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A BIGGA member's journey back from redundancy

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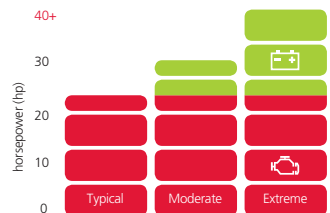
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All Eyes on Harrogate

A very Happy New Year to all our members, colleagues, partners and friends, I sincerely hope that 2016 brings predictable weather, busy golf courses and continued progress on our mission to improve the recognition and appreciation of greenkeepers and their profession.

For the 28th year in succession a New Year means all eyes on Harrogate for the most important few days in the turf management industry, BTME. The team at BIGGA House had a hectic end to 2015 with last minute exhibitors snapping up the few remaining stands in Hall Q while our members were doing likewise with spaces on the Continue to Learn Programme. The stage is set for a superb few days as thousands of turf professionals make their annual pilgrimage to network, learn and interact with our excellent trade partners.

Exhibition pre-registrations and educational bookings are at record levels and I know available accommodation in Harrogate is now pretty hard to come by. Add to this the additional interest created by the GolfBIC event joining the party and we are set for an intense few days.

Like never before a successful visit to BTME will require careful planning, if you haven't already pre-registered please do so at btme.org.uk to avoid lengthy queues on arrival, and study both the Hall plans and the Continue to Learn programme in advance. You can of course download our app – BTME 2016 – to assist.

I'm particularly looking forward to the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, which will again be held in the historic Royal Hall. I'm delighted that the BBC's self-confessed golf nut Naga Munchetty has agreed to host the event and we await the outcome of the three annual BIGGA Awards – Young Greenkeeper, Championship Performance and overall Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year – with keen interest. The shortlists for the awards have recently been announced, all three categories will be hotly contested and show the incredible talent, expertise and commitment that are synonymous with our industry. With the winners not being

revealed until the event itself there is sure to be excitement in the air. Sincere thanks to our three award sponsors, Jacobsen, Pitchcare and GBR Technology for their generous support.

As always the BIGGA team will all be present during the event and I am delighted that we will be joined by our newest recruit - James Hutchinson, formerly Ecology Manager at Fairhaven Golf Club and more recently Environmental Officer for St Andrews Links Trust. James has joined us in the newly created position of Sustainability Executive and will aid us considerably in a number of areas, particularly in supporting members with advice on environmental matters and compliance issues. I know he is looking forward to meeting members during BTME and over the course of the year.

Sadly however we are saying goodbye this month to another of our team; Steve Castle our Communications Executive is leaving for pastures new after three and a half years with BIGGA. He's had an outstanding impact on this magazine and our communications as a whole, I'm sure you will join me in wishing him all the very best for the future.

I look forward to seeing very many of you in Harrogate for BTME.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

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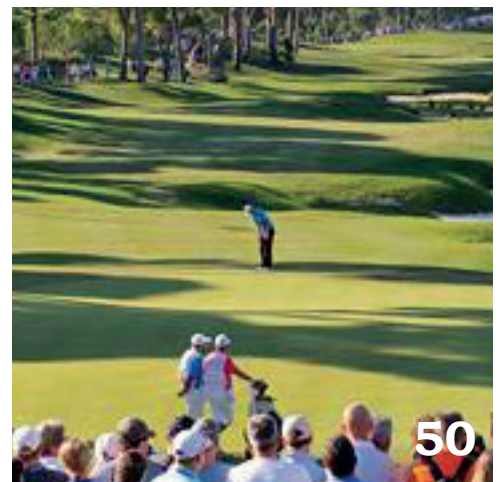
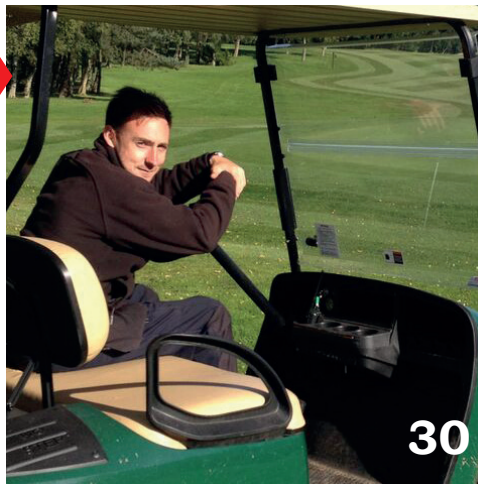
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Chairman's Word

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

Reflections on a momentous year

Well the last 12 months have been amazing and have gone by so fast my feet have hardly touched the ground. I have met so many nice people from all over the world and had some fantastic experiences that I have shared with you through my columns.

The year ahead is going to be one of change. This will be the Chairman's last regular monthly column as it will be replaced by updates from the Board of Management. This new initiative reflects the change in roles for the Chairman and President and will include occasional articles from a range of Board members. The Chairman will generally report on a quarterly basis, usually after a Board meeting, to keep the membership up to date with important issues.

Other changes will be as a result of the Strategic Review, a process which is reaching a landmark point. I believe that we should always be reviewing our activity and purpose to ensure we as an Association remain current and at the forefront of industry developments. I urge all members to embrace all of the exciting new initiatives. If they seem to be of no benefit to you, please remember we have 6,000 members and if the initiative helps only 20% of the membership, we will have helped improve life for 1,200 greenkeepers.

December saw us hold the final Board meeting of the year over three days at Richmond Golf Club. It was nice to get home and see the wife and kids in the evening, but more importantly it gave us an opportunity to meet with the UKGCOA. It was a good opportunity to discuss GolfBIC and to build another strong industry relationship.

As a board we took the opportunity to undertake some group training, focusing on effective meetings, group discussions and decision making. I genuinely believe in the benefits of continual professional development and this will help ensure we are best placed to serve the membership on an ongoing basis.

The countdown is well and truly on to the greatest turf management exhibition and educational conference in Europe, arguably in the world. For five days the greenkeeping world turns its focus to Harrogate for BTME 2016. As previously



"Being invited to be Chairman was an incredible honour and I sincerely hope that my enthusiasm for the role has been clear to all"

reported we are having a five hall show for the first time in many years and stand sales have been fantastic.

Bookings for Continue to Learn are also well up on previous years and I am looking forward to welcoming hundreds of you to the Queens Suite on the Sunday morning as Continue to Learn kick-starts the week. I will be in Harrogate for the full event and would cherish the opportunity to meet as many members as possible. All of BIGGA's Board of Management are greenkeepers, they are very approachable and BTME is a great opportunity to meet them, share ideas, and discuss issues close to your heart.

My final thought is to express how immensely proud I am; I've been proud to act as Chairman, delighted with the members who give up their own time to contribute to BIGGA and volunteer at events and also thankful to the team at BIGGA House and in the Regions. Being invited to be Chairman was an incredible honour and I sincerely hope that my enthusiasm for the role has been clear to all. As the role becomes less member facing I will endeavour to continue to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities.

The amount of work done by volunteers

is what underpins the entire Association, from Section and Regional boards to all the helpers at golfing events seminars/conferences. Without you all, BIGGA simply wouldn't be what it has become. Our team of staff all work extremely hard and I sometimes wish the members could see for themselves the level of dedication that I have seen over the last 12 months. It has been a conscious decision by the Board to build our staff resource at Regional level and encourage key team members from BIGGA House to engage with members at local events. This can mean extremely long days yet the team do it without question.

Let's all work together to make 2016 the best ever for greenkeepers and maybe, just maybe the weather will be kind to us all.

See you at Harrogate!

All the best
Les

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Funding your future

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



JOHN DEERE



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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

BIGGA AWARDS NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

We can now reveal the members who have been nominated for the three BIGGA Awards categories – the winners will be announced live at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration at BTME by BBC presenter and golf fan Naga Munchetty.

The magnificent Royal Hall in the Harrogate International Centre is the perfect stage to recognise our members' outstanding achievements and efforts in the past 12 months.

Thank you to everyone who nominated a greenkeeper or greenkeeping team for an Award. The shortlist of finalists can now be revealed:

BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen

Jack Hodge – 23, Old Thorns Manor Hotel & Country Estate

Jack Groves – 20, Broadway Golf Club
Joel Marsh – 24, Bradley Park Golf Club

BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year sponsored by Pitchcare

Danny Murray – The Wisley Golf Club
The Minchinhampton Golf Club
Greenkeeping Team

Stephen Jack – Pitreavie Golf Club

Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year sponsored by GBR Technology

The St Andrews Greenkeeping Team for the 2015 Open Championship

The Carrick Greenkeeping Team for the 2015 EuroPro Tour event

The Woburn Golf Club Greenkeeping Team for the 2015 British Masters

The Buckinghamshire Golf Club Greenkeeping Team for the 2015 Ladies European Masters

The BIGGA Welcome Celebration starts at 5.30pm on Tuesday 19 January and will be hosted by the golf-mad BBC Breakfast presenter.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "A

fantastic evening celebrating the very best of the industry is in store, and the fact that the winners are being announced live will certainly add further excitement to proceedings.

"We're extremely grateful to our three Award sponsors – Jacobsen, Pitchcare and GBR Technology – and hope to see you there on the evening."

Entry to the Welcome Celebration is free and all are welcome.



Naga Munchetty

ECOLOGY FOCUS AS JAMES JOINS BIGGA

BIGGA would like to welcome James Hutchinson to the team who has accepted the newly created role of Sustainability Executive.

James was previously Environmental Officer at St Andrews. Prior to that he was Ecology Manager at Fairhaven Golf Club in Lytham, Lancashire.

This new role will involve James working closely with the Golf Environment Organisation and other industry bodies to uncover and promote examples of good sustainability practice on golf courses among the BIGGA membership, and demonstrate our members' commitment to sustainability.

James will also have an influence on our Learning & Development activity which will have an even more increased focus on this topical issue.

It is intended that

BIGGA will offer a range of environmental and sustainability advisory services to its members and their golf clubs, as an acknowledged expert in his field with a successful track record in providing environmental plans James is an outstanding candidate to drive this activity forward.

James will be based remotely but will attend BIGGA House on a regular basis.

He will be joining the rest of the BIGGA House team and the Regional Administrators at BTME 2016 and will be happy to chat to members and answer any questions you may have.

James said: "To say I am delighted to be joining BIGGA who I feel are a proactive and forward thinking association would be an understatement. I have been a member since 1989 and to now be a



part of the team makes me feel immensely proud! I'm looking forward to meeting BIGGA's members whilst helping with any environmental issues they may have – see you all at BTME!"

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "As a result of the Strategic work that the Board of Management has been undertaking, and as part of our desire to play an increased leadership role in

greenkeeping and golf, we have identified the need to increase our resources in the areas of ecology, sustainability and legislative compliance.

"James has a very high profile in the field of environmental and ecological sustainability in golf and is an excellent acquisition for BIGGA as we seek to extend our influence in this and other fields."

BIGGA SOUTH COAST AGM

On Wednesday 11 November, the South Coast Section AGM was held at Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, Hampshire. The committee were greeted with just under 40 Section members for the meeting, with a good mix of familiar and new faces in the crowd.

The meeting touched on what had been happening in 2015 and outlined proposals and aspirations for 2016. Attendees were given details of a full calendar of events for next year with a good mix of both educational and golf events on offer. There was some good, positive discussion between the committee and the floor regarding ideas on how to continue to improve services on offer to the membership.

With the meeting completed, a presentation was made by Barton's Course Manager Tony Gadd and Golf Course Architect Howard Swan. Tony and Howard gave the members an insight into the work being undertaken at the course, the reasons why and how they are working with the club membership to achieve this. After lunch, Tony and Howard conducted a detailed course walk to show the work in progress and some of the tasks already completed.

The South Coast Section committee, and the members who attended, would like to offer their thanks to both Barton on Sea Golf Club for providing the venue, and also to Howard Swan, Tony Gadd and his team, for their hospitality and taking time out of their busy schedule to show the group around.

Steve Thorne



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The South West & South Wales Regional Conference was held on 18 November for the second time at Somerset Country Cricket Club in Taunton – and it was another huge success!

Around 130 delegates attended a fantastic day of education and networking. The day began with a welcome from Rob Hogarth, Regional Chairman. First speaker was BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, who hosted a Q&A about the future of greenkeeping and greenkeeping associations.

Leigh Powell from Hockley Golf Club then discussed his experience in America as part of the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhards, before Dave Orchard from Bayer presented on fungicide use.

Avro Golf Club's Eddie Ainsworth then followed, talking about bees on golf courses. After lunch the delegates were fascinated to hear from Darren Baldwin, Head Groundsman

at Tottenham Hotspur FC, and a fabulous day was rounded off by Royal Porthcawl's Ian Kinley presenting on 'A Welsh Major'.

BIGGA's South West & South Wales Regional Administrator Tracey Walker said: "Somerset CCC is a very impressive venue and is popular with all the attendees. I have to say the room was buzzing!

"We were fortunate to have some great speakers with a varied combination of topics from bees to Tottenham Hotspur FC - hopefully, there was something for everyone! I have received some excellent feedback and everyone seemed to really enjoy the day."

Thanks to everyone who attended, the speakers and the day's sponsors: Irritech Limited, Lely, Countrywide, WT&RJ Jones, Huxley Golf, Farmura, ICL, Roffey Brothers, Avoncrop Amenity Products and Wiedenmann (UK).



THE GOLF ENVIRONMENT AWARDS



BIGGA MEMBERS IN AWARDS SHORTLIST

Several BIGGA members appear in the STRI's Golf Environment Awards shortlist for 2016, the winners of which will be revealed at a dinner during BTME.

The categories are: Environmental Golf Course of the Year, Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year and Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year.

Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Consultant – Ecology & Environment, commented: "The Golf Environment Awards provide an important platform in which we can demonstrate the excellent work of individual golf clubs and the commitment of the industry as a whole in the protection and conservation of our depleting countryside. Golf is one of the few sports that is able to contribute both constructively and profitably to global sustainability. I am extremely proud to be working within the golfing community, which is now focusing heavily on sustainability in all of its guises and in the conservation of our natural resources.

"We are indebted to Justin Rose, GEA Ambassador and the following companies who demonstrate their commitment to positive environmental change through their own initiatives and sustainable activities, and their continued sponsorship of the Golf Environment Awards: Farmura - An Aquatrols Company, BIGGA, Greenkeeping, Operation Pollinator, Ransomes Jacobsen, Syngenta, Tillers Turf and Wiedenmann."

Environmental Golf Course of the Year

- Pyecombe Golf Club
- Bedfordshire Golf Club
- Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club
- Whitley Bay Golf Club

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year

- Anthony Darker – Elsham Golf Club
- Owen Browne – Kingarrock Golf Course
- Eddie Ainsworth – Avro Golf Club
- Steve Thompson – John O'Gaunt Golf Club

Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year

- Richmond Golf Club
- Langley Park Golf Club
- Wildernesse Golf Club
- West Malling Golf Club

The Golf Environment Awards exist to recognise, reward and promote individuals and golf courses, no matter how big or small, for the time and focus they have put into environmentally sustainable management projects.

CORRECTION

In last month's magazine, we stated that BIGGA's Mid Anglia Section had donated £500 to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

In fact, it was BIGGA's East Anglia Section which made the donation on this occasion. Apologies for any confusion caused.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The new South East Region Chairman Peter Smith welcomed and introduced the speakers to delegates attending at the South East Region Conference held in conjunction with Hadlow College on 11 November.

After an introduction for the College by Anthony Stockwell, work based Assessor for Sports Turf & Greenkeeping at the College, Paul Copesey spoke of his many years of experience in the industry with his talk on modern turf management, 'Is it a numbers game'?

This was followed by Tom Searle from Britrisk Safety giving us his 'Health and Safety Top 10 Quick Wins', suggesting some short and sharp techniques that are easy to understand and execute.

At 11am, this being Armistice Day, two minutes silence in remembrance was observed.

The next speaker Lee Strutt MG then related his experiences in the construction, growing in, and establishment of the beautiful gWest Golf Resort in Perthshire.

Following lunch Jerry Kilby, Kanda Golf, enlivened the proceedings with his presentation 'Change or Die' highlighting the constant need for us all to welcome change and challenge convention.

A 'hot off the press' update on the new Trailblazer Apprenticeship Scheme was given by Stuart Green – BIGGA Head of Member Learning. After questions and answers the Chairman thanked the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund for their valuable contribution to the Conference and everyone for their participation in what turned out to be a very interesting and informative day.

The South East Region would also like to thank Hadlow College for their assistance with the arrangements for the event and for kindly donating some excellent prizes for the raffle, with the proceeds being equally divided between the 2015 Poppy Appeal and the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

The winner taking home the first prize of a giant hamper of goodies, and the opportunity to take part on a comprehensive Chainsaw Course, was Ollie Kirk from the Links Newmarket Club.

Clive Osgood



A SWEET CHARITY TREK

One of last year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year runners up is preparing for an arduous trek through the Alps in aid of a cause close to his heart.

Sam Sweetzer, Assistant Greenkeeper at West Hill Golf Club in Surrey, has been a volunteer first aider with the British Red Cross for the last six months and was keen to raise cash for the organisation who give aid to people in crisis across the globe.

He is now fully trained to give First Aid thanks to them, and is joining other volunteers for a hugely challenging walk across the Alps in June – 65 undulating kilometres covering parts of Switzerland, France and Italy in just three days.

He is also holding smaller events in his home town of Bracknell such as quiz nights, golf days and a car wash along with the local fire station in a bid to edge closer to his £2,500 target.

Sam said: "Thanks to the British Red Cross I am confident in performing First Aid where necessary, which could come in handy within our industry. I wanted to do some fundraising while having a challenging experience at the same time, and this trek certainly fits the bill, I've never done anything like it before! I will even be walking up Mont Blanc which is a bit daunting, but exciting at the same time.

"If anyone has any questions on the trek or on The British Red Cross, or has any prizes I can raffle for the cause, just send me a message on Facebook, Twitter @SamSweetzer - or email me on samsweetzer@gmail.com."

To donate to this extremely worthy cause, and discover how small donations can make a big difference, please visit Sam's charity page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/sweetzerstrek>

The British Red Cross is part of a global voluntary network, responding to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies. They help vulnerable people in the UK and abroad prepare for, withstand and recover from emergencies in their own communities.



MIDLAND CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE!



The Midland Regional Conference will be held on Wednesday 24 February at Woburn Golf Club featuring a range of fantastic speakers – save the date!

After a welcome from Midland Region Chairman Matthew Nutter, Andy Owen from ICL, David Langheim MG from Wimbledon Park Golf Club and Dr Colin Mumford from Bayer will all present on a range of subjects.

The afternoon session will feature an education update from BIGGA's Head of Member Learning Stuart Green plus talks from Syngenta's Dan Lightfoot MG and Steve Chappell from Gleneagles.

Registration opens at 8am and refreshments are available. For more details please contact BIGGA's Midland Regional Administrator Roger Butler on 07525 593359 or roger@bigga.co.uk

SOUTH EAST GOLF & DINNER

One of the longest running greenkeeping events will this year be held on Friday 4 March at Walton Heath Golf Club.

The South East Region Golf & Dinner Day will be held at a club that has hosted many major championships including the 1981 Ryder Cup and the European Open on five occasions. This year the European Qualifier for the US Open will again be played over the old and new courses at the end of May.

Entry forms for the above event will be available and circulated soon. For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Region Administrator, 01737 819343 mob 07841 948410, email cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



BOOST FOR BIGGA IN 'MOST POWERFUL' LIST

Greenkeeping has been boosted by an announcement that BIGGA's CEO has been named in a list of the '15 Most Powerful Europeans in the Golf Industry'. 'Golf Inc.' magazine focused on people who are most influential and impactful on the game of golf across the continent.

BIGGA's CEO Jim Croxton features on the list for the first time alongside the likes of golfers Rory McIlroy and Charley Hull, European Tour CEO Keith Pelley, Chairman of the UK Golf Course Owners Association Colin Mayes and Alexander Baron von Spoercken, President of the European Golf Course Owners Association.

The magazine previously announced the Most Powerful People in the World, and the Most Powerful Asians in the Golf Industry.

Jim said: "The fact a representative from a greenkeeping association has been included in this illustrious list is a real boon for greenkeeping, and shows how its profile is increasing.

"Through the work of BIGGA and other greenkeeping bodies, it demonstrates that greenkeeping is being given the recognition it deserves at the heart of golf. We at BIGGA are continuing to strive for better greenkeeper education and awareness as the most

important aspect of the sport – conditioning of golf courses – becomes ever more critical and is subject to greater scrutiny than ever."

The ranking was released, along with profiles of the 15, in the November/December issue of Golf Inc. The magazine's editors, including Trevor Ledger, who is based in Scotland, compiled the list.

Full list in alphabetical order: John Angus, Group Director of Golf, QHotels Jim Croxton, CEO, British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), Barney Francis, Sky Sports Managing Director, Charley Hull, Golfer, David MacLaren, European Tour Properties, Colin Mayes, CEO, Burhill Golf and Chairman of the UK Golf Course Owners Association, Rory McIlroy, professional golfer, Michael Pask, Senior Vice President, IMG, Keith Pelley, Chief Executive, European PGA Tour, Eddie Reid, Managing Director of the TGI Golf Partnership, Andrea Sartori, Head of KP-MG's Golf Advisory in the EMA region, Martin Slumbers, Chief Exec, R&A, Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive, Golf Environment Organization (GEO), Stephen Towers, CEO Crown Golf, Alexander Baron von Spoercken, President of the European Golf Course Owners Association (EGCOA).



