully we can repeat this throughout 2016. Please get in touch if you have any ideas / suggestions for 2016's education events.

By the time you read this BTME will have been and gone, so I hope everyone had a great time. Thank you to all who put so much effort into organising what is an undisputable highlight for our industry!

Thank you in advance to everyone who have been involved in organising the Scottish Conference – Looks like it's going to be another great event and I'm looking forward to attending.

Please keep in touch with your news and photos at the above email addresses.

All the best.

NORTH

At the time of writing this article clubs in the north east are starting the soul destroying job of clearing up after several storms battered the area. The worst affected golf clubs were the ones situated along the banks of the river Dee and Don. Where the fast flowing rivers reached record high levels destroying and changing landscapes for ever. It is not just golf clubs that have suffered but whole communities have been badly affected where houses and businesses have been badly damaged. So here is hoping for a dry spell of weather so things have a chance to dry out.

BTME at Harrogate will have been and gone by the time you get this article, so those who attended I hope you managed to catch up with old friends and made some new ones and got the most out of all the educational seminars that were available to you.

We will all have a busy year this year ahead of us so I do hope the weather is going to improve for us all. With my rain gauge at Portlethen collecting 126mm of rain in 10days surely things will get better.

Once again if you have any interesting facts, figures or photographs that you feel would be of interest to the rest



of the section please let us know by the usual methods.

WEST

Congratulations to Stuart Taylor who celebrated 25 years as Course Manager at Glasgow Golf Club (Killermont) on the 7th January. Which also means very soon Brian Bolland will also celebrate 25 years in the same role at East Kilbride Golf Club. Stuart was previously Course Manager at East Kilbride and Brian was appointed in his place, when he left to take up the reins in Glasgow. Both Stuart and Brian have been great supporters of Bigga over the years, and we look forward to that continuing for many more years to come.

EAST

The section committee meeting will have taken place

when you read this and we will have details for our programme of events for the year ahead in next months issue. Many congratulations and good luck to Stewart Crawford from North Berwick Golf Club on his selection to the Future Turf Managers Initiative, made possible by Jacobsen, we look forward to hearing about your time in Norwich.

East Section now has a twitter account @BIGGA_ES add us and keep in touch

Anyone wishing to have news added or are willing to write a short topic of interest for the GI Magazine then please get in touch.

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

Alan Campbell

greenkeeper@alancampbell.demon.co.uk



Around The Green

Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

NORTHERN

Next event will be the spring tournament, full details to follow.

SHEFFIELD

The @flatcapturclub meeting is to held at Thornhurst Manor. It is still scheduled for early March but an exact date will be made closer to the event.

NORTH WEST

The Spring Tournament will be at High Legh Park G.C on the 17th March. Costs are: Members 20 GBP / Non-Members 30 GBP.

Bacon roll and coffee from 09:30

First Tee 11:00

2 course Meal 16:30

Nearest the pin and longest drive.

Please contact Dave Weir, 07774999230 or email d.weir@rigbytaylor.com

NORTH EAST

You can keep up to date with all that's happening in your section via the social media

NORTH WALES

Eastham Lodge Golf Club will be hosting a Charity Competition in aid of the Wirral Autistic Society on Tuesday, 12th April. The event is an individual stableford at £10 per head. Tee times are from 8:00am

til 1:30 pm. To book or get further information contact Richie Shields on 077802182203.

Late March (TBC) – Education Day at Coleg Cambria (Deeside Campus)

Tuesday, 12th April – WAS Charity Competition at Eastham Lodge Golf Club.

Wednesday, 27th April - Spring Golf Competition at Maesdu Golf Club

TBC - Autumn Golf Competition

Thursday, 24th November - Winter Golf Competition at Wrexham Golf Club

News

CLEVELAND

A belated Happy New year to everyone in the Cleveland section. As usual January is a very quiet month for news. The weather has been brutal to everyone in the area except maybe for your links boys! Pictures across Facebook and Twitter of rivers bursting there banks and fairways flooded out have given us an indication of how bad it really has been.

This time of year can be tough on even the hardest green keeper s and I can quite honestly say the start to 2016 has been the toughest in the 23 years I have been green keeping. Yes that's right 23 years as you can see with my youthful head shot at the top of the around the green you wouldn't think I was that old. Maybe I should update my photo!

We are still looking for a venue for the Spring tournament 2016 if any of you guys out there would like to put your course forward you can email amcgeough@aol.com, Facebook messenger or text me on 07974458640.

As a foot note we would like to congratulate our scribe, Anthony McGeough and the team at Richmond Golf Club for winning the STRI Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year, well done to you all.

NORTHERN

Christmas golf was a beautiful winter's day with the sun shining! A team Texas scramble was the format with the final scores being closely contested. Well done to the winning team of Mark, Dean, Dan and Ben

The Christmas jumper competition was even more closely contested with Dan from hanging Heaton getting the final vote. Don't know what designer shop he got it from, but can bet they only sold 1 lol!

Thanks to Dan and his assistant for preparing the course for us in exceptionally wet conditions and also to thank the catering for an excellent Christmas dinner!

Thanks to Bathgate Sand, Alan Gray and Mel Guy for sponsoring the event

We also held our annual AGM with quite a few changes on the committee; Philip Baldock is now chairman, John Waite vice chairman, Steve McAdam's golf organiser, Andy Smith education officer, Rob Gee secretary and GI writer and Dennis Cockburn president. Thanks go to last year's committee and especially John Watts who has stood down after several years of being on the committee and for representing BIGGA northern section.

Quick moan! 8 golfers decided on the day of the golf that they would not bother to play. Even worse, decided as well not to pay! This behaviour is unacceptable as meals have been arranged, sponsors are let down and it is uncourteous to say the least! Emergencies may happen, but to 8? Future bookings will have to be paid for in advance by BACS, cheque, etc. this way people will be serious about attending the organised events

Anybody with any ideas about trade days, machinery

demos, and product information please gets in touch with me or any of the committee so we can arrange events, etc.

Also golf days are going to have later tee off times 12 onwards to try and boost the numbers of greenkeepers playing golf. This will give greenkeepers the chance to work the morning at their clubs making sure everything's good before going to network with fellow greenkeepers. Let's put some effort in to attending, bringing your staff and being proud of the green keeping section we have!

SHEFFIELD

Unfortunately I have to bring you all some extremely sad news. Michael "Wak" Walton passed away on Tuesday 5th January after a short battle with cancer.

