

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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SPRING FERTILISER ADVICE

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WELCOME FROM BIGGA



Deeside Golf Club

Weather dampens spirits

Where have all the seasons gone?

Supposedly March is the start of spring but I can't recall us actually having a winter yet!

As far as I can tell we've just had rain for about four months solid and I know that has meant for a pretty depressing time for very many in our industry. In fact greenkeepers, more than most, must be susceptible to SAD: Seasonal Affective Disorder, such is the stark difference between dealing with both Mother Nature and golfers in the winter compared to what passes for summer. Golf courses have been flooded, closed for extended periods and in some cases, most notably at Deeside Golf Club in Aberdeen, completely devastated.

At times like this the incredible camaraderie and community spirit that exist within our industry are absolutely vital.

Generally our members are fairly isolated whilst at work, most tasks are solitary and facilities are very often separate from the main golf club infrastructure. In many ways this was the driving force for the formation of the early greenkeeping associations, to provide opportunities for networking and support for a group of likeminded people scattered far and wide across the land.

Nowadays we have a myriad of communication techniques to reduce that feeling of isolation, facebook in particular is popular amongst greenkeepers, but it is not a total substitute for actually picking up the phone and talking or even better, getting together face to face.

BTME is always an opportunity for greenkeepers to unburden themselves of 12 months of frustration and everyone always leaves Harrogate feeling better for sharing challenges and finding solutions. This then extends through the late winter and spring months in the form of the many Section and Region get-togethers, turf clubs, seminars and conferences that take place. Please remember though that if you are feeling under serious pressure or suffering with stress and don't feel it will be alleviated through traditional routes, get in touch with your Regional Administrator or for a confidential discussion call our Members 'Lifestyle Counselling' Helpline on 0344 770 1036. BIGGA is here to help.

for Association staff, it seems that over the past month or so I have spent far more time with new BIGGA President, Iain Macleod, than with my own family. Happily for me he is excellent and inspiring company, sadly I don't think he can count himself so lucky!

Iain's track record in the industry speaks for itself; his nearly 40 years at such a historic and beautiful golf club as Tain count for a great deal, particularly in America. During the Golf Industry Show last month in San Diego it felt at times that Iain was a native, as so many people knew him and had either visited his course or had spent time with him! During the last month we have had chance to spend time with our opposite numbers from America, Canada, Australia and, at the recent FEGGA Conference, from all over Europe. Our challenges are all similar and just as our members share their problems and find solutions, so do we. As ever the key challenges are education, sustainability and, of course, building appreciation of greenkeepers amongst golfers and employers. These are challenges that remain high on the agenda of our Board and staff.

In the meantime let us hope that the weather improves and allows all of you to demonstrate the high standards you pride yourselves on.

In this edition we have some topical advice on fertility and irrigation systems as well as some interesting thoughts from STRI on a natural approach to flood defence. Additionally we tell the tale of the recent BIGGA Delegation to America sponsored by Bernhard & Company, a fantastic member opportunity that they would all urge you to try for yourself in future.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive

Just as it is a busy time for our members attending events and conferences so it is

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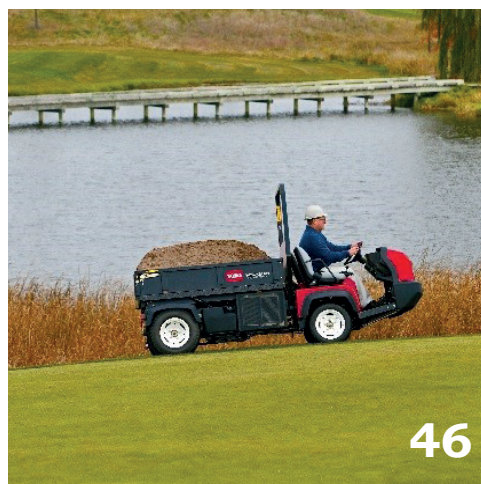
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Presidents Message

Iain Macleod

A whirlwind start

Prior to the AGM in Harrogate, January 2015, I was Education Officer for the Scottish Region and also Deputy Board member to Stuart Greenwood. I went into the AGM and voted for the new governance proposals, plans I strongly believed in. They were passed unanimously and it turned out I was like a turkey voting for Christmas, as I no longer had a role within the Region! Both positions I previously held, were now only available to current Regional Board Members, I was however still one of six members of the Scottish Region Education team, covering the Highlands area.

In July I got a call from Jim Croxton, asking if I was coming to St Andrews for the Open. I said I would be there on the Thursday, he then told me the Board would like me to be BIGGA's first greenkeeping President, a role that had come about as a result of the new governance structure passed in January. I asked for more information and agreed to meet with Jim and some of the Board at St Andrews to discuss this further. I went home from the Open, feeling very positive about the role and happy to accept, subject to getting approval from the Committee at my club, Tain, as without their backing, I didn't think I could do it. Thankfully, the committee gave me their full support, so I was able to accept the new position.

Harrogate 2016 came around very quickly and, in between a good amount of education, I became President at the AGM on the Tuesday. That evening my first function was to share the stage for a while with TV Host, Naga Munchetty, which was a great start!

With Harrogate behind us, it was back to work for a while, then off to San Diego for the Golf Industry Show. I played a couple of games of golf, winning a hard earned dollar from Jim, attended the Trade Show, and presented our latest Master Greenkeeper, Rick Tegtmeier with his award at the GCSAA Certification Lunch on the Wednesday. I started the trip watching my favourite American Football team, Denver Broncos, win the Super Bowl, and ended it in Palm Desert visiting my youngest son James and his wife Adela. During the visit I got to play golf with James at two of the amazing golf courses in the desert, Stone Eagle and The Quarry.



The Quarry GC

I arrived home on Feb 17th and back to work the next day. However, on the 23rd, I was on the move again, flying to Amsterdam, to attend the FEGGA Conference. This was my first time at this event which features two days of great education, with talks by folk from all over Europe, speaking in English, which was quite humbling for this Brit who can barely remember the little bit of French I learnt at school! A big congratulations to Dean Cleaver and his Board for organising a wonderful event. Along with a visit to a clog making store and some working windmills my highlight was visiting Kennemer Golf and Country Club, a links course that regularly hosts the Dutch Open. We got a



tour of the course and maintenance facility, a presentation and video of the course and club, from Course Manager, Dick Vastenhouw, a very passionate greenkeeper indeed.



Home again to do some work and see how

my two assistants, Calum Fraser and Craig Phillips, have been getting on without me, quite well actually!

I'll soon be on the road again! On March 4th I will be attending the South East Region's Annual golf and dinner event at Walton Heath, then a few days later, we have the Annual Scottish Region Conference in Dunfermline on March 8th. Oh and the following week, it's the March National Board meetings on the 13th and 14th. To say my feet have hardly touched the ground this year, is an understatement.

It's certainly been full on, but as the golf season kicks in, thoughts must turn to working on the golf course at Tain, my



The Kennemer G&CC

day job, and with only three full time staff, plus a couple of seasonal staff working part time, there's plenty to keep me very busy.

I've been involved in some capacity with our Association, from the beginning, so I am delighted to be your President for 2016 and would like to see us continue to move forward. With this in mind, it would be great if all members could recruit another greenkeeper. This would assist us in really strengthening our Association. I would love to see more young greenkeepers joining. The Young Greenkeepers Committee is a breath of fresh air in our industry and the guys that made up the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhards to San Diego, were a fantastic bunch also. The possibilities for younger greenkeepers are so good and varied nowadays, especially if you're a member of BIGGA.

Iain Macleod, President

Funding your future

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



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

MIDLAND CONFERENCE A HIT



(left to right)
Dan Lightfoot, Regional Chairman Matt Nutter, Colin Mumford, David Langheim and Steve Chappell

This years' annual Midland Regional Conference – sponsored by Bayer and held at the famous Woburn Golf & Country Club, proved to be a big hit. Over 70 people attended the conference last month from all across the Region. Keynote speakers included Dr Andy Owen (ICL), David Langheim (Wimbledon Park Golf Club), Colin Mumford (Bayer), Stuart Green (BIGGA), Dan Lightfoot

(Syngenta) and Steve Chappell (Gleneagles). Speaking at the end of the day, BIGGA Midland Regional Board Representative Rob Welford said "It was a fantastic day packed with quality speakers talking about a broad spectrum of topics and personal experiences at a stunning venue, which provoked debate between delegates and cemented relationships. Well worth it."

Regional Administrator Roger Butler commented "This years event was very well received by all those who attended and the feedback has been exceptional. I would like to thank all those that took the time out of their busy schedules, both delegates and speakers, for their continued support of education within the Region".



In Memory of Mark Paxton

Mark was course manager at Canons Brook golf club in Harlow, Essex. He had worked there since 1996 and had previously been at Dyrham Park GC. He became course manager in 2007. He died on 21st of February in a kite surfing accident near Clacton. He would help anybody and loved his job. He leaves behind his wife Andrea and his 10 year old son Jack. He will be missed by so many people.



Our sincere apologies for omitting Wayne Lazenby (far left) from this shot in last months GI magazine, pictured here with the rest of the BIGGA Greenkeeper Benevolent Fund Walkers. Congratulations again on raising funds, in the total of £2,500.00 for this very worthy cause.

AMANDA INTERVIEWS...



...PAUL MCCLEARN, HEAD GREENKEEPER THE CARRICK GOLF CLUB

AD: Hi Paul, how are you?

PM: I'm very well Amanda and thank you for the interview.

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

PM: I've been at The Carrick for just over 11 years. When I first arrived the golf course was still being constructed and seeded and my job was to grow in the holes as they were handed over from the contractor MJ Abbott.

AD: Describe your role and what are the essential qualities and skills required?

PM: My role as with any Head Greenkeeper is to organise and prioritise the tasks to set up the course for the days play whether it is a society outing, shot gun start or members competition. I also have to communicate with the pro shop on what tasks we are doing, pin positions etc and if any of those works will affect our customers.

AD: Is rainfall your biggest challenge?

PM: Yes it is. We had just over 2000mm last year which is average. We did have 2400mm in the year 2011 which was difficult. Through the winter months we constantly have open holes in our greens as we hollow core in late October and we have just solid tined with 12mm tines to a depth of 150mm which as you can imagine gets the water away very quickly. We also have to do a lot of our drainage work and topdressing in the drier months in preparation for the rainfall when we can't get on the ground. We find traffic management

is very important all year round where we use ropes to direct golf when necessary.

AD: How many staff do you manage?

PM: We have 10 full time, which includes 1 mechanic, 1 gardener and we usually have 2 seasonal staff.

AD: Do you feel that it is important for Greenkeepers to foster good relations with clubhouse staff?

PM: On a commercial golf course such as ours it is very important. We have staff whose sole job is to sell society/commercial golf and others selling membership golf. In my early days here these guys would kick up a fuss when we carried out any aeration or topdressing and the golf course definitely suffered with thatch build up and thus puddling which led to some turf loss. We have since turned that around and the key is communication with the Director of Golf or even as far as the Hotel General Manager so they understand the consequences of not aerating. Last year we successfully rolled out a scheduled maintenance Monday where the first tee is closed at 12:00 and we work behind golf aerating and topdressing usually until 10:00pm that evening. We essentially do a double shift on this day 6am until 10pm and the guys get lieu time back. This only happened once a month last year but we're hoping to push for more often this year.

AD: How we communicate is changing almost on a daily basis, do you embrace the forms of technology or are you more of a traditionalist?

PM: We don't have any social media interactions with our membership but we contribute to the monthly news letter. I think there isn't a strong social media presence here because the customer base is so varied where we have members, societies, hotel guests, lodge guests and green fee golfers. Our main communication is email which is every morning to the pro shop but it's also important to discuss issues face to face with the pros so they don't hide behind an email.

AD: Do you have any hobbies? Play golf?

PM: I play a small amount of golf, cycle and recently I've started coaching rugby to a bunch of 8 year olds which I really enjoy.

AD: Do you have any holidays planned?

PM: We have holidayed in Cornwall for the last 3 years which was fantastic but this year we may head north or over to the dry East coast. Nothing planned apart from going back to Ireland to see my family.

AD: What would you say to your younger self?

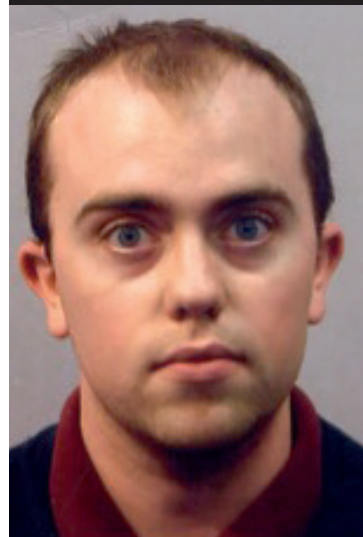
PM: Keep it simple, feed, aerate, topdress and most importantly communicate and you won't go far wrong.

In Memory of David Thorp

David Thorp, 22 year old greenkeeper at Stoke Rochford Golf Club, died in a tragic road traffic accident.

Gareth Austin, Head Greenkeeper at Stoke Rochford where David was learning his greenkeeping trade gave this heartfelt tribute:

"David was tragically killed in a road traffic accident on Thursday the 28th January. He joined Stoke Rochford Golf Club three years ago and had become an invaluable member of our small team. He was a diligent and conscientious young man with a fantastic work ethic. He had an unquestionable thirst for knowledge about our course, it's environment, upkeep and the skills required to develop as a greenkeeper. David had a dry and wicked sense of humour with quick one liners and plenty of amusing stories. It has been a total pleasure to have known and worked with David, we have not only lost a treasured colleague but also somebody we were all proud to call our friend. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers are with David's family."



Ecology News

By James Hutchinson

BIGGA's Sustainability Executive

.....
Spring is almost upon us so now's the time to erect a nest box or two on the golf course. Birds begin to pair up and look for a safe nesting site whilst woodpeckers begin to 'drum' on trees stating that the area is their territory! Migrants such as chiffchaffs, Sand Martins and wheatears should arrive on the Southernmost courses soon and it won't be long before the ever decreasing cuckoo (RSPB Red List Species) makes an appearance too – the aforementioned birds are often heard before they are seen so good luck!

Latest sightings:

- 60 crossbills by John Kelly at Royal Birkdale
- 6 Ring-necked parakeets by Mike Lees at Fairhaven
- 2 Short-eared owls by Les Rae at Montrose
- 1 Short-eared owl by Trevor Harris

- at the Castle Course, St Andrews
- 4 Egyptian geese by Gwynn Davies at the Mere
- 1 oystercatcher by Stephen Thompson at John O'Gaunt (unusual sighting for an inland parkland course) and a water vole
- 2 barn owls by John Waite at Scarthingwell GC
- 3 red kites by Sam Bethell at Chipstead GC
- Little egrets by Asa English at Rothley Park GC

The flock of snow buntings seem to have moved on from the St Andrews Links Trust but I'm sure they'll be back next year. Imagine moving to the East Coast of Scotland for the winter because you feel that the weather's nice – these birds do, and so do short-eared owls!

We recently purchased an

infra-red remote camera to see what's lurking on golf courses at night. Golf courses are known to come alive when the sun goes down so we'll keep you posted on any images we catch as and when they arrive.

Snow Buntings at St Andrews



If you have any unusual on course wildlife sightings, then please let me know.
My email: james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk

Agronomics Raise Cash for Selfies

Agronomic Services were delighted with the response from existing customers, fellow members of BIGGA and industry colleagues exhibiting at BTME.

For every "selfie" taken on the Agronomic Services stand at BTME, Agronomic Services donated £1 to the BIGGA Benevolent Fund.

"It's our way to give a little back and have some fun", says Jo Snowden Managing Director of Agronomic Services.

Agronomic Services Ltd enjoyed a busy show with David Snowden presenting a seminar on Foliar Feeding & How To Improve Your Rootzone.

"We have discussed our 'Spring Start Turf Action Plan' with visitors on our stand as well as Oxy-Rush™, The Next Generation. This is a 'three in one' product designed to save our customers time and money as well as improved performance of their sports turf", said David Snowden.

Agronomic Services are very pleased to announce they will be continuing to fund the BIGGA Continued Professional Development educational activity by once more becoming a BIGGA Education Supporter.

"We believe education is the key to intelligent Course Management and are very proud to be a participant of this scheme."

David Snowden is available to speak at local BIGGA meetings on a range of subjects.

Our website www.agronomics.co.uk / Tel: 01765658021



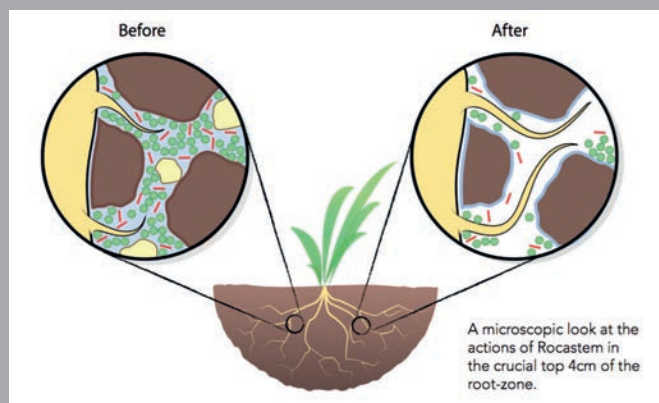
ROCASTEM

supporting mechanical aeration processes

There is an increasing need for greenkeepers to keep courses open all year-round, and one of the main obstacles stopping this is surface water on greens and fairways, which is often caused by the compaction of the root-zone over time.

Aeration of the root-zone is essential for better and more consistent playing surfaces. While traditional mechanical actions help, it's worth remembering that coring only targets around 3% of the root-zone with each pass.

Targeting this small percentage is a disruptive process that



stops play on that chosen area, and with courses now year-round operations the chance to shut down through the main golf season seldom occurs.

Another option is the use of penetrant surfactants. Whilst they offer a much less invasive method of aeration their effect on the root-zone is often temporary.

Most root-zone penetrant surfactants were – and still are – simple one action products that when applied, cause the clays and organic matter sitting within root-zone pore space to contract into tighter 'balls', thereby creating a pathway through the pore space for water drainage and natural in-flow aeration.

However, this action only lasts as long as the applied surfactant is sufficient, which could only be until the next rain or irrigation cycle, and would wash the surfactant out, allowing the clays and organic matter [OM] to de-contract and again obstruct water movement and natural aeration.

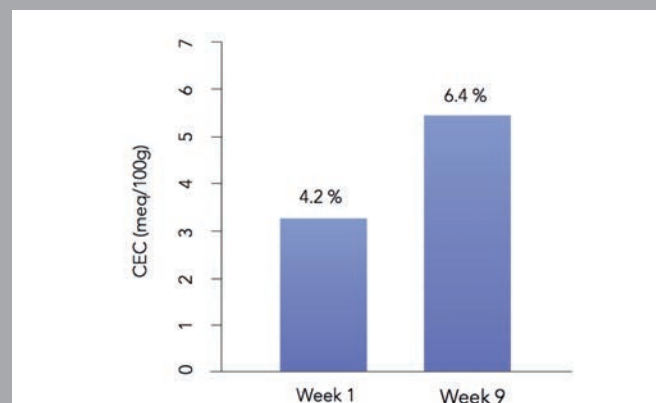
It was recognised that if we could combine a surfactant disruption of the clay and OM link, such that draining water would carry fine clays into the subsoil, with an increase in the indigenous OM consuming microbes and OM breakdown enzymes and bio acids, the result would be a more permanent clearance of the pore space, regardless of rain or irrigation depletion of the surfactant.