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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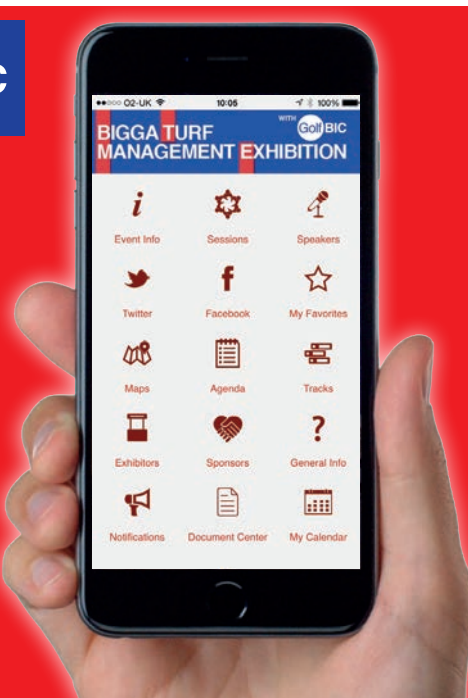
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L&D News

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.

25 YEARS OF MASTER GREENKEEPER



2016 sees the 25th anniversary of BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper Certificate – and a quarter of a century on, it's still recognised as the pinnacle of industry qualifications.

Awarded to BIGGA members who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping, the three-stage process involves a candidate acquiring the necessary standards of experience and education before an assessment of their golf course is carried out by two Master Greenkeepers.

Assuming the candidate is successful in the first two stages, they then face a Case Study and Technical Examination. They must pass both these stages before they can add the 'MG' title to their name.

The first Master Greenkeeper in 1991 was Laurence Pithie, who at the time was Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club.

Laurence said: "Following many months of personal study, I was immensely proud to achieve this award and gain industry wide

recognition. It proved to be a turning point in my career progression, which would ultimately offer new challenges and opportunities.

"At the time I gained my MG award, the boom in golf course development was underway, with many clubs and golf operators looking to hire experienced and technically sound turfgrass managers. To some extent it was a case of being at the right stage in my career while being able to demonstrate to future employers that I had the necessary credentials to achieve the desired objectives.

"25 years on, the golf boom may have passed, but gaining this award is equally as important today. For many clubs, large or small, the emphasis is more likely to be on effective golf course management, whereby both economic and agronomic sustainability are essential for success. Clubs want to hire the best candidates with the right skill set who can manage, take control and deliver the best possible playing conditions.

Course Managers who achieve MG status will put themselves in the best possible position to be that person."

The latest addition to the list was Rick Tegtmeier, Director of Grounds at Des Moines Golf & Country Club in Iowa, USA – one of several international recipients.

Speaking after passing the Certificate last October, he said: "I was very surprised, and elated, when I got the call to say I had passed.

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

Here is the full list of BIGGA Master Greenkeepers and the year they achieved the landmark:

1. Laurence Pithie (1991)
2. William Montague (1992)
3. Gordon Irvine (1992)
4. Kerran Daly (1992)
5. Robert Maibusch (1992)
6. Anthony Davies (1993)
7. Terry Buchen (1993)
8. David Whitaker (1993)
9. Richard McNabb (1994)
10. John Wells (1995)
11. David Haskell-Craig (1995)
12. Mark Broughton (1996)
13. Ian MacMillan (1996)
14. Gary Grigg (1996)
15. Chris Carpenter (1997)
16. Andy Campbell (1997)
17. Sid Arrowsmith (1998)
18. John Gasper (1998)
19. David Hannam (1998)
20. John Quinn (1998)
21. David Duke (1998)
22. Seve Schmitz (1999)
23. Steve Jones (1999)
24. David Murdoch (2000)
25. Stuart Cagle (2000)
26. Brian Sullivan (2000)
27. Walter Montross (2000)
28. Geoff Coggan (2000)
29. Steve Cook (2001)
30. Phillip Helmn (2001)
31. Lee Strutt (2001)



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

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32. David Leach (2001)
33. Huw Morgan (2002)
34. Norbert Lischka (2003)
35. Phil Gates (2003)
36. Steve Matzka (2003)
37. Stuart Hogg (2004)
38. Ken Ingram (2004)
39. Les Howkins (2004)
40. Colin Parish (2005)
41. Keith Ratcliff (2005)
42. Robert Ehrler (2006)
43. Gavin Kinsella (2006)
44. Ken Siems (2006)
45. Chris Lomas (2006)
46. Darren Anderson (2007)
47. Steve Okula (2007)
48. Daniel Lightfoot (2008)
49. Tim Anderson (2009)
50. John Ross (2009)
51. Eric Foerster (2009)
52. Greg Evans (2010)
53. Stuart Yarwood (2010)
54. Alan Pierce (2010)
55. Alan Hess (2010)
56. Dan McGrath (2011)
57. Mike Bush (2011)
58. Steven Tierney (2011)
59. Justin Ruiz (2011)
60. Curtis Tyrrell (2011)
61. David Langheim (2012)
62. George Pitts (2012)
63. Jonathan Barr (2013)
64. David Cole (2014)
65. Lee Sayers (2014)
66. Peter Newton (2015)
67. Rick Tegmeier (2015)

FTMI 2016



The Future Turf Managers Initiative 2016, made possible by Jacobsen, will take place at Ransomes Jacobsen HQ in Ipswich from 15-17 March 2016.

The successful candidates for the 'FTMI Class of 2016' are:

- Stuart Adams - Haverfordwest Golf Club
- Alex Brougham - Trentham Golf Club
- Stefan Carter - Wentworth Golf Club
- David Cooper - Downfield Golf Club
- Stewart Crawford - North Berwick Golf Club
- Ben Croft - Mid-Herts Golf Club
- Kyle Cruickshank - Roxburghe Golf Course
- David Daw - Staddon Heights Golf Club
- James Dudley - Warrington Golf Club
- Josh Dunn - The Belfry
- Greig Easton - Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club
- Andrew Gibbs - Sunningdale Golf Club
- Richard Johnstone - Nairn Dunbar Golf Club
- Ian Nichols - Orsett Golf Club
- Scott Roberts - East Berkshire Golf



Club

- Jack Sims - Chiltern Hills Golf Club
- Tom Smart - Basingstoke Golf Club
- Tom Smith - Cams Hall Estate Golf Club
- Aaron Watkinson - Bolton Old Links Golf Club
- Richard Whittaker - Lytham Green Drive Golf Club

The twenty candidates will be joined by Jack Hetherington from Ponteland Golf Club, who had to relinquish his place last year due to illness, plus Chris Trimble from The Royal Liverpool Golf Club and Michael Boyes from Trump International Golf Club in Dubai, who are both Jacobsen Students of the Year from Myerscough College.

Aimed at up and coming greenkeepers who want to make the leap to Course Manager, FTMI focuses on personal and professional development. The FTMI programme utilises the expertise of leading Course Managers, dynamic trainers and industry experts to mentor and educate the next generation of industry leaders.

Karen Proctor, Jacobsen's Marketing and Communications Manager - International said "We look forward to welcoming the 'FTMI Class of 2016' to Ransomes Jacobsen HQ in March. This is the fourth FTMI that we have facilitated here in Ipswich and it is sure to be a very valuable career development experience for the delegates".



ON COURSE FOUNDATION

On Course Foundation supports the recovery of wounded, injured and sick Service personnel and veterans through golf. Their mission is to build

confidence through golf skills and employment events, and set them on the path to meaningful employment opportunities in the golf industry – and you can see them at BTME 2016.

Greenkeeping continues to be a role that holds great interest for a number of On Course Foundation members. In October, three Members of the Foundation spent the day at Richmond (Yorkshire) Golf Club for a Look@Life day in the role of the greenkeeper, under the guidance of Head Greenkeeper Anthony McGeough.

He said: "It was a pleasure to host the day. I thought it went well, I found all three of them engaging and easy to communicate with."

On Course Foundation Look@Life sessions aim to give Members a taste of the jobs in the industry they are hoping to explore. They allow participants to make more informed decisions about their future employment. Dan Tranmer, Chris Yates and Thomas O'Donnell met with Anthony and had a rewarding day. "The day was extremely insightful," enthused Chris. "We were able to see the club from a different perspective and learn about the people that keep the courses playable. Without the dedication and outstanding knowledge of greenkeepers, there would be no golf."

As a result of the day Thomas and Chris will now take up part time voluntary positions at Richmond (Yorks) and Rockcliffe Hall during the winter period. If you would like to help by offering to support the Foundation in finding suitable look at life days and work experience placements then please contact mark.schorah@oncoursefoundation.com. You can also find out more about the charity by visiting www.oncoursefoundation.com, or go and see them on Stand Q17 at BTME.

C2L REMINDER

Please contact Deb in the L&D team at BIGGA House if you haven't received your booking confirmation for Continue to Learn, seminar tickets are not being issued this year and the booking confirmation acts as your ticket. Thank you!

Congratulations to the following members who achieved CPD Approved Status:

- Steven Lloyd – The Worcestershire Golf Club
- Miles Todd – llandudno Golf Club (Maesdu)
- Andrew Baker – Ely City Golf Club
- Alastair Higgs – Windlesham Golf Club
- Edward Ainsworth – Avro Golf Club
- John Watson – Downfield Golf Club
- Paul Healy – Worlebury Golf Club
- Hamish Campbell – Carrick Knowe Golf Club
- Rajen Ramsamy – Harpenden Golf Club
- Darren Moxham – Saltford Golf Club
- Laurence Pithie – Turf Master One Ltd

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

- Andrew Campbell MG CGCS CCM – Affiliate Member
- Andrew Laing – Gaudet Luce Golf Club
- Sam Bethell – Chipstead Golf Club
- Simon Ashford – Upton-by-Chester Golf Club

Local dry spots: mask or remove?

Sam Green, former GCSA of Eagle Point Golf Club in the USA, and Business Development Director at AQUA-AID, looks at the best ways to combat the dreaded 'Dry Patch' or 'LDS'

Most turf professionals responsible for ports stadiums and Golf courses around the world have battled LDS or 'Dry Patch' at some point in their career. It can cause severe stress to the grass plant - and to the turf manager. So why does this happen?

Researchers generally agree that the cause of water repellency in soils is the result of organic coatings on the soil particles. Research also suggests that these coatings are the result of naturally occurring microbial breakdown of organic matter (thatch, plant tissue, root exudate, fungal

exudate and fungal hyphae) that produce high molecular weight polymer compounds. Humic substances, such as humic acid and fulvic acid, have been identified as compounds that contribute to the formation of hydrophobic organic coatings on soil particle.

When subjected to repeated wet/dry cycles, these humic substances undergo structural changes that render the soil particle water-repellent. Because of their small surface area, coarse textured sands used to construct greens and tees are highly susceptible to becoming water repellent.



There is a strong correlation between humic substances on soil surfaces and localised dry spot (LDS) and non-uniform movement of water in greens and tees.

Surfactants or wetting agents have been used by turf managers to help alleviate the problems. The application of surfactants is a valuable tool used to temporarily alleviate symptoms of water-repellency. Soil surfactant molecules are attracted to the water-repellent (non-polar) coatings on soil surfaces. Surfactant molecules attach to these coatings and create sites where water can attach to



the soil surface (adhesion). Re-establishment of water attachment sites on soil particles promotes the uniform movement of water into and through the soil matrix and improves the amount of available water to meet transpirational and metabolic demands of the turfgrass.

It should be remembered that surfactants are used to maintain reduced levels of water-repellency and manage its symptoms. Surfactants cannot and do not deal with the cause of water repellency - organic coatings on the soil particle surface. Indeed, biodegradation of the surfactant molecules will return the soil profile to its pre-treatment water-repellent state.

There is one product however, that is found to actually remove these Acids from the soil colloid. This product has been on the market for many years and has been reintroduced by the original manufacturer, AQUA-AID. Their renowned OARS (Organic Acid Redistribution System) is now back in the UK golf and sports turf



market. After many successful applications by turf professionals AQUA-AID have brought the newest forms of this patented and proven chemistry in a new formulation involving the most advanced and patented multi-branch surfactant chemistry available on the market at the moment.

These new surfactants,

AQUA-AID's OARS PS and OARS HS are a patented combination of an organic solvent and a surfactant complex that is comprised of the newest patented multi-branch chemistry. Under extensive testing and many proven applications in the field, OARS PS and OARS HS have proven to be effective in redistributing accu-

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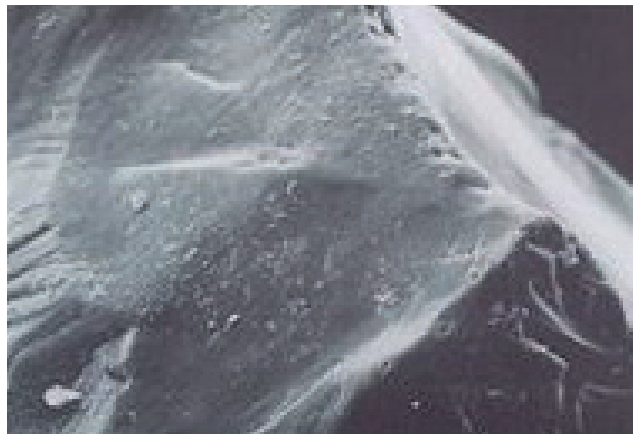
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mulations of hydrophobic humic substances on soil surfaces.

OARS PS/HS represents a major breakthrough in dealing with water-repellent soils. Unlike surfactants and other soil amendments that just alleviate the symptoms of soil water-repellency, the chemistries in OARS PS and OARS HS work to remove the cause of water repellency. The products can be applied to soils using conventional spray equipment. Its unique multi-branch surfactant components attach to the non-polar sites on hydrophobic soil surfaces and thatch to provide uniform movement of water into and through the soil matrix; patterns of wetting and re-wetting that will improve the amount of water in the soil to meet transpirational and metabolic demands of turfgrass. In addition to its unique long lasting surfactant characteristics, OARS PS/HS contains an organic solvent that weakens the chemical



bonds of 'packed' or 'collapsed' humic substances that coat the surface of soil particles.

The hydrogen bonds on the humic substance molecule will be disrupted which allows the polymer structure to reconfigure and undergo 'polymer swelling'. The surfactant component also aids in the hydration of the unfolded humic molecule. As the humic polymer molecules unfold, they reach a threshold point and break. The new formulation en-

courages the unfolding process by hydrating the humic substance molecule. This facilitates monomer separation and also aids in moving the fragments of the humic substance polymer through the soil profile. Once the process has allowed the turf professional to eliminate the hydrophobic soil, he or she has more control over their water management programs in their overall agronomic plans.

OARS PS is a product to allow the turf manager to move water thru the profile allowing for uniform moisture and a firm playing surface. OARS HS is a product to allow the turf manager to uniformly hydrate and hold moisture in the soil profile allowing for times of drought or recovery of a playing surface. The products are unique in that the patented chemistries allow the turf manager to mix the two products together in order for them to achieve the exact water management characteristics needed for the environmental conditions and demands of the turf plant.

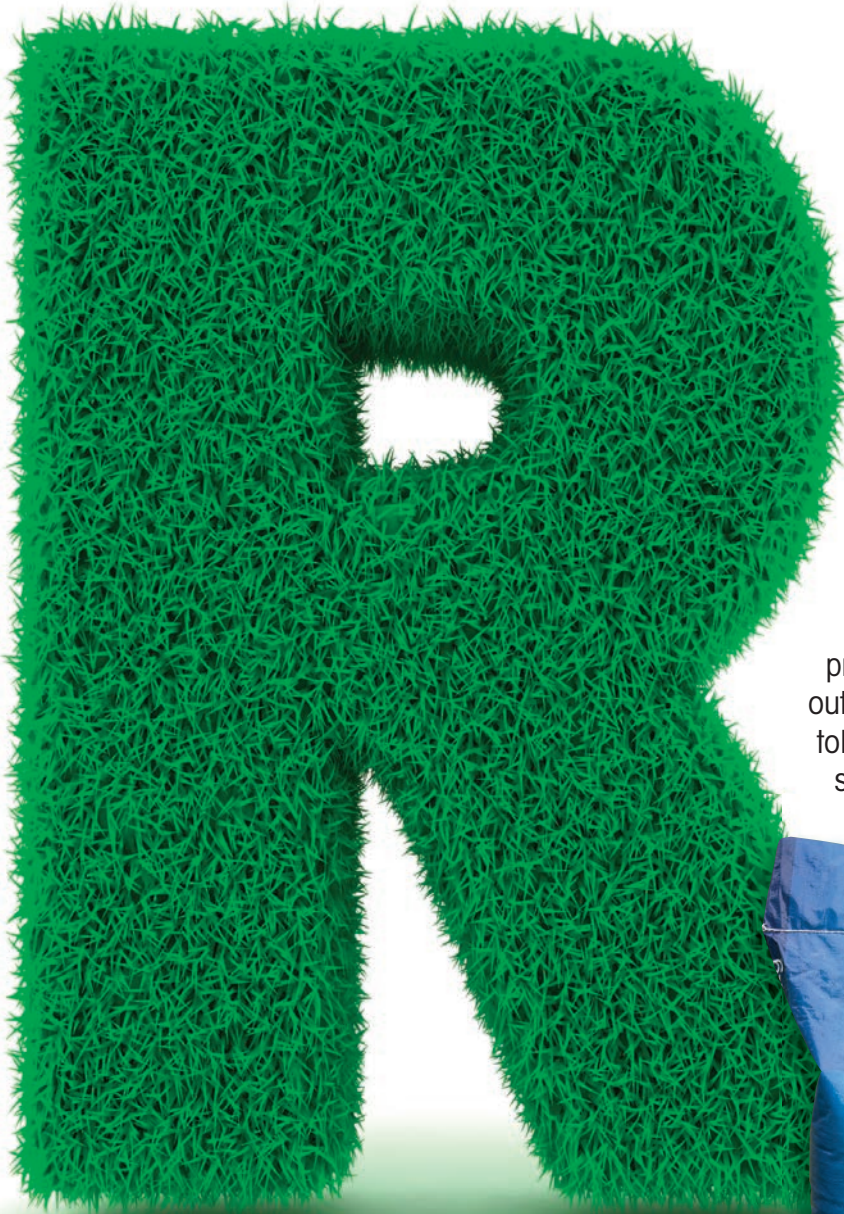
OARS PS/HS has been thoroughly researched and tested to verify its ability to remove humic substances from hydrophobic sands. Replicated trials were conducted on hydrophobic sands comparing two treatments of OARS with two water treatments used as a control.

The sand samples were then flushed with water, dried, and the remaining humic substances removed from the sand samples, measured, and analysed according to methods approved by the International Humic Substance Society (IHSS). Results were consistent. After just two treatments with OARS PS/HS, over 27% of water-repellent humic substances were removed from the sand soil surfaces.

For enquiries for AQ-UA-AID in the UK, please contact info@aquaaideu.co.uk or free phone: w0800 1560543 and for more product information please visit the website: www.aquaaaid.co.uk



Ground breaking!



R6 CRT

The latest grass seed technology introduction from Rigby Taylor follows the success of R25 CRT. Bringing together the proven benefits of both tetraploid and creeping perennial ryegrass technology, R6 CRT combines innovative ryegrasses with slender creeping red and hard fescues for increased stress tolerance and high sward density.

Fast establishing and hard wearing, this mix is perfect for repair, renovation and species exchange programmes on golf courses and cricket outfields, delivering exceptional tolerance to drought, disease and salt stress, in full sun or moderate shade.



Squirrelled away

Professional mole catcher Mark Horsley doesn't just deal with moles – this month he turns his attention towards troublesome squirrels and how to control them humanely, and within the law

Squirrels, tree rats, rats with bushy tails...whatever you call them, if they're causing a problem they need to be controlled. This applies to grey squirrels, if you're lucky enough to have red squirrels on your course, they are protected. This would also limit your methods of control to live trapping or shooting so there is no incidence of red squirrels being inadvertently controlled.

Squirrels will strip bark from trees, steal birds' eggs, cause problems to the structure and wiring in buildings and dig to bury food for the winter.

A grey squirrel is a non-native species and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to release a grey squirrel. You must hu-

manely dispatch any caught squirrels. In a pest control situation using traps or cages, a caged animal or a badly trapped live animal is the responsibility of the trapper under the Animal Welfare Act 2006; it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to a kept animal.

It is also an offence under the Pests Act 1954 to use any spring trap that is not approved in The Spring Trap Approval (England) Order 2012. This act approves a variety of

traps and the target species that each trap is legal to be used for. Traps that are approved for use in England, for squirrels, include Mk4 & Mk6 Fenn traps, Magnum body grip- traps, models 110 and 116, a Kania 2000 spring trap, a WCS tube trap or the New Zealand Doc trap. The Doc trap is a trap that was designed in conjunction with the NZ Department of Conservation, from which the trap takes its name.

On a golf course, as with





any public area, the main concern with pest control is not upsetting members of the public or having members of the public that are opposed to pest control interfering with the ongoing control.

There are several methods of controlling squirrels: traps, cages, poison and shooting. The method you employ depends on your particular situation. It is only legal to use poison inside a building, and it is a specific, warfarin based poison. On a golf course this is not a practical course of action. This leaves cages, traps, trapping, and shooting. All of these methods are suitable in certain situations.

Cage traps are, as the name implies, a cage that traps the squirrel. Good quality cage traps designed for squirrels have a sprung trap door so the door is kept closed once sprung. A squirrel cage is sprung by a treadle. Cages can be placed in areas of known squirrel activity, at the base of trees and baited with peanuts, peanut butter or hazelnuts. Once trapped, any grey squirrel can be dispatched humanely. The major benefit of using cages traps is that any other animals which become trapped, such as red squirrels or hedgehogs, can be released unharmed.

Traps, the use of traps, the type of trap and the legislation surrounding them could fill this entire publication! So, very quickly, traps should be set in tunnels either man made or natural, access should be restricted to minimise non-target species and traps should be checked every 24 hours, but ideally twice a day.