He started work at Renishaw Park GC almost straight from school – he worked in a factory for two weeks but didn't like the working conditions, so he applied for and got a job as a greenkeeper at RPGC. That was in 1975, so Michael spent the whole of his working life (except for a couple of weeks) at RPGC.

He was hard working, until ill health started to limit him – even then he tried his best. Michael never married or had children of his own, but he always looked after his nieces and nephews as his own.

He will be sadly missed by staff and members alike

NORTH WEST

Hello everybody,

The Lancashire Turf Club Quiz night, held on 15 December 2015 at Bolton Old Links G.C was a huge success and a good night was had by all with all teams going home with a prize. Thank you to the organisers.

We have more good news within the section this month, so please join us in congratulating our hard working members.

Simon Robinson is on the move from The Mere Golf Resort and Spa to Heysham G.C.

James Whitworth (Bolton Old Links G.C) has successfully gained his level 2 Apprenticeship from Myerscough College.

Aaron Watkinson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper (Bolton Old Links G.C) has been selected for 'FTMI' this year and John McLoughlin has been selected as a Bernhard representative and will travel to the GIS during February.

Congratulations to Eddie Ainsworth for being a nominated finalist for the STRI Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year.

We would like to wish Phil Medcalf (Royal Lytham & St Annes G.C) a happy retirement. He has worked at Lytham for nearly 40 years which included 5 Open Championships and many more high class tournaments. All the best.

In the meantime keep a look out on our Facebook and Twitter pages

NORTH WALES

Looks like we have/had a full bus going up to Harrogate and I hope all of you enjoyed BTME. It looks like there is a lot going to be happening after seeing the exhibitors list. Also the Continue To Learn brochure seems to be getting thicker every year, I know I struggled to pick from the many workshop/seminar's on the list (like I normally do with a takeaway menu). There are still a few dates to sort out in the diary for the section events, e.g. Education Day, Cricket Match and Autumn's Golf

Day, but as soon as they are confirmed we will keep you informed.

NORTH EAST

The North East section would like to welcome Ian Pullan who has taken the role as course manager at Slaley Hall GC, and

Jon Waston has taken up a new role of Estates Manager at High Gosforth Park 900 acre site over seeing Parklands Golf Course and Newcastle Race Course. We hope you both are successful in your new positions

Congratulations to Whitley Bay GC for being a nominated finalist in the STRI Environmental Golf Course of the Year and to Simon Olver personally for being selected as a Bernhard representative, Simon will travel to the GIS later in February.

Congratulations also to Jack Hetherington for being selected for the Ransomes FTMI initiative and to Stuart Imeson for being selected by John Deere to attend as part of the support team at TPC Sawgrass later in the year.

Thanks to Sponsors

NORTHERN

Thanks to all the trade companies who supported the section in 2015 and let's make 2016 an eventful year!

NORTH WEST

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



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Events Coming Up

LONDON

January was our second winter lecture at Muswell Hill, With Mike Claxton of Shelton Drainage talking about a very current subject that of Golf Course Drainage. His talk was informative and very interesting covering all aspects from pipe sizes to depths to relevant machinery.

Next Lecture is on Wednesday 3rd February we have two committee members [Wes Walker/Northwood and Kevin O'Neill/Muswell Hill] talking about their experiences working in America this will also be at Muswell Hill 12-30 until 2pm. FREE

And then the big one the Oakland/London annual seminar at Oaklands College Smallford with 4 great speakers talking on the letter W the theme and subjects are

- 1, Water, Mick Claxton-Director of Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Ltd will speak on the subject of drainage and its importance to playing surfaces.
 - 2, Wimbledon, David Langheim [MG] Course Manager at Wimbledon Park Golf Club will talk on how the worlds major Tennis event effects his course!
 - 3, Weather, Mark Hunt-Technical Director at Headland Amenity, will talk on the weather and its effects on turf grass maintenance
 - 4, West Ham FC, Dougie Robertson- Head Groundsman will talk on managing turf grass at a premiership club and preparing to move to a new pitch and training ground.
- Cost of this seminar is only £12-50 including lunch and refreshments.

This rounds off the winter education but and the better weather arrives we can all meet up on the golf course at first the spring tournament at Porters Park on Wednesday 18th May and this is the National qualifier. Then the summer tournament is at Sandy Lodge on Thursday 18th August and finally the Xmas tournament will be at West Herts in early December.

SOUTH EAST

There is no January Seminar this month but please put into the diary Thursday 18th February. Paul Woodham and/or Stella Rixon from STRI will be presenting on "Managing soil

based greens and approaches and their impact on play". I am sure Ashley will send out some communication beforehand to remind you all.

KENT

- 10th March Royal Cinque Ports
- 11th May Wildernes GC
- 20th September Ashford GC
- 24th November Redlibbets GC

Anthony Stockwell has organised 2 seminars to be held at Hadlow College.

The first of these will be a Renovation Special on the 16th February at 3pm and the second will also be at 3pm on the 9th March with the subject to be confirmed. These seminars were all excellent last and we'll worth attending.

News

EAST ANGLIA

Apologies for missing the January issue. Modern technology works very well if you remember to switch it on!

Thorpeness 'turkey trot' was a huge success as usual, thanks to Ian and his team., The sun even came out (shame my boss's wallet didn't)

The golf was very close as usual with Rushmere taking first place on countback from Dunston Dynamos with 48 points, followed by Stowmarket Maffia 48.5 points and Toro Tigers with 49 points.

Colin Rushbrook was nearest the pin on the second, which was sponsored by Aitkens, (Colin won his own prize, bless him).

Scott Pernell was nearest the pin on the 7th, sponsored by Tomlinson Groundcare

Peter Cooney was nearest the pin on 10th, sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

Simon Reeve was nearest the pin on 16th, sponsored by Ernest Doe.

Bob Cotton was longest driver (16-29 handicap) on the 1st, sponsored by Prime Irrigation.

Andy Cursal was longest driver (0-15 handicap) on the 17th, sponsored by Lely UK.

Martin Scott was nearest the rope and Richard Southall was nearest the pin in 2. Sorry, don't know who sponsors were or what holes the last two were on (pen ran out!)

The president's prize went to Richard Plummer (you just can't keep those Plummers down can you!) Apparently he's the deep scarifying expert from Mundesley!

Ian Thornton, captain of Thorpeness, and Colin Rushbrook, our president, presented the prizes.

The main sponsors of the day were CMW, followed by Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, Collier Turf Care, Headland, Sherrif, Tacit, SGI, Jacobsens, Ransoms, Everris, Vitax and Ian Willett for sponsoring all the wine – cheers mate.