The starting point was in knowing that the digestion

technologies we had developed at our composting facility produced refined microbial food proteins and attractants. And if applied with a suitable non-aggressive surfactant, would enable a 'bloom' in the indigenous microbe population, and from there we started to search out, combine and trial a number of organic and bio-chemical penetrant surfactants.

This was done until we found a combination that was efficient in breaking the clay/OM link and non-aggressive to either new roots or microbe populations. Once achieved, we added bio acid root hair stimulants and OM breakdown enzymes to the package, resulting in a unique two-part product, as it was necessary to keep the enzymes apart from the proteins until application, to avoid fermentation arising in the bottle.

The culmination of this process resulted in Rocastem, which



consists of four main actions; separation, dispersal, percolation and root hair boost, when combined these four aspects provide an unrivalled effect on the root-zone.

The cascade of events starts with the electrostatic action of Rocastem, to flocculate the soil particles by increasing the ionic [-] charge within the profile, causing the clay/OM link to let go, which reduces compaction by letting water escape and taking the fine clay particles with it.

The digestive provides microbial foods to reduce OM content and adds natural humic and fluvial acids to increase the cation exchange capacity. [see CEC graph]

Indigenous bacteria then consume organic matter and very fine particles are free to drain down through the profile, thanks to the microscopic pathways made by the separation action. Organic acids, carbohydrates and more air stimulate the root hairs and trigger plant vigour, completing the cycle.

By targeting these areas in such a way Rocastem works at microscopic level to hit and help the 90% of the root-zone you won't get mechanically, adding real value to all your mechanical aeration activities throughout the year.

Article by William Murphy – Technical Support for Terralift
Rocastem is supplied in the UK through Aitkens Sportstuf Ltd. www.aitkens.co.uk

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Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

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

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

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



CRM GOES LIVE

BIGGA is continually striving to provide excellent customer service to meet members growing expectations and tough challenges being set by the industry, during the past 12 months we have evaluated our internal membership database requirements and have been working on implementing a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System, we are now pleased to announce this has gone live.

The new CRM system will enable us to manage our members contact needs more efficiently and will be used for recording and tracking all member contact made. Following on from this BIGGA will now be reviewing the website and members area. Please bear with us during this transition phase for

our database as processing of membership renewals and applications may take a bit longer than usual to start with, if you do need your membership card or any details then please contact us and let us know and we will do our best to help.

Section Events

March sees the start of Spring and lots of Section events have been arranged during March onwards. Check out if any events are happening in your Section via the 'Events' Section of the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/events or contact your Section Secretary, details are on the BIGGA website under 'Contact Us' (top right hand corner on home page) then select Contacts List, then Section Secretaries or look out for news on Section Facebook groups/pages or Twitter.

Just launched...

Discounts on National Trust gift cards.

The National Trust is a charity that looks after special places forever, for everyone. From exploring the outdoors, discovering historic homes, relaxing in a holiday cottage, or taking in the views with a cream tea, a National Trust gift card can be used towards experiences like these at over 500 special places. BIGGA Members can now enjoy a **10% saving on National Trust gift cards.**

Our records show that there were some real member savings during the latter part of last year, unfortunately, we have to remain anonymous but In November 2015 at least two members saved themselves £89.01 by using 'My Cashback Cards', a member saved themselves £96.25 in December 2015 by using 'Member Energy' and leading up to Christmas five members saved £400 with Naked Wines.

Why not find out how much you could be saving by trying out the 'Savings Calculator' available on the BIGGA Xtra Benefits page, log in to the members area and click the Xtra Benefits logo to be taken to the savings page. New benefits are being added all the time, keep going back for a look and updates on new offers.

Also, there are member offers for money off at the Cinema, great savings on a wide range of Apple products and Worldwide Attraction Tickets to name but a few.



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For Earth, For Life




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

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Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a must for greenkeepers at all levels in the industry. Whether it be attending a Regional Conference, networking at a golf event or studying for a qualification, all forms of CPD are beneficial not just to you but also to your employer.

When you join BIGGA, you automatically have a CPD account created. This is where you log and record your CPD. Log into to the Members Area of the BIGGA website, go to the Continuing Professional Development page and click on 'visit the CPD website'. From there you can enter a pre-validated code or enter your credits manually. You can also view your transcript and print out Approved or Milestone certificates.

You can claim for any events completed after 1st July 2013, however, remember the focus is on Continuing development and not on adding everything you have done for the last 3 years! Anything completed prior to July 2013 can not

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If you are using the Personal Learning Statement category, you must fill out a Personal Learning Statement (PLS) and email it using the Email BIGGA button. Without this, we cannot validate the claim. A copy of the blank PLS form can be found in the CPD Resources section in the Members Area. So far this category is the most incorrectly used one of all! If you have done volunteer work, Support Team work or something you can't decide what category to



Event Date: 01 Feb 2016
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put it in, you can only claim for them in this category if you complete and submit the form. The only sub-category that doesn't require a PLS is the 'reading magazine/articles' section, this is worth one credit and can be claimed for reading GI each month.

If you do Support Team work, this should be claimed as Professional/Support Team Work and you can claim for one credit per day of volunteering. If the event is at the club you work for, you can't claim as part of the Support Team but you can fill in a PLS about what you have learnt from the experience.

If you have any queries on CPD or wish to know more, there are a lot of useful documents on the website, including a CPD Handbook and an FAQ section. You can also call the L&D team on 01347 833800 option 3 or email cpd@bigga.co.uk and we will be happy to help!



APPROVED MEMBERS THIS MONTH

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

David Stewart – Walmley Golf Club
 Christopher Brown – The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses
 Andrew Kerr – West Malling Golf Club
 Ben Shipp – Ely City Golf Club
 Adam Harrison – Stockport Golf Club
 James Paton – West Kilbride Golf Club
 Alan Ward – Rookery Park Golf Club
 Alex Brougham – Trentham Golf Club
 John McLoughlin – Warrington Golf Club
 James Dudley – Warrington Golf Club
 Greg Williams – Newport Golf Club
 Joe Ashdown – Willesley Park Golf Club
 Stuart Adams – Haverfordwest Golf Club
 Christopher Taylor – Willesley Park Golf Club
 Steven Rowett – Stowe School (Golf Club)
 Martin Hickling – Rothley Park Golf Club
 Lee Sayers MG – Mid Kent Golf Club
 Simon Dexter – Myerscough College
 Matthew Nutter – East Berkshire Golf Club
 Mark Henderson – Rookery Park Golf Club
 Trevor Harris – St Andrews Links Trust
 Tom Smith – Cams Hall Estate Golf Club
 Adam Butler – Bedford & County Golf Club
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 Ian Nichols – Orsett Golf Club
 Kevin Irving – Carlisle Golf Club
 Stephen Washbrook – Aberdovey Golf Club
 Sam Bethell – Chipstead Golf Club
 Anthony James – Truro Golf Club

Yannick Asaf – Golfpark Nuolen AG
 Neil Adams – Toro Commercial Products/Lely UK
 Stuart Cagle MG CGCS – Advanced Turf Solutions
 Andrew Brougham – Wolstanton Golf Club
 Sam Sweetzer – West Hill Golf Club
 Glenn Kirby – Hockley Golf Club
 John Bateson – St Andrews Links Trust
 Ashley Allpress – Roehampton Club
 Peter Dawson – South Essex Golf & Country Club
 Tim Needham – Worlebury Golf Club
 Andrew Clark – Broadstone Golf Club
 Jamie Wade – The Belfry Golf Club

Congratulations to the following members who achieved Approved status and a Milestone this month:

Kevin O'Neill – Muswell Hill Golf Club
 Richard Johnstone – Nairn Dunbar Golf Club
 Sam Evans – Oakland Park Golf Club (Orida Corporation Ltd)

Congratulations to the following members who achieved Approved status and their SECOND milestone!

Craig Boath – Carnoustie Golf Links
 Peter Newton MG – Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club

Congratulations to the following members who achieved their Milestone this month:

Stefan Carter – The Wentworth Club
 Jaey Goodchild – Bowood Golf & Country Club
 David Langheim – Wimbledon Park Golf Club

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

NEW FACES AT CAMPEY TURFCARE SYSTEMS



From left to right top row: Jason Lord, Ben Taylor, Brian O'Shaughnessy, David Harrison, Lee Morgado, Steve Dun
Second row: Ian Campbell, John Campey, Simon Holland, Ian Pogson and Richard Campey.

With the retirement of David Briggs and the appointment of two new Product specialists; Steven Dun and Simon Holland, Campey Turf Care Systems is starting their 30th year with some new faces and some new roles for established ones.

David had been with the company for 15 years. He joined Campeys as a Product Specialist in July 2000 and was very successful, selling across the whole range of products marketed by Campeys. On announcing his retirement at the age of 67, David said, "I have loved the travelling, meeting people from all over the world, not just the UK and being able to promote an excellent range of products

to an industry I love."

Richard Campey was sorry to see David depart. "During the past decade and a half, David has played a huge part in introducing new products and techniques to groundscare and turfcare professionals in his area. We thank him for all of his efforts and contributions over the years. He has been an extremely valuable member of the team and we wish him a long and enjoyable retirement."

The two new members of staff have both come from the turf industry; Simon, 38, has gained significant experience in machinery sales during his time with a well-known agriculture and groundscare deal-

ership in Nottinghamshire. Simon will be covering the UK east of the M1 from York down towards Coventry and cross to King's Lynn.

Steven Dun, married and in his late-forties, has achieved success as a greenkeeper in charge of an Open qualifying course. This was followed by branching into sales for Toro equipment and groundscare machinery for several years. Steven will be responsible for covering south of Birmingham towards Somerset and across to South Wales and east as far as Norwich.

The new Product Specialists are joining one of Europe's largest independent groundscare machinery dealers. Ste-

ven and Simon will have the advantage of selling equipment from some of the most recognised groundscare machinery manufacturers including Dakota, Imants, Koro, Raycam, Vredo, Omarv, Votex, VGR and GT Air 2G2 injector.

Other changes include new areas for John Campey - now Product Specialist for a large swathe of Europe including Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Italy. Lee Morgado has taken on responsibility for sales in France, Spain and Portugal.

For more information on the company and product range please go to the website www.campeyturfcare.com



WE HAVE A GREAT LINE UP OF CHIPPERS FOR GOLF COURSES

Golf Course woodland management has many facets, but within the GreenMech range there will be a model to suit - all having the revolutionary Disc-Blade chipping system to provide up to 150 hours of chipping before re-sharpening.

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ICL LAUNCH 2016/17 PRODUCT GUIDE



ICL 2016/17 product guide.

ICL has announced the launch of their 2016/17 product guide – including some new and unique products and services.

The comprehensive brochure, designed using feedback gathered from a wide range of end users detailing what they wanted and needed to be included, will provide a detailed look into the company's market leading products as well as offering valuable technical information.

Over the years customers have benefited from using the likes of Greenmaster, SeaMax, Sierrablen and ProTurf, the H2Pro range of wetting agents and Primo Maxx – the industry's number one plant growth regulator. All of these products feature in the new 2016/17

brochure complete with advice on how to get the best results, including recommended period of use, directions for use and application rates.

Readers will also see some new additions including Sportsmaster Liquid Fe; H2Pro DewSmart; Enforcer; a range of new grass seed mixes; hard surface cleaner - Ranger; sprayer aids - Colour Pro Indicator, pHixer and Sp0tless; and the unique new Custom Builds feature.

Sportsmaster Liquid Fe, is a new cost-effective iron treatment to the Sportsmaster range of fertilisers. It has been developed to provide a quick and long-lasting green-up to sportsfield and outfield turf. An ideal tank-mix partner for Primo Maxx, Sportsmaster Liquid Fe features an instant colour response and has long-lasting results for up to four weeks.

ICL has also added more mixtures to its range of ProSelect range of turfgrass seed blends. Varieties in the ProSelect range have been developed through extensive breeding selection by ICL and the company's international seed partners to bring the most up-to-date material to the market. To help turf managers select the correct mixture, ICL has developed an easy reference sys-

tem using illustrated icons and readers of the guide can use them to help choose the most appropriate blend.

Under the Speciality Products section, three new sprayer aids can be found: ColourPro Indicator – an advanced spray pattern indicator to assist spraying and minimise spray drift; pHixer – a specialist sprayer water conditioner with a built-in pH colour indicator; and Sp0tless – a spray tank cleaning agent and general purpose cleaner.

Also included in the 2016/17 product guide is information on the new ICL Custom Build feature. This unique concept offers you the capability to create your own 'custom built' liquid fertilisers.

The product guide also provides a wealth of technical information. Spreader setting guidelines will help readers with the accurate application of fertiliser; a tank-mix table provides guidance notes for compatibility of liquid formulations and a ready reckoner will assist with nutrient application for granular fertilisers.

To request the product guide or for further information, please contact ICL on 01473 237100 or visit www.icl-sf.co.uk

GUESTS FROM EUROPE, ASIA-PACIFIC AND SOUTH AMERICA VISIT GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW IN SAN DIEGO

Over 80 Ransomes Jacobsen guests and staff from Europe, the Asia-Pacific territory and South America attended the Golf Industry Show in San Diego recently.

Following long flights from all parts of the globe, the first full day in California featured a golf competition at Rancho Bernardo Inn Golf Resort, where 23 teams from across the Ransomes Jacobsen territory competed in a Texas Scramble.

The next day, it was a return visit to Rancho Bernardo for a Product Demonstration event. For this, the guests were split into four groups and rotated between stations that featured the Jacobsen Spraytek, the new Jacobsen HR700 batwing rotary, the Jacobsen Truckster – with an opportunity to test it against the competition, and finally a tour of the Rancho Bernardo maintenance facility.

Day three involved another early start as the group boarded coaches and were transported to the Coronado Municipal Golf Course for a combined Smithco/Turfco demonstration event.

During the afternoon two Ransomes Jacobsen guests, Darren Baldwin, Head of Playing Surfaces and Estates at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and Chris Haspell, Course Manager at Castle Stuart Golf Links, provided fascinating back-to-back presentations on the construction and maintenance of their diverse workplaces.

In the evening, the group plus other invited guests headed over to the Wavehouse Beach Club in Mission Beach for the Jacobsen Hospitality event, where over 900 people were kept entertained by professional surfers in a man-made surf pool which created a variety of giant waves for them to demonstrate their board skills.

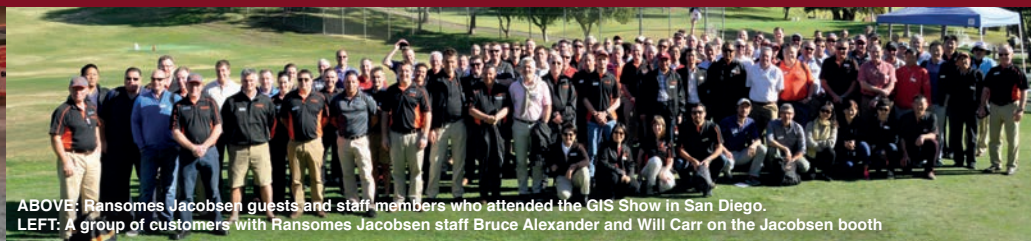
Day four was Show Day, with the Jacobsen booth at the impressive San Diego Convention Centre a major attraction for the guests. The impressive display of Jacobsen equipment included the new range of Jacob-

sen aerators, signifying the company's return to this sector with three all-new tractor mounted machines. Also on display was the new Jacobsen HR700 wide area rotary including the introduction of the world's first 14 foot derivative, providing the highest productivity from this class of mower.

Commenting on the trip Graham Brumpton, Course Manager at Ipswich Golf Club said,

"What a brilliant experience from start to finish. I didn't really know what to expect as this was my first time as a guest of Ransomes Jacobsen to the Golf Industry Show. However, we were looked after so well from start to finish and the hospitality was out of this world. The Jacobsen stand was very impressive and the overall show is huge, with so much to see.

"We were able to network with other turf professionals from across the world and get to know a lot of the Jacobsen staff we don't normally come into contact with. It was a wonderful, intense six days, which included two 11 hour flights, but so worthwhile. I was delighted to be a guest on the trip."



ABOVE: Ransomes Jacobsen guests and staff members who attended the GIS Show in San Diego.

LEFT: A group of customers with Ransomes Jacobsen staff Bruce Alexander and Will Carr on the Jacobsen booth

Natural flood defence - planting trees

Bob Taylor and Sophie Vukelic from the STRI discuss a natural approach to flood defence

The recent flooding events across the north of the UK have highlighted the need for a more sustainable approach to drainage, one being working with nature to provide a more holistic solution to flooding.

Before traditional drainage systems were introduced, we relied on the land to act as a

large sponge, releasing water slowly back into the wider landscape. We had far fewer flooding events in the past, and future predictions based upon climate change foresee a huge increase in the occurrence and intensity of these devastating episodes. Urban areas being the most susceptible, with research pointing to a four-fold



increase in the number of people being affected by urban flooding in the future.

These intense, destructive storms pose a real threat to local businesses, especially those that rely on the land such as golf courses, and indeed other sports pitches, with flooding inevitably leading to county-wide closures and expenditures that



often aren't budgeted for. With almost 3000 golf courses in the UK and Ireland, many of which have rivers, burns or other water features close by or on site, there is now more need than ever to act and work with nature, not against it.

New ideas of how to restore nature's flood defences and mimic these natural processes



in urban areas frequently appear in conversations as of late, with green roofs, living walls, rain gardens and many other suggestions being put into the mix – it's now time that talk turns into action. Ideally, we should all look to restoring our natural landscapes. Wetlands, woodlands, upland bogs and moors, and species-rich grasslands all make space for the influx of rainwater that we so frequently see, slowing down the release of water and giving the land a chance to breathe. But, what is achievable right now?

On golf courses, one of the simplest and cheapest solutions is planting trees, of course this all depends on the type of course: a links landscape would not necessarily naturally support trees! Nevertheless, trees have been a part of the UK's landscape since the last ice age, with the UK, at present, now having one of the lowest percentages of tree cover in Europe at just 12%. Indeed, for thousands of years, humans have prioritised agricultural land over woodland, destroying huge expanses of important woodland – now we are finally realising that we have allowed flooding to happen through our own selfish actions.

So why should we plant trees, if the above was not reason enough. Trees in golf form an important part of the game, providing strategy and creating a course that is a pleasure to play. It is needless to say that many parkland and heathland courses around the UK provide a haven for wildlife due to their many copses and woodlands. But the trees aren't just there for aesthetics and wildlife, they have an important part to play in flood defence too. Trees planted on or near riverbanks act to prevent soil erosion, hence reducing the amount of sediment entering into waterways, something which can vastly impact the ferocity of a flood and may also lead to masses of sticky, heavy mud being deposited onto a golf course or football pitch downstream, rendering the land useless for long periods of time – something which has occurred more than once over the last few months. Not only that, but trees also alleviate the risk of flooding by increasing water absorption into the ground,

the roots creating pockets between soil particles, thus allowing surface water from the land to drain into those spaces and greatly reduce the chance of flooding, slowing down the water running in to already swollen waterways. Our traditional drainage systems can no longer cope with the prolonged rainfall events that we so often see, in the past, our solution to drainage was to simply divert surface water as quickly as possible. This method inadvertently leads to flooding due to rivers and other waterways rapidly filling, much quicker than they would naturally.