Traps should be set in either man made or natural tunnels and the entrances should be restricted to reduce the chances of a non-target entering. Tunnels can be left closed at one end and bait used in the stop end of the tunnel. Squirrels by their inquisitive nature will search in tunnels. In certain circumstances traps can be set where squirrels are known to run on top of fences, traps in this situation must be set in artificial tunnels but a 'tunnel' made of mesh is sufficient. This method of trapping can be utilised by placing a branch or a rail against a tree, to set the trap on, to create a

'runway' for the squirrels.

In highly visible public areas, traps disguised to look like bird boxes can be set. The box can be fastened high to a tree out of public reach. This means a ladder is required to reset the trap. However it is possible to attach a cable tie to the trap, so the cable tie is visible when the trap is set. When the trap is tripped the cable tie is pulled into the box and is not visible. This provides a quick and easy method of visually checking if a trap has been tripped.

Shooting squirrels with an air rifle is my preferred method of controlling grey squirrels; this isn't because I'm a gun nut, but because it provides a more cost effective method of control for my customers. The time involved to visit a customer daily to check a set of traps is a cost that many customers do not wish to meet. If the control was being carried out by a greenkeeper, then the traps set on the course could be checked as part of the greenkeeper's daily rounds.

I regularly control squirrels by setting up a feeder in a suitable place, with a suitable backstop. This is then filled with peanuts or wheat and monitored for activity for a period of a week or so. Once squirrels are seen on a regular basis at the feeder then it's a simple matter of arriving before dawn and sitting, concealed, and waiting for the squirrels to arrive.

Squirrels are twitchy animals. The knack to shooting grey squirrels successfully is to wait until a squirrel has visited the feeder and has started to feed, as it starts to feed it will sit in that classic squirrel pose, but more importantly it presents a stationary target. The feeders I use have a small platform at either side to encourage the squirrels to sit in a suitable place.

However you decide to control them make sure it's done legally and humanely. If you're in any doubt about being able to fulfil that criteria then don't do it, get a professional in.

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

Are you microbially challenged?

Is it easy to measure the numbers of microbes in my soil? Do chemicals and fertilisers affect them? Do I really need to worry about microbes?

These are just some of the common questions we have been asked by greenkeepers over the years. The simple answer to all three is 'yes', but as with many things in life, it is not quite as simple as that. We've seen plenty of articles in the last few years that explain the different types of microbes living in the soil; so rather than repeat these, our aim is to show why microbial management is not always simple.

So, why worry about them?

There are many studies that suggest populations of bacteria and fungi in soils beneath sports turf are low, compared with other soils. The most similar plant communities that we can use to compare are semi-natural grasslands (eg those grazed by rabbits)

or pasture grassland (grazed by sheep or cattle). Neither of these has much in the way of pesticide applied (pastures will receive some insecticide) and the former certainly does not receive inorganic fertiliser. Neither of these grasslands is subject to foliage loss, as occurs when grass is mown, nor do they suffer from compaction in the same way as sports turf. Thus, all the main factors that have the potential to reduce microbial populations are less in these other naturally occurring grasslands, so it is hardly surprising that you see a difference in soil populations.

But how do you measure a population of bacteria? There are many ways to do this, the simplest being culture plating. A sample of soil is taken, mixed with water and then diluted. Portions of this are spread on agar plates and colonies of bacteria grown. These colonies are counted and a calculation made to get

a number per gram of soil. These numbers are generally in the millions and while the technique is easy, it is far from accurate. Studies have estimated that only around 1% of the soil bacterial community can be cultured in this way. If this is true, then culture plating will only ever be able to give an extremely vague representation of what is actually happening in soil.

Furthermore – and this is probably the most critical point – we don't actually know what types of bacteria will grow on the plate. Soil bacteria may be beneficial to plants, benign or detrimental (causing disease). All of these types require carbon for growth, most of which is usually obtained from compounds that leak into the soil from roots. Some of them can acquire carbon from the agar medium, which is why they grow on the plate. But whether culture plating is measuring the abundance of each of



Professor Alan Gange, presenter at the Turf Managers Conference, and Francesca Baylis, from Royal Holloway, University of London, discuss the problems of measuring soil microbes



these three groups equally is unknown. We don't know the relative abundance of the three groups in turf grass soils, so have no reference point to compare the plate data with.

A good example of how misleading results can be obtained comes from a small project we ran many years ago. We were asked if the fungicide iprodione could affect populations of soil bacteria. The golf club concerned asked us to use culture plating so we took small soil cores from greens and applied the fungicide to some. Perhaps contrary to expectations, we found that application of the chemical resulted in increased populations of culturable bacteria.

The chemical molecule of iprodione contains plenty of carbon atoms and the bacteria must have been degrading the compound and using the carbon for growth. From these results, we could never

claim that fungicide is beneficial to all soil bacteria, but it is clear that those species that can use any old source of carbon could benefit.

Very similar arguments to those above apply to the fungi that exist within soils. Again, these can be split roughly into beneficial, benign and pathogenic groups. However, in this case, the beneficial group are much easier to record and can be visualised under microscope. These fungi are called mycorrhizas. The term is a generic one and means 'fungus root'. It is used to describe the intimate association between a fungus and the root system of a plant.

There are several different types of mycorrhiza, each named after the characteristic structures they produce. As a general rule, ectomycorrhizas colonise the roots of woody plants and never associate with grasses. Meanwhile, arbuscular mycor-

rhizas colonise the roots of grasses and herbs and very few trees. Thus, it is this latter group that we observe in turf. Mycorrhizal abundance in a root system is invariably quantified as 'percent root length colonised', often abbreviated to %RLC.

Mycorrhizal abundance in most turf grass root systems is considerably lower than in semi-natural or pasture grassland systems. The factors listed earlier, of fungicide, mowing, compaction and fertiliser may all contribute to this. However, an interesting point here is that we have used fungicides for years in an effort to reduce mycorrhizal colonisation in experiments, yet hardly ever

have we ended up with a fungus-free root system. Even in natural communities where there is no history of chemical application, one gets a reduction, but colonisation is not reduced to zero. Therefore, the most likely reason is not one of resistance to the chemical, but the fact that part of the fungus lives within the soil and part within the root. Some or all of the fungal elements in soil may be affected, but those within the roots are more protected and have the ability to re-grow. Thus, it cannot be said that fungicides do not affect mycorrhizas, but likewise, they are probably not as detrimental as you might expect.

Actually in practise, for

golf greens the application of phosphate fertilizer is likely to be more problematic. The fungus exists in a symbiotic relationship with its host, taking up phosphate and nitrate from soil, and donating this to the plant in return for a supply of carbon which it cannot acquire on its own. Incidentally, this means that you could never culture a mycorrhizal fungus on an agar plate, as it is unable to acquire carbon from the medium on its own. There is abundant evidence that shows mycorrhizal fungi to be much rarer in soils high in P. If the plant can acquire all the P it needs via the roots, it has no need for its fungal partners and can dispense with the



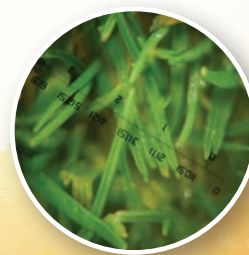
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fungi. This results in a reduction in %RLC, but is not necessarily good for the plant.

So do we really need to worry?

Another tricky question to answer! There are plenty of ecologists who argue that within the myriad of microbial species in soil, there must be many that play identical roles and so losing a few won't matter. The scientific term for this is 'functional redundancy'. The same arguments apply above ground – where we can see the rate of biodiversity loss in many ecosystems. Some argue that we should try to preserve all species, others say we can't and need to be selective. It's hard enough to be selective above ground, but even harder below ground, when we don't know what most of the species 'do' within the ecosystem or even exactly what is there!

But there is now good evidence that while many microbial species may coexist in soil, apparently doing the same thing, they all actually work slightly differently. With arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, for example, there are

about 340 known species. In wild plants, there are about 3-6 fungal species per root system. But the benefits that each provides to the plant may differ slightly. This is because, just like you and me, they use different amounts of resources. Some are greedier for carbon, while others may be less generous with their P donation to the plant. The end result is that some fungi are 'good' partners under certain environmental conditions, while others are beneficial in different conditions. Therefore maintaining this diversity is a good thing for the plant.

Perhaps just as important is that soil microbes don't just provide a direct growth benefit to plants. Plenty of evidence shows that they can change the chemistry of plant tissues, having knock-on effects on the resistance of those tissues to pests and pathogens. Maintaining a rich soil microbial community can therefore provide greater degrees of protection to antagonists.

So is it worth adding extra microbes?

Well, it's unlikely to do any harm and may do some good. The community of microbes in your soil today is there because it has been shaped by the local soil conditions (P levels, pH etc). If you add a mixture of species, none of which occur in the local soil, then it is likely these will be outcompeted or unable to survive the local conditions. Adding a mixture that contains some species already in the soil is likely to show benefits. The problem of course is knowing what's there to start with!

In future, accurate methods for measuring soil microbe abundance will become cheaper and more affordable. This will enable us to understand the composition of soil communities better. Adding the 'right' microbes will then allow soils to be maintained with relatively low levels of nutrients, and with lower inputs of chemicals. In this way, they can be a useful and cost-effective part of integrated management programmes.

A20

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www.kubota.co.uk   

For Earth, For Life


California dreaming



Here are the ten BIGGA members who have been selected to join the latest BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show, to be held in San Diego, California in February.

They all completed the application form before emerging successful from the second stage, which consisted of interviews with representatives from BIGGA and Bernhard Grinders.

The ten will travel together to America for the GIS which will again be showcasing world first products, and as well as visiting the exhibition will represent BIGGA, Bernhards and their own golf clubs on the BIGGA stand. They will also attend some of the GIS's superb educational seminars, presentations and workshops.

They will also have the opportunity to visit some outstanding golf courses in the area, meet Superintendents

and have the chance to network with key international industry figures.

It's one of the industry's most established and popular trips – many of the previous delegates describe it as one of the highlights of their career. Once again we'd like to thank Bernhards for sponsoring the trip.

For more on the GIS please visit <http://www.golfindustryshow.com> and follow them on Twitter @GIS_2016

For more on Bernhard Grinders please visit <http://www.bernhard.co.uk> and follow them on Twitter @BernhardGrinder





Greenkeeper, Piperdam Golf & Country Club

Shaun worked on the Dukes Course at St Andrews then moved on to the Torrance Course at St Andrews Bay. He then returned to the Dukes and was involved in a major course redesign. After a one year spell at Forfar Golf Club he moved on to Piperdam, initially as Deputy Head Greenkeeper, then became Head Greenkeeper.



Graeme Beatt - Course Manager, Royal Portrush Golf Club

Graeme's career commenced at Scotsraig Golf Club in 1995. He spent five years there before moving on to Kingsbarns, then Royal Melbourne Golf Club. In 2006 he was appointed Course Manager at Castle Dargan in County Sligo before taking the Course Manager role at The County Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point. In 2014 he became Course Manager at Royal Portrush.



James Bledge - Course Manager, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club

James began his greenkeeping career at Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club and had spells at Miklagard Golf in Norway, Gullane Golf Club, Kingsbarns and PGA National of Sweden before moving to gWest. After three years there he headed to Kent to take the Course Manager role at Royal Cinque Ports.



Darren Burton - Head Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club

Darren's first greenkeeping role was at North Foreland Golf Club as an apprentice, and he was then promoted to First Assistant & Spraying Technician. In December 2012 he moved on to take the Head Greenkeeper role at Lydd Golf Club in Kent. He has been a member of the BMW PGA Championship volunteer support team on three occasions.



Simon Hart - Greenkeeper, JCB

Simon began his career at Trentham Park Golf Club then spent eight months at the PGA National of Sweden as they constructed two Championship golf courses. After a spell at Wentworth he moved to a new build course in Austria called Golf Club am Attersee. After returning to Trentham Park he recently secured a position at JCB.



Steve Lloyd - Course Manager, Worcestershire Golf Club

Steve started out at Leominster Golf Club, working for his grandad who was then Head Greenkeeper. He moved to Burghill Valley Golf Club in 1997 and four years later became Course Manager aged just 21. He remained at the Herefordshire course until October 2014, when he took up the Course Manager role at Worcestershire Golf Club.



John McLoughlin - Course Manager, Warrington Golf Club

John carried out his greenkeeping training at Gleneagles between 1999 and 2001, then travelled the world working at prestigious golfing venues such as Royal Melbourne Golf Club and The Riviera Country Club in California. He was at Grange Park Golf Club for ten years, then in March 2015 he was appointed Course Manager at nearby Warrington Golf Club.



Simon Olver - Course Manager, Whitley Bay Golf Club

Simon started his greenkeeping career at Dunstanburgh Castle in 1997 and in 2001 became Head Greenkeeper at the Northumberland links course. In 2008 he moved to Percy Wood Golf Club as Course Manager and from 2014 he has been Course Manager at Whitley Bay Golf Club. He is currently Secretary for BIGGA's North East Section.



Simon Torr - First Assistant Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club

Simon had a career in IT before he joined the summer greenkeeping team at Bearwood Lakes in May 2010. At the end of that summer he was offered a full-time role and has progressed to First Assistant Greenkeeper. He has been part of the volunteer teams at both the BMW PGA Championship and the 2015 Open at St Andrews.



Jamie Wade - Senior Greenkeeper, The Belfry

Jamie's greenkeeping career began in a part-time capacity at Wishaw Golf Club before moving to The Belfry in 2006. He worked on the Brabazon Course until 2012, progressing to Assistant Greenkeeper, then sought a new challenge, joining the team at Huntingdale Golf Club in Australia. After a spell working in course construction, he spent eight months at Cape Kidnappers Golf Club in New Zealand. In March 2014 he became Senior Greenkeeper back at the Brabazon.

Phoenix from the flames

How a BIGGA member has bounced back from redundancy to take centre stage in preparing a course for a PGA tournament

The main picture on this page is Flaxby Golf Club, near Harrogate in North Yorkshire. The greenkeeping team of 12 were all told a year ago that the course they had developed over the last 20 months would become a small hamlet of approximately 2500 homes. The news was broken at a meeting on the same day the full planning details were released in the local press. Redundancies were carried out a single day before the team would have fulfilled two years of their employment contracts.

One year on and the site at Flaxby remains as it was. The course is being tended by a group of contract ground workers and the whole development remains deeply embedded in legal wrangles that will no doubt continue for some considerable time.

The closure of Flaxby was obviously devastating news at the time for everyone concerned, yet here we are one

year on and we can celebrate the support shown throughout the industry to the team. All but one of the team moved into other roles immediately.

We caught up with the former Deputy Head Greenkeeper from Flaxby, Adam Matthews, who moved to Moor Allerton Golf Club in April. He then became Head Greenkeeper in June.

The course at Moor Allerton has an interesting background. It was designed and established by Alastair Mackenzie in 1923, a beautiful 18-hole heathland course, a model of which is proudly displayed in the entrance area of the new course, which was officially opened in 1971. The decision to relocate the club to its current site near the village of Wike in North Leeds, a ten minute drive from the original site, was due to demand for membership. The new 27-hole course, set out in three loops of nine holes, was designed and developed by golf course architect Robert Trent-Jones



Senior, and the only club in the UK in which he lays his name to.

When visiting the course in August 2015, the club were hosting the PGA Europro Tour's first Clipper Logistics Players Championship 72-hole tournament played on a European Tour third-tier satellite, which was eventually won by Mark Laskey. Any one of the 156 players in the field could have catapulted themselves into contention to finish the season in the top five on the

money list, an achievement rewarded with a Challenge Tour card for 2016. This was the third consecutive year the club have hosted the PGA EuroPro Tour, and in a further boost they have secured the event for a further three years, giving Adam and his team a great opportunity to assist with the event's future growth and success.

He said: "It's been a fantastic event to be involved with. It was a chance not only to showcase Moor Allerton Golf Club, but a great opportunity for myself and the greenkeeping team as we prepared and presented a facility for the professionals. It was a very demanding few weeks for such a small team, and I can't commend them enough for their efforts.

"The feedback we received was fantastic and made all the hard work worthwhile. We have secured the event for a further three years, and personally after having only six weeks to prepare for the event, I'm very excited to build on the level we have set."

In preparation for the event the team worked from 4.30am to 9am, returning for evening prep from 4.30pm to 9.00pm where light allowed. In the week leading up to the tour-

namment they had 35mm of rain on the Saturday evening, many bunkers and pathways were washed out so Sunday morning was a full-scale operation to recover the damaged areas. Unfortunately another 26mm of rain on the Sunday night meant the team got to do it all again on Monday morning.

Thankfully, from practice day on Tuesday through to the competition finale on Saturday the weather was a little kinder with only minor delays in play in the early part of the competition.

Holes one to nine of the course were reserved for members whilst holes 10 to 27 were prepared for the competition.

The course preparation standards was:

Greens - cut to a bench height of 3.75mm with a TORO Triflex 3400 and rolled with a TORO Greenspro 1240 (Supplied through tournament support from Russells Groundcare)

Tees and Approaches - Cut at 9.5mm using a John Deere 2500E E-cut Hybrid and a Toro 3250

Fairways - cut at 15mm with a TORO 6700 & TORO 6500

Rough - cut with a TORO 4700



All of the team at Flaxby were understandably shocked by its closure. It opened in 2004 to a grand fanfare, with the owners ambitiously targeting one day hosting the Ryder Cup.

Adam recalled: "The greens were often said to be some of the best in the north of England, full USGA Bent Grass construction. The course was also one of the best draining sites I've ever worked on, and the winter membership from November to March was very popular with people joining from a lot of other courses. The society calendar was packed and the course was always very busy."

But ten years later the same owners announced the course was not profitable and would be scrapped, and instead announced new plans to build over 2,000 homes on the 280 acre site.

Several of the team remain in the greenkeeping industry. Former Head Greenkeeper Danny Burrows has moved on to a position at the Arabian Ranches Golf Complex in Dubai, and Harry Deighton is now a greenkeeper at Ridding Park Golf Club. Ben Rowatt and Paul Forrest have established a gardening and landscaping business in the area, and Kevin Fowler is now a turf manager for the Royal Horticultural Society.



LIMAGRAIN UNVEIL NEW BROCHURE AT BTME 2016

Limagrain UK has announced that it will be launching its brand new brochure for its popular MM range of grass seed mixtures at BTME 2016 on stand C39.

The MM range is one of the most respected brands in the UK turf industry and its wide array of mixtures have a proven track record of producing the best possible swards for the intended end usage.

The fescue/browntop bent MM11 mix is ideal for new constructions and overseeding existing swards while the MM10 offers a slight variation. Both mixtures are fine leaved, disease resistant and make good, dense putting surfaces.

Where levels of wear are greater or if you are struggling to maintain fescue then

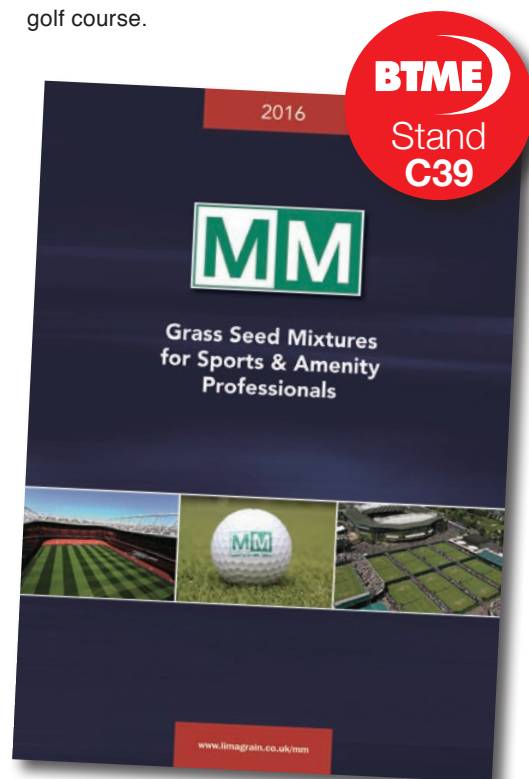
MM9, a three way browntop bent mixture, should be your choice of seed. For links style courses, sustainable golf or for early season overseeding, then find out more about MM8 and how it can make a dramatic improvement on your greens.

An all ryegrass blend, such as the ever-popular MM50, is the most practical solution if you are seeking a mixture for your tees that is both capable of rapid establishment and fast recovery from divot scarring and high wear. For large tees where play is less intense then it may be worth considering MM22 and alternatively, where damage and wear are minimal then use MM12 or MM13; both of which are drought tolerant and have low maintenance requirements.

Some of these low maintenance mixtures, such as MM12, MM13 and MM22 are also best applied to fairways and the new 2016 brochure will provide you with more information about how all of the mixtures in the MM range are treated with Limagrain's HEADSTART GOLD - a revolutionary grass seed treatment that ensures rapid germination.

The new brochure also includes valuable technical advice, information on mixture composition and some extremely useful facts and figures including a quantity guide and a sowing rate conversion chart.

Visit stand C39 at BTME to pick up your new 2016 brochure and take the first steps towards significantly improving your golf course.



A CHIC DEBUT



Chic Teak Ltd are the UK's leading supplier of sustainable teak furniture and have been supplying high quality hospitality furniture to Britain's golf clubs, hotels, country clubs and prestigious sporting venues for over 16 years.

Whilst some may not be familiar with the brand, with an enviable portfolio of corporate clients that include: Henley Royal Regatta, the MCC, Jockey Club, National Trust, English Heritage, Edinburgh Botanical Garden, London Zoo, and most City and County councils throughout the UK, Chic Teak are undoubtedly held in high esteem amongst their peers.