I nearly forgot the AGM (easily done):-

The committee got re-elected. Looks like a job for life!

The treasurers, chairman and secretary reports were all fine. Then came the longest "any other business" of all time, details of which I am sure Andy Baker will have put on the website. That's if you remember to switch it on!

NB Can you please give Ian as much notice as you can, ie five working days if you have to cancel a golf meeting or you may be charged.

Pause for thought – A head greenkeeper I heard of, thought he would treat his team to a fried

breakfast just before Christmas. He went to sort out a decent price for the event bearing in mind all of the team were staff. He was asked if he had a loyalty card!!! He said there is over 200 years service sitting around that table, if that's not "loyalty" what is? They all went to Wetherspoons.

SOUTH EAST

Welcome to my first entry as the new scribe for the Surrey Section. If we have not crossed paths before I'm Steve Alabaster and have been a supporter of the section for the last 7 years, the first 5 working as the local Ernest Doe Rep and for the last 2 as the Jacobsen Representative so if you don't know me please introduce yourself at the next upcoming Golf day (The dates will be released shortly I have been informed!) as it will be great to meet up with new members this year.

The section seems to be growing again from last year as there were a host of new faces at the Turkey trot held at Guildford Golf Club and I hope with the ongoing training that we have in the section, and the golf days

to come that this will indeed grow our section to make it what it once was.

It's at this point I would like to congratulate those who have been chosen from our section to go to the Future Turf Managers Initiative which are: Stefan Carter – Wentworth Golf Club, Andrew Gibbs – Sunningdale Golf Club, Scott Roberts – East Berkshire Golf Club. These events run by Bernhard's, Toro, John Deere etc are a fantastic way to make new connections in our industry and the experiences you have can be very beneficial to your career. So I hope you all look to enter these and more in the future so you can get your name mentioned in dispatches!

Thanks to Sponsors

KENT

Many thanks to the sponsors who have generously contributed to Kent section again this year. We look forward to welcoming you to any of the events listed above.

SE GOLF & DINNER DAY

The South East Region's annual Golf and Dinner Day will be held at Walton Heath Golf Club on Friday 4 March 2016.

This is one of greenkeeping's longest running events and is always well supported.

For entry forms and more details, please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator on:
**01737 819343 or
07841 948410,
or email
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk**



Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

EAST OF ENGLAND

The fixture booklet should be received in the next few weeks which will give details of all 2016 events. Keep an eye out on the section facer book page regarding information on our education seminar.

EAST MIDLANDS

Please note the date for the East Mids seminar Wednesday 9th March. To be held at Forrest Hill GC. Richard Owens will be presenting the very subject of FIFTY SHADES OF GREEN, Sam Evans will be talking about how to use BIGGA as a tool for your career, Steve Nixon will be on hand to discuss the importance of being sharp, not personally, just the mowers!!! And our friend Ed Ainsworth will be discussing Bees and Beekeeping on the golf course, a subject close to my heart, as I introduced two hives to the Belfry when I was there some years ago. Very interesting subject. There will also be some demos thought the day of the hot machine AIR2G2, I'll be on hand to show and answer any questions throughout the day.

MID ANGLIA

Midland Section Regional Seminar at Woburn GC on February 24th which looks to be a great event with some very interesting topics and speakers and I am sure it will be very well supported by many from our section

MIDLAND

Here's the 3 main golf comps for the coming year if anyone is interested in keeping the numbers up please contact Karl Williams on 07584196172

Spring Tournament The Worcestershire Golf Club
Thursday 12th May 2016

Start: 13:30 - Cost £21.00 Closing Date: 2nd May Prize
Sponsor - Campey Turf Care Systems Stableford - 18 Holes
Team Event & AGM Patsull Golf Club
Wednesday 14th September 2016

Start: 12:00 - Cost £25.00 Closing Date: 5th September Prize
Sponsor - Working Turf Make your own team of 4 player -
Stableford 18 Holes

Christmas Tournament Redditch Golf Club
Wednesday 7th December 2016

Start: 10:00 - Cost £27.00 Closing Date: 23rd
November Prize Sponsor - Banks Amenity Pairs
For Partners To Be Drawn On The Day

Midland regional conference is being held at Woburn this year on 24th February the day before my 50th birthday :) if you want to attend please call Roger Butler on 07525593359

£25 for BIGGA Members

News

EAST OF ENGLAND

I hope that all those who attended BTME had an enlightening experience and that your enthusiasm for the industry has been fuelled for the forthcoming year. Hopefully the weather of the start of January is behind us as I'm still looking for bits of wood to complete our Ark at Waltham and the affliction of Sheditus has set in as I type. Please continue to send via email interesting stories or information from the section and I will endeavor to include it within these few lines!

EAST MIDLANDS

Thankfully all has turned cold, a much needed cold snap arrived. As I write, the day before Villa V Leicester I wonder what the result will bring!!!! I will be sending either a happy or disgruntled customer home!!!! I hope you all had an enjoyable trip to Harrogate. Let the season commence.

I see from the section there are a few guys practicing their golf posting bits on social media so I guess game on (James Burberry).

The section committee is working hard to make sure there is plenty going on this year and that the events are as well supported as last year, if there is anything you feel that is missing or if there is anything you wish to see this year, give us a shout and we can look into this for you.

MID ANGLIA

As I write this we have BTME on the immediate horizon and at long last the weather seems to have become more Wintery with some frosts and colder temperatures for the coming weeks, which will be a welcome change as have had enough of the mild and wet conditions all were experiencing in late 2015 with December setting records for both rainfall and temperatures. Although it has been very testing we know we have been very fortunate and not experienced severe flooding that other areas of the UK have had to endure. Let's hope we get some more normal weather patterns in 2016 as it would make a welcome change to recent seasons so fingers crossed.