Of course, a huge amount of thought must go into where these trees must be planted on the course. Areas where runoff is known to be a problem, where land lay wet for most of the year, and areas prone to erosion are the areas where we should look to plant trees to aide more efficient water infiltration, with research showing that water sinks into the ground below trees 67 times faster than ground below amenity grassland. The selection of tree species is also a factor that must be considered, non-natives and those with invasive root systems, such as poplar, should be avoided at all costs, preventing the need to remove them in the years to come. It should also be noted that a variety of species should be chosen, a rich species diversity would greatly enhance the ecological value of the land, therefore supporting a much wider range of wildlife with birds such as lesser redpoll to birch leaf-loving caterpillars like that of the lime hawk-moth.

It can be seen that a number of considerations must be addressed prior to planting, something which an ecological consultant can advise on, making sure that the right decisions are being made for the right reasons. Golf club members may be resistant to change, perhaps having the feeling that planting trees would be detrimental to their golf course that they so love, but a consultant acts as the 'middleman', highlighting the rationale behind why trees should be planted here and the effect it will have on the members – perhaps one of the greatest advantages is that the golf course would be



open for play even after periods of heavy rainfall.

Naturally, planting trees and woodland will not stop all flooding, it would be foolish to think that such a simple undertaking would completely eradicate what is a natural phenomenon. However, it is evident that trees and woodland can play a tremendously im-



portant part in reducing flood risk, whilst also having the added benefit of improving water quality, contributing to nature conservation and storing carbon. Of course, engineered flood defences will continue to be needed in places but, in urban areas, we should strive to install more sustainable drainage systems and the introduc-

tion of permeable surfaces, a topic which will be discussed further on in this series of articles on natural flood defence.

The team of experts within the Ecology and Environment Department at STRI are available to provide professional and specialist guidance on bespoke tree planting whilst giving due care to golf and the needs and

nature of the putting and playing surfaces. STRI can also provide your club with a structured ecological, landscape and woodland management plan that will aide a more integrated approach to golf course management. Please contact Bob Taylor or Sophie Vukelic on 01274 565131 for more information.

Getting greens going



Where needs take us

**By Dr Andy Owen and Henry Bechelet,
Technical Managers, ICL Turf and Landscape**



The establishment of early spring growth is crucial, especially for golf greens. It is needed for the turf to recover from the damage of winter play and disease attack. Growth also allows us to proceed in earnest with surface preparation operations such as top dressing. A good early start to the year with the quick onset of growth would be the top of most greenkeepers Christmas list.

As Technical Managers it is our job to help you understand how to get the best results from our products. To this end we commission independent research studies and conduct our own trials to help us understand product performance and provide a solid grounding for our recommendations. In 2013 we commissioned a trial at STRI to help shed light on the subject of spring growth in golf greens. The trial evaluated a number of fertiliser alternatives and found that the one that created the best turf quality, best turf colour and got the LEAST disease was the analysis that very few people would use and certainly no agronomists would recommend! There is always plenty to learn. So, with this being such an interesting result we decided to set up a follow-up trial for early spring 2015 to see if we couldn't shed some more light on this issue.

With the kind permission of Matt Houseman and the management team at Scarcroft Golf Club (just north of Leeds) we set up the 2015 Spring Fertiliser Trial on their chipping green. This is a relatively new green constructed upon a sand-based rootzone with the sward being predominantly browntop bent. It was agreed with Matt that the green would be maintained at the same intensity of the greens as a whole. At this time they were being mown at 6mm at regular intervals.

So, the plan was to apply various different types of fertilizer (conventional, slow release and immediate release) BUT with the application rates adjusted to deliver the same level of nitrogen. We wanted to see how nitrogen source rather than quantity influenced the onset of spring growth. The treatments were applied very early in the spring when conditions first allowed. The aim was to answer the questions... Do early spring fertilisers work? And...Does the type of fertiliser being used make a difference?

The treatments would be applied to plots situated within a randomized block design with 3 replications. Assessments were made at regular intervals looking at the visual aspects of turf colour and turf quality as well as measuring NDVI (turf vigour) and soil temperatures. The trial was set up in such a way to allow statistical analysis of the assessment results to make sure that our conclusions were trustworthy.

The treatments were as follows...

- Untreated control to show what happened without any fertiliser being applied.

- Greenmaster Prolite "Cold Start" 11-5-5 +8Fe. Contains "conventional" nitrogen sources with half of the N coming from sulphate of ammonia and half from urea to give a 6+ weeks delivery pattern. The perceived high nitrogen content is not generally regarded as being appropriate for an early spring starter in the UK. It also contains phosphate, potassium and a good whack of iron (8Fe). This was applied at a rate of 25 g/m² to supply 27.5 kg of N per ha.

- Greenmaster Prolite "Turf Tonic" 8-0-0 +3MgO +3Fe. Also

contains conventional nitrogen sources with roughly 60% of the N coming from sulphate of ammonia and 40% from urea to give a 6+ weeks consistent delivery. Contains no phosphate, potassium and less iron (3Fe). Applied at a rate of 35 g/m² to supply 28 kg of N per ha.

- Greenmaster Prolite "Autumn Mg" 6-5-11 +3MgO +0.5Fe. Contains slow release and conventional nitrogen sources with 66% of the N coming from slow release methylene urea and the rest being mainly sulphate of ammonia with a little urea to give a 6+ weeks delivery pattern. Contains phosphate, potassium, magnesium but minimal iron. It was applied at a rate of 46 g/m² to supply 27.6 kg of N per ha.

- Sierraform GT "K-STEP" 6-0-27 +2MgO +TE. Slow release and conventional nitrogen sources with 50% of the N coming from methylene urea and the rest being mainly urea with a little sulphate of ammonia to give a 6-8 weeks delivery pattern. Contains slow release potassium as well as magnesium and trace elements but no iron. Applied at a rate of 46 g/m² to supply 27.6 kg of N per ha.

- Sportsmaster WSF "High K" 15-0-43 +0.13Fe. Quick release nitrogen sources with over 90% of the N coming from potassium nitrate with a little urea to give a 3-4 weeks delivery pattern. Contains potassium and a little Iron. Applied as a soluble feed at a rate of 18 g/m² to supply 27 kg of N per ha.

So, you can see that we chose 5 very different fertilisers and these were applied at rates calculated to supply the same amount of N. There are quick, conventional and slow release forms of nitrogen being applied with varying amounts of phosphorus, potassium, iron and trace elements. These were applied on the 10th of March 2015 at the start of what turned out to be a cold spring. Take a moment now... what do you think happened?

DAY OF TREATMENT (10/03/2015): The trial was marked out and treated on the "first nice day of early spring". It was the first opportunity to apply something to get things moving. Before treatment the plots were all scored visually for turf quality (1-9 scale), turf



colour (1-9 scale) and NDVI. Each treatment went down well and all the treatments completely dispersed within a few days after rainfall.

WEEK 1 (17/03/2015): The untreated plots were scored as being 5 for turf colour (acceptable) and 4 for turf quality (slightly thin but with acceptable colour). The most notable treatment reaction was the instant colour (6.5 – a good "hardened" green) brought by the "Cold Start" mainly as a result of the high iron content (+8Fe). The visual response from the other treatments was minimal in the first 7 days.

WEEK 2 (24/03/2015): The weather had remained cold (0oC at night 8-10oC during the day) but the daffodils were now out. Soil temperatures were at 9oC. At this time the untreated plots were deteriorating in terms of turf colour (4 – insipid) and turf quality (3 – weak and thin). The "Cold Start" plots were outstanding in terms of turf colour (6.5) and turf quality (5) with improved density now being a real fea-

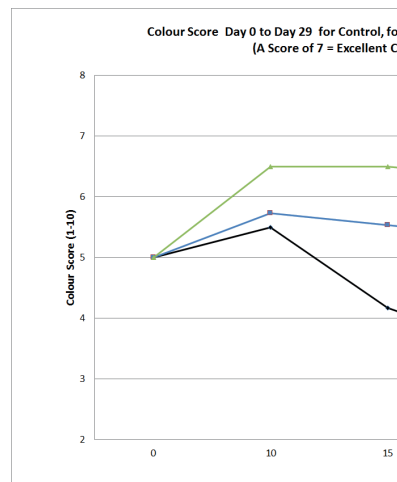
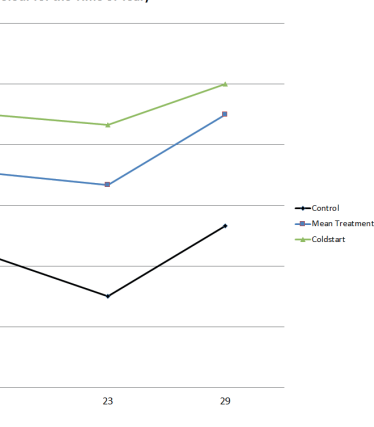




Figure 1: Mean of all N Treatments and for ColdStart.
Turf colour for the Time of Year



ture. At this time it was felt that the strong darkening (pigment?) effect of the high iron content had really helped get things moving with the “Cold Start”. The other treatments were clearly better than the untreated plots in terms of turf colour and quality but it was more that the treatments had prevented deterioration rather than promoting a positive response. The surprise was that the impact of the potassium nitrate wasn’t particularly strong and at no point were these plots any better than the conventional fertilisers based on sulphate of ammonia and urea.

WEEK 3 (31/03/2015): The cold weather persisted and the untreated plots continued to deteriorate in terms of the turf colour (3.5 - yellowing) and turf quality (2 - thinning badly). The “Cold Start” treated plots continued to be great in terms of colour (6.5) and quality (5). The other treatments were better than the untreated plots but the response was still not as strong as the “Cold Start”.

The other treatments generally had a colour of around 4 and quality around 3. It was notable that the potassium nitrate was fading away now.

WEEK 4 (09/03/2015): It was now becoming a late spring with soil temperatures still around 9°C and the growth degree days being 50% of the average for this time. By this time the conventional “Turf Tonic” had caught up with the “Cold Start” in terms of turf colour (7) and turf quality (5). The slow release treatments were all better than the untreated plots but they hadn’t generated a strong response. The untreated plots had perked up slightly after a couple of warmer days but they were still poor and struggling badly.

So, after what might be considered to be an extremely early fertiliser treatment during what turned out to be a cold spring we got some really strong treatment effects. Without treatment the turf really struggled and deteriorated badly. Compared to the untreated plots all the early fertilisers worked well and prevented a deterioration in the turf quality. Having said that, some of the fertilisers were markedly better than the others even though they had all applied the same amount of nitrogen. We would conclude that...

- The sulphate of ammonia and urea combination worked best and when this was combined with good high levels of iron the response was amazing.

- The slow-release fertilisers aren’t really designed to produce a strong response in ear-

ly spring. Soil temperatures weren’t sufficiently high for the soil bacteria to convert and make available the methylene urea N sufficient to give a notable response. These are best applied when the soil system is functioning well.

- The potassium nitrate was comparatively weak “pound for pound” in terms of immediate response and longevity.

The green was then top dressed and the differences in response became even more real. The “Cold Start” and the “Turf Tonic” treated plots really sailed up through the sand dressing while the others sat just beneath. We were really concerned just how much the top dressing knocked back the turf and we might need to rethink our advice on that also!

So, to conclude if this trial is anything to go by then the answer to our 2 questions is relatively straightforward...

Do early spring fertilisers work? Yes!

Does the type of fertiliser being used make a difference? Yes!

In this trial the Greenmaster Prolite “Cold Start” 11-5-5 +8Fe was the winner in terms of speed of response, longevity, turf colour and quality as indeed it had been in the 2013 STRI trial. The 11-5-5 formulation isn’t what people would generally use in early spring but remember that it can be applied evenly at 25 g/m² to get great response from the iron and conventional N without overdoing it. For us Greenmaster Prolite “Cold Start” 11-5-5 +8Fe @ 25 g/m² is how to get your greens going in the spring.



Has it stopped raining yet?



Adrian Mortram, of Robin Hume Associates outlines a simple five point plan to prepare your irrigation system for the season.

To the casual weather observer it may appear that irrigation is no longer an essential maintenance tool looking at the amount of rainfall recently. However looked at the 2015 rainfall figures these were still within the average annual figures for the past five years. As I have written before, the main difference is the pattern of that precipitation. The rainfall figures for the first three months of 2015 were about average, whilst the following



Sprinkler Maintenance & Servicing

seven months, April until October, were significantly below average. However the last two months of the year and January of this year were, in some areas of the country, absolutely catastrophic. Irrigation therefore is arguably of greater importance now, as the summer rains appear softer.

Now is the time to become more proactive, rather than reactive, to service and maintain your current irrigation system and perhaps to plan

for the future. In this article I have put together a Five Point Plan to help evaluate and audit your system and to look at the future capabilities of your current irrigation system.

Your irrigation system can be divided into several basic component parts; each of which can be sub-divided;

- 1: Water source and storage
- 2: Pump house and pump station
- 3: Pipework and control cables
- 4: Valves and valve boxes, and
- 5: Sprinkler heads and delivery control

Water resources will in most cases involve the use of either one or a combination of sources such as potable water, bore holes, and/or abstraction from lakes, ponds or rivers, whilst water storage may involve reservoirs or tanks. Taking some of these issues it will be necessary to check that health and safety measures are in place. Check whether signage is still in place surrounding reservoirs and tanks to warn about deep water or whether buoyancy aids are present. Winter storms may have ripped them away. Check that any filters are clean and free from debris. When aeration equipment is installed, check it is functional and working correctly. When tanks are used for short or long term storage, inspect galvanised tanks to see if they are in sound condition and suitable for the forthcoming season. Check there is no structural winter damage, no soil or herbage around the base giving rise to corrosion. Check there is a sufficient gap present between the inlet for the incom-

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ing water supply, when using potable water, and the tank full flow overflow to prevent back siphoning, and that the tank roof is safe.

Inspect the pump house for security and for any visible winter damage and check that there is no sign of winter leakage. It may not be significant as the irrigation system will almost certainly have been drained down. Prime the irrigation pumps allowing for all air to be removed and service the pump station as necessary. Once primed allow water to enter the system gradually and at a lower pressure ensuring the water pressure builds up slowly in the system and there is no water hammer from trapped air. With the system pressurised at this lower pressure carefully ensure all air is removed from the system before attempting to operate any sprinklers or automatic valves. Allowing sprinklers and valves to operate when air is present in the system will cause damage due to the significantly higher pressure exerted onto these components by trapped air. Once all air is removed note the set system water pressure and check whether there is any gradual reduction in pressure, this may indicate there is a problem with leakage further down the line. A water meter reading taken before the season starts and maintained at regular intervals can also assist in determining the amount of irrigation being used, it can also indicate any leakage during the season. Check the pipework network for leakage especially around the valve boxes or sprinkler heads, make a note and repair immediately.

Locate all valve boxes, check for vermin damage particularly to the electrics. Valve boxes form a cosy winter nesting site for a wide range of fauna. Clean all valve boxes inside and outside to present a neat and visible feature, this will aid any future maintenance work and may prevent accidental damage by inexperienced operators when carrying out other maintenance duties.

Check all sprinklers and valves for leakage. Starting at the first tee undertake a



Fauna-Vermin in Valve Boxes will Damage Cables and should be removed

thorough Hole by Hole system walk-through operating all stations and their associated sprinklers within the irrigation system to ensure successful operation from an electrical standpoint. Repair all electrical failures as necessary. As part of the system walk-through, visually check all sprinklers for pop-up, rotation, correct arc (avoiding irrigating areas of the course not requiring water), check nozzles ensuring uniformity within individual putting surfaces, fairways and tees. In certain circumstances a different nozzle may have been selected by the designer, for instance a low angle nozzle to combat the prevailing wind, if different nozzles are encountered check initially with the irrigation design, as-laid plans or computer database. Check the pressure of suspect sprinklers at the sprinkler head, this operation is relatively simple using a Pitot Gauge. Sprinklers not operating at the correct pressure may not be providing head-to-head coverage and therefore not delivering an even distribution. Too high a

pressure can cause the spray curtain to break up causing spray drift, whilst too low a pressure with relatively larger droplet size can manifest itself as localised ponding and poor coverage. All sprinklers should also be set at the correct level in the turf to allow accurate and even distribution, if they are too low performance will be impaired and they must be reset. Trim around sprinkler heads to complete the work. Sprinklers do occasionally get damaged or broken during winter maintenance and it goes without saying that repair is essential. Check all solenoid valves for leakage and for correct set-up and operation to ensure pressure regulation. Finally check the operation of the irrigation controller ensuring all programmes are live in the system memory then operate an automatic irrigation cycle from the controller recording the results generated from the software and repairing as necessary.

It is essential to undertake a system walk-through on a monthly basis to ensure elec-

trical operation of all stations and correct physical operation of all sprinklers [rotation, damage etc]. Within the UK our irrigation is supplemental on an 'as and when required' basis and therefore it is imperative the irrigation system operates successfully when needed. After all the irrigation system is the most expensive maintenance tool available to the golf course manager and as such demands that maintenance and servicing should be at an advanced level. All too often servicing and maintenance is reactive rather than proactive.

Adrian Mortram is Managing Director of RHA Irrigation Design Consultancy and has a long standing relationship with both BIGGA and the STRI. Adrian has considerable experience of irrigation design within the UK and abroad. An Education and Training workshop is offered annually at BTME by Adrian Mortram on the fundamentals of irrigation design. All courses carry CPD points.



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Aeration options

Aeration is a topic that all Greenkeepers are concerned with, especially doing it properly. Dougie Archibald of Charterhouse Turf Machinery says it's something that shouldn't be approached with complacency and explains the machinery alternatives, and different approaches, that should be taken depending on the desired outcome or time of year.

Demands placed on golf courses have never been higher; which makes an effective aeration and maintenance regime even more essential. We all know about Verti-Draining and its benefits, but using your Verti-Drain should be seen as a year-round activity. Using the Verti-Drain™ with a range of different tine options can make the most of deeper work done during the autumn and winter months. Micro-tining can be employed during drier weather to help keep the surface from “capping” over and allow surface water a path down through the profile - maintaining healthier top growth.

At Sheringham Golf Club, their Verti-Drain has been a fundamental part of the maintenance regime for many years. When they hired the assistance of a new course consultant, Head Greenkeeper David Childs was recommended to look into a pedestrian aerator as a way of improving aeration on their greens. “We looked

Charterhouse TURF MACHINERY



at the Redexim Carrier with the Verti-Drain 1513 and found that this power unit, when compared to others, gave us fantastic speed between greens and allowed the attached Verti-Drain to work at great depth. Another important factor is that with the Carrier, the entire unit leaves a much smaller footprint. As we only have one tractor, using the Carrier with the Verti-Drain for aeration effectively frees the tractor up for other jobs. We are pleased to have added it to our machinery fleet and aim to use the Carrier with the Verti-Drain on the greens, tees and approaches at least once a month.”