Managing Director Carl Drake, is delighted to be exhibiting for the first time at BTME. He said: "We have been supplying prestigious golf and country clubs throughout the UK for many years. BTME is Europe's leading exhibition for golf industry

professionals and we look forward to seeing some of our customers, showcasing a selection of our products and meeting golf club owners, secretaries and greenkeepers throughout the week."

Our local golf club in Basingstoke, initially enquired about one of our personalised, commemorative Captain's benches. After a visit to our showroom, asked if we could supply them with more than just benches. They were planning on increasing their dining area beyond the bar area, out onto the terrace facing the 18th green.

BTME visitors wishing to benefit from exclusive Chic Teak Golf club discount can register their golf club on stand Q59, registration is free and takes only a few moments. For more details visit www.chic-teak.co.uk.



BTME DEBUT FOR CROCODILE

Crocodile Precision will be making its debut at BTME 2016 on stand A30.

A trip to the Crocodile Precision stand will provide greenkeepers and other turf professionals with a great opportunity to view some of the company's range of high quality replacement cutting cylinders and bottom blades.

The extensive range of products are specifically engineered to fit popular pedestrian and ride on machines used within the golf, sports clubs and municipal markets.

Incorporating over 40 years specialist technology in manufacturing, Crocodile Precision products are uniquely and entirely engineered and made in their factory in Derby.

Manufactured using high quality hot rolled British steel each product combines the best available material specifications with precision grinding and heat treatment processes to create supreme performance cutting cylinders and bottom blades.

Visitors to the Crocodile Precision stand will also be able to obtain the new 2016 brochure, which will provide an in-depth look into the company's range of products.



BAYER'S TURF HEALTH FOCUS

Turf health is high on the agenda for greenkeepers at this time of year, and forms the focus of the Bayer stand at next year's BTME.

"Ultimately, the healthier the grass plant, the better chance it has of standing up to disease threats, and the more likely it's able to recover," said Dr Colin Mumford, from the Bayer Turf Solutions team.

Plant health forms the basis of Colin's BTME seminar, taking place at 2.10pm on Tuesday 19 January where he will highlight how the use of the correct formulations can safeguard healthy, playable turf.

The seminar complements the main focus of the stand, and will offer guidance on maintaining optimum plant health, by giving insight into how formulation technology can improve turf quality, and enhance drought stress reduction through factors such as improved root development and reduction of oxidative stress in the plant.

The rest of the Turf Solutions team will be on stand number A46 to discuss your turf related issues. On the Bayer stand, grass samples displayed on plinths will showcase how Interface with Stressgard Formulation Technology benefits turf health.

Visitors will be able to see exactly how healthy the treated turf is when compared with the untreated turf, using TurfSpy glasses, specially designed by aerospace research company NASA, which are also up for grabs in a competition.

Also on display will be the Bayer TurfXpert App for visitors to experience. The app, already downloaded by over 4,000 industry professionals, is fast becoming a vital identification tool for weeds, pests and diseases.

Colin added: "For refreshment, we will be giving out free Berocca on our Stand, to highlight the research and resources that Bayer as a company have behind them."

DENNIS & SISIS AT BTME 2016

Dennis and SISIS will be exhibiting at BTME 2016 on stand A5 where greenkeepers, course managers and turf managers will be able to view an extensive range of turf maintenance equipment.

With a particular focus on golf course maintenance, visitors to the joint stand can look forward to finding out more about these products as well as speaking with their experienced staff who will be available to answer any queries and offer valuable advice.

Flying the flag for SISIS will be the Rotorake 600HD pedestrian scarifier, the Rotorake TM1000 tractor mounted scarifier and the Javelin Aer-Aid 1500 tractor mounted aerator.

The Rotorake TM1000 features five quick release interchangeable reels to aid the removal and control of thatch and helps reduce standing surface water by improving water infiltration. The 600HD is a heavy duty pedestrian scarifier and linear aerator which can be used for regular, routine use at a shallow or a deeper setting as and when required.

The Javelin Aer-Aid is a tractor mounted vertical action air injection aerator. The Aer-Aid system injects air directly into the root zone speeding up the aeration process, moving air uniformly throughout the root zone for complete aeration and not just where the tines have penetrated the surface.

From the Dennis range, visitors can expect to see the Razor Ultra 560 mower which has a 560mm (22") cutting width and a number of other key features all designed to keep a golf course in pristine condition including an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra-short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, compact handle design for extra manoeuvrability, click height adjusters with 0.25 increments and stub free transport wheels for easy transport from site to site.

The Dennis FT510, which has a cutting width of 510mm (20"), will also be showcased at the exhibition. This unique mower has a range of 11 interchangeable cassettes meaning that one machine can be used for several key maintenance tasks from cutting, scarifying, verticutting or brushing.



BTME TO KICKSTART KUBOTA'S YEAR



Kubota UK is gearing up for what it predicts will be a bumper BTME 2016 and is exhibiting on Stand Q22.

Always a popular fixture in the calendar, the Harrogate-based event provides the perfect platform for new product launches, to discuss industry developments and to talk about plans for the year ahead; which for Kubota is set to be a game changer as it takes a bold step into the upland farming market.

Kubota's recently launched Grand L40-II tractor will take pride of place on stand at Harrogate, alongside key items in the Tractor & Groundcare portfolio, including the M6060, STW37 and L5040 tractors; a range of its ride on mowers including the F Series out front and Zero turn models; and one of the company's biggest sellers of 2015 – the RTV-X900 utility vehicle.

In addition, Kubota will also be promoting its newly improved Kubota Finance package, which is designed to offer customers a host of purchasing options and make year-round buying more straightforward for customers. Finance options are available across Kubota's full product range and visitors will have the chance talk with Kubota staff about the enhanced finance options.

Adrian Langmead, Kubota UK's Groundcare Business Development commented: "Our ability to offer our customers a full service package is key to ensure that the purchasing process is as thorough as possible. Flexible payments options and terms are part and parcel of machinery purchase today, so we're delighted to be able to offer an improved package to our customers through our strong dealer network.

"Our improved flexible finance options complement Kubota's excellent product quality and unrivalled aftersales support, which is central to the complete service we offer. Harrogate will be a great platform to discuss and get real grassroots feedback from visitors and customers."



ICL BRING BESPOKE SOLUTIONS TO BTME

At BTME 2016, ICL, formally known as Everris, will be demonstrating why they are leading the way in providing turf management solutions. A visit to Stand B54 will enlighten, educate and ultimately improve the way you are managing your turf.

A new era is well underway for the company formerly known as Everris. Under its new guise, ICL, a number of exciting developments have been developed, and all visitors to BTME will now get the opportunity to learn more about these unique advances in turf management.

A new Data Management App will be launched. This free application, which can be downloaded directly to your iPhone or iPod, has been developed to help turf managers objectively assess the ongoing performance of greens, enabling you to then focus the maintenance plan to bring about an ongoing improvement. It is user friendly and the process is simple

– all you need to do is input your targets for categories including green speed, smoothness, firmness and soil moisture content. Then collect your data in all of these categories and review your rating scores compared to your target figures. Taking the hard work out of data collection, the new Data Management App will provide users with a great insight into what your best course of action should be.

As well as being able to get hands on with the new Data Management App at the show, visitors will also get the opportunity to find out more about the updated ICL iTurf Programme. The programme, which has benefitted some of the UK's most prestigious sporting venues, now comes as an interactive web-based application. It has been developed to allow ICL's regionally based team of turf specialists to help design your perfect programme for the year ahead for all your different turf areas.

A number of ICL Area Managers will be on-hand throughout the event, to offer any advice and to talk through how these new developments can make a significant difference to the way you manage your turf. When you visit the ICL Stand, B54, visitors will also be able to pick up a copy of the brand new product guide.



DUNCAN ROSS TO EXPAND

Duncan Ross, specialist sportsturf contractor, will be exhibiting at BTME 2016 on Stand Q41 as the company looks to expand on its recent successes.

As always the main focus is to look at

the goals of our customers to exceed their expectations, whilst delivering the best quality work on schedule and on budget.

We are expanding our contracting services on turf renovation and maintenance, to compliment the design and build areas of our business.

Duncan Ross Ltd has an extensive and expert knowledge of sportsturf, environment and conservation, project requirements. The company has completed several assignments across all three areas in 2015.

Recent golf club works have included drainage work on the greens at Wolstanton

Golf Club, greens drainage at Worsley Golf Club and a fourth year of work at Carlisle Golf Club with fairway drainage the focus point on this occasion.

The company continues to welcome any project, be it large or small, and is able to provide a plethora of options in each case to best suit your individual needs.

If you wish to discuss your projects at the show we will be available to advise you on all the services we offer and how best we can help you achieve your objectives.

For more information please visit the website at www.duncanrossltd.co.uk



CAMPEY FOCUS ON FINESSE

Campey Turf Care Systems will be at BTME 2016 on Stand B58 showcasing the very best machines for renovating and maintaining natural turf sports pitches. This includes the renowned Koro by Imants Field TopMaker with Universe and Terraplane Rotors and a new range of blades called Universe Finesse that will take fraise mowing to a new level.

Richard Campey commented: "We have developed a new blade called the Universe Finesse which will essentially let you "Universe Finesse mow" as part of your regular maintenance programme for turf health and hygiene."

The blades can be fitted to the Universe Rotor (which has recently been granted British patents for its unique actions) in a variety of configurations to allow the groundsman/greenkeeper to use the Koro FTM for different working practices from surface verti-cutting to deep linear aeration/scarification up to 25mm deep, whilst maintaining single pass surface hygiene.

And another new arrival is the Dakota 310 Top Dresser to add to the already impressive Dakota range. This compact and manoeuvrable dual spinner pedestrian top dresser can spread up to 6m wide with infinitely variable adjustments via the handlebar mounted controls. Its neat size makes access easier for spreading a variety of materials including sand, rubber crumb and other top dressings.

Established products from Imants such as the ShockWave and Rotoknife will sit alongside Vortex and the VGR Top Changer.

Last but by no means least, is the Award-winning world class Air2G2; this has taken the industry by storm with its air injection system and is fast becoming a firm favourite for the professional groundsman.

Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new 2016 Campey Newsletter, packed with information and photos of all our top products, with the thoughts and experiences of greenkeepers and groundsman from around the world.



TRILO AT BTME

Established Blowers & Vacs manufacturer, Trilo, will be exhibiting on their own stand for the first time at BTME 2016 on Stand Q24. The company has many products that find specific applications on Golf Courses, two such machines are the TRILO S3 vacuum sweeper and the TRILO VCU 120 verticutter designed to meet the requirements of an economically challenging environment.

Working at a convenient 1.5m wide, the TRILO S3 vacuum sweeper weighs in at only 1200kg making it suitable for compact tractors of 28HP. The full floating brush head, and low ground pressure, allows the machine to work under the heaviest of conditions where others may struggle. The balanced fan wheel gives a reliable and above all a safe source of power. The impeller casing can be opened at the top and has an inspection trap in the lower section to allow easy cleaning. To cope with the amount of material collected in a 3M³ container, the S3 also features a 1.6m high tip facility meaning it can keep downtime to a minimum by unloading directly into a truck or skip. A 6m long 200mm diameter hand held wander hose makes the TRILO S3 extremely versatile all year round to clean hard to get to areas such as bunkers, shrubberies or refuse bins.

Greenkeepers are well aware of the benefits of removing thatch and unwanted lateral growth on fine turf. Scarification encourages healthy growth and improves surface penetration by water to enhance airflow around the plant. All of which minimises the potential for disease and maintains the appearance of greens and tees throughout a busy playing season. Finding the right machine can be tricky – pedestrian scarifiers make it a time consuming job, and can suffer from wear and tear if overworked. Even tractor mounted machines can be heavy and cumbersome on fine turf, but TRILO's VCU 120 verticutter weighs in at just 225kg whilst still offering a working width of 1.2m – ideal for greens and tees using a compact tractor.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE WITH RIGBY TAYLOR

Greenkeepers and groundsman alike will find a treasure trove of cost-effective grass seed, fertilisers and other consumable products available at BTME from Rigby Taylor, the company at the forefront of supplying innovative products for the successful management and maintenance of turf surfaces.

In addition to the company's constantly evolving range of industry-leading grass seeds from Top Green – including high-performing and market-leading tetraploid mixtures and the Euroflor range of flower mixtures, which are ever-popular with golf courses – the company's stand will also display the latest developments in fertiliser super micro-granulation and wetting agent chemistry.

Importantly, too, visitors will see that Rigby Taylor's award-winning Impact XP line marking paint has a smart new partner – Intelligent One, the world's first automatic robot for the precision line marking of sports pitches, which will be on the stand.

Combining GPS and Integrated Paint Technology, this machine/paint partnership allows the programmable marking of sports pitches using WiFi-control from a tablet.

Designed for use with the Impact five-litre Eco-Bag and featuring the iGO pump, solenoid and nozzle, the Intelligent One is programmable for travel between pitches on the same site and can mark 12 to 16 pitches from one battery charge. Customised pitch plans are supplied or can be accessed from Google Maps.

Rigby Taylor industry experts will continually be available to provide expert advice to meet all sports turf grass seed and amenity consumable needs, as well as demonstrate the company's market-leading position that now includes an industry-first partnership with The Football Association's Pitch Improvement Programme. Rigby Taylor are exhibiting on Stand B60.



TURFREPORTS FROM SHERRIFF AMENITY

Sherriff Amenity will again be in attendance at BTME on Stand B34 and all visitors will get the opportunity to find out more about the exciting TurfReports service which has been designed to help industry professionals monitor the health and performance of their turf.

TurfReports is a unique turf management system which provides groundsmen and greenkeepers with a detailed analysis of their turf health, performance and weather specific of their site. At the touch of a button users have access to live data in a central hub that is bespoke to each customer. The data then enables Sherriff Amenity representatives to provide customers with advice and product recommendations based on exact information.

Greenkeepers who visit the Sherriff Amenity stand at BTME will be particularly interested in finding out how TurfReports separates your data into individual categories such as green speed, moisture and firmness. This function allows you to instantly identify any problem areas and take necessary action. Simply click on any element to find out more information such as averages, highest and lowest results plus historic data of everything you've ever recorded.

The Disease Tracker function can also go a long way to ensuring your turf stays disease-free. By monitoring contributing factors such as temperature, thatch level and moisture, TurfReports can help predict the occurrence of turf diseases due to the recorded data. If all the elements are in red then you know that the time has come to take action!

This unique service has been designed to help achieve targets and allow users to spend more time on their site and less time in the of



TurfReports

Know your turf. Take Control



It's the ultimate management tool and also gives exclusive access to online education and training courses through the Sherriff Amenity Academy.

To find out more about how TurfReports can significantly improve your turf visit stand B34, where you will also find Sherriff Amenity's staff who will be on hand to provide invaluable advice to greenkeepers, course managers and turf professionals.

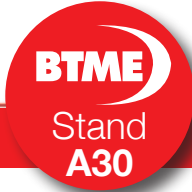


Crocodile Precision LTD



Manufacturers of quality cylinders and bottom blades for grasscare

Replacement blades and cylinders suitable for golf, sports and municipal markets



AQUA-AID MAKE BTME DEBUT

AQUA-AID Europe is proud to announce its first ever appearance at BTME, which coincides with the announcement of the opening of its UK distribution network in 2016.



Hans de Kort, Managing Director said: "After a very successful introduction of the whole AQUA-AID product line into most of Europe in 2015 we are proud to announce our plans for expansion into the UK in 2016."

AQUA-AID Europe offers high-end solutions for turf specialists in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and offers a full line of surfactants and wetting agents for the sports turf industry as well as representing the following brands/ technologies: OARS HS/PS, VerdeCal, Turfscreen and Wormpower.

Hans said: "AQUA-AID Europe will organize tours around the UK in early 2016, where our product specialists will explain how these high tech products work in more detail, and what they could do for you. We will announce the exact dates and locations early in the New Year.

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"We look forward to welcoming you to our BTME stand A15 to answer any questions you may have."

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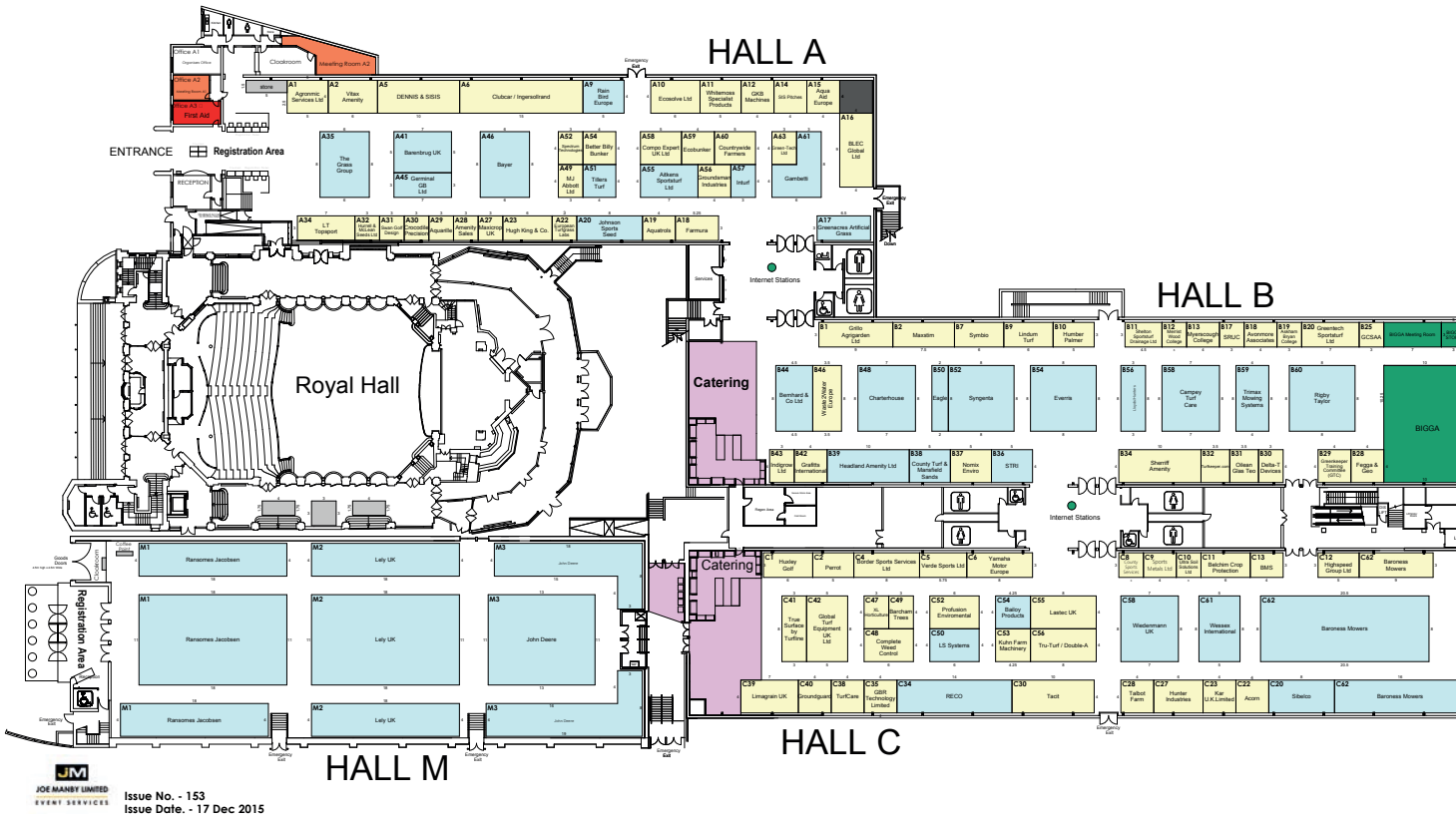
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Motoring ahead at Goodwood



BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Phil Helmn is currently settling in to the new position of General Manager of Sports Turf and Grounds at Goodwood.

Phil previously oversaw both of the legendary venue's 18 hole golf courses – the Downs and the Park – as Courses Manager. His new role means he is in charge of overseeing the team as they care for all turf at the legendary venue, which includes the cricket grounds, motor sport track, airfields and lawn areas. We caught up with Phil in West Sussex to find out more...

Q How did you become involved in greenkeeping?

During my teens I pretty much grew up on a golf course as my father was a golf professional based at Morecambe Golf Club. I used to help out at his pro shop and then started doing summer greenkeeping work out on the course.

When I left school I enrolled on a greenkeeping course at Myerscough College. I soon realised I had chosen the perfect profession for me. I then managed to secure a place on the Ohio State Program, and worked on a construction/grow-in of a Florida golf course. I didn't know it at the time, but that experience stood me in good stead for the

future as my career soon took me on a series of four construction/grow-in roles both in the UK and abroad.

My career eventually led me to Goodwood. As well as responsibility for the two golf courses, myself and the team look after the motor sport areas, cricket, grass airfields and other event areas.

Q What particular challenges do you face on the two courses?

Like most turf managers, the pressure of needing to carry out essential maintenance work on the playing surfaces, especially the greens, while trying to maintain first class services for our customers





How Phil Helmn MG and the team at Goodwood care for the fabulous 12,000 acre site with the help of BIGGA Education Supporter Agronomic Services



is tricky to say the least. Explaining why we greenkeepers continually seem to have the urge to 'spoil the surfaces just when we have got them looking good' is a constant challenge...I think we are getting better at getting our message across!

Q Which products do you use and what do you achieve with them?

For the greens we have a dual fertiliser regime consisting of mini granule NPK applications throughout the growing season, Agronomic Services put together a bespoke package for us. Where we have begun to see a real breakthrough in the turf per-

formance is the use of the Floratine foliar/soil liquid feed programme. We are able to fine tune the nutrient input of the plant, giving it exactly what it needs as a supplement when the plant needs it and how it can best 'take it in' - either straight to the leaf blade or the root by using different products to suit.

Q Who do you use for agronomic advice and why?