MIDLAND

Hi guys happy February, well this is a busy month, hope you all had a great Harrogate, and are now raring to go as the spring hopefully fast approaches

We have a trip coming up on 8th March to the home of Welsh Rugby, the millennium Stadium if you interested please contact Rhys Thomas on 07774164173 there will be a nominal charge of £10 towards the coach and lunch will be laid on by our lovely sponsors for the day Headland, thank you to Adrian Masters for organising this one

Next we have congrats to Paul Mills who is

Welcome New Members

AREA & NAME

POSITION

GOLF CLUB

Scotland And Northern Ireland

Craig Sutherland	Greenkeeper	Golspie Golf Club
Scott Fleming	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Callum Stirling	Assistant Greenkeeper	Lenzie Golf Club
Ryan Gall	Assistant Greenkeeper	Loch Lomond Golf Club

Midland

Steve Dun	Affiliate	Campey Turfcare Systems / Turfworks
David Blair	Affiliate	Affiliate Member
Ivan Miller	Education Partner	John Deere Ltd
Philip Morgan	Greenkeeper	Waltham Windmill Golf Club
Robert Winslow	Greenkeeper	Waltham Windmill Golf Club
Richard King	Greenkeeper	Waltham Windmill Golf Club
Jack Evans	Assistant Greenkeeper	Waltham Windmill Golf Club
Joseph Spadaccini	Assistant Greenkeeper	Scraptoft Golf Club
Jack Gilford	Assistant Greenkeeper	Scraptoft Golf Club

Northern

Andrew Hall	Deputy Head Greenkeeper	Sandburn Hall Golf Club
Tom Pattison	Greenkeeper	Blyth Golf Club
Alan Royle	Greenkeeper	Hartford Golf Club
Ian Illingworth	Greenkeeper	Warrington Golf Club
Daniel Scanlon	Greenkeeper	Stockport Golf Club
Robert Smith	Student	Askham Bryan College
Elliott Storey	Assistant Greenkeeper	Retford Golf Club
Will Chantrell	Assistant Greenkeeper	Warrington Golf Club

South West and South Wales

Adrian Bizley	Greenkeeper	Broome Manor Golf Club
Eddie Betterton	Greenkeeper	Broome Manor Golf Club
Wal Grutzmacher	Greenkeeper	Broome Manor Golf Club
Steve Bayliss	Greenkeeper	Broome Manor Golf Club
Mark Bolton	Greenkeeper	Manor House Golf Club at Castle Coombe
James Popham	Assistant Greenkeeper	Enmore Park Golf Club
Jason Hodge	Assistant Greenkeeper	Southwick Park Golf Club

South East

Keith Driver	Affiliate	Affiliate Member
Thomas Fairweather	Greenkeeper	Weston Park Golf Club
David Fitch	Greenkeeper	Canterbury Golf Club
Matthew Strudwick	Assistant Greenkeeper	Weston Park Golf Club
Ed Clarke	Assistant Greenkeeper	Muswell Hill Golf Club

International

Norbert Schober	Affiliate	Mag.Norbert Schober
Kevin Ravier	International Member	Lavaux Golf Club

moving from Penn golf club where he has done a great job to take up the course manager role at Drayton Golf Club also a massive congrats to Paul who has been chosen as one of four scholars to represent the R&A scholarship programme at the SMBS Singapore open at the end of January well done Paul

We welcome Chris Breen back to the area who is moving back to greenkeeping from Reading Football club taking up a senior role at Rugby Golf Club

Some nice things going on in family life to as Shirley's own Andy Smith has become granddad for the first time on the 2nd of December with a lovely granddaughter Scarlett

Eddie Mills course manager at Edgbaston golf club who became a father again to a lovely daughter Harper on Christmas Day :)

Congrats to Adam Jones at Handsworth Golf Club who married his lovely partner Lucy just before Christmas , congrats guys

And finally Please if you have any info for the magazine get in touch and I'll get it in

Thanks to Sponsors

MID ANGLIA

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The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank their wonderful Sponsors for 2016 and we are very grateful for your continued support with funds for our section events.

South West & South Wales

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



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Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES

23rd February, Southerndown GC First Competition.
29th June, Newport GC Team Challenge South Wales v South west v GCMA south west
10th August, Coed Y Mwstwr GC Patronage Cup
TBC Worcestershire GC Autumn Comp & AGM.
15 December, Pyle & Kenfig GC Christmas Comp.
TBC North Wales V South Wales

More details to follow throughout the year regarding each fixture, you will also find information on Facebook, Twitter.

Our first fixture of the year will be played over the unique Southerndown Golf Club with views over the sea, trying to keep out of the vegetation, such as heather, bracken & gorse. The first tee is booked from 10 am, coffee & bacon roll on arrival and a 2 course evening meal.

SOUTH COAST

South Coast Section Seminar to be held at Milton Abbey School on Wednesday 17th February with the following guest speakers:

Gareth Roberts, Course Manager Hankley Common GC.

Ben Lovett, Course Manager Montgomerie Maxx Royal GC, Turkey.

Roger Davey, CEO Irritech limited.

Alan Ferguson, Head Groundsman Wembley Stadium/St. Georges Park

Turf Club visit to Tottenham Hotspur Training Facility on Tuesday 1st March, including free transport and meal afterwards.

- Spring Tournament at Broadstone Golf Club on Tuesday 5th April.

Those wishing to attend or requiring more details should contact biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com

News

SOUTH WALES

Forgot to say in last month's notes Happy new year to everyone in our section and to the patrons.

However the weather in particular dominating the headlines, with saturated course being closed, with many of us being put under huge pressure to keep them open whatever the condition, I hope this relentless rain will soon be behind us and we can look forward to a great year for greenkeepers and golf.

The Spring seminar will be held at the Millennium stadium on Wednesday 2nd March details to follow on social media, emails etc.

Please call, Txt or Email me if you have any information / news in the months ahead.

SOUTH COAST

We hope that everybody's courses are improving after a dreadful spell of weather. It is a challenging time of year but as always BTME provided a well needed boost. We hope that everyone had a safe trip to and from Harrogate and enjoyed all it had to offer. On behalf of the section we would like to thank BIGGA HQ for an amazing show.

I am pleased to announce that Tom Smith, Deputy Course Manager at Cams Hall Estate Golf Club, has been awarded a place on the Future Turf Managers Initiative 2016 taking place at Ransomes Jacobsen HQ in Ipswich from 15-17 March. We'd like to congratulate Tom on being selected as one of 20 delegates and wish him all the best for his attendance.

I am filling in this month for our regular section secretary Steve Thorne, Deputy Course Manager at Rushmore Golf Club, who having won Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2015 is away attending the prestigious Winter Turf School in Massachusetts. From there Steve will be visiting Toro HQ and enjoying all there is on offer at the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. If you would like to hear more about Steve's trip then he has a blog available at umasswinterturfschool2016.blogspot.co.uk

Once final piece of news it to announce that Leigh Powell, Assistant Golf Course Manager at Hockley Golf Club, has joined the South Coast Committee. We all look forward to welcoming Leigh to the team and are sure the section will benefit greatly from his enthusiasm and commitment.



Jeff Mills receiving life membership



Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director highlights how the GTC unites countries to ensure Greenkeeping Standards are consistent despite Government policy making the task increasingly difficult...