Dougie says another process to think about is linear aeration using something like the Redexim range of Verti-Quake™ aerators. These are available in a range of working widths and perform the majority of their work under the surface by means of fissuring and the breaking up of the soil profile. This allows channels for water and moisture to travel through the soil

and link up with the deeper Verti-Drain™ work. The unique make-up of the Verti-Quake™ range, with its wave action which shatters soil laterally, allows for almost zero surface disruption meaning the turf is able to accommodate play immediately.

Another complimentary aeration technique and machine is the Redexim Verti-Knife™. This machine comes fitted with either two rows of mini discs, ideal for close intensive work on greens or tees, or larger discs ideal for fairways and wider areas where extra depth can be achieved. Whatever disc size is chosen, the Verti-Knife™ works by keeping the crucial top section of the profile open permitting gaseous exchange to take place, as well as the movement of surface water and nutrients throughout the critical root zone. It also discourages moss and lichen growth in shaded areas. The Verti-Knife™ cuts through lateral growth and prevents any lasting grain-ing to provide a more uni-

form and true playing surface. This care of the top 20mm will discourage the establishment of excess organic matter, which in turn makes all your other aeration work much more effective.

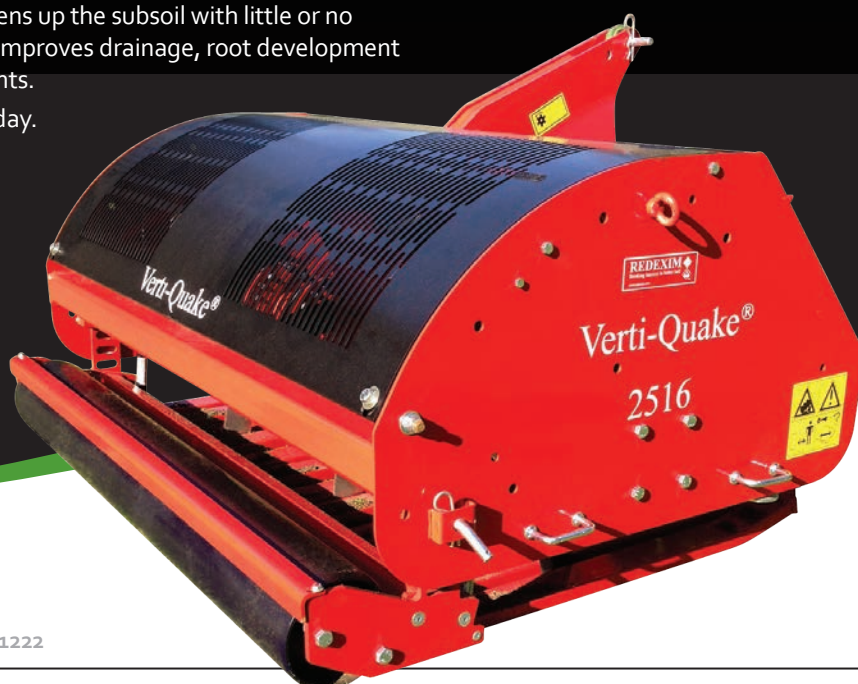
This time of the year is also the ideal time to start thinking about using the Graden Contour Sand Injector to invigorate and revitalise fine turf in preparation for a very busy season. The CSI removes excess organic matter and backfills with kiln dried sand and your choice of seed mix to immediately give a surface that is stable and firm, significantly better draining with greatly improved airflow and a perfect growing medium for fresh, strong and vibrant re-growth. Using the Graden CSI along with the Verti-Drain, Verti-Quake and Verti-Knife gives a concise and complete aeration and renovation programme for the entire soil profile. A considered and well thought out approach to aeration will pay dividends year in year out.



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Warrington Golf Club ecology

BIGGA's new Sustainability Executive James Hutchinson travelled to Warrington Golf Club to see how John McLoughlin and his team are developing a first-class course for golfers and wildlife alike

To cut a very long story short, Warrington Golf Club is a free draining, tree lined golf course that sits on high ground above the scenic county of Cheshire. There are many types of diverse wildlife present including buzzard, nuthatch and squirrel but by far the most impressive thing is the green-keeping team and the way they run this beautiful piece of land.

The team consists of seven greenkeepers including Course Manager John McLoughlin. He's the very proud recipient of a seat on the plane to visit San Diego as a BIGGA Delegate courtesy of Bernhard &

The team are from left to right:

Ian Illingworth
Will Chantrell
Colin Dutton
Malcom Lawton
James Dudley
John Kilshaw
John McLoughlin

(not shown in the photo) are:
Allen Wright (Caretaker/
Greenkeeper)
Peter Hough (Mechanic from
Middlewich Machinery).

Company; more on that later, but for now read on to find out how the team are developing a first class course for golf and wildlife.

With the agronomy side of things having slowed down a little through the winter, John and the team have turned their attentions to ecology. But they are not taking their environmental tasks lightly, with the inclusion of woodland management, eco piles, rough grassland controlling methods and composting to name but a few.

One of those interesting environmental initiatives is the introduction of a wormery; this proactive project was bought

for an initial cost of £300 and included in the set-up was a two-hour demonstration by the developer. The worms work their way through any lettuce, cabbage, potato or any vegetation that is placed in their environment and as a consequence turn it into compost, which is then returned to the newly built herb garden! The subsequent herbs are then used in the club's kitchen, a wonderful way of recycling waste and one that any golf course could undertake, but let's hope that the many badgers onsite do not get to hear of it as worms are their favourite food!

The wormery is as a small project, however, Warrington's



keepers' maintenance facility also houses a small recycling station, which is another way to reduce costs and reuse materials. Again, this method of composting could be undertaken by practically all golf courses and is a source of free nutrients for the club and its members. However, John is keen to point out he is a "paperless Course Manager" and uses the management software 'Turfkeeper' and 'Turf Reports' which house all of the team's budgets, diaries and maintenance procedures.

In terms of birdlife, 16 nest boxes have been erected since spring last year and John Kilshaw, Ecology Manager, is proud to say 75% of them have been used at some point for raising young or merely as a winter roost site. Members of the tit family and nuthatches are the main passerines to occupy the boxes but Warrington Golf Course is so diverse that

I would not be surprised if treecreepers or finches decided to habituate one of their boxes in 2016.

Different sized owl boxes have been erected with two more waiting to go up before spring. The team's sighting book is loaded with interesting sightings including an unusual raptor with a white tail (which turned out to be a buzzard with some form of deficiency rather than a white-tailed sea eagle!). Not too many of those around I feel but the team have a good selection of wildlife books at their disposal and John Kilshaw is a keen 'twitcher' so the mystery was soon solved. Other birds noted since the book was developed are: kestrel, sparrowhawk, tawny owl and a greater spotted woodpecker, which was seen drumming on the clubhouse telegraph pole!

Another small project the club has developed is rain-

larger scale composting is now developing quite nicely and John admitted "this is a project which takes time to undertake". Warrington's ingredients for making good compost are: grass clippings (collected from designated sites around the course); wood chippings, leaves; weeds and clubhouse waste (vegetable shavings).

However, one of the most important constituents is recycled paper/cardboard for creating air gaps to heat up the developing compost more efficiently – these are collected from the secretary's office and clubhouse resulting in no costs for the collection from outside bodies! The green-



water harvesting from the greenkeeper's maintenance facility. The harvested water is returned to the wash down pad to be reused and is a great example of sustainability on a small scale. Whilst I'm on the subject, the club's irrigation supply is taken from a large pond located adjacent to the 17th hole which I found to be most pleasing, both holistically and aesthetically, not to mention the good amount of aquatic wildlife which uses the water as a habitat or for drinking.

The club has also purchased a moisture meter (TDR 300). John said: "This has resulted in us managing water more sustainably. We are now not just throwing water on to a green but we are aware of hot spots and the use of wetting agents and hand watering has worked fantastically well". It's projects such as this that, when added to the many other sustainable projects the course has, will eventually add up to a large reduction in running costs.

The team have many projects including a monthly winter ecology lecture series using an outside ecologist (George Pilkington MSc, who specialises in mining bees) and hold regular talks on habitat management. Other projects include John Kilshaw creating environmental updates, which are both easy-to-read and very accurate; trials are up and running regarding the correct wild bird food to use and which type of bird uses which type of nest box; two hectares of eco-rough; allowing/encouraging the fescue rough to grow tall around the tops of bunkers; eco-piles; standing decaying timber; chemical free hand-wash; 0% of waste is sent to landfill from the maintenance facility - the plastics, bottles and organic matter are all recycled by a local firm and plans are in place to use solar power to generate electricity for the maintenance facility. All these small projects add up to a large change for the better and everyone involved benefits, especially the wildlife!

The golf course machinery is moving towards a more sustainable method of maintenance with the inclusion of electric hand-mowers, blowers, trimmers, hedge cutters and electric run-around ve-





hicles, all this to go alongside their research into solar panels which John hopes to have in the future.

In terms of larger flora, the rhododendrons (*Ponticum*) are in the process of being removed by the team including the sycamores and other non-native baddies such as rosebay willowherb and Himalayan balsam. The gorse on site, which is ideal for nesting birds (linnet and yellowhammer), is managed on a three-year rotational basis thus keeping it in an upright and dense position – the team are fully aware of the problems gorse plants pose and have already made a significant impact to the gorse stands onsite. The smaller wildflower community has been bolstered with the information that one or two areas have already been earmarked for the introduction of native wildflowers – this will be a smashing addition to the beehives, which are to be delivered in the springtime.

There are far too many environmental projects and agronomical initiatives to be included within this article, however the Warrington team seem to have been able to adjoin the American model of greenkeeping with the European method of environmental management quite easily and in my opinion it is to be admired, namely because the two do not normally go hand in hand. The crew, at first glance, appear to be a smoothly running machine with the ambition to better themselves at every opportunity, whereas the ecology of the golf course is amongst the best I have ever had the pleasure of visiting,

particularly since the majority of it has only been undertaken over the course of one year. It's great environmental and holistic work, which can be introduced to all golf courses across the UK.

Back to John and his trip to San Diego. He said: "I'm really pleased to have the chance to network with other like-minded professionals. I feel that America leads the way in agronomy and turf science and to be given the opportunity to bring back ideas to Warrington Golf Club is amazing".

I'm positive John, along with the remaining delegates, will be great ambassadors for the greenkeeping industry and will have a chance to swap sustainable ideas with their American counterparts – we're looking forward to hearing all about it!

Contact James at james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk





After the selections were announced the team joined up on WhatsApp to begin planning for the trip of a lifetime. Meeting for the first time at BTME this great bunch of lads started their journey and the friendships began.

Darren took control from the off, creating the Operation Shamu spreadsheet, named after the famous killer whale that was the star of the San Diego Zoo. Most early conversations centred on packing, the weather and if visiting Torrey Pines was possible!

Saturday

Delegates travelled from all over the UK using planes, trains and automobiles to get to Heathrow Terminal 5, meeting at 11am with bags packed and ready to go.

A windy, rainy day in London was left behind and 10 hours of solid networking helped to build new relationships. On arrival the team felt as if they had known each other for a lifetime. Arriving in San Diego to a pleasant evening temperature of 22°C, a quick room check-in and a change of clothes was required before gathering at the Glass Door restaurant for the first official meeting of the Class of 2016. From that moment on super spicy chicken wings became a must at every opportunity!

Sunday

After an early breakfast the delegates headed off to the Encinitas Ranch Golf Club for the annual Bernhards golf challenge. Handicaps were scrutinised on the Driving range and tee off was 12pm. The course superintendent Kent Graff came to welcome the group to the course. Clubs were hired and everyone headed off to the first tee where a small wager was made to keep the level of competition high. Prize winners were: "near-

The 2016 Delegation (l-r)
James Bledge, Shaun Anderson,
Simon Olver, Graeme Beatt,
Simon Torr, Simon Hart, John
McLoughlin, Darren Burton, Steve
Lloyd, Jamie Wade

**A diverse
group of
greenkeepers
from all
different
backgrounds
and abilities.**

**If you don't
enter you
cant win and
be part of the
Delegation
2017...**

est the pin " Simon Torr, Graeme Beatt and Tracey Maddison and longest drive was won by John McLoughlin. The overall winner was Simon Hart with Simon Torr in close second place. Then straight to the Gaslamp Quarter with the full Bernhards Team to watch the Broncos win Super Bowl 50.

Monday

An early shuttle ride to the San Diego Convention Centre to attend a full day of education in Advanced Stress Management Strategies for Cool Season Turf Grasses with Chris Carson and Bingru Huang, who is known as the worlds top plant physiologist. The lecture included in-depth investigation into plant cell autonomy and morphology. Looking at the impact of both environmental and biological pressures and how potential damage can be minimised though good proactive cultural practices. The delegation engaged in discussions throughout the day learning a great deal of transferable skills, which will help with the management of courses back at home. Managing cool season grasses in high temperatures is a million miles away from our work the majority of the time, however hearing first hand stories of interns syringing greens every 20 minutes for hours on end during the summer to cool the crown and prevent turf degradation was a real eye opener and something that will not be forgotten in a hurry.

Tuesday

An early start to attend a full day Gadgets and Gizmos seminar at Bonita Golf Course, investigating how to best use measurement technology. The day was presented by Dr Doug Karcher and Dr Mike Richardson.

Delegates were fortunate enough to use the technology on this fabulous, family owned golf course. The Seminar was a combination of class room presentation where the discussions were focused on the various tools available, the group then moved out on to the course to get some hands-on experience of using them in scientific investigations. The surfaces at Bonita were flawless and during a demonstration using the "Greens-tester" which measures the trueness of the putting green, scores were 10/10 from 12ft. To finish the day some time was spent looking at the use of phone apps in sports turf management, can you believe an iPhone can now double up as a Stimp meter. Shaun from the delegation used a modern free phone app to measure the exact area of one his greens back in the UK.

A bus journey back from the golf course to the Convention Centre to attend the Opening Session of the Golf Industry Show and then onto a reception hosted by Jacobson at the beach which included amazing food and drinks all themed around surfing, it included sandy beaches and surf demonstrations!

Wednesday

The day had arrived to attend the Golf Industry Show itself, all delegates were very excited after hearing about the sheer size of the exhibition.

We were not disappointed; vast halls filled with the latest machinery, equipment, fertilisers, chemicals, course furniture and so much more. The ten-strong delegation spent time throughout the day representing BIGGA on the stand, chatting to potential overseas members. The hot topic of the day was comparing the differences in greenkeeping techniques be-

tween the UK and America. There were many launches of fantastic new innovative machinery from the leading manufacturers, which will be making an appearance in the UK throughout 2016,

That evening delegates headed to the Bernhards drinks reception where mixing with turf professionals from premier golf facilities worldwide offered the opportunity of unrivalled networking. To finish the evening off everyone headed for a meal with the BIGGA staff at a traditional American-style restaurant.

Thursday

The second day of representation on the BIGGA stand at the GIS show. As per Wednesday the ten man delegation was divided up into groups of two or three, each helping to man the stand for two hours at a time. When delegates were not on the stand there was the opportunity to walk around the show again taking in everything that it had to offer. During the course of the day a number of superintendents visited the BIGGA stand to see how the group were finding the show and also to explain how much they had enjoyed BTME in the past when they had visited. Steve from the delegation had an interesting visit from Eric Lyons of the Turfgrass Institute at the University of Guelph in Ontario Canada, who is looking to set up opportunities for his students to come over to the UK to do internships. The University also offers a one-month intensive course for European students to attend at their Turfgrass Institute. Later that evening the Delegation were invited to attend an evening with Toro, which was another great opportunity for networking and gave us all a chance to reflect on the day while mixing with industry leaders.

Friday

A day everyone was looking forward to and the chance to get out on some golf courses and see how the course superintendents were managing their cool and warm season grasses that everyone had been hearing so much about. First on the list was Virginia Country Club, the whole team was blown away by how beautiful this complex was. On arrival there was an instant feeling of a high-end facility with not a blade of grass out of

place. After all jumping onto our buggies we were taken around the course by Superintendent Mike Carlson looking at his Bermuda/Rye fairways and his stunning Creeping Bent greens. After an amazing lunch and a good chat with Mike everyone moved on to the second course of the day. Lomas Santa Fe Country Club was a different beast to Virginia, there was definitely more emphasis on the mass market. Steve J. Burgraff, the superintendent, took us on the course and explained that they do over 60 thousand rounds per year, and they were working with pretty much pure Poa greens that were shaved down and lightning quick! After the trip around the course we were shown around their tennis courts, swimming pool and fitness centre. It was clear that the club were offering something quite special for all the family. Friday night was one of few nights where we could decide what we wanted to do for ourselves. We decided to go out for more team bonding at a local Mexican restaurant. Food and company were amazing.

Saturday

The group had been offered Saturday as a free day where everyone could go do some shopping or just explore what San Diego had to offer.... But that was not what the group had in mind. James Bledge had managed to touch base with Rich McIntosh, the 31 years old superintendent at Torrey Pines. The Bernhards team were also fantastic offering to give up their free time to transport the delegation on our little trip on a cool misty Saturday morning. Torrey Pines turned out to be the most stunning golf course with spectacular views (not including the nudist beach that the course overlooks!) Rich spent over three hours on his day off taking the convoy of golf buggies around both courses explaining how the North Course is going through an overhaul to bring it up to South Course standards. The quality of the course was clear to see and the thick kikuyu grass around the greens made everyone appreciate how tough the golf course must be to play. Time was counting down for us to get to the airport but we all managed to fit in a burger and some shopping to finish off a trip of a lifetime! What a week.

San Diego Delegation

A once in a life time experience

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2016 Delegates:

Shaun Anderson - *Greenkeeper, Piperdam Golf & Country Club*
 Graeme Beatt - *Course Manager, Royal Portrush Golf Club*
 James Bledge - *Course Manager, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club*
 Darren Burton - *Head Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club*
 Simon Hart - *Greenkeeper, JCB*
 Steve Lloyd - *Course Manager, Worcestershire Golf Club*
 John McLoughlin - *Course Manager, Warrington Golf Club*
 Simon Olver - *Course Manager, Whitley Bay Golf Club*
 Simon Torr - *First Assistant Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club*
 Jamie Wade - *Senior Greenkeeper, The Belfry*

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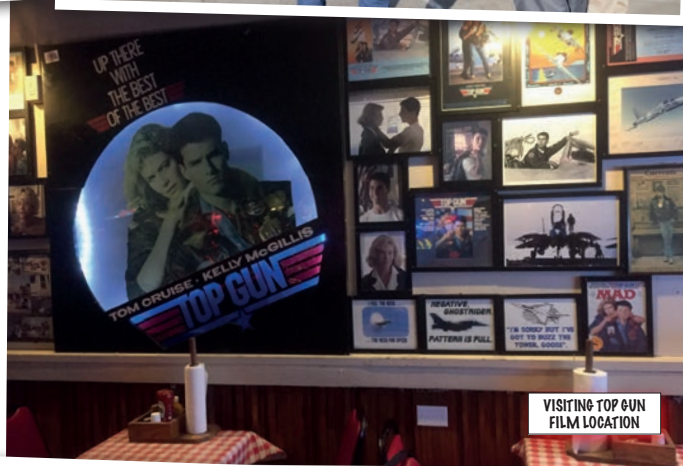
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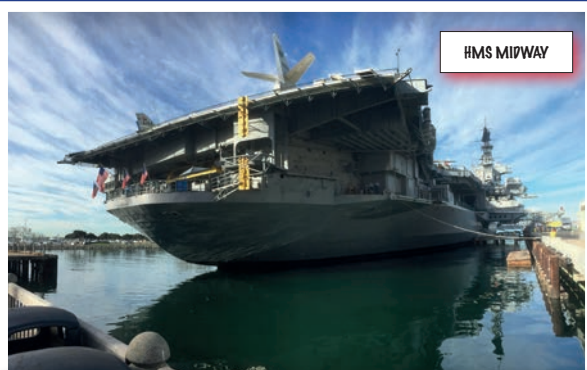
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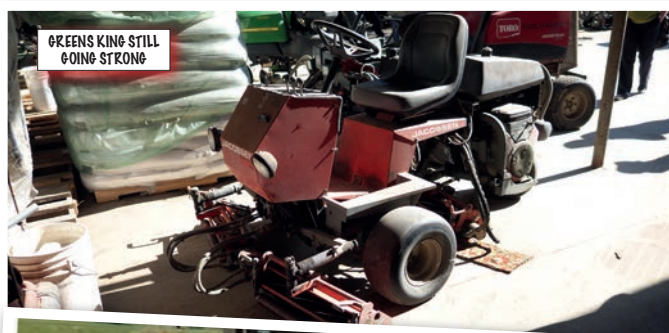
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REPRESENTING BIGGA

An interview with a Delegate

Darren Burton (Excel)

Tell us a little about yourself.