I am very pleased to be working with two of the country's top advisers, David Snowden and David Stansfield, to better understand the best way to produce great playing surfaces on the courses. I'm looking forward to seeking their views

on how to manage the unique difficulties and requirements of motor circuit verges, air-fields, cricket pitches and ornamental lawn grass!

Q What has been the highlight of your time at Goodwood?

So many, and I've only been here 18 months. Watching Spitfires buzzing the tree tops over the golf courses while practising for the Goodwood vintage revival event and getting behind the ropes at the Festival of Speed motor event. Chatting with Damon Hill on the chipping green, taking a race round the motor circuit track in a BMW sports car... genuinely, the list goes on!

Q Do you still enjoy playing golf and what are your favourite holes on the two courses?

I am encouraged to play as much as possible and I encourage my team to do the same. The most memorable hole for me on the Downs course is the par three 8th. It is framed fantastically with our new bunkering recently completed, and it's on top of the downs with a stunning backdrop of the English Channel and the Isle of Wight. The Park course is great and I think the best for me is the 18th, for no other reason than I always seem to score ok on it and I know I am not far away from a Goodwood home brew lager in the bar!

Q Which particular agronomic problem have you managed to turn around and how?

On both courses I inherited a thatch problem. The challenge was to reduce this but without the disruption of extensive hollow coring. Aeration work inevitably had to continue, however by applying some of the key Floratine foliar/soil liquid products we have been able to begin to reduce our thatch levels without the usual disruption.

Key products for us have been Floratine's Thatch Buster and Agronomic Services' Oxy-Rush. However, using these products alone is not enough. I'm still learning, by using a combination of Ag-



ronomic Services products we are producing a healthier plant and soil profile. I've used David Snowden and the Floratine range now for just over eight years on three golf courses and they definitely help my teams produce great surfaces.

Q Tell us about the team at Goodwood.

I'm lucky to work with two great Head Greenkeepers - Andy Brown on the Downs and Simon Berry on the Park, and deputies Rob Dyer and Paul Oliver. The rest of the greenkeeping team who work on the two courses are Matt Groome, Chris Stone, Gary Holmes, Darren Savage, John Green, Karl Venus, Sean Blyth, Russ Carr, Billy Nash, Adrian Gale (senior mechanic) and Sefton Jones (apprentice mechanic).

It looks like I'm going to be very busy in my new role, but it's going to be a very exciting challenge. I have fantastic team here and together we can achieve all our goals.

Q What advice would you give to young greenkeepers starting out in their careers?

Work hard, listen to those professionals who have got the experience, always have a 'can do' attitude and realise that formal education will enable you to develop personally. Be patient and be respectful of colleges and fellow professionals within the industry.



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The chosen ones



Once again five BIGGA members will be enjoying the opportunity of a lifetime as they join the maintenance team at TPC Sawgrass for the Players Championship, courtesy of BIGGA Partner John Deere

Congratulations to the final five who began by registering their interest on the BIGGA website, then recording a short video about themselves and their career aspirations.

They then made it through tough regional interviews with a panel of representatives from BIGGA and John Deere.

The 2016 Players Championship – the unofficial ‘Fifth major’ – takes place between May 10 and May 15 at TPC Sawgrass in Florida.

The Delegation last year – the first ever – enjoyed a life changing experience. Here are just some of their quotes after returning home:

“A phenomenal 12 days unlike anything I have ever experienced before – flawless organisation and unrivalled passion and motivation.” Joe Dormer

“It was a privilege to share this experience with other greenkeepers. Taking their advice and witnessing their aptitude, to conversing with the team on such a stage was a great learning curve.” Chris McArthur

Well done to the successful five and thank you to all the members who took the time to apply and film videos, the standard was very high.



Images of last years delegates

John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme Delegates**Nicholas Roberts – Deputy Course Manager, South Essex Golf & Country Club**

Nicholas began his career at Essendon Country Club, then he moved on to The Hertfordshire Golf Club where he was promoted to First Assistant Greenkeeper. Now at South Essex, he was part of the BIGGA support team at the BMW PGA Championship and the British Masters at Woburn. He is a three handicap golfer hoping to eventually play off scratch.

**Stuart Imeson – Head Greenkeeper, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course**

Stuart started out at the Northumberland links aged 16 as an Assistant Greenkeeper, and aged just 18 he became Head Greenkeeper. He is in charge of a youthful team and has overseen various construction projects on the course. He has joined the BIGGA support teams at The Open and the BMW PGA Championship, and is also a member of BIGGA's Young Greenkeeper Committee.

**Chris Sharp – Course Manager, Hampstead Golf Club**

Chris discovered his love for greenkeeping during work experience at Mountain Lakes Golf Club in mid Glamorgan, then gained a position at Cottrell Park Golf Resort. He then moved to Celtic Manor and was part of the greenkeeping team for the 2010 Ryder Cup, before joining the team at Harewood Downs Golf Club. He became Course Manager at Hampstead in February 2015.

**Graeme Davidson – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Murrayfield Golf Club**

Graeme began his greenkeeping career as an apprentice at Glencorse Golf Club before moving on to Mortonhall Golf Club. During a period travelling the world with his wife, he secured a six month internship at Pacific Golf Club in Australia. He then accepted his current role at Murrayfield. He was part of the BIGGA support team at the 2015 BMW PGA Championship.

**Pete Corrick – Assistant Greenkeeper, Remedy Oak Golf Club**

Pete started out at Vivary Park Golf Club, then took an unpaid role at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club to further his greenkeeping experience. His next greenkeeping role was at Weymouth Golf Club and completed his Level 3 before joining Remedy Oak Golf Club, where he helped the team complete the recent greens rebuilding programme. He has also been a volunteer at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship.



Why does it matter?

Ben Morgan, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Drax Golf Club, has looked at organic matter during his Turfgrass Management studies at Askham Bryan College. Here he discusses how to manage this matter to improve ball to surface performance

Organic matter is made up of the dead and decaying grass plant components residing in the soil profile. Some of these materials completely decompose. However, some of the woodier material remains for longer in the soil and creates a spongy playability. This article looks at how this material is formed, the effects it has on the playability of the course, and how it can be effectively managed.

So what is organic matter and why should it be managed?

Organic matter is an essential component of a healthy soil profile but it must be managed correctly to ensure that threshold levels are not exceeded. The beneficial part of this layer is the fully decomposed organic matter commonly known as humus. This contains micro-organisms that eat organic matter and help with decomposition. This layer also increases the soils cation exchange capacity (ability to retain nutrients).

The negative elements of this layer consist of the un-decomposed residue of the grass plant such as: the roots, stolons,

rhizomes, crowns, stems, and leaves. This layer has a spongy texture and if not managed correctly will impact negatively on the playability of the turf surface.

This organic matter can build up more on links courses consisting predominantly of *Festuca* grasses as the native species. This species has a tendency to produce a large root mass and stoloniferous horizontal growth rather than vertical growth, this means it is prone to higher levels of thatch. It also contains high levels of the chemical lignin – which slows down and inhibits the natural decomposition of the plant material.

The quantity of organic material present in the soil profile has a direct effect on the quality of ball to surface interaction and can determine the playability of the course.

A small amount of thatch is actually needed to provide the following benefits:

- Stabilisation of the turf surface
- Protection to plant roots from ball impact
- Stabilisation of the PH
- Retention of nutrients
- Protection against compaction forces



- Provides environment for micro-organisms

However, excessive amounts can cause the following undesirable conditions:

- Soft and unresilient playing surface
- Poor ball to surface playability
- Decreased frost play resilience
- Greater disease incidence
- Excessive water retention
- Anaerobic soil conditions and poor gaseous exchange
- Increased risk of dry patch
- Promotion of undesirable shallow rooting grasses (*Poa Annua*/Annual Meadowgrass)
- Restricted root growth
- Perfect conditions for moss, algae, and weeds

How is organic matter measured?

The most popular and accurate method of measuring organic matter in soil is by weight loss on ignition analysis (LOI). Soil samples are taken from predetermined depths (0-20mm, 20-40mm & 40-60mm) and carefully weighed. The samples are then cooked in a laboratory oven for 2 hours at 500C to remove all organic

matter. The samples are then re-weighed to give the weight of organic matter in the soil samples. This figure is calculated as a percentage to give the exact measurement of the organic matter in the soil.

The soil samples are taken from the different depth to give an indication of the organic percentages through the entire depth of soil profile. With this information the appropriate treatment can be selected to improve the soil.

With the soil analysis results we can determine the treatment required and remove the organic matter. The quantity of organic matter can be separated into the following categories of severity:

- 7-12% organic matter – There is a range of treatments we can use at this level including: hollow coring, deep scarification and/or sand injection – these methods both to reduce organic matter and can be combined with adding a sand-based topdressing. Diluting the organic matter using integration of sand top dressing has shown to be very effective.

- 12-17% organic matter - urgent mechanical renovation is required to achieve a reduction in organic material. This level of organic matter can create waterlogged and anaerobic areas for long periods of the winter. These conditions reduce playability performance and increase the risk of disease incidence. Using the dilution method at this stage is not effective and a more aggressive treatment of linear aeration/sand injection should be used.
- 15%+ organic matter - at this level removal should be considered an absolute priority and a double treatment should be used. Linear aeration/sand injection combined with hollow coring followed by sand topdressing should be used during this programme.
- 20%+ organic matter - a complete surface renewal to remove the top layer of thatch and replace with new turf. The previous treatment program should be analysed to make alterations and prevent reoccurrence.

Ongoing research by STRI has concluded that the ideal range for organic matter on golf greens is between 6% and 7% at a depth of 20mm by volume. If we set our goal to get the organic percentage as close to this figure as possible then we will be able to improve the playability of the course.

How do we reduce the organic matter?

If the results of the weight loss on ignition test show a high level of organic matter then one of the most efficient techniques is to remove it mechanically using the Graden contour sand injector.

The Graden sand injector is a scarifier/aerator capable of scarifying to a depth of 1mm-40mm with the ability to remove organic material and backfill the grooves with either sand or a mixture of sand and fescue seed. With this machine we can remove the organic matter and impregnate the soil profile with sand and fescue seed to get a successful regeneration of desirable grass species.

The Graden gives you a choice of 2mm or 3mm blades that are spaced at 25mm centres. This spacing gives the surface some stability after

treatment and causes very little damage besides subtle parallel grooves backfilled with sand. If we also time this treatment correctly within the growing season then rapid turf recovery will be expected.

Conclusion

Organic matter is an essential component of a healthy soil profile. At low levels it can protect the grass from traffic and retain nutrients through cation exchange capacity. However, if we allow levels of organic matter to exceed threshold levels then we can expect reduced health of the grass plant and increased disease resistance. By monitoring organic matter levels using laboratory analysis we can manage and decrease the thatch using machinery such as the Graden contour injector.





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Turkish delight

Stefan Carter, Greenkeeper at Wentworth, finalist in the 2015 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and Young Greenkeeper Committee member, recently volunteered to join the team at the Turkish Open following a meeting at BTME 2015. Here's what he learnt from a terrific week

Having been completely hooked after joining the BIGGA Open Support Team at Muirfield in 2013, I knew I wanted to work on tournament golf courses through my career. In my spare time since I have volunteered at the Open Regional Qualifying Rounds, the Seniors Amateur Championships and recently the British Masters at Woburn as well as being fortunate enough to be part of the BMW PGA Championships twice, once as part of the home greenkeeping team.

Always eager to take on new challenges, I continued searching for volunteering opportunities outside the UK. At BTME 2015 I was introduced to Benjamin Lovett, Course Manager at the Montgomerie Maxx Royal Golf Club in Antalya, Turkey. I told him that I was interested in gaining more experience at tournaments, and he offered me a place to volunteer for the Turkish Open. At first I wasn't sure if it would all work out, but sure enough after a few emails it was confirmed and I had booked my flights!

Just before the tournament I got in touch with some of the other volunteers through Facebook to introduce myself. I got to know BIGGA members Leigh Powell from Hockley Golf Club and Mark Fry from Worplesdon Golf Club and we arranged to travel out together.

We met up, flew out and on arrival in Turkey a minibus took us to our accommodation. We were then introduced to Ben and another volunteer who had already been there for a week. The weather was awful with heavy rain and thunderstorms lashing down, and we

could see Ben was naturally concerned. With just under a week before the tournament kicked off, and 12 inches of rain over three days, the course was a little wet.

It was still raining the next morning but after looking round the greenkeeping facilities at the Montgomerie Maxx, it brightened up and everyone was assigned mowing jobs while conditions allowed. By midday the sun was beating down which made double hand mowing greens a slightly sweaty task! After a greatly appreciated lunch, more volunteers started arrived and we began work on repairing the bunker faces that had been washed down. It was a hard job, but we knew that it had to be done, plus the excitement of being out on the course made the time fly by.

After a 12-hour shift we were looking forward to relaxing in the hotel and we were not disappointed. The whole complex was spectacular and the all-inclusive food and drink added to our enjoyment!

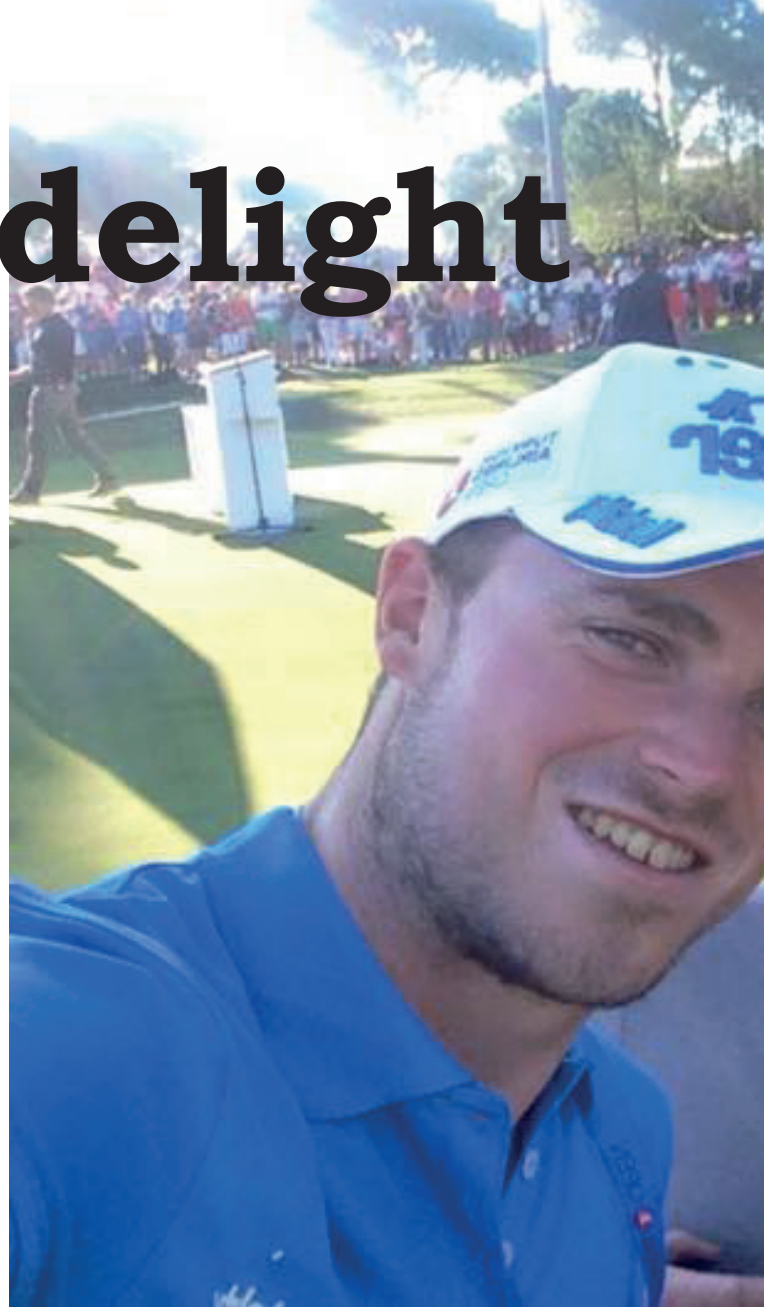
The next morning the two final volunteers joined us, and regaled us with tales of lost luggage and passport problems which explained their late arrival. The day was spent cutting, rolling and transporting roll after roll of turf to areas of bunkers that needed to be repaired. This would then be laid after the bunker face was rebuilt with topsoil. Another hard but rewarding day resulted in the bunkers being transformed from unplayable to hazards fit for the Turkish Open.

The next few days were spent ensuring the course was presented to the best possible standards for the players. The

bunkers were topped up with sand and raked every day, all areas of the course were mown to burn in the stripes, and something that was new to me was to roll the greens surrounds with a Tru Turf greens roller to firm and smooth them after the rain.

The tournament officially started on the Thursday. We spent a few hours getting the course set up on the morning, then after play we devoted the fairways and gave the greens another cut. It was weird cutting the greens under floodlights on the Thursday night, but it made the course look magical with the lights peering through the trees. The next few days followed this pattern.

As we finished set up on the final day of the tournament we congregated in the greenkeeping yard to get photos of the whole team and with other employees who we had become





friends with over the past few days despite only learning broken Turkish. Having said our goodbyes we set off round the course to watch the day's golf and finished up outside the clubhouse to watch Victor Dubuisson claim the title at -22. Excitement grew as we headed to the 18th green to get our photo with Victor and join in the celebrations. We then went for a final night out together to celebrate what we had achieved.

To top the whole trip off we were kindly invited by Superintendent Gary Finnerty of the Carya Golf Club - who host next year's tournament - to play a round of golf under the floodlights. It was a surreal experience teeing off at 7pm yet being able to see everything!

I could have told many more stories about the week! This experience has given me a new insight into what goes on at

golf tournaments in different countries and under different conditions, as well as giving me the opportunity to meet and make friends with other greenkeepers who vary in roles from assistant greenkeepers to course managers. I also learnt about the different standards of living and working in Turkey compared to here in the UK. From making friends with the other volunteers I hope to be able to further my career by learning from them, and in return offer my help to them.

One of the reasons I wanted to get experience working abroad was so I could gain knowledge on the different challenges that warm season course managers have to deal with. The biggest difference was managing the different types of grasses for the conditions. At the time of the tournament the course had recently been overseeded with ryegrass species because temperatures were dropping and the bermuda grass would be going dormant in the colder conditions.



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Ryegrass was used as it has good wear and heat tolerance as well as giving good sward density. One concern was to not overseed with too much ryegrass as this would dominate the dormant bermuda grass and would leave the course looking bare the following summer.

I also found that there was less emphasis on the importance of staff training and education in Turkey. Although the local workers did a fantastic job at preparing the course, there were certain areas where a little more knowledge could help to improve the standards of their machinery and the course even further. Seeing this made me appreciate even more the amazing learning and development opportunities we have here in the UK.

I strongly recommend becoming more involved with working on tournaments that are outside the UK events as there is so much you can learn from them and they can offer completely different experiences, friendships and oppor-

tunities. Although it may not always seem easy to get into these positions, there is a power of networking that can really surprise and amaze you if you seek it out.



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Awash with legislation



Highspeed Group's MD David Mears looks at the current legislation regarding washpads and attempts to clarify this potentially complex issue

Most operating in the golf and turf maintenance sector are becoming increasingly concerned about compliance with legislation applicable to them and do not wish to run foul of the law. Many believe that they are aware of their duties and responsibilities and have taken appropriate action. It is clearly evident however, that some confusion still exists.

Looking at message boards, social media sites and listening to greenkeepers, there seems to be a recurring theme: "Can somebody tell us in plain English what the law is regarding washpads?". Comments often include that going online to find out often confuses even more. You see page upon page of regulations and it is so difficult to unravel. One greenkeeper told me only recently; "I typed in EU Water Framework Directive and wished I hadn't!"

So what must be done to



ensure compliance? Firstly, bear in mind that it has always been an offence to cause pollution and, in England and Wales, the EA (Environment Agency) is responsible for policing the plethora of legislation relating to pollution. In Scotland it is the responsibility of SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency).

"So for my washpad, exactly what legislation am I to comply with?" may be your question. The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the one piece of legislation that most seem to be more aware of recently.

Introduced during 2009, it has not been noticed by many until recently and, now that full implementation is imminent, it has come sharply into focus. The WFD applies throughout Europe and each member state is responsible for compliance with many already having introduced this into legislation. For example, in England and Wales, The



Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 were enshrined in law in 2009.

In Scotland, it was The Water Environment (Groundwater and Priority Substances Scotland) Regulations 2009 that also became law in that same year. So, in a nutshell, it's not a question of when do I need to comply, as it has been law since 2009! The main focus of this legislation is that is illegal to wash hazardous substances into the groundwater. There is an extensive list of such substances to peruse in the various legal documents, but those affecting greenkeepers and others washing down turf maintenance and similar machinery are:

- WFD, under Item 7: Persistent mineral oils and hydrocarbons of petroleum origin.
- The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, under Item 3(e): persis-

tent hydrocarbons and persistent and bioaccumulable organic toxic substances

- The Water Environment (Groundwater and Priority Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, under Schedule 2: substances or groups of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate, and other substances or groups of substances which give rise to an equivalent level of concern

These substances are washed off daily from every golf machine; oil, petrol, grease, diesel, etc. You should consider also The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage)(England) Regulations 2001 and, if in Scotland, the more stringent sister legislation. Most golf courses have a diesel tank near the machinery store. Is yours compliant? What happens if it is ruptured and contents spill? Why not incorporate space for your diesel tank and other possible pollutants on your

washpad?

So, if you do not have a dedicated washpad (one with a low curb surround to contain all pollutants to ensure these reach the treatment / storage facility) and a satisfactory means of disposing of or properly treating the washwater, you will technically be breaking the law.