It is several years since the UK Government devolved many policy decisions to a Scotland Parliament and a Wales and Northern Ireland Assemblies rather than everything being decided from London.

Policies on education and public spending are just two but these both impact on greenkeeping.

The GTC has for many years kept in touch with all the various Government changes in policy as having nationally recognised qualifications including apprenticeships have attracted large amounts of public funding making staff training affordable for employers.

As different countries develop their own education policies and priorities for funding this has given the GTC a challenge to ensure the sector retains its status with the various Government bodies and Awarding Bodies in each country.

It is clear that all industries are being encouraged to "take ownership" of their own qualifications and apprenticeships and the GTC will certainly continue to do this despite the challenges of working with developed Assembly's and Parliament.

Only the older generation will remember the days when any greenkeeper in the UK & Ireland gaining a formal qualification was proud to say, "I have my City & Guilds".

This term started back in the early sixties when a small band of Scottish greenkeepers ably led by the infamous Cecil George and Bob Moffat, the Secretary



The GTC is funded by:



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www.greenkeepertraining.com



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of the Scottish Greenkeepers Association, met at Woodburn House, Langside College, Glasgow to discuss developing the first nationally recognised greenkeeping qualification. It took much persuasion to get the qualification accredited but City & Guilds agreed to become the Awarding Body, and, as they say the rest is history.

Whilst City & Guilds are still the leading Awarding Body for work based qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Scotland has the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) as its Awarding Body.

The GTC has worked to keep the number of Awarding Bodies to a minimum so as to not confuse employers and students and equally important to work in partnership with the Awarding Bodies to maintain the greenkeeping standards as they are delivered through a variety of courses by a network of approved Centres and Training Providers.

Since devolved Governments have come into force the GTC has together with its representative bodies, BIGGA and the Home Unions (representing golf club employers), developed job roles from golf greenkeeper to Golf Course Manager. These are known as STANDARDS and these are then used to develop apprenticeships and a range of accredited qualifications from work based to HND-Degree.

The Standards are consistent across ALL countries but the qualifications are accredited by various Awarding Bodies e.g. City & Guilds and the SQA.

The higher qualifications are accredited in partnership with Universities.

It is also at this stage that devolved Governments can select their priority groups where funding can be allocated e.g. 16-18 year old trainees, apprenticeships.

If all of the above refers to the more formal greenkeeper education and training qualifications we have just witnessed arguably the most extensive programme of greenkeeper education under "one roof", with a record number of training seminars and workshops on offer to all levels of greenkeepers and employers at BTME 2016.

The excellent Continue to Learn programme might be restricted between 9am - 5pm but the learning continues long into the night and in some cases straight into breakfast!

If I affectionately refer to the programme at BTME as informal greenkeeper education and training and the more "college" based education as formal then collectively the sector has the best of both worlds.

For those who prefer to learn without committing to nationally recognised qualifications then seminars and workshops are available all year round through BIGGA regions and sections and can now be recorded in an industry supported CPD scheme through BIGGA.

All seminars and workshops will relate to the STANDARDS and are an excellent way to keep in touch with your peers.

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is seeking to appoint a Greenkeeper / Groundsman

This is an exciting opportunity to become the person in charge of the day-to-day upkeep of the grounds at the largest croquet club in the south-west. We have 10,000 square metres of fine turf lawns and you, as the successful applicant, should have:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience as an assistant greenkeeper / groundsman
- Education to NVQ2 standard or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates
- A desire to improve your skills and development
- The ability to carry out basic servicing on a wide range of machinery
- The desire to continuously improve the standard of all aspects of our grounds

We are offering a generous and negotiable salary / holiday package plus a contributory pension scheme. Please apply by e-mail, attaching a CV to the Grounds Manager, Rob Weeks, at robertweeks@btinternet.com

THE FULWELL GOLF CLUB

Seasonal Assistant Greenkeeper

(March to October 2016)

Fulwell Golf Club, based in Twickenham are looking to appoint an enthusiastic assistant greenkeeper to work on the golf course between March and October in 2016. The person expected to fill the role should have the following attributes:

- Good experience of golf course maintenance work, including ride-on cutting experience.
- 40 hour working week Monday to Sunday – Full time
- Weekend work will be on a rota basis
- Will engage in all course maintenance projects and procedures
- Must be a team player and expected to work hard, with some long hours at times.
- Will learn about maximising the potential of poa annua greens.

To apply please send CVs to Greg Evans MGgregevans@fulwellgolfclub.co.uk



OLTON GC

Olton Golf Club is seeking to recruit a

Deputy Course Manager

to work alongside the Course Manager and assist with the day to day preparation and management of the golf course.

Candidates should have a minimum of 5 years' experience along with the following qualifications:

- NVQ Level 3 as a minimum requirement
- PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates
- Good understanding of Health & Safety relating to golf course operations
- CS 30 & 31 chainsaw certificates (an advantage but not essential)
- A sound knowledge of machinery maintenance
- First Aid qualification (an advantage but not essential)

Applicants should apply enclosing a covering letter and full CV to:
The Honorary Secretary (honsec@oltongolfclub.co.uk)
The Olton Golf Club, Mirfield Road, Solihull B91 1JH
www.oltongolfclub.co.uk



OLTON GOLF CLUB
Est. 1855

SPEY VALLEY

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Spey Valley Championship Golf Course
Are recruiting for a qualified and enthusiastic individual for the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

Applications are invited with the following minimum attributes:

- Minimum SVQ/NVQ level 2 (aspiring to do level 3 or above)
- Pa 1, 2 & 6a spraying certificates.
- Conversant with up to date Health and Safety regulations.
- Knowledge of machinery maintenance.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to lead and motivate staff, along with and in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper

Salary negotiable, depending on experience.

Staff accommodation is available as part of remuneration package.

Application Details:

Please forward your CV and covering letter to: John.Grattidge@macdonald-hotels.co.uk

CLOSING DATE: 12th February 2016



Training Instructor

Closing: 11th February 2016

Location: John Deere, Nottinghamshire

Job Description

John Deere is a leading supplier of agricultural and turf equipment and we are seeking to appoint a Training Instructor to join the team based in Langar, Nottinghamshire, UK.

The key functions of the role would be to develop and deliver various training to channel partners, company personnel, and customers. Training will be product-based and cover both technical and sales disciplines. The main product groups will be golf, turf, compact tractors, utility vehicles and homeowner. However, from time to time you may be called on to deliver training on other products.

Knowledge of the learning and development process, including areas such as instructional skills, presentation skills, needs assessments, adult learning theory, curriculum development and other such related knowledge and skills, are desirable.