I started my career as an apprentice at North Foreland Golf Club and with continued determination and commitment I became Spray Technician within six years. I then moved onto my present course, Lydd Golf Club in December 2012.

Lydd GC is a small links-style club which has water on 14 holes. I have a small team of two and a testing annual budget. With limited resources the team and I have continuously improved quality and playability of the course and its facilities, particularly producing greens that exceed members and visitors expectations.

What made you apply for the delegation?

This was my second year of applying, after reading the previous years Delegation group articles in the GI magazine this was an aspiration that I had my heart set on. My first application was unsuccessful, but this gave me the drive and focus to work hard throughout the ensuing season and apply again the following year. I wanted to broaden my knowledge base and see where I fitted in within the industry, while also intrigued to see if a head greenkeeper from a small club could bring ideas and opinions to a group of industry professionals.



Explain your most memorable moment of the trip.

For me, it was being accepted into the group. After seeing such a broad group of individuals selected for the Delegation, I feared that my experiences at a less established club would seem less appealing to others but was completely wrong.

Having created a 'Travel Checklist' spreadsheet on our WhatsApp group the Sunday before.

There was a lot of banter between us all, from which I ended up with the nickname 'Excel'. From that moment on, the group gladly gave me any extra work whilst on our trip. In all honestly I enjoyed the challenge and I feel I can safely say on behalf of the entire group that the week ran better than we ever could have imagined.

How do you feel being part of the delegation will help your career development?

The trip has allowed me to realise that I can mix with some of the best, up and coming professionals in the

country. Although I currently manage a small golf club, I have been given the belief and confidence to continue learning, improving, and challenging myself in order to take the next step towards a more high profile position.

The confidence of having the backing and support of my fellow Delegates will be something I will cherish dearly for the rest of my career.

I hope in the future that I can share my experiences in order to inspire others to apply for such a life changing opportunity.

Any advice to anyone considering applying to be a Delegate in 2017?

What are you waiting for? No matter the size of your club or position held, get your application in!!!!

The trip to the USA and GIS is such an awesome experience and when you add it all together with a fantastic group of individuals, you end up coming home with a group of friends and memories that will last forever.



Machrihanish dunes

Revolution: Simon Freeman, Head Greenkeeper at Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club, provides an end user's experience

It's all very well, isn't it, reading the marketing blurb from a manufacturer or a distributor about the latest new product? Eventually though we all get swamped with so much of this information that we may occasionally miss out on a gem of a product that could help us accelerate the progress we are trying to make.

I will freely admit that I am painfully reticent to ever jump on any bandwagon, but I believe this reserved attitude has helped me over the years to produce a consistent product. I am aware though that turf conditions on my golf course are never going to progress at a reasonable pace unless I myself take on a more progressive attitude. So when the benefits of Revolution were explained to me, I decided to take a chance, give it a year and see how I got on. I was introduced to Revolution after my first season at Machrihanish Dunes during which I had never felt totally in control of water usage.

Here is how Graham O'Connor of Farmura and Mike



Dooner of Thorntrees Amenity sold me on the science of Revolution:

1) Revolution helps water attach to and coat individual soil and sand particles, rather than suspending water throughout the upper rootzone. Not only does this balance air to water ratios in the rootzone but it also helps excess water move through the profile, allowing for a naturally more aerated rootzone in which soil bacteria and microbes can flourish rather than being mercilessly drowned.

2) Because of the above mode of action, Revolution does not hold as much water in the upper rootzone as would some water retention products. It is difficult to accurately gauge figures (especially if you are like me and shy away from gadgets), but I am told that a rootzone managed with a standard Revolution program will contain around 22% water, whereas a rootzone treated with a typical matrix wetting agent could potentially hold as much as between 30% and a truly frightening 60% of wa-

ter. I immediately figured that this reduction in the percentage of water held at field capacity would provide me with three things: increased firmness of surface, the potential to increase the percentage of perennial plants in my greens and, probably most importantly, consistency of surface regardless of weather conditions.

3) Revolution has a proven track record of reducing the symptoms of dry patch and reducing the threat of hydrophobic conditions that can be brought on quickly by maintaining compacted surfaces with water levels that regularly fall below field capacity for sustained periods of time.

My program started with an application of Aquatrols Aqueduct, a blend of straight and reverse block polymers designed to move water downwards through the profile and reduce the effects of localised dry patch. The battering that the greens at Machrihanish Dunes regularly take from Winter storms results in an inevitable build-up of salt and undesirable minerals which





the Aqueduct helped to send to the subsoil. This flush-out allowed us a clean slate upon which to apply our first application of Revolution during the second week in April. We continued thereafter to apply 27.5 litres in monthly doses to our 1.5 hectares of greens (19 litres per hectare).

So what did I make of it

then? I have to admit that I was initially taken aback by how quickly the greens dried out, despite experiencing relatively wet weather conditions. Given my previous negative experiences of hydrophobic conditions, I was sceptical about how well my mixed swards of fescue, bent and poa annua would survive in the light,



sandy rootzones at Machrihanish Dunes with a reduced percentage of water at their disposal. In short, I wondered whether I was just making life unnecessarily hard for my greens and for myself.

As the weeks and months rolled on though, I conversely noted just how well Revolution



Machrihanish Dunes on a calm day!

helped irrigation and rainwater return the rootzone to the adjusted field capacity, and how easy it was, therefore, for me to control the percentage of water in my rootzone. Having a window of just around 12% (as opposed to between 20% and 50% using the products I mentioned earlier) between field capacity and what is generally considered to be dangerously parched ensures a massively improved level of consistency from day to day, despite the famously unpredictable Scottish weather.

I quickly gained a new level of confidence, heeding the instruction from Aquatrols that I should allow water levels to drop dramatically before returning them to field capacity (i.e. irrigating heavily every 3-4 days during dry spells, rather than applying smaller amounts of water on a more regular basis). This practice does of course mimic nature more accurately and surely encourages the potential for perennial plants to thrive in preference to shallow-rooted, easily stressed poa annua.

I feel that using Revolution last season helped me to produce what golfers would refer to as "links conditions" on a more regular basis. I had many people comment on the improvement in consistency and firmness, despite suffering from the wettest Summer we have had for many years. Now that the season is over, I can see that we have gained an improved development in rootmass, and the percentage of fescue and bent have increased across the board despite us changing little else in our overall program and occasionally mowing at what could only be termed as "adventurous" heights of cut. I would have no hesitation in saying that our season-long dalliance with Revolution has been a complete success and it is a product that I will certainly be using again in 2016.

Despite all this good news one thing always niggled me, and that was this: because my greens reached field capacity at a much lower percentage of water than they did previously, they did tend to dry out more quickly and inevitably that resulted in us leaning on our irrigation system a bit more during spells of decent weather.



er. Having developed a level of caution during my previous employment (overseeing the maintenance of a links course that did not have any irrigation at all), I was apprehensive about what would happen if my system were to suffer a malfunction during a period of dry weather while we were tied into a Revolution program. Surely the resulting drought would be exacerbated due to there being less water held in the rootzone?

For me, that was a bit too much like playing with fire, so I took my concern to Graham O'Connor at Farmura. The simple answer was this: keep an application of a reverse block polymer (Primer Select) on your shelf as a "get out of jail free" card! We all watch the weather avidly these days, so we all know when a prolonged period of drought is likely to affect our ability to stay in control of a surface which is being maintained at a field capacity as low as 22%. Having a product in stock that gives us the ability to earn "breathing space" during dry spells massively improved our level of confidence in a product that ticks all of the other boxes. Revolution has been one of my best discoveries in years, so I'm glad that on this occasion I actually listened instead of hiding behind my blinkers!

Post Script

We have recently endured

Machrihanish Dunes
3rd green



one of the wettest Novembers on record, and during this period I have for the first time ever (I told you already that I was resistant to change!) taken some soil moisture readings. It is interesting to note that the Machrihanish Dunes green that has the leanest rootzone averages around 20% volumetric water content, while the one with the highest level of organic matter averages around 24%. Considering it is now 3 months since my last application of Revolution, I would have thought that the rootzones would by now have returned to their natural level of soil retention. And given the recent weather, it is safe to say that they were operating pretty close to field capacity at the time the readings were taken. Given that field capacity will be held at around 22% during a regularly adhered-to Revolution program, does that mean that this product is far more suited to correct maintenance of a typical links medium than a product which retains a far greater percentage of water in the upper rootzone? Am I therefore more likely to achieve my goal of producing "links conditions" by using a product that replicates nature's own field capacity levels? The truth is, I don't know; it's just a theory. If we are going to keep progressing we've got to keep on coming up with those, haven't we!!

View from behind Machrihanish
Dunes 18th green



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Why water safety management is crucial

The Royal Life Saving Society's (RLSS UK) Head of Water Safety Management, Dr Cliff Nelson, talks about the dangers of water around a golf course

Many water features such as ponds, lakes, streams and rivers are often part of what make golf courses pleasant places to be. But as well as being lovely to look at, water environments can present a genuine health and safety risk. We are not talking 'health and safety gone mad', rather we are recognising that water and its local surroundings can be hazardous and that employees, members and visitors can come to harm as the result of being uninformed of the dangers when near water.

If you have just rolled your eyes and thought – 'yep, I know that – water is dangerous' then it may be worth taking a minute to consider the following question – what is the most likely cause of death as a result of falling into a water feature? It's obvious, isn't it – drowning. However, it's not quite as simple as that – a likely cause of a person coming to extreme harm or death in water is also hypothermia. This will eventually result in



drowning because of the inability to function and escape from the water.

We need to shift our focus away from the actual water, and concentrate on the water features. Are the sides steep? Is there a lip, which could prevent someone from climbing out? What is the depth immediately around the edge? How can someone raise the alarm if someone gets into difficulty? More critically – how can we perhaps adapt the water space so that



it fulfils its function as a feature or wildlife haven but helps prevent people coming into danger?

There is a need to ensure that safety management systems are put in place to protect anyone who will come in close proximity to the water margins on our golf courses. In addition, it is important that the golf industry meets its statutory obligations in the provision of appropriate risk assessments and training.

For many people this area of risk may sit under a vague generic heading of 'Life-saving' - what exactly does that mean in the context of Occupational Water Safety? RLSS UK, the drowning prevention charity, aims to clarify what employers need to do by using the term Occupational Water Safety and bringing water safety into mainstream health and safety. Our aim is to ensure that employers understand Occupational Wa-

ter Safety in the same way they might understand Manual Handling, First Aid and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health and prevent anyone who works near water losing their life.

In very basic terms this means understanding exactly how harm might occur, knowing what constitutes a water-based hazard and knowing what to do about it. In the case of someone working near a waters edge this might include wearing

a lifejacket. It could well involve working in conjunction with a Banksman, it may involve specific tasks at specific times of day, or in specific seasons. It might involve changing mowing patterns so that machines are working around the perimeter rather than coming straight at a water fea-

ture and turning right on the edge.

These controls themselves may become hazardous if, for example, a lifejacket wearer might not have sufficient knowledge to use the equipment properly, lifebelts and ropes may be vandalised- there are documented examples of vandalised equipment

costing lives.

RLSS UK can provide support and help develop water safety policies and deliver training. If this is of any interest to you or you need support and advice managing water spaces around your golf course please contact us on 01789 774490 or visit our website at www.rlss.org.uk.



Diving safety



On 11 February 29 year old male died following an incident at a golf course in the Newport area of South Wales.

Newport City Council, Gwent Police and the Health and Safety Executive are currently working together to investigate the circumstances surrounding his death. At the time of the incident, the deceased was collecting golf balls from a lake on the course using diving equipment.

If you have employees or contractors carrying out diving at your golf course then the Diving at Work Reg-

ulations 1997 are likely to apply. Diving in a pond or lake to collect golf balls will come under the Inland/inshore ACOP. You will need to notify HSE that you are a dive contractor, have an adequate team size and ensure that the divers and supervisor have the appropriate diving qualification and equipment. More detailed information can be found on the HSE website.

If you require any further information surrounding your duties under this legislation then please contact either your local Environ-

mental Health Department or the Health and Safety Executive Dive Group for specific diving at work information.

Furthermore if you have been contacted by a company known as 'Boss Golf Balls' offering their services to your course could you please contact Gwent police on 101 quoting reference 197 - 11/02/16. Alternatively please contact David Trew at David.Trew@gwent.pnn.police.uk or Detective Inspector Steven Maloney at steven.maloney@gwent.pnn.police.uk

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The need to up our game

The Amenity Forum, of which BIGGA is a member, is the voluntary initiative for our sector promoting best practice in all aspects of weed, pest and disease control. The term Amenity covers activity across a wide range of commercial, industrial, public, leisure, sport and recreational areas and, very importantly, includes golf and greenkeeping. All such activity is very public facing and both important and essential. This article, written by the Forum Chairman, John Moverley, introduces the work of the Forum and introduces an initiative that has strong relevance to the work of greenkeepers. Further articles will focus on specific areas of interest and relevance over the coming months

The Role of the Forum

The Amenity Forum currently has the support of over 60 organisations, including BIGGA, representing all aspects of the amenity sector. As such, they demonstrate their commitment to improving standards and ensuring we respond to policy change and all it requires from us. We need even more to join us but have made a very good start. The UK government, unlike in some other European countries, puts great emphasis on voluntary action by the sector itself rather than having change imposed. However, it is important that we deliver on this. Better to stay in control as much as possible rather than the alternative. We need everyone in our important and essential sector to support the work of the Forum and giving a unified voice on all matters concerning weed, pest and disease control and demonstrating to government and all those implementing change that we can respond and work together.

In recent months, the Forum has adopted its new strategic plan for the next four years. This seeks to build on our success but also develop it further. We are a lean and mean organisation determined to keep our costs as low as we can and maximise the benefits. We rely on voluntary input in many areas but we are making a real difference. I firmly believe in the work of our Forum and our sector. Everyone should take pride in what they do and achieve. Together we can face the changes and control them as much as possible; divided we cannot do so.

The times they are a'changing

The key driver for change in recent years has been the implementation of two European Directives, Sustainable Use (SUD) and Water Framework (WFD). These have been implemented in each European state and, in the UK, they are encompassed in a National Action Plan. The UK approach has been to put emphasis on a voluntary ap-

proach, looking to the Amenity Forum along with all in the sector to achieve the targets set and increase standards. However, there are also some legal changes to which everyone must conform. Three key elements of legal change are as follows:

- It was required from November 2015 that all users of pesticides have recognised training and certification. There are no longer so-called grandfather rights. Operating without such certification is breaking the law.

- Equally, it is now a requirement that anyone purchasing pesticides must ensure that the end user holds a certificate. The legal responsibility is on the purchaser. Also the distributor must have a qualified adviser on hand.

- Any sprayer which requires the operator to be mounted on it, or on equipment pulling it, must have a nationally recognised test certificate by November 2016. The only exception is equipment less than 5 years



old which will need to be tested on its fifth anniversary. Hand-held equipment does not need a test as above but there must be a record kept demonstrating regular inspection and maintenance.

- Storage of pesticides requires a certificated store manager for any significant quantity held.

The harder elements

As said, much of the remainder relies on voluntary initiative although implementation of the National Action Plan is to be closely monitored and, if we do not respond, more legal stuff may follow. With your help we can avoid that. There are three key elements worthy of highlighting in this section:

- Everyone using, causing or permitting use of pesticides and/or handling and storing, must demonstrate due diligence in taking all reasonable precautions and using all available guidance, a good source of which can be found at www.amenityforum.co.uk

- The targets for water quality are very testing and, even the tiniest amount of chemical which is allowed into water courses, can create penalty and may well be a causal factor in it being withdrawn. You cannot be too careful when close to water.

- A policy priority is for all to adopt an integrated approach to weed, pest and disease control (IPM). In practical terms, this means that in planning a control programme, you consider the level of control required for specific areas and circumstances and consider all options available to achieve the required outcome efficiently, effectively & economically. It does not mean that you should not use chemicals but that you consider all alternatives and create conditions to minimise use.

Moving Forward

There have also been a number of news stories affecting the sector of late and will no doubt continue. These include reports of a possible carcinogenic link to glyphosate. Our pleas would be that such reports are based upon proper science and evidence and not just reviews of a wide range of work on the topic with no weighting

given to whether it is good or bad research. All it does is create alarm. Nobody involved in weed, pest and disease control would wish to use something that is dangerous to health but we need to deal with facts and proper process. Ending up with unsafe and unhealthy amenity areas because of a lack of ways to control could pose much greater risks to human health. Readers will also be aware of the withdrawal of chlorpyrifos for amenity use and soon in agriculture. The challenge here is how, without the right aids, you can control pests and continue to provide the required standard of golf greens and the like. The Forum is working with all involved on a solution to this critical issue for greenkeepers.

The Forum has also recently launched a communication initiative seeking to tell the public more about what we do, disseminate information within the sector in a more accessible manner and to further professionalise our industry's management capability. BIGGA is a key and valued supporter in this initiative, with Jim Croxton a member of the implementation group and taking a leading role. We seek to present a unified approach at times of real change and challenge.

Key Objectives of the Communication Project

The three core aims of the communication project are:

- Create a more professional image for the sector, increasing understanding of the need for an integrated approach to weed, pest and

disease control amongst the wider public as well as local authorities, utilities, facilities managers, sports owners and the like

- Further penetration of the core messages of the Amenity Forum across all organisations in the sector – both providers and specifiers.

- Creating further improved mechanisms within the Forum to deal with issues, present proper arguments, build cases for argument, manage and increase media coverage and lobby/ influence as required.

This will run alongside our normal activity. We want to ensure everyone understands why weed, pest and disease control is both so important and essential and the real contribution it makes in social, economic and environmental terms. We want the sector as a whole to be proud of what it does and yes, ask them to shout about it far more.