What are the options for compliance? Essentially, there are three choices:

Washdown Separator - Separators appear, initially, to be relatively inexpensive but are acceptable as a stand-alone solution only if they discharge to foul sewer. Unfortunately for many greenkeeping facilities, located away from the clubhouse, this usually is not an option unless you install, at extra expense, a large holding tank (with no outlet) for the separator to discharge into. The holding tank contents (classed as hazardous waste, so costly) would need pumping out from a top manhole and, for safety, fitted with a high water level alarm. The other downside of a separator is that a) it needs pumping out regularly and b) being a discharge system there are no water savings. You'd also need to buy and install a pressure washer or pump to produce worthwhile water washing pressure too! So, what originally seemed an inexpensive solution is not quite that.

Reed Beds - Also sometimes considered an inexpensive option, reed beds are ideal for sewage waste (organic matter) but do have severe limitations when handling hydrocarbons (oil, grease, fuel etc). This would mean time consuming and costly maintenance and, of course, reed replacements.



Space requirement would be large and again, there are no water savings.

Water Recycling System - A genuine biological water recycling system is the best and future-proof way to go with the big advantage of saving thousands of litres of precious water. Independent water meter tests have demonstrated that a typical 18 hole course can save over half a million litres of water a year by recycling. You can elect to install a below ground or above ground system. Do make sure though that you do your homework thoroughly, checking that what is offered actually recycles! Some solutions may be, in essence, an overpriced separator solution. A system that is an approved water saving technology and on the WTL (Water Technology List) provides an extra bonus for those installing such a system too; One hundred percent of the cost of a system and installation can be offset against taxable profits under the ECA (Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme) in the UK.

If you are considering a recycling system, look at what's on offer, make comparisons, do the sums (not only purchase costs but running costs too) and select your preferred system. The best advice then is to talk to someone who has the system of your choice and, better still, go and see it in operation. If you need to deliberate further, go and see the main competitor's system in action.

One interesting exercise of interest that may influence you is this: A while ago, my company produced an analysis comparing the cost of operating a separator (legally) versus our own ClearWater recycling system. Over a five year period and taking water charges, EA and emptying fees into account for a typical separator, the ClearWater system with a typical saving of 500,000 litres of water a year showed a saving of over £3000!

Now technically, everyone should have complied way back in 2009. You'd have no defence if you were caught polluting, as citing ignorance

of the law is not acceptable. Let's be honest, it's difficult to imagine anyone who has not seen the ongoing media coverage regarding pollution and legislative compliance over the last six years or more!

You may think that you won't be inspected but it is on record that the Environment Agency does so. In fact recent articles in the golf press have covered exactly that, with one instance of a golf club being advised that contaminated water from their washpad had entered a stream. They were advised to act quickly and did so, installing a ClearWater system and a package sewage plant. The EA do not have sufficient officers to inspect every single golf course on a regular basis but who knows, the next inspection could be your club; not a problem though if you are compliant!

David Mears is joint MD of Highspeed Group Ltd. suppliers of the WTL approved ClearWater Washpad Water Recycling System, Separators, Sewage Plant, and Fuel, Oil and Water Tanks - exhibiting at BTME Stand C12



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Section Notes

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

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



Around the green

Scotland & Northern Ireland

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Events Coming Up

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

BTME is almost here – Woohoo! The education looks great again this year and the early “Sold Out” next to countless seminars in November is a clear message that we all feel the same. With this in mind, I’d like to say a huge thanks to Sami Strutt and all of the team at BIGGA HQ.

CENTRAL

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

News

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

I’d love to have a different topic as an opening liner; however the weather, and in particular, the rain has dominated the headlines in the last few weeks. Ayrshire has seen around 300mm of rainfall last month, which has been lucky in comparison to the Borders area. All of our thoughts are with the Borders’ towns and villages where the clean-up operations are in full swing. The floods have left a path of destruction in their wake and have left many without homes.

Congratulations to Dundonald Links’ Steven Miller on his engagement to his sweetheart Kirsty Thomas – The team are eagerly awaiting our Wedding invitations!

2015’s events saw a terrific uptake from the Section, so on behalf of the Board, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and I hope that we can repeat throughout 2016.

January really is great month, not only do we have Ne’erday and BTME, we also have Burns Nicht – so for all of you who will have the honour of “Addressing the Haggis”, and tucking into your neeps and tatties, I bid you a great nicht! All the best!

WEST

The Annual social night took place on 27th November. A total of 36 members enjoyed an excellent meal at Mr Singh’s India restaurant in Glasgow. We then moved on to a number of local bars during the course of the evening. It was great to meet up again with old friends and to meet some new ones. We were honoured to have Scottish Chairman Jim Paton join us on the night. Many thanks to all who supported the evening and to Alan Jack for all his help in organising.

The Scottish Region Patrons award took place on Wednesday 2 December at Dunblane New Golf Club. Congratulations to all the award winners, especially to West section winner Mark Cummine. Enjoy your trip to BTME.

A very successful educational event was held on 1 December at Glasgow Golf Club. Richard Windows of STRI delivered 3 presentations, over half a day, to 15 very keen assistant greenkeepers. The feedback was very good from the students, and hopefully more of these events can be run in the future. Thanks must go to Richard Windows, Stuart Taylor and Glasgow Golf Club for the use of their excellent facility, and to Education officer Gerry Bruen, who had the foresight to put it all together.

A couple of new additions to announce: congratulations to Bobby McDougall of Souters Sports on the birth of his baby boy Innes recently. Also to Michael Slack, Course Manager at Cowglen GC who now has a son, Sebastian, born on 3 December. Anyone who has any news, remember, don’t hesitate to let me know, by phone, text, email or even Facebook.

Break it down!

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NORTH

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Now that we have all sobered up from New Year, its time to break all the New Year's resolutions at BTME! All joking aside, Harrogate is a great time to reacquaint ourselves with old friends and take advantage of all the educational benefits available.

I think it's fair to say that the reintroduction of the Highland Conference, which was kindly hosted by Nairn Dunbar GC, was a huge success. We had 4 excellent speakers and 92 delegates attend. This will hopefully become a solid fixture in the events calendar from now on so watch this space for further updates.

Five North Section committee members accompanied Fraser Jardine from Royal Aberdeen down to Dunblane GC on 2 December to attend the Patron's Award dinner. Fraser is this year's North Section winner and he wins an all expenses trip to BTME and a guided tour of STRI's facilities at Bingley. If anyone has a member of staff who has performed above and beyond the call of duty, please nominate them as this award is well worth winning.

The winners of the 200 Club draw from the AGM are Mrs B Hardie £30, Gordon Peebles £50, William Findlay £30 and Mike Keay £120. Well done to all the winners during 2015. The section would like to wish Scott Davidson all the best with his recent appointment as Course Manager at Cathcart Castle GC. As usual, if anyone has any stories from BTME or just general information, please contact either of the email addresses above.

EAST

It's been a dreich few weeks, the worst hit was Cumbria

getting 16" of rain in a day, even here on the east coast where our annual rainfall is less than 30" have had more than 6" in a short period. But yet we still have courses open and players happy!

Best of luck to Robert Marshall in his new post at Greentech. Massive congratulations to Graeme Davidson, first assistant at Murrayfield Golf Club on his selection as a TPC Delegate to Sawgrass, sponsored by John Deere. We look forward to hearing about it all. Finally, I wish a satisfying 2016 to all!

CENTRAL

Well I hope everyone had a good Christmas and celebrated the New Year in style. We had a few seminars in the run up to Christmas - at Elmwood Gordon McKie talked to us about Managing the Old Course for 2015 Open. At Gleneagles Martin Townsend From Severin Amenity Services spoke about Soil Management. Chris Barnard hosted a course walk at Scotsraig Golf Club showing us all the improvements made in the short spell he has been there.

Shaun Anderson has been picked at one of the representatives for the Bernhard Delegation which will be heading to San Diego in February to attend the Golf Industry Show sponsored by Bernhard Grinders. Have a great time Shaun.

Richard Jenkinson was presented with the Patrons Award for the Central Section at the Patrons Lunch held at Dunblane Golf Club, Well Done to Richard, part of his prize is a trip to Harrogate for BTME and a trip to STRI Research Day courtesy of STRI. Talking of Harrogate, hope to see most of you there during the week.

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

NORTH WALES

We will be running a Bus to Harrogate on Wednesday 20 January. Please contact Neil Oxtan (either 01516 321804 or 07766 936236) if you wish to attend. Usual pickup points plus an additional for anyone in the North West section who wants to tag along.

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

NORTH EAST

2 March 2016 - North East Spring conference - machinery maintenance focus day. Location – Greenlay. Hands on machinery maintenance, unit setting and maintenance and bearing fitting and servicing. Contact Sandra Raper for further information.

NORTHERN

Don't forget to make your arrangements for BTME. I am sure it will be a brilliant show!

NORTH WEST

The Spring Tournament will be at High Legh Park GC on 17 March. Confirmation of times will follow shortly, in the meantime keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

SHEFFIELD

Social event at the Owlerton Dog Track on 15 January. We are meeting at 6.30 at The Crown which is next to the

car park on Penistone road. If you have any questions regarding the evening please get in touch.

Golf days: Spring, Wath GC, 26 May. Summer, Chesterfield GC, 21 July. Autumn, Renishaw GC, 15 September. Christmas, Worksop GC, 7 December. Please keep checking our Facebook and Twitter accounts for further details of these events.

CLEVELAND

The first meeting for the @flatcapturfclub is scheduled for March. Further details will be posted in the next edition. Any members wishing to receive updates from our website www.biggasheffieldsection.com please add your email address to the the mailing list. We still need some content for the page so send any pictures or reports to Graham Pickin at phoenixheadgroundsman@phoenix.com.

News

NORTH WALES

GUV held Club Services Annual Roadshow at Conwy on 24 November regarding Thriving Clubs – Governance, this is a free event and hope it was well attended.

Christmas tournament, course walk and AGM took place at Nefyn & District Golf Club on Thursday 26 November. Results: 1 Edward Ainsworth, Phil Watson, Mark Hillaby & John Mooney 77pts, 2 Marcus Gilbert, Richard Stephens, S Charles 75, 3 Carl Crocher, Jeremy Hughes, James Hampson & Tony Mash 73. Nearest Pins: Richard Jones, John Little. A big thanks to Pat McAteer and his team for hosting the event, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone (even if we did play off the white tees).

We have opened Facebook (B.I.G.G.A North Wales) and Twitter (@BIGGANorthWales) accounts, please like and follow us to get the latest information on events, news and photos.

Unfortunately three of our committee will be taking a break for a while. I for one would like to say a massive thank you to Pete Maybury, Jeremy Hughes and Paul Lowe for giving their own time to support the section over the years.

Finally if you have changed your phone numbers or email addresses, or want to change your profile photo (as on your BIGGA members card) please let BIGGA House know so you can be kept up to date.

NORTH EAST

Stuart Imeson would like to thank all that attended his bunker camp, he is really appreciative of all the hard work put in from all the lads. All the bunkers look amazing and the knowledge himself and his staff gain from the revetting skills of the other greenkeepers is priceless.

Congratulations to Simon Olver and Stuart Imeson who have both gained trips to America, Simon being selected to be part of the Bernhard delegation team to San Diego and Stuart selected as a TCP Sawgrass volunteer courtesy of John Deere.

NORTHERN

Hi everyone and welcome from a new reporter for the BIGGA Northern Section. Hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas and New Year with Santa hopefully bringing you your Christmas wish list! Thanks to Chris Goodall, for writing the column over the past months. Unfortunately I will have written this column before we have played the Christmas golf so am unable to report who won and more importantly who won the "best Christmas jumper!" (photo to follow).

November and December have been very challenging months with mild warm temperatures and several mm of rain. The only positives we can probably take from

this is that dry patch should be non-existent! Any news, gossip or ideas on how we can make this a more committed section please get in touch. Sections are a good way of networking and meeting other greenkeepers. Let's communicate with each other to make this section stronger and attend events.

Thanks also to Andy Slingsby for doing a fantastic job as secretary over the past few years, cheers Andy and hope you enjoy your retirement!

NORTH WEST

Happy New Year. We have a lot of good news this month. Gwynn, Vincent and the greenkeeping team at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, who as part of the golf team, won the 'Team of the Year Award' at the Cheshire Marketing Awards. Jonny Roberts (Preston GC) has been appointed Course Manager at Ellesmere GC and Andy Moore (Royal Lytham GC) has been appointed Deputy Course Manager at Blackpool North Shore.

Congratulations to Edward Ainsworth (Avro GC) who has reached the final of the STRI Golf Environment Awards and also to John McLoughlin (Warrington GC), who has been selected to travel to San Diego in the Bernhard delegation. Well done to Benjamin Proctor (Fairhaven GC) for successfully completing his Level 2 Diploma Apprenticeship and to his mentor Thomas Lyons for 45 years' service and going strong. On 7 December, the committee met at a very well presented Warrington GC for their golf and Christmas dinner, raising £100 towards the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

CLEVELAND

It's been a more active month in the Cleveland section. We had the AGM on the 1 December which was interesting and a few ideas came out of it which we will try to implement in 2016.

What we would like to know from the section members is: When we put a seminar on what do you the members what out of it? Also what about non-work related social functions? Paintballing, karting, clay pigeon shooting and the Sunderland dogs were suggested. You can give your feedback on the Facebook page or text me on 07974 458640.

What a wonderful day we had at Cleveland Golf Club for the bring a bottle Christmas comp - credit to Pembo and the lads the course was superb. Everyone thought it was in great nick last year but you and your team have raised the bar well done.

Now on to the Golf itself! I was brimming with confidence after my success at the Autumn Tournament and the fact that I hadn't picked a club up since that day didn't seem to matter me I had been paired up with the in form Ben McGratten and Les Hunt, whose extensive local knowledge and high handicap was going to make sure that my taste for wining was going to continue. Unfortunately after my tee shot on the first when I managed to hit the ball after it fell off the tee peg onto the green my game went downhill and I reverted back to type by the 5th hole after topping a tee shot straight up into the air and catching it!

Results: 1 Alan Reed, Adam (one) Newton and Roger from Wynyard 74pts, 2 Derek Thompson, Olly Shephard and Paul Legg 69, 3 Martin Woods, Iain Leversuch and Liam Ord 67, 4 Richie Hood, Robin Bailey and Barry Walker 65, 5 Nic Blesic, Pete Newton and Sam Walters 63, 6 Ben McGratten, Anthony McGeough and Les Hunt 49, 7 Ian Pemberton, Sandra Raper and Alistair Whitby 47. Longest drive Martin Woods, nearest pin Olly Shephard.

The annual TSL Groundsmen v Greenkeepers Quiz took place at Billingham Synthonia Cricket club with the Greenkeepers coming out on top again. Thank you Terry and Alan and the rest of the TSL team for putting on a

brilliant evening.

Finally congratulations to Jonathan Wyer from Rockcliffe on the birth of his baby daughter Emily and to Anthony Cheeseborough who by the time this goes to print will have joined the ranks of the married man! Welcome aboard!

SHEFFIELD

The Christmas competition was held at Waterfront GC over 9 holes. Results: Nick Miles (Chesterfield GC), 17pts - he also won longest drive, 2 Mark Morgan (Grange GC) 15, 3 Mike Schouler (Stocksbridge GC) with 13. Nearest Pins: Mike Brear, Antony Whittington. Thank you to all who turned up and made it a great afternoon.

The section would like to thank Sandra Raper for all the work you've done with us this year. We all appreciate what you do for our section.

Thanks to Sponsors

NORTH WALES

A belated thank you to John Mooney from Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the very manly coloured tops for the golf match against South Wales at Royal Porthcawl in October.

Thank you to Andrew Cornes from Thorntrees Amenity Ltd for sponsoring the nearest the pin prizes for the golf days throughout the year.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank all the sponsors for the support this year and continued support in 2016: Whitemoss Amenity, Symbio, Rigby Taylor, MGTurfcare, Osprey Irrigation, North Staffs Irrigation, British Seed Houses, Bathgate Leisure, Campey Turfcare Solutions, Sheriff Amenity, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Turner Groundscare, David Williams Golf Design.

NORTH EAST

Thanks to John Deere, Bernhard and Turfkeeper for supporting the North East spring Conference, and to Greenlay for sponsoring the bunker camp.

NORTHERN

Thanks to all the trade companies that supported the section over the last 12 months.

NORTH WEST

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

SHEFFIELD

Thank you to all our sponsors for 2015: Mansfield Sand, Russell Groundcare, Premier Pitches and Rigby Taylor. Your continuing support of the Sheffield section is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you all in 2016.



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 COAST

At the time of writing, the details are being finalised for the South Coast Section Conference at Milton Abbey School on 17 February. This awe inspiring venue will once again host our flagship event of the year and offer an impressive list of speakers who will be providing an interesting and informative day for our members. The official invitation detailing confirmed speakers, booking procedure and payment details will go out to ASAP, so keep an eye on your inbox!

DEVON AND CORNWALL

A reminder that the section away trip to London on the 1-2 March. If you have not already done so can you please ensure you have forwarded your deposit of £30 to Justin Manester ASAP.

SOUTH WALES

Fixtures for 2016 will appear next month, more details throughout the year in the column and on Facebook or twitter. If you have any news you think should go in the magazine please call 07429 315987.

SOUTH WEST

Our 2016 calendar of fixtures and events is almost ready for publication, please keep an eye out for it in the coming weeks.

News

SOUTH COAST

The South Coast “Turkey Trot” was held at Hockley Golf Club on 2 December. Glenn Kirby and his team provided a first class venue in great condition for this popular event which saw 14 teams take part in the Texas Scramble competition. Results: 1 Toby Giles, Paul Giles, Phil Nason, 2 Mike Cartwright, Tony Crouch, Pete Lacey, 3 Jaime Acton, Luke Elgie, Steve Thorne. The Section Committee and all the members who attended would like to thank everyone at Hockley Golf Club for

hosting the event and for their hospitality throughout.

Andy Clark from Broadstone Golf Club will be looking after the notes for “Around The Green” and other secretarial responsibilities for a couple of months while I’m away in the USA. Andy not only serves on Section Committee but also on the Young Greenkeepers Committee and can be reached through the normal email address which is biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com

SOUTH WEST

30 November saw a presentation skills course hosted by Thornbury Golf Club and conducted by Michael Alstop. Nine delegates attended the day at which Michael gave valuable advice on how to development speaking and presentation skills before all involved had the their moment to give presentations about a diverse range of subjects including sky diving and mock golf club committee presentations. A great day was had by all!

Well done to the two section recipients of sponsored BTME places; Rob Preston from the Manor House (Section winner) and Chris Hale from Oake Manor (Regional winner). Looking forward to seeing you guys and everyone else from South West Section in Harrogate for the week.

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting took place at Trevoise GC. The course walk was led by Neil Ivamy who has been very busy reconstructing the 13th green along with all the usual winter projects. The golfers took to the course in fairly breezy conditions but at that stage at least the promised rain hadn’t arrived. The format of the day was greensomes and was won for a second year in a row by Jacko from Truro and Christy Worthington from Bude with a very impressive 39pts. Second place went to Gavin Moore from Launceston and Richard Japes of Sports Metals. 3rd was Marcus Gilbert and Mark Downing from Launceston.

We then retired to the bar for a lovely roast dinner and some funny tales from comedian Tank Sherman. Some continued to enjoy the festivities well into the night!

High Bullen Head Greenkeeper Andy Pippins has left his post recently to join up with Ray Day and his team at Saunton GC. We all wish him good luck with his new role.

The South West regional seminar took place on 18 November at Somerset CCC in Taunton. It was a successful day with very informative speakers. We would like to thank Tracey Walker for her work in organising this as everyone enjoyed the day.

SOUTH WALES

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the regional conference in November and notes in December were submitted before the event, but I have heard excellent comments from the day. Huge thanks to the inspirational and interesting speakers, Leigh Powell, Eddie Ainsworth and Ian Kinley from RPGC.

Thanks to all who attended the Night Golf at Glyn Neath Golf Club, a different format to our usual Christmas competition with three man teams, played over nine holes. Texas scramble format, a fun and entertaining evening was had by all, great to hear shouts of jubilation around the course. All Teams had a prize in 3rd Place Rhys Norville, Stewart Ross, James Rees, 2nd Robin Cheney, Ian Kinley, Big D, 1st Lance Evans, Nathan Jones and myself. Huge thanks to Darryl Jones for setting up the event and to the club for the excellent food.

Peter Avent will be leaving RPGC to take up the position of Deputy HGK at Buchanan Castle GC in

Scotland, congratulations and good luck for the future.

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WEST

A final 2015 thank you to our South West Section Patrons for the year gone: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, H Curtis & Sons, Ecosolve, and T H White for their continued and valuable support of BIGGA South West Section. Without our patrons' support we would not have the opportunity to provide the level of training and section events we do.

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Thanks to MST for the halfway hut at the Christmas meeting.

Welcome New Members

Scotland And Northern Ireland

Lyle Davidson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, The Carrick Golf Club on Loch Lomond, Paul McKay, First Assistant, Banchory Golf Club, Steven Shaw, Greenkeeper, Banchory Golf Club, Shaun Donlevy, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Joshua Bloomfield, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Niall Trainor, Greenkeeper, Royal County Down Golf Club.