The successful candidate should possess a sound technical background in turf products and systems such as electronics and hydraulics together with a formal education in engineering, preferably to degree standard.

Experience in a position working with dealers is desirable.

Prior experience in the training and development area involved in activities such as instruction, needs assessments, curriculum development, and other such related training and development work would be beneficial.

Field experience with regular customer contact, a knowledge of dealer/distribution network, and broad product knowledge would be desirable.

Ability to use Microsoft Office plus intranet and internet functions is essential.

An amount of travel will be required to both deliver and receive training. A clean driving license is required.

In return John Deere offers an attractive remuneration package with the opportunity for career development within a global company.

John Deere is an equal opportunities employer.

Please apply by visiting www.JohnDeere.co.uk Careers page, Job-Opportunities-UK.
Closing date: 29 January 2016



JOHN DEERE

Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper



Woking Golf Club has an opportunity for you to enhance our dedicated team of Greenkeepers to present the course to a standard consistent with a Top 100 Golf Club.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Be passionate about their role and association with the Club
- Be conscientious, flexible and a team player
- To communicate effectively within the team and report to his/her superiors
- Have a minimum of NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Sports turf and relevant practical greenkeeping
- Ideally, a golfer or possess knowledge and understanding of the game of Golf
- Have a keen eye for detail with the ability to produce a high standard of work

Woking prides itself in its staff welfare and retention and as such offers a package that would reflect this.

We look forward to receiving your application in writing and CV addressed "Private and Confidential" to

Mrs Jo Smith
Assistant Secretary
Woking Golf Club
Pond Road
Hook Heath
Woking Surrey GU22 0JZ

HUNTERCOOMB GOLF CLUB

Course Manager

Closing: 19th February 2016
Location: Huntercombe Golf Club, Oxfordshire

Job Description

The club was established in 1901 and was designed and originally owned by Willie Park Jnr. Unencumbered by the demands of others, Park packed the course with unique design features that provide a memorable test of golf. Huntercombe offers members and visitors an unparalleled golfing experience - golf in the best tradition.

Applicants will need to possess the following Qualifications, Experience and Skills:

- Qualified to Level 3 or higher in Sports Turf Management and Maintenance
 - Passionate, enthusiastic and highly motivated
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in a senior management position
- Proven team building abilities with strong communication and leadership qualities
- The ability to work in an efficient and effective manner and prioritise work schedules
- Proven experience in the preparation of machinery replacement and servicing plans
- Spraying certification (PA1, PA2 & PA6) & Chainsaw Certificate (CS30&31) essential
 - Experience in the use and maintenance of irrigation systems
 - Good knowledge of IT systems and presentation skills
- An understanding and appreciation of a historical golf course design and features
- Able to demonstrate progressive golf course maintenance and presentation techniques

Applications close on 19th February, 2016.

An attractive remuneration package is available for the right candidate and living accommodation is available if required.

Please send applications to:
Steve Green, Secretary, Huntercombe Golf Club,
Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5SL

Or email: secretary@huntercombegolfclub.co.uk

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the Greenkeeping team at Maesdu (Llandudno) Golf Club, situated on the North Wales Coast.

We are currently looking to recruit a dedicated and highly motivated full time Greenkeeper to join our existing team of four. Maesdu Golf Club is an 18 hole championship course with a Links and Parkland blend designed by the renowned course architect James Braid.

What you Possess:

- A positive attitude to work, self-motivated with excellent time management.
- A flexible approach to work, work hours and weekend duties.
- Must hold NVQ 2 or equivalent qualification or 2 years' experience
- PA1, PA2, PA6 spraying certificates desirable but not essential.
- Able to work as part of a team or alone.
- Ability to provide input into work discussions and course development.
- Be able to work to the highest of standards and possess a keen attention to detail with an ability to provide the best possible playing surfaces.
- Carry out work in accordance to health and safety guidelines.
- Want to further their skills, training and development and involvement with BIGGA

What We Provide:

- BIGGA Membership
- Staff uniform
- Educational opportunities (Seminars, Training courses, Qualifications)
- Resources to carry out all tasks to the highest of standards
- An opportunity to increase you skill set, knowledge and enhance your career.

Please apply by email with a letter of introduction and CV to Miles Todd Course manager: coursemanager@maesdugolfclub.co.uk
Closing Date: February 29th

Be part of the most exciting hospitality story of 2016...

Trump Turnberry, A Luxury Collection Resort in Ayrshire, is seeking applications for a Seasonal Greenkeeper who is available from March to October. Previous experience is desirable but not essential as full on site training will be provided.

The world famous resort, including the iconic Championship Ailsa course, is currently going through a historic renovation, re-opening on the 1st of June 2016.

This is an opportunity to join the existing team for the final parts of the construction and then the growing in of the Ailsa Course for re-opening, as well as assisting in the maintenance of the Kintyre Course and our other golf related areas.

This is a unique career development opportunity for an enthusiastic, hardworking and passionate Greenkeeper who has a desire to work within a high profile environment to be part of this exciting project.

Benefits include:

- Subsidised Staff Accommodation if required
- Full training on all Greenkeeping tasks
- Ongoing Learning and Development, including our Service Culture Programme
- On site agronomic presentations.
- Meal on duty
- StarHOT - Starwood ambassador discounted room rates, available to you and your immediate family.
- Resort Facilities - free use of resort facilities including the Spa Pool & Gym and Golf facilities (certain restrictions apply).

To apply, please forward your CV to HR at HR@trumpturnberry.com



Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month

at www.bigga.co.uk/careers
from £595 +vat for an 1/8 advert
Contact Jill Rodham on
01347 833812

NORTH FORELAND GOLF CLUB - COURSE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the above position.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the right candidate at North Foreland Golf Club, a Fowler Simpson course established in 1903, situated on the picturesque Kent coast near the seaside town of Broadstairs. This thriving club with an active and full membership occupies a beautiful Chalkland Downland Clifftop location, the site comprises an 18 Hole Main Course, an 18 Hole Par 3 course, hard surface tennis courts, practice facilities and extensive landscaping. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about providing the best possible playing surfaces and condition of external areas to ensure we deliver memorable experiences to our members and visitors. Working closely with Club Management they must possess the following;

- Qualified to a minimum of Level 3 or higher ideally
- At least 5yrs experience in a senior management position
- Proven team building abilities with strong communication and leadership qualities
- Excellent budgeting, planning and forecasting skills
- Spraying & Chainsaw Certificates are essential
- Able to demonstrate progressive golf course maintenance and presentation techniques

Applications close on 28 February 2016

Please apply by email only with your cv and a covering letter to tony@northforeland.co.uk
Club website - www.northforeland.co.uk

Recruitment

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club



Host venue for The Amateur Championship in June 2016, situated on the South Wales coast between Cardiff and Swansea, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club is a world renowned classic links course.