Conclusion

My key hope going forward is that more and more people will recognise the real importance of amenity horticulture in our lives, and its impact, not least in producing the quality of golf greens for which the UK is well known. We look to do this with your support and, with even closer collaboration with organisations such as BIGGA, we hope to achieve it. Change is inevitable but how we respond is so important. If you have not already, take a look at our website and get involved and help all in the sector up our game and demonstrate that we are important and indeed essential.

WHAT ARE AMENITY AREAS?



Daddy long legs

stride into North American turf

By Dr Terry Mabbett

United Kingdom (UK) continues to be invaded by alien insect pests but the traffic is by no means all one way. European craneflies as some of our most endearing and delicate insects and affectionately called ‘Daddy Longlegs’, but with a voracious grass eating larval stage called the leatherjacket, continue to establish in turf across North America with apparently devastating results.

Reports from both Canada and USA suggest that damage currently caused by European craneflies is even worse than

traditionally recorded and experienced by UK greenkeepers.

Two species, *Tipula paludosa* and *Tipula oleraceae*, called The European cranefly and the marsh or giant common cranefly, respectively, and native to North West Europe, are the culprits currently chewing their way through North American turf grass roots. First found on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia in 1955, *T. paludosa* has since become a serious insect pest of turf in other parts of Canada, including British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. The pest has also invaded turf across the U.S.

Main image: Adult craneflies are delicate, short-lived insects but the larval (leatherjacket) stage is a voracious feeder on turf grass (Picture courtesy Bayer Environmental Science)

Pacific North West, in Washington State since the 1970's having since spread to Oregon, and also arriving in upper New York State in the eastern United States.

Though a later entrant into North America *T. oleraceae* had ‘made up for lost time’, spreading down the Pacific North West from British Columbia in Canada through Washington State and into Northern California. On the other side of the continent *T. oleraceae* is already established in large parts of New York, Ohio and Michigan. Both species are rapidly becoming one of North



greenkeepers generally use more formalised and sophisticated pest monitoring methods to gauge the size and extent of leatherjacket infestations as well as having legal access to a wide range of chemical insecticides to deal with these pests.

This contrasts starkly with the UK where chlorpyrifos the only sprayable liquid chemical insecticide for leatherjacket control in managed turf has already been withdrawn. 2016 is the last year in which imidacloprid, as the granular turf product Merit Turf, can be applied, with end users permitted to use the product up to the end of the 2016 season. UK greenkeepers who are now at the mercy of leatherjackets and the collateral turf damage caused by wild mammalian and avian predators foraging for the larvae are left with biological control using entomopathogenic nematodes and essentially on a 'wing and a prayer'.

European Craneflies in North America

In North America all turf grasses are regarded as susceptible to leatherjacket damage although ryegrasses are considered to be a less favoured host for feeding leatherjacket larvae. Be that as it may, pest incidence is influenced more by the grass host plant species than the physical and biological conditions prevailing in the turf habitat.

Overall pest success of these *Tipula* species is dependent on moist soil conditions while their survival is favoured by mild winters and cool, wet summers with a minimum annual rainfall of 600mm. Pest incidence in managed turf is aggravated by the accumulation of thatch and poor drainage.

T. paludosa completes one generation per year and *T. oleracea* two. Adults emerge from the pupal stage over a period of several weeks at any one site during early spring for *T. oleracea* and late July to September for both species.

Adult female craneflies mate almost immediately after emergence and lay most of their eggs within the first day (*T. oleracea*) or the first 3-4 days (*T. paludosa*) during what are brief reproductive lives. Gravid (egg bearing) female *T. paludosa* are exceptionally poor fliers



Leatherjacket is a most appropriate name for the crane fly larva with its tough and greasy looking skin (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

America's most significant and damaging insect pests of professional turf.

North American description of the biology of craneflies 'rings bells' with how they behave as economic insect pests of turf in the UK, although *T. oleracea* completes two generations per year compared to the single generation typically recorded in the United Kingdom.

That said the two single biggest and glaring differences observed either side of the North Atlantic Ocean relate to leatherjacket management and control. North American



and consequently lay all their eggs in a single batch, while the relatively more mobile female *T. oleracea* craneflies oviposit their eggs in multiple batches.

Gravid females of both species oviposit up to 300 black eggs at or near the soil surface. The eggs are susceptible to drought and require wet conditions for survival and successful hatching of the larvae within one week or two weeks for, respectively, *T. oleracea* and *T. paludosa*.

Larvae grow and develop through four instar stages and like the eggs require moist conditions for successful completion of the larval period through to pupation. Actively feeding larvae typically inhabit the topmost 3 cm of the soil where they feed on the root hairs, roots and crowns of the grass plant hosts. Larger larvae may actually emerge from the soil and reside in the thatch from where they forage and feed on grass stems and leaves.

T. paludosa larvae will usually be into the third instar stage before low temperature conditions force them to overwinter, while *T. oleracea* larvae will have typically attained the fourth instar stage by the time overwintering beckons.

Most of the damage caused by *T. paludosa* is attributed to the rapidly growing fourth instar stage larvae during spring. On reaching maximum size in mid-June these fourth instar larvae move 3-5 cm down into the soil where they will remain in a non-feeding inactive state (aestivation stage) until pupation. This stage ends when the pupae 'wiggle' to the soil surface so that the delicate adult craneflies can emerge from the pupal casing. *T. oleracea*, unlike *T. paludosa*, does not have a long aestivation stage, the adults emerging in spring with

North American greenkeepers conduct formalised Pest Monitoring based on counts of larvae extracted from the soil and turf by core sampling (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

A thinned-out and sparse grass sward and typical symptom of the damage caused by leatherjacket feeding on the root systems of managed turf (Picture courtesy Headland Amenity)



a second generation emerging in 'the fall' (autumn).

The empty pupal cases (called exuviae) look like small grey-black twigs protruding from the turf easily visible on close-cut turf on greens, tees and even fairways.

Impact and damage

Leatherjacket impact in New York State takes the form of root feeding injury to cause scalping damage on greens and often accompanied by severe collateral damage caused by skunks foraging for the larvae. As in the UK, birds and especially corvids are the major predators of leatherjackets, but they simultaneously cause significant pecking hole damage to high maintenance turf including golf greens.

Chlorotic (yellowing) spots and bare patches which disrupts water and nutrient uptake, together with foliar feeding on the crowns and leaf blades of individual grass plants, are key symptoms of leatherjacket activity and damage to turf.

Damage caused by *T. paludosa* feeding usually shows in early to mid-May coinciding with the voracious feeding by large larvae as they approach the end of their development. Timing of peak damage by *T. oleracea* is less clear although high levels of damage on golf

greens early in the year in New York State was linked to larvae which had taken refuge in aeration holes during the winter or in early spring. Daniel C. Peck of Cornell University (New York) and expert on European cranefly in North America describes how an area about the size of 'a quarter' (2.5 cm diameter) was scalped around the aeration holes.

Pest monitoring

Leatherjacket infestations on greens and tees can be monitored by assessing the density of empty pupal cases which protrude above the close mown turf and which are sufficiently visible to be counted. Alternatively the poorly mobile adults can be collected and counted using sweep nets across the turf surface. Both methods provide the greenkeeper with a good estimate of how many eggs have been or will be laid in the vicinity by the poorly mobile adult craneflies.

Sampling soil cores and counting leatherjacket larvae allows accurate assessment of ongoing infestations. Core samples taken by a 'cup cutter' are ripped apart to search for the larvae. Scrutiny of the soil and turf core should take place both from the soil up to the base of the roots and from the grass layer because larvae can be concealed in the upper



Collateral damage caused by birds particularly corvids (those of the crow family) is a common feature of leatherjacket infestations of turf both in North America and the UK (Picture courtesy Chris Humphrey)



layer of thatch.

Integrated pest management

Control is directed against the larva stage because adults do not feed, are short-lived and therefore difficult to target. North American greenkeepers have adopted an integrated pest management package combining cultural, biological and chemical control methods.

First and foremost golf course management should exploit the cranefly's inability to cope with dry conditions. Meticulous management of soil moisture is crucial for good cultural control of leatherjackets. Careful manipulation of irrigation timing and frequency, especially during the oviposition (egg laying period;

proactive measures to improve the drainage of chronically infested areas; and allowing the soil to dry in the fall (autumn) by avoiding irrigation at this time should be employed.

Maintaining a vigorous grass sward imparts higher tolerance and resilience to leatherjacket infestation and feeding while raking up larvae at night when they emerge is a useful management technique. Another recommendation is to soak the green and cover with a tarpaulin. The larvae, which move to the surface to escape the excess moisture, are trapped underneath the sheet from where they can be removed and disposed of.

Integrated pest management is just what the name suggests. That is the dynamic use of all preventative and control techniques including the application of insecticide which is regarded as essential in North America. The range of chemical pesticides approved for use against leatherjackets in managed turf will differ according to country and state/province. Nevertheless North American greenkeepers have a relatively wide choice in contrast to their counterparts in the UK who now have no choice at all.

Insecticides registered for use on turf against leatherjackets in various parts of North America include carbaryl (carbamate) chlorpyrifos (organophosphate) imidacloprid and clothianidin (neonicotinoid) and bifenthrin and lambda-cyhalothrin (synthetic pyrethroid). Suggested economic thresholds for spray application can vary from 25-50 to 75-125 leatherjacket larvae/square foot of turf for different parts of North America.

Top left:
Spraying with insecticide is considered to be an essential part of the Integrated Pest Management programme conducted against leatherjackets in North American turf (Picture courtesy Micron Sprayers)

Top right:
In North America the empty pupal cases protrude above close mown turf and are therefore sufficiently visible to count for Pest Monitoring purposes (Picture courtesy Syngenta)

The story around insecticides for leatherjacket control in UK is 'and then there were none' with chlorpyrifos and imidacloprid being recently withdrawn in quick succession.

The only proactive control method left for UK greenkeepers is biological by spraying liquid suspensions of entomopathogenic (parasitic) nematodes. Biological control agents including entomopathogenic nematodes (e.g. *Steinernema carpocapsae*, *Steinernema feltiae* and *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*) and entomopathogenic fungi (mycoinsecticides) such as *Beauveria bassiana* are widely used in North America.

The situation with European Craneflies in North America where damage caused to managed turf appears to be more severe than that caused in their native European (including the UK) range follows a general pattern shown by insects outside of their native natural distribution and range. One possible reason for this pattern is that the natural enemies which efficiently manage cranefly populations in Europe are absent from North America.



Section Notes

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

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Events Coming Up

CENTRAL

If you didn't manage to get to the Scottish Conference then why don't you come along to the Spring Outing on Wednesday 27th April at Aberdour Golf Club and.... if you can't manage that well there is still just enough time to get your name in for the Pairs Competition. Entries are limited to 20 teams which give 4 leagues of 5 teams.

If you didn't receive the flyer through email, get in touch with Gordon gmoir@standrews.com

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

EAST

We have a visit to Levenseat Quarry arranged, supported by Aitkens, on the 17th March, contact Scott

Corrigan for full details. On May 4th we have a Demo Day at Kingsacre Golf Club with John Deere, courtesy of Thomas Sherriff and further demos from Hugh King Sands, Rigby Taylor and Charterhouse. Eyes peeled for further details! Our Spring meeting will be held on April 21st at Craigielaw, full details to follow.

NORTH

Our spring outing is in Tain on Thursday the 21st of April. The cost of the day is £25 and £10 for apprentices. As it is a long journey from the Aberdeen area you should speak to your neighbouring greenkeepers as you may be able to car share and help keep your costs down. We also look forward to seeing more of our members from the northern area of our section at Tain for which we are sure will be a great day out.

Finally tickets for the 200 club are now available at a cost of £7 a ticket.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

The Spring Golf Outing will be held at Loudoun Golf Club on the 10th May. I'd like to thank Graeme King from Hugh King in advance for agreeing to present at the Spring Outing. Please get in touch if you wish to attend.

News

EAST

Ryan Beck is now on the East Section committee and will be a helpful addition and useful channels for news and information.

Good luck to Stephen Smail on his move from Haddington Golf Club to Peterborough Milton Golf Club.

It was sad to hear of another course closure (hopefully temporary) in the East of Scotland section area, we hope everyone affected at Whitekirk Golf Club find suitable positions.

Congratulations to Stuart Ferguson on receiving his CPD milestone certificate at BTME (picture attached). It was great to see Jimmy Neilson back in action in Harrogate after a recent illness.

On the East Coast the weather has been bad, but not quite so bad as elsewhere, even then we have had 75% of our annual rainfall in 3months!

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

Facebook; BIGGA Scottish East

Twitter; BIGGA_ES

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

NORTH

As the start of the season is rapidly approaching I hope



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(+ Delivery and VAT)



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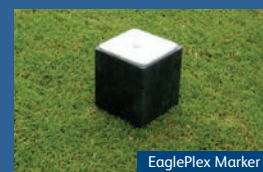
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we are going to get a good dry spring this year. Hopefully everyone has got their winter projects completed and all the clubs which suffered from the winter storms are recovering well and are ready for a busy season ahead.

The north section members who were down at BTME have reported back that the show was very well supported over the 3 days and the seminars they attended were very worthwhile and informative.

As a section we are trying to make ourselves more streamlined and reduce our carbon footprint. To do this we will be aiming to have the majority of our correspondence sent by email and the north section Facebook page. By the end of the year we want to do away with sending out letters and entry forms by mail and just use the afore mentioned methods. The email address for the section is bigganorthsection@outlook.com

If you or any of your colleagues have any information or photos please use the above email address to inform us. Could you also please take this opportunity to update your email address.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND

2016's golf season is almost upon us, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a successful season.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Scottish Region Conference, their efforts are much appreciated!

And finally, thank you to Bob Taylor and Sophie Vukelic from STRI for providing a fantastic "Integrating Ecology & Environment into the Business" event at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Great presentations from David Cole and Darran Marshall who along with Bob and Sophie led the day. I'd also like to thank Helen Waite STRI and Gerry Bruen, West Section's Education Officer for their assistance with organising the day. These events take a lot of behind the scenes efforts from marketing, food & beverage requirements through to delivering on the day, and everyone has their part to play, so a huge thank you

to all who are involved in event organising through-out the country and to all who spare the time to attend.

Happy Easter Folks!

NORTHERN IRELAND

BIGGA Northern Ireland would like to wish Chris McArthur all the best as his days at Portstewart come to a close. As of next month he will be travelling to the States to work in Minnesota for a year or so. Good luck Chris, keep in touch and enjoy the experience.

Graeme Beatt of Royal Portrush has just returned from the Golf Industry Show in San Diego courtesy of Bernhard and Co and BIGGA. Full details of the trip can be found within this months GI, but we're hoping Graeme will write a few words for the section in next months Around the Green.

As Chris is moving to pastures new BIGGA Northern Ireland are looking for a volunteer to write a few words every month in Around the Green in GI, if anybody is interested please contact John Young johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or Tracey Maddison at traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk for more information or reply to Tracey's email!



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

CLEVELAND

Daz and Ally's Quiz Night at Tyneside Golf Club is on Wednesday, 9th March 2016 from 7.30pm with the legendary pie and pea supper.

NORTH EAST

The spring meeting will be held on the Goswick Links on Wednesday 20th April, first tee off 10am. I'm sure this event will be popular given the location so make sure you book either with Glen Baxter on 07717 455409 or David Thompson, who's details can be found on the North East Section Facebook page.

NORTHERN

The next event will be the Spring Golf Competition.

NORTH WALES

Thursday, 28th April - Spring Golf Competition at Maesdu (Llandudno) Golf Club.

TBC - North West vs NORTH WALES Cricket Match at Ashley Cricket Club.

Thursday, 8th September - Autumn Golf Competition at Leasowe Golf Club.

TBC - NORTH WALES vs South Wales Golf Match at Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club.

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

NORTH WEST

UPDATE, DATE CHANGE

The Spring Tournament will be at High Legh Park G.C on the April 21st.

Bacon roll and coffee from 09:30

First Tee 11:12

2 course Meal 16:30

Nearest the pin and longest drive.

Please contact Dave Weir, 07774999230

or email d.weir@rigbytaylor.com

The Northwest Knock-Out will be returning this year, as ever keep updated by tuning in to our Twitter and Facebook pages.

SHEFFIELD

There will be a free seminar at The Phoenix on Tuesday, 5th April for all greenkeepers on the New Spraying Legislation from November 2016, Chemical Tank Mixing, Calibration and Nozzle Technology with spraying demonstrations. A representative from Goole Training offering training services and a representative from BIGGA discussing membership benefits will be available to answer any questions. The day is being offered free of charge, for catering purposes can people please book their place by simply emailing their names to phoenixheadgroundsman@gmail.com

News

CLEVELAND

Some fantastic news for the Cleveland section and the Northern region as a whole, which was well represented in the three categories at the STRI Golf Environment Awards for 2016; Richmond Golf Club are currently celebrating the fantastic work carried out by its Head Greenkeeper Anthony McGeough and the green keeping team Iain Leversuch and James Tock for all their hard work in helping to achieve the award for 'Outstanding Environmental Project 2016'.

The STRI Golf Environment Awards highlight the UK's best conservational projects being developed and managed by golf courses and reward the individuals that are making real improvements to their local environment and quality of life for the future.

I find that greenkeepers tend to be a little too modest and we often think we aren't doing anything special but in reality there is a lot of good things going on at a lot of golf clubs. We are just sometimes embarrassed to show it off. I think I fall into that bracket but with a little encouragement I entered the living wall into the competition and it paid off. The club have a massive advertising tool and the members have something to be proud of.

The winners also get an amazing trip to Ria Formosa in Portugal to visit some of the world's leading golf facilities and sites of specific ecological interest.

As a club we have now started to look at all our renovation work as an opportunity to further enhance the good environmental work we have started with the living wall. In the Spring we will be pushing our newly written environmental policy written by Chris Yates, our volunteer from the On Course Foundation, which will hopefully start to involve the local community.

It's great to see so many pictures of winter project work on the Facebook page. South Shields and Castle Eden to name a few. Dan Egans and Phil Hargeaves progress reports on the new tees at their respective clubs have been

great.

To finish up we are looking for a venue for the 2016 Spring and Autumn Tournaments. hopefully this will be sorted out before this goes to press but if anyone fancies putting forward their club can you let either myself on amcgeough@aol.com , Ian Pemberton on 07791695768, Alistair Whitby on 079714971052 or via the Cleveland section Facebook.

NORTH EAST

We had an amazing response to the mid-winter photograph competition with some great pictures. Well done to Grant Burton who wins the £30.

What a fantastic turn out to the Machinery Workshop held at the Greenlay premises in Cramlington, many thanks to Greenlay for hosting and demonstrating and to Bernhards for presenting and demonstrating at the event. The day was enjoyed by all who attended.

If any members would like to see news in this section please text any items either to Glen Baxter on 07717455409 or the North East section BAT phone on 07860373627, any news is welcome.

NORTHERN

Hope everyone enjoyed BTME, making use of the wide range of seminars and workshops that were organised covering an extensive range of topics. I attended a few seminars myself and thoroughly enjoyed them. It was great to bump into a few old friends, "bump" probably being a more appropriate word as the day/night progressed!!

Hopefully we have now finally seen the last of the storms, we have "Imogen" at the time of writing! Conditions have been cruel to say the least but I am sure we have all managed, being skilled at the job we do.