Midland

Clive Robinson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Wokefield Golf Course (De Vere), Trevor Ward, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Droitwich Golf Club Limited, Frazer Harrison, First Assistant, Kedleston Park Golf Club, Christopher Allard, Greenkeeper, Charnwood Forest Golf Club, Adrian Mellor, Greenkeeper, Kedleston Park Golf Club, Graeme Phipps, Greenkeeper, Moor Hall Golf Club Ltd, Ben Archer, Greenkeeper, Kedleston Park Golf Club, Damian Bush, Greenkeeper, Kirtlington Golf Club, Troy Miller, Greenkeeper, Letchworth Golf Club, Joe Ashdown, Greenkeeper, Willesley Park Golf Club, Matthew Shirley, Greenkeeper, Ashridge Golf Club Ltd, Joseph Morris, Greenkeeper, Huntercombe Golf Club, Paul Mercott, Greenkeeper, Huntercombe Golf Club, Samuel Bolt, Greenkeeper, Huntercombe Golf Club, Kane Galliford, Greenkeeper, Huntercombe Golf Club, Sean Smith, Greenkeeper, Droitwich Golf Club Limited, Stephen Levers, Head Greenkeeper, Stanedge Golf Course, Sophie Bulpitt, Assistant Greenkeeper, East Berkshire Golf Club, David Dumbleton, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ashridge Golf Club Ltd, Jordan Ruddock, Assistant Greenkeeper, Donnington Grove Golf Club, Nicholas Lock, Assistant Greenkeeper, Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Andrew Davies, Assistant Greenkeeper, Gedney Hill Golf Club, Christopher Allen, Assistant Greenkeeper, Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Matthew Higgins, Assistant Greenkeeper, Vale Golf and Country Club, Charlie Smith, Assistant Greenkeeper, Huntercombe Golf Club.

Northern

Paul Nee, Affiliate, Pannal Golf Club, John Kilshaw, First Assistant, Warrington Golf Club, John Lee, Greenkeeper, Northumberland Golf Club, Barry Jones, Greenkeeper, Porthmadog Golf Club, Scott Rigby, Greenkeeper, Beacon Park Golf Club, Michael Swann, Greenkeeper, Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, Gary Corlett, Head Greenkeeper, Mount Murray Golf & Country Club, Greg Holden, Student, Myerscough College, Callum Done, Student, Myerscough College, Alex Robson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, Chloe Gallagher, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ramside Hall Golf Club.

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Alan Martin, Affiliate, Nature Conservation Services, Jonathan Lawrence, Greenkeeper, Mendip Spring Golf Club, Rob Hake, Groundsman, Somerset County Cricket Club, Dan Stabback, Groundsman, Somerset County Cricket Club, Joe Newton, Assistant Greenkeeper, Henbury Golf Club, Aaron Johnson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Falmouth Golf Club, Jamie Batten, Assistant Greenkeeper, Forest Hills Golf Club, Alex Raybould, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club, Greg Dodds, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bowood Golf & Country Club, Alistair Wheeler, Assistant Greenkeeper, Neath Golf Club, Steven Jones, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stoneham Golf Club.

South East

Stephen Duffy, Greenkeeper, Beaverbrook Golf Club, Anthony McGuckin, Greenkeeper, Wentworth Club (The), Dillon Atkinson, Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club, Harry James, Greenkeeper, Barnehurst Golf Club, Trevor Richardson, Greenkeeper, Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Francesca Baylis, Student, Royal Holloway University of London, Michael Sharp, Assistant Greenkeeper, Rookery Park Golf Club, Vincent DeMarzo, Assistant Greenkeeper, Barnehurst Golf Club, Adrian Brockbank, Assistant Greenkeeper, Copthorne Golf Club, Antony Fitzpatrick, Assistant Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club, Jack Birt, Assistant Greenkeeper, West Hill Golf Club, Ashlee Miles, Assistant Greenkeeper, Berkshire Golf Club.

International

Fan Zhiqiang, Affiliate, ZhengZhou Golf Club (China), Dean Baker, International Member, Burlington Golf & Country Club (Canada), Eamonn Delaney, Course Manager, Potters Point (Republic of Ireland).

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

BB&O

An educational day is planned for mid/late March at Farol's new building at Milton Common. Date and speakers TBC.

The next section golf event will be held at Sand Martins Golf Club. Again please look out for further detail nearer the time.

EAST MIDLANDS

Wednesday 9 March - Educational Seminar at Forest Hill GC.

EAST OF ENGLAND

We hope to see as many of you at Harrogate for BTME and Continue to Learn. We will be holding a committee meeting at a date and time to be confirmed during the week.

Bruce Hicks is still in the process of confirming dates and venues for 2016 events. An events calendar will be sent to all members as soon as possible. Remember event information will be available on our Facebook page.

Suggestions for content and/or speakers for the Winter Educational Seminar in February have been slow, it's not too late if you have any requests or ideas, please contact Bruce Hicks or Rob Welford asap.

News

BB&O

On a warm December day the Turkey Trot was played at Frilford Heath Golf Club. A total of 26 teams each comprising 4 players did battle over the Green Course. First place was claimed by the Studley/ Council Boys team with an outstanding nett score of 52.8. Radley Jazzhats and The Good Lads of The Berkshire were 2nd and 3rd respectively. A massive thank you to Sid Arrowsmith and all the team at Frilford Heath Golf Club for presenting an immaculate golf course and for the wonderful carvery meal in the evening.

Prior to dinner the AGM was held. Matt Nutter has now taken on the role as Chairman and Matt Short has stepped forward to take his place as Secretary. Ted Lewis will remain as Treasurer and the remainder of the committee comprises myself, Gareth

Acteson, James Moore, Dominic Lewis and Ben Kebby.

If anyone has any stories or message to members please contact me at bmoggridge@hotmail.co.uk

EAST MIDLANDS

The Christmas Turkey trot pairs was held a Birstall Golf Club, great to see such a good turn out, also thank you to Birstall for hosting us, the course held up well considering the amount of rain we had.

The winners on the day were C Wier and K Bonser for YOU GUESSED IT MARKET HARBOROUGH, Chris consider yourself cut 5 shots! Shooting a 2 over gross off 11? HMMMMMM, 2nd was M Anderson and K Rylance from Market Harborough, 3rd A English and M English.

This year has been a busy year all round from start to finish and at the time of writing still busy cutting grass in December, lets hope there's some frost on the way. Hope you all had a Great Christmas and New year and I look forward to seeing you at Harrogate, or the first Event of the year, which will be announced following BTME's committee meeting.

MID ANGLIA

The Autumn period of 2015 has seen far higher temps than normal for this period and has far from been textbook all year so has been a real challenge for turf managers. Credit to all for your efforts in a tough year let's hope 2016 is a little more settled. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our golf and educational events next season.

On Wednesday 9 December we had our last Golf event of the season our Turkey Trot Texas Scramble at John O'Gaunt Golf Club. The day was well attended and we were very fortunate with the weather being a cool dry day. Our thanks go to Course Manager Nigel Broadwith and his team for their efforts in presenting a truly great test of golf as the course was in fantastic condition at a tricky time of year. We also extend our gratitude to John O'Gaunt Golf Club for the hospitality on the day.

Results: 1 L Thorne, D Thompson, B Jenks and K Beasley 57.3 2 L Matholie, M Fahy, Ryan and George 58.2, 3 O Browning, P Derks, K Haywood and J Poulton 58.8. Nearest pins M Toms, M Fahy, K Beasley. Lastly well played to Paul Rolfe who was our Player of the Year in 2015.

EAST OF ENGLAND

The Christmas Texas Scramble was held at Immingham Golf Club on 4 December this event mixes greenkeepers and club officials and was well supported. The weather preceding the day was not conducive to golf or greenkeeping but we were greeted on the day with sunshine and a light zephyr. Our immense thanks got to Rob Bemment and his team of 1 for presenting the course under difficult conditions and the club for its hospitality and fantastic fish & chips.

Results: Nearest pins Jack Evans, Ben Lowery. 1 G Macdonald, M Haynes, N Walker, C Bentley 58.5, 2 R Welford, R Winslow, J Evans, J Clarke 60.1, 3 G Poole, I Batty, G Ives, M Turner 60.2. A special mention must go to Steve Beverly of Cleethorpes GC for best Christmas jumper!

MIDLAND

Happy New year everybody and hope you all had a great Christmas! What can I say about the Christmas tournament at Blackwell, lovely course, congratulations to Rhys and his team in producing a great course in fabulous condition. The gods smiled on us too as it stayed sunny all day. 1st prize went to Graham Wallace and Roger Lupton, 2nd prize was Harvey Brooke and David Fellowes.

If anybody would like to enter the ICL doubles competition, final at Woburn in October, the first round draw will be held on the Wednesday of BTME at 1pm. Please enter its a great competition.

Massive congratulations to Dave Gibbons who has taken over at Walmley Golf Club, good luck Dave. Finally we hope you all have a great time in Harrogate!

Thanks to Sponsors

BB&O

We would like to thank all sponsors over the 2015 season and we are grateful for your support, without which many events would not be possible. A special thank you to THWhite and Ransomes Jacobsen who kindly continued their support of the Turkey Trot event. Finally thank you to Matt Textor from THWhite for providing refreshments on the 5th tee at Frilford Heath.

EAST MIDLANDS

A BIG thank you from the section and the section committee to Farol, Henton and Chattell, Lely, Sherriff Amenity, Countrywide, Headland, Jenko, Banks Amenity, Mansfield Sand, Rigby Taylor, Amtech Amenity, and Platts Harris for your continued support and help throughout the year, we look forward to welcoming you back in 2016.

Thank you to Andrew Humble Lely Toro, Andy Lane

from Headland, and Lee Bryan from Amtech Amenity for sponsoring the Turkey Trot.

MID ANGLIA

The Section would like to thank our wonderful sponsors, we are very grateful for your continued support with funds for our section events - Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery, Avoncrop Amenity, Headland Amenity, Amtech Amenity, ICL, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS and Rigby Taylor Ltd. Thanks to Banks Amenity for sponsoring the Player of the Year Award.

Thank you to Ernest Doe's for providing very welcome snacks and drinks at the halfway house at the Turkey Trot.

EAST OF ENGLAND

The Section would like to thank Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sand for their continued sponsorship of the Christmas Texas Scramble and to all other trade members who supplied a full prize table for the raffle.

MIDLAND

Thanks to Campey for supporting winter tournament, also thanks to Farol for keeping everybody stocked up whilst they played. Thanks to Burrows (groundcare experts since 1951 for all your Baroness and Kubota needs) for sponsoring January on the calendar. Thanks also to Emma Kilby and the team at ICL for sponsoring the doubles competition.

CORRECTION: In the 'Welcome New Members' in December's Greenkeeper International, George McKirdy was listed as Head Greenkeeper at Great Barr Golf Club. This is not the case - George is an Assistant Greenkeeper at the club. Apologies to all concerned for the error.

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Events Coming Up

KENT

A full fixture list for 2016 has been distributed and is available to view on our Facebook and website. Anthony Stockwell has announced that Hadlow College will be hosting two Winter evening seminars details of which to come.

LONDON

So golf for next year is really exciting as we have 3 of the top courses in the London section to play – Porters Park in spring, Sandy Lodge in summer and the Christmas Tournament at West Herts. Well done to the committee for acquiring these courses.

Wednesday 13 January at Muswell Hill, 12.30 - 2pm including food we have a director of Shelton drainage [Richard Clark] talking on correct ways and timing for draining the golf course and best machines for this work. Admission free.

Next is the great chance to learn at Harrogate 17 - 21st January there are many workshops, talks and a great BTME show to look around.

Next on Wednesday 3 February we have two committee members [Wes Walker and Kevin O'Neill] talking about their experiences working in America this will also be at Muswell Hill 12.30 - 2pm. Admission free.

Then the big one the Oakland/London annual seminar at Oaklands College with four great speakers: Mick Claxton, Director of Shelton Sportsturf Drainage, David Langheim MG, Course Manager at Wimbledon Park Golf Club, Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity and Dougie Robertson from West Ham Utd FC. Cost is only £12.50 including lunch and refreshments.

ESSEX

Next year's golfing events are to be held at the following clubs: April – TBA, June – Thorndon Park, August – Stoke by Nayland, September – TBA, December – AGM and Team Event, The Essex. The April and September dates are still free so if any members would like to have an event at their club please contact Tom Smith on 01787 224343 or tom@colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk

News

KENT

In glorious Winter sunshine Kent's finest assembled en masse at Redlibbets Golf Club for the annual Turkey Trot. Despite Chairman Kev's pre-event assertions that the course wasn't in prime condition for one reason or another, finding any kind of fault with the way he and his team had presented the undulating parkland course was near on impossible. The fact that at least one of us (modesty prevents revealing said person) chose today to have one of the rounds of their life is testament to just how well the course has been managed season long in order to retain the presentation standards achieved.

The company on the course was impeccable. Our game was played in the way that it should always be, with the laughter never stopping from the first drive to the last putt. Once back and showered we were treated to a great Christmas dinner and bar service by the Redlibbets staff who never fail to deliver. Thank you.

Results: 1 Rob Holland 44pts and winner of Everris Shield, 2 Chris Witchlow (Shooters Hill GC) 40, 3 George Austin (Corinthian GC) 40. After the prize giving we proceeded with our AGM. We've had a good year with the four golf events reasonably well attended and the recent Regional Conference very successful.

Clive Osgood gave us a view from the national perspective of the association and how the new Governance handbook is being implemented. Kev and I stood again for re-election in our current roles and were unopposed so we shall continue with the help of Ben Adams who offered to help us.

All in all another great day to round off another successful year for Kent Section. I know I say it often but the good natured rapport we have with each other really makes every event special and something to look forward to when we feel like giving up. We are lucky to have some great characters as well as great greenkeepers in our section. Thank you to everyone who has attended our events and best wishes to all for a prosperous 2016.

SUSSEX

The Sussex section held its ever popular turkey trot at Worthing Golf Club with 84 in attendance and some, as George Barr described "scots mist" (more like driving drizzle) the challenge was set. Spot prizes for nearest pins went to Jordan Andrews, Giles double, Phil Bonsal and David Allen. James Briggs proved the gym work pays off by hitting the longest drive. Team prizes: 4 esn/tacit/me 3 my lads from Birch Grove and Lingfield (they've been punished) 2 Piltdown 1 Pyecombe with 59pts.

Special thanks to George Barr, his team and all at Worthing GC for hosting and taking care of us,

Hopefully I will see many of you in and around Harrogate, and may I wish all a happy new year.

LONDON

The London section had a great Christmas tournament at Moor Park Golf Club on Tuesday 8 December and 18 teams took part in a Texas scramble over 16 holes [as 2 holes were having major bunker renovation]. Results: 1 Jason Shepherd, Jamie Chapman, Scott Lee, Louis Dunn Allen, 2 Adam Clark, Ed Clark, Martin Gaffney, Lee Brady, 3 Matt Plested, Simon Banks, Gavin Merrison, Stan Power, NTP & LD - Louis Dunn-Allen.

Many thanks go to Moor Park for being wonderful hosts providing a friendly welcome great service and a lovely meal. Special thanks to Stuart Bertram the Course Manager who set the course up in remarkable condition considering the recent poor weather. From the

perfectly cut holes all in good positions, great greens surfaces, to the superb presentation of the bunkers it was a treat to play and great for the younger greenkeepers to experience, Stuart you are a credit to the greenkeeping profession!

This was then followed by the AGM. All the committee were re-elected with Wes Walker continuing as Chairman, this was overseen by the greenkeeping legend Clive Osgood and for me it was so nice to catch up with a truly great gentleman.

Merry Christmas to you all.

ESSEX

The section held its AGM at Playgolf Colchester in late November and was attended by around 20 members; Chairman Ian Wood conducted the proceedings apologising for his non-attendance for much of the year due to health and work commitments, he thanked the committee for standing in for him in his absence. He also thanked Antony Kirwan, Richard Freeman (Toro) and I for our work over the past year.

Antony leaves us in January for a new job at Aldeburgh Golf Club and joins the Mid Anglia section. Richard stands down after his two year stint as sponsors' representative and I, as you already know have moved to Mid Wales. The minutes of the AGM can be found on our website at www.essexbigga.co.uk

The accounts were handed out and were duly passed. The competitions' report followed, where Antony outlined the winners of the competitions throughout the year and announced that the Golfer of the Year was Liam Springett and Trade Golfer of the Year was Michael Fance (ICL), additional information from his report will also be found on the website.

The section wishes to thank Antony for his hard work over the past years in running our competitions, and also to congratulate him on his outstanding performance at the Nationals in October, where he won the Best Overall Net, Challenge Cup. Our thanks go also to George Grimes, Dougie Fernie and Robert George for representing the section at the Nationals, well done to all of you.

Regional Administrator Clive Osgood gave his report and thanked Tom Smith for his time as Regional Chairman. The election of officers was carried out and the following members were elected to the committee for the coming season; Chairman and President – Martin Forrester, Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Smith, Committee Members; Rob George – Education Officer, and Michael Fance (ICL) Sponsors Representative, Ian Nichols, Ian Wood, Craig Brisley (Colliers Turf Care) Trade Representative, make up the rest of the committee. I will be continuing to write for Around the Green, also looking after the website and sponsors until a replacement is found.

The Christmas Team Event was held after the AGM, eight four man teams took part with the overall winners being Garons Park/Colchester GC with 59.4 points (George Grimes, Billy Whybrow, Sam Cook and Keith Chinnery). 2nd were Team Banks Amenity with 60 points (Simon Banks, Antony Kirwan, Martin Guy and Robert George). The section would like to thank Playgolf Colchester for allowing us the courtesy of the course and for providing use with the facilities and a fine meal. Antony and his team presented the course in a great condition, well done guys.

SURREY

Guildford GC hosted The Turkey Trot on 4 December 2015. Team Wisley 55.6 points 1st Team Mill Ride 2nd 57.5 points Team Sunningdale 58.1. Longest Drive Daniel Jones 326 yards and Nearest Pin Steve Davey. Thanks to Matt and all the team for preparing first class surfaces and all the staff at Guildford GC for a warm welcome and ensuring we all had a great day.

Scotland returned the trophy at Hankley Common GC after seeing off The Sassenachs.

Congratulations to Sam Bethell, new Head Greenkeeper at Chipstead GC and Mark Honey his new deputy who joins the

team from Temple GC.

The Surrey AGM was on 4 December 2015 at Guildford GC. Chairman David Langheim MG gave an in depth report on section affairs. The new Surrey board elected Tony Bremer as Treasurer and assisted by Matt Clarke, Ashley Allpress Secretary assisted by Lewis Birch and Scott Roberts Golf Events organiser. After more than 10 years Ron Christie is leaving the Surrey board whilst Roger Tydeman will provide support to Sam Bethell the newly elected enjoyed Representative. Education will be led by Sam Sweetzer West Hill GC and Stefan Carter Wentworth GC.

I am standing down as your scribe and handing my quill and ink pot to Steve Alabaster. The camaraderie has been priceless and It has been a privilege to be part of the Surrey board as magazine representative and one that I have enjoyed immensely.

Happy New Year!

Thanks to Sponsors

KENT

Thanks to John from Ernest Doe and Sons who dispensed some very tasty beverages at the Turkey Trot.

Also a very special thank you to all our trade members who have been so generous in providing essential sponsorship.

LONDON

Many thanks to Everris/ICL for being the main sponsor and providing an excellent prize table at the Christmas Tournament, and thanks to all other sponsors.

SUSSEX

Thanks to Ernest Doe for the halfway house and tacit for the spot prizes at the Turkey Trot. Also thank you for the support the section received from all the trade throughout 2015, here's hoping for a great 2016!

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director, looks forward to a year he believes will take greenkeeper education and training to a whole new level...



As we look forward to the annual greenkeeper pilgrimage to BTME in Harrogate, I am sure there will be the usual buzz in the many seminars, workshops, exhibition stands, bars and restaurants. Arguably this event has to be one of the biggest success stories in the history of BIGGA.

I would naturally like to focus on the education now, both during BTME and also for the other 51 weeks of the year.

I am entering my 50th year working in this wonderful industry and from being that nervous apprentice starting out at Buxton & High Peak Golf Club in 1966, I am privileged to say I have been involved with BIGGA since its foundation in 1987.

How things have changed since my days as an apprentice, when volunteers were, at one point, keeping three Greenkeeping Associations going with nothing but goodwill. They had great ambitions to better the plight of the greenkeeper but no support whatsoever from the leading established golfing bodies.

Then, as now, any progress in greenkeeper education relied heavily on a team effort. The breakthrough came when those golfing bodies agreed to contribute a 2p per capita levy on behalf of the UK golfers to the GTC. The grant followed after The R&A had funded the establishment of BIGGA having brokered the merging of the three Associations and this enabled the appointment of full time administration.

The GTC is funded by:



The aim was to improve greenkeeper education through establishing a formal, nationally approved qualification structure with education and training delivered through a network of Approved Training Providers (agricultural and horticultural colleges throughout the UK & Ireland). This structure has developed over the years and is maintained through the GTC.

BIGGA has continued to grow and its status within the game gathers pace almost daily, with its staff and volunteers driving it forward on many fronts.

This year, the Continue to Learn programme has a conference, workshops and seminars for all levels of greenkeepers with subjects and top quality speakers aplenty. Sami Strutt and the team should be proud of their achievements in putting together such an excellent programme.

As well as all the tremendous education BIGGA offers, there is also the formal structure of nationally recognised qualifications ranging from apprenticeships to a Degree. These are offered through a network of GTC Quality Assured Centres (FE Colleges, Training Providers and Universities).

The GTC has BIGGA, England Golf, Scotland Golf and the Golf Union of Wales represented on its Board of Directors and through annual grants, this allows the GTC to operate as an employer led body. The GTC also receives an annual grant from the PGA.

Regular readers of this column will know the GTC has gained the Government accreditation as a Trailblazer organisation, the first in the land based sector, and this has really positioned greenkeeping at the top of the tree in terms of controlling the standards within every relevant qualification at all levels.

How will this improve greenkeeper education and training?