Seasonal Greenkeepers (Full time, April – Sept)

The club seek to recruit two enthusiastic, capable and experienced Seasonal Greenkeeper's to join the existing team. These positions are ideally suited to individuals wishing to develop their careers gaining experience in links maintenance and major tournament preparation.

The ideal candidate will have:

- At least three years experience in golf course maintenance
- NVQ 2 or similar qualification

Applications for both positions should be made either in writing or via email accompanied by full CV to:- Ian Kinley, Course Manager, Royal Porthcawl GC, Rest Bay, Porthcawl, CF36 3UW ian.kinley@royalporthcawl.com
www.royalporthcawl.com Closing date: 12th February 2016

Greenkeeping Vacancy at Premier South-West Golf Resort



Woodbury Park Hotel and Golf Club is a privately owned rural hotel located just outside of Exeter in Devon. Boasting 2 outstanding golf courses as well as a premier-standard sports pitch, Woodbury Park represents a great opportunity for an experienced green-keeper. The Oaks 18-hole Championship Course and the Acorns 9-hole course are beautifully manicured, with the Oaks Course having hosted many high-end golf events, including 3 European Senior Tour events.

We are currently looking for qualified green keepers to join our team with a view to commencing employment in April 2016. We require full and seasonal staff, with prospective candidates having the following attributes:

- Must hold NVQ 2 or equivalent qualification as an absolute minimum.
- Minimum 3 years' experience.
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates.
- Be able to work well within a team or on own.
- You must require an eye for detail and have high standards of work.

Please send C.V and covering letter to:
Ian Chenery, Estates Manager, Woodbury Park Hotel and Golf Club, Woodbury, Nr Exeter, Devon, EX5 1JJ

Alternatively, please send documents by e-mail to IChenery@woodburypark.co.uk.

Head Greenkeeper Sandfield Golf Course & Driving Range



We are looking to appoint a Head Greenkeeper to be responsible for maintaining this well-established 9 hole golf facility located outside Chester, Cheshire. This role is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic individual to join a small team and take responsibility for a variety of hands on duties across the business. Applicants must have a sound knowledge of all aspects of modern greenkeeping including Health & Safety procedures. The successful candidate will also require:

- Minimum NVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf Management
- PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates
- A chainsaw qualification is desirable but not essential

Applicants should apply in writing or email with a covering letter and a CV to:
Mr Andrew Pritchard, Director Sandfield Golf Ltd, Ince Lane, Bridge Trafford, Chester, Cheshire, CH2 4JP Email sandfield_golf@yahoo.co.uk
Closing date for applications Friday 19 February 2016
For an informal discussion about the role please contact Andrew Pritchard initially by email as above.

An exciting opportunity has arisen at Spalding Golf Club. As part of the overall management team, the successful applicant will have the opportunity to contribute to the future development of the course and implement continual improvements in order for the course to realise its full potential.



Candidates will ideally possess the following attributes:

- Minimum NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management
- Spraying (PA1, PA2, PA6) and Chainsaw qualifications
- A sound knowledge of Health and Safety, Risk and COSHH assessments relating to golf course operations
- A good working knowledge of Irrigation systems, including repair, maintenance and good IT skills

For further details please visit the BIGGA website.

Please apply in the first instance by sending your C.V and covering letter via e-mail to golfmanager@spaldinggolfclub.co.uk



partners in turfcare

Area Sales Manager – Golf Sector (Surrey/South London)

Lely Turfcare is the exclusive distributor in the UK and Ireland for the world leading range of Toro professional turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems, as well as the TYM brand of tractors. Our blend of product offering is well suited to a diverse range of customers in the sectors of 'fine turf' golf sports and grounds maintenance sectors including landscape contractors and local authorities.

We pride ourselves on offering an exceptionally high standard of pre-sale and after sales back up for all of the products we distribute.

We are currently looking to recruit an Area Sales Manager, ideally South East/South of London based to support the sales team in promoting and selling our turf maintenance equipment brands specifically to end user customers within the Golf club and Irrigated sports areas in the county of Surrey and South London.

Reporting to the Regional Sales Manager, the successful candidate will have a proven track record in negotiation skills and selling to end user customers, within the grounds maintenance sector. Experience is required in negotiating with golf customers and fleet users.

Candidates will be highly motivated professionals with a pro- active approach and who enjoy working as part of a team. You will need to display good oral and written communication skills and be able to create and maintain strong working relationships at all levels including good time management, presentation and reporting skills.

This position carries a full remuneration and benefits package including a company vehicle.

If this challenge appeals to you and you feel you have the necessary experience and qualities to take on this role you should apply in writing providing a full CV including salary expectations to;
Jayne Ambler, HR Manager, Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH or Email Jambler@lely.com.
We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. Closing Date for applications is 26th February 2016.



— partners in turfcare —

Full-time
Commercial & Golf Irrigation Sales UK – (North)
Irrigation Technical Support – (North)

Lely (UK) Ltd is the exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland for the world leading range of Toro irrigation systems as well as Otterbine Lake Management products.

We are looking to expand our Irrigation business team with the appointment of two key roles, ideally based in the North of England. We are looking to appoint a professional, reliable and committed sales person to generate and drive sales of our irrigation & water management products to both our existing and new customers to help continue our success in the UK market. The technical support role will be tasked with providing customer, installer and product support for our Commercial & Golf Automatic Irrigation systems, their system components and full installation projects. In addition, they will provide technical support for our range of Otterbine Lake Management products.

Applications are invited from people who wish to be part of a dynamic, innovative business and who have relevant irrigation product experience both in sales or technical roles, or have gained general sales experience and may have experience of working with and maintaining automatic irrigation systems.

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

Please send your CV with covering letter & salary expectations to Jambler@lely.com or in writing to Jayne Ambler, HR Manager, Lely (UK) Ltd, 1-3 Station Road, St Neots, Cambs PE19 1QH
Closing date: 26th February 2016



— partners in turfcare —

Lely (UK) Ltd is the exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland for the world leading range of Toro professional turf maintenance equipment and TYM tractors.

In 2016 we will be working to pave the way for Lely to provide its own sales and customer support services in the mid-Scotland region in support of our Toro and TYM equipment activity, through its own branch operation.