We are still trying to finalise fixtures; Early May, late June, early September and late October. First tee off 1pm onwards. Anybody who would like to propose their course please get in touch.

Also anyone or any companies/organisations that would like to sponsor an event be it full sponsorship or part, also please get in touch.

Anyone wishing to play in the golfing events, £20 paid BEFORE the event. No cash! Cheques or even better bacs; HSBC-Bigga Northern Section, Acc no 51389726, sort code 40 35 33. Cancellations will be accepted at sensible notice.

Anybody with any news regarding anything please let me/committee know.

NORTH WALES

BTME and Continue to Learn was a cracking success, looks like the attendance records have been smashed again. I would like to thank all the members that went up on the bus, shame we had to take a little detour round Yorkshire, but we got there in the end.

The section committee members held a meeting at Warrington GC on 3rd February to discuss several changes and outstanding items (thanks to Chris Sheehan, West Derby GC and Sandra Raper for their input): 1) The text alert service will be re-activated in the next few weeks, so if you wish to be added to the list please text your name to 07538 709845. 2) The new section email address is bigganorthwales@hotmail.com this will be used in conjunction with the text service to keep the section informed of upcoming events, news, etc. 3) Dates for the golf days have just been finalised and the entry forms will be sent out shortly along with the fixture cards. 4) The dates for the North Wales vs North West cricket match at Ashley CC and the North Wales vs South Wales golf match at Borth & Ynyslas GC are yet to be confirmed, but once

they are you'll be updated. 5) We are looking into running a Singles Knockout Competition for the section, and want to gauge the interest first. For those interested could you contact our Golf Co-Ordinator, John Mooney on 07836 794803.

NORTH WEST

All the training courses organized are proving to be a huge success. We have had IOSH Tree Inspection, Presentation and Level 2 Chainsaw operator courses held across the Section.

Unfortunately, the sections golf courses have been subject to burglaries, taking anything from utility vehicles to small hand tools. Please be vigilant and review your security procedures.

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

David Jones from Hunley Hotel, North Yorkshire and Chris Jones from St Annes Old Links have moved to Southport and Ainsdale G.C.

Rick Whittaker has joined St Annes Old Links from Green Drive, Lytham.

The Mere Golf Resort and Spa welcome John Quinn to the team from Caversham Heath G.C, Oxfordshire.

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

SHEFFIELD

At our AGM the following members were elected to represent the section on the committee. President - Bob Needham. Secretary - Neil Peters. Chairman - Andy Unwin. Vice Chairman - Nick Miles. Treasurer - Mark Crawshaw.

Education - Graham Pickin & Jim Stevens. Communication - Lee Greveson. Social Events - Wayne Lazenby. Trade representative - Sharon Morris (Mansfield Sand).

As it is only a few months away from our first golf event of the year, I would like to encourage any new members in our section to get in touch if they would like to attend. The days are always well attended, good fun and a great way to network with fellow greenkeepers.

Thanks to Sponsors

NORTHERN

Thank you to all the sponsors that have supported the Northern Section.

NORTH WALES

Thank you to our sponsors/patrons for their continued support. Symbio, Rigby Taylor, MG Turfcare, TAGolf, North Staffs Irrigation, Germinal, Bathgate, Campey Turfcare Systems, Sheriff Amenity, ICL, Turner Groundscare, David Williams Golf Design, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Farmura and Allturf.

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 Rigby Taylor for supporting the Spraying Seminar at The Phoenix on 5th April 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

DEVON & CORNWALL

The next events in the calendar are our section meeting at Mullion GC on 24th March with a speaker to be confirmed. After that we move onto East Devon GC on 14th April where the golfers will be playing for the Section Championship where the winner will go forward to the National Championship. The education talk on the day will be given by Geoff Fenn of Countrywide.

SOUTH COAST

We are pleased to announce the upcoming Spring Tournament to be held on the 5th April at Broadstone Golf Club. To book or for more information please contact biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com.

SOUTH WALES

Flyers have been posted on social media and Emails regarding our fixtures for 2016 here is a reminder, if you have not received a list please contact Paul Handy.

13th – 18th June Royal Porthcawl are hosting the 121st Amateur Championship

29th June Newport GC Match v South West & GCMA 12.pm

10th August Coed Y Mwstwr GC Patrons Cup

6th October Worcestershire GC Autumn Comp & AGM 12.15pm

15th December Pyle & Kenfig GC Christmas Comp 10.30am

SOUTH WEST

8 July sees a par 3 competition in conjunction with a barbeque – an unmissable summer event!

3 August is Golf Management Trophy

6 October is our Section AGM which we will be holding at Bristol City Football Club

Hot off the presses and as I write this, fixture cards for the year have arrived and envelopes are being stuffed awaiting postage. Keep your eyes out for your fixture card to arrive.

2016 will see South West Turf Clubs continue and we have a couple of these afternoon events in the pipeline. If there are topics that are of particular interest to anyone and you would either like to host one of these casual meet-ups or merely suggest a topic, please get in touch.

Our first confirmed Turf Club will be hosted by myself at Bowood Golf Club on 18 August 2016. Starting at 1pm, the topic of the day will be Long Rough Management including thinning of established areas, promotion of fine grasses in long rough and promotion of wild flowers on the golf course. Keep an eye on your email for further details.

News

DEVON & CORNWALL

Is there light at the end of the tunnel as far as the rain is concerned? The highest recorded rainfall in January on my travels was an extreme 370mm, can anyone beat that?

The Section recently held our seminar at Ashbury, it was an excellent day on everyone's favourite subject of Health and Safety. The talks were given by Course Manager Pete Gross and his team who made it both interesting and relevant. The section would like to thank newly appointed hotel general manager Steve Harris for hosting us for the day.

On the move in the area is former committee member Mike Ellis, He has left The Point to join with Neil and his team at Trevoise GC. Tom at The Point and everyone wish Mike all the best in his new role.



SOUTH COAST

The annual South Coast Section Seminar was held at Milton Abbey School on the 17th February. This fantastic venue was host to a very successful event and the committee would like to extend a big thank you to the speakers; Gareth Roberts (Course Manager at Hankley Common GC), Ben Lovett (Course Manager

at Montgomerie Maxx Royal GC), Roger Davy (CEO Irritech Ltd) and Alan Ferguson (Head Groundsman at Wembley Stadium and St Georges Park). We would also like to thank those who attended, without your ongoing support it would not be possible to hold such worthwhile events.

I am delighted to announce that Pete Corrick, Assistant Greenkeeper at Remedy Oak GC has been awarded a place on this year's TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Initiative. This opportunity sponsored by John Deere will see Pete join the TPC Sawgrass team preparing the course throughout the tournament week 10-15th May. We would like to wish Pete all the best for this exciting opportunity and look forward to hearing all about it on his return!

Following January's successful BTME I would like to thank the section for selecting yours truly for a sponsored place as part of the Regional Patronage Scheme. This scheme offers four members, one from each section within the Southwest and South Wales Region the opportunity to attend BTME on a sponsored place. This was my first time spending the whole week at BTME and it was fantastic to attend seminars and have the time to really explore the show and network with greenkeepers experienced and new!

And last but by no means least, our very own Steve Thorne, Deputy Course Manager at Rushmore GC is now back from a fantastic trip to America. As winner of Toro's Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2015 Steve has been busy attending the Winter Turf School in Massachusetts and the recent Golf Industry Show in San Diego. If you would like to hear more about Steve's trip then he has a blog available at umasswinterturfschool2016.blogspot.co.uk

If you have any news you would like included next month please contact us at biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com

SOUTH WALES

Great to see more support this year from our section in Harrogate for our annual BTME exhibition, many using the Continue to Learn education programme, getting updates with products and services and the networking opportunities. Thanks to the Patronage scheme which enabled the section and region to send three members to BTME.

Steve Trickey is the new Head Greenkeeper at Maesteg GC coming from Lakeside. The Section wishes Paul Davies From Llantrisant & Pontyclun GC a speedy recovery.

SOUTH WEST

The South West Section Christmas Tournament was a success at Marlborough Golf Club, many thanks to Robin and the greenkeeping team for their work preparing the course and hosting our event. The Christmas raffle was a success as ever and the funds raised have been donated to the Greenkeepers' Benevolent Fund and the Marlborough GC Captain's charity. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Congratulations must go to Dave Taylor from Mendip Spring Golf Club on being appointed as South West Section representative on the

Young Greenkeepers Committee. Dave, along with our South Coast colleague Andy Clark from Broadstone Golf Club, will join the committee made up of representatives from sections across the country in playing a key role in developing the future of our profession. Well done guys.

Our Section training officer Tim Needham is compiling a list of training providers. If you require advice or assistance in locating a specialist training provider please get in touch with us and we will do what we can to help you.

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WEST

Our valued section patrons are once again giving their full support to the betterment of our Section and profession. Many thanks to our 2016 patrons for their support: T H White, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, H Curtis & Sons and Ecosolve. A big welcome to Mark Elliman from SGI on joining our patrons in their support, great to have SGI working with the section.

Support from our South West Section Patrons allows us to organise and run section events that offer our section members the opportunity to access affordable training, join discussion groups, meet fellow greenkeepers and attend valuable networking opportunities within the local greenkeeping community.



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Events Coming Up

BB&O

The BB&O Section Spring Golf Tournament is to be held at Sand Martins Golf Club in Wokingham. This event will take place on Thursday 28th April. First tee time will be 11am with coffee and bacon rolls beforehand and a two-course meal following the golf. Keep an eye out for entry letters.

EAST MIDLANDS

The Spring golf day will take place at Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club on Thursday 28 April. Entry forms will be on the website soon but if you want to get your name down early please contact Section Secretary Martin Hickling. Other fixtures for the year include Matlock on the 27 July, and Beadles Lake for the Par 3 on 24 August. Details of the Autumn and Christmas fixtures will be out soon.

MID ANGLIA

Please make a note in your diary that the Spring Golf Tournament will take place at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club on Tuesday 26 April. Graham Down, Course Manager will also be hosting a course walk the same day for those not playing. Details of the golf and the course walk will be circulated soon. We are looking to change the format of this year's summer competition and we are looking at hosting it on a Par 3 golf course to see if a shorter day out is more appealing to some of our members. Again the details will be coming out soon.

MIDLAND

Spring Tournament The Worcestershire Golf Club
Thursday 12th May 2016
Start: 13:30 - Cost £21.00 Closing Date: 2nd May Prize
Sponsor -Campey Turf Care Systems
Team Event & AGM Patshull Park Golf Club

Wednesday 14th September 2016

Start: 12:00 - Cost £25.00 Closing Date: 5th
September Prize Sponsor - Working Turf
Make your own team of four players
Christmas Tournament Redditch Golf Club
Wednesday 7th December 2016

Start: 10:00 - Cost £27.00 Closing Date:
23rd November Prize Sponsor - Banks Amenity
Pairs For Partners To Be Drawn On The Day
Please contact Karl Williams on
07584196172

News

B,B&O

We are trying hard to keep members informed in matters concerning the section. The website has had a refresh and will be updated on a more regular basis. Please go to www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk and have a look. Likewise the facebook page is constantly being added to, take a look at BIGGA B, B & O.

EAST MIDLANDS

Could we please remind you to use our Facebook and Twitter pages to post and share information amongst our members and to update us with any news or events that are taking place.

MIDLAND

Hopefully the sun is shining and the jet stream is playing ball and sending the rain clouds well north of the Midlands so we can all hit the ground running in spring.

A good STRI lunch club meeting took place at Enville Golf Club and a lot of straight talking took place, speak to Paul Woodham if you're interested in attending a future one.

In the family way are Nick Bird from Kings Norton and his wife Laura who have had a lovely little baby girl called Lilly, congratulations guys. Also a big congratulations to Dale Housden and his wife who have also had a little baby girl Niamh

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

Thanks to Sponsors

MID ANGLIA

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

MIDLAND

Thank you to Farols for sponsoring March and thanks to ALS for sponsoring February.

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South East

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Events Coming Up

ESSEX

The first golf day of the year will be at Maylands Golf and Country Club on Wednesday 13th April, format is stableford. Tea /Coffee, Bacon rolls will be available at 12pm, with tee times from 1pm, there will be a halfway house and meal afterwards all for a bargain £20, To book a place please text Mick Fance on 07879 652624. It will be good to see as many faces as possible, there will be lots of different formats and prizes on offer during the year for all golfing levels (possibly even my own!).

Other golf days planned

June: Thornden Park (National qualifier)

August: Stoke By Nayland

December: The Essex (AGM)

We will also be hosting the TriGolf event in September, if you wish to be considered for this please text Mick Fance.

LONDON

First is the spring tournament at Porters Park on Wednesday 18th May and this is the National qualifier. Then the summer tournament is at Sandy Lodge on Thursday the 18th August and finally the Xmas tournament will be at West Herts in early December, Entrance forms with be emailed out nearer the time and entries and payment will be required ahead of the day.

SURREY

The next event will be held on 17th March and will be at Merrist Wood College again. This time our host will be Mick Claxton, Director of Shelton Drainage. There will be more details to follow and, if this is of interest, please make sure you are on Ashley's email list for the dates and times of this and future events.

Our first golf day will be on 26th April and will be held at Camberley Heath Golf Club. Please get your forms into Scott Roberts as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

News

ESSEX

As these are the first section notes of the year this is both a belated

happy new year and happy Easter to you all, where does time go?!

As the new scribe for the section, I will be doing the around the green and updating you with section updates via email, text and social media namely Facebook and Twitter so if you have any relevant news, events etc. please let me know. We are also working on a new website, when this is up and running I will let you know.

The new Essex committee is in place and planning the year ahead. We want to reinvigorate the section with the focus on education, networking and unity at a variety of events, so if you have any ideas please let one of the committee know. Ian Nicholls will be sending a questionnaire out for your feedback, please take the time to complete and return it, remember it's your section so have your say!

The rest of the committee is as follows:

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Smith

Golf Competitions: Rob George and Mike Fance

Education: Ian Nicholls with help from Ian Wood

South East Representative: Tom Smith with a willing deputy to be found during year

Congratulations to Sam Cook on his first Course Manager position at Play Golf Colchester. Good luck in your new role Sam.

LONDON

Education is in full swing with Wes Walker and Kevin O'Neill giving a joint talk at Muswell Hill GC on working in America which was very interesting and food for thought for the younger Greenkeepers and proves that we enjoy our fellow Greenkeepers giving these talks.

This was followed by our big one, the annual seminar at Oaklands College, Smallford with four great speakers talking on the letter W, subjects were:

1 Water - Mick Claxton, Director of Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Ltd spoke on the subject of drainage and its importance to playing surfaces going into detail for both Fairway and Greens drainage, the best ways to install and the excellent equipment now available.

2 Wimbledon - David Langheim MG, Course Manager at Wimbledon Park Golf Club spoke on how the major tennis event effects his course! Very interesting to see the work involved to recover the course after a few games of tennis next door!!

3 Weather - Mark Hunt, Technical Director at Headland Amenity spoke on the weather and its effects on turf grass maintenance, another speech of great information.

4 We benefit with the best Ecology - Sophie Vukelic, STRI informed us of the benefits and cost saving of good ecology on the course.

A big thank you to all four speakers for excellent and interesting information and a big thank you to Andy White, Oaklands senior lecturer for pulling together this seminar and hosting it at the College. That's the education complete for this winter and next comes a busy spring and then onto the season of golf.

SURREY

Well, what a fantastic show we all had at BTME this year! As I'm writing this in February and this article does not come out until March, it now feels like a long time ago.

It was great to see a lot of the Surrey Section out and about in Harrogate, either at the show or attending the numerous seminars that were run by BIGGA.

This month we had 42 members of the section attending a seminar by Paul Woodham on 'Managing soil based greens.' Held at Merrist Wood College, it was a fascinating talk and full credit to Sam and Stefan for organising a brilliant evening.

These events could not be put in place without the generous support from our Sponsors of the section, who have contributed again this year.

Finally, Roger Tydeman will be asking for your entry forms to be returned for the Surrey Bowl. I have been told that the forms and payment will need to be returned by the 31st March or you will not gain entry!

Welcome New Members

AREA & NAME	POSITION	GOLF CLUB
Scotland And Northern Ireland		
Callum Gordon	First Assistant	Ochil Developments - G West
Jamie Smith	First Assistant	Ochil Developments - G West
Colin Innes	Assistant Greenkeeper	Ochil Developments - G West
Christopher Chapman	Greenkeeper	Ochil Developments - G West
Lee Watson	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Philip Merriman	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Gary Sharman	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Andrew Keane	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Marc Baigrie	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Joshua King	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
Matthew Hogg	Student	SRUC (Elmwood)
John Tait	Greenkeeper	Dundonald Links Golf Club
Justin Waddell	Course Manager	Dunmurry Golf Club
Andrew Barr	Student	College of Agriculture Food & Rural Enterprises
Midland		
Nicholas Thorley	Greenkeeper	Walsall Golf Club
David Farmer	Greenkeeper	Walmley Golf Club
Andrew Gray	Greenkeeper	Willesley Park Golf Club
Sue Lawrence	Groundsperson	The Edgbaston Priory Club
Tom Day	Groundsman	The Edgbaston Priory Club
Jamie Reading	Assistant Greenkeeper	Willesley Park Golf Club
George Bell	Assistant Greenkeeper	Harewood Downs Golf Club
Northern		
Ian Foster	Affiliate	Hickleton Golf Club
Adam Irving	Deputy Head Greenkeeper	Keswick Golf Club
Matthew McVeigh	Greenkeeper	Howley Hall Golf Club
Matthew Whitfield	Greenkeeper	Grange Park Golf Club
Antony Allenby	Greenkeeper	Hessle Golf Club
Andrew Tomlinson	Greenkeeper	Ganton Golf Club
Craig Barron	Head Greenkeeper	Keswick Golf Club
Niall Holt	Student	Myerscough College
David Hughes	Assistant Greenkeeper	Preston Golf Club
South West and South Wales		
Chris Jolly	Affiliate	Worcestershire Golf Club (The)
John Mills	Course Manager	Dudsbury Golf Club
Ken Treadgill	Greenkeeper	Worcestershire Golf Club (The)
Adam Troop	Greenkeeper	Worcestershire Golf Club (The)
Thomas Vercoe	Greenkeeper	St Enodoc Golf Club
Samual Jarvis	Greenkeeper	St Enodoc Golf Club
Simon Hunt	Greenkeeper	St Enodoc Golf Club
Adam Stuart	Greenkeeper	Gloucester Golf Club
Robert Davies	Head Greenkeeper	Cotswold Edge Golf Club
Tom Howells	Assistant Greenkeeper	Worcestershire Golf Club (The)
Daniel Rosevear	Assistant Greenkeeper	Yelverton Golf Club
Mark Grubb	Assistant Greenkeeper	St Enodoc Golf Club
Steven Fugatt	Assistant Greenkeeper	Meyrick Park Golf Club
Bryan Francis	Assistant Greenkeeper	Glynhir Golf Club
Joe Clarke	Assistant Greenkeeper	Bristol & Clifton Golf Club
South East		
Michael Cooper	Deputy Course Manager	Nizels Golf & Country Club
Jamie Melham	First Assistant	Nizels Golf & Country Club
Jason Humphrey	Greenkeeper	Liphook Golf Club
Matthew Paragreen	Assistant Greenkeeper	Birch Grove House Estate
Matthew Bradshaw	Assistant Greenkeeper	Worplesdon Golf Club
Harry Dyerson	Assistant Greenkeeper	Ealing Golf Club
Douglas Jefferson	Assistant Greenkeeper	RAF Marham Golf Club
Oliver Crompton	Assistant Greenkeeper	Ealing Golf Club
International		
Thorsten Storck	Affiliate	BASF SE
Nathan Welch	Affiliate	AgStone LLC
Jon Kiger	Affiliate	Turfnet
Thomas Fischer	Affiliate	iNova Green GmbH
Per m Hansson	International Member	S T Arild Gk
Stefan Nilsson	International Member	Valda Golf & CC
Jerome Le Conardel	International Member	Le Golf National
Morgan Saren	International Member	Askersunds Golfklubb AB
Lucas Damrow	International Member	Golf Club Kassel- Kilhelmshohe
Alan Catterson	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Kevin Catterson	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Byrne Thomas	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Bryan Colleran	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Alan Crowley	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
BariDuncan	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Daniel Garrhy	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Aaron Giltinan	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Chris Horgan	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Lewis Jones	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Conor McCarthy	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
Danny Rouine	Student	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa



Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month, Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, highlights the importance of maintaining the often forgotten areas on the golf course.