All new apprenticeship standards will be developed by the industry for the industry and require employer support as well as the involvement of the Professional Body. Fortunately, our sector has a GTC, which represents golf club employers and greenkeepers and will have a greater say in the future across all of Britain when apprenticeships and all qualifications come up for review. No more having to operate through a third party.

To deliver and award the various qualifications, an industry has to have partnerships with Awarding and Assessment Organisations and also a trusted network of Training Providers.

There has been wonderful support from all quarters to assist the GTC develop three new apprenticeship standards, Golf Greenkeeper, Advanced Golf Greenkeeper and Golf Course Manager. These have gained Government accreditation and are available to view on the GTC website.

Employers, BIGGA and Course Managers together with representatives from an Awarding Body and Training Providers have all collaborated to develop the new standards and now the task is to ensure there are appropriate programmes of education, training, assessments and qualifications to meet the apprenticeships at all levels, to suit all countries in the UK.

This process will undoubtedly improve the already quality apprenticeship frameworks and qualifications for greenkeepers with the greater involvement of the industry at all levels of the programme.

Keep up to date on all developments on the GTC website or call the GTC – or come and see us at BTME Stand B29!

Contact Details

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GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

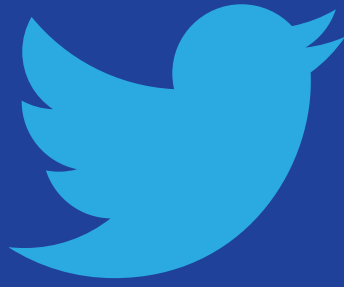
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Our favourite tweets this month...

@leeacox

Congratulations to team shep... Great day @Moorparkgolf course was #fantastic #thankyou @BIGGALtd @BiggaLondon #golf

@BIGGASouthWales

@starwars meets @BIGGALtd on Friday night @glynneathgolf

@HorwoodJason

Red sky in the morning, u know the rest, a great sight over the 15th green this morning @WESTHERTSGOLF @BIGGALtd

@BIGGA_BTME

All I want for Christmas is #BTME 2016... what are you getting? btme.org.uk

@jenky0

Very privileged to be nominated and successful as Central sections Scottish Patrons award recipient. @BIGGALtd

@Stevious1979

@BIGGALtd @bigga_sws so proud to be our sections Patrons award winner #BTME #learning #networking

@ConnahSimon

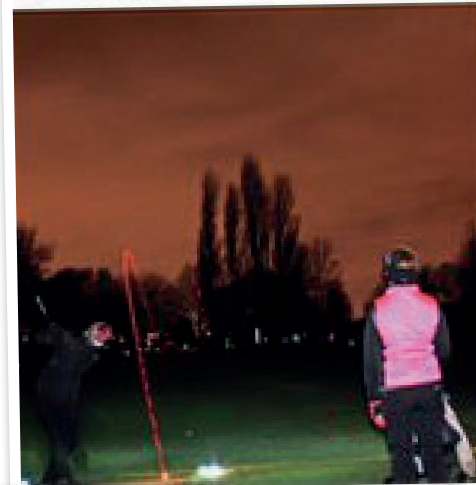
Canadian Superintendent & International @BIGGALtd member @CameronKusiek sporting a BIGGA tie today out in Alberta!



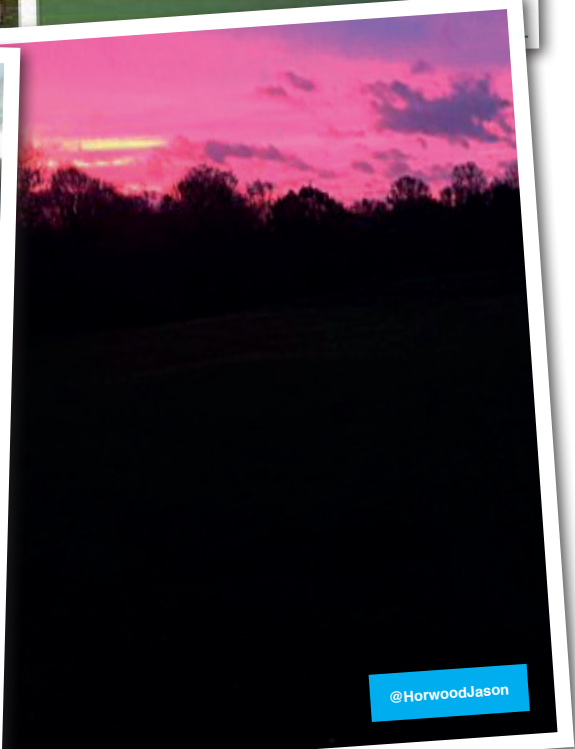
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TURFDRY GREENS DRAINAGE



A sad fact of life is that a good greenkeeper's work is never done, with constant battles against the elements to ensure courses look and play their best. The playability of greens is always a priority, but some greens stubbornly hold water and are rendered unplayable, frustrating members and staff alike.

Turfdry – a specialist sports turf drainage and construction firm with over 20 years' experience on projects nationwide – offers a unique solution to this problem in the shape of the Turfdry Greens Drainage System using Hydraway Sportsdrain, which is increasingly catching the attention of courses across the country.

In 2014, Turfdry carried out a variety of successful works at Enfield Golf Club, including the installation of the Turfdry Drainage System on the 10th green, which was commonly cited as the wettest green on the course. The system's performance over the winter was so impressive that the club quickly contacted Turfdry to design and install drainage on a further seven greens in 2015. Similarly, at Great Barr GC, Birmingham, what were the four wettest greens are now the four driest thanks to Turfdry... "the results are amazing!"

An alternative to conventional plastic pipe, Hydraway Sportsdrain delivers maximum drainage efficiency with minimum disruption to existing turf; it intakes water 3-times quicker, is installed in trenches only 50mm wide, and is even effective at zero-gradient – thanks to its unique construction that offers unparalleled clog-resistance, whilst maintaining optimum filtration.

It is perhaps no surprise then, that a raft of new customers now recognise the tremendous potential of The Turfdry Drainage System as a solution to waterlogged greens that quickly delivers lasting results: Turfdry has broken its own record for greens drainage installation this year, and has confirmed bookings for 2016, 2017, and even 2018!

Turfdry has been successfully installing Hydraway Sportsdrain for over 20 years, for over 60 golf course clients, and is absolutely confident that it represents the most cost-effective solution to waterlogged greens available. With greenkeepers liberated from their constant battles to keep troublesome greens in a playable state, they can devote their time and energy elsewhere on the course, whilst golfers delight in year-round play.

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



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Recruitment

Head Greenkeeper

Seaford Head Golf Course, Seaford, East Sussex
Salary SCP 26-33 £22,221 - £27,849 per annum
(Full-Time 37 hours per week)

We are now looking for a qualified, enthusiastic person to take on the role of Head Greenkeeper. You will be responsible for leading the team who maintain the course to high standards using modern cultural techniques and machinery, managing all aspects of the maintenance and up-keep of the course.

More details can be found online at www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/Vacancies

Applications must be made on an application form, with an accompanying cv if you should wish to. For an application pack or further information, please contact Georgia Raeburn, PA to the Town Clerk, on 01323 894870 or georgia.raeburn@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR BOTH A HEAD GREENKEEPER AND DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Closing date: Friday 15th January 2016 at 12 noon.
Interviews: Wednesday 27th January 2016

THE GOLF HOUSE CLUB, ELIE



DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

We invite applications for the new position of Deputy Course Manager.

A private Members' Club established in 1875, the course is set in a delightful coastal village in the East Neuk of Fife, 11 miles south of St Andrews on the Firth of Forth. This new role has been created to assist the Course Manager in the preparation and maintenance of the 18 hole links course together with a 9 hole course, driving range, bowling green and 18 hole putting green.

The successful candidate will be qualified to SVQ Level 3, or equivalent, with supervisory experience, strong communication skills and will ideally have links course experience

Please contact Moira Lawrie for an application pack, including a full Job Description and Personal Specification at:

The Golf House Club, Elie, Fife KY9 1AS
Telephone: 01333 330301 or Email:- moira@golfhouseclub.org

Course Manager

Gerrards Cross Golf Club, Buckinghamshire



Applications are invited for the above vacancy.

An exciting opportunity for a highly motivated and forward thinking person to work at this established Private Members club, founded in 1922 with 700 playing members, has become available.

Gerrards Cross GC is a woodland course set in the grounds of an ancient estate and is considered one of the most attractive courses in South Buckinghamshire, consisting of 18 holes, 2 long practice areas and a short game academy. As part of the management team of the Club this is a great opportunity for the successful applicant to help shape the future direction of the course and to make continual improvements in order to realise its full potential.

Qualifications and expertise will ideally include:

- NVQ qualifications in Sports Turf Management
- Spraying and Chainsaw certificates
- Good familiarity with Irrigation and IT systems
- Understanding of Health & Safety relating to golf course operations
- Good man management, budgeting and planning skills.

The salary and benefits are negotiable but will be commensurate with this senior post. Accommodation may also be available.

Please apply by email or post by 31st January 2016, with your CV and covering letter to adam@gxgolf.co.uk or The General Manager, Gerrards Cross Golf Club, Chalfont Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 0QA.

Mid Sussex Golf Club, Ditchling require a

Head Greenkeeper

to join this forward thinking and most progressive propriety club.

You will need as an absolute minimum:

- NVQ level 3 preferably HND or equivalent qualification.
- At least 5 years' experience in a senior management role in green keeping is preferable.
- BIGGA member with Approved CPD status.
- Man management skills, Health and safety knowledge, budget experience and planning skills.
- Also a passion for developing staff and their career paths.
- Pa 1,2 &6

Apply to Andrew Smith GM,
andrew@midssussexgolfclub.co.uk by January 8th 2016

Applications in writing should include a full CV, current salary, and the names of two referees. Salary by negotiation depending on experience and qualifications, although within the CGCS recommended scale.



HEAD GREENKEEPER / COURSE MANAGER

PETERBOROUGH MILTON GOLF CLUB



Applications are invited for the above vacancy.

Peterborough Milton Golf Club is one of East Midland's premier courses being a Private Members Club with a picturesque 18-hole James Braid 1930's design parkland course in the grounds of Milton Estates. We also have a large Practice Area with Driving Range and we have over 600 Playing Members.

The successful candidate will lead a team of five, including an apprentice greenkeeper.

CV's are invited detailing your experience in controlling a significant budget and the Management of a Team.

Qualifications and expertise ideally to include NVQ III level Sports Turf Management, Spray and Chainsaw certificates, and familiarity with irrigation and IT systems.

The salary and benefits are negotiable but will be commensurate with this senior post.

Applications with comprehensive CV are invited to email at: secretary@pmgc.org.uk or by post to: The Club Secretary, Peterborough Milton Golf Club, Milton Ferry, Peterborough, PE6 7AG.

Closing date for applications is 30th Jan 2016.

We expect to conduct interviews during February.



**Field Sales and Technical Specialist –
London, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire**

Do you want to be part of a successful, innovative and market leading manufacturing company?

For over 40 years Farmura has grown its business and portfolio to provide a specialist range of Organic, Water Management and Nutritional products suitable for fine turf within the UK, Ireland and Europe. These products include market leaders such as Porthcawl, Revolution and Ferrosol.

As part of our planned growth we are now seeking an individual to develop our business in the the above area
The successful applicant will need to be highly motivated, well organised and have good interpersonal skills. You will be part of a small team headquartered out of Kent whose main goals are the continued growth of the company and delivering the highest possible customer service and satisfaction for our clients. FACTS and or BASIS qualification preferred but not essential. Salary is negotiable depending upon experience and will be reviewed after a successful qualifying period. Experience of working in the industry would be an advantage.

Interested candidates should email their CV in confidence, which should include current salary to info@farmura.com - If you would like an informal discussion prior to applying please contact David Binks on 07802321370, for further product information please visit our website www.farmura.com.
CLOSING DATE: 22nd January 2016

Contact Details:

Info@farmura.com
Tel: 01233 633 267
Farmura Environmental, Units 7/8 New Street Farm, Chilmington Green Road, Great Chart, Ashford Kent, TN23 3DL

We are now seeking,

SEASONAL GREENKEEPERS 2016

for our Swedish client's Golf Course management division

Sweden is one of the worlds top golfing nations with around 400 golf courses and half a million players. Our clients are in a rapid phase of expansion and are now managing several golf courses at different locations in the middle and south of Sweden. There are therefore exciting opportunities for both experienced and up and coming turf professionals, who thrive on the challenge of working in an international environment.

You will be working in an environment where English is the dominant language. There will also be other English speakers working at all locations

These opportunities are open to all with a genuine interest in Sports Turf and who are looking to broaden their horizons both professionally and personally. Formal qualifications in Turf management are a benefit.

Applicants able to assist in the day- to- day maintenance of either turf machinery or irrigation are particularly attractive.

Flexibility and a positive attitude, plus the ability to work in a dynamic environment, are pre requisites.

Contracts are for 6 months. Starting dates are flexible but most will begin in the beginning/ middle of April 2016.

A competitive income and work clothes are included, and accommodation will be made available if required.

Applications close 31/01/2016

Send your application to: derek@interactive-management.co.uk

Derek Judd
InterActive Management Agency Ltd.



Mechanic/Greenkeeper

Location: Failand, Bristol, BS8 3TH
Recruiter: Bristol & Clifton Golf Club
Salary: Commensurate with experience plus benefits

Bristol & Clifton Golf Club requires a Fully Trained Mechanic Greenkeeper to join its dedicated, hardworking and progressive team of greenkeepers. The successful candidate will need to excel in all areas, will need to be passionate, reliable and self-motivated.

The Club operate a broad spectrum of turf machinery and equipment. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the workshop and will also assist with golf course maintenance duties.

Applicants will need to be a strong team player and possess the following Qualifications, Experience and Skills;

- Experience of maintaining and servicing machinery and equipment to the approved standards of use; adhering to Health & Safety regulations and guidelines.
- Experience of prioritising work effectively, managing stock, maintaining accurate records of machinery repair/service and working to an approved budget.
- Proven ability in preparing and implementing a program of routine maintenance for a fleet of machinery and equipment to the manufacturer's specifications and guidelines.
- Experience of diagnosing and repairing mechanical, hydraulic and electrical faults.
 - Experience of operating cylinder-grinders. (Desired but not essential).
 - Experience of operating Oxyacetylene, Arc and Mig Welding equipment.

Assist with on course green keeping duties competently, efficiently and to a high standard.

The successful candidate will be part of a progressive Club and will need to demonstrate a professional and modern approach to the maintenance of golf course machinery and equipment.

Salary will be commensurate with experience along with:
Staff Uniform & safety equipment, Funded training,
Pension Scheme & Life assurance.

How to apply:

Send a full CV with a covering letter to:
Matt Hawker, Head Greenkeeper at the address below or email matt@bristolgolf.co.uk



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Strathaven Golf Club are looking for an individual to take responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of all our ground care machinery, therefore the ideal candidate will possess a level 3 or above in land based technology/engineering.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Possess an in depth knowledge of hydraulic systems, electrical circuits, fabrication, cylinder grinding and unit set-up.
- Exhibit a strong knowledge of Health & Safety requirements
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of the latest amenity equipment and the ability to analyse how their performance affects playing surfaces
- Present effective ideas that will help improve the efficiency of the golf course maintenance operation.
- Keep accurate maintenance logs and service records

The ideal candidate will:

- Have at least 3 years' experience as an amenity mechanic
 - Proven practical Greenkeeping experience
 - Level 3 or above in land based technology/engineering
 - Basic IT skills
 - A knowledge and understanding of the game of golf is desirable
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications
(Will be in line with BIGGA recommendations)

Applications with CV and covering letter can be made via e-mail to gm@strathavengc.com or posted to:

Ian F Neil
General Manager
Strathaven G.C
Overton Avenue
Glasgow Road
Strathaven
ML10 6NR

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 15th January 2016

Recruitment

GREENKEEPER

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the Greenkeeping team at **Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club**

We are currently looking to recruit a dynamic and highly motivated full time Greenkeeper to join our existing team:

The ideal candidate will have:

- A positive, can do, forward thinking attitude.
- A flexible approach to work and working hours.
- Minimum 3 years' experience.
- Must hold NVQ 2 or equivalent qualification as an absolute minimum.
- Pa 1 2 and 6 certificates.
- Able to work as part of a team or alone.
- Have an eye for detail and produce the highest standard in work
- Want to further their skills, training and development.

Benefits

- Full uniform provided
- Pension scheme
- BIGGA membership
- Training and education opportunities

Applications will be accepted via email only. A covering letter and maximum 2 pages CV should be sent in a PDF format to Greenkeeper@royallytham.org
Closing date – 20th January 2016



HEAD GREENKEEPER ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1902, Ashton-in-Makerfield is a Private Members Golf Club with 500 Members set in 132 acres of a beautiful parkland golf course. The Club is seeking an experienced Head Greenkeeper to take control of the day to day operations.

This is a key appointment central to our business plan of providing a quality golfing experience to all our members and visitors. Applicants should have at least 10 years green keeping experience with some years in a supervisory role, together with excellent technical knowledge and the ability to achieve the highest standards of course management.

The successful applicant will be required to lead and motivate a small team, possess Health & Safety knowledge, budget experience, planning skills and a passion for presenting an aesthetically pleasing product.

Applicants should ideally have experience of the maintenance of machinery, irrigation systems and possess the appropriate spraying certificates.

Please apply to **Garry Lacy**,
secretary@ashton-in-makerfieldgolfclub.co.uk by 30th January 2016

Applications in writing should include a full CV, current salary and the names of two referees. Salary will be negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

Malden Golf Club is a friendly private members club in Surrey, it's a traditional parkland course designed and laid out in 1926. The club are going through an exciting time, with considerable investment in machinery, welfare facilities and course improvements.

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual. To work to a high standard, under the guidance of the Head Greenkeeper.

The candidates should have:

- Minimum 3 years experience.
- Minimum qualification of NVQ level 2 or equivalent preferred.

Desirable qualifications:

- PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates.
- Chainsaw licence.

Salary is dependent on experience and will be based on a 40 hour week. Weekend overtime will be paid at a fixed rate, bank holidays paid at double that rate. Further Education will be available and a Christmas bonus could be achieved. Both full time and seasonal roles are available.

Please apply by e-mail with full CV and covering letter to:
Derrick Johnstone, Head Greenkeeper
hgk@maldengolfclub.com



Senior & Trainee Greenkeepers

Beaverbrook Golf Club is an exclusive new golf course near Leatherhead in Surrey, designed & constructed by renowned Golf Course Architect David McLay Kidd in association with Tom Watson.

The club is currently seeking to fill key roles in the Greenkeeping team and is looking to recruit only the very best employees for this world class golf course.

If you aspire to achieve the highest possible Greenkeeping standards, please apply by sending your CV (2 pages max.), including a covering letter, telling us why we should recruit you.

Please apply either by email to Eric Olson at
eric.olson@beaverbrook.co.uk or by post to:

Eric Olson, Beaverbrook Golf Club, Cherkley Court Estate, Reigate Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8QX

Closing date for applications:
29th January 2016

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GOLF CLUB

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Are you talented, driven, thoughtful, well rounded and well versed in all things turf? (You'll need PA1 & PA6 and NVQ3 or equivalent minimum)

Do you have a professional and organised approach to work and want to join a likeminded team? Lawns One Ltd are looking for a team member with great attitude and work ethic who lives in South East London to manage our south east area. We are family owned, independent lawn care professionals who pride ourselves on fantastic service.

In return we are offering a van, phone, £26k per annum + incentives and holiday. If you want to become a member of our growing team please send your CV with a covering letter to heather@lawnsone.co.uk.
Closing Date: 5pm, 15th January 2016

Professional lawns, professional people

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER



We are looking for a qualified, enthusiastic person to take on the role of **Assistant Head Greenkeeper** at **The Machrihanish Golf Club**.

Ranked inside the top 50 courses The Machrihanish Golf Course also boasts the most famous opening hole in golf with players hitting over the Atlantic Ocean to the first fairway.

You must have a minimum of 5 years' experience as a Green-keeper and hold relevant qualifications, such as an HNC in Golf Course Management or SVQ level 3 or equivalent.

Salary negotiable depending on experience.

Full Job Description available on request and applications can be made by submitting a CV to secretary@machgolf.com before the closing date of 5pm on Friday 15th January 2016.

More information is available in relation to the club on
www.machgolf.com

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER



Full time post for an assistant greenkeeper at Bolton Golf Club, Lancashire

The course is 18 holes with excellent practice facilities all of which require maintenance to the highest standards. The club hosted the Lancashire County Championships in 2015 and is home to the Northern PGA. To see the course and facilities in detail go to www.boltongolfclub.co.uk

The successful applicant will be expected to have the following skills and experience –

- NVQ level 2 or equivalent.
- Worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper or equivalent sports turf experience.
- An ability to work as part of a team and to manage your own workload on an individual basis.
- Practical interest in machinery maintenance.
- A good understanding of health and safety.
- Pa1, Pa2 and Pa6 Spraying Certificates.

Please email or write in with a covering letter and CV to:
secretary@boltongolfclub.co.uk
Closing date 18th January 2016.

QUEENWOOD

Queenwood Golf Club is interested in hearing from highly motivated individuals with a passion and commitment for excellence. Nestled in the heart of the Surrey Heathland belt, Queenwood is an exclusive private members club, embracing the style of revered golf clubs around the world.

Requirements

- Minimum of 2 years golf course experience
- Educated to or working towards NVQ level 2
- Good work ethic to provide the highest standard of presentation

Benefits

- Tournament and Project experience
 - Frequent job rotation
 - Uniform and PPE
- Opportunity to work on one of Europe's finest golf courses

Timing of Appointment

April – October 2016

To apply send your cv along with a cover letter to
steve.richardson@queenwood.co.uk

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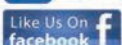
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