This is scheduled to be operational for June 2016, to enable us to drive forward our vision for growth and customer support in Scotland. As a result, we invite initial interest and applications from people who wish to be part of a dynamic, innovative business and who can demonstrate relevant experience in a number of key roles required for this customer service branch:

- **Area Sales Manager's – Field based sales of Toro & TYM equipment**
 - **Service Manager – Service team leader, customer focused**
- **Service Technicians – Mobile and internal experienced technicians**
 - **Parts Supervisor – Parts experienced leader, customer focused**
 - **Parts Sales – Parts experienced and customer focused**
- **Demonstrator/Driver – Support to product demonstrations, deliveries/workshop support**

You will in all cases have excellent communication skills, be a team player and demonstrate the required, drive and commitment to succeed in any of these roles. Salary packages will be commensurate with knowledge and experience.

Please send your CV with covering letter & salary expectations to Jambler@lely.com or in writing to Jayne Ambler, HR Manager, Lely (UK) Ltd, 1-3 Station Road, St Neots, Cambs PE19 1QH
Closing date: 26th February 2016



@BIGGALtd

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

Our favourite tweets this month...

@GavinSpeedie

10 deg..capillary concrete @ Gleneagleshotel @MartinSternberg @Greentech_Ltd

@rmsproshop

Meet the team! Matt Gallagher Asst Greenkeeper. From t'north, The Shermanator, MasterChef.

@GJRoberTsTurf

Camberley, England First chance of the year to get some surfaces cut today. Nice light to see the bunker changes on 13

@GrasShaker

Vandaag @BIGGA_BTME in Harrogate! #greenkeeping #pitchcare #passionforgass

@reg_varney

Pond and lake management by @otterbine_H2O at @BIGGA_BTME On stand M2. Why not pop and see us today

@wearegerminal

Young Greenkeeper of the Year Jack Groves @BroadwayGC perusing Germinal's new wildflower mixtures for golf @BIGGALtd

@turfcare1

Busy busy today on TurfCare C38 at Harrogate.... @ascobooSt_irl @GriggBros

@Grassmonitor

40 days after Storm Desmond. The 3rd green had a cut today. @BIGGALtd @Pitchcare @stritturf

@CentenaryHGK

It's mild & dry today here @ Gleneagleshotel Great to be getting a cut on the greens & to have the courses open

@CentenaryHGK

Getting ready to start cleaning up some more trees on the Centenary Course @Gleneagleshotel #keepmoving

@nathosully

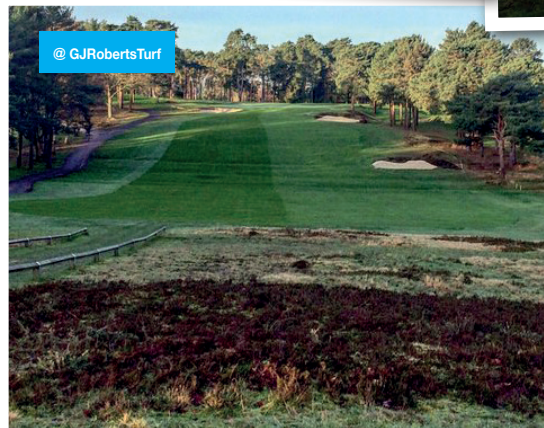
Double Rainbow @ChinaFleet @ChinaFleetGolf



@GavinSpeedie



@rmsproshop



@GJRoberTsTurf



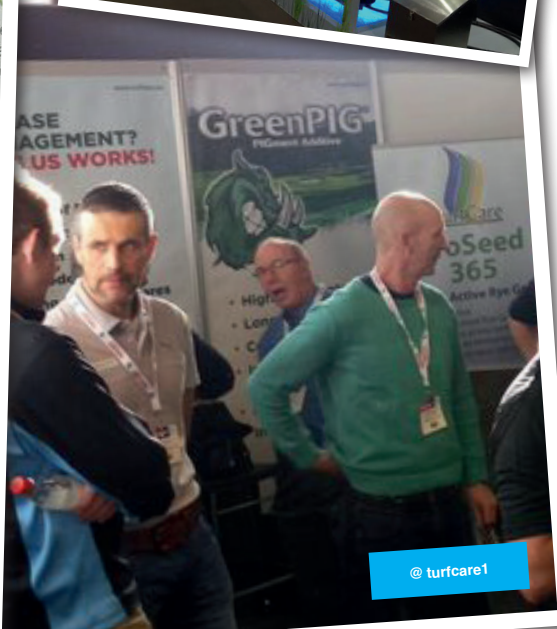
@GrasShaker



@reg_varney



@wearegerminal



@turfcare1

BARONESS

Quality on Demand

Total Cutting Quality

Baroness cylinder
mowers
the best cutting
performance on
the market!



The Baroness range of cylinder mowers sets the industry standard, combining high work rate with outstanding quality of cut.

The unique Baroness production process means our cutting cylinders and bedknives set standards others struggle to match.

Whatever your turf conditions or type of grass, we have a mower that will give you amazing results and at a whole life cost you won't believe!



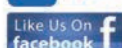
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TORO®

Toro® Reelmaster® 5010-H with PowerMatch™

Horsepower on Demand

The industry's first true hybrid-drive fairway mower has arrived.



THE NEW AND EXCLUSIVE
REELMASTER 5010-H HYBRID
FAIRWAY MOWER

Meet the new Reelmaster 5010-H from Toro, our new-generation hybrid fairway mower with patented PowerMatch technology.

This unique drive system couples the power from a 25hp diesel to a self-charging 48-volt battery pack, to seamlessly match the power needed for traction and cutting based on mowing conditions. It means the 5010-H can readily deliver over 40hp on-demand for, say, climbing steep hills or verticutting. Not only that, a host of other benefits includes average fuel savings of 20 per cent, elimination of over 100 potential hydraulic leak points, and time-saving Plug 'n' Mow DPA cutting units for all conditions.

Full product details at www.toro5010.com

Put us to the test. For a free onsite demonstration, call Lely on 01480 226800



REELMASTER 3100-D



REELMASTER 3550-D



REELMASTER 5510-D



REELMASTER 7000-D



OFFICIAL
SUPPLIER

**with PowerMatch™
technology**



Combined load for traction & cutting

Exclusive Hybrid-Drive System

PowerMatch enables the Toro 5010-H to seamlessly match the power generated to the power required for traction and cutting based on mowing conditions

visit toro5010.com

Lely. Your partners in turfcare. Call 01480 226800.

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors and Otterbine water management systems.



partners in turfcare