How much does a golf course owe to its setting for its fame and popularity? And how much of that fame and popularity depends on vigorous management to protect its setting? Links courses change less because there is less to change but even they are easy prey to buckthorn, willow scrub and gorse.

Most Links are renowned for the beauty of their distant views and so are heathland courses; or maybe that should be "were".

Certainly, more landscapes have been subject to neglect than tender loving care. One reason is a lack of awareness, a failure, both literally and metaphorically, to see the wood for the trees. Another surrounds the fact that many Golf Clubs favour doing nothing as the easiest and cheapest option. Thirdly, greenkeeping teams are at such full stretch doing other things that woodland and heathland management rarely receives the attention it deserves.

Half the problem is that some golfers think what they see today is how things have always been. They cheerfully ignore early photographs revealing exactly the opposite. This is particularly apparent on courses dominated by heather where, before the intrusion of trees, you could see for miles. It was these views that gave courses their identity. Now, sadly, in theatrical terms, it is a case of a giant curtain being drawn across the stage to obscure



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

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GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near Alne
York
YO61 1UF

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



You can follow the GTC on
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a stunning set.

Since the days when the grazing of cattle was common place, many large tracts of heathland have been lost altogether. That is a tragedy. Tom Simpson, the celebrated golf course architect and a lifelong advocate of links, went further. He maintained, "the virtues of seaside turf cannot be exaggerated but it is very easy to exaggerate the virtues of a seaside course. There are far more good heath courses than there are good seaside courses".

He also remarked even more pertinently, "The less interference with Nature the better, for Nature is, for the most part, the better architect". Before there is a flurry of correspondence pointing out what Nature can do given a free hand, the key is that there is a duty for Clubs to manage a heathland course and not a forgotten jungle. Heather has many enemies not least deciduous trees and gorse. Criticisms are often raised about the failure to pick up fallen leaves but, in medical circles, they treat the cause not the effect.

If there is a more futile exercise than picking up 150 acres of leaves, I don't know what it is. It doesn't take long for their decomposition to raise the organic matter level a notch or two which is why the task of restoration, when undertaken, becomes time consuming, never ending and costly but it is undoubtedly

worthwhile. Heather is such a prize asset.

Prevention is better than cure but success, where restoration programmes have taken place around the country, offers a definite sign of encouragement to do more. At its best, heather is a wonderfully consistent golfing hazard, lending a welcome colour contrast to the look of a course as well as an ideal means of rewarding players who take the trouble to hit the fairway.

Exploring sources of heather or brashings and taking expert advice is a crucial forerunner to any work, but on courses where trees are the main feature the need for proper management is equally crucial, as John Nicholson pointed out in a timely reminder in last month's edition. There is nothing worse than avenues of dark trees lining fairways, limiting the circulation of air and denying light to areas whose condition suffers accordingly.

Fine individual specimens often find themselves hidden behind ranks of inferior species that were never part of any planting scheme. Correct spacing is essential or else beauty is blunted and playing strategy eroded. Worse still, tree roots around greens compete for water and nutrients with, in consequence, deterioration to the quality of putting surfaces.

When golfers are asked which is more important, there is only one answer.

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Repton Short Course "Signature Island Green".



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Recruitment

Seasonal Greenkeepers

Trump International Doonbeg Golf Links, Ireland is seeking applications for seasonal Greenkeepers. We have 6 positions available from March – Oct 2016. Experience in the use of turfgrass maintenance equipment is required, although full training will be provided. We are seeking highly motivated, flexible individuals with a passion for golf course maintenance who will thrive in a dynamic and challenging environment. Applicants must have a minimum of one season's experience at a golf course and be available to start no later than March 1, 2016.

Closing date for applications: 15th of March 2016

Benefits include:

- Accommodation (can be provided if required)
- Full training on all aspects of greenkeeping
- Golf privileges and other benefits
- Frequent project/task rotation
- Trump uniform
- Grow in/construction work
- Excellent rate of pay

The right candidates should have the following:

- 1 years minimum experience in greenkeeping
- A Greenkeeping qualification or currently training towards one
- Experience with operating a variety of cutting equipment
- Experience with course set up

To apply, please send a one page CV, references and a cover letter to:
Smarr@trumphotels.com



WOODCOTE PARK GOLF CLUB Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper (full-time)

Woodcote Park is an established private members golf club in Surrey with an excellent reputation. The Club was chosen to host the 2012 Surrey Championships in its Centenary Year.

The successful candidate will be able to meet the following key criteria:

- NVQ level 2 or better
- Preferably at least three years full-time experience at Assistant Greenkeeper level
- References available from employers recognising their high quality standards
- Proven history of producing work at a high standard
- A positive team player who is happy to go the extra mile
- Customer-service orientated attitude and possessing a strong desire to be the best
- PA1, PA2 and PA6a chemical application licenses desirable but not essential
- Remuneration package dependant on experience

CVs with a covering letter/ e-mail detailing how you meet the key criteria should be sent to: Mr Gordon Bell, Course Manager, Woodcote Park Golf Club, Meadow Hill, Bridle Way, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2QQ. OR coursemanager@woodcotepgc.com
Closing date: Sunday 13th March 2016.



Wollaton Park Golf Club Assistant Greenkeeper

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the green keeping team at Wollaton Park Golf Club. We are looking for an experienced Assistant Greenkeeper to help maintain our 18 hole parkland course. This private members' club, only 2 miles from Nottingham City Centre, is regarded by many as "Nottingham's Premier Golf Club", unrivalled in the area for all-year-round golf.

This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate who can apply their skills to all aspects of course maintenance to ensure that our course is impeccably maintained and appropriately prepared for both daily and competition play.

We are looking for the following attributes:

- NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- keen attention to detail with the ability to produce a high standard of work
- high level of competence with modern greenkeeping machinery
- ability to work a part of a team, or alone, self-motivated
- clear and relevant understanding of health and safety requirements
- spraying and chainsaw certificates advantageous but not essential
- flexible approach to work, working hours and weekend duties
- ideally a golfer or good knowledge and understanding of the game of golf

In return we will provide opportunities for ongoing training, staff uniform, BIGGA membership, access to company pension scheme after qualifying period, and salary commensurate with experience.

(Please note that relocation expenses do not apply to this position.)

Please apply in writing or by email – with full CV - to:

**Club Secretary/Manager,
Wollaton Park Golf Club,
Lime Tree Avenue, Nottingham NG8 1BT.
Email secretary@wollatonparkgolfclub.com**

Amenity Specialist

Sherriff Amenity is the specialist division of Agrovista UK Ltd, we are currently looking to expand our teams in the South and in Yorkshire and would like to hear from experienced Amenity Specialists who are interested in joining the leading supplier of turf care and amenity products in the UK.

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Preference will be given to those with experience, however we are prepared to provide professional support leading to a BASIS qualification for the right person. To succeed as an amenity specialist you will need to be self motivated, able to work on your own initiative, demonstrate commercial awareness and have a flexible approach towards working in an industry where seasonal fluctuations frequently dictate the working pattern.

Knowledge of the fine turf and amenity industry, along with industry recognised qualifications, would be advantageous.

This role offers an excellent package including company car, contributory pension scheme and 25 days holiday plus Bank Holidays per annum.

To apply, please forward your curriculum vitae and covering letter to lisa.pitt@agrovista.co.uk alternatively call our HR department on 0115 921 8427 for more information.



Sherriff Amenity, Cambridge House,
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Tel: 0115 9390202 Fax: 0115 9398031

Assistant Greenkeeper Stratford On Avon Golf Club, Warwickshire

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the green keeping team at Stratford On Avon Golf Club. We are currently looking for an assistant greenkeeper.

Assistant Greenkeeper Position

This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to further their greenkeeping career.

We are looking for the following attributes:-

- NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
- Minimum 2 years' experience
- High level of competence with modern greenkeeping machinery
- PA1, PA2, PA6 spraying certificates (not essential)
- Chainsaw licence (not essential)
- Ability to work as part of a team or alone
- Be able to work to the highest standards and possess a keen attention to detail with an ability to provide the best possible playing surfaces
- Have the ability to provide input into work discussions and course development

Benefits

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To apply please send your CV and covering letter by email to:
Dan Hacker, Club Manager dan@stratfordonavgolfclub.co.uk



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Recruitment

SANDBURN HALL YORK ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER



An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic, highly motivated individual to join our team at Sandburn Hall, York.

The vacancy is for an assistant greenkeeper reporting to the Course Manager at this progressive club.

The successful candidate should possess:

- NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- Ability to operate a range of modern machinery
- An understanding of greenkeeping practices to a high standard
- To be able to work as part of a team or to manage your personal work load
- Good communication skills
- An interest in machinery maintenance
- An understanding of health and safety
- Having PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates would also be an advantage
- A minimum of 3 year's experience as an assistant greenkeeper is required

Please apply via email to brian@sandburnhall.co.uk
www.sandburnhall.co.uk

Golf ter Hille, Koksijde,

Belgium (in hoofding)

Seasonal greenkeepers (April 15th – October 15th)

Dear future colleague,

We are currently looking for greenkeepers to strengthen our team for the upcoming season. If you are up to the challenge to gain experience abroad and to be part of a young and developing championship course, than you probably shouldn't hesitate and apply quickly.

Although everyone on the team speaks English, we'd appreciate if you would like to learn some basic Dutch. Don't worry, we'll teach you!

Just send us an email in which you explain how excited you are to start working at Koksijde Golf ter Hille. If you send a c.v. as well, that would save us a long phone call. We are looking forward to hear from you soon.

Kind regards

AGB Koksijde
Postbus_hk@koksijde.be



For more information you can contact our
Course Manager Michel Van Uffelen at greenkeeping@koksijde.be

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Hendon Golf Club is a true members club founded in 1903 and situated just minutes from the bottom of the M1. J.H. Taylor, Harry Vardon and Harry Colt were all involved in the design of the course. Hendon has hosted a number of prestigious amateur events in recent years.



We have an exciting opportunity for either a Deputy Head Greenkeeper or a qualified, experienced greenkeeper looking to develop to Deputy level.

The successful applicant will have:

- NVQ Level 3 (or Level 2 aspiring to Level 3)
- Spraying PA 1 / 2 / 6A
- Chainsaw CA 30 / 31 (desirable)
- Sound Knowledge of machinery and irrigation
- Leadership and organisational skills
- An imaginative attitude to golf course development
- Knowledge of Health and Safety

The Golf Course is maintained to a very high standard so the role requires an individual who can apply their skills to all aspects of course management. You must be highly motivated and capable of inspiring the green-keeping team. You will be passionate about your career, possess a flexible attitude and have a keen eye for detail.

Hendon GC will offer an excellent package to the right candidate dependent upon experience and qualifications.

To apply please email a CV and covering letter to:
Peter Dickson, General Manager via admin@hendongolf.com

Closing Date: Sunday 27th March

Seasonal Greenkeeper

April to October (full time)

This position may lead to a full time position for the right candidate.

Beaconsfield Golf Club, Seer Green, Beaconsfield Bucks HP9 2UR

Beaconsfield is a prestigious 18 hole private members golf club with extensive practice facilities. We wish to recruit an enthusiastic, capable seasonal greenkeeper to join the existing team. The position is suited to an individual wishing to develop their career gaining experience in the preparation and maintenance of a parkland golf course. The position offers a very competitive salary including overtime and meals. The person will be trained to use all forms of modern machinery including mowers, aerators and mini diggers.

The ideal candidate will have, but not essential

- 2 years greenkeeping or sports turf experience
- NVQ2 or similar

Please apply in writing or email to:
secretary@beaconsfieldgolfclub.co.uk with CV and covering letter



AUCHTERARDER
GOLF CLUB

Are seeking to recruit

- Two experienced Greenkeepers -
- A Junior Greenkeeper -

Competitive salaries for all positions according to experience and qualifications.

Apply in writing to:

The Managing Secretary, Auchterarder Golf
Club, Orchil Road, Auchterarder, PH3 1BE

Or email: secretary@auchterardergolf.co.uk

Farleigh

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an ambitious Deputy Course Manager to join the team at Farleigh Golf Club. Reporting to the Course Manager, you will be responsible for delivering a golf course to the highest standards.

Our Ideal Applicant:

- Substantial greenkeeping experience
- NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management or equivalent
- Spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6
- A good working knowledge of irrigation systems including repair and maintenance
- A sound understanding of machinery operation and maintenance
- Supervisory experience including training and development of team members
- Chainsaw certificate desirable
- Good standard of written and spoken English
- First Aid at Work qualified

CV and covering letter to: kenny@farleighfox.co.uk
Farleigh Golf Club, Old Farleigh Road, Farleigh, Surrey, CR6 9PE

Course Manager

Location: Alnwick Castle Golf Club, Northumberland

Brief Job Description

Alnwick Castle Golf Club is a developing propriety golf club situated in Northumberland. We are looking to recruit a dynamic individual who has the drive and passion to reach new standards of excellence in the management and presentation of our golf course. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within the role and will hold relevant greenkeeping and/or agronomy qualifications.

A full job description and person specification can be found by visiting our website www.alnwickcastleclub.co.uk or emailing daniel.harrison@alnwickgolfclub.co.uk. Interested applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full CV and covering letter with salary expectations to:

Mr. Daniel Harrison

Alnwick Castle Golf Club, Swansfield Park, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2AB

Email: daniel.harrison@alnwickgolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Thursday 24th March 2016



Irrigation Engineer

Irrigation engineer/labourer required to install watering systems in the Chobham, Surrey area

Mainly working in the landscape and sports turf industry.

Due to the nature of the work, experience of working outside regularly is preferred.

The job will be working as part of a team.

A structured training programme, which involves internal and external courses and advancement within the company is encouraged.

We work predominantly in the London, Surrey and Hampshire area. Hours 40+ Monday to Friday between 7.30am - 5.30pm. Some overnight stays during the week.

Experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given. Salary negotiable upon experience.

Please email applications to: accounts@tcri.eu

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*** Installation looks impressive - no unsightly containers and pipes!**
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*** Cost effective, safely below ground and silent**

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Fax: +44 (0)118 982 0590
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www.gbrotech.co.uk/amenity





@BIGGALtd

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

Our favourite tweets this month...



@GHGCGreens

Good @BIGGALtd @BIGGAMidlands seminar today + some great speakers @WoburnGC . @CentenaryHGK proper inspiring

@GJRRobertsTurf

Glorious morning @CamberleyHeath Some proper winter weather finally. @BIGGALtd

@CentenaryHGK

Snowy scenes on the Centenary course this morning @Gleneagleshotel @VisitScotland @luxuryscotland @BIGGALtd #winter

@BcoNixon

Group photo with the class of 2016 BIGGA delegates at Torrey Pines @BernhardGrinder @BIGGALtd @Grind_It_USA

@GeorgeLauder_

Foregreens handcut on the PGA. A first for me. Came up well! @CentenaryHGK @McghieNeil @BIGGALtd

@gord_mckie

@TheHomeofGolf @BIGGALtd work underway the last couple of days on coastal blow out repairs #coastalprotection

@matt6lewis

15th @CotswoldsGolf looking nice after application of 5-2-4+fe granular feed. #greenkeeping @BIGGALtd @BIGGA_BTME

@PHay01

Topdressing the greens this morning @GullaneGolfClub #photography #golf @BIGGALtd #ScottishGolf #linksgolf

@charliejaylacey

Fresh frost @OakParkGreens Hampshire this morning @BIGGALtd

@Happy_Pledge

@LelyUKTurfcare thanks for the demo of the STX-26, best stump eater we have used by far! @TheToroCompany @BIGGALtd

@HorwoodJason

-4 degrees out on the course yesterday morning, glistening like a diamond #frotyfridays @WESTHERTSGOLF @



@PHay01



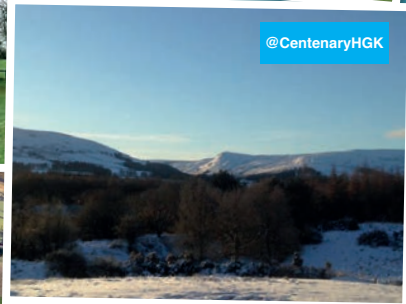
@BcoNixon



@GJRRobertsTurf



@matt6lewis



@CentenaryHGK



@charliejaylacey



@GeorgeLauder



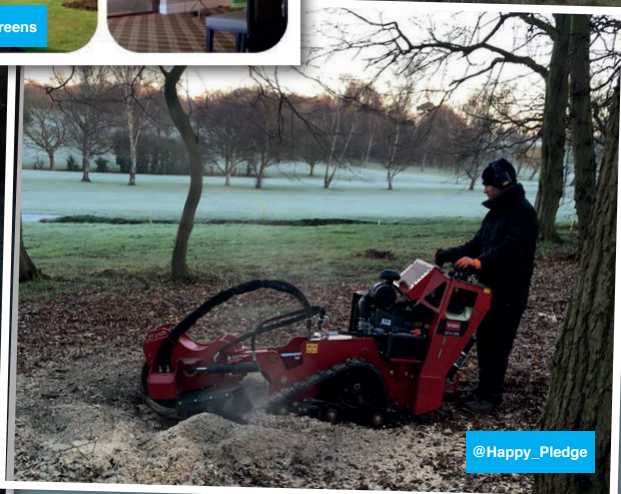
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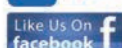
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This means you start saving with the Infinity Series sprinkler from day one. That's because you'll dramatically reduce time spent on sprinkler maintenance while avoiding unsightly damage to your beloved turf, and, best of all, you won't need to invest in new sprinklers as technology advances. Infinity Series sprinklers are completely backward and forward compatible. You can even use risers from existing Toro 800 Series and DT Series sprinklers. So choosing Infinity to help keep your surface looking and playing its best really is the smarter choice.

Full details at www.toroinfinity.com or call Lely on 01480 226948



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- ▶ No buried wire splices
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- ▶ Pilot valve removable with water "ON"
- ▶ Less maintenance
- ▶ Lower long-term cost of ownership



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INFINITY 35/55 SERIES



INFINITY 34/54 SERIES



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